

The Environmental Bi-Weekly



High Country News

Vol. 8 No. 12

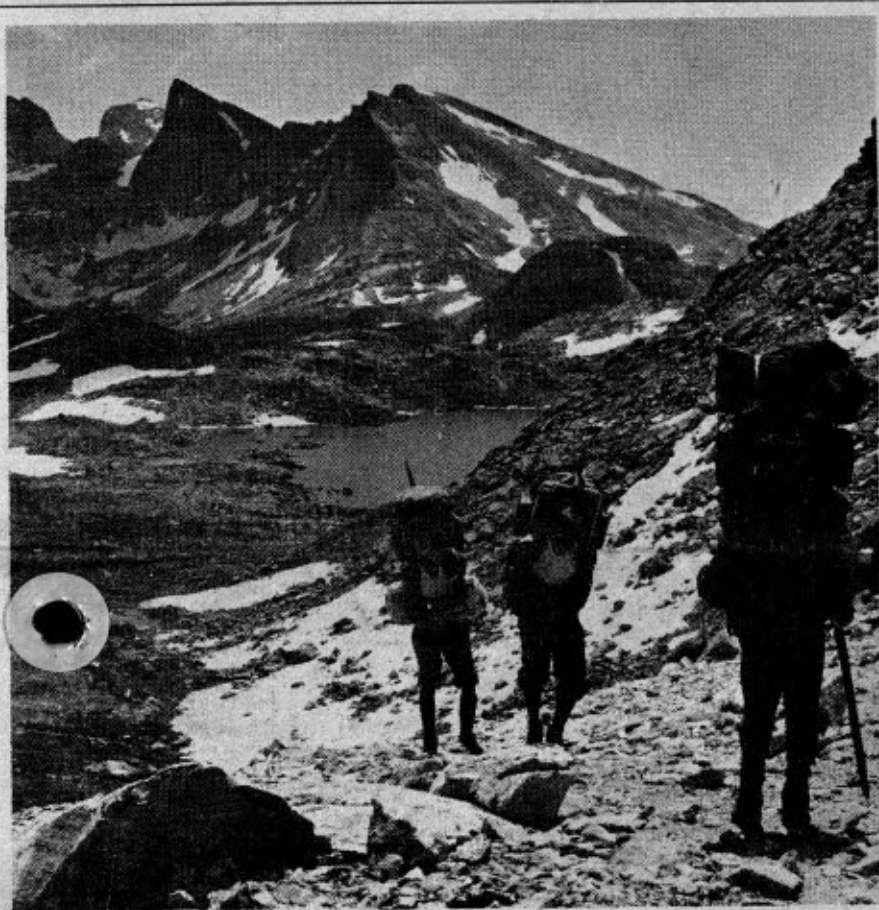
Lander, Wyoming

Friday, June 4, 1976



Neon sign syndrome

Designating wilderness— asking for destruction?



THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE. Solitude is mentioned by many backpackers as the reason they go into the wilderness. But solitude is not the only goal and purpose of wilderness. It also serves as a watershed; a protected habitat for wildlife; and many other ecological, scientific, educational, and inspirational purposes.

by Dave Foreman
with contributions by Bart Koehler,
Bill Bishop, and Art Wright

"Sure, I want the Diablo Badlands roadless area to stay wild. But what worries me is that if it is formally designated as a wilderness area, then the name will act like a magnet and draw too many people. The area will be destroyed by recreationists just like the Paradise Meadows Wilderness. Let's not make Diablo Badlands an official wilderness — let's keep it like it is. Wilderness designation will destroy its wildness."

So familiar? It should — the above argument has been gaining increasing credibility during the last few years. It has especially become popular among Forest Service and other agency personnel and among those who pose as friends of wilderness but who are really diametrically opposed to the wilderness concept. But it is

also gaining increasing favor with sincere and dedicated wilderness supporters.

How valid is this argument? It certainly sounds plausible — and if it is valid, we should re-think wilderness designation. But, on closer examination, this argument reveals its fallacy.

To adequately consider the validity of the Designation-Over-use Argument, we need to ask four questions:

- 1) What is wilderness for?
- 2) Are officially designated wilderness areas over-used?
- 3) Are wilderness areas being properly managed?
- 4) What is the alternative to wilderness designation?

Lost in the above argument are the reasons for wilderness preservation. It is

important to remember that it is the "National Wilderness Preservation System," not the "National Wilderness Recreation System." Wilderness is for you and me to hike, backpack, snow-shoe, rock climb, fish, hunt, horse pack, cross-country ski, ride, birdwatch, canoe, kayak, raft, camp, play, and relax in. But wilderness is also for watershed, wildlife, ecological, scientific, educational, rehabilitational, aesthetic, inspirational, conservation, and many other values and uses. Indeed, some wilderness should be preserved for its own sake, without any need for human justification.

Similarly, solitude is not the only goal and purpose and value of wilderness recreation. I like — and need — solitude more than most people. And I have certain wilderness spots that I consider mine. But solitude is too often stressed in wilderness recreation. It is important to recognize that the word "solitude" is mentioned only once in the Wilderness Act. All parts of a wilderness area — and all wilderness areas — do not necessarily have to provide solitude as part of the visitor's experience.

We have to admit that much of this emphasis on solitude, and among some people much of the fear against formal wilderness designation, is based on selfishness. I knew the Gila Wilderness before many people — it's mine. I appreciate the Gila Wilderness more than anybody else — it's mine. All you interlopers — stay out!

Unfortunately, wilderness belongs to everybody, and as long as others treat a wilderness with respect, they have the same right to enjoy and visit it as you or I do.

ARE WILDERNESSES OVERUSED?

Quite obviously, many wilderness areas receive no substantial human use at all. I can probably count on my fingers and toes all the people who visited the Chupadera Wilderness in Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico last year (and I may not have to use my toes). The Forest Service recently released figures on visitor use in the 10 least visited wilderness areas in the National Forests. No, they weren't all god-forsaken, rattlesnake-infested hell-holes. Over half of them were large, well-watered, scenic, high alpine mountain areas in the Northern Rockies. In fact, the wilderness areas that are being "over-used" at present are most definitely in the minority — and even

the most heavily used have substantial acreages that are little used.

Of course, there are some wilderness areas that are being used excessively — Rawah in Colorado, Bridger in Wyoming, Pecos in New Mexico, several areas in California. But are these areas being used heavily because they have the official name wilderness area tacked on them? I think not. They are being used because they are scenic, well-watered, cool, fishing and climbing meccas, near population centers, or famous. They simply are the attractive kind of wild country that appeals to most wilderness recreationists.

Some areas that are not designated wilderness yet are receiving this same heavy use — the Sandias in New Mexico, Catalinas in Arizona, or Indian Peaks in Colorado, for example. Many wilderness areas will never receive heavy use simply because they do not appeal to most people; and the more attractive areas — formal wilderness or not — will be discovered and used.

Now, it cannot be denied that in some cases designating an area or considering it for wilderness designation has drawn more use. But it doesn't create more wilderness users. It merely disperses use. After a bit of

Pioneer unwanted

Voters in three Idaho counties have said they don't want the Pioneer power plant. The power company says that they may freeze in the dark. See page 5.

Battle over Burgdorf

The Forest Service needs a new road, but Scott Harris wants to keep the Burgdorf National Historic Site primitive. See page 4.

publicity about the new Diablo Badlands Wilderness Area, some of the people who usually backpack in the old Paradise Meadows Wilderness Area go to Diablo to see what it is like. But creation of Diablo Badlands Wilderness Area does not create

(continued on page 6)

The more attractive areas — formal wilderness or not — will be discovered and used.

2-High Country News — June 4, 1976

HIGH COUNTRY

By Judy Sumner

There is something special about a family milk cow. I am sure not everyone finds the quiet satisfaction in sitting down to milk that I do. But I find it a time of meditation, contemplation, and reflection. I have always found it so (although as a teenager who had to do the milking, I am sure I did my share of grumbling).

There is an added incentive in keeping your own cow on an acreage. That is the current price of milk when you have to feed a growing family. We not only have our own whole milk for drinking and cooking but we sell four to five gallons a week to friends. In addition, extra milk goes into supplementing the diet of small chickens, two calves, and two fattening pigs.

About a year ago, *Organic Farming and Gardening* (July, 1975) carried an article on "The Family Cow" by Gene Logsdon. He quoted figures from the *Dairyman's Digest* that showed an average cow could save at least \$1,000 a year, exclusive of labor. He also pointed out that the trend is toward more family cows, with thousands of families already owning one or two cows.

Milk cows are generally characters in their own right. Each is different, even as to smell. We began our experience here with a gentle, little Jersey named Bubbles. She calved in August, about a month after we bought her from neighbors. She wasn't in excellent condition, but I attributed that to the fact she was a good milker and was carrying calf. But about six weeks after calving, her milk production dropped literally to nil except a little for the calf.

Thinking her milk production was shot for at least a year, we bought a big brindled Guernsey from a dairy. I immediately noticed not only the difference in milking and temperament but also the odor of the animal. She smelled strangely different (as I suppose I did to her). After a week or two, she no longer smelled like a stranger. She was our cow and she smelled all right. She, too, is a gentle old cow with not a streak of meanness in her — an asset which is truly appreciated in a family cow.

After some six months of milking, she sickened one morning. She got better, then changed for the worse. In the meantime, a vet came and checked Bubbles. He decided her trouble could be hardware disease and put a magnet down her gullet. Within a month her condition had improved dramatically. Neighbors and friends also thought our Guernsey, Daisy, had hardware disease so I put a magnet in her. She has now recovered, but I had to quit milking her during the sickness.

Twice during the sickness and recovery of the Jersey I had tried to dry her up by locking her calf up for first 12 days, then 14 days. Each time when I turned the calf loose, the cow came back to her milk. Now, with the other cow sick I decided to see if Bubbles wouldn't give enough milk for at least our own use until Daisy freshens in early July.

Amazingly, Bubbles gives more milk now than when she first freshened last August. And she is as sleek and pretty as a doe deer. So we are assured of all the milk we need plus plenty of yogurt and home-made ice cream for the summer.

There is a lot of satisfaction in looking down into our green pasture at the two contented cows, accompanied by four calves of assorted size, a big beautiful heifer, two pigs, a pony and a small white mule. All of these and two drake ducks quite often gather around the barn door as I milk. It's quite an audience — but I like it.

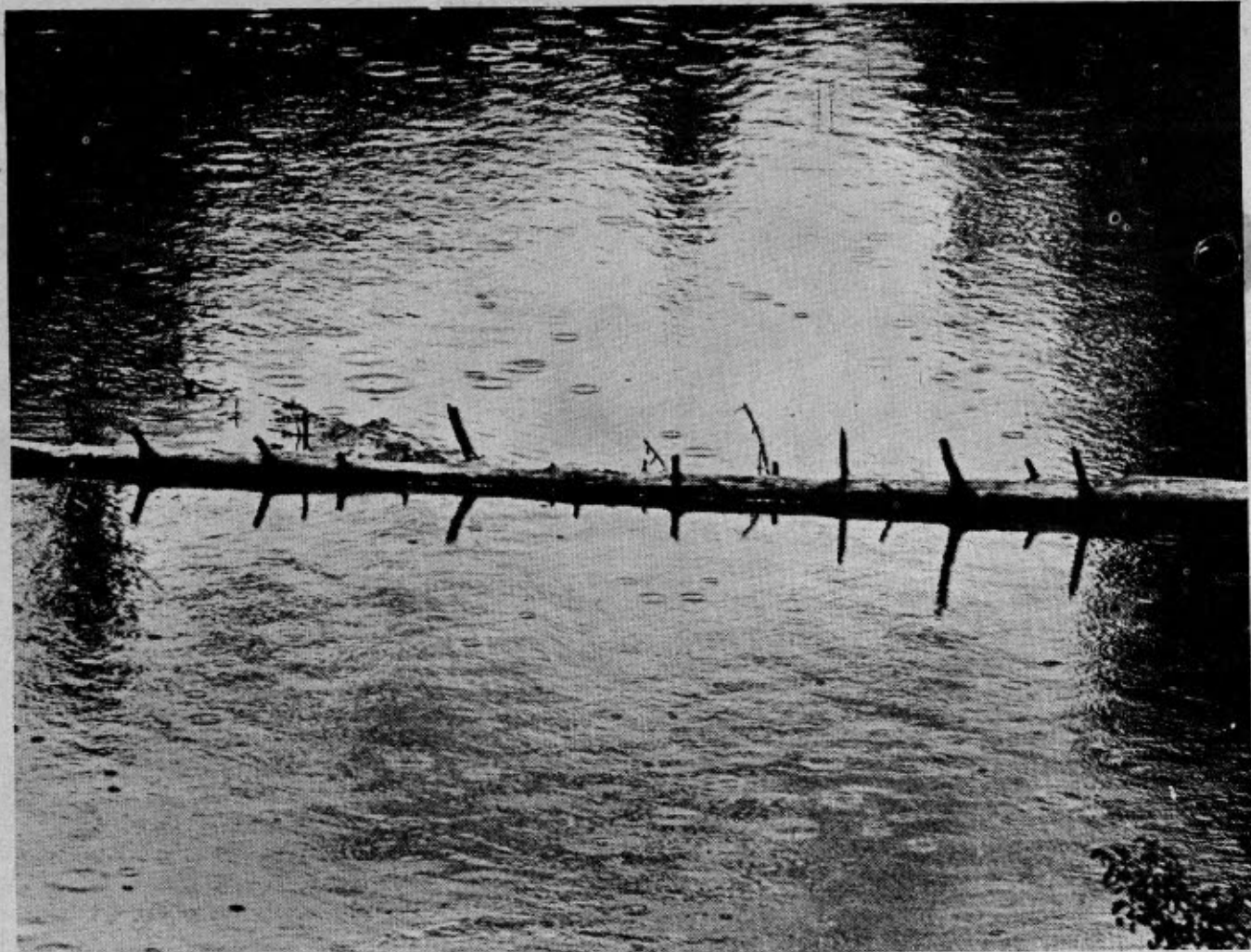


Photo by Judy Sumner.



HCN Letters

BLIND OPPOSITION?

Dear editors:

I am the president of the group of consumer-owned utilities that is studying the feasibility of constructing the Intermountain Power Project in Utah. I would add that I, too, have concerns for environmental values, and though they may be different in degree from your own, they are real and I will do my best to see IPP planning reflects those concerns.

I am writing about your April 23, 1976, "Dear Friends" column which (I think) suggests your readers should not automatically oppose all proposed developments without informed consideration of factual data.

In the same issue you quote someone as saying they will try to stop IPP just as vigorously as they tried to stop Kaiparowits. The same sort of statement was made before an Energy Committee of the Utah Legislature.

Now, I would not be so concerned if these folks had taken the time and effort to inform themselves about our project, but they haven't studied, even casually, any of the volumes of information available to them through our open planning concept.

We are proposing to spend in excess of \$1 billion for environmental protection. Just for starters, we moved out of the Escalante area at an additional cost of over \$200 million.

Yes, we are close to Capitol Reef (although 12 miles isn't really next door), but, you should look at our studies of wind patterns and plant visibility and flora and fauna and all the other site selection factors that are environmentally important.

Consider for example, the budget we have established to be absolutely certain

socio-economic impacts are minimized as much as possible.

I could go on, but I guess all I'm asking of you and your readers is that they at least give us a trial before they condemn us. And please give some thoughtful consideration to this. If no plants are built, even though they are striving to do the best possible job environmentally, and needed energy is not available to support desirable economic growth or jobs, is it possible an environmental backlash could destroy the many good things that have been accomplished over the past years?

Perhaps our project is not the one, but in your own words, "When it's time to be for a plant instead of against one, how will you go about it?"

Joseph C. Fackrell, P.E.
President
Intermountain Power Project

RADICAL — AT THE ROOT

Dear High Country News,

I've been delighted with the growth of your paper in the two years I've subscribed. By growth I mean increasing grasp of where the fights have to be fought and who the enemies are rather than growth in size.

In the May 21 issue you had an article about the impact of California passing the Nuclear Safeguards initiative on the need for more Rocky Mountain coal-fired electrical plants. This story originated in the Western Interstate Nuclear Coalition, a industry group located in Lakewood, Colo. It's mostly bull.

This week the national news media are carrying stories that all 58 nuclear plants in the United States are on special alert because they expect sabotage efforts just prior to the California vote. I think anyone can recognize that as a scare tactic, designed to make those of us supporting these initiatives look like anarchists and bombers. Radical means getting to the root of things, not dynamite.

My friends tell me there is almost no

chance of passing the initiative in California, but I think we have a good chance in Colorado, Oregon, and Montana. The reason the nuclear industry (and the oil-energy) giants are so worried is that they see we can beat them using initiatives. I think that is also why Leonard Woodcock is making peace with the movement. We have the votes and all they have are the delaying tactics so effective in legislative bodies. Wherever we can by-pass legislatures we can win some major issues.

Robert B. McFarland, M.D.
Boulder, Colo.

AUTHOR'S CLARIFICATION

Dear HCN,

Following the publication of "Navajo Nation faces development," (HCN, 5-21-76) it was brought to my attention that the article could be read to imply a relationship between the National Indian Youth Council and the Shiprock Research Center that did not exist.

For the sake of clarification, while both organizations are opposed to massive industrialization on the reservation in the form of gasification, they are separate and distinct groups.

NIYC is a multi-tribal organization based in Albuquerque, N.M., that has involved itself in many controversial Indian issues.

The Shiprock Research Center, located in Shiprock, N.M., was established expressly for the purposes of determining the impact of gasification on the Navajo Reservation. The center has gone into the field, surveyed, interviewed, and conducted investigations. Its data informs the decisions of tribal councilmen. The position the center has established does not propose or pretend to show the whole nation's Indian view towards gasification, but rather attempts to reflect the concerns and feelings of those living in the chapter areas most affected.

Rodney Barker
Durango, Colo.



Editorial

HCN

June 4, 1976 — High Country News-3

Why bother with options?

Richard F. Hill of the Federal Power Commission (FPC) deserves some sort of Project Independence award for environmental insensitivity. Last month, Hill appeared before a House subcommittee to describe the FPC's environmental review of alternative proposals for bringing natural gas from Alaska's Northern Slope to the Lower 48.

Three alternative routes have been proposed. Arctic Gas Co. has put forth an all-land route across the Arctic National Wildlife Range and through Canada to the Midwest. El Paso Alaska Co. has proposed a route following the existing trans-Alaska oil pipeline corridor from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. At Valdez the gas would be liquefied and shipped by sea to West Coast ports. A third proposal, submitted by Northwest Pipeline Co., is an all-land route that follows the oil pipeline corridor from Prudhoe Bay, and then follows the Alaskan Highway corridor into Canada and ultimately to the U.S. This proposal is known as the Alcan route.

Hill told the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Power that FPC studies had identified the Alcan route as the alternative with the least environmental impact. However, Hill was careful to explain "that the environmental impact of any one of the proposals discussed is acceptable when balanced against the need

for the natural gas in our national economy."

Poppycock! What good are options, if all you care about are end results? There are major environmental decisions to be made before we start the mad rush to pipe out the gas.

The FPC should not ignore its own findings. If the federal government ignores alternatives because of a so-called overriding "need" for the gas in the Lower 48, it will probably opt for one of the two proposals that are farthest along in the review process. The Alcan route is a late-comer. Northwest Pipeline Co. plans to submit an application to the FPC for the Alcan route in July. Meanwhile, members of Congress are talking about choosing between the routes and limiting judicial review of their choice (see HCN editorial 3-26-76).

Both the El Paso and Arctic Gas routes have major environmental drawbacks. The El Paso route would require huge liquefaction plants in Alaska and risky transport across notoriously stormy seas. The Arctic Gas route would cross the wilderness of the Arctic National Wildlife Range — a provision opposed by environmental groups. The Alcan route is still an unknown because it is so new, but it looks promising.

Contrary to Hill's statement, all these potential impacts aren't acceptable.

As we change the face of the planet, let it bear the mark of our intelligence, rather than the scars of our haste and greed.

—BH

More Letters

STROKE OF GENIUS

Dear HCN:

Here's a page from the University of Minnesota's *Minnesota Daily* with the encircled ad we placed in your behalf.

We could only afford to run it for two days, but we're hoping it got some results anyway. Maybe later we can put it in the city paper.

Thanks a bunch for a great job. Keep it up.

D. W. Fuller
Minneapolis, Minn.

P.S. The ad idea was a stroke of genius. I hope others picked up on it.

In the May 7th issue of HCN we asked our readers to place ads for HCN in their local newspapers. The idea was suggested by E. and F. Pierce of Hamilton, Mont. Thank you D. W. Fuller for following up on the suggestion.

—August

VOTING RECORD MYSTERY

Howdy again!

I have some questions. The first I asked of my senator, Mark Hatfield. It has to do with how to find out how the Congress people from Oregon voted on environmental issues, without knowing the names and numbers of specific bills, etc. His answer: "It would be difficult to provide you with voting records of the Oregon Congressional delegation, since there are several hundred

votes during each year."

It doesn't seem like it would be so difficult. (I'm sure they could go to any oil company and get the information from their computers in a jiffy!) Can you tell me if there is a way to learn their voting records? I'd like to be able to check the vote of Oregon's representatives on bills I read about in your paper.

Also, I will be hitchhiking back to Oregon, and I wondered if I could visit your office en route. If you like to have visitors, let me know.

Lastly: I want to say that I enjoy your paper very much. I feel fortunate to have stumbled across such an entertaining and important news source. Can you relate to my saying that when I read *Newsweek*, or a regular newspaper, I feel like I'm just dabbling in gossip. But in reading HCN, I feel that I am learning things that have real bearing on myself, and gaining opportunities to do something about "issues" which, in some other context, I might feel notice.

Jeff McKillop
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

It's not always easy to find out how your Congressional representatives vote. We'll try to supply more bill names and numbers so you can ask more specific questions. You might also contact the League of Conservation Voters (324 C St. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003) for help. The league keeps tabs on the votes on all important environmental legislation and publishes the voting record of all senators and representatives at the end of each Congress. The league also publishes the environmental records of all presidential candidates. Donations are needed to support its work.

Yes, we welcome visitors. Whenever any



of our readers are in the area, we urge them to stop in and say hello. Our street address in Lander is 140 N. Seventh.

—the editors



URANIUM FACTS SOUGHT

Dear HCN,

We wonder what your readers may be able to tell us of the Wyoming Mineral Corporation, a Westinghouse subsidiary headquartered in the Denver area, and of after-effects of their uranium mining technique, especially effects on water, and on landscape due to moving of equipment.

The corporation proposes a uranium mine in a 160,000-acre area in northern Weld County, Colo., in the vicinity of the Pawnee National Grasslands. They claim

to have had test sites near Casper, Wyo., and in Texas, and a production plant in Texas. They claim good reclamation.

The deep well method used puts uranium ore into solution, brings it to the surface, extracts the uranium, and "puts the water back."

Anyone who would be willing to forward facts, or opinions based on fact, can contact Joy Coombs, Greeley Committee on Environment President, 2025 5th Ave. Greeley, Colo. 80631, 303-356-0075. We'll be very grateful.

Gretchen S. Cutts
Greeley Committee on Environment

High Country News

Published biweekly at 140 N. Seventh St., Lander, Wyo. 82620. Telephone 307-332-4877. Second class postage paid at Lander.

Publisher	Thomas A. Bell
Managing Editor	Joan Nice
News Editor	Bruce Hamilton
Associate Editor	Margaret Ambler
Office Manager	Mary Margaret Davis
Advertising Manager	August Dailer
Circulation Manager	Georgia Nations
Editorial Assistant	Sarah Doll
Design Consultant	Jeffrey Clack

Subscription rate \$10.00
Single copy rate 35¢

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Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82620

4-High Country News — June 4, 1976

Will a logging road ruin Burgdorf?

by John Bacon

What is the value of a historical site nearly 100 years old? Of a hot springs enclosed by pine logs? Of log cabins furnished with stone fireplaces and handcrafted knotty pine furniture? What is it worth to preserve such a place and to recreate the environment which gave it birth?

The National Historical Site of Burgdorf, since the 1870s a welcome resting spot for weary travelers in Idaho, now is the center of a bitter controversy over a 13 mile road proposed by the U.S. Forest Service.

Surrounded by the Payette National Forest, central Idaho's oldest resort lies in a relatively narrow meadow at an altitude of 6,100 feet. A forest of lodgepole pine gently wraps around the site. The area is a haven for diverse forms of wildlife. To visit Burgdorf is to experience a unique and pleasant blend of Western tradition, high mountain clarity, and the total relaxation that comes after a long hot soak.

The homestead was first settled by Fred Burgdorf, a German emigrant who staked out the hot springs and the surrounding meadow. Burgdorf filled the meadow with cattle and earned a living selling beef steaks and hot baths to local miners.

KEY TRACT OF LAND

The 160 acres which comprise Burgdorf happen to occupy a key tract of land in the Payette. Crossing the property to travel through the area is virtually a necessity. The old Lewiston-Warren State Wagon Road originally crossed the property in the middle 1800s and still provides the only means for passing through the Burgdorf site. Today the one-lane dirt road is used for removing a substantial quantity of timber and some mining products and for recreational travel.

The section of the road which passes through Burgdorf makes an abrupt turn. The Forest Service feels realignment of this section of their 13 mile proposed road



WHAT'S IT WORTH? The Burgdorf National Historic Site is the scene of a controversy over Forest Service road improvements. Upgrading a road for timber removal close to Burgdorf could degrade the historic setting, critics say. The Burgdorf site has cabins and a log-lined hot springs pool. Photo by Ken Allard.

is necessary for safety reasons.

Scott Harris, third generation Harris owner of the resort, agrees that his section needs to be relocated. The subject of controversy is where to put the road.

The Forest Service proposes to build the road across the Burgdorf property following approximately the route of an old bypass road, used briefly between 1967-1969. Harris wants the road rerouted further away from Burgdorf — west and south on the opposite side of Lake Creek, following, in part, the route of an existing logging road. (See map.)

REDUCING HISTORICAL VALUE

Since 1969 Harris has repeatedly resisted efforts by the Forest Service to acquire a 66 foot wide right-of-way along the old bypass road. He feels that a two-lane paved road would bring additional volumes of traffic into the Burgdorf area, thereby reducing its historical value.

"I would like to create a footpath from my proposed route across the meadow into the historical site. I believe that keeping traffic as far as possible from Burgdorf will enhance the experience," says Harris.

Harris proposes to re-create the lifestyle of the late 19th century, including electricity from a Pelton wheel (circa 1870) and farming with horses. He has already reconstructed 12-15 log buildings and the log hot springs pool. Scott eventually envisages an in-resident community sharing its lifestyle with visitors, a living historical sight.

The Forest Service, since the beginning of the controversy, has said relocating the road along the bypass road would be the most economical route. It said the route suggested by Harris would require building two extra bridges to cross Lake Creek, would be a longer way to pass through the area, and would cost an additional \$250,000.

Other problems with Harris' proposed route include crossing swamplands, excessive grades, underground water problems that would increase slippage in areas of cuts and fills, and an increase in annual maintenance costs, according to the Forest Service.

Both Harris and Bill Meiners, an environmental consultant based in Boise, question the Forest Service analysis. Harris says, "The only work they have done on

the west side of Lake Creek is to dig two two-foot deep test holes for soil samples."

Noting that it found Harris' proposed route unacceptable for the above reasons, the Forest Service surveyed several other routes between the town site and Lake

What will it cost in time and effort to preserve a part of Idaho's heritage?

Creek. They found each of the newly surveyed routes undesirable because of the swampy meadow. Again, the Forest Service focused on the one route it had found acceptable all along, the one following the old bypass road.

Failing to reach a compromise, condemnation proceedings were initiated by the Forest Service.

HISTORICAL DESIGNATION

On April 14, 1972, Burgdorf was officially designated a national historic site. This designation gave Harris a new ace to play. Under the National Historic Preservation Act, all federal agencies must consult the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation before taking any action that could alter the character of a historic site.

In February 1974, Harris contacted the council. Subsequently, the council's executive director determined that the Forest Service's road proposal would be out of character with Burgdorf's historical setting. He also said that the Forest Service had been delinquent in its responsibility by not consulting the council. An on-site inspection tour and meeting at Burgdorf were arranged.

Following the tour, the Forest Service made recommendations which it felt would mitigate any adverse impact of its proposed route. The service called for building the road along the bypass route, as it originally suggested. However, to make the road as unnoticeable as possible, the service proposed controlling dust, making the road the same color as the existing road, and not paving the road without the council's approval. Harris maintains that all these recommended provisions were part of the

Forest Service plan prior to the council's tour.

The council agreed to the recommendations which, in effect, withdrew the last obstacle to condemnation.

Of the advisory council meeting at Burgdorf, Harris says, "The real impact is the increase in the traffic which will be brought by the new road, and that was not sufficiently addressed at the meeting."

BURGDORF IN COURT

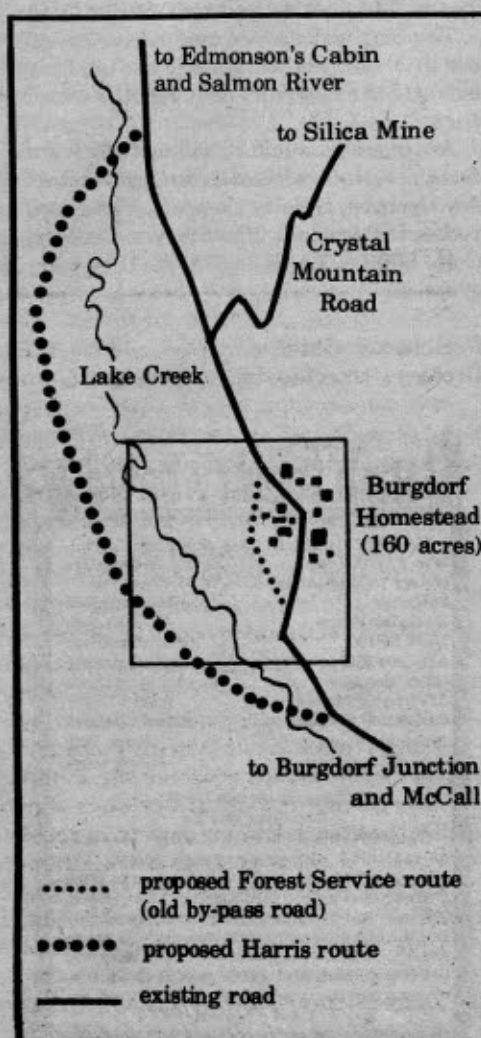
When the Forest Service initiated condemnation proceedings, Harris filed a counter suit in U.S. District Court to stop the action. Harris argued that the condemnation was illegal because the Forest Service had not followed the letter of the law. The service had failed to consult the historic advisory council.

In November 1974, U.S. District Judge Blaine Anderson ruled that the Forest Service had acted illegally. The decision was a precedent-setting one because it was the first federal condemnation action ever overturned.

The victory was short-lived, however. The case was re-opened, and in February, 1975, Judge Anderson dismissed the case "without prejudice" — a legal way of saying nobody won.

Since the first court battle, the historic advisory council has withdrawn its objections and the Forest Service has filed a new condemnation declaration.

This time Harris is basing Burgdorf's de-



fense on non-compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Section 102 (c) of NEPA requires federal agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement on "major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." The Forest Service argues that constructing such a small segment of road is not a "major federal action."

Bill Meiners tartly replies, "They're spending a million bucks — that's pretty major."

Meanwhile, contract bids for the 13-mile Burgdorf road went out the first part of May. Construction is scheduled to begin about July 1, unless Harris wins in court.

WHO BENEFITS? WHO PAYS?

While the Forest Service has labeled the road multi-purpose, meaning all forms of traffic will use it, it has quite frankly admitted the new road will make timber removal from the area more economical. Three large timber sales north and west of Burgdorf are scheduled in the next five years and 200 million board feet are scheduled for removal over the road in the next 20-30 years.

One of the Forest Service's justifications for the new road is that it will increase the value of the timber in the Burgdorf area, thereby bringing additional revenue to the counties which lie within the forest boundary.

The Forest Service figures \$150,000 in additional revenue will be returned in the next 20-30 years to the counties encompassing the forest. Idaho County will be responsible for the maintenance of the improved road which has in the past been largely maintained by the timber companies. It will receive approximately

It is an obvious boondoggle, an extravagant use of tax money as a subsidy to timber removal. —The Idaho Statesman

\$50,000 in additional revenue over the next 20-30 years to provide road maintenance for a new road already anticipated to cost \$160,000 to maintain.

Who will pick up the extra cost? The taxpayers of Idaho County.

TIMBER QUOTA

The amount of timber to be sold in the next five years in the Warren Planning Unit of the Payette National Forest (which includes the Burgdorf area) is 300% more than the amount harvested in the previous five-year plan. This increased volume of timber is the main reason for improving the road, according to Harris.

The entire Warren Land Use Plan is under administrative appeal by the Sierra Club. This appeal could alter the cutting schedule and reduce the need for improving the road, if it succeeds.

The Forest Service argues that the road improvements will benefit more than the loggers, but critics say the agency is hiding its true intent behind a multi-purpose mask.

Ed Heikkinen, a Payette district ranger from 1962-1971, says, "They only want to push through the road for one reason and that is logging."

The *Idaho Statesman*, Idaho's largest newspaper has said editorially of the road, "It is an obvious boondoggle, an extravagant use of tax money as a subsidy to timber removal."

And Bill Meiners comments, "They are spending \$1,200,000 to build a 13 mile section of road that essentially dead ends (goes to one lane dirt) and has access only four months a year. And, all explanations to the contrary, is primarily a timber road."

The Forest Service not only sees the proposed 13 mile road as an advantage to timber removal but as a means of providing an improved transportation system to the public. Forest Supervisor Bill Sendt says there is a great demand for providing for the needs of recreational travel.

"We realize this road (Burgdorf road) will bring more people, but one of the philosophies of the Forest Service is to provide the greatest good to the greatest number," says Sendt.

WHAT IS BURGDORF WORTH?

What is Burgdorf worth? Is it worth an extra \$250,000 in construction costs to change the road site? Is it worth the effort to prepare an environmental impact statement? Is it worth not opening up the

surrounding mountains to intensive timber management?

What are we going to do with the increased recreation traffic this road will bring? What will it cost in time and effort to preserve a part of Idaho's heritage?

These are a few of the questions we must ask. Some of them are difficult to answer. But when I soak in that hot log-enclosed pool, and gaze at the hand-hewn cabins and skillfully crafted hotel, I know it is worth something. A part of me has lived there, helped build the stone fireplace, hauled logs by horse team, carved furniture, laid wooden walks. And when I leave, a part of me remains.

Whatever your feelings on this issue, your input is needed quickly. You may write to the following:

Vern Hamre, Regional Forester
Federal Office Building
25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401

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Bill Sendt, Supervisor
Payette National Forest
McCall, Idaho 83638

Sen. Frank Church
No. 245
Russell Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. James McClure
No. 2106
Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Scott Harris
16 So. 11th
Payette, Idaho 83661

John Bacon is a freelance writer living in Fruitvale, Idaho.

Idaho voters say 'no' to coal plant

Exceeding their own wildest expectations, citizen groups in Idaho feel they have stopped a 1,000 megawatt coal-fired power plant proposed for a site south of Boise.

A recent advisory vote taken in three counties near the site shows that most voters oppose Idaho Power Co.'s Pioneer plant. A researcher for the anti-plant forces, Cliff Bradley, believes, "We have beat them in the hearings, too. The three-county vote is just icing on the cake."

"We did our groundwork better than the power companies did," says Bradley. His group, Citizens for Alternatives to Pioneer, has been working on an educational campaign on the power plant issue for two years. Their long-term, low budget approach worked better than the utility's expensive advertising blitz, Bradley believes.

The Pioneer plant is not stopped yet, however. Hearings before the Public Utilities Commission are still in session. The president of the PUC says that the vote "will be of some guidance," but that the PUC is required by law to act on evidence presented at public hearings. The final round of hearings is expected this month.

The strongest opposition to the plant emerged in two agricultural counties: Canyon, (considered to be the most conservative county in the state) where 60% of the voters were against the plant, and Elmore, where 80% were opposed. Elmore County would be downwind from Pioneer.

In urbanized Ada County, which includes the plant site 24 miles southeast of Boise, 56% of the voters opposed the plant.

Two issues which swayed many voters were expected rate increases and possible air pollution.

Plant opponents say that according to the utility's own figures a 250% rate increase is possible. Idaho Power contends that this figure is "blown out of proportion." The figure is based on long range expansion proposals. The Pioneer plant alone would only mean a 37% increase in rates, utility officials say.

Sulfur dioxide and fluoride emissions were the major air issues. Projected emissions caused the Ada County Medical Society to take a public stand against the

plant.

Bradley says the plant became a social issue of widespread public interest after an independent study for the PUC revealed that Idaho didn't really need the entire 1,000 megawatts proposed. Testimony presented to the PUC in February showed that Idaho Power's growth projections were higher than those made by an independent consulting firm. The firm, Arthur D. Little, Inc., said that assuming no major changes in the state's energy policies, Idaho would need a 500 megawatt power plant in 1981. An additional 500 megawatts of generating capacity wouldn't be necessary until at least 1985, according to the study. Idaho Power plans to have one 500 megawatt unit at Pioneer in operation in 1981 and the second in 1983.

Although they believe they have al-

"There is an underlying current emerging. Idaho does not want a lot of growth."

most won the first battle, hard work is ahead, opponents of the plant say. If the plant is turned down, they'll be seeking rate reform and energy conservation to make sure that Idaho Power's predictions about electricity demand don't come true, says Debbie Kuehl, coordinator of Citizens for Alternatives to Pioneer.

Cliff Bradley says he hopes the state will begin to take a critical look at proposed desert land entry farming projects. While massive irrigation projects' pumps will increase the demand for power, they will also reduce the supply of power by draining water away from hydroelectric projects downstream on the Snake River.

Kuehl sees the recent vote as a sign that the state is backing away from rapid growth. Although in its advertising campaign Idaho Power told voters that voting against the plant might mean "freezing in the dark," most voters apparently weren't susceptible to such threats. "There is an underlying current emerging," says Kuehl. "Idaho does not want a lot of growth."



PEACEFUL SETTING. The Burgdorf historic site and the existing one-lane dirt road.

Photo by Scott Harris.

Two groups sue but won't stop construction of Wheatland plant

Two Wyoming environmental groups are appealing the recent decision of the Wyoming Industrial Siting Council approving a coal-fired power plant near Wheatland, Wyo. However, the two groups have decided not to seek an injunction to hold off construction of the 1,500 megawatt plant.

Robert Wigington of the Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC) explained that Missouri Basin Power Project (MBPP), which proposed the plant, will have to decide whether or not to proceed with construction. Prior to announcement of the suit, MBPP had said construction would begin in July.

Laramie River Conservation Council Chairman Tyler Dodge said his group of Wheatland area ranchers and farmers felt forced to appeal because the siting council

had failed to do anything about the threat to the agricultural economy.

Two other suits have been filed in connection with the case. The state of Nebraska and the state of Wyoming both filed suit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which must approve the Grey Rocks Reservoir on the Laramie River as part of the power plant project.

Nebraska wants to maintain the status quo on waterflows in the North Platte River. Wyoming's suit is broader in scope. It is challenging the federal government's jurisdiction over certain waters under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Wyoming asks that the corps' hearing on the Grey Rocks Reservoir be declared null and void.

Wigington says that as far as he knows, neither of the states are seeking injunctions to slow the project.

6-High Country News — June 4, 1976

Wilderness. . .

(continued from page 1)

a thousand new backpackers off the street who rush out and buy freeze dried awful burgers, backpacks, sleeping bags, etc., and blissfully tromp off into Diablo solely because they read a newspaper article about its designation.

And after the formerly unknown and unused Diablo Badlands Wilderness gets some use from the regular users of Paradise Meadows, the chances are that most of these people will go back to their old stomping grounds in Paradise Meadows.

Aldo Leopold wrote, "The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone, nor even in the present, but rather in the future."

We might add that the heaviest use of wilderness also lies in the future. People need wilderness. People in a modern, urban, industrial, artificial, stressful environment especially need wilderness. Wilderness recreation will grow as it has grown in the last several years. Official wilderness designation, fortunately, gives the land manager greater authority to control that use.

But it also means that we need more wilderness areas. Only one-half of one per cent of the nation's land area is presently protected as wilderness. Five per cent or more, however, is in a wilderness condition. We need to protect as much of this de facto wilderness as possible so there will be adequate wilderness in the future.

Another consideration along this line is that wilderness areas are fairly uncommon now. Putting the name wilderness area on a place sets it apart. It says to the fellow looking at a map, "This is something special."

But our wilderness system is just beginning. There are only 127 wilderness areas in the United States. When the wilderness system is completed, there will be well over 1,000 (maybe 2,000) wilderness areas. The name will not be uncommon anymore. Wilderness areas will range from two acre islands off the Ohio shore in Lake Erie to whole ecosystems of 10 million acres in Alaska. The name wilderness area will have lost its novelty.

PROPERLY MANAGED?

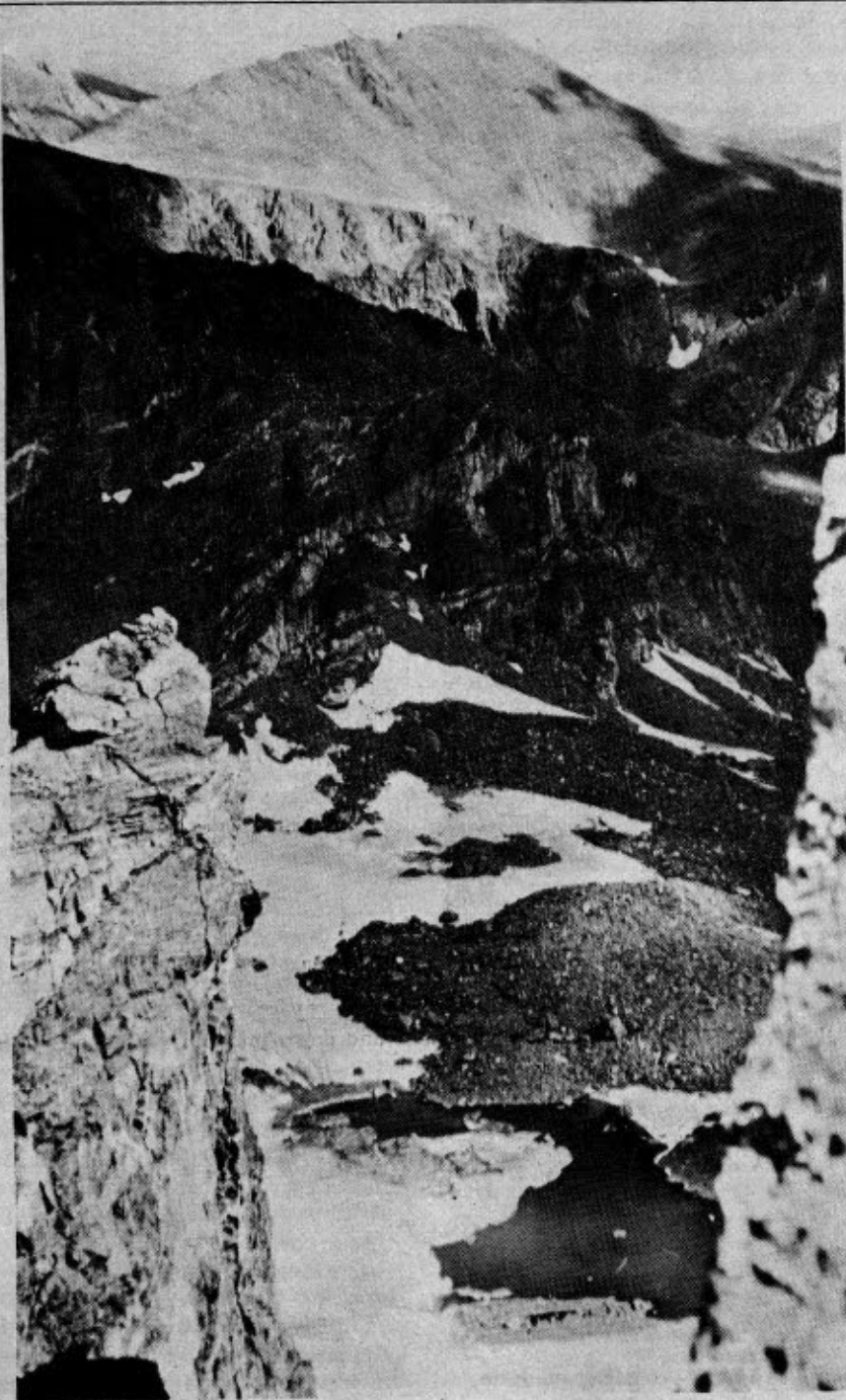
The real problem with over-use in a few wilderness areas lies in poor wilderness management by the administering agency. Manage wilderness?! Isn't wilderness

supposed to be left alone? Isn't that what it's all about?

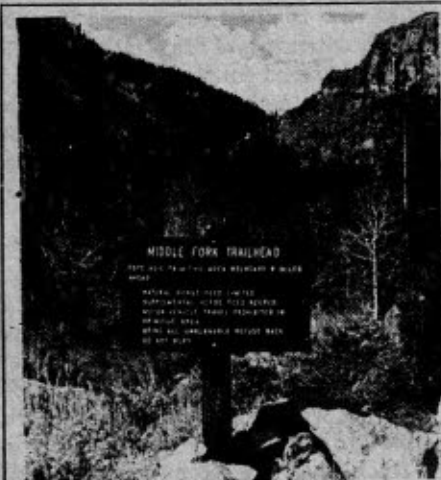
The purpose of wilderness management should be to allow the natural ecological processes free rein — but to control, administer, and manage the human use. All other uses should be secondary to protecting the basic wilderness resource. Wilderness recreation should be permitted in wilderness until it shows signs of adversely impacting the resource. If an area is being over-used by recreationists, then permits,

have proved helpful in dispersal of use.

Some forest supervisors have deliberately twisted the intent of the Wilderness Act. The act requires management of wilderness use, but they say that the act does not allow them to manage. This interpreta-



HEAVY USE. The Indian Peaks area of Colorado is receiving heavy use even though it has not been designated as a wilderness. Photo by Jeanne Hemphill.



TO MARK OR NOT TO MARK? In heavily used wilderness areas, one management tool might be to place no trail signs. This is not practical or even desirable for many areas, but it could be used to limit use in some especially fragile areas.

restrictions, and other controls must be instituted. If an area is badly damaged or very fragile, it may be necessary to prohibit all use in the area for a period of time or strictly cut use back to a minimum.

None of us likes the heavy hand of government in our libertarian wilderness experiences, but some control is the price we are going to have to pay if we are to have wilderness. The degree of freedom one can have is inversely proportional to population density.

I can be allowed a much greater degree of freedom where I live in Catron County, N.M., (7,000 square miles, 2,000 people) than in the heart of Manhattan. The same applies to wilderness.

Of course, agencies should develop effective, convenient, and non-tyrannical methods of controlling wilderness recreation. Trail-head education methods, such as identifying heavily used sites on displays and encouraging more dispersed use in little used portions, have been effective. Also, wilderness rangers and volunteers

tion is not based in fact.

Even more outrageous is the past policy of some supervisors to let management practices in Forest Service primitive areas deteriorate completely in order to cause ill feelings on the part of local citizens toward any future wilderness designation.

A classic case of this occurred in the Cloud Peak Primitive Area of Wyoming. Many years ago one of the past forest supervisors took out all bridges, culverts, and even trail markers — saying that these "structures" were not allowed in wilderness areas. The supervisor blamed it on the Cloud Peak Wilderness (which is not yet wilderness area by law) and aroused quite a bit of animosity. Meanwhile, management went downhill — causing local folks

to think, "Well, if things are this bad in a primitive area, don't make it worse by making it a wilderness area."

Another way agencies can help is by not advertising wilderness areas. Wilderness designation cannot be done in a vacuum, but dedication ceremonies, brochures, signs by the highway, and newspaper articles are not always necessary. The agencies seem to have gone out of their way to publicize some areas — thus attracting more use.

Similarly, the managing agency can keep access poor to trailheads, publish no visitor maps, place no trail signs, maintain few or no trails, or construct no trails, for that matter. Naturally, this is not practical or even desirable for many areas, but it could be used to limit use in some — especially fragile areas.

With increasing use, wilderness manners and ethics are going to have to be refined and enforced. The agencies should instruct wilderness recreationists in proper use. National and local conservation groups should be heavily involved in this. Sierra Club and Wilderness Society outings should set an exemplary standard of quality wilderness use (as they unfortunately have not done). Recreationists who abuse wilderness should be fined, jailed, prohibited from using wilderness, or otherwise punished.

We must also realize that the art (or science?) of wilderness management is at a very primitive level. Wilderness managers have not had long to develop the techniques and tools they need to effectively control recreation (and other) use. As the art of wilderness management improves (as it will substantially), we will see less human impact. It is also important to note that little money or manpower has been available for wilderness management in the past.

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?

There is, of course, only one long-range alternative to wilderness designation for a wild area — and that is development. Road construction, cutting of marginal timber, off road vehicle use, dams, ski areas. With the innumerable development pressures rising, wild country cannot remain wild long without official legal protection as wilderness.

So, even if the Designation-Over-use Argument were valid, our choice is:

- 1) Designate it as wilderness and have more vibram soles walk over part of it, or;
- 2) Don't designate it and in 10 or 20 years at the maximum have it timbered, roaded, flooded by dams, or have thundering hordes of knobby tires run over it.

Wouldn't it be possible just to protect an area administratively as a special management unit to preserve its wildness instead of going through the Congressional wilderness designation process? Back in the 1920s and '30s when the Forest Service Wilderness System was being set up administratively, this was the idea. But wilderness conservationists soon found out that an area administratively designated could be administratively declassified. As an example, the Forest Service established a Gila Wilderness of nearly 1 million acres in 1924, but by 1952 were proposing to cut it down to 375,000 acres. This was the whole purpose of the Wilderness Act — to

The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone, nor even in the present, but rather in the future.

—Aldo Leopold

remove wilderness protection from whimsical decisions of administrators and give it the long-term protection only the force of law can confer.

Besides the ultimate fate of a wild land area being lost to development, there is another side-issue: A friendly, trustworthy forest supervisor promises the local folks that he will keep the Diablo Badlands wild, not by wilderness designation, but by "quasi-protecting" the area by administrative powers. No matter how well intentioned the land manager may be, sooner or later he will retire, quit, or be transferred. His honorable policies will very likely disappear with him. The Wilderness Act guarantees continuity of policy.

There is one major federal land agency that has no legal instrument designed for including areas in the Wilderness System. The Bureau of Land Management, which administers vast acreages of wild country, is not under the jurisdiction of the Wilderness Act. Until a BLM Organic Act with a wilderness provision is passed, the BLM will remain outside the law. This means two things: 1) The best we can do is get an area protected by the administrative designation termed primitive area. 2) A primitive area offers no guarantee of protection by law.

Some influential U.S. Senators feel that lands in the National Park System don't need wilderness protection. They feel that park managers are doing a fine job protecting wild lands and wilderness designation only serves to duplicate efforts and hamper "flexibility."

It should be noted that park service personnel want wilderness designation in their parks. Wilderness status serves to reinforce the protective policies of the park service and guarantee that management "flexibility" won't be allowed to alter wilderness lands in the future.

ONLY REAL PROTECTION

With this understanding of the various positions and policies of our federal land managing agencies, it is without question that wilderness, protected by law — not backcountry or special management units — is the only real protection for wild lands.

Now, as much as I would like to have the entire Gila Wilderness for my exclusive personal use, I realize that the Gila and the important additions we are proposing to it must have other friends. We lost Glen Canyon to a reservoir on the Colorado River because it was the "Place No One Knew." Those few who did know Glen Canyon surely would have preferred to share it with others than to have lost it forever under the silent waters of Lake Powell. If presently unprotected wild lands are to be preserved as wilderness, they are going to have to receive some use, because that is the only way people will know that there is something worth preserving there. It's the price we have to pay.

So, does official wilderness designation cause an area to be overrun with people? Maybe — in a few cases. But many wilderness areas aren't overused and those that are probably would be regardless of any formal designation.

In all cases, it will take enlightened management to protect wilderness from recreational abuse. The alternative to wilderness designation is development which will destroy all aspects of wilderness.



Dave Foreman is a field representative for the Wilderness Society in the Southwest. He can be reached at Box 38, Glenwood, N.M. 88039.

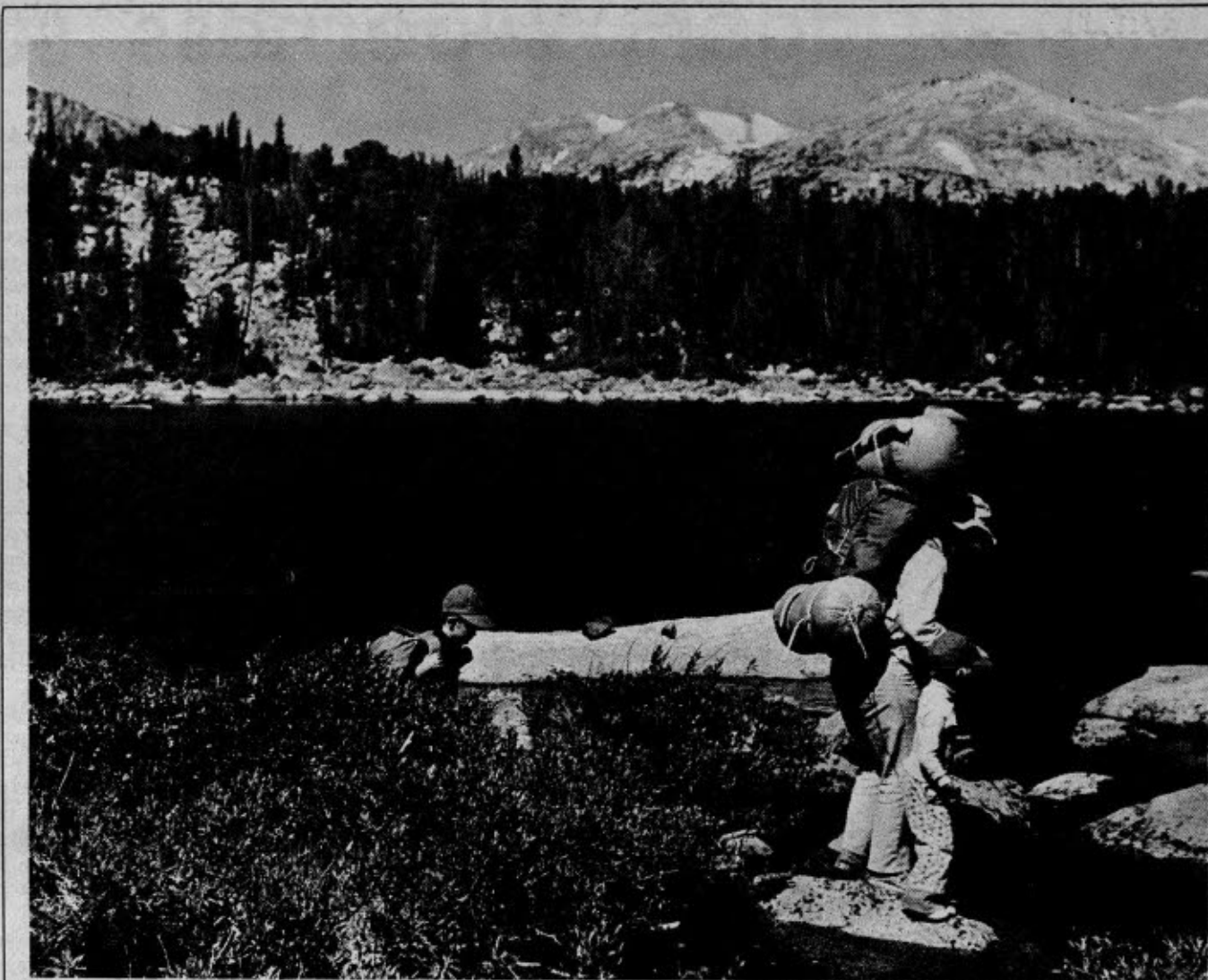


Photo of Leg Lake in the Popo Agie Primitive Area in Wyoming by Charles Smith.

Will man destroy his last oasis?

by Alexis Parks

In the wintertime, wilderness expands. Life burrows under it or moves to its fringes. And across its surface solitude stretches, languid as a sleeping cat.

In the summer, the land contracts; becomes civilized. Trails cross and recross it. Horsebackers and hikers probe its depths. Roads loop round its borders. And suddenly two very different worlds collide.

From the outside, comes man, strapped to his latest technology, modern and mobile. He moves along the trails with all the composite longings of a Mayflower pilgrim, Daniel Boone, and everyman's Madison-Avenue-Image of The Outdoorsman. Freed from the restrictions of society, he alone is the rule-maker, the ruler.

Down the trail, the wilderness waits: rugged, primitive, immobile yet fluid, enduring yet infinitely fragile.

And the outcome?

At its most beneficial, a stirring within man called conscience. At its worst: conquest.

"It's the ultimate human dilemma," laments writer J. A. Zivuska, "that man destroys that which has the most meaning to him." And we catalogue the results: the pollution of mountain lakes, the overgrazing and overcrowding of popular campsites, the eroding of trails and meadows. Wilderness protected. Yet by its very designation, highly vulnerable.

Why? Because wilderness is that last Oasis, that protected reserve of natural resources where man can feel a link to the past, and feel that slow, immutable pull to the future. It is that meager handful of land, perhaps two per cent of our total contiguous states that is defined like the leaves, stems, petals of a solitary wildflower. Defined by its impact upon our senses.

A few seasons ago I shared a cliffside

roost with two eagles. Actually they flew out away from my approach, circling round and down into the valley below. It had taken most of a morning to reach the pass. It had taken me three hours of hiking through windfall and wild pine, of crossing high meadow tundra and glacial melt, of climbing jagged rocks and falling rocks and rocks that hung on like glue to the moss and I to them to reach the pass, and the eagles' roost. Beyond and above me was blue sky and the tips of two peaks. Below, in the next valley was a small blue-black lake and not a sign of a trail to it.

Although I had never seen the lake before, I was struck by the similarity of its setting and that of an isolated lake I had read about a few weeks before in *Colorado Outdoors*.

"There was nary a sign of a fireplace, campsite, not even a stump left by an axeman . . . there wasn't even a faint trail left by fishermen along the water's edge, no bait cans or rusty tin cans, nothing. . . ."

From that first view, the writer went on to provide a trail description of how to reach it. I read it with interest, and sadness. For I knew that with human impact, the vision of wilderness the writer had shared would never again be the same.

Yet here I was, perched on the edge of a world like the one described. Below me was a wild area, a throwback, a place that according to some had been totally vanquished. But it was there, hooked to the eagles' circling gaze, and mine.

And I felt a kinship to the eagles, a link to them, and to the others that had circled the area, silently. For I had no doubt that there had been others, other backpackers through the area. I was too close to civilization for it to have been entirely overlooked. But there were no signs. No visible signs.

Nor would I make any myself. There was no way down except down the way I had come. And so I settled back for a brief lunch

and a slice of scenery unequalled anywhere.

Some people discover the wilderness through a "group" experience such as Outward Bound. Some discover it through solitary backpacking or backpacking with a few friends. Some never discover it through experience, but hold it as that ultimate "loophole" in the back of their mind: that unentered space, that final shut door beyond which the man-made intrusions of society never enter.

And in each case, the responsibility for its preservation remains the same: with the individual. Call it the protective custody of conscience. It is a consciousness that can cause one to travel through an unknown valley and leave it unmarked. That can make one turn from a campsite and leave it as it was found. That can make one speak of that scenery and solitude, yet keep secret the wild places that one hopes will never have a trail to them.

Without that consciousness, nature becomes highly vulnerable, that isolated land under the shadow of the foot of man. Below my rocky perch that day lay a wild valley that had been protected by more than legislation. For I had no doubt that there had been others through the area. But they had traveled without "tracks."

Descending the pass that afternoon, sliding down a rivulet of disrupted rock, I felt the vulnerability of the land. I felt the shadow of my own foot forging a path down the mountainside.

Call it wishful thinking, that hope for the permanence of wild places. But it lingers in us all. Why? Because there's a need in all of us to feel the lure of the unknown. Because there's a part of us, that feels discomfort with an excess of comfort. Because there's a challenge, call it self-reliance, in the return to that unmarked, unpeopled place, that solitary space called wilderness.

And in that isolation, the survival of wilderness depends not only on Mother Nature, but on the nature of man.

8-High Country News
June 4, 1976

Bridger Wilderness survey a labor of love



Gary Neely lowers a plankton sampler in Crescent Lake in the Bridger Wilderness. Wyoming Game and Fish Department photo by Greg Ray.

by Gregory T. Ray

For four years a Pinedale, Wyo., man has made the Bridger Wilderness his summer home—leaving the upper reaches of this rocky, barren wilderness only for brief four-day rest periods and then returning to the back country.

Moving slowly and methodically from lake-to-lake and from stream-to-stream, this man has seen more of this 383,300-acre wilderness in four years than most people would see in a lifetime.

To Ralph Hudelson, the journey through the wilderness has not only been a labor of love, but actually part of his job as project leader of a special Bridger Wilderness High Mountain Lake and Stream Survey.

Stretching along the western face of the Wind River Range, the Bridger Wilderness is one of five designated wilderness areas in Wyoming. The increasing popularity of the area led fisheries personnel in the 1960s to begin plans for an exhaustive survey of the entire Bridger Wilderness.

Information was lacking on the actual number of lakes and streams in this area, and fisheries personnel needed more information on the fish species present in the lakes and streams as well as data on physical features of the waters themselves.

The idea was to assess past management programs, present lake and stream potential, and future management goals.

Work on the extensive seven-year survey began in 1969 after the state Game and

Fish Department and the U.S. Forest Service outlined a long-term cooperative study.

Extending from the subalpine zone at about 7,500 feet, the wilderness pushes progressively upwards to a culmination at the crest of Gannett Peak at 13,804 feet. However, most of the lakes and streams in the Bridger Wilderness are found between 9,000 and 11,000 feet.

1,300 LAKES

Here, nestled in a region of intensive glacial scouring and delicate alpine tundra lie some 1,300 wilderness lakes ranging in size from runoff potholes to the 160-acre wilderness giant known as Seneca. Connecting this assortment of lakes is an extensive system of mountain streams stretching a total of 575 miles through the wilderness.

It was hoped initially that the massive wilderness survey would somewhere turn up the rare Colorado River subspecies of cutthroat trout. Closely related to the Yellowstone cutthroat, the Colorado River variety easily hybridizes with its cousin, making it difficult to find pure strains of the subspecies. So far no pure strains have been found.

With few exceptions, most of the lakes in the Bridger Wilderness were at one time void of fish. Many of the fish species present are the result of plants made in the early 1900s, first by single individuals and outfitters eager to see fisheries established; and then later by U.S. Forest Service and Game and Fish personnel.

Unfortunately, many of the early plants, though well-intentioned, have limited the type of fisheries management that can be



Sizzling trout and wood smoke. Photo by the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

applied in many of the lakes and have resulted in substantial hybridization. Back country fishermen, for example, might pull out a rainbow-cutthroat rainbow-golden cross.

Due to their inability to compete, golden trout are perhaps one of the most vulnerable fish in this delicate wilderness ecosystem and can be lost forever if rainbow or cutthroat trout are stocked in the same water.

Also of concern is the abundance of brook trout in the wilderness lakes. A highly prolific fish, brook trout can multiply so quickly they eventually crowd out other fish and even themselves, leading to stunted growth and heavy overpopulation. Traveling through the stream network, brook trout can also invade other waters leading to further contamination of fish species.

STOCKING DE-EMPHASIZED

One of the major reasons for the Bridger survey was to inventory the lakes and streams to find out exactly what species inhabit each of the waters and prevent such species contamination and hybridization in any future plants.

Also taken into account is that various trout require specific types of aquatic habitat and planting fish in a lake that lacked such habitat would be unproductive.

It was found from analyzing stomach contents that golden trout, for example, prefer two types of plankton (tiny animal and plant life) even though many other types of food may be available.

Yellowstone cutthroats, which form the bulk of the wilderness fishery, appear to be best adapted to wilderness living, though the Game and Fish Department has had good success stocking golden trout near the headwaters of major drainages where risk of contamination from other fish species is minimal. Golden can now be found in 25-30 lakes in the Bridger Wilderness.

Although golden and cutthroat account for a majority of the fish stocked in the wilderness, brook trout are still stocked in waters where there is little or no chance for them to escape and contaminate other waters.

Due largely to the rugged terrain and high costs, fish stocking in wilderness lakes is being de-emphasized, and man-



Fishing in a high mountain lake in the Wind River Range in Wyoming. HCN photo by Tom Bell.

love

agement in recent years has been geared to natural reproduction or in some cases stocking to establish natural reproduction.

FEW HUNGRY LUNKERS

Although a Forest Service study showed a majority of the wilderness travelers venture into the mountains in search of high country fishing waters, Hudelson cautions that individuals must accept the wilderness for what it is and not be lured into thinking hungry lunkers lie waiting in every fishing hole.

"Wilderness visitors should accept what they find and not expect to find trophy fish in every water," said Hudelson. The wilderness veteran added, however, that the Game and Fish Department is trying to establish trophy fishing waters in each of the five management units in the wilderness.

In such waters, anglers would have an opportunity to catch larger-than-average fish; though the number of fish caught per hour might be low.

For some often unexplained reason a few lakes have a relatively low reproduction rate, but have a high growth rate, creating lakes with limited populations, but larger than average fish.

TREMENDOUS VARIATION

While the Bridger Wilderness survey, which is now completed, uncovered a wealth of information on the size and type of fish inhabiting the watery depths of wilderness lakes, it has also uncovered fascinating information about the lakes themselves.

The study of the Bridger Wilderness lakes and streams was broken into four types of surveys ranging from strictly observation to extremely detailed analysis of the water chemistry, aquatic organisms, spawning potential, rate of water exchange and lake depth.

Perhaps most interesting of all is the tremendous variation in depth of the high alpine lakes. Wilderness waters range from shallow runoff catch basins to the 245 feet deep Seneca Lake.

It is thought Bear Lake might be even deeper than this, but an electrical failure in his sonar equipment last year prevented Hudelson from checking the lake's depth.

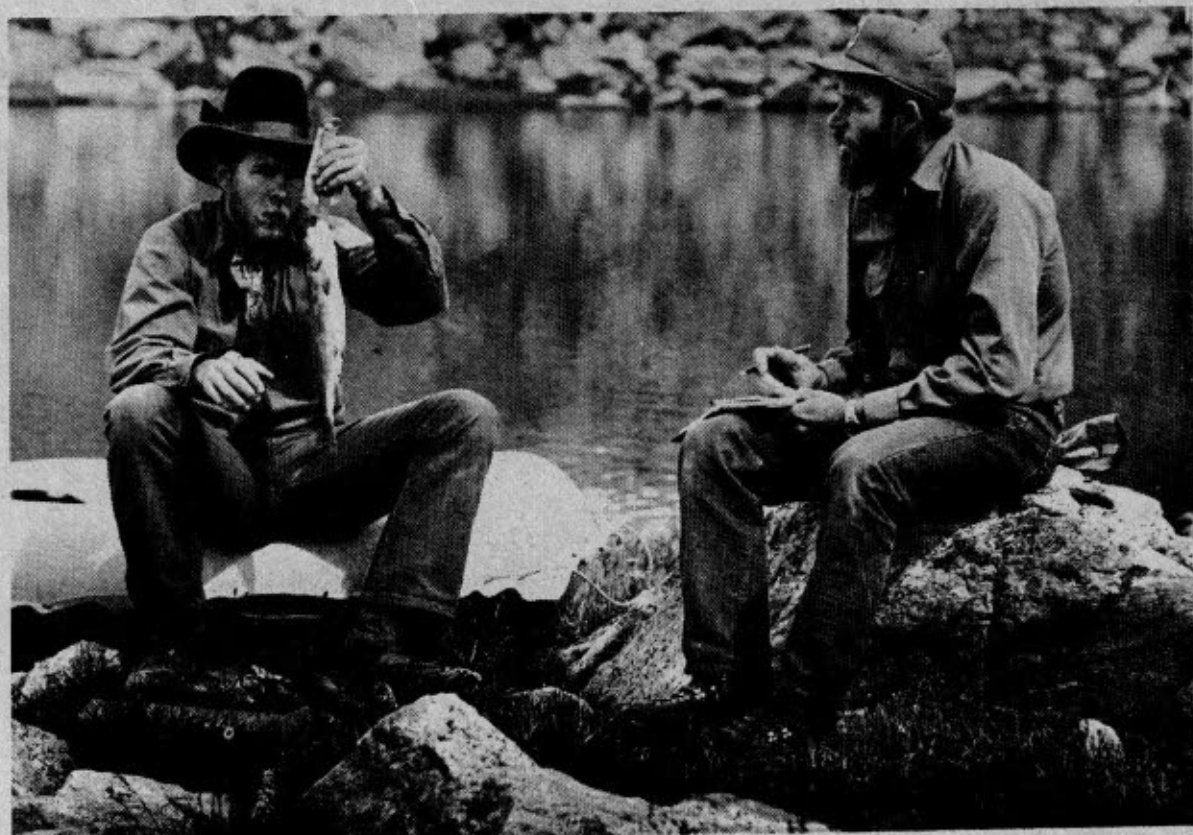
Several years ago Hudelson says one of the fisheries biologists attempted to get a relative idea of the Bear Lake's depth using a specially-marked "hand line"; however, 50 feet from the shore the 200 foot line would no longer touch bottom — leaving the depth of the lake still a watery mystery.

The Bridger Wilderness survey has been an exhausting task for seven long years. A crew of three men packed into the high country for 10 days at a time — carrying specialized equipment along with a rubber raft, by horseback when possible, and at other times via backpack.

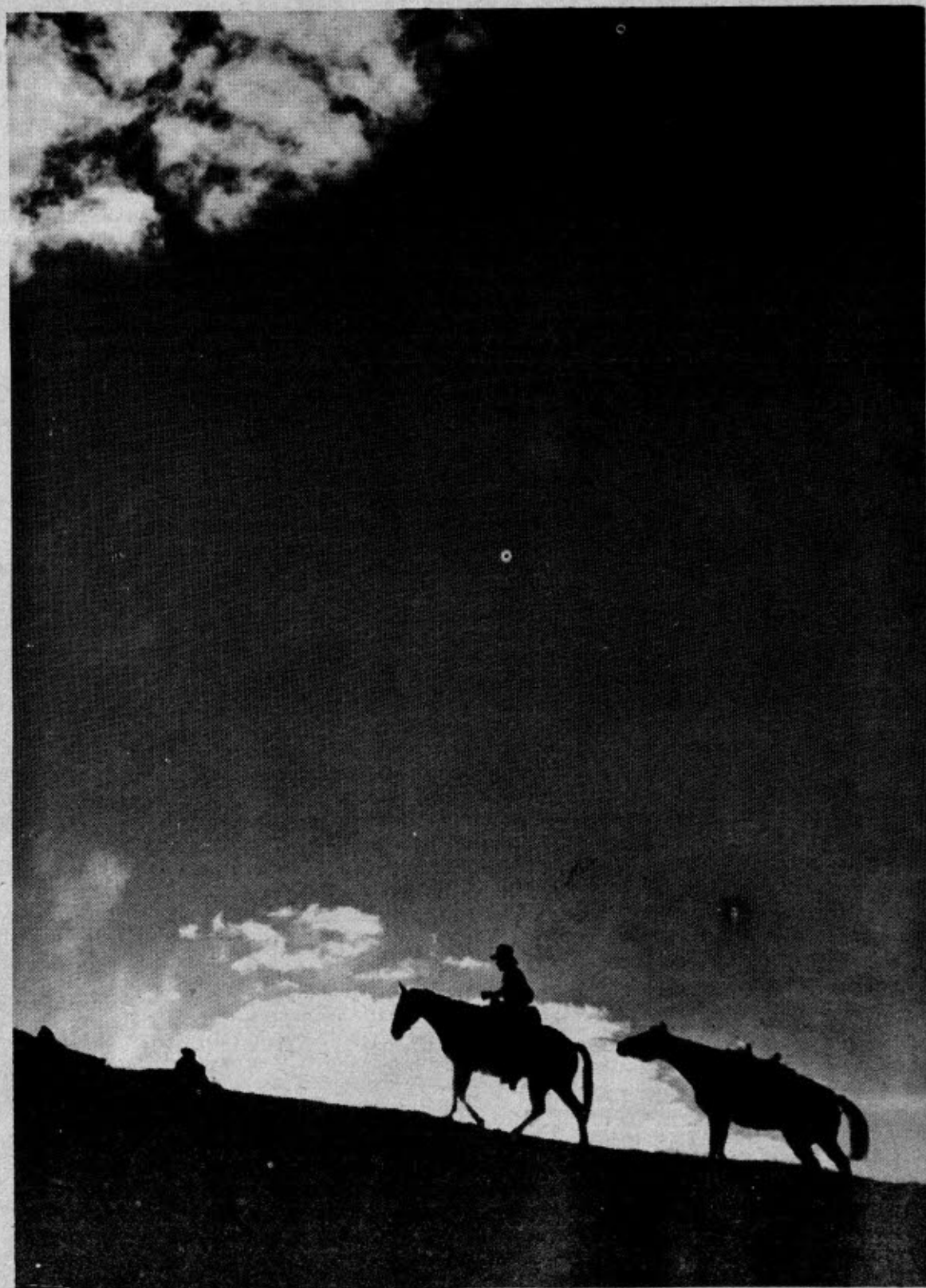
MORE THAN MEMORIES

Sitting in his Pinedale office reviewing the vast store of survey data, Hudelson still has memories of the rocky peaks gently disappearing in the fading alpine glow with the sound of a lone harmonica drifting through the mountain cirques.

But the Bridger leader has brought back far more than memories. His work and that of two other project leaders over the last seven years represent the most complete wilderness lake and stream study ever undertaken in Wyoming — a wilderness legacy to be shared by high country visitors for generations to come.



Ralph Hudelson (right) records fish data while Gary Neely (left) reads off the weights. Wyoming Game and Fish Department photo by Greg Ray.



Gary Neely heads back to camp after a long day surveying lakes and streams. Wyoming Game and Fish Department photo by Greg Ray.

10-High Country News — June 4, 1976



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

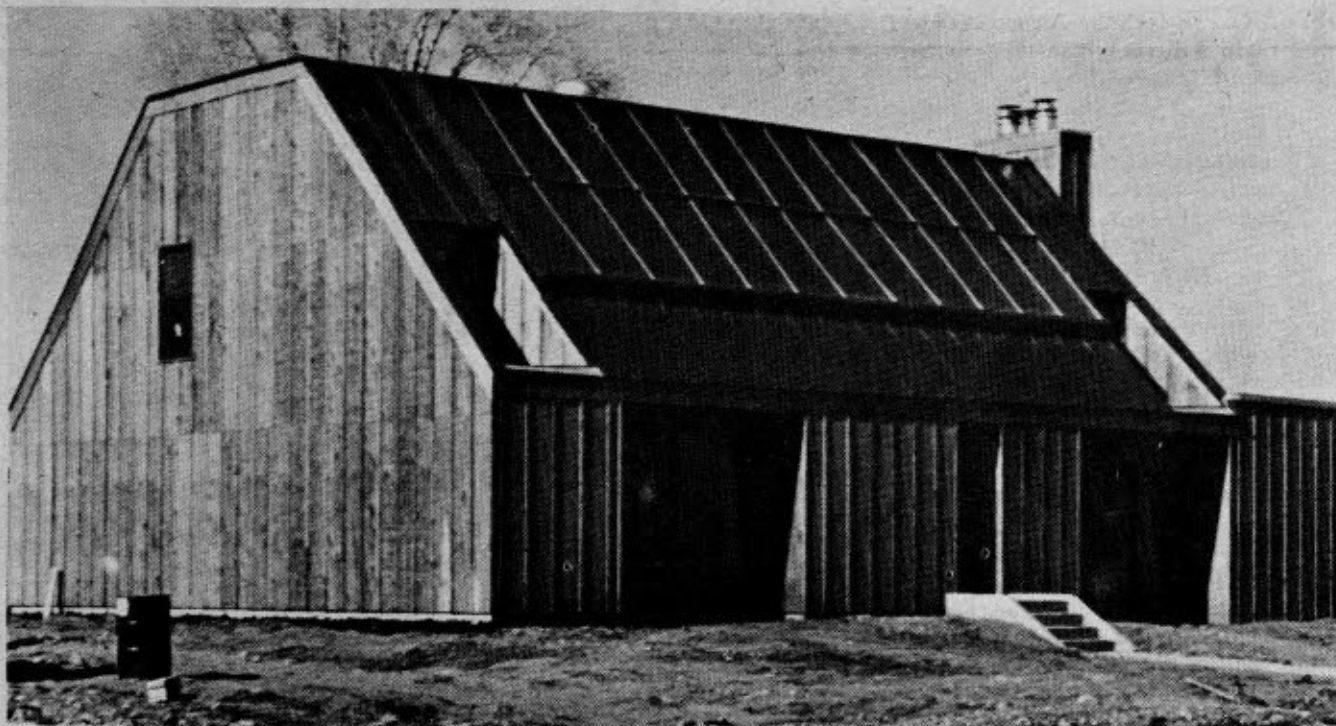
MARKET SAYS CRISIS OVER. A Wall Street Journal analysis of the stock market indicates the energy crisis is over — in the minds of the public. At the time of the Arab oil embargo, stocks in leisure companies fell drastically while energy stocks continued rising. Now the situation has reversed. Walt Disney stock, which fell 80% to \$16.625, is now back up to \$63 a share. The stock of Coachmen Industries, which makes recreational vehicles, has climbed by 1,560% from its late 1973 low. At the same time, energy stocks' popularity has slipped. Even coal and uranium stock prices are rising only at the same pace as the general market. "The stock market seems to have largely adjusted to a future that doesn't include Project Independence as a realistic alternative," the Wall Street Journal says.

PIPELINE MAY LEAK. An audit of welds in the Alaska oil pipeline has revealed 1,950 "welding discontinuities." Alyeska Pipeline Services Co., the consortium of oil companies building the pipeline, conducted the audit and is in the process of correcting 278 of the welds. Associated Press reports that if the Interior Department orders the company to dig up some disputed steel pipe welds already buried at river crossings, the pipeline could be delayed by several months. State and federal overseers disagree with pipeline builders on the quality of many of the welds. More than half of the pipeline is installed, and it is to be completed Dec. 31.

SOLAR PRIORITIES. The federal government is emphasizing the wrong type of solar energy research, according to Dr. George Lof of the Colorado State University solar energy applications lab. Lof told the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) that it should give top priority to its solar heating and cooling demonstration program rather than complex schemes to generate electricity from the sun. Lof recommended increasing the solar heating and cooling program tenfold at an ERDA meeting in Denver, according to the Rocky Mountain News.

WOOD POWER. Green Mountain Power Corp., a Vermont utility, is considering building a 50 megawatt power plant that burns waste wood for fuel. The utility investigated coal, oil, and wood and decided wood was cheaper and cleaner. Wood is renewable, has no sulfur pollution, and isn't controlled by the Arabs. The plant would consume 400,000 tons of wood per year — all of it trees and tree parts that would not be used for lumber, according to the Associated Press.

GEOTHERMAL LOANS. Regulations governing the federal geothermal loan guarantee program have been issued by the Energy Research and Development Administration. The loan guarantees are set up to encourage loans to geothermal energy developers by offering to pay back lenders in case of default. About \$200 million in loans is expected to be guaranteed during the next 12 months. A similar program to guarantee loans for coal gasification and oil shale development is pending in the House.



SOLAR POWER MAKING SHAKEY DEBUT. The operating record of commercially built solar systems is generally poor, says William A. Shurcliff. The new solar-heated home shown above, which hasn't had a chance to prove itself yet, is in Gunnison, Colo.

Solar homes costly, easily damaged

Although he remains optimistic, solar energy expert William A. Shurcliff paints a grim picture of the solar heating industry's past record for producing durable and cost-effective products.

In a four-day tour of 12 solar houses, he found eight had broken glass and leaks of water or moisture. In addition at least 80% of the total of 200 or so solar heated buildings that exist today have been uneconomic, he has found.

Shurcliff made the observations in the February issue of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. Shurcliff is a physicist working full time on solar heating of buildings. He is author of *Solar Heated Buildings: A Brief Survey*.

Shurcliff makes it clear that the problems lie with active solar systems, those that pump air or water through a solar collector — not passive solar systems, where the building itself is used to collect and retain solar heat. Shurcliff says, "A few schemes seem to me to be genuinely successful in terms of performance and cost. Most of these are off-beat schemes, however, which appear crude in some respects, and many architects and builders have shied away from them."

In the *Bulletin* article, Shurcliff predicts that within three years many truly economic schemes for heating new homes will be available. "But today, to the dismay of newcomers to the field, there are literally hundreds of approaches and the race is neck-and-neck. No one knows which approach, or which dozen approaches, will eventually gain a decisive lead," he says.

"The history of the development of solar heating is replete with tragedies," he says, "glass cracking, edge seals failing, tubes breaking loose from the metal sheet they had been soldered to, pipes becoming clogged, serpentine tubes failing to drain properly and subsequently freezing and bursting, joints leaking, insulation installed badly and allowing excessive heat loss, underground insulation becoming waterlogged, rapid corrosion. Parts that hold up well in winter may deteriorate fast under the hot summer sun (and under glass!)." "Mistakes are seldom publicized, however," Shurcliff says. "Accordingly, newcomers to the field have frequently repeated the mistakes made earlier by others."

The total costs of most systems today far

exceed their benefits, Shurcliff says.

"In most instances, the overall cost exceeds the overall benefit by a factor of two or three," he says. "In some instances (where a high technology firm worked against a 60-day deadline) the factor has been as high as 10."

In conclusion, Shurcliff notes, "We are still in the romantic, wide open, inventing stage. Thousands of eager people, most of

them young, are involved. Their purses may be near-empty; but their smiles are infectious. They — and this author — are highly optimistic."

The article also contains sections on retrofitting, achieving high efficiency, and government regulation of the industry. It is the third in a series of *Bulletin* articles on solar energy. The *Bulletin* is published at 1020-24 E, 58th St., Chicago, Ill. 60637.



Solar exhibit to tour in Colorado

Residents of all corners of Colorado will soon have the chance to see solar energy put to use. The Colorado Solar Energy Exhibit Program will begin touring the state in mid-July and will be on the road through the end of the year.

The exhibit, which is a project of the University of Colorado at Denver, is designed to allow for visitor interaction. Included will be working models and a communications center to tell about heating and cooling of buildings; architectural applications; stored solar energy in winds, water, and plants; solar thermal conversion; electricity from the sun (photovoltaic conversion); storing solar energy; and energy conservation.

The organizers previously planned on sending the exhibit around the country, but that plan has been at least temporarily postponed. A staff member, Jean Webber, said they received "stacks of letters" from HCN readers elsewhere in the region as a result of the article in the Dec. 5, 1975, HCN. However, there was not enough money to support the nationwide tour, due partially to the lack of funding from the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA).

The exhibit has financial backing from many supporters including the National Science Foundation, the Colorado Centennial Commission, research institutes, and several solar and oil companies.

The tour will begin with three weeks in Denver. It will then travel to other towns for one or two week stays.

As part of the exhibit, a handbook will be distributed at minimal cost. The booklet will inform the general public about how to use solar energy and where to get further information, technical assistance, and products in Colorado.

The organizers are asking help gathering information on solar applications in the state, including costs, system function, and a brief description of the project. They would also like to know if the project is open to visitors at any time.

The exhibition will open in Denver in mid-July at the Museum of Natural History. Confirmed dates for the tour are Carbondale August 1-9, Vail August 11-20, Durango September 12-18, Greeley October 12-20, and Fort Collins October 31-November 9. Other cities to be visited include Grand Junction, Steamboat Springs, Pueblo, Alamosa, Sterling, Colorado Springs, La Junta, Trinidad, and Boulder.



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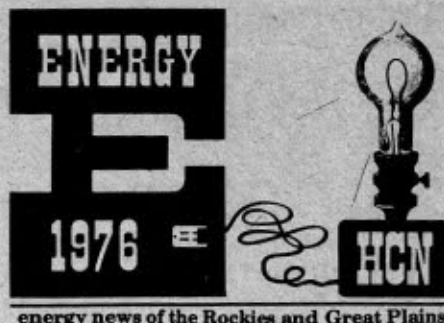
For further information, contact Elizabeth Kingman, director, Solar Energy Exhibition Program, University of Colorado at Denver, 1100 14th St., Denver, Colo. 80202.

POWERLINE NIXED. An application to run a 115 kilovolt transmission line through Grand Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge has been denied by Interior Department officials. The applicant, Lower Valley Power and Light Co., had warned that power shortages and blackouts could occur in Jackson, Wyo., if the line was not approved. Local conservationists have disputed LVPL's threat.

UTAH WINSSHALE. U.S. District Court Judge Willis W. Ritter has ruled in favor of Utah's claim to 157,000 acres of oil shale-bearing federal land. The area involved, located in eastern Utah, includes two federal oil shale lease tracts along the White River. Utah has been due over 200,000 acres of federal land ever since it became a state in 1896.

COAL SUIT APPEAL. A court ruling upholding coal-related state water permits in North Dakota is being appealed by the United Plainsmen, a farmer-conservationist coalition. The Plainsmen are asking for an injunction on coal-related water permits until the state completes comprehensive resource management plans. In March District Judge Benny Graff ruled that such plans were not mandatory under state law. The Plainsmen feel the Public Trust Doctrine makes the plans mandatory.

PEABODY VIOLATIONS. The Colorado attorney general's office has charged that the Peabody Coal Co. has been mining without a permit at two of its mines in Colorado. The office believes illegal mining has taken place at the Seneca Mine in Routt County and the Nucla Mine in Montrose County. An analysis of the situation has been turned over to district attorneys for possible prosecution, according to the Rocky Mountain News.



energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

PLOWSHARE ABANDONED. The Energy Research and Development Administration plans to plug two natural gas wells it created with nuclear explosives as part of the Plowshare Program. The Rulison and Rio Blanco wells in western Colorado will be plugged with cement this summer. Neither well ever produced commercial natural gas. Environmentalists and local residents had opposed the nuclear gas stimulation experiments.

TASK FORCE STACKED. Utah Gov. Calvin L. Rampton has named a 32-member task force to help form a state energy policy. The *Deseret News* has criticized the make-up of the task force, noting that it includes "at least seven members whose professional affiliations are with interests having a clear stake in greater exploitation of Utah's fuel resources but only two members whose affiliations are clearly identified with protecting the environment."

WIND TEST CENTER. The Energy Research and Development Administration plans to set up a \$3 million wind energy test facility at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons facility near Denver. The facility will investigate design, testing, and marketing of small wind energy systems, according to the Boulder Daily Camera.

TRAINS CONCERN COLORADO. Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm has asked that a study be made of the impact of coal trains crossing his state on their way from coal mines in Wyoming to power plants in the Southwest. The study, according to *Coal Week*, would assess probable delays at crossings; noise; community disruption; and the effect on emergency services such as fire and police. Such trains have been causing problems in Wyoming. In Rock Springs, for instance, a city fire truck must be driven to the other side of the tracks every time an ore train is expected to cross town.

NEW PP&L PLANT. Pacific Power and Light Co. plans to build a new 500 megawatt or larger coal-fired power plant somewhere in the region in 1979 or 1980. PP&L is looking at a plant site near Sheridan, Wyo., as well as sites in the Pacific Northwest. Coal for the plant would probably come from near Decker, Mont.

COURT RULES FOR TRIBE. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that coal reserves on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Montana belong to the tribe as a whole rather than to the individual Indians who hold allotments on the reservation land. Under a 1926 act of Congress, tracts of land on the reservation were allotted to individual Indians. Coal and other minerals were to be reserved for the tribe for 50 years and then turned over to individual Indians. But in 1968 Congress passed a bill to continue tribal control after the 50 year period. A U.S. Circuit Court ruled this exceeded the authority of Congress, but the Supreme Court said Congress has that authority. The tribe has declared all its prospecting permits and leases null and void. A final action on the tribe's decision is still pending.

Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

Sierra Club Attorney Bruce Terris has risen to the defense of Wyoming Attorney Gen. Frank Mendicino's performance before the U.S. Supreme Court in the club's case over coal development in the Northern Great Plains (*Sierra Club v. Morton*).

In a letter to "Reckoning," Terris calls our criticism of Mendicino's Supreme Court testimony "unwarranted." A lawyer in Terris's office said that while staffers in Mendicino's office were "delighted" with the letter, they didn't help draft it. "They cleared it, but there was no collaboration."

"Reckoning" stands by its earlier assessment.

Terris writes that he decided Mendicino should be heard to speak on behalf of the 23 states and nine environmental groups submitting *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) briefs because he is "the chief legal officer of one of the most affected states."

"I asked Mr. Mendicino to open the argument by describing the factual situation involved in coal development of the Northern Great Plains," the Terris letter says. "He carefully prepared an extremely strong and persuasive presentation of how the various impacts of coal development throughout the region were so interrelated that a regional environmental statement was necessary to analyze properly the environmental harm and alternatives. I was to handle the legal argument in the case."

Terris writes that Mendicino "began his argument by clearly and forcefully setting forth the facts of the situation. He was, however, quickly subjected to extremely vigorous and unfriendly questions, one after another, by several Justices."

"All these questions related to legal issues. Since Mr. Mendicino did not have the overall responsibility for the case and since he was supposed to handle only the factual questions, he attempted to avoid making definitive statements concerning these legal questions. He therefore told the court that these legal questions should be directed to myself."

"I also disagree with the implications of your article that the case is not complicated and that the questions to Mr. Mendicino were easy. Neither is true. While the main issue can be fairly simply stated, it does not follow that the case itself is simple. Moreover, the questions posed by the Supreme Court Justices had never been raised previously by any judge or party in the case."

"These questions are extremely complicated both factually and legally even for a lawyer, like myself, who has spent three years on this case from its inception."

Terris's letter closes with high praise for Mendicino.

The government has argued it has no regional "program" for coal development in the region. The Sierra Club has contended the government's failure to establish such a program merely demonstrates a failure to plan carefully, which in turn is resulting in "helter skelter" development. That is the heart of the case.

As "Reckoning" noted last month, Mendicino ran into trouble when he agreed to testify on that legal issue rather than restrict himself to the factual background of coal development in the area, as Terris had instructed.

When Justice Byron White noted to him that no "report on a proposal on a regional basis" exists, Mendicino disagreed. Asked where such a report is, he replied, "We don't know where it is."

Only later did Mendicino refer further legal questions to Terris.

Friends of the Earth rep says

Nuclear initiative no cause for more coal plants in West

The Rocky Mountain West "will be raped whether California phases out nuclear energy or not," says Kevin Markey, Colorado representative of Friends of the Earth. "The real culprit is uncontrolled growth in consumption of electricity."

Markey takes issue with a recent study which predicts that 12 new 2,000 megawatt power plants would have to be built in the West by 1995 to satisfy California historic growth trends even if the state continues to use nuclear power. If nuclear power is limited in California by an initiative vote, 28 new 2,000 megawatt power plants would be needed by 1995 to satisfy state historic growth, according to the study.



Kevin Markey. He says energy conservation will have more impact on the number of new power plants in the West than the nuclear initiative.

Markey says energy conservation will have more impact on the number of new power plants in the West than the nuclear initiative. The West will be covered with power plants — with or without nuclear power — if energy demand continues to skyrocket.

He says conservation is a necessity and is already making a dent in California energy demand. The historic growth figures used in the study are impractical, and lead to distorted conclusions. Markey says the study is "based on questionable assumptions and is disputed by other studies of the situation."

The study, "Impacts of Alternative Electric Supply Systems for California," was conducted by the University of California for the Western Interstate Nuclear Board and the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration. Markey charges that the WINB distorted the study in an attempt to influence the California initiative vote on June 8.

If approved by the voters, the California initiative — Proposition 15 — would require utilities to be fully liable in the event of a nuclear accident. Presently federal law limits liability to \$560 million. If Congress

SAMPLE BALLOT
CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY ELECTION
JUNE 8, 1976

YES

STATE PROPOSITION 15

NO

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. Prohibit operation and construction of new nuclear power plants at capacity unless Legislature makes designated findings. Financial impact: Ultimate advisory group cost may exceed amount appropriated. If Legislature requires nothing in addition to federal government testing, costs may be several million dollars. Utility districts may experience loss of investment. Cost of electricity may rise. Basis of state liability, if any, to compensate for public or private loss of investment is unclear. Effect on local property tax revenues indeterminable.

STATE PROPOSITIONS

NUCLEAR INITIATIVE. Here's what will appear on part of the June 8 ballot in California — an item giving people a choice about the future of nuclear power in the state.

did not abandon the liability limit or the utilities in California did not waive it within one year, no new nuclear plants could be built in the state and existing nuclear plants would be forced to cut back to 60% of capacity.

A second provision would require the state legislature, by a two-thirds vote, to certify within five years that safety systems are effective and that permanent, safe, radioactive waste disposal is available. If the legislature is not convinced, a ban on new nuclear plants would be instituted and existing plants would be forced to run at 60% capacity. The cutback would be increased by 10% per year if the legislature fails to certify safety.

12-High Country News — June 4, 1976

Air and water pollution expected

Environmental impact statement paints a grim picture of southwest Idaho phosphate development

by Bruce Hamilton

Proposed increases in phosphate development in southeastern Idaho could reduce air and water quality, drastically diminish wildlife, jeopardize endangered species, and severely stress social institutions in the area, according to a draft environmental impact statement (EIS).

The EIS, prepared jointly by the U.S. Agriculture and Interior Departments, analyzes 16 mining plans proposed by eight companies holding leases on federally-owned phosphate deposits. One underground mine and 15 surface mines are proposed. The land involved includes 16,000 acres of the Caribou National Forest, federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and private lands underlain by federal phosphate.

In addition, the federal government has thousands of acres of pending phosphate leases in the area. At present, there are 83 federal phosphate leases in the area covering 43,000 acres. The EIS also touches on the impact of developing these lands.

The 16 mining plans considered in the EIS would likely be phased in over several decades. The rate of new mine development will determine, in part, the severity of the environmental and social impacts. The U.S. Geological Survey predicts that southeastern Idaho phosphate production will double or triple by the 1980s. Faster development could compound the environmental problems.

NO ATTEMPT TO HIDE

The EIS makes no attempt to hide the fact that a major increase in phosphate development in the area would drastically affect the face of southeastern Idaho. The EIS summarizes the impacts as follows:

—**SOCIAL IMPACT.** Population and employment will rapidly increase in a six-county area, and socio-economic institutions will be stressed. Crime will increase, and housing will be short.

The greatest population impact will occur in Caribou County where the projected population increase will total 6,800 persons by 1980. This increase represents an annual growth rate of 18.4%—the same level of growth as Rock Springs, Wyo., experienced between 1970-1973 when the Jim Bridger Power Plant was being built and social institutions there were severely strained.

—**WILDLIFE.** Proposed development "will have severe impacts upon the wildlife in the study area," according to the EIS. Some elk herds will be reduced by 50%. The Idaho Fish and Game Department estimates that as many as 3,000 wintering deer could be lost. The Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and sandhill crane could become endangered in the area. Waterfowl, eagles, lynx, marten, and other resident wildlife will also suffer.

—**ENDANGERED SPECIES.** The Northern Rocky Mountain wolf, grizzly bear, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, and whooping crane live in the area and are recognized by the federal government as threatened or endangered species. All would be adversely affected by the development and associated increased human activity in the area.

The whooping crane was recently transplanted into the area. Whooping crane eggs

were placed in sandhill crane nests in an attempt to establish a whooping crane colony and save the species from extinction.

—**AIR QUALITY.** "Ambient air quality will be lowered, particularly in the vicinity of processing plants," according to the EIS.

Primary and secondary national air standards for emissions of sulfur oxides, fluorine, and particulates would be violated.

—**WATER QUALITY.** Water quality will be lowered, and fish populations will be reduced. About 53 miles of streams will be impacted.

—**LAND USE.** Mining will create 2,900 acres of pits and 3,000 acres of waste dumps. Another 4,000 acres will be taken up by roads, processing plants, utilities, and other facilities.

—**AGRICULTURAL IMPACT.** Livestock forage will be reduced, and productivity of the mining area will be reduced even after reclamation. Chronic fluorosis—a bone disease that kills livestock—"can be expected" near processing plants.

—**ENERGY USE.** Energy consumption will increase by about 40% in the area. The electric furnaces used to produce elemental phosphorus are major consumers of electricity. The existing FMC elemental plant in Pocatello uses 30% of Idaho Power Company's total electrical output.

ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?

The EIS considers several alternatives to all-out development, but admits that many of the alternatives aren't too realistic because so many leases have already been granted.

"Existing leases and prospecting permits are contracts carrying legal rights and obligations for each party," reads the EIS. "The Secretary (of the Interior) must act on applications made under these existing leases and permits, and he cannot abrogate (nullify) them unilaterally without cause. However, in issuing preference-right leases, approving mining plans, and readjusting lease terms, he has considerable discretion in imposing new requirements or stipulations as appropriate. Congressional action would be required to cancel these leases."

In an earlier interview with HCN (see HCN, 11-21-75), Glen Bradley of the U.S. Forest Service phosphate task force said, "People come to us and ask us why we don't shut it off. Well, we're 50 years too late." He said it's no longer a question of whether to mine the area or not—but rather how to mine it and how much more to lease.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings on the impact statement will be held June 7 at the Bannock Hotel in Pocatello, June 10 at Soda Springs High School in Soda Springs, and June 14 at the downtown Ramada Inn in Boise.

Written comments may be sent to the Director, U.S. Geological Survey, National Center, Mail Stop 108, Reston, Va. 22092, up until July 27, 1976.

Copies of the draft EIS are available from the Geological Survey at the above address.



CHANGING FACE OF IDAHO. Sixteen new phosphate mines are proposed for southeastern Idaho. The cumulative impacts will degrade air and water quality and destroy wildlife, according to a draft environmental impact statement. Pictured above is J. R. Simplot's Conda Mine on Woodall Mountain. Photo courtesy of the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

House synfuel bill delayed

by Kevin Markey
Colorado Friends of the Earth
Representative

The bill granting loan guarantees to synthetic fuels such as coal gas and shale oil gained strong support from the House Science and Technology Committee last month. However, the bill, H.R. 12112, was dealt a setback by Congressional leadership. Ruling that the bill involved issues outside the jurisdiction of the standing committee, the parliamentarian sent the bill to both the commerce and the banking committees of the House.

Commerce and banking committee members must complete their consideration of the \$4 billion loan guarantee program by June 10. However, they are asking for a delay until June 23. Observers believe it is likely that the full House will consider the legislation by mid-July.

Many committee members of the two committees have reservations about the bill, but the synfuels industry has been working hard to get their support. Rep. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.) has tried to convince colleagues that his oil shale module amendment would give Colorado and Utah added protection (see HCN, 5-7-76, page 12). However, testimony by conservationists disputes Wirth's claims.

Wirth's amendment would allow loan guarantees to oil shale technologies only after they are proven on a modular scale. To aid construction of these demonstration plants, the amendment allows construction grants of up to 75% of their costs. Other technologies are limited to 50-50 cost sharing.

He proposes that a modular oil shale plant would be able to test the technology. Carolyn Johnson of the Colorado Open Space Council says that the authority to test modular units already exists in the Non-nuclear Energy Research Demonstration and Development Act. The Wirth

amendment, she says, only increases the proportion of federal support for a marginal technology.

She points out that this higher subsidy is ironic since oil shale is "generally agreed to be the least attractive synthetic fuel option."

Johnson also charged that the modular amendment confuses the goals of the program—whether it is supposed to foster commercialization or test a new technology.

She suggests that it was poorly designed if it was intended as an experimentation program, because the bill requires no test period or criteria for judging the performance of the oil shale retort.

Furthermore, she points out that a modular stage is the natural first step in building a commercial size plant. The lack of review would allow a company to get a federal grant for three-fourths of the cost of building the first retort, upgrading and other facilities, and developing the mine. Then, Johnson claims, federal guarantees would be available for the rest of the retort.

A much cheaper solution than placing modules and associate facilities at several random sites was proposed. Johnson claims it would save billions to site all test modules at Anvil Points near Rifle, Colo., where all could share existing mines and other facilities.

People wanting to comment on H.R. 12112 should contact their own representatives before the full House vote as well as members of the two committees. Chairman of the banking committee is Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.). Other members who are from this region are Reps. George Hansen (R-Ida.) and John B. Conlan (R-Ariz.). Chairman of the energy subcommittee of the commerce committee is Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Mich.). The member from this region is Rep. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.). Write to the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.





Western Roundup

HCN


TIMBER EISs REQUIRED

As the result of a lawsuit by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), environmental impact statements will be prepared for any major timber-cutting program affecting publicly owned lands in the western U.S. The agreement signed by the NRDC and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sets a schedule for preparation of statements on new timber management programs for Idaho and California sustained yield units, according to LAND USE PLANNING REPORTS.

The agreement also calls for preparation of environmental analysis reports for other timber lands to determine if more detailed environmental impact statements might be needed. No timetable has been set. Until the environmental studies are complete, the BLM has agreed that there will be no significant increase over existing allowable cut plans. The lawsuit had been partially settled in February.

Callaway pulled strings for ski area

A high federal official's alleged use of political influence to affect a U.S. Forest Service decision about ski area expansion near Crested Butte, Colo., is under investigation by the Senate Environment and Land Resources Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chairman Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.) says there is not doubt that former Army Secretary Howard H. Callaway attempted to affect the decision. The only remaining question is whether Forest Service officials were swayed by his pressure, Haskell says.

Callaway owns two-thirds of an existing ski area in Crested Butte, Colo. When he purchased the company in 1970 he said he assumed that the potential for expansion onto publicly owned lands "was just part of the package." When a district ranger recommended against the expansion, Callaway, then Secretary of the Army, called Deputy Agriculture Undersecretary Richard Ashworth to protest the action. A few months later the Forest Service issued a plan which tentatively approved the expansion, reversing the district ranger's decision. Callaway claims that he only sought to speed the decision through his contacts in Washington. The Senate subcommittee report will be issued in about three weeks.

In the meantime, the weekly newspaper which broke the story about Callaway is suffering financially for its aggressive reporting. The paper, the *Crested Butte Chronicle*, has watched ad revenues drop from \$2000 to \$300 a month since publishing the story. Most of the community favored the ski area expansion and the tourist dollars it would bring. The paper's owner, Myles Arber, says he may have to close the paper July 4 unless advertisers change their minds.

Ford rules for, judge against poisons

Western stockmen won one and lost one during the past week in their battle to get poisons for predator control. President Gerald Ford relaxed a ban on sodium cyanide guns saying that the heads of federal agencies may authorize use of the M44 pellet gun in federal programs or on federal lands under restrictions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The executive order does not affect the executive ban on other poisons. In other action, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to relax the ban on interstate shipment of certain poisons while the U.S. District Court is considering a lawsuit concerning the poison controls. The state of Wyoming and several stockmen's organizations have filed suit saying EPA should have filed an impact statement in 1972 before banning the shipment of 1080, sodium cyanide, and strychnine. The poisons were outlawed because of their effects on non-target wildlife.

House bill could exclude Garrison

An amendment to knock out funding on the controversial Garrison Diversion in North Dakota is being introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. The amendment is being added to the Public Works Appropriations Bill, along with amendments to delete other water projects in other parts of the country. A vote is expected by the whole House on June 15, 1976. The \$500 million Garrison project would adversely affect seven national wildlife refuges. Canada has asked for a moratorium on the project because of salty irrigation return flows that will pollute rivers flowing into Canada (see HCN, 3-1-74). The appropriations committee recommended approval for several projects, including the Dallas Creek, the Dolores River, and the Fryingpan-Arkansas projects in Colorado.

Johns-Manville agrees to pay fine

The Johns-Manville Corp. has agreed to pay a \$10,000 fine for polluting the West Fork of the Stillwater River southwest of Billings, Mont., as a result of platinum exploration. The firm has agreed to stop all mining, exploration, and development until it receives a discharge permit from the state, according to Air-Water Pollution Report.

Olin interested in Montana phosphate

An environmental consulting group is studying the potential for a new phosphate mine on the north slope of the Flint Creek mountain range 50 miles southeast of Missoula, Mont. The work is being done for the Olin Corp. Phosphate is already mined nearby by Cominco-American Inc. The land is administered by the U.S. Forest Service, and the leases are handled by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Future of Alaska haul road uncertain

Alaska state officials are trying to decide what to do with the North Slope haul road—the road used in building the trans-Alaska oil pipeline. Conservationists, headed by the Fairbanks Environmental Center (FEC), oppose opening the road to the public. The road, built to second class state highway standards, is to be turned over to the state upon completion of the oil pipeline. It has never been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act. The FEC opposes public use of the road because of the lack of federal off road vehicle regulations, the fragility of the land in the Far North, and the lack of enforcement authority in the Bureau of Land Management, which administers most of the public land along the route.

Parks plans frown on development

Final master plans for Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado favor limiting commercial operations in the parks and preserving natural values. Both plans favor using new and existing commercial facilities outside the parks in "gateway" communities.

The Teton master plan calls for a ceiling on overnight accommodations and warns that limits will have to be set on Snake River boating and back country use. The plan cautions against expansion of the Jackson Hole airport in the park and calls for an eventual end to elk hunting within park boundaries.

The Rocky Mountain National Park plan favors phasing out some commercial park activities including two stables and souvenir sales at the Trail Ridge Store. The plan calls for starting a mass transit system to serve Bear Lake and for converting some parking lots to picnic areas. Under the plan the Hidden Valley Ski Area would be allowed to remain in the park, and over 90% of the park would become wilderness.



COLORADO CONSIDERS SKI AREA PLANNING

In the wake of state turmoil over decisions on permits for new ski areas, Colorado is now holding hearings to consider a proposed plan for winter resource management. The plan would establish a coordinated state, federal, and local government review process for ski area developments. An official of Vail Associates, Inc., Bob Parker, objected to applying the process to only the ski industry and not new factories, subdivisions, or coal mines. Vail Associates is the developer of the Beaver Creek ski area—the most controversial of the new ski permits issued recently in the state. Gov. Dick Lamm's environmental aide James Monaghan said the state is trying to conduct coordinated reviews of other developments such as power plants and reservoirs, too.

A planner from Frisco, Colo., said the plan could help avoid "interminable" last minute attacks on proposed ski areas.

The U.S. Forest Service has said it would like to use the plan as a guideline but not be bound by it. However, if a federal bill proposed by U.S. Senator Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.) passes as proposed, state and local government requirements would have to be met prior to issuance of a federal permit.

Photo of Arapahoe Basin Ski Area in Colorado.

14-High Country News — June 4, 1976



Sierra Club Books

Simple Foods for the Pack



Natural, inexpensive ingredients
Meatless, sugarless, chemical-free
175 trail-tested recipes

by Vikki Kinmont and Claudia Axcell,
Sierra Club Books, San Francisco,
1976. \$4.95, soft cover, 211 pages. Illustrations by Bob Kinmont.

Review by Peter Wild

The Sierra Club has just issued another winner. **Simple Foods** comes close to being the ultimate manual on nourishment for the backpacker.

Everyone seems to have his own pet approach to the subject, but the beauty of this book, besides its modest price, its convenient size, and the loving care of its writing, is that it offers recipes that can be worked into a person's existing system for keeping his stomach happy on the trail. Kinmont and Axcell eschew refined sugars

and meats, "devitalized foods," as they call them. Instead they believe that unprocessed vegetables and fish are what the body deserves.

They begin the book with a list of natural staples that can be combined into scores of tantalizing, easy-to-make, and nutritious recipes. For example, this one from "Foods to Make at Home," covering items that are prepared beforehand to save time and fuss on the trail:

Soybean Cakes

1 dozen

These are especially good with a mild cheese such as Jack or Swiss.

1 cup dry soybeans, soaked overnight and cooked
1 onion, chopped fine
1 garlic clove, minced
1 tablespoon fresh parsley, minced
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon miso
1 teaspoon tamari soy sauce

Mash beans well in a suribachi (a ceramic bowl with serrated lines on the inside surface, sometimes found in

Japanese or natural food stores) or put through a food grinder or ricer. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. The mash should be very thick and hold well when shaped into a ball. Form into patties and bake on a cookie sheet in slow oven (300 degrees) for about 30 minutes. Turn once while baking. Cakes are done when they feel solid. They will be crusty on the outside and soft inside.

Variation: add leftover cooked grains; carrots are a good addition; season with oregano; pour hot chili sauce over the cakes.

The next section continues the flexibility and good sense in suggestions for cooking in camp. But there's more. Not only do they provide dozens of new recipes for breads, kelp, fish, and beverages; the authors go on to suggest complete menus for three-day and ten-day jaunts. They tell how to make snacks, how to dry apples and make fruit leather, how to whip up High Mountain Pie and Snow Ice Cream for desserts. In addition, Kinmont and Axcell recommend eating habits to match trail conditions, heat and altitude, for instance. Knowing that

little things, headaches, blisters, and mosquito bites, can spoil a trip, they offer pages of teas and poultices to combat minor ailments.

For the beginner, **Simple Foods for the Pack** is a good place to start. And the experienced backpacker is likely to find a new approach here, along with many dishes he's never seen. Yet the book is for the home as well. Even non-hiking epicures will delight in trying their hands at Wakame or One-Pot Brown Rice and Shrimp.

STAFF CORNER

by Myra Connell

Above the valley that I have always called home stands flat-topped Table Mountain. Our family of 10 children grew up on a homestead at the foot of it.

We were poor in material goods, and we were isolated. We seldom went to town and had few friends among the young people there. We envied the town kids, thinking their lives much more attractive than our own. They had better clothes, lawns around their homes, and a candy store close by. Their school was two-story brick, with only one grade to a room. Our school was a one-room log shack.

Besides, the town kids didn't have to milk or herd cows, hoe weeds, or clean the stable.

In today's terms, we were deprived and underprivileged.

Of course, we had some fun and recreation. In winter, watching the sunrise turn the snow-covered mountain to a giant pink-frosted "birthday cake" gave us a lift. This lightened the chores of carrying in the wood and water. And sledding down the foothills on home-built sleds could be compared to flying.

In spring, too, we found recreation along with our work. Riding one old good-natured milk cow, we drove the other cows out of the fields through a barbed wire "dishrag" gate to pasture on the mountain. The ground sparkled with wild flowers. The unpolluted air rang with songs of meadowlarks, sage sparrows, killdeer, and a thousand others.

The slopes were cloaked in pliant green grasses. The little canyons were filled with dwarfed juniper, sweet shrub, birch, and willow. There was excitement in finding birds' nests, badger holes, pack rats' caches, even in encountering a rattlesnake.

Outcroppings of rocks and ledges were our castles, playhouses, and our fairyland.

In summer we trailed joyously with Mother up the mountain to pick wild currants, gooseberries, and chokecherries in the gulches. The berries were converted to jelly for the school lunch pails.

The mountain challenged us to hike to its top. Hardly one aspect of our lives was not connected in some way with the mountain. Its feet solidly anchored in earth, its head reaching for the sky, it symbolized stability and security; it was always "there." I believe that every child needs a mountain, either actual or figurative.

We faced toward our mountain each afternoon as we walked home from school. Its shadows reached out to enfold us. Mountains, like tall men, cast long shadows.

In retrospect, 60 odd years later, a question comes to mind: which were the underprivileged, we or the town kids? After all, we had a mountain.

It saddens me to know that today millions of city children have never seen a wild flower nor discovered a bird's nest. Many will never climb a mountain.

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Ah, wilderness, the rowdies will mob her,
And tromp on her tundra, says Ms. Lauber.
Let's not withdraw land,
For that John Muir clan.
Let's save it for the miner and logger.



AIR GETTING CLEANER. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported to Congress that the nation's air quality continues to improve, but much remains to be accomplished. More legal actions were initiated during 1975 than during the three previous years combined. Of the approximately 20,000 major stationary sources of pollution, 82% now comply with emission limits or are meeting compliance schedules. Smog levels in many urban areas decreased, but recent studies have found oxidant levels as much as twice the national standards in rural areas. (Oxidants are the principal components of smog.) Copies of the study are available from the Information Center, EPA, Washington, D.C. 20460.

SYNAPSE DOMES: Economical, energy efficient homes. Exclusive residences to greenhouses and barns erected and finished to your satisfaction anywhere in the Rocky Mountain area. All wood component panel shell kits shipped anywhere in continental USA — eight sizes. Solar heat, shake shingles, foam insulation optional. Blueprints available. Write or call for information and prices: P.O. Box 554-H, Lander, Wyoming. 82520, (307) 332-5773.

WANTS CONVENTIONS IN PARKS. A leader of the nation's executives told a House subcommittee that he thinks by banning conventions from the national parks, the government is treating people who attend conventions as "second class citizens." James P. Low, speaking for the American Society of Association Executives, said the ban might have been due to the image of convention goers as "noisy, drunken people wearing hats with tassels."

EPA WILL WATCH WATER. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has agreed to begin a major program designed to control the discharge of 65 toxic chemicals into the nation's waterways. If the agreement is signed by a federal judge, it will end four lawsuits against EPA by environmental groups. The pollutants to be controlled include arsenic, asbestos, chloroform, DDT, mercury, nickel, and zinc. About half of the 65 chemicals are known or suspected carcinogens, according to the environmentalists, who say EPA's use of its previous authority has been haphazard and filled with procedural problems.

SLUDGE FUNDS AVAILABLE. Cities and counties interested in buying land for disposal of sludge from sewage treatment plants can now apply for grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To be eligible, the applicant must determine that other means of disposal are unavailable or less cost effective.

WILDERNESS DIRECTOR CHOSEN. George D. Davis has been chosen as the new executive director for the Wilderness Society. Davis has served as director of planning for New York State's Adirondack Park Agency and with the Forest Service in Colorado. Society President Celia Hunter says the society will be enlarging and reorganizing the field staff. The staff in Denver has been expanded. Bill Cunningham has been selected as the Montana representative, a new position. His address is Box 12, Helena, Mont. 59601, or call (406) 443-2520.

Wilderness

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HCN Bulletin Board

TRAIL VOLUNTEERS

The National Hiking and Ski Touring Association (NAHSTA) in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service is looking for volunteers to build and maintain trails on public lands in the West. NAHSTA will furnish volunteers with dinners during the two-week work sessions, while volunteers will need to provide the remaining meals, camping equipment, and transportation to the work site. Work projects will be held in Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota. Family participation is encouraged. Dates for the camps are July 25-August 8. Work camp leaders are also needed. For more information contact NAHSTA, P.O. Box 7421, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80933.

CONSERVATION SUMMIT

The National Wildlife Federation is offering three six-day outdoor workshops this summer. Among the activities offered are fresh water biology, birding, wildlife ecology, backpacking, outdoor cooking, nature photography, and wildflower identification. The Western Summit will be at Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colo., July 4-10. For more information on prices and courses, write: National Wildlife Federation Conservation Summits, Dept JG, 1412 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

EDITORS NEEDED

Low pay, long hours guaranteed. Environmental Action is looking for two editors, one for their bi-weekly environmental magazine and one for their monthly newsletter. Previous writing experience is mandatory. Send resumes and clips to: Jobs, Environmental Action, 1346 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D.C. 20036.

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Summer volunteer work in the national forests and parks under the supervision of professional personnel is available to high school and college age men and women. Some financial aid is available. For more information contact the Student Conservation Association, Olympic View Drive, Route 1, Box 573-A, Vashon, Wash. 98070.

HISTORIC TRAILS

Volunteers are needed to help inventory and maintain historic trails in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains. The project is scheduled for July 25-August 6. Families and organizations are welcome. For more information contact the Wyoming Mountain Men Trails Foundation, in care of the Wyoming Recreation Commission, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82002.

BLM TIMBER PLANS

The Missoula District of the Bureau of Land Management in Montana has prepared a timber management plan for 144,000 acres of public timber in four counties. For a copy of the draft plan and environmental analysis write the BLM, P.O. Box 4427, Missoula, Mont. 59801.

NOMINATE YOURSELF

The Federal Energy Administration's Office of Consumer Affairs and Special Impact (CASI) needs your help in finding qualified consumer representatives for FEA's 16 advisory committees. The committees advise the administrator on a variety of energy matters relating to consumers, ranging from utilities to food and energy. All committees will be reorganized in July and each must have consumer representatives. CASI asks that you submit your resume if you have a working knowledge of energy and consumers. Write CASI, Room 4310, Washington, D.C. 20461.

GAME & FISH MEET

Beginning July 26 in Sun Valley, Idaho, the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners will meet to grapple with the bicentennial question — are we ready for 200 more? The conference will include discussions on energy development, hunting regulations, nongame management, and predator control.

CANYONLANDS CENTER

The Canyonlands Environmental Education Center will open June 16 and offer two-day learning sessions through October 23. The center offers day and evening programs to the public at a cost of \$10 per two day session. University credit is available. For more information contact Dr. Tuck Forsythe, CEEC, Box 177, Moab, Utah 84532.

YELLOWSTONE COURSES

Seventeen courses will be held in Yellowstone National Park this summer, starting June 21. The courses cover history, bird ecology, wildflower identification, outfitting, painting, and other subjects. Each course is five days long. For more information contact The Yellowstone Institute, Box 515, Yellowstone National Park, Wyo. 82190 or call (307) 344-7407.

BIGHORN CANYON MANAGEMENT

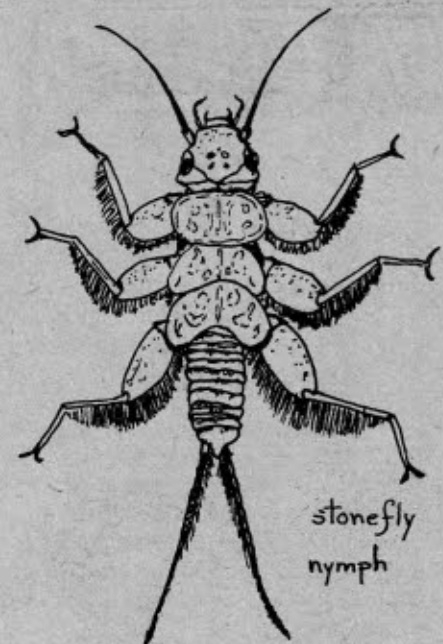
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area in Wyoming and Montana has released a proposed management outline for the area. Public comment is invited up until June 15. For a copy of the "Statement for Management," write the Superintendent, Bighorn Canyon NRA, Box 458, Fort Smith, Mont. 59035.

GRAND CANYON DEVELOPMENT

The National Park Service has released its final environmental impact statement on the proposed development concept for Grand Canyon Village on the south rim of Grand Canyon National Park. To obtain a copy contact the Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon, Ariz. 86023.

PARK COURSES

Each summer the Rocky Mountain Nature Association turns Rocky Mountain National Park into an outdoor classroom. Courses are offered in bird ecology, plant identification, mountain geology, alpine ecology, historical geography, and other subjects. The association is seeking students for this summer, and instructors interested in offering new courses for next summer. For more information contact: Seminar Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Nature Association, Inc., Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colo. 80517 or call (303) 586-2371, ext. 226.



stonefly nymph

SHOSHONE NF TIMBER PLAN

A 10-year timber management plan for the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming has been approved by the acting regional forester. The plan is available for public review from the Shoshone Forest Supervisor, P.O. Box 961, Cody, Wyo. 82414.

DRAFT PET 4 RULES

The Bureau of Land Management is seeking comments on its proposed surface management rules for Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 on the North Slope of Alaska. Pet 4 is an important wildlife area and holds rich reserves of oil and gas. For a copy of the rules write the BLM state office at 555 Cordova St., Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

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New Western Energy Show

AERO dramatizes alternate energy

by Joan Nice

"The people that live around here have practical skills. They're down-to-earth. They can understand and appreciate renewable-type energy resources," says Kye Cochran of Billings, Mont.

With just this sort of rancher-inventor in mind, Cochran has shaped a group called AERO (Alternative Energy Resources Organization). AERO was formed in 1974 after a conference on renewable energy sources sponsored by the Northern Plains Resource Council, a group of ranchers and environmentalists concerned about coal development.

Since that meeting AERO has put alternative energy theories into practice. AERO



Kye Cochran, promoting practical skills, renewable resources.

has supervised two building workshops for the public. At one, an eager group built a 12 volt wind generator. At another, they built a solar water heater. This summer AERO plans to take its skills and wares on the road, old Western medicine man style.

"A splendid, innovative idea," says Montana Sen. Lee Metcalf (D) of the road show

idea. "Small scale energy plants are ideally suited to isolated and sparsely populated areas such as Montana. With commitment and ingenuity, Montanans can do much to relieve their dependence on high-priced and environmentally destructive energy sources."

AERO's New Western Energy Show will combine displays of wind generators, solar collectors, and wood stoves with skits and music. The group estimates a cost of \$30,000 and a staff of 14 to cover Montana this summer. Destinations include places

like Roundup, Havre, Red Lodge, and Forsyth — not metropolises, but places where knowledge of alternatives can be readily used.

If other states are interested and funding is available, the troupe might be able to move to other parts of the region this fall, Cochran says.

Thirty-one-year-old Cochran grew up in Massachusetts. She first dabbled with alternative energy with her brother, Tom, an architecture student. Together, they designed a three-story gas station — with chickens on top, eggs and fryers for sale on the second floor, and methanol fuel on the ground level.

In 1973 after a summer working on a ranch in Montana, Cochran joined the newly-formed Northern Plains Resource Council. Finding alternatives to massive coal development became her full-time volunteer assignment.

Today AERO, which she founded, is a non-profit, tax deductible group with about 600 members.

The group meets infrequently, but is held together by a monthly newsletter called *Sun-Times*. *Sun-Times* keeps careful track of both state and national legislation affecting renewable energy sources, as well as AERO's activities and members. A monthly feature is "Horner's Corner," a lively letter on weather, farming, and a solar heating system being built by Brainerd Horner of Ronan, Mont. The newsletter also reports news from around the country and lists articles in current periodicals which would be of interest to people in the AERO network.

Heading up the New Western Energy Show for AERO are Elizabeth and Wilbur Wood of Roundup, Mont. Displays will include:

—**Solar water heaters.** One by American Heliothermal (Denver), one by Helion (Sylmar, Calif.), and one constructed at an AERO workshop which has been heating water at Cochran's home.

—**Solar air collectors.** Two — both constructed by AERO.

—**Wind generators.** A Quirks Dunlite donated by Independent Power Developers

(Noxon, Mont.), a Kedco 1200, and a renovated Jacobs.

—**Wood stoves.** A Baby Bear, a McGrew Machine furnace, and a Jotul.

—**Water power.** Water turbines by Independent Power Developers and Hydroelectric Systems (Washington).

—**Miscellaneous.** A Clivus Multrum toilet, a solar oven, a solar food dryer, a bicycle-powered electrical generator attached to a device which converts the direct current produced into alternating current which could be used in the power grid, a bicycle-powered grain grinder, literature, theatre, and music.

THE SCHEDULE

All shows will be open to the public. A donation of \$1 will be encouraged.

Here's the schedule: Roundup, June 29-30; Circle, July 5-7; Wolf Point, July 9-11; Havre, July 12-14; Choteau, July 15-18; Big Fork, July 20-25; Arlee, July 29-Aug. 1; Hamilton, Aug. 3-5; Helena, Aug. 6-8; Bozeman, Aug. 10-12; Red Lodge, Aug. 13-15; Forsyth, Aug. 17-19.

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Dear Friends,

Keep an eye on Idaho in coming weeks. There, the load of the state Public Utilities Commission has been lightened by a recent advisory vote taken on a proposed power plant. The question on the ballot was this: "Do you favor the building of the Pioneer coal-fired power plant?"

Most voters said "no." Between that and the evidence presented at hearings, plant opponents think they have their battle almost won. While we won't count those chickens yet, we are eager to analyze Idaho's democratic method of setting energy policy.

How many of us have ever been officially asked such an important question about matters that will determine the supply of energy and the quality of life in our areas? What a boon such polls could be to state utilities commissions. They must determine "public convenience and necessity." What better piece of evidence to enter into the record than the public's own opinions about the matter?

In Idaho, the Public Utilities Commission has said that it must base its decision on the data — some of it highly technical — presented at the hearings. But in addition to the technical arguments, it will also have, for

the first time perhaps, an understanding of what the people want.

It seems to be an idea that would improve any state's energy policy-making process. Wonder why so few have tried it? Perhaps some are afraid that the results might be the same as those in Idaho, where the voters chose to deal with threatened power shortages rather than to live with a new coal-fired plant and endure rate hikes and air pollution.

Once the public begins to dabble in energy policy making they also take on serious responsibilities, of course. Plant opponents say that if the plant is turned down, they will dedicate their energies to energy conservation.

Thanks to the struggle to get information to the public prior to the vote, not only these leaders, but the entire state of Idaho is better acquainted with the energy dilemma and more committed to conservation. They seem to realize that they cannot continue to squander energy if they have squashed the plant. You can't get that kind of commitment when decisions are made at the top.

—the editors

NEW WESTERN ENERGY SHOW

MONTANA SUMMER 1976

