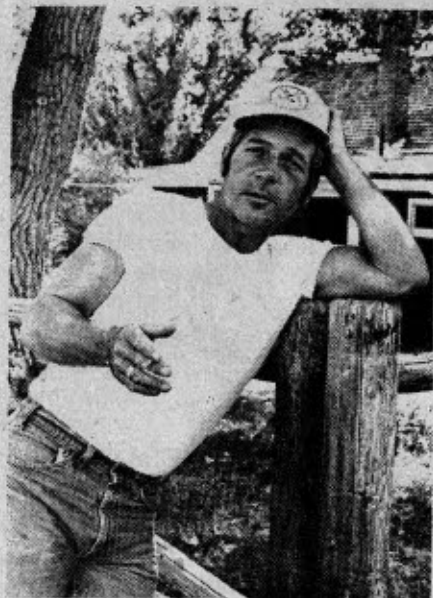


Outlaws agricultural water transfers

Shell says, 'We'll plan — our way'



STONEY HIBBARD thinks maybe they put him on the advisory committee to shut him up, but he's glad they did. When contacted by the reporter, his daughter said, "He's busy... but if it's about that planning stuff, I know he'll want to talk to you."

by Marjane Ambler

Take an ambitious businessman from New York who thinks growth moratoriums are communistic, a forthright ranch wife who doesn't want to see her valley change, a Chicago orthodontist-turned-rancher who resists anyone pushing him around, and a dedicated professional planner. Put them all in a room and tell them to come up with a land use plan for their mountain resort valley within 90 days.

What can you expect but an old-fashioned Western scrap with a lot of invectives flying, and maybe even a couple of six-shooters to settle any questions?

For awhile it looked like it might happen

that way in Shell, Wyo. But instead, residents emerged — smiling — with an innovative plan for maintaining the values of their agricultural valley. And apparently, the plan is accepted by those who most loudly denounced the moratorium proposal which preceded the plan.

Last January, the region's attention was directed toward the tiny community of Shell (population:50) when valley residents voted for a moratorium on commercial and residential development.

Accompanying the vote was a headline-grabbing admonition to the federal government. It asked that \$372,000 of federal money that had been appropriated for a scenic overlook in the canyon be returned

to the federal treasury and applied to the national debt. "We challenge all other communities across this nation to follow suit that we may curb unnecessary federal spending," the resolution added.

Two weeks later, however, several residents said they had been misled by "gaudy words and phrases." They met and drafted new resolutions opposing the moratorium and supporting the federally-funded tourist attraction.

To outsiders reading the headlines, it looked like a real confrontation. Keith "Stoney" Hibbard, who organized the second meeting, says the moratorium proposal did indeed put local people up against

(continued on page 5)



Interior to designate grizzly critical habitat

by Bruce Hamilton

The threat of the federal government designating parts of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming as grizzly bear critical habitat has some people more frightened than if they had actually met one of the awesome creatures on the trail.

"Make no mistake," says Cody County Sportsman's Club President Jay Ward, "this latest plan by the government could deprive us of hunting, fishing, hiking, even a picnic" in designated critical habitat.

"All that the outfitters fear can happen," Wyoming Game and Fish representative Larry Roop told the *Cody Enterprise* in a copyrighted story by Jim Miller. "The government has the authority to even move landowners" once critical habitat is designated. "Their authority is ominous."

On the other hand, grizzly researcher Dick Knight says the range of human activities allowable under critical habitat designation is "completely wide open." You could have backpacking, hunting, fishing, hiking — even logging, mineral development, road building, or grizzly hunting. Restriction of activities in critical habitat

would depend on the impact each activity would have on the bear's chances of survival.

"Theoretically, the Secretary of the Interior could cut off elk hunting in critical habitat on the basis that it scared bears, but I don't think he will do it," says Knight. Knight, the team leader of an interagency grizzly research task force and a biologist with the National Park Service (see HCN, 5-7-76), thinks sportsmen and other critics of critical habitat designation are overreacting to the proposal.

DESIGNATION REQUIRED

The designation of grizzly critical habitat is required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Under the act, all plants and animals recognized by the federal government as endangered or threatened are legally protected and their critical habitat is to be delineated and preserved. The grizzly was officially recognized as a threatened species in 1975.

Federal and state wildlife biologists are now sending their recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior on potential grizzly critical habitat. The secretary is expected to propose certain areas for critical habitat designation soon. The secretary's proposal will be followed by a period for public review and comment and public hearings. Then a final proposal will be adopted.

DEFINITION SOUGHT

"We don't have enough information on grizzlies to designate critical habitat," says Montana Department of Fish and Game Deputy Director Fletcher E. Newby. "What we've done is to designate occupied habitat." The department has submitted maps showing "areas of the state that have



TWO GRIZZLY BEARS wrestling in the woods. The Secretary of the Interior is required by the Endangered Species Act to designate critical habitat to help protect the grizzly. Some people are worried that human activities will be curtailed in designated grizzly critical habitat. Photo by Stouffer Productions, Ltd. of Aspen, Colo.

demonstrated the ability to sustain bears" either continuously or intermittently, he says.

"We thought it would be unfair to the bear to designate anything more restrictive than presently occupied areas," says Newby.

Knight says there has been talk of reintroducing the grizzly into parts of Idaho and Montana. These areas — where griz-

zlies formerly existed — could also be designated as critical habitat, but Knight doesn't believe they will be set aside.

Dr. Charles Jonkel, a noted grizzly researcher at the University of Montana, says a lot of people wouldn't stand for seeing the bear reintroduced into many areas of its former range. "I'd like to see optimum

(continued on page 4)

Goin' fishing

Notice. Every year the staff drops one issue of *High Country News* in order to take a brief vacation. This year there will not be an Aug. 13 issue. The next issue of HCN will appear on Aug. 27.

2

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

A little cock quail perched on the gate below the house last evening. He crowed and called lustily as we ate our supper out on the lawn. At the same time a warbler serenaded us from the trees above the house. The entertainment and dinner music were excellent.

We are blessed with a number of beautiful and interesting species. Several pairs of Bullock's oriole weave their marvelous hanging nests in our trees each spring. A pair of western kingbirds returned to a nesting site between the transformer and the pole in front of our house for the third year in a row. The robins didn't return to the apricot tree which overhangs our backyard.

Several males of different species took up residence for a few days to a week, but then evidently moved on. A little male wren sang his heart out for about a week in the trees above the house. But he must not have been successful in enticing a mate. The same for a yellow-breasted chat, who talked and called incessantly from the briar patches down along the road.

Our little feathered friends are some of the best neighbors we have. How good I did not realize until a friend lent me a book, *Farm Economy*, published in 1921. The friend pointed out that the book had some pretty good, relevant advice for today's farmer.

What do birds have to do with a farm economy? They eat insects which have a potential for destroying many more millions of dollars worth of crops. And seed-eating birds consume literally tons of weed seeds.

Certain insect-eating birds have been known to eat half their weight in insects in a single day. One hundred insects a day is a conservative estimate of each individual insectivorous bird.

Young birds grow at an astonishing rate, thanks to the industry and concerted efforts of the parents, especially the mother. Observations of a mother wren showed she visited her nest 110 times in four hours and 37 minutes. Each time she bore a grasshopper, a caterpillar, or a grub to her family. The wrens are one of the smallest of our songbirds.

The stomach contents of adult birds have shown some amazing things. Sixty grasshoppers were found in the stomach of a nighthawk. And the bird has been known to consume 1,000 ants at a single meal. As these birds go swooping about, usually in the evening, you think only of the swarms of mosquitoes and gnats which they must be devouring.

Warblers, those busy little bodies of tree

and bush, are estimated to eat 10,000 aphids a day.

Farm Economy relates that a Massachusetts ornithologist estimated that there were not less than five insect-eating birds per acre in that state. Relating the number of birds to the size of the state gave an equivalent of 21,000 bushels of insects eaten every day. This, of course, was before the day of massive applications of pesticides.

Time-worn truths are as applicable today as in earlier times. *Farm Economy* said, "We have been slow to realize in this country the great economic value of our song birds. Birds have been destroyed recklessly and their nests despoiled by thoughtless hunters with very little protection from the average person. Farmers, whose greatest ally the bird is, have been generally the slowest in protecting and encouraging them."



HCN Letters

ACTION ALERT: MONTANA WILDERNESS

Dear HCN readers:

The Montana Wilderness Study Bill (S. 393) passed the Senate Interior Committee in June and is expected to pass the Senate anyday. At that time it will be referred to U.S. Rep. John Melcher's (D-Mont.) Subcommittee on Public Lands. Melcher controls the destiny of this important measure. So far, he has not committed himself on S. 393. He can effectively kill the bill by simply refusing to hold a hearing.

Briefly, the bill designates 10 unique, high-priority Montana roadless areas totaling about one million acres for formal wilderness study. These 10 areas are the West Pioneers (Beaverhead Forest); Taylor-Hilgard and Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn (Gallatin Forest); Bluejoint and Sapphires (Bitterroot Forest); Ten Lakes and Mount Henry (Kootenai Forest); Big Snowies and Middle Fork Judith (Lewis & Clark Forest) and Elkhorns (Helena Forest).

Recently, the Helena National Forest released the final land use plan for the Elkhorn Mountains — one of the 10 study areas contained in S. 393. The Forest Service has decided to develop 30,000 roadless acres in the area and build a logging road which would connect up with an existing 4-wheel drive road, thereby bisecting this pristine de facto wilderness.

As an example of agency arrogance, a Helena Forest spokesman stated that the Elkhorns will be developed according to the unit plan despite action Congress takes on the wilderness study bill.

The Elkhorns plan is currently under administrative appeal by six conservation groups, including the Montana Wilderness Association, the Wilderness Society, and the Environmental Information Center. However, in the long run the only way to maintain the wild quality of the Elkhorns and other priceless roadless areas in Montana is to turn to Congress.

Melcher will not move the bill this year unless he receives numerous letters from Montana in support of S. 393. And next year may well be too late for some of these



magnificent wildlands due to eminent plans for logging, roading, power lines, and downhill ski developments.

Even if you have written on S. 393 previously, it is vitally important that you again write to Melcher and (1) ask him to support S. 393 and (2) ask him to schedule a hearing on the bill as soon as it passes the Senate since time is rapidly running out in the current session of Congress.

In your letter to Melcher, it would be well to impress upon him the wisdom of taking the careful and deliberate study approach of S. 393 whether than irreversibly committing these lands to development without adequate knowledge of what we are losing. A copy of your letter should also be sent to Rep. Max Baucus. They both may be reached at the House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515.

Montana Wilderness Association
Helena, Mont.

NOBODY INTERESTED?

Dear HCN:

I have used all present technology available to me to build a house in Acushnet, Mass., which is 90 to 100% cost-free for heating and hot water. Aside from building a house that has to be sold in order to earn a living, we hoped to be able to furnish information to other local builders and prospective home owners that would enable them to take advantage of information which could be incorporated in a new building from the ground up.

To date the results are NIL. We do have a couple of people interested in the house but the average person who visited the house during its opening, (over 400 the first day), thought it a nice idea but not needed now. A few younger college students were enthusiastic but are not able to proceed on any home of their own at present.

I am discouraged by the reception we received from the local, state, and Congressional representatives also. They were all notified hoping that in this bicentennial year, a new era for New England's energy problems could begin. The governor did reply with a letter advising us to refer the house to ERDA, which of course was not interested.

I designed the house to be unique in its appeal realizing that solar energy would not alone sell the house. I did not count on complacency and lack of interest being a greater hurdle to overcome. It would appear if we had left out the extra insulation, solar system, other energy conserving

equipment and added a huge stone or brick energy-wasting fireplace, the house would have sold the first day.

If any of your readers know of an opening for an environmentally-concerned builder I am ready to move. I am not kidding about moving either. When I read about the enlightened people in the San Luis Valley and all they have to overcome in order to help themselves, I feel that my knowledge and ability could benefit people in a more receptive area and perhaps assist my fellow man whoever or wherever he may be to live in harmony with what remains of our natural heritage.

Hugh W. O'Neale
13 Oakland St.
Mattapoisett, Mass. 02739

IKE LEADER LOOKS BACK

Dear editor:

I was pleased to see the guest editorial from the *Sheridan Press* in the July 2 HCN, saying public lands should stay public.

Back in 1947-48, when the last great land grab attempt was fading out, the *Press* took a very cautious neutral position. I know, because I had a few exchanges in the *Press* of those days with a spokesman for the livestock leadership. I was the western representative of the Izaak Walton League of America.

I don't wish to nitpick, but to keep the historical record straight, Leslie Miller, who had been a state senator, was known as a loved governor of Wyoming in 1947.

The high points of the notorious old Land Grab era came in 1946. The canner politicians by 1947 had cooled off almost to a man. Frank Barrett himself told the National Livestock Committee on Public Lands, a joint creature of both the cattle and sheep operators, that he'd introduce a bill for them only if it had the support of the industry in its entirety — which it never did achieve. Dozens of local stock associations and even one Bureau of Land Management District Advisory Board went on record opposing it.

This summer Rutgers University Press is publishing my book that tells the long, sorry story of the use and misuse of the federal grazing lands of the West.

William Voigt, Jr.
Blackshear, Ga.

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Guest Editorials

HCN

Cabbage soup skies overhead

Few, among industrialists and environmentalists alike, realize how dirty our air can become and still meet all legal clean air standards. This was brought home graphically by a recent forest fire which burned 5,000 acres near the Los Alamos-White Rock-Santa Fe area of New Mexico. The following column written by Dr. John Bartlit of Los Alamos, state chairman of New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air & Water and environmental advisor to the Federal Energy Administration, is reprinted from the *Los Alamos Monitor*.

by John Bartlit

6:15 A.M., Thursday, June 17. Sunrise on the first full day of the Fenton Lake

forest fire. In the east, a bloodshot sun floats, like a pale tomato in cabbage soup, above the indetectable horizon. Buried memories of life in Los Angeles, St. Louis, Philadelphia, and a hundred Akrons waken in the minds of Los Alamosans. Two days later when the skies finally cleared, most of us felt like a hair shirt had been removed.

AIR POLLUTION LEVELS

One picture is worth a thousand words. The mountain wildfire gave a picture of what legal air pollution concentrations look like. The levels of particulate pollution measured at the state agency's

monitoring stations in White Rock and Los Alamos were 96.3 and 91.5 micrograms per cubic meter respectively for June 17. Typical levels are 20.

What does this mean? The legal definition of acceptable air quality in New Mexico is a daily average of 60 micrograms. Daily levels up to 150 are considered acceptable as long as the days average no more than 60 for a year. The fire produced levels of about 94 for a rare day or two.

In other words, by New Mexico standards, air on the 17th was clean enough. In fact, industrial pollution could make it that bad — not one or two days a year — but about 60 days a year, and still be considered legally acceptable.

Visibility was reduced to eight miles on the 17th. It typically exceeds 60 miles. New Mexico standards say visibility need average no better than 12 miles throughout the year — half the days would have better visibility and the other 180 days, worse than 12 mile visibility. Is that acceptable to you? It's not to us. But that is what New Mexico and federal laws say is acceptable.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR BIRMINGHAM

How have such absurdly high levels of pollution come to be defined as acceptable? The federal Clean Air Act of 1970 requires

that air quality standards shall be set "to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects" associated with air pollution.

Surely having our visibility cut to 8-15 miles is an adverse effect. Wrong. Not in the eyes of federal law as interpreted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Public opinion surveys taken in St. Louis, Nashville, Buffalo, and Birmingham during the mid-1960s indicated most people were unaware or unconcerned about air pollution as long as the visibility was eight miles or better — as it was on the 17th. So since 1971 those have been the laws and the goals of our nation.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

If your opinion of air pollution is different from that of people in St. Louis, Nashville, Buffalo, and Birmingham in the mid-1960s, you had better let somebody know quickly. You can do this by writing your congressman, governor, President, environmental agency, citizens organization, and power company. Clip this column and send it. Send a photograph. Do something.

Otherwise, learn to relish a pale tomato in cabbage soup for breakfast.



JUST TALK

Dear HCN,

I have been working with an environmental consulting firm as one of their staff biologists (ecologist) for the past two and a half years. We have been engaged in the preparation of environmental reports relating to various proposed developments. I have worked throughout the Rocky Mountain region from New Mexico to Idaho and Montana and with resources as diverse as trona, phosphate, and coal.

I do not see that we in our region have truly begun to make any of the difficult decisions necessary with respect to land use, industry, or environmental quality. We just seem to continue to talk about such things.

The facts still remain, however. High salaries at mine operations in the Northern Great Plains may eliminate ranching due to an inability to remain competitive. Phosphate mining in Idaho could eliminate the wildlife in that corner of the state and produce air pollution at levels found in our bigger cities. Water conversion from agriculture to industries or cities cuts off the life blood to farmers and ranchers. Uncontrolled population growth taxes all the mental and physical resources of communities caught in the middle.

The West and the Rockies have always been known for a certain quality of living — western hospitality, open spaces, wildlife, clean air and water, etc. I can't understand why these attributes must be sacrificed in order to supply a generally wasteful and consumptive society with more goodies.

Perhaps the increased application of solar, wind, and other forms of long term energy technology, the reclamation or disturbed lands to highly productive agricultural areas, the designation of large tracts of land and water as resources for the soul (not to mention wildlife) and the cooperation of people within the region will serve to maintain and strengthen that sense of quality. Certainly this is not an easy task and in many ways a more complex undertaking than sending a machine to the moon.

In your own way *High Country News* has provided a valuable service to persons working and planning the present and

thinking about the future. (I have even seen copies of the paper in the inner reaches of some industries.) To a greater extent, and I guess this is to be expected, you still only communicate with persons of similar thinking, however.

In a few weeks I am leaving for a journey to Central Asia and the Far East. I am going to visit a number of countries and observe-participate in some of their ongoing environmental programs.

I hope HCN will still be around when I return.

Hugh Bollinger
Boulder, Colo.

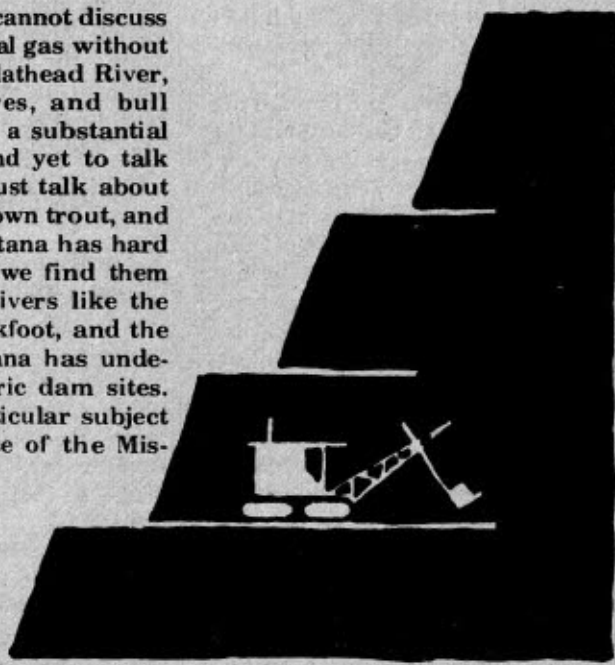
Montana's resources are on center stage

"When the American society high-graded the natural resources of the United States, Montana was for the most part passed over. Now that we as a nation are picking the raw material bones of the United States, Montana and its waters occupy center stage in the new national struggle.

"As far as natural resources go, Montana has an immense quantity of coal. But you can't talk about the utilization of coal without talking about the Yellowstone River, deer, antelope, and prairie grouse. Montana has unrecovered reserves of natural gas. But we cannot discuss the subject of natural gas without talking about the Flathead River, grizzly bear, wolves, and bull trout. Montana has a substantial timber resource, and yet to talk about timber we must talk about Rock Creek, elk, brown trout, and rainbow trout. Montana has hard rock minerals, but we find them always impacting rivers like the Stillwater, the Blackfoot, and the Clarks Fork. Montana has undeveloped hydroelectric dam sites. And under this particular subject we stand in defense of the Mis-

souri, the Sun, and the Upper Yellowstone. And finally we have one of the newer natural resources, recreational home sites. But to discuss this topic we must acknowledge what is becoming the tragedy of the Gallatin and a thousand obscure creeks whose names are not famous, but that are nonetheless home for Montana trout."

—James A. Posewitz
Montana Dept. of Fish and Game
From a speech before The
Federation of Fly Fishermen
Aug. 21, 1975



Groups oppose synfuels bill

by Kevin Markey

Friends of the Earth, Colorado

The synthetic fuels subsidy bill, HR 12112, may soon reach the House floor.

There are currently four versions of the bill, a situation which has created a nightmare in Washington, D.C. Environmentalists are urging the defeat of all four versions.

Three similar versions of the bill provide for up to \$4 billion in loan guarantees — primarily for oil shale and coal gasification. Critics point out that these subsidies do not assure the delivery of one barrel of oil or a single cubic foot of gas. Rather, testimony by the Ford Administration and industry has indicated that the bill guarantees only more federal subsidies.

The fourth version, while it cuts back the loan guarantees, adds two sections granting price supports, government purchase contracts, and new regulatory procedures designed to make it easier for synthetic gas producers to extract exorbitant prices from utilities and consumers. With a few minor amendments, this Commerce Committee version could become an even greater disaster.

Diverse groups — from conservationists to industry and agriculture to consumers — are opposing the subsidies. They fear that Congress will succumb to end-of-the-session pressures and Administration charges that it is doing nothing about energy.

The bill, currently in the Rules Committee, may reach the House floor soon. Letters should be addressed to House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

HCN campaign adds Colorado

In the May 7, 1976 issue of *HCN* we printed some ads and asked our readers to place one of them in their local papers. Readers have responded in three states. The most recent was sponsored by Dick and Barbara Ward of Fort Collins, Colorado. Thank you. Only 47 more states to go!

4-High Country News — July 30, 1976

Reporters uncover Teton Dam errors

"There is no reason to accuse the Bureau of Reclamation of deliberately building a doomed structure. But there is ample reason to question the management practices that allowed construction (of Idaho's Teton Dam) to proceed in the face of persistent and nagging warnings," reads a recent *Los Angeles Times* editorial on the Teton Dam disaster.

On June 5 the BuRec dam collapsed, causing \$1 billion in damage and 11 deaths.

Among the top reporters on the issue are Jerry Gilliland and Rod Gramer of the *Idaho Statesman* and Gaylord Shaw and John Kendall of the *Los Angeles Times*.

CUTTING CORNERS

Gilliland and Gramer reported in an *Idaho Statesman* copyrighted story that

the contractors — Morrison-Knudsen Co. and Peter Kiewit and Sons — stood to lose up to \$13 million on the \$39 million project because of cost overruns. The reporters uncovered a BuRec memo saying that the contractors planned to "launch an all-out campaign to mitigate their losses through claims."

After discovering two fissures in the rock at the dam site in November, 1974, BuRec Project Manager Robert Robison recommended not filling them, partially because the "claims situation at this time makes us hesitant to cause any delays required to complete the specified grouting," according to a BuRec memo. The fissures were 1,100 feet north of the dam's north end — the section of the dam which collapsed, according to the *Statesman*.

Gilliland and Gramer also note that facilities to direct water around the dam

were not used, even though the reservoir was filling prior to the rupture at a rate up to four times the speed dam designers recommended for safety.

In a May 14, 1976, memo, Robison reported, "Should the need for any water release through the river outlet works become imperative before completion of the painting, the resulting interruption would involve claims by the contractor for delay and additional cleanup and sand blasting."

Asked by the *Statesman* if the prospect of \$13 million in claims affected his engineering decisions on the dam, Robison said, "Categorically no."

RISING WATER

Shaw and Kendall reported in the *Los Angeles Times* that safety officials had not equipped nearby wells with sensing

devices to monitor changing water levels and pressures.

Gilliland and Gramer reported in another copyrighted *Idaho Statesman* story that groundwater in observation wells near the dam "began rising rapidly two weeks before the dam collapsed, but Bureau of Reclamation executives were not notified until after the dam failed."

The *Statesman* report quotes a BuRec official saying that if he had learned beforehand of the rapid rise in groundwater levels, he would have recommended draining the reservoir.

Project Manager Robison told the *Statesman* that the rise in groundwater in wells downstream from the dam would indicate that water may have seeped around, through, or beneath the dam's grout curtain — a cement layer designed to keep water from seeping into and eroding the dam.

The Interior Department review group has reported, "it is apparent to the group that the dam failure was a result of internal erosion" of the dam.



Photo by David Sumner

Congress' timber management reform bill vote expected soon

Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.) predicts that Congress will pass timber management reform legislation before summer's end.

Conservationists want to see legislation passed which would curb timbering abuses on the national forests. Lumbering companies want to see legislation which would erase a court-ordered moratorium on clearcutting in some national forests.

The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Forestry, of which Melcher is a member, is working on three main forestry bills. HR 11894, sponsored by Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.) is supported by many environmentalists and some professional foresters. It sets strict guidelines for the U.S. Forest Service and prescribes cutting techniques for various forest types. HR 13236, backed by Rep. Steve Symms (R-Idaho), is considered the industry bill.

A compromise bill, HR 13832, sponsored by Rep. Jim Weaver (D-Ore.), is backed by some conservationists and half-heartedly by the Forest Service. The bill sets up some management criteria, but leaves a good deal of discretion to Forest Service managers. The Forest Service's parent agency, the Department of Agriculture, has called for several weakening amendments to the compromise. The department wants to remove restrictions on high altitude logging,

reduce wildlife and recreation funding, remove requirements that the forest not be overcut, and reduce endangered species protection in logging areas.

The Senate has focused its attention on a bill similar to the House compromise bill. S 3091, sponsored by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, has cleared committee, but a floor debate and final action have been postponed.

The April-June issue of *The Living Wilderness*, the official publication of the Wilderness Society, has an excellent section on the debate over forest management. The section is divided into two parts: "One side says: let's leave it to the Forest Service," and "The other side says: Congress should write the rules." Different points of view are presented by leading spokesmen for the Forest Service, the timber industry, professional forestry organizations, and environmental groups.

For a single copy of the April-June issue send \$1.25 to *The Living Wilderness*, The Wilderness Society, 1901 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

To contact your Senator write to the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. To contact your Representative write to the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Grizzlies. . .

(continued from page 1)

protection for the bear, but if we go too far I think we'll see a backlash," he says.

None of the biologists involved in helping to designate critical habitat who were contacted by *High Country News* have a clear definition of what constitutes critical habitat.

Knight says critical habitat could take into consideration the bears' needs for food, space, and isolation. Unfortunately, the research biologists aren't yet sure what the grizzly's requirements are. They're still in the process of studying how human activities affect grizzlies and what biological needs the bears have.

"We're required by law to make a decision on critical habitat before we have all the information necessary," says Knight. Fortunately, once critical habitat is designated, it is not a one-shot final determination. As new information is uncovered, critical habitat can be expanded or reduced in size, says Knight.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines for defining critical habitat offer little guidance. An agency press release states: "Critical habitat **could** be considered to be the living space necessary for survival of an animal, including space for normal growth, movements, or territorial behavior. It also **could** include the animal's nutritional requirements such as food, water, or minerals as well as sites for breeding, reproduction, or rearing of offspring and space for cover or shelter normally required by the animal. Additionally, the term **could** encompass any other biological, physical, or behavioral requirements an animal may have." (Emphasis added.)

POLITICAL DECISION

John Mionezynski, another biologist with the interagency research team, believes human acceptance of the bears may limit the extent of designated critical habitat. The grizzly **can** live almost anywhere in the region, but its range is restricted because of competition and conflict with man, says Mionezynski.

"They'd gladly move right into your house if you'd let them," says Jonkel. "Grizzlies don't mix with man because man won't let them."

"The designation of critical habitat will mostly be a political decision — not a biological one," says Knight. We'll tell the politicians what we know about the bears'

biological needs, but the Secretary of the Interior and his aides must weigh other factors, he says.

How many bears does the public want? In what areas will the public tolerate bears? These are the type of questions the politicians must tackle, says Knight.

WHAT'S ALLOWABLE?

The determination of what human activities would be allowed in grizzly critical habitat may also be thrown into the political arena.

Already a number of Wyoming outfitters and the Husky Oil Company have contacted the Wyoming congressional delegation on the critical habitat issue. Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo) — who says he has received only negative comments on the proposal — has called for public hearings in Cody and Jackson before any decisions are made.

Following the lead of Wyoming outfitters and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Roncalio has asked the Secretary of the Interior to limit critical habitat designation to Yellowstone National Park lands. Hunting, logging, mining, and other potentially disruptive human activities are already limited or outlawed within the park, so designating only park land as critical habitat would have little impact on private interests.

Roncalio told the secretary that he favored limiting critical habitat designation to the park because he understood that the small grizzly population is now "concentrated well within the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park." Actually, according to the interagency research team, grizzlies live in national forest lands adjacent to Yellowstone in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Sizable populations also live in the Bob Marshall ecosystem near Glacier National Park in Montana and in Alaska.

This year, the federal government is considering a number of development proposals in grizzly habitat which could be designated as critical. If critical designation is proclaimed for these areas, it is not clear how the government would view the proposals.

Among the proposals are:

—Ski Yellowstone. A second home subdivision and downhill ski resort is proposed in grizzly habitat just west of Yellowstone National Park in Montana.

—Oil and gas leasing. Leasing is proposed along the North Fork and the South Fork of the Flathead River in the Flathead National Forest near Glacier National

(continued on page 14)

Shell. . .

(continued from page 1)

each other. But he agrees with Mary Clucas, who voted for the moratorium and then had afterthoughts. She says it succeeded in getting people "off dead center" and actively involved in planning efforts.

Whether or not the controversial moratorium proposal can actually be credited for the community effort that was



DOC MILLER and his grandson, Matthew. Doc's cool head and leadership were credited with making the plan work.

poured into its land use plan is debatable. But the plan and the forces that created it have a lesson for other communities trying to put reins on their destinies, according to Lee Nellis, the senior planner with the three county planning office in nearby Basin, Wyo.

Leaning against his truck parked in the shade on "Main Street" in Shell, Nellis spoke proudly of the efforts of the community.

"Local people are capable of taking material from professional planners and tailoring it to match their own communities," he insists. "There's nobody that knows the community like they do — they shouldn't be afraid to jump into the thick of things. Many planners are not convinced that citizens know what they're doing," he says. "But I'm convinced they know more than many planners."

"There are many land use controls that aren't complicated and aren't zoning, which are suitable to rural areas," he says.

TEMPERS COOLED

Now tempers have cooled, and, according to Clucas, they've finally got the fighting stopped. Most residents of the valley — at least the vocal ones — seem to be satisfied with the land use plan, even though it is still radical in the eyes of many other communities.

The plan limits the number of new house permits to about 200 — doubling the present number of residences. It blocks any commercial establishments that would require air quality permits or industrial waste discharge permits from the state or that would require major transfers of water from agriculture. Nellis says that excludes everything except small retail businesses.

Hibbard says he is satisfied with the plan — he was on the advisory committee that drafted it. He talked with HCN while

painting a house — before going back to work at his bar. Although the frequent meetings were difficult to squeeze into his full work schedule, he says working on the plan was "really great." He is proud of the final product, as well as all the public input that went into it.

"Maybe they put me on it to shut me up," he figures. He had said publicly that the proposed moratorium was communism, as far as he was concerned.

"Basically I'm an Easterner. I've seen zoning and didn't want any part of it — it just raises your taxes. People who have lived always in Wyoming didn't know what zoning was," he says.

Hibbard and his wife came to Shell Valley to reinvest the money they earned through years of hard work at their own business in New York, which partially explains his resistance to the moratorium. But they didn't want to see the area "crowded, spoiled, and changed." They left New York because it was crowded. The moratorium was just "too radical" for him.

Water is the biggest problem. Average rainfall is five to nine inches, which, without the extensive irrigation in the valley, would easily classify it as desert. As Hibbard got more involved in land use planning, he became more aware of the seriousness of the water situation.

"Water is our answer to keeping the population down," he says. Without the plan and its prohibition of agricultural water transfers, ranchers would have been forced out of business, Hibbard believes.

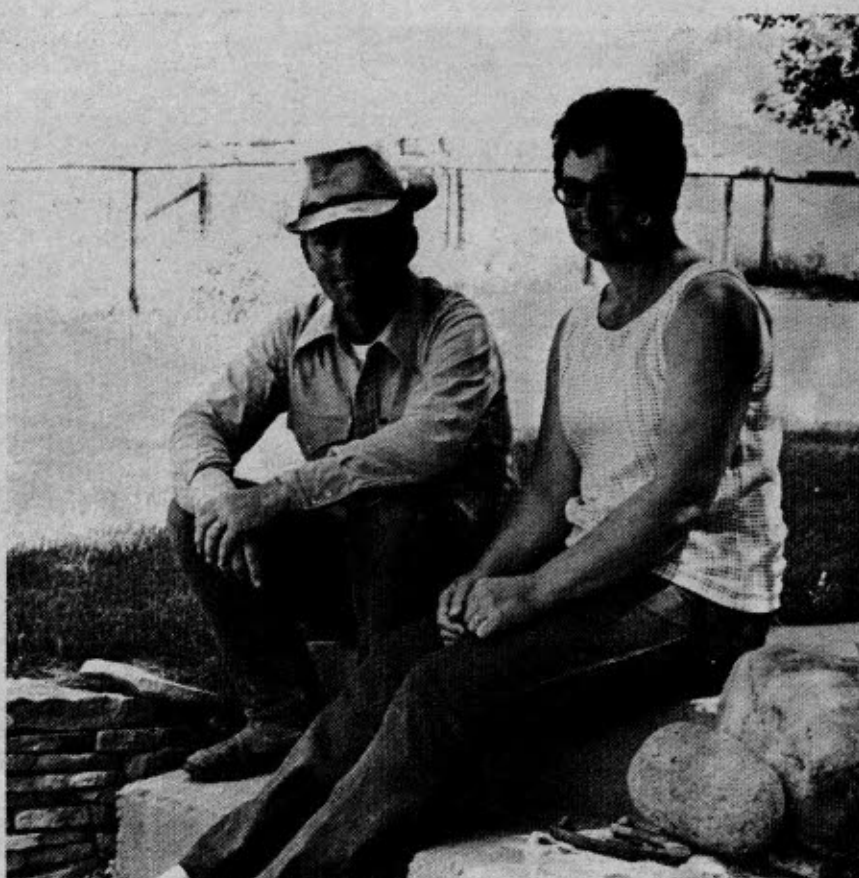
Hibbard was asked why he was evidently so concerned about the problems of ranchers, considering his Eastern city background. He admits that his understanding has grown through his months of work with ranchers preparing the plan. Other committee members pointed out that through the planning effort, they had learned much about the resources of their area.

Hibbard assumes the plan will eventually end up in court — "after that 200th house is built."

DOC CHANNLED ENERGY

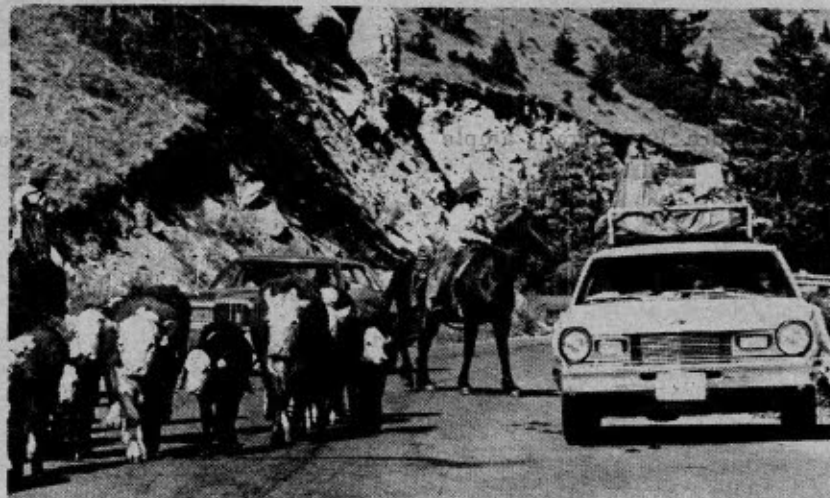
Why did it work? How did the energy activated by the moratorium threat get channeled into a cooperative community effort?

When Mary and Jack Clucas are asked that question, they'll point across the room



JACK AND MAY CLUCAS. "We finally got the fighting stopped."

July 30, 1976 — High Country News-5



CONFLICTING USES? When local ranchers move their cattle up to their summer range high in the Big Horns, the only way to get there is up the state highway. Sometimes this creates a problem for tourists trying to navigate the narrow, winding canyon road. Shell residents say there's room for both agriculture and tourism in the valley — but little else.

and say it's "Doc" Miller who's responsible. They also credit the county planning office that put together the advisory committee, which Miller heads. Carroll Miller also arrived in the West with a built-in resistance to anyone trying to "push him around." A retired orthodontist from the Chicago area, he now lives with his family on the most isolated ranch in the valley. He got on the committee because he feared its plan would be too restrictive, a fear that gave him an understanding of some of the other ranchers' concerns.

"This came up at a bad time. People are up to here with regulations from the government," he said.

This distrust of the federal government runs high in Shell residents — Jack Clucas says he and his neighbors have "renegade blood." It motivated the group who wanted to tell the federal government what to do with its recreation funds, which had been appropriated without consultation with local area residents. There seems to be no

thing they can do about the scenic overlook improvements since the facility will be located on federal land.

When the people decided they needed a community hall, they held dances until they had the money to build it themselves. "There's no government funds in that," the Clucas couple says emphatically.

For awhile, Shell Valley residents considered seceding from Big Horn County and forming their own county. But Nellis informed them they'd have to have 3,000 people to form a county. There are only about 680 people there, and they're not interested in having 3,000.

Miller and his committee, like other community planners, capitalized on this distrust. In a letter sent to all residents of the valley, they said, "Land use planning is not an idea we can ignore. . . . What it amounts to is that if we do not plan our own future, for our own county and particularly our own valley, outsiders will do it for us. No one wants to be told what he may do

"Many planners are not convinced that citizens know what they're doing. But I'm convinced citizens know more than many planners."

—Lee Nellis, planner

with his own land, and this is our opportunity to decide ourselves what our future will be.

"If you don't care enough to let us know how you feel, you'll just have to accept what we do on our own," they added.

It worked. Meetings were well attended, and many letters with suggestions were received. Minutes of the meetings were posted in the bar, the post office, and the store; and Hibbard says they were often read. Miller set a strict timetable — 90 days — and meetings were long and frequent, sometimes twice a week.

The seven committee members delved into the different possibilities for planning their future. Traditional, "hardline" zoning (which Nellis says was dismissed in 15 minutes). Transfer of development rights. Protective covenants.

"The more we got into everything, the more differences of opinion there were," Mary Clucas says. But Miller could usually bring peace by reminding the committee of the overriding goal they had adopted at the beginning: maintaining and encouraging the rural atmosphere of the valley.

Nellis credits Miller with being "articulate and good at soothing over things." Miller says his training in the Chicago area may have helped him prepare for this role: he was chairman of a bi-racial committee

(continued on page 16)

6-High Country News — July 30, 1976

Northwest Colorado coal

Regional impact scrutinized

by Joan Nice

Rapid changes caused by coal development could be ahead for Northwest Colorado, according to an environmental impact statement (EIS) published in June. The five-volume draft statement issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has attracted more than local attention.

It is not only a harbinger of change for Colorado, but one of the federal government's first attempts to consider its actions on a regional basis. Only one other regional coal statement preceded the Northwest Colorado effort (Eastern Powder River Basin). At least eight others around the country will follow.

Most previous environmental statements have dealt with one proposed project. The Northwest Colorado statement deals with proposals for four coal mines and a 25-mile rail spur. It also lists 13 other coal interests and describes their tentative plans for the area. The plans include adding 1,760 megawatts to the region's coal-fired generating capacity, giving the region a Kaiparowits-sized total capacity of about 3,000 megawatts.

If the proposals go ahead, a quiet, rural setting will be "bustling with human activity by 1990," according to BLM.

The statement describes what would happen to the area if the federal government said "yes" to every coal proposal and industry went ahead full-tilt. The statement does not suggest what level of coal development would be desirable or what level would be likely.

The agency's detailed description of what many observers claim an unlikely situation has become the focus of the EIS's critics. Coal interests have charged that only about half as much coal as BLM postulates will realistically be mined in Northwest Colorado. Therefore, the impacts described in the statement are exaggerated, industry spokesmen say.

Environmentalists voice the same objection to the statement — for different reasons. Several levels of development and

their impacts should have been examined to give communities a basis for planning, they say.

Malcolm Murray of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources says the state has launched a serious review of the document.

"We plan a very thorough review, not only of projects for Northwest Colorado, but of Colorado's entire approach to development on federal land," Murray told HCN. "It's the first time we've seen EMARS (the federal government's new leasing process, the Energy Minerals Activity Recommendation System) and the new leasing regulations in action and how they are to be applied."

Murray has just received preliminary comments on the EIS from state agencies. The state eventually plans to respond with a formal coal policy.

The state of Colorado feels the statement is important enough that it is working on a "full-bodied response," says Malcolm Murray of Gov. Dick Lamm's staff.

"It's a lot more than just an EIS review," Murray told HCN. "It's the first time we've seen EMARS (the Interior Department's new leasing process, called the Energy Minerals Activity Recommendation System) and the new leasing regulations in action and how they are to be applied."

The state just received comments on the EIS from state agencies. Lamm's office plans to respond with a series of broad policy statements which may be the beginning of a formal state coal policy.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office in Denver is also looking at the Northwest Colorado statement as more than a routine EIS to review. For one thing, the agency is concerned with the technical problems of producing a regional EIS which meets the requirements of the law. An EPA spokesman, while not ready to critique the EIS, told HCN that he thinks the level of coal development is the major policy question.

"What level of federal coal development

is to be expected and over what period of time? This is critical to the community," the EPA spokesman said. The agency will also be taking a careful look at the issues of reclamation potential and water quality, he said.

Environmentalists are critical of "a lack of analysis" in the EIS. Larry Edelman, who is reviewing the statement for the Environmental Defense Fund in Denver, told HCN that the regional scope of the statement is commendable. However, the EIS

A quiet, rural setting will be bustling with human activity by 1990.

won't be much help to decision makers, he says.

"The EIS does not analyze the possibilities and projected impacts of one or more lower levels of coal development within the region," he says. "We suspect this is because of a lack of viable data on project need and markets for coal from the region. Because of this lack of data, the analysis of alternatives is necessarily limited. We hope that the final EIS will analyze more realistic coal development levels in Northwest Colorado."

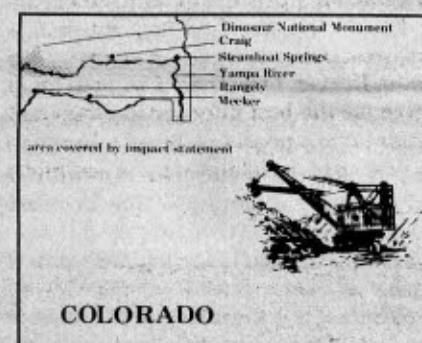
BLM says in the EIS that, with the data available, projecting alternative levels of development would be "arbitrary." Forecasting different levels is "extremely conjectural," dependent on "market conditions, land acquisition problems, industry economics, state and local attitudes, pertinent future legislation at the local and state levels as well as federal, etc.," the EIS states.

Edelman says he is concerned that any federal leasing at all will be allowed in Northwest Colorado. "The EIS does not indicate what basis will be used for deciding when, where, and if leasing is to occur," he says.



DEER'S SHRUBS AFFECTED. Mule deer are losing browse due to mining activities in Northwest Colorado. With maximum development of coal resources, the region's carrying capacity would be reduced by 900 animals.

Photo by Don Hinton



COLORADO

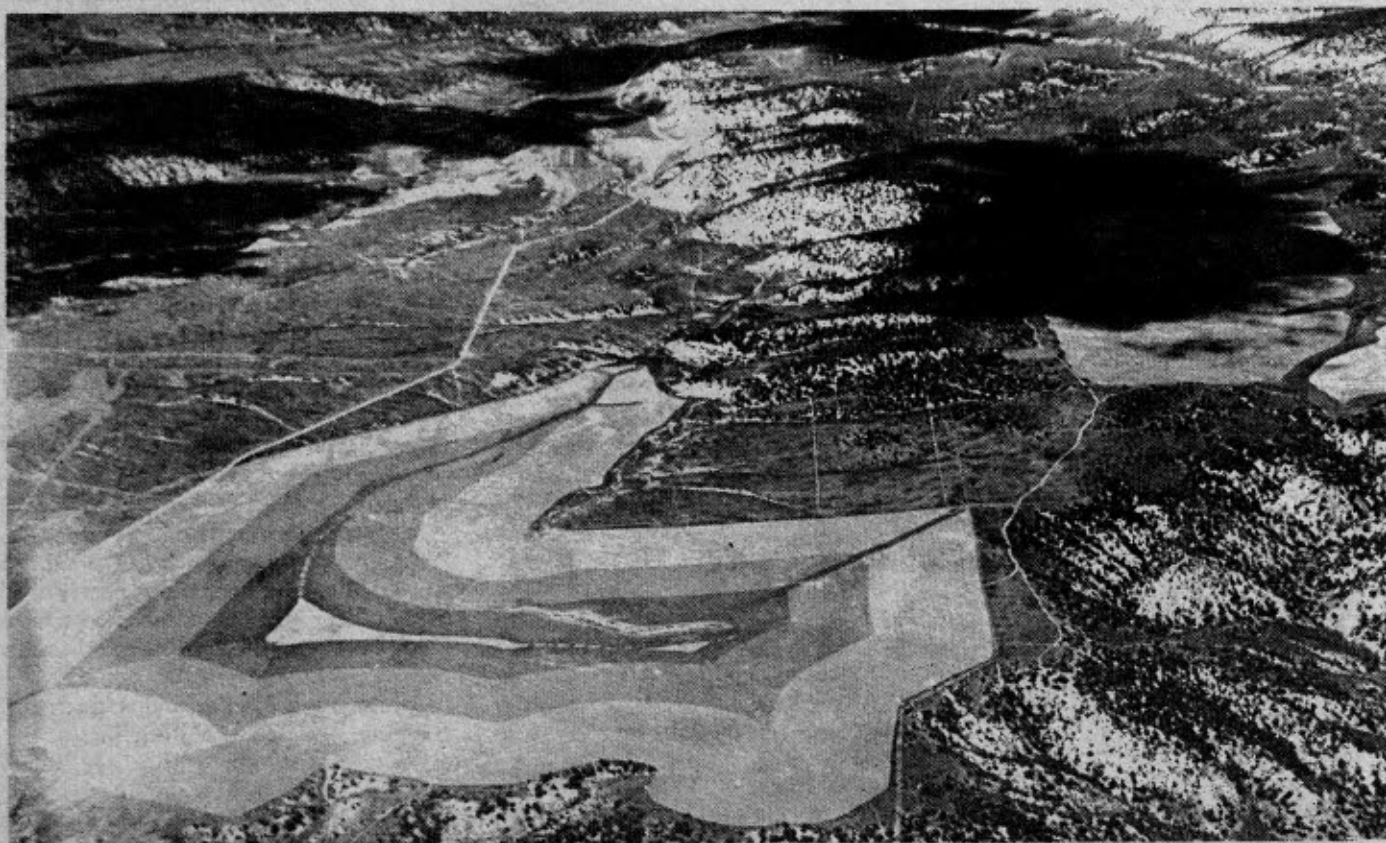
Comments?

Due to an extremely poor response to its initial call for comment, the Bureau of Land Management has extended the period allowed for written comments on the Northwest Colorado draft environmental statement and has scheduled a new round of hearings.

Written comments will be accepted until Sept. 1, 1976. The second set of hearings will be Aug. 17 at Wyer Auditorium, Denver Public Library, 1357 Broadway, Denver, Colo., and Aug. 18 at Moffat County Court House Auditorium, Craig, Colo. Hearings on both days will begin at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Speakers will be limited to 10 minute presentations. Written testimony may be of any length and will be given the same consideration as oral presentations.

Requests to testify and written comments should be sent to Don Bruns, Bureau of Land Management, Northwest Colorado Coal EIS Project, P.O. Box 689, Steamboat Springs, Colo. 80477. If you wish to testify, specify the approximate time, morning or afternoon.



MINE PROPOSED. Dryland contour farming in the Axial Basin south of Craig, Colo. W.R. Grace has proposed surface mining 85 million tons of federal coal in this area. Photo by R. Athearn, Bureau of Land Management

Dale Andrus, director of the state Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office in Denver, says he lives in a "fishbowl."

"I contend that I have to," he says. "You come to my office in Denver and there isn't anything that's confidential."

Because Denver is a center for government, industry, and environmentalists, all sides of every controversial issue are usually watching Andrus carefully.

Some tough problems in his state have recently put Andrus under an even brighter spotlight than usual. But, in some sense, he has chosen to make himself extremely visible. He volunteered to be among the very first to tackle an environmental impact statement on grazing. He was also willing to be among the BLM pioneers at regional coal planning and environmental impact statements.

While he admits his agency is still learning about the EIS process, he's proud of the document his team has produced for Northwest Colorado.

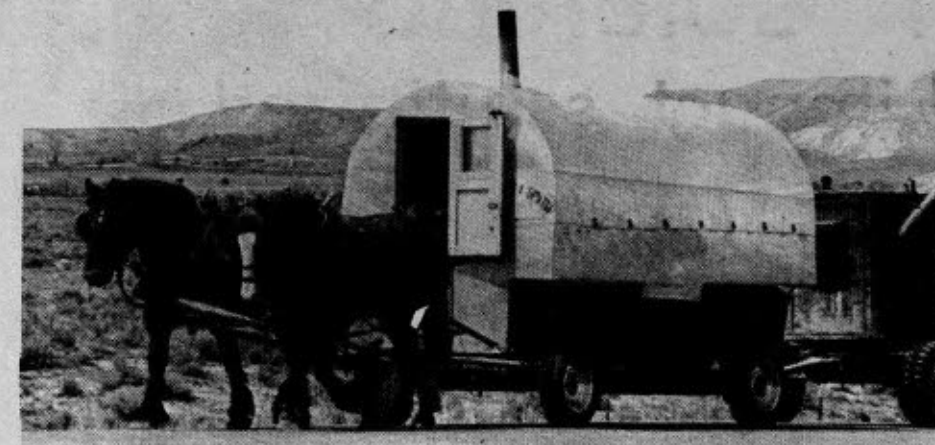
"We built a management framework on social-economic structure. People kind of know where they stand. County commissioners are using this right now, even though it's a draft. And the state of Colorado is looking at it, too," he says.

Andrus has been state director for four years. Before that he spent eight years with the BLM in Washington, D.C. He has a degree in forestry from the University of Idaho.

Andrus seems eager for face-to-face meetings.

"With most members of the public, if you are honest and factual, you can build up rapport," he says. He used informal meetings to help his team gather information for the draft EIS on coal development.

"I called all the companies and other parties I could find that had any interest in Northwest Colorado together in my caucus room in Denver. I told them I wanted them to give me the best information they had concerning any project proposal — acquisition of a lease, a right-of-way, a reservoir,



SHEEP COUNTRY. About 200,000 sheep grazed on range land in Northwest Colorado in 1973. In recent years there has been a shift of land from grazing uses to mining and housing uses, especially in Routt County.

Dale Andrus: man behind the report

whatever — even though it was in the preliminary stages," Andrus says.

The meeting produced a few project surprises and a lot of useful background material. A reservoir, a power plant, and some transmission lines grew from rumors to concrete proposals in the BLM staff's minds. Each company at the meeting followed up with letters of intent or applications filed with Andrus. Later county commissioners and other interest groups were tapped for further information about the area.

The companies were willing to reveal most of their tentative plans, Andrus be-

lieves, because it may save them procedural steps later.

"Even if they have to do a supplemental statement later," Andrus says, "at least the project has been addressed and it has gone through the public meeting process."

While he presents a very positive picture

The Western states have asked to become fully involved in energy decision making. But they aren't backing it up with manpower and money — or even in reviews.

—Dale Andrus

July 30, 1976 — High Country News-7

of BLM's effort, Andrus admits the agency has experienced problems producing the coal statement. The first problem was gathering enough information to determine exactly what the proposed actions were. The second was getting enough information to decide what the actions would mean.

So many EISs are being prepared, it's difficult to get any help from other federal agencies. "We're drawn very thin and not able to support one another as we were when we first started," he says.

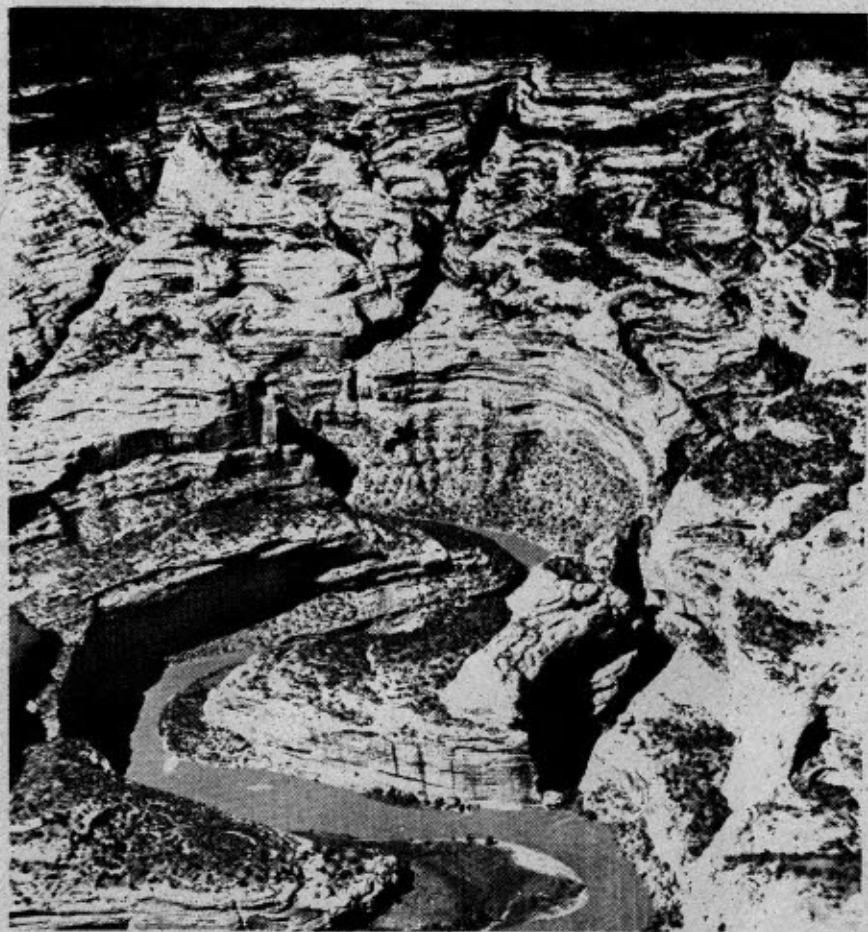
Andrus also complains about lack of state agency support. The only state organizations that really came forward to help were the Division of Wildlife and, to some degree, the state planning commission, he says.

"The Western states have asked to become fully involved in energy decision making," Andrus says. "But they aren't backing it up with manpower and money — or even in reviews."

What does BLM have in mind for Northwest Colorado? Andrus is not ready to say yet. But he contends that he's in an enviable planning position. He and his agency don't necessarily have to choose the proposal which will make the most money for the federal government.

"We are trying to satisfy 200 million people and you don't necessarily always get the maximum dollar," he says.

Embroiled in work on at least five other major EISs in Colorado, Andrus won't have much time for reflection this summer. But he says he is determined to be listening intently to what people want in the way of coal development in Northwest Colorado.



WILD AND SCENIC. The Yampa River in Dinosaur National Monument. Rapid population growth and increased sewage discharge from towns along the Yampa might jeopardize its chances for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Photo by R. Athearn, Bureau of Land Management

More people, fewer deer

Northwest Colorado is rich in low sulfur bituminous coal.

It is also a quiet place, rich in wildlife, wide open spaces, clean water, and clear air.

Coal proposals are stacking up heavily against preservation of the region's status quo. The Bureau of Land Management is immediately facing decisions of four mining plans and an application for a 25-mile rail line to haul coal. A "yes" on these proposals would add about eight million tons of annual coal production to the region's 1974 output of 3.7 million tons. Sometime soon the agency may also rule on 11 preference right coal lease applications, 24 pending competitive coal lease applications, two power plants, and 30 tracts identified for possible additional leasing.

The BLM's environmental statement on Northwest Colorado documents the rumors locals have been living with for a long time. As everybody around there can tell you Northwest Colorado is in for major changes. Coal development is thought to be different from the myth of oil shale development which has haunted Colorado's western slope for almost a generation and never materialized. When it comes to coal, proposals are likely to turn quickly into real projects, observers say.

According to surveys taken in Meeker and Craig, Colo., most citizens feel uneasy about the number of new neighbors they may be facing. Three-quarters of the people polled in each community said they would

be dissatisfied with the amount of growth projected to accompany full scale development.

The impacts they may be facing if all proposals are developed, are listed below. All facts and quotations are from BLM's draft environmental statement.

THE PROPOSAL

If the federal government acted positively on all coal-related proposals in Northwest Colorado—and if industry developed to its full potential—by 1990 the region would have produced 340 million tons of coal from 21 mines. Some of that coal would be supplying three local power plants with a generating capacity of 2,933 megawatts. Support facilities for this development would include 125 miles of new railroads, 150 miles of new roads, and 350 miles of new power lines.

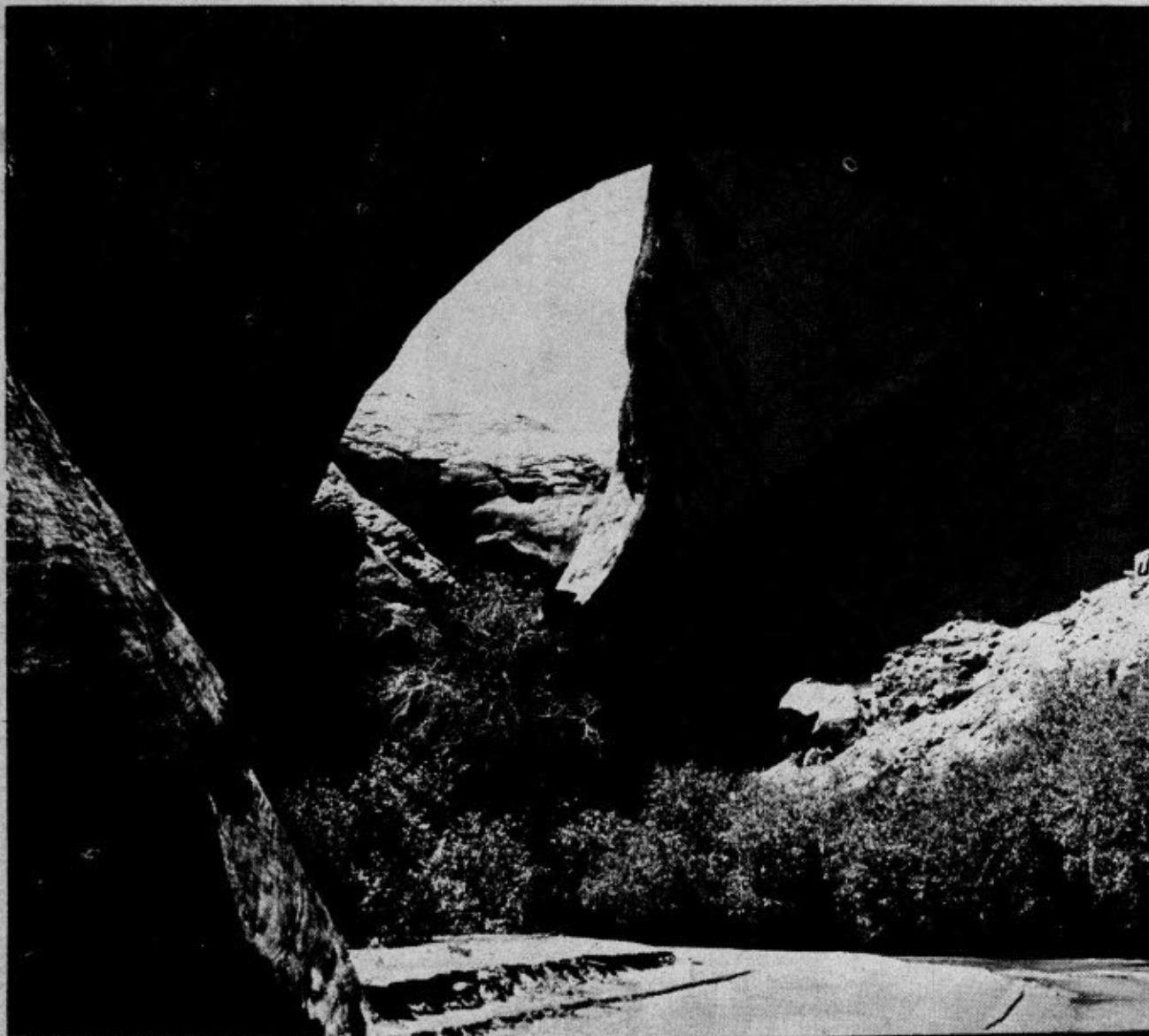
ACREAGE DISTURBED

At this level of maximum development, 39,210 acres of land would have been disturbed. All but 10,345 are planned to be revegetated.

"It is difficult to predict the success of current reclamation practices on disturbed lands associated with coal development in Northwestern Colorado. However considering existing climatic and soil conditions and replacement of topsoil by most mining companies, return to a self-sustaining

(continued on page 12)

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Jacob Hamblin Arch

Photo by Phil White

The Escalante has been

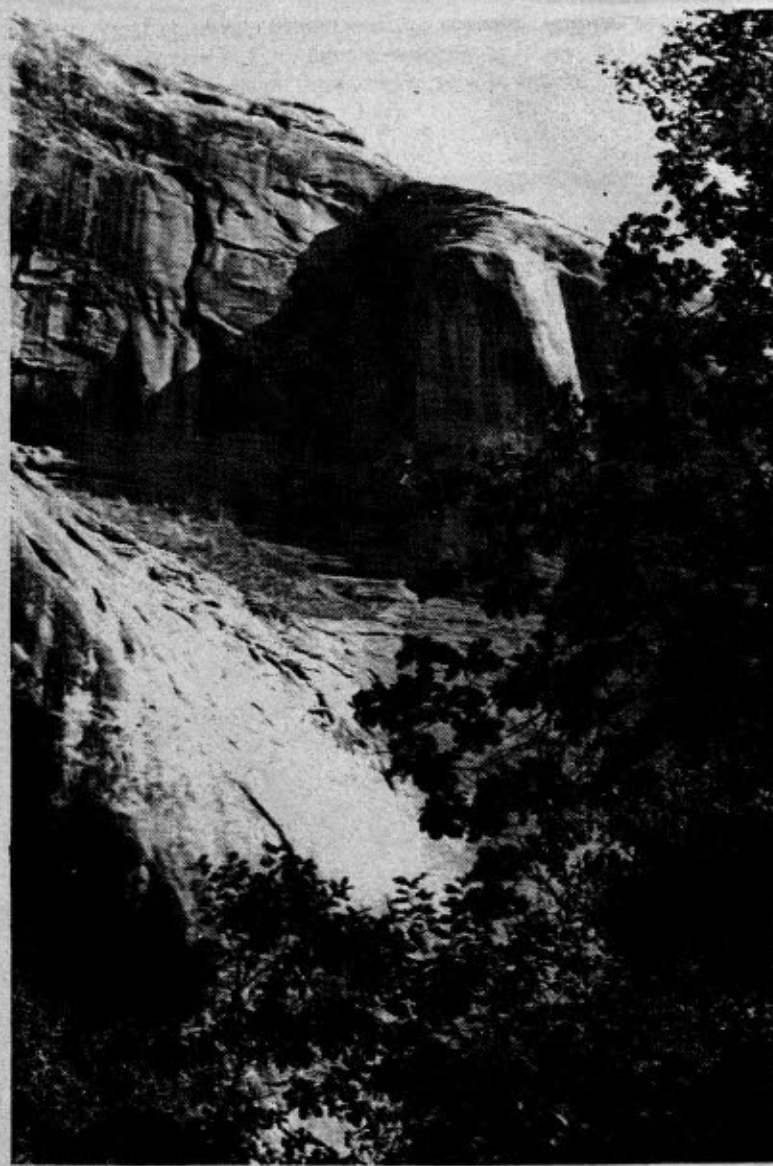
A bicentennial event that's been generally overlooked in this year's hoopla (possibly because it was carried out by the Spanish) was the remarkable 1775-76 expedition of Padre Escalante. He and his party traveled through the uncharted Southwest from Santa Fe north to what is now Grand Junction, Colo., then west to the Great Basin. On their way back home they turned east and encountered the Colorado River at present-day Lee's Ferry. They followed the river north through Glen Canyon and across the Escalante River to find a crossing. The notes and maps of Escalante's party were a great aid to the fur trappers that followed, and opened up the area to exploration.

The reports of early explorers did not bring hordes of settlers. The convoluted canyonlands surrounding the Escalante River — only a "crick" to any but desert dwellers — are some of the most worthless real estate in the country for earning a living. Cliffs 1,500 feet high form the central Escalante River gorge. This gorge is surrounded by a system of canyons feeding into it that cover 500,000 acres. Up until the present, the land's valuelessness has been its saving grace. Except for a few hardy ranchers and cows, only a few back-country enthusiasts frequented the area.

Now, however, many southeastern



Broken Bow Arch on Willow Creek, in the proposed Escalante Wilderness.
Photo by Jack McLellan



The wall of Coyote Gulch, which enters the Escalante River just west of Lake Powell.
Photo by Phil White

Escalante's bleakness in its saving grace

Utahans who have struggled against poverty for years are welcoming tourism and mineral development in their area. The proposed Trans-Escalante Highway would cut through the heart of the Escalante, connecting Bullfrog Marina on the north to Wahweap on the south of Lake Powell. It's part of a larger proposal to connect Moab with Glen Canyon City. The sole purpose of the road, since it goes through almost totally uninhabited land, is tourism, although it is strongly supported by local ranchers, who would gain easier access to the federal land on which their cattle graze. The nature of the country to be built across is so rough that the highway could cost \$2 million per mile in some areas. Lack of funding has halted construction plans at present, although the road has been authorized by Congress.

The coal on the Kaiparowits Plateau and the oil of the Orange Cliffs area is drawing the attention of developers, also. Local feeling favors exploitation of these minerals.

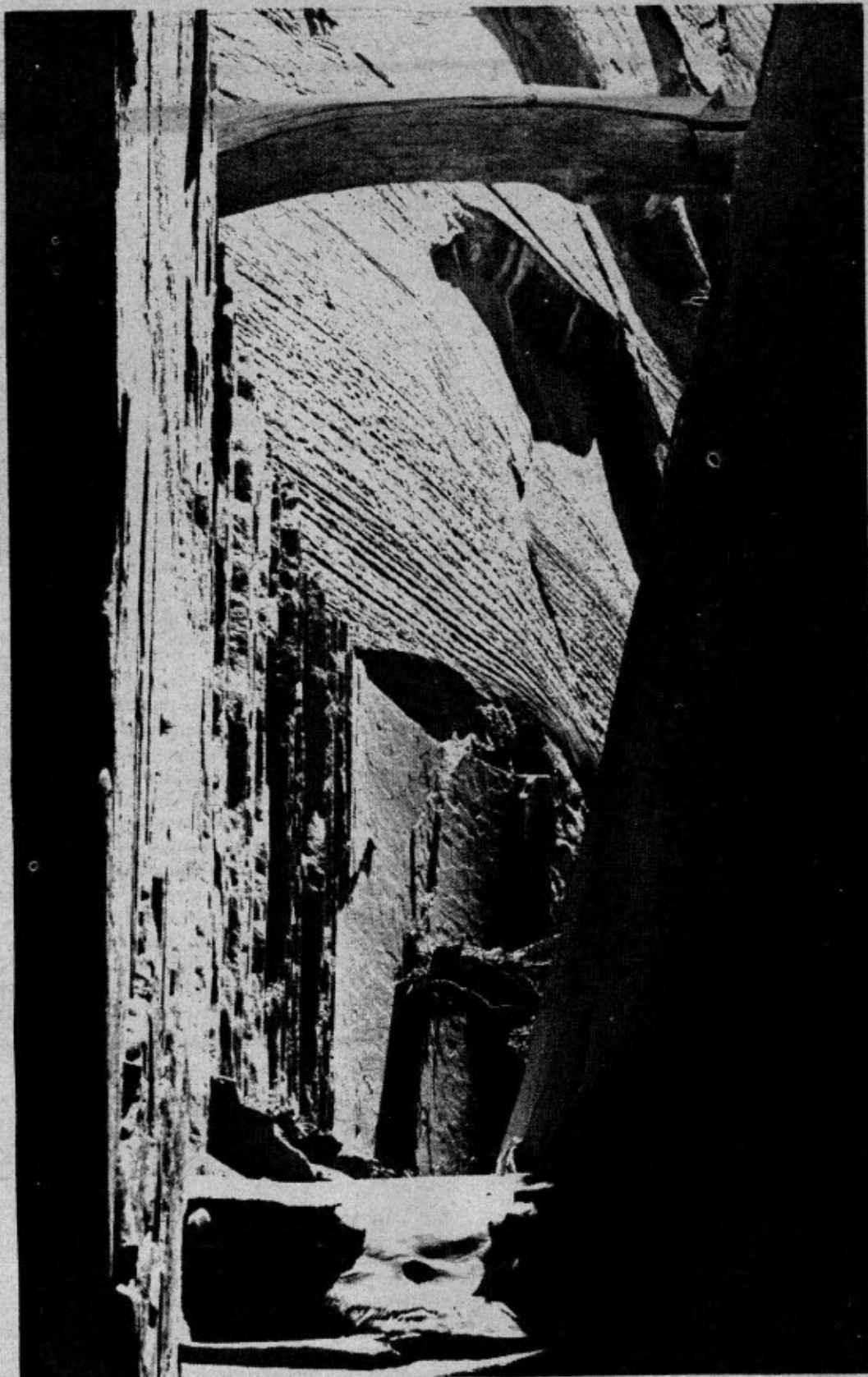
The National Park Service has proposed six alternative plans for the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, which includes the Escalante region. The recreation area covers 1,236,880 acres along the Colorado River, including Lake Powell. The alternatives call for percentages varying from 79% down to 0% of the recreation area to be

declared wilderness.

Locals fear the wilderness proposal, as they feel it will jeopardize the road as well as development of mineral wealth. They resent environmentalists from outside their arid corner of the state trying to preserve its primitive character. Most conservationists understand their plight, but feel their logic is fuzzy in several ways. For one thing, the land under consideration is national land, not state or county, and so local economics should not be the top priority in its management. They also argue that auto-oriented tourism leads to shoddy development, and, with oil reserves dwindling, may not be a good investment for the future. And regarding mineral development, so many people are often brought into a community with it that jobs are no easier for locals to find, but community problems skyrocket.

Possibly the highest respect for a piece of wild land is shown by those who love it but choose to live elsewhere, rather than inflict everyday living problems on it. The people asking for a \$2 million per mile road to save their economy are not too unlike people who build their homes on a flood plain and then ask for a dam upriver. As desert author Ed Abbey writes of the canyonland country: "Love it or leave it alone."

—Sarah Doll



A tributary to the Escalante River cut this groove in the rock, then abandoned it.
Photo by Phil White



Debris left by flash floods. Photo by Phil White

"... the desert is a-tonal, cruel, clear, inhuman, neither romantic nor classical, motionless and emotionless, at one and the same time both agonized and deeply still.

"Like death? Perhaps. And perhaps that is why life nowhere appears so brave, so bright, so full of oracle and miracle as in the desert."

—Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*

Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

Giant oil companies that already are becoming entrenched in other energy fields — from coal to the sun — may soon be forced to choose one energy source to mine and leave the alternative sources to others.

If forced out of the coal business, oil companies would have to scrap elaborate plans they've made for mining Wyoming coal and instead turn their fields over to coal companies.

The Democratic Party last week accepted in its platform a plank Jimmy Carter has been advocating: oil companies should stick to oil.

The party declared its support for "the legal prohibition against corporate ownership of competing types of energy, such as oil and coal. We believe such 'horizontal' concentration of economic power to be dangerous both to the national interest and to the functioning of the competitive system."

Other Democratic candidates had been more interested in banning energy companies "vertical" integration, their ownership of all phases of the oil industry from drilling to filling up tanks at service stations. The Democratic Party platform calls for "restrictions" on that kind of ownership, but comes down hardest on the "horizontal" nature of the energy industry.

The Senate rejected both proposed bans last October, but by narrow margins. The vertical breakup was rejected, 54 to 45, and a proposal to ban horizontal ownership was defeated, 53 to 39. Another attempt at vertical divestiture was approved last month by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The certainty that President Gerald Ford would veto such a bill, thus requiring a two-thirds vote to override, makes those close votes not so close. With Carter as President, that would be another matter.

The argument for a horizontal breakup essentially is that big oil companies that dominate other energy fields would have the ability — and the temptation — to determine the price structure for all energy. Also, a company would be reluctant to open a coal mine if bringing the coal into the energy market would lessen the price of oil.

Without such a breakup, argued Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) last October when he proposed it, "we feel that competition may very well be stifled, with a resultant tendency to raise prices, restrain the developments of new technology and impede maximum production."

Opponents of a breakup argue that only companies the size of an Exxon or an Arco have the money to launch operations to mine large amounts of other energy sources.

"The development of coal, oil shale, tar sands, and geothermal resources is an extension of oil technology in which the U.S. oil industry is the world leader," Sen. Paul Fannin (R-Ariz.) said in last year's floor debate.

In 1963, according to figures cited by Kennedy, oil companies produced only two per cent of the nation's coal. By 1973, they were mining 25% and, since then, even more. They now own 35% of the nation's coal reserves and more than half the uranium reserves. Five of the top 15 coal producers in 1973 were oil companies.

Among those owning reserves in Wyoming are Atlantic Richfield, Exxon (Carter Oil), Ashland Oil (Ark Land Co.), Concho Petroleum, Kerr-McGee, Sun Oil (Sunoco) and Texaco. Richard Bass, Wyoming's biggest federal coal lease holder, is a Texas oil man.

CIRCLE WEST AND CARCINOGENS.

A preliminary engineering study for Burlington Northern's Circle West project says that the project will require "sizeable amounts of power, source unspecified." The Center for the Public Interest, Inc., based in Bozeman, Mont., made this observation as part of its intensive study of the project. Circle West is designed to produce fertilizer, methanol-methyl, and diesel fuel from coal. (See HCN, 11-7-75) The center also quotes Dr. Samuel J. Rogers of Montana State University saying that gasification and liquefaction increase the carcinogenic (cancer-causing) potential of emissions from coal-fed plants.

COLORADO TO CONSERVE.

Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm has ordered state agencies to come up with plans which would cut the state's energy consumption by 20% annually. He also asked the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to hold hearings as soon as possible to find utility rate structures and transportation regulations that would encourage energy conservation and reduce energy costs to consumers.

PLUNKETT CHOSEN.

Jerry Plunkett has been named head of the committee to advise the state of Montana on renewable energy projects that are to be funded by a portion of the state's coal tax. Plunkett is managing director of the Montana Energy and MHD (Magnetohydrodynamics) Research and Development Institute. When working as an independent inventor in Colorado, he was the subject of an HCN feature article (HCN 1-17-75). This year \$500,000 is in the fund earmarked by the legislature for renewable energy projects. The amount is 2.5% of the state coal tax.

URANIUM MINING QUESTIONED.

The Colorado Health Department is concerned about proposed uranium mining in Weld County, which would involve injecting a chemical underground to dissolve the uranium. Four internal reports by the department raise questions about the adequacy of plans to restore ground water to its original condition and about monitoring for radioactive materials. The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission has scheduled a public hearing on the mining for August 3.



NEW COLSTRIP HEARING REFUSED.

The Montana Board of Natural Resources has refused to reopen its hearing on Colstrip coal-fired power plant Units 3 and 4. The board had voted 4 to 3 to give final approval to the project. The vote was protested by the Northern Plains Resource Council and the Northern Rockies Action Group on the grounds that one board member, Dr. Wilson Clark, had allegedly held an illegal conversation with a representative of the project's industrial backers prior to the vote. Clark had voted to approve the project. The board voted 6-0, with Clark abstaining, not to disqualify Clark. The plant's opponents are expected to appeal the decision.

PIONEER PLANS GROW FUZZY.

The only thing that seems to have changed since a public vote against the Pioneer power plant in Idaho May 25 is that "the Pioneer proposal has become more vague," Cliff Bradley, an opponent of the plant, told the *Idaho Statesman*. Since the vote, Idaho Power Company has asked the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to "issue a certificate authorizing additional generating facilities" and "reserve the question of site." The commission is expected to rule soon on the 1,000 megawatt coal-fired facility originally proposed for a site near Boise, Idaho.

TAX BREAK FOR POWER LINES.

A legislative committee in North Dakota is considering giving a property tax credit to landowners who have large transmission lines across their land. The state tax department shows a projected increase of more than 620 miles of 230 kilovolt lines. Some legislators are afraid affected landowners aren't being given proper consideration by local assessors. The committee also has tentatively approved a bill that would increase the per mile tax on large transmission lines of electrical cooperatives.

COAL SOUGHT IN OIL STATE.

Texas utilities are looking to Wyoming and other Western coal states to provide fuel for their boilers, according to *Coal Week*. Atlantic Richfield, which has opened the Thunder Basin mine near Gillette, Wyo., is under contract to deliver coal to Southwestern Public Service of Amarillo, Tex., Sun Oil Co. and AMAX, which also have operating mines near Gillette, will both deliver Wyoming coal to San Antonio (Tex.) Public Service Co. Texas utilities are under orders to convert their boilers from oil and natural gas to coal.

COALition lists criteria for leasing

by Marjane Ambler

When the Interior Department announced its new coal leasing nominations procedures, some environmentalists in the West became concerned that the system could pit them against each other as each vied to keep coal leasing away from the area he or she was most concerned about. Utah and Colorado residents feared that other environmentalists might protect strippable coal reserves at the expense of their states' deep mineable coal. Those from the Southwest feared that all the protective measures would be directed toward the Northern Great Plains.

These worries and the desire for more clout brought people from throughout the West together in Billings, Mont., July 6-7 for the first meeting of the Western COALition. The coalition formed last February as a network of 67 citizen groups concerned with the adverse effects of coal development. Coordinators report that they have since received calls from industry representatives who apparently recognize the potential of such a coalition and who are concerned over what the organization plans to do.

Formerly fragmented and approaching coal development with different although usually parallel strategies, the environmental, agricultural, and Indian groups decided to put together a major regional policy to respond to the new coal leasing program.

Under the Energy Minerals Activity Recommendation System (EMARS), the Interior Department has asked industry,

states, and the public to submit nominations or "disnominations" for coal leasing tracts by July 31.

HOW BIG A ROPE?

The Interior Department bills the new program as a new opportunity for public participation. George Pring of the Environmental Defense Fund, however, characterizes it as being the same as a group that is against capital punishment being offered the opportunity to choose the size and the length of the rope.

At the July meeting, the coalition decided to submit suggestions for general criteria for making nominations rather than specific tract by tract nominations. Members unanimously adopted the strategy, citing it as "constructive participation."

While not wanting to comply with Interior's form for participation, coalition members resisted disnominating the whole West, which many Interior officials had expected them to do.

The coalition's opposition to the EMARS program is based largely on the members' contention that no further leasing is necessary. Members pointed out at the meeting that it would take 65 years to exhaust the federal coal reserves already under lease in Montana, Wyoming, and North and South Dakota alone.

Since the department has said its call for nominations is aimed "primarily at industry," it will be reacting to leasing directed by industry rather than allocating the leasing itself, the groups charge.

The department has not revealed what

factors will control the rate, timing, and location of the leasing. No criteria have been listed by the department to explain how its decisions will be made to accept or reject nominations which are made.

SUBMIT OWN CRITERIA

Consequently, the Western COALition is submitting its own suggestions for criteria and asking that Interior use them as a basis for adopting formal criteria, after full public participation. Some of the coalition's suggestions will include reclamation potential, endangered species habitat, and social and cultural impact.

As the EMARS program is written, the public is asked to review 92 million acres of federal coal land and decide, acre by acre, whether it should or should not be leased — within 60 days. One participant pointed out this adds up to more than 1.5 million acres per day. The nominations are to be rank ordered, labeled by section and township, and put on a government map. Detailed information about the impact of mining is required.

One of the participants quipped, "It's finally happened. They're asking us to do an environmental impact statement." He pointed out that the public is being asked to do the same thing that industry and government are being asked to do — without the resources to do it.

Carolyn Johnson was elected by the group to continue as coordinator. The Western COALition can be reached at 2239 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, Colo. 80206. Telephone (303) 321-6588.

Harsh environment a protective force

Hope remains for caribou



Alaskan caribou. Photo copyright by Ann and Myron Sutton.

Can Alaska's seemingly endless herds of caribou survive the pipelines, roads, and spreading civilization which gas and oil development has brought to the Far North?

George Calef, a Canadian expert writing in the July issue of *Audubon*, magazine of the National Audubon Society, answers that question with a tentative yes and he pins his hopes on the premise that the harsh and unproductive lands of the Arctic will never be used for farming:

"It is agriculture above all other human activities that has destroyed natural habitats the world over. The passenger pigeon was doomed to extinction when the first axe rang in the Appalachian hardwoods. The buffalo's days were numbered when a plow first sliced the matted roots of prairie soil. There seems no reason why the unproductive tundras and the scrubby boreal forests that nurture the barren-ground caribou should suffer the same fate." (There are other species of caribou; the barren-ground variety is the one that makes up the great herds.)

Calef doesn't minimize the threat civilization holds for the caribou. It is only because of highly specialized adaptations that the species is able to exist at all in such an inhospitable environment, he says, and disturbance could easily disorient and destroy their delicate balance. But he believes that it is possible for the caribou to co-exist with man if — a big if — proper safeguards are established.

The most recent studies, according to Calef, include both good news and bad. On the one hand, current estimates of caribou numbers are far lower than the "millions" which were widely believed to live in Alaska when observers first saw the giant herds in migration, stretching from horizon to horizon. They were then considered uncountable, but now aerial surveys have set Alaska's total at about 600,000 caribou.

The good news, he reports, is that studies based on these more realistic figures indicate this total is close to what might be expected on this amount of caribou range, and "that there are probably almost as many barren-ground caribou in Alaska and Canada today as there ever were."

But, he continues, what the totals may be in a few years, as civilization's inroads continue, is a different matter. He describes how the animals migrate in the spring to the calving grounds where, remarkably, virtually all that season's calves are born within a period of about two weeks, 75% of them during five days of that period. Giant herds then collect and are seen moving through vast grazing lands during the short summer. In the fall the caribou move to their winter ranges where, during the intense cold and long darkness of the sub-Arctic, they are able to subsist chiefly on lichens, or reindeer moss that is

too low in protein to keep other species of ungulates alive.

Calef says Alaska's spreading civilization could create obstacles that would throw off the timing of migrations, cause extra exertion that would weaken the animals and make them less able to escape wolves and disease, and cause disturbance at critical times such as the calving period.

Herds could be delayed as they sought an underpass or overpass in a pipeline, says Calef. Hunting pressures can increase both from the added number of people in Alaska and from the added number of roads that

can bring hunters to formerly inaccessible areas. Pregnant cows, frightened by a helicopter taking tourists over the herd to take pictures, can lose their calves.

He notes particularly that the effects of such disturbance can be cumulative: "A caribou may be chased by a hunter on a snowmobile today, frightened by highway traffic tomorrow, and buzzed by a helicopter the next day."

Controls and policies to minimize such disturbance "will be no easy task," Calef readily admits, but with them he believes it may still be possible to save the caribou.

Alaska pipeline fails test

Still in the midst of controversy over thousands of faulty welds, the builders of the Alaska pipeline admit that they have another problem. An underground section of the oil pipeline burst during pressure testing.

The \$7 billion pipeline, while built to operate at 1,180 pounds of pressure per square inch, burst at only 187 pounds of pressure. Water was being pumped through for testing purposes at the time. Alyeska Pipeline Co., the consortium of eight oil companies building the line, says that the cause of the rupture isn't known. The company says it is sure it didn't involve a welding failure, however.

Less than 100 miles of the 800 mile line, which is scheduled to start flowing in July 1977, have been pressure tested.

The U.S. Interior Department has based its assessment of the pipeline problems on information provided by Alyeska. Independent studies have indicated that there may be more welding flaws on the pipeline than have been publicly disclosed. As a result, the President has ordered an investigation by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

In Senate oversight hearings, Alyeska Chairman E. L. Patton has opposed the idea of digging up the pipeline to repair faulty welds because it would cause delay and "unnecessary environmental disturbance." Patton said studies had shown that welds would be "perfectly safe," even with cracks one-eighth inch deep and more than 12 inches long.

Environmentalists are expressing fears that the President's team may try to keep pipeline problems underground. In order to keep the pipeline on schedule, the Interior Department might waive environmental stipulations in the pipeline contract, a press release from Friends of the Earth suggests.

"We will not let expediency scuttle the environmental safeguards for which we fought so hard," says George Davis, director of the Wilderness Society. "We will con-

tinue to monitor the agencies' responses very carefully and be ready to respond with whatever action we deem necessary to preserve the public interest."

"To say it would be more damaging to the environment to dig up the pipe rather than leave it in a faulty condition challenges all known systems of logic," Davis says.

One of the reasons the environmentalists lack faith in the federal investigation is the Interior and Transportation departments' apparent reluctance to bring the issue to public attention. The departments have known about the pipeline violations since August 1975, says Pamela Rich of Friends of the Earth.

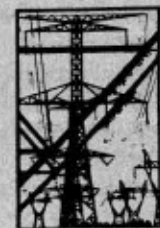
"Why has it taken a public outcry to force them to check on the pipe? We are afraid that their main concern is to defuse the issue, rather than enforce the standards required for pipeline construction," Rich says.

Strict standards were included in the government pipeline contract to protect the delicate Alaskan environment, including a requirement that every weld in the pipeline be X-rayed.

Congress gave the pipeline proposal an environmental endorsement in 1973, when it passed legislation protecting the project from a court challenge based on the National Environmental Policy Act. The Wilderness Society and other conservation groups had sued the Interior Department, claiming that the pipeline right of way was too wide and that the department hadn't considered a Canadian route in weighing environmental consequences.

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CLEANING THE COAL. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and two electric utility companies are starting a three year project to demonstrate the effectiveness of physical coal cleaning for meeting federal and state air pollution laws. Physical coal cleaning is considered a possible alternative to flue gas desulfurization systems (scrubbers). Scrubbers remove sulfur dioxide from gas streams after coal combustion. In the physical coal cleaning process, coal is crushed and then put in a liquid, and the pollutants sink to the bottom. The \$4 million project will be conducted in Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania Electric Co. and the New York State Electric and Gas Corp.



The **HCN**
Hot Line

energy news from across the country

WASTES LIGHT LUMBER COMPANY. Wastewood will provide electricity and space heating for a lumber company in Masardis, Maine. The federal government has granted \$90,000 to the project. The generating plant will produce two megawatts — enough to serve 2,000 to 3,000 homes. Excess heat from the generator will be used to heat buildings. Maine utility companies are looking into a 50 megawatt wood-fired power plant, according to the *Maine Times*.

WINDMILLS COST-EFFECTIVE. Windmills can produce significant amounts of energy at a reasonable cost, according to studies by the General Electric Space Division for the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA). The G.E. study showed that cost-effective wind turbines could be built with existing materials. It also pinpointed enough windy places in the country to provide a contribution to our nation's electrical generating capacity, if wind generators were installed.

PILOT WASTE ENDED. To avoid wasting fuel by burning pilot lights, the California Energy Commission has ruled that intermittent ignition devices (IIDs) should, if at all possible, replace pilot lights on home gas appliances. Appliances operating on liquid petroleum gas were exempted from the requirement. Manufacturers are required to use the devices within two years of their model's certification by the commission. A state study has shown that pilot lights were costing the average Californian 18% of the gas bill. Home pilot lights also account for seven percent of all natural gas used in the state.

GLOBAL WORRY. Nations that produce nuclear wastes have decided to agree on a common method of disposal before they throw any radioactive wastes away. Such an agreement, it is hoped, will prevent one country's sloppy handling of the deadly wastes from becoming a global problem. Key policy makers from seven nations — the U.S., the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Sweden, and France — made the agreement in July at the conference in Denver entitled, "The International Symposium on the Management of Wastes from the Light Water Reactor Fuel Cycle."



12-High Country News — July 30, 1976

Rendezvous draws crowd, commissioners absent

by Rodney Barker

High in a mountain meadow in southwestern Colorado, on an island of private land lapped by national forests, the antique mining camp of Dunton makes its stand beneath the sun, the moon, and the peaks of Mt. Wilson.

Quaint, hard-weathered log cabins loop an old wood lodge, just a fly's cast from the west fork of the Dolores River. The trout fishing, the mountain scenery, and a soothing hot mineral bath account for the seasonal popularity Dunton enjoys; but on the second weekend in June, Dunton was also the scene of the second annual Colorado Plateau Rendezvous.

Historically the rendezvous was an annual regional gathering of mountain and plains folks for the exchange and trade of commodities and spirits. Re-initiated last year at Telluride, the concept is being tried as a means of encouraging residents of Colorado living west of the Continental Divide to come together and discuss the ways in which they value the Western Slope, and the hopes they have for its future.

The land use and economy of the Western Slope have been traditionally geared to agriculture, recreation, and tourism, with spurts of mining on record. Recently there has been serious talk that the Western Slope is on its way to becoming an energy center — courtesy of an expanded coal industry and a multi-billion dollar oil shale industry.

Western Slope attitudes about the prospects of large-scale development have been mixed and unorganized. On one point there is unanimous agreement, however. Western Slope communities are small and isolated from each other and from the power centers of Denver and Washington, D.C. People fear that decisions on energy and mining developments and water management are not being made locally. Those who are directly affected want more communication with the decision makers.

This year's rendezvous was funded by a grant from the Colorado Humanities Program that was matched locally by the Four Corners Forum. The ambition was to involve people "from many communities and walks of life" in a common experience in order to see what values were shared — thus laying the groundwork for compromise in political activity.

New releases were widely circulated and pertinent persons and public officials sent repeated personal invitations. Dunton was not as convenient as say a motel near the airport in Grand Junction — there isn't even a phone there — but it had an essential nature. It was an old mining camp, at the head of a farm and ranch valley, with an Indian heritage, and it currently catered to tourism and recreationists. Dunton embodied what the Western Slope was all about.

So what happened at the second annual Colorado Plateau Rendezvous?

A) It was a simple, agreeable gathering of 180 people. They listened to five scholars discuss Western humanistic traditions as they related to contemporary policies and issues.

Hugo Ferchau, a botanist from Western State College in Gunnison, defined the ecological nature of the land on the Western Slope, and stressed the importance of maintaining diversity within our basic farm communities.

Earl Ingmanson, Chief of Research at Mesa Verde, detailed the extensive trading patterns that were conducted by various Indian tribes in prehistoric America.

Leonard Bird, an English professor at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, introduced a

poetry reading by talking about the value of recognizing that one's personal existence is tied to roots in the land.

Stuart Mace, a noted naturalist, recounted the developments in his spiritual growth from the academic world to a oneness of being with the natural world.

And wrapping the weekend up, Elise Boulding, a prominent sociologist from the

The Colorado Plateau Rendezvous was an annual regional gathering of mountain and plains folks for the exchange and trade of commodities and spirits.

University of Colorado in Boulder, presented her perspective on the barriers to the formation of utopias. Break out of next-stepism, she exhorted the audience. Enter your dreams and make them real.

Each talk was followed by a question-answer period, and each afternoon discussion groups met to allow people to mix and unfold issues of interest and concern.

Meanwhile, video-taped interviews of Western Slope residents talking about the history of the area, their feelings towards the land, and their hopes for the future were running continuously in the lodge.

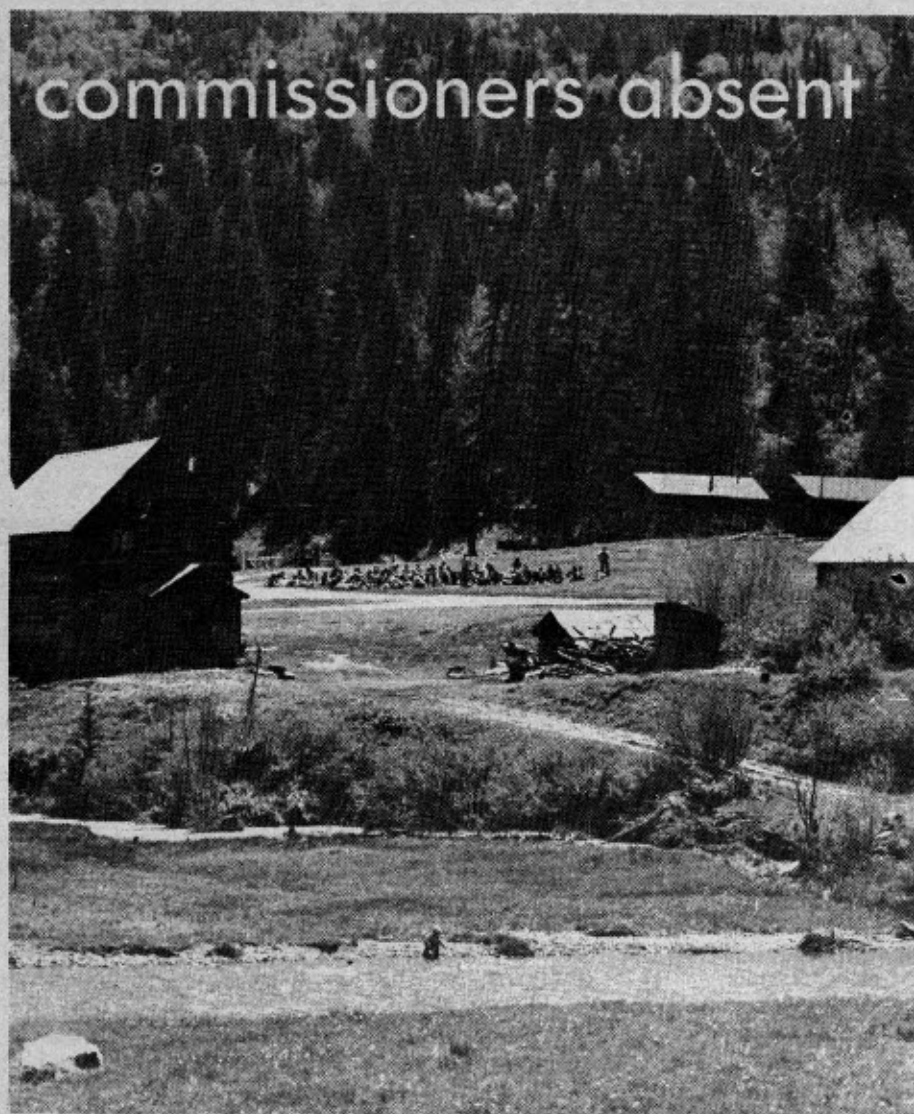
B) It was a communal experience for most of the people, who spent the weekend together reassuring themselves that their caring was not a cry in the night, replenishing their spirits, and clarifying their values. The classic Native American land ethic of mother earth and father sky was good. Power plants were bad. We could all do more with less.

C) It was an anachronism: more meetings and more talk, with no practical discussions about action programs that should be developed now. Only the Saved showed: long-time environmentalists who felt the same way and were saying the same things five years ago, and youthful energies filling the ranks thinned by cynicism and the recognition that social change is a long slow process and a lot of work.

D) It was an effort to get all kinds of people together — but it was not given fair attention by the power-brokers. Where were the county commissioners, the land use planners, the town and city officials? Where was the state representative and the governor? They had all been personally invited. Where was Johnny Vanderhoof, former governor of Colorado and presently the president of Club 20 — an organization representing the 20 Western Slope counties that was dedicated to promoting growth and development? He had been sent three invitations and at last report had cancelled a cocktail party just to come.

The answer illustrated the Western Slope's biggest problem: they were unable to take the time to leave their tight life situations to consider alternative ways of thinking and being.

E) Lastly, it was a night and a morning in the mountains. Saturday night a full moon flooded the valleys with a cold pale light that spread across the meadows with the brightness of a snowfall, leaving a thin coat of frost on the sleeping bags. Sunday morning the sunlight came slowly down the east-facing hills, chasing the chill out of the air, and sparking tiny points of color in the fields that for a few magical moments became a land of twinkling flower lights.



The rendezvous at Dunton.

Photo by Ariel Barker.

More Colorado coal . . .

(continued from page 7)

ecosystem should be possible, but productivity is projected to be 10% less."

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

Rapid population growth and increased sewage discharge from towns along the Yampa River might jeopardize the Yampa's chances for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

AIR POLLUTION

With emission control devices, the proposed power plants could meet federal and state standards, but emission levels "do represent an unavoidable degradation of existing air quality. The emission of fine particulates and conversion of sulfur and nitrogen oxides to aerosols would cause a visibility reduction that could not be mitigated."

Dust from mining operations and increased automobiles in the area would create additional air pollution problems. "Pollution generated by increased population is expected to increase sulfur dioxide emissions by 1.9 tons per day and particulate emissions by 2.4 tons per day above present levels . . . Although the federal sulfur dioxide standard would not be threatened by these emissions, the federal total suspended particulate standard . . . would be exceeded in Steamboat Springs, Craig, and Meeker."

WILDLIFE

Species associated with mountain shrub and sagebrush habitat would be most severely impacted. Mule deer carrying capacity would be reduced by 900 animals. Antelope and sage grouse populations would also be permanently reduced.

Increased sedimentation would cause loss of aquatic habitat. The proposed W.R. Grace Co. railroad could destroy exist-

ing and potential habitat for four endangered fish species: the Colorado squawfish, bonytail chub, humpback chub, and humpback sucker. If sediment from the railroad construction could not be controlled, the project would be in violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

WATER

Mining would destroy "minor aquifers that supply a relatively few wells and springs."

By taking water from the Yampa River the proposed power plants would increase the concentration of dissolved solids by .7 milligrams per liter below Hoover Dam.

ECONOMICS

Increase in the cost of living above normal rates "would be expected as a result of rapid injection of new purchasing power in the regional economy."

"The regional economy would be based on one industry to a great extent—coal mining. A substantial portion of the total regional employment and earnings would depend on the health of this industry."

Livestock grazers would lose forage for 7,100 animal unit months (AUMs). About 5,270 AUMs of this loss would be "eventually replaced as mine reclamation plans begin to establish vegetative cover on mined areas."

SOCIOLOGY

Population in the region, which includes Routt, Rio Blanco, and Moffat counties, is projected to be 61,519 by 1990, which is 11,900 higher than could have been expected if no federal coal-related actions were approved. The present rate of unemployment is low.

"The proposed action would contribute to, but would not be the sole cause of, the irretrievable loss of small-town atmospheres in the population centers of the study region."



Western Roundup

HCN

Grand Canyon burro regs planned

Workshops are tentatively scheduled for mid-September to involve the public in deciding how to control feral burros in Grand Canyon National Park. As part of the continued research study, park service personnel are now removing all burros from three canyons where there has been extensive damage. An earlier burro control program was suspended in 1969 due to public pressure, but subsequent research has confirmed that burros are damaging the native ecosystem.

'Thousands of claims' at Glen Canyon

Investigation by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund has disclosed there are "literally thousands of mining claims within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area." The defense fund is seeking an injunction preventing the National Park Service from granting any permits for mining, drilling, and related access until environmental impact statements have been prepared. Congress has determined what areas will be classified as wilderness, and the National Park Service has made the required findings that mining will not have a significant adverse effect. The investigation was prompted when two Sierra Club members from Utah discovered new exploratory mining and road building activity for uranium leases in the area.

Hail reduction plan only makes more

The National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colo., is giving up seeding clouds in an effort to reduce hail. After spending four years and \$15 million on the program it turned out that, on the average, seeded clouds yielded more hail, rather than less, according to a *Denver Post* story. The scientists had attempted to reduce hail damage to crops in "Hail Alley" — an area where Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska meet where hail conditions are the worst in the nation.

Largest silver mine to be in Idaho

The world's largest open pit silver mine will soon be begun in Idaho's Owyhee Mountains. Development of the mining complex will cost \$22 million, according to the *Idaho Statesman*. The small isolated town of Jordan Valley now has 200 people, and its population is expected to double. Many residents look forward to the mine construction, according to the *Statesman*, which they hope will bring new businesses to town. Earth Resources Co. of Dallas, Tex., will mine both gold and silver.

Funding for resort road challenged

The Montana Department of Highways is calling for public comment on a proposal to use public funds to construct a section of highway that critics claim is almost entirely within the Big Sky ski resort in Montana. The Montana Wilderness Association and the National Forest Preservation Group obtained a federal court injunction halting the road in December 1972. Now the Federal Highway Administration argues that there is a community at the Big Sky Resort, which justifies spending public funds for the road. The 9.7 mile road would go from U.S. 191 through Big Sky's Meadow Village to Big Sky's Mountain Village ski area. The critics say extensive upgrading of the road will encourage secondary development and that the resort could pay for a lower standard road to serve its facilities. The road will cost \$4 million in state and federal funds. A hearing will be held in Bozeman on August 3, and comments will be accepted for 10 days after that. Copies of the draft environmental impact statement are available from the Montana Department of Highways, Capitol Station, Helena, Mont. 59601.

Coal royalties attached to organic act

In an attempt to get more mineral royalties back to state treasuries, congressional leaders have attached a royalties provision to at least four bills, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Organic Act bill in the House.

The mineral royalties provision was originally part of the coal leasing amendments bill, which was supported by conservationists but vetoed by the President. Further efforts to override the veto are expected.

The new strategy may have attracted more votes to support the House's Organic Act bill, although it only passed by a margin of 14 votes — 169 to 155.

The Organic Act — otherwise known as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (H.R. 13777) — has been significantly altered from its original intent and has lost the support of both conservationists and the BLM several months ago. (See HCN, 5-7-76.) However, conservationists gained a few concessions before the bill passed

July 22. According to the *Sierra Club National News Report*, three major amendments were adopted, including two that make it a little easier to withdraw land from mining. Under the bill as passed, Congress will review withdrawals of all existing tracts over 5,000 acres. The bill also was amended to limit grazing tenure and to prohibit dumping of oil shale spoil on public lands. Rep. Steve Symms (R-Idaho) lost in his attempt to have the bill specifically encourage conversion of public lands to private ownership.

"The word from Washington," according to Don Schwennesen of the *Missoulian*, "is that the Senate likes its version much better and is not interested in compromising over the more controversial House bill." Last February, the Senate passed its version of the bill, which had the support of both the BLM and the conservationists. Schwennesen says the bill appears to be dead for this year.

Judge opens door to desert farming

A ruling on the Carey Act by a judge in Idaho will assure the agricultural development of 1.25 million to 1.5 million acres of desert land in Idaho by the year 2020, according to the elated chairman of the Idaho Carey Act Association, Vernon Ravenscroft. U.S. District Judge J. Blaine Anderson ruled that a husband and a wife each may get 160 acre tracts of federal land at low cost, if they're willing to cultivate and live on them. The federal government had previously said that only 160 acres could be allotted to a man and his wife. Conservationists say desert land farming is often an inefficient use of water and energy resources and that much of the land developed under the Carey Act would be better left unirrigated. (See HCN, 2-13-76) The judge ruled that the state cannot dictate what federal lands should be opened to farming. He affirmed that Idaho is entitled to three million acres under the act. Some 618,000 of those acres have been patented already, according to the *Idaho Statesman*.

Source of coyote funds questioned

A wildlife group has asked the Montana Fish and Game Commission to prepare an environmental impact statement on the potential effects of its decision to allocate sportsmen's license money to the Montana Livestock Board for coyote control. Although the contributions have been given for at least 15 years, the commission voted to double the allocation this year to a total of \$80,000. The Bozeman-based group, the Montana Wildlife Fund, questions the need for a cooperative coyote control program. The group asks what assurances the commission has that the game and fish money is used only where coyotes present a danger to deer and other wildlife. Sportsmen in the state have been concerned about the mysterious decline in deer populations in eastern Montana, and some fear coyotes may be aggravating the problem by killing fawns, according to the *Missoulian*. Fish and Game officials tell sportsmen they will benefit from the contributions to the livestock board because more stockmen will open their land to hunters as a result.



ALICE LAKE, SAWTOOTH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The National Park Service proposal includes a 227,840 acre national park in the Sawtooth Mountains, a 252,860 acre national recreation area in the Sawtooth Valley, a 458,240 acre national park in the White Cloud, Pioneer, and Boulder mountains, and a 79,360 acre national recreation area in the Copper Basin. Photo courtesy of Idaho Department of Commerce and Development.

One million acre park-NRA proposed

The unusual recommendation for the split park-recreation area was interpreted by Washington observers as a compromise between conservationists and those who worried that total park status would lead to a shutdown of commercial activities and hunting, according to a Gannett News Service report. Mining, logging, and all but mountain goat hunting would be banned from the park areas if the proposal is enacted by Congress.

Both parks would be left mostly roadless. An existing road in one of the park areas would be kept for jeep trips led by park rangers to describe the features of the area. The National Park Service says the timber production is not commercially valuable in the park areas but says \$1 billion in mineral resources would be cut off from de-

velopment. In the recreation areas, cattle grazing, vacation homesites, and existing commercial services would be allowed.

Congress would have to pass legislation to approve the park service proposal.

The National Park Service has proposed creating two new national parks and two national recreation areas to conserve more than a million acres in central Idaho.

The proposal follows closely after a court decision affirming the constitutionality of the 1972 act which established the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. That suit was brought by 11 Idaho landowners and the state of Idaho.

Most of the land included in the park service proposal is already federally owned, but some of the private valley areas might be purchased with owner approval.

14-High Country News — July 30, 1976



Review by Dave Brook

As readers of *High Country News* are painfully aware, the tradeoffs inherent in resource utilization are rarely clearcut. One of the shortcomings in the interminable round of public meetings, hearings, proposals, and impact statements is that there are not very well developed analytical tools to compare the various possible alternatives. It often seems as if it is one group's word against another's.

Barry Commoner's new book *The Poverty of Power*, provides a basic framework for understanding the trade-off we face. In the same lucid style that marked *The Closing Circle* five years ago (was it really only five years?), the reader is taught the first two laws of thermodynamics and how they relate to energy efficiency. "The first law approach focuses on the energy content of the fuel and computes how much of it fails to get where it is supposed to . . . (while) the second (law) approach focuses on the task . . . seeking out whatever method does the job with the least available work."

Efficiency is the engineer's yardstick measuring a machine's performance. But, Commoner says, traditional analysis has only looked at efficiency as measured by the first law. We have, for example, asked our engineers to develop efficient home oil burning furnaces — now reportedly 65% efficient — but we have not asked them whether oil is the best energy source for space heating. By not asking the right questions we have not gotten the right answers.

When one considers the amount of potential work that oil could be doing in some other capacity, it becomes clear that only about 8.2% of its potential is being used in low temperature space heating. Electricity can be far more efficiently utilized for space heating, not in baseboard heaters, but to power the compressor of a heat pump, according to a study by the American Physical Society.

The transportation of goods and people in the U.S. is examined in detail. Commoner concludes that we have maximized our use of the more inefficient methods: cars for people and trucks for goods. The ideal is the electrified inter-city railroad since electricity is well suited to moving things.

As the subtitle of the book explains, Commoner has also tried to relate our

Two responses to Barry Commoner's latest book.

energy problems to our economic crisis. It is here that some readers may take him to task, just as several reviewers have.

Here is detailed the oil companies' decreasing interest in exploring for domestic crude oil because of "disappointing economic returns on the domestic oil produced" compared to Arab oil or other "opportunities for investment." And here is how General Motors, along with Firestone and Standard Oil of California, set out to replace the trolley systems of over 100 cities with diesel buses in the 1930s-40s.

He concludes, after discussing capital scarcity and labor productivity, that "it may be time to view the faults of the capitalist economic system from the vantage point of an alternative — to debate the relative merits of capitalism and socialism." The conclusion seems inescapable for Commoner: money talks louder

than anything in capitalist countries and until we start listening to something else, we're stuck.

The Poverty of Power will probably alienate precisely those Commoner is trying to convince. But I am sure that people on all sides of the question will want to read his chapters on the trade-offs of coal, oil, nuclear, and solar energy.

THE POVERTY OF POWER

BARRY COMMONER

by Barry Commoner, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1976. \$10.00, hard cover, 314 pages.

Review by Peter Wild

Let us join in a conspiracy. We will use the people's goodwill to manipulate them and cloak our motives in platitudes. So this is no child's play, no scheme for those with weak stomachs. Especially since we'll be squeezing the land of those things that make any nation strong. But we'll get rich. We can't lay out all the details here, but the following suggestions should give you an idea of how we'll proceed.

Since this is going to be a big job, let's go easy on ourselves and knock off a sure target first: the ranchers and farmers of America. Currently, they are an independent, unorganized lot and for that reason good pickings. Currently, they use "free solar energy that drives the natural cycles." They use manure from their cows to fertilize the land, they rotate crops. They work in family units nearly independent of society.

What we do is break the natural cycle by convincing them that chemicals and machinery will improve their lot. We force them, "... to operate at a higher economic scale, taking greater financial risks, with no real gain in net income." In 20 years the side effects are water and air pollution, an enormous drain on the country's energy, bland, carcinogenic food for the public, and social dislocation of farm families. Yet all of this will be obscured in the flurry of dollars passing through farmers' hands, however little of it they get to spend on themselves. We will, in short, have made farms industrial colonies which we can exploit at will.

But perhaps you can't quite bear seeing grown men in bib overalls cry. Let's take something a bit more impersonal. Los Angeles. We can expand to other cities later. Currently, like just about every other American town of any size, L.A. has an inexpensive, energy efficient, nonpolluting, and convenient transportation system. For a nominal charge and no wear on his nerves the customer can cross the city or ride 75 miles into the countryside for a picnic. Our job is a tough one: dismantle the system and replace it with one that does not work well, that mangles and cripples people in horrible accidents, that blisters the paint from houses, and wrecks neighborhoods. All the while it costs the

citizen thousands of dollars a year, in addition to eating away at his lungs.

We sell cars and buses. We organize companies that buy up trolley lines and replace them with freeways and our own vehicles. Both of the elements are paid for by the citizens, one through taxes, the other directly out of their pockets, a nice touch.

But wait. There's more. Now we've got the nation hooked on petroleum. It not only fuels automobiles, but is also the main ingredient for those pillars of any free society: plastic hula hoops, plastic bottles, plastic garbage bags. Our accountants discover that selling imported oil is twice as profitable as marketing the domestic stuff. What a windfall! We cut our exploratory efforts at home, declare an oil shortage, helped somewhat by a supposed Arab embargo, and our profits zoom. In actual fact, there is only 1.5% less oil to go around, but the public doesn't know that.

By the time we're through with them, our customers are panting at the pumps, on the verge of the d.t.'s and grateful for the least drop. There's an added advantage. Now that we've really got the public worked up — they're willing to pay almost any price for a fix, even begin stealing from each other — we spend hundreds of thousands for an ad campaign blaming the mess on the pesky environmentalists, whose accusations of late have been coming uncomfortably close to the truth.

Now that you've got the hang of it and have had a little practice, let's move on to a more grandiose con game. Unfortunately, there's a good possibility it will be fatal — this game is only for the most hairy chested. So unless you can put aside any sentiment for apple-cheeked children and the future of life on this planet — unless you possess the combined chutzpah of King Kong, Attila the Hun, and the shark in *Jaws*, you'd better take your marbles elsewhere. You see, the materials that produce nuclear energy are far more deadly than even the genius who invented the crossbow could imagine. One little submicroscopic drop of it and — Puff! — cancer's got you. And it stays around for 200,000 years or so, far longer than any civilization has existed.

The technology is complex and poorly understood. The fuel is compact and easily stolen, readily made into bombs. The insurance companies are aghast and will assume only very limited liability. Yet in a publicity blitz paid for largely by government using taxpayer dollars we tell everybody that there's more chance of getting bitten by a poisonous snake while crossing a street in Washington, D.C., than of injury from a nuclear catastrophe.

Once we get the bandwagon rolling nearly everybody wants to jump on. Brazil, Pakistan, Egypt — countries that can hardly hold their own lids on for a decade, let alone keep a deadly substance under lock and key for 200,000 years — all want to go modern. We oblige, selling them nuclear plants, while at home our own are bubbling and overheating and leaking at the seams and have to be shut down. The amazing thing in this mad scramble for energy is that the world overlooks a source of energy that already exists, is free, nonpolluting, and whose technology already has been proven: the sun. But then, since it falls everywhere, it's pretty hard to package and sell sunlight. So we get the President and other bigwigs to declare solar power "impractical" — and away we go with our lethal, taxpayer-funded boondoggle. Get the idea?

But perhaps you say that the suggestions are so obviously against common sense that no one would swallow them. If you do, you're missing some of the beauties of our

plans. Let me point out a couple. First, they will work precisely because they are absurd. Throughout history it's been the big lies that people believe. Look at Herodotus, look at Hitler. Second, note how we make each item appear to be for people's benefit. More automobiles, more plastic doohickies, more nuclear energy will mean more freedom, more happiness. Of course it's ridiculous. But we keep propagandizing people from cradle to grave and — you'll see — pretty soon they'll start believing it.

Grizzlies. . .

(continued from page 4)

Park in Montana. More leasing is proposed in the Lewis and Clark National Forest on the east slope of the Rockies in Montana. The proposed lease areas are known grizzly habitat.

—Transmission lines. Montana Power Company wants to build a transmission line across grizzly habitat north of Yellowstone National Park into the Big Sky ski resort.

UNPREDICTABLE GRIZZLY

How the grizzly might react to these and other developments within its habitat is largely unknown. The interagency research team is busy compiling data on the bears' behavior as developments occur, but the team isn't offering predictions.

For instance, clearcutting timber may be beneficial to grizzlies, it may be detrimental, or it may not make a difference to them. Clearcutting clears away the forest canopy and stimulates the growth of new plants commonly found in the bears' diet. However, the human activity associated with clearcutting may drive the bears away or lead to man-bear conflicts resulting in eventual death to the troublesome grizzly.

Newby claims that grizzlies need a "nucleus of wilderness" nearby — but they can live in developed areas and do quite well, he says. For example, there is a "viable population" in the Whitefish Range in Montana, he says, even though there has been extensive logging and roading in the area.

However, Jonkel says, "Logging and road building should be further restricted in some areas assumed to encompass critical grizzly habitat."

MAN V. BEAR

Who will win this latest round in the conflict between man and bear remains to be seen. Wyoming Game and Fish spokesman Roop says, "They could close down the area" to human use. Montana Fish and Game spokesman Newby says, "If we don't designate critical habitat, then we won't get any benefit out of the Endangered Species Act."

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Eavesdropper

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LOONEY LIMERICKS
by Zane E. Cology

The hunters are saying beware
Of giving woods back to the bear.
Next thing he'll want more,
Move in next door,
And they'll have to move to his lair.

* * *

PESTICIDE TRAINING RESISTANCE. Several states are still holding out against mandatory training for farmers using pesticides, according to an Associated Press report. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has threatened some of the states with prohibiting use of the chemicals by October 1977 if they don't start requiring the training. Nebraska, Colorado, and North Carolina are among the states holding back.

SPINNING-OFF PEABODY PARTS. Kennecott Copper Corp. is considering the sale of 20% of Peabody Coal Co. and then a spin-off of the remaining 80% to its stockholders, according to an Associated Press report. Kennecott has been ordered by the Federal Trade Commission to divest itself of its 100% ownership of Peabody. The advantage of the spin-off plan to Kennecott is that the company would escape a possible capital gains tax on the 80% of Peabody it distributes to its stockholders. Stock in Peabody would be distributed on the basis of the percentage ownership in Kennecott. Kennecott is now contacting private concerns that might be interested in the 20% share.

RUCKELSHAUS MOVES. William D. Ruckelshaus, former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator, plans to leave his private law practice to take a top executive job with Weyerhaeuser Co., according to **Air-Water Pollution Report**. Weyerhaeuser is a leading timber products company in Tacoma, Wash.

WASTEWATER AND ENERGY. Tertiary treatment of wastewater requires four times the energy used by a land treatment-disposal operation, according to two University of California researchers cited in **Water Newsletter**. The substantial savings in land application is direct and does not include the savings in energy needed to produce nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers, some of which is supplied by the effluent.

LEAD REDUCTION DELAY. Fearing a summer gasoline shortage, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has delayed until Jan. 1 imposing rules for reducing lead content in gasoline. Lead concentrations are expected to rise to higher than normal levels this summer, according to EPA. Automobile exhaust produces 90% of the airborne lead in the U.S., according to United Press International.

BOTTLE BILL REJECTED. Last month, the Senate passed a bill giving assistance to communities for solid waste disposal, but it rejected an amendment to ban throw-away beverage containers. An amendment was passed to study the feasibility of a throw-away ban. Both amendments were sponsored by Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.).



BALD EAGLE IN DANGER. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has urged that the bald eagle — our national bird — be given protection under the Endangered Species Act. The agency plans to classify the eagle as endangered in 43 states and threatened in the other five states in the Lower 48. A healthy population of bald eagles still lives in Alaska. Up until now only the southern bald eagle, a subspecies living south of the 40th parallel, has been recognized as endangered. The agency says the eagle has been almost eliminated from the American scene by pesticides, illegal shooting, and loss of habitat. Photo by Stouffer Productions, Ltd. of Aspen, Colo.

July 30, 1976 — High Country News-15

DISTAFF CORNER

A LEARNING SITUATION
by Myra Connell

More than 30 years ago when I lived close to the Wind River in Central Wyoming, a friend and I went hunting one winter afternoon. We had a new .22 rifle, hoping to shoot a cottontail rabbit or two for supper. I was a complete novice with a gun. I had probably never had one in my hands more than half-a-dozen times.

We walked a couple of miles among the big cottonwoods and spruce on the river bottom without seeing even a chipmunk.

Then we spied a big beautiful owl sitting on a branch about 20 feet off the ground. I cannot say what species he was, probably barred or horned. My friend said, "Shoot at him and see if you can make him fly."

It was an ill-considered remark as we had nothing against the owl — in fact we loved the pair that we sometimes heard calling to each other on still, moonlit nights in late winter. "Who? Who are you?" and the answering "Who? Who?" I do not know whether the calls we heard were mating sounds or hunting cries. We thought they were part of the courtship ritual since owls mate very early in the season.

Honestly, I had no real intention of destroying the harmless and useful creature. I was aware that owls live largely on rodents and prevent their populations from becoming a nuisance.

Nevertheless, I took careful aim and pulled the trigger. The poor owl tumbled out of the tree and lay quivering in the snow. He looked so tiny there, only a fraction of his apparent size while in the tree. Sight of the bright red blood on the pure white snow was beautiful, but nauseating. I had hit him squarely between his deep solemn eyes. They were almost humanly expressive and stared at me reproachfully as the owl lay dying.

I believe my act was not illegal at that time. Most species of predatory birds were unprotected as late as 1957 in this state. But attitudes toward many birds of prey have changed for the better during recent years. At present owls are on the list of protected birds in Wyoming. Though I may not have broken a man-made law, I knew that I had transgressed against higher laws than any formulated in a legislature.

It is not necessary that one be fined or imprisoned, shot or beaten in order to pay the penalty for his wickedness. Night after night conscience flayed me as a lone owl called "Who? Who?" but received no answering call.

Perhaps eventually the bereft one found another mate. I can only hope that he/she did. Owls are believed to mate for life, or for the life of the pair. If so, the survivor would have been most terribly forlorn.

In my thoughtlessness I had disregarded the reverence for life that should be a part of each person's philosophy. I learned the hard way that every living thing is important, not only to us but to itself as well. All are links in a common chain. When one link is severed, the chain loses its strength, and our own end comes closer.

Never since that day have I aimed a gun at a living creature.

Sometimes it seems necessary and unavoidable to destroy living things. Then, like the original Americans, perhaps we should apologize to it for taking its life.



HCN Bulletin Board

TEACHERS' ENERGY HANDBOOK

A Teacher's Handbook on Energy has been compiled by the Colorado Department of Education, Denver, Co. 80203. It could be helpful to junior and senior high school teachers, and to a limited extent, to elementary teachers. There is much basic information on energy sources and causes of energy shortages. Also included is a checklist of conservation practices, plus many ideas for involving students in attitude changing activities. The format is loose-leaf, for easy removal of pages for duplicating. The teacher who needs help in planning for increased student awareness of present and future energy situations would be well advised to examine this handbook.

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MINING & ENVIRONMENT CLASS

The University of Utah will offer a course entitled "Ecology, Environment, and the Mineral Industries" this fall. Guest lecturers will include representatives of the Sierra Club, government agencies, and the various mineral industries.

COLORADO WALKS

Colorado Open Space Council's Wilderness Workshop is hosting walks into areas that are now or should be considered for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. "The wilderness walks program was designed as a means by which individuals can meet with knowledgeable people in the natural setting of the wilderness to learn about and discuss current wilderness issues," says the group. The walks are free to workshop members and \$3 for overnights and \$2 for day trips for others. Walks still ahead this summer are: Aug. 7-8 Buffalo Peaks; Aug. 14-16 Flat Tops; Aug. 21 Abyss Lake; Aug. 22 Indian Peaks; Aug. 28-29 Pine Creek; Sept. 11-12 Troublesome. For more information call the workshop at (303) 573-7870.

AUDUBON JOBS

The Audubon Society is looking for assistant regional representatives in its Southeast and West Central offices. The offices' headquarters are in Charleston, S.C., and Manhattan, Kansas. Professional training and experience in environmental education is sought. Salary is \$10,000 to \$12,000. To apply send a letter and a resume to Executive Vice President Charles H. Callison, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

FOREST PLANNING

Public meetings to discuss alternatives for the Eagle-Aspen Forest Service planning unit in Colorado will be held at the following times and locations: Aug. 4, Leadville; Aug. 5, Eagle; Aug. 10, Lakewood; Aug. 11, Aspen; and Aug. 12, Basalt. All meetings will be at 7 p.m. For more information contact Roger Tarum, White River National Forest, Old Federal Building, Glenwood Springs, Colo.

UTAH OIL SHALE

The Bureau of Land Management will hold public hearings on a plan to develop two 5,000 acre oil shale leases on public land in northeastern Utah. Underground mining is planned by both leaseholders, Sunoco Energy Development Co. and the team of Phillips Petroleum and Sohio Petroleum. The hearings will be Aug. 10 at the Uintah County Courthouse and Aug. 12 at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City. Copies of the plans are available for inspection at BLM offices in Salt Lake City and Vernal and at the Uintah County and Salt Lake County libraries.

PLAN CANYONLANDS PARK

If you wish to participate in the National Park Service's planning for Canyonlands National Park, contact the park service office at Moab, Utah. Send your name and the names of others who might be interested to the Superintendent, Canyonlands National Park, Moab, Utah 84532. Indicate if you would like to receive a planning workbook and if you would like to participate in public workshops. Recommend where such workshops should be held.

16-High Country News — July 30, 1976

Why not give power to the people?

Earl Cross challenges 'top thinker's' philosophy

It was the Fourth of July weekend, a holiday for many. But Earl Cross spent the 90 degree plus day out in the Wyoming sun irrigating, and he agreed to take his dinner break time to talk about land use planning in Big Horn County.

He, like other farmers, would spend most of his summer nights in his fields — except when he is at meetings, when his sons take over. As a member of the county planning commission, he puts in hours of time at meetings and hobnobbing with people of the

county, talking planning.

Hot, obviously worn out, he may be a bit more cynical than usual. But asked if he resents the demands on his time, he says drily, "For someone who didn't give a damn about this part of the country, I think it might be hard."

He quickly jumps into the interview by admitting he's been in a foul mood all day, "steamed" at a recent *National Geographic* issue devoted to land use planning.

One article is entitled, "Five Noted Thinkers Explore the Future." What irked Cross was a comment made by Richard F. Babcock, author of *The Zoning Game*. He said in the article, "... If we are going to have a rational and equitable growth policy, we must get rid of this nonsense that every small community may define the public welfare in its own image. ..." Babcock was arguing for more state control.

Cross is more interested in localizing control, as Big Horn County has done in Shell Canyon and is trying to do in other parts of the county. He recognizes the need for some limited state regulations.

He and other county officials are willing to gamble on letting communities chart their own courses. As long as the advisory committees include lots of citizen participation and as long as their plans conform with the overall county plan, the communities will get what they recommend in their plans, he says.

Residents of the Shell Valley have concocted an innovative plan to preserve the rural values of their valley by prohibiting any major transfers of water from agriculture and any commercial enterprises that would degrade the air or water quality. (See story, page 1.) Their planning effort was prompted when several residents proposed a moratorium on any new growth in the valley.

He admits that he's pleased with the Shell plan because it reflects his bias, too. "I operate under the idea that we can use without abusing land. I'm a conservationist — not a preservationist," he says. Since the Shell plan calls for preserving agricultural land, he approves it. However, he says that if another community chooses another type of plan, the majority should still rule. "As long as it's not haphazard," he adds.

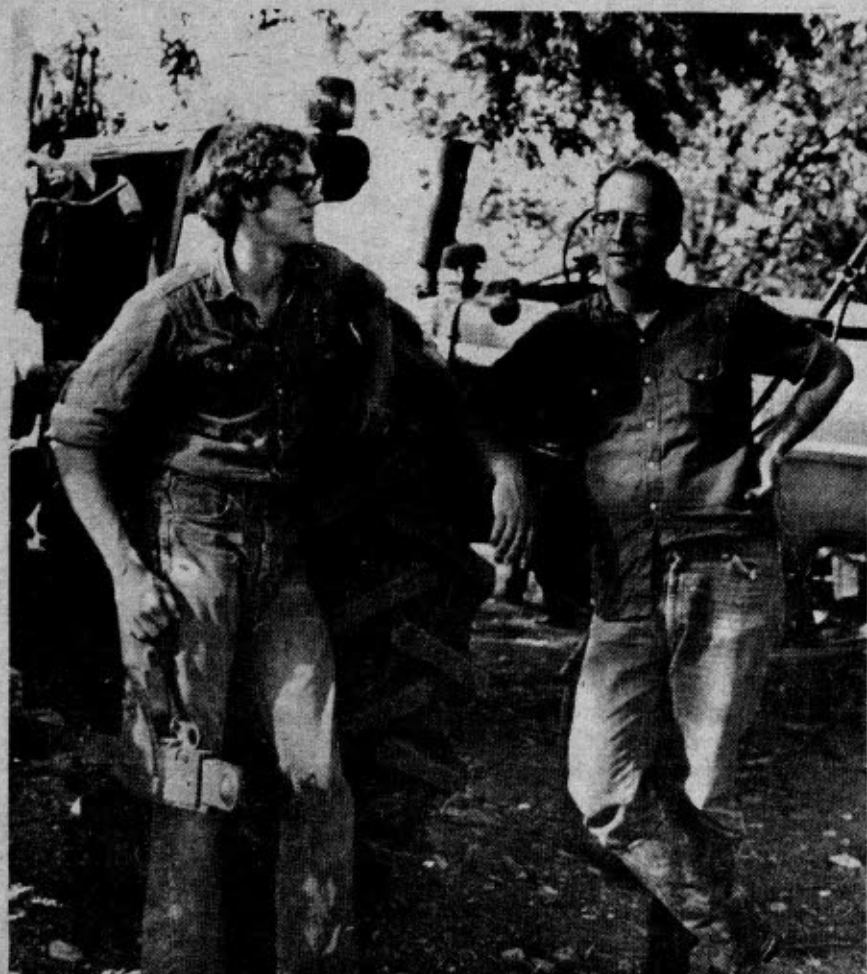
He's cynical about federal and state government control. But he's not very optimistic about local potential either. While pleased with Shell's plan, he refuses to say it offers any formula for encouraging public participation elsewhere.

He says, "I'm not afraid to delegate authority. What scares me is that there are an awful lot of people in this country who don't care. People want their neighbors regulated but say, 'Leave me alone.' " He says that meetings in other parts of the county have indicated no interest in participating in planning.

In Lovell, which has a population of 2,371, only three people from the area attended. After the moratorium threat had been verbalized, 108 people attended the meeting in Shell, where only 680 people live in the whole valley. But Cross says such a threat isn't a good tactic — "not if you're just shooting blanks."

While the size of the community's population doesn't seem to be a clue to the potential for participation, the size of the community spirit might be, he says.

He is determined to give the communities the opportunity to do their own planning. He resents the remarks of people like Babcock who say the power should all be shifted upward. Pointing out that such people are in leadership positions, he says he's afraid he's on the losing side. "And I'm the sorriest loser you ever saw," he says.



STEAMED — AND SCARED. Earl Cross (right) says he's 'steamed' at the thinking expressed in a recent article that says small communities should not be given the authority to plan their own futures. But he's also scared that the local people won't care enough to do it when they have the chance. Lee Nellis (left) is senior planner for the Regional Planning Office in Basin, Wyo.

Shell. . .

(continued from page 5)

created to ease racial tensions when they were at their height in the '60s.

Miller, in turn, praises Nellis for his help with researching what tools the committee could use to reach its objectives. "If he led us by the hand, he did it so damn cleverly that we didn't notice," he says. Nellis attended the committee's meetings and also found himself spending time with the people of the community helping with one man's haying and advising another about the best kind of sewage disposal system for the valley soils.

SPECULATIVE VALUE REMAINS

Transferable development rights were discussed at some length. Under this concept, landowners who want to develop land in a designated area buy development rights from those who don't plan to develop their land in another area. It is an attempt

to solve the dilemma of taking property value without due compensation, which land use planning is sometimes accused of.

For Shell Valley, however, it sounded too permanent. "It leaves no potential for the future," Clucas says. With the plan they chose, the speculative value is still there, which she says is the whole heart of America.

Her husband, Jack, followed the plan with interest, although not a member of the committee. "People were helped more than hindered. It has done more to increase the value of land," he says, since the rural qualities of the valley are protected. Both agree that some growth is needed — if it is controlled.

"We do want to be able to make a few dollars off our land — hell we can't make it in cattle," Miller adds.

Looking back, Miller says the people of the community weren't "all that farsighted. . . This just sort of evolved. After I got on the committee, I found out what good things could be done through this thing," he admits.

Dear Friends,

It's fishin' time again! As many of you know, the staff of HCN gives in to the fishing bug every year about this time. Somehow convinced that the world—and even our readers—can survive without us for two weeks, we "throw out" one issue and escape into the woods.

It's hard to do—in some ways. We look at the calendar chock full of EIS deadlines and hearings, at our basket still full of stories we're eager to run, and at our list of promised topics we haven't even written about yet, and we wonder how we can turn our backs on it all.

When we find ourselves in that state, it's a sure sign that we must get away — and give our readers a break, too. When we go fishin' we're seeking a fresh perspective and trying to hook an elusive idea or two — the kind that float right by us when we're caught up

in the whirl of deadlines.

So we're off! Hope you all get your time in the woods, too. We'll be back with another issue August 27.

In this and the next five issues of HCN, you'll find a sheet of legal advertising. This year, on the back, we're presenting you with a free poster. Keep the first one if you want, but maybe you can post the others in public somewhere. Thanks! We need the exposure and figure this might be a good way to find more subscribers.

— the editors

P.S. Hope we don't miss you if you come through Wyoming this month. We've enjoyed our brief visits with those of you who have been by to see us already this summer. You've brought good cheer, valuable news tips, and ideas for new writers and photographers.

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the News

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