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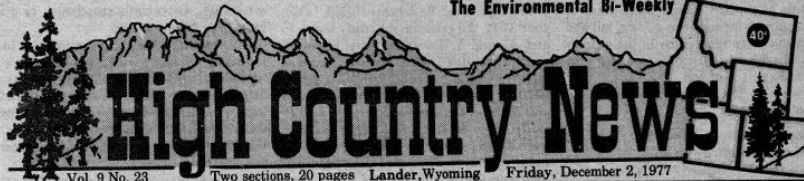
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The Environmental Bi-Weekly



Vol. 9 No. 23

Two sections, 20 pages Lander, Wyoming

Friday, December 2, 1977



Some RARE II
surprises
announced.

See story,
page 10.

Oil development threatens forests

by Dan Whipple

The discovery of a potential major oil and gas deposit in the heart of the Bridger-Teton National Forest in western Wyoming is creating a conflict between two of America's highly valued resources — oil and wilderness. The result is tug-of-war among the oil industry, environmentalists, and the federal government to determine the direction that the forest's future will take.

The oil discovery is the Overthrust Belt, which extends in a half-moon shape from northeastern Utah, through western Montana. It was formed by a movement of the earth's crust that formed pockets, trapping organic material that eventually formed petroleum.

Major strikes were made in early 1976 along the southern leg of the Overthrust Belt. Petroleum potential from throughout the belt is enormous, according to industry estimates. It has been called "another Prudhoe Bay." *The Oil and Gas Journal*, an industry publication, calls it "the hottest new area for drilling in the U.S., offshore or on."

Part of this "hot new area" bisects one of the finest untrammeled portions in the U.S. outside of Alaska — the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The forest is a haven for wildlife — including elk, deer, and antelope — and contains several mountain ranges — the Gros Ventre, Salt River, Snake River, Wyoming, and

this presents serious economic and geologic problems.

While the forest may soon become known for its oil production, its current reputation lies in its vast wilderness and wildlife resources. There are two designated wildernesses in the forest, totaling nearly one million acres. There are also three areas that are being studied for possible inclusion in the national wilderness system. In addition to these areas, the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) identified 1.75 million acres of roadless areas — making nearly all of the forests' 3.4 million acres "de facto" wilderness.

The conflict is developing because about 70% of the inventoried roadless lands (over 1.2 million acres) has already been leased for oil and gas. In most cases, the lease holders are guaranteed the right of access to the lease and the right to disturb as much surface as necessary to drill and develop those leases.

Generally, access to the leases requires the construction of roads. Though some old roads exist within the forest's "roadless" areas, these have been overgrown, according to the Forest Service, and would have to be substantially upgraded to carry on drilling operations. This upgrading, or the construction of new roads, would probably eliminate the areas from wilderness consideration.

Jim Connor, planning director of the Bridger-Teton Forest, says, "With the current energy situation, there is going to be

in there to drill."

Elmer Parsons, chief geologist for True Oil, says, "If you can't build roads, you can't evaluate leases. If you're not allowed to do that, there is a conflict."

Bart Koehler, Wilderness Society representative for the state of Wyoming, says, "Oil and gas operations are in serious conflict with the multiple use concept of the national forest. They don't belong in potential wilderness lands. Oil and gas companies are using the energy crisis, which now ranks among motherhood, apple pie and the American flag, to justify their actions. Their profitable actions are said to be a public service."

It has been the policy of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which admin-

isters leasing of federal minerals, along with the tacit approval of the Forest Service, to keep the forests' oil and gas resources under lease virtually continuously since the early 1950s. The leasing subjugates other forest values, such as wildlife and wilderness to the oil and gas. Consequently, it won't be easy for Koehler and other preservationists to prevent the roads and the loss of wilderness character.

BLM keeps the lands under lease to make as much land as possible available for petroleum exploration. Since previously the oil industry has not expressed much interest in the oil potential in the Bridger-Teton, Forest Service officials have been reasonably comfortable with

(continued on page 4)

The Overthrust Belt has been called "another Prudhoe Bay."

Hoback. It encompasses much of the scenic Jackson Hole country.

Though the forest itself is only a small portion of the Overthrust Belt, it may contain a large percentage of the available oil. A Forest Service official says, "We've got every major oil company sitting on our doorstep." Atlantic Richfield, one of the companies with leases in the forest, says that the western Wyoming thrust belt "could produce one-quarter as much oil as the Alaska pipeline can ship." A Wyoming Geological Association (WGA) report estimates that there may be as much as three billion barrels of oil in this area and up to 25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

All of this petroleum is only hypothetical at present, however. To actually be sure that it exists, exploratory drilling must take place. The WGA report states that

tremendous competition for these lands." Connor says that the agency hasn't finished its assessment of the situation, however, and he downplays the potential problems. "There's not going to be as much of a conflict as the oil people and the environmentalists think. When RARE II is completed in December 1978, we'll know which areas will be developed and which will not. They have to let the planning process work."

However, both oil industry and environmentalists are less sanguine about a harmonious solution. Terry Martin, of the Wyoming Petroleum Association, says, "Of course we believe there's a conflict — it's a pretty obvious one. We just don't know whether the objections of those who don't want all of that land to be roadless will be listened to. If they put 1.5 million acres into wilderness, we'll have tough time getting

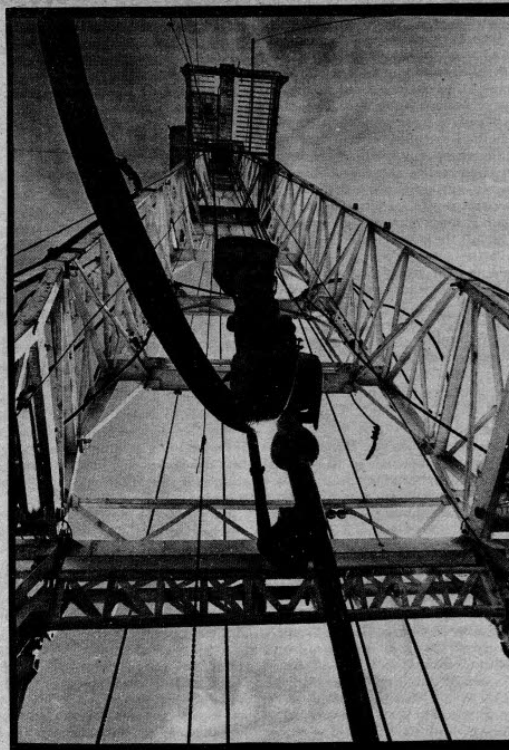


Photo by Anna Dooling, Jackson Hole News

2-High Country News — Dec. 2, 1977



HCN Letters

GRIZZLY-RECREATIONIST CONFLICT, TOO

To HCN,

The article entitled "Destined for Conflict or Destruction" (HCN Oct. 21) contained several interesting quotes worth reflecting upon for a short time.

"Everybody has to eat — even the environmentalist back East." It is implied that sheep are what a number of people should be eating. Also revealing is the implication that "environmentalists" and others who are threatening a "status quo" situation are from everywhere else but where one lives. Inherent in many such arguments is the implication that problems confronting a community are created outside of the community.

"The public needs food and fiber. In times of food shortages and starvation, which do we need more — grizzly or sheep?"

Again, it is implied that the answer to food shortages (if there is truly a food shortage and not a maldistribution of food) is sheep. What appears to be the real issue is not sheep for food as such but sheep as a basis for economic survival of those involved in raising sheep (or cattle). Of course, the next question is how much is required for economic "survival?"

If the concern of these people is for more food, is it not more feasible to harvest food lower in the so called "food chain?" For example, let us say we are raising sheep. At the time they are to be "harvested," we turn a lion or two into the sheep pens. They eat the sheep and after a suitable time we "harvest" the lions for our food. Ludicrous, you say? If we substitute "man" for lion, the logic of raising sheep (or cattle) is exposed.

Finally, the conflict between the grizzly and the sheep may be minimized by not permitting grazing on certain public lands. However, the shrinking habitat for grizzlies coupled with the increasing demand for public lands for recreational uses are apt to shift the focus of conflict from sheep and cattle (with respect to the grizzly) to people and the grizzly. Both compete for wilderness — one to recreate in and one to live in.

Gary W. Hanlon
Lakehead, Calif.

CORNUCOPIA

Dear editors:

Congratulations on your November 4th cornucopia of information on the National Grasslands, solar heating, clean air, David Brower, forest fires, and municipal water sharing, all illustrated and arranged with professional care. It is one of HCN's finest.

Bruce Hamilton's review of Katie Lee's book on cowboy songs, especially the part about new lyrics being put to old songs, brought to mind a curious revelation of a couple of summers ago. At that time, Willie Nelson's lament called "Can I Sleep In Your Arms Tonight, Lady" was being heard quite often. The album credits one H. Cochran with authorship. The melody resembles that of "Red River Valley" and is the heart-rending story of the time before gas furnaces when a fellow had to rely on metabolic heat at night.

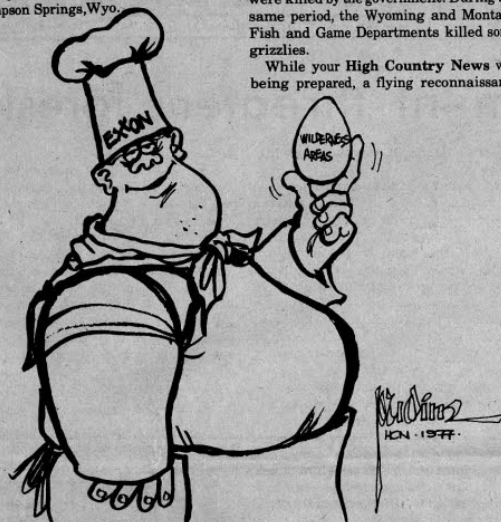
At any rate, one evening my wife and her father were singing and playing their way

through a tattered old songbook of gems like "I Wish I Were Single Again" and "The Last Great Roundup" when they came across a song with a 1936 copyright and the same melody as Willie's song.

The words were different though. It is the tale of a jilted man's three years of pointless wandering after a "fair, tall and handsome" stranger came to the country for his health and quickly absconded with the man's wife and son.

It is called "Can I Sleep In Your Arms Tonight, Mister?"

Philip White
Simpson Springs, Wyo.



"AND NOW, I WILL MAKE AN OIL OMELETTE
WITHOUT BREAKING AN EGG."

GRIZZLY, SHEEP CAN CO-EXIST

Dear Editor,

As a woolgrower whose family has been in the business for 85 years, I am writing you in regards to your article, "Grizzlies roam where sheep graze — destined for conflict or destruction." I feel your article was sincere, but based on very poor information. Hence, it was very biased and emotional, and not fair to the sheep industry or the grizzly.

The Davis family has been summer ranging sheep just south of the Yellowstone Park Boundary for 85 years. The grizzly had little impact on the sheep, and vice-versa, in those first years in the late 1800s. Management practices in the park in the late years (feeding the bears via garbage dumps) had the effect of greatly increasing the grizzly bear population until it peaked in the middle 1970s.

The grizzlies I have fought and fed (with my sheep) in over 40 years on the Boone Creek-Squirrel Creek range, I have learned to fear, respect, and admire. He is a clever, cunning, and tough adversary. However, he is not totally incompatible with summer sheep grazing. Individual problem bears give us trouble, not all grizzlies, and this is the reason sheep and grizzlies can co-exist. The removal of problem bears has not decimated the grizzly population. The remaining grizzly population can and does co-exist. We have mutual respect for each other, the bear and man with his sheep.

Those sheep outfits west of Yellowstone Park, like the Engets, the Two-Top area,

have had the same experiences over the same time span.

The sheepmen, since 1934, have killed six grizzlies for good reasons on the south side of the park. In the same period, nine grizzlies have been killed west of the park. These figures can be substantiated. In the year 1941, the government study teams in and around Yellowstone Park killed 18 head of grizzlies. Their killing continued as follows: 1968-5 head; 1969-10 head; 1970-12 head; 1971-6 head; 1976-2 head and many of these by mistake. In another study, from 1950 to 1969, some 25 head were killed by the government. During the same period, the Wyoming and Montana Fish and Game Departments killed some grizzlies.

While your High Country News was being prepared, a flying reconnaissance

they are "harvested" by people with rifles. We have no Adopt-a-Deer or Adopt-an-Elk programs! Nor are sentimentalists raising their voices against making people-food of game animals; nor do we hear an outcry about the animals crippled by poor marksmen, their trails abandoned, to die in agony of their wounds.

I am not suggesting that commercial interests be allowed to run down, and otherwise abuse wild horses, as Mr. Borzea says happened in the past. I am suggesting that expert marksmen be employed to destroy those that are in danger of starvation, or that they be put to death in some other humane way.

A reasonable amount of land could be set aside as wild horse refuges, and when these areas reach their capacity the herd could be thinned by destroying those least likely to make it through another season.

As Patrick Henry said, there are some conditions worse than death. In my opinion it would be more humane to destroy surplus wild horses than to domesticate and enslave them to serve man's uses and whims.

Mr. Borzea feels that the Adopt-a-Horse program is a success and calls for its support. In my opinion it is not a success because it is self-defeating. The unique value of the wild horses is their WILDNESS. When tamed, broken, trained and put to work in whatever way humans may choose, a wild horse is no longer wild. I question whether those persons who apply to adopt a horse are concerned with the horse's welfare or more likely thinking of themselves, and the chance to satisfy a long-lived desire to own a horse.

In facing the realities of the situation, we might consider India's sacred cows, which it would seem from published accounts, India can ill afford. By the same token, the United States can ill afford large herds of the exotic, adaptable, prolific wild horses.

Nonetheless, I remain of the opinion as implied in my article, that death for unwanted horses would be preferable to the Adopt-a-Horse program.

Myra Connell
Lander, Wyo.

PASSIVE SOLAR SYSTEM CAN BE CAREFREE

Dear HCN,

I enjoyed your article on solar companies and problems November 4. But I would like to respond to the statement (in "Dear Friends") that passive systems require active people while active systems can tolerate passive people.

While it's true that many of the most publicized passive systems (such as Steve Baer's) use manually operated movable insulation, this certainly doesn't make the statement true. Any energy efficient house, regardless of method of heating, could use the same (insulation) system. A properly designed passive solar house can be just that — totally passive — with much higher overall efficiencies than those of a comparable active system (85% vs 45% approximately for maximums). At the same time — since there are no moving parts or controls to break down eventually — people don't have to be actively trouble shooting and repairing (and finally, replacing). Personally, I really like the idea of there being tasks like closing the insulation when the sun isn't available, but it's simply a design choice — not a necessary aspect of passive solar systems.

Sunshine!
Steve Coffel
Golden, Colo.

W. Ross Davis
St. Anthony, Idaho

HORSES — SACRED COWS?

Dear HCN,

In reply to Mr. John C. Borzea's letter to HCN commenting on my "Distaff Corner" article "Patrick H. Said It," (HCN Oct. 21, 1977).

Mr. Borzea implies that I criticized the Adopt-a-Horse program without proposing an alternative. The alternative is suggested in the title of the article.

When game animals become too numerous for the carrying capacity of the land,

Dec. 2, 1977—High Country News—3

Dealing with environmental backlash: a proposal

A new term has cropped up on the political scene recently—"environmental backlash." This condition apparently occurs when conservationists want to conserve too much, or conserve too fast, and the vast, unheard majority suddenly rises out of its collective stupor and wants to unconserve everything.

EB, as we affectionately call this reaction around the office, has several sides. It acknowledges the strength of the environmental movement and the importance of the issues that the movement espouses. In fact, as we shall see, it even tries to co-opt some of those issues. But, this puts the proponents of the EB theory in the uncomfortable position of agreeing with the movement, while still trying to fight it. Their real gripe then seems to focus on the character of the people and groups seeking to achieve those goals.

For instance, Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.), on a recent trip back to his state, warned far and wide of the EB. He said, in so many words, that the environmental lobby in Washington was getting on his nerves because they were so pushy. He didn't say that their goals were misguided—lord knows, he's an environmentalist, too, he says—but their tactics leave much to be desired. Consequently, there is environmental backlash in Congress.

A Wyoming mining publication, which flies into spasms at the word "environment," takes great delight in assailing the state's environmental groups, but rarely takes up the space to discuss the issues they raise.

Now comes Harper's magazine in a story written by a New York City newspaperman, saying that environmentalists are "tacky people living in pink and gray houses at the end of cul-de-sacs."—presumably in New Jersey. These are the logical descendants, Harper says, of the original environmentalists, who were "quite simply, members of the local aristocracy, often living at the end of long, winding roads." We are baffled about whether this assessment is a promotion on the social scale, or character assassination by blanket proclamation.

The summary conclusion of the Harper's article, as we understand it, goes beyond ad hominem arguments to make one substantial criticism—that environmental opposition to things like nuclear power and coal gasification will have severe economic consequences. "Stopping growth," it says, "merely means falling behind, with all the economic consequences."

Opponents have long charged that environmental goals will stifle economic development. But, lay aside for the moment that many of the projects the Harper's author so blithely defends are of questionable, and even negative, economic benefit. Instead, he concludes that there is a highly-financed, environmental cabal of wealthy Americans and would-be upper-crust Americans, who are wandering about the countryside gleefully awaiting the collapse of the American economic system. We wonder how they got so rich.

On the other hand, according to the EB

proponents, there are the fellows in white hats, trying, against all odds, to salvage some vestige of all that is good and holy. These modern-day Don Quixotes are trying to mine our coal, drill for our oil, and perform all of the other functions that God and the Constitution gives them the inalienable right to do. Alas, they face the well-financed, unproductive, obstructionist windmill of the environmental movement.

To mix the metaphor you might say that Exxon and Consolidated Edison are, apparently, the Oliver Twists of our generation. "Please, air," they say to the environmentalists, "we want some more."

Very curious.

Another form of EB that we've encountered lately is a very entertaining exercise in semantics. Suddenly, oil companies, coal operators, utility executives—in short, everybody—are standing at the luncheon dais and proclaiming "We're all environmentalists. We favor a clean environment." Heavens!

But, before you go out and organize your victory party, make sure that you aren't a "preservationist," or worse, a "rabid preservationist." We have grown up believing that preservation was something done to crumbling houses that George Washington slept in. No longer.

It used to be that if you wanted to burn the coal in your power plant without a scrubber, you were a power company. If you wanted to make sure they put on the scrubber, you were an environmentalist. Under this new arrangement, if you want to burn

the coal in your power plant without a scrubber, you are an environmentalist, and if you want them to put the scrubber on, you are a preservationist.

Very curious.

The question remains—is there environmental backlash? Frankly, we don't know. But, the same people who are warning us about environmental backlash are the same people who seem to be against effective environmental protection in the first place. Environmental backlash or no, the problems are still there, and all of the rhetoric won't change it. The fact is that the air in Denver is still dirty, you can practically park on Lake Michigan, oil spills still kill birds in Santa Barbara, the black-footed ferret is going the way of the passenger pigeon, you can't swim in the Hudson, or the Potomac, or the Charles. Why should we waste our time worrying about an environmental backlash?—DSW



More Letters

AVITROL "MISREPRESENTED"

Dear HCN,

A guest editorial by Hank Fischer, Defenders of Wildlife, in the High Country News of October 7, presented some excellent thoughts and genuine concerns for Montana's environment. He has misrepresented some of the facts, however, concerning the use of and hazards associated with Avitrol FC Corn Chops-99S for protecting the sunflower crop from blackbird damage.

He strongly implies that the use of Avitrol would prove deadly, not only for blackbirds, but also for various species of non-

game and upland game birds, ducks, geese, and some mammals.

Avitrol was developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for use in field crops because of a dire need by some farmers to protect their crops from damage caused by blackbirds. This development began in 1962 and required both intensive and extensive testing in both the laboratory and in the field to insure that the product was reasonably effective, economical, and environmentally safe.

As a result of these studies, Avitrol was federally registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for nationwide use in reducing damage caused by blackbirds to field corn in April 1972 and sweet corn in August 1975. It was also registered in August 1975 for use in sunflowers in 14 states, primarily in the Midwest. Montana was not included in the registration because of the small amount of sunflowers produced in that state at the time of registration. These federal registrations would not have been sought by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service nor would they have been granted by the Environmental Protection Agency if the well-documented data indicated that the product was ineffective or if it presented any unreasonable environmental problems.

The registered product consists of screened cracked corn treated to contain 3% 4-aminopyridine which is diluted with untreated cracked corn at a 1:99 ratio. The diluted bait is broadcast in crop fields at a rate of one pound per acre on one-third of the field in alternating swaths. Bait cannot be applied within 50 feet of the edges of fields where greater hazards to non-target species are more likely to occur. At the registered application rate, one pound of chemical is used to treat 3,300 acres, or 0.005 ounces of chemical per acre, which does not "sterilize the environment."

Because of the high dilution factor and the extremely low application rate, fewer



than one per cent of target blackbirds that visit treated fields consume treated particles. These few birds react to the compound prior to death by producing distress calls and aberrant flight behavior scaring away untreated birds.

Hazards to small, non-target seed-eating species are minimized considerably, and hazards to game birds and mammals are negligible. These larger species weighing more than one-fourth pound are simply not able to find and eat enough of the treated baits to become affected. When used properly, there are also no significant secondary hazards to raptors and predators, phytotoxic effects, or effects on bird reproduction, and residues on Avitrol-baited crops are well within the established safety tolerance of 0.1 parts per million.

At present, Avitrol offers the farmer the opportunity to protect his crops in a reasonably effective, economic, and environmentally safe manner.

Glenn A. Hood
Chief, Section of Bird Damage Control
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Denver, Colo.

READER REMINDS US

We've established a dialogue with Peter Karp of Billings, Mont., over a point made in Marjane Ambler's article on the coalition developing between agricultural and environmental interest groups (HCN 10-7-77). Karp says that one statement in the article is misleading—"until each EIS (environmental impact statement on local grazing effects) is completed, BLM (the Bureau of Land Management) is curtailing range improvements, including building fences and adding watering holes."

We were reminded by Karp that BLM allows for certain types of range improvement activities—mostly maintenance of existing improvements—even

in areas where BLM has not finished the planning process required by the Natural Resources Defense Council suit. Examples of activities which will not be curtailed, according to national BLM policy, are: boundary fences, cattle guards, highway fences, rebuilding of existing water developments, and maintenance of existing projects.

Karp admits that improvement activities are limited on lands where environmental statements have not been completed. We admit that they are not quite as limited as we implied in our original statement, however.

We're sorry for any confusion we created by not qualifying our statement in the first place.

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4-High Country News — Dec. 2, 1977

Oil, wilderness. . .

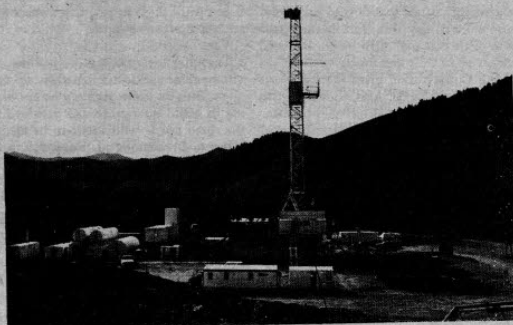


Photo by Anna Dooling, Jackson Hole News

RAINBOW RESOURCES drilling rig on Granite Creek, near the Gros Ventre wilderness study area. The company found natural gas at depths of about 15,000 feet.

(continued from page 1)

BLM's policy. The agency has attached one or two stipulations to leases but, with two exceptions, these have not seriously inconvenienced the lessees.

The leasing is carried out through BLM's "simultaneous leasing system," which more resembles a lottery than anything else. Any U.S. citizen can pay a \$10 filing fee, have his name placed in the lottery and, if chosen, he becomes the owner of an official U.S. oil lease — upon payment of his rental, which is one dollar per acre per year.

BLM leases almost any property in demand. And, demand for oil leases is run-

Club, a "no surface occupancy" stipulation was attached to new leases in roadless areas. Under this provision, "the lessee agrees not to occupy the surface of the (specified area) within the lease in a manner that will alter the wilderness character of the land, until an environmental statement is prepared and the propriety of surface occupancy is determined." All of the leases issued after 1972 have this provision. The Forest Service is currently compiling an evaluation of the leases to determine how much acreage is protected by this stipulation.

Under the stipulation, existing roads, if

The conflict is developing because about 70% of the Forests' inventoried roadless lands (over 1.2 million acres) has already been leased for oil and gas.

ning high, at least in Wyoming. In 1971, 185,366 individual filings were received on 3,725 parcels. This brought the government \$1,853,660 in filing fees. In 1976, there were 1,390,185 filings on 2,836 leases, bringing in \$13.9 million. These 1976 figures were surpassed in the first 10 months of 1977, promising a tenfold increase in leasing interest in Wyoming in less than six years.

There is no reason to believe that there is any oil and gas under these leased lands, and no requirement the parties that have leased them have to find out. The federal government is apparently the main beneficiary of the process. The BLM in Wyoming says that it turned a profit in 1976 on the sale of leases — the filing fees alone paid for Wyoming BLM's entire budget. Most of the leases, BLM officials frankly admit, are "worthless."

On leases within national forests, the Forest Service can approve or veto leases, or attach stipulations. Until 1972, restrictions were relatively lax, primarily because there was little concern that oil would ever be found. Some drilling had taken place on the forest in the early 1950s, but the companies abandoned the project after finding no oil at depths of around 7,000 feet. The 1976 discoveries were at depths of about 15,000 feet.

SIERRA CLUB LAWSUIT

The situation changed in 1972. As a result of a lawsuit brought by the Sierra

any, may be used, but not reconstituted or graded. No new roads may be built or any major scars left on the land. Two or three wells have been allowed on the forest on "no surface occupancy tracts" where there were existing roads.

For the most part, however, the "no surface occupancy" stipulation effectively prevents exploratory drilling in roadless lands.

The Sierra Club filed a "notice of appeal" with the Forest Service in November, charging that the agency has violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because there has never been a programmatic environmental impact statement filed on the entire oil and gas leasing program within forests. The appeal concerns activities on 12 forests in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah.

The group says that the policies followed by the Forest Service regarding the leasing have varied widely among the forests, "resulting in random oil and gas development among forests without proper regard for environmental concerns." It is asking for a regional EIS on leasing and demanding that no further drilling or lease approvals be granted until site-specific impact statements are completed. Also, the club is asking that all leases in roadless areas issued after January 1, 1970 — the effective date of NEPA — be voided.

Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund attorney Allen Stokes says, "This is a chance for the Forest Service to get some order into

this whole process. We particularly want to protect RARE II areas pending wilderness study."

The Wilderness Society is pursuing a different course to protect some of the forest lands. Bart Koehler is challenging the Jackson Hole stipulation, which is attached to some leases on the Teton portion of the forest, near Jackson Hole.

A 1947 Interior Department memo stated that all Jackson Hole leases give the

area, but it does have an old unimproved road up to it.

The Cache Creek well is causing more uproar than expected, largely because the area is considered "the Jackson Hole residents' private playground," according to Connor. Bridger-Teton Forest Supervisor Reid Jackson has called for public comment on the well, but his memorandum on the issue demonstrates how little authority the agency really has over already-leased

A True Oil geologist says, "If you can't build roads, you can't evaluate leases."

Secretary of Interior "control over the rate of prospecting and development, including, in particular, the spacing of wells and such other conditions as may be deemed necessary in any case for the protection of wildlife and scenic values within the area." The language later included in the Jackson Hole stipulation apparently doesn't give the Interior Secretary the broad powers referred to in the memo. Consequently, Koehler says, "many of the leases on the Teton Forest may be invalid."

CAUGHT BY SURPRISE

The suddenness of the petroleum onslaught has caught the Forest Service by surprise, according to Connor. He says, "This has happened so fast that we really don't know the impact of leasing. The RARE II inventory brought the attention to this. If there were no restrictions, probably most of the roadless area would be explored. Even with the restrictions, we have no idea how much would be roaded."

The Forest Service regional office has sent a management directive to the Bridger-Teton forest supervisor, saying that any company holding a lease within a roadless area without the "no surface occupancy" stipulation, should be allowed to develop the lease. The forest is currently in the process of determining how many acres that covers.

Meanwhile the pressure mounts for massive oil development in the forest. There are currently about 30 proposals for drilling awaiting Forest Service recommendations. The agency is showing its concern by calling for public input on one of the first of these.

Once the land is leased, the Forest Service advises the U.S. Geological Survey on

lands. Jackson proposes four policy alternatives for Cache Creek regarding oil company access. The alternatives all concerned road routing and improvement, but none of them include a "no drilling" option.

The Cache Creek area is a winter range for large game animals and the Wilderness Society and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department have recommended it for inclusion in the Gros Ventre wilderness study area.

Rainbow Resources has already completed one well on Granite Creek in the forest, adjacent to the Gros Ventre wilderness study area. The company found a natural gas deposit there and is trying to get approval to explore a site further up the creek.

True Oil is requesting five drilling permits on the forest's roadless areas. The company holds leases issued in 1969, before the Forest Service began requiring the "no surface occupancy" stipulation. Other major firms interested in forest leases are Exxon, Atlantic Richfield, Getty, Mobil, and Champlain.

While acknowledging that roads are required to adequately assess a lease's potential, True Oil geologist Parsons disagrees with the dire predictions of the environmentalists about the wholesale destruction of the wilderness character of the land. He says, "I don't see where there has to be any reason why we can't keep the environmental impact to a minimum. There doesn't have to be any conflict between wilderness and oil."

Parsons says that the oil industry in Wyoming has long exhibited sound environmental practices. He says, "I live in Wyoming because I want to. I've been here half my life and expect to stay the rest of it."

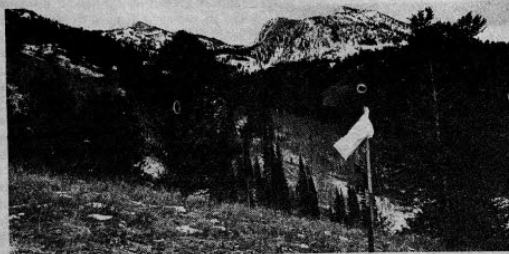


Photo by Richard Murphy

DRILLING RIG SITE on Cache Creek in the Bridger-Teton Forest. The site selection has aroused controversy in the Jackson, Wyo., community.

where the wells should be placed to best protect forest values. This advice, while not binding on USGS, is usually followed. The Forest Service cannot prevent drilling on property under lease, however.

Attention is now centered on Cache Creek, a stream near the town of Jackson and a major watershed for the town. The area is the site of a proposed National Cooperative Refinery Association drilling rig. The creek is classified as a roadless

I like the scenery, the wildlife, the scarcity of people, and I don't want to see it torn up any more than anyone else does. Our company will do everything it can to protect those values. There is a very high awareness of corporate responsibilities."

Bart Koehler is skeptical about the industry's ability to preserve the wilderness. "How are they going to do it?" he asks. "Fly in their equipment in a helicopter?"

See next page

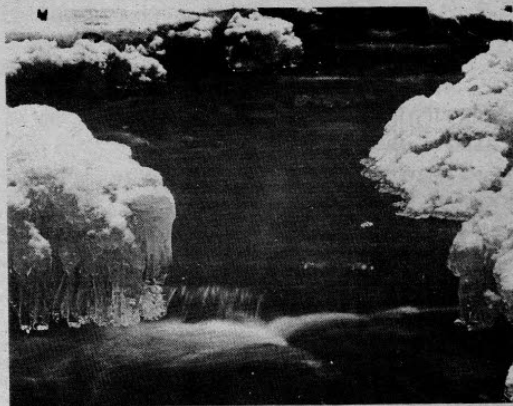


Photo by Richard Murphy, Jackson Hole News
CACHE CREEK, below the proposed well site.

(continued from page 4)

And, if they get a strike, they'll have to drill another well. They're looking for a field — it's not just one well here and one well there. If they drill and get a strike, it will be impossible to keep them out."

The Forest Service's Connor says, "Roads are most controversial subject. I have no personal knowledge where they have been able to explore for oil and gas without putting in roads."

Connor says that the roads' most appreciable impact will be on forest use and big game. He says, "The oil and coal development around Kemmerer and Rock Springs (Wyo.) has already resulted in increased use of the forest. This new development will have an appreciable impact. The people who come to the area with this kind of development are usually outdoor types. They're hunters and four-wheel drive enthusiasts. The hunting pressure has already gotten phenomenal." New roads will increase access within the forest and encourage hunting, Connor fears.

Despite Koehler's fears about roads, he believes that the main danger to the forest comes not from looking for oil but from finding it. Production requires wells, pumps, storage facilities, pipelines, pumping stations, and increased truck traffic. It also results in population increases and encourages the now-familiar Western trademark, the boom town. Oil impact has already brought new trailer courts to Big Piney, Marbleton, and Evanston, Wyo.

The problem of managing existing leases in forests threatens to spread. **Montana Outdoors** reports that about 700,000 acres of leases are pending on the East Slope of the Rockies in Montana. In a report on the potential impact of a natural gas strike in the Flathead Forest in Montana, planning forester Mark Ahner of the Flathead County Area-wide Planning Organization estimates that one well per square mile would be required, each well site covering six acres. A refinery might also be required, covering 40 to 60 acres.

The refinery would need three water holding ponds, and extensive pipeline sys-

tem, roads, and power lines. All of this could result in wildlife habitat loss, destruction of vegetation, and water quality problems. Impacts from oil discoveries would be similar, Ahner says, though a refinery probably would not be needed.

TRADE-OFFS

Besides the potential problems with oil and gas development in the Bridger-Teton, there lies a deeper issue — the trade-offs between energy and other resources. The country has substantial reserves of other fuels, but it is short on easily accessible oil and natural gas. Now with a large supply potentially available from the Overthrust Belt, the pressures will be tremendous to exploit the resource, even at the expense of wilderness and wildlife resources, Koehler and other environmentalists fear.

Koehler says, "Our overconsumptive society may well succeed in destroying this part of the world... without even knowing it."

Phil Hocker, a Jackson architect and head of the Gros Ventre Wilderness Committee, says, "The overall record of wilderness in this country is one of getting dribs and drabs of the unspoiled continent we started with. We're now looking at one of the last few wild areas in a nation that is almost completely developed. The question is: which of these few areas will be given protection for our lifetimes and our children's?"

Oil industry spokesman Terry Martin asks essentially the same question, though he expects a different answer, "Which does

Dec. 2, 1977 — High Country News

the country need more? Do you need that acreage more for oil or wilderness?"

Which answer the country will give is not clear, but a Forest Service official, who asked not to be identified, says, "Unless people change their ideas about wilderness, I don't think you are going to see a lot more wilderness in the Bridger-Teton forest. The most spectacular, scenic, and critical areas have already been designated. The areas they are looking at now are really second class."

Wilderness advocate Hocker says that this attitude is shortsighted. "From the point of view of the game population, having wilderness areas close to one another presents more opportunity for migration and for game populations to breed widely, and for local famine and drought to be balanced. The flow and ebb of nature can be balanced over a large area."

The Sierra Club's appeal and the Wilderness Society's research seem to be the only levers conservationists have to delay the development so that the wilderness potential of the lands in question can be assessed. However, because of the complexity of the issue and the power of the opponents, some of the environmentalists involved are not very optimistic about their chances. Koehler says, "The oil and gas folks may have enough muscle to force this issue. I'm not sure that we can win this fight, but we have to make damn sure that we don't lose all of it. It would break my heart if, in 10 years, I would hear someone reflect on this forest and these mountain ranges and say, 'Remember how they used to be?'"

Wyoming plans to revise access regulations because of protests

In an attempt to protect state-owned lands from abuse primarily by four wheel drive vehicles, the Wyoming State Land Board has proposed regulations that have angered many state residents.

Proposed regulations limit access on leased state lands to people with hunting and/or fishing licenses, require permission from the person who holds a grazing permit there, and allow lease-holders to prohibit certain activities, such as four wheel driving or use of firearms by posting the public lands.

The proposals have created a flurry of editorials and petitions. Bill Rhodes, of the National Wildlife Federation state board of directors, says the proposals are "outrageous." He says public lands should be readily accessible to the public for "reasonable activities." His organization has helped circulate petitions, which were initiated by state Sen. Dick Sadler.

The state land board has already received many letters. Assistant State Lands Commissioner Oscar Swan says the board is responding to the protests and plans to present revised regulations at a public hearing Dec. 3. The revisions will address primarily the question of who should be allowed access. "Many letter writers have asked why they should have to carry a rifle if they want to look at flowers or watch birds," which he says is a "very valid objection." He admits there will have to be some provision for the casual recreationist who doesn't hold a hunting or fishing license.

Swan indicates, however, that the board isn't likely to be as flexible on other regulations, such as prohibiting campfires and recreational driving off established roads with trail bikes or other off-road vehicles. Vehicles will be allowed on established roads unless damage is proven on an individual tract, which would then be closed to

vehicles. "There will be no wholesale closure of lands — any closure will be on a tract-by-tract basis and then only after damage is shown," Swan says. Then the lands won't be closed to access by foot or horse.

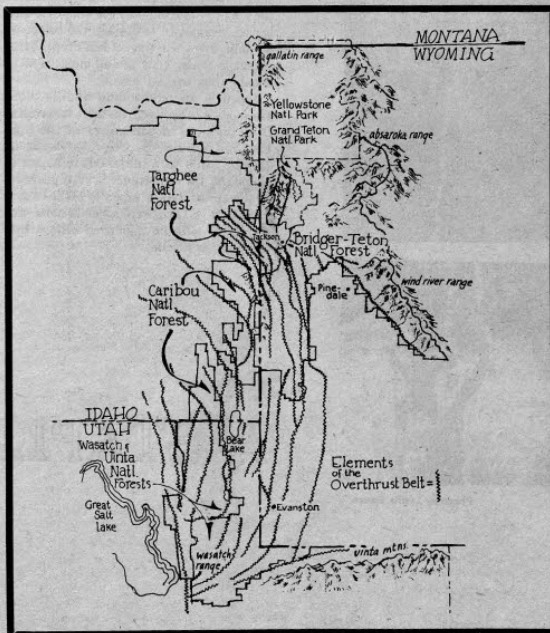
The regulations apply only to state lands that are now leased to agricultural uses, which total about 3.5 million acres. He estimates that about half of these lands are not now accessible by public road or by public land and many don't have fishing streams.

The regulations became necessary because of increased complaints about four wheel drive vehicles, primarily used by hunters. The increased population in the state and vehicle restrictions on federal lands have put more pressure on state lands, Swan says.

Rhodes admits that lands are being abused by four wheel drive vehicles. "There's absolutely no debate about that," he says. He thinks education would solve many of the problems, but admits some regulations are necessary in the meantime. He objects to the vague wording of the proposed regulations, which doesn't define "substantial damage," "fire safety hazard," or other terms. In fact, the proposed regulations leave open the question of whether a tract of state land could be closed entirely to use by the public if there were damage.

Rhodes agrees that vehicles should normally be restricted to existing roads but would like a special provision to enable hunters to pick up large game animals they have shot.

The Dec. 13 hearing is scheduled for 2 p.m. in Durham Hall in the Fine Arts Bldg. at Casper College. Copies of the proposed regulations are available from the Office of the Commissioner, Capitol Bldg., Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001.



High Country News — Dec. 2, 1977

ASPEN

by Carl Brown



Photo by Marge Higley

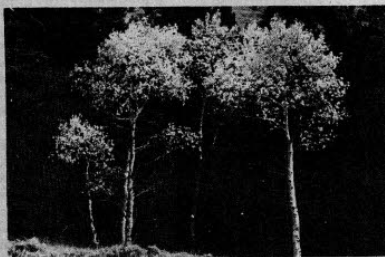


Photo by Lynne Bama

Aspen is the most widespread tree in North America. It dominates six different forest communities and is a member of 27 others. Aspen grows in every part of the continent a tree can grow except the Southeast, the prairies, and the southern Pacific Coast.

Aspen is a pioneer. It thrives where other trees wither. In the Arctic, aspen hugs the waterways. In the Rockies it runs the high ridges, venturing near snowfields and clustering in cheery groves where even spruce die of chill. It tumbles down dry creekbeds, down the broken talus, hopping from meadow to meadow, even down into the dry foothills.

Aspen is most abundant in the states and provinces surrounding the Great Lakes. Ten thousand years ago a great glacier ground to a halt here, retreated and left in its wake a moonscape of rubble and glacial drift. Aspen claimed the land and has yet to give it up. Here aspen softens 13 million acres, more than twice the acreage it covers in the entire Rocky Mountains.

Like all pioneers, aspen is hardy. It is an opportunist that seems to thrive on catastrophe. Cut down an aspen, and its roots send up a dozen suckers to take its place. Clearcut an acre and 100,000 suckers sprout within the year. Aspen spreads by runners, the same way blackberries and quackgrass do.

An aspen grove or clone is, in fact, only one tree. The parent tree, the large one somewhere in the middle, is the only one to grow from seed. The shorter, skinnier ones toward the periphery grow as suckers from the roots of the parent and from the roots of each other.

Every sucker in a clone is genetically the same. Everything about them is the same: the time of leafing-out, the shape of the leaves, resistance to disease, the colors of autumn, even the time of leaf-drop. If the parent is male, they are all male. If it is female, they are all female.

Aspen is an outstanding wildlife food. The more it is browsed, the more it sprouts. Of all the trees in North America, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rates aspen as 16th in value to wildlife. Where aspen is abundant, its importance is even greater. In the Great Lakes aspen is 11th. In the Rockies it is 12th; here aspen is more important to wildlife than even willow, bitterbrush, or fescue.

A STAPLE

Dec. 2, 1977 — High Country News-7

Aspen was the foundation of the American fur industry. Around Hudson Bay, aspen is the staple of the varying hare, or snowshoe rabbit, which is, in turn, important prey of the lynx and the marten, better known to the industry as Russian sable.

In the Rockies, aspen is important to the beaver. Aspen is the beaver's preferred building material and preferred food. Aspen is used to build both dam and lodge. Aspen twigs, jammed into the muck beneath the frozen backwaters of the dam, are the beaver's rendition of jerky; a reliable cache for hard times.

Aspen is also important to ruffed grouse, the most popular woodland gamebird of the north country. Ruffed grouse are browsers. They feed on twigs and buds the same way deer do. The only section of the continent where aspen is not the favored browse of ruffed grouse is the southern Appalachians — and aspen doesn't grow there.

Aspen is also critical winter browse for big game. Observations on Isle Royale indicate that aspen supports the moose community, which in turn supports the famous wolf community that survives there. Up to 25% of the winter browse of moose is aspen. Observations in the Rockies indicate that our moose are equally dependent upon aspen.

In the Rockies, elk and deer also depend upon aspen for winter browse. In the southern Rockies, aspen provides up to 25% of the winter browse for these animals and is an important source of protein.

Aspen is equally important to nongame animals. Many species of rodents, from meadow mice to cottontails to red squirrels to porcupines, feed on the inner bark. Sapsuckers, a type of woodpecker, make their homes in aspen snags and peck a characteristic checkerboard pattern of holes into the aspen bark. They feed on the sap that oozes out and the insects that are attracted to it. Without aspen, we might also be without yellow-bellied sapsucker jokes.

Aspen are preyed upon by legions of insects and fungi. The adults and larvae of beetles, wasps, moths, and mites browse and mine the leaves. Fungi devour seedlings, blacken shoots, and rot the wood of mature trees. When it is time for spore dispersal, the fungi emerge as conks and mushrooms. Among the latter are edible species such as the winter mushroom (*Collybia velutipes*) and honey mushroom (*Armillaria mellea*).

In the Rockies, the most serious threats to aspen are tent caterpillars and cankers,

cancer-like growths formed by the tree in an attempt to isolate a fungal infection. Both are deadly. Both are most severe where aspen groves are sparse. Thinning of any kind can impair the photosynthetic capability of an aspen grove, in some cases to the point where it requires more energy than it is capable of producing. Just as an old moose is pulled down by wolves, the weakened grove is finished off by insects and fungi.

Two examples are worth noting.

In the past, aspen groves were favorite sites for campgrounds. A little thinning to provide space for parking and picnic tables and you had a beautiful, airy, happy campground. But within a few years the stands were diseased and dying; a case of loving a place to death.

The second example shows the other side of the coin; even aspen can take only so much abuse. Overgrazing has destroyed aspen groves. Sheep grazing a site three years in a row, feeding upon the young suckers, means death for the grove. It is not an immediate, dramatic death. The mature aspen will outlive the shepherd who kills a grove. But the roots will send up no more suckers. Three tries in a row will have sapped their strength.

Conversely, an aspen grove can be too dense. Occasional wildfires once rejuvenated aspen groves. But now fire suppression may be eliminating them. The mature trees are still there; the same way they still exist in a grove that is overgrazed. But in this case they have shaded out their own suckers. More than 90% of the aspen groves in the Rockies are over-mature. They are on their way out.

Plant ecologists and wildlife biologists suggest we start managing aspen, both for their own good and for the good of the wildlife that are dependent upon them. Clear-cutting 20% of a grove every five years could supply a sustained yield of winter browse. Such management might even pay for itself. Aspen fills a growing demand for wood pulp that is processed into such products as wallboard, insulation, and paper exactly like the kind you are holding right now.

Aspen. The word is almost synonymous with the magic of the Rockies. Aspen bark brightens a snowy day. Soft aspen buds unfold into spring. The soft light beneath their summer canopy wakens a contentment within humans who walk through it. And the gold of autumn; a gold so rich, so thick, so pure, you can almost breathe it.



Photo by Robert Hilgenfeld

ASPEN is among the preferred foods of the beaver. Jammed into the muck beneath the frozen backwaters of the dam, aspen twigs are the beaver's rendition of jerky — a reliable cache for hard times.



Colorado Game and Fish Department photo by Don Domenick

MANY SPECIES OF RODENTS, including porcupines, feed on the inner bark of aspen.



National Park Service photo by W.S. Keller

ELK in the southern Rockies depend upon aspen for up to 25% of their winter browse.



Idaho Department of Commerce and Development photo
RUFFED GROUSE feed on the twigs and buds of aspen.

FOR MAN AND BEAST

8-High Country News — Dec. 2, 1977



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

GIANT STEP BACKWARDS. An airliner using a jet engine with a propeller — turboprop — could save 16% in fuel costs compared with the turbofan jet engines currently in use on large airliners, according to a Lockheed research team. This saving could be accomplished without any reduction in speed or range. An additional 4.4% saving could be made by cutting average speed by 40 miles per hour, Lockheed says.

ALASKA OIL OR GAS? The U.S. may have to choose between getting Alaska's oil or its gas, according to an oil company engineer. Todd M. Doshier told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that up to four billion barrels of oil may be sacrificed if natural gas is produced immediately near Alaska's Prudhoe Bay. Doshier has just completed a study for the state of Alaska on Prudhoe Bay. He says that by withdrawing gas from one reservoir in the bay, it would lower pressure in the reservoir, thus diminishing production of oil. Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) says he took Doshier's warning "very seriously," according to Newhouse News Service.

ROUND AND ROUND AND... The Interior Department is asking for public comments (again) on the final environmental impact statement (EIS) on the Proposed Federal Coal Leasing Program, originally filed with the Council of Environmental Quality on September 19, 1975. The comment period is being reopened because a judge recently found the EIS inadequate in the case of *Natural Resources Defense Council v. Hughes*. The comments should be addressed to the questions: Is there a need for renewed federal coal leasing? If there is a need, how should the program be defined? If new federal leasing should be undertaken, how would different types of federal leasing systems affect the environment? The Interior Department will accept comments until January 31, 1978.

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THE FATE OF MANY CARIBOU and other Alaska wildlife will ride on action taken by Congress to protect them. House subcommittee mark-up of the Alaska lands bill has been put off until Jan. 11. Conservationists had hoped to get committee action on the bill this fall, but Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) delayed it, according to The Wilderness Society. Young is concerned that the bill the committee is considering would "lock up" the state's mineral and timber resources. The bill includes 102 million acres. Young proposes protecting 37 million acres now and studying all other federal lands for five years to

determine their best use.

Rep. Lloyd Meeds (D-Wash.) is planning his own bill. The Alaska Coalition says his bill will probably call for putting 44 million acres in the four systems, including the national forests, wild and scenic rivers, wildlife refuges, and national parks. The coalition expects him to present his bill as a compromise. Conservationists say the bill being used by the committee is already compromised. They favored a bill sponsored by Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.).

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energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

SCRUBBER NOT NEEDED. The Colorado Air Pollution Control Commission has voted not to require scrubbers on the Public Service Co.'s (PSC) proposed Pawnee power plant. The decision was made over the objections of William Auberle, head of the commission, who said that scrubbers were the most effective way to remove sulfur from the Brush, Colo., plant. PSC says that it will grade its coal according to sulfur content and blend it to ensure that the state air quality standards are met. A scrubber would have cost \$42 million, PSC says.

ANG PLANT SITE APPROVED. The North Dakota Public Service Commission has granted the ANG Coal Gasification Co. a site compatibility permit for its plant proposed near Beulah, N.D. The approval is the last major state hurdle the company needed to pass to begin construction. However, the Hazen Star reports that the company found no cause for celebration at the decision because it is still awaiting approval of government loan guarantees for construction financing. A bill containing such guarantees was recently vetoed by President Jimmy Carter.

MONTANA POWER OBJECTS. New conditions to a construction permit that will be issued by Montana environmental officials will require that the air quality performance of Colstrip units 3 and 4 be better than that required by federal clean air standards, Montana Power says. The condition is that the air quality performance of the second two units be as good as that of the first two, which have performed better than federal law requires. The power company says that this amounts to a penalty for good air quality performance, and that the stricter standards are not necessary to protect public health and safety. Montana Power says that this will end up costing the consumers more money unnecessarily.

LINK ANGRY AT CANADA. Angered by Canada's opposition to receiving pollution from a North Dakota irrigation project, North Dakota Gov. Arthur Link is contacting Montana Gov. Thomas Judge about cooperatively monitoring a Canadian coal-fired project. The Poplar River project in Saskatchewan would potentially pollute air in both states, since it is near the Montana-North Dakota border.

UP TO THE LIMIT. Several coal companies have registered their objections to the zoning ideas of Gillette, Wyo., a town in the middle of Wyoming's coal-rich Powder River Basin. A survey of town residents, many of whom are in miners' families or dependent upon mining, revealed they would prefer to have mining at least three miles outside the city limits. However, this buffer zone would affect two-thirds of Peabody Coal's lease area as well as three other coal companies' plans. To make their point against the new regulation, the companies cited figures on tax and royalty revenues that would be lost to the state. They also quoted a Wyoming statute that prohibits zoning resolutions that block mining.

ACTIVE SITE. After a complaint from the Navajo tribal office, the U.S. government is now trying to clean up uranium tailings that have spread over a 300 acre area near Shiprock, N.M. The tailings are left over from a uranium mill that shut down in the late 1960s, according to *Seers*, a New Mexico newspaper. The tailings are now piled in an 87 acre area and are being covered with six inches of dirt until the U.S. government comes up with a permanent plan. An Environmental Protection Agency official says it is too early to say whether residents of Shiprock will have increased cancer rates as a result.

WON'T GET RICH. Energy development in the West isn't expected to spur per capita income in the region much, according to a study by the Old West Regional Commission. The study says the average per capita income is expected to remain at about 90% of the national average.

Desert mine dewatering plan denied

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has notified Minerals Exploration Co. that its plans for a uranium mine in Wyoming's Red Desert must be revised before the state will approve the strip mine. This decision was anticipated when internal agency memos indicated plans for reclamation of Battle Springs Flat were inadequate (see HCN, 10-21-77).

James Kandolin, district engineer for DEQ, says he expects the firm to meet with the agency soon to discuss alternatives for disposing of water from the mine. Minerals Exploration Co., a division of Union 76, has consistently proposed dumping the water onto Battle Springs Flat and evaporating it, which DEQ says will leave too much salt residue and will waste good quality water.

Kandolin says there are several alternatives, although he made it clear the agency is not advocating any of them at this time and has not fully investigated their advantages and disadvantages. One alternative would be for the firm to pump the water about 600 feet in elevation to get it over the Continental Divide and into the Platte River drainage on the other side. Another option would be reinjecting the water into another aquifer.

Whatever the firm and DEQ decide upon, Kandolin says that "like it or not," the decision may set a precedent for future mining applications in Great Divide Basin. No water from the basin flows into other major waterways since the basin is encircled by the Continental Divide. Consequently, dewatering a mine in the basin is substantially different from dewatering a mine outside the basin, Kandolin says.

DEQ considers the mine application "substantially improved" from when it was rejected last July. Kandolin says the firm is making "a good faith effort," but the plan to use Battle Springs Flat as a discharge area

is unacceptable. His letter said, "Battle Springs Flat as a discharge area must be denied with prejudice." This means another way of disposing of the water must be found.

Previously this year, the firm was charged twice with operating outside its permit area. One resulted in a \$500 assessment in May, and the other cost the firm \$10,000 in September.

Court upholds Wyoming pollution limit

Wyoming's sulfur dioxide emission standards, the most stringent in the nation, have been upheld by a Laramie County (Wyo.) District Court judge.

The standards were challenged on procedural grounds by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, one of the partners in the Laramie River Station power plant under construction near Wheatland, Wyo. Tri-State claimed that the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council had not followed proper procedures in adopting the standards set two years

ago. In November District Court Judge Joseph Maier ruled in favor of the state, saying that the rules had been properly adopted. He ordered the state to supply Tri-State with a detailed justification of the standards, however.

Tri-State has recently appealed the case to the Wyoming Supreme Court. Court challenges to the emission standards filed by three other utilities, Pacific Power and Light, Utah Power and Light, and Idaho Power, have all been withdrawn.

On energy tax matters, the House and Senate conferees have completed a preliminary review of the energy tax bill, but have made no final decisions, according to the *Sierra Club National News Report*. The Report says that it is unclear whether Senate advocates of increased energy production will focus on an energy trust fund or a mechanism for higher oil prices. The conference on the tax package is expected to last until mid-December and speculation is increasing that a final bill won't be ready until early 1978.

Schlesinger's remarks undermined the efforts in the House to set the \$1.75 ceiling on interstate gas. The current gas price is \$1.46 per Mcf.

The House-Senate conferees did make some progress toward the passage of a bill. They compromised on the utility rate reform proposals. The House conferees bowed to the Senate and dropped their demands for mandatory utility rate reform. Federal standards will be presented to the states as optional.

States will be required to consider, but not necessarily adopt, certain types of rate reform, including prohibitions of volume discounts for large electrical purchases and prohibitions against discrimination in rates against solar electricity, cogeneration, and other small generating sources.

Previously this year, the firm was charged twice with operating outside its permit area. One resulted in a \$500 assessment in May, and the other cost the firm \$10,000 in September.

Bill Schneider Where the Grizzly Walks

Where the Grizzly Walks by Bill Schneider is a history of the big bear's struggle for existence. The author reveals who is to blame for the silvertip's plight and outlines a strategy for the bear's salvation.

The book is more than a story about bears; it concerns people, their life styles, their government, their land, and their dreams.

Bill Schneider has written extensively on conservation in dozens of periodicals. His writing focuses on protecting wildlife habitat and wilderness. He has been the editor of *Montana Outdoors*, the official magazine of the Montana Department of Fish and Game, for eight years.



Doug O'Looney photo

Mountain Press publishing company of Missoula, Mont. is sharing the profits on sales of this book with HCN. To order, send \$9.95 to HCN, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520. Price includes postage. Order form on page 19 of this issue. 256 pages, illustrated, clothbound

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10-High Country News — Dec. 2, 1977

Controversy has just begun

Roadless review enters 2nd, most critical stage

by Marjane Ambler

In the midst of the hottest wilderness debate since the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, the Forest Service has released its revised figures on roadless acreage. Nationwide, 65.7 million acres of roadless, potentially wilderness quality lands were found, more than two-thirds of them in the West (without counting Alaska).

The inclusion of 11 areas in the Little Missouri National Grassland of North Dakota on the list was the biggest surprise, since the regional Forest Service office did not recommend any areas in the grassland (see HCN, 11-4-77). Nine other areas in the West were added to the regional inventory by the Forest Service in Washington, D.C. Any development activities will be delayed in all the areas listed until their wilderness attributes have been considered. The Forest Service hopes many will be decided within the next year. (For a full list of the areas added to the inventory see the *Federal Register*, Nov. 15, 1977.)

Conservationists say the inventory is generally good, but point out that the process has just begun. Although the inventory stage of the Resource Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) was controversial, the debate is expected to get even hotter in the second stage, from now until next fall, when individual areas are being evaluated for their wilderness potential.

Because the first stage of RARE II was designed to list roadless areas across the nation — not to evaluate them, the Forest Service staffs in many areas were at first surprised when the public hearings became the sites of dramatic demonstrations against wilderness. At Bonners Ferry, Idaho, logging trucks were driven to a demonstration outside a RARE meeting and a logging company helicopter buzzed the meeting when it was moved to a high school football stand, according to *Wilderness Report*. Timber industry officials in some locations wrote letters to employees asking if they wanted to lose their jobs because of wilderness.

As conceived by the Forest Service, RARE II calls for an inventory (which has just been completed), an evaluation of wilderness and other qualities in the roadless areas found during the inventory, and, finally, recommendations about which lands

should be allocated for wilderness, which for other uses, and which studied further. If an area is designated as wilderness, the Forest Service won't permit roads, timbering, developed campsites, motorized vehicles, or other permanent signs of human intrusion. While the areas are being studied, the Forest Service is restricting activities that would leave a permanent mark. This means some restrictions on mining and exploration (see separate story), but the timber industry is the only one that has protested the RARE II process loudly to Congress.

The timber industry sees the process as an attempt to grab thousands of acres for wilderness and to block timbering while the areas are being studied.

Those who opposed RARE II took their protests to Congress. Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) told the Senate that while he generally recognized the value of wilderness, he thought the RARE II had "cemented in my state, (Wyo.) and I suspect in a number of other Western states, an anti-wilderness sentiment the likes of which I have not seen. . . ."

Newspapers across the region indicate Wallop's assessment may be true, although it is hard to find an adequate explanation of how RARE II inspired this.

One Forest Service official said he believed some of the negative reaction is the result of misinformation about RARE II — many people think the millions of roadless acres inventoried are all being proposed for wilderness.

Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) says some people look at the number of acres that actually are being designated by Congress

as wilderness each year and lose track of the overall context. "I understand the timber industry uproar. We put in a big slug of wilderness last year, we are putting in a big slug this year, and we will next year. They wonder when this will end. They have to understand we are in the closing years of a long process that started in 1964 with the Wilderness Act. It is going to take another six or seven years to complete. . . . But when we are all through we will have a good wilderness system on four to five per cent of forest land and on one per cent of all American lands," he says.

As both Wallop and Udall point out, the biggest share of opposition to RARE II has come from the timber industry. They both charge that the study will take too long and too many acres will be shut off from timbering in the meantime.

M. Rupert Cutler, assistant secretary of agriculture, told the Society of American Foresters that RARE II is actually designed to expedite allocation of forest lands to either wilderness or other uses.

Looking at the impetus for RARE II, he explained that the unit planning process used by the Forest Service tends to allow local evaluation of small areas but doesn't provide for national evaluation of a national resource nor for broader planning, he said. Consequently, there were many appeals and court challenges, which delayed timbering and other resource development.

However, most timber representatives are not convinced and have tried to get RARE II stopped. Cutler admits that there is the potential for 307 million board feet less timber on the market for fiscal year

(continued on page 12)



Photo by David Sumner

BORN TOO LATE

by Myra Connell

My parents' homestead cabin lay at the foot of a butte in central Wyoming, the slopes of which were broken by small rocky canyons.

One spring about 1905, a pair of mountain lions came slinking through the sagebrush that covered the yard, apparently attracted by the chance of getting a



young calf that was tied near the house. They suddenly became aware of the human habitation, passed up the calf and headed for a nearby gulch.

The folks were frightened and excited, of course, and not about to set out a saucer of cream for two eight-foot cats. Their attitude was the prevailing one — wild animals were either food or enemy. Their concern was for the calf and other livestock and for the family of seven children, the eldest about 14.

Dad had a rifle but was out of ammunition. He hastily mounted his saddle horse bareback, and rode hell-bent to the nearest neighbor to borrow some.

Meanwhile Mother tried to keep track of the lions by following them up the gulch, but they outwitted her and disappeared before Dad got back.

I missed the wonderful excitement, as it happened before I was born, but the folks told the tale so often that I remember it vividly.

Fear of the big cats was understandable. My parents had encountered few, if any, lions and had heard the tales that abound of them following people at dusk. Near Atlantic City, Wyo., my husband's aunt was followed by one; as she led her horses down a gulch, the lion followed along a ridge above her. However, contrary to popular belief, lions are seldom dangerous. But naturalists agree that they can be fearsome if cornered or with kittens. Others maintain that they are friendly toward humans and follow out of curiosity.

Mountain lions are hated by livestock growers; no doubt there have been losses. But a recent publication distributed by Wyoming Game and Fish Department declares that "they seldom cause damage to livestock or game. In inaccessible areas they help keep game animals in balance with their food supply. This magnificent animal is an important part of our national heritage and should be allowed a place to live and roam."

The department is unable to furnish information on the number of lions in Wyoming early in the century or now, because lions were classed as predators until 1973. Possibly they were more numerous than at present, but their natural food supply — deer, antelope, and smaller mammals — may have been depleted by earlier settlers. I know when I was a child we very seldom ate game or saw any.

Lewis' and Clark's journal mentions panthers (another name for mountain lions) only 14 times; they report killing four, no reason given. (Other names for mountain lions are: cougars, painters, catamounts, and pumas.)

Now classified as a trophy game animal, 11 were killed by licensed hunters in 1976. For a mere \$20, a resident may kill one of these splendid animals.

The Eastern cougar has already been placed on the list of endangered species. At a recent Wyoming meeting of the Audubon Society the suggestion was made that the year-round hunting season be shortened, lest the species be wiped out.

During my life I have had one lightning-quick glimpse of a mountain lion (outside a zoo). I would dearly love to encounter one in the wilds, just to find out how scared I'd be!



PUBLIC NOTICE

Wyoming Department of
Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division

On December 8, 1977, at 9:00 AM, at the Natrona County Public Library, Casper, Wyoming, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, will present to the public and the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council, proposals for modifications of the following Water Quality Division Rules and Regulations:

Chapter I — Quality Standards for Wyoming Surface Waters

Chapter IV — Regulations for Spills of Oil and Hazardous Materials into Waters of the State of Wyoming

Copies of any of the proposed modifications may be obtained from:

The Water Quality Division
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Oral statements from the public and interested local, State and Federal agencies will be received in the following order:

Chapter IV — 9:00 AM

Chapter I — Upon completion of comments on Chapter IV

Written copies of oral statements should be presented to the Hearing Officer at the hearing. Written statements need not be presented orally, but may be presented to the Hearing Officer at the time of the hearing, or may be submitted by mail prior to December 8, 1977, to:

Mr. Robert E. Sundin
Director
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002



Western Roundup

HCN

Dec. 2, 1977

Judge won't halt water policy study

A federal judge has ruled that President Jimmy Carter would need an environmental impact statement if he makes any water policy proposals as the result of the review the administration is now conducting. The ruling came as the result of a suit filed by the state of North Dakota asking for a preliminary injunction to halt the review. The injunction was denied, according to the Associated Press. Nevada had filed as a friend

of the court in support of North Dakota. State officials in the West have contended that the administration's water policy review was being conducted too rapidly for states to have any input. The objection resulted in an extension of the study. District Court Judge Bruce Van Sickle agreed with federal government lawyers who said it was too early to file an environmental statement.

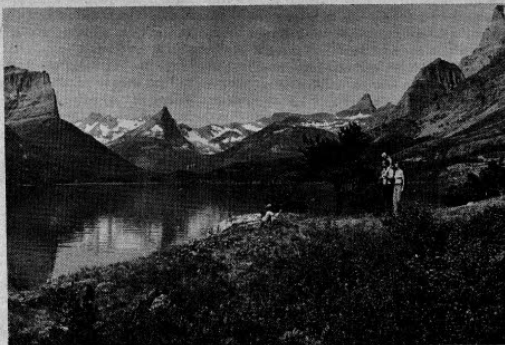


Photo courtesy of the Montana Travel Promotion Unit

WATERS in Glacier National Park may be affected by logging in Canada.

Logging proposed near Glacier Park

Glacier National Park officials in Montana are worried about proposals to log about 20,000 acres just north of the park boundary in British Columbia. Officials there say the logging is necessary to save the timber from an infestation of pine bark beetles from Montana.

The British Columbia Parks Department, with backing from Parks Canada, opposes the logging because it wants to establish a provincial wilderness park, according to the Missoulian.

The area contains important habitat for wildlife such as timber wolf, grizzly bear, elk, and moose.

Glacier Park officials are concerned about the habitat as well as the visual impact of seeing clearcuts from the park and the possible sedimentation of streams that begin in B.C. and flow into Glacier Park. They have written to the National Park Service asking that their concerns be forwarded through proper channels to Canadian officials.

Before the logging can proceed, the provincial government will have to give permission to build a road into a park reserve on the eastern boundary of the area to be logged. That decision is expected soon, according to the Missoulian.

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

There once was a chap named McNuts Who said, "Stop all your righteous 'tut-tuts.'"

Let me road up your soil To seek wells of oil.

If they're dry, we will leave you the ruts."

CLEAN WATER ACT

Environmentalists give mixed reviews to the new amendments to the Clean Water Act passed by the conference committee. The amendments still give the federal government authority to require dredge and fill permits but exempt federal facilities such as highways, dams, and water projects from some of the requirements. \$5 billion per year was authorized for sewage grants with incentives for innovative ways of treating sewage. States have sole authority to set priority lists of who gets the money. The conferees decided not to allow exemptions from controls to the steel industry. Standards for some pollutants may be lowered on the basis of what is economically "reasonable."

As the result of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department concern, the Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs District, is recommending that an environmental statement be prepared before phosphate prospecting is allowed near Kemmerer.

BLM makes the recommendation in an environmental analysis report on the application, which was filed by Cesar Fulton, a mining engineer in Colorado. The application covers 12,960 acres, which the game and fish department says includes critical elk and deer winter range and part of a major raptor wintering area. James Halloran, who wrote the analysis report for BLM, says the wildlife impacts seem to be the most serious effects of the proposal. Until there is further exploration, he says it isn't known whether the mine would be a surface or an underground mine. The area is very close to an area in Idaho where several surface phosphate mines are operating.

The Game and Fish Department had

Compromise near on wilderness bill

After resolving most of the major controversies in the endangered wilderness bill, the Senate and House conferees have only two areas left to settle—the Kalmiopsis and the Wild Rogue areas in Oregon. They plan to meet Dec. 13, hopefully to end their discussions and report the bill back to the two houses this year. There now are 15 areas totaling over 1.1 million acres.

This week the conferees agreed on the Hunter-Fryingpan area in Colorado. They agreed to study 8,000 acres and make 73,000 acres wilderness immediately, which conservationists consider better than the House version but not as good as the Senate version. The bill specifies that work on the Hunter-Fryingpan water diversion project can continue to divert water to the Denver metro area.

Several days earlier, the conferees agreed to remove a snowmobile corridor from the Gospel Hump area in Idaho. The Wilderness Society feared that including the corridor, approved in the Senate version of the bill, would set a dangerous precedent for other wilderness areas. The Wilderness

Act prohibits motorized vehicles in wilderness areas.

The Savage Run area in Wyoming and Welcome Creek in Montana, which were in the House but not in the Senate version of the bill, were added by the conferees. The Galiuro area in Arizona was dropped when Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) withdrew his support for it. The wilderness proposal was one of the reasons for a petition to recall Udall that is now circulating in Arizona.

Asked about the concept of the omnibus bill (a bill that includes several areas), Bill Cunningham of The Wilderness Society says there are some advantages to the omnibus as opposed to getting areas one by one. Some areas would not have enough local support to get through on their own. On the other hand, there are disadvantages to the omnibus approach. The most controversial areas are not considered for omnibus bills and the areas that are included are often pared down in size. "We'd have to think about it before we would try for another omnibus bill soon," Cunningham says.

Group objects to Level B conclusions

The conclusions of the North Dakota segment of a study on the Yellowstone River Basin reflected the bias of the study manager more than of the public who prepared the study, according to a group of North Dakota citizens who participated in the study. The group had been skeptical from the study's beginning about how the Missouri Basin River Commission staff would use their input.

The Yellowstone Basin Level B study is designed to involve the public and state and federal officials in studying various options for water use. The study is forwarded to the Missouri Basin River Commission to be used by Congress and state governments to decide upon water development projects.

The group objected to the study recommending irrigation development and recommending use of Lake Sakakawea water for industrial use, saying the information they received during the study didn't warrant these conclusions. They also objected to a statement that scenic river proposals

for the Knife and Cannonball Rivers would interfere with other uses of the river.

After the citizens got no results from objecting through the proper channels, they got the support of North Dakota Gov. Arthur Link. All three conclusions on the North Dakota segment are now to be dropped from the final draft although both sides admit the study isn't worth much without any conclusions.

Lungs endangered

Residents of the Mile High City of Denver, Colo., who have heart or respiratory ailments have been advised to stay inside twice already this year because of air pollution. On Wednesday before Thanksgiving, an advisory was called. The previous day an alert (a more serious condition) was almost called when the pollutant-standards index reached 209, but high winds blew away the pollution before it was necessary to issue the warning, according to the Denver Post. The alert level is 201 on the index.

Phosphate search could affect wildlife

complained that the BLM wasn't offering state agencies a chance to comment and that it had little control over the mining, according to Wyoming Wildlife News. However, Halloran says that since phosphate is a leasable mineral, the agency does have control over prospecting and mining. State reclamation requirements must also be met.

"Game and Fish information was taken into account in the environmental analysis. . . . We may not have sought their advice, but they've been free in giving it," he said. Input from state agencies will be sought formally if an environmental statement is prepared. An environmental statement is a much more thorough study than an environmental analysis report.

Presently, there are two phosphate mines operating in Wyoming, according to Halloran. One is near Lefe, Wyo., and the other is just over the border from Raymond, Idaho.

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Critical time for roadless review

(continued from page 10)

1978. (The total 1977 sales were 7.8 billion board feet.) However, he says the Forest Service could reduce this figure by finding alternative sale areas or by other means.

One possibility for maintaining a continued supply of timber while preserving roadless areas during RARE II was offered

by Kurt Kutay of the Oregon Wilderness Coalition. Kutay was one of eight environmentalists invited to participate in a "round table discussion" of RARE II in Washington, D.C., with a Senate committee. Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) brought the environmentalists together with nine timber industry representatives and five

senators for the discussions.

Kutay told of a study being conducted by the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station. The study is to determine the feasibility of using funds normally spent for new roads to conduct more intensive timbering in roadless areas.

Whether or not the timber industry's fears are warranted will be largely determined by the next stage of RARE II. This will tell how many acres will end up in the

wilderness classification and will also determine how many acres will be "tied up" by lengthy study.

Social and economic impacts of wilderness or non-wilderness uses will be evaluated during this next stage. In addition, each area will be studied to see what it would add to the quality of the wilderness system in the country. The criteria to determine this will include whether or not they represent various ecosystems and landforms, are accessible to population centers, and are distributed throughout the country.

After all the inventoried areas are evaluated, it will be decided which should be proposed to Congress for wilderness designation and which should be "released" for other uses. This stage will run through the spring, leading up to the preparation of a draft RARE II environmental statement. More public hearings will be held during the summer, prior to preparation of a final environmental statement.

Cutler says the success of the RARE II process will be measured after the next stage. "We are not so naive as to believe that during such a short time frame, each and every roadless area can be successfully dropped into one or the other of these neat categories. Some areas will have to be re-manded to the more traditional, but more time-consuming, planning and study processes. The measure of success, however, must be judged by how small we can keep the unresolved group of areas."

A summary of public comment on the inventory is available from Chief, Forest Service USDA, Rm 0340-8, Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013. Maps of inventoried areas will be available for public inspection at Forest Service regional and forest supervisor offices in mid-December.

For copies of the Citizens' Handbook on RARE II telling what citizen action can be taken, write to The Wilderness Society, 1901 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.



Wyo. proposes regs to keep rivers, lake clean

Portions of the Snake, Green, Wind, North Platte, Powder, Tongue, Sweetwater, Encampment, and Clarks Fork Rivers and a few other Wyoming waters would be designated as "Class I waters" to be "maintained at their existing quality" under proposed amendments to the water quality regulations of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The Wyoming Environmental Quality Council will hear public comment on the proposed amendments at a hearing at the Natrona County Public Library in Casper beginning at 9 a.m. December 8.

The nominations for non-degradation classification were made by the Water Quality Division of DEQ. Six of the waters have already been classified as "blue ribbon" trout streams (of national importance) by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Three others are being considered by a federal agency for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. The only lake nominated, according to John Wagner of DEQ, is Fremont Lake near Pinedale, which is "one of the highest quality waters in the country."

Wagner says the proposed designations are in addition to the present broad and general non-degradation regulations. "This is an attempt by DEQ to specify a few nearly-pristine waters, and say that it is the policy of the state that no further degradation shall occur on these waters."

The Dec. 8 hearing will give the public



Photo by Lynne Bana

CLARK'S FORK CANYON

an opportunity to provide input on which streams should be added to or removed from the list.

Conservationists have noted that the headwater streams of the Little Snake River in southcentral Wyoming are omitted from the list. These streams are the last top quality habitat for the threatened Colorado River cutthroat trout. However, the

city of Cheyenne plans to divert water from these streams for municipal use, which is why they were not nominated, according to the department.

Among the other proposals to be considered at the hearing is one that would require "best management practices" to control runoff into lakes and streams from non-point pollution sources (construction, agriculture, logging, etc.).

Wyoming waters nominated for "Class I" designation by DEQ:

1. Surface waters in National Parks
2. Surface waters in official Wilderness Areas.
3. Snake River through its entire length above the headwaters of Paliades Reservoir.
4. Green River from the mouth of the New Fork River upstream to the Green River lakes.
5. Wind River from the boundary of the Wind River Indian Reservation upstream to Boysen Dam.
6. North Platte River from 15 stream miles below Saratoga upstream to the Colorado line.
7. North Platte River between Kortes Dam and Pathfinder Reservoir.
8. Sand Creek from U.S. Highway 14 upstream to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Genetics Laboratory east of Sundance in Crook County.
9. Middle Fork of the Powder River from the mouth of Buffalo Creek upstream to the headwaters.
10. Tongue River from the Forest Service boundary upstream to the mouth of Fool Creek.
11. Sweetwater River from the mouth of Alkali Creek upstream to the headwaters.
12. Encampment River from Forest Service boundary upstream to the Colorado state line.
13. Clarks Fork River from the Forest Service boundary upstream to the Montana line.
14. Fish Creek near Wilson.
15. Granite Creek, a tributary of Hoback River.
16. Fremont Lake.

Dear Friends

We at High Country News spend much of our time listening to, studying, and recording the messages of environmentalists and others concerned with environmental issues. The world as seen through the eyes of environmentalists fills our mail box, our telephone lines, and even many of our social events.

While we assume that few of our readers are as narrowly devoted to a single cause, we know that most of you do keep up with what environmentalists are saying. We wonder if you've noticed, as we have, a dramatic change in the tone of environmentalist messages over the last few years.

We can only talk about our own response to these messages, but we suspect (correct us if we're wrong) that it is the response of many people in the region concerned about conservation in the Rocky Mountain West.

A few years ago, the following message by A.B. Guthrie was published in *Montana Outdoors*. As we recall, we found it very moving.

Guthrie said that Montana and a large part of the West were being "eaten alive, skin torn from fossil flesh and the flesh devoured and digested and residual flesh and skin left as eternal waste. . . . What we lack, we in the

West who resist rape, is a voice. . . . We holler and shout, but none of us has a voice of thunder, a voice charged with eloquence and outrage and courage and fact."

Today we look back on writing like this with a kind of nostalgia. Sated by environmental impact statements and other forms of equivocation, we see words like Guthrie's as a hearth whose memory still warms us during the uncomfortable times. Our rapid transformation from simple land lovers to citizen land use planners must occasionally give us pause.

Nevertheless most environmentalists today are sending messages that are very different from Guthrie's — full of words like controlled growth, mitigated impact, strip mine reclamation and regulation, belt tightening, alternative energy futures, and (yes) the need for coal as an energy bridge to the 21st century.

Have we lost our souls? Or, as Guthrie implied, have all the voices of thunder been silenced? Is this change in what we perceive to be the general tone of the movement a blow for or against the integrity of the earth?

We can't presume to answer these questions, but we can keep them in mind when we see environmentalists infiltrating governmental and industrial board rooms, getting their hands dirty in the process of compromise. We

can use the questions as a measure of performance when environmentalists quit talking about "rapists" and start talking about development alternatives.

Some of the infiltrators have been unable to guide a vigorous, broad-based debate to a solution that leaves the earth and its inhabitants on top. On the other hand, some have been extremely successful in arguing for environmental protection in the broadest possible context.

Occasionally we may think we've lost such leaders, because their voices in 1977 sound so different from those we cherished a few years ago. But from what we are hearing, they do exist.

If you doubt us, try reading a little Amory Lovins, for instance. A consultant physicist, he's thoroughly embroiled in the national — and international — fray about energy choices. He's recently come up with a book called *Soft Energy Paths: Toward a Durable Peace* (Ballinger Publishing Company, Cambridge, Mass.). In it, he outlines an elegant solution to the energy problem — a solution that fits the earth, its resources, and its people. As complicated as the energy issue is, the well-documented possibilities described by Lovins are as inspiring to today's environmentalists as messages

of threats to the earth and the crusade to defend it were a few years ago.

While we are elated and hopeful to see environmentalists sitting in the decision-making board rooms, we think it's important that they keep an eye out on the land. Have the planning and regulations taken the truth out of Guthrie's words? Or should someone still be howling "rape" on the Northern Plains?

—the editors

In The News

Tug-of-war over wilderness.	1
Aspen wild staple.	6
RARE II inventory complete.	10
Stewart Udall conservationist in government.	13
Books galore.	17

Energetic, expert politician

Stewart Udall made conservation national policy

© 1977 by Peter Wild

In 1880 the Mormon Church made David King Udall a bishop and sent him off to shore up a struggling colony in the Arizona wilderness. Dutifully he loaded two wagons and started out from Kanab, Utah, with his young wife Ella, who a decade earlier had sent out news over the church's telegraph system of John Wesley Powell's Southwest explorations.

After a month and 400 miles, David Udall arrived in Arizona to take charge of a few Mormon families clustered on the banks of the Little Colorado River and establish the town of St. Johns. He found the soil poor, the weather on the high Colorado Plateau tending toward blizzards and droughts. Worse, non-Mormons in the sparsely settled area welcomed the newcomers by tearing down their fences. Near riots occurred. A court convicted Bishop Udall of trumped-up perjury charges and shipped him off to a Detroit jail. Granted a pardon from President Grover Cleveland, the bishop returned to hold his colony together.

The town never prospered in any modern sense. Today the farming community is about the same size as it was at the turn of the century. But, in the few generations since St. Johns' frontier days, the Udall family has branched out into law, politics, and business, becoming one of the most powerful in the state. Two grandchildren of David Udall have gained national attention. Congressman Morris Udall came close to winning the Democratic nomination for the 1976 Presidential election. He remains the lone liberal, conservation-minded representative from a politically conservative and environmentally listless state.

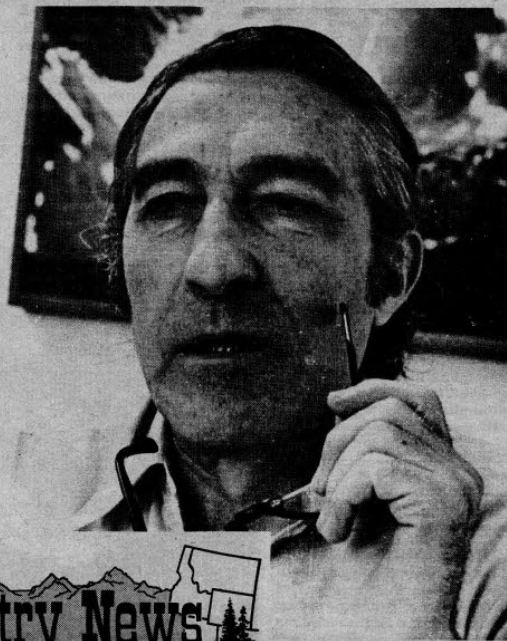
His brother Stewart Udall became secretary of the Interior in 1961, at the age of 41 among the youngest to hold the post. He stayed in the office for eight years under both Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, a term second only to that of his predecessor Harold Ickes.

Stewart Udall rivals Ickes in other ways. In a burst of enthusiasm, prime mover of the 1964 Wilderness Act, Rep. John P.

public lands, and helped stem the loss of America's precious top soil blowing away during the Dust Bowl.

For all that, generations to come will look upon Udall's work as exceptional, perhaps unequalled — and a lesson in political survival combined with effective conservation. As he left office in 1969, the *New Republic* offered a panegyric: "Udall ... has left a legacy nobody can touch — six new national seashores, four national parks, two national lakeshores, four national monuments, five national recreation areas, the first national trail, and the first national system of wild and scenic rivers. Interior set up a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in 1962; fought for Congressional funding of a Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1964. . . and broke a ten-year deadlock in Congress to establish a National Wilderness Preservation System."

The praise reflects only the surface of accomplishments. For instance, the concept underlying the wilderness system took hold at least as far back as 1924, when Aldo Leopold persuaded the U.S. Forest Service to set aside one-half million wild acres in New Mexico as a preserve. Udall's political maneuverings helped bring 40 years of conservation struggle to fruition.



The Udall legacy shines according to any standards, but it takes on a near solar brightness when seen in the light of the department's long-term performance, a 130-year history marked by wild seasawing between profligacy and preservation. President Zachary Taylor established the Department of Interior in 1849. Its first bureau was the General Land Office, which winked at its own giveaways of the public's domain to railroads, lumber companies, and corporate land speculators. The image has remained tarnished over the decades. Gifford Pinchot, chief of the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, looked across Washington with a bilious eye on what he saw as Interior's come-and-get-it attitudes toward resources.

Certainly the wealth of Interior's holdings and the variety of its functions make it a natural for the spoils system, a "sluiceway" for corruption in former Sen. Robert LaFollette's view. Today the department controls about one-fourth of the nation's land area — most of it in the West. Its secretary has wide latitude in shaping the future of the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the lives of a half million Indians. He is responsible for mineral, oil, forest, and water resources — some of the richest prizes in the natural heritage, but also traditional targets for exploitation.

Some secretaries, notably Carl Schurz, John W. Noble, Hoke Smith, James R. Garfield, Franklin K. Lane, and John Payne, deserve ranking with the country's heroes. Along with Ickes and Udall, they not only resisted the temptation of easy gains for themselves and friends, but defended the public's land — frequently amid public outcries of government interference. They were the exceptions, and often the men

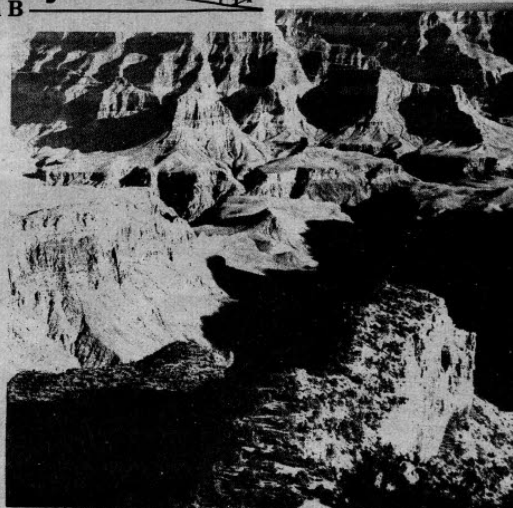


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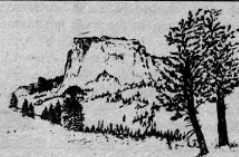
WHILE ARIZONANS GASPED, in 1967 Stewart Udall recommended against the Marble and Bridge Canyon dams proposed for the Grand Canyon.

owed their successes as much to sympathetic Presidents backed by sometimes rabid conservationists as to individual altruism and foresight.

On the other extreme stand men like Richard A. Ballinger, Pinchot's arch-enemy during the Taft Administration, and Albert Bacon Fall. When Fall swaggered into Interior's offices at the beginning of the

Harding era, the artifacts courteously left by previous secretaries delighted him. He ordered the treasures packed up and sent to his ranch in New Mexico. The longer he stayed in office, the more grandiose became his ideas. He drew up blueprints placing his ranch at the center of a new national park, one open to mining, hunting, and

(continued on page 14)



Conservation pioneer series

Saylor (R-Penn.) praised him as "the greatest secretary that has ever held the office."

Given the vicissitudes of history, such an honor is difficult to certify. Ickes' progressive performance marks a high point for conservation by the government. Viewing the Department of Interior as a many-armed instrument of resource preservation, during the Depression he campaigned against special interests and expanded the National Park System. He supported passage of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, which brought regulation of livestock on

14-High Country News — Dec. 2, 1977

Interior Sec'y Udall. . .

(continued from page 13)

lumbering. Congress wisely shrugged off the proposal. Today, he is better known for subrosa gratuities received from oil companies. Fall's greedy career ended when the bribes blossomed into the Teapot Dome scandal of the 1920s.

Udall's immediate predecessor, Fred A. Seaton, advocated park expansion and the protection of wildlife refuges but also shared the Administration's attitude toward spending nature's capital. More dramatic was the first Eisenhower appointee, an automobile dealer from Salem, Ore. While millions of people swarmed over the national parks during a period of unprecedented use, Douglas McKay pontificated that he saw no need for park expansion. He called conservationists "punks."

The election of John F. Kennedy presaged a more sympathetic approach toward the earth. Whatever the final assessment

"Posterity will honor us more for the roads and dams we do not build than for those we do."

of Kennedy's Administration, never before had a President asked a poet — and one inspired by his own love and struggles with the American soil — to bless his inauguration. As the aging but cagey Robert Frost read the line, "The land was ours before we were the land's," conservationists felt the coming change.

Kennedy's choice of cabinet officers reflected youthful hope and enlightened buoyancy. In surveying the new roster, a national magazine described the typical appointee as "bright, tough-minded, hard-working, and athletic."

Udall, a former farmboy, B-24 gunner, athlete, and congressman from Arizona's backwoods, matched the Kennedy image as well as that of the ambitious Udall family. After missionary work for the Mormon Church and flying service in Italy during World War II, Stewart Udall starred on the University of Arizona's first championship basketball team. He received his law degree in 1948, opened a practice in Tucson, then served three terms in Washington as representative from Arizona's second district, which at the time covered the entire state, minus its capitol, Phoenix.

In Congress he worked for civil rights and labor reform and sat on the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Eyebrows in rural St. Johns went up at his liberal drift, but he kept political fences mended back home: Arizona's second district benefited from more federal money than any other congressman's. More important to Udall's future, then-Senator John F. Kennedy took note of the Arizonan's help in passing Kennedy-favored labor legislation. Udall's prospects for higher office brightened in 1960. By deft maneuvering during the Democratic National Convention, he delivered his state's 17 votes, thought assured for Lyndon Johnson, to Kennedy. The secretaryship of Interior was his reward.

Well over six-feet tall, lean, and crewcut,

Udall came bouncing into Interior determined to turn the former "sluiceway" into "the department of the future." He reminded reporters of the Udall tradition of public service.

"It came from my father. Maybe he didn't make much money at it," intoned the secretary, "but he instilled in us kids the belief that if we were fit for such service we should not avoid it."

That made folksy newspaper copy, and his style moved critics, among them former Vice-President Richard Nixon, to snarl at Udall's "cheap and vicious" performances. Udall heated his Washington home with wood, keeping it a brisk 55 degrees in winter, and led puffing congressmen on expeditions to sites for future national parks. In the field he delighted photographers by leaping fences. On one occasion a Udall party helicoptered onto a prospective Grasslands National Park, only to be ordered back into the air by an irate Kansas

its coastline, the department initiated a system of national seashores, the first substantial enlargements of the national parks in 14 years. The secretary then announced his main goal: to place 15 million to 20 million acres — acres that he called

presidency after the Kennedy assassination, politicians remembered Udall's crucial swing of Arizona delegates three years earlier and predicted the secretary's departure. However, the new President recognized the value of highly visible programs

The Udall legacy takes on particular brightness when seen in light of the Interior Department's 130 years of seesawing between profligacy and preservation.

"human life refuges" — under park care.

Perhaps Kennedy was more concerned with the progressive image of his Administration than with the details of Interior's new life. Nonetheless, the President gave Udall authority. By putting in 16-hour days, Udall wrote *The Quiet Crisis* (1963), a land history of the United

States in aggrandizing his own large schemes for the Great Society. Udall not only stayed, but received more support from the White House than he had under Kennedy. As one Interior official summed up the situation, "Conservation now has become a big political issue, and worth capitalizing on."

Udall had already shown his willingness to get down to "brass tacks," as an editorial in *American Forests* put it, by making basic policy changes. In an overdue move to stop deterioration of the public domain, Interior had doubled the grazing fees on Bureau of Land Management ranges, an action long resisted by the powerful grazing lobby. Now, with Johnson's support, he launched another expansion of the parks on a scale not seen since New Deal days. By the end of his administration, he had added 59 areas to the National Park System. All the while, he indulged Lady Bird Johnson, who had her own pet beautification projects, by running the Colorado rapids with her. Meanwhile, he followed the examples of John Muir and Enos Mills, and promoted his own performance as Secretary of Interior, with a colorful format book, *The National Parks of America* (1966).

While publicizing his activities, his outlook deepened. Following the environmental trend, he espoused more holistic approaches, and he envisioned himself a leader of the "new conservation," a movement concerned with the total environment: "you can't isolate anything any more. . . . You plan for what things are going to be like 50 years from now. . . ." He put forth a comprehensive plan for the future in 1976: *Agenda for Tomorrow* (1968). The book linked environmental gains to broad social changes: "You cannot, in short, save the land unless you save the people."

The views further jolted folks back in St. Johns — always hopeful for the quick salvation of development — when summed up in such unmistakable thrusts as "posterity will honor us more for the roads and dams we do not build . . . than for those we do." Whatever they owed to current clichés, Udall's sweeping prospects marked a departure for a secretary of Interior.

Political historians have not yet made comprehensive evaluations of Udall's

Udall's political maneuverings helped bring 40 years of conservation struggle to fruition.

heady years in government. One might suggest they will find he was an expert politician with a strong conservation bent, though the leanings were not often allowed to endanger his political career — perhaps the very reason for his environmental successes.

A case in point is the controversy in the 1960s over plugging the Grand Canyon with Marble and Bridge Canyon Dams. Since the 1940s, Arizonans had looked on the Central Arizona Project as an answer to their water problems. No politician of any note in the state had survived without blessing the proposed pumping stations,

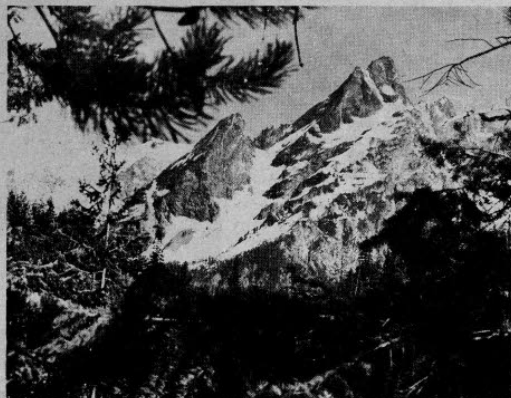


Photo copyright 1977 by Ann and Myron Sutton

THE NORTH CASCADES, one of the wild areas that gained protection during Udall's tenure as Secretary of Interior.



Bates Wilson photo, courtesy of the National Park Service

CANYONLANDS was declared a national park by former Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall, who added a total of 59 areas to the park system. The photo above shows Fish Eye Arch on Salt Creek in Canyonlands.

rancher. The secretary wouldn't leave, however, until the rancher agreed to shake hands — while Associated Press cameras recorded Udall's good sportsmanship.

Yet, as was true of National Park Service Chief Stephen Mather's similar methods, there was substance behind Udall's style. By the end of 1961, Interior had added 11 national wildlife refuges and ranges to its domain. In response to population pressures that were locking out the public from

States, which shows the tutelage of novelist Wallace Stegner, briefly a member of the Udall staff. The secretary topped the accomplishment by persuading Kennedy to contribute the introduction: "We must do in our day what Theodore Roosevelt did 60 years ago and Franklin Roosevelt did 30 years ago. . . ." It was a strong endorsement of Interior's aggressive policies.

When Lyndon Johnson stepped into the

dams, and aqueducts that would bring water from the already overdrawn Colorado River to fill swimming pools in suburban Phoenix and make the state's deserts bloom with surplus cotton. For years the political climate forced Udall to support the complex.

However, aroused by David Brower and others, conservationists across the nation rallied fiercely when time came to build the dams. The movement gave the secretary of Interior the needed political base for a shift in the government's position. In 1967, while Arizonans gasped, he recommended against the two dams and persuaded President Johnson to designate Marble Canyon a national monument.

In 1968 the National Audubon Society conferred official recognition on Udall with its yearly Audubon Medal, a laurel shared in the past by such environmental pillars as Rachel Carson, William O. Douglas, and Olaus Murie. While the end of his term neared, Johnson fairly glowed in his repu-

"You cannot, in short, save the land unless you save the people."

tation, earned primarily by Udall, as a conservation President. Meanwhile, as Nixon prepared to take office, both Johnson and Udall eyed Walter Hickel, the incoming Interior secretary. He had publicly blustered: "Just to withdraw a large area for conservation purposes and lock it up for no reason doesn't have any merit in my opinion." The two lame ducks laid plans to bring off a final coup to confirm their reputations in conservation's history books.

Echoing creation of the "midnight forests" by Roosevelt and Pinchot, they



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Department of the Interior

STEWART UDALL, Secretary of Interior during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations.

planned to add 7.5 million last-minute acres to the park system by using the executive option under the Antiquities Act of 1906. Johnson expansively announced the gift to the nation on television, and Interior rushed out the details in a press release.

But in the following days, congressmen murmured that the President had left them out of the scheme. For his part, in a last burst of enthusiasm, Udall irked Johnson by planning to rename the District of Columbia Stadium after a Johnson rival,

Dec. 2, 1977 — High Country News-15

the late Robert Kennedy. In a fulminating phone call the President told Udall the park addition was off. Udall shouted back his offer to resign. In last-minute pettiness the nation lost a major expansion of its parks. Despite his overall record, Stewart Udall left office a disappointed man.

Whatever the role of political expediency, Udall continues to pursue the environmental goals he articulated when a

Udall is a lesson in political survival combined with effective natural resource conservation.

government official. Articles in *National Wildlife* and the *Atlantic Monthly* have prodded subsequent Administrations about the anachronistic mining law of 1872 and the country's addiction to the automobile. He served on the board of directors of the National Wildlife Federation, moderated the series "Issues in the Environmental Crisis" at Yale University, and wrote a syndicated newspaper column, "Our Environment."

As chairman of the Overview Group, an international consulting firm, he advised industries and governments on long-range environmental planning. In the spirit of John Wesley Powell's *Arid Lands*, Udall's *The Energy Balloon* (1974) demythologized popular assumptions and set forth rational alternatives to debilitating growth. Currently Udall works as a hired gun for environmental groups, advocating open space, opposing freeways, and giving advice on energy problems wherever his legal skills can be of help.

Zero Population Growth explores impact of migration to West

by Sarah Doll

As the pressure of city life grows, so does the desire to get away to the mountains. People are fleeing to the mountains, both to visit and to stay, in ever greater numbers. In so doing, they are not only bringing along the problems they seek to escape, but also problems unique to mountain areas. Some of these problems are explored in a recent paper prepared by Zero Population Growth of Colorado.

The paper points out that mountain ecology is generally less stable and more fragile than that of the flatlands, due to thin soils, short growing seasons, and, in the case of the Rocky Mountains, less rainfall. This means mountain areas are less able to withstand the pressure of use by many more people.

Most of the visitors and new residents use the mountains in "non-consumptive" ways—that is, mostly intangibles, such as esthetic values, are taken from the mountains. The facilities constructed to promote these uses create most of the ecological impact, the paper says. Building roads means bulldozing, which creates erosion that contributes to stream siltation and dust pollution. New roads encourage more traffic, which in turn demands more roads. More traffic means more air pollution. In the thin mountain air, pollution gases are less diluted by air than at lower elevations. In addition, autos issue more unburned hydrocarbons at high altitude, so pollution potential is high.

Residential development is also causing problems in some mountain areas. Particularly serious is the threat of competition

with wildlife for living space. Valley floors, often prime home development sites, are needed as winter habitat by many game animals. More than 40% of the wildlife in the Rocky Mountains lives in stream valleys, according to the ZPG study. Subdivisions with a "cluster" design, or close grouping of homes with open spaces in between, are better than the traditional suburban sprawl type. But still they may allow too many people to be crammed into a small space.

The study points out other problems caused by increased home-building such as air pollution from fireplaces, water shortages and pollution, demand for flood control projects from those who settle on valley floors, and, in some areas, fire danger.

Popular tourist areas have unique economic problems. A small year-round population must often supply goods and services for a large peak population during summer months. If larger populations are planned for, often the planning encourages growth that would otherwise not have occurred.

Recreation activities, while considered non-consumptive uses in the study, cause many problems. Any traffic—by foot or by vehicle—has a devastating effect on delicate alpine tundra. In the Rocky Mountains, skiing's impact has been enormous, including not only the growth of new towns, but the removal of trees from mountain slopes and increased erosion, noise pollution from lifts and snow-making equipment, and air pollution from cars and fireplaces. The study points out one little recognized problem: uneven demand on sewage treatment since virtually everyone takes a shower between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

"Consumptive" use of the mountains involves the use or removal of some product for profit. Increased consumptive pressure results from increased population in the nation as a whole, not just in the mountain area itself, the paper says. The Rocky Mountain area has a large share of the coal and oil and almost all of the oil shale and uranium available in the United States, as well as many other minerals. In addition to its direct impact on the environment, energy development increases the demand for water. Impounding water for irrigation, for power generation, and for cities downstream usually drowns wildlife habitat.

Other consumptive uses such as logging and grazing both tend to increase erosion in high mountain areas.

Zero Population Growth suggests sev-

eral ways to attempt to control the impact of population growth in the mountains. These include educating the public to the implications of mountain development, monitoring population growth estimates by community and region, and developing land use legislation to establish guidelines for land, air, and water quality. The paper includes a bibliography with several other sources of information about growth in Colorado.

Copies of ZPG's study, "Population Pressures on the Mountain Environment," are available from ZPG at Box 18291, Denver, Colo. 80218. Send a legal sized, self-addressed stamped envelope (24 cents postage required).

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16-High Country News — Dec. 2, 1977



Review by Joan Nice

by Malcolm Wells, Box 183, Cherry Hill, N.J. 08002, 1977, \$6.

"For years, architects have been advising their clients to build on beautiful wooded lots, preferably ones with streams, views, good soil, etc. But now, at last we know better. Such lots should be left alone!" says architect Malcolm Wells.

The lots most architects have been pushing are often valuable parts of the natural system, Wells claims. And they are invariably expensive. Finding ways to build without disrupting nature is Wells' mission. Over the past 13 years he's become an expert in low-impact, sun-heated, subterranean architecture.

Despite his enthusiasm and the many buildings he's been asked to design, very few underground structures have been built, he admits. But with a new consciousness building around the energy crisis, he hopes that people who have been thinking about underground structures will start building them.

Ever since *Popular Mechanics* published an article on underground architecture last March, Wells has been inundated with requests for information. In response, Wells has published a book, *Underground Designs*, containing about 75 pages of building design and about 15 pages of practical construction tips.

Wells says he has learned to avoid "the dungeon approach" to subterranean architecture.

"If I was going underground to make more living space for the creatures of the natural world, I was at least going to take a lot of sunlight with me. I wanted real windows and real views, real fresh air and real breezes: none of that electronic stuff," he says.

The easiest way to bring sunlight underground is to build into a hillside, Wells explains. Many of his recent designs incorporate passive solar heating techniques with underground architecture, utilizing heat collected through south-facing windows and stored in massive walls or floors. Another way to capture sunlight is through a sunken garden or courtyard. Many of Wells' designs use that idea.

Wells' dream is simple and appealing: "We can have fragrant, silent cities and towns under miles of trees and wildflowers instead of endless asphalt and concrete — cities and towns that benefit from, rather than disintegrate under, the forces of nature."

To pursue this dream one must be willing to learn a new set of rules. "The underground rules," Wells calls them. He knows because he violated one in the building of his own office. He thought that the earth was all the insulation he would need. He has since found that, while the earth does act to keep out breezes and moderate the temperature in his office, the earth is still cool enough to make some insulation wise. "Hundreds of tons of wet New Jersey soil are quietly draining the warmth from this

room. . . . But oh, how I wish I'd used some insulation!" he says.

The details of just how to insulate a subterranean home are included in the back of Wells' little book, along with useful information about codes, zoning, costs (generally 10% more than comparable above ground buildings), financing, insurance, structure, waterproofing, and heating. This book certainly does not contain all the information a serious prospective homebuilder would need to know before beginning construction, but it is an interesting introduction to the subject. If you've been wondering, it might help you decide whether or not earth living is for you.

Even Wells admits that underground architecture is not the only way to build without destroying the land. "It's simply one of the most promising (and overlooked) of ways. Sunny, dry, and pleasant, it offers huge fuel savings and a silent, green alternative to the asphalt society."



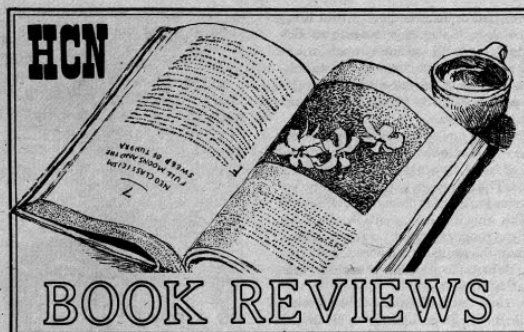
by Bob Godfrey and Dudley Chelton, Published for the American Alpine Club by Alpine House, Distributed by Westview Press, 1898 Flatiron Court, Boulder, Colo., 80301, \$14.95.

Review by Sarah Doll

Climb! deals with rock climbing as it has evolved in Colorado from the 19th century days of finding the easiest, safest way to the top, to the "adrenaline rush" of the modern 5.10 climber, spread-eagled on minute chalked-up holds, 20 feet above the last protection and about to take the sixth fall of the day.

Readers who have done some rock climbing and have visited a few of the areas described will become more involved with the book than non-climbers will. The historical descriptions and the personality sketches should be of interest to anyone who loves the mountains, however, particularly the Colorado mountains. The book's excellent photography should also be of general interest.

The early pages describe the first ascents of the great classic climbs. Many of the pictures are from the files of climbing pioneers such as Joe and Paul Stettner, Ev Long, and Mel Griffiths. Most of the photos in the latter part of the book are by the authors, and are extremely dramatic. For some of us armchair mountaineers, this photography will provide all the "adrenaline rush" we need.



by Grace Lichtenstein, 1977, The Dial Press, New York, New York, \$8.95, hardcover, 213 pages.

Review by Marjane Ambler

Grace Lichtenstein was named Western bureau chief for the *New York Times* and headed West, in pursuit of the frontier myth, dragging all her city habits and values along. She was, of course, disappointed. "My building stood in a sea of parking lots and characterless glass and steel offices. The men all wore horrid white loafers. Women were still wearing mini skirts. The one local foreign film house was playing last year's French imports. . . . This was the Wild West?" she asked.

Her book about her experiences out West became the subject of discussion at our small gathering of Wyoming environmentalists. We read aloud her derisive comments about the West, and became more and more angry at her portrayal — a desert without good restaurants, good conversation, or reasonable politics.

Suddenly someone in the room pointed out how ironic it was that we were so irate about someone giving the West a bad name when one of our biggest fights as environmentalists is against the hordes of people flooding our region. So we fired off a Mailgram message to Lichtenstein: "Keep up the bad work."

Other Westerners who read her book will likely also respond with anger at first. Lichtenstein realizes this, she says.

At the same time, she hopes the book will be entertaining. It is that. Take, for instance, the time she describes taking moose turds carefully wrapped in Saran Wrap to a friend in the *Times* city room. "Every single person who looked at them thought they were pieces of hashish." She shares humor, adventure, and pathos in incidents such as interviewing John Wayne (the Western myth personified — revealed without his toupee); talking with Dennis Banks, American Indian movement leader, in his hideout on the Pine Ridge, S.D., reservation following the Wounded Knee battles; and hiking with Gary M. Smith, a park ranger in Utah, who may have been making his last trip because of multiple sclerosis.

Occasionally, especially toward the beginning of the book, Lichtenstein gets too caught up in Lichtenstein, apparently hoping we will be as entranced as she is with

the idea of her being the *New York Times*' first woman regional editor.

Her acid wit may amuse many readers in passages where I got a little too defensive to muster a smile. I did enjoy it when she attacked some of my own favorite targets, however. She quotes a friend describing Vail as "shake and bake Bavarian" and refers to Denver as the "Omaha-by-the-mountains."

I suspect there are some Eastern transplants in the West who will agree with her assessment, as well as many would-be transplants who also would be disappointed and unhappy here.

This is one reason why the book may be valuable to people on both sides of the vast cultural gulf that Lichtenstein says separates the East and the Rocky Mountain West. Perhaps the trauma of this period of rapid migration will be eased somewhat if we, in the West, better understand the expectations and they, the Easterners moving West, understand the reality.

Although of course many Easterners seem to make the transition easily, others find, like Lichtenstein, that they can't adjust. She felt like an alien in a foreign land, and some of her experiences make that quite understandable. Arrested for possession of cocaine in Boise, Idaho, on what she calls a "bum rap," she was offered a job as an informer in exchange for a lighter sentence. Her values were continually assaulted by Westerners who equated the



Grace Lichtenstein

Equal Rights Amendment and gun control with communism.

The slower pace of the West distressed her. She felt she was going 78 rpm while everyone else was going 33 rpm. "Everyone walks slower, talks slower, thinks slower," she says. "They seem willing to exchange a partial lobotomy for a Valium-free existence."

Fortunately, this snobbery didn't seem to creep into her articles for the *Times*. Her appreciation for some Western values and for the land did show up in both the book and in her articles. She fell in love with the desert and writes in her book of one afternoon spent there on top of her car with her

portable typewriter writing mad letters to friends, enclosing handfuls of desert dust and quoting Edward Abbey.

She also conveyed in her articles and in her book an appreciation for other threatened areas of the West, that many of her readers would otherwise consider a wasteland. Lichtenstein admits that when she was in New York, she would have been ready to tell the country to get coal from the West, if it would solve the energy crisis. As a result of her stint here, she says she realizes it isn't that simple — and hopefully some of her readers also see the situation differently now.

We benefited by having a very competent journalist immerse herself in the West, sharing an environmental perspective with a national audience. Perhaps in exchange for this we can forgive her book for its occasional self-indulgence and its snobbish view of the people of this region.

Wyoming

A Bicentennial History

T. A. Larson

by T. A. Larson, W. W. Norton & Company, New York; American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, 1977, \$8.95, 198 pages.

Review by Myra Connell

Wyoming, a Bicentennial History compresses more than 200 years of change into less than 200 pages. It is a task requiring exceptional knowledge and expertise.

Anyone who has had the privilege of being enrolled in Dr. T. A. Larson's classes at the University of Wyoming or of hearing his lectures will remember the professor's unforgettable voice with his clear diction and careful enunciation. His writing reflects similar qualities.

Larson was a long-time member of the university's history department until his retirement in 1975. He published a more extensive history of Wyoming in 1965. The newer book is part of a series on the history of all the states in the nation sponsored for the bicentennial by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The introduction swiftly disposes of the several thousand years of history that predates the white invasion. Various contesting Indian tribes and six white governments have claimed all or part of the area at times. Larson has a plausible theory to account for its being prized in spite of its being too high, dry, and cold for the needs and tastes of most people. Wyoming lay at the upper ends of river systems and on the Continental Divide. Claims staked out at the mouth of rivers covered the drainage basins unless other claims intervened.

The rest of the book is divided into five chapters, each relevant to an important aspect of change in Wyoming: The Fur Trade Territory, The Trails Territory, The Equality State, The Cowboy State, The Energy State.

Larson subjects his sources to eagle-eye scrutiny. For example, he questions the authenticity of a map showing Colter's route in Northwestern Wyoming and of the lava stone bearing Colter's name and the date 1808, found near Jackson Hole in 1931.

He also claims that the celebrated Esther Morris has no special claim to the woman's suffrage movement in the state.

In fact, Larson says, the state is not entirely deserving of the title, "Equality State."

The moniker, "Cowboy State," however, is defended by Larson's chapter on the ranching industry. The chapter details the industry's ups and downs, including the disasters that he says the ranchers have brought on themselves: overstocking, over grazing, high-handed dealing with homesteaders and sheepmen, and absentee ownership.

Larson's awareness extends to environmental concerns. He points out that the fur trade began its decline because overtrap-

It is time to "ponder whether what the world wants from Wyoming is worth more than what Wyoming offers the world."

—T.A. Larson

ping reduced the beaver almost to extinction by 1840. But today the mountain men live in memory while the "beaver, meanwhile have survived even better than the mountain men."

He takes care to point out the lack of environmental awareness that has prevailed — as exemplified by abandoned rail lines, residue from gold dredging, uranium pits, radioactive effluent and tailings, industrial air pollution, gas flaring, and littering. Several environmental organizations are noted as gaining momentum — The Wilderness Society, the Audubon Society, the Izaak Walton League, and the League of Women Voters. Leaders mentioned by name include Colleen Kelly (Wyoming Outdoor Council), Laney Hicks (Sierra Club), Bart Koehler (WOC), Lynn Dickey (Powder River Basin Resource Council), Mike Leon, and Tom Bell.

The book indicates that rapacious exploitation of natural resources has been the general rule from the time the whites took over from the Indians. Wyoming has held treasures sought by the world — first the furs, then the grasslands, the oil and gas, and now the coal and uranium. "Wyoming is viewed, not as a place to live . . . build cities, but as an empty place that contains within it something of value . . . that capitalists, engineers, and bureaucrats can manipulate for their own purposes," Larson says.

He concludes that it is time to "ponder whether what the world wants from Wyoming is worth more than what Wyoming offers the world."



Where the Grizzly Walks

by Bill Schneider, 1977, Mountain Press, Missoula, Mont., 256 pages, illustrated, cloth bound, \$8.95.

Review by John Mionczynski

The plight of the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) in North America has been one of persistent battle with man, his only natural enemy (although I question the term "natural enemy"). The battle over territorial rights did not become serious until the white man penetrated the American West, putting the grizzly ever on the defensive.

Indian holy men warned their people: before going into battle, make sure you're not fighting yourself. In other words, we tend to see our own worst traits in our enemies. We accuse, often falsely, the grizzly of invading our territory and killing our livestock, but who invaded first? Who killed the buffalo? Who stole the lush, green valleys?

We're enraged when a person is killed by a bear. But in Glacier National Park, one of the most concentrated grizzly bear areas in the lower 48 states, 135 people have died from other causes since 1913 while three people have been killed by grizzlies. We kill ourselves faster than "Old Ephraim" can, even in the grizzly's territory. How many grizzlies have we killed in that time? The estimates are staggering.

The grizzly has had to compete with man for habitat for some 25,000 years or so because our habitats are fundamentally identical. In the natural state, Indians basically preferred the same foods as the grizzly.

Through the eons, in order to co-exist with man, the grizzly has changed his behavior by developing nocturnal feeding habits, frightening bluff tactics, and cer-

done a great deal of footwork and has accurately put into print what people need to know.

Most of the fiery controversies over endangered species classification, critical habitat delineation, and hunting privileges in recent years have been due to confusion and lack of information. Having spent several years working on the Grizzly Bear Study Team myself, I am convinced that the primary missing link necessary for the grizzly's survival is education. The education must be on three levels: education of outdoors people about bear behavior to avoid conflicts; education of the concerned public about the bears' needs as they relate to the political scene; and education of all of us concerning our lifestyles and ways as a nation.

The grizzly to me is a symbol of great power and also of conservativeness within his own ecosystem. His population has dwindled to one per cent of what it was when "civilized man" arrived in the West. His extinction would be a silent symbol of man's commitment to waste as a way of life and in all probability would pave the road to man's own extinction.

Schneider makes a few erroneous statements that people familiar with bears in the field will spot, such as the statement that the black bear has shorter claws that don't show up in the track. This is an old myth with no basis in fact. However, these statements only appear as incidental material in a book that is not intended as a field guide.

I highly recommend Schneider's book to anyone who wants to know how to side on the critical habitat issue and to know the real political background behind the grizzly. He also conveys how dangerous grizzly bears really are and tells how our lifestyles at home can affect an animal perhaps thousands of miles away in a pris-

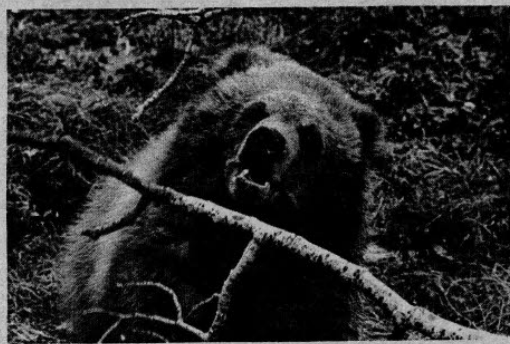


Photo by Jon Cates

BEFORE BATTLE, make sure you're not fighting yourself, the Indian holy men warned.

tain mental attributes. This adaptability has been critical to his survival in modern times, since he is dealing with an enemy that is unpredictable and potentially very dangerous — two more traits commonly ascribed to the grizzly.

Many books are available that describe the behavior of the Great White Bear — the grizzly — and to some extent his food habits. However, for the first time, a book has come out that accurately tells the story of the grizzly's struggle for survival. *Where the Grizzly Walks* by Bill Schneider traces the history of the silvertip back to Indian folk lore and history, through the development of the West, to modern times. Schneider has obviously

tine forest.

Schneider quotes Don Aldrich as saying, "A great deal has been said about being caught between a grizzly and her cub. Unbiased evaluation cannot help but conclude that it is much more dangerous to be caught between *Homo Sapiens* and the nickel."

John Mionczynski served as a member of the Interagency Grizzly Study Team for two years and as project leader for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's grizzly bear food habits study for one year. He is presently an independent consultant biologist.

18-High Country News — Dec. 2, 1977



HCN

Bulletin Board



ENERGY CONSERVATION

Wyoming's Energy Conservation office has begun a series of workshops for government, business, industry, builders, and homeowners. The first workshop is designed to give maintenance and purchasing people who work for school districts or local or state government ideas about how to save energy and money. Information on the testing and maintenance of boilers, on minimum lighting and temperature levels, and on life-cycle costing will be available. Workshops were in Cheyenne Dec. 1 and 2, and will be in Rock Springs Dec. 5 and 6, in Casper Dec. 8 and 9, and in Cody Dec. 12 and 13. For more information contact Lynn Dickey, state energy conservation coordinator, Capitol Hill Office Building, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82002.

LAND USE BOOK

A 454-page book called **Land Use: Tough Choices in Today's World** is available for \$7 a copy from the Soil Conservation Service, 7515 Northeast, Ankeny, Iowa 50021. The book reviews land use planning problems, implementation experiences, and court precedents. Ten or more copies are \$6 each.

TREE FARMS

A pamphlet about private tree farmers and "how the Forest Service is unfairly competing against" them is available from the Natural Resources Defense Council, 917 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Copies are available at \$8 per 100.

ENERGY CATALOG

The No. 9 EARS (Environmental Action Reprint Service) energy catalog is available free from EARS, 2239 E. Colfax, Denver, Colo. This edition lists sources of information about alternative and solar energy technology and appropriate technology. The catalog lists important articles, magazines, blueprints, and books in these fields. An order blank is included. Donations for postage are appreciated with any request for a free catalog.

BLACK BUTTE MINE

A 12-volume mining and reclamation plan for the Black Butte mine east of Rock Springs, Wyo., is now available for review and comment. According to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a maximum of 2,000 acres would be disturbed or unclaimed in any typical year of mining. Construction would begin in 1978 with full operation expected in 1981. Average annual production would be seven million tons per year with a probable mine life of 25 years. Half of the coal is to be transported to Idaho and half to Illinois. BLM says elk habitat would be disturbed. Comments are due by Dec. 21 and should be addressed to the Department of Environmental Quality, Hathaway Bldg., Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001. Copies are on file with the DEQ and with Sweetwater County.

SALTY COLORADO

The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission will hold a public hearing Dec. 7 on proposed regulations for implementing salinity control standards for the Colorado River through the state's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The hearing will be at 9:30 a.m. at the Colorado Department of Health Building, 4210 East 11th Ave. in Denver. The regulations seek to reduce the salt concentrations in the river in a seven state area.

GRAND CANYON PLAN

The draft Natural Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment document for Grand Canyon National Park is available for public review and comment. The document is available from the superintendent, Southern Arizona Group Office, National Park Service, 1115 North First St., Phoenix, Ariz. 85004. Send comments to Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Ariz. 86023.

NORTHWEST ELECTRICITY

Field hearings to gather information on the electrical power system in the Pacific Northwest will be Dec. 6 in Boise, Idaho. The hearings are being held by the Water and Power Resource Subcommittee of the U.S. House's Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. The hearing will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the State Office Building at 700 West State St.

JACKSON CANYON HEARING

The Wyoming Environmental Quality Council will hear public comment December 9th in Casper on a proposal to designate Jackson Canyon southwest of Casper as an area that is "very rare or uncommon" and has particular wildlife value. Malvin and Susan Cole of Casper nominated the area because of an established eagle roosting site there. The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. at the Natrona County Public Library.

PUBLIC TRUST

Originally, public trust law evolved to protect inheritances. Now, one organization proposes it may be used to protect the environment. Rick Applegate explains how this might be done in a 174-page report entitled **Public Trusts for Environmental Protection**. For copies, priced at \$5 for individuals and \$10 for nonprofit organizations (no price given for profit-making organizations), write to: Exploratory Project for Economic Alternatives, 2000 P Street NW, Suite 515, Washington, D.C. 20036.

PEDESTRIAN HANDBOOKS

Four booklets have been published that describe and analyze pedestrian experiments in 12 European and 68 North American cities. The authors are Roberto Brambilla and Gianni Longo of the Institute for Environmental Action in New York. The publications are:

FOOTNOTES 1, Handbook for Pedestrian Action, is primarily for community groups and other citizens advocating the creation of traffic-free zones in their cities.

FOOTNOTES 2, The Rediscovery of the Pedestrian, evaluates in detail pedestrian experiments in 12 European cities.

FOOTNOTES 3, Banning the Car Downtown, is an in-depth analysis of 16 North American pedestrian experiments with examples of very successful projects and of failures.

FOOTNOTES 4, A Compendium of American Malls, is a comparative overview of North American pedestrian experiments with vital statistics and photographs of 68 urban malls.

The President's Council on Environmental Quality has a limited number of copies available to nonprofit groups on a first-come, first-served basis. Enclose a self-addressed label when ordering. Write CEQ, 722 Jackson Pl. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

AMAX INFORMATION SOUGHT

Any individual or group that has knowledge about AMAX Corp. is asked to contact Myles Rademan, director of planning, Box 39, Crested Butte, Colo., 81224. Rademan says the community is gathering information about the corporation's background because AMAX is planning a molybdenum mine near the city.

SOLAR ARCHITECTURE 1977

A book including proceedings from the Fourth Annual Aspen Energy Forum held this year in Aspen, Colo., has been published and is available for \$15. The forum included 35 speakers on topics from passive architectural design to large-scale power production. **Solar Architecture 1977** can be ordered from the Roaring Fork Resource Center, Box 9950, Aspen, Colo. 81611.



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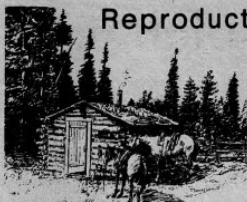
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Reproductions of pen and ink drawings

by Thomas Connell



I. "TIME FOR A BITE OF GRUB"



II. "A FRIENDLY GAME OF POKER"

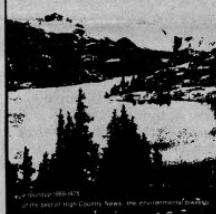
Tom's work centers largely on the early days of the West. The days of starting with nothing, the beginning of the creation of a Western heritage. Tom has his work on display in his new studio at 805 Amoretti in Lander. Stop by and visit for a spell with the "homestead artist," as he is called.

Reproductions of three of Tom's works are being offered through HCN's gift shop. They can be purchased either as 7 1/4 by 8 3/4 inch black and white prints or as 4 1/4 by 5 1/4 inch sepia and white notecards. The prints are reproduced on talisman, textured finish, cover paper. The notecards are teton-text paper.

The prints sell for \$2.00 each or a set of three for \$5.00. Postage is included. The notecards are packaged 12 to a pack with envelopes. Four cards of each design are included. Cost is \$3.00 per package plus 50 cents for postage and handling. Please use the combined order form found on this page. Order prints by their numbers. Thank you.

Special Edition

High Country News



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A roundup in magazine format of HCN's formative years, 1969-1975. News stories on the people, wildlife, lifestyles, and politics of the Rocky Mountain West. Glossy cover, 48 pages, 10 by 14 inches.

(Would make a lovely addition to any library, coffee table, comfort station, etc.) Postage and handling: 50 cents.

Seasonal profiteering

HCN GIFT SHOP 1977

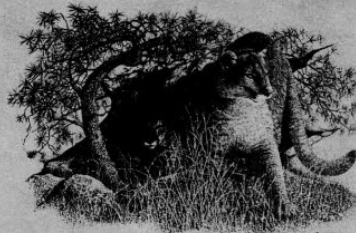
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Prints

Paul
M.
Breeden



Mountain Lions, 17 x 22 in.

Paul M. Breeden is a noted calligrapher and illustrator. His paintings and drawings have appeared in *Audubon*, *Defenders of Wildlife*, and *National Geographic* magazines to name but a few. Breeden and his agent, Singing

Sparrow gallery, are generously giving any proceeds from prints sold through HCN to HCN. Each print is from a series of 500 signed and numbered prints. Sets of matched numbers are available upon request at no additional charge.



Great Horned Owl 19 x 24 1/2 in.



Young
Prairie
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To order, use form below. (Available also is Gray Hawks, 17 x 22 in., \$30. Shown in Nov. 18th issue.)

ROCKY MOUNTAINS



Rocky Mountains — 192 pages, size 10 1/2 x 13 1/2 in., 14,000 words of text, 162 illustrations, full color. Photography by David Muench, text by David Sumner. \$30.00

Alpine Country — 128 pages, size 10 1/2 x 13 1/2 in., 12,000 words of text, 101 illustrations, full color. Photography by Don Lowe, text by David Sumner. \$22.00 until January 1, 1978, then \$25.00.

ROCKY MOUNTAINS—Photography by David Muench, text by David Sumner. It is not an easy task to place a mountain range in a book. This is a brilliant attempt. Scale precarious heights, gaze in awe at far-reaching panoramas, and wonder at the overwhelming immensity of the high country. Feel a shiver as you look down to a canyon deep below. Contrasts abound: bright, white snow, sky-blue lakes; weathered rock, spring's rush of life; masses of wildflowers, a single blossom; green forests sliced by cascading, frothing streams. Muench senses the spirit, beauty, and grandeur of this inspiring mountain range. Explore the Rockies: New Mexico, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado.

Charles Belding and his Graphic Arts Publishing Company of Portland, Ore., have generously allowed High Country News all the retail profits on the sales of books described here.

Greeting Cards



Holly Merrifield, wildlife artist and friend, has designed these notecards for High Country News. These cards were so popular last year, we're trying them again. Ready for your personal notes,

Moose

(Please specify Moose or Eagle when ordering.)

Eagle



Combined Order Form

Circle or mark selections

Tom Connell Prints and Notecards

- Prints: ☐ I. Time for a bite of grub.
☐ II. A friendly game of poker.
☐ III. Indian Attack (shown in Nov 4 issue)

Prints are \$2.00 each. Set of three for \$5.00

NUMBER	AMOUNT	TOTAL
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☐ print sets at \$5. each		
☐ packs of notecards at \$3.50 each		

Graphic Arts Center Books

- ☐ Alpine Country \$22.00
☐ Rocky Mountains \$30.00
☐ The World of Mira Atkeson \$19.50

Total

Paul Breeden Prints

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☐ Mountain Lions \$30.00
☐ Young Prairie Falcon \$30.00

Please add \$2. per order for insurance, etc.
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\$2.00 per package of ten.

Postage and handling: 30 cents per pack.

☐ packages at \$2.30 each

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Price includes postage.

books at \$9.95 each

HCN Special Edition Magazine \$1.50

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20-High Country News — Dec. 2, 1977

Desert, pines inspire Ruth Frear in Utah fights

by Garry Blake

For Ruth Frear, the bristlecone pine is a symbol. "I get some kind of inspiration from just watching them grow," she likes to say. "You look at those high-desert bristlecone pines, and they seem to be growing right out of the rock — growing where nothing logically ought to be growing, where nothing would seem to have a right to grow. What you can't see are the underground streams of water giving life to those pines."

Though many Utahns might think environmentalists like Frear have no right to grow in Utah, she is thriving. Indeed, she finds enough inspiration in pines and canyons to fight a very hard fight for their protection. She was chairperson of the Uinta (now Utah) Chapter of the Sierra Club for the two years when the Kaiparowits power plant was proposed, and she's still inclined to regard that as the club's most important recent victory.

Now she is the vice president of the Sierra Club's Southwest Regional Conservation Committee and serves as the chapter's legal coordinator. Her legal activities began in 1973, when she learned of plans to build a road and oil well in the Moody Canyons area of the Circle Cliffs, near the Escalante.

"I realized where it was," she explains, "and said, 'They can't do that.'" With June Viviant and the Sierra Club, she filed suit to stop construction. The site was in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and the road passed through a corner of Capitol Reef National Park.



RUTH FREAR doesn't think environmentalists will ever be able to close their file cabinets and go off and enjoy the wilderness knowing the world is in safe hands.

During a bitterly cold weekend in mid-December of 1973, the two women drove to the remote area. "There was the beginning of a road and a bulldozer that had just stopped: the literal end of a road. That was one of the greatest feelings I've ever had — seeing a road stopped because we had said it shouldn't be there."

The judge had granted an injunction because no environmental impact statement had been prepared on the project. Later, plans for the oil well were withdrawn but uranium development was proposed for the same area. The Sierra Club says regulations should be written saying how the mining must be done to preserve the area's other values. A trial will be held; in the

meantime no more access is being allowed for exploration.

"What do you do in the desert?" a visiting official once asked Frear. She's still snickering; the desert is her favorite place. She compares herself to Joseph Wood Krutch, who when he confronted the desert for the first time, began to walk away — unimpressed. Two steps later he stopped in his tracks for an amazed double take. Could such a wonderful thing actually exist? Krutch said he responded to the desert like a cat to catnip. Frear feels the same way about the desert. "I wallow in it," she says.

Consequently, the Escalante country is special to Frear. She laments its overuse, which she knows she abetted. "In order to protect it and to get it classified as wild, we had to advertise it and let people around the country know what a special place it was, so we could get support for saving it. Now Coyote Gulch is getting tremendously overused by backpackers who come down there to see what all the uproar is about, fall in love with it, and tell their friends."

The hottest current battle in the war to save the canyon country is over the Inter-mountain Power Project, which is proposed within 10 miles of Capitol Reef National Park. Diplomatic relations seem to have been established with the adversary. "The Sierra Club told the IPP people from the beginning that we did not think southern Utah was the place for a 3,000 megawatt power plant. They disagreed with us. We've known all along that we disagreed, but we've kept communicating."

In spite of many little victories over the last few years, Frear finds it difficult to be

optimistic. She slowly shakes her head and says, "I don't think there'll ever be a day when we can say that the battle is ultimately won, and the world is in safe hands, and we can close our file cabinets and go off and enjoy the wilderness."

She laments Utah's orientation toward growth — population growth, industrial growth, money growth. She says, "I'm not convinced that we're so poor as a state or as a nation that money has to be the first consideration no matter what the issue is and no matter what the cost is in immaterial things. Just how wealthy are we if we can't afford to leave some things alone and recognize beauty for what it is?"

When faced with tough opposition in Utah, Frear's thoughts return to the bristlecone pine. "It's just gutsy enough, it's got the courage and patience and endurance to grow where other things can't."



Limmer pine

Helping HCN reach new horizons

Contributors to the High Country News Research Fund aid High Country News in doing its job.

Freelance stories and photo essays, research and staff travel expenses are the main HCN expenditures paid for by the fund.

You can help HCN do an even better job by giving a tax-deductible donation. One hundred dollars could pay for one week's worth of research, or all the photographs in two issues of HCN, or two thousand

miles worth of travel expenses for a staff person, or three tabloid pages of freelance writing.

HCN's current budget allows only subsistence salaries for our staff. We are equally frugal with the HCN Research Fund, gaining as much impact as possible from every dollar spent.

Because HCN is not a tax-deductible foundation, we have asked the Wyoming Environmental Institute to act as a conduit for our tax-deductible contributions. Federal law requires that we use the funds for research and education

purposes only. Within those limits, decisions about how money from the fund should be spent are entirely up to HCN.

Stories paid for over the past year reflect the varied interests of our readers. Recent research financed by the fund has included such topics as: water conservation, land banking, endangered plants, 2-4-D, Red Desert uranium, yarrow, kit fox, wild rivers, agent orange, Northern Cheyenne class 1 air, composting toilets, sandhill cranes, blue camas and Arizona water.

Your generosity will help HCN do its work. During the coming year, perhaps you would like to send a small amount to the fund each

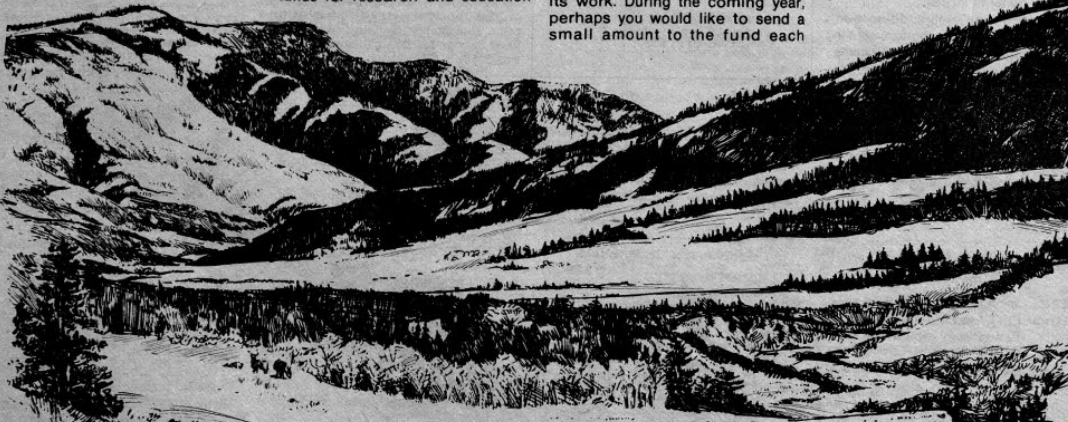
month. A five or ten dollar per month pledge would be a big help to us.

Make out your check to Wyoming Environmental Institute — HCN Research Fund, and send it to WEI, P.O. Box 2497, Jackson, Wyoming 83001. Thank you.

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The fund is a good idea. I'll be sending \$_____ each month in 1978.



High Country News Research Fund

