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High Country News

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RARE II tables turn; conservationists enraged

by Joan Nice

A top Forest Service official says he is disappointed with his own agency's draft environmental statement on roadless land. "The alternatives are skewed toward the commodity side," says Zane G. Smith, who

is directing the Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II). "That is a concern to us."

Conservationists are more than concerned about the environmental statement released June 15. It is a "biased, flimsy, loaded document, based on a thoroughly

prejudiced set of alternatives which ignore reality, balance, or even fair play," said Tim Mahoney and Doug Scott, RARE II coordinators for the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club, in a joint statement.

Only timber and mining interests seem content with the document.

"We feel the Forest Service has done a good job in coming up with alternatives," says Bob Baker of Louisiana Pacific, a logging firm.

"Somebody heard us," says Elmer Parsons of True Oil Co. "The statement looks balanced."

RARE II may shape the future of 62.1 million acres of land managed by the Forest Service that are still untouched by roads or other development. The draft environmental statement outlines 10 alternatives for the land, ranging from doing nothing, to designating it all wilderness, to opening it all for development.

The seven other alternatives recommend at most 36 percent wilderness and at least 56 percent non-wilderness.

The tables have turned. When the Forest Service began its RARE II inventory about a year ago, industry representatives feared it. "We decided, this time we've got to give our story to the Forest Service," Parsons says. He and many other representatives of industry have been diligently watchdogging RARE II.

Conservationists, on the other hand, have generally supported RARE II. "We calmly studied maps, examined the facts, and tried to work with the process," according to Bart Koehler of the Wilderness Society.

"Possibly we were too naive and trusting of well-meaning people in the administration and the Forest Service. We may have been too cautious and too cooperative," Mahoney says. "We are being taken for granted."

"They are saying that because they want to make doggone sure that their members get critically involved in RARE II this summer," says Mike Griswold, Smith's assistant.

"We don't mind. We're wide open. We hope people won't limit themselves to the Forest Service alternatives. Areas where public input indicated there is controversy will fall into a further planning category," Griswold says.

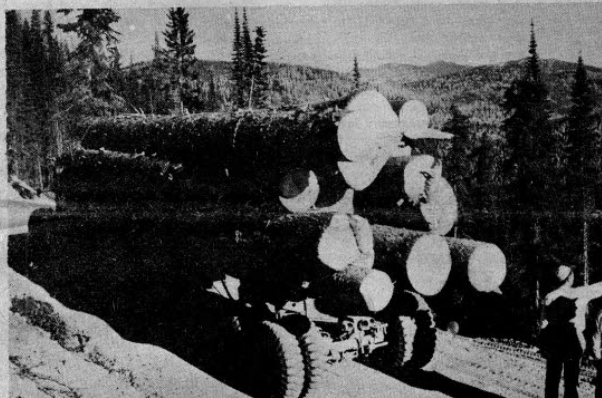
The Forest Service came up with different approaches to the allocation of RARE II lands "mechanically," without looking to see how many wilderness acres they would generate, Griswold says. In response to conservationist outcry, "We hurriedly constructed a new alternative (Alternative D) to gain a better spread," he says.

"But that didn't do it to the magnitude that conservationists wanted. They wanted another alternative, but there was not time to include it in the draft," he says.

LARGEST EFFORT

The biggest part of the battle is yet to come. Smith says he has received 50,000 comments on RARE II so far, and is preparing

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Forest Service says statement is short on wilderness

Idaho Dept. of Commerce photo
TIMBER INTERESTS fear the Forest Service will commit too much roadless acreage to wilderness, which could preclude cutting.

Present meets past on Oregon Trail

by R. Newell Searle

Americans are seekers, and contemporary seekers look for places where time stands still, where the earth has remained unchanged. That is the appeal of the American West. And for brief moments time does seem to stand still — or at least slow to a crawl. I had that impression while striding across the tawny grasslands that

lie between the Laramie Mountains and the Platte River in Wyoming.

Geoff Barnard and I crossed the Elkhorn and LaBonte creek watersheds one July morning. As in centuries past, the meadowlarks sang, the antelope sprinted over the rises, and the wind carried the clean scent of curing grass. The sweep of prairie was bare of man's works except for the ruts of the Oregon Trail. They were so

distinct we could believe the wagons had passed only yesterday.

Geoff and I set out on foot from Scottsbluff National Monument, Nebr., on July 2, 1977, and reached Soda Springs, Idaho, 600 miles and six weeks later on August 13. With backpacks we retraced the longest segment of the Oregon Trail that still retains some of its original

(continued on page 4)



This caved in log building, one of the two left at Lewiston, had a friendly look. Its sag suggested someone settling into a comfortable chair to hear a long tale. Out of a hole in the front issued a mountain bluebird: surprising color and motion.



HCN Letters

HELPING NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Dear Editor:

Before you go pushing publications that are billed as energy saving, you might consider having someone on your staff look them over first. In the June 2, 1978 issue Bulletin Board, under ENERGY SAVING TIPS, you have inadvertently helped private interests in their, thus far, largely successful attempts to lobby the naive in the name of education.

The comic book, titled "Mickey Mouse & Goofy Explore Energy," is an outstanding example of this perpetration upon our children. In this case, the major interest is the nuclear industry. I wonder how many other such private interest publications are being mailed out through the Wyoming Energy Conservation Office?

T.R. Lockridge
Cerrillos, N.M.

BIRDWATCHERS BENIGN

Dear HCN,

Re: Article titled "Montana's nongame wildlife finds friends" (HCN 5-5-78).

Mr. Fisher is assuming that the HR 10915 bill will pass. There are many of us that would be affected monetarily by this bill. I brought the substance of the bill to the attention of our local Audubon Society and it was voted down 100%. Why should those who protect and feed the birds now be penalized for their services?

The success of the federal program of excise taxes on hunters for wildlife conservation does not justify taxing campers, hikers and birdwatchers for the same purpose. Why not take money out of the highway users fund for protection of nongame wildlife, as the automobiles, trucks and disruption of habitats by new construction do more damage to wildlife than any birdwatcher could ever do? The bill taxes the nature lovers who are the quiet, unorganized individuals who already do everything they can to preserve the endangered species.

As the executive director of the Colorado Mountain Club, a 5,000 member conservation and hiking organization, as well as a member of the board of directors of the American Hiking Society, we will now get our act together and OPPOSE the bill. Thanks for bringing our attention to it.

Gudrun E. Gaskill
Golden, Colo.

Peregrines

The story of peregrines by Ruth-Carol Cushman and the Oregon trail by R. Newell Searle in this edition of High Country News were paid for by the High Country News Research Fund.

If you enjoy articles like these, contribute to the fund to help HCN publish more. Research and travel expenses get fund assistance, too.

Donations are tax-deductible. Contribute to the fund today, won't you? Make out checks to Wyoming Environmental Institute — HCN Research Fund, and send to: WEI, P.O. Box 2497, Jackson, Wyo., 83001. Thank you.

TVA KNEW

Dear HCN:

The HCN "Hot Line" in the June 16 issue said that the snail darter was not discovered near the Tellico Dam until construction had been 80 percent completed.

But Rep. John Dingell claims that the Tennessee Valley Authority knew of the fish almost from the time construction began, but did nothing. Kennedy P. Maize, writing in the June 3 Environmental Action, suggests also that TVA knew of the problem early on but chose to ignore it, apparently figuring that if word did get out, the media would simply play it up as another case of selfish environmentalists preferring fish to people.

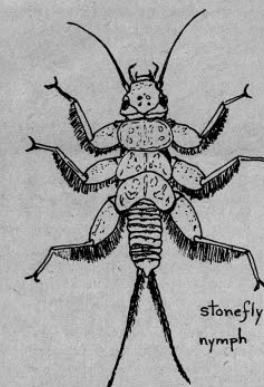
Lonnie Renner
Grand Junction, Colo.

RESPONSIBILITY, BACKLASH, INSULT

Dear Friends,

— You added to my admiration of your work by publishing your concern about jumping to conclusions ("Dear Friends," 4-21-78). The entire action was a rare act of mature journalistic responsibility. However, don't be too hard on yourselves. No matter how knowledgeable one may be or desirous of exercising caution in using that knowledge, his humanity will push him to foster what he perceives to be the answer to

those whose lives have not revealed to them some of the realities of the support system for humankind. They can't be gained by derogating their appearance, habits, quantity of knowledge or degree of understanding. Sure, our frustrations — the other person's and mine — put our tempers just behind the tips of our tongues and points of our pens. But teaching and learning require soft words, the more so when the lessons are hard. Tough thoughts can be expressed in soft words that are long-lived. John Muir's gentle simile of Hetch Hetchy Valley and cathedrals' walls may not have saved that valley, but Dave Brower's paraphrasing of it 50 years later saved the Grand Canyon.



stonefly
nymph

Goodby, Mary Margaret Davis; thank you for so many years of competent dedication.

Dick McCutchen
Columbus, Ohio

DON'T TAX HIKERS

Dear HCN,

In the May 5th issue of HCN, Hank Fischer discusses proposed legislation to protect nongame wildlife species. What is misleading is the discussion of Rep. Barber Conable's (R-N.Y.) bill, H.R. 10915. Fischer says it would be funded by "an 11% excise tax on bird seed, bird feeders, bird houses, some camping equipment, and certain binoculars and spotting scopes."

With this listing Fischer gives the impression that funding would derive from bird watchers. This is just not so. The bulk of the funding would come from the items which Fischer lumps together, in passing, as "some camping equipment." Specifically listed in Conable's bill are the following — sleeping bags, tents, sleeping pads, camp stoves, camp heaters and thermos jugs. When calculated into actual dollars, it will be the backpacker who would pay the bulk of the cost of nongame wildlife, if this bill is passed.

The backpacker will pay an average \$18 additional for his sleeping bag, and an average \$20 additional for his tent. The bird watcher will pay an additional 20 cents for his bag of bird seed, and possibly 50 cents to \$1 for a bird house.

Significantly, no Winnebagos, ORV's, camping trailers or charcoal grills are on the Conable bill's list.

The American Hiking Society held two conferences on this issue last year. Some 45

representatives of various hiking and conservation organizations voted unanimously to oppose an excise tax on hiking equipment for the purpose of protecting nongame wildlife.

I wrote an editorial in BACKPACKER magazine on this subject last June, and received more than 450 letters from readers, giving well-articulated reasons why hikers should not be taxed for this purpose. The results of this poll — 97 percent against the tax, 3 percent for it.

Here are some of their reasons:

1. Very little has been done by the federal government to aid hikers in the past 50 years. There were 150,000 miles of foot trails in the national forests just after World War II. Today there are less than 97,000 miles. There are about 10 times more hikers using these trails. Further, all but 10,000 miles of these trails are now open to use by ORV's. This leaves only 10,000 miles of U.S. Forest Service foot trails exclusively for the use of 25 million hikers.

2. More wildlife is appreciated around campgrounds or along highways than is normally seen or appreciated in the back country. Hence, national park and forest visitors of all types are the more logical source of funds to pay for the protection of nongame wildlife.

3. The hiker does not harm wildlife as do the hunter or fisherman. And hence, there is no need for the hiker to pay for replenishing the stock of wildlife.

4. More wildlife is killed by automobiles each year along our highways. It would be logical to tax motorists to replenish the game killed in this way. Not the hiker, who barely sees wildlife, never mind harm it.

5. Any funding based upon an excise tax on backpacking equipment would generate paltry sums compared to the kind of funds needed for such a program.

6. There is a serious question as to whether the program is in fact needed at all. There is a serious question as to whether the same objectives can be served by bolstering already existing programs.

You may write to Rep. Barber Conable, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 for a copy of his bill. And if you are opposed to the tax you may tell Rep. Goodloe Byron (D-Md.), 1232 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, who is leading the efforts to protect the hiker's interest on this issue.

William Kemsley
Chairman, American Hiking Society
Executive Editor, BACKPACKER Magazine

Show HCN to a friend

The High Country News '78 survey shows that most readers are introduced to HCN through a friend.

Take the time to show a copy of HCN to a friend, won't you? Maybe your friend will become a subscriber, too.

My friend suggests that I become a subscriber, too. Enclosed is \$12; send HCN to:

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Still not convinced? Ask for a sample copy.
Send to: HCN, Box K, Lander, WY 82520.

Western passenger train service should continue

We are glad to see that Congress is responding to the protests of its Western contingent by continuing Amtrak passenger train service until at least Oct. 1, 1979. This may allow enough time for the Department of Transportation to realize that cutting Amtrak routes is a bad idea.

A map depicting the department's proposed changes shows a vast blank space in the West — no service for all of Wyoming, South Dakota, Utah and Nevada as well as most of Idaho and Colorado. One of the two routes through Montana and North Dakota would be eliminated as well. While some service would be discontinued elsewhere in the country, the Rocky Mountain and Northern Plains states would be hit the hardest.

We think it would be a mistake to abandon these lines so early in our experiment with Amtrak. One line through Idaho has been tried for only a year.

We don't question that Amtrak's an expensive undertaking. But no one expected it to operate at a huge profit. If that were possible, the railroad companies still would be operating passenger trains.

We think the national goal of saving energy needs to be taken into consideration

when Amtrak's costs and benefits are weighed. While riding a train through Wyoming recently, we watched the highway that ran parallel to the track. Nearly all the cars had only one passenger apiece. The train was full.

Buses and trains are two or three times as efficient as automobiles and six or seven times as efficient as airplanes for traveling long distances. A long distance train averages 270-360 seat miles per gallon while a subcompact car, getting 30 miles to the gallon and carrying four passengers, averages 120 seat miles to the gallon of fuel, according to Department of Transportation figures. Airplanes carrying up to 200 people get only 44-51 seat miles per gallon. Buses compare with trains — 282 seat miles to the gallon.

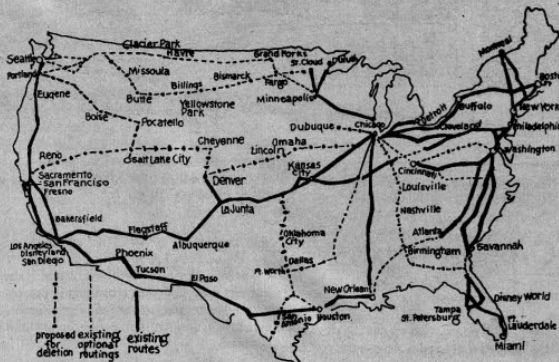
We understand the obstacles to passenger train service in the West. Trains in the West won't have as many passengers as commuter trains in the East. Yet when there are fewer passengers, Amtrak can drop one or two cars.

Another obstacle is the peculiar personality of Westerners. They're an independent lot, accustomed to driving alone across the windswept plains. But the recent popularity of CB radios may be a clue that people would prefer to reach out to one another, to communicate at least to some limited extent.

The train can be great for that. At its best, it becomes a small community rolling down the rails. Passengers sit around a guitar player in the lounge, share perspectives on sagebrush from the dome vista car and commiserate in the coach car about the train being late again.

For those who need a more practical rationale, trains are usually cheaper than flying, safer than driving and offer room for working while you travel without the confinements of a bus seat.

There are many people already sold on the idea of riding trains — the San Francisco Zephyr is one of the top 10 Amtrak trains in the country for the number of passengers it carries per mile of travel. Yet



the Zephyr is one of the routes that would be discontinued.

The Department of Transportation knows how many millions of dollars it pours into the highway systems of the

West. We would think it would also be willing to put federal dollars behind long distance passenger trains, which are the most sensible and comfortable form of mass transit that much of the West will ever see.

— MJA

The Interstate Commerce Commission is planning several public hearings on the proposed changes. All the hearings will start at 9 a.m. In the West, hearings are scheduled in:

- Boise, Idaho, on July 6 at the city hall.
- Denver, Colo., on July 6 at the city and county building.
- Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 10 at the city and county building.
- Butte, Mont., on July 10 at the old city hall.
- Helena, Mont., on July 12 at the city hall.
- Cheyenne, Wyo., on July 12 at the Hathaway Building.

For more information, contact the Interstate Commerce Commission at (703) 549-4404.

TVA, Court, switch roles

by Justas Bavarskis

Even as it ruled that a dam may not wipe out an endangered species, the Supreme Court made clear that it didn't like its own ruling. The majority in the 6-3 snail darter-Tellico decision hinted that Congress should amend the Endangered Species Act, while the minority bluntly said the Tennessee Valley Authority's dam, a creature of man, had a greater right to exist than the snail darter, a creature of nature.

That decision, and the talk and action stemming from it, brought to light a curious reversal of roles between the high court and the TVA. Here was the court, whose business it is to interpret the law, saying the law should be changed so the dam could be built. And, two weeks after the decision, here was David Freeman, chairman of TVA whose business it is to build dams, saying that maybe the dam wasn't needed after all.

Congress should pay heed to this role reversal as it toys with amendments to the Endangered Species Act, and, indeed, as it commits more and more billions of dollars to similar projects.

When a chairman of TVA suggests that his own agency's project may have been

ill-conceived and may have done more harm than good not only to the snail darter but to the people around the dam, then it would behoove Congress to stop using the dam as an excuse to alter the Endangered Species Act. Instead, it should amend its own rubber-stamping habits of funding pork barrel projects of dubious merit.

And when the Supreme Court, in addition to ruling on violations of law, acts as a guide for how to get around the law, then it would behoove Congress to question the court's understanding of the law it seeks to change.

For the court amply demonstrated its commitment to, and understanding of, endangered species by ignoring a violation of the Endangered Species Act committed before the nine justices during arguments on the case.

Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell, the top law enforcement officer in the land, showed the justices a jar containing a dead snail darter as he argued for building the Tellico Dam. It is illegal to possess an endangered species, dead or alive.

None of the justices asked Bell what he was doing with the snail darter. Instead, all nine justices, in effect, asked Congress why there weren't more snail darters in the same condition.

sticks and stones

by Justas Bavarskis



A few years ago, I picked up a hitchhiker near Tequila, Mexico, and drove with him through the night to the Nogales border. He told me he would cross the Rio Grande that night "con coyote," and work with his uncle in a tailor shop in Arizona.

I learn now from the National Parks and Conservation Association that, by giving this illegal immigrant a ride, I committed a crime against the environment, if not

threadbare overcoat and carried a cardboard suitcase and a brown paper bag crammed with tortillas and beans, which he shared with me. To suggest that this wetback would shake off the Rio Grande's mud and make a beeline to Jackson Hole, where he'd pull out a sodden wad of 1,000-peso notes and buy himself a ranch then embark on a tour of national parks and monuments, is ludicrous.

One can hardly argue with the proposition that illegal immigrants expand the country's population. But, by joining the move to ban them, the National Parks and Conservation Association reflects a racism and provincialism that fits awkwardly on the environmental movement.

Why has the association adopted this stance? The answer seems clear if one reads between the lines of the association's June 1 letter to President Carter.

"Over the past few weeks, a series of discussions have taken place between representatives of major labor unions and environmental organizations...on the subject of illegal immigration into the United States," the letter says. "The unions are concerned with the threats to jobs; the conservationists with pressures on resource and the environment."

In other words, the association has struck a "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" deal with the labor union — which have a legitimate interest in illegal immigration — and its stance is little more than a self-deceptive attempt to justify the deal.

Doubtless, environmentalists need all the help they can get, and labor's help would be invaluable. But the end doesn't justify the means any more now than it did in Machiavelli's time.

The association does concede that, "I each of us eliminated waste and consumed more modestly, it would be possible to accommodate many more people in our midst." That makes sense. If we consume less, we certainly will eliminate less waste.

Perhaps the association should consider eliminating a little less waste of its own by staying with the work it has done so well in the past, and avoiding deals that stink.

Justas Bavarskis is a legal immigrant



Guest editorials do not necessarily represent the opinions of HCN.

against nature and humanity. Such immigrants are defying North Americans' efforts to stem population growth, says the association in an editorial in the June issue of its magazine. "Between 3 million and 5 million acres of farmland are already being lost to development every year, and the need to lay aside some unspoiled natural acreage becomes more urgent even as spiraling costs make it harder and harder to accomplish this goal," the editorial says.

It says the ever expanding hordes descending with their hiking boots and four-wheel-drives and Winnebagoes upon the country's parks and forests each summer are trampling plants and displacing wildlife. It says North Americans are using more and more water, demanding more and more energy. So it follows as the night day, or the elephant's trunk, says the editorial, that illegal immigrants must be turned back at the border.

The illegal immigrant I picked up wore a

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The remnants of Radium Springs: small buildings on the buff-colored plain, lining up with the horizon, Chinese landscape size. The trail appears again and again on successive layers of hills.

Oregon Trail...

(continued from page 1)

character. The old wagon route cut through the West and opened a cross-section of its history, people, and environment.

Once a highway across an empty continent, the old route now passes along irrigation ditches, through sugar beet fields and oil fields, and over rangelands, sand dunes, mountain meadows and soda flats. At night we slept in our tent or occasionally in ranch houses. One noon we ate tortillas and fried Spam with a Mexican shepherd: one night a Mormon dairyman brought us a jug of fresh milk.

People showed us tipi rings, wagon ruts and forgotten carvings; they answered our questions about ranching; they offered advice about the route ahead. At mealtimes they dished up generous helpings of lamb chops, coffee, family history, local politics, well-polished yarns and prejudices against government agencies. These kitchen-table seminars revealed the deeply rooted values and beliefs that hold Westerners to the land.

Geoff and I chose the Oregon Trail for its history and the opportunity to study the Great Plains environment. Mountain men opened the route in 1825, and covered wagons made it a road in 1843. It remained the most important transcontinental route until completion of the railroad in 1869. The wagons began at Independence, Mo., and struck the Platte River near present-day Kearney, Neb.

They followed the North Platte River to present-day Casper, Wyo., then the Sweetwater River to the Continental Divide at South Pass, Wyo. Emigrants had a choice of routes and cutoffs beyond the di-

vide, depending on whether the destination was Salt Lake City, Oregon, or California. Between Scottsbluff and Soda Springs the route went through a cross section of Western environments: grasslands, sagebrush deserts, canyons, forests and badlands.

At the peak of the emigration in 1850 more than 50,000 people a year made the overland trek in wagons and carts. A whole year's traffic passed any point on the trail within two months' time — nearly a thousand people a day. Hundreds of travelers kept diaries describing the land. Geoff and I compared these accounts with what we saw and marked the changes. By keeping a journal we carried on the tradition of documenting the West.

DITCHRIDERS

Lt. John C. Fremont of the Topographical Engineers mapped the route to South Pass in 1842 and described the Platte Valley as "a low rich prairie...covered with a luxuriant growth of grass." He reported that the region "which supports immense herds of buffalo is admirably suited to grazing."

For a half century the Platte bottoms, particularly Goshen Hole near Torrington, Wyo., were famous for grazing. But when

hayfields. Later they plowed the pastures and raised cash crops to compensate for low cattle prices. Barns and loading chutes are still commonly seen along the Platte, but cattle are few. Instead of wheatgrass, grama and prickly pear, the land supports sugar beets, pinto beans and corn. The cowboy has swapped his saddle for a water siphon and now rides herd on the ditches.

GRAFFITI AS HISTORY

Register Cliff faces the Platte River at Guernsey, Wyo. In the 1850s and 1860s, whenever passing emigrants camped nearby, they amused themselves with carving their names in the soft, buff limestone. Many names are still legible. "Nothing escapes that can be marked upon," one diarist noted in 1849, and added humorously: "The singular feature is that of marking initials; for instance A.S.S. as if everyone should know who he was."

Yesteryear's graffiti has become a contemporary historical monument. Register Cliff was given to the state of Wyoming by the Frederick family whose ranch still surrounds the site. They have ranched near Guernsey for nearly a century. Chet Frederick talked with us as we filled our canteens from his garden hose. We could camp up the Platte under the cottonwoods, he

The cowboy has swapped his saddle for a water siphon and now rides herd on the ditches.

the first large, publicly financed irrigation canals were dug in the 1930s, a revolution began. At first cattlemen irrigated their

said, right behind the marker for the Pony Express station. Like many ranchers, Frederick knew the history of the trail in his neighborhood.

In the morning we inspected the cliff. A woven wire fence protected the inscriptions, but nimble vandals had slipped behind the mesh from time to time and carved names and dates. Geoff grumbled about them to another visitor, but she did not mind the new carvings. She saw them as part of a historical continuum.

SWEETWATER SALVATION

Few stretches of the trail remain as naturally inviting as that along the Sweetwater River. It rises in the Wind River Mountains, winds through willow thickets across the baked sagelands of central Wyoming, and flows past a low range of naked, pink Precambrian rocks. Like Fremont in 1842, we pronounced the valley "exceedingly picturesque."

Maj. Osborne Cross of the Mounted Riflemen reached the river in 1849 and said it was "the salvation of the traveler who is fortunate enough to reach it." We arrived at noon after a dry, three-day march through badlands and soda flats. It was the first natural water source we had crossed in 250 miles still safe enough to drink — a remarkable fact in itself.

The trail struck the Sweetwater near Independence Rock, an isolated mass of granite that (in the words of one traveler) "at a distance looks like a huge whale." It was near the rock that John K. Townsend, an early American naturalist, "saw here great numbers of a beautiful brown and white avocet." In 1833 they lived and bred in the soda lakes nearby. They did so in 1977. Pathfinder Wildlife Refuge protects their habitat. While bathing in the Sweetwater I encountered a small flock of avocets — within a half-mile of where Townsend first discovered them.

SHODDY IMPERMANENCE

Landscapes usually reveal human values, and Jeffrey City may be a prototype for the values that could soon dominate the energy-rich sections of the West. Once called Home-on-the-Range Post Office, Jeffrey City was platted in the 1950s to serve the uranium mines in the nearby mountains. Prefab and trailer houses were strewn helter-skelter along the dusty streets.

Beefed up jeeps, low slung sport cars, and heavy equipment were parked everywhere, as if everyone would leave in a moment. The motel was nothing more than mobile homes linked together. The town's most characteristic feature was its air of shoddy impermanence.

The dominant values were embodied behind the cracked windows in the Split Rock Cafe and Bar. Hard-hatted miners and their girlfriends crowded around the small tables, sipping beers and listening to country-western tunes. None of them talked or acted as if he expected to live in Jeffrey City for long. Everything depended on the mine and its paychecks. The aim of each person seemed to be getting as much as he could, for as long as he could, before moving on. It's an old story.

Lewiston is a two-day hike west of Jeffrey City. In the 1890s it was a gold camp squatting on the windswept flanks above Sweetwater Canyon. Now a few rotting cabins, piles of milky quartz chips, and dark, abandoned shafts mark the ravages of gold fever. Lewiston and Jeffrey City bear a familiar resemblance. They are linked across the centuries by the lure of instant wealth and the people who chase it: whether grizzled men with gold pans, or feckless couples in motor homes. For a century Wyoming has been overrun with people who sleep with "their blankets tied in a roll on their backs, and their coffee pot in one hand and a tin cup in the other, so as to

(continued on page 5)



Photo by Ken B. Sower

R. NEWELL SEARLE (left), the author, relaxes on the Oregon trail with hiking companion Geoff Barnard.



On the ground at Strawberry Creek: A pale forest of "pussy toes" with an understorey of small green succulents. This hospitable, noisy waterway attracted travelers from the Oregon Trail a little to the west.

be ready to jump up and run at the first whisper of a new thing being struck."

South Pass is a broad, sage-choked plateau at the southern end of the Wind River Mountains. It was one of the few easy passes across the Continental Divide. Until the 1890s it was used continually by Indians, mountain men, wagon trains, soldiers and cattle drovers.

Geoff and I walked in silence to the summit between two low, sandy hills that looked like hundreds of other swales along

they caught. On the way up we passed a solitary backpacker. The others waved cheerily, but I could not. The hiker's heart-felt disgust was too plain.

For the first time I was in close association with a group of people whose values I did not share, and whom I had considered The Enemy — the recreational vehicle crowd. Norman and his buddies may be typical of the RV set, but they did not fit my stereotype. Without exception they were genuinely kind and sincerely generous. I liked them, but I did not enjoy their kind of

The aim of each person seemed to be getting as much as he could, for as long as he could, before moving on.

the route. It was an ordinary place and its commonplace appearance added to its grandeur.

Had we stood there with Franklin Langworthy in 1850 we'd have watched a thousand people pass in the day, and at night seen lights everywhere "gleaming from a city of white tents." The air would have been full of sounds from neighing horses, braying mules, and human voices, the music of violins, tambourines, and bugles, the cracking of rifles and pistols and "the rumbling, grinding music of carriage wheels still passing along." That was how America traveled, and still does. But South Pass was silent and empty when we arrived. It was worth visiting.

THE RV CROWD

A soft-bellied young man answered my knock at the door. After answering a few questions he invited us for some lunch with his wife and friends. Norman lived in Rock Springs, operated heavy equipment at the Jim Bridger power plant and spent his weekends at a ranch house near the Wind River Mountains.

Their white house sat on a bench overlooking a broad meadow at the head of Lander Creek. Instead of circling the wet meadow, Geoff and I cut across it. No livestock had grazed it that summer and the squishy turf was generously sprinkled with ladies tresses, gentians, and elephant-head louseworts. A pair of sandhill cranes bugled and flapped away on brown wings. I mentioned the flowers and cranes to Norman. He had never before noticed them.

"Say, maybe you guys would like to go fishing this afternoon," he suggested. "We're going to a nice place up in the Bridger." We agreed and the six of us piled into four-wheel drive pickups and bounced up Block and Tackle Hill on a primitive Forest Service road. Our companions were like adolescents on a lark. They took as much delight in the feats performed with their trucks as in the scenery or the fish

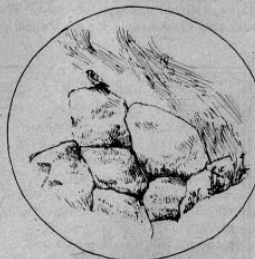
recreation. At the end of the day I felt sadness rather than outrage. Their behavior did not arise from maliciousness but from a more serious condition — a blithe ignorance of their own finer qualities.

BUCKING THE ODDS

Big Sandy Ranch lies against the wall of the Wind River Mountains where the Big Sandy River slips through a break in the granite and coils gracefully across the meadow. We saw the ranch from a distance: a cluster of neatly trimmed log buildings, rail fences, and a herd of Angus. Behind the house a wiry man threw a lariat over a set of horns mounted on a sawhorse. Rennie Burke was practicing for the Pinedale rodeo.

Burke owns the ranch and looked every inch the Westerner: boots, hat, chiseled

If he sold his ranch, the land would probably be subdivided. And if that happened, "I could never come back."



Birds like to perch on these pinnacles along the Oregon Trail. A green-tailed towhee, then a robin come here to sing. A Westie stoops to peck the robin, then bobs his head up and down, getting a fix on something below. He dives over the edge.....

Any square yard of desert pavement: full of patterns. Cushion plants generally have delicate foliage — wiry grasses, sunburst lichens, regular wheel lupine leaves — engaging to look at even without the profusion of flowers. The closer one looks, the more complex the design.



features and a ginger moustache. But he was no dress-up cowboy from Marlboro Country. Rennie was a professional who had ranches for nearly 20 of his 38 years, even while earning a history degree from Lake Forest College in Illinois.

For a few years he followed the professional ski circuit, but the ambition to own a ranch gnawed at him. At the age of 30 he secured a mortgage, borrowed from his

horns. If he could pay off his debts within a few years, he said, he could make a living entirely from the ranch. Until then, he would continue to make ends meet by teaching skiing in winter, and leading occasional pack trips in summer. If that didn't work out, well... "I'll hang on here as long as I can before I'll sell out," he said, hanging up his rope. If he sold, the land would probably be subdivided. And if that happened, "I could never come back."

Rennie Burke may not be a typical rancher, but he and others face the same problems: preserving their capital asset — a healthy range — while producing enough beef to make a profit and stay in business. For larger operators ranching may be simply an industry. For Burke it is a way of life.

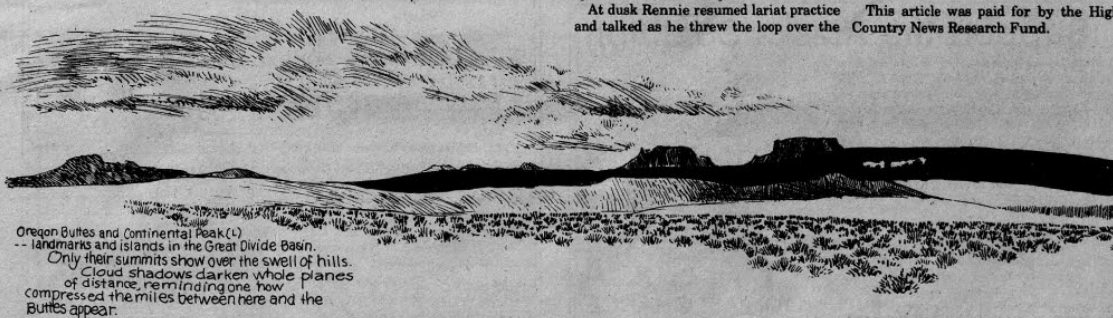
TIME WON'T STAND STILL

To those on the outside the West is a timeless land of unspoiled landscapes and unrealized possibilities. But time won't stand still much longer. Changes are overrunning the West. As one old rancher put it: "Lucky you boys are making your trip now. Wyoming won't be the same in 10 years."

R. Newell Searle is a historian and writer who lives in Minneapolis, Minn. He is now at work on a book about the Oregon Trail hike.

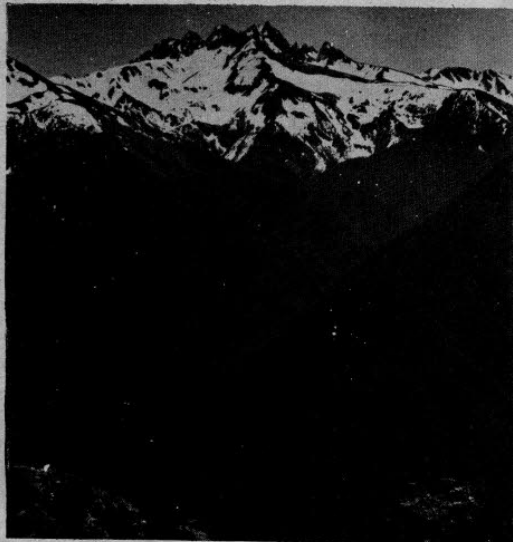
The sketches and observations accompanying the Oregon Trail story are by Hannah Hinchman, staff artist for High Country News.

This article was paid for by the High Country News Research Fund.



Oregon Buttes and Continental Peak (L) — landmarks and islands in the Great Divide Basin. Only their summits show over the swell of hills. Cloud shadows darken whole planes of distance, reminding one how compressed the miles between here and the Buttes appear.

6-High Country News — June 30, 1978

National Park Service photo
PRIME WILDERNESS country in Olympic National Park.

RARE II...

(continued from page 1)

ing for "the largest single public involvement effort the Forest Service has ever had. We're expecting 150,000 responses to the draft environmental statement."

The alternatives listed in the statement are:

A — No action.
B — All roadless areas are open to non-wilderness uses.

C — Output of timber, minerals and developed recreation is emphasized, with some consideration given to the top-rated 10 percent of the potential wilderness areas.

D — The top 40 percent of the potential wilderness areas are emphasized, with some consideration given to developing areas rich in timber, mineral and developed recreation potential.

E, F, G — A variety of landforms, ecosystems, and wildlife are added to the wilderness system in low, moderate and high quantities. In addition, an attempt is made to spread designated wilderness areas evenly around the country.

H — Regional and local needs determine wilderness allocations.

I — The top 50 percent of potential wilderness areas are emphasized while giving secondary consideration to developing

areas rich in timber, mineral and developed recreation potential.

J — All of the roadless areas are recommended for wilderness.

Mahoney says North Dakota is a good example of wilderness being shortchanged. Twelve roadless grassland areas were under consideration in the state. Eliminating the all-wilderness alternative, which the Forest Service has said is unrealistic, the statement recommends wilderness designation in only four cases and non-wilderness in 104 cases in all the other alternatives, Mahoney says.

"Our intention was to have a rather good distribution," Smith says. "We're sorry it didn't come out that way."

In Utah, environmentalists were not so much upset about the quantity of wilderness

"Possibly we were too naive and trusting of well-meaning people in the Forest Service."

offered in the alternatives as the quality. "Some areas that were frequently recommended for wilderness designation don't even interest us all that much," says Dick Carter of the Wilderness Society in Salt Lake City. On the other hand, conservationists' top wilderness priorities — the High Uintas and the Upper Escalante —

did not even appear in most alternatives, he says.

Carter is also upset about the Forest Service's "Wilderness Attribute Ratings." A 5,000-acre area near Salt Lake City was rated just as wild as a remote 150,000-acre area in the High Uintas, he says.

Many large roadless areas like the High Uintas also have valuable mineral or timber resources, says Karl Haaser, assistant RARE II coordinator for the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service. Where such conflicts exist, lands were recommended for further study rather than for wilderness or non-wilderness, he says.

HALF OF THE LOAF

In Colorado, Perry Moyle of the Wilderness Society says that since over half the Forest Service lands already have roads, "We're fighting for a portion of half of the loaf." Moyle says that out of 6.5 million roadless acres in the state, the Forest Service document gives conservationists at best 2,731,000 acres in wilderness.

In Wyoming, Koehler says he and other

and Gros Ventre areas that are high priorities for conservationists are also being eyed by energy companies.

In general, the environmental statement is "less than meets the eye," Mahoney and Scott say. While the Carter administration is more sympathetic to wilderness than the Ford administration was, Carter's Forest Service is still trying to meet the large production goals and small wilderness goals set by the Ford administration, they say.

The roadless area review that ended in 1973 and subsequent court actions left many roadless areas in limbo. RARE II was designed to resolve those conflicts as quickly as possible and also to consider areas that were ignored in the first round.

"I'm hearing from people around the country who are outraged," Mahoney says. "In some cases they did better in RARE I." Some areas that earned study status in the rigorous RARE I process now seem likely to be opened up for development, Mahoney says.

Conservationists also object to what they call "wilderness ceilings" set by the Forest

It is impossible to avoid wilderness conflicts with oil and gas development in the Overthrust Belt.

conservationists have come up with an "Alternative W" that will propose about 1 million additional acres of wilderness, about one-quarter of the total roadless acreage identified in the state. The maximum wilderness proposed in a Forest Service alternative, excepting the all-wilderness alternative, is Alternative G, which includes 868,555 acres. Conservationists in other states will come up with their own Alternative W's, he says.

Koehler says that Alternative W's conflicts with commodity interests in Wyoming will be minimal, except in the Overthrust Belt, where "it is impossible to avoid conflict with oil and gas interests." The Greyback, Commissary Ridge, Palisades

Service. Smith admits the ceilings were "pulled out of the air." The agency decided, for instance, that in "Alternative D" only the top-rated 40 percent of potential wilderness areas would be considered. In "Alternative I" the top 50 percent was considered.

Mahoney and Scott are also concerned about "questions the Forest Service did not ask." The agency made no analysis of the minimum wilderness that would have to be disturbed while providing for timber production, jobs and local economies, they say.

Mahoney and Scott's minimum wilderness disturbance approach "might be one

(continued on page 7)

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ALASKA
OUR LAST CHANCE

way to do it," Smith says. "We're hoping people won't limit themselves to our alternatives."

The Forest Service is accepting comments on the RARE II draft environmental statement until Oct. 1. The Department of Agriculture will decide by Dec. 29 which lands to recommend to Congress for wilderness designation.

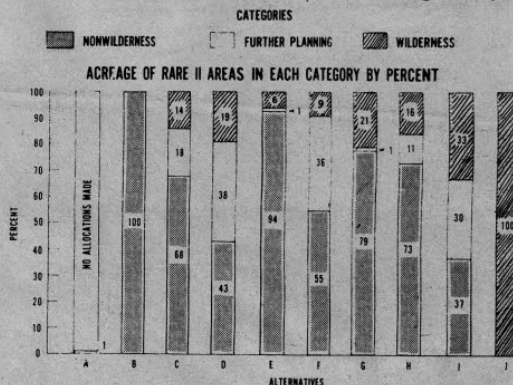
In the meantime, Forest Service offices around the country have scheduled "open houses" to answer the public's questions about the draft statement.

The statement and individual state supplements are available from regional Forest Service offices: Colorado and Wyoming — Rocky Mountain Region, 11177 West 8th Ave., P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood, Colo. 80225; Idaho, Montana, North Dakota — Northern Region, Federal Building, Missoula, Mont.; Idaho, Nevada, Utah — Intermountain Region, 324 25th St., Ogden, Utah 84401. Comments should be sent to the nearest regional office.



Wyoming Travel Commission photo
SAFE REFUGE for wild creatures such as this pika will be provided by an expanded wilderness system, conservationists say.

June 30, 1978 — High Country News-7



House funds "fat, sick turkeys in pork barrels"

"There is no room in the pork barrel for fat, sick turkeys," Rep. James Jeffords (R-Vt.) told his fellow congressmen before they voted on a bill that would cut funding for eight water projects. "These projects are the turkeys," Jeffords said.

"These projects all have good cost-benefit ratios and they all need to be built to keep America strong," said Rep. John T. Myers (R-Ind.). "Think what it (the projects) will do to our children and grandchildren. Are they going to have this water that we take for granted?"

Despite the threat of an administration veto and the strident objections of environmentalists, the House voted 234-142 June 15 to authorize \$21 million for all eight projects on President Carter's new "hit list." Thus, the administration's water policy, barely a week old and greeted with polite applause from governors of the Western states, suffered a setback in its first test in Congress.

The House vote came on an amendment to a \$10.3 billion public works appropriation bill. Although Carter has said he will veto any bill that includes the eight water projects he wanted cut, several House members have said they doubt Carter would veto a \$10.3 billion bill because he disagreed with the way \$21 million of the money would be spent.

Of the eight projects Carter wanted cut, three are in the Rocky Mountain states. These are Narrows and Fruitland Mesa in Colorado, and Savery-Pot Hook on the Colorado-Wyoming border.

"I could not defend the Fruitland Mesa project in Colorado, which will cost the taxpayers \$88.2 million expressly for the benefit of 69 landowners," Rep. James

Conte (R-Mass.) told the House. "The telling tale of this massive ripoff of the taxpayer is that we can expect to receive, at the maximum, 50 cents in return for every dollar of federal investment."

The Savery-Pot Hook project, Conte said, was another "massive ripoff" that "will cost the taxpayers \$74.5 million, which will be

But Myers insisted that all eight projects were necessary. "The suggestion has been made that (these projects are) a pork barrel," he said. "Tell that to the people that have their homes washed out, to the people who lose their children and their loved ones because of a flood, or who lose their jobs, or farmers who lose their

against the president. This year's vote meant that opponents of Carter's position picked up 68 votes in the House.

The Senate, however, last year voted to cut half the projects Carter wanted cut. The fight over the "hit list" now moves to the Senate.

After meeting with Carter and learning of his plans to veto a bill that included funding for the eight projects, Colorado's two Democratic senators, Gary Hart and Floyd Haskell, both said they were angry. Hart, usually identified as a friend of the administration, said the White House "should now consider me one of the severest critics of this administration's water and natural resources policies."

Haskell said he intended to fight for funding of the Colorado projects on the Senate floor.

When Carter spelt out his general water policy three weeks ago, without mentioning the "hit list," Western politicians said the policy showed Carter had learned about water needs in the West.

But after his meeting with Carter, Hart said, "It is obvious that the administration has no real interest in" Western water concerns.

"Many of us from Colorado and elsewhere in the West had of late nurtured the hope that we had successfully educated this administration on the differences that exist between a water-drenched Georgia and a semi-arid Colorado," Haskell said. "Unfortunately, this hope was misplaced."

Environmental groups have lined up behind Carter on the issue of the "hit list."

Savery-Pot Hook "will cost the taxpayers \$74.5 million, which will be divided up among 106 existing farms. What do we get for this investment? Some hay."

divided up among 106 existing farms...What do we get for this sweet little investment? We will irrigate marginal meadowlands and alfalfa growing areas, which are located at the elevation of 6,500 feet. Some hay."

As for the Narrows, "This \$160 million dam would provide massively subsidized irrigation water for large farming corporations at the expense of three towns of 825 inhabitants, 15,000 acres of already irrigated land and 15 miles of wild life habitat, including vital habitat for the endangered whooping crane," Jeffords said.

Environmentalists, in addition to making Jeffords' argument against Narrows, also have said that Fruitland Mesa and Savery-Pot Hook would destroy habitat for birds and game.

The \$21 million for the eight projects would be only initial funding. To complete them would cost an additional \$564 million, Rep. Robert W. Edgar (D-Pa.) estimated.

crops...Tell them we have a pork barrel when we are trying to do something to help them."

In addition to the projects on Carter's "hit list," the House approved funds for many other water projects in the Rocky Mountain states, including the Central Utah Project, the Garrison Diversion in North Dakota, and Closed Basin and Animas-La Plata projects in Colorado.

Carter also proposed funding for construction starts on 26 projects, including 20 that the House already had under consideration. It was the first time in four years that a president had proposed starting construction on new water projects.

Last year, after Carter aroused the fury of Western governors and congressional delegations by proposing funding cuts for water projects, the House voted 218-194

Guess Who's in Town

This album's query: "Guess Who's in Town?" is answered with such a variety of musical styles and songs that one knows Tim O'Brien and friends must be in town.

O'Brien is a fine singer and a triple-treat instrumentalist. He plays fiddle, mandolin, and guitar. His voice is a haunting tenor.

There are 15 selections on this album. Side one is fiddle-filled, with eight tunes from the country. Side two vocals include some sweet, vibrant, swing numbers like "Guess Who's in Town" and "Cadillac-in" (with the Ophelia Swing Band).

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Tim O'Brien —
Eclectic fiddle



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo
GARRISON DAM in North Dakota. Money for a diversion is included in the \$10.3 billion appropriation bill passed by the House.

8-High Country News — June 30, 1978



by Ruth-Carol Cushman

"There's nothing we'd like better than going out of business," says Bill Burnham, who directs Peregrine West, the Peregrine Fund's western breeding project. Unlike most businesses, the goal of Peregrine West is its own demise, for that would signify that wild peregrine falcons no longer need help from man, their one-time enemy, to survive.

Right now peregrines do need help. The original Eastern species no longer nests in the wild, and Burnham estimates there are only about 100 breeding pairs left in the West.

The decline of the peregrine goes back to World War II. On July 1, 1940, the British Air Ministry decreed that the peregrine falcon was to be shot on sight and its eggs destroyed. The fastest flying raptor in the world was named an enemy of Great Britain because it had struck down homing pigeons carrying vital war messages.

Six hundred peregrines and countless eggs were destroyed in Britain between 1940 and 1945. But a survey taken from 1947 to 1950 showed the peregrines making a comeback.

Then the birds slowly started to disappear. By 1962 only 50 percent of the peregrine nesting sites in Britain were occupied, and only 13 percent contained young. Similar declines were seen in other countries. By 1965 the peregrine was not nesting east of the Rocky Mountains. In 1973 it was declared an endangered species.

What war could not do, DDT had almost accomplished. The peregrine falcon is especially vulnerable to DDT because the peregrine — at the end of a long food chain — consumes concentrated pesticides. Some peregrines are killed outright, but the most deadly effect is on reproduction. DDT causes a decrease in eggshell thickness resulting in breakage under the weight of incubating parents.

For the peregrine, by the time DDT was virtually banned in 1970, it was almost too late. But that same year Dr. Tom Cade began the first large-scale peregrine breeding project at Cornell University.

Ornithologists at Cornell, in Canada, in Pennsylvania, in New Mexico and in Fort Collins, Colo., are now successfully breeding captive peregrines and introducing them young into the wild. Their goal is to restore a breeding population in the United States.

Since 1973 when the first young peregrines were produced at Cornell, more than 130 young ones have been introduced into the wild in 12 states.

DAZZLING SWIFT STOOP

In Colorado the wild peregrine population, species *Anatum*, was not wiped out. But there are so few left that most of us have never seen one soaring over the cliffs, or looping-the-loop in the air to seduce a mate or performing its dazzling, swift stoop (estimated at 100 to 275 miles per hour) after prey.

The first attempt to increase the Western peregrine population was made by James Enderson, a Colorado College biologist, and Gerald Craig from the Colorado Division of Wildlife. In the spring of

Man once fought again

1974 a pair of wild peregrines lost two clutches of eggs due to thin shells. Enderson and Craig substituted eggs from prairie falcons.

One egg hatched and the peregrines played their parental role to perfection. Two peregrine chicks were then flown from Cornell and switched with the prairie falcon chick. The switch worked.

That same year Cornell started a formal western breeding program at the Colorado Division of Wildlife Research Station in Fort Collins. "When we're up to full production, we'll be raising about 100 young here each year," says Burnham. "We'll have to continue, possibly for 10 years, to supplement the wild population."

Burnham uses methods developed at Cornell. Eggs are removed from captive parents after a week and placed in incubators. This causes the parent birds to lay a second clutch within two weeks. When the incubated eggs hatch, the young are returned to the parents and the second clutch of eggs is placed in the incubator. When the second clutch hatches, the young are also returned to the parents. Sometimes the parents will lay as many as three clutches in one breeding season.

The people who work with the peregrines are careful not to accustom the birds to humans. Food (half a chicken or a whole quail per bird per day) is dropped to the birds from chutes. "By the time we see our first peregrine egg hatch, we will have 3,000 to 4,000 live quail on hand...At peak peregrine production we should be using over 4,000 quail per month," says Burnham.

When the birds are about three weeks old, whenever possible they are placed with wild peregrines who have already nested. Any wild eggs are removed to go through the incubator routine. Because of DDT, the eggs are about 20 percent thinner than in pre-DDT days, so the survival rate is higher if they are incubated artificially.

ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Since there are so few wild peregrines, prairie falcons were chosen as adoptive parents at the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area near Boise, Idaho, in the spring of 1977. In his report on this "cross-fostering" experiment, Burnham writes: "The young peregrines were immediately accepted by the adults who cared for them

Colorado, New Mexico and Idaho. Within the next few years peregrines will probably also be released in Wyoming.

Some people simply do not like hawks. In 1974 two birds nicknamed Adam and Eve were released at the New Paltz College campus in New York. An anonymous phone caller threatened the lab: "Get those

the contributions of 3,000 donors enable the program to continue.

The first donation received by the Peregrine Fund was \$2.13 from local school children who wrote: "Dear Dr. Cade, we've heard the peregrine falcons are sick. Here's some money to make them well."

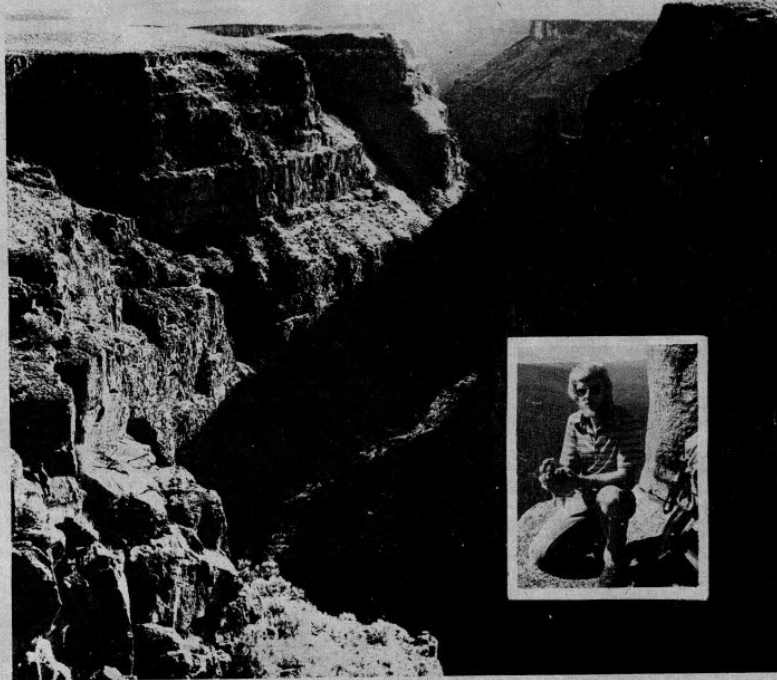
**School children sent \$2.13 with a note saying:
"We've heard the peregrine falcons are sick.
Here's some money to make them well."**

as their own...The adult female prairie falcon kept the young under almost constant surveillance...When the cross-fostering experiment was ended in July all three young were flying very well and dispersing into the surrounding area...If the method proves effective it will probably be the most desirable way to reintroduce peregrines into much of the Western U.S.A."

In 1976 Burnham and his "midwives" released five peregrines into the wild; in 1977, 25 were released. This year they hope to reintroduce about 40 birds at sites in

killer birds off campus." Soon after, Eve's hacked-off wing was found near campus; Adam was never seen again. Another bird, released in Pennsylvania, was stoned to death. And then, there was a New Jersey pigeon shooter who shot a peregrine, kept it frozen for a year, and then had it mounted — complete with Cornell color-band and radio transmitter.

But in spite of these and natural hazards, the future looks brighter for the peregrine than it did eight years ago. Burnham says



YEAR AFTER YEAR, peregrine falcons nest at the same site, usually high on a virtually inaccessible cliff

Photos courtesy of Idaho Dept. of Commerce and Peregrine West face. Bill Heinrich of Peregrine West (inset) is leaving a young peregrine in its new eyrie.



Photo courtesy of Peregrine West
NORMALLY, THE PEREGRINE is silent — except when it's very young, and very hungry. The adult peregrine's diet usually consists of birds, which it plucks before dining.



Photo by Bill Burnham
THE PEREGRINE FALCON (Falco peregrinus) has a system of fins and rods in its nostrils. These make the air whirl so the bird can breathe easily while "stooping" at 200 miles per hour.

inst peregrines - now fights to preserve them

10-High Country News — June 30, 1978

Basin requests plant speed-up

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is asking the Wyoming Industrial Siting Council to amend the siting permit for the 1,500 megawatt Laramie River Station in Wheatland, Wyo. Basin wants the ISC to authorize an earlier completion date for the third unit of the plant and an increased construction force. The application is being opposed by the Powder River Basin Resource Council, a rancher-conservation group, and its affiliate, the Laramie River Conservation Council.

Basin wants to change the completion date for the 500-megawatt third unit from June, 1983 to April, 1982. In addition, to complete the work, the company is asking the ISC to increase the allowable maximum work force from the current level of 2,250 to 2,650.

Lloyd Ernst, Basin's Wyoming representative, says that three factors contributed to the request for an amended permit. First, he says, "Workforce projections from the project engineer were too low. More workers are actually needed."

Second, if the plant is completed a year earlier, as requested, the project will realize a saving of nearly \$50 million, he says.

Finally, Basin now anticipates a shortage in electrical generating capacity of 217 megawatts by the summer of 1982. Moving the completion date forward to April, 1982 will bring the plant on line in time to meet this shortage. In addition, Ernst says, "We will have more time for start-up and testing. We want to allow as much time as possible for that."

The Laramie River Station has been a controversial project in both Wyoming and Nebraska, particularly over water-related issues. The power plant will get its cooling water from the proposed Grayrocks Reservoir on the Laramie River, a tributary of the Platte River, which flows into Nebraska. Nebraska fears that by damming the Laramie River, irrigators on the Platte will be denied water.

Nebraska is a party in two lawsuits to stop the dam, one protesting the issuance of a permit to build the dam by the Army Corps of Engineers, the other challenging the adequacy of the environmental impact statement prepared for the project.

The state is joined in the lawsuits by the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Federation. These two environmental groups fear that flows will be depleted in the Big Bend area of the Platte River, which has been designated as critical habitat for whooping cranes by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A court hearing is scheduled for July 17 on a request for an injunction to prevent construction of the dam until the lawsuits are settled.

Ernst says the request for a siting amendment is "completely unrelated" to the water issues. Jim Reizick of the Powder River Basin Resource Council says, however, that his group is opposing the permit changes. He says, "We don't want the speed-up because it could prejudice the water cases that are already in court."

Sarah Gorin, also of PRBRC, says, "Basin is trying to get everything tied up, even though the issue is still in court. Their practice has been to keep moving and hope their momentum will overcome all obstacles."

"Also, our research indicates that they will have water problems on their current schedule. Even with the Grayrocks Dam, they won't have enough water to run the power plant a year earlier. They won't be able to fill up the reservoir fast enough."

Richard Moore, staff engineer for the Industrial Siting Administration, disagrees with this assessment. He says, "They seem



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

FOES HURT NUCLEAR INDUSTRY.

A copyrighted New York Times article credits opposition to nuclear power as "playing an important role in slowing the growth of nuclear energy to a crawl." The Times says that, though the strength of opposition to nuclear power is difficult to estimate, some of the reforms achieved by opponents have tended to depress nuclear activity. The Times cites the requirements for more and costly safety devices on nuclear plants — resulting from litigation and petitions of protesters — as a major force in changing the economics of nuclear power. In addition, the Times says, several states and communities have enacted laws that discourage power plants or the transportation of nuclear wastes across state lines. A recent Louis Harris poll shows that, while the plurality of the public still favors nuclear power — by 47 percent to 34 percent — the level of support has dropped considerably from one year ago, when 61 percent favored the nuclear option with 24 percent against.

ARIZONA AGRICULTURE WASTES

ENERGY. Dr. Robert Witzeman, president of the Maricopa Audubon Society, told Interior Department officials that Arizona farmers lead the nation in the waste of energy and water. Witzeman told a seminar in Scottsdale that in 1974, Arizona agriculture consumed nine percent of the electrical energy and natural gas used by all U.S. agriculture while providing only one percent of the output. Witzeman

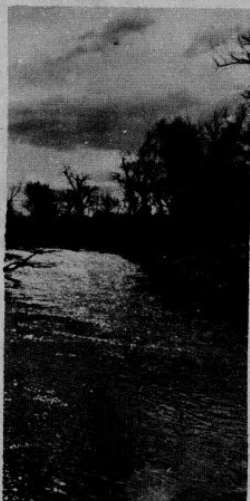
charged that the principal reason for this waste was that farmers use highly subsidized federal power from hydro projects to pump ground water. He says the farmers must pay only 6 mills per kilowatt hour for power while homeowners pay up to 40 mills.

"THE SUN FOR THE DAY IS 40 GALLONS."

Television and radio stations in 12 cities are reporting on solar energy as part of their daily weather forecasts under a test program of the Department of Energy. The stations report a Solar Index, which indicates how much work the sun could have done that day to produce energy for domestic use. The index is a number between one and 100 indicating the percentage of household hot water that could have been heated that day by a typical domestic hot water system. The program is under way in Atlanta, Columbus, Miami, New York, Washington, D.C., Dallas-Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, San Antonio, St. Louis, Albuquerque, Denver and Los Angeles.

NUCLEAR PROTEST.

About 10,000 protesters gathered June 25 to demonstrate against the Seabrook nuclear power plant in New Hampshire. It was the largest anti-nuclear demonstration in the country's history, organizers said. Thirty miles away in Manchester, between 500 and 1,000 people held a pro-nuclear demonstration and clambake. "In taking on the question of nuclear energy you are taking on the central social and political issue of our times," environmentalist Barry Commoner told the anti-nuclear demonstrators. The anti-nuclear crowd will not stop construction of the \$2.3 billion project. Gov. Meldrim Thomson told the pro-nuclear demonstrators. Last year, about 1,800 persons protested the Seabrook plant, and 1,414 were charged with criminal trespass. No massive arrests were made at this year's demonstration.



GRAYROCKS RESERVOIR SITE on the Laramie River. Critics charge that speed-up of the 1,500-megawatt Laramie River Station's construction will prejudice lawsuits pending over water from the river.

to have enough water, in a normal year. In extreme drought, they would have a shortfall, but not a very significant amount."

Information on file at the siting administration indicates that there may be another reason for asking for a larger work force. Basin has apparently fallen slightly behind its construction schedule on the first two 500-megawatt units. According to the siting council's information, the increased work force will be used to catch up on that, as well as begin on unit three.

The power company has touted Wheatland as a "model boom town," and says increasing the work force will not have a significant impact on the town. According to Basin's figures, the number of people

who have actually moved to Wheatland is significantly lower than originally projected, so there is a surplus of school facilities and housing.

Moore says that more people are commuting from Cheyenne and Casper than had been anticipated, but that a saturation point may have been reached. He says the siting administration is looking at Basin's figures very carefully, particularly the housing information.

PRBRC is preparing a motion to present to the ISC, asking for a full hearing on the amendment. The ISC will consider the Basin request and the PRBRC motion at its regular meeting July 7 in Casper.



HCN Bulletin Board



LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

The day they created Rare One
The feds said, "Lord, what have we done?"
"Let's whip out Rare Two
"In red, white and blue
So timber and oil can have fun."

RECYCLING HANDBOOK

A booklet presenting an overview of recycling has been prepared by the Community Environmental Council. The booklet

covers a wide range of topics related to recycling, including media coverage of the issue, recycling workshops and environmental education. "Recycling: The State of the Art" can be obtained from the council for \$10 at P.O. Box 448, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93102.

SOLAR ENERGY COURSE

The University of Missouri-Rolla Extension Division is presenting a "Short Course on Solar Energy Systems" in Rolla, Missouri on July 17 to 19. The course is de-

signed to provide background and techniques for the design and evaluation of solar energy systems. Further information and registration forms are available from Extension Division, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, Mo. 65401. The fee is \$325.

SOLAR RESEARCH

The American section of the International Solar Energy Society will meet in Denver Aug. 28 to 31. For more information, contact the Engineering Research Center, Foothills Campus, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colo., 80523.

WYOMING VOTING RECORDS

Environmental good guys and bad guys during the last two sessions of the Wyoming state legislature are identified by the Wyoming Outdoor Council in "The Crossroads Monitor: Legislative Issue, 1977-78." The council's booklet describes the environmental issues that the legislature addressed during the last two years and assesses each legislator's performance on those issues. For a copy, send \$1.50 to WOC, P.O. Box 1184, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001.



SOLAR POWER HEARINGS. Large grants to corporations by the U.S. Department of Energy for solar energy research were the target of criticism from witnesses at public hearings on solar power utilization. Ron Pogue, staff member of the Billings-based Alternative Energy Resources Organization, told a DOE hearing in Billings that there is a need for grassroots participation in the development of solar energy. Pogue said citizens should have "the same breaks and tax incentives as the large corporations." Montana State Sen. Thomas Towe said, "Whenever the federal government gets into something, it always thinks big — it can't seem to think in terms of a small-sized project that will benefit the average person." In Utah, Kerry Faigle, a solar energy specialist in the state energy office told the DOE hearing board that the use of solar power in Utah is held back by lack of public information, low fossil fuel costs and a lack of solar radiation data. Faigle said most Utahns have not studied the available options for solar energy enough to make intelligent decisions. DOE is holding the hearings in 10 states throughout the country in response to President Jimmy Carter's call for a review of federal policy on solar energy.

SENATE DROPS CORPORATE IMPACT AID. At the urging of the energy industry, a Senate subcommittee has dropped requirements in a federal impact assistance bill that energy companies make "reasonable contributions" to an impacted area. Under the deleted language, an energy company would have been required to provide assistance to the community its facility would be located in as a condition for receiving federal permits. Carl Bagge, president of National Coal Association, told a subcommittee of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee that the section would seriously impede orderly development of coal resources.

Wyoming Legislative Analysis

Assess your Wyoming legislator's track record before voting this year by reading the Wyoming Outdoor Council's Legislative Analysis for 1977-78.

This is the only Wyoming legislative summary available to the public. It not only contains voting records on major quality of life issues but also an excellent summary of the status of current Wyoming mineral development laws and environmental laws.

To order, send \$1.50 to Legislative Analysis, Wyoming Outdoor Council, P.O. Box 1184-A, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001 (307-635-3416). Thank you.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Court OKs some coal lease sales

U.S. District Judge John Pratt has approved an agreement between the Interior Department and several agricultural and environmental groups that will permit some limited leasing of federal coal reserves. The agreement will allow interior to lease federal coal in 30 "hardship" situations and select 20 other lease applications for approval.

The agreement is part of the settlement of the **Natural Resources Defense Council vs. Hughes** case. A 1977 decision in the case halted all federal coal leasing. NRDC and three other environmental and agricultural groups held a series of meetings with the Interior Department, agreeing to permit limited coal leasing in situations where additional federal coal is necessary to prevent the closing of existing mines. The agreement also is designed to prevent waste of federal coal in situations where an existing mine would have to bypass federal coal reserves because the company did not have a lease.

Under the terms of the agreement, Interior can also process 20 applications for preference right leases, which are noncompetitive mining leases issued to parties who find commercial coal deposits.

The leases will be issued over the next 18 months. They will eventually involve about 300 million tons of federal coal and an annual production of 13 million to 17 million tons. Total production from federal lands is now about 50 million tons annually.

Interior says some of the leases will be issued almost immediately.

Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus says, "Judge Pratt's action gives us the flexibility we need to deal with emergency situations as we continue to work out federal coal leasing in the West. I believed at the time the agreement was reached (in 1977) that it was important to get federal leases moving again, and I remain convinced that moving the lease proposals is in the best interests of the nation."

Under the 1977 agreement in **NRDC v. Hughes**, Interior is also required to do a new draft of the environmental impact statement for the coal leasing program. One of the main points at issue was that the original EIS did not adequately examine

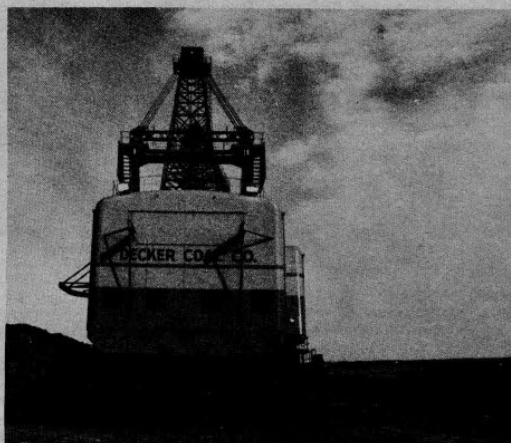


Photo by Terrence Moore
DECKER COAL is one of several companies that may receive a new federal coal lease under a compromise recently approved by a federal court judge.

the amount of coal already under lease in the West. Many environmentalists contend that because so much coal is already leased, there is no immediate need for re-summing federal leasing soon. However, since the leases involved in the current agreement generally involve already existing mines, there is little controversy over

duction at the average annual level existing as of Sept. 27, 1977, or when necessary to provide reserves to meet delivery contracts in effect on that date.

Leases may also be issued if they are exchange leases granted under the alluvial valley floor provisions of the 1977 surface mining act. That act provided the exchange

Under the terms of the compromise, Interior can process 30 "hardship" leases and 20 preference right leases.

approving additional federal coal for the operations.

Interior is still prohibited from implementing its full coal leasing program. Leases issued under this new agreement will be limited to a duration of eight years. Approval for the leases will be granted only when they are required to maintain pro-

of federal coal for private coal that lies under alluvial valleys.

Western mines that will be affected by the agreement are: In Utah — Braztah Corp. for mining in Carbon County, 16 million tons; Coastal States Energy Co., Sevier County, 12.7 million tons; Swisher Coal Co., Emery County, 4 million tons; Kaiser Steel, Carbon County, 4.5 million tons; and Kanawha Hocking, Carbon County, 750,000 tons.

In Montana — Western Energy Co. and Decker Coal Co. Counties and tonnages are not available.

In North Dakota — Consolidation Coal Co., Falcirk Mining Co., Baukol-Noonan and North American Coal Co. Counties and tonnages are not available.

In Colorado — Energy Fuels, Inc., Routt County, 2.9 million tons; and Peabody Coal Co., Routt Co., 2.1 million tons.

In Wyoming — Kemmerer Coal Co., Lincoln County, 3.7 million tons; Ark Land Co. (subsidiary of Arch Minerals), Carbon County, 6 million tons; Rosebud Coal Sales Co., Carbon County, 1.3 million tons; and Medicine Bow Coal Co., Carbon County, 4.2 million tons.

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.

PERSONNEL. The Powder River Basin Resource Council, a citizens' resource conservation organization concerned with energy development issues in eastern Wyoming, plans to hire two field organizers immediately. Energetic, enthusiastic, self-motivated people are desired. Rewarding work, invaluable experience. Send resume to PRBRC, 150 W. Brundage, Sheridan, Wyo. 82801.

WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS sought by HCN. We are looking for articles and photographs of alternative energy and other appropriate technology projects in the Rocky Mountain region (Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Idaho and Utah). Pay is two to three cents per word for fair, accurate news reporting. \$2 to \$4 for black and white photographs. Contact Joan Nice, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520, with story ideas.

WYOMING NAM. For a democratic socialist view of the energy crisis, nuclear and solar power, send \$1.50 to help cover mailing costs to Wyoming NAM, Box 238, Laramie, Wyo. 82070.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of The National Center for Appropriate Technology, a private, non-profit corporation based in Butte, Montana, is recruiting an Executive Director. The Director must be an effective advocate for the use of appropriate technology to help low-income communities meet their life-support needs and increase their local self-reliance. Applicants will be judged on their understanding of appropriate technology, experience with federally funded programs, non-profit corporations, and management of technical and social action programs. Salary is negotiable. A detailed job description will be forwarded upon request. Interested parties should submit a resume postmarked no later than July 21, 1978, to: NCAT Search Committee, Committee on Training & Employment, Inc., 433 Atlantic Street, P.O. Box 929, Stamford, CT 06902. NCAT is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer.



12-High Country News — June 30, 1978

Snail darter's victory may be brief

The day after the Supreme Court ruled that snail darters have rights, too, Robert Herbst was meeting with David Freeman to decide just how far those rights go and how they would be protected.



AN INTRODUCED species of hare has decimated the Santa Barbara Liveforever. Only a few hundred plants on a protected cliff face are known to exist.

As assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks of the Department of Interior, Herbst had been one of the most vigorous protectors of the snail darter, a three-inch member of the perch family, and other endangered species whose habitat was threatened by development. Freeman is chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, whose Tellico dam on the Little Tennessee River threatened to send the snail darter to extinction.

"They're trying to put aside bad feelings," said Juanita Alvarez, special assistant to Herbst. "They're trying to provide both for the economic needs of the people in the area and to preserve the species."

In addition to setting up a task force they would jointly preside over, Herbst and Freeman were discussing alternatives, Alvarez said. Among the alternatives were plans to devote to agriculture the 60,000 acres that the project would have flooded; a study to decide if the snail darter could be transplanted; and an effort to promote tourism in the area, she said.

Freeman also took an uncharacteristic stance for a chairman of TVA by urging

thus violate the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

In a 6-3 decision June 15, the Supreme Court said, "The plain intent of Congress...was to halt and reverse the trend toward species extinction, whatever the cost." But Justice Lewis Powell, writing for the minority, said, "I have little doubt that Congress will amend the Endangered Species Act to prevent the grave consequences made possible by today's decision."

"There will be little sentiment to leave this dam standing before an empty reservoir, serving no purpose other than a conversation piece for incredulous tourists," Powell said.

Even as they welcomed the decision, environmentalists were making plans to fight legislation introduced in Congress to amend the act.

Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) and Sen. John Culver (D-Iowa) have introduced a bill that would set up a seven-member board with the authority to grant exemptions from the act if the value of a project "clearly outweighs" the value of an endangered species. Five of the board members would have to vote for a project before it could proceed.

As proposed by Baker and Culver, the board members would be top officials of the departments of Agriculture, Interior, Transportation and the Army, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council of Environmental Quality and the Smithsonian Institution. But the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, before sending the amendment to the Senate floor, approved another amendment to replace the secretary of Transportation with the governor of a state that would be affected by a project.

"I think now that the Supreme Court has acted, it adds impetus to and will accelerate the possibilities of passing this act in this session," Baker said. "I intend to work for that."

Anne Graham, Washington representative for the National Audubon Society, said there probably are enough votes in the Senate to amend the Endangered Species Act along Baker-Culver lines. Similar legisla-

tion is pending in the House, but Graham was reluctant to predict what the outcome there may be.

Bruce Hamilton, Northern Great Plains representative for the Sierra Club, said that, if a compromise was necessary, then the Baker-Culver amendment was worded tightly enough so that he could accept it more easily than seeing the whole of Section 7 struck from the act. That section protects endangered species when their habitat is threatened by a project.

Nonetheless, "What upsets me most about Baker-Culver is that here you have a panel of seven political appointees who feel they can play God and decide whether a species should be allowed to exist," Hamilton said.

In the past, Alvarez said, about 5,000 consultations have taken place between the Department of Interior and project developers over possible threats to endangered species. Of those, all but three were settled out of court. Of the three that

went to court, the National Wildlife Federation prevented the Federal Highway Administration from building an interchange that would have harmed the Mississippi sandhill crane; the Corps of Engineers won permission to build the Meramec Dam on the grounds that it would not harm the habitat of the Indiana bat; and the Supreme Court ruled against the Tellico Dam.

"We believe the act (as it stands) provides perfectly adequate administrative authority and flexibility," Alvarez said. "We have high hopes that we can achieve a high rate of success (in settling disputes) that will not involve litigation or congressional action."

The act, however, is up for reauthorization this year, so Congress almost certainly will have to vote on it one way or another.

The House already has taken one action related to the court decision. On June 16, it passed an amendment to a \$10.3 billion public works appropriation bill that would provide funds to complete the Tellico Dam.

Rep. John Duncan (R-Tenn.) sponsor of the amendment, said he believed the bill would help reverse the court decision. "I feel that's inappropriate relief," said Hamilton. "If they really want that dam completed they're going to have to deal with the Endangered Species Act and not put more money into a project that's illegal."

The court's ruling leaves in some doubt the fate of 11 projects, including three in the Rocky Mountain region. Grayrocks Dam on the Laramie River and Narrows Dam on the South Platte in northeast Colorado may harm the habitat of whooping cranes, while water releases from Glen Canyon Dam in Utah threaten the Colorado squawfish and the humpback chub.

Possibly, special intake structures may have to be built to mix warmer surface water with colder bottom water so that water of the right temperature reaches the squawfish and chub downstream of Glen Canyon Dam.

Sen. Jake Garn (R-Utah), who has sponsored an amendment that would allow the governor of an affected state to weigh the benefits of a project against damage to habitat where "no practical action is available to protect the endangered species," said, "Society can't tolerate laws applied so restrictively that they would prevent, for example, even a pint of water being taken out of the Colorado River if a relatively undistinguished species is endangered."

Most such conflicts in the past have been resolved by altering construction plans or the location of a project, said Keith Schreiner, who oversees endangered species for the Interior Department. "I do feel strongly our job is to save snail darters and other species," Schreiner said. "But I feel we must do so in a manner compatible with society's needs."



THE HOUSTON TOAD is an endangered species.

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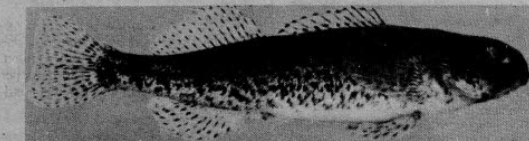
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PRAIRIE DOG, MARMOT, STRUTTING SAGE GROUSE, TRUMPETER SWANS 8x10 print — \$10 — add \$1 for matboard mount. Available on beautiful REDWOOD PLAQUE for \$5 extra 11x14 print — \$20 — add \$2 for matboard (no plaques) Other wildlife scenes — write, probably have them.

ED'S CAMERA ADVENTURES, 242 Main Street, Lander, Wyoming 82520 (307) 332-3400.



Congress to think deeply before amending the act, and by casting doubt on the necessity of Tellico in the first place.

Testifying before a House subcommittee June 23, Freeman said, "Conventional wisdom would suggest that since the dam has been largely built, the most economical solution would be to complete the project as planned. Everyone seems to be jumping to that conclusion. But I'm not at all sure."

"No one has really evaluated the benefits of an alternative that recognizes the economic values of the food production that would be lost and that places some value on the unique historical sites and fish and wildlife that would be destroyed by the dam and reservoir as now planned," Freeman said.

The \$116 million hydroelectric dam was almost finished when environmentalists sued to halt the project. They argued that flows from the completed dam would harm the critical habitat of the snail darter, and

June 30, 1978



Western Roundup

HCN

13

Park-barrel projects please environmentalists

Environmentalists now have their own version of pork-barrel projects, except these are park-barrel projects.

The House Rules Committee, after only five minutes consideration, cleared the \$1.4 billion omnibus National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, introduced by Rep. Phillip Burton (D-Calif.), chairman of the Interior Committee's parks subcommittee.

The bill would fund 150 projects in 44 states. Originally, Burton had intended the bill to be a vehicle for adding acreage to the Redwoods National Park in California, but, once the redwoods bill passed on its own, Burton says he decided to keep the omnibus plan because "it takes care of a lot of things that needed doing for a long time."

If the bill passes the House, Senate and president, it would provide more development funds for 34 parks, historical sites and seashores; make 12 additions to wilderness areas; create 11 new national parks, historic sites and national seashores; add eight river segments to the Wild and Scenic Rivers system; and designate four new national trails. It also would authorize studies of 18 more river systems for possible inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

For years, environmentalists have

fought many federal water projects saying, among other objections, that the projects amounted to pork-barrels that enriched a legislator's district and achieved little else. Now, some critics are calling Burton's legislation a "park-barrel bill." "If it (a piece of land) had a blade of grass and a squirrel in it, it got in the bill," says one congressman. "Notice how quiet we are?" asked another, Trent Lott (R-Miss.), member of the Rules Committee. "We all got something in there."

Almost half the House members would get something from the bill for their districts.

Burton says he is offended by the "park-barrel" talk. "Time is running out on people," he says. "There is just not going to be that much open space left."

Burton's bill would include almost 90 percent of President Carter's environmental program. But a staff aide for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee says, "No way are we going to approve this without taking a look at it." About half the proposed projects may get through the Senate committee, the aide says.

Linda Billings of the Sierra Club says she is delighted with Burton's bill.



Utah Travel Commission photo

THE NEEDLES at Canyonlands National Park in Utah. Under an omnibus bill passed by a House committee, parks, forests, rivers and seashores would be added to those already protected by the federal government.

Ban jets from Jackson, says EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency is fighting a proposal to bring commercial jets to the airport at Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Alan Merson, regional administrator of the EPA, says in a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration, "In view of the location of the Jackson Hole airport within the Grand Teton National Park and the sensitivity of park and wilderness area users to the impacts of aircraft noise, we are deeply concerned about the environmental effects of the proposed action."

Frontier Airlines has applied to the FAA for permission to bring a modified 737 into the airport once a week. Environmentalists and many residents oppose the ap-

plication, saying the noise made by a jet would disturb both them and wildlife.

Marvyn Martin, regional director of the FAA, says, "We're not sure there is a significant effect on the environment with one additional flight per week. If you are going to change completely from Convair 580's (the plane the airline presently uses at Jackson Hole) to 737's, then we agree that would certainly be a major change."

An FAA study concluded recently that one 737 flight per week would not significantly harm the environment. But Merson says the EPA's "evaluation has concluded that significant adverse environmental impacts will result."



Chloroform found in Cheyenne water

Chlorine frequently is used to kill disease-causing organisms in drinking water. But, when chlorine combines with humic acids in runoff water from vegetation and farm lands, it can become chloroform.

That is what the Environmental Protection Agency is finding in drinking water in Cheyenne, Wyo.

The EPA has recommended that the

standard for chemicals known as trihalomethanes — and chloroform is one of those — should be 100 parts per billion. Cheyenne's water tested at 130 parts per billion, and chloroform was the major culprit, the EPA says.

Trihalomethanes, says Pat Crotty of the EPA, have been linked to cancer in animals.

EPA asks Army about nerve gas leak

During an inspection of Weteye nerve gas bombs stored at Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver, the Army found that three of the 900 bombs were leaking. Alan Merson, regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, said the Army should determine whether the leaking bombs posed "a serious risk to the human environment."

Merson, in a June 15 letter, also asked the Army to prepare a supplement to an environmental impact statement it had written covering the proposed transfer of the bombs from Denver to Tooele Army Depot outside Salt Lake City.

The Army has inspected all the bombs and found only the three leaks, it says. It

rejected Merson's request for a supplemental statement, but said it would submit its analysis of the leaks to the EPA and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The findings will be made public, the Army said.

A spokesman for EPA in Denver said the Army's analysis probably would serve as well as a supplemental impact statement. The EPA does not have the authority to force the Army to prepare a supplemental statement.

Until the Army determines the reason for the leaks, it has postponed plans to transfer the bombs. In any case, the three leaking bombs would not be shipped.

"Weeds, trash fish" endanger dam

The Colorado River squawfish and the humpbacked chub, both endangered species, live in the Yampa River, where the Colorado River Water Conservation District wants to build a pair of dams in Moffat County.

"We are seeking to expose the hypocrisy and impracticability of portions of the act and the methods in which it is being applied," says Roland Fischer, secretary-engineer for the Colorado River Water District. "We believe that congressional intent was to protect such species as the peregrine falcon and bald eagle, not weeds and trash fish unknown to those in Washington at the time" the act was passed.

The district has filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue the Interior Department and

the state, charging the law is being unfairly administered. State and federal agencies, Fischer said, stock the Yampa's waters with game fish that eat the endangered squawfish and chub. Jim Young, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service official in Salt Lake City, says game fish are stocked in reservoirs, and so the stocking is "not a major contributor to the demise of the squawfish."

"This action of the river district is taken with reluctance but with far greater concern for what is happening in the West," Fischer says. "Municipalities, farmers and consumers of food and energy should be able to get at least some of the consideration given weeds and trash fish."

Eagles trapped by FWS in Montana

In the last four years, the Fish and Wildlife Service has captured 297 golden eagles near Dillon, Mont., and transferred them to Yellowstone National Park.

Norton Miner, an official for the service in Billings, Mont., says the eagles caused \$38,000 worth of lamb losses to two sheep ranchers in 1973 alone, and are still causing losses.

As a result, the trapping program began. In the program a rabbit in a trap is used as bait, and, when the eagle swoops on it, a padded coyote trap catches the bird by the leg.

Miner says eagles concentrate in the Snake River drainage in Idaho and fly over the Continental Divide to Dillon. The service captured 145 of them in the first year, and, "When you capture 145 eagles in only two pastures, that is unique," Miner says.



Colo. Div. of Wildlife photo

GOLDEN EAGLE

14-High Country News — June 30, 1978

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 (WY-11-101 et. seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1967, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973).

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (1) ONE COMMERCIAL FACILITY AND (6) SIX INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES, TO RENEW (1) ONE COMMERCIAL DISCHARGE PERMIT, (3) THREE INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGE PERMITS, (1) ONE INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY DISCHARGE PERMIT, (1) ONE WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT DISCHARGE PERMIT AND (1) ONE COUNTY GOVERNMENT DISCHARGE PERMIT; AND TO MODIFY (3) THREE INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGE PERMITS AND (1) ONE OIL TREATER DISCHARGE PERMIT WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: TARGHEE VILLAGE, INC.
MAILING ADDRESS: 477 WEST 4125 North
OGDEN, UTAH 84404
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027880

Targhee Village is a proposed 154 room motel, golf and tennis club, located on the west slope of the Teton Mountains in far western Teton County. Wastewater treatment will consist of an aerated lagoon followed by two polishing ponds. Under normal circumstances there is expected to be no discharge, however, should a discharge occur, it would flow into an unnamed ditch which could eventually (within approximately five miles) reach the Teton River in Idaho. Unless there is an extremely high precipitation event it is doubtful that the effluent would ever reach the Teton River.

The proposed permit requires effluent quality to meet National Secondary Treatment Standards effective immediately. Due to the fact that the effluent will not reach waters supporting fish life (except after traveling a long distance), a strict year-round limitation on fecal coliform bacteria is coupled with a liberal limitation on total residual chlorine.

Monitoring of effluent quality is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire July 31, 1983.

(2) APPLICANT NAME: ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: 1515 SOUTH FLOWER STREET, ROOM 803
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90071
FACILITY LOCATION: ROCKY HILL NO. 1, COAL GASIFICATION
PROJECT, CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027847

The Atlantic Richfield Company plans an experimental in-situ coal gasification project located in south-central Campbell County. The company feels that it may become necessary to dewater the coal seam so that proper burning of the coal will occur. In such case, six wells would be pumped and the water which is brought to the surface will be discharged to an unnamed plays (Class III water). There is no drainage out of the plays.

Preliminary indications are that the water discharged will be of high quality, however, it is possible that the gasification process may produce some contaminants which could be pumped to the surface by the wells. The proposed permit sets limitations on the parameters total dissolved solids, chlorides, sulfates and pH at the same level as produced water from oil production activities (i.e., at levels suitable for stock and wildlife watering). It is recognized that the natural water quality of the receiving water (the plays) may not meet these standards. If this is the case, the limit on the effluent will be the same as the quality of the receiving water.

In addition to the effluent limitations, the proposed permit requires monitoring for the parameters phenols, cyanide, total organic carbon and chemical oxygen demand. It is believed that the concentration of these constituents will be elevated if contamination by the gasification process is occurring.

If permit conditions are violated the permittee will be required to fence the plays and institute water flow control procedures within seven (7) days after the violation occurs.

In addition to this discharge permit, the company has also obtained a permit from this Department's Land Quality Division and that permit has extensive requirements for the control and monitoring of water quality.

The proposed permit requires monitoring on a regular basis with reporting of results monthly. Because the project is short-term (approximately 90 days), the permit will expire December 31, 1978.

(3) APPLICANT NAME: BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
MAILING ADDRESS: C/O BANNER ASSOCIATES, INC.
306 SOUTH 4TH STREET
LARAMIE, WYOMING 82070

FACILITY LOCATION: GRAYROCKS DAM CONSTRUCTION
PHASE I, PLATTE COUNTY, WYOMING

APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027821

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative is in the process of constructing Grayrocks Dam on the Laramie River. In order to construct the dam it is necessary to dewater the area at the base of the dam to allow heavy equipment to operate.

Dam construction will be carried out in three phases, however, the proposed permit covers only the first stage. Effluent water falls into three basic classes: (1) Drilling muds and fluids — these liquids will be completely contained in "drilling pits" and there will be no discharge of this material; (2) Water which is brought to the surface immediately upon completion of the well — this water tends to be turbid and will be discharged to a complete containment pond; and, (3) Water which is pumped to the surface after "clean-up" of the well is completed — this water will constitute the permitted discharge and will be released directly to the Laramie River (Class I stream).

The proposed permit requires that any discharge to the River have a turbidity of less than 10 NTU's to insure compliance with Wyoming's surface water quality standards. Because the chemical quality of the water being pumped is virtually identical to that of the River, no other effluent limitations were judged applicable.

The proposed permit requires the permittee to monitor the turbidity of the discharges twice per day and to report results monthly. There will be two discharge points, 001 is the combined discharge from wells 1, 2 and 3, and 002 is the discharge from well 4.

Phase I is expected to be completed during 1978, thus, this permit will expire December 31, 1978.

(4) APPLICANT NAME: PETER KIEWIT SONS' COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: 733 KIEWIT PLAZA
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68131
FACILITY LOCATION: WHITNEY MINE, SHERIDAN
COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027812

Peter Kiewit Sons' Company proposes to construct an open pit coal mine known as the Whitney Mine, located north of Sheridan, Wyoming, on the Tongue River. Water encountered while mining will be collected in a sump at the bottom of the mine pit and will then be pumped to a settling pond. Water will be discharged from the settling pond to the Tongue River (Class I stream).

The proposed permit requires the mine water discharge to meet National Best Practicable Treatment Standards for the coal mining industry. Facilities must be installed to control runoff from disturbed areas and those facilities must be designed to control the 10 year — 24 hour precipitation event. Preliminary evidence indicates that requirements more stringent than these are not necessary to insure compliance with Wyoming's surface water quality standards, however, the situation will continue to be evaluated and, if necessary, the permit will be modified to include more stringent requirements.

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

(5) APPLICANT NAME: SHERIDAN ENTERPRISES, INC.
MAILING ADDRESS: 8301 EAST PRENTICE AVENUE
ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80110
FACILITY LOCATION: WELCH 1 NORTH MINE,
SHERIDAN COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027863

Sheridan Enterprises, Inc. proposes to construct an open pit coal mine known as the Welch 1 North Mine, located northeast of Acme, Wyoming, on the Tongue River. Water encountered while mining will be collected in a sump at the bottom of the mine pit and will then be pumped to a settling pond. Water will be discharged from the settling pond to the Tongue River (Class I stream).

The proposed permit requires the mine water discharge to meet National Best Practicable Treatment Standards for the coal mining industry. Facilities must be installed to control runoff from disturbed areas and those facilities must be designed to control the 10 year — 24 hour precipitation event. Preliminary evidence indicates that requirements more stringent than these are not necessary to insure compliance with Wyoming's surface water quality standards, however, the situation will continue to be evaluated and, if necessary, the permit will be modified to include more stringent requirements.

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

(6) APPLICANT NAME: WYMO FUELS, INC.
MAILING ADDRESS: 1330 BALTIMORE AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64105
FACILITY LOCATION: WYMO COAL MINE, CAMP-
BELL COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027855

WYMO Fuels, Inc. plans to construct an open pit coal mine in southern Campbell County, Wyoming. Water encountered in the mine pit will be routed to either of two settling ponds prior to discharge/discharge points 001 and 002. Runoff from the load-out and coal handling facilities, as well as shop and load-out facilities wash-down water, will be routed to a third pond/discharge point 003. All discharges will be to the South Fork of Coal Creek (Class III stream) via unnamed drainages.

The proposed permit requires compliance with effluent limitations considered to be "best practicable" for the coal mining industry. In addition, the permit requires that runoff from disturbed areas be controlled. Self-monitoring of effluent quality is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. In addition to monitoring for the limited parameters, the permittee is required to monitor the fluoride level of the discharge due to the abnormally high concentration of this parameter reported in the permit application.

The permit will expire June 30, 1983.

(7) APPLICANT NAME: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
MAILING ADDRESS: 2120 CAPITOL AVENUE
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82001
FACILITY LOCATION: USGS TEST WELL, NE4, SECTION 11,
T86N, R77W, SHERIDAN COUNTY, WYOMING
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0027871

The United States Geologic Survey has begun a study of the Cenozoic and Mesozoic aquifers in the Northern Great Plains. As a part of this study they plan to drill and test a well in eastern Sheridan County. Water pumped from this well will be discharged to the Powder River (Class I stream) supporting warm water game fish.

The proposed permit allows this discharge provided that the levels of total dissolved solids, chlorides, sulfates and pH do not exceed the State of Wyoming's regulations for produced water discharges. These regulations infer that water meeting the standards therein is useable for stock and wildlife watering (beneficial use). The permit requires no discharge of the liquids associated with the drilling of the well.

The proposed permit requires periodic self-monitoring of discharge quality with reporting of results semi-annually. The permit will expire June 30, 1983.

(8) PERMIT NAME: BRENTWOOD SUBDIVISION
MAILING ADDRESS: 521 NORTH ELM
RIVERTON, WYOMING 82501
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0022560

Brentwood Subdivision is a housing development located northwest of Riverton, Wyoming. An undetermined number of septic tanks drain to a small single cell lagoon which discharges to the Wind River via an unnamed irrigation ditch (Class III stream).

The proposed permit requires the discharge to meet National Secondary Treatment Standards effective immediately. Also, the permit requires the effluent to meet stringent year-round limitations for fecal coliform bacteria to protect public health. Because the receiving water is not managed as a fishery, a liberal limitation on total residual chlorine (2.0 mg per l) is proposed.

The proposed permit requires self-monitoring of effluent quality on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit will expire June 30, 1983.

Because of past violations by this facility, the Department is working with the permittee and the City of Riverton to achieve hook-up to the Riverton sewage collection system.

(9) PERMIT NAME: LUCKY MC URANIUM CORPORATION
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 450
JEFFREY CITY, WYOMING 82310
FACILITY LOCATION: BIG EAGLE MINE, SOUTH OF JEFFREY
CITY, FREMONT COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025950

The Lucky Mc Uranium Corporation recently began operation of the Big Eagle open pit uranium mine located approximately fifteen miles south of Jeffrey City, Wyoming. Water encountered in the mine pits is routed through a barium chloride feed system and then to a single cell settling pond. The settling pond discharges to Crooks Creek (Class I stream) via an unnamed drainage.

The proposed permit requires compliance with effluent standards considered to be best practicable effective immediately. It does not appear that effluent standards more stringent than these are necessary to insure compliance with Wyoming water quality standards, however, this situation will continue to be evaluated and the permit will be modified if necessary.

Self-monitoring of effluent quality is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit will expire June 30, 1983.

(10) PERMIT NAME: DOS LOMAS MINING COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: 139 SOUTH MONTANA AVENUE
CASPER, WYOMING 82601
FACILITY LOCATION: FERRIS-HAGGERTY MINE, SECTION 16,
T14N, R86W, CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023523

(continued on page 15)

(continued from page 14)

June 30, 1978 — High Country News-15

The Dos Lomas Mining Company is a one-man operation involved in the reopening of the old Ferris-Haggerty copper mine, located in the Sierra Madre mountains of southern Carbon County, Wyoming. Wastewater at the mine site consists of groundwater which exits through an mine portal. This water tends to have extremely high concentrations of total copper (approximately 4-5 mg per l). In the past years (the Ferris-Haggerty mine closed in 1903), this water ran directly into Haggerty Creek (Class I stream), essentially destroying approximately five miles of potentially high quality trout stream. With the reopening of the mine, this water is now routed through a series of settling ponds and an ion exchange unit prior to discharge to the stream.

The original discharge permit for this operation was issued to Dos Lomas Mining Company in May of 1975. That permit required the discharge to achieve a copper concentration in the effluent of 5 mg per l by July 1, 1977. That limitation was based upon the following assumptions: (1) That an acceptable in-stream copper concentration of .015 mg per l would be safe for trout; (2) That the dilution factor (stream flow vs. effluent discharge) would remain constant throughout the year since the flow volume of the stream and the flow volume of the effluent are both related directly to natural runoff; and, (3) That the dilution factor is approximately 40:1.

Additional information collected since May of 1975 primarily the in-depth study done by DEQ in the summer of 1977 appears to refute assumptions 1 and 3 above. For example, the total copper concentration of Haggerty Creek above the discharge is .028 mg per l. Since the stretch of stream above the mine site supports trout and diverse aquatic life, it appears that an in-stream concentration of approximately .028 mg per l or greater is acceptable, rather than the .015 mg per l which was originally assumed. When the concentrations of total copper above the mine site, below the mine site and in the effluent are compared, it appears that the dilution factor is approximately 9:1, rather than the originally assumed 40:1. There is no evidence to suggest that assumption 2 above is not still valid.

Since modifications in the assumptions discussed above will affect the effluent limitations in the discharge permit, this Department proposes the following course of action: (1) The discharge permit will be renewed with essentially the same limitations as the existing permit (total copper limitation of 5 mg per l) - minor changes in the limitations on pH and total suspended solids will bring this permit into conformance with limitations on these parameters in other mining permits; (2) The permit will have a duration of less than one year until December 31, 1978; (3) During the summer of 1978, DEQ will make detailed measurements of stream and effluent flows to determine the true dilution factor; and, (4) Late in 1978, the permit will be redrafted and will contain effluent limitations based on flow data collected during the summer of 1978.

(11) PERMIT NAME: WESTERN NUCLEAR, INC.
MAILING ADDRESS: FIELD OFFICE
JEFFREY CITY, WYOMING 82310
FACILITY LOCATION: GREEN MOUNTAIN LX. UNIT, SE4, SECTION
17, T28N, R29W, FREMONT COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024490

Western Nuclear, Inc. operates a number of underground uranium mines in the Green Mountain mining area located approximately ten miles south of Jeffrey City, Wyoming. Water pumped out of the mine shafts is routed to a small surge pond, water from that pond is then routed through an ion-exchange unit for removal of uranium, then to a barium chloride feed system for radium precipitation. Finally the water runs through two settling ponds before final discharge to Crooks Creek (Class I stream) via an unnamed drainage.

The proposed permit requires compliance with effluent limitations considered to be "best practicable" effective immediately. At this time it does not appear that effluent limitations more stringent than best practicable are necessary to insure compliance with Wyoming's in-stream water quality standards, however, this situation will continue to be evaluated and, if necessary, permit modifications will be made.

Self-monitoring of effluent quality is required on a regular basis with submission of results quarterly. The permit will expire June 30, 1983.

(12) PERMIT NAME: WESTERN NUCLEAR, INC.
MAILING ADDRESS: FIELD OFFICE
JEFFREY CITY, WYOMING 82310
FACILITY LOCATION: THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES
SERVING JEFFREY CITY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0021083

Western Nuclear, Inc. owns and operates the sewage treatment lagoons serving the Town of Jeffrey City, Wyoming. The lagoons are non-aerated and have three separate cells with a total surface area of approximately 6 — 8 acres. At present the lagoons do not have an outfall structure and have no surface discharge. Western Nuclear has requested that the discharge permit be renewed in case a discharge becomes necessary in the future. If a discharge did occur it would be to Emigrant Ditch (Class III stream) via an unnamed drainage.

The proposed permit requires compliance with effluent limitations based on National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming water quality standards effective immediately. Self-monitoring of any effluent discharge is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit will expire June 30, 1983.

(13) PERMIT NAME: BROOKS WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2090
MILLS, WYOMING 82644
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0021661

Brooks Water and Sewer District provides water and sewer services to the community of Mountain View and is located west of the City of Casper, Wyoming. Wastewater treatment consists of a single cell lagoon of approximately twenty-four surface acres. The lagoon is underloaded and there has been no discharge in the recent past, however, the District has requested that the permit be renewed in case a discharge should become necessary in the future.

At this time it appears that violations of Wyoming's in-stream standards for dissolved oxygen will not occur provided National Secondary Treatment Standards are achieved. However, this position will be re-evaluated (and the permit modified if necessary) as more information becomes available. The effluent limitation on fecal coliform bacteria is more stringent than necessary to meet water quality standards, however, the limitation can be achieved by a lagoon system without employing disinfection.

Due to the large amount of excess capacity in this lagoon, it is not expected that a discharge will occur during the duration of this permit, therefore, the effluent limitations are effective immediately and there is no schedule of compliance in the permit.

Presently the lagoon has two outfall pipes. Since one of these pipes is situated so that high water from Casper Creek could enter the lagoon, the permit requires the elimination or permanent plugging of this pipe immediately. Self-monitoring is required on a regular basis with submission of reports quarterly. The permit will expire August 31, 1983.

(14) PERMIT NAME: FREMONT COUNTY YOUTH CAMP
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 470
LANDER, WYOMING 82520
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0022438

The Fremont County Youth Camp is a small summer camp located in the Wind River Mountains, approximately 20 miles southwest of Lander, Wyoming. Wastewater treatment at the Camp consists of an extended aeration package plant followed by a tablet chlorinator followed by a small polishing pond. The discharge is to Roaring Fork Creek (Class I stream) which is a tributary of the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River.

Because the facility is publicly owned, it is eligible for Federal grant funds to upgrade the system, however, the facility is very low on the State's priority list and it is not now possible to include a definite schedule of compliance in the permit. The proposed permit simply requires submission of a schedule of compliance 120 days after the permittee has been informed of the availability of Federal grant funds. During the interim period, the proposed permit requires that the existing facilities be operated at maximum capability and efficiency. The permittee has specifically requested an extension for compliance with secondary treatment standards until July 1, 1983.

Due to extremely high dilution factors (270:1), no effluent limits for ammonia are required. It is also expected that the National Secondary Treatment Standards for BOD₅, total suspended solids and pH will be adequate to insure no violation of Wyoming water quality standards. The proposed limitations on total residual chlorine and

fecal coliform are more stringent than necessary to meet water quality standards, but are at levels which are technologically easily achieved.

Because the Camp operates only during the summer, self-monitoring is required only during June, July and August, with one report due per year. The permit will expire June 30, 1983.

(15) PERMIT NAME: CARTER MINING COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 209
GILLETTE, WYOMING 82716
FACILITY LOCATION: RAWHIDE MINE,
NORTH OF GILLETTE, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024031

The Carter Mining Company operates an open pit coal mine located north of Gillette, Wyoming, which is known as the Rawhide Mine. The mine has a single large wastewater settling pond which receives the following waste streams: (1) The effluent from a domestic sewage treatment plant; (2) Groundwater which is intercepted in the mine pit; (3) Washdown of coal handling facilities; and, (4) Plant site overburden and runoff.

The outfall from this settling pond (discharge point 001) enters the Little Powder River (Class I stream supporting warm water game fish).

The existing discharge permit for this facility does not include effluent limitations for parameters associated with domestic sewage, nor does it specifically identify the location of the point of discharge. The proposed permit corrects these oversights.

The permit requires compliance with effluent limitations considered to be best practicable for the coal mining industry effective immediately. In addition, effluent limitations reflecting National Secondary Treatment Standards are included for domestic sewage parameters and those limitations must be achieved immediately. Because the discharge is to a stream which supports aquatic life, the permit requires submission of monitoring reports monthly. The permit will expire June 30, 1984.

(16) PERMIT NAME: LUCKY MC URANIUM CORPORATION
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 831
RIVERTON, WYOMING 82501
FACILITY LOCATION: LUCKY MC MINE, GAS HILLS,
FREMONT COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003131

The Lucky Mc Uranium Corporation operates a large open pit uranium mine located in the Gas Hills of eastern Fremont County, Wyoming. Water encountered in the mine pits is pumped to barium chloride feed plants which in turn discharge to settling ponds. The settling ponds discharge to Fraser Draw or Coyote Creek (Class III stream) via an unnamed drainage.

There are a total of three discharge points authorized by the permit: (1) 004 - the discharge from the settling pond treating the water from the original mine operation; (2) 005 - the discharge from the settling pond treating the water from the proposed Project 7 mining area; and, (3) 006 - the discharge from the settling pond treating the water from the proposed Green River and Four Corners mining areas.

The proposed permit requires the control of runoff from disturbed areas and requires monitoring of effluent quality on a regular basis with submission of results quarterly. The permit will expire June 30, 1983.

(17) PERMIT NAME: PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 398
GLENROCK, WYOMING 82637
FACILITY LOCATION: DAVE JOHNSON POWER PLANT
EAST OF GLENROCK, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003115

A major modification of this discharge permit was made in November of 1977. The rationale behind the majority of the conditions of the permit are contained in the Summary of Rationale dated August 10, 1977. Since most of the conditions of the permit will not be changed through this modification, that Summary of Rationale should be consulted.

In February of 1978, the Company contacted this Department and indicated that they felt there were serious problems with monitoring total residual chlorine on a continuous basis as required by the permit. Further investigations did indicate that the present-day equipment for continuous chlorine monitoring probably would not be adequate for this discharge. This Department then asked the Company to submit an alternate chlorine monitoring plan. The final portions of this plan were submitted on May 30, 1978. The alternate plan appeared to be adequate to assure the proper monitoring of total residual chlorine in the cooling water, thus, the proposed permit substitutes the continuous monitoring requirement of the existing permit with an alternate based on the plan proposed by the Company.

The proposed permit requires monitoring for chlorine residual every four minutes once chlorination begins, and that the permittee calculate the quantity of chlorine discharged from flow volume, chlorine concentration and time period of chlorination information. The only other permit condition which is proposed to be changed is the expiration date (July 31, 1983, instead of October 31, 1982).

(18) PERMIT NAME: MONSANTO COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: 1720 SOUTH POPLAR
CASPER, WYOMING 82601
FACILITY LOCATION: MADDEN DEEP UNIT NO. 6, SW4,
NW4, SECTION 1, T38N, R29W,
FREMONT COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003506

This facility is a standard oil production unit located in Fremont County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to South Badwater Creek (Class III stream).

Since a letter of beneficial use has been received from an area rancher concerning this discharge, the permit is being modified to eliminate the chemical limitations of the produced water. The limitations on oil and grease (10 mg per l and pH 6.5-8.5) will remain in effect and all chemical parameters must still be monitored and reported semi-annually as before.

The expiration date of the permit is March 31, 1980.

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 30, 1978. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permit Section, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permit Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80203. All comments received prior to July 30, 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-78-008

Hank Fischer: least popular man in Montana?

by Dan Whipple

The evening that I met Hank Fischer, he had a softball game at 5:00 p.m., tennis scheduled for 6, a soccer match at 7, and a kayak lesson after that. In honor of my visit, Fischer skipped the kayak lesson.

"I don't want you to think that it's always this athletic around here," he told me. "It's just that this is the playoffs at the end of the university season."

Fischer's sports activities help provide him with the endurance needed to pursue his job — Montana representative for Defenders of Wildlife. He is, at bottom, an outdoorsman who hasn't enough time outdoors. His efforts to protect all kinds of wildlife are an extension of the appreciation he has for the natural world, and, perhaps, the hope that some of it will be left when he finds time to visit the wilder places.

At Defenders of Wildlife, he finds himself in an unusual position that requires a view of wildlife different from the traditional Western one. State agencies and outdoorsmen look at wildlife as almost a consumer good. Hunting and fishing interests dominate most agencies that manage wildlife, and game species receive most attention and funding.

Fischer says, "I'm trying to get people to accept that wildlife is good for its own sake. Friends always kid me about the kinds of animals I defend — prairie dogs, black-birds, rattlesnakes. The less known it is, the more fervid I'm likely to be."

Ironically, his fervid defense of one animal brought the accusation that he was responsible for its death. Fischer says some state officials "took the position that I was responsible for the death of Montana's last black-footed ferret." A ferret, one of the rarest animals in the West, was spotted in a prairie dog town on an eastern Montana ranch. Prairie dogs are the ferrets' prime food. Fischer was largely responsible for publicizing the sighting and, shortly after, ranchers put out poisons in the prairie dog town, apparently fearing that the existence of the ferret, an endangered species, would result in federal intervention on their lands. No dead ferrets were found, however.

Fischer says that Fish and Game officials told him the poisonings never would have happened if he hadn't publicized the ferret sightings. However, Fischer responds that the ranchers had long been

planning to put poisons in the prairie dog town.

Because of such episodes, Fischer says, "I often feel like the most unpopular man in Montana. You have to thrive on adversity to do this job. Last month in Boise, I had to stand up and testify at predator control hearings after 100 sheepmen had presented their point of view. Then he adds with a smile, "I didn't have any enemies until I took this job."

Fischer's peculiar social standing stems from his willingness to tackle issues that others have ignored. He says, "Conservationists in general are not held in high esteem in Montana. But, I'm kind of working on issues that people haven't worked on — for instance, the Montana Fish and Game Department. I'm trying to get them to look at values of wildlife other than hunting. That's pretty much new ground because Fish and Game has always been directed toward hunting and fishing."

His most recent project is encouraging public participation in the management decisions of the department. He says, "The state people tend to think that the general public doesn't know a lot about wildlife. They're professionals and they think that they should be making the decisions. They are dealing with the biological aspects of wildlife and not the social and cultural aspects. I'm trying to get the public involved because I think once that happens, we get the right decisions."

Fischer says, "Peoples' attitudes toward wildlife are changing. Montana has been on the edge of the frontier, and wildlife hasn't had the same value as in places where the wildlife has been depleted."

"But now, the non-consumptive uses of wildlife have really zoomed. More people are walking, taking pictures of animals, floating a river, or just looking at the critters. The consumptive uses — hunting and fishing — have stayed about the same. These new uses are not anti-hunting, but they have no representation in the state wildlife management agencies."

He adds, "Fish and Game thinks I'm trying to change their role. Maybe I am. I want them to be responsive to more than one segment of society."

Fischer did his undergraduate work in literature at Ohio University. He received a masters degree from the University of Montana, in environmental studies with an emphasis on wildlife and journalism. He has been with Defenders for two years.

"It all started a few years back when I got concerned about the bobcat situation. I did

an article for Defenders (the magazine of Defenders of Wildlife) on the bobcat, finding that they were in trouble all over the West."

Fischer worked as a paid staff member for the organization in Washington D.C. for six months. The group was preparing a petition to have the bobcat reclassified as a threatened or endangered species. "But I couldn't stand working in Washington, so I came out to Missoula as a field representative," he says.

Fischer says, "Defenders is a fairly small organization — about 40,000 members. But those people are very active. They respond when we ask them to do something,



HANK FISCHER (right) and friend.

and we send them a lot of material and ask them to do a lot.

"I think there's a real place for smaller organizations. Bigger groups spend a lot of time fundraising, so in many ways you get more for your dollar with a small group."

One thing Fischer is constantly battling is Defenders of Wildlife's image as an anti-hunting organization. "I have to waste a lot of my time explaining that we are not anti-hunting. I hunt myself. But, we take an ecosystem approach, so we think that a deer mouse is as important as an elk. Montana has 460 species of non-game animals and 70 species of game."

One of the toughest issues Fischer deals with is predator control. "That's one of the things that makes me feel like Montana's most hated person," he says. "Our predator control stance isn't popular among sheepmen."

"I'm for a healthy wool industry. But, at the same time, there are lots of things the

public gives the sheep industry — wool tariffs, cheap grazing, predator control. They should be more responsive to the desires of the public on this issue."

"I don't think it's fair for a sheepman to turn his sheep loose on public land and expect the government to protect his flock for him. But, we have a responsibility to protect people who suffer unusual losses."

"We'd favor an insurance program where losses above a minimum level are reimbursed. We'd also like to shift in emphasis from the current types of research to non-lethal predator control that would be beneficial to both sheepmen and conservationists."

Fischer says, "Everybody's always talking about multiple use on public lands. Well, multiple use includes wildlife and predators are wildlife. We'd like to see emphasis on damage prevention rather than coyote control."

Fischer does see some cooperation recently on predator control. He says, "We're trying to work with the sheep industry where nothing has been done but shouting at each other for all these years."

But, the cooperation is slow in coming. Fischer says, "The woolgrowers magazine put me on their 'enemies' list, and they took out an ad in one of the state's papers and mentioned me by name as 'working against the interests of Montana' on the predator issue."

In addition to his work, Fischer is a prolific writer. He has been published in High Country News, Montana Outdoors, Sierra, Canoe Magazine, Defenders and Montana Magazine.

Through all of the controversy, Fischer has maintained a robust sense of humor, and the ability to not take himself too seriously. He says, "I always tell my friends that they should go into the woods with me. All the critters come right up to me because they know I'm their friend."

To illustrate this point, Fischer sent along a picture of himself embracing a deer. He told me, "Now, I don't want everybody thinking I'm a softie. If you use this picture write in the caption that I throttled the little bugger."

Fischer's energy helped his soccer team win the university intramural championship. He does admit to one character flaw that keeps him out late some nights, though. He is a "wizard" at pinball. "As soon as the environmentalists come out against pinball, I'm quitting," he says.

Dear Friends

Environmental publications often tend to sound alike, ours included. Those of us who eat, drink and sleep environmental issues have a tendency to get in an eco-rut. We talk about pristine wildlands, blind progress, living lightly, and disaster waiting in the wings so often that we sometimes even bore ourselves.

That doesn't mean we're content. We're always looking for writers with the required knowledge of environmental issues and the added richness of a broad perspective. Someone who can knock us out of our special clichés with new ways of saying things and, more important, new ways of seeing things. With this goal in mind, we introduce a

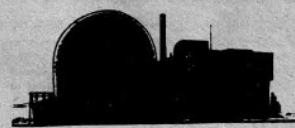
new column to you in this issue — "Sticks and Stones" by Justas Bavarskis.

Bavarskis spent seven years working as a reporter and editor for United Press International wire service in New York City and Detroit. He has lived in Wyoming for five years, where he's made a living logging, working on oil rigs and free-lance writing. He was born in Lithuania and grew up in Germany, England and Chicago. Many of you know him already, in fact, from the pieces he's free-lanced for us. Remember the lampoon, TCDD, and the uranium issue?

He understands us, but he's an observer — he's not one of us. We think, whether you laugh or nod or scowl, you'll find his column a change from the standard environmental opinion fare.

Did anyone in the Rockies notice that last week was special? Were your neighbors restless and grumbling about radioactivity and nuclear proliferation? Did they question the safety of emergency core cooling systems and the feasibility of permanent nuclear waste disposal? We hope so, for last week was "KNOCK NUKES WEEK." The Trojan Decommissioning Alliance of Portland, Ore., declared it so.

— the editors



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