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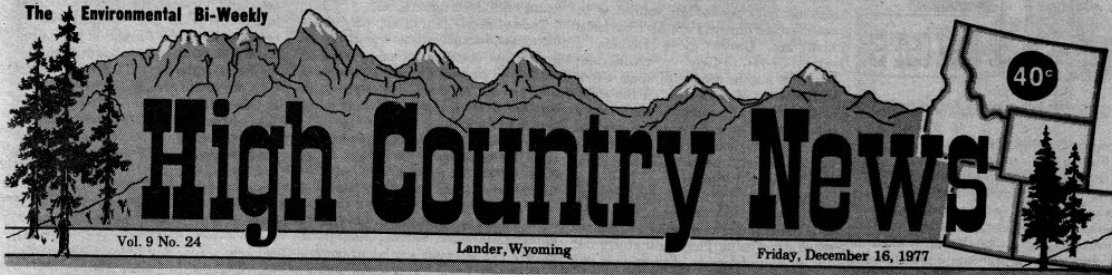
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The Environmental Bi-Weekly



Vol. 9 No. 24

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, December 16, 1977

NRC agrees to study problem

Yellowcake spilled; clean up slow, disorganized

by Timothy Lange

On Colorado's southeastern plains, the air was unusually still and damp in the early hours of Tuesday, Sept. 27. Don Lee Atwood and William James Pipher were, as Atwood would put it later, "boogying down the boulevard (U.S. 287)" in the five-axled truck they were driving to Oklahoma for their employer — Lee Way Motor Freight. Atwood was behind the wheel.

On the seat beside them was a two-page set of instructions explaining what they should do in case some of their 40,329-pound cargo of yellowcake uranium should somehow escape from its 50 steel drums. The instructions were from Exxon Nuclear, producer of the yellowcake.

About 15 miles north of Springfield, a town of 1,800 near the Oklahoma Panhandle, three horses made a surprise appearance on the highway. Atwood swerved and braked. The truck crashed into the horses, slid off the road into the borrow pit, overturned and dumped 10,000 pounds of its load over a 3,000-sq.-foot area.

The men, though not critically injured, were trapped in the truck cab. Some 20 feet from them was a foot-high layer of fine, floury, yellow powder, a ground-up concentrate of uranium oxide. Having passed through the trailer rig's top and side, many ruptured drums that had contained the powder were now as unrecognizable as the horses.

On each drum were the stenciled words "Exxon USA"; references to weight and density; a standard triangular symbol for radioactivity; and the letters "LSA." The letters stand for "low specific activity," meaning that the yellowcake emits a low level of radiation.

Including sheriff's deputies, the truck drivers, a rescue team, and passers-by, about 60 people spent time at the spill site without protective clothing or respirators. Tests later showed the drivers, police, and rescuers were uncontaminated.

Natural background radiation in that part of the state is between .014 and .021 milliroentgen of gamma radiation an hour. (A milliroentgen is one-thousandth of a roentgen, a standard calibration of radioactive decay.) When the first measurement was taken by state health department officials at the crash site, the gamma radiation was .8 milliroentgen an hour. Because police had covered the yellowcake with plastic tarpaulins, preventing the escape of alpha radiation, the



THE SPRINGFIELD ACCIDENT and its chaotic aftermath have raised serious questions about shipments of

radioactive and other hazardous materials that routinely pass through heavily populated areas.

Colorado State Patrol photo

Scenic bill to protect Jackson Hole

Congress considers
\$200 million bill

by Jean Witmeyer Hocker

Jackson Hole, Wyo., is fighting to hold onto its wide open spaces and world-famous scenery — and is turning to the federal government for help. In September, Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) and Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) introduced legislation that would establish a Jackson Hole Scenic Area, providing \$200 million in federal funds to purchase scenic easements on some of the valley's private lands.

The Jackson Hole valley, just south of Yellowstone in northwestern Wyoming, lies amid nearly 18 million acres of federally-owned land — the national parks, forests, wilderness areas, and wildlife refuges that make up the Greater Yellowstone Region. The largest elk herd in North America migrates into the valley each year to winter on the National Elk Refuge. The area is also prime winter habitat for moose and mule deer and hosts



Photo by Phil Hocker

HAY MEADOW OR SUBDIVISION? One proposal would put 500 new homes on a hay meadow in the valley. Photo taken south of Jackson, Wyo.

(continued on page 4)

(continued on page 5)

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GOVERNMENT DESERVES CREDIT

Dear High Country News,

First, I am a real fan of HCN.

Second, it is said no one is perfect, so I mention the following as proof: my husband read the article on Cheyenne's methane-solar greenhouse with a lot of interest (HCN Nov. 18). He has worked on several solar greenhouse projects, some with government aid and some without. The Cheyenne project has been supported by \$28,000 in federal Community Services Administration money and \$2,000 in Laramie County money, plus lots of volunteer labor.

Thus it was with some astonishment that we read the concluding line of the article: "He (Al Duran, project leader) says it shows that there are ways for communities to solve environmental and economic problems without government help."

Hey, now, give credit where credit is due!

Taffy Stewart
Corvallis, Ore.

DIRTY AIR WARNING

Dear editor,

Congrats on a piece well done; your clean air wrap-up. I hope HCN will continue to monitor implementation of the act, a task which will keep many environmentalists busy for a long time.

Concerning your editorial "Caution: Living Here is Unsafe," the Senate bill did include a requirement that the administrator of EPA arrange for warnings of unhealthy air at access points to metropolitan areas. The provision contemplated highway signs and notices at major transportation terminals.

The conference committee modified the Senate provision to require states to implement measures which effectively notify the public of unhealthy air and dangerous air episodes. In addition, the public is supposed to be notified of the hazards of polluted air and ways they can help improve the situation. The committee did not consider weather reports containing air quality information sufficient to fulfill the bill's requirements.

Ron Rudolph
Energy Coordinator
Friends of the Earth
San Francisco, Calif.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Dear HCN,

The abundance of mail you received on Bill Schneider's grizzly-sheep article (HCN, Oct. 21, 1977) very clearly points out why the bear is in such a precarious state: special interests must come first, and if we can accommodate the grizzly in the process, so much the better.

None of the letters you received answered or addressed Schneider's critical question — how can we best protect Idaho's remaining grizzlies? Rather, all were worried about their own particular interest.

Bill Bryan, self-appointed environmental guru and tactician, was worried about the impact on the environmental movement as a whole, and if this grizzly issue might hurt the "cause." I don't think conservation folks are at the point yet where

we have to start thinking about trading grizzly bears for power plants or strip mines. We have to work as stridently on individual issues as we can.

Frank DeShon, the Idaho biologist who simply couldn't remember making those statements to Schneider, seemed to be writing under duress. I wonder if the Idaho Fish and Game gave DeShon a retract-or-you're-fired ultimatum? Schneider may be good with words, but no journalist could make up all the statements attributed to DeShon. The claims of being misquoted and having statements taken out of context seem like the Monday morning reflections of a public official caught telling the truth.

The comments of Laird Noh (National Woolgrowers Assn.) and Clarence Hulet (U.S. Sheep Experimental Station) must be taken at face value. They are the concerned and appropriate views of two people who represent the views of sheepmen. I've spoken with Mr. Hulet personally, and I have no doubt what his views are on the proper place of grizzly and sheep in Idaho's Targhee National Forest. Fortunately, the public-at-large doesn't seem to agree.

What Schneider was trying to say in his article, as well as in his book, is that the grizzly won't be secure until we stop chipping away at its habitat. We've already eliminated 98% of the great bear's former range. Can't we make a serious effort to protect the last 2%? If so, the route Schneider suggests seems to be the best way.

Hank Fischer
Montana field representative
Defenders of Wildlife

NUKES IN BABES' HANDS

My dear friends at HCN,

In response to the letter you printed from Marty Huebner, (HCN 8-12-77) about nuclear power, let me say that the majority of scientific people are against the use of

atomic power for any purpose, and especially nuclear power generating plants.

I had the pleasure of exchanging letters with Dr. Albert Einstein. In one of his letters he remarked that he had put a tool of the gods in the hands of babes when he found his E-MC2 formula.

Today Nobel laureates, physicists, biologists, immunologists, molecular geneticists, chemists, and many other scientists — people who really know what they are talking about — are fighting the further development of nuclear power plants in the U.S.A.

The Union of Concerned Scientists, 1208 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02138, is a group of knowledgeable scientists who are concerned enough to have spent fortunes of their own money to fight federal government's development of more nuclear power reactors, and to put the money into alternate sources of power — such as solar power. These scientists are in need of dollar contributions, by the way and will appreciate all the help they can get. It will be money invested in your own future health, if they succeed.

Leora C. Sabin
Oakville, Wash.

GOOD COOPERATION

Dear Editor,

This letter is in reference to your recent article titled "Grizzlies Roam Where Sheep Graze — Destined for Conflict or Destruction."

It was a shock to me and a blow to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game when the article by Bill Schneider appeared in your paper. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has been vitally concerned with the welfare of the grizzly for many years, as evidenced by the total closure to hunting since 1946 and our participation in the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team. Be that as it may, both Idaho and federal law have provisions that allow owners to de-

stroy predators preying on domestic livestock. This provision is also part of the rules classifying the grizzly as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

In order for both sides to function in an acceptable manner, the elements of trust and cooperation must be nurtured by everyone involved. Because of prevailing views, solutions take time and understanding from all interested constituents. This is what the Idaho Woolgrowers' Association and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game have delicately pursued over the past few years. Without question, there has been good cooperation between sheepmen and the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team.

A sensational and inflammatory article such as yours, regardless of the subject, does not encourage working out solutions, but goes a long way toward negating improved relationships and trust.

Joseph C. Greenley, director
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
Boise, Id.

MINI-WILDERNESSES
BETTER

Dear Editor,

Dave Foreman's article, "Are we degrading the wilderness system?" (HCN, Nov. 4) sent me hurrying back to my tattered copy of the Wilderness Act handbook that his society had published. Had he omitted a key word in the definition? Yes, he had. "Outstanding" — the areas to which the act applies are those having outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, not just "those that any wild country regardless of scenic value, etc., will have" — to quote Foreman.

When too many members of the senior class get called outstanding, the term is degraded. In ordinary usage, it means about the top 5%. At 10% it is getting



Photo by B. B. Brown

"The Calming Thought of All"

That coursing on, whatever men's speculations,
Amid the changing schools, theologies, philosophies,
Amid the bawling presentations new and old,
The round earth's vital laws, facts, modes continue.

Walt Whitman, from SANDS AT SEVENTY

Dec. 16, 1977 — High Country News-3

Unanswered questions in Jackson

An objective, dispassionate observer would have to acknowledge that Jackson Hole, Wyo., is scenic — even spectacular. The valley could be considered a working definition of scenic beauty. The residents, aware of their treasure, are trying to preserve it by getting Congress to fund the Jackson Hole Scenic Area bill.

The question is, does Jackson Hole's private land offer \$200 million worth of beauty to the public? This is the price tag that has been attached to the scenic area, though supporters concede that they may have to do with less.

The arguments for spending the money are compelling. The area is a major haven for wildlife and the private land is an enclave among America's most spectacular parks and forests. And, Jackson Hole's ranch lands offer tourists a taste of the pastoral setting that typifies much of the West. Many of these characteristics could be preserved through the scenic area plan.

However, there are issues that, as far as we know, haven't been raised in the debate. The proposal, if approved, could have far-reaching implications, and these deserve to be examined.

First, the scenic area proposal is essentially a method to encourage certain types of land use — in this case, open space — by providing federal money to compensate the landowners who are being regulated. Should it be government policy to set the precedent of cash compensation for changes in land value that result from land use planning? If accepted on a wide scale, this principle could rapidly bankrupt the

U.S. treasury — or quash many land use planning efforts around the country.

Some benefits could accrue to landowners devoted to preservation even if the federal government didn't pay them for easements. By donating easements to the Nature Conservancy, or a similar group, they could preserve the open space and reduce their heirs' inheritance tax burden.

Secondly, the private land in Jackson Hole represents only three percent of all the land in Teton County. The rest of it — about 18 million acres — is already preserved as a national park, forest, or refuge. Even extensive development of the valley's privately-owned land would not affect much land in the area.

Third, the federal preserves near Jackson Hole have hundreds of miles of perimeter in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Much of the adjacent land is in private hands and potentially subject to the same kinds of junky tourist development as Jackson Hole. A rancher in Driggs, Idaho, could argue that the view from the west side of the Tetons is as important as the view from Jackson Hole, so the government should pay him, too. He might even argue that the same \$200 million would buy a lot more scenery in Driggs than it will in Jackson, where land prices reach \$30,000 per acre.

For the \$200 million scenic area investment, the nation gets an unencumbered view. As one critic of the plan says, if a private citizen purchased such an easement from another private landowner, he wouldn't even have the right to walk across

the land. The question is: Is that view — even of the magnificence in Jackson Hole — worth \$200 million to the public? And, couldn't the residents of the area assume their own burdens of land use controls, without federal help?

—DSW



We should heed farmers' pleas

Who would have predicted that a major demonstration in 1977 would be staged by one of the most staunchly conservative groups in the nation — the farmers?

That such a group would take to the streets like the radicals of the '60s must be taken as a sign of the depth of the farmers' discontent.

While watching the tractor brigades with fascination, Western environmentalists shouldn't ignore the farmers' words. When they tell us 1,000 farmers are forced out of business every week, they're warning us that the way of life for all of us in the West will be changing. The wide open spaces, the small stable communities, the blue skies, and the people are all closely tied to agriculture as the base of the economy. Thus, we should be concerned for selfish reasons as well as altruistic ones.

Conflicts continue between environmentalists and people in agriculture in areas such as grizzly-sheep balance, predator control methods, and agricultural chemicals. But many of our overall goals are the same. We are both asking for a reordering of priorities. (One speaker at a farm rally in Cheyenne, Wyo., pointed out that Americans pay only 17% of their income on food while spending 19% on recreational vehicles.)

Opening up communications is the best way to find the areas of common ground. Surprise your state's agricultural leaders. Ask them to send a speaker to the next meeting of your environmental group to tell you what you can do to help their plight. You might start by telling them you're prepared to pay more for your food.

—MJA

More Letters

adulterated though the term is still sometimes appropriate. At 30%, the salt of the earth has lost its savor. And remember, we're talking about the senior class, the areas otherwise fully qualified by their wild and untrammeled character, etc.

There are uses unambiguously proscribed for designated wildernesses that are nevertheless appropriate for most undeveloped areas and, with suitable restrictions, would not unduly degrade them. These include such things as well laid-out jeep trails, suitably sited overnight shelters and similar improvements of a permanent nature that relieve the stress of usage on the environment, and extraction of some minerals.

Much more appropriate, I believe, would

be adoption of Harold Wilm's suggestion (*American Forests*, May 1974, pp 16-18) to set aside "mini-wildernesses." These actions are already within the regulatory power of national forest and national park superintendents as well as state and county officials.

They could accomplish much of Foreman's objective of widening the variety of landscapes preserved in a pristine state, with constraints more suitable to the individual situation of each, without the burdensome administrative procedures and restrictions necessitated under the Wilderness Act, and without questionable interpretation of the intent of Congress. The Wilderness Act will remain the stronger for not being overstretched.

Wallace E. Howell
Golden, Colo.

Editors' note: Foreman did not omit the word "outstanding" in his original guest editorial. To pare down a long sentence, the editors omitted it. Foreman's original read: "It should have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation (which any wild country regardless of scenic value, etc., will have), and it may (not must) contain other values."

WANTS FOLLOW-UP

Dear editor,

Your paper has traditionally been one of the most reasoned voices for the environmental movement. It has treated both sides of issues fairly, while never compromising its environmental advocacy role. Because of this I was surprised at the insensitive treatment given the grizzly-sheep issue in your October 21 edition.

I have been involved in similar controversies in Idaho in which parties to the issue were initially similarly divided. Two good examples were cougar legislation and

'1080' poisoning, issues which divided sheep men and environmentalists. Therefore, I feel I can comment on your article from experience.

I know from experience that the sheep industry has responsible leadership. I worked with this leadership during the cougar controversy and they were instrumental in helping to bring about realistic legislation. Cougar management in Idaho is in its infancy, but I think that most people will agree that it is a start, and it is working. Sheep men helped bring it about. I know the woolgrowers' leadership is eager to seek a similar solution to the grizzly problem.

I would very much like to see *High Country News* do a follow-up on your initial article. I would suggest talking with federal and state wildlife officials who are involved in the program as well as different sheep men. This, I think, would be in keeping with your statement on the last page of your October 21 issue that you endeavor to present all sides of environmental issues.

Sincerely,
Maurice Hornocker
Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho

UDALL AND LIONS

Dear HCN,

Many thanks for Peter Wild's story about Stew Udall and the Department of Interior (Dec. 2). I'm sure that among the things for which we "inlanders" can thank him is his preservation of salt water beaches here and there. Beach-combing access to the oceans can be health-giving at times.

"Born Too Late" by Myra Connell (Dec. 2) rang a few bells. I saw a wolverine once

while fishing a stream in the Red Feather Lakes area of Colorado. Years ago I saw fresh tracks of a mountain lion near a one-room school house in the Pagosa Springs area. I've never seen a mountain lion in its own habitat, but have consoled myself often by reading O. Henry's story, "The Princess and the Puma."

S. D. Isbell
Cheyenne, Wyo.

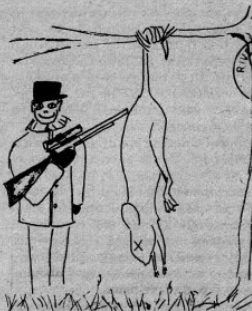
HOPE FOR HUNTERS

Dear Phil White,

In reference to your Nov. 18, 1977, article in HCN:

Don't worry. After we eliminate all the predators, in just a few more milleniums, the deer mice will grow bigger by natural selection.

Richard Klein
Riverton, Wyo. 82501



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Yellowcake. . .

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health officials decided to wait until the site was cleaned up before taking an alpha count. The clean-up took 17 days.

Federal standards permit a site-count of 1,250 milliroentgen per quarter year. At worst, the spill would have raised the gamma count at the rural site to 307 milliroentgen for the three-month period, well within the government's safety guidelines.

Too much exposure to radiation can cause cancer, but there is disagreement among scientists about how much is too much. Some experts argue that small amounts are not harmful. Others, like Paul Smith, chief radiological officer for the Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Denver, say that "all increments of radiation (above background) should be avoided."

Aside from the radiation involved, an immediate danger from yellowcake, as with other heavy metals, is its chemical toxicity. Ingested in minute quantities, yellowcake can cause fatal kidney failure. The maximum permissible "body burden" is 17 milligrams.

LACKADAISICAL ATTITUDE

Whatever the degree of risk from the spilled yellowcake, the Springfield accident and its chaotic aftermath have raised serious questions about shipments of radioactive and other hazardous materials which routinely pass through heavily populated areas.

Federal policy regarding nuclear shipments has been characterized by a "lackadaisical and dangerous attitude," according to U.S. Rep. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.), has been trying with limited success to improve standards for shipping.

Responsibility for nuclear shipments has been shared jointly for 15 years by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC — formerly the Atomic Energy Commission) and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

A Nov. 30 meeting between the congressman and NRC and DOT officials convinced Wirth that the government is now "serious" about making nuclear shipments safer. A Wirth aide, Mike Jacobson, said NRC and DOT representatives have promised to complete a thorough study of nuclear shipments within six months.

Among issues to be studied are possible requirements for emergency plans, the use of crashproof containers, the routing of shipments, financial liability for accidents, and DOT's vehicle inspection capability. Jacobson said he expects "at the very least" to see tougher container standards and the fixing of accident liability. Responsibility cannot remain, as is now the case, he said, with "someone like a trucking company which has given its drivers the Evelyn Wood quick cleanup course."

There are 128 vehicle inspectors now on DOT's payroll, only enough to do spot checks of a fraction of the trucks which carry yellowcake and other hazardous materials. These random inspections have found violations in 25% of the vehicles. "Clearly," said Jacobson, "inspections must be expanded."

Shippers of nuclear and other hazardous materials, like Exxon, are not required to have emergency plans for dealing with transportation accidents. In the face of a predicted quadrupling of nuclear shipments between 1975 and 1985, the Federal Preparedness Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have pointed to a need for states and corporations to prepare such plans.

Charles Mattson, the Colorado health physicist who monitored the clean-up of

the Springfield spill, said he is confident the state's emergency plans for handling nuclear accidents are adequate. When pressed about the plans, however, he said they aren't written down because "each accident is different."

As per regulations, Exxon, Lee Way, and the Colorado Health Department were contacted soon after the accident. But it was 12 hours before a health officer arrived at the scene, a delay Mattson ascribed to the poor information about the extent of the spill.

The first Exxon officials to arrive, 15 hours after the accident, were surprised that the health department expected them to clean up the spill, something they thought the department would do. Consequently, they were unqualified and ill-equipped to conduct the operation, according to Robert Siek, the director of environmental programs for the Colorado Office of Health Protection.

Clean-up operations did not begin until Sept. 30, three days after the accident, and they proceeded slowly until Exxon obtained special vacuum cleaners on Oct. 5. The health department, in the absence of specific federal guidelines for cleaning up radiological spills, insisted that background radiation levels be achieved before the site could be pronounced decontaminated. This was finally accomplished on Oct. 14.

The agreement between Wirth and the Federal officials to study the safety of nuclear shipments and the adequacy of emergency plans is an abrupt reversal of NRC's earlier stand.

After the spill, NRC had reported that there was little danger from the yellowcake and that existing transportation standards are satisfactory.

Wirth, state health officials, and EPA experts disagreed with that assessment.

Transportation regulations, complained the congressman, do not require that uranium shipments be routed around major urban centers, nor that they be hauled in closed trucks or lashed down, nor that they be carried in safe containers. Richard Rawls of DOT's Office of Hazardous Materials said the department's standards would have been met if the yellowcake had been carried "in paper bags."

The NRC stated that "it is the limited activity of the material (yellowcake) itself rather than the packaging which permits these LSA shipments to meet basic safety requirements." But Paul Smith said "if (the accident) had happened in the middle of Denver, a lot of people would have been exposed to a very dangerous substance." And, Siek wrote the NRC that if the accident "had occurred near a water course, in



Colorado State Patrol photo
THE TRUCK crashed into the horses, slid off the road into the borrow pit, overturned, and dumped 10,000 pounds of its load over a 3,000-square-foot area.

a metropolitan area, or in a mountain area, the problem would have been compounded many-fold."

POPULATION CENTERS

The Highland uranium mine near Casper, Wyo., was the source of the yellowcake spilled near Springfield. At the mill, uranium ore is crushed, ground, and leached with sulfuric acid to make the concentrate. Each year, according to Exxon's Regulatory Affairs Officer, Gerald Orloff, about two million pounds of the uranium refined there is shipped to facilities owned by Kerr-McGee near Gore, Okla., and Allied Chemical near Metropolis, Ill., to be turned into uranium hexafluoride, the next step in making reactor-grade fuel.

To get to Gore and Metropolis, the yellowcake travels through dense population centers. The spilled shipment, for example, had been trucked to the Lee Way Terminal in the heart of Denver by Salt Creek Freightways of Casper.

An NRC environmental impact statement on transporting radioactive material in urban areas is scheduled for release this spring. But because of NRC's earlier efforts, there already is skepticism about it. In an EIS published this June, NRC claimed that yellowcake shipments from a proposed mine and mill in Colorado could result in a maximum credible spill of only six pounds. A 55-gallon drum filled with yellowcake weighs about 800 pounds.

The discrepancy between the NRC's projected maximum spill and the five tons spilled at Springfield prompted the Critical Mass Energy Project to recommend that the NRC and DOT develop more reliable transportation data.

At a press conference sponsored by Wirth, Critical Mass, a strongly anti-nuclear Washington-based group founded in 1974 by Consumer advocate Ralph Nader, issued its own lengthy and condemnatory report on the spill and its clean-up, and called for many of the changes now being studied by the NRC and DOT. It was apparently the combined pressure of Wirth and Critical Mass that led to the NRC study.

Mattson and Orloff have challenged some of the premises upon which the Critical Mass conclusions were based.

Orloff said Exxon did as "well as could be expected" in the clean-up and labeled the Critical Mass report an "exaggeration" containing "many inaccuracies." He declined to say what these were.

Mattson, however, said Critical Mass was wrong in its claims that Exxon had violated DOT standards by not labeling the drums. He says photographs clearly show the drums were labeled correctly. Critical Mass was also wrong, according to Mattson, in charging that Exxon and the health

Responsibility for radioactive spills cannot remain, as is now the case, with "someone like a trucking company which has given its drivers the Evelyn Wood quick cleanup course."



Colorado State Patrol photo
POLICE covered the spilled yellowcake with plastic tarpaulins. The clean-up took 17 days.

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Jackson. . .

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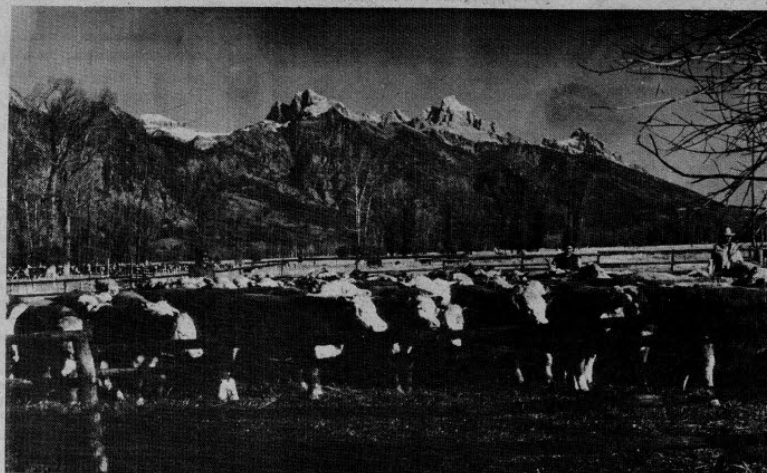
abundant waterfowl in its rivers and streams.

Although the valley is best known as the site of Grand Teton National Park, nearly 70,000 acres — about three percent of the total land — are in private ownership. Here are the ranchlands, whose hay meadows and grazing Herefords epitomize for many visitors the western way of life. Traditionally, the ranchers of Jackson Hole have kept the private lands next to the national parks and forests almost as open as the federal lands that surround them. Wildlife migration routes have been protected; human population density has been low; the visitor has found in these private lands an experience to complement the magnificence of the federal preserves.

The same landscape that now draws nearly four million visitors each year is also attracting many of them to return and settle or build second homes on this open land. From 1971 through mid-1977, 1,054 subdivision lots were filed with Teton County outside the town of Jackson. One recent proposal will put nearly 500 houses on a presently undeveloped hay meadow. Open space along highways approaching Grand Teton National Park is being replaced by billboards and small businesses. Data from several sources (building permits, telephone hookups, electricity billings, labor force figures) point to an annual growth rate of roughly 10%.

The pressures to sell their land are difficult for ranchers to resist, especially at a time when the cattle business is in a slump. Homesites of three acres or less have increased in price about 12% annually since 1970. Moreover, the next generation may be forced to sell off part of the land anyway, just to pay inheritance taxes. Still, most of the landowners say that they would prefer to continue ranching, if they had a choice.

Both the National Park Service and



RANCHING ACTIVITIES in Jackson Hole have kept most of the land in open space.

Photo by Phil Hocker

Teton County, which embraces Jackson Hole, have been struggling with the implications of change for several years. In 1975, the Park Service began to study possible expansion of the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park to protect the lands just outside its borders. The resulting report states, "The lands in Jackson Hole are of mutual concern to both public agencies and private interests because of their scenic and pastoral qualities. . . ." It warns, "If indiscriminate development is allowed to replace these traditional uses, the rural character of Teton County will be impaired and the region's pastoral setting will be degraded." Instead of large-scale boundary expansion, the report recommends establishing a Jackson Hole Scenic Area to "re-

tain and enhance the pastoral setting and the visitor experience now available in the area."

While the park officials prepared their report, Teton County hired San Francisco planning consultants Livingston and Associates to prepare a comprehensive county plan. There have been charges of socialism, elitism, and infringement of individual rights. Nevertheless, testimony at recent public hearings ran two to one in support of the comprehensive land use plan, and the county commissioners adopted it in early December. For the first time, future development in Jackson Hole will be governed by clearly defined density regulations, performance standards, and environmental protection restrictions.

only some of those actually would be affected by the program. If Congress agrees to fund it, a commission of federal, state, and local people would develop a scenic area plan, identifying the scenic, recreational, agricultural, wildlife, and similar values on the private lands. The plan would also specify what kinds of land uses would jeopardize those values, and recommend that certain critical lands be protected, usually through the purchase of scenic easements. After the plan is approved by the commission, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of the Interior, the appropriate government agencies could begin to negotiate with owners of designated properties for purchase of easements.

Scenic easements are the major tool for preservation in the Jackson Hole proposal. When an owner sells or donates an easement, he would give up the right to develop his land in ways that would be incompatible with the goals of the scenic area. He would continue to own the land and his property would stay on the tax rolls; but he would be compensated, through payment or tax advantages, for forfeiting certain development rights. Each easement would be different, tailored for the specific land and values in question. Generally, the land would stay in agricultural use, though some other low-intensity use could be permitted. The land could be sold or otherwise conveyed, but always afterward subject to the terms of the easement. The value of the easement would be the difference between

PLAN NOT ENOUGH

But even the new plan cannot preserve the special qualities of Jackson Hole. It cannot by itself protect wildlife migration routes or large expanses of open space, or prevent a hay meadow from becoming a subdivision. The county recognized this even while the plan was being prepared, and took another step. Last year, the county commissioners appointed a study group to investigate how the scenery and open space might be preserved, with certainty, with fairness to landowners, and with consideration for the needs of the county itself. For more than a year, large landowners, planning commission members, conservationists, business operators, and representatives from the Bridger-

Yellowcake. . .

"If the accident had happened in the middle of Denver, a lot of people would have been exposed to a very dangerous substance."

(continued from page 4)

department "quarreled" over how to handle the clean-up. Relations between the company and the department were "cordial," and Exxon officials complied with every request, said Mattson.

Orloff, on the other hand, said the initial clean-up had gone slowly because of "obstacles" thrown up by the health department. He hinted, but did not say outright, that the department had been overly cautious.

Richard P. Pollock, who wrote the Critical Mass report, said some errors might have been made because the project was unable to send its own investigator to Colorado and had to depend solely on telephone interviews. He defended the report's general outline and conclusions, however.

Just as there is uncertainty about who is required to clean up a spill, there is some ambiguity about who should pay for clean-up costs. The law, though cloudy, makes the carrier or its insurer financially responsible, according to the NRC, but Orloff indicated Exxon will pick up the tab this time. He said the expense would be "substantial," but couldn't give an exact figure because all the bills haven't been

received yet.

Colorado Health Department officials may have set an important precedent in demanding that they be reimbursed for the cost of monitoring the clean-up.

Colorado is one of 22 "agreement states" that the federal government believes have the capacity to protect citizens from radiation hazards. But health officials in Colorado have complained recently that their radiological budget is under-financed, barely allowing them to monitor existing radiation sources. Next year, they will ask the legislature for a 60% budget increase for the radiation hazards division, but one radiological officer, Jim Montgomery, said the legislature in the past has been "stingy" in giving the division money.

Montgomery and others in the health department would prefer to charge nuclear licensees fees adequate to meet the costs of routine radiological monitoring and "extras" caused by unexpected events like the Springfield spill. No fees are charged now.

Timothy Lange is a writer in Denver, Colo.

From 1971 through mid-1977, 1,054 subdivision lots were filed with Teton County. One recent proposal will put nearly 500 houses on presently undeveloped hay meadow.

Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, and the National Elk Refuge dealt with the assignment. In June of this year, they presented their recommendation for legislation to establish a Jackson Hole Scenic Area. This legislation, with a few changes and after official county endorsement, is the bill introduced in Congress last September.

The Jackson Hole Scenic Area would technically consist of all the privately-owned lands in Teton County, although

what the land is worth for development and what it is worth after the restrictions are imposed.

The bill says that a small amount of land could be bought outright (in fee, rather than in easement), but limits such acquisition to five per cent of the county's private lands. The bill's backers prefer the use of easements for many reasons. It retains private ownership and ranching use, and preserves the county's tax base. No new

(continued on page 6)

Jackson. . .

(continued from page 5)

bureaucracies or long-term federal management responsibilities are created. It allows some development, where that is appropriate. It creates a partnership between public and private interests to protect a nationally significant area, in the middle of federally-owned land.

LONG WAY TO GO

What lies ahead for the scenic area proposal? Supporters of the bill know they are a long way from victory. They must deal with local opposition, as well as sell the idea to a national constituency.

Locally, most of the opposition expressed so far has come from some of the large landowners, who stand to benefit directly

port for the bill, and to make sure this support is felt by Congress. Although the legislation was written locally, its authors feel it is a national issue because of the vast amounts of federal land surrounding Jackson Hole and the millions of visitors who come there each year. The bill's backers are urging early hearings by the Congressional subcommittees who have jurisdiction over the bill.

The price tag currently attached to the proposal is another major stumbling block. Two hundred million dollars is the figure in the bill. However, planners are considering what could be accomplished with various smaller amounts of money.

In a sense, establishment of a Jackson Hole Scenic Area is an extension of a vision of more than 60 years ago, when it was first proposed to extend Yellowstone Park southward, to include the Tetons and northern part of Jackson Hole. Grand Teton National Park was not created until 1929, and it wasn't until 1950 that it was



Electric car dream came true in Rexburg, Idaho

Family gaining independence with sun, wind, wood

by Joan Nice

One night about four years ago Don Ricks, a sign painter in Rexburg, Idaho, had a disturbing vision. He dreamt that it cost \$20 to fill up the gas tank of his Buick. The solution that appeared to him was an electric car.

When he awoke, he asked his high school age son, Jeff, if he wanted to help him build



Jeff Ricks

one. According to Don, Jeff's eyes lit up immediately, and he said, "When will we start?"

Now Jeff, supplied with ideas from his father, has built not only an electric car, but a host of other useful devices that are helping his family become independent from city water and centralized energy supplies.

When the flood from the Teton dam collapse ruined their furnace, they never replaced it. Instead, they installed a wood stove and a "heat trapper" designed by Don. They can run lights and tools in their shop with electricity generated by the wind and stored in batteries. They pump water out of a 70 foot well with a windmill. They've built a wood-heated clothes dryer, a solar greenhouse, and a number of other energy-saving devices — all on a large city lot in residential Rexburg.

Although they try to build their equipment out of recycled or inexpensive materials, the aim of the Rickses' experimenting is not to save money for themselves.

"It would take a lifetime (of fuel and electricity savings) to pay for all we've done here," Jeff says, "but we figure maybe our work can help other people."

Don says their neighbors haven't shown much interest yet, however. "They're too close to us to appreciate us," he says. But he

doesn't seem to let local apathy thwart his ambition: "Right here in the palm of UP&L (Utah Power and Light) I'd like to show that we can be independent," he says.

In February 1976 *Popular Science* featured an article on Jeff's electric car. As a result of the publicity, Jeff took in \$10,000 in \$35 checks for the plans. Letters he's received indicate that at least 10 electric cars around the country have been built to his specifications.

In the center of the Rickses' workshop now is Jeff's hybrid car, which uses electricity stored in batteries for acceleration and a gasoline engine for cruising. To demonstrate it, Jeff lifts the drive wheels off the ground, props them up with a wooden box, and then he jumps into the shabby, recycled driver's seat. The engine, a maze of wires and batteries, immediately roars and the wheels spin. Once Jeff completes a fiberglass body, the car will be ready for the road.

The gasoline-electric combination makes for gasoline savings — only a 23 horsepower engine is necessary to propel a 2,000 pound car that theoretically can achieve speeds of up to 65 miles per hour, Jeff says. The gasoline engine, with a five gallon tank, gives the vehicle about a 250 mile range. In contrast, Ricks' all-electric car, which ran successfully for a year and a half before it was damaged by the Teton dam flood, had a maximum speed of 50 miles per hour and a range of 50 miles (at an average speed of 30 miles per hour).

Jeff has three wind machines, two to generate power and one to pump water. He is building an inverter to change the direct current generated by the wind to alternating current, which will be usable in the Rickses' home for 110 volt appliances.

They store excess wind power in a row of 72 six-volt golf cart batteries that line one wall of their shop. They eventually plan to add to their stores of electrical power with a home-built steam engine powered by excess heat from the large wood stove that heats their shop.

A more immediate project is installation of an 8 foot by 20 foot commercial solar collector to act as a supplement to their wood stove. Excess heat from the collector will be stored in 53 tons of rock in the basement.

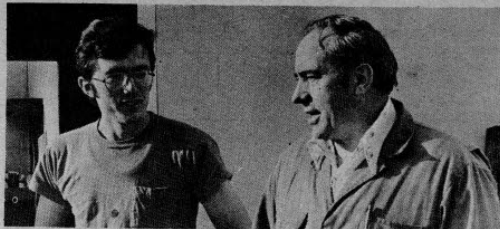
But, for now, a wood stove in combination with what Don calls his "heat trapper" provide all the heat needed for their two-story 2,400 square foot house. Fuel for the stove costs them nothing; they can get logs free from the nearby Targhee National

Forest. The stovepipe runs upstairs through a closet near the bedrooms. There, in the "heat trapper," warmth from the stovepipe is transferred to upstairs air in a sheet metal box. A fan blows warm air from the box into the hall upstairs.

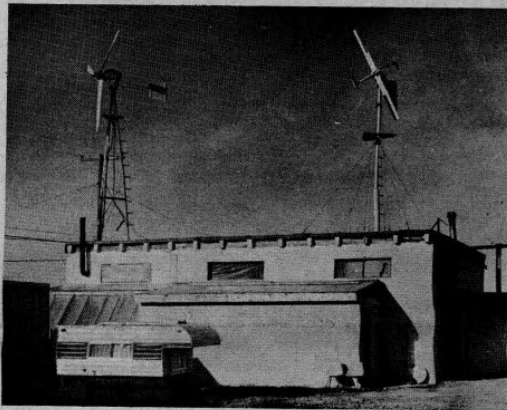
One of the Rickses' other experiments with wood-burning stoves is a homemade wood heater that can be attached to a conventional clothes dryer. Electricity provides mechanical power for the dryer and wood provides the heat. The dryer isn't working now, Jeff says, because its electrical motor burned out.

Don and Jeff also have built an eight foot parabola that they hope to use as a solar cooker. The parabola, which cost about \$100 for materials, is made of fiberglass poured over a mold and covered with aluminum coated mylar. The sunlight that hits the shiny dish will be focused on a liquid called Dow-therm that can be heated to high temperatures without boiling. After the liquid is 500 degrees or so, they'll pipe it underground to a well-insulated storage tank. When they need it for cooking, they'll pipe it through a modified modern stove body.

A windmill pumps water into a tall, 4,000 gallon tank for use in irrigating the Rickses' small garden. Eventually they hope also to use the water tower to cool the water cycling through a small steam engine and to pressurize the water for use in their home.



JEFF AND DON RICKS (from left) are working as a father-and-son team to gain independence from city water and centralized power supplies.



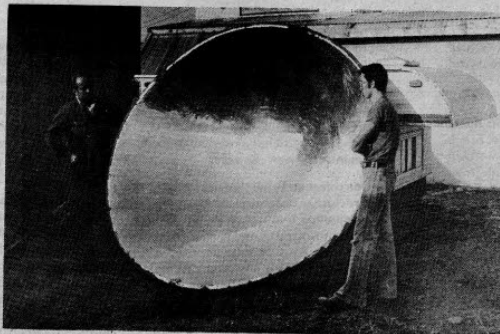
TWO WIND GENERATORS are mounted on the Rickses' shop.

Some people wonder how Don, a man with seven children and his own sign painting business, manages to find the time for all these projects. He admits that, in his enthusiasm for energy projects, he sometimes keeps his sign customers waiting. But he says most of the projects are Jeff's to carry out. And, he says proudly, Jeff can figure out how to build almost anything.

With the hybrid car almost finished, Jeff is thinking about building himself an underground house on a lot a short distance from the Rickses' family home. Eventually, he hopes to build a cluster of energy-conserving underground homes on the Rexburg rim. Looking back on Jeff's success in making his dream come true a few years ago, Don says that plan doesn't sound too far-fetched to him.

PLANS AVAILABLE

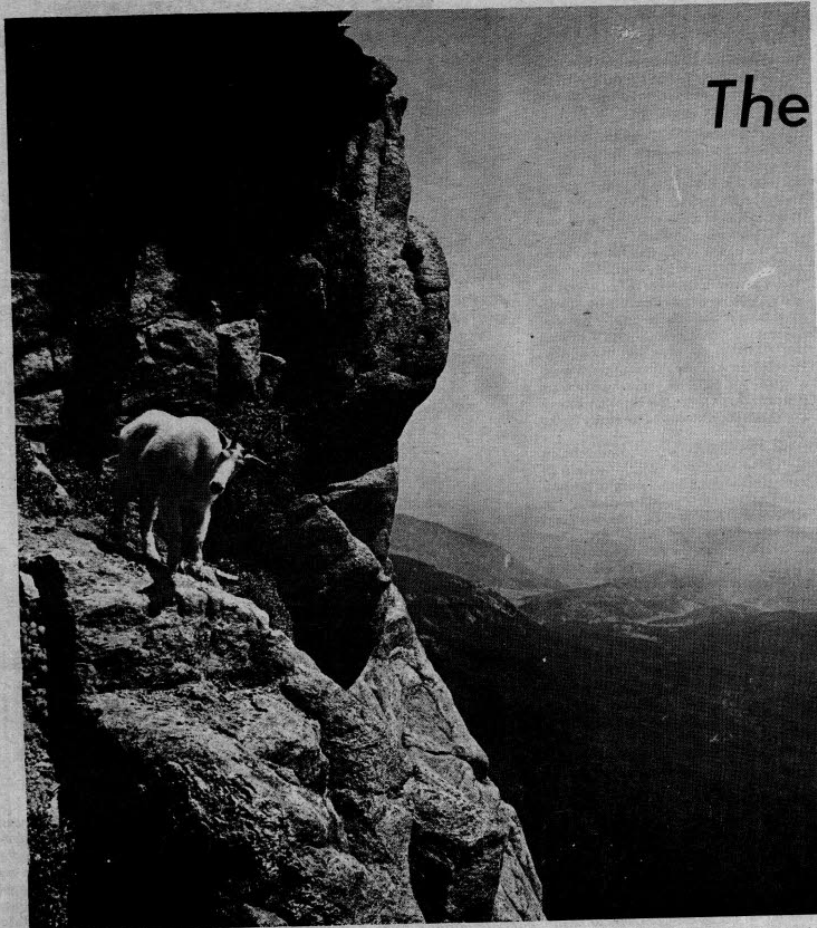
Jeff Ricks is still selling plans for his electric cars at \$35 each and plans for his electronic speed control devices (for the electric car) at \$15 each. He hopes to have plans for the wood heated clothes dryer and steam engine ready soon. If you'd like to ask a question about his work, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. His address is 53 N. 5th West, Rexburg, Idaho 83440.



AN EIGHT-FOOT PARABOLA will be part of a solar cooker planned by Don (at left) and Jeff (at right) Ricks.

"Right here in the palm of UP&L, I'd like to show that we can be independent."

8-High Country News — Dec. 16, 1977



Meeting a mountain goat on the trail is an unforgettable thrill.

Colorado Division of Wildlife photo by Don Domenick

The remote w



The coat provid

The chief danger to the goat is new mining and logging roads that have opened up areas and made goats more accessible to hunters.

Sheltered by

by Sarah Doll

Possibly more than any other North American animal, the mountain goat owes its survival to its remoteness from man. The rocky cliffs of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska where this shaggy animal spends both summer and winter are not coveted by farmers or real estate developers.

Until recently, most of the information regarding the habits and behavior of *Oreamnus americanus* was based on myth. Captain James Cook in 1778 first recorded its existence, but called it a "polar bear." Naturalist Alexander Henry was

the first to correctly describe the "white goat." It is classified between the goat and the antelope.

The shaggy white coat, with chin hairs elongated into a beard, and the erect black horns make identification of the mountain goat unmistakable. Male and female look much alike, and can only be distinguished by an experienced eye. The magnificent coat provides several inches of insulation in winter, but is quite ratty during the summer molt. The sharp horns are more dangerous than those of any other North American game animal, and can inflict deadly puncture wounds. A well-placed center of gravity, flexible front leg joints,

and large, spongy hooves enable the goat to maneuver on the steepest rock slopes.

The physiology of goats has been well-known for years, as their bodies are not infrequently found at the bottoms of avalanche slides. Behavioral studies on goats are relatively new, however.

One common belief that has been refuted by recent studies is that goats are monogamous and live in family groups. Idaho biologist Lon Kuck, in radio-tracking billies (males) discovered that they wander from one nanny (female) to another throughout the fall mating season. They don't form large groups, and social organization is loose, he says.

An example of search is that edges. Mountain goats are extremely antagonistic to butt and flesh wounds. Billies have even killed their kids (baby goats).

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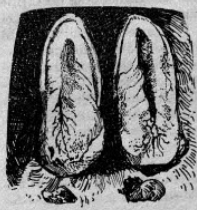
e white goat



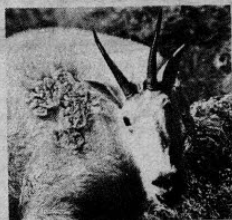
The coat provides several inches of insulation in winter.

Stouffer Production photo

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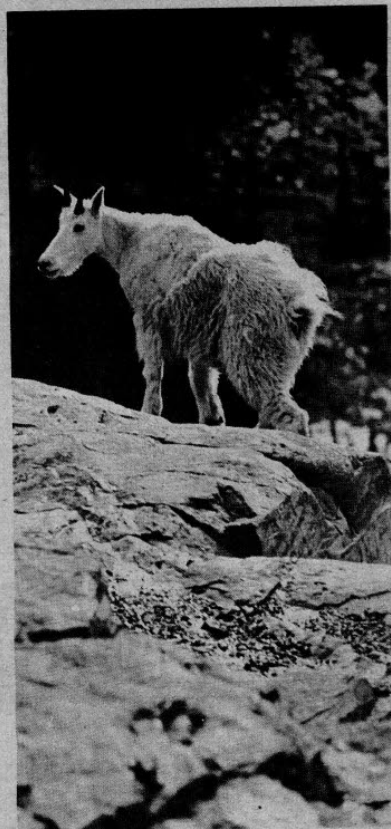


Goats' hooves are large and spongy, which helps them on steep slopes.



Colorado Division of Wildlife photo by Don Domenick

The horns of the mountain goat are more dangerous than those of any other North American game animal.



National Park Service photo

Billy goats fight on precipices, adding to the danger their mountain habitat already presents.

ed by a rugged habitat

An example of a rumor confirmed by research is that of billys fighting on cliff edges. Mountain goats are considered extremely antagonistic and seem programmed to butt anything in front of them. Flesh wounds are very common in a herd. Billys have even been observed attacking kids (baby goats).

The little social organization that does exist among goats is nanny-dominated. The kids stay with the nanny for a long period of time, learning to cope with the environment. If the nanny dies, the kid is doomed, unless, as sometimes happens, another nanny adopts it.

Mountain goats have a large need for

salt, and salt licks have provided biologists good opportunity to study them at close range. Biologist-ecologist Chester Rideout reports that social organization becomes more apparent at salt licks. Adult males are dominant, with the older animals at the top of the heap. There are many aggressive displays.

Rideout also reports "wavering humming sounds, snorts, grunts, and sheep-like bleats that filled the air" as he observed salt lick interaction for the first time. Goats had formerly been thought to be mute.

Like so many species, the mountain goat faces new threats from people, even in its

rocky environment. The chief danger is new mining and logging roads that have opened up areas and made goats more accessible to hunters.

Lon Kuck conducted an experiment from 1962-1972 on a herd of 160 animals in Idaho. Hunters took 19-21 animals a year, a rather large number for that size herd, to determine if goats would respond to hunting pressure by raising more kids. The goats did not compensate, but dwindled rapidly. As a result of Kuck's research, Idaho has cut back its goat hunting permits.

The number of goats is not definitely known, which makes management difficult. The population in the lower 48 states

is low, probably under 5,000. Some people, like biologist Chadwick, maintain that goat hunting should be stopped in some areas and reduced in others, to compensate for the recent improved access to the goats' habitat. Other biologists feel that there are enough animals to allow hunting, and that hunting strengthens a herd.

Although the goat's harsh environment protects it from most predators other than man, the mountains themselves take their toll. The sure-footed goat will occasionally slip, and a slip can be fatal. Avalanches catch many unawares. Biologist Douglas Chadwick estimates the mountains themselves cause 65% of all goat deaths.

10-High Country News — Dec. 16, 1977

Firm calls 'rape' over Wyoming rule on dozing

by Philip White

A minor skirmish in the age-old battle of words is currently being fought in Cheyenne. The words involved are "exploration by dozing." The combatants are the Land Quality Division of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Riverton and Pinedale Exploration Division, Inc.

If allowed to frolic in the imagination, the phrase "exploration by dozing" could mean the absorbing preoccupation of students in the back row of Bill Steckel's History 341F lecture or, perhaps, the somnambulations of a mining engineer.

In this case, however, dozing refers to bulldozing. And that brings us to Walter Ackerman, Land Quality protector at DEQ, and the unknown folks behind Riverton and Pinedale Exploration Division, Inc., of 231 W. 10th St., Casper, Wyo.

The 1872 federal mining law has always required a prospector to make a "location hole" or "discovery hole" to protect a mineral claim. It requires the miner to then perform annual "assessment work" of \$100 value. At first, those discovery holes were dug by pick and shovel. Walter E. Duncan, head of the Natural Resources Research Institute at the University of Wyoming, says the mining work in those days was done "by main strength and awkwardness."

In the late 1940s, that all changed. Duncan explains: "Prospectors found that bulldozers made the work of exposing a vein in bedrock much faster and easier. They also started using dozers to dig location holes every 20 acres to justify their claim under the law. Many of the uranium prospectors were amateurs. They dug a lot of holes that were eyesores for years."

"A negative reaction occurred. Ranchers claimed that the holes were dangerous to the cattle. Most of these holes were dug to satisfy unwise legal requirements for protecting a claim."

ACT CHANGED

That negative reaction eventually made its way into print in the 1973 Wyoming Environmental Quality Act. The act requires "any person desiring to engage in mineral exploration by dozing" to submit an application and post a \$10,000 bond to insure the reclamation of affected lands.

The act defines "exploration by dozing" as "the removal of overburden by trenching with a bulldozer or other earth moving equipment to expose possible indications of mineralization."

That seems clear enough. But in recent years, mining practices have changed and things have silted up.

Most of the uranium that lies close to the surface has been located. Today, most uranium exploration involves "relatively deep drilling." Last year, according to Walt Ackerman of DEQ, "we had 12-15 million lineal feet of drilling for uranium in Wyoming." This drilling involves the moving of large rigs over isolated and sometimes rugged terrain. To accomplish it, operators have been using bulldozers to make roads and level off drilling platforms. The roads are often several miles long and become rather prominent features of the topography.

That's why Walt Ackerman has been coming along behind the machines building the roads and platforms, requiring the operators to obtain a permit to explore by dozing. The permit process only takes a few days, compared to the several months required for DEQ scrutiny of a complicated

mining permit application. The \$10,000 bond required to explore by dozing costs between \$50 and \$100.

Ackerman explains his division's position: "One man on a bulldozer can destroy the soils and vegetation on more land in a single eight-hour period than any of our largest strip mines will destroy in 30 years. The practice of exploration by dozing in the classic sense of using a dozer to cut a vein has been passé for years. I can't believe that the Wyoming Legislature intended to exempt from the reclamation standards today's most prevalent kind of exploration-by-dozing activity. Some of these guys are out in the backyard gouging up all of Christendom."

WHO IS SUING

On July 18, 1977, the Wyoming Secretary of State's office received and filed the Articles of Incorporation for the Riverton and Pinedale Exploration Division, Inc. Sixty-seven days later, that corporation made what appears to qualify as its first corporate act: a suit challenging Walt Ackerman's authority to use the "exploration by dozing" statute to control "the class of mineral explorers who explore by drilling and use bulldozers or graders only incidentally to improve roads or level drilling sites." The suit, filed in Laramie County District Court in Cheyenne, asks the court

"One man on a bulldozer can destroy the soils and vegetation on more land in a single eight-hour period than any of our largest strip mines will destroy in 30 years." —Walt Ackerman

to declare that DEQ has no such jurisdiction.

Until the complaint in the lawsuit was served upon Ackerman, he had never heard of the Riverton and Pinedale Exploration Division, Inc. A check of DEQ files showed that such a company had never been issued or denied a permit. In fact, it appeared that such a company had never even applied for any permit.

The Land Quality researchers found that the incorporation papers list only a registered agent, Cathy Rideout Heady of Casper. The law does not require listing the officers of the corporation until the first annual report is filed.

John Burk, attorney for the firm, says it has no ongoing development projects at this time. "As far as I know, it's just a group of people from mineral industries who are interested in challenging the authority of the department in this matter," he says. Burk says he doesn't know who is on the

board; he was hired by someone else.

So Ackerman was in a quandary. All he knew about the company was that they had carefully chosen the name for their company: the acronym for the plaintiff is spelled "RAPED."

Over in the state attorney general's office, Marilyn Kite, DEQ's attorney, prepared a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. In effect, the motion says that RAPED lacks "standing to sue" since RAPED has not been penalized for dozing without a permit.

Judge Alan Johnson of the Laramie County District Court granted the state's motion to dismiss at a hearing Dec. 14 in Cheyenne. The basis for the dismissal of the lawsuit was that RAPED failed to exhaust its administrative remedies. There were no witnesses at the hearing.

If the company wants to continue to challenge the department's interpretation of the statute, it will have to begin its challenge with administrative procedures within the DEQ.

FS rejects Sierra Club oil appeal

The U.S. Forest Service has rejected the Sierra Club's appeal asking that the agency withhold approval of any activity on existing or future oil and gas leases on the Overthrust Belt. The appeal affects 11 national forests in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Utah (HCN, 12-2-77).

The rejection does not end the group's efforts to get the agency to file a comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS) on oil and gas activity in the forests, however. The Forest Service only said the appeal did not meet the agency's procedural requirements. Intermountain Regional Forester Vern Hamre, in his letter to the Sierra Club, said that the agency would consider a revised notice of appeal.

Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund attorney Allen Stokes says that he is uncertain what needs to be done to revise the appeal. The Forest Service said that the notice should state the decision being appealed and the date of that decision. Stokes says that this may mean that the group will have to identify each individual lease being appealed, a job that the Forest Service itself hasn't finished.

While the club did not accept the appeal, it did acknowledge that the issue raised is an important one. The Forest Service's letter to the club said, "We recognize there are important problems associated with the subject of your correspondence."

In a related action, the Wilderness Society's Wyoming representative, Bart Koehler, has urged the Forest Service to reject the drilling plan for an exploratory well in the Bridger-Teton forest on Cache Creek, near the town of Jackson, Wyo., because it is "inadequate." The Cache Creek site is leased by National Cooperative Refinery Association (NCRA), and the firm is seeking Forest Service permission to put in roads and a well.

In a letter to Bridger-Teton Forest supervisor Reid Jackson, Koehler says that the agency should reject the drilling appli-

cation because of discrepancies between the plan and a 1947 Interior Department memorandum about protecting the Cache Creek drainage and the Teton portion of the forest. He says the agency should "withhold all new drilling until a new 'unit plan' has been written for the Jackson Hole lease area, a forest-wide EIS has been written for the Teton National Forest, and an orderly conceptual oil and gas development plan has been written for the Teton National Forest."

Koehler contends that since many of the leases in the Teton National Forest do not adequately reflect the provisions of the 1947 memorandum regarding protection of scenic, wildlife, and other resources, they may be invalid.

The Cache Creek drilling proposal has generated enough controversy among the residents of Jackson that the Forest Service has scheduled a public hearing on the matter in early January.

Classified Ads

IDAHO WRITERS needed for HCN. We are interested in stories from Idaho on energy conservation, minimum stream flows, alternative energy innovations, and people making the news. Pay is two cents to four cents per word for fair, accurate news reporting. One-sided diatribes unacceptable. Contact Marjane Ambler at Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520 with story ideas.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. The Northern Plains Resource Council has an opening for a full time organizer. NPRC is a citizens organization of ranchers, farmers and other citizens working on energy and coal development issues in the Northern Great Plains. Send resume, writing sample and references to NPRC, 419 Stapleton Building, Billings, Montana 59101. (406) 248-1154.

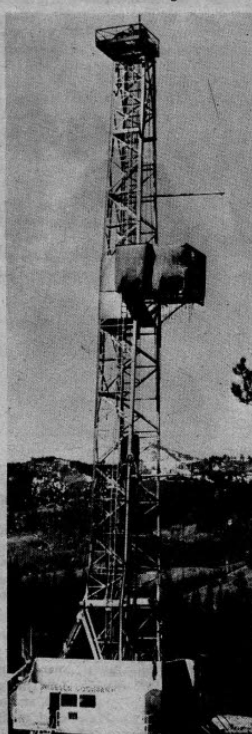


Photo courtesy U.S. Forest Service
DRILLING RIG ON Granite Creek in the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Suit filed to halt shale projects

Three conservation groups have sued the U.S. Interior Department over the agency's approval of mining plans for the two federal oil shale tracts in Colorado. The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Colorado Open Space Council Mining Workshop (COSC), and Friends of the Earth (FOE) are asking the court to set aside those approvals and prohibit further operations "until Interior complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)."

The three groups charge that, under NEPA, Interior is required to prepare environmental impact statements on individual mining plans and to update the oil shale leasing program environmental statement that was completed in 1973. This update, the groups contend, should evaluate the modified in situ retorting process that the companies will be using.

Modified in situ processing has "significant environmental problems," the plaintiffs say, and an environmental impact statement (EIS) would identify measures that could be taken to reduce impact.

EDF attorney David Mastbaum says, "The original 1973 EIS on the oil shale leasing program is completely out of date. There were no data on modified in situ processing in 1973. The original EIS also largely ignored socio-economic impacts and the boom town situation." Mastbaum calls Interior's refusal to prepare a supplemental EIS "a clear violation of the law."

The suit was filed in the Colorado U.S. District Court. In addition to the Interior Department, defendants in the suit include the operators of the oil shale tracts — Gulf Oil, Standard Oil of Indiana, Ashland Oil, and Occidental Oil Shale.



NUCLEAR PLANT SAFETY. The closure of a Michigan nuclear power plant for safety reasons has generated a review of the electrical wiring at the Colorado Public Service Co.'s Fort St. Vrain nuclear power plant. The wiring at the Colorado plant is the same type as that used in a generating unit of the D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant Station in Michigan. That plant was shut down because tests showed the wiring failed under extreme heat, pressure, and chemical conditions that could occur if the reactor loses its cooling system, according to the *Denver Post*. The Union of Concerned Scientists, an anti-nuclear group, released a memo indicating that the NRC knew of the wiring problems for three months before investigating the problem. The Colorado plant is one of eight being examined for the wiring problems. The others are in South Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Maine, New York, and Georgia.

HYDROGEN PROJECT. The Department of Energy (DOE) is taking part in a Utah project designed to demonstrate the potential of hydrogen as a fuel for home and farm. A small home and farm will be used as the project site. The house will be heated and the food cooked using hydrogen as a fuel. Farm machinery will be powered by hydrogen, also. The experiment is a joint effort of the Billings Energy Corp. and DOE.

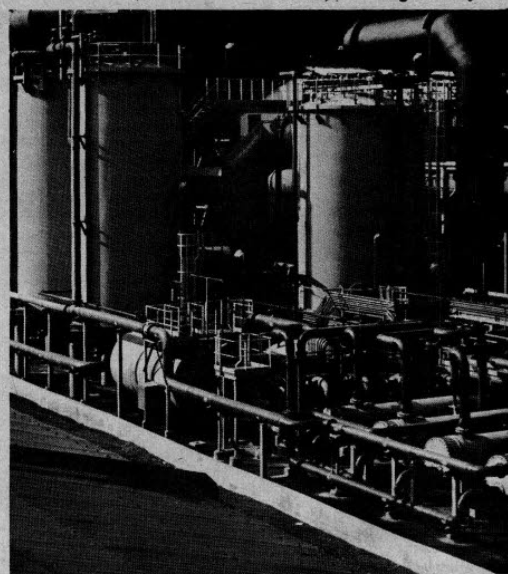
UTILITIES SHOW SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT. The increased burning of coal for electrical power has nearly canceled out improvements in pollution control in the electric utilities industry, according to a report prepared by the Council on Economic Priorities. The report, "The Price of Power — Update," says that of the four pollutants studied, only one, thermal discharge, has been substantially reduced. Slight improvement has been achieved in control of particulates, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide. Pacific Power and Light (PPL) "is the highest ranked of the nine major coal-burning companies under study." PPL had the lowest sulfur dioxide emission rate and had the highest percentage of its generating capacity equipped with thermal pollution control equipment. PPL took last place in the rankings for particulate emissions, however.

MPC ASKS SOLAR CHARGES. The Montana Power Company (MPC) has requested the Montana Public Service Commission to allow the company to charge additional minimum monthly charges to users of alternative energy systems that want utility-furnished gas and electric systems as a back-up. The power company is asking for a \$39 minimum yearly charge to such users, in addition to the \$1.70 per month minimum monthly bill for residential electric consumers. The PSC has asked for public comment on the matter, and according to the Associated Press, sentiment is running heavily against the concept.

PRBRC TO OPPOSE PLANT. The Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC) will oppose the siting of a Pacific Power and Light (PPL) power plant in Sheridan County, Wyo., if the plant will export electricity out of state. The group's membership voted a resolution of opposition at its annual meeting in November. PRBRC staff director Tom France says that the company has never directly answered the question about power export, though it was included in a number of inquiries to PPL in June. However, according to the *Sheridan Press*, the PPL local representative says that power will be exported. PPL says that it has not made a final decision on a plant site, and that Sheridan County is only one of four possible alternatives.

SHALE HURTS POWER PLANT. An air quality report prepared by the Utah Bureau of Environmental Health says that a proposed Uintah County power plant would have to limit itself to 800 megawatts if oil shale development takes place in the county. The report says that eastern Utah's Moon Lake Electric Association would have to reduce plant capacity from 1,000 megawatts because emission from the larger plant, combined with pollution concentrations from oil shale development, would exceed Class II air quality standards. A spokesman for the power company told the *Deseret News* that limiting the size of the plant to 800 megawatts would not jeopardize its construction, however.

DENVER CONSERVATION PROJECT. Ten Denver area homeowners have been selected by lot to demonstrate the energy saving potential in existing homes. On Dec. 5, the Colorado Office of Energy Conservation selected the 10 single-family dwellings, which will be outfitted with up to \$1,500 worth of energy-saving devices. These will include additional insulation, storm windows, and night set-back thermostats. Cost of the project will be shared jointly by the state of Colorado and the Department of Energy.



OIL REFINERY. Disputes between the state of Montana and oil refineries have led to a decision to redraft the state's air regulations.

Montana rule called 'unenforceable'

A Montana agency has decided to start over and draft new ambient air quality standards. The standards it has been using for the past 10 years are not enforceable mandates, but only guidelines, says an attorney for the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.

In a letter to the department's board the attorney, Steve Brown, wrote, "I would like to be able to tell the board that there has been no confusion over the legal effect of Montana's ambient air quality standards and that the record clearly supports the enforcement posture taken by the department in the past few years. As the history (of the state air quality rules) indicates, that is not the case."

The department has requested that the board cancel a Jan. 13-14 hearing on the ambient standards, in favor of a date in late June or early July, to allow time for a complete rewriting.

According to Brown, the rules "contain no prohibitive statement indicating that persons shall not cause pollution which exceeds the ambient levels established in the regulation."

The decision to seek new rules followed by one day an agreement between the state and two oil refineries in which the state agreed not to seek civil penalties against the refineries. In exchange, the refineries agreed to buy and install more air pollution control devices.



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

ATTRACTIVE SCRUBBER. A new device designed to take most of the sulfur dioxide out of smokestacks may prove attractive to both environmentalists and industry, according to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report. The sulfur scrubber removes more sulfur dioxide than most scrubbers now in use, and produces marketable sulfur rather than useless sulfurous sludge. EPA is testing the device, a Davy-Wellman-Lord and Allied Chemical Flue Gas Desulfurization System, at a 115 megawatt coal-fired plant in Gary, Indiana.

INSULATION CRACKDOWN. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says it is undertaking a state-by-state investigation of abuses in the home insulation business. FTC says that the push to save energy has

resulted in a tremendous increase in the demand of insulation and there is already evidence of fraud in some areas. If a company is found to be misrepresenting the advantages of insulation, or making extravagant claims about its insulation "without having a reasonable basis," it may be subject to a fine of up to \$10,000.

SYNFUELS LOAN GUARANTEES. Congress has passed a \$6 billion program that will provide construction loan guarantees for coal gasification and oil shale projects. Each project seeking a guarantee would have to go before the Department of Energy for approval. The legislation did not include money for the breeder reactor, a provision that had caused President Jimmy Carter to veto similar legislation earlier this year.

DAMAGES TO "NUCLEAR WIDOW." A British court has awarded \$40,000 to a widow after a company called British Nuclear Fuel admitted that her husband had died as a result of a cancerous condition "induced by radiation at work." The company has agreed to set up a plan for automatic compensation to aid families of workers in the nuclear power industry who suffer death or injury from radiation.

12-High Country News — Dec. 16, 1977

BRANCHING OUT



SIMPLE TIMES, SIMPLE WAYS

by Myra Connell

When I was growing up on a Wyoming homestead (1900-1925) Christmas was never the lavish affair that most families enjoy today. However, its meagerness in material symbols did not detract from its joyousness.

Immediately after the Thanksgiving school recess, we began preparations for the Christmas entertainment. Each pupil, from the tiniest first-grader to young adults about to finish eighth grade, memorized a "piece" to recite. Groups practiced carols and small plays. Regular studies were abandoned in favor of the "program."

We drew names for exchanges of gifts costing not more than 25 cents. Our total Christmas money was about a dollar each. The shopping trip to town was one of the big events of the year. We usually went in the bob sleigh (two sets of runners in tandem surmounted by a wagon box). The box was filled with straw; Mother placed warmed stones at our feet and added plenty of hand made quilts. In spite of all this I remember getting awfully cold before we got home. Our big brothers would make us get out and run behind the sleigh to keep warm. Despite the cold, we wouldn't have missed the trip for anything.

Very few kids nowadays ever ride in a sleigh (though they love to sing "Jingle Bells"). Even if they could, they'd be very bored with the slow pace!

The farm dog liked to follow the horses to

town, and one time wolves chased him right up to the back of the sleigh. This was about 1910; only a few years afterward wolves had been exterminated from the area.

Of course we had to have a tree! One of the older boys would ride a saddle horse to the red hills where juniper (commonly called cedar) grew, and get one.

The big night finally arrived. The tree shone in its glory of hand-made ornaments — paper chains, popcorn-and-cranberry garlands. The little log schoolhouse almost bulged outward with assembled parents and friends. The long-practiced plays, poems, and songs were duly applauded. Then came the magic moment of lighting the carefully-placed candles on the tree. Chime of sleighbells outside brought anticipation to a peak, and a bulky creature in red burst in with a "ho, ho, ho!" in a vaguely familiar voice, stamping snow off boots that "looked like Dad's." The cheese-cloth bags of treats were joyfully received and the little gifts passed out.

After heart-felt calls of "Merry Christmas," we sang our way home accompanied by coyotes on a distant hill crest and the creak of sleigh runners on snow. The snow reflected the moonlight making the night truly a bright and holy one. If it happened to be the dark phase of the moon, millions of stars, undimmed by electric light pollution, pleased us as much as the extravaganzas of present day decorations.

At home we knew Christmas was close when Mother baked a huge raisin cake, enough for all nine of us. Christmas Eve we

hung our hand-knit stockings by the chimney and there was always a gift, however modest, and some treats in them in the morning despite our folks' poverty — a tiny doll, hand-knit mittens, a handkerchief, or a toothbrush.

Christmas vacations were real fun times — pulling a sled to a hill top for the delight of "flying" down.

The moral of this story, if any: it is just as

easy to be happy with little as with abundance — with simple things as with elaborate ones.



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 15 of this issue. 256 pages, illustrated, clothbound

Service Directory

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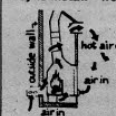
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Western Roundup

HCN

13

Legislators gut Idaho water plan

The water management plan developed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources has been emasculated by an interim legislative committee, according to department director Stephen Allred.

"Some changes are okay, but they've gutted it by disapproving the core programs and policies," Allred told the *Idaho Statesman*. Nevertheless, Allred is still hopeful that the legislature will come up with some kind of management plan this

year. "The consequences of not adopting some plan are just too great," he says.

Allred says recent public hearings around the state showed that the public is in favor of having a water plan. A legislator says that the number of people opposing the plan at the hearings was "shocking," however. Some people criticized the plan for not placing enough emphasis on water development projects. Minimum stream flow regulations were also controversial.

Too much snow worries Colorado

Colorado officials fear that their recent cloud seeding effort has been so successful that it may be dangerous. After heavy snows in early December the state halted cloud seeding "until the roads are cleared and travel is better." They also said they would stop the seeding "if there is a severe avalanche threat."

On Dec. 6 the *Denver Post* reported that Berthoud Pass in Colorado, a popular route

for motorists traveling to ski areas, had received snow for 19 consecutive days. By law, cloud seeding must be terminated if snowfall exceeds 200% of normal by Jan. 31.

"We're watching the situation very closely because of the heavy snowfall," John LeCompte, technical coordinator of the Colorado Water Conservation Board told the *Denver Post*.

First Ski Yellowstone appeal denied

The Forest Service's approval of a major ski area near Yellowstone National Park has drawn fire from five environmental groups in Montana. The groups' appeal to regional forester Robert H. Torheim was denied Dec. 5, but the president of the Montana Wilderness Association says the groups "will continue the appeals to the highest levels."

The other groups protesting the decision to approve Ski Yellowstone are the Montana Wildlife Federation, the Environmental Information Center, the Wilderness Society, and the Sierra Club.

The resort would be on 1,880 acres of national forest land and some private land

five miles west of the park boundary. More than 1,542 condominium and lodging units, a gondola, 10 double chairlifts, and a mountaintop restaurant are planned.

The environmentalists claim that the area would "deplete energy resources in a wasteful and self-indulgent manner without showing any overriding need or economic benefit." Torheim calls that "a value judgment." Tourism and recreation are other important values, he says.

He also says that environmentalists' claims that the area might jeopardize a threatened species, the grizzly bear, were not supported by many biologists.

Park chief studies Canyonlands roads

National Park Service proposals in Canyonlands National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were the focus of a recent visit to Utah by National Park Service Director William J. Whalen.

As he left a meeting with the Utah governor and congressional delegation, he promised to consult with Utah officials before making a decision on road-building in Canyonlands.

He told a *Deseret News* reporter that while he had made no decision about the dirt road that now circles the Island in the

Sky District, local arguments for paving the road made sense to him. As to the proposed road to the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers, which was not included in the latest park master plan, Whalen said, "Let's say we're still wide open as far as what our decision is going to be." Whalen attended a public hearing in Moab, Utah, where there is strong support for the confluence road.

Park Service decisions about Canyonlands will be announced in the early part of February, Whalen says.



Idaho Fish and Game Department photo

A PLAN TO MANAGE IDAHO'S WATER resources has been emasculated by an interim committee of the Idaho legislature, according to an Idaho official who helped draft the plan.

Committee likes industry's mining bill

In announcing a field hearing on reform of the 1872 Mining Law, the House subcommittee on mines revealed its bias for the bill backed by industry, according to *Public Lands News*.

While placing most emphasis on the industry bill (HR 5831), which calls for a

reform of the present location-patent system, the announcement did acknowledge that another approach exists — the administration bill (HR 9292), which would replace the location system with a leasing system.

The first field hearing on the issue was held in Phoenix Dec. 12 and 13.

Montana may bring back 1080 poison

Montana Gov. Tom Judge told sheepmen that the state "may be on the brink of a breakthrough" in bringing back 1080 poison to kill coyotes, according to the *Billings Gazette*. At the Montana Wool Growers convention early in December, Judge outlined a four-point program proposed by the Montana Departments of Livestock and Fish and Game, designed to reduce sheepmen's losses to predators.

If given a go-ahead by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state plans to:

—determine the effectiveness and selectivity of single, lethal 1080 baits.

—evaluate the use of 1080 with regard to human safety.

—determine the most effective, selective, economical and environmentally safe delivery or placement procedures for baits.

—determine optimum rates, placement, locations, and seasonal application of baits necessary to achieve desired local coyote control.

Timber industry challenges USFS

Last summer environmentalists persuaded U.S. Regional Forester Craig Rupp to stop listing roadless areas as potential timber sales areas. The environmentalists argued that, whether or not the timber was actually sold, the listing would prejudice the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) against the possibility of wilderness designation for the areas.

Now, Rupp, head of USFS Region 2, is facing an appeal from the timber industry on the same issue. Industry says that Rupp had no authority to cancel the sales, which were tentatively scheduled for roadless areas in 14 forests in Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

Lloyd Stahl, a spokesman for the Federal Timber Purchasers Association, says industry has been hurt by Rupp's decision, because forest lands already designated for timbering can't maintain the industry for

more than two years. Rupp disagrees, claiming that in all the forests affected by the decision, the industry harvest can be maintained "indefinitely" without going into the roadless areas. In some areas the timber harvest can even be increased under present policies, Rupp says.

Before the environmentalists' appeal in Region 2, some roadless areas were listed on the five-year timber sales plan, even though their status — as wilderness or developable land — had not been determined. Rupp's decision this summer meant the timber industry will have to wait longer to get at roadless areas which will eventually be classed as developable. Now, no timber sales may be made in roadless areas in any forest in Region 2 until five years after the agency has completed the management plan for the forest. Through its appeal, industry hopes to change that policy.



Photo by Stan Rice

TIMBER INTERESTS have filed an appeal with the regional office of the U.S. Forest Service in Denver. They want timber in roadless areas to be listed on the agency's tentative five-year cutting plans.

14-High Country News
— Dec. 16, 1977



HCN Bulletin Board



FLATHEAD LAKE EIS

The U.S. Forest Service has completed a draft environmental impact statement on the East Shore Flathead Lake planning unit. The planning unit contains 16,400 acres of Flathead National Forest land in Lake County, Mont. Copies are available for review at public libraries in the Flathead Valley and in Missoula. The EIS can also be reviewed at Forest Service offices in Bigfork and Kalispell, Mont., or individual copies can be obtained from Flathead National Forest, 290 North Main, P.O. Box 147, Kalispell, Mont. 59901 or Swan Lake Ranger District, P.O. Box 438, Bigfork, Mont. 59911. Comments will be accepted at the Kalispell office until January 30, 1978.

BLM JOBS

The Bureau of Land Management has announced that applications are being accepted for summer employment positions through January 15, 1978. Occupations are in various natural resource disciplines and require either related college education or prior experience. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. For further information, contact any BLM office or local U.S. Civil Service Commission Job Information Center.

LAND USE MAPS

Maps showing different categories of land use in 12 counties in west-central Montana have been completed by the U.S. Geological Survey. The maps delineate

uses such as agricultural, industrial, and residential, and different land cover, including forests and wetlands. Copies can be obtained from USGS, NCIC-R, Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, P.O. Box 25046, Rm.-H-2206, Bldg. 25, Federal Center, Denver, Colo. 80225.

PROTEST FILM

Last April, an estimated 2,000 protestors occupied the site where the Public Service Company of New Hampshire was building a nuclear power plant. The *Last Resort*, a 16-millimeter, 60-minute, color film produced by Green Mountain Post Films, examines how the protest reached such large proportions. Prices for the film are: classroom rental \$50; auditorium use \$75; sale

\$625. Write to: Green Mountain Post Films, Box 177, Montague, Mass. 01351. Phone: (413) 863-4754.

WYOMING RESEARCH NEEDS

A booklet *Wyoming: A Research Agenda for a Changing State* has been prepared by the Wyoming State Government and the University of Wyoming. It attempts to identify the critical issues and research priorities associated with rapid energy and mineral development in the state. The project was funded by the National Science Foundation. Copies can be obtained from the Wyoming State Planning Coordinator, Wyoming Executive Office, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001.

STATE OF WYOMING PUBLIC NOTICE

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO STATE THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS UNDER THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972 (FWPCA), P.L. 92-500 AND THE WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (35-502 et. seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1957, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973). IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (2) TWO COMMERCIAL WASTEWATER FACILITIES, (1) ONE INDUSTRIAL FACILITY AND (6) SIX OIL TREATER FACILITIES, AND TO AMEND (1) ONE INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER PERMIT WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: POPO AGIE RANCH, LTD.
MAILING ADDRESS: 6060 NORTH BERKELEY BLVD.
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53210
AND
BOX 88, ROUTE 63
LANDER, WYOMING 82520
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027499

Popo Agie Ranch Ltd. operates a six unit condominium on the Sinka Canyon Road near Lander, Wyoming. Wastewater from the condominium is treated by two septic tanks before being discharged to an undefined drainage which is a tributary to the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River (Class I stream). Proposed permit requires operation of existing facilities at maximum efficiency until July 1, 1978; at that time compliance with national secondary treatment standards must be achieved. The permit contains a compliance schedule which requires submission of preliminary plans by February 1, 1978, and final plans by April 1, 1978. Since it is expected that Popo Agie Ranch will eliminate this discharge entirely to achieve compliance, no self-monitoring is required until after July 1, 1978. The permit will expire December 31, 1978.

(2) APPLICANT NAME: SUNSET COTTAGES, INC.
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 287
MEDICINE BOW, WYOMING 82329
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027448

Sunset Cottages is located in the Town of Medicine Bow, Wyoming, and consists of two houses, twelve mobile homes, fifteen motel units and the motel office. Wastewater treatment consists of a cesspool which drains into a small natural pond which, in turn, may discharge to the Medicine Bow River (Class I stream). The proposed permit will give the owner until January 1, 1979 to hook up to the Town's sewage collection system or to install his own treatment system capable of meeting National Secondary Treatment Standards. Quarterly self-monitoring of the discharge is required. The permit also contains a schedule of compliance requiring submission of preliminary plans by July 1, 1978, final plans by October 1, 1978 and completion of construction by January 1, 1979. The permit will expire December 31, 1982.

(3) APPLICANT NAME: CONSOLIDATION COAL COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: 2 INVERNESS COURT EAST
ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80110
FACILITY LOCATION: PRONGHORN MINE, T47N, R17W,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027472

The Consolidation Coal Company intends to construct an open pit coal mine, known as the Pronghorn Mine, which will be located approximately twenty miles southeast of Gillette, Wyoming.

Groundwater encountered while mining will be routed to settling ponds which will then discharge to the natural drainage. The Company indicates that as mining proceeds the location of the settling ponds will change, however, to begin they have identified two settling pond locations — 001, which will discharge to Demott Draw 2 (Class III stream) and 002, which will discharge to Clabough Draw (Class III stream). As mining proceeds and additional discharge points are identified, the permit will be modified to include these additions.

The proposed permit requires compliance with effluent limitations identified as being best practicable for mining operations in Wyoming. Periodic self-monitoring of the effluent quality is required with reporting of results on a quarterly basis. The permit is scheduled to expire December 31, 1982.

(4) APPLICANT NAME: AMOCO PRODUCTION COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1400
RIVERTON, WYOMING 82501
FACILITY LOCATION: BEAVER CREEK UNIT, SECOND CODY
TANK BATTERY No. 1, W4, SECTION 10,
T33N, R96W, FREMONT COUNTY,
WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027464

(5) APPLICANT NAME: CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: 152 NORTH DURBIN STREET
CASPER, WYOMING 82401
FACILITY LOCATION: NORTH TISDALE CENTRAL TANK
BATTERY, NW4, SECTION 9, T41N,
R81W, JOHNSON COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027511

(6) APPLICANT NAME: DIAMOND SHAMROCK CORPORATION
MAILING ADDRESS: 5730 WEST YELLOWSTONE
CASPER, WYOMING 82401
FACILITY LOCATION: MARTIN SPRING WATER COLLECTION
PT. 3E4, SECTION 5, T36N,
R74W, CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027537

(7) APPLICANT NAME: EXXON COMPANY U.S.A.
MAILING ADDRESS: 2000 CLASSEN CENTER-EAST
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73106
FACILITY LOCATION: FRENCHIE DRAW UNIT No. 15, NE4,
SECTION 7, T37N, R86W,
FREMONT COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027456

(8) APPLICANT NAME: K & W OIL COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1309
CASPER, WYOMING 82402
FACILITY LOCATION: SPINDLETOP LEASE, SW4, SW4,
SECTION 32, T29N, R51W,
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027405

(9) APPLICANT NAME: TOCO CORPORATION
MAILING ADDRESS: 26 SOUTH SENECA AVENUE
NEWCASTLE, WYOMING 82701
FACILITY LOCATION: ANDERSON-MICHAELS, NW4, NW4,
SECTION 20, T44N, R83W,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027529

Facilities are all standard oil production units located in Fremont, Converse, Johnson, Weston and Natrona Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds.

All of the facilities must meet Wyoming Produced Water Criteria effective immediately upon discharge with the exception of the Exxon facility. A letter of beneficial use has been received by an area rancher concerning the Exxon discharge, therefore the limits on the chemical parameters (total dissolved solids, chlorides and sulfates) have been waived.

Semi-annual self-monitoring for all parameters will still be required at all facilities, however, oil and grease must be monitored quarterly. The discharges are to Class III waters of the State with the exception of the Amoco discharge, which is to an unnamed drainage of Beaver Creek (Class I stream).

Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that all produced water discharges with a total dissolved solids content of 5,000 mg per l or less are beneficially used.

The expiration dates for the permits vary depending upon their location.

(6) PERMIT NAME: GREAT WESTERN SUGAR COMPANY
"LOVELL REFINERY"
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 5308
DENVER, COLORADO 80217
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000418

The Great Western Sugar Company operates a beet sugar refining plant at Lovell, Wyoming, with a capacity of 616,000 pounds of sugar per day. Flume wash water and lime wastewater are routed to complete retention evaporation ponds. Barometric condenser water with a volume of approximately 5.0 million gallons per day (MGD) is discharged to a ditch which is a tributary of the Shoshone River (Class I stream).

Due to very low flows in the Shoshone River expected during the winter of 1977-78, the Company is concerned that it may not always be able to use its intake structure in the river. As a result, the Company plans to install facilities which would allow it to recycle condenser water back to the plant, however, operation of the recycle system could result in the overflow of the plant's intake pond with water contaminated with condenser water. The Company has requested modification of its discharge permit to allow this additional point of discharge.

The proposed permit allows the additional point of discharge but requires that the total net quantity of BOD5 of discharges 001 and 002 not exceed the levels contained in the existing discharge permit for discharge point 001.

Under recently promulgated Federal effluent regulations, this facility could be allowed BOD5 effluent limits somewhat less stringent than those contained in the existing permit. However, since this facility has in the past been able to consistently meet the more stringent standards contained in the existing permit, these standards have been retained in the modified version. The instantaneous maximum limitation in the existing permit has been changed to a daily maximum value in the modified permit and the daily maximum value in the existing permit has been changed to a daily average value in the modified permit.

Best practicable treatment standards for the parameters temperature (90 degrees F) and pH (8.0-9.0) are included in the modified permit. In addition to monitoring for the above referenced limited parameters, the permit requires regular monitoring of fecal coliform bacteria and ammonia, with reporting of results monthly.

STATE-EPA TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to January 16, 1978. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permit Section, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1800 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80295. All comments received prior to January 16, 1978 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

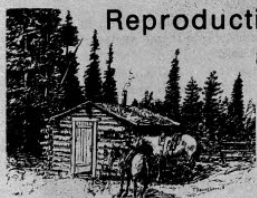
Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling the State of Wyoming, (307) 777-7761, or EPA, (303) 327-3874, or by writing to the aforementioned addresses.

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

Public Notice No. Wy-77-015

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.

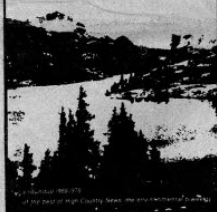
Reproductions of three of Tom's works are being offered through HCN's gift shop. They can be purchased either as 7 1/4 by 8 1/4 inch black and white prints or as 4 1/4 by 5 1/4 inch sepia and white notecards. The prints are reproduced on talisman, textured finish, cover paper. The notecards are teton-text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



\$1.50

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

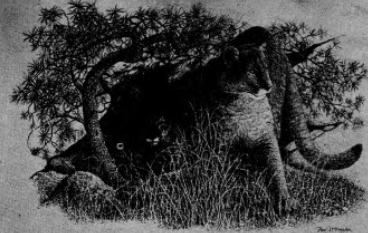
HCN GIFT SHOP 1977

Gift Subscription

WESTERN JITTERS

You can give a friend everything from the jitters to an increased awareness of the Rocky Mountain-Great Plains West by sending a HCN gift subscription. We send a separate card bearing your name telling your friend of the gift.

Be sure to include your name when you order so we can send the gift card.



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
Falcon
14 x 20 in.



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 1/4 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 1/4 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 Beiding 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



Moose

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,

the cards are 3 1/2 by 7 inches on ivory stock with gold envelopes. Designs are in wheatfield gold. A handsome complement to any message.

Ten cards and envelopes per set. \$2.



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
☐ prints at \$2. each		
☐ 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

Paul Breeden Prints

- ☐ Gray Hawks \$30.00
☐ Great Horned Owl \$30.00
☐ Mountain Lions \$30.00
☐ Young Prairie Falcon \$30.00

Please add \$2. per order for insurance, etc.
prints at \$30 each. Total

HCN Greeting Cards

- ☐ Moose ☐ Eagle
\$2.00 per package of ten.
Postage and handling: 30 cents per pack.
☐ packages at \$2.30 each

HCN Gift Subscription

25 issues of High Country News \$1200

Mountain Press Books
Where the Grizzly Walks \$9.95
Price includes postage.

books at \$9.95 each

HCN Special Edition Magazine \$1.50

Postage and handling: 50 cents.

☐ HCN Special Edition at \$2.00 each

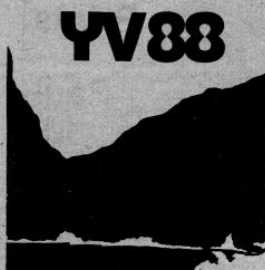
Enclosed is \$_____

Send the above marked items to:

name _____
address _____
city _____
state _____ zip _____

Send to High Country News, Box 14, Lander, Wyoming 82520 or call (307) 392-4677. Thank you! Your purchase is helping HCN. ☐

16-High Country News — Dec. 16, 1977



An Eco-Fiction of Tomorrow

by Christopher Swan and Chet Roaman, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1977. \$7.95, paper, 248 pages. Maps and illustrations.

Review by Peter Wild

We are speeding joyfully toward the Sierras aboard a noiseless, solar-powered train. Ahead lies John Muir's beloved Yosemite, once the worst slum in the national-park system. The joy of our trip is justified, however, because now things are different.

First they took out the automobiles, then they carted off the asphalt. Hetch Hetchy has been liberated from its dam. Eagles soar above and bighorn sheep blink from nearby peaks. Harmonious inns of native stone (each with its organic garden and cheery, granola-popping host) have replaced the facilities that once offered the dazed traveler little more than another homogenized slice of motel America.

We are, of course, riding into a vision of what long-sullied Yosemite might be like 10 years hence if people put their minds to restoring the national park system to its original purpose — if they insisted that parks should be special places left in their

natural state, not government-run Disney lands.

It is good to dream. Without vision we would not have the Wilderness Act of 1964, a system of wild rivers, or, for that matter, national parks. Yet two things are badly askew with this version of the future.

Those who simultaneously laughed and cried while reading *The Greening of America* will recognize instantly the glib approach to serious problems in YV88. Midwives of Yosemite's rebirth run around in silk blouses "with engraved ironwood buttons and pink roses embroidered around each buttonhole," as if they had put on ecological enlightenment with their passé hippie garb.

When they speak, rhetorical fog issues from their mouths. The genius behind "solarskin," the technological breakthrough that provides power for the park, explains, the creative flash responsible for his invention: "It was really a matter of letting go. Letting your perception of the universe go, seeing it the way it is, seeing that very clearly."

Elsewhere the authors define love as "the flight of truth" and subject us to mini-lectures on how to get right with our neighbors, nature, and ourselves. The

homily on the joys of childbirth concludes with the unsupported but exclamatory: "Having babies makes women less violent than men!" Alas, we're back in the verbal claptrap of the late '60s.

But maybe the shortcomings merely are stylistic. What about the substance of the book? The authors only pretend to deal with the two major park problems: too many people and too much technology. Instead of concentrating most tourists, as is now done, they would scatter them throughout the wilderness. (Families not used to carrying their gear would haul it in little red wagons over cart trails.)

Anyone who ever has been a ranger immediately winces. Presumably, the ecological awareness instantly gained when passing through the park's gates will prevent the public from spray-painting rocks, feeding their children to the bears, and chopping down trees — as Americans let loose in the woods are wont to do.

As to technology, Swan and Roaman have replaced cars, highways, and dams with trains, energy-gathering domes, Sierra Stream beer in edible gelatin containers, and windships zooming over Bridalveil Falls — one set of technological nightmares exchanged for another. De-

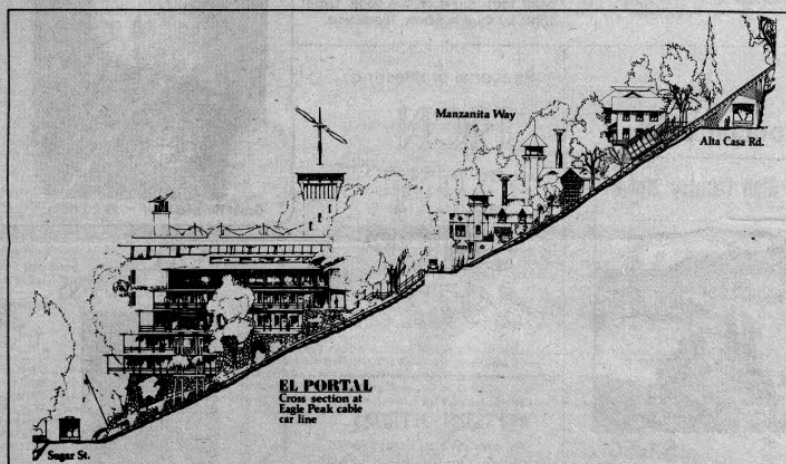
votes of Buckminster Fuller will be delisted.

Back in 1952, fighting to save New Mexico's Gila Primitive Area, Olaus Murie cut through the folderol surrounding the preservation of wild lands: "Wilderness is a simple concept. It means a place left in a natural condition."

Unless we stop pandering to the bored droves and the technological gadgetry they demand, our parks will be lost.

Unless we face reality with that straightforward premise, unless we stop pandering to the bored droves and the technological gadgetry they demand, our parks will be lost. In fact, they should not be called parks at all, but natural preserves. Fences should be built around them, moats with hungry crocodiles. Irrate grizzlies should roam the peaks, worthy stalkers of those who dare to venture there.

At least then people would have the wonder and respect for the parks that our wild heritage deserves.



Dear Friends,

We recently learned that one of our readers took a copy of *High Country News* to Ecuador on a climb of the highest active volcano in the world, Cotopaxi, 19,347 feet.

The news came to us through an article in the *Denver Post*. What caught our eye was a photograph captioned: "As the fifth day wears on, cabin fever leads Chris Brown to read his copy of *High Country News* cover to cover."

The text of the article, published in the *Post's* Nov. 13 "Empire Magazine" offers more detail. It seems that a storm forced the climbers to hole up in a shelter at the 15,800-foot level.

"Friday, July 8: Refugio fever beginning to set in," wrote one of the climbers in his journal. "Out come the books."

The books included HCN, plus a puzzling assortment of other reading material: a Peter Dawson Western, a

copy of *New Republic*, some Pablo Neruda poetry, a treatise on inflation, *Zen and the Art of Archery*, and a couple of "adventure specials."

We are pleased to think that somebody on the climb cared enough about us to add almost two ounces of newspaper to his pack — even if it did take a severe case of cabin fever to start someone reading. This means that, ounce for ounce, we were at least as important as the case of soda pop that was also carried up to the base camp shelter.

We suspect, however, that we were included for more than just literary purposes. To serve as a cherished bit of fire starter perhaps? To act as part of a poor man's sleeping pad? To offer as a sacrifice to the steaming volcano?

Whatever novel role we may have played on that trip, we are proud to have made it to the 15,800-foot level.

It seems part of a movement beyond our control that has HCN in such far-flung spots as Rhodesia, Nepal, and the South Pole.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

This is the last issue we'll run the Christmas Gift Shop (our seasonal profiteering page, as August calls it). Thanks for your patronage. We'll be filling any additional orders as quickly as we can up until December 22nd. We should warn you, however, that orders received between the 22nd and the 28th will have to wait until we return from our Christmas break on the 29th.

To allow ourselves time for the break, we're already at work on our Dec. 30 issue. We hope it will be one of our best, with a portrait of Edward Abbey by Peter Wild and an exquisite

two-page drawing by environmentalist-artist Laney Hicks.

Merry Christmas.

—the editors

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