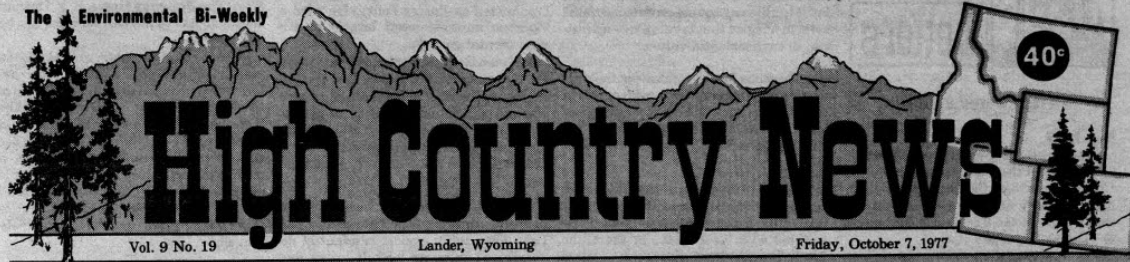


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The Environmental Bi-Weekly



Vol. 9 No. 19

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, October 7, 1977

Can the stockmen and the environmentalists be friends?

Former foes try combining forces

by Marjane Ambler

High on the plains of Wyoming near South Pass, the ranchers stand in a bunch around the quiet man from San Francisco, who is shivering in his light sport coat. Used to having to talk above the constant wind, they shout a little as they joke with one another and discuss animal unit months, crested wheatgrass, fences, and wild horses.

By itself, this meeting between Roger Beers of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Wyoming ranchers is scarcely noteworthy. However, it is only one of the examples of bridges now being built between agriculturalists and environmentalists. On a larger scale, it is only part of a nationwide effort by environmental groups to work when possible with other interest groups.

The meeting in Wyoming followed years of ill will between NRDC and ranchers in the West over a grazing suit that NRDC brought to stop overgrazing on public lands. It and other similar meetings led to a statement issued jointly last week by the two interests, which criticized the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for wanting to further delay its grazing planning (see separate story). BLM is in charge of much of the federal grazing land in the West.

The joint statement dramatically put the spotlight on the growing trend toward opening communication lines between environmentalists and agriculturalists.

In the West, environmentalists and farmers and ranchers have worked together for several years opposing some common threats, including coal mines, loss of agricultural water, the social impact of in-



Photo by Terrence Moore

FOR THE CHILDREN. Many ranchers and farmers point out that with the desperate state of the agricultural economy, they must do whatever is necessary to protect their operations for their children, even if it means subdividing agricultural land.

Photo of Matthew McKinney in Birney, Mont.

dustrialization, and transmission lines. These groups — such as the Northern Plains Resource Council, the Powder River Basin Resource Council, the United Plainsmen, and their affiliates — formed when the ranchers found that their traditional agricultural groups wouldn't help them with these problems.

When it came to other environmental subjects, such as predator control, land use planning, wilderness, and wild rivers, the landowner groups have traditionally avoided taking stands — both because of the diversity of opinions of their members and because of the urgency of the other threats. The staffs of these groups have also resisted being referred to as "environmental groups," preferring to be called rancher-conservationist groups. Other environmental groups have worked with them on energy development issues but have tackled other issues independently.

HICKS LAYS GROUNDWORK

Recently there has been a subtle move by both environmentalists and agriculturalists outside of the rancher-conservationist groups toward working together on new fronts where they had not previously recognized common goals or where, as in the grazing suit, they had traditionally been on opposite sides.

Part of the groundwork for this trend was laid early in the 1970s when the Northern Plains Regional Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club adopted agriculture as a top priority. Laney Hicks, regional representative for the club at that

(continued on page 4)



HCN has an artist on the staff. For more of her work see the centerspread, pages 8 and 9.

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HCN
Letters

ARTICLE MISLEADING

Dear HCN,

I have seen the item in your September 23 issue about the closing of the office of the Utah Environment Center. It gives publicity to the very negative views of a former staff person of the UEC and is misleading as to what has taken place.

It is true that the UEC board did close the organization's office and terminate the service of its director in July 1977, both due to financial stringency. The UEC has had its problems but is still very much alive. Its board is reassessing its situation with a

view to being as effective as possible in relation to environmental concerns in terms of public understanding and environmental health.

The organization has not been as effective as I should have liked it to have been, but it has been a genuine environmentalist voice in a region that is relatively insensitive to environmental values.

1. The center has brought about the creation of a separate corporation, identified as Utah Environmental Action, which is basically an action organization in the environmental sphere. This has obvious potential.
2. Of the 15 members of the UEC board, only two are directly associated with a utility or other major corporation. None is associated with Kennecott. In short, the board is truly an independent citizen group.
3. Recently, the UEC adopted what I regard as a significant Environmental Bill of Rights. A copy is enclosed.

4. The UEC has been and continues to be heard from in the cause of environmental integrity. Several examples should be cited.

a. The UEC president was co-chairman in 1976 of the Utah Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Policy. He filed a vigorous minority report largely on environmental grounds.

b. Recently the organization has made strong representations to the Secretary of the Interior and to the heads of major manufacturers of off-road vehicles against advertising that encourages use of such vehicles in ways damaging to the natural order. Responses from manufacturers have been largely encouraging.

c. The Center recently had an active hand in achieving the adoption of a Salt Lake City policy against residential development in upper foothill areas that should be preserved as public open spaces.

d. The voice of the UEC was heard in opposition to the proposed major electric power generating project (IPP) near Capital Reef National Park. As you are doubtless aware, that site has been abandoned.

I bespeak your encouragement — not denigration — of the UEC.

Jefferson B. Fordham
 President, Utah Environment Center
 Salt Lake City, Utah

Environmental Bill of Rights

1. Each person is entitled to a physically and spiritually healthful environment, which includes: a. right to clean air, land, and water; b. right to clear view of the countryside; c. right to maintenance unimpaired of the eco-system; d. right to peace and quiet upon public lands; e. right to the preservation of free-flowing streams; f. right to preservation of a healthy wildlife system; g. right to preservation of the long-term heritage of the race in all its components; h. right to quiet or freedom from undue noise in one's life patterns; and i. right to unimpaired vistas in the natural order.

2. Each person has a corresponding responsibility as to all the foregoing.

Corresponding to each of the rights declared here is a duty of each person to act in such a way as to respect the natural order and the rights of others in relation thereto.

HARDIN MOLDED PERSPECTIVE

Dear HCN,

The article on Garrett Hardin was quite good and well placed. Being a past UCSB (University of California at Santa Barbara) person, I had taken classes from Dr. Hardin and the collection of biologists whom he collected to fill the department. In many ways the high quality of the biological sciences at UCSB is due to his early efforts.

In a personal way, I know my education there completely molded my initial perspectives on biology-ecology and the world. HCN continues to upgrade its paper with articles like that.

Hugh Bollinger
 Salt Lake City, Utah

WILL CHILDREN HAVE DESERT?

Dear friend o' nature,

I read about your newspaper in Edward Abbey's recent book about the rape of the West (*The Journey Home*, E. P. Dutton) and would like to receive your paper, i.e. be well informed.

I drive across the country several times a year and am disturbed at all the "progress" I see on the way. I have spent a great deal of time in the American desert and I would be thoroughly bummed if my children could not do the same. At the same time I can see that technology may soon provide a mechanism by which millions of people would be able to flood the deserts and build cities. Is it inevitable? We need to be sure that if it is to be that we will proceed sanely if at all.

Paul Novak
 Berkeley, Calif.



© Carol Snow

WE EXIST!

Dear HCN,

Re: Your article on the apparent demise of the Utah Environment Center, saying that UEC was the only Utah-based membership group.

Because, as you note, Utah is in the "environmental stone age," none of us become famous in the media. But we still exist! Neglecting smaller organizations like ours, the latest Escalante Wilderness Alert lists sponsoring organizations such as: Ute Alpine Club, Canyon Country Council, Utah Nature Study Society, Wasatch Mountain Club, as well as the Escalante Wilderness Committee itself.

(Dr.) W.L. Tuck Forsythe, director
 Canyonlands Environmental Education Center
 Box 177
 Moab, Utah 84532

Energy Surge

The West that we knew yesterday does not exist today. High Country News has its finger on the pulse of the energy surge in the Rockies. HCN's job is to monitor its effects and point out alternatives. Join HCN won't you? Ask for a sample copy or send \$12 today for a year's subscription

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Tax deductible donations to the High Country News Research Fund can go a long way. A one hundred dollar contribution could pay for: research (one whole week's worth), or freelance writing (up to three full pages in HCN), or photographs (between 30 and 40 at HCN's prices), or travel expenses (2000 miles at 5 cents a mile). It would be hard to find a better bargain at today's prices. If you care to contribute, please write out a check to Wyoming Environmental Institute — HCN Research Fund and mail it to WEI, P.O. Box 2497, Jackson, Wyoming 83001. Thank you.

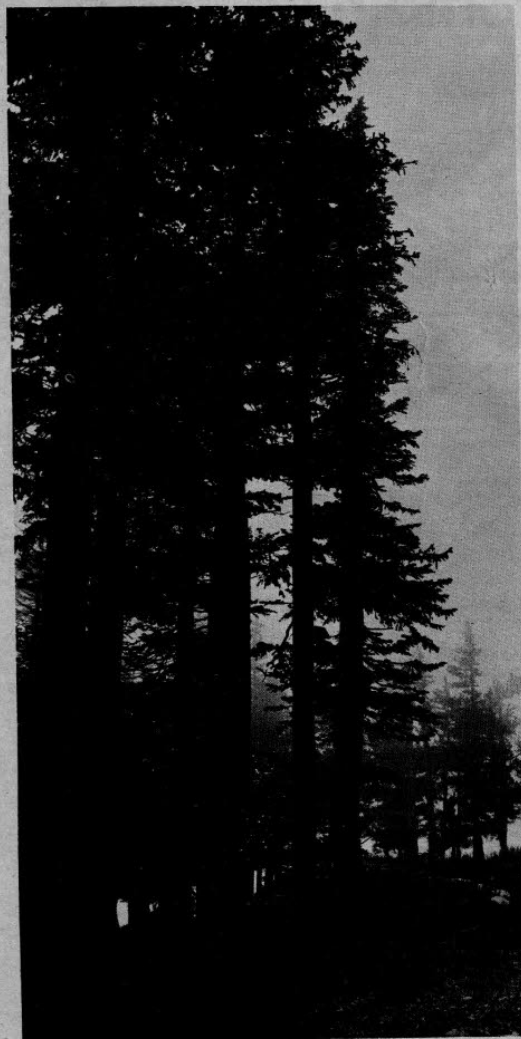


Photo by Charles Gallagher

THE SANDIA MOUNTAINS, near Albuquerque, N.M.

Oct. 7, 1977 — High Country News-3



Editorial

HCN

Water won't stretch for Western cities' growth

Two recent decisions indicate that cities in the West are gradually being forced to accept the limits that the lack of water will impose.

In Wyoming, the U.S. Forest Service had to choose between allowing the city of Cheyenne to develop water supplies for a booming population — or leaving it for a potential wilderness area, Western slope ranchers, cutthroat trout, and other wildlife.

In Colorado, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had to choose between recommending a water treatment complex that would double the city of Denver's water supply — or preserving a relatively undeveloped canyon and wildlife habitat, while possibly limiting Denver's growth.

In both cases, the agencies decided that this time, the cities would not get all they demanded at the expense of the other resources. The Forest Service illustrated this new thinking in its final environmental impact statement on the Huston Park Unit in the Sierra Madre Mountains. The statement said the decision "represents a better balance . . . and avoids extreme trade-offs between environmental effects and the other alternatives."

The Cheyenne and the Denver water boards were predictably outraged by the two decisions. Denver Water Board Manager James Ogilvie objected to the federal agency stepping into the planning effort. (EPA's comments were in response to an

environmental impact statement prepared by another federal agency, the Bureau of Land Management, which controls the land where the water project is to be constructed.)

Those paranoid about federal interference will no doubt point out that the two decisions are consistent with the Carter Administration's hopes to limit growth in the West because of the lack of water here.

However, while both decisions were made by federal agencies, they were not made in Washington, D.C., by federal officials blind to the realities of the West. They were made by local officials who must live in the areas affected by their decisions. And these local officials were responding to the comments of other local people who



have also begun to question the philosophy of growth that ignores the costs.

In Wyoming, for example, the Forest Service pointed out that its decision was influenced by individuals and agencies who questioned the city's estimates of future population growth and water usage.

Historically, all of us have watched fatalistically as cities grew. Their planners projected how much their populations might expand two decades or so in the fu-

ture, and sewer and water facilities were added to prepare.

Now we've started to ask a few questions. After seeing the effects of water rationing during the drought, we ask how much more water could be saved? Will new water supplies encourage unnecessary growth?

The demand for water may be somewhat

elastic, but the supply is not. Therefore, we must also ask what the environmental and social costs will be. A farmer, a rancher, a trout, a small town, or a mountain park loses a drop every time the city on the other side of the mountain demands another. Water cannot be stretched to serve everyone and every thing in the arid West.

—MJA

Author of 'Small Is Beautiful' dies

Ernst Friedrich Schumacher made good sense to those of us in rural areas of the country. To some extent, we already live in the kinds of communities that can remedy what he called the failure of the Modern Experiment. Communities full of Yankee ingenuity. Communities where people, above all, matter.

The 66-year-old economist died in Geneva, Switzerland, Sept. 4 enroute by train from one conference to another. "He was one of two or three catalytic figures in this transitional time," said *Maine Times*.

His iconoclastic, ecologically-based philosophy attracted a broad spectrum of followers across the U.S., including those of us at *High Country News*. The title of his book, *Small Is Beautiful*, was only part of his message.

"Today we suffer from an almost universal idolatry of giantism. It is therefore necessary to insist on the virtues of smallness — where this applies. (If there were a

prevailing idolatry of smallness, irrespective of subject or purpose, one would have to try and exercise influence in the opposite direction.) The principal task is always the restoration of some kind of balance," he said.

Out of Schumacher's thinking was born the "appropriate technology" movement in the U.S., which caught on so rapidly, that for better or worse, it has already been institutionalized — in the National Center for Appropriate Technology in Butte, Mont., and the Office of Technology Assessment's committee on appropriate technology.

But Schumacher was best at inspiring people, not institutions. During a recent visit to Montana and Colorado the man who set an inspiring vision of post-industrial society before the world gave a sense of mission to many Westerners.

John Cole of *Maine Times* conveyed our sentiments about his death: "Earth shall miss him."

—JN



Guest Editorial

HCN

by Hank Fischer
Defenders of Wildlife

The ubiquitous blackbird has become a target of Montana farmers, and the consequences could prove deadly for these birds as well as many other forms of wildlife. Gov. Tom Judge recently issued an executive order allowing the use of a restricted pesticide to control blackbirds, which state agriculture officials say are threatening Montana's sunflower crop.

The state agriculture department wants to zap the blackbirds with a poison known

as Avitrol Corn Chops 99-S. It consists of corn treated with poison, which is then spread by airplane throughout the sunflower fields. Birds ingesting the Avitrol reportedly begin to squawk and cry out as they die, supposedly frightening the remainder of the flock away.

Avitrol is not a registered pesticide in Montana, so the governor had to issue a "crisis" 15-day exemption in order to permit use. Such an exemption does not require the approval of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which normally controls pesticide use.

Though Montana farmers grew more sunflowers in 1977 than ever before, the total crop was only about 20,000 acres, a very small percentage of the national harvest. Near midsummer, some producers began to complain of blackbird damage to their sunflowers. Although agriculture officials said the majority of the damage was in the two to four per cent range, they defended the farmers' requests for control and asked the governor to order a "crisis" exemption. Nonlethal methods of controlling the birds were not considered, though agriculture officials thought sound devices might work. The initial Avitrol applications have proven ineffective in stopping the damage.

While farmers are only concerned about blackbirds (including redwings, yellowheads, rusty, and Brewer's blackbirds as well as grackles and starlings), any bird that eats the poisoned corn could be killed. In Montana, this could include various species of grouse, crows, magpies, horned larks, mountain partridge, chukar, and

an assortment of sparrows and other seed-eating birds.

In addition, many of the sunflower fields lie in the middle of the Central Flyway, directly in the path of migrating ducks and geese. Since many species of waterfowl feed in grain fields, they also would be vulnerable to the poison corn. Similarly, mammals living in or near the fields could be affected, including raccoons, foxes, rabbits, and small rodents.

The Montana Agriculture Department plans to get Avitrol registered in Montana, which will require EPA approval. The road seems paved, however, as EPA has already registered Avitrol throughout the Midwest.

While farmers may indeed need Avitrol at some times, here is the problem: once a pesticide is registered within a state, farmers can have the pesticide applied upon request, without presenting any evidence that substantial damage is occurring. In other words, there is no attempt to balance the value of the wildlife species versus the amount of damage. In addition, the EPA or the Montana Agriculture Department have no provisions that nonlethal alternatives be tried before resorting to chemical pesticides.

Before the technological fix of chemical pesticides, farmers considered losses to pests an occupational hazard, much like hailstorms or dry weather. They used scarecrows and noisemakers to deal with birds, or perhaps sent one of the kids out to shoot a few in order to frighten the rest. Many farmers recognized that the same birds that ate some of his crop might also

save part by destroying other pests, namely insects.

But low income and narrow profit margins have led many farmers and ranchers to believe they can't tolerate pests and predators. Farmers do need the help of modern technology, but short-term remedies like pesticides that attempt to sterilize the environment are not the answer. Farmers need advice firmly grounded in modern biological sciences, aimed at keeping their operations compatible with the land on which they depend.

First of all, farmers need a method by which they can estimate how much damage they can tolerate to their crops without pocketbook loss at harvest. Next, by carefully weighing the harmful and beneficial effects of the "pest," farmers need to determine if they really have a problem. If the situation merits it, they need to determine a control device. Ideally, these controls should involve biological devices that don't harm the environment. Pesticides should only be a last resort. Studies have shown that the less a chemical is used, the less chance there is for the pest to breed a resistance to it.

Finally, where's Montana's Fish and Game Department when it comes to looking out for the welfare of these wildlife species? The department seems determined to put the rubber stamp on anything the department of agriculture wants, in order to ease their avowed number one problem — sportsmen-landowner relations.

C'mon Fish and Game. Blackbirds are wildlife, too.

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Former foes...

(continued from page 1)

time, wrote an article for the national Sierra Club magazine to introduce several ranchers and their viewpoints to many of the urban members of the club. Many of the readers' only exposure to ranchers and farmers previously had been reading about the infamous eagle shootings, overgrazing, and predator poisonings. As Hicks expresses it, "Many of the environmentalists who live in the city think that all people who live on the land are ripping it off."

Her article conveyed some of the ranchers' feelings, telling of their pride in being good stewards of the land and of their fears of coal development.

She helped organize a meeting in San Francisco where environmentalists and ranchers discussed predator control.

Farm Bureau members were startled when she accepted invitations to attend their annual meetings, and a farmer in Nebraska, Bob Brown, became chairman of the region's conservation committee and began attending national club board meetings.

Building trust wasn't easy. Brown says when he first attended, he sensed some hostility. One rancher said Hicks was looked at like a "prostitute in church"

when she attended the agricultural groups' meetings because at first it seemed so inappropriate for her to be there.

Later both types of infiltration were generally accepted, and communication lines began opening. Hicks helped arrange a Wyoming Outdoor Council "Environmental Congress" in 1976 where agricultural leaders were featured.

Agriculturalists and other members of the club, with input from more than a dozen other farmers and ranchers in the region, composed a Sierra Club agricultural policy, which addressed such hot topics as predator control, pesticides, food policy, land use, water allocation. Most of the recommendations were eventually adopted as national club policy.

Other organizations started moving in the same direction. The Northern Rockies Action Group (NRAG) organized meetings in 1976 and 1977 among woolgrowers' associations from Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho and environmental groups from those states. The Idaho Conservation League this year worked with farmers fighting a rate increase. This spring in Mesa County, Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Center on the Environment brought farmers, land developers, and environmentalists together to consider the effects of converting prime agricultural land to other uses. Wilderness Society representa-

tives have started working with ranchers who think wilderness designation may help them fight the intrusion of off-road vehicles and rustlers in pick-up trucks.

RANCHERS "EXPLOITATIVE"

The letter released this week on the grazing suit is the latest example of the advantages to communicating rather than sulking on opposite sides of the battle lines. Beers of NRDC says that at the beginning, after seeing the range studies, members of NRDC tended to look at ranchers as "uniformly exploitative."

At the same time, the ranchers' bitterness toward NRDC was growing, since they were told by BLM that they could not build fences, develop water, or make other changes on the public range until the environmental impact statements were complete.

Fortunately, NRDC staff members accepted invitations from the ranchers in the West and from Sierra Club representatives in both the Southwest and the Northern Plains to make several visits to the range and talk with the ranchers.

The ranchers and the NRDC soon discovered when they talked that the BLM had been using the suit as a "whipping boy" for every policy it wanted to implement that it thought would be unpopular with the ranchers, Beers says. They discovered that the ban on all range improvements was BLM policy — and not a requirement of the court. The court agreement only required that actions with a "significant impact on the human environment" be curtailed.

Beers, who met with the ranchers that blustery day near South Pass, says it played a part in changing his viewpoint about ranchers. "I now have a basic sense that ranchers have as much right to be called environmentalists as we do," he says.

Wyoming rancher Leonard Hay says that when he arranged the meeting, he had hoped NRDC would recognize this — that disputes should not be based upon generalizations about the land or the ranchers.

However, the grazing suit illustrates some of the limitations of bridge-building, too. Beers says that it is valuable to talk with other people, but he points out it wouldn't have worked if the ranchers had been the kind of people who insist on dealing with others as adversaries.

He emphasizes NRDC has not altered its viewpoint that the range is in very serious condition and is continuing to deteriorate. Now, instead of thinking ranchers are uniformly exploitative, he thinks some ranchers should be given a fairly free hand because they're the best range managers possible. "But others need to be either



Photo courtesy of the DENVER POST

LANEY HICKS: "There may be solutions to these problems, but they're not going to be found without sitting down and talking with people they don't agree with — like us."

taken off the land or very seriously regulated," he says.

The problem is not solved. The drafting of the environmental impact statements required by the suit and the formulation of intensive grazing management plans continues, to the dismay of many ranchers. And, in some places, the range continue to deteriorate, to the dismay of conservationists.

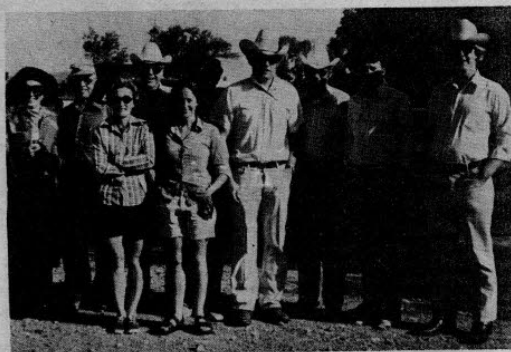
Ranchers and environmentalists aren't likely to be seen riding into the sunset together, their differences over. Most of the people interviewed by HCN acknowledge they don't expect complete harmony among ranchers and environmentalists. Yet, as this example illustrates, tensions are eased, and as Hay says, "It gives us all some new understanding of our problems."

GOALS THE SAME

Why should environmentalists be interested in encouraging this bridge-building trend? Why bother with complicated, limited alliances?

Farmers and ranchers may sometimes feel environmentalists are only interested in interfering. But many environmental groups in the Northern Plains believe that maintaining agriculture as the dominant way of life in the region is essential to preserving the quality of life there, according to Bill Bryan of NRAG. NRAG staff members work with many of the groups as consultants. The open spaces, the vitality of

(continued on page 5)



SIERRA CLUB AGRICULTURE TOUR. In 1975, the president of the national Sierra Club, Kent Gill, came to Wyoming where he talked with several ranchers about grazing and predator control and accompanied a coyote hunting expedition. U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop (then a Wyoming legislator) also took part in some of the tour. Pictured are Judy Wallop, Walt Reynolds of the Wyoming Stock Growers, Lois Gill, Vern Vivion of the National Wool Growers, Pam Rich of the Northern Plains Sierra Club staff, Larry Edwards of the Wyoming chapter of the Sierra Club, Sen. Wallop, E. b Brown of the Northern Plains Regional Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club, Kent Gill, and George Pring of the Sierra Club's board of directors.

NRDC, ranchers jointly protest BLM delays in grazing EIS's

Ranchers and environmentalists have objected to a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to further delay environmental impact statements on grazing. The ranchers had previously intervened on behalf of the BLM when the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and several other environmental groups filed suit against BLM to stop overgrazing of federal lands.

Now, however, the ranchers and the environmentalists have gotten together to protest the way BLM is reacting to the suit. Their joint response was filed Sept. 30 with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The BLM proposal for delays is being considered by the same judge who ruled for

NRDC in the original suit.

In settling the suit, the judge had ordered BLM to prepare EIS's, two-thirds of which were to be completed by 1981. Until each EIS is completed, BLM is curtailing all range improvements, including building fences, and adding watering holes.

Now BLM wants to change the schedule so only one-third of the EIS's covering grazing land in the West would be completed by 1981. BLM also proposes other delays in scheduling and proposes writing fewer EIS's. NRDC and the ranchers object to all the delays but agree to fewer statements, according to Johanna Wald, NRDC attorney.

BLM needs more time to do a thorough job analyzing the impact of

grazing, according to Dale Brubaker, manager of the Lander, Wyo., BLM Office. Brubaker says that in his district, for example, the staff needs time to collect more information on the grasses, wildlife forage, recreation, forest reserves, etc. He says BLM also needs time for public involvement after the data is collected and before grazing plans are finalized.

However, the NRDC and the ranchers say this contemplated delay is "unjustifiable." The ranchers are concerned about the delays because, until the EIS on each of their areas is done, management decisions and actions affecting their operations can't be undertaken, according to Wald. Environmentalists are concerned because management decisions that are necessary to

protect the resource can't be made, she says.

The two interests fear that BLM would continue to ask for further delays, both because of BLM's actions since the suit was filed and because NRDC thinks the methods BLM proposes to use to get the data will take longer than BLM estimates.

Wald says this joint legal action by the ranchers and the environmentalists is unique in the history of the case. "Although we have different reasons for being opposed, we are both opposed," she says. "If anyone had said in the beginning of the suit that this would happen, we wouldn't have believed it," she says.

The final decision on the proposed delay is now up to the judge.

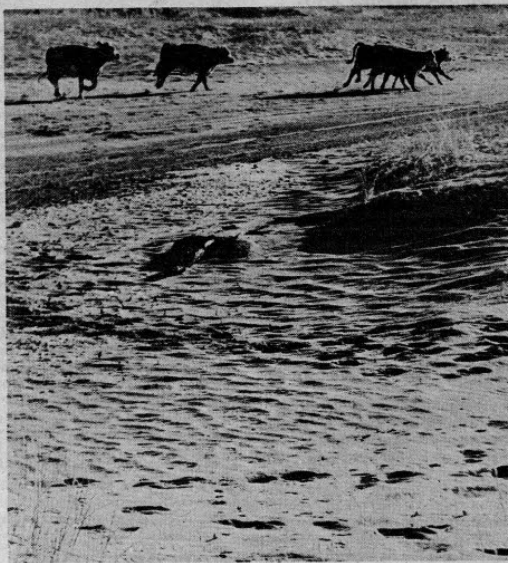


Photo by Dick Randall

YOU CAN'T GENERALIZE. Environmentalists who came to meet with ranchers in the West to discuss a grazing suit were reminded they couldn't generalize about either range or ranchers. Leonard Hay, who ranches near South Pass, Wyo., says that for example, a rancher needs thousands of acres of grazing land for a viable operation in Wyoming. In the Midwest, much smaller farm or ranch units are practical.

Photo of the Red Desert.

(continued from page 4)

small towns, and the general quality of life depend upon agriculture. These values would be surrendered if other industries were to move into the region on a large scale, robbing the water and the land base that agriculture depends upon.

There are many barriers to working together for these common goals, one of which is the environmentalists' tendency to romanticize the farmer, while ignoring the day-to-day realities he must deal with in order to survive, Bryan believes. He says, for example, that since he has an organic garden in his backyard, it's easy to transfer to thinking a farmer with thousands of acres can also operate without any pesticides. Bryan says that by working with agriculturalists, he has become convinced that farmers need some pesticides, although not as much as they are now being used. He also believes coyotes are a problem and need to be controlled.

Similar confrontations occur over what the environmentalist thinks **SHOULD** be done and the farmer thinks **MUST** be done on such issues as subdividing agricultural land.

"When a man is selling calves at 40% to 50% of what it costs him to produce them, he'll have to try to find ways to protect the farm, even if it means selling land for subdivisions that he never would have sold," Dave Flitner of the Wyoming Farm Bureau points out.

And when he's in the midst of a drought and watching wheat prices plummet from overproduction, he's not going to be very open to ideas that he's convinced will cost him in production yields.

At the beginning, members of the Natural Resources Defense Council tended to look at ranchers as "uniformly exploitative," according to Roger Beers of NRDC.

These obstacles to working together are apparent in a recent newsletter of the American National Cattlemen's Association (ANCA). The association attacked a chapter of *The Unfinished Agenda*, a book released last February by the Rockefeller Foundation that contains several leading environmentalists' analysis of the foremost environmental problems in the world and suggestions on how to solve them. The book was apparently ANCA's first clue of the growing interest of environmentalists in agriculture, and the cattlemen feel threatened by it. The president of the group, Wray Finney, said the recommendations would "literally destroy commercial agriculture." Rural readers sent in asking how to get copies and angrily questioning the right of the "highly-paid" environmentalists to tell them what to do.

The furor touched off in the agricultural community is enough to make some skeptics think any talk of a growing coalition is foolish. Yet the tone of the ANCA article that started it all was reasonable, saying "ANCA is not suggesting that environmental problems should be ignored, and it is not questioning the motives of the environmentalists. . . ."

Finney felt many of the recommendations were based upon ignorance. "Their background and experience are limited almost entirely to the world of academia, non-profit foundations, environmental groups, and government." He suggests that what is needed is more education of the public on what the actual agricultural situation is.

One reason Finney and apparently many of the other agriculturalists paid so much attention to the book is that they believe

environmentalists have political and economic clout. Finney listed all the national environmental groups with their membership totals and budgets and listed all the environmentalists appointed to high positions in the Carter Administration. "The groups' budgets are more than 30 times greater than ANCA's. One can only conclude that their dedication to their cause is greater than our commitment to our own industry," he says.

With Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus' announcement of new water policy recommendations and of moves to limit farms irrigated by federal waters to 160 acres, some of the farmers and ranchers who had read the agriculture chapter in *The Unfinished Agenda* felt some of their worst fears were being realized.

"Redistribution" of land was one of the terms that angered many agriculturalists reading the chapter, although some farm organizations such as the National Farmers Union have lobbied for years for the return to 160 acre farms. Discussion in the book of reducing dependence upon fertilizers and pesticides, of using hand tools, and of strict land use controls — all raised red flags in many farmers' and ranchers' minds.

Hicks of the Sierra Club, after reading the chapter, agrees there are some terms in it that would "trigger" her, too. She points out that with a little more understanding of how the rancher or farmer would feel, the writers could have avoided some of the negative reaction. For example, when the book recommends removing the price controls on fuels, it should have gone on to say that farmers should get a fairer price for their products, too. "Without that, it doesn't sound like we understand their situation at all," she says.

At the same time, she faults the cattlemen's association for approaching the subject with so much suspicion. She especially resents the organization's criticisms of the Sierra Club agricultural policy, which were in the same ANCA newsletter. Rather than figuring out how to capitalize on the environmentalists' interest in agriculture, ANCA seemed to use the policy as additional proof of the growing threat of environmental interference, she says.

She points out that the farmers and ranchers who belonged to the Sierra Club are the ones who urged the club to adopt an agricultural policy because they feared that other club policies could be construed to be anti-agriculture. In fact they wrote most of the policy.

The Sierra Club policy and *The Unfinished Agenda* came up with many of the same recommendations. However, *The Unfinished Agenda* was written by academic agriculturalists, not by farmers on the land. Finney didn't know that either had been prepared by agriculturalists, and he was infuriated, referring to it as "social and technical elitism." Even Bob Brown, who was annoyed with ANCA for publishing the attacks on the Sierra Club policy that he helped write, says farmers and ranchers should be involved whenever an agricultural policy is written.

TOUGH QUESTIONS

Even if these problems with the two documents had been avoided, the remaining proposals still would have disturbed many agricultural readers. They bring up some crucial questions about the crises facing agriculture that most people would prefer to avoid. "Shifting people's agendas from today to the future is always hard to do," Bill Bryan says. Agricultural groups seem especially hesitant to deal with the problems of the future, he adds.

There are exceptions. Brown says he and many other farmers he knows realize they'll have to find alternatives to using

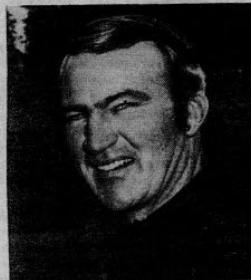
Oct. 7, 1977 — High Country News-5

natural gas for drying crops. They know that they can't continue using stronger and stronger pesticides while the target pests grow more resistant and beneficial insects die off. He believes that land use planning is needed but says it isn't likely to get much acceptance from farmers and ranchers until the agricultural economy improves.

Hicks says, "There may be solutions to these problems, but they're not going to be found without sitting down and talking with people they don't agree with — like us."

"Just like other parts of the economy, agricultural people are in the habit of doing as their fathers did," she says. "They really don't confront what's going on outside of their stock magazines."

"They will have to find ways of talking to the rest of us rather than just talking to



DAVE FLITNER: "When a man is selling calves at 40% to 50% of what it costs him to produce them, he'll have to try to find ways to protect the farm."

each other — something we (environmentalists) have been guilty of, too," she says.

Environmental groups are criticized for opening communications, too, sometimes. Bryan says when his group started working with woolgrowers, some environmentalists questioned it. Some felt overgrazing was the inevitable result of sheep grazing rather than a result of poor management. With other groups, critics say they fear the organizations will avoid positions on issues that will alienate new farmer friends or will devote their energies to projects of questionable environmental value, such as fighting utility rate increases.

Bryan defends bridge-building, saying that if we're all trying to invent a better world, intellectual diversity — different viewpoints — is just as essential as ecological diversity.

The key to bridge-building seems to be understanding one another's goals. Hicks says that she believes farmers would agree with many of the solutions proposed in *The Unfinished Agenda*, if they understood both the intentions of the environmentalists proposing them and if they could see the potential benefits to them.

However, "red-flag words" and the hurried, superficial way in which the chapter was written block this understanding, she says.

Finney of ANCA says the authors of *The Unfinished Agenda* don't acknowledge that many of their suggestions would result in a "dramatic escalation of consumer food prices."

Hicks says this is a connection that everyone will have to accept. "Consumer prices ought to be up now," she says emphatically.

But there is much more that environmentalists will have to understand about the agricultural economy, according to those agriculturalists and environmentalists interviewed by HCN. These include

(continued from page 6)

6-High Country News — Oct. 7, 1977



IRRIGATING not only uses electricity but also depletes stream flows now being used for hydroelectric power.

Herschler opts out of wetland protection effort

Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler says that what the state does with its water is none of the federal government's business. Consistent with this stand, he is fighting a federal program that regulates dredge and fill permits in wetlands.

Ironically, by doing so he may be forfeiting local influence over the permit process. And some believe he is endangering wetland resources, which are not protected by state law.

Section 404 of the 1972 Water Pollution Control Act amendments has been controversial in agricultural states since its passage. The law charges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with protecting streambeds and marshes through a dredge and fill permit system. Permit procedures are designed to insure that valuable wildlife and water resources are not damaged unnecessarily.

Congress passed the law with the idea that protection of the aquatic environment — not just water quality — should be a part of the nation's water quality laws.

At first, due to some misleading publicity, farmers and ranchers in Western states were up in arms about the new law. They feared they'd have to get a permit to plow a field or change the course of an irrigation ditch.

Now corps regulations specifically exempt "normal agricultural practices" from the permit requirement, but resentment about the program still lingers.

In a letter to corps Col. C. J. Allaire of the Walla Walla (Wash.) district, Herschler said he thought the permit program was illegal, that the state should have control over its own water resources.

"I hereby give you my blanket approval of all section 404 permit applications in Wyoming, past, present, and future, as I do not believe the federal government should have anything to do with this subject," he said.

Herschler's "blanket approval" startled some state officials, who had been working with the corps to process dredge and fill permits. His approval made future comments from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Department of Environmental Quality "irrelevant," according to Allaire, leaving the process entirely up to the federal government. Allaire said he would continue to consider comments from other sources, although they would apparently not have the weight of an official state position.

Nevertheless, on the permits that may affect fish and wildlife, game and fish Director Earl Thomas says "We're still in there pitching."

The state Department of Environmental Quality, which had been active in the 404 permit process, refused to comment on the present situation, and recommended that HCN call the governor's office.

In July when Herschler made the blanket

approval statement, a Wyoming suit against the federal government that challenged the corps' jurisdiction to regulate dredge and fill activities on non-navigable streams was still pending. Since that time Judge Ewing Kerr of U.S. District Court in Cheyenne has ruled against the state.

Steve Freudenthal of the governor's office says that Herschler hasn't reconsidered his position in light of that decision yet.

The governor filed the suit, Freudenthal says, mainly to prevent federal interference in highway and agricultural projects. Herschler feels there is no need for federal involvement every time a new highway crosses a small stream or an irrigator puts up a head gate, for instance.

But even something as minor as a head gate can cause problems, a fisheries biologist warns. "If irrigators would do it right, it would be no problem," he says. But irrigators often cause erosion of streambanks by damming a river to raise the level of water for their head gate, he says.

While the governor calls for state control, others point out that there is no state

Idaho studies say:

Irrigating desert hurts

Proposed irrigation of 700,000 acres of additional land in southern Idaho will 1) greatly increase electric rates to farmers and other southern Idaho residents 2) push down prices received by farmers 3) hurt ranchers whose cattle graze on desert lands.

Those are among conclusions of a study of the implications of further desert land development conducted by the Idaho Conservation League.

The ICL study makes some of the same points as another study done by the Citizens Coalition. Both suggest that some ex-

isting farmers may be put out of business if desert land development proceeds. Both challenge the conclusion of the proposed State Water Plan that 987,000 acres of additional desert land should be irrigated by the year 2020.

The Citizens Coalition study emphasizes that much of the desert land developed in recent years has come under control of a few large corporate farming operations. The ICL study is more specific in its analysis of the economic consequences for farmers and ranchers of bringing more land under irrigation.

Under the Desert Land Act or the Carey Act, an individual can receive 320 acres of publicly-owned desert land if they can put water on it. The land is virtually free, other than the cost of development. There are pending Desert Land and Carey Act applications for 800,000 acres, according to the ICL study.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the Interior Department agency that man-

ages law that protects wetland and streamside resources. The water quality division of the Department of Environmental Quality is charged with protecting the chemical, physical, or biological quality of waters in the state. But that law is limited to protection of water, leaving out the rest of the aquatic environment. Stream preservation bills that would probably have allowed the corps to transfer its authority on dredge and fill permits to the state have been introduced — and killed — in the last two sessions of the state legislature.

One state official says that the corps doesn't have the manpower to do more than a superficial job of wetland protection without help from state agencies. "We can't give the dredgers an open door," he says.

It appears that Herschler is under some pressure from state employees to change his position on the federal permit program. If he doesn't, Wyomingites concerned about wetlands and the corps' ability to protect them without state help may have to appeal to their state legislators one more time.

Former foes. . .

(Continued from page 5)

all the factors affecting commodity prices and land prices.

Dave Flitner of the Farm Bureau points out that one of the biggest threats to the viability of agriculture is the small voting block of rural people. The more people understand how public policies and agriculture are interrelated, the better chance there is that the effects on agriculture will be considered more carefully in decision-making.

THE FIRST STEPS

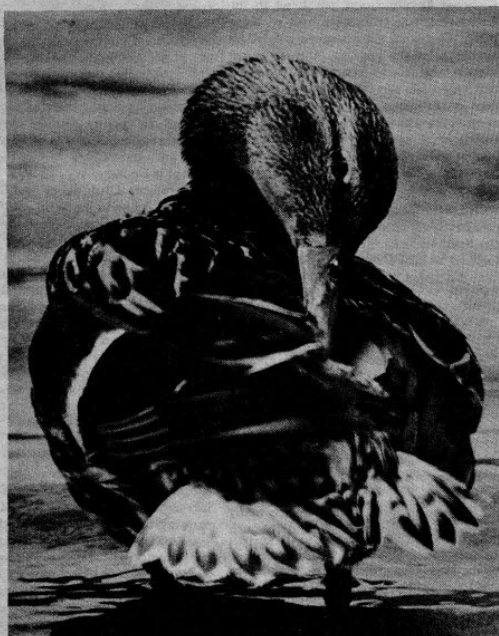
As a step toward increasing both the environmentalists' understanding of agriculture and the farmers' and ranchers' understanding of environmentalists, the Idaho Conservation League is hiring three people with agricultural backgrounds, and the Northern Rockies Action Group is considering hiring an agricultural economist.

Those interviewed suggested several other possible steps toward encouraging exchange of information: sending ex-officio representatives to farmers' and ranchers' meetings, holding more public forums such as the Wyoming Environmental Congress, and supporting publications that deal sympathetically with both the environment and agriculture (such as the *Idaho Citizen* in Idaho and the *Onlooker* in North Dakota).

By carefully considering agricultural and environmental conflicts — including the thorny ones — the bridge-building advocates hope at least some agriculturalists and some environmentalists will have a better chance at solving the problems now facing the region.

There are costs. Such efforts take time, one risks being snubbed by the other interest group, and occasionally one's own compatriots will be suspicious. In addition, there's the risk of losing sight of the original goals.

But so far those working to build the environmentalist-agriculturalist bridge seem convinced that it's worth it. Finney fears the environmentalists' dedication to their cause is greater than the ranchers' commitment to their own industry. The bridge builders are out to prove that there's a middle ground: dedication to the cause of an economically viable — and an ecologically sound — agricultural industry.



Game and Fish Photo by LaRue Parker

MALLARDS LIKE MARSHES. The 404 permit procedures are designed to protect wildlife habitat as well as water.

agriculturalist, consumer

ages the desert lands, has stopped accepting new applications until an environmental study is completed. But processing of pending applications continues.

Conclusions of the ICL study:

—Additional large-scale deep well pumping from the Snake Plain and lesser aquifers would accelerate lowering of water tables and reduce surface flows.

Flows in the Snake River would be further reduced by additional largescale high-lift pumping directly from the river.

Reduced hydro production and increased power demand resulting from new irrigation would create the need for approximately 2,000 megawatts of additional generating capacity by the year 2020 if 860,000 acres were irrigated.

—These new facilities would likely, even probably, be thermal plants producing far

more expensive electricity than Idahoans are accustomed to. The study suggests a cost of 30 mills, compared to 4 mills for the lost hydro generation.

—The proposed 1,000 megawatt coal-fired Pioneer plant was projected to more than double the rates.

—Rate hikes of that magnitude would reduce net incomes of existing pump irrigators.

—Irrigating the desert land would produce more crops and depress farm prices unless food demand increases.

—Current trends don't indicate a dramatic expansion of farm markets. Irrigators would face higher energy prices and probably lower farm prices.

—Loss of grazing on the 987,000 acres would hurt ranchers who now use the land.

Reprinted from *The Idaho Citizen*

The Idaho Citizen makes Idaho richer

Ken Robison, long known in the region for his strong editorials in the *Idaho Statesman* calling for protection of the environment, is now editing a new magazine, *The Idaho Citizen*.

The first two issues of the monthly magazine must have been some consolation to readers who missed his editorials in the *Idaho Statesman*. Robison's editorial pen is still at work on the opinion page of the *Citizen*. In his first edition, he called for an end to further withdrawal of water from the Snake River for pump irrigation.

In the news pages, Robison and his Idaho writers discuss organizing farmers into a

collective bargaining voice; the cost to the public of logging in the Idaho Primitive Area, a solar home in Nampa, as well as the costs of irrigating the desert (see separate story).

Robison shares his knowledge of the men and women of Idaho and their hopes for supplying their own energy, for keeping their farms viable, for protecting the state's elk herds and wild places. Robison's affection for Idaho and the Idaho citizen is evident.

Subscriptions are \$6.75 for one year or \$13.00 for two. Write *The Idaho Citizen*, Box 9303-H, Boise, Idaho 83707.



Cover of September *Idaho Citizen* by Ron Walker

Present users would subsidize corporate farms, coalition says

Allowing further high-lift pumping from the Snake River to irrigate desert land would force southern Idaho residents to pay doubled electric rates to subsidize desert land development, according to a recent study.

The study of the effects of energy policy on farms and low-income people was done by Cliff Bradley of Boise for the Citizen's Coalition.

"All the evidence we can find shows that the continuation of present agricultural policies in southern Idaho will require subsidies for energy supplies that will cost on the order of \$1 billion to \$2 billion to be paid from the electric bills of the present customers of Idaho Power Co. This subsidy is going to the direct benefit of a very limited number of individuals and corporations."

"It is evident to us that the question of Idaho Power's need for more generating plants is more than just a decision on the kind of plant and where it should be located. At issue is whether Idaho's political and social institutions are working for the majority of its citizens or for a privileged minority," the study says.

The study shows that allowing further pumping to irrigate additional desert land is critical to the question of need for a proposed coal-fired power plant. Pumping from the Snake River reduces the river's summer flow at a time when the flow is the lowest and electricity demand is the highest. The energy required for additional pumps also pushes up the summer load.

Bradley concluded that the four largest high lift pump projects alone account for about 120 megawatts of combined 1) lost generation from existing Snake River dams because of reduced river flow and 2) increased summer demand. The two largest account for about 90 megawatts.

According to Bradley's analysis, if

400,000 acres of desert land were approved:

—More than 40% of the remaining average summer flow of the Snake River would be lost if pending applications for desert land are approved. They would reduce the flow by 4,000 cubic feet per second.

—This would mean a loss of 172 megawatts of generating capacity on the Idaho Power Co. system during the summer, the time when power demand is greatest.

—The electricity required to irrigate the additional desert land would require from 400 to 800 megawatts of generating capacity.

—The combined result is to require almost the entire output of a 1,000-megawatt power plant, costing about \$1 billion. This means more than a doubling of electric rates to all Idaho Power Co. customers.

Present farmers shouldn't have to pay higher electric rates to subsidize new desert land irrigation, said the report. It recommends rates for new pump hookups that reflect the current cost of supplying them, and the cost of lost generation when river flows are reduced.

Among the other recommendations are:

1) An immediate end to further Desert Entry and Carey Act development.

2) Flat electrical rates for all classes of customers.

3) A lifeline rate for residential users for the first 700-900 kilowatt hours per month.

4) A fee for new buildings equal to the cost of serving the peak heating load. The study says this would encourage energy-efficient design and the use of solar or geothermal heating.

5) A policy change to let utilities include the cost of investments in insulation of customer's homes in their rate base.

6) Exacting standards for energy efficiency for all new housing assisted or fi-

nanced by state or federal governments. Choose all new appliances on the basis of energy efficiency.

7) State policy that additional electricity should come from small scale hydroelectric installations in existing dams and from low-head hydro plants, to be operated by private utilities or public, cooperative, and municipal systems.

8) Recognition in Idaho energy policy decisions that amounts and sources of energy are in essence political, not technological, decisions. The report says Idaho energy policies should be based on the wishes of the majority of citizens.

Although irrigation pumping accounts for 13% of Idaho Power Co. sales, it is highly concentrated in the summer months. "In 1976 irrigation pumping ac-

counted for 36% of service area sales in June, 45% in July, and 41% in August," according to the report. "The system peak demand was 1,960 megawatts in June 1976. The impact of this high seasonal load on the Idaho Power system is compounded by the fact that the seasonal low river flows through the hydroelectric plants occurring during summer," according to the report.

Winter peak demand was 1,421 megawatts in December, 1976.

Residential use was about 22% of electricity from Idaho Power's system in 1976. Sales for resale or exports of electricity also accounted for 22%. Small business commercial use was 12% and industrial use was 26%.

Reprinted from *The Idaho Citizen*

Controls on land in park upset owners

A move by the National Park Service to tighten up its controls over private inholdings within national parks has met with strong resistance from some landowners in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Robert Kerr has announced that no development of unimproved land or additions to existing homes will be permitted in Teton, or any other national park, as a result of the new order from Washington, D.C.

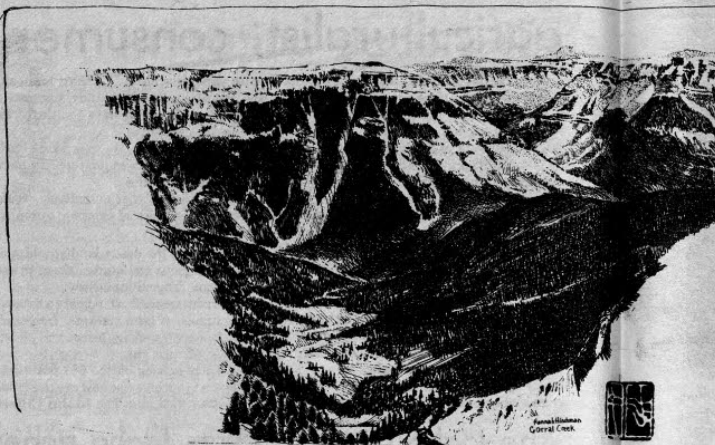
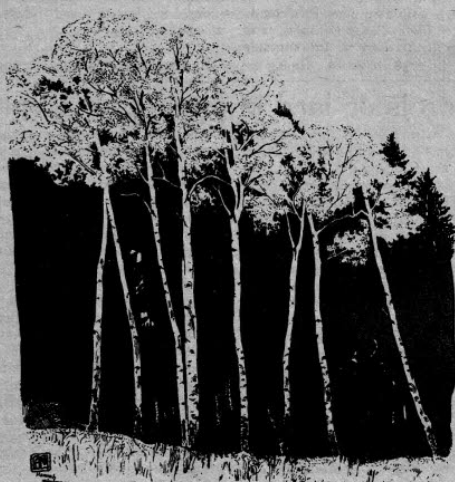
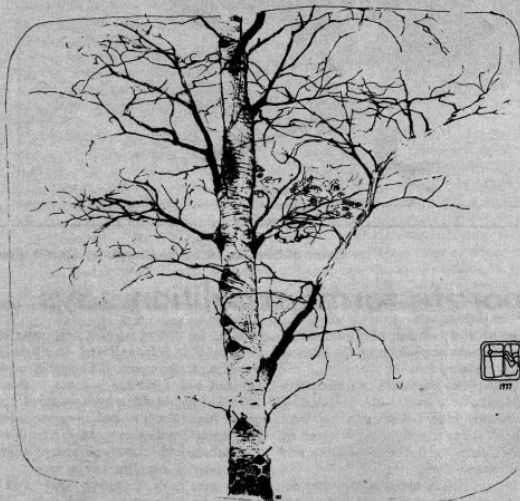
Some landowners have expressed outrage that Kerr would also move to condemn land when the landowner puts some of the land on the market because Kerr assumes that the new owner will develop it. Eminent domain proceedings were started against three landowners, including Dr. John Craighead. He told the *Jackson Hole News*, "I say this is a breach of our fundamental rights in the Constitution. I've been an environmentalist for all my

life, but I see this as socialism of the worst kind." His brother, Frank, was offered \$25,000 per acre for his land by the park service, which he said was less than half of what it would get on the open market.

A park official, Joe Shellenberger, explains that Congress and the Administration are pushing for acquiring all inholdings for several reasons. In Teton Park, for example, the increasing number of subdivisions and other developments within park boundaries has an esthetic impact on the park visitor and creates management problems for the park personnel. Two of the management problems Shellenberger pointed out were coyote trapping within the park and potential snow plowing of additional roads.

Congress had considered a bill to force the park service to acquire all inholdings within three years, but the time limit was deleted after angry landowners within Teton Park protested.

8-High Country News — Oct. 7, 1977



Returning 'home'

Wyoming's quiet, its purity of

The beauty of the West lured artist Hannah J. Hinchman to Wyoming. **High Country News** is a beneficiary of her decision.

Hinchman, an artist and naturalist, recently joined HCN's staff. She was raised in Ohio. She first visited Wyoming to attend Audubon Camp of the West in 1976. When her two-week course was over, the Audubon staff invited her to stay an extra four weeks as a staff assistant. The illustrated journal she kept during the course capsulized the camp experience so well that the camp now uses printed copies of it as a teaching aid.

Since, she has illustrated a soon-to-be-published book on the birds of the West written by Donna Nye and Mary Back for the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Forest Service. These projects kept her in the West long enough to convince her that the Rocky Mountains, and Wyoming in particular, would be her home — as soon as she could wangle a way.

Meanwhile, with the departure of Bruce Hamilton from **High Country News**, we decided that we would create a new kind of staff position. We would find someone who cared as much about sharp photographs

and drawings as we do about clear writing — someone who delighted in an attractive space as much as we delighted in a fact-filled one. In short, we wanted to convey powerful visual as well as verbal impressions about the treasures and troubles of the high country.

We advertised in several places for the combination visionary and hard-worker-for-low-pay that we sought. Not too surprisingly, the person we envisioned did not apply. Still interested in adding a new kind of talent to the staff, we limped along for a couple of months, short-handed. A few weeks later our friends at the National Audubon Society office in Boulder, Colo., told us about Hinchman.

After an exchange of several phone calls and letters, we were convinced she could do the job — and we waived our rule about not hiring anyone we hadn't interviewed. Her Audubon camp journal showed her talents; her letters showed us a little of her soul. She was disarmingly frank. "I guess the general practice of people-looking-for-jobs is to go ahead and accept, if you are chosen, a position you feel is over your head, on the assumption that you'll rise to its level or else bluff your way through," she wrote.

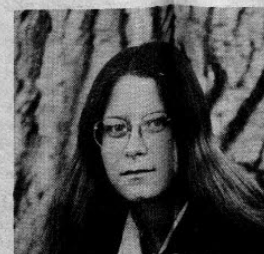
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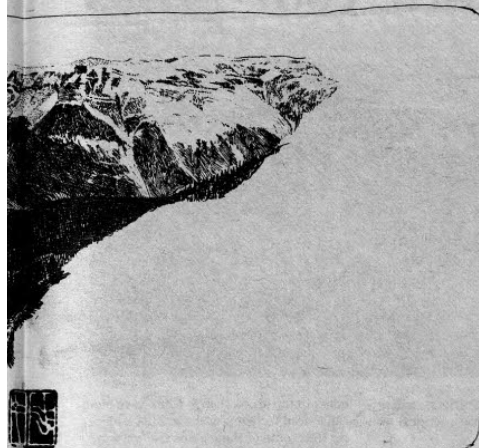
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Hannah Hinch

Oct. 7, 1977 — High Country News-9



Hinchman signs her drawings with a symbol of her own design.

"The left side is the sun just risen, signifying a newly awakened being."

"The right side is a wood thrush (my totem bird) with her song rising out of a valley; she has just returned to her home."

ty of light

But she hadn't done much newspaper work and questioned whether we would be willing to wait as she learned.

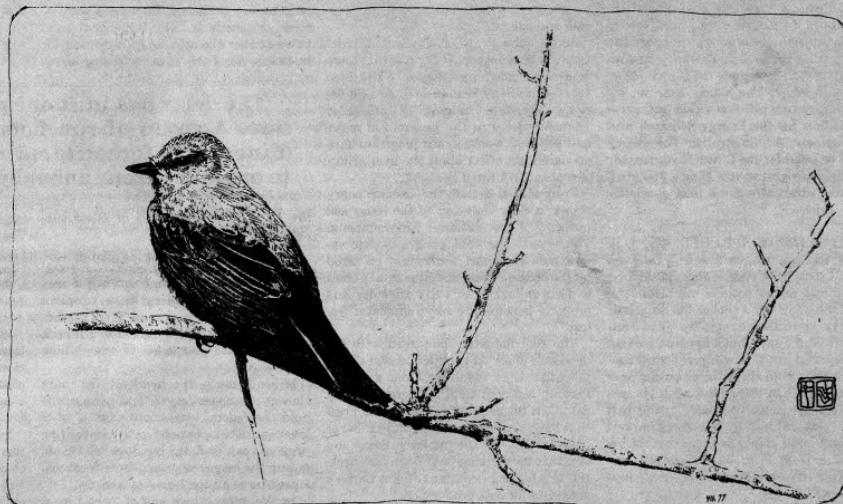
But she also said that she was committed to the conservation cause and eager to live in Wyoming. "I think of the quiet and the purity of light there," she said.

Her resume indicated that she was probably sufficiently adaptable to survive here. Working her way through college in Ohio and Indiana, she's been a waitress, a janitor, a cook, a log home builder, and a switchboard operator.

We also felt she was humble, intelligent, and sensitive to the beauties of the West. What's more, in a few skillful strokes, she could share her feelings with others. We hired her, sight unseen.

The West has not been easy on her since she moved to Wyoming in July. She set up a tipi in the sagebrush country south of town, and has had scrapes with cowboys, Indians, goats, cattle, gully-washing thundersqualls, and (less indigenous to the West) a bicycle thief. Fortunately, she has also found time to explore some of the country near Lander. The sketches on these pages are some of her impressions of the Wyoming landscape.

—JN



Hannah Hinchman

10-High Country News — Oct. 7, 1977



The **HCN**
Hot Line

energy news from across the country

SAFE N-WASTE DISPOSAL. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) says that the country should prove that nuclear wastes can be disposed of safely or stop building nuclear power plants. CEQ recommends that the government set a deadline to show that the wastes can be stored without endangering public health. The agency also suggests that the President adopt a national policy to change the energy base of the country from fossil fuels to solar energy. According to council member Gus Speth, the nuclear industry's most severe problem is what to do with the radioactive waste from reactors and fuel processing plants, the *Denver Post* reports.

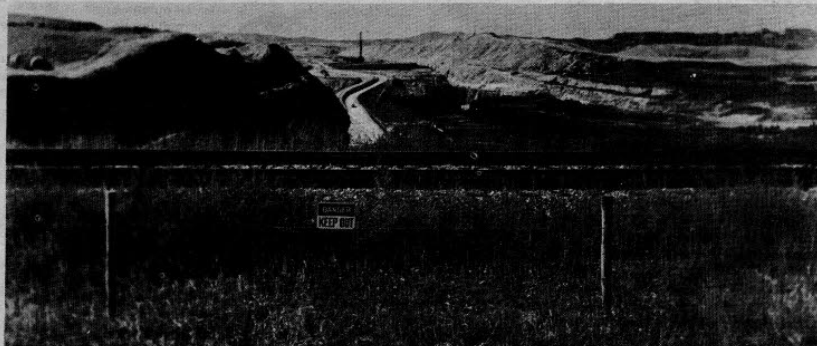
HOUSE REVIVES BREEDER REACTOR. Despite President Jimmy Carter's attempts to obtain a world-wide moratorium on plutonium production, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected an amendment to terminate the Clinch River breeder reactor. The action came on an amendment to a bill that would authorize \$6.7 billion for the Energy Research and Development Administration. The money would be used for the Clinch River reactor and other programs, including a \$50 million loan guarantee for a pilot synthetic fuels project.

COAL SLURRY SPEEDED. The U.S. House Interior Committee will take up consideration of the Administration-backed coal slurry pipeline bill before the end of the year, but a vote on the issue will not be taken until January. Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) says that a compromise has been worked out that will give committee members time to study the proposals now before them. In June, the joint House-Senate committee considering the bill voted 13 to 12 to delay consideration, but one member said that he would reverse his vote to allow it to be considered immediately. The compromise will delay that final vote.

MISSOURI MAY TAX COAL. The state of Missouri, which has consistently voted down a severance tax on coal mined in the state, may finally decide to join other producing states and impose a tax. The head of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources says that, with the increased emphasis on the mining and burning of coal, new interest is being shown in the state for a severance tax. Coal mining has been growing steadily in Missouri for the last 10 years, increasing by nearly 50% in the last two years alone. A state senator says that he will introduce a severance tax in the next legislature.

INSULATION SUPPLY DRIES UP. The *Wall Street Journal* reports that waiting for insulation has become a serious bottleneck for builders, ever since President Jimmy Carter proposed incentives for home insulation as part of his energy program. Builders are reporting delays obtaining insulation for new homes, and the shortage could last as long as 12 to 18 months. Do-it-yourself home insulators, who add insulation primarily to attics, rather than walls, are causing shortages in stores that cater to the home handyman. The *Journal* says that these stores "can't keep insulation in stock."

Court halts Western coal leases



by Dan Whipple

A U.S. District Court judge has ruled that the Interior Department must not resume federal coal leasing until new environmental studies have been made and a complete reevaluation of the leasing program is conducted.

Judge John Pratt of the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., said that there is already enough coal leased — 26 billion tons — to satisfy demand for several decades. "Therefore," he said, "an anticipated 18-month delay in the issuance of major new leases... would in our judgment have no significant effect upon the availability of coal in the United States."

Pratt also said that the leasing policy shows "a clear violation of the letter and purpose" of the National Environmental Policy Act. The coal programmatic environmental impact statement prepared for the program was inadequate to "permit a decision-maker to fully consider and properly balance the environmental factors."

The coal industry disagreed with the decision's effect on production and on the potential delay resulting from a halt to leasing. National Coal Association president Carl Bagge told the Associated Press that Pratt's ruling would result in a four or five year delay for the industry. Bagge also says that the decision is a "bona fide disaster" to achieving President Jimmy Carter's objections for coal production.

Western environmentalists generally welcomed the decision. The Northern Plains Resource Council, which is a party to the suit along with the Powder River Basin Resource Council, the Environmental Defense Fund and the Natural Resources Defense Council, says, "We are pleased with the judge's decision." Speaking for the group, NPRC president Charles Yarger says, "When you look at all the federal reserves under lease and combine them with the huge amount of private and state coal already under lease, you find a lot of coal that can be produced before it is necessary to lease any more federal coal."

The decision may not be an unmitigated blessing for environmental concerns, however. Some of the 26 billion tons already leased is marginal coal lands that some informed observers say should not be developed for coal mining. However, if there is a substantial delay in renewing leasing, these properties could become attractive to mining companies.

In Wyoming, for example, a Texas lease speculator holds over 20,000 acres of marginal coal lands in Johnson and Campbell counties. One environmentalist in the state says, "If the end result of the lease delay is to get these kinds of lands into production, maybe we goofed."

However, most environmental and

rancher groups feel that the delay will provide adequate time to review federal leasing.

A Bureau of Land Management official in Wyoming says that the delay will improve the market position of those already holding federal leases. The leases were issued primarily to very large coal companies or to oil companies. In Wyoming, for instance, 43 of the 96 outstanding leases

mines in the state, though plans have been announced for some of them. BLM sources say that some of these plans are "very tentative," however, and may not be approved. In addition, the Interior Department is trying to void some old preference right leases that have never been in production. This would reduce the total lease figures somewhat.

In North Dakota, 10 of the 17 outstanding

The delay has hurt one proposed coal operation. A group of ranchers planning to open a mine may be forced to cut back their production to one million tons annually from 10 million tons.

are held by oil companies or their subsidiaries.

The delay has hurt one proposed coal operation in Campbell County, Wyo. A group of ranchers holding private coal in the area had hoped to obtain federal leases to open a 10-million ton per year mine. With the federal delay, they may be forced to cut back their projected production to one million tons annually.

Mike Elmore, the head of Ranchers Energy Company, says, "The people who hold the federal leases now have a lot of leverage. They can practically control the price of coal. And, the big boys who could put up the money years ago for federal coal leases have all the leases locked up."

In Wyoming, about half of the 34 lease holders do not currently have producing

leases have never produced any coal. The majority of these are held by two companies that are operating in the state — Consolidation Coal and Coteau Properties, the land holding company for North American Coal.

In Montana, 8 of the 17 outstanding leases have never produced coal. However, most of the leases are planned to go into production in the near future as extensions of existing mines by Decker Coal, Peabody Coal, and Western Energy Company.

Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus says that the agency will appeal the court's decision. Andrus says, "Although a large amount of federal coal is under lease, there are instances where existing needs cannot be met from that coal supply."

Colorado cracks down on plant's fly ash

The Colorado Air Pollution Control Commission has ordered a coal-fired power plant near Craig, Colo., to operate at 70% of its normal capacity in order to cut down on fly ash emissions. This is the first such punitive action the board has taken. One board member threatened several times to shut down the Colorado-Ute plant, which apparently hasn't been meeting state air quality requirements since it started oper-

ations over a year ago.

A public hearing will be held Nov. 14 and 15 before a final decision is made. Colorado-Ute spokesman Robert A. Hoving argued that if there were no equipment on the plant to control particulates, it would emit 19,000 pounds of fly-ash an hour, according to the *Denver Post*. As it is, it emits 272 pounds, which is 29 pounds above the state requirements.

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energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

GOLDEN SOLAR FUNDS. The U.S. House of Representatives has approved funding authorization for the Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI) in Golden, Colo. The \$10 million authorization ends, for the time being at least, threats to the center by some members of Congress. U.S. Rep. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) had prepared an amendment to the authorization calling for four independent regional solar labs in addition to SERI, according to the *Denver Post*. Tsongas made his recommendation despite an earlier report from the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration that said the government's solar activities should be coordinated through a single research facility. As the legislation currently stands, the four regional facilities will be responsible to SERI.

ANG EYES FEDERAL FUNDS. ANG Coal Gasification Company is hoping to get federal loan guarantees for its North Dakota synthetic fuel project from an Energy Research and Development Administration pilot project in coal gasification. The *Hazen Star* reports that ANG, though only one of several projects hoping for funding, is optimistic about the chances of getting approved for the loan guarantee. The bill, which would authorize a guarantee of up to \$50 million, has passed both the House and Senate. Differences in wording are expected to be ironed out in a conference committee within three weeks. ANG wants to build a 125 million cubic foot per day coal gasification plant in Mercer County, N.D.

PAY-OFF QUESTIONED. Alaska Gov. Jay Hammond would like to reward Alaskans with income from the oil royalties the state will be getting, with payments based on the length of residency. However, a state senator is questioning the legality of the plan, saying it violates the equal protection clauses of federal and state constitutions. Hammond says the plan, dubbed "Alaska, Inc.," by the press, has several

goals: using the natural resources for the maximum benefit of citizens, promoting a stable residential population, and involving citizens in state budgeting by providing them a direct, personal interest in how the money is spent, according to the *Alaska Advocate*.

OPT OUT OF NUCLEAR STUDY. Utah Power & Light Co. and Idaho Power Co. have both asked to withdraw from a proposed joint study to determine the feasibility of a nuclear power plant. Their decision followed an Idaho Public Utilities Commission (PUC) order that the two utilities not charge their customers for costs of the study now. The PUC told the utilities to keep the expenses in a separate account, which the PUC possibly would have allowed them to charge to their customers later. The PUC also reserved the right to approve the consulting group selected by either utility for the nuclear study, according to the *Idaho Statesman*. Both utilities objected to the interference, and the Utah utility accused the PUC of being "too political."

SIX IPP SITES CHOSEN. Alternative sites for the 3,000 megawatt Intermountain Power Project (IPP) have been narrowed to six by the Interagency Task Force on Power Plant Siting, according to the *Deseret News*. The original site, 13 miles from Capitol Reef National Park, may have to be abandoned because of clean air restrictions. A single alternative site is to be presented to Utah Gov. Scott Matheson by Nov. 1. IPP board president Joseph Fackrell says that the project could go the way of the Kaiparowits project if a new site is chosen. Fackrell says, "We spent \$8 million and three years developing what we feel is a very good site, environmentally and in other ways."



COLO. OIL SHALE TEST. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus has approved a second commercial oil shale test for Gulf Oil and Standard Oil of Indiana on tract C-a in Colorado. The companies will use a modified in situ process, which they say will reduce environmental damage. Andrus' announcement said that if the test is successful, commercial production will begin in 1987. The companies were awarded the tract in 1974 for a bonus bid of \$210.3 million.

FS opens roadless areas to oil, gas

A U.S. Forest Service directive regarding oil and gas leases in roadless areas may open the way for extensive drilling in Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming, despite the second Roadless Area Review (RARE II) for wilderness classification now under way. The directive will permit owners of existing oil and gas leases to develop those leases within presently roadless areas, unless the lease contains a "no surface occupancy" provision.

There are presently a total of 1,240 oil leases in the 3.4 million acre Bridger-Teton Forest. These leases cover about two million of those acres. Drilling in the forest has increased dramatically in the last year because of the discovery of oil in the "Overthrust Belt," a complex geologic structure that extends in half-moon shape from Utah through Wyoming and into Idaho. The oil and gas industry is calling the region the last major onshore oil field.

The Overthrust Belt bisects the Bridger Unit of the Bridger-Teton Forest. Because of the energy potential of the region, a

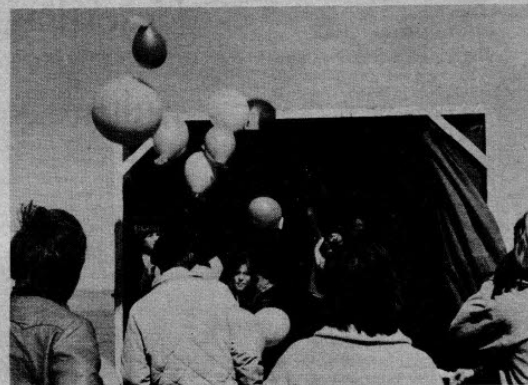
Forest Service source says, "We've got every major multinational oil company sitting on our doorstep."

According to the RARE II inventory, there are about 1,750,000 roadless acres in Bridger-Teton. Of this total, 1,206,000 acres have already been leased for oil and gas. The Forest Service does not know how many of these acres are covered under a "no surface occupancy" provision, but most leases do not contain this clause. Consequently, under the management guidelines issued by the agency, most of the presently roadless areas could lose their wilderness character, regardless of the outcome of the RARE II hearings.

The Forest Service will also permit the issuance of new oil and gas leases in roadless areas, but only if they contain a "no surface occupancy" provision.

Forest Service sources say that the oil development in the roadless areas, "represents a major resource conflict between energy and wilderness."

GEOTHERMAL IN BOUNTIFUL. The city of Bountiful, Utah, has given the go ahead for the purchase of 40 acres of potential geothermal lands. The city is considering generating electric power on the site at the Roosevelt Hot Springs. Plans for the project are still in the very early stages, and the city is uncertain whether the acreage will be suitable for power generation, according to the *Deseret News*. In addition, the lease must be approved for assignment to the city by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.



Balloons over the Rawhide Power Plant site.

Photo by Rusty Muller

Balloons dramatize plant problems

A group of farmers released 1,000 balloons over the proposed site of the Rawhide power plant in Colorado to dramatize its pollution potential. Farmers are concerned about the pollution from the plant and the industrial and residential growth it could bring to Weld and Larimer Counties.

In addition, Gov. Richard Lamm told the Larimer County commissioners in a speech that the state "will go to hell in a handbasket" if the Rawhide plant and others like it are not planned using both state and local criteria, the *Golden Triangle Review* says. The commissioners have so far refused to designate the plant as a "matter of state concern" under the Colorado land use law, but the Colorado Land Use Commission (LUC) has asked them to reconsider their action. The LUC may sue if the decision is not reversed.

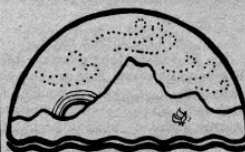
The *Review* says, however, that Lamm has a trump card at his disposal, if he wants to stop or delay the plant. The state and the

federal government have signed a memorandum of understanding that requires the governor's approval before any water can be allocated from Bureau of Reclamation projects. The Platte River Power Authority — the four city consortium trying to build the 750 megawatt plant — will probably need water from BuRec reservoirs, and Lamm says he wants to protect existing agricultural water users.



Photo by Rusty Muller

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12-High Country News — Oct. 7, 1977



THE UNSETTLING OF AMERICA: CULTURE AND AGRICULTURE. Essays by Wendell Berry, 1977, Sierra Club Books, \$9.95, 228 pages. **RADICAL AGRICULTURE.** Articles edited by Richard Merrill, 1976, New York University Press, \$15.00, 459 pages.

Review by Gary Nabhan

"We brag of being a nation in which food is relatively cheap and agriculture is efficient," writes Richard Merrill. "Yet we ignore the fact that most measures of food prices and farm efficiencies fail to account for the endangerment of many valuable resources such as soil fertility, water, wildlife, public health, and a viable rural economy."

With this note, the editor of *Radical Agriculture* expresses the germinal concept of two recent books linking agricultural problems to ecological concerns. American agriculture is reaching a breaking point, simply because the environmental and cultural costs that it has attempted to "externalize" and ignore have rotted out its inner core.

In his book, *The Unsettling of America*, Wendell Berry expresses the same thought. He suggests that America's obsession with industrializing food production has made us neglect a fundamental "natural law." "An agriculture cannot survive long at the expense of the natural systems that support it and that provide it with models. A culture cannot survive long at the expense of either its agricultural or its natural sources."

For the first time since the Dust Bowl or Silent Spring, the deterioration of the food-producing environment is seen to be the most serious ecological problem of the North American continent. These essays are "radical" in the sense that they search for the historical and moral roots of our agricultural disease. Instead of suggesting piecemeal cures, however, the authors suggest dramatic shifts in our orientation towards food, and a holistic approach to rural health.

Both books attack the "get big or get out"

standards of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They expose the costs in energy and humanity of over-mechanization of farm operations; the "mining" of fertile soils; the catering of land grant aggie schools to agri-industrial interests; and the government pressures that disrupt traditional, small-scale rural communities. Recent energy analyses have found small, labor-intensive "organic" farms to be more

The Unsettling of America Culture & Agriculture

efficient and as economically viable as their fossil fuel-intensive, large scale counterparts.

There is a critical, polemical tone in these overviews by Merrill and Berry, yet both men have also participated in positive, practical efforts to revitalize American farms.

Richard Merrill, who collected the 20 essays in *Radical Agriculture*, has been involved in the New Alchemy Institute, an alternative energy and food production experiment. The institute designed and implemented solar and wind-based greenhouse and fishery systems in the early 1970s, which received acclaim from *Science*, *Smithsonian*, and *Coevolution Quarterly* magazines. After Canada offered them the research support that U.S. agencies failed to provide, most of the New Alchemy group emigrated to Prince Edward's Island two years ago to build and work on their self-sustaining "Ark." Several of the articles in *Radical Agriculture* are by New Alchemy associates, who emphasize "small is beautiful" alternatives to petrochemical-based monoculture.

Wendell Berry, a well-known poet and essayist, is rehabilitating an old farm in Kentucky. As his use of draft horses for farmwork suggests, he seeks alternatives to industrial agriculture in the traditions of the small scale family farm. Berry has

found more ecological sense in un-mechanized Amish and Mennonite communities, in the genetic diversity of Andean potato agriculture, and in a few lowland organic farms than he found in stacks of ag-science publications from academia.

This experience has made him bitterly assert that "the expert knowledge of agriculture developed in the universities, like other such knowledges, is typical of the alien order imposed on a conquered land. We can never produce a native economy, much less a native culture, with this kind of knowledge. It can only make us the imperialist invaders of our own country."

It is curious that Berry's landmark essays are published by Sierra Club Books. In chapter two, Berry discusses the 1975 exposé of the club's stock holdings in Tenneco, Exxon, General Motors, and steel companies "having the worst pollution records in the industry." Although Sierra Club investment policy was altered, he remains critical of wilderness organizations'

The conservation movement is either too vacation-oriented or crisis-oriented. It is not yet sensitive to the impact of daily living on the sources of daily life.

—Wendell Berry

lack of concern for conservation in "used" or "peopled" environments.

The conservation movement is either too "vacation-oriented or crisis-oriented . . . it is not yet sensitive to the impact of daily living on the sources of daily life." The Sierra Club, in accepting Berry's criticism, is hopefully acknowledging that resisting assaults on the wilderness, or on the integrity of rural communities, is part of the same struggle.

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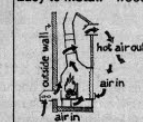
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HCN Bulletin Board



LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane F. Cology

Now nobody thought we would see
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If someday you rise
And see sheep taking coyotes to tea.

UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN EIS

The draft environmental impact statement on the grazing management of the Uncompahgre Basin in Colorado is now available to the public. The statement analyzes environmental impacts that would result from implementation of grazing and range improvements on the basin. Single copies of the EIS can be obtained from the District Manager, Montrose District Office, Bureau of Land Management, Highway 550 South, P.O. Box 1269, Montrose, Colo. 81401. A public meeting will be held on Nov. 1, 1977, at the Elks Lodge in Montrose, Colo. Comments should be sent to the Montrose District Manager at the above address before November 10, 1977.

OLD WEST CONFERENCE

The Old West Regional Commission will sponsor the "Old West Conference of Balanced Growth" at the Kirkwood Motor Inn, Bismarck, N.D. on October 24 to 26. The conference will concentrate on six themes dealing with the problems of growth. To register, contact the Old West Regional Commission, 1730 K St. N.W., Suite 426, Washington, D.C. 20006. The fee is \$15.

SAFE TAPWATER?

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued a report on safe drinking water in the U.S. Copies are available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Public Affairs (A-107), Washington, D.C. 20460.

SOLAR INVENTIONS

A research specialist has compiled a list of the solar energy inventions and design patents of 1976. Stanley Garil says the major purpose is to describe a number of technical possibilities that may open up

profitable areas of research and development in the solar energy field. Over 110 patents are illustrated and abstracted in detail, including patent number, names of inventor, and assignee, if any. For a copy, send \$10 to Stanley Garil, Box 50003, D Street Station, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004.

COMMUNITY-BASED RECYCLING

Garbage in America: Approaches to Recycling, a book by Neil Seldman, and **The Wastebin**, a newsletter, both emphasize community-based recycling. The book argues that community run, low budget programs offer more local jobs and help consumers realize the consequences of wasteful use of resources. The newsletter comes out irregularly with information on neighborhood recycling operations across the country. For *Garbage in America*, write to the Institute for Self-Reliance, 1717 18th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 and send \$2. For the newsletter, write *The Wastebin*, Box 14012, Portland, Ore. 97214 and send address label and 26 cents.

Oct. 7, 1977 — High Country News-13



Western Roundup

HCN

WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK. The Administration proposed a 12 million acre park instead of the 14 million acres that Rep. Morris Udall had recommended because, it said, two areas contain significant mineral deposits and should be further studied.

Photo of Worthington Glacier in Thompson Pass in the proposed park.

Alaska plan prompts suit; generally pleases conservationists

The national business community has taken its first formal action to stall protection of Alaska lands. The National Chamber of Commerce is filing suit, alleging that Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus should have prepared an environmental impact statement on the Administration's proposal for setting aside Alaska lands.

The Administration has proposed amending the bill that is supported by conservationists and sponsored by Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.). Udall's bill calls for placing 114 million acres of Alaska into one of four federal lands systems. Andrus proposes setting aside 92 million acres. Alaska's Republican Congressional delegates had introduced a plan to set aside only 25 million acres.

Andrus' amendment is a "reasonable, moderate, and equitable solution" to the situation, according to the National Wildlife Federation. The principal complaint of conservationists is that five key areas of



National Park Service photo by M. Woodbridge Williams

southeast Alaska were left out of federal withdrawal proposals, largely because of timber and mineral development possibilities. There is now a lot of clearcutting of timber in the area.

In response to the National Chamber of Commerce's criticism, Andrus says EIS requirements were taken care of by former Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton's 28-volume series of EIS's on his earlier d-2 proposals. He also says that EIS's are not required of Executive Branch agencies reporting on congressionally-initiated legislation.

A second objection to the Administration amendment comes from the president of

the American Mining Congress, who says he sees Alaska as a "giant cornucopia of minerals" and hates having decisions made on its future on an emotional basis. The National Wildlife Federation, however, points out that only the national parks, wildlife refuges, and wild rivers are closed to hardrock mineral development. The refuges are open to oil and gas leasing at the discretion of the Secretary of Interior.

Regarding access, Andrus says Interior is required to guarantee "reasonable access" to inholdings. Transportation cor-

ridors and utility rights-of-way will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Subsistence use zones would be designated where hunters could continue to kill enough game for their own families, whether or not they are natives. Some kind of regulation will be designed to prevent overuse, according to the Administration.

Conservationists think prospects for the bill are the best in the House. Udall expects the final bill to be drafted in the Alaska Lands subcommittee early next year and a bill sent to the White House between April and June of 1978, according to Public Lands News.

FS timber cut may spoil elk study

The first round in a timber appeal was lost by environmentalists concerned about an elk study near Moccasin Basin in Wyoming in the Bridger Teton National Forest. Three national groups, Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, and Sierra Club were denied a "stay" on a timber sale in the Red Creek-Cottonwood area, pending reconsideration of the effects of the sale by the regional forester.

As a result, Louisiana Pacific will soon be awarded a contract to cut some 6½ million board-feet of timber in an area that in

1974 had been set up as the site of a state and federal study on the effects of logging on elk. The Forest Service claims that the cut won't jeopardize the study. Wyoming Game and Fish director Earl Thomas, however, accuses the federal agency of thwarting the study by changing the rules in midstream.

"We find it extremely distressing that the Forest Service is more interested in the convenience of the timber mill than in the long range viability of our wildlife resources," Hank Phibbs, the attorney for the three groups said.

Forest EIS limits Cheyenne water plan

The U.S. Forest Service has reversed a previous position and decided to reserve 36,340 acres of the Huston Park Unit in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Wyoming for wilderness study instead of allowing the city of Cheyenne to use it for water development projects.

The decision was made after comments on the draft environmental impact statement on Huston Park questioned the city's growth plans, according to the Forest Service. The Wyoming Game and Fish had also protested, saying the rare cutthroat trout would be endangered by the city's proposal.

If the decision holds, it will limit the city of Cheyenne's Stage II water diversion project to about half of its proposed size. City officials are not happy with the decision

and say they will probably try to convince the Forest Service that Cheyenne does need the extra water to meet its needs for the next 20 years.

Bart Koehler of the Wilderness Society says he is pleased the Forest Service decided to reevaluate its response to Cheyenne's demands. "This will affect all the major waterways that are the lifeblood of the Medicine Bow National Forest. . . I hope the same protective philosophy will carry through into the next study," he says.

The Forest Service will evaluate the water development issues more fully in another environmental impact statement that will be prepared on Cheyenne's diversion plans. The Huston Park Land Use Management Plan affected only one part of the proposal.

Denver Water Board plans discouraged

The Denver (Colo.) Water Board was the victim of two major blows to its water expansions plans recently, both because of the city's growth plans. On Sept. 26, the new regional director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Alan Merson, recommended that the federal government deny the board's request to build the Foothills Treatment Complex on the grounds that it would be a "growth-generating project." Merson said the secondary impacts of the project were ignored in a federal environmental impact statement.

On the following day, a court-appointed referee reaffirmed a decision to deny the Denver Water Board's rights to an estimated quarter-million acre-feet of Western

Slope river water. The referee, Michael White, said Denver did not have the authority to claim water needed to serve non-city residents.

The Foothills project would nearly double Denver's water supply if Merson's objections to its construction are ignored. The decision by Merson stirred some critics to call him "pro-environmentalist," recalling his history of opposing water diversion from the Western Slope and his stands as chairman of the Colorado Land Use Commission.

In response, a Rocky Mountain News editorial said, "If anyone took the time to look at the job description (of the head of EPA) they would find that's just what he is supposed to be."

EIS reveals phosphate mining costs

A depressed phosphate market has resulted in reduced expansion plans for most of the companies planning to mine phosphate in southeastern Idaho, according to the final environmental impact statement (EIS) on the mining. The new EIS says seven companies have submitted plans for 16 new mines on existing federal leases, all but one of which are open pit mines.

"In aggregate, they represent a level of production that far exceeds the forecast demands for phosphate from the western U.S. field," it says. The statement explains that all the proposals were filed to insure

they were covered by an EIS in case they were implemented in the future.

The U.S. Geological Society (USGS) prepared the document. It said the mining would reduce wildlife habitat and populations, reduce water quality, lower air quality, reduce livestock forage, reduce recreational opportunity, and place stress on communities.

Copies of the EIS are available in several Idaho libraries or from the USGS, Preparation Branch, Land Information and Analysis Program, Box 25046, Federal Center, Denver, Colo. 80225.

14-High Country News—Oct. 7, 1977

PHOTOS AND MANUSCRIPTS WANTED. A new ski publication serving the intermountain area is soliciting ski related photographs and manuscripts. We are attempting to establish a network of correspondents throughout the area. Intermountain Skier, P.O. Box 738, Park City, Utah 84060. (801) 649-9592.

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ALTERNATE ENERGY EXPO 77 will be held at Expo Square in Tulsa, Okla., Nov. 11, 12, & 13, 1977. The Expo will be a people centered event geared to educate all of us on ways to improve our lives and our environment. It will present the latest innovations in the fields of solar, wind, wood, methane, etc. The expo will also focus on conservation of energy, health, ecology,

education, wilderness skills & much more. This exposition will be the largest of its kind ever held in the Midwest, with over 200 display booths and parking facilities for 25,000 cars. For further information, contact Ron Surface, Liberty Enterprises, Inc. 7729 E. 21st., Tulsa, Okla. 74129 918-663-2291.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Coordinator of the Environmental Studies Program at University of Northern Colorado.

To be considered an applicant or candidate, the following minimum qualifications and experience must be demonstrated or documented: Involvement with and concern for the welfare of the environment; environmentalist with an earned doctorate or evidence of substantial progress toward doctorate of an interdisciplinary nature combining the social and natural sciences; experience in the de-

velopment and coordination of environmental studies programs of an interdisciplinary nature is preferred; experience in working with community agencies and professional organizations; teaching experience is preferred.

Starting date is January 1, 1978. Salary from \$11,780 to \$12,400. The university partially pays for health and life insurance premiums as well as contributing to the retirement program. Contact Mr. Paul Richard, Fraiser Hall, P.O. Box 43, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colo. 80639. Deadline is November 11, 1977. An equal opportunity affirmative action employer.

POSITION AVAILABLE. Program Coordinator for Energy Extensive Service. Master's degree or equivalent desired. Two years of administrative experience with an understanding of organization and management of people, finances and work scheduling. Must demonstrate very high degree of communicative skills. Duties in

part include: assisting in overall management of Wyoming Energy Extension Service Program. Program planning and execution. Public Relations Activities. Salary: negotiable. Closing date: 19 October 1977. Please forward resumes to: RMIEE, Box 3295, University Station, Laramie, WY 82071. The University is an Equal Opportunity-Affirmative Action Employer.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE. The Idaho Conservation League, a citizens' organization, is accepting applications for the following positions: a field organizer in North Idaho, two community educators in South-central Idaho, a researcher for Idaho energy and utility issues in Boise, and an office manager in Boise. ICL is a grass roots organization whose primary purpose is to involve citizens in the decision making process for state and local issues.

Job descriptions will be sent to interested persons on request. To apply, send resume with references to ICL, P.O. Box 844, Boise, Idaho 83701 (208) 345-6933 as soon as possible. Please indicate for which position you are applying.

STATE OF WYOMING PUBLIC NOTICE

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO STATE THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS UNDER THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972 (FWPCA), P.L. 92-500 AND THE WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (35-502 et seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1957, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973).

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (1) ONE FEEDLOT, (2) ONE MUNICIPAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT, (3) ONE COMMERCIAL FACILITY, (4) FOUR OIL TREATMENT FACILITIES AND (5) ONE INDUSTRIAL FACILITY. TO RENEW (2) TWO INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGE PERMITS; AND TO MODIFY (4) FOUR INDUSTRIAL AND (1) ONE MUNICIPAL SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE PERMIT WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: C B FARMS
MAILING ADDRESS: ROUTE 1, BOX 41
POWELL, WYOMING 82435
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0027375

CB Farms operates a swine feedlot located on the north bank of Bitter Creek (Class I stream) which is immediately across the creek from the City of Powell's wastewater treatment lagoons and approximately 2 1/2 miles northeast of the City of Powell. The feedlot holds up to 400 pigs and covers an area of approximately 2 acres.

After on-site inspection, personnel of DEQ identified the facility as a potentially significant source of pollution to waters of the State and thus required the operator to apply for a permit to discharge. The proposed permit requires that all uncontrolled runoff (except that resulting from a precipitation event exceeding the 25 year - 24 hour storm) be completely contained by December 31, 1978. In addition, the permit requires elimination of pens built out into the creek and all water gaps by December 31, 1978.

(2) APPLICANT NAME: CITY OF EVANSTON, WYOMING
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 130
EVANSTON, WYOMING 82930
FACILITY LOCATION: THE CITY'S WATER TREATMENT PLANT
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0028727

The City of Evanston, Wyoming, operates a standard water treatment plant which provides coagulation and settling, filtering and chlorination. Wastewater consists of sand filter backwash and clarifier sludge which are presently discharged to City Ditch (Class III stream) via an unnamed drainage.

The City has informed DEQ that it plans to install a settling pond for treatment of the wastewater on or before July 1, 1978. Therefore, the proposed permit allows continuation of present conditions until July 1, 1978, at which time the discharge will be required to begin meeting treatment standards judged as being "best practicable" for water treatment plants. Quarterly monitoring will be required after July 1, 1978. The permit will expire October 31, 1982.

(3) APPLICANT NAME: RED HILLS SERVICE
MAILING ADDRESS: RAWLINS TO LANDER ROUTE
RAWLINS, WYOMING 82301
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0027332

Red Hills Service consists of a trailer court and filling station near Muddy Gap Junction, Wyoming. Present wastewater treatment consists of a septic tank discharge to an unnamed tributary of Muddy Creek (Class III stream).

The proposed permit will require that national secondary treatment standards be attained by July 1, 1978. The permit also contains a compliance schedule outlining specific dates for plans to be submitted and construction of the new system to begin.

The fecal coliform limit will be set at 200-400 organisms per 100 ml and there will be no set limit on total residual chlorine due to the fact that the receiving water (an unnamed tributary of Muddy Creek) is not a fishery.

Quarterly self-monitoring will be required for all parameters with the exception of chlorine which must be monitored weekly. Self-monitoring will begin if the new treatment system discharges. However, it is expected that a non-discharging system such as a septic tank and leach field will ultimately be installed. The proposed expiration date of the permit is September 30, 1982.

(4) APPLICANT NAME: MORSEY-WELLS OIL AND GAS CORPORATION
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 131
JEFFREY CITY, WYOMING 82918
FACILITY LOCATION: SHERIFF CREEK FIELD, CHEYENNE LEASE
SECTION 8, T12N, R12E, S12W, SECTION 14, T20N, R12E, S12W, PARK COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0028687

(5) APPLICANT NAME: NATURAL GAS PROCESSING COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 941
SHERIFF CREEK FIELD, CHEYENNE LEASE
SECTION 8, T12N, R12E, S12W, SECTION 14, T20N, R12E, S12W, PARK COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0028687

(6) APPLICANT NAME: SOUTHLAND ROYALTY COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: 800 EAST 14th, SUITE 214
CARPIS, WYOMING 82400
FACILITY LOCATION: OIL SHALE FEDERAL NO. 1-14, SWN, SEW, SECTION 14, T20N, R12E, S12W, PARK COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0027367

(7) APPLICANT NAME: L & R DRILLING COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 438
FARMER, WYOMING 82401
FACILITY LOCATION: GOVERNMENT OIL NO. 1, SWN, NW, SECTION 8, T24N, R12E, S12W, SECTION 14, T20N, R12E, S12W, PARK COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0027361

Facilities are all oil production units located in Carbon, Natrona, Weston and Fremont Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product and the use of such water

and skim ponds. All discharges are to Class III streams with the exception of the Morsey-Wells discharge which is to Sheep Creek (Class I stream) via an unnamed drainage and L & R Drilling which is to Beaver Creek (Class I stream) via an unnamed drainage.

The National Gas Corporation and Southland Royalty discharges must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Letters of beneficial use have been received by area ranchers concerning the L & R Drilling and Morsey-Wells discharges, therefore, the limits on total dissolved solids, chloride and sulfate have been waived. Semi-annual self-monitoring and reporting of these parameters is still required, however, along with pH (6.5-8.5 standard unit). Oil and grease must not exceed 10 mg/l on any single grab sample and must be monitored quarterly.

Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations states that every produced water discharge is beneficially used if the total dissolved solids content is 5,000 mg/l or less.

Semi-annual self-monitoring will be required for all parameters except oil and grease which must be monitored quarterly.

The expiration dates for the Southland Royalty and Natural Gas Corporation permits are July 31, 1980. The expiration date for Morsey-Wells is March 31, 1980 and L & R Drilling is December 31, 1981.

(8) APPLICANT NAME: THE WESTERN COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1669
ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING 82901
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0027341

The Western Company of North America owns and operates a base facility for oil well servicing trucks in Rock Springs, Wyoming. The wastewater discharge is from the washing of these trucks. Wastewater treatment consists of two separate settling tanks. The discharge is to Killpecker Creek (Class III stream).

The proposed permit establishes limits judged to be "best practicable" for this type of operation. Specific effluent limitations have been set on TSS, COD, pH and oil and grease. Monthly self-monitoring is required for all parameters. The permit will expire May 31, 1981.

(9) PERMIT NAME: UNION OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA
"WORLD GAS PLANT"
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 79
WORLD, WYOMING 82401
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-00001201

The Union Oil Company of California operates a natural gas processing plant located approximately ten miles north of the City of World, Wyoming. The plant treats natural gas by extracting raw gasoline, butane and propane. The plant is water cooled and discharge 001 is made up of approximately nine million gallons per day of once through cooling water. In emergency conditions discharge point 001 may also consist of plant drainage and produced water. Discharge point 002 consists of dehydrator cooling water.

The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with standards judged to be "best practicable" by the State of Wyoming. In addition, the permit requires that the temperature of the discharge be no more than 5.2 degrees higher than the temperature of the influent. This is based on a minimum stream flow of 44.84 MGD, a maximum discharge from the plant of 9.5 MGD and a maximum allowable in-stream temperature increase of 1.1 degrees C.

The proposed permit requires monitoring of influent and effluent water quality on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit will expire December 31, 1982.

(10) PERMIT NAME: HUSKY OIL COMPANY
"CHEYENNE REFINERY"
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1588
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82001
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0000442

As of July 1, 1977, all wastewater produced at the Husky Oil Company refinery located in Cheyenne, Wyoming, has been routed to a series of complete containment evaporation ponds located southeast of the City. However, the Company will continue to utilize its wastewater treatment system located at the refinery which consists primarily of oxidation ponds and oil removal equipment. The Company has requested that its discharge permit be renewed in case, in an emergency, it would be forced to discharge to Crow Creek (unclassified stream).

The proposed permit requires that any discharge meet national "best practicable" treatment standards for oil refineries effective immediately. Effective January 1, 1981, any discharge will be required to meet national "best available" treatment standards which are significantly more stringent than best practicable standards.

Since the facility will routinely have no discharge, the reporting of self-monitoring information has been reduced from monthly to quarterly. A permit with a full five year term is also proposed.

(11) PERMIT NAME: HUSKY OIL COMPANY
"CODY REFINERY"
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 380
CODY, WYOMING 82414
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0000451

On July 1, 1977, the Husky Oil Company began operation of a new wastewater treatment system at its Cody refinery. The new system results in complete impoundment of all process wastewaters; however, the refinery continues to discharge once through cooling water to the Shoshone River (Class I stream). The

was continued on page 15

DISTAFF CORNER

SQUIRREL FEVER

by Myra Connell

In case this column fails to reach HCN before the deadline, the cause may be my annual siege of squirrel fever. This malady takes hold of me every year at this time, worsens, then magically disappears sometime in October.

Squirrel fever, also called squirrelitis, cannot be found in medical dictionaries, nor will any physician ever diagnose the affliction.

The strange condition most often affects rural housewives, sometimes househusbands. City dwellers frequently have immunity, unless they have recently migrated from a country environment.

Obviously, squirrelitis takes its name from the mammal most famous for storing food against the hungry time. Everyone knows how this species scurries about in autumn storing nuts, dry mushrooms, pine cones, and other edibles. It might as appropriately be called cony fever, in honor of

the tiny rodent that stores dry grass in "hay stacks" in preparation for winter scarcity.

In susceptible persons the sight of empty fruit jars in the pantry or vacant space in the freezer brings on an attack of the disease. The first indication is a flurry of

feverish activity. The victim will be seen dashing frantically about in the garden, scurrying to the produce market, and waiting impatiently in line at the fruit stand. So anxious are the patients to obtain fruit that they even rob birds of wild berries. A little later they become preoccupied with continuous exercise in the kitchen, an obsessive pacing between sink and stove.

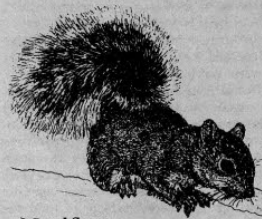
No remedy is known though several have been tried. One husband whose wife has very severe attacks treats her by hauling all empty jars to the sanitary land-fill. He takes care to keep her away from fruit markets.

The victim recovers spontaneously when the last wormy apple has been pared, the last over-ripe tomato made into chili sauce. About the time the leaves fall, the compulsive behavior abates, and the person is free of symptoms until the following summer when awareness of empty jars and surplus

produce starts the vicious cycle all over again.

Squirrel fever has been known to reach epidemic proportions. This was the case in autumn of 1974, the year of the terrible "panic of the jar lids." Caps for fruit jars became very scarce; manufacturers couldn't keep up with the demand. The more scarce they became, the more people caught the fever. Television networks gave the situation national coverage, showing the factories working 25-hour days pouring out jar caps by the billions. A tremendous black market for jar caps resulted, since the little metal circles are the sine qua non for home canning.

When I suffer from squirrelitis, I declare at the end of each attack that I will see a psychiatrist before giving in to a bout of that ailment again. But when I see those rows of shining jars all filled with goodies, and that freezer stuffed to capacity, I know that all the pain was nothing compared to the sense of security and satisfaction in having prepared once more for a long cold winter.



©Carol Snow

(continued from page 14)

once through cooling water receives essentially no chemical contamination as it passes through the system and only heat is added to this water.

The proposed permit modification will eliminate all process wastewater effluent limitations but will add a limitation on net total organic carbon to correspond with Federal best practicable treatment limitations. A net limitation is deemed necessary since the raw water taken by the refinery from the Shoshone River contains significant quantities of organic carbon. Because neither the Company nor the State has experience with total organic carbon, the permit includes a short interim period before the best practicable treatment limitation of 5 mg/l goes into effect.

Also included in the permit are limitations on the total amount of heat which is allowed to be discharged. This limitation will insure that the State's water quality standards for temperature (maximum in-stream increase of 1.1 degrees C) will not be violated at the seven consecutive day — ten year low flow in the Shoshone River (146.32 cfs).

The permit will require the Company to continue to monitor the levels of phenols in Cottonwood Creek above and below the refinery, and all seeps of pollutants to Cottonwood Creek must be eliminated immediately.

Self-monitoring reports will be required quarterly and the permit will expire September 30, 1982.

(12) PERMIT NAME: KERR-MCGEE JACOBS RANCH MINE
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. DRAWER 1509
GILLETTE, WYOMING 82716
FACILITY LOCATION: JACOBS RANCH COAL MINE
SECTIONS 14, 15 and 11, R70W,
T43N, CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0023531

Kerr-McGee Coal Corporation is in the process of opening an open-pit coal mine located in southeastern Campbell County, Wyoming. A discharge permit allowing the Company to discharge treated mine water and treated runoff from disturbed areas was issued in March of 1975. Since that time the Company has changed the location of some of its treatment ponds.

The proposed modified permit would allow discharge of mine water from four separate locations to the North Fork of Little Thunder Creek and Burning Coal Draw (Class III stream). The permit requires compliance with best practicable treatment standards effective immediately. Monitoring of effluent quality is required with reporting of results on a quarterly basis. The proposed modified permit also requires the control of runoff from disturbed areas.

(13) PERMIT NAME: ROSEBUD COAL SALES COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 96
HANNA, WYOMING 82427
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0022853

Rosebud Coal Sales Company operates an open pit coal mine north of Hanna, Wyoming, in Carbon County. Planned expansion of the mine will create the need to discharge mine water and surface runoff from five additional locations to Big Ditch via various unnamed drainages, Pine Draw and Hanna Draw (all Class III streams).

The proposed permit modification would allow those additional points of discharge provided that the quality of the discharges meets best practicable treatment standards effective immediately. Regular monitoring of the discharges by the permittee is required and reporting of results to the regulatory agency is required on a quarterly basis. The permit also requires the control of surface runoff from disturbed areas.

(14) PERMIT NAME: PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: DAVE JOHNSTON POWER PLANT
P.O. BOX 308
LENROCK, WYOMING 82637
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0003115

The Dave Johnston Power Plant is a coal fired steam electric generating plant consisting of four separate units having a total generating capacity of approximately 780 megawatts. The original units (1, 2, and 3) were designed for once through cooling; however, a cooling tower capable of handling approximately 55% of the total cooling flow (which can total up to 325 cfs) is now operable. This cooling tower is used only during the summer when water temperatures in the River become critical. Cooling water serving unit No. 4 is completely recycled as it is not discharged under normal conditions.

The plant has a total of twelve separate discharges to the North Platte River (Class I stream). Note: Discharge points 010 and 012 included in previous discharge permits issued for this facility have been eliminated.

The most important item contained in the permit is the granting of an exemption from the State's water quality standard for temperature. Under Section 316(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, a discharger of heated water which is causing violation of water quality standards has the right to conduct a biological survey of the receiving stream and if the study conclusively shows that the heated water discharge does not affect the "protection and propagation of a balanced, indigenous population of shellfish, fish and wildlife in the receiving water," an exception from the standard may be granted. Also, Section 23 of Wyoming's water quality standards contains a provision allowing exemption from temperature requirements for periods of up to five years, if approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Consequently, during the last half of 1974, PP&L began a biological study of the North Platte River in accordance with the provisions of 316(a). The study was divided into the following six components:

1. Basic power plant design and operation — prepared by Pacific Power & Light;
2. Zooplankton — prepared by Beak Consultants, Inc.

3. Benthic organisms — prepared by the Thorne Ecological Institute;
4. Fish Biology — prepared by Pacific Power & Light;
5. Sport Fishery — prepared by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department; and
6. Waterfowl — prepared by the Thorne Ecological Institute.

In June of 1976, a final copy of the report was delivered to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. After undergoing extensive review by these agencies, it was concluded that the study did indeed indicate that the heated water discharge was not affecting the "protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish and wildlife in the receiving water." However, in their comments, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department indicated that the discharge in this case was acceptable only because, even under normal conditions, no natural reproduction of cold water species could be expected below the power plant due to marginal habitat. In their comments, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indicated that it felt the heated water discharge from the plant had an effect on the type of aquatic species found below the plant, but that on balance, the change was not environmentally significant.

Other major provisions of the permit include:

1. Strict limitations on the quantity of total residual chlorine which is allowed to be discharged through points 001-006. The limitation of 1.84 kg/day of total residual chlorine is based on a maximum cooling water discharge of 327.5 cfs, minimum river flow of 377.59 cfs and a maximum allowable concentration of total residual chlorine in the river of .002 mg/l. In addition, beginning April 1, 1978, the permittee will be required to continuously monitor discharge points 001-006 for total residual chlorine.
2. The effluent from the ash ponds (discharge points 007 and 008) must be treated to a level considered as "best practicable" by the State before discharge.
3. Elimination of discharge point 009 is required by January 1, 1979.
4. Discharge from point 011 is allowable only under emergency conditions and stand-by pumping capacity and power must be provided at this location.
5. The effluent from discharge points 013 and 020 must be treated to levels considered "best practicable" by the State before discharge.
6. The permit includes definite start-up and shut-down procedures for the cooling tower handling cooling water from units 1, 2 and 3. The procedures are designed to promote gradual phase-in and phase-out of the tower to prevent "temperature shock" to the receiving water.
7. The permit contains specific requirements concerning operation of the plant's dam spillway to insure against the flushing of silt from behind the dam. The permit requires PP&L to monitor the turbidity of the river above and below the plant.
8. The permit requires the continuous operation of a temperature recorder in the river at Hildebrand, Wyoming (approximately 7 river miles below the Plant). Results of this temperature monitoring must be submitted on a regular basis to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.
9. The permit requires PP&L to contact the regulatory agencies whenever the temperature of the North Platte River at Hildebrand reaches 78 degrees F, and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has the authority to require operational modifications at the power plant if the Department feels there is immediate danger to downstream aquatic life due to high water temperatures.
10. Monitoring of all discharges from the plant is required and the results of that monitoring must be reported to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality on a monthly basis.

The proposed permit will be in effect for approximately five years.

(15) PERMIT NAME: CITY OF ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1030
ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING 82901
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0022357

A discharge permit was issued to the City of Rock Springs on May 13, 1975. At that time it was determined that a new wastewater treatment facility capable of meeting National Secondary Treatment Standards would be in operation by July 1, 1977. However, due to reductions in Federal funding, the project has been delayed and even though construction of the new plant is now beginning, it is not expected to be completed until January 1, 1979.

The purpose of this permit modification is to extend the date for compliance with National Secondary Treatment Standards from July 1, 1977, to January 1, 1979. In addition, the maximum capabilities of the existing plant, which consists of screening, pre-aeration, primary sedimentation, trickling filter, secondary sedimentation and sludge digestion and drying, has been re-evaluated by the Department's engineering staff. As a result, the interim effluent limitations which must be met prior to January 1, 1979, have been revised. The City is required to continue to monitor the quality of its effluent on a regular basis and report the results to the regulatory agencies. The modified permit will expire September 30, 1982.

STATE-EPA TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS
Tentative determinations have been made by the State of Wyoming in cooperation with the EPA staff relative to effluent limitations and conditions to be imposed on the permits. These limitations and conditions will assure that State water quality standards and applicable provisions of the FWPCA will be protected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to November 13, 1977. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permit Section, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1660 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80203. All comments received prior to November 13, 1977 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling the State of Wyoming, (307) 777-7781, or EPA, (303) 327-3874, or by writing to the aforementioned addresses.

The complete applications, draft permits, and related documents are available for review and reproduction at the aforementioned addresses.

Public Notice No. WY-77-012

Report to stockholders: a familiar tune

Lack of revenues blues at High Country News

Long time readers, beware. A stockholders report follows, and it may sound like we're singing the same old tune. We would understand if after nine years of following our finances, you no longer care to learn the tedious details about how we stay afloat.

For newer readers, a word of explanation is in order. Since \$12 subscription checks are by far our most important source of income, like it or not, we consider you our stockholders and offer you a look at how much money we have and where it goes.

Here's the picture: we had to dig into our savings to cover expenses this year, because our costs are rising faster than our income. From July 1976 to June 1977 we took in about \$42,200 and spent \$43,100.

The most significant cost rises were printing, on which we spent 34% more than we did in the previous fiscal year, and postage, on which we spent 24% more. The amount of money we spent on wages rose by 15% due to a raise in staff wages from

\$300 to \$325 last fall and another boost this spring to \$375 per month.

Our income also rose over the period — by 3% — but not enough to keep up with a 10% overall cost rise.

If the sources of a business's income reveal its ties, we are clearly attached to our readers, who provide 80% of our income through their subscription payments. Some readers threw in a donation in addition to the subscription fee and boosted our income an extra 7% (not including donations received by the HCN research fund, which totaled \$2,700). Others bought miscellaneous items through us — note cards, art work, books, and T-shirts — which accounted for 3% of our income. Another 3% came from newsstand and over-the-counter newspaper sales. And 7% of our income came from advertising.

We now have 3,526 subscribers. That's 200 more than we had at this time last year and 400 more than the year before that.

Our renewal rate is healthy by publishing industry standards — 66%.

We're concerned that we didn't make ends meet this year. But the rate raise we instituted in April should be a big help in putting us into the black next year. If we assume that costs will rise another 10% next year, we need to increase our income next year by at least \$6,000. About \$5,000 of that increased income should come from the rate raise. We expect the other \$1,000 to come in increased ad revenues, which would be a 30% rise in ad income.

In our lust for financial stability through increased ad revenues, we intend to be careful not to slight the news department. After all, our aim is not to be a prosperous business, but to stay alive and efficiently disseminate the most important and interesting environmental news for residents and friends of the Rocky Mountain and Northern Plains region. As we take up more space with ads, we are occasionally printing an extra section to make up for the lost news space.

To help secure HCN's future, August is busy with a massive mailing campaign designed to find more people who want to read High Country News. For a start, he's mailing out 10,000 copies of the paper to potential subscribers this week. If that effort finds enough new readers, we'll mail another 10,000 this winter.

We continue to operate like a charity, with our staff giving all that they've got for less than they're worth and our friends topping that generosity with gifts of fine writing, art, photography, and other services.

Among our unpaid benefactors in the

last six months have been writers Peter Wild, Myra Connell, Sarah Doll, Bart Koehler, John Bartlit, and Bruce Hamilton.

Thanks to artists Carol Snow (whose eagle drawing we used on our T-shirts), Rob Pudim, and Ann Zwinger.

Thanks to photographers Dick Randall, Mark and Marty Stouffer, Lynne Bama, Terry Moore, and Ann and Myron Sutton.

Thanks for miscellaneous good deeds to Mary Morehouse, Mike Sheldon, Leslie Petersen, Sally Forbes, Charles and Frances Nations, Bern Prideaux, Lefe Bell, Ed Dobson, Jay Reed, Adam McLane and the Northern Rockies Action Group, Lorna Wilkes, Sandy Pugh, Jack Pugh, Andrae King, and Central Bank and Trust.

People who have made monetary contributions to High Country News and HCN research fund since last February are listed below.

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FOSSIL BUTTE from the southwest.

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