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High Country News

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Lander, Wyoming

Friday, April 7, 1978



SEN. FRANK CHURCH was hung in effigy in Grangeville because of his reputation as a wilderness champion. Now he's testing wilderness support in the state by holding hearings on a 2.3 million acre area.

Idaho elects wilderness champ & foe to Congress

Idaho voters inconsistent

by Marjane Ambler

Political analysts have been scratching their heads for years trying to understand the thinking of Idaho voters, who continue to re-elect both Sen. Frank Church (D) and Rep. Steve Symms (R).

On the one hand, there's Church, who has established a national reputation as an environmental leader. Remembered as a chief sponsor of the Wilderness Act of 1962, the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1966, and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968, he attracted many environmentalists to his campaign for president in 1976. While they don't always agree with him, environmentalists in his home state generally respect him and see

him as a strong environmental advocate.

On the other hand there's Symms, who also has established a national reputation in environmental circles. He's known as the man who wants to abolish the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and "disarm the environmental movement" by repealing or amending such legislation as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. On the environmentalists' "Dirty Dozen" list for years, he earned a one per cent rating on votes tallied by the League of Conservation Voters during 1976. His popularity with environmentalists doesn't worry him much; he refers to them as the "little green people" and blames them and President Jimmy Carter for the energy crisis.

Idaho's other congressman, Rep. George Hansen (R), has an equally dismal environmental voting record. However, he's

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Wilderness in Rockies could save federal dollars

by Gary Haden

Wilderness advocates, who often talk of esthetics and environmental quality, are also starting to support their case with arguments based on economics. Wilderness, they argue, may be the best way in terms of cost-efficiency to manage many of the 67 million acres identified during the recent roadless area review completed by the U.S. Forest Service.

The idea that the taxpayer may be better off having forests managed as wilderness instead of for timber production is not one most Forest Service managers readily embrace, even though that agency has compiled the financial data that conservationists are using to support their case. And, of course, the concept has even less support among loggers, who cut timber to make money.

The strongest case for managing forests with fewer roads for more value to the public can be made in Western states in areas east of the Continental Divide, where rainfall is low, soils are poor, and the growth of trees is relatively slow.

One such place, where economics has become an important argument for conservationists, is on the Beaverhead, a two million acre national forest in Montana's southwest corner. It is a forest with a recent history of conflict, one in which no

Roads spread the worst of our society into fragile high-country environments, conservationists say.

...

Roads are not only necessary for cutting timber; they also provide benefits for recreationists, Forest Service administrators say.

timber sales on roadless tracts have been completed in the last three years because of appeals by area residents.

The Beaverhead comprises a patchwork of public mountain tops separated by private land and drained by such premier trout-fishing streams as the Madison, the

(continued on page 5)



Photo by Dale Burk

THE TAXPAYER may be better off having forests managed as wilderness instead of for timber production, some conservationists in the Rocky Mountain region say, because of poor quality timber and the high cost of roads. The photo above shows a cut in the Beaverhead Forest in Montana.

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HCN Letters

SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE

Dear HCN,

Justas Bavarskis's discussion (of herbicides and TCDD in the Feb. 24 issue) is probably the most sensible and even-handed treatment of this topic I have seen yet.

It is difficult to form public policy in areas in which many interests compete. There is nothing wrong with the adversary process, and it may even arrive at a proper decision. However, the adversary process can only achieve its purpose if the experts who contribute to it are both competent and honest. When scientists submitting their expert opinions, testimonies, or results of investigations fail to be candid and honest about what they have done and what they have found, they inflict severe injuries onto the public wheel.

I recommend holding scientists **accountable** for their actions. I believe the time has come to provide punishment including jail sentences for scientists who fail to be candid and honest in their treatment of public health issues.

Theodore D. Sterling
Visiting Professor, Princeton University
Princeton, N.J.

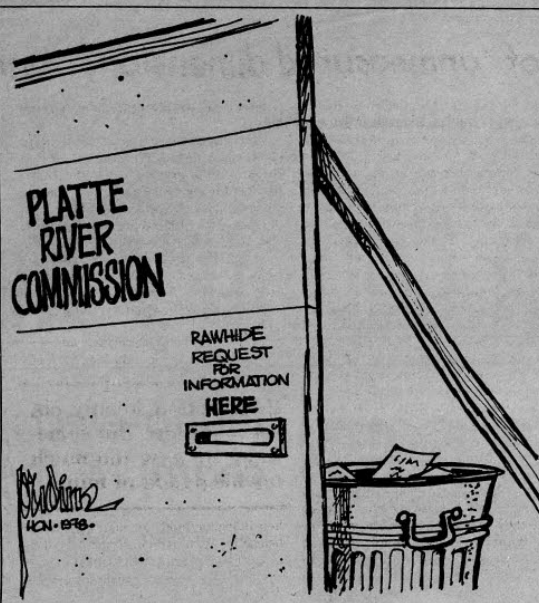
COAL STRIKE EXAMINED

Dear HCN,

February 24th's Opinion column ("West has a stake in the coal strike") raised some valid and important points. But it also left some erroneous impressions about the nature of the coal strike.

First, while the proposed contract did contain a somewhat revised grievance procedure, it was not at all clear that it should really make wildcat walkoffs a "thing of the past." Grievance procedures have long existed in collective bargaining contexts, but they have also long been excruciatingly slow. This has often been because one party or the other had an interest in delaying the decision. In cases of safety improvements, where substantial costs may be involved and where management may honestly consider the outlays unnecessary, such an interest is relatively easy to see on the part of management.

The miners, who take their lives into those potential death traps every day can legitimately take a special view of the situation. They need to retain a big stick like



the possibility of a walkout to encourage rapid settlement in such cases. For unlike the problems raised in many other types of grievance procedures, monetary remuneration some months later may be tragically inadequate to redress the damage done by the delay.

As environmentalists, we should be able to show a good deal of understanding for this predicament.

Second, the contract negotiated by union officials was strikingly inept and inadequate. Not only did it conflict with priorities set by union members (first health and retirement benefits, then increased wages) and thereby, because of taxes and so on, get the miners less benefits for the same amount of near term cost to the companies, but it allowed the companies to externalize future costs of operation (e.g., delayed health effects) onto the miners and their communities. Even the *Wall Street Journal* editorialized that it would not have accepted the contract.

Again, as environmentalists who have long fought this sort of cost displacement, we should show a lot more understanding.

Finally, the column fretted about the possibility of the companies retaliating by increasing their emphasis on Western production. Its solution was that the miners should give in. Putting the burden of that

abound as the transition takes place.

The call of a bird from on high, the unfolding of a leaf at your feet, the caress of a breeze on your cheek, the soft light as you step forth into dawn — these are the heady measures of spring in progress. And then one day, behold, it is all about you.

If you live on the land, it is more than just excitement of spring arrived. It is the stepped-up pace, the earlier mornings, and the later evenings with hectic hours in between.

It is getting the kids up to feed new calves. It is the thrill of your son or daughter at the new life breaking out of an egg shell. It is the miracle of a tiny seed in the bosom of a warm earth.

All the promises of life are present in these early days of spring. There is a rejuvenation of soul and body, and of the good earth.

social responsibility on the miners seems sadly shortsighted. A more appropriate solution would be to impose a measure of social responsibility on the owners, who, after all, are the group with the resources and prerogatives to meet it.

Errol Meidinger
Evanston, Ill.

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

Dear Friends,

Regarding an article you ran about a year ago, an important separation needs to be made: the recently acquired Konza Prairie Research Area in Kansas is not to serve as the seed for a proposed Tallgrass Prairie National Park.

The Konza Prairie came into the news last year because the Nature Conservancy purchased 7,200 acres to add to a 916 acre purchase made by the conservancy in 1971. The recent purchase was made possible by the largest single private gift ever made to the Nature Conservancy.

The area is deeded to the Kansas State University Endowment Association for preservation and study of the native bluestem prairie. Research, especially in burning studies, is an important activity on the Konza. In no way do we park proponents have our eye on the Konza for a national park. A research area is a research area, and we appreciate its worth. A national park of the natural area category is, among other things, the recreation of a natural tallgrass prairie environment, with its accompanied wildlife (bison, elk, antelope, deer as primary mammals), and for the enjoyment of visitors in limited numbers, and in a way so as not to endanger the critical balance of this fragile life community.

A bill (HR 9120) is in committee and sponsor Congressman Larry Winn, Jr. (R-Kan.) has called for hearings. The bill specifies a site beginning some 60 miles to the south of the Konza Prairie. Research is not a compatible activity within a national park, especially on the scale necessary to prairie grasses.

Elaine Shea director
Save the Tallgrass Prairie, Inc.
Shawnee Mission, Kan.

HELP

Dear High Country News,

I have not been a reader long but your paper seems to have more good thoughts per page than any other I have seen.

I live in an area where the water is loaded with gypsum, iron compounds, a little arsenic, etc. All are hard to stand and harder still to remove. Softeners (ion exchange devices) won't do it and most stills use too much valuable energy. Thus, I went to work and designed several sets of plans for solar water stills. All would be well but I live in an area that has high winds and hail storms and various forms of wildlife that make keeping any such device working a challenge. So far I have not put together a prototype.

I hope to be able to get anywhere from 5 to 20 gallons per day. The need for aid comes from the fact that I have no background and no practical data on solar stills. Anyone who has good designs or good data on how to make and run a solar still could help a lot.

I am also in the market to buy a practical solar cooker for personal use and for demonstration.

David Hannah
Star Route 2, Box 35
Watford City, N.D. 58854

Dear David Hannah,

For starters, we'd suggest you write for a copy of Brace Research Institute's Do-it-Yourself Leaflet No. L-1, "How to Make a Solar Still." Last we heard the leaflet could be purchased for 75 cents from Brace Research Institute, MacDonald College of McGill University, Ste. Anne de Bellevue 800, Quebec, Canada.

Perhaps our readers will be able to provide you with additional suggestions.

—the editors



Fund filled issue

Tangible Results

Donations to the High Country News Research Fund have a direct effect on the paper. Contributions produce tangible results in printed words and photos.

In this issue, donations paid for all or part of the costs of several stories: Chaco, a tale of ecological suicide; Wilderness trips, backpacking with a purpose; Idaho legislators, part three of the Western Watch on Washington series; Beaverhead National Forest; wilderness, an economical alternative; Rawhide, power and pollution for Colorado's Front Range.

Contribute to the fund. Donations are tax-deductible. You can help HCN provide the information needed by an alert citizenry.

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HIGH COUNTRY

By Jane Bell

The peaches burst into bloom four days ago. It's hard to believe. Here it is, the last day of March and spring has broken upon us like a bombshell.

What vagaries of weather. Last year the hills were sere and brown. Today, soft green suffuses the landscape. It's a beautiful change.

I suppose change is all in how one individual contemplates it. These hills which surround our valley have undoubtedly been dry and brown more often than green. Otherwise, there would be verdant forest covering them.

The turning of the seasons is a fascinating time. In the north temperate regions, it is especially intriguing. Subtle little signs

Alfred Etter

Eloquent witness of 'unmeasured dimensions, unmakeable things'

(Alfred Etter, a friend of High Country News and of the Rocky Mountain region, died March 21 in Chicago, Ill. The tribute that follows was written by Bruce Hamilton, who knew Etter when he lived in Aspen, Colo., and recently visited him in a hospital in Chicago. —Ed.)

Alfred Etter, naturalist, died on the first day of spring. He was a man with his roots in the prairie soil of Missouri and his spirit in the mountain peaks of Colorado.

He was a student of Professor Aldo Leopold and the earth; a friend of the maligned coyote during the heyday of predator control abuses; a well-armed defender of the earth's wild places whenever blind progress threatened beauty; and a teacher of the value, wonder, and necessity of nature in our lives.

In the '60s Etter served as the Western field representative for Defenders of Wildlife. From his home along the Roaring Fork River near Aspen, Colo., and from other locations throughout the West he wrote about man's insensitivity to nature and ignorance of ecological processes. He wrote about oil shale development, damming the

Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, phreatophyte control, channelization, and the federal war on predators on the public lands. His work was an inspiration and a call for compassion, reason, and action.

In the early '70s he left the West to take "an involuntary post-doctorate in suburban noise" at the Morton Arboretum outside Chicago. There, he served as naturalist and writer until he died.

Working in an area dominated by urban decay and suburban sprawl, he fought to save the few remaining patches of prairie, remnants of forest, and overlooked bogs. "In our society today the role of the naturalist has deteriorated to the point where one of his most common obligations is to say a few good words about a piece of land about to die," he wrote in 1974.

Etter was a keenly observant man. But sometimes he saw too much for his peace of mind. He could see how mankind was destroying the very things that sustained life on earth: "At the arboretum on field trips I often try to tell children's groups how we should take care of the earth," he wrote in 1971. "What hypocrisy! My words and their questions are drowned out by banging vehicles and rasping tires. The sounds of frogs

or birds or squirrels might as well not even be.

"Not long ago there was national concern about silent spring. We have solved that threat with a greater one. Who knows whether the spring is silent or not amid the pandemonium of modern vehicles. . . . On the farm where I lived and did research, it was an everyday observation that vibrations of every frequency were constantly being exchanged between animals, men, and the earth — but this communication was only possible when everything was quiet.

"Life is absolutely dependent on quietness. Animals . . . depend upon it to make



hatching. Have you ever watched a robin lean down to listen for a worm? What happens to the radar of bats, the trilling of toads, the prolonged symphonies of the thrushes when their home ranges are invaded by raucous man-made racket? For the most part, they give up."

Such a vision might lead many to despair, but Etter walked a tightrope between despair and hope: "To live, we must have hope, and to have hope, we must witness unmeasured dimensions, unmakeable things, and inexpressible joy."

Toward the end of his life, Etter wrote an essay entitled, "The Idea for Heaven," in which he recalled a mountain climbing trip with his son, Martin, up Pyramid Peak in Colorado. As he neared the summit, he thought: "It is better to keep climbing than to look, than to remember what is past, what is beneath. So much better to think that just ahead it becomes easier. It is like living — what is past is past, not relivable. There is only what is ahead — the future. The choice is to quit or to continue, and almost always there is hope ahead — or we believe there is. If there is not hope, at least some new experience, some new challenge, some alternative to dying now, right away, here."

Etter died in a hospital near Chicago. His children, Martin and Barbara, will take his ashes back to the summit of Pyramid Peak and release them into the wind. There he will be reunited once again with the land he loved so dearly and defended so admirably.

Why no confrontation at the DuNoir hearing?

We expected the worst when we traveled to Dubois last Saturday for a hearing on the 12-year-old battle over designation of the DuNoir wilderness in northwestern Wyoming. Dubois's economy is based on recreation and the timber industry. We expected the event to be an uncomfortable confrontation between wilderness friends and foes.

To our surprise, wilderness advocates gracefully carried the day. Our unofficial tally of speakers at the hearing shows about seven wilderness friends for every wilderness foe. One veteran of the DuNoir battle, Alice Shoemaker, laughed with a mixture of relief and disappointment as she started her testimony. "We're talking to ourselves," she said.

After the bitterness displayed at the Forest Service's recent Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) around the region, we were surprised by harmony. We aren't used to having so much philosophical company.

Although we'd like to pretend that the hearing went well because opposition to wilderness has disappeared, we can't kid ourselves. For some reason most loggers in the Dubois area didn't show up, and a broad range of wilderness-lovers did. Here's a partial explanation:

—Logging is an imminent threat to the DuNoir roadless area. The idea of a crisis stirred some wilderness advocates to action.

—The Forest Service's environmental statement was badly skewed in favor of the timber industry. That may have lulled industry and angered some wilderness advocates into coming.

—Conservationists were well organized. Wilderness Society Representative Bart Koehler and others did a masterful job of getting word of the hearing out to DuNoir-lovers around the state.

—The hearing had nothing to do with RARE II, which many Westerners have opposed as an offensive federal process. Instead, it concerned a specific piece of ground, dear to many Wyomingites.

When it came to the brass tacks of people defending certain tracts of ground, we



haven't lost yet," Koehler says. "Wyomingites defended Savage Run (in southeastern Wyoming) and they defended the DuNoir — and they'll do it again in places like the Gros Ventre (in northwest Wyoming)."

—The number of wilderness advocates seems to be growing. A few years ago many long-time Wyoming residents who wanted to "keep things the way they are" rejected the concept of wilderness preservation. Most feared that wilderness attracted too many people. As development pressures in the state intensify, wilderness designation is starting to look good to that group of traditionalists, Koehler says.

That's the most encouraging thing about the hearing. The people speaking for wilderness showed themselves to be a cross-section of the Wyoming public. Their varied styles and backgrounds belied every opponent's attempt to dismiss them as a homogeneous fringe.

Who could ignore that wilderness advocates at the hearing included ranchers, a secretary, the editor of a community newspaper, a botanist, a photographer, outfitters, farmers, a factory worker, construction workers, a school administrator, an engineer, a snowmobile salesman, an architect, a stone mason, a veterinarian, a state senator, teachers, artists, and lawyers — as well as representatives of the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the Wyoming Outdoor Council, the Sublette County Wildlife Federation, and Fremont

County Audubon Society? We've always known that conservationists were a diverse group. But we've rarely seen such a solid public demonstration of it.

The day, though long and intense, was not without lightness. When a speaker said to a room full of environmentalists that environmentalists were power-grabbers like Adolph Hitler, members of the audience just smiled. Statements at the hearing like: "Ecologists are out to inconvenience people," and a messy forest full of old, dying trees "makes me sick," drew the same mild-mannered, dignified response. It was ironic that, at what was expected to be one of Wyoming conservationists' ugliest confrontations with industry, conservationists felt secure enough to laugh at others' misconceptions about them and about their crusade.

Wilderness advocates distinguished themselves at the DuNoir hearing by their numbers, their variety, their eloquence, and their general good nature. Koehler summed it up: "It was a magical hearing."

—JN

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Rawhide immune from state scrutiny?

Residents fear growth encouraged by coal plant

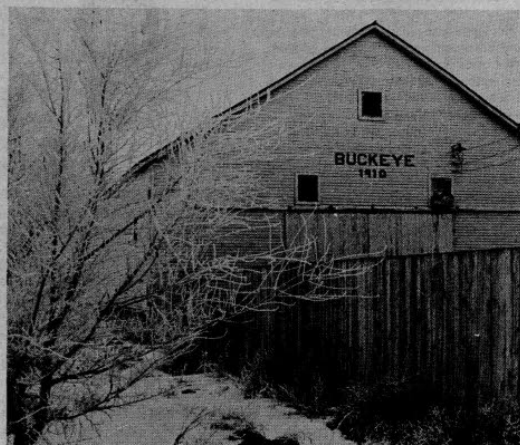


Photo by Steve Meyer

AGRICULTURE dates back many years in Larimer County. Buckeye, a productive agricultural area north of the plant site, is the community that will be most affected by the Rawhide power plant.

©1978 by Don Snow

"Even if you get water for Rawhide, where do you get water for the development it encourages?" That's what Larimer County Commissioner Nona Thayer and many other people near Fort Collins, Colo., are asking these days about the Platte River Power Authority's (PRPA) proposed Rawhide power plant.

In an age of coal-fired mega-giants, a 250 megawatt coal-burner seems manageable enough. But in the case of Rawhide, it's not the plant itself as much as the growth inspired by the plant that concerns many Coloradans.

Created by a 1975 act of the Colorado legislature, PRPA is one of three Colorado utilities that are not accountable to the

the Western Slope. The water would be pumped through the mountains in the Colorado-Big Thompson diversion tunnel and then stored in a reservoir near Fort Collins.

However, Stanley Cazier, attorney for a Western Slope water district, and other critics question whether all the Windy Gap water could actually be delivered. Windy Gap would divert only flood water from the Fraser. Cazier claims that in dry years the project could not deliver the entire 48,000 acre-feet that have been promised.

"This diversion might have to occur within a week or less," Cazier explains. "Some engineering figures say that 48,000 acre-feet in that week is impossible. Why grant water that can't be delivered?"

Larry Simpson, project engineer for

and the six cities who first applied for the Fraser appropriation in 1959. Opposition to the Windy Gap project still thrives on the Western Slope. The Colorado Water Conservation District in Glenwood Springs plans court action to protest Windy Gap on the grounds that there isn't adequate compensation to Colorado River water users. Under Colorado water law, any transmountain diversion of water must provide some form of compensation to the parent basin. Although some compensation is planned, the water district doesn't think that it's enough.

Many water experts agree that the U.S. Supreme Court may eventually have to settle the whole issue of diversions along the Colorado River because it involves several constitutional questions.

Cazier says, "I know of no support for Windy Gap in Grand County," which is where the diversion would start. He says the reasons vary from esthetics to hydrological engineering. But the point that rallies Western Slopers like no other is the transmountain diversion of water.

"There's plenty of opposition here on the grounds of hunting and fishing alone," Cazier says. He says recreation is important in Grand County's economy, which relies heavily upon in-stream uses of water — wildlife, scenery, and fish — to keep restaurants, motels, and resorts in business.

Grand County Commissioner John Martling says, "This is Denver's playground up here. What'll the city do when there's no more fish to catch in Grand County? Our county is the reason why lots of people come to Colorado."

In addition, he is concerned about the eventual lack of irrigation water for western Grand County ranchers. "These folks up here would sure hate to see their rivers dried up so that Denver can have green lawns," Martling says.

Before the Colorado-Big Thompson tunnel was built, local ranchers flood-irrigated their meadows directly from the river. As part of their compensation for the diversion, the Bureau of Reclamation installed large pumps to boost the ranchers' depleted flows. But as the river has shrunk over the years, the pumps have started working less efficiently, and ranchers are afraid Windy Gap will only aggravate the problem.

WATER FROM AGRICULTURE?

PRPA owns about one-third of Windy Gap. But if the Western Slope wins its fight or if the full water appropriation can't be delivered, where will the utility turn for water?

A logical alternative to Windy Gap is agricultural water from the Eastern Slope. Farmers there are already losing water as Eastern Slope cities grow. Some agricultural water is being condemned close to Denver. Other water is "condemned" de facto when cities that have historically leased surplus water to farmers close out those leases.

Harlan Seaworth, president of the North Poudre Irrigation Company and a widely-recognized water authority in the area, remains confident that Windy Gap will be built. But if it's not, he admits it's possible that PRPA would buy water from his company. Even though the boundaries of his service area don't include Rawhide, annexation is possible.

Like many Larimer County farmers, he believes that the project will benefit Eastern Slope agriculture by providing water that could either be used for irrigation or for cities, giving farmers a longer stay of execution before their water is taken.

But PRPA owes three municipalities for its share of the project. Fort Collins, for example, signed over its entire one-third share of Windy Gap to the utility. According to Stanley Case, chairman of the PRPA board and a Fort Collins city employee, the 10,000 acre-feet of water not used by the plant will go to Fort Collins, Loveland, and Estes Park for use as domestic water. Agriculture will run fourth behind these cities.

Seaworth also says that farmers will benefit from the power plant itself. "The only part that could make it look dim," he says, "is development caused by the plant. But we're going to grow anyway." Seaworth points out that current prices of North Poudre water, around \$6,000 for five acre-feet annually, are all that keep some farmers in business. In one farmer's words, "We can't afford to buy it, and we can't afford not to sell it." The power plant and

See next page

Who has the legal responsibility to address such indirect problems as auto air emissions and loss of agricultural water? No one.

Public Utilities Commission (PUC). This means the PUC will have no say in PRPA's rates nor in its licensing. The 1975 act permits cities to unite and form municipally-operated utilities that are exempt from many of the taxes and responsibilities of private, investor-owned utilities. PRPA identifies itself as a "quasi-governmental authority," with the powers to condemn land and water like other governmental authorities.

Many northern Coloradans feel that because of its quasi-public standing, PRPA should have to inform the citizenry about Rawhide. They feel that the utility has left far too many questions unanswered.

One concern about Rawhide is its water supply. PRPA owns one-third of the Six Cities Project, a scheme to divert water on the Western Slope of the Continental Divide primarily for municipal and industrial uses on the Eastern Slope. The project, commonly known as Windy Gap, would divert water at the confluence of the Colorado and Fraser rivers below Granby on

Windy Gap, says, however, that his engineering studies show that an average of 48,000 acre-feet per year could be delivered. If one year was low, more water would be delivered another year.

Water District Judge George Lohr approved the water appropriation for Windy Gap on Feb. 23 — a decision that had been delayed for six years since it was first recommended.

In addition to this delay, a Bureau of Reclamation environmental impact statement (EIS) due last December has still not been released. BuRec must consider Windy Gap in a lengthy document describing the environmental impacts of many small projects proposed for the Colorado Basin. Windy Gap, though not a federal project, must be considered in the EIS because it uses the federal Colorado-Big Thompson diversion tunnel.

OPPOSITION THRIVES

Lohr's recent decision caps a long struggle between Colorado River water users

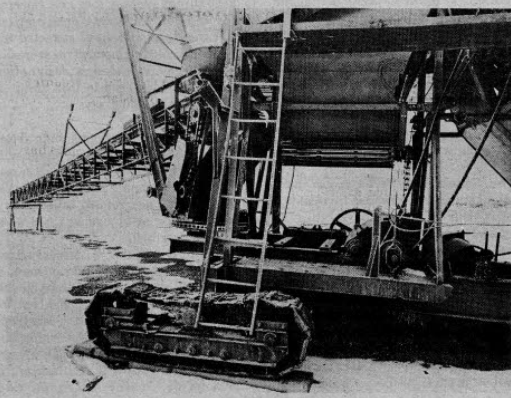


Photo by Steve Meyer

BET ELEVATOR. Agriculture in Larimer County is on the wane, many people believe, but for now sugar beet farming is still a big industry.

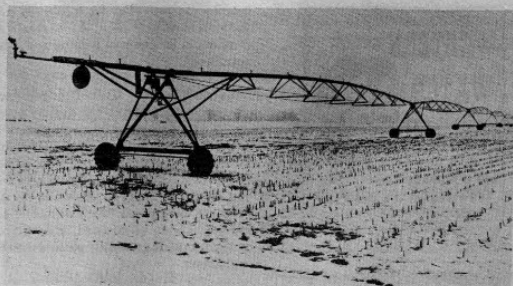


Photo by Steve Meyer

RAINCAT IN WINTER. Water now used for irrigating farms in Larimer County may soon go instead to municipal growth — or to the Rawhide power plant. Pictured is a Raincat-brand irrigator.

any development it brings will only shoot the price of water higher.

"The use of water is about the same for development or for agriculture," says Seaworth. "This area (Wellington) will actually use less water under development than under agriculture because of the soils and the type of irrigation here."

MORE CARS

The question of growth inspired by the plant vexes many northern Coloradoans. Myron Corrin, professor of atmospheric science at Colorado State University, says, "I expect that Rawhide itself will achieve

ambient air quality standards. The direct consequences of its air pollution will not be significant.

"What does concern me — and no one will address this problem — are the indirect effects of an adequate supply of cheap power."

PRPA says the Rawhide site could accommodate a 750 megawatt plant. If this power were going for residential use alone, it could serve 750,000 people. There are no plans to market the power outside the area, and many people foresee a string of light industries north of Fort Collins, as now exists south of the city. This would result in more people, more cars, and more smokes-tacks. Rapid, unmanaged growth will con-

tribute greatly to auto air emissions, according to Corrin. But, he points out, PRPA says that it's not responsible for how its power is used.

Who has the legal responsibility to address such indirect problems relating to the plant? "To my knowledge, no one," Corrin says. "The cities in effect say, 'We're not responsible.' Everyone says it's someone else's problem, not theirs."

Corrin expects that PRPA power will be cheaper than local private utilities' power, thus magnifying the growth problem. PUC Commissioner Sandy Arnold disagrees. "Some believe that because a municipal utility is tax-exempt and sells tax-free bonds, it should hold true that its rates are lower. But that's not always the case," explains Arnold. "Some tax-free utilities rank among the highest, and some among the lowest. Rawhide's power may or may not be cheap."

According to Stanley Case, PRPA can't even offer a guess about its rates until more engineering data have been collected and the plant's supply sources — coal and water — have been settled.

The PUC will have no control over the rates. Nor can it study whether the plant is needed because it has no jurisdiction over the quasi-public utility.

PRPA's status also means neither the PUC nor any other state body has jurisdiction over where the plant will be sited.

The siting decision is up to the three Larimer County Commissioners. Commissioner Nona Thayer is frankly uncomfortable in her role as a plant-siter. "In this matter," she says, "we are three commis-

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sioners with questionable authority and little expertise."

In Colorado, many counties and municipalities have home rule. That is, city and county governments hold sovereignty in matters of local concern. But a 1975 Colorado law, commonly known as HB 1041, gives both the counties and the state Land Use Commission (LUC) the power to request state help in matters of more than local concern. The law gives the local government the power to request LUC review of projects such as Rawhide.

In response to the county's decision, the LUC in December voted unanimously to request a judicial review of the case. Land use commissioners cited several major concerns. They questioned whether Fort Collins, Loveland, Estes Park, and Longmont can enforce many of the stipulations in their contract with PRPA, including environmental safeguards and land use controls.

They also think the contract gives inadequate consideration to the plant's impacts on the area. Commissioners said that PRPA has paid inadequate attention to energy conservation as an alternative to building the plant. The question of need, according to LUC, has not been adequately addressed.

If the court rules in favor of the LUC, the utility may find itself facing a new contract with more rigorous regulations.

The current judicial review of Rawhide may take up to six months to complete. Until then, PRPA's plans to brighten the new lamps of Larimer County must wait.

Saving dollars...

(continued from page 1)

Jefferson, the Beaverhead, and the Ruby. About 70% of the forest land has no roads or only primitive roads that would disappear shortly after wilderness designation, according to the Forest Service.

Those visiting the forest's fastnesses for an extended period see the elk and mule deer that make the drainages popular with hunters. And, if fortunate they may glimpse a grizzly, a Rocky Mountain wolf, or a peregrine falcon. A timber harvest would probably not destroy these creatures, but it would bring roads. Roads, conservationists argue, spread the worst of our

quently the Forest Service's returns from timber sales cover only one-quarter of the cost of timber sale preparation and administration.

Wetzel says low timber values have thus far protected many wildernesses, but may not in the future. "If the timber had been worthwhile, they would have punched a road in and harvested it. The reason for so much hell being raised against wilderness now is that they need that low-quality timber to get through the next 15 to 20 years until some of the second-growth timber is ready."

He and others claim the nation's forests have been seriously overcut and mismanaged, a charge the Forest Service denies.



U.S. Forest Service photo

SPINDLY lodgepole pine stands growing above 7,000 feet typify the timber of the Beaverhead National Forest. The timber is so poor that generally the Forest Service spends much more money marking, arranging, and advertising the sales than the sales bring in.

How many wildernesses — with their grizzlies, wolves, and falcons — survive may ultimately depend on how well their defenders argue the economics of their salvation.

society — road hunters, poachers, litterbugs, and insensitive off-road vehicle users — into fragile high-country environments.

POOR TIMBER

Stands of spindly lodgepole pine growing above 7,000 feet typify the timber of the Beaverhead, though it has some Douglas fir and spruce, too. The timber is so poor that generally the Forest Service spends much more money marking, arranging, and advertising the sales than the sales bring in, regional foresters say. Not only does the Forest Service realize less than its costs of arranging sales, but many of the sales are deficit sales, meaning that the loggers spend more to harvest and process the timber than it is worth on the market, according to Forest Service data.

Citing Forest Service plans for cuts in the Helena and Deerlodge national forests, Wayne Wetzel, environmental coordinator for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, says that fre-

Federal timber managers counter that proposed cuts are sustainable over the long term, unless "unreasonable" amounts of land are locked up in wildernesses. Less in dispute is that timber companies have unused milling capacity and cannot get as much timber from national forests as they would like.

A look at the Beaverhead Forest's future, as outlined in a Forest Service Final Environmental Impact Statement and Land Use Plan released Feb. 21, indicates that the timber's relatively poor quality will no longer immunize it from harvest — even though costs may exceed returns and management alternatives resulting in less cutting would be more cost-effective.

120-YEAR PLAN

The plan adopted for the forest for the next 120 years shows that to continue cutting 18.4 million board feet of lumber per year from the Beaverhead — compared to a

current cut averaging about 21 million board feet — the Forest Service will spend \$8.7 million annually, roughly four times the present budget of \$2.2 million. That proposed cut is less than one-half of what lumber mill operators had asked for to keep their mills rolling at full capacity.

This reduction in the annual cut and the fact that 401,815 acres in the forest will be studied for wilderness classification make the proposal appear to be conservation-oriented. However, conservationists say a larger reduction in annual cut is called for. As evidence, they cite calculations in the final plan that indicate that the forest, as wilderness, could produce far more public benefit with far less public cost.

Calculations show that 18% of the plan's benefits will come from recreation, 18% from wildlife management, and 22% from wilderness benefits. Each of these benefits would demand only 1% of the management budget. Timber management would provide a similar level of benefits, 22%, but it would necessitate 91% of the expenditures.

The speculation in many circles is that the Forest Service "manufactures" high benefits for wildlife, wilderness, and recreation because it is mandatory under existing law that plans have a positive cost-benefit ratio. Whatever the rationale, environmentalists believe the agency should live with the calculations, even if it means saving money by not cutting as much timber.

"The Beaverhead," says Fred Swanson, a member of Beaverhead Forest Concerned Citizens, a group formed in February 1977 after the Forest Service released its draft management plan, "is a place for custodial management. But to do that you have to figure out something innovative to bail out the timber companies. They have a proposal to sacrifice more than 400,000 acres of roadless land to sustain less than 200 loggers. It would cost no more to buy out the timber companies."

"We don't advocate buying them out, but say that only as a way of dramatizing the situation. The government will subsidize, but not out and out. The Office of Management and Budget would object; yet the Forest Service is prepared to do it with a staff of foresters and a multi-million dollar budget in the name of good forest management."

NOT TRYING TO MAKE MONEY

Bob Lovegrove, Forest Service economist for the region headquartered in Missoula that includes Montana, northern Idaho, and eastern Washington, says, "the conclusions of those objecting to the Beaverhead sales are not necessarily inaccurate, if your objective is to make money." He hastens to add that trees are a public

(continued on page 6)

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HELLS CANYON. Sen. James McClure worked with Sen. Frank Church to protect Hells Canyon from dams — after he decided that most Idahoans wanted to protect the canyon.

Idaho elects...

(continued from page 1)

not quite so flamboyant about it and doesn't get such strong support from the voters. In his 1974 campaign, he promised voters he would usually vote with Symms, and he's kept his word. In 1976, he earned a zero per cent rating from the League of Conservation Voters, which makes him one per cent lower than Symms.

Sen. James McClure's (R) record doesn't show much sympathy for environmental concerns either, although environmentalists in the state say that at least they can talk to him.

So how does it happen? How can Church and Symms, with such different attitudes toward environmental protection, win elections year after year in a state where

the environment is nearly always an issue?

Environmentalists have various explanations. Cliff Bradley of Boise says it's not Republican or Democratic party labels — it's whoever is best at striking the populist chord.

Mark Ingram of the Idaho Conservation League says people in Idaho have respect for "hard-hitting, news-getting" legislators, and both Church and Symms fit that description.

Scott Reed, a Coeur d'Alene attorney, agrees that colorful personalities might have something to do with it. He thinks voters are also attracted by Symms' hard-line anti-government approach. "He promises that he's going to go to Washington and make sure government doesn't work," Reed says of Symms.

This spirit of rebellion crops up in many seemingly inconsistent ways in Idaho. Cliff Bradley of Boise points out that people in



Symms' home precinct voted against the proposed Pioneer coal-fired power plant by a 2-1 margin in a referendum held in 1976. Yet the same people keep sending Symms back to Washington, where he consistently votes against the government interfering with free enterprise and against regulations on coal development.

The farmers in the area rebelled against the increased rates for electricity that Pioneer would cause. "The Democrats can't seem to find anyone who can pick up on that rebellion," Bradley says. If they could, he thinks they would have a chance of defeating Symms at the polls.

WILDERNESS HANG-UP

In two years, the voters will likely have to choose between two colorful populists when Symms is expected to challenge Church for his Senate seat. Church is worried, according to Ingram, partially because there are some indications that anti-wilderness sentiment is growing in the state, and Church is well-known as a champion of wilderness. He was hung in effigy in Grangeville during a recent battle over the Gospel Hump Wilderness Area.

However, Church is used to guff. When he sponsored the Wilderness Act during an election year, he was told it would be the end of his political career, according to Scott Reed. He ignored the warning, squeaked through the 1962 election, and continues to sponsor wilderness legislation, including the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978.

In response to the Gospel Hump controversy, he brought environmentalists together with local businessmen and molded a compromise wilderness proposal. The

compromise provided for a 206,000 acre wilderness as well as a 45,000 acre tract that would be open to logging and other activities.

Later, however, Church angered environmentalists across the country by agreeing to an amendment offered by McClure that provided for a snowmobile corridor through the heart of the wilderness area and for allowing the filing of mining claims until 1985. However, by the time the bill passed, the snowmobile corridor had been eliminated, and environmentalists were generally pleased with the legislation.

According to Reed, lumber people were also generally pleased with the legislation and were angered when Symms tried to scuttle the bill. Symms charged that

"Symms promises he's going to go to Washington and make sure government doesn't work."

Church had been "double-crossed and coerced by the Sierra Club" and said that the Grangeville Chamber of Commerce was threatened with economic strangulation if it didn't agree to the compromise. His charges also angered local people. Church's press aide said of the charges, "I don't think they're worth dignifying with a comment."

Following the controversy, there was some concern in the state that Church would not back a large wilderness proposal for the Idaho Primitive Area, the largest contiguous wilderness area left unprotected in the lower 48 states. However, for the purposes of discussion, Church has since introduced a bill for a 2.3 million acre area, which is what conservationists were seeking. While he said he is waiting until after public hearings to decide whether he will support the bill, Idaho conservationists are pleased with his decision to introduce it. The Forest Service proposal is 1.8 million acres. "All anyone ever dreamed of was getting the opportunity to be heard," Reed says. This decision calmed many environmentalists, Reed says, who

Saving dollars...

(continued from page 5)

resource and that making money is not his agency's objective.

The alternatives to providing the timber sale money that wilderness proponents consider a subsidy to the logging industry are rising lumber prices and, ultimately, subsidies of another sort — those needed to make public housing available in the face of lumber shortages, according to Jack Usher, the Forest Service region's top timber manager. Usher also says that those who use the forest for recreation and other non-consumptive activities are subsidized whenever they are not charged for lands managed for their benefit.

Those incensed by apparent subsidization of wilderness destruction may have seen only the tip of the saw. Because of financial realities, Lovegrove says, "more and more sales in this region are deficit sales. East of the Divide, because of the higher altitudes, poorer soils, greater haul distances to mills and because of greater environmental restraints, we may have all deficit sales in the future."

Deficit sales are those in which it costs more to produce lumber than calculations show it will be worth when sold. Any sale in

which the successful bidder could not make at least 75% of a standard 11% to 13% profit during lumbering is considered deficit by the Forest Service.

By law, deficit sales cannot be offered — unless loggers request them. The timber is then offered at a base stumpage rate. The

The forest could produce far more public benefit with far less public cost.

stumpage rate of lodgepole pine, for example, is two dollars per thousand board feet, though it could be bid higher than that if competitive companies are interested. The lodgepole pine processed under such circumstances might sell for \$250 per thousand board feet. But according to Forest Service calculations prepared in advance of the sale offering, the logger would make no money because of the costs of building roads and reseedling, which are added to the base rate, and because of the costs of felling, bucking, and hauling the timber. Loggers are sometimes willing to harvest under these conditions to keep their mills in operation.

To make a profit or maximize profits on such deficit sales, the loggers try to operate

below the costs estimated by the Forest Service. This has resulted in corner cutting and environmental degradation, regional timber specialists say.

Another issue that concerns conservationists is the Forest Service's use of roads in planning documents to show real or imagined benefits for recreation and other activities. The agency's desire to show a positive cost-benefit ratio has encouraged it to build roads to higher standards than necessary for logging, according to Al Luebeck, longtime road opponent from Butte, Mont.

The rationale, he says, is that once in place positive benefits will be calculated from such roads for recreation and other factors. For that reason, he said, logging roads are seldom closed, even though land use plans on some Montana forests he has studied have assured that unnecessary roads will be blocked to protect the forest environment after timber has been harvested.

BEAVERHEAD'S FUTURE

The Carter Administration has proposed a cut of \$54 million in the Forest Service budget for fiscal 1979. So it seems unlikely that the Beaverhead's managers will get the four-fold budget increase necessary to fully implement their timber-cutting

plans. But the possibility is not so remote as to relax wilderness supporters.

The fear in those favoring wilderness is that unless new money is specifically channeled into reforestation in areas such as the Pacific Northwest, where timber grows far better than it does in high-altitude Intermountain wildernesses, the remaining virgin forests will be scarred with stumps and roads, with all their attendant problems.

How many wildernesses, with their grizzlies, wolves, and falcons, survive may ultimately depend on how well their defenders can argue the economics of their salvation. It is an ironic switch that as wildernesses have died by economic arguments in the past, they may now be saved by them.

As wildernesses have died by economic arguments in the past, they may now be saved by them.

timely depend on how well their defenders can argue the economics of their salvation. It is an ironic switch that as wildernesses have died by economic arguments in the past, they may now be saved by them. Plans like the Beaverhead's show that forests could be managed with greater cost effectiveness without roads. Now it must be decided whether they will be.

Idaho elects. . .

(continued from page 1)

were apprehensive about Church a few months ago.

"Environmentalists have great reason to be proud of Church — just as they are proud of Andrus (Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus). It doesn't mean we would give him 100%, however," Reed says.

At the time of his Presidential bid in 1976, the League of Conservation Voters rated him as only fair by national stan-

rest of the Idaho delegation on wilderness. Symms says, "We can't go around creating new wilderness areas without first exploiting the natural resources there."

Hansen's position echoes Symms'. A Hansen aide explains that the congressman believes there are natural beauties that should be preserved. "But nature put minerals and timber in some areas and that's where we must go." He says Hansen believes that Idaho and other Western states are contributing a disproportionate share to the rest of the country, and he

environmental philosophy are more ambiguous than Symms', but his leanings are clear from his voting record. He says in his campaign literature that Congress must decide "to what extent we are willing to accept change of a portion of the environment in order to maintain a high standard of living for an expanding population."

McClure's willingness to "change a portion of the environment" is shown in his energy development and air pollution votes. According to the *Idaho Statesman*, he voted against every effort to strengthen the Clean Air Act and for every effort to weaken it, although he did vote for the final bill.

He supported the federal strip mining bill, but argued for allowing strip mining in national forests saying, "Minerals occur where God put them. We cannot dictate that we discover only minerals in an area that is not scenic. A forest is a multiple use

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that part of the state are employed at INEL.

Hansen, Symms, and McClure will all be up for election this year, but environmentalists don't have much hope for change. Hansen is the only one of the three who is considered vulnerable. He will probably have to face Stan Kress, who is expected to win the Democratic nomination. Two years ago Hansen beat Kress by only 200 votes, Reed says, at least partly because Hansen was convicted of two misdemeanor campaign financing violations. Hansen's financial troubles are still an issue.

Symms will probably be facing Roy Truby, who is state superintendent of schools, but Symms' chances are considered much stronger than Hansen's. Both Truby and Kress are considered to be sympathetic to environmentalists.

McClure's expected opponent, Dwight Jensen, isn't likely to cause McClure any significant problems, according to Reed. Jensen's viewpoint on the environment hasn't been publicized yet, Reed says.

McClure was spared his biggest threat when former Gov. Cecil Andrus decided to accept an appointment as Secretary of the Interior. Andrus had formerly been considered a likely contender for McClure's seat this year, and had already started calling the public's attention to McClure's poor environmental voting record.

According to Rafe Pomerance of the Clean Air Coalition, McClure did respond somewhat by supporting the environmentalists in one crucial clean air battle.

Idaho environmentalists, while not optimistic about the results of the 1978 elections, do hope they can get a few similar concessions during the campaigns of 1978. Reed remembers Symms saying he would support a 1.8 million acre wilderness for the Idaho Primitive Area when Symms was fighting a challenge by a strong environmentalist, Ken Pursley, in 1976. Reed admits, however, that Symms hasn't

Hansen and Symms "seem to find it hard to vote for legislation that would limit anyone's 'right' to pollute."

dards but good by Idaho standards, considering the pressure from a large Mormon population and powerful timber, nuclear, mining, and livestock interests in the state. The organization criticized his support for synthetic fuels and nuclear breeder reactors and his alliance with ranchers on wildlife and grazing issues. It said he votes "right" on transportation and pollution issues. His record on votes tallied by the league in 1975-76 was 64%. His 1977 voting record shows support for a nuclear breeder reactor and for reprocessing nuclear fuel. He voted for the strip mining bill and for strong regulations in the Clean Air Act amendments for preventing significant deterioration. He voted against strengthening auto emission standards.

Symms was much more consistent on environmental votes in 1977. Both he and Hansen voted against all strengthening Clean Air Act Amendments, against the strip mining bill, against wilderness bills — and for funding a nuclear breeder reactor.

If Symms and Church do face each other in 1980, the campaign will undoubtedly be fiery. Obviously at ideological odds, they have given up all the pretenses of solidarity that members of a state's congressional delegation normally attempt to make. When Symms and Hansen won their 1976 elections, Church's disappointment was revealed in the *Idaho Statesman*. He admitted he had made \$250 contributions to the opponents of both Symms and Hansen, but he didn't think it would affect the delegation's working relationship. "I've never had any help before, so there will be no change," he said. He said he could work with McClure.

Church is almost always at odds with the

refers to wilderness areas as "national sacrifice areas." If the rest of the country wants more wilderness, he says, the people should be willing to compensate the states and localities that provide it. Both Symms and Hansen voted in 1978 against the Endangered American Wilderness Act, which included the Gospel Hump area.

McClure also voted against the act, in protest of the deletion of his snowmobile corridor amendment from the Gospel Hump portion of the bill.

Hansen and Symms consistently vote against what they call federal "interference." In 1975, Symms hailed the defeat of the federal land use control bill, which Church cosponsored, saying, "The flame of freedom burned bright when the Interior Committee voted down federal land control." He said that "local problem solving and individual responsibility would insure wise land use practices."

Both he and Hansen voted against the federal strip mining bill. Symms said the bill would lead to energy shortages and hardships. He said the bill's supporters "were more concerned about three-toed salamanders than the ten-toed babies of the future."

The *Idaho Statesman* said in an editorial following an ocean pollution vote that Symms and Hansen "seem to find it hard to vote for legislation that would limit anyone's 'right' to pollute."

Environmentalists in the state say they don't even bother to contact either Symms or Hansen about votes. "They're a total loss," Scott Reed says. "Hansen isn't very bright — he doesn't understand the issues. Symms doesn't give a damn," he says.

MCCLURE DIFFERENT

On the other hand, he says, McClure is an intelligent person trying to do a capable job of representing Idahoans.

"Obviously his feeling about what the people of Idaho think is different than what Church feels they think, and supposedly they're representing the same people," Reed points out.

Reed cites Hells Canyon as an example of McClure's openness. McClure reversed his position of opposition and joined Church as a cosponsor of a bill to create a Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, which prohibited the construction of any dams. Reed says McClure adopted that position because he became convinced that Idahoans generally favored the recreation area. The bill passed.

Not all Idaho environmentalists are so generous in their assessment of McClure although there seems to be general agreement that at least they can talk to him. The three per cent rating given to him by the League of Conservation Voters on the basis of his votes on selected issues in 1976 is "about right," according to Ingram.

McClure's own statements on his en-



REP. GEORGE HANSEN promised to vote with Symms, and he kept his promise.

management area. We can preserve the esthetic beauty, but we also ought to be able to harvest timber and graze cattle and utilize minerals."

The National Clean Water Campaign said he and Sen. Peter Domenici (R-N.M.) were "worst on water" among all senators because of their votes on the water pollution control bill in committee and on the floor. The *Idaho Citizen* recently criticized McClure for bragging to his constituents for his votes for final passage of air and water protection bills while being "less than candid" in telling his constituents about his efforts to weaken both of those bills before the final vote.

McClure is an important person for conservationists to keep an eye on, partly because he is on crucial committees — energy and natural resources, environment and public works, and budget. He is also important because he seems to "reflect the opinions of Idaho's middle," according to a former aide, Phil Reberger, quoted in the *Idaho Statesman*.

McClure voted, along with the rest of the delegation, to fund the Clinch River breeder reactor. None of Idaho's legislators vote with environmentalists on nuclear energy, but Idaho environmentalists don't put much emphasis on nuclear energy. Ingram explains there hasn't been any discussion of nuclear power plants in the state, and the existing nuclear facility, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, is considered "benign."

"All our representatives pay proper homage to INEL," Reed says. Church counts on the liberals of eastern Idaho for his support, many of whom are part of the scientific community associated with INEL. In fact, several environmentalists in

A Hansen aide says the congressman considers wilderness areas "national sacrifice areas."

mentioned it again since he won the election.

By making a strong showing at wilderness hearings this year, environmentalists hope to prove to Church that there still is support in Idaho for strong environmental stances. Ingram says he expects a revival of environmental values. He thinks people in the state are already starting to realize the connection between rapid growth and high property taxes, for example. He thinks it won't be long before the people of Idaho start regaining their appreciation of the state's natural values.



SEN. JAMES MCCLURE is willing to change a "portion of the environment" in order to maintain a high standard of living.



Environmental/educational notecards, posters & prints.

Proceeds from sales will be shared with HCN.

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A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION dug out 189 rooms of Pueblo Bonito between 1896 and 1899. Between 1921 and 1927, a NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ex-

pedition completed the job. The giant rockfall occurred in 1941.

An ancient Indian culture died a slow death here from "ecological suicide."

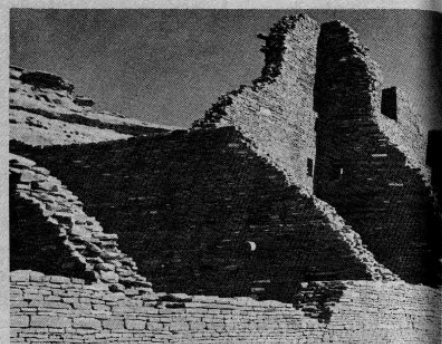


PUEBLO BONITO is the largest and most sophisticated ruin in Chaco Canyon. Its semi-circle of walled dwellings, kivas, and courtyards once housed an estimated 1,000 Indians.



PETROGLYPHS show many game animals, some now extinct in the region. The Chaco Canyon dwellers had domesticated only dogs, turkeys, and a few parrots imported from Mexico.

Photos by Fran Barnes



OUTSIDE WALLS and rooms of Pueblo Bonito show sophisticated masonry. Buildings were often three stories high and were plastered with whitewash when occupied.

Record of Anasazi ecological suicide

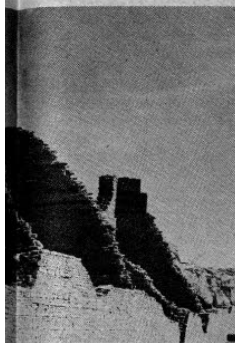
Mines of '70s t



THIS DOORWAY stands as silent testimony to the construction skills of the prehistoric Indians. It has withstood at least 800 years of desert weather.



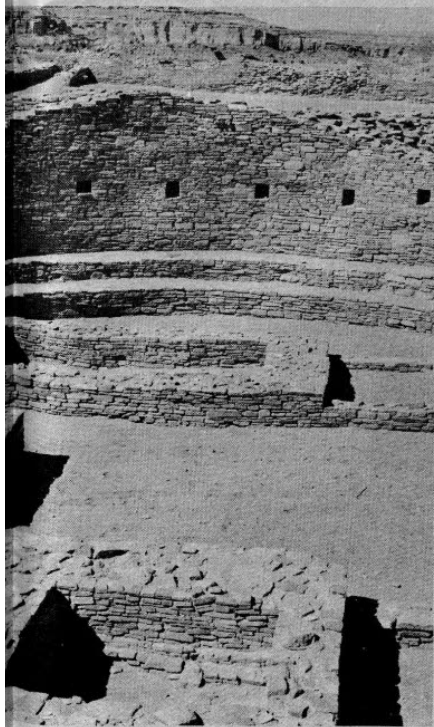
THE GREAT KIVA drums. During excavations, large drums were found in the structure.



ated architectural understanding. with mud stucco. They were often

"Sometimes it makes sense not to spend a lot of money to give yourself a larger headache."

to invade 12th century



VA contained firepits, buried ventilation shafts, and huge foot excavation, ceremonial objects such as strings of turquoise beads square niches in the circular wall.

by Sarah Doll

Chaco Canyon National Monument today is an arid canyon in the middle of a desert in New Mexico. At the time the Anasazi Indians first settled there around 500 A.D., it was a heavily forested area, with plentiful water. Archeologists studying the area have reconstructed a tale of ecological disaster that has a valuable lesson for our society.

After the nomadic Anasazi quit their early wanderings and settled in Chaco Canyon, they built a remarkable city. Ruins of road systems and storage bins indicate that commercial trade existed. They built their pueblos of stone, with mud for mortar, and used the plentiful trees for beams and reinforcement. Some of the pueblos were huge, and housed many families. One with 800 rooms, which probably housed over 1,000 people, has been excavated.

Had the Anasazi population level stayed low, their culture might have become history's longest-running success story. However, after several hundred years, a population of 7,000 shared the wealth of Chaco Canyon. Wood was used not only for pueblo construction, but in huge quantities for firewood. The clearcut forest around the area was eventually unable to regenerate itself and could no longer supply enough firewood or construction material. The deforested hills could not hold rain and snow for slow release of water into the canyon, and flash floods destroyed the Indians' crops. Habitat for wild game, a prime source of food for the Anasazi, was lost.

About 700 years after they first settled in

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the area, the Anasazi were driven away, victims of their own numbers.

Today, Chaco Canyon National Monument is isolated and can be reached only from the north or south by many miles of rough dirt road. The superintendent of the monument, Walter Herriman, is against upgrading these dirt roads, in spite of the many complaints he receives from visitors, since their condition keeps visitors at manageable numbers. In the November 1977 *Courier*, the National Park Service newsletter, he is quoted as saying, "We have a mandate to serve visitors, but we also have a mandate to preserve the resource. Sometimes it makes sense not to spend a lot of money to give yourself a larger headache."

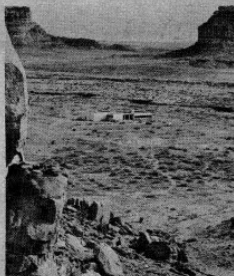
Under the direction of the monument's chief archeologist Dr. Robert Lister, many fascinating secrets of the Anasazi are being revealed. Lister estimates there are around 2,000 archeological sites within the canyon.

There are new threats to Chaco Canyon, however, that may prevent all these sites, and those surrounding the canyon, from being preserved. A 32 square-mile area just east of the monument has been leased for strip mining of coal. The blasting that accompanies strip mining is feared by archeologists who are working at the sites. A coal gasification plant and three power plants are planned northwest of the canyon. Sixteen wells are planned to provide water to wash the coal. The wells will probably lower the water table out of reach of the wells presently serving the monument.

Uranium development has been proposed south of the monument, and plans are afoot to dig five shafts. This process will require about 200,000 acre-feet of water per year.

Besides the direct threat to nearby archeological sites by the mining itself, this activity will bring many people to the area and will make access to the monument much easier. Vandalism is a potential threat.

F. A. Barnes, writing in a recent *Off-Road* magazine, calls Chaco Canyon a place "where an ancient Indian culture dwelt in peace and harmony for seven long centuries, before dying a slow death from ecological suicide." Chaco Canyon may now, for the second time, be victimized by man's energy hunger, this time on a much larger scale.



CHACO CANYON VISITOR CENTER is set on the canyon floor between massive Mesa Fahada and a ruin at the cliff base.

THE ANASAZIS built solid structures out of rock, mud, and trees. This close-up photo of a second floor shows an unusual corner window. ↴



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**N.M. UTILITY MAKES SOLAR PUSH.**

Public Service Co. of New Mexico plans to generate over six per cent of its electricity from steam-generating solar equipment within 10 years, according to **Business Week**. The company is faced with a complete curtailment of its natural gas supply by 1983 so it has decided to convert the current natural gas generators to solar power. The utility estimates that in 1983, the total fuel generating costs, including capital costs, for solar steam generation will be about 35 mills per kilowatt hour (kwh) while coal-fired costs would be 20 to 30 mills per kwh, nuclear 10 to 20 mills, and oil 40 to 50 mills. The company says that its solar units could serve to demonstrate the viability of the energy source to other utilities. Public Service has identified 251 generating units totaling more than 10,000 megawatts that could convert to solar in the West.

URANIUM TAILINGS REMOVAL.

U.S. Rep. Dan. Marriott (R-Utah) has proposed legislation that would provide full federal funding for the removal of uranium tailings sites in eight Western states. Marriott's bill calls for complete state control over the method of removal and its implementation. The cost ceiling of Marriott's legislation would be \$140 million, of which \$35 million would go to Utah to remove the Vitro tailings pile near Salt Lake City and tailings at two other sites in the state. The other states that would receive money are Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, and Wyoming. Removal of tailings from a total of 21 sites is contemplated.

UTILITY SAYS HIKE UNFAIR. In a reversal of the usual course of events, the general manager of an electric cooperative in Alaska is considering appealing a rate increase decision that he thinks is unfair to residential consumers. The cooperative had asked the Alaska Public Utilities Commission (APUC) to raise its rates to 30 cents per kilowatt hour for all users. However, the APUC instead granted an increase with a declining price structure, giving larger commercial users the best rates.

IPP FUNDS SITE STUDIES. The board of directors of the Intermountain Power Project says that it will fund environmental studies of a power plant site in Lynndyl, Utah. The Lynndyl site is a compromise selection for the proposed 3,000 megawatt power plant because the National Park Service was strongly opposed to the original site choice near Capitol Reef National Park. The studies will cost about \$2 million to \$3 million and are expected to take about a year.

BLACK LUNG IN COWS? A Montana State University veterinary biologist, Dr. Herb Smith, says cattle near the coal mines at Colstrip, Mont., may be suffering from black lung. Smith made his comments before the Montana Board of Health and Environmental Sciences as one of the witnesses for the Northern Plains Resource Council. The council, a conservationist-rancher group, is asking the state to require enclosed coal storage facilities and several other measures to reduce fugitive dust from the mines at Colstrip.

WYO. SITING AMENDMENTS VETOED. Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler vetoed a bill that would have excluded all but the largest mines from the jurisdiction of the state's Industrial Siting Council (ISC). Herschler said he vetoed the bill so that Wyoming could "experience growth on its own terms." The legislation would have changed the definition of what could be included in "construction costs," which is the factor that determines whether a facility must comply with ISC rules. Several legislators are upset with the veto, and an attempt to override may be made during a three-day special session to be held this month.

GASIFICATION

Preliminary research at the University of Montana indicates that coal ash residue from coal gasification could pollute ground water with mercury, calcium, and other pollutants. Chemistry professors Wayne Van Meter and Ronald Erickson say that unless companies are required to build special impenetrable facilities for holding the wastes, the companies are likely to put them back in the strip mining trenches where the ground water contamination could occur. One gasification plant could produce hundreds of thousands of tons of ash.

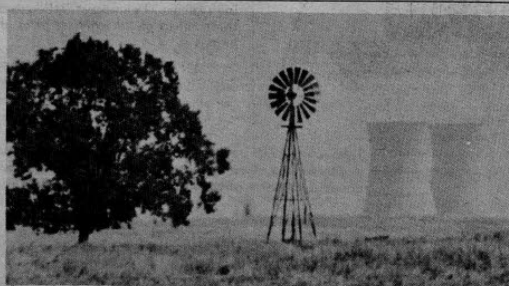
DANGER.

N.D. URANIUM MINING is expected to resume again soon, but the state is still preparing regulations to govern it. Although uranium mining involves radioactive materials, regulations governing it are less detailed than those for oil and gas, according to the **Bismarck Tribune**. There are no reclamation requirements yet, and state officials aren't sure which agency has the authority to adopt the requirements. Nor does the state have regulations to protect ground water from contamination during in situ mining, which involves injecting a chemical into the ground instead of digging the uranium out.



Photo by Terrence Moore

SOME COAL MINES will still be required to meet Wyoming's industrial siting rules as a result of a veto by Gov. Ed Herschler. The state legislature had passed legislation that would have exempted many mines.

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**TIM O'BRIEN
GUESS WHO'S IN TOWN
ECLECTIC FIDDLER**

The album's query: "Guess Who's in Town?" is answered with such a variety of musical styles and songs — from swing to hoedown, including hornpipe, reel, bluegrass, and waltz — that one knows that no one could be in town except Tim O'Brien and friends.

O'Brien is a fine singer and a triple-treat instrumentalist. He plays fiddle, mandolin, and guitar. He has won first prizes in fiddle conventions in Wyoming, Colorado and Minnesota.

There are 15 selections on this album. Side one is fiddle-filled, with eight tunes from the countryside — an Irish jig, a polka, a rag, and a fiddle and flattop from Texas, to mention a few.

Vocals include several sweet, vibrant swing numbers: "Guess Who's in Town," "Cadillac" (with the Ophelia Swing Band), and "Same Ol' South." Jesse Fuller's blues, "99 Years," gets a bluegrass treatment, and Eddie Arnold's "Beatin' My Time" is sung in a haunting tenor.

The seven backup musicians are superb, especially lap steel and inspired washboard.

To order: Send \$5 to "Guess Who's in Town," Tim O'Brien, 1251-A Verbena Street, Denver, Colo. 80220. (Biscuit City Records — BC 1317) HCN is sharing the profits on sales of this album.

Permit issued for Grayrocks Dam

by Dan Whipple

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued a permit that will allow the construction of Grayrocks Dam, the main source of water for a 1,000 megawatt power plant under construction in Wheatland, Wyo. The permit was issued despite the objections of a number of interested parties, including the state of Nebraska.

The permit, known as a 404 permit, is the last one necessary for the Missouri Basin Power Project (MBPP). Issuance of the permit clears the way for the federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA) to guarantee the bonds needed to finance the project.

MBPP spokesman Lloyd Ernst says that if the 404 permit had not been approved, the project would have had to shut down, possibly on April 1. The power plant's first two units are about 25% complete. MBPP began construction by borrowing private capital. However, those funds had nearly run out, Ernst says, and additional financing would have been impossible without the federal guarantees.

Ernst says that 1,100 workers would have been laid off if the power plant had been halted.

The state of Nebraska is concerned that construction of the dam will reduce flows from the North Platte River into the state. Grayrocks will be built on the Laramie River, which is a tributary of the North Platte. Gov. James Exon charged that the timing of the permit issuance showed that it was a political decision and that the Corps yielded to intense political pressure. Paul Snyder of the Nebraska attorney general's office says, "We were led to believe that the Corps would not issue the permit unless our objections were answered. However, they were not." Snyder says that the state is considering legal action to block the decision.

MBPP's Ernst insists that the decision

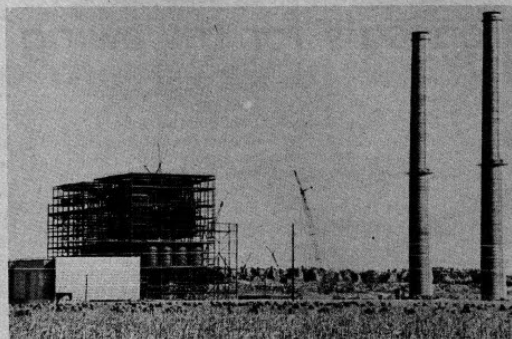


Photo by Mike McClure

LARAMIE RIVER POWER PLANT, now under construction, has been granted a permit by the Army Corps of Engineers for building Grayrocks Dam and reservoir.

was not a political one, though he admits, "We had to work with a wide range of state and federal officials to expedite issuance of this. We worked with a number of people in Washington."

He says, "The Corps has had this application for two and a half years and did a careful and extended review of the project. As a result of this, it is difficult to see how anyone would call this political, when they've had the permit that long."

Col. James Ray, district engineer for the Corps of Engineers, also says that the decision was not influenced by politics. Ray says that "there are rigid procedures we have to follow. Our regulations do not allow the issuance of a permit if there is an objection from the governor of the state in which the project is to be constructed. We are not required to hold it up if there is an objection from another state's governor, however."

Ray says that the state of Nebraska wanted the Corps to guarantee a water

right for the state. "I don't think that the Corps has authority to get involved in water rights," he says.

Ray says that he tried to answer the objections of Nebraska when applying conditions to the permit. However, Nebraska officials say that the permit conditions will not insure adequate flows into the state.

MBPP says that the issuance of the 404 permit will allow them to stay on schedule for power plant construction, which is due to be completed in 1980. Nebraska will decide by early next week whether to pursue legal action to halt construction of the dam and reservoir.

Still another factor that may hold up the project is a lawsuit that has been brought by the state of Nebraska, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Audubon Society. The plaintiffs claim that the dam and reservoir will diminish flows into Nebraska below levels acceptable to the state and damage habitat on the migration route of sandhill and whooping cranes.

Apr. 7, 1978 — High Country News-11



**The HCN
Hot Line**

energy news from across the country

USDA COOPERATION. A memorandum of understanding providing for cooperation with the states in the administration of strip mine programs has been approved by the Interior Department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Interior will take the lead role in implementing the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, but considerable involvement is expected from the Agriculture Department, according to **Land Use Planning Reports**. USDA will aid in the restoration of mined areas that are included in the definition of prime farm lands. The agency will also provide technical information to mine operators and assist in erosion control, revegetation, and design of water impoundments.

COMPROMISE ON BREEDER. The **Wall Street Journal** reports that the Carter Administration is offering to spend more money on larger, safer breeder reactors if the Congress will agree to stop construction of the Clinch River breeder reactor in Tennessee. President Jimmy Carter has so far opposed the breeder because it produces more weapons-grade plutonium than it uses, making it more difficult to halt the spread of nuclear weapons. Now, however, the administration is asking that Congress redirect the nation's breeder program toward larger reactors that have built-in mechanisms to keep the plutonium from getting out.

SOLAR HEAT REQUIRED? The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) may require that all homes financed by that agency after 1980 be equipped with solar heat or other non-fossil fuel technologies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, of which the FmHA is a part, says that it is developing preliminary home designs that would include wood and geothermal heating systems. The agency will then examine their impact on the purchase price of new homes.

SOLAR ENERGY 'FASHIONABLE.' "It's all very fashionable to pretend that the problems of California's energy supply are going to be resolved by solar energy or by conservation," Energy Secretary James R. Schlesinger said recently. "But if we are going to have electric power supplies, we're going to have to use coal or nuclear energy" for future economic growth, Schlesinger said, according to the **L.A. Times**. He was critical of California Gov. Jerry Brown and others in the state who oppose nuclear power. Brown signed legislation last year forbidding the opening of nuclear power plants in California unless there was a demonstrated technology for safe disposal of nuclear wastes.

PEOPLE'S GAS FROM CATTLE. More than 3,500 Chicago homes will soon be heated, indirectly, by 107,000 cattle. Natural Gas Pipeline Co., a subsidiary of People's Gas, will pump methane gas from a plant in Oklahoma that is producing the gas from cattle manure. People's Gas agreed to buy the gas for \$1.94 per thousand cubic feet from the Oklahoma company, Calorific Recovery Anaerobic Process Inc., according to United Press International.

*poetry
of the
earth*

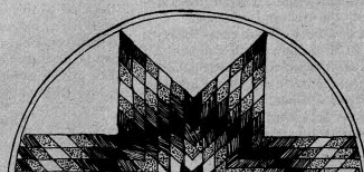
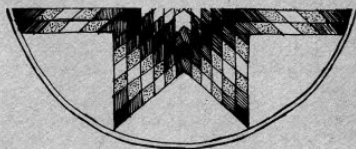
Peggy Shumaker has worked as a counselor in a halfway house for incorrigible girls, drives a Kawasaki 900, and is working on a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing at the University of Arizona. The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs recently included several of her poems in the anthology, **Rocky Mountain Writers Forum**.

WALKING, 5 a.m.

Birds rifle eucalyptus leaves,
wear metates in stone ground
with their dustbaths.

They make this a day for sound
as if the earth had left
her ear open.

—Peggy Shumaker



sonoita burn

The town is still far off;
it's the wind that brings it close.
Eventually night comes
and the talcum ashes rise.
Smoke fills my eyes
making tears like thick glasses
and the town fires far off
are the last thing I see
before I curl to sleep and dream
of a new sky covering me
whose million sparks are more alive,
and the black, where the fire has been.

—Alberto Rios

Alberto Rios's grandfather fought in the Mexican revolution. Rios has earned his living as a hospital orderly and as an artist in a pictureframe store. Some of his new poems will appear in the anthology, **A Geography of Poets**, to be published next year by Bantam Books.

12-High Country News — Apr. 7, 1978

Conservationists say they're generally acceptable

BLM airs proposals for reviewing wilderness

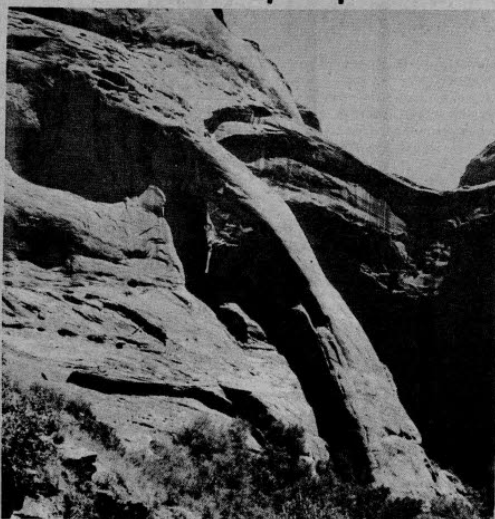


Photo by Philip White

A MASSIVE ROCK HANDLE on the canyon wall, Cliff Arch is one of a series of rinos, arches, and natural bridges in Coyote Gulch of the Escalante Canyon BLM Natural Area in Southcentral Utah. These geologic features, together with a profound, chromatic natural beauty, make Escalante Canyon a prime candidate for wilderness protection.

by Philip White

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is accepting public comments until May 17 on a 12-page document that took 17 months to prepare. BLM hopes its "Draft Wilderness Review Procedures" will facilitate an orderly inventory, study, and report of the wilderness potential of roadless areas on the 447 million acres administered by the agency.

This process was ordered by Congress in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) passed in October 1976. Realizing that BLM's jurisdiction extends over one-fifth of the land area of the 50 states, Congress gave it 15 years to complete the inventory. However, FLPMA directs that the wilderness study and report on the 11 BLM primitive areas and the 44 natural areas shall be completed by July 1, 1980 (see HCN, Feb. 10, 1978, p. 7).

Since FLPMA became law, BLM has drafted a set of ground rules for the wilderness review. The proposal emerged in March for public comment, and conservationists found it generally acceptable.

"Generally we were favorably impressed," Debbie Sease, wilderness affairs specialist for the Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C., says. "We agreed with the definition of 'road,' we liked the idea of coordinating the reviews with other agencies having contiguous lands with wilderness qualities, and we were pleased to see that the wilderness review will be a part of the land use planning process already established by BLM."

IMPRINTS AND INTRUSIONS

However, Sease and Doug Scott, Northwest representative of the Sierra Club, express reservations about the use of the word "intrusion" in the document:

"Intrusion: A man-made feature or man-influenced change (land-water, vege-

tion, or structure) which is in contrast with the natural characteristics of the existing landscape."

In the policy section of the proposal, BLM states: "Man-made features will not automatically exclude an area from wilderness consideration. Intrusions will be evaluated to determine their degree of contrast with the existing landscape."

Sease says that the Wilderness Society is urging BLM "to apply the Wilderness Act criteria as strictly as possible in evaluating wilderness quality. Instead of the intrusion and contrast verbiage, we would prefer the Wilderness Act's wording: 'the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.'"

Scott hopes BLM doesn't resurrect the "purity" and "sights and sounds" tests used by the Forest Service for many years to disqualify areas where human signs were found within or were observable from a roadless area. "Congress has convincingly spoken against the purity concept," Scott said. "In BLM's document, it indicates it will be judging intrusions. It (BLM) indicates that an intrusion could be something outside the boundary. We are urging BLM to use definitions and procedures that are as consistent as possible with the latest Forest Service criteria."

BLM's rulebook lists size, naturalness, and outstanding solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation potential as "essential attributes of wilderness." The area must contain at least 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands or "must be of sufficient size (considering its configuration and location) so that its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition would be practical."

Lands having only a common corner are not contiguous, according to the document's definitions. Thus the public roadless lands in the 40-mile wide checkerboard pattern resulting from the railroad

land grants of the 1860s would be excluded from wilderness consideration.

When an "intrusion" does create a "contrast," BLM would determine whether the area could be rehabilitated or will "recover naturally over time." If not, the area would fail under the naturalness criteria.

The document cites four examples of "intrusions" that would eliminate roadless areas from wilderness consideration:

"Above-the-ground utility corridors requiring cleared rights-of-way; recent clearcuts, chainings, or plowings; recreation developments; and/or current mining operations."

MINIMUM OF INTERRUPTION

In a cover letter accompanying the draft procedures, BLM pointed out that it will "conduct the wilderness review program with a minimum of interruptions to multiple use activities as long as the wilderness potential is protected." Gene Herrin of the BLM in Wyoming admits that this might mean some areas could in fact lose their wilderness potential. However, he says this was mandated in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

The act says that during the period of review, the secretary of Interior shall continue to manage the land in a manner which will not impair the suitability for wilderness "subject, however, to a continuation of existing mining and grazing uses and mineral leasing in a manner and degree in which the same was being conducted on the date of approval of this act."

The period of review started with the date of approval, which was Oct. 21, 1976.

Herrin says that some details of how this policy will be implemented are still being determined. For example, he says the agency isn't sure what to do about leases that were in effect when the act was passed and where companies now want to begin mining.

Because of this policy, the Wilderness Society is urging that the review be done as quickly as possible so that wilderness areas won't be disturbed before their study.

The priorities section of the document requires BLM to conduct a wilderness re-

view first in "areas where major projects are proposed that relate to national issues, such as mineral, energy, and renewable resources needs."

One of these reviews has already been completed. An application by Pacific Power and Light Co. for a 500 kilovolt powerline right-of-way from Midpoint, Idaho, to Medford, Ore., prompted the five BLM districts affected to conduct an accelerated wilderness inventory. In what is probably the first such BLM inventory, they found 93 landlocked roadless areas (containing 2.2 million acres) and 27 islands in rivers or lakes. BLM recommended wilderness study for 32 areas (875,300 acres) and 20 islands.

When an area is found to be suitable for wilderness classification, the proposed procedures require an environmental assessment record or environmental statement to be prepared. "We feel that an EAR or an ES should also be required when an area is found not suitable for wilderness," Sease says.

Comments at this stage are being solicited solely on the procedures proposal. Later, public input will be sought during the inventory of roadless areas and during the study and selection process. Sease hopes at that time many different types of areas will be selected. "We would like to round out the diversity of the system with some of the fragile desert grasslands and some of the spectacular desert ranges and canyons," she says.

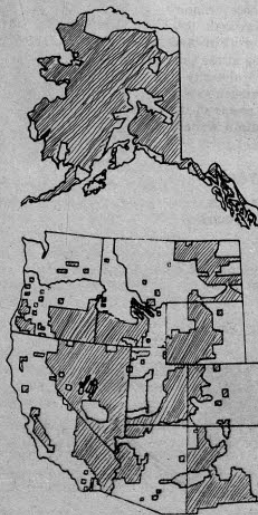
The meetings scheduled are:

Montana: April 12 in Billings, April 19 in Safford and Phoenix, and April 20 in Tucson. **Idaho:** April 14 in Boise, April 18 in Coeur d'Alene, April 25 in Twin Falls, April 26 in Pocatello, April 27 in Idaho Falls, and May 2 in Salmon.

Wyoming: April 18 in Casper. **Colorado:** April 13 in Grand Junction. **Alaska:** April 24 in Juneau. **Utah:** April 11 in Salt Lake City and April 20 in St. George. **New Mexico:** April 18 in Albuquerque.

For specific times and locations, contact a local BLM office.

LANDS ADMINISTERED BY BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



States	Acres
Alabama	3,497
Alaska	272,665,634
Arizona	12,593,159
Arkansas	1,589
California	15,697,125
Colorado	8,332,842
Florida	1,246
Idaho	11,957,276
Illinois	79
Kansas	640
Louisiana	7,353
Michigan	935
Minnesota	43,556
Mississippi	639
Missouri	200
Montana	8,141,514
Nebraska	2,650
Nevada	47,805,840
New Mexico	12,349,759
North Dakota	68,102
Ohio	120
Oklahoma	7,143
Oregon	15,723,378
South Dakota	276,297
Utah	22,766,781
Washington	306,950
Wisconsin	185
Wyoming	17,193,818
Total	446,761,315



Western Roundup



13
Apr. 7, 1978

Idahoans protest use of 2,4,5-T on forests

Vigorous protests from Idaho citizens apparently have postponed U.S. Forest Service plans to spray 60,000 acres of Northern Idaho forests with herbicides. The most controversial aspect of the plan was its use of the chemical 2,4,5-T, along with five other herbicides.

At a hearing held in Coeur d'Alene Feb. 1st, one local resident vowed to shoot down any chemical-spraying helicopters that came into his county. In a letter, a local farmer asked the Forest Service not to "throw more money out in an impressive show of 'super-management.'"

The herbicide 2,4,5-T is particularly controversial because it contains small amounts of dioxin, one of the most toxic of all man-made chemicals. If ingested in sufficient quantities, dioxin can cause mutations, birth defects, and probably cancer. 2,4,5-T was the main ingredient in Agent Orange, which was used by the U.S. to defoliate Vietnam. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is said to be tak-

ing steps to ban 2,4,5-T and related chemicals (see HCN 2-24-78).

The Forest Service says it needs to use the chemicals to remove brush and speed up the regeneration of new trees in areas that have been clearcut. It bases most of its arguments about the safety of the chemicals on their status, for the time being, on EPA's approved list.

"This seems like one bad practice following another," says a member of a local group fighting the spraying, the Kootenai Environmental Alliance.

At the end of March, Idaho Gov. John Evans said that while he did not oppose herbicides in general, he was asking the Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Forest Service, not to use 2,4,5-T in the state. He said he could not support use of the chemical until the Environmental Protection Agency had completed its study of it.

The controversy has encouraged discussion about alternative methods of brush removal.

In the Idaho Conservation League

Newsletter, Jeff Griggs says, "The use of human labor to control brush is certainly possible, and would help reduce unemployment. The Forest Service maintains that human labor is too expensive, but a group called the Hoedads that is involved in manual brush clearing in Oregon argues that cost for labor or herbicides are actually quite similar."

A more economical method than either sprays or people is being tried by the Forest Service in Washington. On a portion of the Colville National Forest in the northeastern corner of the state, the agency has decided to try letting sheep eat their way through the brush.



Shakey statistics may threaten forests

A General Accounting Office (GAO) report indicates that the U.S. Forest Service may be off by as much as 60% in its estimates of how much timber can be cut without diminishing the nation's forests.

GAO, Congress' investigatory arm, says that in some cases the Forest Service's statistics aren't reliable. In others, the agency has ignored its own statistics and oversold the forest.

The report also says that the Forest Service has sometimes been too optimistic about how fast it will be able to replant cuts and improve stands.

Stiff standards cut from Colo. air bill

A provision in pending Colorado legislation that would have made the state's auto pollution standards stiffer than the federal government's was removed by a state senate committee last month. Conservationists say that the action strips the bill of most of its meat.

The senate bill now includes: fines for vehicles that emit unusual amounts of smoke, penalties for tampering with air



Idaho Department of Travel photo
THE FOREST SERVICE proposed spraying 60,000 acres of northern Idaho forest with herbicides.



Four lanes favored in Glenwood Canyon

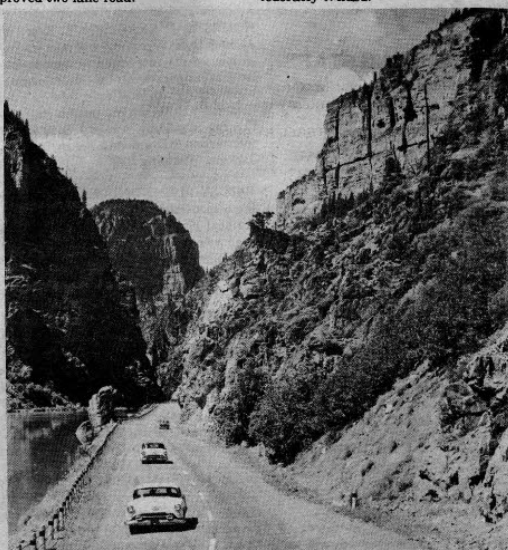
At a public meeting in Glenwood Springs in March, many Colorado citizens seemed pleased with the state Highway Department's plans to run Interstate-70 through Glenwood Canyon, making the existing two-lane road four lanes wide.

However, Mark Strotzki, leader of the Citizens for Glenwood Canyon Scenic Corridor, said that after years of controversy the Highway Department still has not given serious consideration to a narrower highway through the canyon. He favors an improved two-lane road.

He said his group will try to block construction of the canyon interstate. "We have not yet begun to fight," he said.

Former Colorado Gov. John Vanderhoof said that a four-lane highway was necessary in the canyon, partly for transporting fuels produced on the Western Slope of the Continental Divide to other parts of the country.

Construction on the highway could begin in the summer of 1979, according to the Highway Department. The project is 90% federally-funded.



IF THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION gives the go-ahead, this road through Glenwood Canyon in Colorado will be widened to four lanes. The record from a hearing held recently by the state Highway Department has been sent to the federal agency for final approval of the project.

pollution control devices, encouragement for state employees' car pools, and authority for the state to purchase cars with the lowest pollution ratings, even if they do not have the lowest bid price.

While legislators deliberate, a number of private firms and individuals are making an effort to curb air pollution in Denver. One innovative approach is Van Schaack and Co.'s \$7.50-a-month bonus to all employees who ride to work in buses or car pools.

BuRec report called unfair to cranes

A report released by the Bureau of Reclamation has put new life into the Narrow Dam project in Colorado, which was on President Jimmy Carter's "hit list" last year.

The new report requested by Congress says that the South Platte River dam will not damage whooping and sandhill crane habitat on the Platte in Nebraska.

Most Colorado politicians appear to be behind the project — even those with environmentalist leanings like Sens. Floyd Haskell (D) and Gary Hart (D) and Gov. Dick Lamm (D).

But an attorney for a conservation group that has filed suit against the project, Pat Parenteau of the National Wildlife Federation, says the Bureau of Reclamation's report is biased. He says that politicians supporting the project are concerned about re-election, not the environment.

"This is pure speculation," Parenteau

says, "but I think that Floyd Haskell believes that if he can deliver Narrows to the people of Colorado, the people will return him to Congress."

Parenteau says that the BuRec report looked at river mechanics and not the biological requirements of the cranes.

"Nobody knows for sure," he says, "but the best available information indicates that Narrows would have a significant impact on the cranes."

Parenteau also says that BuRec failed to look at the cumulative impact of other projects that would affect the Platte, such as the Grayrocks Reservoir and the Corn Creek irrigation project in Wyoming.

He says there is an environmentally acceptable alternative to Narrows, groundwater recharge. During peak runoff periods surface water could be pumped underground and stored until it is needed by farmers, Parenteau says.

14-High Country News — Apr. 7, 1978



CHANGES IN THE WIND

by Myra Connell

Inspired by a belief that wind and solar power are techniques whose time has come, professors and students at the University of Oklahoma are trying to harness the wind to produce electric power.

Wind is good for lifting kids' kites and has pumped water into many a horse trough where sweaty farm hands dunked their faces and each other on occasion. But wind has been mostly thought of a nuisance, useful to sailors and Dutchmen, but generally hated by anyone who has outdoor work to do. Up to now wind power has been something used by farmers for calling the hogs, and by politicians with big promises to make.

But perhaps we shall soon be praying for the winds that we once deplored. Suddenly people are discovering that a windmill will do more than pump water or grind grain.

Some recent estimates have placed the year 2000 as the earliest date for expecting significant developments in the field. Apparently some enthusiastic advocates of wind power are out to beat that deadline. Our own little town of Medicine Bow in southern Wyoming is about to become famous for more than the whimsical line, "when you call me that, SMILE!" from the novel, *The Virginian*.

Since it is the third windiest place in the country and located close to existing hydroelectric facilities, it has been selected as the site for a proposed 49-unit wind turbine system that would be integrated into the existing Colorado River Storage Project.

It is good to know that some power needs may soon be met by a "system that is socially benign. . . with no long-term problems of waste storage, cancer-causing effects, black lung, strip mining, smog: no

bomb materials at large. . ." as Lee Johnson describes it in *Wind Power Digest*.

The earliest known use of wind was about 3200 B.C. when the Egyptians invented sails. This innovation set the basic pattern. For the next 5,000 years shipbuilders concentrated on bigger and better ships and improvements in rigging. Between the 1400s and 1800s A.D. great



navies and merchant fleets were wind-driven, until ousted by steam-powered vessels in the 19th century. There were windmills in Persia in 644 A.D., in France and England in the 12th century, in China in the 13th century. For 650 years, from the 12th through the early 19th centuries, windmills throughout Europe were busily whirling away, grinding grain, spices, snuff, paint, and chalk; pumping water, sawing wood, making paper, and polishing

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stone. In the West Indies wind power crushed sugar cane. In the Netherlands it drained the land. In China it was used in producing salt from sea water.

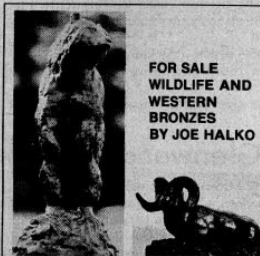
Steam power and fossil fuels brought about the decline of windmills.

Wind, as a source of electric power has been known for almost 100 years, since P. La Cours' mill in Denmark in 1890. The idea of feeding power from wind turbines into the main power line has been around since 1931.

Meanwhile, regrettably, our government has granted huge subsidies to fossil fuel producers in the form of so-called "depletion allowance." They dig and drill frantically trying to keep up with demands of an energy-hungry country.

Wind power scoffers point to the tornadoes, erratic winds, cumbersome storage problems, and so on. They imply that those who put their faith in the wind are "jousting at windmills," like the well-known Don Quixote.

Three hundred fifty years ago Cervantes gave us, in Don Quixote, a metaphor for futility that could apply to all ages. In this 20th century, who are really the Don Quixotes?



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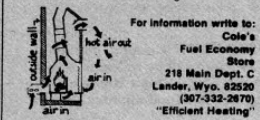
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classifieds

CITIZENS' FOOTRACE. High Country News is sponsoring the Second Annual Lander Citizens' Footrace to be held June 3. (The date has been changed.)

To enter, come to the southeast end of City Park between 5 and 5:45 p.m. The fee is \$1. Starting time is 6 p.m. Classes of competition will be based on interest and number of entries. For more information call Sarah Doll at 332-3929 or Joan Nice at 332-4877. (Classes last year ranged from youth to over-40, including a walking class.)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT. The Idaho Conservation League, a citizens' organization, is accepting applications for the position of Field Coordinator in Boise, Idaho. ICL is a grass roots organization whose primary purpose is to involve citizens in the decision-making process for state and local issues.

Skills and knowledge required: grass roots organizing, general resource and conservation issues, writing, research, public speaking, fund raising.

Job descriptions will be sent to interested persons on request. To apply, send resume together with references and writing sample to Idaho Conservation League, P.O. Box 844, Boise, Idaho 83701 (208) 345-6933. Deadline for application is April 17, 1978.

CANYON COUNTRY GUIDEBOOKS. For a list of 12 guidebooks and maps describing the canyon country of southeastern Utah, write Wasatch Publishers, P.O. Box 963H, Moab, UT 84532.

WANTED. HCN office manager. Duties include typesetting, bookkeeping, handling subscriptions, answering telephone. Bookkeeping and good typing skills necessary. Must be willing to accept responsibility. Salary \$375 per month for full-time work. Contact Joan Nice at High Country News, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520. Job starts May 1.

HOMESTEAD EXPERIENCE. Ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, will take several serious adults interested in back-to-the-land experience—training. Mule logging, log building, animal care, and related homestead skills will be taught. Half tuition can be paid by working! Send \$1. for information to Diamond L Ranch, Box 220, Jackson, Wyoming 83001.

FAMILY PLANNING CENTER. Providing responsible counseling, thorough educational classes, clinics. Costs no more than you can afford. Anyone is eligible. Serving eight Wyoming counties with outreach RNs. NOWCAP, 268 Main Street, Lander, Wyo. 82520. (332-9315).

SHOW YOU CARE. Become a member of National Parks & Conservation Association. For over 50 years NPCA has been a leader in the continuing battle to protect our environment. Join with us today in our fight for a better tomorrow. Members receive our fascinating, monthly magazine. For membership information write to: NPCA, Dept., M, 1701-18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

UTAH WRITERS sought by HCN. We are interested in stories from UCN on air pollution, alternative energy innovations, coal development, and people making the news. Pay is two cents to four cents per word for fair, accurate news reporting. One-sided diatribes unacceptable. Contact Joan Nice, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520 with story ideas.

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HCN

Bulletin Board

Apr. 7, 1978
High Country News-15

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

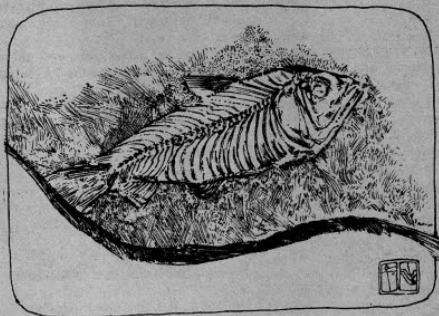
There is an old solon named Symms
With unecological whims:
"Trees are for cutting
And humans for glutting
And mountains for digging pits in."

SCENIC AREA HEARINGS

A U.S. Senate subcommittee will hold a field hearing on the proposed Jackson Hole Scenic Area on June 10 in Jackson, Wyo. The hearings will cover a bill introduced by Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) to authorize the federal government to purchase scenic easements in Jackson Hole. Persons wishing to testify must make their intentions known before April 20 by writing to the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Room 3106 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, or contacting Roseva Guest, Room 208, Post Office Building, Riverton, Wyo. 82501.

CITIZENS ENERGY PUBLICATIONS

The Citizens' Energy Project has prepared a list of its publications, covering a wide variety of energy-related issues, including appropriate technology, alternative energy, solar, nuclear power, oil, and other topics. For a copy of the catalog and price list, write Citizens' Energy Project, 1413 K Street, N.W., 8th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005.



FOSSIL BUTTE ALTERNATIVES

Copies of the general management plan for Fossil Butte National Monument are available from the National Park Service. Fossil Butte is an 8,180-acre area that has some of the most numerous and best-preserved deposits of fossilized fish in the world.

It is located 11 miles west of Kemmerer, Wyo. The management plan discusses four alternative planning approaches, ranging from major facilities development to maintenance of the present level of development. Copies may be obtained from the National Park Service at either 125

South State St., Room 2208, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138, or 655 Parfet St., Lakewood, Colo. 80215. Written comments on the plan should be sent to the Superintendent, Fossil Butte National Monument, P.O. Box 527, Kemmerer, Wyo. 83101 before April 28, 1978.

HUD SOLAR INFORMATION

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is publishing a free newsletter for anyone interested in HUD's efforts to promote solar technology. HUD Solar Status also covers information related to state tax incentives for solar

power and legislative information. It can be obtained from HUD Solar Status, P.O. Box 1607, Rockville, Md. 20850.

THREE CORNERS PLANNING UNIT

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public input for its land use plan for the Three Corners Planning Unit. The area is in the northeastern corner of Utah near both the Colorado and Wyoming borders. The plan will consider a proposed road through Brown's Park, off-road vehicle use, wilderness, recreational use of the Green River, and other issues. A public hearing will be held on April 13, 1978, at 7:00 p.m. in the Uintah County Courthouse in Utah. Written comments should be sent to Vernal District Manager, BLM, P.O. Box F, Vernal, Utah 84078.

FUTURE OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

The U.S. Interior Department is asking for comments on its 26 recommendations concerning the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System. A task force report, covering every aspect of the system, has been prepared and is available from the Regional Director (PAO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Federal Center, Denver, Colo. 80225. Comments on the report and its 26 recommendations for the future direction of management should be sent by May 15 to Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.



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 (35-602 et. seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1987, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1978). IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (1) ONE INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGER, TO RENEW (4) FOUR INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGE PERMITS, AND TO AMEND (1) ONE COMMERCIAL DISCHARGE PERMIT WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: THE COTTER CORPORATION
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 552
GOLDEN, COLORADO 80401
FACILITY LOCATION: CHARLIE AREA MINE, NE4,
SECTION 36, T45N, R77W,
JOHNSON COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0027685

The Cotter Corporation plans a pilot uranium mining and milling project at their Charlie Area body located approximately 35 miles northeast of Kaycee, Wyoming. In the pilot project, the ore body will be dewatered through the use of 4 dewatering wells. The water from these wells will be collected and discharged to Willow Creek (Class III stream) at a single location. There will be no discharge from the milling project.

The proposed permit requires compliance with effluent limitations considered to be "best practicable" effective immediately. Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality is required with submission of results quarterly. Since this is only a pilot project, a short term permit with a duration of approximately 18 months is proposed.

(2) PERMIT NAME: BEAR CREEK URANIUM COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2654
CASPER, WYOMING 82602
FACILITY LOCATION: SECTION 35, T36N, R73W,
AND SECTIONS 10 AND 18,
T36N, R73W, CONVERSE
COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0026263

This facility is an open pit uranium mine located in northeastern Converse County, Wyoming. The mine area consists of three separate ore bodies. The north ore body is located mostly in Section 35, T36N, R73W. The east ore body is located in Sections 7 and 18 of T36N, R72W. The main ore body is located in Sections 10 and 15 of T36N, R73W.

At each area water collected in the mine pits will be routed to a barium chloride treatment plant for precipitation of Radium. The water will then be routed to settling ponds which will eventually discharge to the surface drainage. Discharge from the north ore body is to Bear Creek (Class III stream) via an unnamed drainage. Discharge from the east mining area is to the Dry Fork of the Cheyenne River (Class III stream) via an unnamed drainage. Discharge from the main ore body is to Gene Draw (Class III stream) via an unnamed drainage.

The proposed permit requires compliance with effluent limitations considered to be "best practicable" effective immediately. Compliance with such effluent limitations will not result in violation of Wyoming's in-stream water quality standards, thus, effluent limitations more stringent than "best practicable" are not required.

The proposed permit requires periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality with reporting of results quarterly. The permit will expire March 31, 1983.

(3) PERMIT NAME: KERR-MCGEE NUCLEAR CORPORATION
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 185
GLENROCK, WYOMING 82637
FACILITY LOCATION: SECTION 28-33 MINE,
SECTIONS 21, 28, 33,
T37N, R73W,
CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0026212

FACILITY LOCATION:

SECTION 34 MINE,
NE4, SECTION 34, T36N, R74W,
CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING
WY-0024970

PERMIT NUMBER:

FACILITY LOCATION:

BILL SMITH MINE
SECTION 36, T36N, R74W,
CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING
WY-0028411

PERMIT NUMBER:

Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation's Bill Smith Mine is an underground uranium mine, the Section 34 Mine is a proposed underground uranium mine and the Section 28-33 Mine is an open pit mine currently under construction. All are located in the "uranium district," approximately 20 miles northeast of Glenrock, Wyoming. Water from the mine shafts, vent holes, dewatering wells and seeps into the mine pits is (and in the case of the proposed mines will be routed to separate barium chloride treatment plants for precipitation of radium and is then routed to a series of 3 settling ponds for each of the 3 separate mines. The discharges are all to Class III streams.

The proposed permits require compliance with effluent limitations considered to be "best practicable" effective immediately. Compliance with such effluent limitations will not result in violation of Wyoming's in-stream water quality standards, thus, effluent limitations more stringent than "best practicable" are not required.

The proposed permits require periodic self-monitoring of the effluent quality with reporting of results quarterly. The permits will expire March 31, 1983.

(4) PERMIT NAME:

JAMES L. MARTIN
"CLEARVIEW ACRES"
P.O. BOX 1540
ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING 82901
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0024406

Clearview Acres is an existing residential subdivision located north of Rock Springs, Wyoming. Wastewater treatment consists of a 3 cell lagoon in which the first cell is aerated. The discharge is to Bitter Creek (Class III stream) via an unnamed drainage.

A discharge permit for this facility was issued on July 15, 1975, however, that permit specified that the discharge was to Bitter Creek. Later, it was learned that the effluent may not actually reach Bitter Creek via surface drainage. Since the discharge is a potential health hazard, the Department believes that this situation must be corrected. The proposed permit clarifies the point that the official point of discharge is the outlet from the lagoon and that the quality of the effluent must meet permit conditions at that point. Periodic self-monitoring of the effluent is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit will expire March 31, 1983.

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 May 7, 1978. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permits Section, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80295. All comments received prior to May 7, 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) 777-7781, or EPA, (303) 327-3874, or by writing to the aforementioned addresses.

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

Public Notice No: WY-78-004

16-High Country News — Apr. 7, 1978

Expeditions to evaluate roadless areas

Conservationists offer backpacking with a purpose

by David Sumner

DENVER, COLO. — Two unique features highlight a new wilderness backpacking trip program that begins in Colorado this July. First, participants will not explore famous national parks or established wilderness areas; instead they will hike six obscure national forest roadless areas. Second, they will do so not just for fun, but also to learn the skills of wilderness conservation — and to apply those skills in preserving the roadless areas they explore.

All trips will involve mountain backpacking. The program will be directed by the Wilderness Workshop of the Colorado Open Space Council, a volunteer, statewide environmental coordinating group. Professional guiding and outfitting will be by Rocky Mountain Expeditions, Inc., of Buena Vista, Colo.

"As soon as a person signs on for one of these trips," explains Workshop Program Director Ginger Gheen, "they'll be sent a basic information packet — magazine arti-

cles on wilderness, fact sheets on their roadless area, background materials. This is the raw material for what amounts to a short, informal field course in wilderness conservation."

Each trip will run for five days. All participants will gather at a jump-off spot the night before the trip for a briefing and get-acquainted session. "Then," Gheen says, "we'll hit the trail and go to work. We're going to do basic, on-the-ground wilderness study to find about what these roadless areas are all about."

That may mean anything from listing wildflowers, to checking boundaries, to noting unusual wildlife or geologic formations, to assessing general wilderness quality. Some of the work will depend on what information conservationists need about a roadless area. Some will depend on the skills and interests of the participants.

"We're going to observe and take notes," Gheen says. "Documentary photographing will be an integral part of our work. When we're done, we're going to produce a written and illustrated report describing each roadless area and giving recommendations for its future. Each participant will be involved."

These reports will go to state and national wilderness conservation groups working to secure protection of the six roadless areas. The U.S. Forest Service will also get copies. In the end, information gathered will be used in wilderness proposals made to Congress, and in the debates that follow.

"After the trip," Gheen says, "participants will also be educated in wilderness preservation. They'll be able to continue their efforts as long and actively as they want. We're packing a lot into these trips."

Each of the six Colorado roadless areas is a prime candidate for federal wilderness designation. Under the Forest Service's current Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, the future of each will be decided soon.

"We're looking at over 650,000 acres of the best and largest unprotected wilderness expanses left in Colorado," Gheen says. "But they are remote and haven't been played up, so few people know about them, not even most locals. It's going to be exciting."

The six roadless areas slated for Wilderness Workshop trips are:

Buffalo Peaks (July 3-7): high peaks



Photo by David Sumner
AL MCCLELLAND (left) of Rocky Mountain Expeditions, Inc., and **Ginger Gheen** of the Colorado Wilderness Workshop plan routes into the six national forest roadless areas to be explored this summer as part of the two groups' trip program.



Photo by David Sumner
A WATERFALL on Cataract Creek in Colorado's Carson Peak — Pole Creek Mountain roadless area.

above 13,000 feet, vast expanse of alpine tundra, rolling hills, large deer herd, and also a major bighorn sheep area. Pike-San Isabel National Forest. Departing from Buena Vista.

Hermosa (July 10-14): Hermosa is Spanish for "beautiful." This area of steep mountain canyons carved by cascading creeks has one of the last major virgin spruce-fir forests left in Colorado. Vivid, up-and-down topography. A large elk herd. San Juan National Forest. Departing from Durango.

Piedra — First Fork (July 17-21): Another area of vast, virgin spruce-fir woodlands. Includes the headwaters of the proposed Piedra National Wild and Scenic River and the scenic Second Box Canyon it has carved. San Juan National Forest. Departing from Pagosa Springs.

Arapahoe Creek — Troublesome Creek (July 31-August 4): A richly forested area with many creeks and meadows, as well as the Corral Peak overlook and Parkview Mountain. In the Rabbit Ears Range. Arapahoe and Routt National Forests. Departing from Granby.

The Raggeds — Ruby-Anthracite (August 7-11): Two mountain ranges, rugged ridges, high pocket basins, wide glaciated valleys, abundant flora. Gun-

son National Forest. Departing from Gunnison.

Carson Peak — Pole Creek Mountain (August 14-18): A rolling, alpine area astride the Continental Divide in the north San Juan Range. Many lakes, waterfalls, and a feast of tundra. Also a nameless 13,841-foot peak. Gunnison and Rio Grande National Forests. Departing from Gunnison.

Rocky Mountain Expeditions has been guiding and outfitting commercial wilderness trips since 1972. The trips are for persons with beginning to intermediate backpacking skills already learned. Most will cover from four to seven miles daily, depending on terrain; most will have at least one layover day en route.

Gheen has been actively involved in wilderness conservation since 1975. She has worked in the University of Colorado's Wilderness Study program for two summers and in 1976-1977 served as director of the entire Wilderness Workshop operation.

Some of the proceeds from the trips will go to the workshop. The cost to participants will be about \$150 to \$200 each. For further information, contact: COSC Wilderness Workshop-RMX, P.O. Box CC, Buena Vista, Colo. 81211. Phone (303) 395-8466.

Dear Friends,

For us, the onset of spring has been accompanied by some uplifting financial news. The paper is in pretty good shape, thanks to you.

Our income has risen by about 33% from last year (when we were in the hole). Our spending has risen tremendously too — by 24%. But we are in the black for a change. We have a surplus of \$1,300 accumulated over the last eight months. During that period, we've spent \$36,300 and taken in \$37,600.

Outgo rose dramatically this year for several good reasons. We had a major mailout campaign to find new readers. We have put out four extra sections for a total of 20 extra pages since July. We gave everyone on the staff a raise last year, which moved salaries from \$300 a month to \$375 per month for full-time work. We hired the equivalent of an extra staff person for quarter-time work. Finally, we have had to absorb

significant rises in printing and postage costs.

On the income side of the ledger, we've had modest increases in the number of subscriptions and single copies of the paper sold. But the two dollar rise in subscriptions rates we instituted last April is the biggest single reason for our financial health this year. It pushed the total rise in subscription revenues up to 19%.

Another big boost to us was a dramatic rise in ad revenues — 133% over last year. We've had no trouble increasing the revenues in that department while remaining selective; we still do not take ads that clearly conflict with our editorial positions.

Not to mention the research fund. We sent a financial report to former contributors last year, which resulted in a record number of contributions. We also netted about \$700 selling Laney Hicks' pen and ink drawing of the

Canada Goose family, which makes it our most successful single sales item ever. That leaves our research fund balance at a healthy \$6,400. We've responded by paying our non-staff writers and photographers a little better in the last few months. In turn, we have been rewarded by receiving more high-quality manuscripts than we've ever had before.

Having never had to deal with more than \$80 in surplus, our financial planning meeting was a bit chaotic last week. But it didn't take us long to decide what to do with our \$1,300 profit. Of all the items on our wish list — more extra sections, more staff, better paid contributors and staff, more promotion, and freedom from debts — the debts have the highest priority. So for now, that settles our profit problem.

Many thanks, dear readers, for your generous support. We'll aim to make you proud in the coming issues.

—the editors

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and scratch your head. 1

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