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Rand researcher says

Carter's energy plan will push Western coal boom

President Jimmy Carter's national energy plan calls for a heavy reliance on coal to bridge the gap between today's oil and gas fueled society and the renewable resource based society of the future. Even though Carter has expressed a desire to minimize Western coal development and emphasize Eastern development, there is growing concern that the West may host much of the new production and its as-

sociated impacts.

Carter has called for a boost in coal development from a 1976 production level of 670 million tons per year to a 1985 coal of one billion tons per year. This projected increase in production may seem manageable until one looks at the disproportionate projected regional demands for new production.

Richard Nehring, a researcher with the

Rand Corporation, says Eastern coal development can probably only expand from the 1976 level of 530 million tons per year to a 1985 level of a maximum of 700 million tons per year. The remainder of the 1985 production goal would have to be gleaned from the West. With a 1985 production goal of one billion tons, that means the 1976 Western development level (about 140 million tons) would have to swell to 300

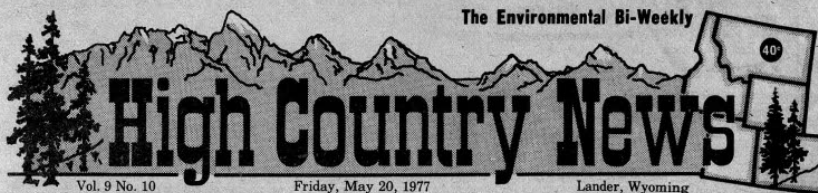
million tons by 1985.

But Nehring thinks the one billion ton goal may be unrealistic. He believes the Administration erred in its calculation by overestimating the heat value of Western coal. Because Western coal has a low heat content per ton, Nehring believes we may need 1.35 billion tons per year by 1985. If so, the West's share would jump to 650 million tons by 1985 — more than four times the present level.

Nehring doesn't believe this more than fourfold increase in supply will occur, however, due to errors on the demand side of Carter's plan. He estimates that a threefold increase is more likely.

Nevertheless, Nehring's more than fourfold increase is not far from industry estimates. Industry has projected producing about 577.8 million tons from the West by 1985. This figure comes from a Federal

(continued on page 5)



Carving up Alaska and keeping one share wild

by Pamela Rich
Friends of the Earth

Alaska. I think of long quiet winters, of wolves and restless caribou, of an oil pipeline and "boomers" piercing that northern frontier, of a wide and open wilderness, and I wonder what the future holds for that country. Sitting on a cranberry knoll, looking out across a vast sweep of trackless tundra, the world seems at peace with itself. But back in Washington, D.C., the fate of that immense state is being decided. The days are not at all peaceful, and the threats are many.

There is an opportunity, however, to assure something of a balanced future for our last frontier. As if in return for the great mineral wealth that the nation is seeking from the North, legislation is now before Congress to also give the nation millions of acres of public domain as new national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and national wild and scenic rivers. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act — HR 39 — proposes to set aside 114 million acres for conservation purposes, slightly more than one-third of the state's vast expanse, even if all existing parks, refuges, and national forests are included.

Because Congress considers Alaska public lands proposals a national issue, the House Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands is holding public field hearings in Chicago, Atlanta, Denver, San Francisco, and Seattle in May and June.

Hearings before the subcommittee began April 21, in Washington, D.C., and

continued for seven days. A lengthy Congressional debate is expected. Eloquent spokesmen on both sides of the issue chanted their litanies: "We are entering an age of scarcity; we cannot afford to withdraw any more public land from use." "Man and animals both need wilderness; we cannot afford to lose this irreplaceable resource."

Despite the rhetoric, the withdrawal issue isn't really a question of either development or wilderness preservation for Alaska. The state will undoubtedly have some degree of both. Conservationists say that instead, it is a question of setting aside land systems now, while they are still intact, or waiting to do that later, when pipelines or roads will have compromised their integrity. This would result, they say, in frustrating another caribou herd's historic migration pattern, as is now occurring when the Arctic and Porcupine caribou herds reach the Alyeska oil pipeline and have to turn around. In addition, withdrawing lands now would provide the chance to protect systems large enough to be self-sustaining, they say, planning our developments around them.

CALL FOR BIDS

It is as though Alaska has been on the auction block. First, the state was granted title to 104 million acres of land in 1959 with the passage of the Statehood Act. Then, in 1971, Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) which gave Alaska's aboriginal peoples

(continued on page 4)



COASTAL WILDS. Looking eastward along the Alaskan coast, Cape Lisburne lies in the protective arms of the proposed Chukchi-Imruk National Reserve. Lisburne Air Force Base air strip can be seen in the distance. Photo by Jim Bartonek and courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Now a policy of creating large areas of biological and scenic reserves would be the most richly rewarding way that Alaska could spend her new wealth." — F. Fraser Darling.



HCN Letters

ENVIRONMENTALIST DEFENDS WALLOP

Dear HCN,

In the last issue of *High Country News* an article appeared by Lee Catterall which set out to show how Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) was of little use to environmentalists. While we all would have appreciated the senator's support on a few more votes in support of the Clean Air Act, we have not been given a fair picture by Mr. Catterall of the types of considerations that the Wyoming senator was dealing with at the time.

Mr. Catterall has never been to Sen. Wallop's office to talk to him on any subject. I believe he would increase his service to us as well as those he may be writing about if he could touch all the bases instead of using secondary sources. This is especially true when focusing on a particular individual.

Mr. Catterall has written many fine articles for HCN, and I respect his initiative and sincerity. I also know Sen. Wallop as an intelligent, thoughtful, and sincere person. To have him dumped in the "industry camp" I find insulting to me as well as the senator.

Having been concerned about Mr. Catterall's article, I called Sen. Wallop so



"YOU EAT IT ALL FIRST. IF YOU GET SICK OVER IT, YOU KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT."

find out if it was as bad as it looked. I found that the senator was considering the quality of our regional environment and was concerned with the national trade-offs as well as seeing a need to provide incentives to clean up dirty air. While I still do not feel I have a complete picture, I would like to cite a few examples of the senator's thinking in the hope that it may encourage dialogue.

The senator felt that some of the provisions of the amendments to the Clean Air Act would encourage a shift of more power plants to clean areas rather than cleaning up dirty areas. The tradeoff here is: do we spread the pollution equally around or keep some areas clean? Do we provide incentives to clean up, or do we make new industries buy out dirty plants before they can build in a degraded region? How does a TVA plant amortize the cost of a scrubber on an old plant if they have rate increase problems? I have no idea whether we (environmentalists) tried to answer these questions during the debate, or whether we just expected our point of view to be unquestioningly supported.

In another area, a change in inter-intra state gas pricing could give the federal government control to allocate clean fuels to dirty areas and make it mandatory to

burn dirty fuels in clean areas. What is our answer to that?

In competition with other areas, should we in the Northern Plains region fight hard to keep our areas clean? Is regionalism bad? Should we all be one indistinguishable mass? Can we recognize responsibilities to downwind-downstream states and keep our individuality?

It is one thing to report what is happening and quite another to become involved in the issues to resolve the conflict. While it is our job as environmentalists to promote our specific interest, we must also understand other arguments if we are to deal with them in an effective manner.

It would be very helpful to me and I hope to others if Mr. Catterall could interview senators on upcoming issues and relay their positions — do anticipatory reporting instead of after-the-fact reporting. Those of us in the state might then be more effective because we could be specific as well as provide on-site ideas to our Congressional representatives. We know the local philosophy, which we can then relate, with environmental goals, to the philosophy of the senator or representative. Just trying to stuff a conservative western Republican into an eastern liberal mold won't work.

Laney Hicks
Dubois, Wyo.

COUGARS FOR THE CANYON

Dear Editors:

Your articles on the Grand Canyon burros problem (April 8) were most interesting and illustrate a rather basic ecological principle. A prey species population in an ecosystem where predators have been eliminated is going to increase at an exponential rate until it reaches or exceeds the carrying capacity of its environment. Almost everyone has heard of the deer population explosion following the extermination of their predators on the Kaibab Plateau between 1907 and 1923. The result, of course, was mass starvation of the herd along with major habitat destruction.

Elimination of our large predators on this continent has essentially destroyed the natural feed-back system that previously checked prey populations. Yet not once in your reports was the term predator

mentioned as a possible or partial solution to the burro problem. Is this because of the possible danger to tourists of free-roaming cougars and/or wolves in the park, or perhaps more to the point, would the cattle and sheep grazing on park land and the profits they represent be endangered?

If *Homo sapiens* is to become the only predator on this planet, then kill burros we must. They could be managed like most other game species are in North America — a regularized hunting season with the number of licenses issued according to burro population density. If, however, we want to maintain the diversity so essential to a healthy ecosystem, the park should remove a percentage of the burros from the canyon and reestablish natural predators to control their population.

Joan M. Snyder
Department of Biological Sciences
Notre Dame University
Nelson, B.C.

(Editors' note: If an overpopulation of a native species, such as deer, were the problem, then Snyder's suggestion might be appropriate — although certainly controversial. However, there is little disagreement that the burros were introduced into the Grand Canyon.)

"TRUE REVOLUTION"

Dear HCN:

Steve Tabor is probably right in his criticism of me and my "counterfeit life," as he calls it (HCN, May 6), but I don't think his "drastic changes" are really very drastic. Rearranging the relations of production and exchange, as he proposes, might improve our social life. But it might have no effect at all on the fundamental relation of man and earth. The rearrangement could take place without touching the narrow vision, arrogance, and ignorance which characterize the anthropocentric mentality, i.e., the mentality of industrialism. The revolution might amount to only a cabinet shuffle.

I think a really drastic change would be an inner one, in which we put aside species-egoism and recognize our earth-grown, animal nature and our interdependence with the earth. This is a recognition which does not require a program or a committee but which is truly revolutionary. It is a profoundly individual matter. But when someone else's consciousness has made the turn, gone past the anthropocentric limits, we can share that recognition. The appeal of the wilderness is far deeper than the logic of politics and economics; it is more ancient in us.

So again I'll say. I like writers who seem to be grounded in fundamentals, who know the ironies of our present situation, but for whom the intactness and beauty of nature are the primary reference point. "Not man apart," as Jeffers said, and certainly not the relations of production and exchange. These are secondary. Thoreau-Muir-Cather-Austin speak more ultimately than Marx-Engels-Trotsky-Marx. Thoreau made a most instructive distinction, I believe, when he scorned the social reformers of his day: "They speak of moving society, but have no resting place without it."

Tom Lyon
Logan, Utah



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PROPOSED WELCOME CREEK wilderness area in the Lolo National Forest in Montana. Clearcutting can be seen in the area surrounding Welcome Creek. However, the timber within the area is of such marginal quality that even though it has been sold, it has never been cut.

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service.



Editorial

HCN

New hope for our forests, but...

Champagne (or maybe beer) glasses are being raised throughout the country by wilderness advocates after the Carter Administration's announcement of new Forest Service policy (see pages 8-9). The Administration has recognized two of the advocates' biggest frustrations with the way forests are now being managed — 1) the long, drawn-out planning process that often results in potential wilderness areas being allocated for incompatible uses without ever being studied for wilderness classification and 2) the Forest Service's arbitrary interpretation of the Wilderness Act that allows only "pure" areas to be considered.

Assistant Agriculture Secretary M. Rupert Cutler has made it clear that these management policies are going to change.

We agree that this is encouraging. The fact that a top official over the Forest Service puts this much emphasis on wilderness as a legitimate designation within the multiple use management framework is in itself a cheering new direction. In addition, we can anticipate because of Cutler's environmental record that he will make sure wilderness values are properly considered when the Forest Service starts dividing the roadless areas into the three categories for Congress to act on.

It also could reduce the tension in future years between environmentalists and people who work in the timber industry since each "side" will soon know what areas are open to logging and what ones will be off-limits.

However, a caravan of logging trucks protesting wilderness that is now lumbering across the country toward Washington, D.C., is a good illustration of the intensified tension that we will all have to deal with in the year when those roadless areas are being divvied up. The timber interests are outraged at Cutler's statement and think he has made a "terrible mistake" because he supported at least wilderness study for the 22 areas Congress is now considering. They don't seem to be won over by the fact that Cutler also said he had no intentions of violating the statutory mandate to manage the forests for their multiple resources and uses. Nor do they seem relieved that he said that with the support of Congress, he would take new initiatives to increase the productivity of nonwilderness lands, both public and private.

Dale Burk, an environmental editor with *The Missoulian*, says the industry should be rejoicing. He says, "Anyone familiar with the forestry issue knows that the vast bulk of roadless areas land will fall into the third category (areas with no wilderness value that should be released for commercial timbering). Reams of data now available on roadless area resources show that to be unquestionable. And with a time frame of only a year until this land is released for development, the timber industry will be gaining years on the allocation process formerly used."

We hope that he's right. We hope that there will be hundreds of acres that just "obviously" fall into either wilderness or commercial timber categories and others that obviously should be studied further to see if they should be wilderness.

We suspect that won't be the case, however. With so many millions of acres at stake, neither side is likely to feel it has sufficient information about a specific area

to allow it to be "lost forever." With years of practice at polarization, both sides, we fear, will find the shorter time period to be a time of intensified tensions, fighting over each designation.

The Northern Plains representative of the Sierra Club, Bruce Hamilton, has already said — as he must — that he is going to be reluctant to let any roadless areas go automatically to commercial timbering unless he has specific information to indicate that the land is not suitable for wilderness designation.

The timber industry, no doubt, feels the same protective instincts toward its interests. They don't like the idea that Cutler has already said he supports the original goal of the Wilderness Act, which was for 50 million to 60 million acres of wilderness. We now have about 14 million acres. The industry isn't likely to let 46 million acres slide into wilderness without a fight. Their lobbying will intensify, and Congress, not Cutler, will make the final decisions.

We agree that Cutler's announcement of new direction for the Forest Service is encouraging. But we think we should all be prepared for a hard year of study and struggle. We can each help by volunteering to our nearest wilderness representative to assist with field studies or paper research.

Using this information, we can then choose between two paths. We will be able to hold back our opposition on areas that aren't suitable for wilderness designation, thus giving Cutler's plan a better chance to work. And we can channel our energies into fighting hard for the areas we think should be preserved as wilderness for future generations.

—MJA



Guest Editorial

HCN

Friendly suit avoids Congress

by Bruce Hamilton
Sierra Club representative

The National Audubon Society and the Carter Administration have proven that there's more than one way to beat a belligerent Congress.

Audubon, along with other conservation groups and the Administration, has been working to halt several major water development boondoggles — notably the Garrison Diversion in North Dakota. But

Congress seems determined to charge ahead with Garrison and the others despite conservationists' complaints and Carter's requested budget cuts.

However, the Administration has a larger role in water projects than just requesting funding from Congress. It also is charged with carrying out the federal projects through its various agencies — the Bureau of Reclamation, the Corps of Engineers, and the Soil Conservation Service. This is a handle that the Congress has very little control over.

When Audubon sued the Ford Administration over environmental problems with Garrison, a stiff court fight was expected. But when Carter took over and appointed new, sympathetic agency heads, the suit transformed into a friendly one.

Last week the case was settled out of court with the Administration agreeing to stop work on parts of the project and redo its environmental impact statement (see story, page 13). The agreement specifically calls for a new analysis of the project's impact on wildlife, with increased efforts to mitigate the damages to nine national wildlife refuges and a freeze on land acquisition.

If Congress remains pigheaded about funding their worst pet pork barrel projects, maybe we should consider more suits and friendly out of court settlements with the Administration. We can be stubborn, too.



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Beware, Gemini subscribers! (By our definition, subscribers who have "6-77" on their address labels.) You are known for being talkative and for wanting to keep up-to-date with the issues. However, unless you send in your \$12 to renew *High Country News*, you'll lose one of your primary sources of controversial conversation-starters. Besides, we'd miss all the letters to the editor that you're prone to writing. So send in your check and save us postage on sending you a reminder.

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Alaska. . .

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title to 44 million acres and a cash settlement of \$900 million.

In the process of dividing up the Alaskan public domain, Congress also recognized the importance of setting aside large preserves out of the public domain before the land became more developed. Thus, Section 17 (d)(2) of ANCSA called for temporary withdrawal of some 80 million acres of public land for possible inclusion in the four conservation systems: national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests,

under the Nixon Administration proposed a package of 83 million acres. This proposal is now under review by the Carter Administration.

Secretary of Interior Cecil D. Andrus told the subcommittee that "the establishment and protection of large areas and complete ecosystems in Alaska. . . is the highest environmental priority of this administration." Despite this strong statement of support, no firm proposals of legislation have been suggested by the administration yet.

At the other end of the spectrum, Alaskan and national conservation organizations have joined in support of HR 39, a bill that would preserve 114 million acres of

had also been calling for "ecological reserves" to be set aside with minimal human use, to serve as land banks, as scientific study areas of some of the very few untrammeled places left on earth.

They all shared the thoughts of F. Fraser Darling when he said, in 1969, "With the imminence of riches, we can afford to adorn the person of a beloved Alaska. . . Now a policy of creating large areas of biological and scenic reserves would be the most richly rewarding way that Alaska could spend her new wealth. The world will need what Alaska represents in glorious, clean, cold, inspiring beauty — her wilderness and its wildlife — while ever there are men."

The Alaska Coalition, the loosely-knit coalition of Alaskan and national conservation organizations, was very careful to design proposals based on ecological principles, with boundaries following the dictates of nature rather than politics. They knew that we really had not included as much land as their predecessors had envisioned as necessary for adequate protection, but the state had changed and it was already too late to consider protection for such vast areas. None of the other ap-

under the 1964 Wilderness Act is proposed for all areas in HR 39, as well as existing wildlife refuge lands. To justify this stance, conservationists point out that each of the proposals is now "wilderness" if there ever was wilderness as we have come to define it. There are no roads either to or within any of the proposed areas (except to one corner of the Wrangells). One finds only a few miners' cabins or old dredges, which the earth is now reclaiming.

Nothing in the legislation seeks to change the character of the land. Other than drawing lines, there is little that HR 39 actually does. This is its objective: to guarantee the survival of places and the indigenous wildlife populations and human cultures. Smaller preserves cannot protect the land or wildlife, proponents insist. The membrane of life is spread very thin across the North, and animals require large territories to support healthy populations. Biologists say that the Porcupine caribou herd of 120,000 animals requires 90 million acres for summer and winter range; one barren ground grizzly bear requires 100 square miles of the Arctic. It is a delicate balance that has been eeked out of a rugged country. It wouldn't take much to

Conservationists say that it is a question of setting aside land systems now, while they are still intact, or waiting to do that later, when pipelines or roads will have compromised their integrity.

proaches to Alaska land withdrawals, however, seeks to protect such complete ecosystems.

tip the balance irrevocably one way or the other.

THE HR 39 PROPOSAL

HR 39 proposes that 114 million acres be designated as new national parks, wildlife refuges, additions to existing national forests, wild and scenic rivers, as well as five instant wilderness areas within the existing Tongass National Forest. Representative environments of Alaska — lowland delta country, rolling tundra, broad river valleys, glaciers, and the highest peaks in North America — are embraced by the proposals. Critical habitat lands for waterfowl, caribou, grizzly bear, and other wildlife are protected.

To give long-term protection to representative environments and critical habitat lands, instant wilderness classification

But man is not being excluded from the land either, supporters of HR 39 point out, as long as he doesn't interfere with the natural flows of life — the caribou migrating each spring to traditional calving grounds, the snow geese staging in the Arctic coastal plain to fatten up before their long journey south, the grizzly bear foraging in its endless quest for roots, berries, and carrion.

Traditional hunting and fishing rights for subsistence rather than commercial or recreational uses, are guaranteed on all units for rural residents, even in the National Park proposals. Sport hunting is allowed on all units of the wildlife refuge system, as well as three proposed preserves

(continued on page 5)



SAND DUNES at the proposed Kobuk Valley National Monument make the area unique. The dunes touch the edge of the Kobuk River.

Photo by Bob Belous.

and national wild and scenic rivers. Congress must act by December 1978 to give the lands permanent protection. Otherwise, their management will revert to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and they will be open to mining and logging and other forms of consumptive use.

Several different approaches to the designation of these "d-2" lands have been proposed, reflecting the spectrum of interest groups vying for Alaska's public land. On one end, the state of Alaska, with

Alaska. This bill is sponsored by U.S. Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) and is co-sponsored by 79 other congressmen. Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) will soon be introducing similar legislation in the U.S. Senate. The proposals in HR 39 were for the most part pulled together by these environmental groups under the umbrella of the Alaska Coalition.

In the fall of 1972, a large group of Alaskan conservationists gathered in Fairbanks to consider actual boundaries of

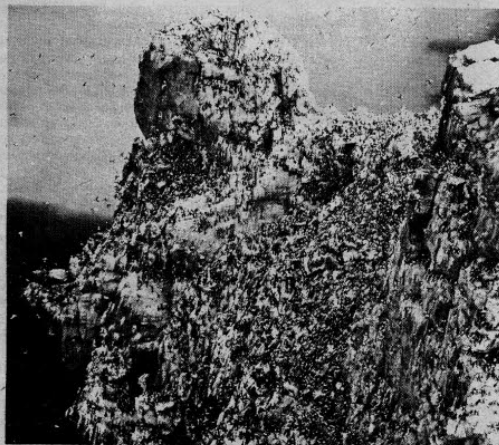
"We are entering an age of scarcity; we cannot afford to withdraw any more public land from use," opponents of the withdrawals say.

the Republican members of the state Congressional delegation, propose no park or refuge designations at this time. Instead, they identify 25 million acres for additional study and possible designation in the year 2000. They also propose bringing 55 million acres of federal and an equal amount of state land under joint management by a federal-state land use planning commission. It is still a tentative position, and no legislation has been introduced formally proposing it.

In the middle of the spectrum, the Departments of Interior and Agriculture

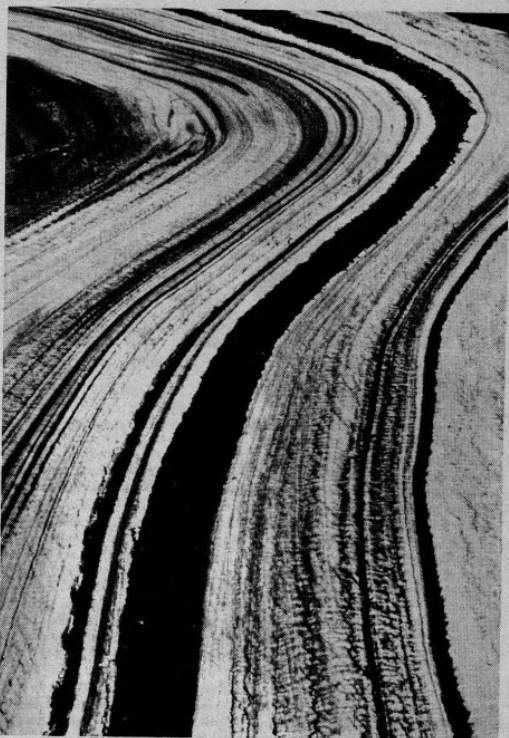
their proposals. The meeting included a mix of Alaskans — professional resource managers, academicians, musicians, lawyers, residents of the "bush" (Alaskan backcountry), and others. Many had tramped over the land being considered or seen it from the air and had firsthand knowledge of the resource values they sought to protect.

They had before them the inspiration of Robert Marshall who in the 1930s had called for a "single great wilderness park" encompassing the entire Brooks Range north to the Arctic Ocean. Other Arctic scientists



SEA BIRDS' HABITAT will be protected by proposed withdrawals. Pictured are nesting murres and black legged Kittiwakes in the northern Bristol Bay region, which would be part of the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

Photo by Jim Bartonek and courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



GLACIER TRACK. Glaciers carved the vast U-shaped valleys and sculpted much of the Alaska terrain. Pictured are the Nabesna Glacier Mountains, which are proposed as part of the Wrangell-Kluane International Park.

Photo courtesy of the Sierra Club.

Alaska. . .

(continued from page 4)

to be managed by the national park system.

A NEW, DIFFERENT FRONTIER

Alaska is the nation's last frontier. But it is not really analogous to the frontier challenges of the 1800s in the American West. While many of the expectations are the same — the chance to get rich quick or the freedom to carve out a life away from other people — the impacts are very different.

For one thing, although Alaska is known to have vast reserves of oil and gas, copper, coal, most of those reserves are inaccessible right now, and their extraction would require new technologies to cope with the rigors and unknown risks inherent in Arctic climates. Furthermore, extraction and transport will be very costly, and few markets now exist for frontier resources. Conservationists say that although there is pressure to keep the land open so that any

resources can be extracted, no one has asked the fundamental questions: do we really need coal slurried in a pipeline from Alaska or copper retrieved from the Brooks Range by railroad?

Another difference between the Western and Alaskan frontiers is that in the 1970s, long-term costs and environmental values are beginning to be considered. Typical frontier societies never looked beyond immediate economic gain to the time when the source of that wealth would be exhausted. They never see the bust for the boom. Many Alaskans, however, hope that Alaska will not experience repeated booms and busts.

The way in which Congress decides to establish new parks and wildlife refuges in Alaska now will be an indication of how far this "new consciousness" has indeed come. It will not be an easy task, arbitrating between two fundamentally different philosophies. Congress will hear the pro-development forces who will argue that nothing should be set aside now: "We don't know where all the minerals are today and we simply cannot afford to 'lock up' such

large tracts of land."

And it will hear the park proponents argue that it is a park or large refuge which preserves options for the future, whereas a pipeline strung out across 800 miles of country really fixes land use. "A pipeline or large copper mine are what really lock up the land. Congress — not the state of Alaska, nor the miners, nor the conservationists — must decide where to draw the lines for these national interest lands," they'll say.

The Alaska Coalition believes that setting aside certain public lands now is the only way to effect a balance between short-term development and long-term protection on that northern frontier. "Mining booms and ill-conceived roads or town-sites must eventually bust, leaving scars for generations. Parks leave no scars. It is our last chance to really protect entire wilderness ecosystems," the coalition says.

Foresight set aside Yellowstone National Park in 1872, not absolute knowledge that it contained no valuable minerals. We may not know today where all the commercially valuable resources are in Alaska.

The membrane of life is spread very thin across the North.

"What we do know, however, is that the most rapidly vanishing resources on the planet are open, untrammelled spaces, and self-supporting life systems where man need not dominate to bring order. It is these resources which we must now protect in Alaska while we still have the chance. There are magnificent mountains in the lower 48. Wolves howl in Minnesota. In Alaska, we still have both together," the coalition says.

The Alaska Coalition sounds the challenge that our children, too, may experience the freedom of country not parceled out by roads or dams, and the deep peace and quiet of broad valleys where only caribou roam.

Pamela Rich has lived in Alaska and was among the group of Alaska conservationists who met in 1972 to consider boundaries for the withdrawals. She is now the Alaska coordinator for Friends of the Earth in Washington, D.C., and has served in the Northern Plains office of the Sierra Club, based in Wyoming.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP...

If you want to join the Alaska Coalition, write for more information to Alaska Coalition, 620 C St., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003, phone (202) 543-4312.

Anyone interested in testifying should contact the House Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands at 1327 Longworth Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515.

A hearing will be held in Denver, Colo., on June 4 at the auditorium in the U.S. Post Office Bldg., 19th and Stout St.

June 18 a hearing will be held in San Francisco, Calif., in the Board Room of the San Francisco Board of Education, 135 Van Ness Ave.

June 20 a hearing will be held in Seattle, Wash., at the Olympic Room, Seattle Center Bldg.

Hearings in Southeast Alaska will be in July and Interior Alaska hearings have not been scheduled yet.

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

WICKS TO WASHINGTON. Gary Wicks, former head of Montana's Department of Energy and Natural Resources, has been appointed deputy assistant secretary of Interior for land and water. Gov. Thomas Judge fired Wicks after his reelection, citing differences of opinion over natural resource issues. On accepting the position at Interior, Wicks told the Associated Press, "It will be a pleasant change to be working for someone who has the guts to make a decision that lasts more than one day."

WATER REUSE BILL CLEARS HOUSE. A bill that would prod the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) into implementing a water reuse demonstration program has been passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. The amendment was sponsored by Rep. Jim Johnson (R-Colo.). It provides \$25 million in cost-sharing grants to public agencies for recycling municipal wastewater for drinking water. Johnson pointed out that the Denver Water Board plans to construct an \$8.5 million potable reuse demonstrator facility. He said if the demonstration plant is successful, the city may be able to construct a plant that would provide up to 20%-25% of the Denver metro area water needs, according to the *Golden Triangle Review*.

SOLID WASTES WASTE DOLLARS. Solid waste disposal is the second largest expense for most urban governments, according to Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.). Hart has introduced a bill that would force industries to absorb some of this cost unless they agree to use some recycled materials instead of virgin materials. Revenues from the charge would be returned to cities to help meet their solid waste management costs, the *Denver Post* reports. The charge would be \$26 per ton of municipal waste produced.

Carter. . .

(continued from page 1)

Energy Administration (FEA) in which every Western mine operator (including prospective operators) was asked to describe his plans.

The most dramatic increase revealed in the FEA survey was for Wyoming. The 1975 production level of 23.5 million tons was projected to rise over eightfold to 211.5 million tons by 1985.

The Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC), a rancher-environmentalist citizen coalition in Wyoming, predicts this rapid increase in development will destroy the social and natural environment of northeastern Wyoming.

To alleviate the potential impact, PRBRC proposes staggering the opening of new mines. For example, in Campbell County, Wyo., where nine coal strip mines are already permitted, PRBRC suggests withholding new permits for three years and then issuing new permits at a rate of no more than one new mine every two years.

"Such a policy would allow 11 mines to reach full production by 1985 with a capability of turning out 70 million to 110 million tons annually or roughly 7% to 11% of the U.S. coal demand in 1985," says PRBRC.

native plants



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6-High Country News — May 20, 1977

Plunkett's coal-stingy energy recipe for the twenty-first century

by Joan Nice

In the world of energy research and development, Dr. Jerry Plunkett, managing director of a large research institute, has become known as the independent inventors' advocate. He's familiar with the plight of these small businessmen because he's been an inventor himself for much of his life.

Plunkett left his own tiny research firm to become top administrator for the Montana Energy and MHD Research and Development Institute (MERDI) in Butte, Mont., about a year ago.

Since Plunkett helped create the institute and a neighboring institution in Butte, the National Center for Appropriate Technology, many of his old friends picture him spending his days happily orchestrating these big dreams turned to reality.

But while diligently working as an administrator, Plunkett still spends his evenings and weekends as an inventor would, trying to break new ground.

Some of his most recent homework could have important ramifications for the West. He calls it "an energy delivery system for the 21st century." If anybody pays attention to the scheme, it could mean less coal mining in the West — only one-tenth as much as those who would have us lean heavily on coal gasification technology.

The federal government hasn't always shown appreciation for Plunkett's ideas (see HCN 1-17-75). During his eight years as head of Materials Consultants Inc., Plunkett spent some of his time in Washington, D.C., trying to find support for his energy inventions, among them a low-cost, long-lived solar collector and a clean, coal-burning domestic furnace. He never received a dime from the National Science Foundation. Plunkett is convinced NSF discriminates against small firms in favor of large corporations and universities.

As proof of NSF's prejudice, Plunkett describes a time when he let the University of Utah present a proposal on magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) that he had drafted. The idea was funded — by the same people at NSF who had already rejected the proposal when it came directly from him.

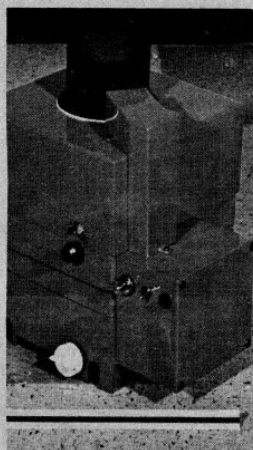
Plunkett has B.S. and M.S. degrees in ceramic engineering from the University of Missouri, a Ph.D. in metallurgy from MIT, and experience as a university professor and as a scientific and technical consultant.

"Large research laboratories serve an important function and have their place, but there is no substitute for new ideas and concepts, and these are the product of individuals — not of committees or institutions," Plunkett told the Senate Select Committee on Small Business in 1975. "From the time of Ben Franklin and his stove, Thomas Jefferson and his patents, and down through the years with such examples as Eli Whitney's development of the cotton gin, Colt and his guns, McCormick's reaper, and more recently the Xerox process, the ball-point pen, the Polaroid camera and the laser, inventors have played an important role."

His appointment to lead MERDI research seems, in part, an acknowledgement from the largely government-funded institute that, maybe Plunkett knows something about creativity and innovation that the government doesn't. It is also an acknowledgement of his expertise in the

field of MHD, which is the institute's first major mission. MHD is a method of generating electricity from coal using high temperature gas flow and magnetic forces. It is expected to be more efficient and less polluting than conventional coal-fired electrical generating plants.

Because of his new position, Plunkett has gained an audience. But he finds his rise in power ironic: "They listen more now,



FLUIDIZED BED FURNACE. Plunkett is a pioneer of a tiny, household-sized fluidized bed furnace. He says it would burn cleanly and use much less coal than conventional burners.

but I have less time to develop my ideas and they are not as good."

He says he wouldn't have taken the new job if he hadn't seen more than strictly administrative potential in it. He says he's still an inventor with a new problem — "using an institution to move technology on the national scene."

Amory Lovins, in the recent article, "Energy Strategy: The Road Not Taken," published in *Foreign Affairs* and *Not Man Apart*, points to the fluidized bed system of burning coal as "perhaps the most exciting current development" in the rapidly revolutionizing field of coal technology. Plunkett is a pioneer of a tiny, household-sized fluidized bed system. But he has yet to find the funding necessary to commercialize the invention. It would not only burn cleanly, but would use much less coal to put out the same amount of heat as conventional burners, he says.

Many people who think of Plunkett as a small business advocate and founder of the National Center for Appropriate Technology label him a confirmed small-is-beautiful man. They are surprised when they find him devoting most of his time to MHD, an unproven, large-scale coal technology that Plunkett admits "will take 10 years to fail, 15 years to succeed" and a couple of billion dollars in capital.

"I don't agree that everything small is beautiful," Plunkett says. "What we need is diversity."

THE 21ST CENTURY

In proposing an "energy delivery system for the 21st century," Plunkett says he has accepted the idea that the country needs to lean on coal to make the transition from oil and gas to renewable resources. He is mainly concerned with exploring the way that coal can be used most efficiently.

His efficiency studies have led him to argue against developing coal gasification technology. A more efficient use of the coal is to generate electricity with it, transmit it to homes using electrical resistance heaters tied to heat pumps and, perhaps, small solar collectors.

If you use coal gas to heat your home, only about one-quarter of the heat value in the original coal ever reaches the inside of your house. On the other hand, using the electrical scheme envisioned by Plunkett, it is possible to get more heat delivered to your house than was originally in the coal — up to 3.5 times more, Plunkett says.

Sounds like it would cost too much to put all these devices — electrical resistance heating, a heat pump, and a solar collector — on your home? Plunkett doesn't expect it to happen all at once; it's merely a direction we should be heading, he says. And perhaps there should be help from government for the consumer who wants to save fossil fuels in this way, but can't afford to.

"If we find that from a national point of view that's the highest efficiency system, then rather than subsidizing gasification plants with low interest loans to the tune of \$6 billion, we might well think about subsidizing consumers for buying heat pumps," Plunkett says.

Choosing coal-generated electricity rather than coal gasification makes sense for the future, too, Plunkett says. By emphasizing an electrical distribution system you can gradually replace coal-generated electricity with renewable sources. You can install your own wind generator and increase the size of your solar collector and your solar storage. Eventually, with this kind of system the need for coal as a fuel would disappear, Plunkett believes.

In addition, by choosing a distribution system which makes for a smooth transition, "we don't have billions of dollars worth of investment that society suddenly



Photo courtesy of MERDI

JERRY PLUNKETT: "I don't agree that everything small is beautiful. What we need is diversity."

has to write off because we ran out of something we thought we had lots of, like we're doing in the case of this ridiculous energy crisis," Plunkett says.

For home heating, there are three existing distribution systems, Plunkett explains: the petroleum pipeline system, the natural gas delivery system, and electric distribution. Coal isn't included in any of the systems, because very few consumers buy coal directly.

Plunkett has analyzed these three systems with a question in mind: If we assume that coal is to be used as the transition fuel, what's the most efficient system, as measured by how much heat is actually delivered to a home and how much fuel is expended to get it there?

Once you've discovered which system is most efficient, then you can concentrate on it and solve the pollution problems associated with it, Plunkett says.

Plunkett draws the following conclusions from his analysis:

1. Coal gasification should be looked upon as a "suspect activity."
2. "Electrical generation, particularly in connection with heat pumps, may be a good method of distributing energy."
3. "National research and development dollars should be directed toward increasing the efficiency of and eliminating the pollution from electrical generation."
4. "Solar systems should be hooked up to

(continued on page 7)

MERDI

THE MONTANA ENERGY AND MHD
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



MERDI was established in 1974 to develop methods for efficiently conserving and utilizing Western energy sources and to carry out a major research and hardware phase of the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration's magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) program.

Currently, the institute is overseeing a research and development effort within Montana's university units, and it has assumed responsibility for the testing and construction of MHD experimental facilities within the state. MERDI also will conduct an evaluation and analysis of MHD's en-

vironmental, social, and economic impact.

Although MHD research was the primary reason for MERDI's establishment, the institute is expanding its role to include research on alternate energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal. It also will be working in energy conservation.

MERDI conceived and is helping to establish NCAT — the National Center for Appropriate Technology — a new, "non-profit" corporation that will develop a number of small, energy conserving devices and procedures for assisting lower income Americans.

May 20, 1977 — High Country News-7

TVA, Union Carbide plan uranium mines in SD

by Dan Whipple

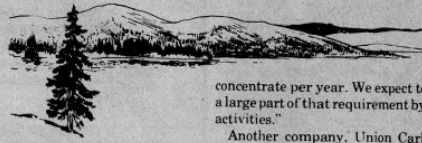
Uranium is coming back into fashion in South Dakota, after 10 years of disinterest by the major energy companies. Extensive exploration is underway in the state and at least two companies have fairly firm plans to open mines, perhaps as soon as 1978.

Uranium was first mined in South Dakota during the 1950s and early 1960s. At the time, uranium prices were propped up by government supports and the low-grade ores in the state were attractive. When the price supports ended, most of the operators packed up, with the last mine closing down in 1967.

Now, with the price of uranium up and promising to go even higher, several companies have returned to the South Dakota uranium areas, most of which are around the Black Hills. At least six companies are engaged in exploratory drilling.

The most active company is the Tennessee Valley Authority. TVA is presently conducting a feasibility study to determine whether an old milling operation at

Edgemont, S.D., would be suitable to support their operations. The agency expects to start mining in the early 1980s. Mike Butler of TVA's Knoxville office says, "We expect it to be a multi-million pound reserve of U308. Annual production would be



a few hundred thousand pounds per year." The feasibility study will determine whether the mill's present capacity is large enough to support the operation.

TVA is exploring 99,803 acres on the South Dakota-Wyoming border near Edgemont. The land was purchased in 1974 and is only part of TVA's Western

energy search, which covers about one million acres. The uranium mined will be used in nine TVA reactors in Alabama and Tennessee in the early 1980s. Butler says, "By the early '80s, our requirements will be two to eight million pounds of uranium

concentrate per year. We expect to provide a large part of that requirement by our own activities."

Another company, Union Carbide, appears to be even closer to production than TVA. Though the company's schedule is not firm, sources say that there are preliminary plans to submit a development plan to the U.S. Forest Service by the fall. Carbide plans to mine an extensive claim that lies within the borders of the Black Hills National Forest, so it must submit plan to the Forest Service.

Sources also say that the company hopes

to begin overburden removal sometime in 1978. The company is considering a milling operation as well, but this would not go on line until the early 1980s. The mine will be an open pit mine using leaching solution to extract the uranium. State officials say that they are uncertain of the company's total holdings in the state, but that they probably exceed 32,000 acres.

In addition to the two imminent mines, several other companies are exploring in the Black Hills region. Mobil Oil is a large leaseholder and drilled 4,000 feet of test holes in 1976. Other interested companies are: Endak; Nokota Company; and Wyoming Minerals.

Exploration is also under way in North Dakota, where three companies are currently exploring. Officials in both states expect increases in activity as uranium prices continue to rise. A South Dakota official says that they have received informal inquiries from Johns-Manville and International Nickel about possible properties.

Energy recipe...

(continued from page 6)

heat pumps to further increase the efficiency of the electrical distribution system."

Plunkett hasn't been able to complete and publish "An Energy Delivery System for the 21st Century," because he's had to fit it into the rare free time he's had between his MHD work and his administrative tasks at MERDI.

"It turns out that some of the most important work we have to do on our own, because society isn't in the position to look that far ahead," Plunkett says. "It's astonishing to me that federal agencies are not doing this kind of work — but they're not."

An energy delivery system for the 21st century

The following are excerpts from an HCN interview with Plunkett that outline his concept of a "energy delivery system for the 21st century."

"You can improve the thermal performance on the average American home to the tune of cutting the heat bill in half by insulating. And that's cost effective, based on the existing Montana natural gas price. That's the first thing everybody should do."

"Having done that, however, we still have to supply some energy to the house. So the question is how to do that most efficiently if we're going to use coal as a non-renewable resource, because it is the major non-renewable resource we have."

"Let's discuss the kind of energy delivery system we need for the 21st century. Today we have essentially three energy delivery systems: the petroleum pipeline system, natural gas delivery system, electric distribution."

"Coal doesn't fit in because there are very few consumers who actually buy directly, you usually buy it through the electric network."

"The question is should we preserve these energy delivery systems, diversify and go to more, or what should we do?"

EFFICIENCY

THE NATURAL GAS DELIVERY SYSTEM. Coal could be used as a fuel in this system if we developed coal gasification technology.

"In the Lurgi coal gasification process we put in 100 units of coal and get 52 units of high Btu gas out (making it 52% efficient). And typical

home furnace efficiency is only about 50%. So for every 100 units of coal you started out with you may have as little as 25 or maybe 30% actually delivered to the home."

THE ELECTRIC DELIVERY SYSTEM. In this system coal is now used as a fuel in steam-driven electrical generating plants.

"Using existing technology, you end up with an efficiency equal to the coal gasification system. Coal to electric generation is 35% efficient, electric transmission is about 90% efficient, and electric resistance heating is very efficient, almost 100%, so you end up with comparable efficiency."

"But there's a better way to do it. You take the coal through the electric generation and then use a heat pump at the residence. A heat pump in the state of Montana has a coefficient of performance of about 1.8. That means you get out of it about 1.8 times as much heat as you put into it in the form of electricity."

"You're not converting electricity into heat. You're moving heat from outdoors to indoors using mechanical energy. Therefore it is possible to actually end up with about 55% of the heat value of the coal (35% times 90% times 1.8) coming into the home where you want it."

"If we hook up a small collector to the heat pump, the coefficient of performance goes up to 3.5."

"The reason I'm working on MHD is very simple. If we can make MHD succeed we can move that 35% efficiency for coal-fired electrical gen-

eration up to 50 or 55 or maybe 60%. You can see that once you drive that through a heat pump then you really get to the point where you get more energy delivered to the home than you had originally in the coal."

THE TRANSITION

"As far as I can see it, the gasification pipeline system has very little versatility for the future. The electrical transmission grid has a number of important characteristics for the future. Once you have the electrical distribution system, you can start building windmills, you can increase the size of your collector and the size of your storage unit, you can hook up other kinds of renewable energy systems into the network, and you can displace coal."

"It's a very logical transition to get us from where we are now — almost 100% non-renewable resources — to a completely renewable system."

BACKUP PROBLEMS

"People talk about the (electrical generating) capacity problems associated with heat pumps, because the efficiency of a heat pump goes down as the temperature gets colder, and during cold periods people would presumably require more electricity to heat their homes. But if you hook up a small solar collector to the heat pump then you start getting rid of those enormous capacity problems. Another thing is that many old homes

in Montana still have an old gas furnace. So when you put in a new heat pump you leave in the old gas furnace. When the temperature got down to 15 degrees you would start up the gas furnace as a supplement to the heat pump, rather than having to build more electric plants as a backup."

"A combination of three systems — natural gas, electric resistance heating and a heat pump, and solar — seems best."

APPROACH

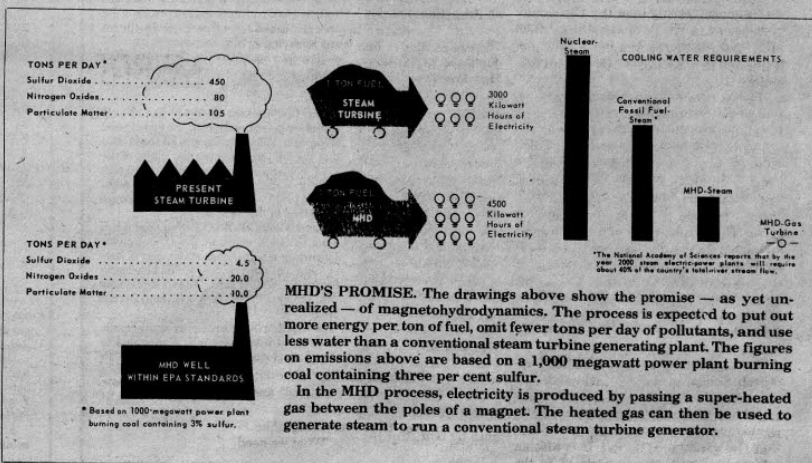
"But it takes an overall kind of systems approach to understand these problems. And frankly I'm disturbed that the gas people don't want to do it. The electric people don't even want to do it, because they don't even want to discuss having a gas backup system."

"The national research and development program should address itself to the distribution system which has high efficiency."

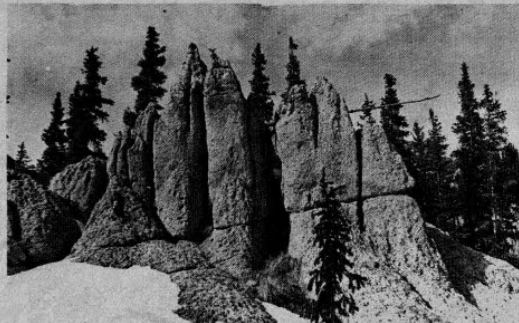
CONCLUSIONS

"The implications are enormous for the amount of coal that would have to be developed in the future in the West. We may have a system that's 10 times as efficient (as the coal gasification system) and therefore you'd only have to mine one-tenth the coal to deliver the same amount of heat. The other thing is that if you insulate you can reduce the coal needed by one-half."

"Do you see, we can make enormous savings in resources."



8-High Country News — May 20, 1977



Wheeler Geologic Area

Photo by David Sumner

LA GARITA

Wheeler Geologic Area, a part of the 182,700 acre proposed addition to the La Garita Wilderness Area in Colorado, is known for its geologic history. The rock in the area is a moderately coarse volcanic tuff, according to the Forest Service. The debris that formed the tuff was blown into the air from volcanic vents and settled here. Individual particles of the debris may range in size from dust flakes to blocks two or three feet across. Vertical joint cracks weaken the rock beds at intervals, which forms what Theodore W. La May of the Forest Service

calls "hooded ghosts."

The area was a national monument named in honor of Captain George M. Wheeler, who was in charge of the surveying and exploration work for this area of Colorado done by the War Department in 1874. Because it was small, had poor access, and was isolated from other areas administered by the Park Service, the area was returned to Forest Service administration in 1950.

Both the mining and the timbering industries are opposing the wilderness designation.



250 year old lodgepole pine forest

Photo by Bill Romme

SAVAGE RUN

The 18,900-acre Savage Run area, in the Medicine Bow National Forest near Laramie, is the only Wyoming area in the House version of the American Endangered Wilderness Bill. A four-year land use study by the Forest Service has recently concluded with recommendations that no portion of the unit be studied for wilderness, despite an overwhelming public response in favor of wilderness classification. The final plan would open 8,700 acres to timbering and place 4,800 acres in a "backcountry" designation.

Sen. Cliff Hansen (R-Wyo.) has already expressed his opposition to the endangered wilderness bill on principle. Hansen said that the bill "circumvents the intent of the 1964 Wilderness Act" by creating instant wilderness and wilderness study areas without the public hearing and review processes prescribed in the 1964 act.

Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) has taken a wait-and-see attitude. "If strong public support for a wilderness study area at Savage Run develops in the public hearing in Saratoga," Wallop said, "then I would support a study of the wilderness potential of the area."

Savage Run is not presently in the Senate endangered wilderness bill. Wallop said he would attempt to include it in the final bill if sufficient support is shown at the public hearing.

Endangered wilder

by Marjane Ambler

Sponsors of the Endangered American Wilderness Act hoped that it would not only protect the areas included in the bill but also bring Congress' attention to roadless areas in the country that have been slighted in studies for wilderness designation.

Congress hasn't acted yet, but the bill's supporters received a startling endorsement of their efforts from the Carter Administration in a new policy statement that wilderness advocate Doris Milner says is "the most giant step taken for wilderness since passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964."

M. Rupert Cutler, assistant secretary of agriculture for conservation, research, and education, made the announcement at a hearing on HB 3454, the Endangered American Wilderness Act, before the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands.

He called for immediate and total re-evaluation of roadless area resources on the national forests, saying present study approaches have proven "too slow and too costly." He proposed three classifications. Some roadless areas would be designated as instant wilderness areas for Congress to consider. Others would be studied as possible wilderness areas before going before Congress. And the rest would be opened to other uses within seven to nine months, according to Cutler's timetable.

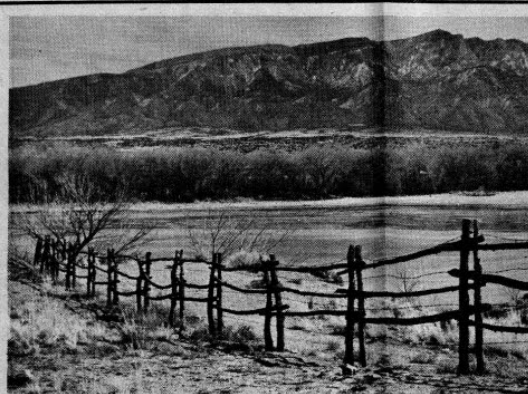
Wilderness Society representatives throughout the region found the Cutler statement very encouraging and said it confirmed many of the problems they had been accusing the Forest Service of for

years. Dave Foreman, Southwest representative, pointed out that conservationists and wilderness advocates in particular should be prepared for a lot more work in the coming months because of the intensified timetable.

A representative of the Inland Forest Resource Council, however, told The Missoulian that the forest industry in the Northern Rockies "generally reacted with extreme disappointment" to Cutler's statements.

Phil Tawney, Montana representative of the Wilderness Society, sees Cutler's statement as an indictment of past forest management policies. "Roadless areas sum up the battle on forest management. It indicates how we've really mismanaged if we have to battle over such marginal lands." He explained that generally, if an area has no roads, it means there hasn't been sufficient interest in the timber to warrant the industry building roads. As an example, he cites Welcome Creek, one of the areas proposed for protection in the Endangered American Wilderness Act. He says the timber there was sold several years ago. It has changed hands, and still no one has thought the timber to be good enough quality to justify building roads into it. With a few exceptions, most of the timber in roadless areas is harvestable only if the public is willing to subsidize the timber industry by paying for roads, he says.

Cutler's comments seemed to confirm this point of view, while at the same time seeking to reassure timber interests. He stressed he would push for increased timber production including additional federal money for reforestation and timber



West Face of North Sandia Peak from Coronado

SANDIA MOUNTAINS

Designation of a wilderness area in the rugged Sandia Mountains overlooking Albuquerque, N.M., has long been one of the top goals of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee. Wilderness advocates say that when the area was included in the Endangered Wilderness Act, their hopes were raised.

However, Wally Lloyd, retired Cibola National Forest supervisor, and the chief proponent of a highway through the mountains, is opposing the designation. A representative of the timber industry, Erwin Kulosa, is also joining the fight against the designation. The Forest Service has taken no position on the bill.

At Washington, D.C., hearings on the bill, Kulosa testified that the boundary of the wilderness area should be along the crest of the

mountains, excluding that in addition to should be more into areas, which wild New Mexico comm sites lie outside the

As with the Lons also argue that the to the sights and sponds that if this areas would be exc and see contrails a

May 20, 1977 — High Country News-9

wilderness gets new champion

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stand improvement. But, in line with Tawney's comments, he said these activities should be concentrated on the most accessible and productive forest lands, not on remote areas requiring new, expensive, and environmentally harmful roads.

Environmentalists were also pleased that Cutler came out clearly in favor of a more liberal concept of what kind of areas can be considered for wilderness designation. Instead of the "purist" requirements that environmentalists say the Forest Service has been imposing on areas being studied, Cutler said the areas should be "fully capable of providing in the long-term wilderness benefits to many people." In the past, the Forest Service has ruled that areas are not suitable for wilderness if they have stumps from old logging or faded evidence of old roads. Now, Cutler says, areas don't have to be "entirely free of the marks of mankind."

Endorsing five of the areas in the Endangered Wilderness bill as instant wildernesses, Cutler supported studying the other 17. The Sierra Club says it expects him to endorse all areas for instant wilderness designation by Congress when a report by the Office of Management and Budget is complete.

The five areas named by Cutler for instant designation, if Congress agrees, are Lone Peak in Utah, Mt. Henry and McGregor-Thompson in Montana, and French Pete Creek and Middle Santiam in Oregon.

The other areas in this region included in the Endangered Wilderness bill are: Alaska — West Chichagof-Yakobi, Arizona — Pusch Ridge and Galiuro Additions, Colorado — Goose Creek Additions

and La Garita Additions, Montana — Welcome Creek, New Mexico — Manzano Mountain, Sandia Mountain, Chama River Canyon, and Wyoming — Savage Run.

Congressional hearings on the bill will be held in Colorado and Wyoming. Colorado's hearing will be June 10 at Creede, in the Creede Consolidated School Gym at 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. For more

information, contact Perry Moyle at the Wilderness Society, 4260 E. Evans Ave., Denver, Colo. 80222 or call (303) 758-2266.

Wyoming's hearing will be June 11 at Saratoga at the 11 a.m. from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. For more information, contact Bart Koehler with the Wilderness Society at Box 1184, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001 or call (307) 635-3416.



LONE PEAK

Lone Peak in Utah was one of the areas recommended by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture M. Rupert Cutler for instant wilderness designation, despite the fact that it has been the subject of much controversy in the state. While few people have disputed its wilderness qualities, many people in the state — including the *Deseret News* — have said it should be named a "scenic area" instead of a wilderness area, to avoid attracting crowds to it.

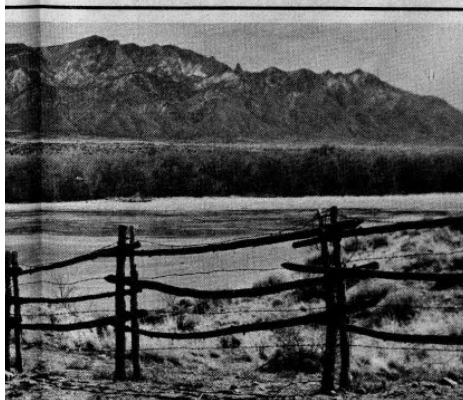
Rising 8,000 to 11,000 feet above sea level, its dazzling sheet of snow and ice is highly visible most of the year from the valley floor, according to wilderness advocate Nick Carling. The area was first suggested for wilderness in 1973 when Utah Rep. Wayne Owens and Sen. Frank Moss introduced a bill to designate it. When the Forest Service completed its study of the area, 80% of the responses to the study favored wilderness status. It was the Forest Service that suggested the scenic area designation. In addition to the fear that wilderness designation would attract people like a neon sign, the Forest Service argued that it couldn't offer a wilderness experience when visitors could see and hear a city of 500,000

people in the valley below.

The area is also an important part of Salt Lake City's watershed, a fact which has been used by both sides in the argument over classification. The Forest Service and Utah Sen. Jake Garn argue that wilderness designation would impede the maintenance and control of the watershed. However, Carling points out that the Wilderness Act provides for the maintenance of the existing watershed operations. He also says that by keeping roads and other developments out of the area, the watershed is better protected.

Although no Congressional hearing will be held on Lone Peak, the Salt Lake City Commission is holding a hearing tentatively scheduled for June 2. Dick Carter of the Wilderness Society in Utah says the commission has assured him that it will support wilderness designation.

Now Utah's Congressional delegation is wavering. "So great has been the pressure from Utah environmentalists that one member of the state's delegation said... 'We have to provide some wilderness somewhere in Utah. It's inevitable,'" according to a *Deseret News* report.



Sandia Peak from Coronado Monument.

SANDIA MOUNTAINS

mountains, excluding areas that he thinks should be logged. He said that in addition to needing to be logged, the east side of the Sandias should be more intensively developed for recreation sites and picnic areas, which wilderness designation would prevent. However, the New Mexico committee says all proposed Forest Service recreation sites lie outside the proposed 30,700 acre boundary.

As with the Lone Peak area, opponents of wilderness designation also argue that the area should be disqualified because it is vulnerable to the sights and sounds of outside civilization. The committee responds that if this argument were taken to its logical extreme, all areas would be excluded from consideration since one can hear jets and see contrails anywhere.

10 Slurries added to strip bill?

by Lee Catterall

Encouraged by apparent support from the Carter administration, U.S. Sen. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) plans to propose that the slurry pipeline bill be made a part of federal strip mining legislation.

Johnston, who would like pipelines to serve his own area with coal, was unsuccessful in persuading fellow members of the Interior Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to tie together the two bills. Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.), chairman of the mining subcommittee, would have no part of such a proposal from the beginning. The committee reported the strip mining bill to the Senate floor recently.

Since then, however, Johnston had a chat with Federal Energy Administrator John O'Leary, and afterward shouted that Carter is on his side. Well, not exactly. What O'Leary told Johnston, a Johnston aide said, was that the President supports the "concept" of eminent domain rights for coal slurry pipelines. However, the aide said, O'Leary said Carter would support Johnston's bill only if it contained "qualifying language" that would assure him that it would not have a disastrous "effect on competing modes of transportation."

Namely, railroads. "We asked him to tell us what he wants," the aide said, but O'Leary was not able to immediately say. "I don't think they're going to put anything on the bill that would gut it," he said.

Studies are being conducted now on just what effect slurries would have on rail companies, which are counting on an enormous expansion of their coal hauling activities as Western development in-

creases. A congressional study is not due to be completed until next January.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Rocky Mountain States has recently completed a study concluding that Carter's — and the railroads' — concern is legitimate.

"If Burlington Northern's coal traffic projections are correct and if only one slurry pipeline encroaches on this traffic," the federation study predicted, "it appears unlikely that Burlington Northern would suffer substantial economic harm. The company should still, in fact, experience substantial growth."

"But," it continued, "if one slurry pipeline is constructed and operated successfully, more are likely to follow if they can obtain a water supply and the necessary government approvals. This would seem to be... the railroads' concern. Slurry pipelines could then capture a much larger percentage of projected coal traffic."

The Johnston aide acknowledged that the concern over competition with the railroads is "the only issue." That acknowledgement would suggest that Johnston has very little to cheer about.

Reps. Teno Roncalio and Max Baucus (D-Mont.) disagree that rail competition is the only trouble. Roncalio, who heads one of the two House subcommittees that is sharing jurisdiction over the issue, has vowed to oppose slurry pipelines unless the one planned from Wyoming to Arkansas can be proven not to drain Wyoming's water. That is Baucus' chief concern, too.

"The plan," Johnston's aide said, "is to put it on the strip mining bill. If there's a lot of opposition to it, we won't do it." There may be a lot of opposition, but Johnston may be right in figuring that it could be coming from only a few Westerners.



SOME CAREFREE ALASKANS. With the Alaska pipeline still untested and scheduled to be filled with oil June 20 State Pipeline Coordinator C. A. Champion has decided to take a vacation. He is using 60 days of accumulated annual leave to work as a paid consultant for Husky Oil Co., the firm exploring Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4. Meanwhile, key members of his staff are quitting their jobs, and several problems remain to be resolved prior to pipeline start-up, according to an Anchorage newspaper, *Alaska Advocate*. As coordinator, Champion must approve Alyeska Pipeline Co.'s clean-up plan and sign off on the remaining pipeline work. "Basically, the pipeline is over," Champion says. "The state's role is essentially complete with the exception of start-up problems, and I'm going back over to his state office) when they start filling the line."

COLSTRIP EXCUSED. Although a state Air Quality Bureau inspector has called Montana Power Co.'s monitoring efforts at Colstrip, Mont., a "farce," the bureau chief recommends no state action be taken. Bureau Chief Michael D. Roach blames MPC's pollution-monitoring problems on the imperfect state of pollution monitoring technology in general. He says that on the basis of state tests that the Colstrip coal-fired generating units 1 & 2 are meeting

both state and federal emission standards.

The Northern Plains Resource Council and the Northern Cheyenne tribe had asked the state Board of Health and Environmental Sciences to suspend its conditional permit of two additional units at Colstrip, claiming MPC had not met conditions requiring continuous monitoring of the air quality around Colstrip. Their arguments were strengthened by the leak of an Air Quality Bureau memo written by Ed Wadington of the agency's Billings office. After an inspection of the Colstrip facilities Wadington wrote: "There is no excuse for this monitoring incompetence."

27 STRIP MINES. The impacts of 27 proposed strip mines in the Eastern Powder River Basin in northeastern Wyoming are described in a report just published by the Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC). Twenty-four of the 27 mines are scheduled to open by 1985. Together, the mines would produce between 130 million and 200 million tons of coal per year — or about one-fifth of the nation's expected coal production in 1985. The mines would strip 100,000 acres in the next 35 years in Campbell and Converse counties. Gillette, Wyo., will experience annual deficits between municipal income and public service expenses ranging from \$1 million to \$7 million per year; water supplies will be disrupted and degraded; and deer and antelope populations will drop, causing a loss of income to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission of \$200,000 by 1985, according to PRBRC. The research effort, directed by Randall Cox, drew from industry and government sources for its data. To receive a copy, send \$2.00 to PRBRC, 158 W. Brundage, Sheridan, Wyo. 82801.

DRY AND SHORT. Power shortages created by the drought have become a reality for the Northwestern states of Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Oregon. Idaho, which is 80% dependent on hydropower, is generally acknowledged to be the hardest hit, and may resort to mandatory cuts in energy usage soon. A task force created by the governors, which includes delegates from the four states, representatives of the federal Bonneville Power Administration, large industrial consumers, and Northwest utilities, has devised a five-stage plan to curtail use. The first stages involve voluntary measures — like foregoing air conditioner use this summer. The final stages impose an "Armageddon" as one official calls it — mandatory cutbacks including rotating blackouts and shutdowns of some large industries. The Northwestern states are also eyeing a predicted surplus of energy in the Southwest this year, which, while expected to be extremely costly, might take care of their needs.

MONTANA HOPES IT'S IN CONTROL. Montana has just signed an agreement allowing it to enforce its mine reclamation standards — at least some of them — on federal land. While state officials seem generally pleased, State Land Commissioner Leo Berry, Jr., admits that Montana is "disappointed that only four of 28 sections of Montana's law were adopted." Nevertheless, Lt. Gov. Ted Schwinden says, "We intend to fully enforce all of the provisions of Montana law." Bob Tully of the Northern Plains Resource Council is upset because the agreement leaves out Montana's protection for water users' rights, permit denial, bonding and bond release, violations procedures, and a narrow variance provision. The four sections adopted by the Interior Department as "substantive reclamation standards" deal with revegetation, backfilling, topsoiling and concurrent reclamation of strip mined spoils.

Workshop reveals pent-up nuclear resentment

A federally sponsored workshop on nuclear wastes has been criticized by New Mexico environmentalists for inadequate consideration of the issue and for being designed to give industry too much input.

The Albuquerque workshop, one of the two held in the nation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), was the first major effort by the federal government to find a publicly acceptable solution to the question of radioactive waste disposal, according to the Southwest Research and Information Center. Radioactive waste disposal is one of the major fears expressed about nuclear power development.

William Rowe, deputy assistant administrator for EPA, said Albuquerque was selected because many nuclear waste problems — including mill tailings, low-level wastes, and high-level wastes — exist there now. In addition, a low-level nuclear waste disposal project has been proposed near Cimarron, and the Energy Research and Development Administration proposed a high-level waste site near Carlsbad.

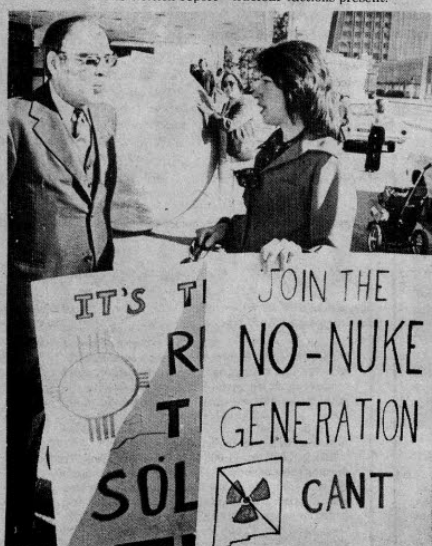
The Southwest Research and Information Center says New Mexico is also the site of much pent-up resentment toward nuclear development, which was expressed during the workshop. The workshop never dealt with the "basic underlying issue, namely, that many people just do not want nuclear power and nuclear wastes at all," according to Robert Spaulding of the center staff.

The center staff also criticized the EPA for scheduling the workshop in the middle of the week, thus discouraging participation by much of the public. Taking part in the workshop were several consultants hired by major nuclear industries as well

as citizens from environmental groups in Colorado, Pennsylvania, and New Mexico.

Spaulding says the results of the workshop are inconclusive. The written report

drafted in the workshop succeeded only in documenting the "irreconcilable differences between pro-nuclear and anti-nuclear factions present."



PUBLIC INPUT. William Rowe (left), deputy assistant administrator for EPA, talks with Margaret Farrell, a representative of CANT (Citizens Against Nuclear Threats). Members of CANT, a local anti-nuclear group, demonstrated outside the EPA workshop on nuclear wastes held in Albuquerque, but they also participated in the workshop.

We welcome you with all the energy five states can offer.

And with our five states, that's a lot of energy. As governors of the Energy States of America, we want to assure you that you and your firm will never find a warmer welcome than from the people of this region.

We have a lot to offer you — in resources, in productivity, in energy, in cooperation — and most of all, in enthusiasm. We're enthusiastic about you, and about this tremendously energetic land we live in. It's a good place to live. It's big, friendly, bountiful, with room to roam and clean air to breathe.

We're willing to share this land, because we know the future prosperity of this region depends largely on the new jobs and the new ideas of firms like yours. Come take a look in person. We're proud to welcome you.

GOVERNOR THOMAS JUDGE
MontanaGOVERNOR J. JAMES EGAN
NebraskaGOVERNOR RICHARD KNEIP
South DakotaGOVERNOR ED HERSCHLER
WyomingGOVERNOR ARTHUR A. LINK
North Dakota

WELCOMING SMILES. This page is from an ad in THE TIMES of London placed by the Old West Regional Commission, welcoming new industry to the "energy states." The smiles of two of the governors rapidly turned to frowns when they learned of the advertising's emphasis on energy abundance in their states. The objections of Governors Link and Judge forced the commission to suspend the campaign.



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

NEW SYNFUELS BILL. The synthetic fuel loan guarantee program defeated in Congress last year has arisen again, passing on a voice vote in the House Science and Technology Committee. This year's version of the program would authorize the Energy Research and Development Administration to guarantee loans of up to \$50 million to companies developing the technology to produce oil and gas from coal, oil from oil shale, and fuels from wastes. The bill is said to be supported by White House energy planners.

COAL LEASING "BREAKDOWN."

The federal coal leasing program is not only behind schedule, it is "near total breakdown," according to sources quoted in Coal Week. The problems are attributed to uncertainties created by the changeover in administrations, as well as environmental impact statement problems. In Washington, there is confusion about the division of authority between the Interior Department and the proposed Department of Energy, and Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus has pledged a complete review of the coal leasing program. Out in the field, the nine coal environmental impact statements that were to be the first step in the leasing program are from two to six months behind schedule, according to Coal Week.

DOE EMERGING. The House Government Operations and the Senate Government Affairs committees have both passed bills which would consolidate energy-related agencies into a single Department

of Energy (DOE), expected to be led by James Schlesinger. Action on the House and Senate floors is expected sometime in May. Environmentalists are concerned that neither bill gives the Interior Department adequate authority to protect the environment and consider activities that conflict with energy development.

PIPELINE PUSHERS HOPEFUL. President Jimmy Carter's energy message has "dramatically changed the atmosphere" for passage of a bill that would grant the power of eminent domain to coal slurry pipelines, a House Interior Committee staff member has told Coal Week. The bill, HR 1609, is expected to come before the committee soon, or it may be tacked onto the strip mining legislation now under consideration in the Senate (see story page 10). Vigorous opposition is expected from Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.), according to Coal Week.

As a part of its attempt to boost coal

development, the Administration plans to back coal slurry pipeline legislation, according to Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.). "All I saw when I heard this was the darkening clouds of combat," Roncalio said in a Casper Star-Tribune story.

STRIPPING BAN. While it was not included in the House strip mining bill, an amendment requiring a five-year moratorium on the mining of prime agricultural lands may be added to the Senate version of the bill, observers say. Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrus originally proposed the moratorium to allow time to determine the impact of the strip mine bill on prime agricultural land.



Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

As the long-embattled federal strip mining bill reaches the home stretch, congressmen are having to squint to find things to argue about.

Much of the arguing has to do with strip mining for coal on "alluvial valley floors" of the West — that is, valleys where the soil and water are ample to support farming. Those valleys are not a large part of the arid West, which is why they are important to farmers and ranchers. Coal companies are attracted to the valleys because the soil and water make it easier to reclaim the land after mining.

President Gerald Ford opposed restrictions on such mining operations, contending they would place 66 million tons of yearly coal production off-limits to mining companies. He did not explain then, but a congressional investigation has since revealed, that his production figure was based on the immoderate assumption that

all mines located even partly on valley floors would be shut down. His assessment has been generally discredited because valley floors comprise very little of most of those mine areas.

President Jimmy Carter supports an outright ban on valley strip mining, and his Council on Environmental Quality has supplied a study showing the ban would affect less than three per cent of the Western coal reserve. That study, too, has been brought into question because of last-minute tampering with the figures before they were made public.

Congress appears settled on banning most strip mining on valley floors, and the issue has come down to how much.

Last month, the House approved an amendment by Rep. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) that would forbid strip mining on valley floors, except where companies have been given leases to do so or are in the middle of doing it now. The Senate appears headed for a less stringent ban, applied only to

valleys that are important to farming operations.

Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) argued that the exception, or "grandfather clause," in the Baucus proposal should include, as the Senate bill does, companies that have staked money on their plans to mine a valley. The House voted down Roncalio's amendment to include such an exception, and Roncalio voted against the Baucus proposal.

Some companies, Roncalio said, "have already spent vast sums of money to acquire the property, to purchase the surface, or to purchase equipment" in expectation of someday mining a valley.

The issue, then, has come down to what kind of exceptions should be allowed, or, in congressional parlance, which mines or planned mines should be "grandfathered."

It is uncertain how much coal beneath valley floors has been bought by companies planning to mine it. Roncalio has compiled figures that are incomplete because they

reveal only those areas where mining plans have been definitely stated. Those figures are unimpressive; they show that less than one square mile throughout the West and less than half a square mile in Wyoming would be put off-limits.

Less than three per cent of areas where mines are planned in Wyoming's Powder River Basin by Kerr-McGee, Peabody Coal Co., and Sun Oil Co. are located on valley floors, according to the figures supplied to Roncalio by the U.S. Geological Survey. Congressional aides say a ban would have little effect on those plans.

However, 37% of a relatively small mine planned by Peter Kiewit & Sons, Inc., along the Tongue River, the Whitney mine, is said to lie on a valley floor, and a ban could be critical to that plan.

Beyond those plans, the impact of such a ban is anybody's guess — as long as politically-motivated agencies do the predicting — until years from now when the effects will be experienced.

Link, Judge hit overseas ads for 'Energy States'

May 20, 1977 — High Country News-11

The Old West Regional Commission has announced that it will cancel a series of advertisements in overseas newspapers urging businesses to settle in the "Energy States of America" — Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota. The commission's action in placing the ads brought severe criticism from Montana Governor Thomas Judge and North Dakota Governor Arthur Link.

The center of the controversy is an elaborately designed and photographed, full-color brochure that appeared in THE TIMES of London on March 18. The commission placed the ad at a cost of \$20,000. The brochure describes in glowing terms the abundant energy supplies of the Western states, the availability of electricity, the abundant work force, and "glad-to-see-you energy that brings the government closer to you."

All five states' governors are pictured at the end of the booklet along with a message expressing a willingness "to share this land" with businesses and assuring that "you and your firm will never find a warmer welcome than from the people of this region."

The welcome for the ad program was less

than warm, however. Governor Judge said that he was "outraged" when he saw the ads, calling them "deceptive and misleading." Judge was upset primarily because the ads promised a surplus of energy when the region is presently faced with shortages. Judge even threatened to have the man in charge of the program fired.

The Montana governor's objections were also voiced by North Dakota Governor Arthur Link. Link said that he had thought the main target of the ads would be to seek agricultural markets, not energy investors.

Environmentalists in Montana went even further than the governors. Northern Plains Resource Council chairman Charles Yarger said, "Old West's ad campaign is one of the most disgusting and insulting things we have ever seen."

In response to the hoopla, Old West voted to cancel any further advertising. A spokesman for the commission said, however, that the Times had already received 75 inquiries from businesses, including a French firm interested in producing fertilizer from lignite.

Coal lobbyist, environmentalists say:

Montana legislature of 1977 seen as 'stalemate'

by Robin Tawney

As predicted, Montanans concerned about natural resources faced an uphill battle from the moment the 45th state legislature convened. They were confronted with bill after bill that, if passed, would gut much of the promising legislation adopted in previous sessions.

But in the end, the most damaging bills were either drastically amended or killed outright, and a few significant conservation wins were scored. Both environmentalists and a coal lobbyist said they consider the session a standoff.

The opponents involved in each issue came prepared with battle plans and contingency plans, armed with masses of in-

formation. Fiercely loyal to their causes, they squared off on the battlegrounds of energy, water use, hard rock mining, and subdivision regulations.



SARAH IGNATIUS says the "real tragedy" of the session was the fact that few bills addressing alternative energy and conservation passed — largely because they weren't supported by Gov. Tom Judge.

SITING MORATORIUM

The confrontation on energy began in an arena marked off some two years earlier.

The 1975 legislature had placed a temporary moratorium on applications for new power plants and other facilities under the Major Facility Siting Act and told Gov. Tom Judge to formulate a "long-term comprehensive state energy conversion policy and plan." Judge assigned this task to the Montana Energy Advisory Council (MEAC), headed by former Lt. Gov. Bill Christiansen, and appointed a citizens advisory committee to add its own input.

MEAC was assigned to articulate long-term growth goals, assess available data, and begin a statewide siting inventory, which stimulated hope for a sound policy.

But, according to Bob Kiesling, staff coordinator of the Environmental Information Center (EIC), "everybody botched up, including environmentalists."

"If we'd really been on top of things, we should have seen the opportunity (for influencing the state's energy policy) when the citizen committee was formed. We should have had a good solid energy package."

Instead MEAC's final report was a "miscellaneous failure," Kiesling says, "partly because of poor funding, and partly because of poor cooperation between MEAC and other state agencies and resource people. The result was a hodgepodge of energy-related legislation and no firm energy policy."

MEAC's report was called "A Need for Balance: Montana Energy and Growth Policies," but the scales tipped toward traditional nonrenewable energy sources. It emphasized siting facilities, transportation, extraction, and conversion.

Jim Mockler of the Montana Coal Council says he didn't recall any proposal in the governor's policy which would alleviate Montana's energy shortage. He says Judge's statement "was not an energy policy" because it failed in all but one instance — its mention of conservation — to address energy consumption.

GASIFICATION STUDY KILLED

The "real tragedy" of the legislative session, according to Sarah Ignatius of Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC), was that because Gov. Judge did not support them, few bills that addressed alternative energy and conservation were passed.

"Judge has made considerable political headway saying he has a very clear idea of what the state's energy policy should be," she says, "but he has failed to back up his statements with action." The one measure the governor did push was a bill authorizing first the development of, then just a study of, the feasibility for a coal gasification plant in Montana, Ignatius says — despite opposition from his own citizens advisory group and other groups. That bill was defeated by an unlikely coalition of liberal Democrats, conservative Republicans, and others.

According to Kiesling, citizens who wanted to gain tighter control of plant siting made the mistake of incorporating all their amendments to the Major Facility Siting Act in one bill sponsored by Rep. Francis Bardanoue (D-Harlem).

Bardanoue's bill would have added for the first time industrial facilities like refineries, smelters, and mineral processing plants to the siting act's jurisdiction. It also would have determined Montana's energy "need" by averaging consumption over a 20-year period. Then only power plants that would produce 80% of their power for Montana could have been built. Under Bardanoue's bill, the state would have also conducted a statewide inventory of possible sites for facilities. MEAC has already begun such an inventory.

The issue that probably defeated Bardanoue's bill, Ignatius says, was the "export only" for the use of Montana coal. While the governor had often mentioned "export only" as one of his goals, "when a particular test of support came along (like on this bill), he's nowhere to be found," Ignatius notes.

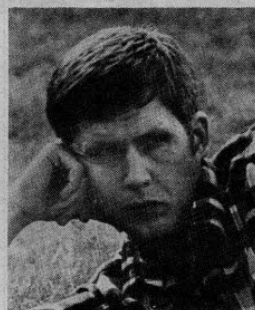
The result was that no significant changes were made in the existing siting law.

RECLAMATION WITH GRASSES

A second major energy bill would have prohibited strip mining on some alluvial valley floors. Although this is a pressing national issue, the governor didn't support the bill strongly enough, Ignatius says, so it died in committee.

NPRC, EIC, and other groups successfully fought back two attempts to weaken Montana's Strip Mine Reclamation Act that would have allowed coal companies to reclaim their spoils with something other than native grasses, as required by present law.

One of those bills, introduced by Thomas R. Conroy (D-Hardin), would have allowed a company to convert strip-mined land to irrigated pastureland if the surface owner promised to irrigate the land after the re-



BOB KIESLING says "everybody botched up" — including environmentalists — in not recognizing the importance of the citizens advisory committee for formulating a state energy policy.

clamation bond was released. The other proposal, sponsored by Corrie Thiessen (D-Lambert) and George Roskie (R-Great Falls), would have allowed a coal company, upon receiving written consent from the surface owner, to transform stripmined land to any use.

"Any use," according to Torian Donohoe, EIC lobbyist, "could have included motorcycle racing tracks or parking lots." Figures from the Department of State Lands show that all but 4.2% of the private land being strip mined is owned by the coal companies or Burlington Northern. Consequently, Donohoe said she doubted whether much land would have been reclaimed as originally intended.

"This bill would have made the exception the rule," she says. "For example, the state already has approved a landing strip at Colstrip and a wildlife refuge at Knife River — both projects are on stripped lands. Flexibility already is present in state law."

The coalition for stricter regulations on mining also successfully fought an attempt to lower the state's 30% coal tax and banned the disposal of nuclear waste in Montana.

YELLOWSTONE WATER

Ignatius said perhaps the most significant measure affecting coal development to pass the 45th legislature was Rep. Willie Day's bill extending the state's moratorium on granting industrial permits to use Yellowstone River water. The moratorium, which had been in effect for three years, was expiring this spring. Now it will be automatically extended as late as Jan. 15, 1979, if litigation delays final state action on 30 pending applications to reserve water. If no litigation is brought, the deadline will be Jan. 1, 1978.

The Yellowstone moratorium became politically linked with another bill that called for a preference system for water use permits. Under the proposed preference system, municipal interests would have first priority, then agriculture, industry, and last recreation and fish and wildlife.

Both bills passed one house and then hung in limbo as legislators and lobbyists tried to work out a compromise. The preference bill eventually was defeated.

Phil Tawney, EIC lobbyist, calls the preference system "too complicated." "It was already studied in 1967 and scrapped," he says. Under the new water law, the state will study all requests for reservations of water from the Yellowstone and then try to

allocate it fairly. These reservations would get preference over pending industrial water applications. Tawney says that proponents of the preference system saw their bill as a way to insure that state departments, such as fish and game and health and environmental sciences, could not get the reservations for water they have applied for.

HARD ROCK MINING

A bill that would have expanded the authority of the state to regulate hard rock mining met decisive defeat in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. The measure, sponsored by Rep. Art Shelden (D-Libby), would have expanded the definition of mining to include construction and operation of concentrators, crushers, tailings ponds, and related facilities.

Shelden's amendments also would have mandated water quality and quantity monitoring before, during, and after certain kinds of exploration and mining, and would have made water quality information available to specific agencies.

EIC supported two successful amendments to the Hard Rock Mining Act, both introduced by Rep. Joe Quilici (D-Butte). One will allow the Department of State Lands more time to study mining applications. The other replaces the traditional net proceeds tax on hard rock minerals with a three per cent tax on gross proceeds. This assures the state of payment even in years when the mining company records do not show a profit and simplifies auditing procedures, according to Donohoe of EIC.

Bill Sternhagen of the Anaconda Company opposed both amendments. He says his corporation already pays two other gross taxes and concludes that the new tax will "adversely affect the economics of the Anaconda Company's mining operations."

OTHER LEGISLATION

In other action, the Montana legislature killed bills that would have:

- brought more subdivisions under the review process by expanding the acreage limits and deleting the law's exemption for "occasional sales." The legislators did pass, however, several amendments supported by both environmentalists and the realtors association that will speed the review process in some situations. The Montana Realtors Association and EIC agree that the most far-reaching action of the legislature on subdivisions is a resolution that calls for a complete review of all subdivision laws.

- drastically altered the Montana Environmental Policy Act by ruling that departments could only make natural resource decisions based on the narrowest possible interpretation of their statutory authority.

- established a returnable container system similar to that set up by Oregon's "Bottle Bill."

- replaced the five member elected Public Service Commission with the prior system of a three member body appointed by the governor.

"We were lucky this year," Tawney concludes. "This legislative session should serve as a warning to all those concerned about future allocation and use of our natural resources. It's obvious (by the makeup of the legislature) who's making the rules."

"The most important thing for concerned citizens to do in the next two years is to get like-minded people to enter key legislative races. We must get some new people in office if we expect to make any headway in 1979."



Western Roundup

HCN

FWS withdraws objections to Grayrocks

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will not object to the construction of the Grayrocks Dam on the Laramie River in Wyoming, provided the owner, Missouri Basin Power Project, meets local wildlife mitigation needs. FWS had earlier filed an objection with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because it was concerned about the effects of the Grayrocks diversion of water on migratory waterfowl habitat downstream. The reservoir will supply a 1,500 megawatt coal-fired power plant in Wheatland.

In a press release announcing the withdrawal, FWS did not say that the Grayrocks project would not hurt the wildlife habitat. The agency said, "We have concluded that the extremely complex pattern of water use and management . . .

combined with the amount of diversion proposed at Grayrocks would make it difficult to legally establish that the proposed Grayrocks diversion alone would cause damage to wildlife habitat."

FWS didn't specify what is necessary to maintain waterfowl habitat, however. The agency says that several other diversions are planned along the Platte River system, the cumulative effects of which could be serious. The agency then begs the question of cumulative impact because other possible projects are embroiled in "unresolved legal, engineering, environmental, or economic questions . . . Because of the questions mentioned, some pending major projects presently cannot be viewed legally as 'proposed actions.'"



NM ranchers fence with BLM rules

New Mexico ranchers are objecting to fencing modification regulations imposed by the Bureau of Land Management on public lands. BLM's rules are designed to provide a gap under fences — usually 16 inches — to allow pronghorn antelope to crawl underneath.

The ranchers contend that the normal wire net fences used on many ranches are more satisfactory for predator control. The net fencing restricts livestock movements and helps prevent predators from reaching

the herds. However, the fences are often as high as 48 inches, and antelope cannot get under or over them.

According to *Conservation News*, BLM has agreed to conduct a three-year study to determine the effects of the fencing modifications on both livestock and antelope. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to step up predator control in the areas in New Mexico subject to the fence modifications.



FENCED OUT. The high wire mesh fences used on some ranches serve two purposes — keeping the sheep in and the predators out. However, they also imperil the passage of antelope. The Bureau of Land Management has proposed rules providing a 16 inch gap at the bottom of the fence to allow antelope to crawl under. The rules are being opposed by some New Mexico ranchers.

Coyotes slain on private Teton Park land

Coyote baiting, trapping, and shooting on private lands within Grand Teton National Park is becoming a more frequent practice, according to park superintendent Robert Kerr. A 1974-1975 U.S. Fish and Wildlife study found that one-third of 52 radio-tagged coyotes were killed by man and of the total tagged carcasses recovered, 40% were found within park boundaries.

Kerr says that the protection offered by the park has made the coyote a "more visible member of the native fauna," according to the *Jackson Hole News*. He fears that if the animal is harassed within the park boundaries, it will become less visible and "this will result in a great loss of experience and wildlife viewing for many persons."



DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS

Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management.

BLM closes Deep Creek Mountains

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has apparently executed an end run around a uranium firm and a Utah congressman by using its newly acquired "emergency" powers to close off 26,927 acres of land in the Deep Creek Mountains of Utah from public use. The action was taken at the request of environmentalists to protect a rare Snake Valley cutthroat trout, an unusual species of stone fly, the cape fern, bristlecone pine, and archeological sites. According to the *Deseret News*, none of the species are currently on the list of threatened or endangered species, but scientists believe that the area is important to the understanding of prehistoric aquatic life in Lake Bonneville.

The immediate threat to the Deep Creeks was the Atlas Corporation's uranium mining operation. BLM had unsuccessfully attempted to withdraw the area from mining in 1975. When Atlas Minerals started road construction to reach its mineral claims in 1977, it agreed not to build roads into the

area that BLM had identified as having primitive qualities. Nevertheless, according to Dick Carter of the Wilderness Society, Atlas's roads proceeded.

Under the recently-passed BLM Organic Act, the agency can close an area for three years with its emergency powers, unless an act of Congress reverses the decision.

U.S. Rep. Gunn McKay (D-Utah) said that the action was "administrative abuse" and the land withdrawal was "another Alamo." He warned that if the Administration continues to close off portions of Utah, "somebody's going to get shot."

"The BLM and, if you are from Utah, your congressmen and senators need to hear your support for the withdrawal," says Carter.

For more information contact the state director, Bureau of Land Management, 136 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. Carter's address is The Wilderness Society, 610 Judge Building, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.

Forest Service approves Ski Yellowstone

The U.S. Forest Service has issued a final environmental impact statement approving the Ski Yellowstone resort complex in southwestern Montana. The resort has been under consideration since 1972 and has been fought by environmental interests. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently studying the area for designation as critical grizzly habitat and is still

reviewing the resort proposal.

The resort would bring in an estimated 6,500 skiers to the area just north of West Yellowstone, according to the *Missoulian*. A spokesman for the Wildlife Federation says that the group plans an administrative appeal and, if that fails, a possible court challenge.

Interior, Audubon settle on Garrison suit

In a unique agreement, environmentalists and the Interior Department have reached an out-of-court settlement to halt further action on the Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota. Interior Secretary Andrus and the National Audubon Society have agreed that the project will not go forward unless specifically authorized by Congress.

Under the agreement, the nearly-finished McClusky Canal from Garrison Dam will be completed, provided that the headgates remain sealed and six canal plugs stay in place to prevent water from flowing in the canal, according to the *Dickinson Press*. No other construction work or land acquisition will take place

until a comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS) is prepared and either the project or an alternative is authorized by Congress.

The Audubon Society originally filed the suit, claiming the Bureau of Reclamation had filed an inadequate EIS and had also violated federal law regarding migratory waterfowl. The society claims that the prairie wetlands of North Dakota are the most important migratory waterfowl habitat in the U.S. The Garrison Diversion had originally been on the Carter Administration's water project "hit list," but a scaled-down version of the project was later recommended.

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DISTAFF CORNER

BIRDS STARTED IT

by Myra Connell

When I retired from my work as school librarian, I set a new goal — to devote my spare time to the environmental movement. I hoped that in my very small way I could help in the fight for a livable earth.

A friend asked me how I happened to become an environmentalist. Off-hand, not taking time to think out an answer, I said that Earth Day in 1970 had influenced me. Later, reconsidering, I realized that I had been turned toward loving the Earth and all its creatures many a year ago.

A pair of American kestrels (sparrow hawks) were responsible.

My father raised wheat on his irrigated farm. In those days grain wasn't harvested with a combine; it was cut with a binder. Then the bundles were hauled to a stack yard and put into great round stacks to await the arrival of the threshing machine.

One fall the threshing machine was late, and winter came early. Dad's wheat didn't get threshed out until spring. The bundles at the top of the stack were spoiled from exposure to the snow, so they were tossed down on the ground.

Dad's thrifty nature couldn't let the grain go to waste, even though it was wet and mildewed, so he told my brother and me to drive the hogs to the stack yard so they could feed on the discarded wheat bundles. We climbed on the straw stack to watch the pigs and make sure they didn't stray.

From our vantage point, we noticed the pair of sparrow hawks. (We had never heard the name "kestrel.")

They would hover in the air about 20 feet above a pig's back, and when he rooted over



a wheat bundle they would dive and seize one of the mice that ran out. They carried the mice to the top of a nearby hill, but immediately returned to capture more.

To help matters along, Brother and I devised a rope by tying together the pieces of binder twine that we found in the straw. One end we tied to the twine binding a bundle on the ground; the other we held while lying hidden on top of the stack. When the birds appeared, it was a simple matter to turn over the bundle by jerking the rope. As mice scattered in all directions the little falcons dived and captured them, always carrying them out of sight on the hill and coming right back for more.

We were pretty excited with our new game, but the sun was getting low and we knew we had to drive the pigs back to their pen. Curious about what the sparrow hawks had done with all the mice they had captured, we went to the hill and discovered many of the dead mice stashed away in the branches of the sagebrush, hoarded against a less fortunate day.

I confess that I have not been a good environmentalist with perfect consistency. But my interest in our spaceship Earth, all its multitude of life forms, and the preservation thereof has expanded continuously over the years, from that long ago day when we kids helped the sparrow hawks catch mice.

Recollections of the Flathead Mission

by Fr. Gregory Mengarini, S.J., The Arthur H. Clark Company, Glendale, California, 1977. \$16.95, hard cover, 256 pages. Illustrations.

Review by Peter Wild

One of the first extended contacts with Indians of the northern Rockies was through the trappers of the American Fur Company and its Canadian rival, the Hudson's Bay Company. Whiskey and gunpowder flowed freely in exchange for beaver pelts and buffalo hides. During the 1830s and 1840s both white and red traders



FATHER GREGORY MENGARINI, chronicler of life with the Flathead Indians in western Montana.

seemed fairly happy with the arrangement.

For their part, the few missionaries in the field despaired. In their eyes the "savages" were bad enough in their natural state, without the added lawlessness, cursing, and uncontrolled exuberance of the mountain men — all of which had greater appeal to the natives than the remonstrations of the divines.

One, then, can appreciate the delight of the Jesuits when in 1831 four Indians suddenly appeared in St. Louis begging the Black Robes to instruct the Flatheads in western Montana. Some years later a small band of missionaries traveled up the Missouri River, then overlaid along the Wind River, through the Hell Gate defile, and into the placid Bitterroot Valley. At the present site of Stevensville, they built St. Mary's Mission.

Fr. Gregory Mengarini, one of the group led by Fr. Pierre DeSmet, kept an account of his 10 years with the Flatheads. His *Recollections*, presented with an introduction by Gloria Lothrop, gives a striking picture, "a record unsurpassed by later chroniclers," of life in the wild mountains before white culture tamed them. To our benefit, the myths, language, food, and hunting of the Flatheads fascinated the priest.

Working to preserve wilderness or wild-life may well be of more immediate concern than history to the environmentalist, but this book surely will enrich his efforts. For backpackers in western Montana and eastern Idaho, it belongs on their "must" list.

Despite the initial zealotry of the Flatheads and the jubilation of the priests, all was not idyllic in the little log church on

the meadow beside the Bitterroot River. The Flatheads wouldn't give up their favorite pastimes: stealing women and horses from rival tribes. The disheartened Jesuits

was that they could acquire White advantages by adopting White "medicine." Disillusionment set in when they realized that bullets were just as lethal to White as to Flatheads. Adding to the cultural disruption, smallpox decimated tribes in the late 1840s, and a general uprising swept the Northwest.

The Arthur H. Clark Company specializes in source materials of Western history. Such quality format and titles as *Jedediah Smith's Diary and Medical Aspects Of The Lewis & Clark Expedition* rarely are offered by the New York publishers. A fascinating catalog, along with books, may be ordered from 1264 South Central Ave., Glendale, Calif. 91204.



couldn't see that abandonment of St. Mary's in 1849 was not their failure. For one thing, they were being used by the U.S. government, which, always short of troops, encouraged both Protestant and Catholic missions as voluntary vanguards in the unruly West.

For another, the priests did not understand the practical basis underlying Indians' early enthusiasm for White religion. The Flatheads recognized Anglo culture as technologically superior in the hunt and on the battlefield. Their logical assumption

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Rod Nash sees end to the freedom of the hills

by Joan Nice

Roderick Nash, whose passion is exploring and preserving wilderness, says that some environmentalists accuse him of wasting his time "re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic."

"It's an amenity, not a necessity," Nash says in describing his critics' point of view about wilderness. "Keeping land wild is like keeping highways free of billboards—it's nice but it's not a 'gut' issue like keeping air, water, and the food chains unpolluted and population controlled. . . . We shouldn't waste precious time even talking about luxuries like wild country."

Nash, a historian and wilderness philosopher, disputes this view. He says wilderness is "essential to stopping the

Titanic from sinking or at least altering its course."

Why? Because "man's most serious environmental problem is the pollution of his

Why do you need an enormous expanse of wilderness all to yourself to satisfy you?

mind," according to Nash. Nash sees wilderness as a powerful aid in changing our society's suicidal attitudes.

"Frontier mentality (the feeling that nature must be conquered) is the problem. But we should not blame the pioneers. We should prevent frontier hangover," he says. "Wilderness is teaching us that it's time to restrain ourselves."

Nash, a professor of history and environmental studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, ventured out into a stronghold of frontier mentality last month — Lander, Wyo. He spoke to a safe audience, however, a gathering of instructors of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). The group makes its living selling wilderness expertise to the public.

In hip professorial style, Nash prodded and angered the instructors as much as he entertained them. After a beautiful slide show on the history of wilderness in the U.S., Nash asked the instructors some grim questions. Were they willing to prepare for the time when wilderness would be rationed, when each user might need to

pass a licensing test, and might be allowed only a few days of refuge a year? The instructors seemed to be nodding resolutely.

More difficult was Nash's final question: "Do you love the wilderness enough to say you'll never go there again?"

While Nash is sure that it will eventually be necessary to stay out of the wilder-

ness in order to preserve it, he admits that he can't say "yes" to that question himself yet.

Nash has enjoyed many long visits to the wilderness and is one of the most experienced whitewater boatmen in the West. He

(continued on page 16)

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"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.

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.)

POSITION We need a married couple who wishes to form a family with ten abandoned and neglected children, 6 to 18, who attend public schools and community functions. Modern house, beautiful setting, and days off provided. Write: THE VILLAGES, INC., Box 1695, Topeka, Kansas 66601.

HELP WANTED. Powder River Basin Resource Council — a citizens' group concerned with preserving the agricultural tradition in the face of Wyoming's energy development — is accepting applications for an office manager. Duties include: bookkeeping, membership records, newsletter lay-outs, and coordinating office activities. The salary is \$350 a mo. for the first 3 months and \$378 a mo. thereafter. The challenges and work experience are invaluable. Send resumes to PRBRC, 150 W. Brundage, Sheridan, WY 82801. (307) 672-5809.

POSITION. Northern Rockies Action Group has a half-time editor position open as of June 1. Requirements are experience with all phases of production for a 16-page magazine, including technical competence in editing and layout. Write Laurie Lamson, NRAG, 9 Placer St., Helena, Mont. 59601, (406) 442-6615.

HELP HCN get the word out. One way HCN keeps going is by introducing itself to new people. HCN needs volunteers to write or type names onto mailing labels. If interested, write HCN, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Thank you.

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

A prolific young rabbit named Freda
Cried when she heard Carter's deed. "A
crackdown on nukes?
Up with your dukes—
I'm rather fond of fast breeders!"

WIND MACHINE BOOKS

Two books are available from the Earthmind group for novices interested in building their own wind generators. Both are written by Michael Hackleman. The first, *Wind and Windspinners—a 'nuts 'n bolts' approach to wind-electric systems*, concentrates on Savonius rotors. *The Homebuilt Wind-Generated Electricity Handbook* warns against the common pitfalls associated with building wind machines out of salvaged materials. Each book is \$7.50 and can be ordered from Earthmind, 5246 Boyer Rd., Mariposa, Calif. 95338.

SOLAR FOR RENTERS

A pamphlet describing low-cost, portable solar energy devices, *The Solar Renter's Handbook*, has been published as an outgrowth of the First Annual Solar Fair held in Albuquerque, N.M. The fair was organized by University of New Mexico students and featured solar cookers, water heaters, forced air heaters, and greenhouse heaters. The handbook is available for 75 cents from Paul Robinson, P.O. Box 4524, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106.

SOUTHWEST SOLAR MEETING

The Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona solar energy societies are holding a joint conference, "Solar Energy in the Southwest," Aug. 27-28 in Dallas, Tex. Formal papers will be presented on significant work in alternate energy in the Southwest. Registration fee is \$6 for members and \$12 for non-members. Contact the TX-SES Program Committee, c/o Solar Energy Laboratory, University of Houston, Houston, Tex. 77004.

NEPA REFORM

The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is holding hearings on how to improve the environmental impact statement process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Areas suggested for discussion are concentration on real issues instead of paper production, streamlining the process, elimination of conflicts and duplication, and consideration of economic and social factors. The hearings will be June 6-8 in Washington, D.C.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Bureau of Land Management, Casper College, and the University of Wyoming are offering an environmental education workshop for teachers and college students June 11 to July 8. The workshop will cover aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, range and forest management, recreational use of the environment, geology, energy production, mined land rehabilitation, federal mineral leasing policies, cultural resource protection, and land use planning. The course, which will be taught mainly in the field, can be taken for five hours of undergraduate or graduate credit. To register call Jim Howard of Casper College (307) 268-2368 as soon as possible.

SOLAR SATURDAYS

The Alternate Energy Institute is sponsoring "Solar Saturdays" this summer in Estes Park, Colo. Each Saturday afternoon from June 4 to Sept. 3 the institute will teach a short course covering solar architecture, active solar heating systems, energy conservation in the home, and how to buy solar devices. The sessions will be designed for people with little or no background in solar energy applications. A five dollar registration fee includes a packet of information and a bumper sticker. For more information contact AEI at P.O. Box 3100, Estes Park, Colo. 80517.

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Nash . . .

(continued from page 15)

says he has rowed on every major Western river — a total of more than 5,000 miles.

Balance being the cornerstone of his philosophy, Nash begins his wilderness slide how with a shot of a brick wall, the "view" from his window where he grew up in New York City. The wall is just eight blocks from where Teddy Roosevelt grew up and six blocks from where Robert Marshall grew up, he says. Seeking an antidote to an overdose of civilization, Nash, like them, has immersed himself in wilderness, both physically and academically.

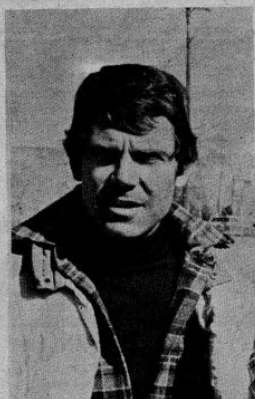
His book, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, was called a "mandatory prelude to any modern treatment of conservation problems," by former Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

ALARMIST

In a Wyoming setting, Nash appears to be an alarmist. Wyomingites still know and treasure numerous places where nobody goes. Of course, a reservation system is needed to curb numbers in Yosemite and at Mt. Whitney in California — but for Wyoming?

If Nash seems too eager to put the brakes on the wilderness experience, perhaps it is because he knows the problems of crowding from his childhood in the city. Or perhaps it is because his favorite wilderness haunt, the Grand Canyon, is becoming almost as badly congested as his birthplace. "The Grand," as he calls it, is "the most intensely supervised wilderness in the U.S. . . where everyone funnels through the same narrow course."

Nash makes his case in detail in *Wilderness and the American Mind*. He documents the fact that wilderness is vanishing at an alarming rate — as much land is paved as remains in a wilderness condi-



Rod Nash

tion. And as the demand for wilderness rises, to preserve wilderness we will have to regulate it.

But the paradox remains — if wilderness is dependent upon man, it is not wild.

"Essentially, a man-managed wilderness is a contradiction because wilderness necessitates an absence of civilization's ordering influence," Nash says. "Simply to know that one visits a wilderness by the grace of and under conditions established by governmental agencies could break the spell for many people."

But the alternative to a regulated wilderness is no wilderness at all, Nash believes. "One hundred people might be physically able to squeeze onto a tennis court, but the game they then played would not be tennis."

LIKE A THEATER

Nash's favorite form of regulation is the quota system. "Man in a state of civilization readily accepts quota-type restrictions

on many of his activities. Admissions to airplanes, apartments, and colleges are normally based on the rationing concept. People buy tickets for the theater, or if the performance is sold out, they wait for the next show or even the next season; they don't insist on sitting on each other's laps," Nash says.

In effect, Nash is warning of an end to the traditional freedom of the hills. While not disputing Nash's vision, a young Wyomingite in the audience declared he was glad he wouldn't be alive 100 years from now.

Nash, too, has qualms about the future. In a properly managed wilderness there won't be room for a John Muir or a Robert Marshall — or even a Roderick Nash or a NOLS instructor, who have all spent major portions of their lives in wilderness. Wilderness will be in such demand that no one will be allowed too generous a portion.

Nevertheless, Nash is firmly convinced that the realities must be faced — first, so we preserve as much of the remaining wilderness as possible and, second, so we do not "love" existing wilderness "to death."

BATTLE AT LEE'S FERRY

To wake up complacent Wyomingites who haven't experienced wilderness crowding, Nash tells the story of an upcoming battle at Lee's Ferry. He predicts we will see a near-war over the right to use the wilderness there this summer.

According to Nash, a group of 12-15 people who have lost several times in the lottery for a private permit to run the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon plans to try to run the river this year without a Park Service permit. They believe individuals should have the right to run the Colorado without government intervention.

They hope to bring enough attention to their expedition to make a violation of the rules into a protest of the Park Service's allocation system in the Grand Canyon. Their trip will be highly publicized. They

will invite newsmen and lawyers to add punch to what Nash calls "a rather futile way of protesting the system."

WILDERNESS FAD TO FADE?

There are alternatives to the future that Nash sees reflected in the Lee's Ferry fracas. For one, the burgeoning demand for wilderness could soon level off or drop, just

Wilderness rationing ahead?

like the demand for hula hoops or the demand for skateboards. But Nash believes that wilderness is more central to the American psyche than that. We won't tire of it like a cheap toy. Our national hunger for it can only grow, Nash says.

Or our culture could move toward a respect for nature like that found in Eastern cultures. In Japan, 25,000 people a day climbing the same mountain does not apparently reduce the quality of any individual's experience.

Japanese park administrators challenged Nash when on a visit he grumbled about the crowded conditions of the Japanese "wilderness."

"What's wrong? Aren't you sensitive enough?" they asked him. "We can experience wilderness in a blade of grass, in a flower. Why do you need an enormous expanse all to yourself to satisfy your need?"

For them wilderness is inside, not outside, Nash says.

But Nash, the American historian, thinks it also unlikely that our culture can tear itself from its frontier roots and totally embrace an Eastern-type appreciation.

To satisfy our society's traditional need for wilderness, we must save wilderness from people as well as other destructive forces, Nash concludes. If we don't, our culture may meet the Titanic's fate.

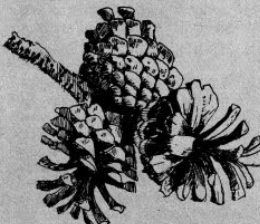
Dear Friends

The search is over. We have hired two people to try to fill the gap after Bruce left the staff to take a job with the Sierra Club. We received 17 applications, to our surprise, from all over the country.

It was a difficult decision and required weeks spent weighing applicants' qualifications, and learning which weren't suited for a small town and a small salary.

Soon after we started anticipating the change, we realized that what we really needed was a combination of skills. We needed someone to add a new zing to our jaded editorial crew. But we also needed someone to take over our production department, to devote most of their time to designing pages and darkroom work, as well as to clipping and filing newspapers and helping out in our busy circulation department.

Slowly we narrowed the applicants down, and two of them, Dan Whipple and Hannah Hinchman, agreed to join our staff. Many readers are already familiar with Dan. He has been writing for HCN on a freelance basis since September when he came to Wyoming from a job as policy editor of *Coal Week* in Washington, D.C. By now, we know him well and are confident that he will be competent and a lively addition to our staff. What's more,



Drawing by Hannah Hinchman

since he has built up a thriving freelance business, he can afford to work with us half-time (at half of our regular \$375 per month salary!).

A few of you may also know of Hannah. We found out about her through the regional Audubon Society office. She attended Audubon Camp near Dubois, Wyo., last summer and wrote and illustrated a whimsical, wise little book about it called *Hannah's Notes*. The society has since published the book to help teach future campers about ecology, geology, botany, ornithology, mountaineering, and general camp lore.

Hannah's sense of design and her art work should be a welcome addition

to HCN when she joins the staff in July.

To give you a little background: Dan's writing career started in 1974 after work as a professional singer and with the Federal Energy Administration. He started freelance writing, and two months later began working for McGraw-Hill covering first oil and gas and later coal. His work as a coal reporter led him to Wyoming for a short business trip. Falling immediately in love with the West, he returned to Washington, D.C., only long enough to make arrangements with McGraw-Hill to get a small stipend as a stringer and to contact other potential employers. He credits the obscure "Phillip J. Berardelli Famous Investigative Reporter's School" (facetiously, we assume) with teaching him everything he knows.

Hannah has a varied background that includes building log homes, illustrating a book on birds of the West



DAN WHIPPLE

and Audubon brochures, living in a tipi, and studying art, English, and the environment. She is now taking Audubon Society naturalists' training in Connecticut. She sounds delighted to be coming to Wyoming. "I haven't been drawn to anywhere else in the same way," she says.

Welcome to the staff!

—the editors

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