

(continued on page 12)

HIGH COUNTRY

April may be ushering in a new era in the "American dream."

President Jimmy Carter stated that when the full impact of his energy policy is apparent, his popularity will plummet. And observers of the American scene say it will take all of his popularity plus the skills of his energy advisor, James Schlesinger, to make it work, if at all.

But by this time, it must be apparent to everyone that we are on some dead-end streets. The bottom of the oil and gas barrel can now be seen. The deadly plutonium technology has been renounced, and the billions which have gone into the fast breeder reactor are probably down the drain.

What remains as the most viable alternative is conservation. It is also the most difficult for it will mean sacrifice on everyone's part. Sacrifice, that is, of the profligate lifestyle to which so many Americans have become accustomed. But no real sacrifice if we are to compare our lot with the Swiss, the Swedes, or the West Germans. Their standard of living and quality of life are comparable to ours. Yet, their per capita consumption of energy is just half of what we use. Put another way, we are wasting over half of the energy available to us.

The importance of energy conservation cannot be over-emphasized. Recently, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told a Senate committee that our national defense was dependent upon a conservation policy. The whole problem can be put in even stronger terms. Our way of life is dependent upon conservation.

Ours is a political system of choices. We are given choices on the ballot. And we generally have choices in the way we want to live and conduct our lives. The choices are freely made, based on our knowledge, our wisdom, and our own personal feelings. This system has given those fortunate enough to participate in it a freedom of spirit and mind unequalled in human history.

We are now faced with one of the most difficult decisions since the days of the American Revolution. There we chose to throw off the chains which bound us as a colony.

The present choice may be as difficult as that one (although there may be no death warrants put out for signers of an energy declaration). The difficulty of our present situation is that we really have but one choice if our system is to survive.

Schlesinger, the country's first real energy czar, says, "We have a new reality, and the nation must adjust to it. If the adjustments turn out to be sacrifices, they still must be done."

You may be sure, the Tories amongst us will bolt the ranks. Accustomed to the "lap of luxury," they will not be about to sacrifice their creature comfort — nor their marks of affluence and status symbols.

Wisdom surely will prevail. Our leaders and decision makers are slowly becoming of one mind. The choices we make now must be the right ones or the consequences will be "unthinkable." It will be sheer irresponsibility if we do not accept the hard choices and the sacrifices.

A recent column by Jack Anderson ("Washington Merry-Go-Round") begins by saying, "A startling, secret document circulating inside the Carter Administration warns tersely that social upheaval and revolution may destroy the United States by the year 2000 unless the nation takes drastic steps to solve the energy crisis." That is the other unthinkable choice.



HCN Letters

PUEBLO CRUSADERS

Dear HCN,

The Arkansas Valley Audubon Society came into existence to do combat with the Corps of Engineers when they wanted to channelize the stretch of the Arkansas River which runs through Southeast Colorado. Since then, we have expanded from nine members to a group of some 325. Our territory under Audubon stretches from Salida in the west to the Kansas border, and from Fountain in the north to Trinidad in the south.

At the present moment we are doing hard work trying to stop a most damaging program from becoming effective here in Colorado. The state forest service is actively promoting the felling of cottonwood

wilderness classification is in their best interest, and that Congress guaranteed that certain pre-existing uses specifically including grazing of livestock shall be permitted to continue, subject to reasonable regulations deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture.

We disagree with Bart in the following statements he made in the April 8 article:

Statement: "In the past the Forest Service has revoked grazing permits in various wilderness areas in the West."

Fact: "Revocation" implies that grazing permits were unilaterally cancelled against the will of the permittee. It is a fact that some permittees have not renewed their grazing permits in several Western wilderness areas. Some have decided to relocate their operations outside of wilderness areas. None have been revoked by the U.S. Forest Service where protected by the Wilderness Act.

Statement: "In the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming, for example, the staff did curtail livestock use in a portion of the Bridger Wilderness because of an influx of recreational users who complained about the cattle competing with their

public, or where damage to the wilderness was occurring. These livestock permits were not revoked.

While the Forest Service doesn't disagree that "grazing (is) a good use of wilderness," it is very misleading of Bart to try and convey the idea that it can in any way be considered a "predominant use." In establishing the Wilderness System, Congress said: "Except as provided elsewhere in this Act, Wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historic use." Like most legislation regarding land use, there is a grandfather clause providing protection to existing uses and specifically **established grazing**. Nowhere in the legislation is there any statement that livestock grazing is to be considered a "predominant use" or that anything other than the continuance of "established" use was contemplated by Congress.

We agree with Bart that there is coming a time in the near future when "recreational use of Jim Bridger" will need to be limited. We have resisted, so far, being stampeded into implementing a rigid use permit system because we view it as the last resort. Permits of any kind are discriminatory in nature, costly to handle, and contrary to the spirit of the wilderness.

It will be necessary soon to close to the public certain areas that are becoming over-used. Our studies show that popular camping spots such as Eklund Lake, Seneca Lake, and parts of Island Lake along the popular Skyline Trail are being over-used by recreational campers. On the other hand, large areas in Jim Bridger never see a human visitor.

Our current management plan strategy is to disperse wilderness use by educating the users to understand the problem and avoid the popular places. It's a "jaw boning" approach and we're optimistic that it will work and we won't have to go to tight, blanket controls over this very popular wilderness.

Reid Jackson
Bridger-Teton Forest Supervisor
Jackson, Wyo.

WOULD LIKE PLANS

Dear HCN,

I've enjoyed your articles on solar energy systems and wood heating. I would like to see you include detailed drawings of some of the systems along with your list of sources. A series of plans on various solar heating systems and possible applications would be very useful to the alternative engineer.

Robert Throssel
Billings, Mont.

(Ed. Note: We'll do our best. If we don't print the details ourselves, we'll let you know how you can get ahold of them. Keep an eye on our "Bulletin Board" section.)



SUN SIGN SUBSCRIBER MESSAGE

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Warning: We'll be pulling all subscribers with "3-77" on their address label at the end of this month.



"IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD IF IT WERE JUST COWBOYS AND INDIANS... BUT IT'S EVERYBODY!"

trees for timber and an idiot in the state legislature has gone one better and is promoting the removal of phreatophytes (water-loving plants) from the rivers of the state and their tributaries to augment the water from the rivers.

Keep up the newspaper, no matter what. This is a crusade we are in, and there is no getting around it.

Joan Wolther
Arkansas Valley Audubon Society
Pueblo, Colo.

WILDERNESS COW CONFLICT

Dear HCN,

Regarding the April 8 issue of High Country News and Bart Koehler's guest editorial "Grazing: Good Use of Wilderness," We can't let this type of article go by without responding to some of his allegations. I appreciate Bart's efforts to reassure the outfitters and ranchers that

horses for grazing. The livestock were removed — even though they were in the area first."

Fact: It is true that there have been conflicts between wilderness recreationists and commercial livestock in the Jim Bridger Wilderness. The subject of livestock grazing, particularly sheep grazing, has been a highly controversial issue. Jim Bridger is one of the most spectacular and popular wilderness units in the system. In spite of intense displeasure with livestock grazing from some public sectors, no grazing permits have been revoked by the Forest Service. The number of sheep using the Bridger Wilderness has declined drastically over the years due largely to economic reasons. In some cases, the Forest Service has encouraged and assisted permittees in locating more satisfactory range elsewhere in the national forest.

In specific cases, the Forest Service has required permittees to avoid grazing certain lake shores and meadows where this use unnecessarily conflicted with the enjoyment and use of the area by the general



Editorials



Apr. 22, 1977

Carter conservation course replaces old production binge

Jimmy Carter's energy policy speech was the best thing we've heard in a long time. If he gets the backing he needs from the American people, we'll be off our Project Independence production binge and onto a path based on prudent use of fossil fuels in the short term and renewable resources in the long term. We're hopeful about the future, not because it will be easy to make this transition, but because we feel a strong presence in the White House.

Thanks to Carter, an energy policy — or at least an energy resource hierarchy — has been established. Conservation's on top, coal is in the middle, and nuclear power is on the bottom, with renewable resources planned to push the bottom two out of their places as soon as possible.

We applaud Carter's effort and think he generally came up with an ingenious and equitable plan. We do have our own ideas about the dirty undesirables at the bottom of the hierarchy, coal and nuclear power, however.

Carter's coal projection, doubling the output of the industry or putting out about one billion tons per year by 1985, was not surprising in itself. It is much lower than previous federal estimates of the country's coal needs, and it is coupled with the energy conservation program which we have always said was a prerequisite for a country about to lean on coal.

Our ideas about the coal policy are not so much an objection to anything Carter said on April 20 as they are a list of questions about the details of the coal program.

By saying he would protect the environment, did Carter mean that he would fight for the strongest possible Clean Air Act, prevent significant deterioration in clean air regions, and improve the health and

quality of life of people in already polluted urban areas? We think these safeguards should be an essential part of any push for a billion-ton-per-year coal industry.

When Carter mentioned coal research, did he mean that he will put most of the research dollars into technologies which will improve efficiency — that is give us more heat or power out of each ton of coal that we burn? Or does he mean to throw large amounts of money into synthetic fuels technologies which have already shown themselves to be suspect from an energy efficiency standpoint? We think it is essential that federal research dollars go to those technologies, large or small, that promise to give us the most power for the least fuel.

We also wonder, will these coal research dollars go toward improving pollution control in the efficient technologies? This, too, we think should be an essential part of the push for coal.

Will Carter hold to his campaign promise that the needed coal will be mined mainly in the East, where a coal industry already exists, or will he shift focus to the West, where each new mine brings social disruption? Will power plants be built mainly in sparsely populated pristine air regions or in areas near consumers? All of these are questions which need to be answered before a major coal campaign should move forward.

Our major criticism of the Carter energy plan lies in the nuclear area. Carter has promised us all along that he regards nuclear as a "last resort." Already, apparently, as Energy Research and Development Administration chief Robert Fri put it, "We are resorting to the last resort."

We believe that with a slightly bigger push for conservation we could do without nuclear power. The Ford Foundation Energy Policy Project confirms this. And we fear that, to depend upon nuclear power for even a small part of our energy needs may, by diverting scarce capital, prevent us from making the shift to renewable energy that is our (and the President's) ultimate goal.

In short, we can't cover our bets by pursuing both a "hard energy" path and a "soft energy" path at once. As Friends of the Earth energy expert and physicist Amory Lovins says, we just don't have the capital to move toward both renewable resources and large scale coal and nuclear development.

The President didn't tell us how many nuclear plants he is contemplating. He did say more emphatically than ever before that we don't need the Clinch River breeder reactor. But he cannot convince us that dumping the breeder, however praiseworthy, eliminates the economic and technical problems still surrounding light water fission reactors — or the possibility of a nuclear nightmare.

Carter admits that nuclear power is only necessary for a 70-year transition period. We don't think we can afford to pursue this

technology for such a short-term, uncertain gain.

Despite our sharp differences of opinion over nuclear power, however, we feel that Carter's policy is basically a very sound first step. He did a masterful job of involving the public in the energy policy planning process, in synthesizing their suggestions, and finally this past week, in taking the lead. Now he's handed us the responsibility of leading our congressmen, who unfortunately always seem to need to be led, in the right direction, too.

—JN



Guest Editorial



Like a crack across Mona Lisa

(Editors' note: The following letter was written in response to an editorial in the Washington Post following a Federal Power Commission (FPC) judge's decision to recommend that the Alaska natural gas pipeline be built through the Arctic National Wildlife Range. FPC will make its final recommendation to President Jimmy Carter by May 1, and he has until Sept. 1 to make his decision.)

Dear Sir:

Your recent editorial ("Alaskan Gas") does a disservice by so lightly dismissing the environmental consequences of the proposed gas pipeline route across the famous Arctic National Wildlife Range, the route which you seem to favor. It is important to understand the basic issues involved, because if this routing is approved, it will certainly become one of the major environmental issues of this decade. Fortunately, there are viable, and cheaper alternative ways to go to avoid this controversy.

You ignore the fact that the pipeline across the range is just the beginning; the real aim is to open up the way for further intensified exploration and prospecting for oil and gas reserves allegedly within it.

You ignore the fact that the pipeline across the range is just the beginning; the real aim is to open up the way for further intensified exploration and prospecting for oil and gas reserves allegedly within it. That is why the Arctic Gas route, if approved, means the end of the range as we know it.

To bring the real issue home in words, imagine the Mona Lisa painting, with a crack running entirely across the middle of the painting, from one side to another. "It's only a small crack," someone might say — the picture is still there. But is it really?

You seem to assume that all this construction is justifiable because the Arctic Gas proposal is somehow "cheaper." But this proposal, more than any of the others, relies heavily upon unproven, high-risk technology, upon the very dubious assumption of an early settlement of Canadian Native claims, and upon an almost certain need for federal guarantees — at extreme cost to the taxpayer. We believe there is no question that the Arctic Gas proposal would prove in the end to be the most expensive route that could possibly be chosen.

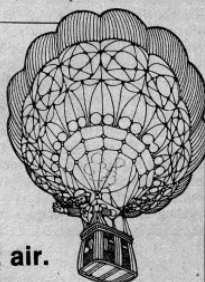
It should only be a matter of common sense to realize that an inherently risky undertaking such as the gas pipeline will have a much better — and less expensive — chance of success if it follows already developed corridors, where the transportation and supply facilities are already in place. The Arctic Gas proposal goes entirely across virgin territory for the most dangerous part of its route; the other alternatives avoid this.

What it all really boils down to is that those of us who have a vital concern for preserving and protecting what remains of the unspoiled arctic have simply no other place to go; the Arctic National Wildlife Range is the only place left. But those who wish to deliver gas from Alaska to the U.S. (and we are among them) do have viable alternatives without destroying the Range.

Steve Young,
National Audubon Society
Sid Wold,
Environmental Policy Center
Pam Rich,
Friends of the Earth
Brock Evans,
Sierra Club
Brec Cooke,
The Wilderness Society



CHOICE OF THREE. There are alternatives for bringing Alaskan natural gas to the Lower 48 without bisecting the Arctic National Wildlife Range, as the recommended Arctic Gas route does. Map courtesy of the LOS ANGELES TIMES, by John Snyder.



Hot air.

Some people think that High Country News is a lot of hot air.

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Bighorn water. . .

(from page 1)

Shoshone tribes, while extremely reluctant to discuss the issue, did tell HCN this fear is unfounded. "We're claiming the water we can put to beneficial use," Bob Harris, chairman of the Shoshone Business Council says. Harris heads the Shoshone tribe and shares leadership of the Joint Council meetings with Jess Miller, who is head of the Arapahoe council.

Most observers say that if any water users were forced to abandon their rights, the federal government would have to compensate them.

Mendocino admitted there is a "theoretical possibility" that individuals with recently acquired water rights could lose them — if there weren't enough water to satisfy the demands of both the federal government and of other present users. Under the laws of most Western states, a water right with the earliest date has the highest priority.

However, Mendocino emphasized several times that the state didn't intend the suit to be an "abandonment proceeding" to force anyone to give up rights. Adding weight to his opinion is the fact that the Bighorn River discharges more unappropriated water out of the state than any other river (meaning water that has not been designated for anyone's use under state law).

The tribes' demands will likely draw from the 1.8 million acre-feet now flowing



IRRIGATION DITCHES on the reservation get their water from the Wind River Mountains' snow. How much water the Indians have rights to may be influenced by how much land on the reservation is considered to be irrigable, according to some legal interpretations. However, new proposed Interior Department regulations de-

fine beneficial use as "any use of water, consumptive or otherwise, for agricultural, domestic, municipal, commercial, industrial, aesthetic, religious, or recreational purposes, or for the maintenance of adequate stream flows for fishery, environmental, or other beneficial purposes on an Indian reservation."

unappropriated out of the state that Wyoming has rights to under the Yellowstone River Compact. Wyoming officials are very concerned about that water since Wyoming loses its rights to any unused water after it leaves the state. However, in order to use it, more storage facilities would have to be built, according to state water planner Frank Trelease.

Of the present water uses, irrigators use 90% and industry .2%. The rest goes to municipal, domestic, and livestock uses.

NEW USERS

For prospective new water users — such as large irrigation projects or industries that would like to divert Bighorn River water for their activities in the Powder River Basin coal region — the consequences of the suit could be more critical.

If the Indians are allocated much of the 1.8 million acre-feet, that leaves new users with three alternatives: buying the water from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) if it is stored in a federal reservoir, from other users, or from the Indian tribes.

A likely choice for many water users would be BuRec's Boysen Reservoir. Presently, only one energy firm — Sun Oil Co. — holds a water option from Boysen. Other long-term contracts have been forbidden by the Department of Interior until Indian water rights are settled. BuRec holds an adjudicated right dated 1945 for 757,851 acre-feet, which can be used for any beneficial purpose, including industrial or irrigation. Interior Department attorney Al Bielefeld says he isn't very concerned that Boysen water rights will be endangered by the suit.

While the suit is pending, he says BuRec intends to proceed as usual reviewing applications for water. Under a new agreement, the state will participate in reviewing the applications.

Bielefeld's prophecy will probably fulfill itself since Bielefeld also represents the tribes in the lawsuit.

MONTANA CASES SPUR ACTION

Mendocino says Wyoming's action was prompted by two water suits in Montana involving the Northern Cheyenne and the

Crow tribes and about 2,600 water users. The tribes and the U.S. government filed suit in federal court in early 1975 to claim water for the tribes. The state of Montana subsequently asked to have the suits moved to state court, and that decision is still pending.

Evidently alarmed at the implications of this kind of suit for Wyoming, state officials began gearing up to guarantee that any water rights action in Wyoming would be initiated by the state in state court rather than federal court.

Wyoming hired an assistant attorney general, primarily to handle the case. Two bills paving the way for the suit were rushed through the legislature under a suspension of rules, signed the same day by the governor, and the suit was filed.

The federal government has since asked, on behalf of the tribes, that the suit be moved to federal courts and a hearing on that will be held in May. Mendocino says he is confident it will be allowed to stay in state courts. He says that, ultimately, it is bound to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

CLOUT FOLLOWS MANY LOSSES

In addition to its fears of federal control of water, the state of Wyoming was spurred to action by complaints about industrial and irrigation projects that have been stymied by the Indian water rights questions.

The tribes had succeeded in stopping an industrial park in the non-Indian town of Riverton and had forced a moratorium on long-term water permits from Boysen Reservoir, affecting both industrial and large irrigation projects.

The Indians' apparent clout in these two instances was preceded by decades of bitter losses in battles between the reservation and both Riverton and BuRec.

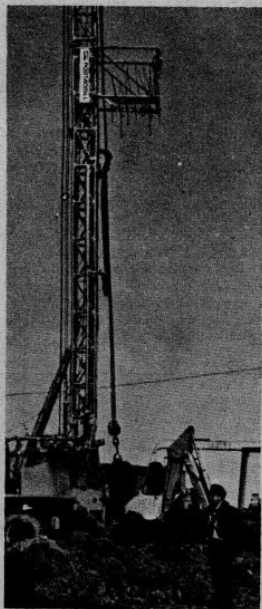
Riverton (population 8,000) and the Riverton Reclamation Project are completely surrounded by the reservation as a result of an Interior Secretary's order in 1904 that opened 1.5 million acres (more than half the reservation) to homesteading. The reservation was later restored to its former boundaries, except for several thousand acres in the middle for the reclamation project and the city of Riverton.

BuREC BATTLES

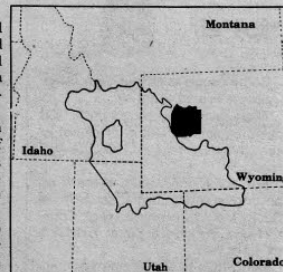
When the U.S. Congress took Indian lands for Boysen Reservoir in 1945, the tribes objected to yet another reduction of their reservation, but their words went unheeded. However, in 1971, when a delegation from the Wind River Reservation went to Washington, D.C., to protest BuRec making large sales of water from Boysen to industry, Interior Secretary Walter Hickel apparently listened. Because of the Indians' protest and of environmental suits affecting industrial development at the time, he instructed BuRec to temporarily discontinue issuing any long-term contracts for water from the reservoir. The moratorium is still in effect.

At the same time, the two tribes presented the department with a water report that reaffirmed a resolution passed in 1969 by the joint business council saying the tribes are "the owners of and have all rights to all of the waters arising upon, flowing through, or adjacent to the Wind River Reservation."

Adding to the hard feelings, disputes



NEW WELL. After the federal government refused a grant request from the city of Riverton because of conflicts with Indian water rights, the city expected trouble from the tribes when it drilled this well this spring. City official Bill Peterson says he doesn't know whether the new well would be affected by the Indians' claims, but in the meantime, he said, the city plans to proceed as it has always done. Photo courtesy of the RIVERTON RANGER.



THE ORIGINAL Shoshone reservation, established by the Treaty of Fort Bridger in 1863, covered parts of five states and included 44,672,000 acres. The present reservation is shown in black, about one-twentieth its original size. The Shoshone tribe shares the reservation now with the Arapahoe tribe.

over terms of an Indian irrigation project on the reservation have made the tribes' relationship with BuRec rocky since 1905.

RELUCTANT SYMBIOSIS

The tribes haven't been getting along any better with the city of Riverton. The Shoshone tribe cut off all non-Indian fishing on the reservation in 1974, largely because they found that non-Indians charged with violating Indian fishing regulations were not being prosecuted by the U.S. government officers charged with doing so. Riverton and other nearby towns were upset with the decision since many of the best fishing waters are on the reservation. Only Riverton threatened revenge by saying it would cut off its fire protection of reservation communities.

This spring fishing was re-opened but new hostilities flared over an industrial park planned by Riverton just a few miles from an industrial park established by the Arapahoe tribe in 1971. Kenneth Timbana, tribal planner, says that although utilities and roads are ready, no companies have moved in — partially because the state highway has been rerouted away from the park and a railroad spur connecting with it has been abandoned. Timbana

says Riverton never offered its political clout to help reverse these decisions but instead applied to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a grant for its own park, which would be in direct competition with the Indian park.

The application was denied because the tribes wrote EDA saying the park would conflict with their Overall Economic Development Program and would have an adverse effect on tribal water rights. The tribes say they considered selling water to Riverton, but Riverton wasn't interested.

Riverton city official Bill Peterson says the city will participate in the state's water suit. He is glad the suit was filed so questions concerning Riverton rights — such as whether the tribes own groundwater, too — will be cleared up. Tribal spokesmen, while apprehensive about where the suit may lead, admit they, too, will be relieved when some of the question marks are erased. Each time Riverton makes a move for more water, it puts the tribes in a quandary trying to decide whether or not to challenge the new claim.

No matter what the consequences of the suit, Riverton won't be seeking new heavy industrial water users, according to Peterson. Water is too costly, and the city doesn't want to be in the position of ever having to

condemn water from agricultural use, he says.

Peterson won't say how much water the city will claim at court hearings that will be held on the suit. The town has had to ration water for the last two summers and is hoping it won't have to cut off water for

Apr. 22, 1977 — High Country News-5 lawns during this summer's drought.

When the hearings begin, attorneys for BuRec will, ironically, be defending the Shoshone and the Arapahoe water rights.

(continued on page 6)



MAKING HAY. About 85% of the irrigated land on the reservation is used to produce hay, which feeds herds of cattle and horses. Most of the ranchers on the reservation are small — about 65% have 100 cattle or less. Much of the tribal income comes from oil and gas royalties. The development of these reserves has been compatible with the rural way of life on the reservation. However, with these reserves dwindling, the tribal planners are studying possible new sources of revenue, which may require more water.

Tribal needs, legal history give clue

How much water will the Wind River tribes get?

According to Jack Palma, assistant attorney general for Wyoming, the principle issues to be determined on any tribes' water rights are the date of the water rights and the amount of water that the reservation is supposed to get. It is generally accepted — and is accepted by the state of Wyoming — that they do have some water rights.

Some Indian water rights experts say the rights date to time immemorial (aboriginal rights). Most experts agree that rights date back to the establishment of the reservation. The earliest possible date for the Wind River Reservation, therefore, could be 1863 when the treaty of Fort Bridger assigned the Shoshone tribe the area where the reservation now is. However, others may argue that it was established in 1865, 1904, or even 1939 — all dates of boundary changes.

Disputes over the earlier dates would be moot since no other rights in Wyoming date back further than 1868, according to Frank Trelease, state water planner. The Riverton Reclamation Project, the biggest water claim in the Bighorn River basin except for the reservation, has a 1906 priority date.

Wyoming's and other Western states' water law is based upon "prior right," which means water put to "beneficial use" at the earliest date has the highest priority. However, under federal law, when a piece of land is set aside as federal land, water to serve that land is also reserved by implication. The federal government says when it wants that water, it can acquire water from those who have put it to beneficial use but who have later dates on their rights. The date the federal land was set aside is used. The government says Indians' claims also don't depend upon their having put the water to beneficial use previously.

States usually argue that all federal claims for water should be quantified, filed with the state, and dated with the time of the filing.

Indians' water rights cases all rest upon the Winters Doctrine, which is part of a U.S. Supreme Court judgment in 1908 on

water on the Fort Belknap reservation in Montana. The doctrine says that the setting aside of an Indian reservation necessarily reserved the water without which the lands would be valueless.

JUST IRRIGATION?

Part of the legal battle concerns whether reservations are intended to get just the amount of water that would have been contemplated when the reservation was created or whether later uses, such as coal development, can be considered.

Most of the case law has said the reservations are entitled to the amount required for irrigation of all lands within the reservation that would be practical to irrigate. In *Arizona v. California*, the amount of land that could be irrigated was based upon U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) figures. However, this is not considered a definitive ruling since the Winters Doctrine is more encompassing and not all reservations are best suited to agriculture.



TRIBAL PLANNER Kenneth Timbana says that until a new water system was developed, the tribes couldn't get funding for a housing project.

BuRec says that no more than 50,000 additional acres of the Wind River Reservation land could be irrigated, according to a handbook on the reservation prepared by the Wind River Curriculum Development Workshop. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), however, says that with modern irrigation methods such as sprinkling, 200,000 additional acres could be irrigated feasibly. In addition, BIA contends that "beneficial use" can refer to developing recreation facilities and to industrial development as well as agriculture.

The question of whether or not the Indians want the water for a "beneficial use" concerns many of the people who attended one of the informational meetings held on the suit. "The Indians should be allowed expansion plans as well as anyone else," one rancher said — as long as the water is put to use. State Sen. Roy Peck said, "The best way for the Indians to preserve their water right is to use it." He would like to see joint water developments between Riverton and the tribes.

Presently, more than 70,000 acres of the 2.3 million acre reservation are irrigated. There have been several obstacles to irrigating the remaining acreage. Indians have trouble getting loans since they can't use tribally held lands for collateral. Individuals who were allotted their own lands under a system imposed by the federal government only received 40-acre tracts, which are too small to farm profitably on semi-arid lands. Some of the best tracts of land along rivers were sold to non-Indians because of the allotment system.

Water is also needed to serve the domestic needs. A large number of Indians who have left the reservation are now returning home, but until new water systems were built, the tribes couldn't get funding from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for housing. Many homes have no water supply at all so water must be hauled.

As for industrial development, tribal planner Kenneth Timbana says the tribe is seeking alternative sources of income since the oil and gas reserves that have sustained them for decades are dwindling. Coal seems to be too deep to be mined

economically and timber good only for poles and posts, according to preliminary surveys, Timbana says.

According to the tribes' Overall Economic Development Program, the tribes are considering a feedlot and meat processing plant, a fish hatchery, shopping centers, and developing their gypsum and uranium reserves. They also have considered selling water as a utility to agriculture, industry, communities, and business.

In their planning document, however, the tribes make it clear that they don't want any development that would jeopardize their historic way of life. Another constraint is that water storage facilities — and funds to build them — would be needed for any large uses of water, according to the document.

The tribes refuse to comment about how much water they will request when the suit comes to court — just as other water claimants refuse to do. However, very rough Interior Department estimates in 1974 said that at the maximum, the tribes could use 2.2 million acre-feet per year, consuming as much as 965,000 acre-feet of that. The estimate includes water for agriculture, wildlife, energy, industry, domestic, recreation, and minerals.

WHAT ABOUT THE FISH?

The Northern Cheyenne have added more categories to their list of beneficial uses that might also be considered by the Wind River tribes — environmental and esthetic purposes. Presumably, on the Wind River Reservation, this could mean maintaining a minimum flow for fish habitat since some "blue ribbon trout streams" there are among their most valuable resources.

Until the various tribes involved in water suits reveal what uses they plan for the water they claim and how much they want, the people of the region hesitate to comment on what they think of the suit or to take sides. As one rancher said, "I'd be tickled pink to have the Indians get the water. I'm just afraid it's a trick by the federal government to get water for coal development."

6-High Country News — Apr. 22, 1977

Some water projects modified

Carter reduces 'hit list' for water projects

by Bruce Hamilton

After eight weeks of bitter fighting with Congress, President Jimmy Carter has recommended some funding for almost half of the controversial water development projects he threatened to scrap.

Carter has decided to recommend full funding in fiscal 1978 for eight projects, partial funding for five, continued review for two, and no funding for 15.

Carter was originally considering recommending no funding for over 30 projects because of the projects' adverse environmental impacts, safety problems, and/or low benefit-cost ratio. Carter's decision followed weeks of administrative review and public hearings.

In announcing his decision, Carter said, "I have tried to be fair and to give the benefit of the doubt on some projects which would certainly not be justified if they were proposed today." Most of the projects were previously approved by Congress and construction was well under way on several of them.

Carter says he intends to continue reviewing national water policies and projects and declared that "fundamental changes need to be made." He urged major reforms in dam safety, project evaluation standards, cost sharing with project beneficiaries, and water conservation.

Members of Congress whose home state projects weren't recommended for total funding have vowed to continue their fight.

"The formal decision will be made by Congress, not the Administration," said Sen. George McGovern (S-S.D.), whose Oahe Project was recommended for no funding.

Congress will vote on the budget in May and appropriations in June and could restore project funding then, according to Howard Brown of the American Rivers Conservation Council. Brown and other environmental leaders are urging citizens to contact their representatives and urge them to support Carter's project cuts.

Some members of Congress feel Carter approved some projects and recommended partial funding for others so he could gain enough support to defeat the remainder. Rep. Gunn McKay (D-Utah) told the *Deseret News*, "If we don't hang together we'll hang separately."

Rep. Tom Beville (D-Ala.), chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee on public works which handles water project funding had his home-state project — Tennessee Tombigbee — recommended for restored funding. Earlier in the review another key opponent, Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine), chairman of the Senate environmental subcommittee of the Senate

Budget Committee, had his pet project — Dickey-Lincoln — spared. Some observers see these moves as a divide-and-conquer strategy by the Carter Administration.

Beville is pleased to have his project back, but he isn't behind Carter's other cuts yet. Unless Carter can make a compelling case for reduced funding "we'll be inclined to proceed with funding. The burden is on the executive branch," he told the *Associated Press*.

If Congress restores funding for the projects, Carter still has the option of vetoing the decision. The projects aren't dead yet, but they aren't safe either.

FATE OF THE "HIT LIST"

The following is a list of the water projects President Jimmy Carter had under review and how he reportedly ruled on them:

NO FUNDING

—Cache Basin, Ark.
—Fruitland Mesa, Colo.
—Savery-Pot Hook, Colo. and Wyo.
—Richard B. Russell Project, Ga.
—Grove Lake, Kan.
—Hillsdale Lake, Kan.
—Yatesville Lake, Ky.
—Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf and Black, La.

—Bayou Bodcau, La.
—Tallahala Creek Inlet, Miss.
—Meramec Park Lake, Mo.
—Lukfata Lake, Okla.
—Applegate Lake, Ore.
—Oahe Unit, S.D.
—LaFarge Lake, Wis.

PARTIAL FUNDING

—Central Utah Project, Bonneville Unit, Utah.
—Central Arizona Project, Ariz.
—Tensas Basin, Ark. and La.
—Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, La.
—Garrison Diversion Unit, N.D. and S.D.

FUNDING UNDER STUDY

—Auburn-Folsom South, Central Valley Project, Calif.
—Narrows Unit, Colo.

FULL FUNDING

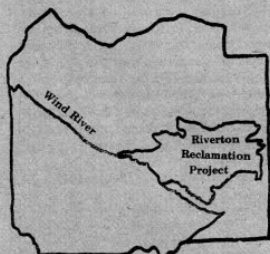
—Dalias Creek, Colo.
—Dolores, Colo.
—Fulton, Ill.
—Dayton, Ky.
—Red River Waterway, Mississippi River to Shreveport, La.
—Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway, Tenn., Ala. and Miss.
—Tyrone Project, Pa.
—Lyman Project, Wyo.



Bighorn water. . .

(Continued from page 5)

Bielefeld is the chief attorney with the solicitor's office for the Interior Department in Billings, Mont. (Both BuRec and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are in the Interior Department.) Bielefeld says he's confident BuRec rights will stand, and other federal water claims, he says, are "insignificant." He says he is most concerned about the treatment of the Indian tribes in the coming legal action. The department has a group of attorneys as well as hydrologists and other specialists working on the suit now.



RESERVATION CHANGES. In 1904, 1.5 million acres — all the reservation land north of the Wind River — was ceded to the United States for an irrigation district. Lands were to be sold under the Homestead Act. In 1939, the ceded portion was restored to the tribes except for land for the Riverton Reclamation Project, private irrigation districts that had been homesteaded, and the city of Riverton. (The Wind River is called the Bighorn River after it passes through the reservation.)

Apparently, the Indians aren't completely confident that Interior will hold tribal interests above its other interests. Consequently, the Shoshone tribe has asked its own lawyer, Marvin Sonosky, in Washington, D.C., to work on the case.

An attorney in Sonosky's office, Harry Sachse, says the attorneys are leaving the case up to the federal solicitor's office at this time although they intend to take an active part in the case to protect the tribe's rights. Presently, the suit mentions the federal government, as the trustee for the tribes, as a defendant, which is why Sonosky is now leaving the work to the federal government. Bielefeld says that when private attorneys are participating in a suit with the federal attorneys, they generally leave much of the work to the federal attorneys, "especially if it is costly."

20,000 TUSSLES?

Meanwhile, local lawyers in the Bighorn Basin are in a turmoil. Hundreds of water users are now seeking attorneys, some of them in groups as irrigation districts and some of them individually. Mendocino warned the attorneys they would have trouble finding all the records they need although the state is now in the process of computerizing them.

Lawyers with little experience in water law are cramming in preparation for a July 1 deadline. Mendocino is desperately trying to convince both the water users and the attorneys not to let the adjudication process digress into 20,000 disagreements among neighbors about individual rights.

Jack Palma, state assistant attorney general, says the court hearings won't begin until next January at the earliest. Asked if the state planned to hold the hearings in an auditorium or a stadium since the suit involves more than 20,000 people, Palma said that the state will likely hold

separate hearings for each tributary to the Bighorn River.

Mendocino said at one of the informational meetings that adjudication for the

Bighorn Basin will be complete within three years. However, he says it is possible the action will continue "past the lifetimes of everyone in the room."



HEADWATERS OF CON- makes its way down into the Wind
TROVERSY. Dinwoody Glacier on
Gannett Peak high in the Wind River
Mountains feeds the creek that
Wyoming Travel Commission.

People come for fun, phosphate, and oil

Bear Lake: booming and learning to live with it

by Ann Schimpf

In 10 years Bear Lake, in the Idaho-Utah-Wyoming corner area, has changed from a sparsely populated summer resort to a booming recreation and industrial site.

The "scenes" that follow show the "characters" — the people of Bear Lake and how they feel about the "plot" — the changes coming to the area.

Scene I — The oldest living couple at the lake has seen many changes, but they are willing to adjust.

Scene II — A rancher-farmer from the south end of the lake objects more to some recreationists than oil wells.

Scene III — An executive of the largest recreational development at the lake and a spokesman for the proposed phosphate mine both say they're developing with care.

Scene IV — Planning is difficult because the lake lies in two counties, two states, and two EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) regions. However, Allen Harrison of the Bear Lake Regional Commission says that his agency has helped the area meet the challenges of growth.

Bear Lake is an azure, 20-mile-long gem that provides outstanding swimming, boating, and fishing. Ute and Shoshone tribes once used the lake as a rendezvous point. So did early traders and trappers such as Jim Bridger. Until the 1960s this was a quiet lake that supplied pioneer families with irrigation water and nearby residents with summer resort opportunities.

Since 1966 Bear Lake has suffered the fate of so many scenic, western vacation spots — it has been discovered. Attendance figures at North Beach State Park have shown an average annual increase of 25%. In addition, developers of phosphate and oil have entered the area.

SCENE I — THE OLDTIMERS

"I couldn't think of a more beautiful place to live," says Elva Satterthwaite. "We've lived in this house 60 years and lots of things have changed, but we still stand by that statement."

Bart and Elva Satterthwaite, the oldest living couple in Garden City, Utah, live on the south shore of Bear Lake, right across the highway from the biggest recreational development in the area, Sweetwater Park.

When asked how they feel about their new neighbors, Bart says, "What's there to say? They're here, and we're here, and we've got to learn to get along."

Bart worked for the Forest Service at the Paris Ranger District for 30 years. "I can remember when they didn't used to keep the road around the lake open in winter. People got around by driving their teams of horses across the lake. But times will never go back to what they was."

SCENE II — THE RANCHER

"The prospects aren't good for finding oil here. Some of the expired oil leases were even dropped after the seismograph results revealed that no extensive fields exist here," says rancher-farmer Keith Johnson.

"Myself, I don't mind the oil rigs. This country has to have energy, and it has to come from out of the earth somewhere. If we want energy, we can't be hypocrites and wish it would come from someone else's pretty valley."

Keith Johnson was born and raised at the south end of Bear Lake. With his son and a few hands he runs a 12,000 acre ranch. None of the present oil exploration



ELVA SATTERTHWAITE:
"I couldn't think of a more beautiful place to live."

Photo by Ann Schimpf

rigs is situated on his land, but he is acquainted with some of the drillers.

"Oil people are business people. They generally don't cause trouble. It's the people that don't have anything to do who cause the problems."

"A lot of the recreation people are fine folks. They'll always ask permission to use your land and leave it in good shape. But there are the bad ones who litter all over your place, rip down 'no trespassing' signs, and vandalize everything in sight."

"One day I was out in the field, tending some cattle. A guy in a suit come over to me and asks if I'd sell my land for a million dollars. I said I wouldn't take no amount of money for my land," Johnson says.

"See them hills. We own most of that land up to the forest boundary. It makes mighty fine habitat for deer — a lot better than the house-covered slopes a valley over," (referring to Sweetwater Park's 1-3 acre home plots).

"If I had my way I'd rather leave this all as land. A rancher depends on land. Do you know how many acres it takes to raise a cow?"

"And yet I know people in the city have to have a place to go," Johnson says reluctantly.

SCENE III — THE DEVELOPERS

Sweetwater Park, Inc., the largest recreational developer on Bear Lake, advertises that it is sensitive to local values and life patterns.

"I think we've built a strong rapport locally. We've hired all local people since day one of the company," says Gerry Brown, senior vice president.

Brown takes pride in describing the growth of Sweetwater Park, Inc., from 6,000 acres of empty farm lands and beach front in 1971 to 6,000 acres of 500 summer homes, 103 condominium units, a riding stable, and a golf course in 1977. He stresses the fact that his company is here to stay, to become part of the local scene.

Developers of the proposed phosphate mine on the north shore of Bear Lake, Earth Sciences, Inc., have completed numerous social and ecological studies.

Their property consists of approximately 4,100 acres near the town of Bloomington. Western Co-Operative Fertilizers, Ltd. has signed an agreement to develop the phosphate reserves on the property and to purchase up to 30 million tons of phosphate rock concentrate over a 20-27 year period.

Jim Frost, temporary project manager of the mine, is cautiously optimistic. "I see a very good situation right now. If the price of phosphate continues to rise, the plant will probably come soon."

"Land prices around here have soared since the mine first came. People were even talking about putting trailer courts and apartment complexes on their land. But nothing has really happened at the mine since 1975, so nobody is doing much these days," says Mrs. John Findlay, a Bloomington homemaker for the last 30 years.

No one knows for sure when the mine and processing plant will begin full operation. But in Bear Lake and Rich counties, where the total population has declined by about 15% in the last 10 years, many eyes are on the mine.

SCENE IV — THE PLANNERS

In a series of public hearings in 1971 and 1972, Bear Lake citizens voiced concern about the changing status of their homeland.

In 1973 the Bear Lake Regional Commission (BLRC) was created to coordinate and enhance the development and protection of the entire Bear Lake area.

Executive Director of the BLRC, Allen

Harrison, says, "We want to help the people get what they want for this area. It's their home; they've got to live with it. We give them the options and then let them decide."

The BLRC also includes representatives from small communities bordering the lake.

BLRC is not supposed to make policy decisions, it merely serves as an advisory arm for the Bear Lake and Rich County boards.

Both county boards refer potential developers and their plans to Harrison. They generally follow the recommendations of the BLRC. The BLRC in turn lets the developers know how their plans will fit into the Bear Lake Basin natural resource



GERRY BROWN of Sweetwater Park, Inc., the largest recreational developer on Bear Lake. Photo by Ann Schimpf

planning scheme. They require developers to look at all ecological aspects in drawing up their plans.

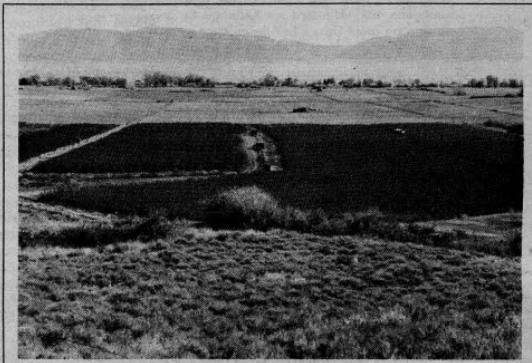
"Al (Harrison) has a positive attitude. We met with him two or three times a month last year as we were drawing up the master plan. He helped us out when we needed it. And yet he doesn't push very easy," says one subdivider.

"Making use of green space in developments to minimize the impact of deer winter range is critical," Harrison says. I know people in the Idaho Fish and Game office and the Caribou National Forest were disappointed when Bear Lake West, Inc., bought 640 acres west of Fish Haven. But I think that with proper planning the issue of diminishing deer winter range can be solved even in this situation."

"The potential for air pollution is high in this basin. Some people describe the season as nine months of winter and three months of late fall. We need more of an economic base in the valley, but we'll watch carefully any industry with the potential for air pollution. The processing plant for the phosphate mine is an example of such an industry."

THE END?

The play is not over. It is still being written. People in the area seem willing to try to adjust to the changes, and some are hopeful that the boom will create badly needed jobs. Nevertheless, the impacts of intense recreational development, subdivisions, phosphate development, and oil development will help shape the future of Bear Lake, just as agriculture, fishing, and forestry have shaped the past.



BEAR LAKE. Until recently the area supported a quiet agricultural community. Photo by Ann Schimpf



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



The bald eagle: our endangered

by Jim Scott

When the American bald eagle was officially enshrined as our national symbol in 1782, inauguration came only after dogged opposition from Benjamin Franklin. Franklin, who favored the choice of the wild turkey, repeatedly bad-mouthed the bald eagle as a "lousy" bird of "bad moral character."

Had the wild turkey any inkling of the future repercussions from that coronation, it would have gobbled with relief.

One bicentennial later, population surveys conducted by the Department of Interior reveal a devastating nose-dive in the numbers of America's emblem. And although this striking bird of prey was nesting coast to coast at the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found only 627 active nests in the lower 48 states during a recent census.

Today only eight states boast more than 25 breeding pairs. For the bald eagle, the Bicentennial Blues are here.

The blues were so bad that by 1973 the federal government had declared the

Southern bald eagle an official U.S. endangered species. (Some biologists recognize two races of bald eagles — Southern and Northern. The arbitrary division of their ranges is the 40th parallel—running roughly through Denver and Philadelphia.)

Florida, sporting a population of 800-1,000 eagles, is now the only southern state with an appreciable number of the birds. Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina are now void of the raptors, and Louisiana and Alabama are believed to contain no more than a half dozen each.

The Northern race, much healthier in terms of numbers, has endured a similar fate south of the Canadian border, however. There are only about 1,000 bald eagles scattered between the Great Lakes and the Pacific Northwest, while British Columbia and Alaska still contains approximately 40,000-60,000 birds.

DOUBLE WHAMMY

Clearly, powerful forces have been diligent in dismantling eagle populations. Habitat destruction and out-right shooting, this bird's double whammy, have habitually plagued the bald eagle. But it was a third whammy — the Post World War II pesticide revolution — that ultimately nailed the eagle to the wall.

Florida is a typical example. In 1938 state wildlife officials initiated a bald eagle banding program in an effort to accu-

ately census the population. By 1945 a part-time bander was capturing and tagging over 150 young each year.

But the years following the war found fewer and fewer young in Florida's nests. By 1952 only 22% of the state's occupied eyries were producing fledglings.

Five years later, after meticulously scouring hundreds of miles of coastline, wildlife agents located and banded only eight eaglets.

The worst was confirmed in the late 1950s when laboratory experiments concluded that high concentrations of so-called "hard pesticides" — such as DDT — were causing nervous and reproductive aberrations in several predatory birds including the bald eagle.

Sex hormones, affected by DDT residues found in bird tissues, were inhibiting calcium metabolism in the females — thereby causing eggshell thinning during the egg-formation period. If the eggs were not destroyed during the laying process, there was a high probability they would be broken during incubation.

Located at the pinnacle of their food chain, bald eagles were apparently absorbing concentrated amounts of these toxins from their mainstay of fish, which in turn had ingested tainted food from the polluted tidal basins and lakes.

Government hesitance in banning DDT from the environment proved costly to

wildlife. Although the U.S. Public Health Service initiated investigations into the negative effects of DDT on animals in 1944, it was not until 28 years later — in 1972 — that it was banned from commercial use in the United States.

The Northern race showed a mixed reaction, depending upon local pesticide use. Nesting success, running as high as 80% in the relatively clean populations of Canada and Alaska during the early 1970s, was at the same time measured to be as low as five percent in areas of the Great Lakes region.

MOST POLLUTED BIRD

The American Bald Eagle has been awarded the dubious distinction of being the most polluted bird in the nation by federal biologists working at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Md. Pathologists there have identified at least a dozen toxic chemicals in eagle carcasses.

Their conclusions? Bald eagles apparently contain greater quantities and wider varieties of chemicals than virtually any other American bird. Unfortunately for the eagle, scientists have also concluded that some combinations of these toxins may lower a bird's lethal threshold for any one of the residues.

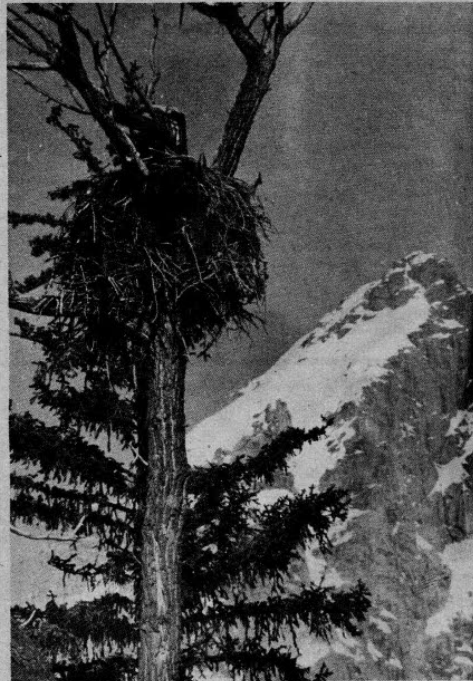
"They choose to live in the most polluted areas of the United States," confirmed Patuxent population ecologist Dr. Lucille Stickel. "And they choose the most polluted food supply."



Apr. 22, 1977 — High Country News-9



Woodblock by Bill Orr

Bald eagle nest in the Tetons
Photo by John Turner

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The area west of Rifle, Colo., surfaced as one of the most polluted havens for eagles in the entire nation during the spring of 1975. Carcasses of six bald eagles and two golden eagles were discovered by hikers and canoeists along the Colorado River.

The eagles apparently died from heavy doses of thallium sulphate, a lethal and illegal toxin used primarily for coyote control before the commercial use and interstate transportation was banned in 1972.

Although noxious chemicals have caused the most severe damage to the faltering bald eagle populations, most of Patuxent's autopsy victims have turned out to be gunshot cases. More than half of the 300 carcasses examined at the research center during the last decade have been dropped with firearms.

In addition to shooting, habitat destruction poses a formidable threat to the bald eagles' continuing existence. Their last frontier is faced with steadily increasing timber clear-cutting and water pollution, not to mention the ominous side effects of the Alaska Pipeline.

In Minnesota's Chippewa National Forest, steps have been taken to prevent harassment of the fragile bald eagle population located there. Timber cutting, snowmobiling, and overhead aircraft noise have been curtailed by state wildlife officials in hopes of promoting more nesting

success within the sanctuary.

Egg transplanting was initiated in May 1974 to bring back locally depressed eagle populations. Three bald eagle eggs, lifted from a healthy nest in Minnesota's Chippewa National Forest, were flown to Maine and placed in an occupied nest where no eaglets had hatched since 1972.

Although one egg was broken as it was being placed in the nest, the other two eggs from "Operation Eggplant" were successfully hatched by the foster parents.

A year later four eggs were brought to Maine from Wisconsin. Although only two eggs hatched and one fledging fell from the eyrie to its death, the remaining eaglet eventually joined Maine's skeletal population, estimated to be between 20 and 30 birds.

A third project in Maine ended in tragedy last year. Two eggs, taken from a nest that had not produced young since 1970, were artificially hatched at the Patuxent Center and returned to their nest. In mid-November, one hundred miles apart, the two eaglets were found shot to death.

The ultimate indignity was heaped on the battered bald eagle in January, when the majestic bird was quietly removed from the flip side of the U.S. quarter. When the eagle was replaced with a Revolutionary drummer, the wild turkey must have gobbled again.



Photo by John Turner

10-High Country News — Apr. 22, 1977

Jobs not linked to energy waste

Eliminating energy waste and commercializing available solar technologies will provide more jobs, a more prosperous economy, and a healthier environment than will the plans of giant energy corporations, according to a 21-page report by Environmentalists for Full Employment (EFFE).

Jobs and Energy is the first comprehensive review of the employment impact of alternative energy patterns. The study was prepared by Richard Grossman and Gail Daneker of EFFE, a coalition of environmental and community organizations.

"The energy industry and some government agencies admit that a future based on

their plans will be expensive and dangerous. But they say there is no choice if we are to have enough energy and jobs for the American people," Grossman says.

"Yet there definitely is a choice," Grossman continued. "Conservation and solar technologies will provide full employment at less cost, with less degradation of the workplace and natural environments. In fact, the energy systems that corporate interests are vigorously urging cost so much, waste so much resources and fuel, destroy so much of the environment, and provide so few jobs, as to be themselves a serious threat to a prosperous economy and to full employment."

The EFFE study shows that eliminating

energy waste and developing solar energy would put millions of unemployed construction workers, plumbers, machinists, air conditioning and heating contractors, and other people back on the job saving non-renewable energy resources. In addition, such an approach would free up dwindling supplies of fuel, ensuring that factories are not shut down throwing millions out of work, as happened earlier this year.

SIPHONING OFF DOLLARS

"The energy industry wants greater and greater expansion of energy. It threatens job losses and economic chaos if it does not

get its way," Grossman says. The report shows, however, that it has not been energy growth which has brought about increased employment. Instead, increased demand for goods and services plus wasteful energy policies have led to constant energy expansion.

"Every dollar spent producing unneeded energy is a dollar siphoned off from other areas of the economy where it is needed," Grossman says. "It is insane to measure our national economic health by how much energy we produce, not by how wisely we use it," he says.

Jobs and Energy points out that expenditures on large-scale, centralized energy production produce fewer jobs than spending the same amount of money in any other part of the economy. Yet, the report notes, the energy corporations would have the nation devote as much as 75% of all private investment capital to the growth and expansion of the energy industry over the next few decades.

The EFFE report documents the tremendous quantities of energy that could be saved through improved energy efficiency techniques. And it shows that this approach would generate jobs and improve our standard of living at one-sixth the cost of new thermal electric projects.

Grossman charges that it is not in the interests of large energy producing corporations to cut back on energy waste. "The energy industry opposes true conservation because cutting waste means cutting their profits, along with their political and economic clout," he says.

CAN'T MONOPOLIZE SOLAR

The report notes that enough solar energy reaches the U.S. in 12 hours to meet the nation's entire annual energy needs. But, it says, proven solar technologies are not being commercialized because they are inherently decentralized technologies which energy corporations cannot monopolize.

"Energy corporations are not going to put their money into technologies that give communities and individuals control over the generation and distribution of energy," Grossman says. The report criticizes past administrations, as well as the Carter Administration, for failing to commit sufficient funds to the development and commercialization of immediately-available solar technologies.

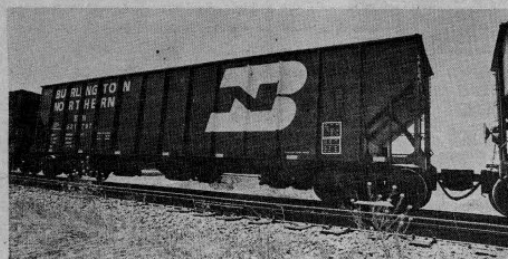
The report cites a number of studies which have shown that for the same energy output, solar technologies create two to four times the number of jobs as nuclear technologies. Prominent labor union leaders such as Sheet Metal Workers' General President Edward J. Carrough, Laborers' President Angelo Fosco, and Floyd Smith, President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, among others, are quoted voicing support for solar energy development as a source of jobs for their members.

The report warns that irreversible decisions on the nation's economic, energy, and employment futures are being made today. "If the U.S. pins its hopes on inefficient, large-scale energy systems, such vast quantities of resources and money will be irrevocably consumed that future alternatives will be precluded, and the economy will be a wreck," Grossman cautions.

Jobs and Energy is available from Environmentalists For Full Employment, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; \$2 for individuals, and \$5 for institutions.



energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains



BN TO UPGRADE TRACK. Burlington Northern will spend over \$18 million during 1977 for track and plant improvements in Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota, according to the SHERIDAN PRESS. J. O. Davies, of BN's Billings, Mont., office, says that the upgrading is needed to improve coal hauling facilities. The largest portion of the money, \$7.8 million, will be spent in Montana. Wyoming will get \$3.1 million and North Dakota more than \$2.2 million. The balance will be spent on the three states jointly, the company said.

SHALE INDUSTRY CRIES 'HELP.' Occidental Petroleum's chairman Armand Hammer told the U.S. Senate energy research subcommittee that, with government financing, his company could build a \$1-billion oil shale processing plant capable of producing 200,000 barrels of oil a day. The plant would be government-owned and privately operated, Hammer said, according to United Press International. He also said that his company has reached the point of commercial sale of some oil on a test basis from its Colorado operations.

BLM CHARTS COAL LANDS. The Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming has identified 19,000 acres of coal lands in the Powder River Basin that may be available for leasing through 1983. The tracts were chosen based on the nomination of potential coal lease areas that the Interior Department solicited last year. BLM says the lands contain 2.2 billion tons of coal reserves.

RESIDENTIAL USERS FACE SHUTOFF. Idaho Power's mandatory conservation plan calls for residential consumers of electricity to be the first ones shut off if drought conditions warrant a cutback. The company will also try to obtain a voluntary commitment for a 10% energy saving from customers who use 75,000 kilowatt hours or more. The power company has established five classes of users to be shut-off in order of ascending priority. In the summer months, residences are lowest priority, followed by irrigators, large industrial users, "sensitive feeders," such as city water pumps or frozen food storage. The highest priority goes to hospitals, police, and other essential services.

CHEYENNE OFFER TO BUY TOWN. Northern Cheyenne tribal chairman Allen Rowland has offered to buy the town of Decker, Mont. The residents of Decker had collected 107 signatures, out of 135 residents, on a petition asking to secede from the state of Montana. The residents feared their share of state coal taxes would be reduced. Rowland says he sympathizes with the town's plight and understands their desire to secede from Montana. "We have been trying to do the same thing for over a hundred years for many of the same reasons," he said in an open letter to the residents.

COLORADO COAL SALE VALUE TOLD. The Interior Department will announce its estimated fair market value for a Steamboat Springs, Colo., coal tract that will be offered for competitive lease sale on May 25, according to *Coal Week*. The fair market value is determined by the U.S. Geological Survey and sets the minimum acceptable bid for which the government will sell the tract. The USGS estimate has always been kept secret in the past for fear that releasing it would stifle competition for the leases.

CONSERVATION LABORATORY IN N.D. Representatives of the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) told Mercer County, N.D., officials that they were continuing plans for a "rural conservation laboratory" in Mercer County, according to the *Hazen Star*. The laboratory would conduct experiments on energy conservation and the use of energy conversion plant by-products. It would also include a study of growth management to help the county deal with coal-related impact.

NIX TO NUCLEAR WASTES. The New Mexico Legislature passed a one-year moratorium on licensing radioactive waste disposal after a private corporation expressed interest in locating a radioactive waste dump there. Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. has expressed interest in locating the dump near Cimarron, N.M. However, the legislature said there were too many unanswered questions about health hazards and potential costs to the state. A study by the University of New Mexico showed that only 25.3% of New Mexico residents favor disposing of radioactive wastes in the state. Over 44% opposed it.

IDAHO POWERLESS ON POWER. Idaho Attorney General Wayne Kidwell says that the Idaho legislature may have to be called into special session to give the state authority to enforce mandatory conservation, according to the *Idaho Statesman*. Thirty-one utilities in the state are submitting plans for mandatory curtailment, should drought conditions in the state necessitate such action. But, if individuals or businesses violate the rules, the *Statesman* says, Idaho is virtually powerless to enforce penalties. The Public Utilities Commission says that the most effective enforcement would be for the utilities themselves to cut off electricity to violators.

WYO. SITING AGENCY HIT. The Wyoming Supreme Court chastised the Wyoming Industrial Siting Administration for denying access to public meeting transcript to the Laramie River Conservation Council. LRCC is a group of farmers, ranchers, and environmentalists contesting the permit for the Wheatland power plant under construction by the Missouri Basin Power Project. The transcript in question was one of the public meetings on the matter. In another development on the project, an independent consultant's report has found eight structural defects in the design of the Grayrocks Dam, the power plant's major water source. The dam design was one of the issues raised by LRCC over the siting permit.



The Hot Line

energy news from across the country

NEW BLM HEAD? Coal Week has heard that Jim Ruch is among the top candidates being discussed by the Administration to be director of the Bureau of Land Management. Ruch is associate director of BLM's California office and was a special assistant to former Fish and Wildlife Assistant Secretary Nat Reed. He has also served as the National Wildlife Federation's Southwest field representative. BLM Director Curt Berkland is expected to resign soon, according to Coal Week.

VERMONT NIXES NUCLEAR. At annual town meetings, people in more than 20 Vermont communities approved resolutions to prohibit nuclear power plants and radioactive wastes in their state. At least two-thirds of the towns that considered the resolution approved it by wide margins. The Vermont Public Interest Research Group led the effort to have the question considered.

NEW NUCLEAR. A nuclear reactor that is supposed to avoid the problems of waste disposal and minimize the danger of nuclear sabotage is being tested by scientists at the Energy Research and Development Administration's (ERDA) Los Alamos, N.M., laboratory. The device, called a gaseous fuel nuclear reactor, transforms thorium fuel into a gas called uranium hexafluoride. Only about 22 pounds of weapons-grade uranium would be in the reactor at any one time, and any attempt to

remove it would shut down the reactor, scientists say. The device is supposed to eliminate the problem of long-lived radioactive wastes by burning them up within the reactor or splitting them into shorter-lived lighter elements. Saul Strauch, an assistant director of nuclear research at ERDA warns, however, that the gaseous fuel reactor is a "way-out concept" that has "all sorts of licensing, technical, and safety complications," some of which center around the fact that heated uranium hexafluoride is extremely corrosive.

TIME-OF-DAY RATES. To encourage energy conservation, seven states have instituted time-of-day utility rates. Under the time-of-day plan, high rates are charged during peak demand periods to discourage use. The states are Connecticut, New Jersey, Georgia, Florida, Vermont, California, and Wisconsin.

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STOCKHOLDERS ASSESS NUKES Stockholders of Iowa Power and Light Co. will vote on an anti-nuclear proposal April 27. The proposal recommends that the utility rely on coal, other alternative fuels, "aggressive" conservation, and peak load expansion instead of building a nuclear fission power plant in central Iowa, according to *Energy Daily*. The measure is sponsored by several Iowa Power stockholders.

CLAMSHELL SIT-IN. Members of the Clamshell Alliance plan a sit-in at the site of a proposed nuclear power plant in Seabrook, N.H., until construction plans are "permanently and irrevocably cancelled." The vigil is expected to begin April 30. "Increasing numbers of anti-nukers are realizing that they are pounding their heads against a stone wall by trying to halt the suicidal tide of nuclear power through state and federal regulatory agencies," says Kristie Conrad of the alliance.

Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

After years of compromise with a Republican administration opposed to strict controls over strip mining of coal, environmentalists now are at work trying to undo their compromising.

However, the weakening changes are remaining despite a new administration that is fighting alongside — and amidst — the environmentalists to sharpen the bill back to its younger days.

Interior Sec. Cecil Andrus this month wrote a letter to Congress saying that the bill is not tough enough, and sent along some proposals he believes will strengthen the bill. Among the proposals are two whoppers — an outright ban on strip mining in all alluvial valley floors of the West and a sharp limitation on the amount of money landowners can receive for permitting strip mining on their land for federally-owned coal.

Those are the two Western issues that have done more in recent years to jar the nerves of the congressmen working on the bill than they would like to remember.

President Gerald Ford cited an alluvial valley floor ban as a major reason for his veto of the bill two years ago. He said such a ban would lead to a yearly loss of up to 66 million tons of coal production. Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.), then an instrumental member of the House Interior Committee, tried to draw up compromise language so the ban would apply only to valley areas where farming was being practiced. A form of that compromise is in the bill now, and Andrus wants it taken out.

"Alluvial valley floors will require strong protection if these important areas are to maintain their hydrological integrity and usefulness for farming and range use," Andrus said in his letter. The bill should be changed, he said, "so as not to exempt undeveloped rangelands or small areas where mining would have a negligible impact on agricultural or livestock production."

"Because information about effects of mining in alluvial valley floors is relatively embryonic and the administrative determination of where these exemptions would apply may be particularly difficult," he said, "it appears preferable to clearly exclude mining from the alluvial valley floor without land use exception."

On the question of landowner protection over strip mining of their land for federal coal, Andrus is showing more concern for the land than the environmentalist-

rancher groups that have lobbied for the bill. Sen. Clifford Hansen (R-Wyo.) has championed the cause of Powder River Basin ranchers who want to freely bargain with the coal companies over the price for mining coal under their land. He won a skirmish of sorts in the past bill by successfully defeating a stipulation that the price of a landowner's permission should not be influenced by the fact that coal lies beneath his land. Andrus wants that stipulation back in.

The landowner's consent for strip mining

should be written, given before leasing, and available only to legitimate ranchers and farmers, he said. "We also recommend with regard to the compensation formula provided . . . that fair market value be defined to exclude the value of the coal resource."

The House bill is under consideration by the Interior Committee and is expected to be reported to the House floor soon. The Carter Administration has been active in pushing its environmental proposals, and

they can be expected to emerge as amendments there. In the Senate, the newly-named Energy and Natural Resources Committee has yet to take up the major issues in the bill.

The result of all this not only could mean the difference between a tough strip mining bill and a conciliatory one. It will also tell us a lot about Carter's influence with Congress over natural resource issues, and how much — if any — it has been impeded by his proposed cutback of water projects.

New nuke policy has something for everyone

In order to prevent the spread of dangerous radioactive materials throughout the world, President Jimmy Carter has halted plutonium reprocessing and slowed down the breeder reactor program.

Plutonium is the radioactive element which is both a fuel for and a by-product of the breeder reactor. It is among the most poisonous substances known to man and can be readily transformed from a fuel into a bomb.

Carter's new nuclear policy is a radical enough departure from the Ford Administration policy to be a hot topic of conversation. At the same time, it is middle-of-the-road enough to be a target of criticism for both advocates and critics of nuclear power.

By environmentalists, the policy has been alternately praised for being morally responsible and fiscally sound, and criticized as an attempt to defuse the opposition to nuclear power by separating the plutonium issue from the issue of the safety of light water fission reactors.

Others have called it foolish foreign policy. As many critics have put it, it's a nice idea, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, but it won't work.

Energy Daily found the president's statement "so artfully worded that it is possible to read almost anything into it, depending upon one's persuasion."

Ralph Nader, while praising Carter's stand on plutonium, accused him of trying to defuse opposition to nuclear power with the move. The strategy won't work, Nader says, because no more than five per cent of the people who oppose nuclear power do so solely out of opposition to plutonium reprocessing or the breeder reactor.

Overall, Carter's position represents a "pull-back from the positions he took in the

pre-election campaign," according to Nader.

Nuclear supporters were reported to be somewhat relieved by the statement. While Carter did delay the Clinch River breeder reactor program, he did not completely scrap it. He merely asked that the program be "restructured."

His breeder position was criticized by Friends of the Earth, a national environmental group, because "it may seriously undermine the effect of this as a non-proliferation policy."

A *Wall Street Journal* editorial about the policy concluded that plutonium reprocessing is a waste of money. It would cost

\$500 million for the government to complete the Barnwell, S.C., reprocessing plant. "No one in the nuclear industry has ever made a profit," according to the editorial. "Something about nuclear power has clouded ordinary commercial judgments, and it looks to us as if Mr. Carter is stopping the industry from doing it again."

Westerners have been wondering whether delay of the breeder reactor, which produced its own fuel in the form of plutonium, might increase the need for uranium fuel. Wyoming State Geologist Dan Miller predicts that uranium mining activity in Wyoming would be stimulated by the new policy.

Carter's nuclear policy

In his April 7 nuclear power policy statement President Jimmy Carter announced his decisions to:

1. "defer indefinitely the commercial reprocessing and recycling of the plutonium produced in the U.S. nuclear power programs.
2. "restructure the U.S. breeder reactor program to give greater priority to alternative designs of the breeder, and to defer the date when breeder reactors would be put into commercial use.
3. "redirect funding of U.S. nuclear research and development programs to accelerate our research into alternative nuclear fuel cycles which do not involve direct access to materials usable in nuclear weapons.
4. "increase U.S. production capacity

for enriched uranium to provide an adequate and timely supply of nuclear fuels for domestic and foreign needs.

5. "propose the necessary legislative steps to permit the U.S. to offer nuclear fuel supply contracts and guarantee delivery of such fuel to other countries.

6. "continue to embargo the export of equipment or technology that would permit uranium enrichment and chemical reprocessing.

7. "continue discussions with supplying and recipient countries alike, of a wide range of international approaches and frameworks that will permit all nations to achieve their energy objectives while reducing the spread of nuclear explosive capability."

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Tree farmer. . .

(continued from page 1)

close friend, the painter Sanford R. Gifford.

Despite their wealth and conservatism in social matters, the Pinchots shared a decided liberal bent. They brought up Gifford to be a model of the Victorian gentleman, with a highly developed sense of justice for the underdog. He entered Yale in 1885, coddled, idealistic, a little Lord Fauntleroy, but for all that determined to prove his rugged individualism and find a righteous mission for his life. He played football and conducted daily prayer meetings. Referring to his Spartan habits, classmates spread the rumor that he slept on a wooden pillow; years later his political enemies would characterize him as a snob and a prude. He was in fact a high-minded — and rich — rebel.

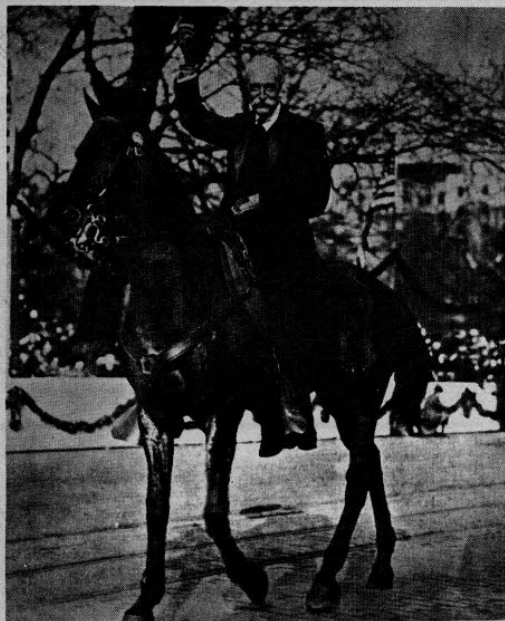
Though for centuries and by necessity Europeans had husbanded their limited forest resources, little concern for the future seemed necessary in the United States. In the vast forests of the land of opportunity, lumbermen practiced only one policy, "cut and run." They skimmed off the cream, leaving behind a waste of scattered slash and eroding hillsides; always ahead were more trees.

During the Civil War, when few were listening, the country's first ecologist, George Perkins Marsh, warned in *Man And Nature* that, "... we are, even now, breaking up the floor and wainscoting and doors and window frames of our dwelling..." By the 1870s and 1880s some Americans were wringing their hands over the consequences. Concerned laymen organized the American Forestry Association in 1875, and a year later Congress mandated a study of the worsening situation. In 1881 it created the Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture, the germ of the present Forest Service.

Sitting in his imitation French chateau in Milford, Penn., James Pinchot joined the first and feeble voices for change and urged his son, who reveled in the outdoors, to consider forestry as a profession. At the time, however, there were no schools of forestry in the United States; there were no jobs for foresters. When Gifford announced to a friend, "I am going to be a forester," the classmate puzzled, "What's that?" "That's why I am going to be a forester," replied the young Pinchot.

The glove was thrown down; he had a cause. And his patriotic ideas about forestry — that the nation couldn't survive unless it managed its woodlands for the long-term common good — would expand to a wider social philosophy, would make a trust-busting politician of him and an early advocate of civil rights. For the time being, he had to satisfy himself at Yale with courses in botany, geology, and mathematics.

When their son was graduated in 1889, the indulgent Pinchots financed his trip to Europe. The young man struck up a friendship with Dr. Detrich Brandis, Germany's authority on silviculture. Concerned about the chaotic state of forests in the United



GIFFORD PINCHOT brought the practice of forestry to the United States. While his tree farming ideas may seem unimaginative and misguided today, they were the first step towards saving America's forests from destruction by cut-and-run timber interests. Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service.

States, the fatherly Brandis applauded Pinchot's choice of career. More importantly, Brandis urged him to attend the French Forest School.

FRENCH FOREST SCHOOL

Arriving in Nancy, Pinchot was shocked at what he took to be the libertine habits of students. For a time he considered conducting a personal Christian mission among the foreigners, but after some thought concluded that the French were incorrigible.

Back in Pennsylvania, his parents must have wondered over letters documenting the rowdiness of their son's fellow future foresters. The aloofness and zeal to criticize are significant; in coming years the attitudes would not serve him well in rough-and-tumble politics. However, despite the distractions, Pinchot attacked his studies with typical thoroughness. Brandis advised him to work toward the Ph.D., but understandably the young man was impatient to put his new knowledge to work. After 13 months, Gifford Pinchot arrived home, in his mid-20's America's first native forester.

The immediate problem was what to do with his training in a country that felt little need for it. He decided to travel, to get to know the forests he envisioned himself managing. Luckily, Dr. Bernhard Fernow, a German forester in charge of the Department of Agriculture's quiescent Forest Division, invited him on an inspection tour through Arkansas. The trip thrilled Pinchot, but it also instilled in him a dislike

for Fernow. Despite the offer of a job, Pinchot decided to have nothing to do with the Forest Division as long as the domineering German ran it.

As to his career, he would have to prove on his own that scientific management of forests on a sustained-yield basis would bring greater profit than did unregulated cutting. The opportunity came in the figure of George W. Vanderbilt. Urged by the landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, the wealthy capitalist decided to set up a demonstration forestry project on his Biltmore estate in Asheville, N.C.; he asked Pinchot to supervise it.

On Groundhog Day, 1892, forestry began in America. Pinchot threw himself into the work, mapping the estate, selecting ma-

ture trees for the ax, making room only for the most valuable species. The rough logging crews wondered at the strange procedures, but at the end of the year Pinchot's meticulous bookkeeping showed a profit of \$1,220.56.

That wasn't all he had to crow about. His contract with Vanderbilt included an agreement to make a display for the Chicago World's Fair. To accompany the exhibit,

The aloofness and zeal to criticize are significant; in coming years the attitudes would not serve him well in rough-and-tumble politics.

Pinchot wrote an account of his activities, *Biltmore Forest*. Flushed with his first success, the young forester mailed the publication to newspapers across the country — a technique he would repeat scores of times with future publicity.

In the meantime, he set up an office in New York City and hung out his shingle: Consulting Forester. A poorer man would have starved, but fortunately Gifford Pinchot didn't have to worry about money. Much of the work he did for free, or merely for the expenses involved, but individuals and corporations were beginning to see that Pinchot could tell them how to make their woodlands more profitable. His name was getting around — just when America began to feel stronger twinges of concern for its forests.

To the satisfaction of early activists in the American Forestry Association, a rider attached to the Act of March 3, 1891, slipped through Congress. The little-noticed amendment allowed the President to designate forest reserves on public lands. Soon after its passage, Benjamin Harrison set aside 13 million acres in the West, thus creating the country's first national forests. When in 1896 the Secretary of the Interior asked the National Academy of Sciences for advice about reserve management, the Academy appointed Pinchot to its new National Forest Commission. At 31, he was the youngest member of the board; he was also its only trained forester, eager to promote his profession — and his career.

Next Time: Part II, The rise of the U.S. Forest Service.

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When Pinchot announced to a friend, "I am going to be a forester," the classmate puzzled, "What's that?"
"That's why I am going to be a forester," replied the young Pinchot.



Western Roundup

HCN

Feds win major California water fight

Western states lost a major water rights case to the federal government in a federal appeals court recently. The court ruled that California can't restrict the flow of river water to federally-built water projects. Fifteen Western states had joined the suit in support of California. The court said the federal government is not subject to state water regulations unless Congress specifically authorizes it. In this case, the

court determined that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation could take unappropriated water from the Stanislaus River to fill the reservoir behind the New Melones Dam, which is to be finished in 1978. California argued that the state should control the amount of water in New Melones Reservoir because Congress had not specified where the water was to go, according to an Associated Press story.

Forest Service objects to Ute claims

The U.S. Forest Service has objected to a draft agreement between the Ute Indian tribe and the state of Utah that grants the Indians the right to unrestricted hunting, fishing, trapping and boating in parts of eastern Utah including national forest lands.

Under the draft agreement, the state would only regulate non-Utes in

parts of the Uintah Basin included in the original boundaries of the Uintah-Ute Indian Reservation, according to the *Deseret News*. The Forest Service objects because nearly one million acres of national forest is included in the designated area. The Forest Service claims that the federal government purchased the national forest lands from the Utes years ago.



DESERT IRRIGATION PLANS SPAWN ENERGY GROWTH

The Idaho State Water Plan estimates that in the next 40 years a minimum of 850,000 acres of desert along the Snake River may be converted to irrigated farmland. In addition, another 250,000 acres will likely receive supplemental irrigation water. Pumping water from the Snake to the river plain above requires huge amounts of energy and depletes the water in the river that would ordinarily flow past downstream dams where hydroelectric power is generated. The Department of Water Resources predicts the need for two 1,000 megawatt power plants for irrigation demands alone, if development continues as anticipated.

Photo of irrigated desert farms above the Snake River courtesy of the Idaho Department of Commerce and Development.

Utilities won't allow fish free passage

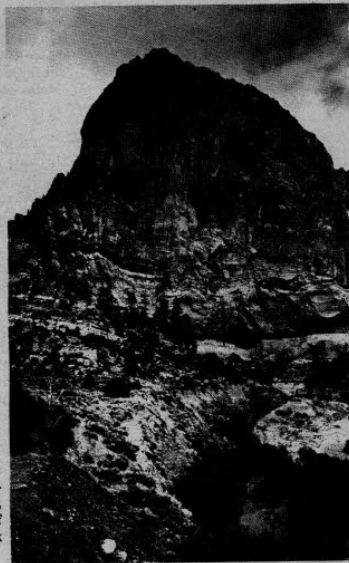
Officials of three public utility districts in Washington have refused to let enough water flow over their hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River to allow salmon and steelhead to migrate safely to sea. As a result, more than a million fish could die in the dams' power turbines. The officials in Chelan, Douglas, and Grant counties control the only five dams on the Columbia that are non-federal. They claim that because of the drought, they need to provide

all the hydroelectric power they can to their customers. The governors of Oregon, Idaho, and Washington as well as Interior Sec. Cecil Andrus, the Corps of Engineers, the Bonneville Power Administration, and the Bureau of Reclamation, have all asked for enough spill water to save the fish. Andrus has asked the Federal Power Commission to require the utilities to spare the fish. Peak migration is the last week in April and the first two weeks in May.

BIGHORNS RESTORED

The Utah Division of Wildlife and the National Park Service have transplanted captive bred desert bighorn sheep into Zion National Park. Bighorns had lived in Zion Canyon up until the early 1950s. The state hopes to reestablish bighorns in other areas and eventually manage the herds outside the park for hunting. The bighorns are captive bred in an 80-acre enclosure near the Zion visitor's center and are transplanted by helicopter.

Photo of Zion Canyon by Fred Mang, Jr. and courtesy of the National Park Service.



Nature Conservancy seeds grass park

The Nature Conservancy recently purchased 7,200 acres of virgin tallgrass prairie in Kansas to serve as the seed for a proposed Tallgrass Prairie National Park. Legislation is being introduced in Congress this year to create the park. Backers of the proposal, "Save the Tallgrass Prairie, Inc.," say they are fighting the battle for one per cent of the last one per cent of tallgrass prairie in the nation. Cattlemen are said to oppose the proposal, saying

needed grazing lands would be lost and the increased tourism would further impact the area.

Local preservationists have received the support of several environmental groups including the Friends of the Earth, National Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club. For more information, write Save the Tallgrass Prairie, Inc., 4101 W. 54th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kan. 66205.

Big Sky road bypasses roadblock

Although a lawsuit is still pending, it appears that work on the road to the Big Sky ski resort in Montana will move forward. A U.S. district court judge in Missoula refused a request by two environmental groups for an injunction, pending the appeals court decision. The case is at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The National Forest Preservation Group and the Montana Wilderness Association argue that federal funds should not be used to finance the road.

Meanwhile, a proposed transmission line to Big Sky across a proposed wilderness is being held up by a wilderness study bill introduced by Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.).

Gustav Raam, chairman of the board of Big Sky of Montana Realty, Inc., is urging the Senate to amend the bill to allow the power line. He says the resort's present supply is unreliable and sometimes leaves "skiers hanging in the air" on ski lifts, according to an Associated Press report.

Polar bears threatened, but stable

The world's polar bear population — the subject of intense study for the past several years — appears stable with a conservative estimate of 20,000 animals worldwide, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported to Congress recently. The greatest threat to these bears is posed by oil and gas exploration, drilling, and extraction on the North Slope of Alaska. Human activity in and near denning areas could cause fewer bears to come ashore to den and, therefore, to den on the sea ice. It could also prompt mother bears to desert land dens earlier than normal, taking cubs to sea prematurely. Oil spills from offshore

drilling rigs or tankers could reduce the insulating value of the bears' fur as well as damage the food chain below these carnivores. There is a potential for development along the entire north Alaska coast from Point Hope to the Canadian border. USFWS reports.

This information was published in the Administration and Status Report of the Marine Mammal Protection Act submitted to Congress in late 1976. A limited number of copies are available to the public by writing to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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DISTAFF CORNER

by Myra Connell

As a theme song for this year of the drought, 1977, I suggest "Cool Water."

On a recent flight to the West Coast, the scarcity of snow in the mountains of northern California was all too obvious. Mt. Shasta, usually a cone of unbroken white, showed bare ridges. The captain called attention to the depleted reservoirs.

Signs in the rest-rooms at the San Francisco airport read "PLEASE turn taps off. Help save our water."

In central Oregon drought competed with the price of coffee as a topic for conversation. Five inches of rain brought forth the worn cliché "only a drop in the bucket." The media admonished the populace to ration voluntarily. The television camera followed the meter-reader in one town where each household is limited to 57 gallons per day, later reduced to 40 gallons. Forty gallons per day would have seemed pure luxury to our family of 11, where I lived on a dry land homestead near Lander, Wyo., about 60 years ago.

With our last electric bill, Pacific Power and Light Co. enclosed a leaflet of suggestions for saving water. Example: 20 gallons are normally used by a man in shaving, the tap left running, which can be cut to one gallon if the basin is filled. Under conservative use, one-half gallon would be allowed for brushing one's teeth. Who needs



a whole half-gallon? I can easily get by, and rinse my brush, too, with a cupful.

Comparing these generous amounts with our water usage on the homestead, I am highly amused and amazed.

During our first years on the homestead, before construction of the irrigation ditch was completed, we had no water excepting that brought in wooden barrels by horse and wagon from the nearest stream three miles away. In winter the plentiful snow was melted on the kitchen range. An awful lot of snow had to be lugged in and melted to make a pail of water. Therefore, every drop was precious; furthermore, most water was not to use just once.

We had ingenious ways of recycling. Dishsuds was saved for mopping floors; the rinse water re-used as suds for the next batch of dishes. Laundry was carefully sorted, the cleanest batch (dish towels) always washed first, followed by others in order of degree of soil. Rinse water from laundry was saved for bathing; all the children bathed in one tub of water. We drew straws to decide which kid got the first bath.

Readers may say "Yes, BUT, you didn't have to worry about a dishwasher, automatic washing machine, or flush toilet." True, we did not. In many ways, life was simpler.

There was no water supply at our one-room log school either, so we melted snow on top of the heating stove, or carried a pail from the nearest well, half a mile away. When one was thirsty, he took only what he wished to drink; to pour out any was almost criminal.

Luxury to us in those days was a pan of soft rain water caught as it ran off a roof, in which to wash our hair.

We who have lived through times like those may know some aspects of conservation that we could share with folks of an affluent generation whose idea of deprivation is making do with a mere half-gallon of water for brushing their teeth.



LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

At issue out West is the water,
Not for the cow, sheep, or otter,
But for Indian claims
Older'n Custer's remains,
The states, once distraught, are distraught-
ter.

SOLAR ABSTRACTS

Solar Energy Update, a monthly abstract journal from the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) is available on a subscription basis. Update is an ongoing supplement to ERDA's Solar Energy: a Bibliography which contains pre-1976 solar abstracts. Prices and order numbers are as follows: Bibliography, Vol. 1, Citations, (TID-3351-RIP1), \$13.75; Bibliography, Vol. 2, Indexes, (TID-3351-RIP2), \$11.00; Update, (NTISUB-C-145), \$27.50 per year or \$3.25 per issue. Order from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, Va. 22161.

WYO. LAND USE MEETING

The Wyoming State Land Use Commission will meet in Worland at the Hotel Washakie on April 28 at 9:00 a.m. Items on the agenda include a legislative analysis, the commission's critical areas program, status of and a review process for local land use plans, and a tentative outline for the state land use plan. The meeting is open to the public.

ELKHORN WILDERNESS STUDY

The U.S. Forest Service is conducting a study of the Elkhorn roadless area south of Helena, Mont., for possible wilderness designation. To receive a periodic newsletter on the progress of the study, write to Elkhorn Wilderness Study, Helena National Forest, 616 Helena Ave., Helena, Mont. 59601.

TETON JETPORT HEARINGS

Public hearings on the Jackson Hole Airport Master Plan will be held on May 5 in the basement of the Teton County Courthouse in Jackson, Wyo., at 7:30 p.m. The master plan calls for allowing the existing airport to remain within Grand Teton National Park and recommends extending the runway to accommodate commercial jet aircraft. An informational meeting on the plan will be held at 7:30 p.m. on May 4 at the same location.

BLACK HILLS TIMBER PLAN

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has released a final environmental impact statement (EIS) for timber management in the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota and Wyoming. Copies of the EIS are available from USFS, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730.



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HCN Bulletin Board



ALTERNATE ENERGY

A citizens group interested in alternate energy projects, Fremont Energy Research, has formed in Lander, Wyo. The group hopes to work on community projects, collect data on devices they build, and locate inexpensive sources of materials. They have proposed a solar water heater for the Popo Agie Senior Citizens Center in Lander. The group plans to meet twice a month and will sponsor both informative speakers and practical building sessions for the public. Dues are \$5 per year. For more information contact Forrest Parker, 510 Main St., Lander, Wyo. 82520.

WYOMING POLLUTION

Committees are being formed by the Wyoming State Conservation Commission to inventory water pollution problems in Crook, Weston, Niobrara, Platte, Goshen, Laramie, Albany, Converse, Natrona, Carbon, Fremont, and Sublette counties. Public participation is needed. Interested persons should contact Dwight W. Kimsey, 208 Project Director, Wyoming Conservation Commission, 2219 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, Wyo. 82002.

GILLETTE COAL EIS

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has released a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed Kerr-McGee strip mine east of Gillette, Wyo. The mine would be located on both sides of Interstate 90. Copies of the EIS are available from USGS, 101 National Center, Reston, Va. 22092. Comments should be sent to the same address.

DROUGHT CONFERENCE

A conference will be held in Omaha, Neb., on May 3 and 4 to discuss the implications of the current drought and the role of state governments in determining water use policies in concert with the federal government. Registration is \$25. To register, write to the Missouri River Basin Commission, Suite 403, 10050 Regency Circle, Omaha, Neb., 68114, or phone (402) 397-5714.

WILDERNESS COURSES

The University of the Wilderness, a non-profit educational organization, is offering two courses this summer: "Environmental Education Live-in" and "Wilderness Politics." Both can be taken for college credit. Many non-credit educational trips are also planned. For details write: University of the Wilderness, 29952 Dorothy Rd., Evergreen, Colo. 80439.

WYOMING MINERALS

The Wyoming Geological Survey has released an updated, color edition of **Minerals and Rocks of Wyoming**. Copies are \$2 from P.O. Box 3008, University Station, Laramie, Wyo. 82071. Ask for Bulletin 56.

SOLAR METER

The December 1976 issue of **Popular Electronics** has an article by Warren Jochem on how to build a cheap device to measure solar radiation. The article is entitled "Measure the Sun with a Solar Radiometer."

GASIFICATION EIS

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) has released a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed ANG coal gasification complex planned for north of Beulah, N.D. The EIS discusses impacts of the complex, cumulative effects from an adjacent 880 megawatt coal-fired power plant proposed by Basin Electric, and withdrawal of 17,000 acre-feet of water from Lake Sakakawea to supply the gasification plant. Hearings will be held in Beulah on May 10 and in Bismarck at the Holiday Inn on May 11. Copies of the EIS are available from the Regional Director, 415, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 2553, Billings, Mont. 59103. Written comments should be sent to BuRec at the above address this month.



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Land Use Controls in the United States

A Handbook
on the Legal
Rights of Citizens
by
The Natural Resources
Defense Council, Inc.

Elaine Moss, Ed., The Dial Press, New York, 1977. \$7.95 paperback, \$15.95 hardcover, 362 pages.

Review by Peter Wild

I just heard on the radio that an acid rain spawned in Germany's industrial Ruhr Valley traveled hundreds of miles north to kill salmon in Norway. So if you're a little homestead tucked away in some last wild and sane corner of this mad technological world, you can feel lucky. But don't break your arm patting yourself on the back while spooning homemade yogurt and watching the ducks frolic in the barnyard. Someday in your reverie you're going to see a convoy of strip-mining monsters churning over the hill or have your ears shattered by a Concorde ripping the sky apart.

There seems to be no escape from this age. There's a sinister Old Testament ring of cataclysm about it. And whether or not the visitations are as dramatic as those suggested, still the processes keep eating away at our world.

Land Use Controls sums itself up in the first sentence: "Land is our most fundamental natural resource." This realization moved the foresighted business minds of

Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot to begin federal conservation programs. They knew that Spain's deserts were not a geological accident, but the gift to the future of too many sheep — or as John Muir called them, "hooved locusts."

As the book details chapter by chapter, a nation's approach to land affects its air and water; its coastal, swamp, and flood zones; transportation facilities; construction industry; public domain — just about everything.

But that's only half the story. The chapters do more than analyze the problems. Following through on the promise of the subtitle, **A Handbook On The Legal Rights Of Citizens**, it explains how individuals can get legal handles on the issues.

For example — and this should be of interest to HCN readers, many of them in the target zones of development — what does a community do when it wants to preserve its small-town atmosphere against the stratagems of big-city entrepreneurs? It follows the example of Petaluma, Calif., which enacted slow-growth zoning ordinances. The construction industry howled last year when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the town's proposal. As the book says, "Consequently, the adoption of plans similar to Petaluma's is expected to take place in many other communities."

Or what steps do you take when rumormongers start flying that a freeway will demolish your neighborhood? What can you do to protect a favorite hiking spot under the Wild And Scenic Rivers Act? Even in 362 pages the book, of course, can't tell everything, but it supplies enough solid legal advice and plenty of case histories to make the bureaucrats sweat. Step by step, it takes the reader through the complexities of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act — sharp tools for those who know how to use them.

A note of approbation: **Land Use Controls** is compiled by members of the Natural Resources Defense Council — tough but idealistic people with wide experience in battling strip mines, stream channelization, unnecessary dams, and other schemes designed to divide the nation into bite-sized bits. Along with most librarians, old cowboys, and violinists, these people, if they don't inherit this world, surely will have clean air, pure

water, and endless forests in the next one.

Copies of **Land Use Controls** may be ordered directly from NRDC, Box B, 15 W. 44th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036.

The Riddle of the Winds

a comprehensive book about
winds and their influence on man
...everyday winds, domestic and
exotic, beneficial and devastating
by W.S. Kals

by W. S. Kals, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, New York, 1977. \$7.95, hardcover, 201 pages. Illustrated by the author.

Review by Peter Wild

What causes the wind to blow? Trees, of course. When they move, there's a breeze. But what about winds on the plains? Well, they're the result of trees moving just over the horizon — so some ancients believed.

Applying his famous pure logic, Aristotle added the mythology: the wind causes earthquakes when it rushes into holes. Though, to be fair, it should be noted that he also came uncannily close to scientific truth on occasion.

The Riddle Of The Winds is full of such delights — a rich background even for those not itching to write off to suppliers for windmill kits. Nevertheless, the author points those who can't resist to the thorough list of dealers in the October 1976 **Popular Mechanics**.

Not long ago newspapers were pooh-poohing alternative energy sources — sun, wind, geothermal — as interesting speculations, impractical for the next few generations. Suddenly there's a turnaround, a general awareness of how close the world is to scraping the bottom of the coal bin and the oil barrel. Nuclear energy, which, industry and government assured us, would supply unlimited fixes for our energy addiction, appears ever more Faustian. Meanwhile, utility bills continue to soar. The alternatives are beginning to look good — increasingly inexpensive, workable, perhaps soon necessary on a large scale.

Catching the upbeat, factories now mass-produce windmills and solar systems. For their part, publishers are supplying do-it-yourself texts. What is needed are broad studies giving background for each of the alternatives. **The Riddle Of The Winds** is just this, a thorough but pleasurable survey ranging from the role of winds

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in history (They saved Japan from the Mongols, the English from the Spanish Armada.) to weather forecasting and workings of the fixed-wing wind generator.

Teachers especially might make handy use of the book. W. S. Kals explains in clear but not condescending prose how to read weather maps; he details the Coriolis effect and the development of storms, information that will help students grasp the dynamics of the environment.

To illustrate wind theories, he suggests the dishpan experiment and the tornado box. With a little ingenuity they can be built even in a small laboratory. Their workings are sure to fascinate the classroom. To top it off, at \$7.95 the book is a steal.

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Plenum Publishing Corporation says that a number of HCN readers wrote for a copy of **Genesis Strategy** by Stephen Schneider after we printed a review of the book that listed the price at \$8.95. But alas, the price was too good for book fanciers to be true, says Plenum. The real price is \$14.95. We're sorry if our error inconvenienced anyone.

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNTERSUITS. Lately, conservationists suing to protect the environment have faced a new hazard — the threat of countersuits by developers. The **Los Angeles Times** reports that developers have summoned their environmental foes into civil court on charges ranging from trespassing to defamation of character. Environmentalists' lawyers say they can't recall any such suits being won by the developers in recent years — but it does take time and money to defend yourself, they note.

ENDANGERED PLANTS. Federal fish and wildlife botanists have listed 523 potentially endangered plants in Utah, Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming and Arizona, according to the **Deseret News**. Nationwide, there are about 1,700 candidates for the endangered list.

LOGGERS BUCK ANDRUS. Three lumber companies, Arcata National, Simpson Timber, and Louisiana-Pacific, have refused a request by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus that they defer cutting of old growth Redwood trees on 50,000 acres of land being considered as an addition to Redwood National Park. The **Sierra Club's National News Report** says that Andrus asked for a 180-day suspension of activity, but the companies said the request was "an unreasonable and unjustified action."

Classifieds

POSITIONS. National Center for Appropriate Technology is recruiting for several professional positions: Associate Coordinator of Research and Information, Conference Workshop Supervisor, Contract Manager, Supervisor of Field Operations, Research Analyst, Magazine Editor, Policy Research Writer, Technical Research Writer, Accountant, Clerk Typist. NCAT is a new, non-profit federally funded organization, concerned with research, demonstrations, grants, training and information, and applying small scale technologies to energy or other problems experienced by other low income communities. All positions are available immediately. Resumes or further information should be directed to NCAT, P.O. Box 3838, Butte, Mont. 59701 (406) 723-6533. NCAT is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer m-f.

PHOTOGRAPHY WANTED. Faces of Women By Women. Now accepting photographic submissions for exhibit, book. Alexis Parks, Box 1917, Boulder, Colo. 80306.

FOOTRACE. High Country News is sponsoring the First Annual Lander Citizens Footrace to be held on June 5, 1977. The five-mile race will be run over a course to be announced later. Classes of competition will be announced when the amount of interest has been determined. A \$1 entry fee will be collected, and the winners of the various classes will divide the proceeds. If you are interested in entering, please call Sarah Doll at 332-3929 or Joan Nice at the HCN office, 332-4877. (A pro class, with appropriate fees shall be added if the need arises.)

GUIDE FOR USING HORSES IN MOUNTAIN COUNTRY SECOND PRINTING — 15 pages, available from The Montana Wilderness Association, Box 84, Bozeman, Montana 59715. Single copy \$7.5, 2 to 10 \$5.0 ea, 10 to 100 \$3.5 ea, 100 plus \$2.0 ea. Postpaid. (Proceeds go to MWA.)

"CANYON COUNTRY HIKING AND NATURAL HISTORY." Barnes, 176 pages, illustrated, \$3.95ppd. Hiking trails and routes in southeastern Utah. F. A. Barnes, Box 963, Moab, Utah 84532.

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In The Old Railway Yard

Plugging leaks

BRI corners market on what no one wants to do

by Joan Nice

Brothers Redevelopment Inc. is basically a do-good organization. But since the energy crisis hit, it has joined the ranks of the solar energy pioneers in Denver as well.

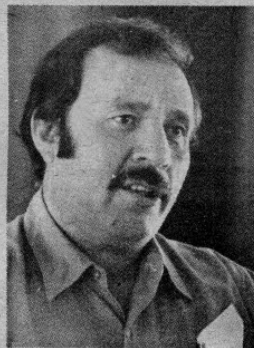
BRI, a very small firm in the business of helping low-income people improve their homes, can't afford to experiment with what may prove to be impractical or expensive. As a result, it is building solar projects that it believes will save the most fuel for the least cost.

With technical help from Malcolm Lillywhite of Evergreen, Colo., and the University of Colorado, BRI has installed a low-cost solar water heater and solar greenhouse at a duplex in Denver. From the experience BRI has had with the greenhouse and the water heater, Joe Giron, a director of BRI, is convinced that simple solar devices will quickly pay for themselves in reduced utility bills. The next step is to provide conclusive data to the banking community, Giron says, so that more low-income people can take advantage of the sun.

BRI is a nonprofit corporation. Using mainly volunteer labor, the organization has helped repair 199 homes since it began in 1972.

BRI and its supporters are "guerillas" in a friendly revolution to help low-income people get a solid, energy-conserving home, Giron says. It's not an easy task when new homes are out of the price range of 80% of the American public, he says.

Lately, BRI has put much of its efforts into reducing people's utility bills



JOE GIRON suggests a switch from worship of "the almighty dollar" to concentration on "the biggest, best institution this country is gifted with — the home."

mainly by insulating and plugging leaks. Solar energy devices are beginning to play a small, but increasingly important, role in this effort.

BRI and its mission have attracted money from charitable organizations, private businesses, and churches. The core staff of three is paid for out of a \$40,000 budget. But materials and manpower donated by other organizations extend BRI's reach beyond its small means. The full-time staff numbers about 20 now, although

Giron says he'll often have 60 people working for him on a given day.

BRI also depends upon the altruism of its staff. Bob Bueno, the group's master plumber, says he made twice as much money working on the Jim Bridger Power Plant near Rock Springs, Wyo., but he likes BRI. Seasoned tradesmen like Bueno are not always easy to hang onto, Giron says.

BUGS

Not everybody is eager to try out solar energy devices on their home, no matter how cheap they are, Giron admits. After BRI had built and worked the bugs out of a solar water heating system on one home in Denver, the owner made them take it down. BRI had purchased a faulty storage tank which almost burst in the attic. Even after BRI had replaced the tank, the homeowner looked up at his ceiling and said, "if it breaks, I'm in trouble," and asked them to remove it, Giron says.

The system has since been moved and is operating without mishap on a duplex near Fourth and Fox in Denver.

However disappointing that incident must have been for BRI, it has not dampened the group's enthusiasm for solar water heating. Bueno thinks he can lower the \$500 cost of the 80-gallon pumpless heater BRI built even further. Commercially available hot water heaters cost three to four times as much as BRI's.

RECYCLED MATERIAL

Since BRI does most of its work with volunteer labor (supervised by a skilled staff), they have certain advantages over other companies in the housing business.

For one thing, they can afford to recycle materials.

"BRI is cornering the market on what nobody else wants to do," Giron says. "Construction companies throw away materials. They can't pay \$11 an hour to pull nails. But we can get volunteers to do it."

Last fall BRI and the Domestic Technology Institute (DTI—Malcolm Lillywhite's firm) built a 10 x 16 foot solar greenhouse behind the duplex with the solar water heater. The well-insulated building, made of wood and fiberglass, is now producing lettuce, cucumbers, green beans, and tomato plants, Giron says.

The next step for BRI may be construction of a solar-heated duplex in the Denver area. Two University of Colorado students working for BRI won prizes in an architectural contest for their plans for the project. Exxon Foundation has expressed interest in funding it, Giron says.

NOT GIVING AWAY

Giron emphasizes that BRI is not giving things away. If they are able, homeowners pay for the materials it takes to fix their homes. They often work hand-in-hand with BRI volunteers. Occasionally BRI purchases a house through condemnation proceedings, makes the purchase livable, and then sells it back to a low-income person at a reasonable price.

"We're not big enough to run a giveaway program," Giron says. "Let the kids do that."

Some find the fact that little BRI has even survived the last few money-tight years amazing. The reason seems to be the group's awareness of politics as well as poverty.

"We remind politicians that every home we fix has voters in it," Giron says. "And we remind taxpayers we're building a tax base for the city."

BRI pushes a philosophy, too. Giron suggests a switch from worship of "the almighty dollar" to concentration on "the biggest, best institution this country is gifted with — the home."

He quotes a passage from James Michener's *Centennial* on the subject: "For the home of any living thing is important, both for itself and for the larger society of which it is a part."

BRI weaves that philosophy into practical action by making "the home in every life we touch more thermally efficient," Giron says.

For more information contact BRI at 885 Delaware in Denver, Colo., 80204, telephone (303) 573-5107 or 573-7717.

Dear Friends,

We had a tough time getting the information for this week's story on Indian water rights, and at times, it looked as if we might have to abandon our idea. It wasn't the legal research or the facts and figures about the basin that were the challenge. It was getting the Indians' viewpoint, which we consider critical to full coverage of the issue.

We rammed straight into many of the same obstacles we'd met on other Indian natural resource stories, and it reminded us of some reasons why the Indians' side of issues is rarely covered in newspapers in this region (except for *The Missoulian* in Montana). The biggest reason, of course, is lack of interest on the editors' part in what the Indians have to say. Sold mainly to non-Indian readers, the newspaper needs only to appeal to them, many editors seem to think.

In addition, the reservations are usually remote from the population centers where most daily newspapers are published, the issues are complex, and often the tribal leaders are unwilling to talk with the press.

They can't be blamed for their reluctance. They read the stories on the "Montanans Opposed to Discrimination" and the "Wyoming Citizens for Equality" who object to abiding by Indian law when they're on reservations, while insisting that Indians obey the white man's law when they

go outside the reservations.

They read the *Casper Star-Tribune* editorial that implied their claims to water are motivated not by their desire to improve their reservations but by "an army of paleface attorneys" who want "fat fees."

The Interior Department finally proposes that when their rights to water are recognized, they can make their own plans for water use on their reservations. Then the Indians see full page ads (paid for by whites' rights groups) exhorting the public to object.

Knowing how they're usually covered, we can certainly understand the Indians' reluctance to subject themselves voluntarily to press treatment.

But on the other hand, they can hardly afford not to. It's another case where if the tribes want to win some battles with non-Indians, they will have to use this white man's weapon: the media.

Of course, we're prejudiced. Since we're newspaper editors, we happen to think that communicating can only help a cause.

Keeping quiet doesn't stop discussion of Indian issues. Their actions are considered some of the top news subjects—at least when they affect non-Indians by imposing coal taxes, initiating law and order codes, cutting off fishing, or claiming water.

The Indians only get "good press" when they take the initiative and speak at public hearings or issue press releases. A good example is the letter

written by Northern Cheyenne Tribal Chairman Allen Rowland offering to buy the town of Decker, Mont.

Using humor as the tool, Rowland conveyed some of the tribes' feelings about the abuses Indians have faced throughout their history and some of the frustrations of their present situation. "After an unknown duration on this continent, we were finally extended 'full' citizenship in the 1920s... The schedule (to give Decker residents tribal memberships) would be worked out with approximately the same time frame in mind. In the meantime, we would exercise our trust responsibility to you, as adopted members of the Northern Cheyenne tribe."

We're not denying that there are risks involved for the Indians when they open up communications. A poor newspaper reporter may insert his or her anti-Indian bias into reporting, so the public still may not get a fair picture. An overly "sympathetic" reporter might embarrass the Indians by being too maudlin.

The responsible newspaper reporter will have to find a balance between the two. He or she must go farther than just avoiding bias because a little extra work is often necessary on Indian issues to even be fair. Dwelling on past inequities and on the "first environmentalist" stereotype without supplying facts isn't fair to the many current legitimate concerns of the Indians either.

—the editors

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