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Dirty air a health hazard in 30 areas of West



SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Photo by Alexis Kerner

The Environmental Bi-Weekly

High Country News

Vol. 10 No. 11 Lander, Wyoming Friday, June 2, 1978

50¢

by Marjane Ambler

Years ago, doctors sent patients with respiratory illnesses out West to breathe clean air.

Now cows near Colstrip, Mont., may be coming down with lung diseases from breathing coal dust.

In Denver, a doctor at the National Asthma Center warns that jogging during rush hours may be hazardous to health.

Denver and Colstrip are two of more than 30 places in the Northern Plains and Rocky Mountain states that have been designated "nonattainment areas" by state air pollution boards and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

While, with a few obvious exceptions such as Los Angeles and Denver, air pollution is generally considered an Eastern and Midwestern problem, all the states in this region have areas that do not meet minimum federal standards for clean air. North Dakota and Wyoming, because they are least populated and least developed, have the cleanest air. Only three counties in North Dakota and one industrial area in Wyoming don't meet the federal standards.

When Congress passed its amendments to the Clean Air Act last summer, it instructed the states and EPA to designate nonattainment areas by early 1978. "Nonattainment of national ambient air quality standards" means simply that the air isn't safe to breathe.

Standards have been set for five pollutants — sulfur dioxide, which can irritate the upper respiratory tract and cause lung damage; photochemical oxidants (smog), which can irritate eyes, mucous membranes and the respiratory system; particulate matter (smoke or dust), which can cause breathing problems and respiratory illness; carbon monoxide, which can place serious burdens on the heart to increase blood flow to compensate for reduced oxygen in the blood; and nitrogen dioxide, which can cause bronchitis and pneumonia.

Congress and EPA have provided two mechanisms to assure that the air over these nonattainment areas will meet federal standards. Each state is required to submit a revised implementation plan to EPA by Jan. 1, 1979, telling how it will clean up its air by 1982.

In addition, new pollution sources (such as refineries, smelters, power plants, pulp mills, phosphate processing plants, etc.)

(continued on page 4)

Alaska: how the House was won

by Bruce Hamilton

"Young men trained over night,
Conscripts forced to fight,
And dressed in gray, to kill."

French songwriter Jacques Brel wrote these words to tell the story of lads being drafted into the army. It seemed the fitting song to sing to myself as I rode the Washington, D.C., metro toward Capitol Hill on April 24.

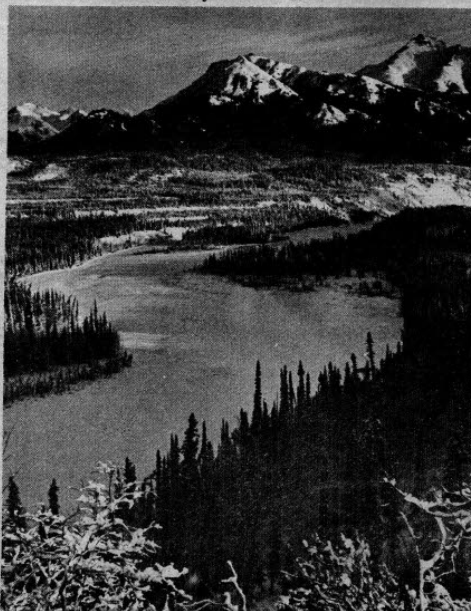
The week before I had been sent orders from my employer, the Sierra Club, to leave everything I was doing in the Northern Great Plains and report to headquarters in Washington to serve as a lobbyist on the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Never mind that I had never done any serious lobbying. I would be trained when I got there along with the other beginners. It was anticipated that our lobbyists would be facing the country's most powerful and experienced lobbyists — the oil industry, the timber industry, the mining industry, some organized labor, and the National Chamber of Commerce — in what supporters of the act billed as "the land and wildlife conservation battle of the century."

I was to report at 9 a.m. sharp, dressed in my best suit and tie — dressed to kill.

The main body of the Allied Forces in this war was an alliance of dozens of conservation groups, civic organizations and labor unions called the Alaska Coalition. It included such groups as Friends of the Earth, the United Mine Workers and the

NENANA RIVER with Mt. Fellowes in the background, part of an addition to Mount McKinley National Park.

Photo by Charlie Ott



(continued on page 8)

2-High Country News — June 2, 1978


HCN
Letters

FAITHFUL READER

Dear High Country News,

We still have the copy of Vol. 1, No. 1 of your paper that was given to us in a camp in Wyoming.

We kept all of them until we moved to this retirement center last year. Then several boxes got soaked by the rain, or I'd still have them.

One trip we found a copy in a latrine in Canada!

I like your papers and news, especially the center fold pictures.

Mrs. R. A. Potter
Alhambra, Calif.

ABBEY EXPOSED

Dear Editor:

Edward Abbey has exposed himself!

Donald Allan
Bellingham, Wash.

OIL MAN EXAMINES "RHETORIC"

Dear HCN:

I read with some interest (and occasional amusement) Bart Koehler's recent letter (HCN 5-5-78) reflecting on the BLM wilderness meeting in Casper and the "hacked, anti-wilderness, federal takeover statements" made by several industry "bad-apples." These people, claims Koehler, don't seem to give "one whit about preserving any of Wyoming" and refused to stick to the prearranged meeting format.

Although I was not at the Casper meeting, I have attended several other wilderness meetings and workshops in Wyoming and would like to offer a few comments.

(1) Rhetoric about people not caring a whit about our environment alienates people and gets us nowhere, even when it is expressed only to fellow preservationists. Generally, the "vocal bad-apples" are simply people who feel that their own interests (economic and other) are being seriously threatened by preservationists who don't fully understand the industry, the complexity of the issues or the economic hardships they are unnecessarily imposing on many small operators.

(2) Having been guilty myself of "straying" from the intended format, I feel qualified to explain why this is often done. Primarily, it is because the federal agencies have begun somewhere in the middle of the review process. They fail to address other critical issues: How much wilderness do we need? How will this wilderness review program be coordinated with other programs? Why is the need for factual assessments of mineral resource potential, revenue losses, balance of trade deficits and other economic impacts not being addressed from the outset? How can we determine if wilderness really is the highest and best use of an area, how can we assess the trade-offs we will be asked to make, if we don't have this information? What price, in terms of opportunities foregone, for example, will we really have to pay for this wilderness?

(3) Many people who oppose oil and gas exploration and development in these roadless areas fail to recognize that these activities are permitted in designated wilderness areas and that they can be car-

Richard Eberhart, one of the most widely anthologized poets in the United States, teaches at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. He has often spent his vacations traveling in the West.

Touch and Go

Writing is my meat and drink.
It is by writing that I think.
I eye (Aye, Aye) the seraphic,
Momentarily love Herrick.

When I was Romantic
I was frantic.
Too much yearning,
Too much burning.

My Classical
Was lackadaisical,
Too hard to do,
Not too true.

It is some deity
Of our society
I'm after, earth-riddle
Somewhere in the middle.

— Richard Eberhart



previously unpublished works by fine poets of the West.

ried out without seriously or permanently impairing an area.

(4) I know that many of you will disagree with these statements. Nevertheless, the fact remains that we are faced with some difficult choices regarding development and preservation: we cannot have zero environmental impact. We continue to rely heavily on oil and gas, and will do so for years to come, but we cannot afford to continue importing nearly 50 percent of our petroleum at a cost of \$45 billion a year.

(5) The letter's last few paragraphs regarding the wholesale destruction of the Red Desert were intriguing to me, though not for the reasons Mr. Koehler had in mind. As someone who worked for years on the environmental side of many issues and who still considers himself a strong advocate of environmental protection, I must say I was somewhat amused, but mostly dismayed, by the tear-jerking scenario

presented by Mr. Koehler. Repeated often enough, fables like this one will quickly put the credibility of the environmental movement at a level somewhat below that currently enjoyed by the major oil companies. My personal observations suggest that there are plenty of real problems out there to worry about. We don't have to run around inventing bad news or disseminating ideas that have no real basis in fact.

Paul K. Driessen
Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association
Denver, Colo.

The High Country News Research Fund is a valuable asset to the newspaper. The fund pays expenses, in whole or in part, for several stories in almost every HCN.

Air pollution

Expenses for the regional air pollution story, including phone and travel, were paid for with fund monies. The Colorado legislature story was also paid for by the fund.

Donate to the fund. Contributions are tax-deductible. Make out a check to Wyoming Environmental Institute — HCN Research Fund, and send it to: WEI, P.O. Box 2497, Jackson, Wyo. 83001. Thank you.

*poetry
of the
earth*

HIGH COUNTRY

"We see it as our duty to speak as caretakers for the natural world. Government is a process of living together, the principle being that all life is equal, including the four-legged and the winged things. The principle has been lost; the two-legged walks about thinking he is supreme with his man-made laws. But there are universal laws of all living things. We come here, and we say they too have rights."

Chief Oren Lyons of the Six Nations of New York State — the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora — spoke those words on the occasion of the return of a small herd of bison to native lands. To the Indians, it was momentous. A spiritual brother had returned, one with them in the realm of life.

Thus, it is news when old-growth Douglas fir stands are being preserved for spotted owls. These rather rare birds are classified as "threatened" by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Research by Oregon State University has revealed that pairs of spotted owls need a rather unique and restricted habitat.

Each nesting pair requires about 300 acres of old-growth forest. Within that 300 acres must be big, old trees, a nearly-closed forest canopy and a two-layered understory. "Big, old" trees are generally those around 200 feet high and 250 years old. Here, the spotted owl hunts for flying squirrels, mice and wood rats.

The way now seems clear for some 100 pairs to be given protection in Oregon. Old-growth stands for 290 pairs are to be set aside on U.S. Forests, 90 sites on U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands, and 20 sites on other federal, state, county, and private lands.

Biologists have recommended that plant diversity be maintained on these sites. Plant and animal species that occupy the areas would be protected. The unique areas probably will exist as islands in the more intensively managed forest lands around them.

Let us hope that in the process demands for cutting old-growth timber will not override our concerns for these fellow creatures.

"They, too, have rights."



"IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH PINE TREE EMISSIONS
CHOKING OIL SHALE WORKERS."

June 2, 1978 — High Country News-3

Sick of superlatives? Callous about congressmen?

by Bruce Hamilton
Sierra Club Regional Representative

One of the hazards of joining citizen conservation groups is that you are inundated with requests for letters to your congressmen.

Last month you wrote urging your senators to save some obscure endangered species. Last week's alert was about weakening amendments to some anti-pollution law. This week you are told a letter is needed to kill the ominous omnibus bill.

The volume of requests for letters is a problem for letter writers, but a bigger problem for conservation staff members trying to generate mail. Soon, you're bound to run out of superlatives.

How many times can we ask for letters "urgently" requesting mail in a "last chance" drive to save a "spectacular crown jewel" area and its "unique" wildlife from the "exploiters"?

As the requests for letters grow there is a need to make the latest campaign seem more critical than the previous one. Thus we progressed from saving wilderness to saving threatened wilderness to saving endangered wilderness. But what do we do for an encore? Plead for the protection of extinct wilderness?

And after the Alaska National Interest Lands bill is passed how will we ever top the billing: "the conservation votes of the century."

Eventually you have to ask if it's all worth it. Are your congressmen as tired of hearing from you as you are of writing to them? Is the volume of letters reducing your effectiveness as a letter-writing constituent? Are all your letters put in the congressmen's "environmental fanatic correspondence" files?

I've been a conservation volunteer and felt the callousness to the cause grow in myself as the letter requests multiply. I'm now a staff member of a conservation group, and I periodically try to compose pleas for letters that will be effective. During this past month I gained a third perspective — I was a lobbyist in Washington, and I witnessed the effect constituent mail can have on a congressman.

In one congressional office I remember having a hasty conversation on the Alaska legislation with a half-interested aide. The aide was trying to be courteous, but obviously had other issues on his mind. I told him what I'd been told — that these were

the "conservation votes of the century." He didn't believe me.

Four days later I returned to the same office and arrived in the wake of about 20 letters and phone calls from constituents favoring the Alaska bill. "Glad to see you, Bruce," the aide said. "Come in. I've got my Alaska map on my desk right now. Can you show me where Misty Fjords is and how much wilderness you want there?"

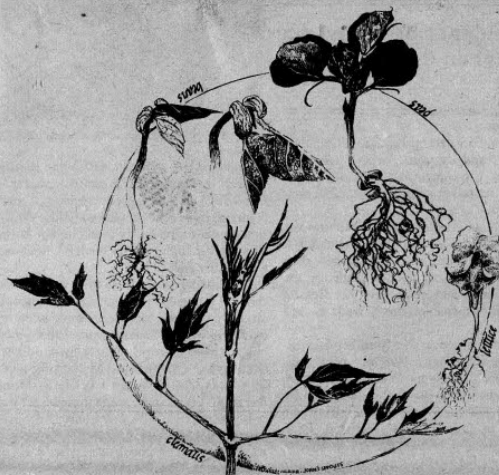
I also remember entering an office when the legislative aide (LA) and the administrative assistant (AA) were having an ar-

gument over the Alaska bill. The LA had been sympathetic all along and had been telling me her boss probably would vote for the bill. The AA had just read a letter from the National Chamber of Commerce against the bill and was arguing that the congressman shouldn't support it.

In the course of the debate the AA asked how the mail was running. When the LA replied that the mail was heavy and it was almost all in favor of the bill, the AA withdrew his objections. The congressman voted for the bill.

Congressmen aren't only influenced by the number of letters they get. They care just as much about the facts of the issue. I recall one office where the aide showed me a telegram that read in its entirety: "If you vote against HR 39, I will vote against you in the next election." The aide had sent back a letter saying as politely as possible that that type of threat wasn't a concern to the congressman, but that he did care why the constituent felt as he did. If the constituent would take the time to write a detailed letter explaining the reason for his views, the congressman would be glad to consider them.

Informed citizen correspondence with congressmen is the best key our lobbyists have to legislative offices. It also multiplies our Washington lobbying force. It may be a bother to write another letter, but I'm now convinced: if you care enough to make the effort, it can make the difference.



Guest editorials do not necessarily represent the opinions of HCN.



PUSH FOR PHOTOVOLTAICS

Dear Friends,

In your May 20, 1977 issue (I'm behind in my reading) Plunkett and Nice inspire us to build a MHD and Solar Heat Pump Assisted System. From this we appear to get more energy out than we put in. (As high as 189% theoretical of the BTU value of coal,

6 X 9 X 3.5). Praise the Lord and pass the strip mining bill.

Well, using the fact that money flows in the opposite direction of energy, such a system will not get the consumer any better position in the market place. The cost of that system would be borne by the consumer who a) needs to provide capital, through user fees, to build MHD plants, b) has to buy a heat pump, c) has to buy a solar collector system, d) has to insulate, and e) toss in a gas furnace for good measure.

Obviously (or is it really obvious to most of us?) something has to give and most likely it will be you and I to the power and hardware manufacturing companies. Unless, of course, we reestablish democracy

here in our country and opt for decentralized systems. (Yes, write your Congressman, brothers and sisters, and push for photovoltaics.)

The plain facts are that economies of scale no longer apply to social goods and services (bibliography of sources available to back up this statement). The real issues are who controls the power. After that is settled we can get to the nitty gritty of solving our energy crisis.

David Givers, Coordinator
Community Environmental Education
The Tri-College University
Fargo, N.D.

HOW CONGRESS VOTED ON ALASKA

MONTANA

Rep. Max Baucus (D) was a cosponsor of HR 39, but was absent for all House floor votes.

Rep. Ron Marlenee (R) voted against HR 39 in committee, but was absent for most floor votes.

WYOMING

Rep. Teno Roncalio (D) was a cosponsor of HR 39. He strongly defended the bill on the first two days of House floor consideration, but was absent for the vote on final passage.

COLORADO

Reps. Pat Schroeder (D), Tim Wirth (D), and Frank Evans (D) voted for a strong Alaska bill on four key floor votes as well as for final passage.

Reps. Bill Armstrong (R) and Jim Johnson (R) voted for one weakening amendment on the House floor, but supported final passage.

UTAH

Reps. Dan Marriott (R) and Gunn McKay (D) voted for all weakening amendments, but supported final passage.

IDAHO

Reps. Steven Symms (R) and George Hansen (R) voted against consideration of the bill, for all weakening amendments, and against final passage. Symms was one of the most vocal opponents of the bill.

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Write Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520.

GOT THE BLUES?

If you've got the "I've just spent my last bucks for a bus ticket to Wyoming and now that I'm here there's no place to sit down 'cause Wyoming is being shipped to a power plant for processing and someone just stole my last 'catsup sandwich' blues, then do something about it! Join us in our job of monitoring the developing West. At the very least you'll have someone to talk to on those very blue days.

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4-High Country News — June 2, 1978

Western air...

(continued from page 1)

cannot be constructed after June 30, 1979, in nonattainment areas if they would contribute to a particular type of air pollution. For example, if particulate standards are exceeded, then a smelter that would also emit particulates could not be constructed.

The only way to get around this ban is for the new industry to arrange for existing industries to reduce their emissions, which is what EPA calls its "offset policy."

This policy was demonstrated last summer when a General Motors auto assembly plant was proposed in Oklahoma City,

The rural oxidant problem has stimulated considerable debate within the agency. "How can we require a reduction in oxidants when we don't know how to reduce them ourselves?" one EPA official asks.

Faced with a similar problem, Louisiana state officials considered chopping down pine trees. Thinking there must be a better solution than removing vegetation, the EPA is considering modifying the oxidant standard. This change would probably enable the oil shale areas and Mercer, Dunn and Burleigh counties in North Dakota to meet the standards. There is also a strong chance that data from the two oil shale areas will be invalidated, which would mean the areas would be designated attainment, according to Marius Gedgaudas

Dr. Philip Weiser says residents of Denver would be better off warming a chair during peak traffic hours than exercising.

Oklahoma. The plant was to add more than 3,000 tons of hydrocarbon emissions per year to the air. Several oil companies agreed to provide an offset for GM by reducing their aggregate emissions of hydrocarbons by 5,280 tons per year.

Because of the designations' effect on future growth, there have been several protests against nonattainment designations in the region. EPA has heard protests not only from industries but also from local officials and the public. The comment period ended May 2, but the controversy is likely to heighten as more and more industries are told they cannot construct new facilities in nonattainment areas.

When the Pocatello, Idaho, city council learned the city was designated a nonattainment area, the members told an EPA representative it was "blackmail" and an unwarranted federal intrusion into private matters. A council member complained the designation would "stop our city dead in its tracks." The primary sources of particulate matter in Pocatello are two phosphate plants, and more plants may be proposed there.

Other communities said the effects of designation would be "devastating" and "stifling." County commissioners protested a nonattainment designation for the Silver Valley in Idaho, where the Bunker Hill lead smelter lies, saying the local grade school won the state physical fitness championship last year — proof, they said, that air pollution is not as harmful as alleged.

The Idaho Environmental Council, however, said complaints against the designations were like blaming disease on doctors or crime on police.

With some nonattainment designations, EPA was on shaky ground, says Butch Rachel of EPA Region IX, based in Denver. In response to comments from industry and the public, the agency may change the designations in some areas, say EPA representatives in Region IX and in Region X.

Ninety percent of the comments in Region IX (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming) concerned the designation of two remote sites where oil shale may be developed, says Rachel. "I think everybody in Uintah County (Utah) and Rio Blanco County (Colorado) wrote," he says.

EPA designated those areas and three rural North Dakota counties nonattainment for photochemical oxidants, although the agency admits that most of these oxidants appear to be from natural sources such as vegetation or the atmosphere. Unless the designation is changed, oil shale development could not proceed in Colorado or Utah.

of EPA in Denver. Oxidants are difficult to monitor, and the data, which were collected by the companies themselves, are "highly suspect," according to EPA field scientists.

Despite assurances from EPA, however, the oil shale companies are reluctant to start building until they see the new standard in black and white. Fighting environmental and economic hurdles for years, the companies don't want to take chances.

The changes would only affect designations for rural areas. Rachel says the designation of cities as oxidant nonattainment areas, such as Salt Lake City and several communities along the Front Range in Colorado, is justified. Even though smog in towns such as Fort Collins or Greeley, both in Colorado, may be transported from urban areas, in this case Denver, the EPA does not plan to change their designation to attainment.

FUGITIVE DUST

A second area where the EPA may be on shaky ground is its classification of rural nonattainment areas for particulates. Here again, Mother Nature is being

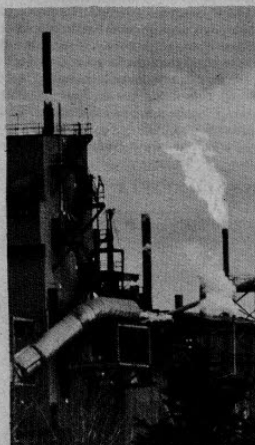
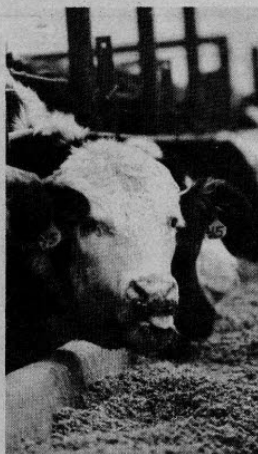


Photo by Dick Randall, Defenders of Wildlife

SODA SPRINGS, Idaho, doesn't meet federal particulate standards. The primary industrial sources in the area are this Monsanto phosphorous plant, a Beker fertilizer plant and a Simplot plant.



Idaho Dept. of Commerce photo

blamed for the pollution, with some justification. In many rural areas, the particulate count is high largely because of dust from unpaved roads or plowed fields. While this creates a visibility problem, the solution isn't a high priority for EPA because the health risk is low.

In urban areas or areas with industries, there is a greater risk that the dust in the air may contain toxic pollutants such as lead or asbestos. Consequently, the agency has adopted a "rural fugitive dust policy" that says that, even if the particulate level in a low-population area is above standards, if there is no major industrial development, then EPA will ignore the violations. "If we didn't have that policy, we would have a no growth policy in a lot of rural areas," Rachel says.

However, while this policy will in effect let some communities off the hook, it inspired criticism from others that thought they should also be allowed to forget their particulate pollution problems.

Colstrip is one rural area where there seemed to be little disagreement about whether it should control its particulate problem. It was designated nonattainment by the state, and there were no objections to the designation filed with EPA. Colstrip has the highest particulate count in the state of Montana, and ranchers report that grass and water in the vicinity are coated with coal dust. A local rancher, Duke McRae, says his death loss in calves due to respiratory disease has increased three to

Colstrip power plant near the mine, the coal storage pile must first be covered to offset the particulate pollution added by their stacks.

There was more controversy in Idaho, where low population qualifies Lewiston as rural under EPA's regulations. The town was listed as nonattainment because of particulate matter that seems to come primarily from a pulp mill. EPA has given the state funds to determine if dust blowing from non-industrial areas across the river causes the pollution, as many claimed in comments sent to EPA. If the pulp mill isn't the primary source, the designation may be changed, says Mike Shultz of EPA Region X, based in Seattle, Wash.

In Wyoming, a trona industrial area near Rock Springs was designated nonattainment because of the particulate count. It was the only part of Wyoming not meeting federal standards.

The EPA doesn't plan to be flexible in areas where there is a strong possibility that the particulate matter is toxic. Both CF&I Steel Corp., which operates a steel mill in Pueblo, Colo., and Ideal Basic Industries, a cement firm operating on the Front Range in Colorado, objected to nonattainment designations. EPA's Rachel was unmoved. "The population is so dense there that the problem should be solved," he says. Lots of people means lots of cars and consequently high levels of toxic materials in the air. That makes cleanup necessary to protect the health of area residents, he says.

PROTECTING POLLUTERS

Pueblo has long been known to Coloradans as a dirty town, and CF&I is responsible for much of it. CF&I is one of the six largest polluters in the region. Each of the six is in a community that tends to be protective of its industry and to resist EPA efforts to impose expensive pollution control devices.

For example, when HCN contacted The Pueblo Chieftain for a photo of CF&I, the news director, George Luby, said that if the photo was used in a way that would "enhance the community," it could be loaned for no charge. Since the story was about polluted areas, he said there would be a \$5 charge.

The other large pollution sources for particulates or sulfur dioxide in the region include the Bunker Hill smelter in Kellogg, Idaho; the Anaconda smelter in Anaconda, Mont.; the ASARCO smelter in East Helena, Mont.; the U.S. Steel mill in Orem, Utah and the Kennecott smelter in Salt Lake County, Utah. With the exception of

Maybe Utah should take EPA to court in order to control its own destiny, a Kennecott representative suggested.

five times since the Western Energy mine opened up. Dr. Herb Smith, who is presently doing research at Montana State University on bovine respiratory disease, supports McRae's suspicions that the increase in pneumonia in the calves probably was related to particulate pollution from the mines. While he has not investigated the cattle near Colstrip, Smith says cattle near other coal mining operations have symptoms similar to those of black lung in humans.

Not many people live in the vicinity, and there is no evidence to suggest that the few who do live there are contracting black lung.

No other large mines in the state have open coal storage piles. The state has now stipulated that if two units are added to the

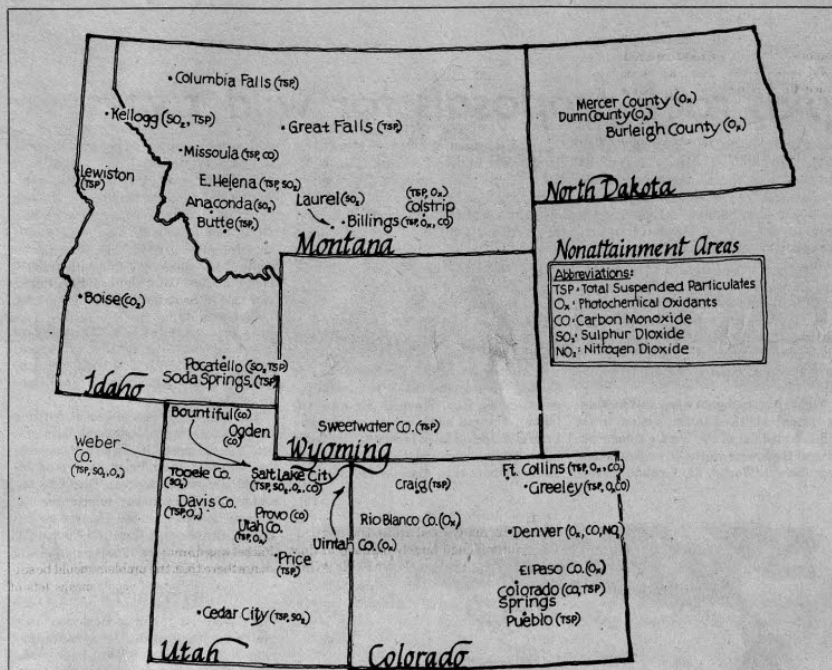
ASARCO and CF&I, none of them has an approved plan for meeting the federal standards, even though the battle to get them into compliance has been going on for more than five years.

Some companies, such as Anaconda, Kennecott and Bunker Hill, have taken legal steps to challenge EPA's authority to set standards. Anaconda lost its challenge, and Kennecott's and Bunker Hill's have not been settled. Sometimes the threat of litigation has been enough to make EPA proceed slowly, making sure it was on sound legal footing, according to Rachel.

Each of the states involved — Colorado, Montana, Idaho and Utah — has been reluctant to force these major employers to comply. In Idaho, Bunker Hill and the state

See next page

June 2, 1978 — High Country News-5



NONATTAINMENT AREAS in the region are indicated on the map above. Almost all these areas failed to meet federal primary standards, which are designed to protect human health. The areas that met primary standards but not secondary standards are: Missoula, Bil-

lings, Great Falls, Butte, and East Helena in Montana and Davis County and Cedar City in Utah. Secondary standards are designed to protect crops and other vegetation, visibility, domestic animals, wildlife and property.

are on the same side of a lawsuit against EPA over sulfur dioxide regulations.

In most cases throughout the country, EPA accepted the states' designations of attainment areas and nonattainment areas. However, in Utah, the state didn't designate Salt Lake County as a nonattainment area for sulfur dioxide, even though the federal standards have been violated by Kennecott Copper's Magna smelter every year since 1970. The state reluctantly accepted EPA's designation of the county this spring, as it was required to do by the Clean Air Act.

Kennecott officials don't think the state should be so submissive. At a public hearing on a different air pollutant problem, a Kennecott spokesman said, "Each state should control its own destiny rather than

being controlled by the federal bureaucracy. Maybe we (the state) should take EPA to court."

Kennecott is important to the economy of its area. It pays more than \$100 million per year in wages, and indirectly supports workers earning another \$200 million.

Those who support enforcement of the federal standards say the company is endangering the health of its workers and everyone else in the vicinity. In addition, it is preventing further development in the area since no new sulfur dioxide or particulate sources would be allowed until Kennecott's emissions are reduced, they say.

Kennecott is modifying its smelter and adding new controls, all of which are expected to be operational by July 31, one

year past the company's previous deadline. Marius Gedgaudas of EPA says these modifications will mean a "drastic reduction" in both visible pollutants (particulate matter) and invisible pollutants (such as sulfur dioxide). However, Kennecott still won't be meeting federal requirements for continuous controls since it plans to shut down whenever atmospheric conditions prevent the dispersal of pollutants. The latest Clean Air Act amendments forbid such intermittent controls, but they also provide extensions of up to five years for nonferrous smelters such as Kennecott's if they meet certain conditions. These extensions were provided by Congress because of the high capital costs for smelters' pollution control equipment and the low price of copper.

AUTO OUTLOOK GRIM

While there are many delays in getting industrial polluters into compliance, progress is being made, and with the exception of the smelters, all are expected to meet the 1982 deadline, according to Gedgaudas.

The outlook, however, is not so good for automobile pollution. State and federal officials predict that some of the most polluted cities — Denver, Salt Lake City and Boise — will not be able to clean up before the deadline. Other cities with auto pollution problems that are more borderline — such as Missoula and Billings (both in Montana) — are expected to meet the deadline. Up to a five-year extension is possible for cleaning up auto-related pollutants, if the cities can prove they've exercised all reasonable measures.

In this region, only Wyoming and North Dakota have no cities that exceed federal standards for auto pollutants. Idaho has one city — Boise — above standards for carbon monoxide, Montana two (Billings and Missoula), Utah four (Salt Lake City,

Bountiful, Ogden and Provo), and Colorado three plus the six-county metropolitan area around Denver (Colorado Springs, Fort Collins and Greeley plus the counties of Arapahoe, Adams, Denver, Jefferson, Boulder and Douglas).

In Denver, almost 90% of the pollution is caused by cars, and residents of Denver have more carbon monoxide in their blood than anyone else in the country, EPA says, because of the combination of pollution and high altitude. According to Dr. Philip Weiser, a researcher and director of physiology at the National Asthma Center, pollution in Denver is so bad that it would be healthier for residents to warm a chair during peak traffic hours than to exercise.

Dave Sumner, an experienced jogger, describes a recent excursion during an air pollution alert in Denver. "No more than a half mile out, I was wondering what was wrong with me. It felt as if my lungs were seizing, they were so hot and burning. Two miles out it was all over; I was spitting up crud, my head was pounding and I was experiencing horrible pain in my lungs."

It's not just the joggers who suffer in the polluted cities of the West. A doctor at Colorado General Hospital has found a correlation between air pollution alerts and admissions to the emergency room for coronaries. In Salt Lake City, residents have asthma attacks on the freeway and an unusual amount of respiratory infections.

The director of the Utah Lung Association, Dr. Frank K. Brough, says, "We don't think it (the health effects of air pollution) requires documenting. The federal standards are set on the basis of research that defines the protection level for human health, and Salt Lake City exceeds the standards."

Brough says many Salt Lake City doctors are prescribing air filtering and air purification systems for the homes of respiratory disease patients. "Every dollar spent for this costly remedy is an indictment of the Utah Air Conservation Committee," he says. The air filter solution means the well-to-do can have good air, but the general public cannot, he says.

VICTIM OF NATURE

State air pollution officials have various explanations for why the automobile pollution problem is especially tough. Brent Bradford, assistant director of Utah's air quality division, says Salt Lake City's pollution is being reduced somewhat. But he says, "We're the victim of what Mother Nature wants to do with meteorology." Salt Lake City is in a bowl-shaped valley where pollution often is trapped by temperature inversions.

In Idaho, Murray Michael, head of the Division of Air Quality, says he doesn't expect Boise to meet the 1982 deadline. "We need more lead time," he says. However, the state has one handle on auto pollution

"I felt as if my lungs were seizing, they were so hot and burning."

that few other states have — a mobile source permit system. Idaho recently turned down a permit for a large underground parking lot in Boise because of its potential effect on air quality. Boise's carbon monoxide problem is about as bad as Salt Lake City's but not as serious as Denver's. In 2½ years, Boise violated the eight-hour federal standard 223 times, ac-

(continued on page 12)

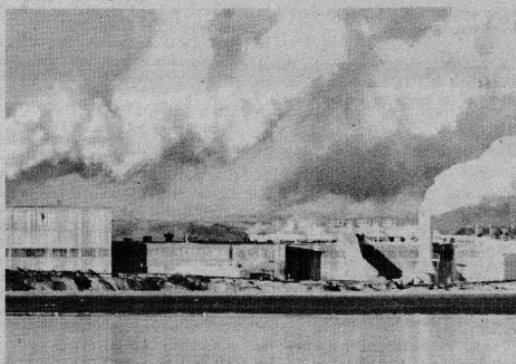


Photo by Dick Randall. Defenders of Wildlife. EMISSIONS FROM Stouffer Chemical Co. and other iron plants near Rock Springs make this the only area in Wyoming that fails to meet federal clean air standards.

3-High Country News — June 2, 1978

Political rapids rock proposals for wild rivers

by Philip White

Western rivers originally included in an omnibus wild and scenic rivers bill have found the political whitewater of Congress more perilous this spring than Snaggletooth Rapid.

In his environmental message a year ago, President Carter recommended that parts of eight rivers, including the Bruneau and Salmon in Idaho and the Dolores in Colorado, be designated by Congress as Wild and Scenic Rivers under the 1968 act, which protects such river stretches from dams, channelizing, and water quality deterioration, as well as regulating mining and development onshore.

Federal agencies had found the stretches possessed "outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural and other similar values" as defined in the act.

Carter also recommended that stretches of 20 rivers, including six in the mountain states and one in Nebraska, be studied. While under study, the rivers would be protected from federal water projects for three years.

Under the wild and scenic river designation process, federal agencies such as the Forest Service or the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, together with state agencies, study rivers for possible inclusion in the system. The river stretches studied can be classified as wild, scenic or recreational, or judged not worthy for designation.

The eight rivers Carter recommended for designation already had been studied. He was recommending that studies be conducted on the other 20 stretches.

Presently, says John Hauber of the Interior Department's Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, 20 river sections totaling 1,622 miles are in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Another 57 are under study for possible inclusion.

Rep. Phillip Burton (D-Calif.) combined the river proposals with other national parks legislation in the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978.

Immediately, says Howard Brown, Director of the American Rivers Conserva-

tion Council (ARCC) in Washington, "there were a lot of sparks flying." By mid-May, when the bill passed the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, the package had a new facade and the Bruneau, Salmon and Dolores were conspicuously absent from the list.

"With this sort of omnibus treatment," says Dave Conrad, ARCC assistant director, "the input of the individual Congressmen, in whose districts the rivers lie, is particularly critical. A word from them to Chairman Burton may be all it takes to have a river added to or removed from the bill."

Eight river segments were still included as instant additions to the system in the bill reported out of the House committee. Five of them were in the President's message: Skagit (Wash.), Rio Grande (Texas),

Upper Mississippi (Minn.), Pere Marquette (Mich.) and Middle Delaware (Pa., N.Y., N.J.). Three others replaced the Western rivers that had been removed: Upper Delaware (Pa.), Missouri (S.D. and Neb.) and the North Fork of the American (Cal.).

UNEXPECTED ADVOCATE

The American River segment was added at the request of Rep. Harold T. Johnson (D-Calif.), who has been an assiduous dam builder throughout his career on the Public Works Committee.

According to ARCC, the Bruneau and Salmon were deleted chiefly because of opposition by Rep. Steve D. Symms (R-Idaho). Conrad says, however, "Senator Frank Church of Idaho is very interested in both of these rivers and they could be added on the Senate side. Also, the Salmon may

be protected through the proposed River of No Return Wilderness."

The Dolores is another story. One of the nation's last premier whitewater boating rivers, the Dolores traverses all five Western lifezones. From its origin in the San Juan National Forest of southwest Colorado, the Dolores flows past prehistoric Indian ruins, over rapids and through spectacular slickrock canyons before joining the Colorado River in Utah.

Rep. Frank E. Evans (D-Colo.) tacked on an amendment to insure that wild rivers designation did not interfere with the construction or operation of the McPhee Dam on the Dolores.

"His language was aimed at further legitimizing a very questionable dam project," Conrad says. "It is not inconceivable that with that amendment, they could de-water the river in a dry year. Therefore, the conservation community reluctantly but strongly asked that the Dolores be removed." Brown says there is a chance the Dolores could be resurrected on the Senate side, without a dam amendment.

STUDY RIVERS

Six Western river sections were approved for study in the House committee: Gila (N.M.), Madison (Mont.), Salt Verde, Gila and San Francisco (Ariz.). The latter three were added by Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.). According to the ARCC, the New Mexico Gila section and the Madison were "still shaky."

Four Western rivers were deleted. The Niobrara, which flows practically unimpeded across most of northern Nebraska, was removed, along with the Green in Utah, the Sweetwater in Wyoming, and the Yellowstone in Montana and Wyoming.

Loss of the Niobrara from the study list was expiated somewhat by the inclusion "of a chunk of the Missouri below Gavins Point Dam in South Dakota and Nebraska," Brown says.

Brown and Conrad say that more opposition to rivers protection has emerged in the West than in any other section of the country, as rapid growth and energy development create demands for water.



Photo by Dave Sumner

THE DOLORES RIVER has been removed from the House bill for wild and scenic rivers but is included in the Senate bill.

EPA takes first steps against chemicals that contain dioxin

Now that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has taken the first step toward banning the herbicide 2,4,5-T and its deadly TCDD dioxin from forests and rangelands, it is preparing the same action against all other products that contain the dioxin.

Within the next two weeks or so, says Larry O'Neill, of the EPA's office of public affairs in Washington, the agency probably will issue a Rebuttable Presumption Against Reregistration (RPAR) notice against 2,4,5-trichlorophenol, the precursor of 2,4,5-T in the manufacturing process.

2,4,5-trichlorophenol is used by the textile industry in making rayon and silk; by the leather industry as a hide preservative; by the auto industry to preserve rubber gaskets; by the fruit industry to control bacteria; by power companies and paper manufacturers to control slime and algae; and by homeowners in swimming pools and as a bathroom fungicide.

In other words, most Americans wear, eat, sit on, or swim in something that contains 2,4,5-trichlorophenol, and its unav-

oidable contaminant TCDD, a dioxin so deadly that a sliver of it the size of a pinhead could cause tens of deaths, diseases, and genetic mutations. (For a discussion of TCDD, see HCN 2-24-78.)

Essentially, six chemical formulations — 2,4,5-trichlorophenol, 2,4,5-T, pentachlorophenol, Silvex, Erbon, and Ronnel — contain TCDD. Hundreds of products, however, contain one or another of these chemicals. They are sold across the counter with little limitation on their use other than warning labels.

By law, no more than 0.1 parts per million of TCDD may be present in any chemical, but government and independent scientists have found that TCDD in the parts per trillion range caused birth defects in experimental animals. Industry disputes these findings.

"I think the intention (of the EPA) is to move against everything that contains TCDD" eventually, O'Neill says.

The RPAR is a lengthy process, sometimes taking up to two years, during which the government holds hearings. Industry

and others argue why a product should, or should not, be banned.

On April 12, the EPA issued an RPAR against 2,4,5-T. An estimated 5 million pounds of the herbicide had been used in the U.S. in 1977, mostly on forests, rangelands, rights-of-way and rice paddies, O'Neill says.

In issuing the notice, Barbara Blum, deputy administrator of EPA, said "an ample margin of safety" may not exist for those who apply the herbicide, nor for those exposed to it as a result of aerial spraying. Blum said, too, that both concentrated TCDD and as little TCDD as .05 parts per million had caused birth defects in laboratory animals.

The EPA also concluded that a two-year feeding study on rats conducted by Dow Chemical Co., a major producer of the herbicide, showed "discernible increases in cancerous lung and liver tumors." The rats had been fed diets containing as little as .000022 parts per million. Dow had said

the study showed "no increase in the incidence of tumors in rats."

"EPA's investigations of 2,4,5-T and dioxin mainly will concern their potential for causing cancer or birth defects in people over long periods of time," Blum said. "The agency does not think current use of the chemical poses an imminent threat to people or the environment."

Dow, in a company publication called *Dow Today*, said April 26 that 2,4,5-T "is not hazardous to animal or human health under normal conditions of use or even under conditions of substantial misuse...The review provides an excellent opportunity to resolve the issues they (groups opposing use of the chemical) have raised. These groups fail to understand that so far there is no alternative — chemical or nonchemical — that achieves the public benefits of 2,4,5-T."

O'Neill says the EPA hopes to decide whether to propose a ban on the use of 2,4,5-T within a year, though previous similar reviews have taken longer.

Until then, 2,4,5-T will continue to be used as before.



Denver Post photo

DENVER, looking down Welton St. to the southwest during an air pollution alert in mid-January 1978.

Colorado Legislature report

Political smog keeps Denver air dirty

by Todd Engdahl

DENVER — Democratic Gov. Dick Lamm has vetoed the one air pollution control bill to emerge from Colorado's 1978 legislative session.

The air pollution issue, which started as a bipartisan crusade against Denver's "brown cloud," ended up tangled in gubernatorial politics and legislative vendettas against state bureaucrats.

Other environmental issues discussed during the 1978 session were mined land reclamation, coal slurry pipelines and water policy. But the legislators gave scant attention to them.

Air pollution was the top issue from the session's opening day Jan. 4, when Lamm told legislators, "The price of living in an air pollution basin is coming due and must be paid."

During a series of extremely smoggy days in January, Lamm and Republican and Democratic legislators prepared their own air pollution proposals.

Those proposals were similar and included early implementation of the emis-

emissions standards and sent the measure to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

At that point the air pollution issue dropped from sight, as lawmakers, struggling to finish work before the end of April, turned their attention to the state budget.

On April 20, three days before lawmakers left the Capitol for a two-week recess, the air bill emerged from the appropriations committee, single-handedly rewritten by committee Chairman Sen. Ted Strickland (R-Westminster), a suburban conservative seeking the Republican nomination for governor.

The amended bill would have started a 10-county emissions inspection program for cars built in 1972 and later next December, increased penalties for polluting vehicles, and provided incentives for car pooling.

Most significantly, the bill would have stripped the state Air Pollution Control Commission of all power over automobile pollution and given control of the inspection program to the Department of Revenue.

Despite some legislative protests that

said this was inviting federal takeover of pollution control planning in Colorado.

MINED LAND RECLAMATION

The legislature, under the persistent prodding of Sen. Dan Noble (R-Norwood), also passed Senate Joint Resolution 3, which attempts to change some regulations adopted by the state's Mined Land Reclamation Board.

The resolution, among other things, would have abolished regulations that require mine operators to specify their sources of water for reclamation and to consider soil conditions and wildlife protection in their reclamation plans.

The resolution wasn't sent to Lamm, who has announced he would have vetoed it. Lamm says that because the resolution was not signed by him, it lacks the force of law. He has told the board to ignore the resolution, and so continue the fight over mined land reclamation.

The only other major piece of natural resources legislation passed was Senate Bill 69, which appropriates \$1 million to the Water Conservation Board construction fund for use in small water projects around the state.

Legislation to control coal slurry pipelines, establish tighter control over drilling of deep wells on state lands, and restricting the rights of cities to condemn agricultural water was discussed but not passed this year.

Most of those issues are expected to surface during the 1979 session, especially control of slurry pipelines, a goal some Western Slope legislators have been trying to reach since 1977.

The governor, an environmentalist, was faced with signing a bill he didn't like, written by a potential opponent, or vetoing a bill on an issue he'd called his top legislative priority.

sions inspection program already on the books and incentives for automobile tune-ups and car pooling.

Many of those proposals were combined into HB 1209, a bill that dealt only with auto pollution. Surprisingly, the House also included a section allowing Colorado to set its own automobile emissions standards, a direct challenge to the federal law that sets uniform national standards, applicable to all states except California, where the state forced stiffer standards.

Many lawmakers felt the federal government and the automobile makers have ignored the unique pollution problems of Colorado's high altitude, and they wanted to invite a court test of the federal standards.

The House passed the bill in late February, and by the end of March a Senate committee had discussed the measure, removed the section on separate Colorado

the Strickland bill was too much to digest in a short time, both houses passed it, leaving Lamm with an unhappy choice.

The governor, an environmentalist who has seen his environmental support slip in recent years, was faced with signing a bill he didn't like that was written by a potential opponent, or with vetoing the only bill to emerge on the issue he'd called his top legislative priority.

Under heavy pressure from both environmental groups and air pollution officials, Lamm vetoed the bill May 5. He said that stripping the pollution commission of power over automobiles would make it impossible for the state to draft an acceptable clean air implementation plan. The legislature, while shifting authority over auto pollution to the Department of Revenue, did not fund the agency to prepare the state implementation plan required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Lamm

June 2, 1978 — High Country News-7

Western air...

(continued from page 5)

cording to Richard Johnson of the Division of Air Quality.

Steve Kelsey, a planner with the Colorado Air Pollution Control Commission, also puts part of the blame on Congress because it removed its requirement for special high altitude emission controls. Auto pollution in high altitude areas is more serious since there is less oxygen in the air.

But Kelsey says that reducing tailpipe emissions from individual cars would not be enough. "We have to find ways to reduce people's dependency on their cars, to change their habits," he says. Denverites have the highest per capita automobile use in the country, he says.

Reducing auto pollution is a multi-jurisdictional headache. Emission controls require federal mandates to manufacturers and state legislation for inspection and maintenance programs. Federal funding and intercity cooperation are both necessary for mass transit systems. Land use planning can discourage sprawl and thus unnecessary use of automobiles, but it is politically unacceptable in much of the West and requires cooperation among several levels of government.

Another obstacle to controlling auto emissions is money. While millions of dollars are being spent to research electric cars, funds for expanding an existing alternative, Amtrak passenger trains, are being held back and Western service re-

Complaining about designations is a little like blaming disease on doctors or crime on police.

duced. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, electric rail transit produces only a fraction of the air pollutants generated by automobiles carrying the same number of passengers, assuming power plants are properly controlled.

While the emphasis until 1982 will be on cleaning up nonattainment areas throughout the country, this doesn't mean that air quality will be allowed to deteriorate as energy development proceeds in the West. Congress has also provided Prevention of Significant Deterioration regulations to guard against this. These regulations will be the limiting factor after 1982, according to Gedgaudas.



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8-High Country News — June 2, 1978



CAPE KRUZENSTERN National Monument would include these fresh water lagoons separated from Kotzebue Sound in the Chukshi Sea by a succession of 114 beach ridges. The ridges, campsites for prehistoric Eskimo cultures, have evidence of nearly every major cultural period so far identified in the Arctic, dating back to 3,000 B.C.

Senators threaten Alaska filibuster

Senate interest in Alaska legislation has been low, but is picking up because of the overwhelming House vote. The Alaska Coalition says the Senate may vote as early as mid-July.

Senate action was set back when the bill's champion, Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.), died in office and no other strong supporter surfaced to lead the fight.

Then, in early May, Alaska's two senators, Ted Stevens (R) and Mike Gravel (D), who want less wilderness, threatened to filibuster any bill that resembled H.R. 39. Following that announcement, Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.), probably sensing that the votes weren't there to cut off the threatened filibuster, said he would not support cloture (a vote cutting off filibuster) "on a matter that affects one state" as long as that state's senators opposed it.

That Byrd would view the issue as "a matter that affects one state" raised eyebrows. The *Washington Post* wrote a stinging editorial, arguing that the lands in question are federal and that a federal decision should be made this year.

Byrd's statement came before the

House vote. Steve Hiniker of the Alaska Coalition says a preliminary count indicates sufficient votes to cut off a filibuster.

If all goes smoothly for the bill, Hiniker projects the following Senate timetable: June 6, the final day of Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearings; June 12, committee markup; committee passage by the end of June or early July; and Senate floor action following the July 4th recess.

A number of bills will be before the committee. Metcalf's original bill, S. 1500, has a new chief sponsor, Sen. John Durkin (D-N.H.), and is now slightly changed so it is known as Senate Amendment 2176 to S. 1500. S.A. 2176 would establish about 110 million acres in new conservation system units and 88.2 million acres of wilderness.

Other bills before the Senate and their sponsors are as follows: S. 1787, Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), 25 million acres; S. 2944, Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska), 51 million acres; S. 2645, Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), (introduced at the request of the Carter Administration, 92 million acres; and H.R. 39, the House-passed bill.



Photo by William A. Behr and Alice F. Waston, courtesy of National Park Service

Alaska lobby House, aims to



"We must make the House are the conservation votes of told us. "What does 'conservation century' mean?" asked lobby

(continued from page 1)

Garden Club of America. The front line troops were mostly members or employees of Alaskan and national conservation organizations: Randy Snodgrass, the Southeastern Representative for the Wilderness Society from Atlanta, Georgia, whose G-or-ja accent was helpful with the Southern delegation; Dee Frankfort, an ever-smiling native of Alaska who would run around in the May rains on Capitol Hill dressed in her bright yellow anorak; Ernie Dickerman, an elderly veteran of countless conservation fights from Buffalo Gap, Virginia, who added humor, experience, and (equally important) the appearance of age in a youth-dominated campaign. And many others.

These lobbyists, myself included, were responsible for day-to-day contact with every member of the House and their key aides. We were to figure out how every congressman felt on the issue and how they would vote on strengthening and weakening amendments.

We were told not to write off anyone — no matter how dismal their conservation voting record might be.

"Our goal is not to win," Doug Scott, an Alaska Coalition strategist, told us the

first day. "It's to win big on all amendments and on final passage." A clear victory on the strongest possible bill would be essential to get the Senate moving and to enter the conference committee with a strong House position.

"We must make the House realize that these are the conservation votes of the century," Scott told us. "What does the 'conservation votes of the century' mean?" asked lobbyist Stan Senner. "Shall we tell the House members that if they voted wrong on establishing Yellowstone National Park 100 years ago this is their chance to make amends?"

LOOK FOR THE ENEMY

We were supposed to be on the lookout for the enemy. A free beer awaited the first lobbyist to return to command central with an intercepted telegram, mailing, or other sign of activity from the opposition.

Our task appeared overwhelming at first glance. Each lobbyist within a matter of days seemed responsible for learning all he could about his assigned House members and their districts as well as commit to memory the contents of the 196 pages of H.R. 39 (the bill reported out of committee)

and to feel comfortable spouting place names such as Ikpikpuk, Unalakleet, Kaiyuh, Tebenkof, and Chukchi-Imuruk.

If any expertise was needed, we had a group of issues specialists to call on.

The task was not as overwhelming as it seemed. Our main job was to inform congressmen of the issue and to evaluate what was needed to win their votes.

The bill was amended in the Interior Committee to reduce conflicts and thereby reduce opposition. As reported by committee, the bill left 80 percent of all Alaska lands open to possible development: left 90 percent of all lands open to sport hunting; left nearly 100 percent of high potential oil and gas lands open to possible development; left 70 percent of the lands with metallic mineral potential outside the conservation system units; and left 100 percent of all federal lands (even national parks and wilderness areas) open to mineral assessment by the Department of the Interior.

Some members of Congress and conservationists felt that the bill's chief craftsmen, Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) and Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio), had gone too far in their attempts to reduce potential resource conflicts. In subcommittee mar-

kup the bill's chief opponent, Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), offered 89 amendments and 85 were adopted. The other leading opponent, Rep. Lloyd Meeds (D-Wash.), offered 24 amendments and 16 were adopted.

In the committee process the potential conflict areas were carved from the original bill until the new conservation system units (new national parks, national wildlife refuges, national wild and scenic rivers, and national forests) had been sliced from about 114 million acres to about 95 million acres.

Similarly, new wilderness areas were chopped in half from about 146 million acres to about 74 million acres.

WINNING PRESCRIPTION

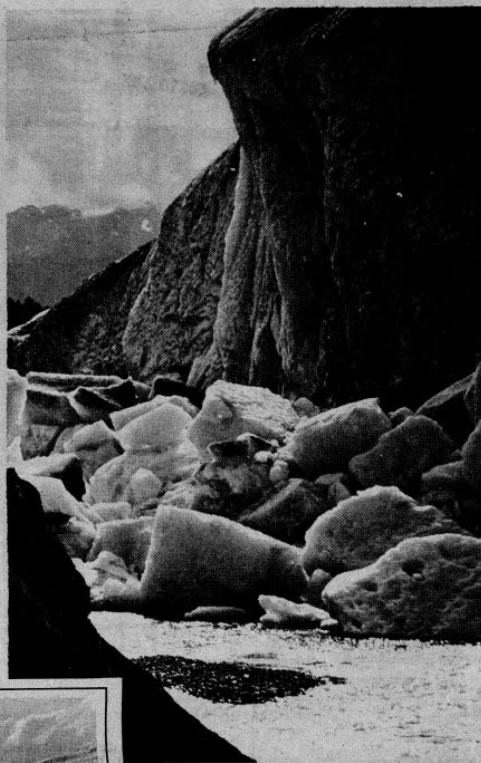
When the legislation itself was insufficient to win over a congressman, each lobbyist was asked to come up with a winning prescription. How was the congressman's constituent mail running? Would a friendly editorial in a home district newspaper help? The Carter Administration had singled out Alaska as its top conservation priority of the year. Could we ask an Interior Department official or the president himself to contact the congressman?

June 2, 1978 — High Country News-9



y of National Park Service

Photo by John Kauffmann
GATES OF THE ARCTIC National Park, featuring the Boreal Mountains.



GLACIER'S EDGE at Glacier Bay National Monument



Photo by Pam Rich
SLEDDING across Alaska.

obby wins ms at Senate

e House realize that these
votes of the century," Scott
'conservation votes of the
ed lobbyist Stan Senner.

Would a kindly word from a congressman of the same state delegation and political party help tip an on-the-fence congressman?

The bill's opponents never geared up an army of lobbyists to counter our activity in the House. Each congressman had been sent a few telegrams and mailings complaining about the "lock-up" of resources if the bill was passed, but daily contact between congressmen and mineral and timber interests was absent.

The opposition seemed to rely on the clout of Young and Meeds to weaken or kill the bill. They hoped that House members wouldn't vote for legislation that went counter to the wishes of the home state representative — Young. They also hoped that Meeds could use his powerful senior committee and House positions to kill the bill in Rules Committee or weaken it on the floor.

We could only guess why the opposition didn't mount more of a campaign in the House when they saw Meeds' and Young's efforts failing. Did they feel a few last-minute form letters and full-page newspaper ads would be sufficient to defeat the bill in the House? Did they have a secret lobbying campaign we weren't able to de-

tect? Had they given up on the House because they felt confident they could kill the bill in the Senate? Was the conservation effort so effective in the House that the opposition felt it was hopeless to try and counteract it?

BUTTON DIPLOMACY

As the congressmen filed into the House for the vote, coalition lobbyists, grass roots phone callers and other proponents of the bill donned Alaska buttons and watched the proceedings from the galleries and doors. Sympathetic legislative aides were given Alaska buttons. The legislators were offered buttons too.

On the floor, sentiment for the bill seemed to be taking hold, as we had hoped it would after a month of intensive lobbying. Many congressmen with poor conservation records voted for the bill. Early weakening amendments offered by Young and Meeds were defeated by two-to-one margins.

Young, who had eloquently fought the bill to the end, in his final speech on the subject paid tribute to his adversaries — Udall, Seiberling, and "my little friends up

in the gallery."

One major change in the bill on the House floor was the adoption of an amendment by Rep. James Santini (D-Nev.) to the minerals exploration and access section. The Santini amendment would close all conservation system units to mineral entry. However, federal mineral assessment work would be allowed to continue in all areas. By 1981 the president must come back to Congress and propose a process by which applications could be accepted for prospecting and mining on all conservation system units — even national parks and wilderness areas.

The vote for final passage was 277-31. As passed by the House, H.R. 39 would establish 101 million acres of new conservation system units (these provisions would double the size of the existing national park system). In addition, the bill would create a 23 million acre wildlife refuge on the national petroleum reserve (west and southwest of Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope). Oil and gas exploration would continue in the new North Slope Wildlife Refuge, but management of the surface would be transferred from the Defense Department to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

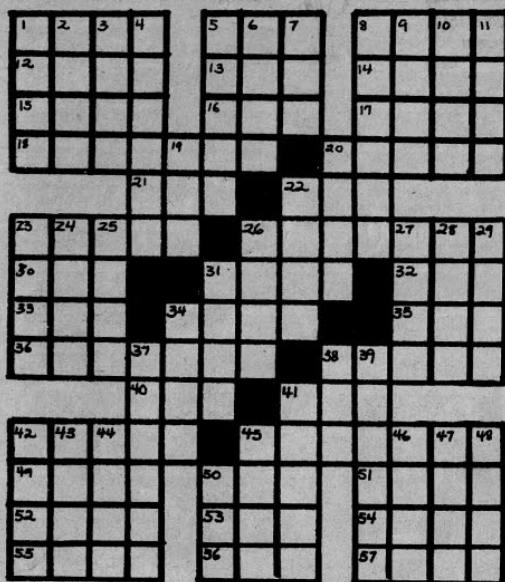
The bill also would establish 66 million acres of wilderness areas in existing and new conservation system units. Remaining conservation system units will be studied for possible future wilderness designation. The reduction in the amount of instant wilderness was the major setback for the Alaska Coalition.

After the vote Udall called the Coalition's effort the most impressive citizen lobbying campaign since that of the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

If you want to help secure passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act here's what the Alaska Coalition suggests: Write your senators and urge them to cosponsor S.A. 2176. Urge your senators to push for action this year. If your representative was helpful, thank him.

For more information on the latest action in Congress write or call the Alaska Coalition, 620 C St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003; (202) 543-3663. The coalition has a mailing and phone network to alert citizens of congressional action and would be glad to add your name to its list.

Conservation crosswords



ACROSS

1. Fraternity brothers
5. Female lobo
8. "When morn purples the —"
12. Small foot bones: t —
13. "Some Like It —"
14. Editor of HCN
15. Molding
16. "The Naked —"
17. Greek love god
18. Plants of buckwheat family
20. Guitar ridges
21. "Catcher in the —"
22. Brown —
23. Important oxygen producers
26. Hamburger burner: Alt. transportation
30. — ambulate: Alt. transportation
31. Mother (Fr.)
32. Longing
33. Nautilus skipper: N —
34. Ichabod's nemesis lacked one
35. Lusty month (Fr.)
36. St. Vrain's energy type
38. Make textual alterations
40. Pre-Cambrian was one
41. Foe of national health care systems
42. Power plants vs. ranchers over this
45. Milford, Utah, aluminum source ore
49. Saw sharpener: f —
50. Winglike part
51. Soviet mountain range
52. Coal stolen at 1 a.m.: lug —
53. Fabulous bird
54. Saws with the grain
55. What coal landmen want from ranchers
56. Sage grouse strutting ground
57. "Magister Ludi" author: H —

DOWN

1. Pattern town for "The Milagro Beanfield War"
2. Oil spill tanker: — Merchant
3. Consumer
4. John Muir's club
5. Rock oil source
6. Kangaroo rat's scamper
7. Summer (Fr.)
8. HCN's usual subject
9. —dale
10. Muir was born one
11. — of the D'Urbervilles
19. Ophthalmologist's organ
20. Helen's launched 1000 ships
22. Member of class Aves
23. Tom Paine's weapon (2 wds)
24. Madagascar arboreal mammal:
25. Where God found John Denver: —ery.
26. Yellowstone environs are its critical habitat
27. An inflorescence in which all floral axes terminate in a single flower
28. Yon Cassius had this look
29. City in Oklahoma
31. Entrenched —ders
34. Eternal triangle ultimatum: — me.
37. Looked lasciviously
38. Second-largest bird
39. Source of methane gas
41. "Oh, most mournful, 'Alas, —!'"
42. Aeolian energy source
43. Prevarication (2 wds.)
44. Head (Fr.)
45. Medicinal plant of amaryllis family
46. Fleur de lis or Greek goddess of the rainbow
47. Woodpecker's sounds
48. Or —
50. Earthy deposit: m —

GO TO IT. If you have trouble with parts of this puzzle, you may blame its creator, HCN Correspondent Philip White. A free HCN T-shirt will go to the reader whose correctly completed puzzle is received first by HCN.



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

CARTER PLUGS NUCLEAR RESEARCH. President Jimmy Carter has told scientists at the Oak Ridge, Tenn., nuclear facility that research on nuclear power will be increasingly important to the nation. The Associated Press reports that Carter spoke to the scientists to ease their worries over several nuclear projects he has opposed or cancelled. AP says Carter ignored the most controversial topic, however — his veto of funding for the Clinch River breeder reactor, which would be located only a few miles from Oak Ridge.

NUCLEAR WASTE OFFICE. Department of Energy Secretary James Schlesinger has directed the consolidation of DOE's nuclear waste management functions into a single office. The Office of Nuclear Waste will be responsible for planning, development and implementation of defense and civilian nuclear waste processing and storage; spent fuel storage and transfer; transportation of nuclear waste and materials; and decommissioning and decontamination of wastes from nuclear research.

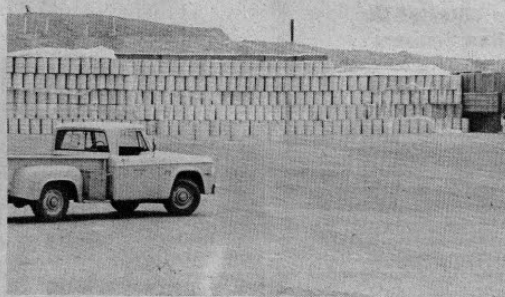
ALASKA OIL LEASES. The Interior Department has called for nominations of areas that the oil industry would like to lease in the Gulf of Alaska. Interior says that the action is not a decision to lease tracts in the gulf, but merely a request for information. The petroleum industry is being asked to nominate lease blocks it

would like to bid on if a sale were held. The step is the first in planning for a lease sale.

RADIATION EXPOSURE STUDY ORDERED. The U.S. Senate subcommittee on nuclear regulation has approved legislation requiring two federal agencies to study the hazards of exposure to radiation from sources such as nuclear weapons plants, nuclear power plants and radioactive wastes. The legislation authorizes a half million dollars for a study of the effects of low-level radiation to be conducted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency. The agencies are required to report back to Congress by April 1, 1979.

SOLAR IRRIGATION UNIT. A Nebraska man has filed for a patent for a solar device to power farm irrigation wells. Solar Utilization News says that the inventor, H.W. Legg, claims that his unit has a governor to maintain constant water pressure regardless of the time of day and an option of either electric resistance heating or a burner that uses methane or biogas as an alternate heat source on cloudy days. Legg is seeking funding to build an operational prototype of the unit.

JUSTICE URGES LEASING. The U.S. Department of Justice has recommended that the federal government resume leasing of coal reserves "with all deliberate speed," but that this occur under strict constraints to prevent "monopolistic restriction of supply." Land Use Planning Report says Justice told the Commerce Department that, since the federal government controls 65 percent of the coal reserves in the West, leasing provides "a great potential to protect the competitive environment." However, Justice also warned that approval of leases requested by major companies may be "undesirable."



NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE is covered by new regulations issued by the Colorado Health Department.

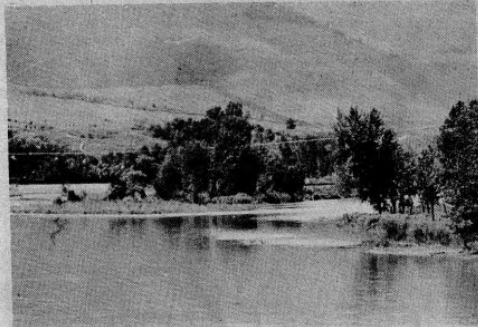
New group forms to oppose Rawhide

Members of groups that oppose the Platte River Power Authority's proposed 750-megawatt, coal-fired Rawhide power plant have formed the Northern Colorado Resource Council.

Bill Burt, president of the council, says its purpose is to "foster the wise use of Northern Colorado's resources, including water and human labor. The council will put pressure on local officials who refuse to consider alternative energy technologies and labor-intensive energy projects in lieu of monsters like the Rawhide plant."

In addition, Burt says, the council will keep an eye on uranium development in Northern Colorado, particularly in the Pawnee Grasslands area.

The council was formed, Burt says, because, "We found out that you need some full-time staff and a full-time commitment to resolve local resource issues." To do that, the council is accepting resumes to fill a staff position. Burt can be reached at 1900 S. Shields, Fort Collins, Colo. 80521 or by calling (303) 493-4382.



FLATHEAD RIVER near Dixon, Mont.

Corps studies Mont. dam sites

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has recommended further studies of three dam sites on the Flathead River on the Flathead Indian Reservation. The tribal council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes, by a 6 to 3 vote, has granted the Corps access to the study sites.

Preliminary studies indicate that the three sites — Buffalo Rapids No. 2, Buffalo Rapids No. 4, and Sloan Bridge — have only a marginal "benefit to cost ratio," which determines whether a potential site would be given further consideration. The dams primarily would produce hydro power, with total capacities ranging from 81.8 megawatts at Buffalo Rapids No. 2 to 130 megawatts at the Sloan Bridge site.

The sites with the best chance of final approval — the two at Buffalo Rapids — are run-of-the-river dams, and would hold very little water. Power from the dams would be integrated into the Northwest Power Pool, with some consideration given

to preferential use by the tribes, according to the Corps of Engineers.

Standing in the way of final approval of the dams is the tribe. The deciding factor on whether they would approve construction is money, according to Tribal Chairman Bearhead Swaney. Swaney says, "As I see the vote of the tribal council, there are four of us who will not sell out for any price, one will sell for any price, and five will wait to see how much money we can get."

How much money the tribes will get probably would upset the Corps of Engineers' calculations on the benefit to cost ratio. The Corps did not figure payments to the tribes for any of the sites, and tribal money demands could reduce the benefit of the projects below an acceptable level. Tribal member and congressional candidate Gary Kimble told a Corps representative that "It would cost millions of dollars to get the tribes to agree."

Swaney says that because of the marginal benefits from the dams, he doesn't expect them to go forward in the near future.

Consideration also is being given to designating the Flathead as wild and scenic. Swaney says he is not sure he would support such a move because he wants to keep control of the river within the tribe.

The future of the river was discussed at the forum, "Flathead River at the Watershed," on May 27 near Dixon, Mont.

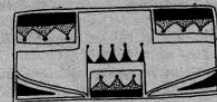


SLURRY ADVANCES. The U.S. House Public Works and Transportation Committee has approved by a 23 to 20 vote, legislation allowing coal slurry pipeline companies the federal right of eminent domain to clear a pipeline route. The legislation was vigorously opposed by Rep. Teno Roncalio (R-Wyo.), who says it provides "totally inadequate protection for the arid states of the West." The bill could reach the House floor in early June, but several committee members predicted that, despite the committee endorsement, it may not be considered by the full House this year.

POWER LINES APPROVED. A Wyoming district court has cleared the way for Basin Electric Power Co. to take condemnation proceedings against 44 landowners for the right-of-way for electric power lines from the controversial 1,500 megawatt Laramie River Station in Wheatland, Wyo. Basin had offered landowners in Platte and Goshen counties \$125 per acre for pasture and \$275 for cropland rights-of-way. The landowners wanted \$2,000 per acre for pasture and \$2,500 per acre for cropland.

COLSTRIP DECISION DELAYED.

The Environmental Protection Agency was originally expected to announce its decision May 24 on whether Colstrip units 3 and 4 will meet the prevention of significant deterioration regulations of the Clean Air Act. However, new information on past violations has been pointed out to EPA. Consequently, the agency allowed Montana Power Co. a week to explain the violations, and EPA officials in Washington, D.C., are now considering the new information. The Colstrip expansion is being opposed by the Northern Cheyenne tribe and by the Northern Plains Resource Council.



COLO. URANIUM RULES. The state of Colorado has imposed new requirements on the owners of uranium mills to insure that funds are available for the decontamination and long-term care of their operations. The Colorado Board of Health adopted rules requiring owners of uranium mills, radioactive waste disposal facilities, and other operations to make financial arrangements prior to licensing to insure that funds will always be available to decontaminate their operations and provide for long-term monitoring and maintenance of radiation sources. There are three uranium mills in Colorado, and one application pending for another. The Board of Health expects to receive another five applications for new mills in the next five years.

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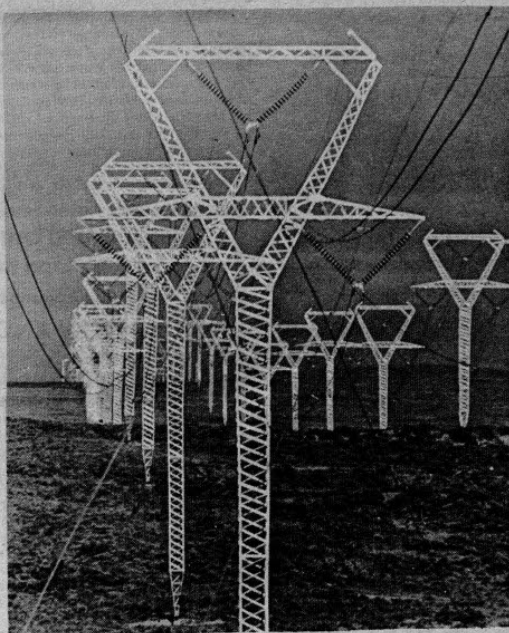


Photo by Gowen Green

POWER LINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY have been authorized by a district court for the Missouri Basin Power Project's 1,500 megawatt Laramie River Station in Wheatland, Wyo.

12-High Country News — June 2, 1978

Governors pleased with Carter water policy

by Dan Whipple

Assistant Interior Secretary Guy Martin outlined the Carter administration's water policy to the governors of the Missouri River Basin states last week. The proposals met with nearly unanimous approval, indicating that the water war between President Carter and the governors of Western states is winding down.

Montana Gov. Thomas Judge said, "The federal government has really come a long way on this one. If this meeting had been held a year ago, it would have been bloody." Judge says the federal government has provided adequate means for the states to influence the water planning process and that states now will have more to say about water policy than ever before.

Martin, who is assistant secretary for land and water, told the governors that final decisions on water policy have not yet been made by the president. However, he emphasized that the purpose of the policy is to give a "clear signal from the president to carry out water policies in a consistent

case-by-case basis, rather than a national policy.

The administration will not ask for a federal law on groundwater rights and issues, considering it a state and local problem. Data on normal flows will be gathered before projects can begin so that a project's impact on those flows can be evaluated, Martin said.

By far the most controversial part of the water policy deals with Indian water rights. Assistant Interior Secretary for Indian Affairs Forrest Gerard said, first, disputes should be settled by negotiation instead of litigation wherever possible. Second, the president will announce an inventory of all tribal water claims, a step that some tribes have resisted. Third, if negotiations fail, litigation should be pursued in federal rather than state courts. Finally, the policy will be designed to assist Indian tribes in the development of their water as soon as the inventory is finished.

The governors were openly skeptical of this approach. Montana's Judge said, "Negotiations are fine, but we've had difficulty getting the seven Montana tribes to deal with us on anything." Spokesmen for the tribes said they are committed to negotiations, but that the state had not agreed to meet with them. All sides agreed, however, that Indian water issues must be resolved before either the states or the tribes can reasonably plan for new development.

GENERAL SATISFACTION

way, with less agency prerogative and less political pork barrel decisions on water projects."

Among the major portions of the policy Martin discussed were funding of water projects, pricing of water and conservation. Of these, the most controversial will be new funding arrangements.

Martin says that one aspect of the new policy will be state participation in funding for perhaps as much as 10 percent of the total cost. "The day of full federal funding is over. There will have to be more cost-sharing from the states. The states' willingness to help pay will indicate that the project is wanted and needed," Martin said.

Missouri Gov. Joseph Teasdale told Martin, "The 10 percent cost-sharing is generally a good idea. But some communities simply cannot afford the 10 percent."

Harris Sherman, representing Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm, said, "Small states will have difficulty raising the 10 percent, especially for irrigation projects."

Martin said the administration was aware of these difficulties, and was considering a "small states policy" to help deal with these issues. He did not elaborate on what such a policy would contain.

PRICE OF WATER

In regard to the pricing of water from federal projects, Martin said current practice does not always provide repayment for water projects. However, while the price for water would probably increase, the government would not try to get full payback from users for the projects.

The higher water prices will also help enforce conservation practices, but the administration will not use the prices as the main vehicle for water conservation. Instead, its water policy will place a strong emphasis on conservation, and will look at conservation as one alternative to building new projects, Martin said.

He said the administration will begin a program of technical assistance to the states for conservation. This will be on a



FORREST GERARD, Assistant Interior Secretary for Indian Affairs, addresses the Missouri Basin Governors' Conference. Seated, from the right, are Montana Gov. Thomas Judge and Assistant Interior Secretary Guy Martin.

against the initial options presented in the water policy, fearing that the federal government would usurp state control of water. The new emerging policy apparently has placated most of the states, however.

Not so some environmental groups. The Environmental Policy Center says that Carter is backing down from his promise of sweeping water reforms. EPC says the policy will not change the "unreasonably low interest rate that is currently used to justify water projects," and that the policy will grandfather out projects included in the current budget.

Martin says that the policy will apply selectively to current projects depending upon what stage of construction they are in. Those under construction will not be subjected to the evaluations suggested by the water policy, so the Garrison Diversion in North Dakota will not be re-evaluated. Projects that have been approved, but are not under construction, such as the Narrows Dam in Colorado, will be subject to some of the policy, but not to a complete review. Martin did not specify which parts of the policy would apply to this latter category.

Martin said that the final policy will be

published soon, probably in early June.

The water policy presentation was made to the Missouri River Basin Governors' Conference in Great Falls, Mont., on May 24. In addition to Judge, the governors in attendance were J. James Exon of Nebraska, Arthur Link of North Dakota, and Missouri's Teasdale. The governors of Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota, Colorado, and Wyoming sent representatives.

classifieds

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.

JOB POSITION. Staff Member, Northern Colorado Resource Council, serving northern Colorado and based in Fort Collins. Qualifications include: versatile writer, good verbal communication skills, experience in resource management and general environmental issues, ability to deal effectively with people from all segments of the community. Salary: \$500 per month plus travel and office expenses. Send resume or call: Bill Burt, 1900 S. Shields, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521, (303) 493-4382.

STAFF PERSON. Colorado Open Space Council Mining Workshop is looking for a staff person to coordinate our work on coal, oil shale, and minerals development with that of Western Slope mining activists and to develop a strong Front Range volunteer base. Applicants should be able to work well with people and should be committed to the environmental movement. Organizing experience would be useful but is not essential. Send resume and writing samples by June 9 to Brad Klafehn, COSC Mining Workshop, 2239 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, Colo. 80206. Telephone (303) 321-6588.

RANGER WANTED. Now taking application for the position of Montana Wilderness Association Wilderness Ranger for the 1978 field season. Applicants must be personable, in good physical condition and willing to spend much of the summer in Montana's designated and de facto wilderness areas, distributing wilderness literature and soliciting members for the association. Pay will be based on a 50% commission of new memberships obtained and a one time "grubstake." Please mail personal resumes to: Montana Wilderness Association, P.O. Box 635, Helena, Montana 59601.

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Call For Papers — Abstract Requirements

Abstracts of 200-275 words—including name, paper title, institution and address—should be mailed prior to August 7th in order to be included in the Final Program. Abstracts received later than August 7th will still be eligible for presentation at the Open Session. Presentations will be 10 minutes, with 10 minutes for audience participation. Four copies of each abstract should be sent to: Eliot Glassheim, Population/Food Fund, Box 255 University Station, Grand Forks, ND 58202.

Abstracts Being Accepted

For further information on additional speakers, workshop topics, and special low-cost housing and eating arrangements, contact: Population/Food Fund, Box 8174 University Station, Grand Forks, ND 58202. Telephone: (701) 777-3593.

Location:

Marymount College
2807 N. Clebe Road
Arlington, Virginia



Western Roundup



June 2, 1978

Merson halts Foothill water plant, calls it overkill

A federal official has scuttled the Denver Water Board's plan to build a 243-foot-high dam on the South Platte River by pointing out that a 40-foot dam would do.

Alan Merson, regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, denied a permit needed for construction of the

Foothills Water Treatment complex on the grounds the project was too big.

In a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers May 26, Merson said the board was "trying to kill a flea with an elephant gun" through the project.

The federal permit was required to allow

construction of Strontia Springs Dam, which would have stored water from the South Platte River to feed the water treatment plant. The Corps issues such permits, but EPA approval is required first.

Merson told the Corps that the dam would cause unnecessary damage to Waterton Canyon. A 40-foot-high structure could hold enough water to supply the treatment plant, he said. The Strontia Springs Dam would have been 243 feet high.

In addition, if the Strontia Springs Dam is built, Merson said, that would open the way to building an unneeded Two Forks Dam upstream and to blasting a series of tunnels to divert water from Colorado's Western Slope to Denver.

Merson said a 125 million gallon per day water treatment plant would meet

Denver's needs. Strontia Springs "is tailored for 500 million gallons per day," he said.

"I think the water board should now seriously look at some of the more promising alternatives," Merson says.

James L. Ogilvie, manager of the Denver Water Department, says he is not interested in shrinking the Foothills proposal. First, the city will try administrative appeals, then, it may go to court, he says.

Before he announced his decision, Merson told the *Rocky Mountain News* that he was aware of the risk of lawsuits.

"The question is whether we're going to be sued by the water board or by the environmentalists," he said.

Jets may find a way into Teton airport

Frontier Airlines has proposed an experimental program to bring modified Boeing 737 jets into Jackson Hole Airport. The Sierra Club opposes the experiment because it would allow "noisy commercial jet aircraft" to take off and land within Grand Teton National Park.

One or two jet flights per weekend would arrive during Jackson's 10-week peak summer tourist season and during a three-week period in the winter.

Frontier presently flies Convair 580 turbo-prop planes into Jackson Hole. The airline and the local airport board have been pushing for an extended runway to accommodate jets. The National Park Service has delayed a decision on the runway expansion because the question of jet traffic is so controversial.

Modified 737s, however, have a high thrust engine that enables them to use the existing runway.

John Brink of the Environmental Protection Agency in Denver says the 737s would be about twice as noisy as the 580s now in use.

Jack Neckles, assistant superintendent of the park, says the 737s would be louder than the 580s, but since they can climb more rapidly, the noise might be heard for a shorter period of time.

"We would oppose landing the modified 737s if in fact is going to create additional noise intrusions on park visitors," he says.

The Federal Aviation Administration is preparing an environmental assessment of the program. If it concludes that the impacts would be insignificant and that an environmental impact statement is not needed, then the experimental flights could begin as early as July 1.

"The Sierra Club has been opposing the runway extension for seven years because of the impacts jet traffic would have on the park and the surrounding area," says Phil Hocker, chairman of the Wyoming Chapter. "Now we find that the impacts we'd

anticipated would come with runway expansion would be imposed on us through this experimental program. We're opposed to the test and feel that an environmental impact statement should be prepared since this could pave the way for full scale jet service in the park."

Ike Hoover of the Federal Aviation Administration says that if an impact statement has to be prepared, the test program probably will be abandoned.



ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE FIGHTING the start-up of commercial jet flights at the airport in Teton National Park. Frontier Airlines has come up with a scheme to accommodate jets that doesn't require the runway extension it requested earlier.

Moths imported to devour West's weed

Coleophora parthenica will take on *Salsola iberica* in Mesa County, Colo., this month. The battle is a Colorado Department of Agriculture experiment in biological control of weeds.

The problem is *Salsola iberica*, also known as the tumbleweed or Russian thistle. The department's proposed solution is a small white moth imported from Pakistan, *Coleophora Parthenica*.

The moth checks the spread of tumbleweed by laying its eggs on the plant's leaves. When the larvae hatch they disrupt the plant's growth by feeding on leaves and stems.

Tumbleweed is a native of Eurasia. It was accidentally introduced to South

Dakota in 1873 and since has spread throughout the West.

Road plan not good enough

In 1972, the Department of Transportation wrote an environmental impact statement on the proposed widening of Interstate Highway 70 through Glenwood Canyon in Colorado. The statement promised that an "extremely sensitive" highway design would be developed, but did not specify how that would be done, says the Environmental Defense Fund.

The group has asked for a new statement, saying the 1972 one is inadequate.

Church bill would aid miners, loggers

Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) says a law is needed to assure loggers and miners quick entry to roadless lands judged unsuitable for wilderness designation in the U.S. Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II).

Church and the timber industry argue that without such a law the agency planning process is too susceptible to environmentalists' lawsuits and administrative appeals.

Paul Pavelcheck of the Sierra Club says that while the Forest Service has filed environmental statements on more than 10

million acres since RARE I, administrative appeals have been filed on only 1 million acres and lawsuits on only 22,000 acres.

"The point is the (Forest Service's existing release) mechanism has been almost 90 percent effective," Pavelcheck said in an article in *Public Lands News*.

The publication says Church's legislation is still in "the fetal stage." The senator will provide details later, after he's had a chance to see what RARE II does, his aide says.

Agency now for larger DuNoir area

The Carter Administration supports the addition of the entire 28,800 acre DuNoir Special Management Unit to the Washakie Wilderness in Wyoming. The Forest Service had proposed only a 11,100 acre addition in its environmental impact statement. However, Rupert Cutler, assistant secretary for agriculture, said resource conflicts are minimal so the larger area should get wilderness protection. He mentioned that the Dubois Outfitters As-

sociation and the Wyoming representative of the Wilderness Society both supported an even larger wilderness addition. Both groups and about 83% of the public comments on the DuNoir wilderness proposal supported a 40,000 acre wilderness designation.

Bart Koehler of the Wilderness Society says, "It's about time they went for a larger area. But I'm disappointed they didn't include all the lands that obviously qualify."



NESTING CANADA GEESE turn up in the strangest places. This one chose the haystack of Crawford, Colo., rancher Elton Watson. Watson borrowed hay from a neighbor until the goslings hatched.

Colorado Division of Wildlife photo

14-High Country News
June 2, 1978



HCN Bulletin Board



LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

We mutter "gadzoos" and "oh save us"
And think of the years that she gave us.
The High Country News
Is sick with the blues
Over losing our M. Margaret Davis.

JACKSON HOLE SCENIC AREA

Members of the U.S. House and Senate will hold a field hearing in Jackson, Wyo., June 10 on proposed legislation to create a 75,000-acre Jackson Hole Scenic Area, at a cost of up to \$200 million. Bill numbers for the legislation are S. 2162 in the Senate and H.R. 9135 in the House. Comments may be sent to members of the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, or the full Energy and Natural Resources Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; or to members of the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

COLORADO WILDERNESS

Two hearings will be held in Colorado July 1 by the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands on a bill to create the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area and the Arapaho National Recreation

Area. The bill, H.R. 12026, also would authorize the secretary of Interior to study whether the boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park should be revised.

One hearing will be held from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Forum Room of the University of Colorado Memorial Center in Boulder. The other will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Middle Park Junior-Senior High School in Granby. Those who wish to testify at the first hearing should contact Bev Sears in the Lakewood office of Rep. Timothy E. Wirth (D-Colo.) at (303) 234-5200. For the second hearing, those wishing to testify should call the Fort Collins office of Rep. James P. Johnson (R-Colo.) at (303) 493-9132.

Written statements should be sent to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

ANTI-URANIUM PETITION

Rocky Flats National Action is circulating a petition to oppose uranium mining and milling on federally owned land in general and against the Pitch Project in the Gunnison National Forest in Colorado in particular.

For copies of the petition, write to: Committee to Oppose Uranium Mines, Rocky Flats National Action, 1428 Lafayette St., Denver, Colo., 80218.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

If you want to learn 65 ways to save natural gas, find out some of the basic pros and cons of solar energy, or help your child to discover how Mickey Mouse and Goofy explore energy, the Wyoming Energy Conservation Office, Cheyenne, Wyo., 82002, may provide the answers. The office has published a bibliography of 30 free publications dealing with energy and energy conservation. It can send you either the bibliography or the pamphlets you request.

SANDY GRAZING

A draft environmental statement on livestock grazing in the two-million-acre Sandy area of Wyoming has been released for public comment by the Bureau of Land Management.

Public hearings on the statement will be held June 28 at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Rock Springs East Junior High School auditorium. Written comments must be sent before July 10 to: Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1869, Rock Springs, Wyo., 82901.

CYCLING AT RUSH HOUR

Seven male bicyclists wheeled through rush hour traffic in Washington, D.C., for two months last summer. Tests showed they had less carbon monoxide in their

blood than volunteers who rode in air-conditioned cars, says a Department of Transportation study. The bicyclists suffered some eye irritation, but that quickly disappeared, the study says. For copies of the study, write to: Leslie Baldwin, P-20, Office of Environment and Safety, U.S. DOT, Washington, D.C. 20590.

NEWSPRINT RECYCLING

An article on newsprint recycling by Adela Awner has been reprinted from *Conservation News* by the Environmental Protection Agency. Single or multiple copies may be obtained from the EPA Office of Solid Waste Publications, 26 West St. Clair Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268.

WILDLIFE TEACHING GUIDE

The Wildlife Management Institute has published a wildlife teaching guide, *Helping Wildlife: Working With Nature*. The book was prepared by Delwin Benson, Extension Specialist at Colorado State University. The institute says the book presents "basic concepts of wildlife ecology and ecological relationships." It is available for \$1.00 from the institute, 1000 Vermont Ave., N.W. 709 Wire Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20005.

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 (35-11-101) et seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1957, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973.

IT IS THE STATE'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (2) TWO TREATMENT DISCHARGES, TO MODIFY (3) THREE INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGE PERMITS AND (1) ONE MUNICIPAL DISCHARGE PERMIT, AND TO RENEW (3) THREE MUNICIPAL DISCHARGE PERMITS WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME:	CONSOLIDATED OIL AND GAS
MAILING ADDRESS:	1860 LINCOLN STREET DENVER, COLORADO 80295
FACILITY LOCATION:	PASS CREEK FIELD, TANK BATTERY No. 1 NE 1/4, SW 1/4, SE 1/4, SECTION 33, T20N, R80W CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER:	Wy-0027782
(2) APPLICANT NAME:	MARATHON OIL COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX 120 CASPER, WYOMING 82601
FACILITY LOCATION:	OREGON BASIN FIELD SAMUEL No. 27 WELL, NW 1/4, SW 1/4 SECTION 32, T51N, R100W PARK COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER:	Wy-0027804

These facilities are typical oil treaters located in Carbon and Park Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through heater treaters and skim ponds. The Consolidated Oil discharge is to the Medicine Bow River (Class I Stream) via an unnamed drainage. The Marathon discharge is to Dry Creek (Class III Stream).

Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria must be met immediately upon discharge. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the discharge is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards for the Consolidated Oil discharge. The Department will continue to evaluate this discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed. Because the Marathon discharge is to a Class III stream, limitations more stringent than those included in the Produced Water Criteria are not necessary to insure compliance with Wyoming's Water Quality Standards.

Semi-annual self-monitoring of the effluent is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease which must be monitored quarterly. The Consolidated Oil permit is scheduled to expire December 31, 1982. The expiration date of the Marathon permit is July 31, 1980.

(3) PERMIT NAME:	STAR VALLEY CHEESE CORPORATION
MAILING ADDRESS:	THAYNE, WYOMING 83127
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0001546

The Star Valley Swiss Cheese Corporation located at Thayne, Wyoming, processes 300,000 lbs. of milk into cheese each day. The plant has two waste streams; the first is a process waste line which is routed to a manhole at which point the flow can be diverted to the Town of Thayne's sewage treatment plant (the normal procedure) or to Flat Creek (discharge point 001), a Class I stream. The second waste stream is a cooling water discharge which is routed to the Eastside Irrigation Canal (discharge point 002), a Class III water. The existing discharge permit for this facility does not reference discharge point 002. The permit modification is to reference this second point of discharge.

The proposed permit requires that the total quantity of pollutants discharged from points 001 and 002 not exceed National Best Practicable Treatment limitations effective immediately. Effective January 1, 1981, the total quantity of pollutants discharged may not exceed National Best Available Treatment limitations. Due to the fact that process wastewater is normally routed to the Town of Thayne's sewage collection system, it is not anticipated that the cheese plant will have any difficulty meeting these limitations.

At this time it does not appear that effluent limitations more stringent than the National Best Practicable and Best Available limitations are needed to insure compliance with Wyoming's in-stream water quality standards. This situation will continue to be evaluated however, and the permit will be modified if it is determined that more stringent limitations are necessary.

The proposed permit requires periodic self-monitoring of both discharge points with reporting of results monthly. The permit is scheduled to expire June 30, 1983.

(4) PERMIT NAME:	CARTER MINING COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX 209 GILLETTE, WYOMING 82716
FACILITY LOCATION:	CABALLO MINE, SECTION 25, T48N R71W, CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0025755

The Carter Mining Company's Caballo Mine is a large open pit coal mine located approximately 15 miles southeast of Gillette, Wyoming. Wastewater at the mine includes runoff from disturbed areas and seepage into the open pits which is pumped out (discharge point 001), as well as the pumping of groundwater out of the mine pits (discharge point 002). Both discharges are to Tiedale Creek (Class III Stream).

The existing discharge permit does not identify these specific discharge points and, in addition, authorizes a discharge to Gold Mine Draw only. The Company is now requesting that the existing permit be modified to reflect current conditions and future plans.

The proposed permit requires that the discharges meet effluent limitations considered by the State to be "best practicable" for coal mines. In addition, the permit requires control of runoff from disturbed areas and that the permittee monitor the quality of the effluent on a regular basis. The proposed permit is scheduled to expire June 30, 1983.

(5) PERMIT NAME:	AMOCO PRODUCTION COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX 569 POWELL, WYOMING 82435
FACILITY LOCATION:	ELK BASIN GAS PLANT, NW 1/4 SECTION 29 T88N, R99W, PARK COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0024414

The Amoco Production Company has requested that their discharge permit for the Elk Basin Gas Plant be modified. The reason for the modification request is that the four existing separate discharge points are in the process of being consolidated into a final single discharge point (004). Amoco is accomplishing this by routing the natural drainage around a large final stabilization pond. The discharge from this pond will enter the Hunter Creek (Class III Stream) drainage.

Additional minor modifications to the permit include: (1) Use of instantaneous maximum effluent limitations to simplify monitoring procedures; (2) Relaxation of the effluent limit on total iron since the limitation in the existing permit is more restrictive than necessary; (3) Dropping of the effluent limitation on sulfide since this parameter does not affect stock watering, which is the primary use of this discharge; and, (4) Addition of the standard produced water effluent limitation on total dissolved solids.

All effluent limitations in the permit are set at levels considered to be "best practicable" for this type of facility (the extraction of natural gas liquids from natural gas). The permit requires periodic self-monitoring with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire June 30, 1983.

(6) PERMIT NAME:	CITY OF RIVERTON, WYOMING
MAILING ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX 1700 RIVERTON, WYOMING 82501
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0020672

The City of Riverton's wastewater treatment plant is a standard secondary plant with a sludge digester and a trickling filter. Due to high population growth and infiltration of groundwater the plant is hydraulically overloaded, especially in the summer when irrigation raises the water table. The plant discharges to the Wind River (Class I Stream).

The existing discharge permit sets specific effluent limitations which the plant must meet. Due to the overload problem, the plant is not able to meet these limitations, therefore, the City has requested a modification of the permit for relaxation of these limitations. Recent on-site investigations by the Department's engineering staff indicate that the overload problem is significant and therefore it is proposed that the permit be modified to require only that the plant be operated at maximum capability and efficiency until such time as it is upgraded with Federal construction grant funds.

Upon upgrading, the plant will be required to meet National Secondary Treatment Standards for the parameters BOD₅, total suspended solids and pH. In addition, the plant will have to meet specific limitations on fecal coliform bacteria and total residual chlorine.

It was determined that the limitation on ammonia (as N) would be approximately 55 mg per l. Since this level of ammonia greatly exceeds that which normally occurs in raw sewage, it was determined that there is no need for an effluent limitation on ammonia, however, the permit does require that the ammonia concentration of the discharge be monitored on a weekly basis.

At this time it appears the violation of Wyoming's in-stream standards for dissolved oxygen will not occur provided National Secondary Treatment Standards are achieved. This position will be re-evaluated (and the permit modified if necessary) as more information becomes available.

Because Riverton is very low on the State's priority list for receipt of federal construction grant funds, no

(continued on page 15)

FEE MORATORIUM. The Senate has voted not to increase fees this year for livestock grazing on public lands. Presently, livestock owners pay \$1.60 per animal unit month for grazing their herds on Forest Service lands, and \$1.51 per animal unit month for animals grazing on Bureau of Land Management acreage. The Agriculture Department had proposed raising the fees to \$1.89 per month in each case. The Senate bill calls for freezing the fee until the end of the grazing season early this winter. Similar legislation already has



Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

passed the House, and a conference committee will work out the differences between the two bills.

QUIET CELEBRATION. Last year, the Environmental Protection Agency picked Allentown, Pa., as a test site for a two-year study on ways to reduce noise pollution.

Last month, the town's citizens celebrated by holding a quiet festival, to mark the end of a noise assessment study. Mack trucks showed off noise-reduction devices, Ingersoll-Rand demonstrated low-noise construction machinery and citizens staged mime theater and played non-amplified music in Lehigh Park.



June 2, 1978 — High Country News-15

SNAIL DARTER FOLLOW UP. The confrontation between the TVA's proposed Tellico dam and supporters of the endangered snail darter has moved a step further. This month, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works reported out a bill that would give states a say in conflicts between public works projects and endangered species. The bill also would remove the secretary of transportation from the interagency review committee and replace him with the governor of an affected state.

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(continued from page 14)

meaningful schedule of compliance can be included in the permit at this time. At such time that a schedule can be developed, the permit will be modified to include that schedule.

The proposed permit requires self-monitoring of effluent quality on a regular basis with reporting of results monthly. The permit will expire May 31, 1983.

(7) PERMIT NAME: TOWN OF KEMMERER, WYOMING
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 287
KEMMERER, WYOMING 83101
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020320

The wastewater treatment facilities serving the Town of Kemmerer consist of an activated sludge plant with no disinfection capabilities. The discharge is to the Hams Fork River (Class I Stream).

The proposed discharge permit contains 3 separate effluent limitation sections. First, interim limitations on BOD₅ and total suspended solids of 50 mg per l. Evaluation of the existing facilities indicates that with proper operation and maintenance, these facilities can meet the proposed interim limits. The interim limits would remain in effect until completion of new or upgraded facilities designed to meet Secondary Treatment which, according to the State's construction grant offer, should be completed by November 1, 1980. With Secondary Treatment, the limitations on BOD₅ and total suspended solids are reduced to 30 mg per l and limitations on fecal coliform bacteria and total residual chlorine go into effect. The third effluent limitation section requires another upgrading to meet Wyoming's in-stream standard for ammonia. Ammonia removal is considered to be tertiary treatment and it is the State of Wyoming's policy that funding for tertiary treatment will be made only after all publicly owned treatment works in the State have been upgraded to Secondary levels. Because tertiary treatment is such a low priority it is not possible to include a definite schedule for achieving ammonia removal requirements in the permit. The situation will continue to be evaluated and if it becomes possible to include a tertiary treatment compliance schedule in the future, the permit will be modified and such a schedule will be added to the permit.

At this time it appears that violation of Wyoming's in-stream standards for dissolved oxygen will not occur provided National Secondary Treatment Standards are achieved. This position will be re-evaluated (and the permit modified if necessary) as more information becomes available.

Included in the discharge permit is a limitation on flow volume. The limit is set at the maximum design flow of the proposed new or upgraded plant. Once 80% of this design flow is reached, the permit requires the permittee to begin preliminary planning for expansion and, if necessary, upgrading of the facility.

The proposed permit requires periodic self-monitoring of the effluent quality with reporting of results monthly. The permit is scheduled to expire June 30, 1983.

(8) PERMIT NAME: CITY OF SHERIDAN, WYOMING
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 849
SHERIDAN, WYOMING 82801
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020010

On December 30, 1977, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality published a public notice of its intent to renew the discharge permit for the sewage treatment plant serving the City of Sheridan, Wyoming. As a result of that public notice, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the City of Sheridan both submitted significant comments on the proposed permit. The City of Sheridan felt that the interim effluent limitations (to be met until a new or upgraded facility is constructed) were too strict and could not be met with the existing plant which consists of a grit chamber, bar screen, comminutor, flow recorder, 2 primary clarifiers, 2 trickling filters and 1 final clarifier.

EPA felt that the interim limitations were too liberal and recommended that they be made more restrictive. In order to address both comments, the State now proposes that the interim effluent quality be changed to the following "verbal standard": The wastewater treatment facility shall be operated at its maximum capability and efficiency. If, after on-site inspection by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and/or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, it is determined that the facility is not being operated at its maximum capability and efficiency, such findings shall be considered to be a violation of this permit.

The permit also contains effluent standards which the City will be required to meet after the existing plant is upgraded to meet National Secondary Treatment Standards and the State's water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria and total residual chlorine in Goose Creek (Class I Stream). A schedule of compliance which requires achievement of this level of treatment by August 1, 1981, is included in the permit.

The State has evaluated the need for ammonia removal at this facility. Preliminary evaluation indicates that ammonia removal will be needed to meet the State's in-stream water quality standard of 0.2mg per l of unionized ammonia. It is State policy to require tertiary treatment (such as ammonia removal) only after every publicly owned treatment facility in the State is upgraded to meet Secondary Standards. Therefore, the permit requires that the ammonia limitations be met only after Federal funding for tertiary treatment has been made available to the City. Because tertiary treatment is such a low priority it is not possible at this time to include a definite schedule for achievement of the ammonia limitations. If, in the future, information becomes available which would allow the State to develop a definite compliance schedule for this item, the permit will be modified to include such a schedule.

Modeling of Goose Creek below Sheridan by the Wyoming Water Research Institute indicates that oxygen depletion will not be a problem as long as National Secondary Treatment Standards for BOD₅ and total suspended

solids are met. This question will be re-evaluated (and the permit modified if necessary) as more information becomes available.

The proposed permit contains a limitation on flow volume equal to the maximum design flow of the planned new or upgraded facility. A provision within the permit requires the permittee to begin preliminary plans for expansion of the facility once 80% of limited flow volume is reached.

The proposed permit requires self-monitoring of all limited parameters on a regular basis with reporting of results monthly. The permit is scheduled to expire June 30, 1983.

(9) PERMIT NAME: TOWN OF WHEATLAND, WYOMING
MAILING ADDRESS: 600 - 9TH STREET
WHEATLAND, WYOMING 82201
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020150

The wastewater treatment facilities serving the Town of Wheatland consist of a 2 cell lagoon which is normally operated in series. The discharge point which is commonly used is the outfall from the westernmost (second) cell and is designated as discharge point 001. The outfall from the easternmost (first) cell is normally not used and is designated as discharge point 002. Both cells discharge to Rock Creek (Class I Stream).

The proposed permit requires operation of the existing facilities at maximum efficiency until completion of new or upgraded secondary treatment facilities constructed with Federal funds. At that time the effluent must meet National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's in-stream water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria and total residual chlorine.

The State has evaluated the need for ammonia removal at this facility. Preliminary evaluation indicates that ammonia removal will be needed to meet the State's in-stream water quality standard of 0.2mg per l of unionized ammonia. It is State policy to require tertiary treatment (such as ammonia removal) only after every publicly owned treatment facility in the State is upgraded to achieve Secondary Standards. Therefore, the permit states that the ammonia limitation must be met only after a Federal grant specifically for tertiary treatment (ammonia removal) has been made.

At this time it appears that violation of Wyoming's in-stream standard for dissolved oxygen will not occur, provided National Secondary Treatment Standards are achieved. However, this question will be re-evaluated (and the permit modified if necessary) as more information becomes available.

A definite compliance schedule for achievement of Secondary and tertiary treatment standards is not included in the permit due to the fact that the Town of Wheatland is very low on the priority list. Because the Town is so low on the list, it is not possible to predict a compliance schedule at this time, even if Federal grant funds are delivered as expected. At such time that a definite compliance schedule may be developed, the permit will be modified to include such a schedule.

Since the wastewater treatment system at Wheatland consists of lagoons, the (EPA approved) less stringent limitations for total suspended solids are included in the permit. It is Wyoming's position that it is not economically practical for a lagoon system to be designed to meet a total suspended solids limitation of 30mg per l. Wheatland has specifically requested that these less stringent limitations be applied in their situation.

Because the limitations on fecal coliform bacteria and ammonia will vary depending on effluent volume, the permit contains a limitation on flow equal to the estimated maximum discharge volume. The permit requires that once effluent values reach 80% of the limited volume, the permittee must begin preliminary planning for expansion and, if necessary, upgrading of the facility.

Periodic self-monitoring of the effluent is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit will expire June 30, 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 July 3, 1978. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permit Section, Highway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permit Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80295. All comments received prior to July 3, 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-78-007

16-High Country News — June 2, 1978



COMING INTO THE COUNTRY



JOHN MCPHEE

by John McPhee, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 1977. \$10.95, hard cover, 438 pages.

Review by Peter Wild

When you drive past junky yards in the Lower Forty-eight, says John McPhee, "you have come upon a fragment of Alaska. The people inside are Alaskans who have not yet left for the north."

Alaskans are also sometimes characterized as outlaws and do-gooders. Much of McPhee's latest book confirms the view.

Take Sarge Waller, from Massillon, Ohio, for example. Thirty years ago he dropped out of high school to join the Marines. Sarge reveled in what he refers to as its past "spirit de corps." He enjoyed knocking around bawky recruits.

After the Korean War, the Marine Corps

tried to clean up its reputation a bit. When Sarge smashed a wayward private's face against the bars of his cell, the Marines told him not to do it again. He quit in disgust and went to Alaska.

Now he lives in a leaky cabin surrounded by a yard littered with boxes, tarps and dismantled snow machines, at peace in a place where a man can do as he pleases. There are a lot of ex-Marines in Alaska.

On the other extreme is Jack Hession, the Sierra Club's paid employee in Alaska,

is only half that of Washington, D. C. Americans flee there — as not many years ago they did to California or Colorado — after dreams of big money and wilderness cabins surrounded by moose and bear.

Inevitably they're disappointed. The little private land that is left carries high price tags. The wilderness is vast, but expensive and difficult to reach. Added to that, survival in the backwoods demands a determination few can muster. More likely than not, newcomers take refuge as "in-

As he peers out of his canoe into a clear river choked with running salmon, he is reminded of "a sky full of zeppelins."

the much harassed defender of the country's last wilderness. Hession represents a small but growing minority. He nonchalantly glides off for days in his kayak, nodding to the grizzly bears that ex-Marines would manfully try to vaporize with the .357 magnums and .30-'06's of their portable arsenals.

The difficulty with writing about Alaska is that its people almost match the stereotypes that an author keeps telling himself he must avoid. But the problem is more apparent than real. John McPhee — up north on a visit from Princeton, N.J., where he turns out books on topics as diverse as oranges, the Scottish Hebrides, and David Brower — handles it expertly on this encyclopaedic tour. Rubbing shoulders with Alaska's people, he scratches through surfaces to complex backgrounds and bizarre personalities. The reader pores through *Coming into the Country* with much the same fascination he would get from one of Dr. Freud's casebooks.

McPhee goes beyond personalities, of course, to Alaskan history, Eskimos, woodlore, the delicious and pristine sweep of wilderness. We learn the origin of the word "hooch" and are treated to the rollicking story of how Juneau got its name. Scattered throughout the book, the bits fit into a colorful mosaic.

The author is at his best testing the myths of the state against their realities. Alaska accounts for one-sixth the area of the United States, yet its total population

mates of Anchorage," which offers them its own version of urban slums. Throughout Alaska unemployment is high and welfare rife. The treasury of this supposedly booming state is nearly broke.

But whether paddling down a river with Hession or gazing through the bubble of a helicopter flown by a lost pilot, McPhee views the landscape with detached wonder. He wisely lets the beauty of the country and the fumbings of the whites seem to speak for themselves — though of course

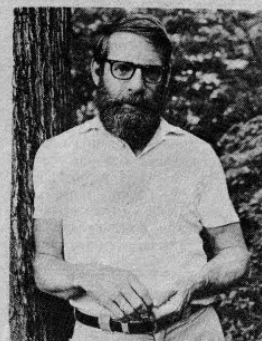


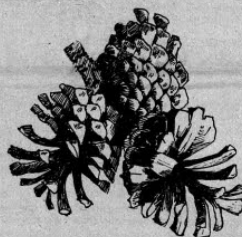
Photo by Thomas Victor

John McPhee

McPhee is there selecting with an eye for subtle ironies.

He divides this large work into three parts: running a river, Alaska's frantic search for a new capital, and his residence in Eagle, a jumbled frontier town neatly split into "Christians and drinkers." Neither section follows any obvious plan. The author gives himself plenty of room to probe the background of the aggressive Joe

Throughout Alaska unemployment is high and welfare rife. The treasury of this supposedly booming state is nearly broke.



Vogler, a gold miner who leads Alaska's movement to secede from the Union. He pieces together the story of a B-24 that crashed one winter in 1943. After months, its sole survivor, city-bred co-pilot Leon Crane, staggered bewildered out of the frozen wilds.

This apparently random approach looks easy, but it has failed dismally when tried by less expert hands. McPhee keeps the writing alive by moving from one choice story or detail to the next. As he peers out of his canoe into a clear river choked with running salmon, he is reminded of "a sky full of zeppelins."

Still, as they easily can in a work of this length, the humor and images sometimes strain to hold the 438 pages together.

Dear Friends,

Mary Margaret Davis, our office manager, is leaving *High Country News*. She is well-known to many of our subscribers and friends, and we're sure they will miss her as much as we will.

She started with the paper almost 10 years ago when it was still *Camping News Weekly* — even before Tom Bell came along. Now she has an opportunity to take a 13-week vacation trip with her family, an opportunity she couldn't pass up.

Back in HCN's early days — to say nothing of present days — there were many times the paper couldn't have continued without her. We've just finished paying her back for all the months she worked without a salary. Marge Higley, another former HCN staff member, tells us of the time after a move when she and Mary Margaret were assembling the paper on one end of the paste-up table while Lafe Bell, Tom's father, was hammering the table together on the other. They couldn't afford to skip the issue to allow enough time for moving because they feared

readers would think the paper had finally gone under.

We've always depended on Mary Margaret's skills. We've taken for granted that she'll produce a galley of type virtually free of errors. We've been confident the books were balanced — no matter how low the bank balance was.

When it comes to her talent as the go-between with HCN and the public, we're sure you have as many stories as we do. She remembers your voice even if it's been months since you've called. You'd be surprised to know how much she knows and remembers about you — who bought you your first subscription, where you moved from last fall, where your daughter is going to college. She's always been a whiz at deciphering your writing when no one else could and at figuring out who you are when you send in an address change and forget to include your name.

After her vacation, she's not sure what she's going to do. In the habit of running home over lunch hour to defrost the refrigerator or bake a birthday cake for one of her four children, she'll

no doubt rush along at the same pace for the first week or two, trying to complete all the tasks she's set aside. But then maybe she'll sit back and put her feet up for a minute. She's earned it.

— the editors



MARY MARGARET DAVIS

In
the News

Clean air

some left in the West 1

Alaska

a lobbyist's story 1

Wild Rivers

running into Congress. 6

Colorado

how air stays dirty. 7

Water

healing political wounds. 12