

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL: The numbers after your name stand for the month and year your subscription expires. If it's nearly due, how about sending in \$12 today?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX NUM. 2008
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

11-78

The Environmental Biweekly of the Rockies and Great Plains



High Country News

Vol. 10 No. 14

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, July 14, 1978



Activists torn over what's best for wild horses



Photo by Dick Randall,
Defenders of Wildlife

READY FOR A FIGHT

Are livestock or
wild horses to blame
for overgrazing?

by Marjane Ambler

When they found the mare, she was up to her ankles in beer cans, abandoned with the other garbage, her usefulness ended. Once a proud, prancing wild horse, she was adopted by an Idaho family because of the foal she carried. Now she had had her colt, and when the Pet Haven in Nampa, Idaho, heard about her, she was 200 pounds underweight.

Her fate and that of several other wild horses that have been adopted and then abandoned or neglected is an indication that what is referred to as "the wild horse problem" still has not been solved by the latest experiment, the Adopt-a-Horse program. It's not just the horse lovers who are upset. Ranchers, environmentalists and wildlife biologists in Western states are saying something more must be done to control wild horse and burro numbers or overgrazing will transform productive rangelands into useless deserts.

After Congress passed the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act in 1971, the population of wild horses and burros began climbing rapidly, according to the Bureau of Land Management. Now, BLM tells Congress, there are 20,000-30,000 excess horses and burros on public land, and "they exceed the carrying capacity of the range, pose a threat to their own habitat, fish, wildlife, recreation, water and soil conservation, domestic

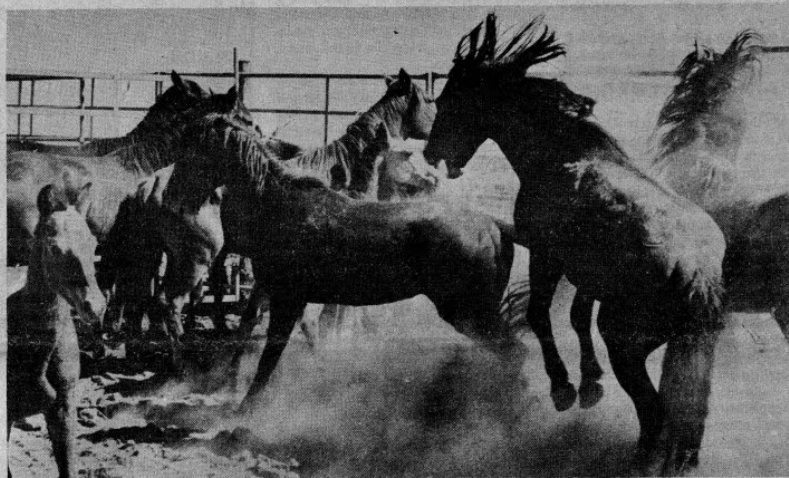


Photo by Tom Treick

WILD. Wild horses undergo extreme physical and mental stress during roundups. They often panic when confined and injure themselves fighting each other and the corral. The enclosures must be at least six feet tall to discourage the horses from jumping in pursuit of freedom. Photo taken near Vale, Oregon.

livestock grazing and other rangeland values."

Consequently, the federal government is desperately searching for ways to manage the horse and burro populations that will be economically feasible and publicly acceptable.

The latest proposal is in Section 7 of the range improvement bill sponsored by Rep. Teno Roncallo (D-Wyo.), which passed the House June 29 and now goes to the Senate. The section has wrought a split between national wildlife groups and horse protection groups.

The section would allow people who adopt wild horses and burros to own them after a one-year probation period. Under present law, when a person adopts a horse or a burro the government retains the title. This was designed to prevent people from selling the horses for dog food or other commercial purposes.

The existing law allows for, but does not require, the destruction of excess horses or burros. The secretary of Interior may order them to be killed—but only if it is the only practical way to remove them from the range. The animals are killed under government contract, not by sportsmen, and

High court says fish, wildlife are not part of national forest

Anything that crawls or creeps, stalks or walks, swims or flies through a national forest is not a legal part of the forest and has no rights to its water, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled.

In fact, only timber has standing, the court, in effect, said in a 5-4 decision July 3. The decision is so complex that the National Forest Service says it may take a

year of study to figure out the full impact. But Pat Parenteau, attorney for the National Wildlife Federation, says the main and most immediate effect of the decision probably will be that the Forest Service would have to buy water from states to meet the needs of fish and wildlife. NWF joined the case on the side of the Forest Service.

How many national forests may be affected by the decision depends on state laws and the specific reasons for which Congress or the President created a particular forest, says Parenteau. In looking at the proclamations—particularly those of President Theodore Roosevelt—that established national forests, Parenteau says he found none that specifically singled out fish and wildlife for protection.

The decision stemmed from a dispute between the state of New Mexico and the National Forest Service over the uses of water from the Rio Mimbres in the Gila

"In my view, the forests consist of the birds, animals and fish—and wildlife—that inhabit them, as well as the trees, flowers, shrubs and grasses."

(continued on page 1)

(continued on page 7)

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Taxpayers are in revolt across the country, as well they might be. California's Proposition 13 may be only the beginning. But while efforts are made to stop the flow of readily apparent dollars, we may be hemorrhaging internally.

Consider, for instance, the passage of a recent Senate measure on a new dam and Lock 26 on the Mississippi River. In order to understand the ins and outs of this measure, you have to understand a little of the power of the special interests. And it is the special interests which may eventually bankrupt this country.

A new dam and Lock 26 has been approved at the behest of barge and waterway users. These interests have a unique place in this country's transportation system. The users pay not one cent of the costs of capital construction for new canals, new



locks and other features they use. They pay none of the expense of dredging the canals to keep them open or other maintenance costs. The taxpayers provide them with everything but their boats and barges.

On the side of the waterway users is the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps is conceded to be one of the most powerful bureaucracies in government today. Its annual appropriation of pork barrel money runs around \$2 billion. Because of loopholes in past legislation, the Corps doesn't even have to go to Congress for authorization to spend astronomical amounts of money. This they have already done on new dams and locks on the Ohio River at a cost to taxpayers of over a billion dollars. (For a more detailed and complete discussion of the controversy surrounding the issues of Lock 26 see James Nathan Miller's article on "Big Dam Decision at Alton," Reader's Digest, Feb., 1976.)

Lock 26 on the Mississippi opens the door for the spending of many billions of dollars on additional dams and locks. Lock 26 will be twice as large as the lock it replaces, and the channel it will provide will allow significant increases in barge traffic. Many observers say that such a system of locks is not needed; that they are economically unsound and environmentally destructive. They would also be a continuation of the subsidies to one industry and a contradiction of the free enterprise system.

Last year, Sen. Domenici (R-N.M.) proposed that in approving Lock 26, Congress would require the users to pay 100 percent of the costs of operating and maintaining

existing and future waterways. And his proposal would also have required the barge industry to pay 50 percent of the construction costs of new facilities.

In the interim, Sen. Russell Long (D-La.) came up on the side of the barge operators. Recently, the Senate approved Long's version of an authorization for Lock 26. All that will be required of the barge operators will be an eventual 12 cents per gallon tax on diesel fuel used by the barges. Domenici's amendment lost on a vote of 47-43.

President Carter has said he will veto the bill as it is. But in view of Carter's crawling on other tough issues (including pork barrel water projects) it remains to be seen what he does.

Congress has obviously not gotten the message on exorbitant and unnecessary spending. Special interests and their compliant cohorts in Congress will go right on spending billions unless the people find a way to stop them.

Maybe what we need is a national referendum on such projects as Lock 26 and similar special interest or pork barrel schemes. Only then will there be a chance to eliminate the chronic deficit spending of our own federal government.



HCN Letters

CHEERS FOR MCGREW

Dear Sirs:

I greatly admire the stand taken by Mr. Jay L. McGrew (HCN 4-21-78). My personal opinion of most individuals in the home improvement field is that they are more concerned about making a fast buck than telling the truth about a problem.

The remark by Mr. McGrew that the energy problem for the home is tremendously complex is probably the understatement of the year.

Mr. McGrew said he wasn't Ralph Nader, which I agree with 100 percent. Little Ralph isn't any comparison to Mr. McGrew. I haven't heard little Ralph yacking about much of anything that was of any help to the consumer.

Three cheers for Mr. McGrew!

John M. Depue
Mustang, Okla.

LETTERS FOR ALASKA

Dear HCN,

Your guest editorial "Sick of superlatives..." (HCN 6-2-78) was the best analysis of reasons for writing opinion letters I have ever read. I have in the last few years tended to send my favorite conservation organizations large checks instead of writing letters to my congressional delegation.

Since our Alaskan delegation is firmly against the Alaskan lands bill, writing letters to them is hopeless. What I am going to do is write letters to the editors of newspapers in the lower 48, urging their readers to support H.R. 39. Many times I have been influenced by grassroots public opinion when I had no strong personal bias, and I



"GODDAM MONEY-EATIN' VARMINT!"

PRIDE AND THE ISSUES

Dear folks,

Good job on the issue dealing with insulation. Your editorial is a good example to all of us that dealing with issues is more important than feeding our own pride.

Carl Brown
Lake Fork, Idaho

HCN T-SHIRTS

\$5.00 Silk-screened by hand to give a quality impression. T-Shirts are 100% cotton. Order your exact size; shirts are a little large to allow for shrinkage. (Eagle motif is from an original drawing by Carol Snow.) When you buy an HCN T-Shirt, you help out the paper financially and you'll help spread the word around too.

Frontal image is black. Shirt colors available white or light blue.

• PLEASE SEND ME SOME HCN T-SHIRTS. •

Youth		Adult	
Quantity	Size	Quantity	Size
_____	small (24-28)	_____	small (34-36)
_____	medium (28-30)	_____	medium (36-40)
_____	large (32-34)	_____	large (42-44)
(Shirts are Russell Athletic Shirts)		_____	x-large (46-48)

Shirt Colors (select blue or white). My first choice is _____. If that color is not available, hold my order until more shirts are in stock. _____

If the above color is not in stock, fill my order with the other color. _____

ENCLOSED is \$5.00 per shirt (including postage).
WY. RESIDENTS ADD 3% SALES TAX.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Send orders to:
HCN, box K,
Lander, WY.
82520

As you gaze at the moon's first quarter tonight be reminded that we are of one earth the sun is our shared hearth

Share our Western experience; subscribe to HCN. Twenty-five issues for twelve dollars.

Send HCN to:

name _____
address _____
city _____
state _____ zip _____

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

Industry should help pay for boom impact

Much is said in the West these days about corporate responsibility. The issue is an important one, because energy corporations have had a major influence on communities in the region. The corporations in the forefront of the search for fuels want to appear to be "good citizens," giving to the communities as well as taking minerals from them.

When a corporation — or a number of them — moves into a small Western community, it brings "jobs," "prosperity" and an influx of workers and families that quickly double or triple the population of the town. This is a rate of "progress" that most small communities can't handle. Basic services — housing, hospitals, schools, roads and police and fire protection — are nearly always overburdened.

A number of Western congressmen and senators have banded together to get the federal government to aid communities impacted by the national push for energy development. Legislation is pending that would provide federal money to expand needed services before the boom occurs. The advance money is necessary, because until a mine is producing minerals, it is not providing any revenue for the community in which it is located even though new workers have already arrived and are demanding public services.

It is sound public policy to enlist federal funds for impact alleviation. After all, the

country's citizens are all in this energy mess together, so costs should be shared.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee toyed with a provision that would give the phrase "corporate responsibility" meaning beyond mere public relations imagery. In the original version of the bill, energy companies were required to make "reasonable contributions" to impact alleviation as a condition of obtaining a federal coal lease.

However, by a vote of 10 to 1, the committee eliminated this provision from the bill. The energy industry said it would impede orderly development of resources and

that companies already provide assistance by paying state severance taxes and federal royalties, half of which are returned to the states.

Unfortunately, federal royalties and severance taxes are not collected until after the minerals are being mined. Again, since this occurs well after the boom is under way, it usually comes too late.

In addition, while it is true that companies pay severance taxes, it is equally true that they fight like the devil to pay as little as possible. They lobby state legislatures to oppose proposed increases and several "responsible corporations" have recently filed suit against Montana's 30 percent severance tax, claiming that it is too high. Gov. Tom Judge says, however, that the tax doesn't even cover the amount needed by the state to deal with impact.

The only senator voting to retain the corporate front-end financing assistance was Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.). "Those who can assist should be held accountable," he says.

Colorado Sen. Gary Hart (D) has suggested that he may try to introduce the corporate assistance provision on the Senate floor. We would urge both Hart and Wallop to fight for this principle. HCN readers should send thanks to these senators and advice to their own, urging support of palpable "corporate responsibility."

— DSW



Horse sense — not sentimentality

For too long, the battle over wild horse protection has been fought in newspaper headlines and inflammatory newsletters. Easterners read horror stories such as the Howe, Idaho, roundup and get the idea that all ranchers are callous, greedy men interested only in squeezing as many sheep and cattle as possible onto the public rangelands of the West.

Ranchers figure they're fighting ignorant, elite city folk who read too many Walter Farley books as children and who naively dream of having a wild horse as a pet.

The horse protection groups direct their appeal at these instincts, and the stockmen, in turn, get their congressmen to write letters to their colleagues in Congress asking them to ignore all the "emotional hoopla" from horse protection groups.

However, many members of humane groups and horse protection groups, especially those who live in the West, know that most ranchers do not fit the stereotype. While extremely frustrated with the present situation, ranchers generally say they like having some wild horses on the range.

Most Western horse lovers also know that the kindest way of controlling wild horse numbers is not always very appealing. While they would like the horses to remain wild and free, they know that removing some from the range now will save pain and suffering later. Every excess mare left on the range means about one more horse each year that must be put through the agony of a roundup later. They also know that shooting horses, an appalling idea to many people, is sometimes the kindest fate, when compared with the alternatives.

Horse protection groups based in Washington, D.C., make valid points about the need for more facts on population levels and on the dietary overlap between horses

and wildlife. BLM-funded studies have come up with conflicting data.

However, even if we question the specific population figures and the reproductive rate cited by BLM, some more effective means must be found for controlling wild horse numbers. Without mountain lions and wolves, man must interfere. The rangeland of the West couldn't feed thousands more wild horses — even if there were no wildlife or livestock.

During the coming months, the BLM will be conducting public hearings on wild

horse management plans for specific areas of the West. The plans will include forage allotments for wild horses and proposals for how many wild horses will be allowed for each planning area.

Some hard decisions will have to be made as we weigh what's best for the wild horses, for the wildlife and livestock and for the range. These decisions will be made even more difficult if they continue to be obscured by cobwebs of sentimentality and ignorance.

— MjA



High Country News

Published biweekly at 331 Main, Lander, Wyo. 82520. Telephone 307-332-4877. Second class postage paid at Lander.

Publisher: Thomas A. Bell
 Managing Editor: Joan Nice
 Associate Editor: Marjane Ambler
 Office Manager: Jaymyn McDonald
 Advertising: August Dailer
 Contributing Editors: Dan Whipple, Peter Wild, Philip White
 Correspondent: Hannah Hinchman
 Staff Artist: Sarah Doll
 Editorial Assistant: Jacques Shaw

Subscription rate \$12.00
 Single copy rate 50 cents

Copyright High Country News 1978. Call for permission to reprint any articles or illustrations. Contributions (manuscripts, photos, artwork) will be welcomed with the understanding that the editors cannot be held responsible for loss or damage. Articles and letters will be published and edited at the discretion of the editors. To get a sample copy sent to a friend, send us his or her address.

Write Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520.

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

Wild Horses

Stories supported by the research fund in this issue are Boom Town Water Worries by Dan Whipple and Wild Horses by Marjane Ambler.

The research fund pays for photos, travel expenses, and phone calls for articles written by the HCN staff. If you would like to help out, send a donation to the fund. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Make out checks to Wyoming Environmental Institute—HCN Research Fund and send to: WEI, P.O. Box 2497, Jackson, Wyo. 83001. Thank you.

July 14, 1978 - High Country News



BOOM COMMUNITIES — who pays? Photo of trailer court in Rock Springs, Wyo., near the Jim Bridger power plant.



by Justus Bavarski

Playboy magazine for years ran an advertisement that showed a clearly successful executive on the verge of being amiably assaulted by two clearly desirable women. The ad asked, "What kind of a man reads Playboy?" I pictured a gangly 17-year-old with buck teeth and a terminal case of acne.

Outside magazine has come along now and supplemented that image. What kind of a reader does Outside grope for? The Playboy-Marlboro man. Just as the Marlboro man convinced millions of ad fans that the aroma of pines and horse sweat was incomplete without cigarette smoke, so Outside tries to convince the playboys of the Western world that their sexual ammunition is incomplete without a well-thumbed copy of Outside lying on their coffee tables.

It's fashionable now to sip a vodka tonic in a New York singles bar and murmur, among other sweet nothings, "I'm an environmentalist." The murmur is supposed to become so much more persuasive if the potential playboy can follow it with an invitation to "come up and see my copies of Outside."

For Outside complements Playboy. Playboy tells me what women to dream about. Outside shows me where to dream about taking the women I dream about. There is a difference, though. Playboy's playmate of the month at least has a say in whether she wants to be exploited and probably looks on the exposure as a chance to do a little exploiting of her own.

Outside's playmate of the month, "Out There," has no such choice.

Both magazines, of course, take the right stands on the right issues. Few publications were as vigorous as Playboy in singing the joys of the Equal Rights Amendment. Yet a raffle through any issue of Playboy shows its support of the ERA is about as sincere as a millionaire extolling the virtues of poverty.

Outside takes its editorial stand beside environmentalism and the conservation ethic. But its pictures and stories more often than not describe how to get to the most beautiful places, catch the biggest fish, own the best equipment.

Playboy serves the armchair voyeur. Outside panders to the armchair environmentalist.

Wild horses...

(continued from page 1)

the carcasses are buried; they cannot be sold.

The proposed change in the grazing bill says that if an annual scientific inventory proves there are excess animals, then the secretary must order old, sick or lame animals killed, as well as healthy horses and burros that can't be adopted.

"This is irresponsible legislation to mandate the destruction of excess horses without saying what is excess," says Toby Cooper of Defenders of Wildlife. Defenders, the Humane Society of the United States and the American Horse Protection Association are lobbying to delete Section 7 from the bill.

On the other hand, the National Wildlife Federation, WHOA! (Wild Horse Or-

"I'd think they would be better off in a can of Alpo than up to their ankles in beer cans."

ganized Assistance, Inc.) and the National Audubon Society feel that the section should remain, although they might accept some changes in wording.

The Sierra Club is divided. While the Southwest representative, Brant Calkin, testified in favor of the section, the national board has taken no stand. John McComb, Washington, D.C., representative of the Sierra Club, says, "It's a no win issue — no matter which side you take you're going to alienate a large, influential group."

SYMBOL OF FREEDOM

This dissension, while apparently not a cause for great concern among the groups



Photo by Robert Hilgenfeld

RUNNING FREE. A Forest Service draft environmental impact statement on wild horse and burro management cites one "favorable environmental effect on human emotion, national heritage and aesthetics: Humane

treatment of these animals, maintaining a representative sample of the wild horse element of the Wild West, and enhancing a landscape with a free running horse is expected to contribute greatly to the mental peace of many Americans."

themselves, reflects the complexity of the issue of wild horse management.

Wild horses are a symbol to many Americans of freedom and of the country's heritage. At the same time, they are thought of as pets, which makes the idea of shooting them appalling to the American public, even though most people accept the idea of hunting for controlling other wild animal populations.

Burros play much the same role in the American imagination. When the National Park Service proposed taking marksmen into the Grand Canyon to reduce the population of wild burros there, the public reacted quickly and vehemently and the plan was abandoned temporarily.

In 1976 the BLM launched a nationwide Adopt-a-Horse campaign, and the idea captured the public's fancy. People from as far away as the East Coast traveled to Rock Springs, Wyo., Burns, Ore., and other Western BLM corrals to pick up wild horses or burros.

Success stories were widely publicized. A farmer near Washington, D.C., adopted several wild horses, and gave their colts to a home for delinquent boys in Maryland.

Children wrote letters to Wild Horse Annie (Velma Johnston) saying how much they loved their new pets. Wild Horse Annie, who died a year ago, was one of the foremost leaders of the horse protection movement and the past director of WHOA!

Not so well known are the failures. Meg Neilsen, manager of the Humane Society of Idaho adopted the mare that had been found among the beer cans in Nampa after it was rescued. Now, she says, the horse is "fat and happy." But not all adopted wild horses are so lucky. Neilsen and other representatives of humane and horse protection groups have been checking up on some of the wild horses and burros in foster homes.

"Very few people know what to do with an unbroken horse," Neilsen says. "We've all been raised on Flicka and Fury, and think these horses will sit in our backyards. But these little horses don't behave that way — they're not going to act like pets," she says.

"Maybe your kid's leg has been broken or maybe you get over your head financially trying to keep the horse fed. What do you do with a 900-pound horse that you don't want anymore?" Sometimes people will take the horse out in the country, and when they see some green pastures, let it go, as they would an unwanted dog or cat, she says. This happens most often with mares because under the present program, the person who adopts a pregnant mare can own the foal. Once they have the colt or filly, they don't care about the mare.

If the people could have title to the horse or burro after a one-year probation period as is proposed in the grazing bill, at least then they could sell the horse or give it to someone else who could care for it, Neilsen

be better off in a can of Alpo than up to their ankles in beer cans," she says.

John Paul Fox, chief investigator for the Humane Society of Utah, isn't ready to abandon the adoption program until there is an alternative for reducing the wild horse and burro populations. However, he agrees there are problems. His office investigates five or six cases of neglect or abuse of wild horses each year. "There isn't good enough screening of applicants," he says. "Once the horses are gone, they're gone — BLM doesn't check up on their care unless someone else brings it to their attention."

He sees the adoption program as a necessary stopgap. Pointing out that wild horse and burro populations are increasing rapidly, he says, "As a humane society, we can't condone starving."

Neither he nor any other humane group representative in the West blames BLM for the lack of screening or follow up because the agency's funds are too limited. BLM calculates it spends \$300 for every horse or burro that is rounded up and adopted. During the two years that the program has been in effect, 8,000 horses and burros have been adopted, and BLM says it has another 5,000-8,000 names on a waiting list. Neilsen says it would be impossible to adequately screen all these people.

Another objection to the adoption program is that it requires roundups, which acquired a bad reputation before the Adopt-a-Horse program began.

Hope Ryden described one now notorious roundup at Howe, Idaho, in an article in the Defenders of Wildlife magazine. Ryden is a member of the national Defenders board and author of the books *America's Last Wild Horses* and *Mustangs: A Return to*

"When they're destroying the habitat for a native such as the desert bighorn sheep, some form of management is necessary."

says. (Neilsen says local humane chapters are free to take their own stands on issues. The Humane Society of the United States opposes the transfer of title.)

She thinks title transfer might help, if it's closely regulated. However, she has serious reservations about the adoption concept in general. "I'm quite fond of horses and would like to see them kept alive, but I think they would be better off on the range. When they get overpopulated, I think it would be better to harvest them like deer."

BETTER OFF DEAD

"I know I'll get a lot of flack for saying this, but compared with the mental and physical stress many of them go through during roundups and after adoption, they'd be better off destroyed. I'd think they would

the Wild. She reported that several dead and mutilated horses, including an aborted foal, were found at the foot of a cliff one day in 1973. After the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture conducted an investigation, it was learned that the horses had been barricaded on a cliff and then left alone for a day, according to the article.

When the ranchers returned, the article says, several horses leaped from the cliff to their death and others jammed their hooves into rock crevices in their panic. Ryden reported that during the investigation, one participant said a horse's legs were cut off with a chainsaw because they couldn't be dislodged from the rocks. De-

(continued on page 6)



Photo by Dick Randall, Defenders of Wildlife

ROUNDUP. A 1959 federal law prohibited the use of motorized vehicles for rounding up wild horses and burros until it was changed in May 1977. BLM says it spends an average of \$300 for every horse or burro it puts up for adoption.

Gillette water pipeline project — a half-told story

by Dan Whipple

In the closing days of the 1978 Wyoming legislative session, legislators were presented with vials of peanut-butter colored water and told that it was a representative sample of Gillette's water supply before treatment. Without much debate, a \$15 million loan for the city was approved to

report, upon which the project was based, had omitted an option for obtaining additional water that could, potentially, save a considerable amount of money over the pipeline project.

The option that was not explored, said the source, was the potential of obtaining more water from the Fox Hills Formation, one of three water-bearing strata from

which Gillette now obtains its water. Meeting Gillette's water supply requirements from the Fox Hills was by no means a certainty, but the informant was disturbed that it was not even considered. The necessary wells could be drilled near town, eliminating the expense for the long pipeline.

Meanwhile, the Campbell County Chamber of Commerce had launched its campaign in behalf of the Madison project. The Campbell County Businessmen for

public affairs program on the project, featuring only supporters of the pipeline proposal.

Part of the push for Madison water included a campaign by the city to convince the state legislature to approve the loan. Each legislator was presented with a vial of brown water, purported to be a sample of Gillette's water before it was treated. But this was somewhat misleading.

The water did come from a Gillette water well — one that had been unused for months. Standard procedure would have

been to flush the well out for about 20 minutes to remove the accumulated rust and other elements from the casing. Sources say that this was not done, under orders from city officials.

One city water expert said, "Any water — no matter how good — would look brown if it had been lying in a rusty well casing for six months."

Workers say they were told by Glen Taylor, Gillette Public Works director, to get samples of the worst water they could find. HCN made several attempts to reach Taylor for comment, but he failed to return any calls.

Only one legislator, Steve Cranfill, opposed the Gillette loan request. Cranfill says, "I didn't like the approach taken. It was kind of rushed through. It was presented as an emotional issue. It wasn't presented in an objective manner."

Cranfill also says he had reservations about the state assuming so large a burden of financing. He says, "Some of the funding

One water expert says, "Any water — no matter how good — would look brown if it had been lying in a rusty well casing for six months."

cover the bulk of the cost of a \$22.5 million water project.

The project, a 41-mile pipeline to bring water from a proposed well field near Moorcroft, Wyo., had the staunch support of the city government and the Campbell County Chamber of Commerce. However, the project, both in its design and promotion, apparently was tainted by errors of omission and commission. In addition, the local news media deliberately failed to present all the facts to Gillette's voters.

As the result of energy development, Gillette has experienced rapid population growth. The town has doubled in size since 1970, and is expected to double again by 1985. The current population of about 15,000 is expected to reach 35,000 by 1990.

Rapid growth has brought the city chronic water quantity and quality problems. Four years ago, the city and county formed a joint powers board, eligible for state money under Wyoming law, to study proposals for improving the city water supply.

The board concluded that the pipeline would be the most economical method for bringing water to the city. A field of seven wells will be drilled about 2,300 feet into the Madison Formation, a water-bearing strata.

The pipeline portion of the project will cost about \$10 million. Of the 10 million gallons of water pumped through the lines each day, industry will get 1.6 million and the city the rest.

In addition to the \$15 million loan approved by the legislature, funding was available from the U.S. Farmers Home Administration in the form of a \$3 million grant and an offer to purchase a city bond issue totaling \$4.5 million.

Since the loan and the bond issue would increase the city's indebtedness, voter approval was required. An election was held on May 24. Turnout was light, but the increase in indebtedness was approved overwhelmingly, 516 to 45.

About two weeks before the election, Bruce Bartley, managing editor of the *Gillette News-Record*, received a phone call from a water expert who said that he was "skeptical" about the pipeline project and the way it had been presented to the public. This source, who later also contacted HCN, said that the state engineer's

report, upon which the project was based, had omitted an option for obtaining additional water that could, potentially, save a considerable amount of money over the pipeline project.

TOO MUCH FLUORIDE

There are two problems with the Fox Hills water. First, and most important, is the question of whether it contains enough water to meet Gillette's requirements. Second, the Fox Hills water is high in fluorides, exceeding allowable standards by a factor of four. Excessive fluorides can damage teeth, causing them to turn brown. In addition, the water contains hydrogen sulfide, a substance that gives it a "rotten egg" smell.

How much water lay in the formation was unknown, said the source, because no studies had ever been done. However, the source pointed out that the wells that Gillette had down to the Fox Hills Formation were the best producers of water that the city had.

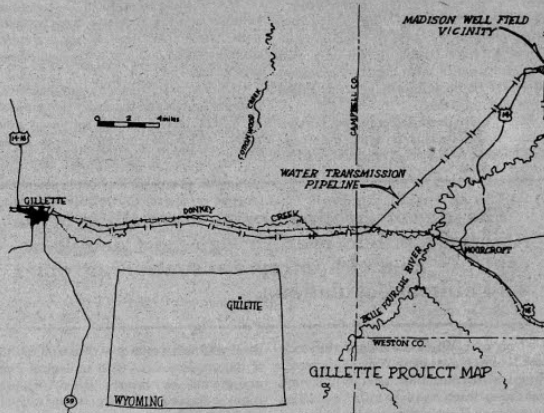
In addition, the informant said it was possible, and less expensive than a 41-mile pipeline, to defluoridate water and remove the hydrogen sulfide through an aeration process.

Frank Release, author of the state engineer's report on the project, now with a private consulting firm, told HCN, "Gillette needs a considerable amount of water. We didn't think the Fox Hills Formation had the capacity to provide it." Release says the normal yield of wells around the city indicated there was not sufficient water in the Fox Hills Formation. He admits, however, that no specific study was done to determine the potential yield from the strata.

Bartley found some people who disagreed with this assessment, however. Jim Cox, a consulting engineer in Gillette, believes there may be plenty of water in the formation. Cox has consulted for oil companies in the area for almost 25 years and contends that accurate records of flows have not been kept. He says that speculation surrounding the Fox Hills water has been mostly the result of "guesswork."

Regarding defluoridation of the water, Release says this was rejected because previous studies indicated the process was far too expensive.

Bartley contacted an expert on defluoridation, Harold Vinson, supervisor of the water treatment plant in Desert Center, Calif. Vinson said that, in the past few years, significant steps had been made in the treatment of fluoridated water, and that it could be an economical and efficient method of treating the Fox Hills water. He told Bartley that, in all probability, it would be considerably cheaper than a 41-mile pipeline. The exact cost of the pro-



Better Government, formed by the chamber, began distributing leaflets and fact sheets endorsing the Madison project.

Bartley confirmed the information his source had given him and included some more that he had obtained on his own. He wrote it up and prepared it for publication on Friday, May 19, five days before the election.

The publisher of the *Gillette News-Record*, Jack Nisselius, refused to print the story, however. Nisselius was a member of the Chamber of Commerce group that was lobbying for the Madison project.

Nisselius told HCN, "I thought that the article might defeat the referendum. There was a great deal of work that had gone into this whole thing. I had to conclude that after four years of study by the joint powers board, they had a lot of answers we hadn't had time to ask questions on. The timing was wrong on the story. We couldn't break

been to flush the well out for about 20 minutes to remove the accumulated rust and other elements from the casing. Sources say that this was not done, under orders from city officials.

One city water expert said, "Any water — no matter how good — would look brown if it had been lying in a rusty well casing for six months."

Workers say they were told by Glen Taylor, Gillette Public Works director, to get samples of the worst water they could find. HCN made several attempts to reach Taylor for comment, but he failed to return any calls.

Only one legislator, Steve Cranfill, opposed the Gillette loan request. Cranfill says, "I didn't like the approach taken. It was kind of rushed through. It was presented as an emotional issue. It wasn't presented in an objective manner."

Cranfill also says he had reservations about the state assuming so large a burden of financing. He says, "Some of the funding

Pacific Power and Light concluded that the Fox Hills formation would not produce enough water for Gillette.

this five days before the election after four years of work had gone into it."

Bartley resigned. He says, "I had been a strong supporter of the Madison project until this information came along. But, these people came to me unsolicited. I checked it out and decided that they had a point — it didn't appear that all of the options had been examined."

"If you aren't going to present the issues to the people, why let them vote at all? You may as well just decide public policy in the Chamber of Commerce."

The local radio station, KIML, also refused to air any information about the objections. The station did, however, run a

could have been absorbed by the people causing the impact — the coal companies."

The coal companies say they aid in financing through payment of the Wyoming coal severance tax. The money collected from the tax goes into the permanent mineral trust fund, which is the source of the money for the Gillette loan.

EMOTIONAL OBLIGATION

Cranfill, who will be running for the state Senate this fall, also says it is becoming increasingly difficult for legislators to

(continued on page 14)



6-High Country News - July 14, 1978

Wild horses...

(continued from page 4)

fenders says the roundup was condoned by the BLM.

BLM officials say they did not initiate nor condone the roundup. They also say there is a question whether the horses were wild or were owned by some of the ranchers involved.

The Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture investigated the incident, and subsequent roundups have been under the direct supervision of the BLM.

However, there still have been many cases of horses injuring themselves by fighting or ramming their bodies into sharp protrusions in the corrals. Unaccustomed to wire fences, horses have run straight through them, cutting themselves severely. Some horses have to be killed after such injuries.

The House committee preparing Section 7 also heard testimony about the stress that horses are subjected to sometimes dur-

them, they're crossing the street at every corner in Reno, Nev.," she says. "I don't know how they can dream up these figures; it's impossible for them to multiply at that rate." The Humane Society of the United States and Defenders of Wildlife agree that BLM population figures are suspect.

Ryden convinced a federal judge in 1976 that BLM's estimates were unreliable. She showed mathematically that it would be impossible for the population to grow from the number BLM reported in 1971 to the level it reported in 1976 even if all mares of breeding age produced live foals every year and no horse died.

According to the BLM and the Forest Service, there were 57,204 horses and 9,550 burros on public lands as of January 1978.

The Washington staffs of Defenders of Wildlife and the Humane Society agree with AHPA that there is not a general overpopulation problem with wild horses and burros.

However, some Western representatives of these groups and the executive director of WHOA! say there are too many wild horses and burros in some areas. Dawn Lappin of WHOA! says her group checks



Photo by Dick Randall, Defenders of Wildlife

LINING UP. Wild horses are said to be quite adept at guarding scarce water supplies from other livestock or wildlife.

The idea of shooting horses is appalling to the American public, even though most people accept the idea of hunting for controlling other wild animal populations.

ing transport. When the slats on the stock rack broke on a truck in Wyoming, several horses spilled onto the interstate highway, and four of them had to be killed, according to Sherman Mast of the Humane Society in Laramie, Wyo.

Another time, Mast discovered a truck broken down, full of horses. Mast learned that the horses had been confined in the truck without water or exercise for 15 hours.

AT EVERY CORNER

Joan Blue of the American Horse Protection Association thinks these situations are inexcusable and unnecessary. Her organization has never supported the adoption program and vehemently opposes the transfer of title provision. "The majority of horses could easily end up in a slaughterhouse," she says.

She believes there is no overpopulation problem. "We're thoroughly convinced BLM doesn't have a clue of how many wild horses there are out there. According to

BLM wild horse counts with aerial counts of its own as well as with biological data and ground observations. "I can't make a blanket statement that I go along with all of BLM's estimates, but I've seen some areas that are overpopulated by wild horses," she says.

Lappin has been working with both ranchers and the government as well as other humane groups to solve the wild horse management question through a Wild Horse Forum, which was started in April 1977 at the University of Nevada. "I don't see how anything can be done if we can't negotiate with people who have these animals in their backyards," she says.

All the groups interviewed by HCN are concerned about overgrazing in the West. They differ only on which animals should bear the blame for it. Ginger Merchant of Defenders says that in Nevada alone the BLM last year cited trespasses on federal lands involving more than 20,000 sheep and cattle. "This is in addition to the thousands and thousands of authorized

animals out there," she says. There are 32,000 wild horses in Nevada, according to BLM. "How many of these are we going to call surplus?" she asks.

Opponents of Section 7 think it was inspired by pressure from ranchers whose sheep and cattle must compete with wild horses and burros on public lands.

Merchant says scientific studies show the dietary overlap for wild horses and deer or antelope is very low, while the overlap for wild horses and cattle or sheep is high.

Opponents of the section not only question the BLM's argument that wild horses compete with wildlife. They also question the argument that the horses would endanger themselves by destroying their own habitat. "If they're left unmanipulated, we

animals are affected if the composition of the vegetation is changed. When you destroy the bottom line of the food chain, the other levels follow," he says.

Dick Loper, rangeland specialist for an Old West Regional Commission grazing monitoring project, also resents the accusation that this section of the bill is designed only to help stockmen. He says many studies show deer and antelope compete with wild horses for forage, especially during the winter when they all eat browse instead of grass. He says they also compete for water in many arid areas of the West where there might be only one water hole for miles and miles. "There's nothing more vengeful than horses; they won't let anyone else into the water hole," he says.

He says wild horse populations keep increasing because they have few if any natural predators.

MORE HUMANE

In an attempt to solve some of the problems mentioned in testimony, the House committee includes in its report accompanying the bill instructions for making roundups more humane. (A committee report has virtually the same weight as law.) It says roundups can't be held during or immediately prior to the foaling season, pens must be sanitary and of solid construction without protruding objects and shipping vehicles must be inspected before a foster family can take horses away.

In addition, it says that the secretary of Interior must determine if the adopter can assure humane treatment and care. The secretary can contract with humane groups to screen applicants for horses and to check up on the horses and burros after they have been placed.

The National Wildlife Federation would like the bill to go even farther. Lucy Buxton, resource specialist with the federation, says she would like the secretary of Interior to have the flexibility to sell excess wild horses or burros that can't be adopted — animals that would have to be destroyed anyway. The money from these sales could be used to improve the condition of the range, she says.

Lappin says the National Wild Horse Forum is considering a similar proposal. "This would make the horse self-sufficient like the rest of the animals. Now they're considered freeloaders (livestock generate income from grazing fees, wildlife from hunting licenses)," she says.

Lappin and other supporters say the bill is a step forward since more horses and

"According to BLM, wild horses are crossing the street at every corner in Reno."

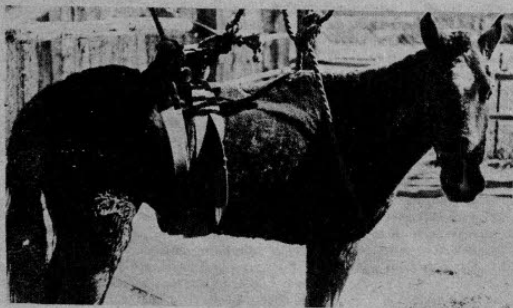
suspect that they would control their own population like other wild animals," says Marc Paulhus of the Humane Society of the United States.

While Joan Blue of AHPA thinks the old and lame horses should be weeded out, she says, "Nature can do this better than a bunch of BLM cowboys. We feel very strongly that BLM panders to their best clients, the ranching industry."

A staff member of the House subcommittee on public lands, which prepared the legislation, objects to this. She says the support of the National Wildlife Federation, the Audubon Society, and the Wildlife Management Institute is proof that interests other than ranching also believe the legislative changes are needed.

Representatives of the Wildlife Federation and of the Audubon Society support the legislation because they are concerned about the competition between wild horses and burros and wildlife. "When they're destroying the habitat for a native such as the desert bighorn sheep, some form of management is necessary," says Mike Zagata of the Audubon Society.

"We would like the language of the section to show that it isn't anyone's intent to allow bureaucrats to destroy the horse and burro populations through this legislation," Zagata says. "We do have to bring horses and burros into line with the carrying capacity of the land...A whole range of

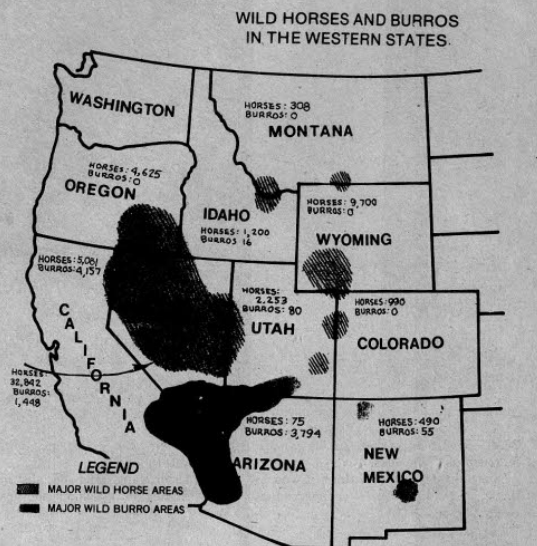


Humane Society of Utah photo

NEARLY STARVING. This wild horse lost his pride and almost his life before his condition was reported to the Humane Society of Utah. Close to starving, the horse had lain down and refused to stand. The investigation by the Humane Society revealed that the adopters had no knowledge of horse care or nutrition, and had been feeding the animal barely enough to stay alive. After the Humane Society and the BLM demanded that the adopters get care for the horse, the veterinary put the horse in a sling to keep it on its feet.

(continued on page 7)

Wild horses...



— BLM and Forest Service figures

burros will be adopted. However, if BLM's figures of 20,000 to 30,000 excess horses are anywhere near correct, critics say it's doubtful the adoption program will ever make much of a dent, especially since for every year the "excess" animals remain on the range, their offspring will continue to swell their numbers. They also say that before long the demand for wild horses and burros will drop as the market is saturated and as families learn how difficult it can be to keep a wild horse.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT BILL

Major provisions of the range improvement bill, which passed the House June 29, concern grazing fees and funds for range improvements on federal lands.

The bill would change the way grazing fees are calculated to take into consideration the costs of production. In most cases, this would make the fees lower than the fair market value. The Carter Administration would like the fees to be set at fair market value.

The bill authorizes \$360 million over the next 20 years for range improvement projects and management. It also establishes guidelines for improvements that can be made without environmental impact statements.

The bill will now be considered by the Senate.

July 14, 1978 - High Country News-7

BLM proposes tougher ORV rules

The public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management have been a haven for off-road vehicle users. In rules proposed three years ago, the bureau suggested that all of its lands should be open to ORV use unless specifically marked closed.

But federal court said that wasn't enough to satisfy an executive order requiring ORV regulation. So now BLM has a different approach. Its new proposed rules would classify all of its lands either closed, limited or open to ORV use by 1987. Sixty percent of the major ORV use areas would be classified within three years, according to the bureau.

The new approach is designed to pinpoint more quickly areas where ORVs are creating problems.

September 7 is the deadline for comments on the proposed rules, which were announced July 7. Write to the Director (210), Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. 20240.



Water rights in national forests...

(continued from page 1)

National Forest. There, and in most other national forests, the Forest Service for decades had assumed it had water rights. This meant, for example, that in the Gila National Forest, the Forest Service took 16.7 acre-feet of water from the Rio Mimbres each year for domestic, recreational and wildlife uses.

The federal government contended it had the right to use water for "aesthetic, environmental, recreational and fish purposes." But the state argued that the Gila National Forest was created only to "insure favorable conditions of water flow and to furnish a continuous supply of timber," and the federal government therefore was not entitled to use the water for any other purpose. The New Mexico Supreme Court upheld the state's argument, and the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed it.

Writing the majority opinion, Justice William Rehnquist said the Organic Administration Act of 1897 showed that Congress intended national forests to be created only to preserve water flows and to provide timber. "National forests were not to be reserved for aesthetic, environmental, recreational or wildlife preservation purposes," Rehnquist said.

In the dissenting opinion, Justice Lewis Powell wrote, "It is inconceivable that Congress envisioned the forests it sought to preserve as including only inanimate components such as the timber and flora. Insofar as the court holds otherwise, the 55th Congress (which passed the 1897 Organic Act) is maligned and the nation is the poorer..."

FORESTS NOT LIFELESS

"I do not agree...that the forests...are the still, silent, lifeless places envisioned by the court. In my view, the forests consist of the birds, animals and fish — and wildlife — that inhabit them, as well as the trees, flowers, shrubs and grasses. I therefore would hold that the United States is enti-

tled to so much water as is necessary to sustain the wildlife of the forests, as well as the plants," Powell said.

Essentially, the court ruling means that states can allocate water that flows through national forests, and that the federal government has rights only to as much water as will preserve instream flows and enhance timber production. That aspect of the decision, Parenteau says, may well be enough in many cases to provide fish, wildlife and livestock with all the water they need.

It would be a rare case, he says, where fish and wildlife would be deprived of water, since the federal government could acquire water rights either through purchase or condemnation. But those alternatives could be expensive and politically unpopular, says Parenteau.

Gary Nelson, director of soil and water management for the New Mexico region of the Forest Service, says, "It may take a year for us to ferret out the full impact (of the Supreme Court decision), and until then we'll be going on just as we were, so far as I can tell. But we'd thought the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 had broadened the 1897 Organic Act."

Rehnquist and four other Supreme Court justices disagreed with that interpretation. The 1960 act says, "It is the policy of Congress that the national forests are established and shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed and wildlife and fish purposes." To the five justices, this meant that, "Congress intended the national forests to be administered for broader purposes after 1960, but there is no indication that it believed the new purposes to be so crucial as to require a reservation of additional water."

"Even the New Mexico Supreme Court didn't go that far," Parenteau says. "In fact, that court said the 1960 act did protect fish and wildlife. Rehnquist's opinion amounts to a dictum. Unfortunately, lower courts

don't always make distinctions between dictums and court orders."

A dictum is a judge's opinion on a legal point apart from the principal issue of the case. Generally, it is up to a lower court judge's discretion whether to follow a dictum from a higher court, whereas the judge is obliged to follow the precedent set by a higher court order.

To Parenteau, one of the chief drawbacks to the court decision was the lack of a definition — both by the majority and minority — of "favorable conditions of water flow." While both sides talked about such flows, neither made any effort to define what they would be favorable for.

"What the court seems to be saying," says Parenteau, "is that securing favorable conditions of water flow opens the water to any downstream use that the state recognizes." New Mexico and Wyoming, he says, do not legally recognize the use of water for fish and wildlife as a favorable use of that water, though mining and milling do constitute a favorable use.

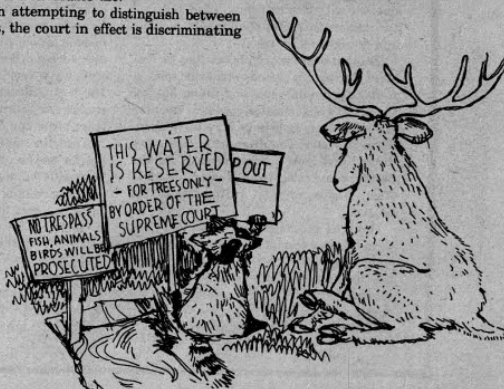
"In attempting to distinguish between uses, the court in effect is discriminating

against fish and wildlife," Parenteau says. The decision may also affect livestock management on national forest lands.

Parenteau finds the decision "ironic" because, on the same day, the court ruled 6-3 that the Reclamation Act of 1902 empowers states to control the distribution of water from federally built water projects. In that case, the state of California won the right to impose conditions on how much water the Bureau of Reclamation may impound in the New Melones Dam across the Stanislaus River.

The case was sent back to a lower court for a specific ruling, but the effect of the Supreme Court decision probably will be that the Stanislaus will remain in a free-flowing state for much of its length.

So, although the court upheld state water rights in both cases, Parenteau says its decisions may hamper minimum stream flows in the New Mexico case and help preserve stream flows in the California case.



8-High Country News - July 14, 1978



PRINCE'S PLUME (*Stanleya pinnata*) has adapted to life in alkaline soil. It sometimes concentrates poisonous selenium in its tissues.

DROUGHT DODGERS OF THE PLANT WORLD

by Stephen R. Wenger

All inhabitants of the desert have one problem in common: lack of water. Desert plants have adapted various techniques for dealing with this problem. They fall into two major categories — drought evaders and drought resisters.

Drought evaders are plants that lie dormant during dry periods either as annual seeds or perennial roots and bulbs. Most of the desert's precipitation comes at one time of year so there is, briefly, a relative abundance of water. The drought evaders germinate and grow quickly during the wet period, completing their entire life cycle then. Hence, when it rains, the desert blooms.

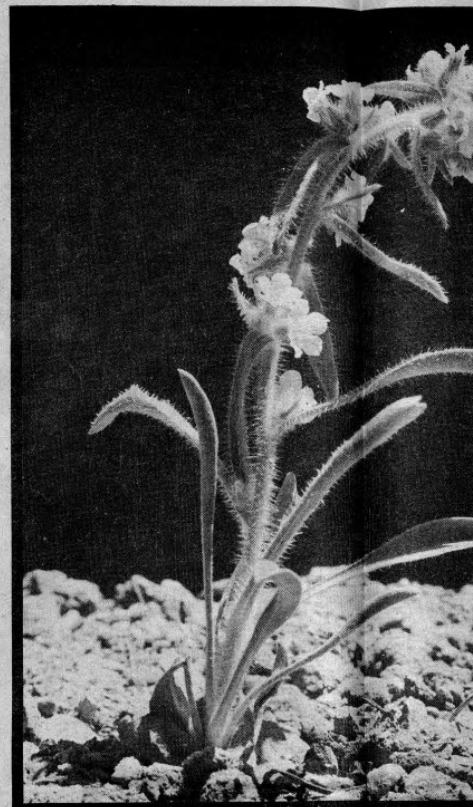
Drought resisters live year long and have adapted special means of conserving water. Most characteristic of these plants are the succulents. Leaves are the primary source of water loss so leaves of cactus have been reduced entirely to spines, which also protect the cactus. The enlarged stems are

photosynthetic, with special cells to store water. The roots of cactus are near the surface so they can collect water quickly when it rains.

Nonsucculent drought resisters have adapted other means for conserving water. Leaves are reduced to the bare minimum needed for survival or are deciduous during dry periods. Some, such as the mesquite tree, have very long taproots — as long as 100 feet. Almost invariably, desert perennials have thorns or spines to protect them from browsing animals.

Another major adaptation of desert plants is the ability to live in soils with high salt or alkaline content, a common occurrence in arid regions. As these plants take up water from the soil, they also take in salt and poisonous alkaloids that concentrate in the plant's tissues making them poisonous to many animals.

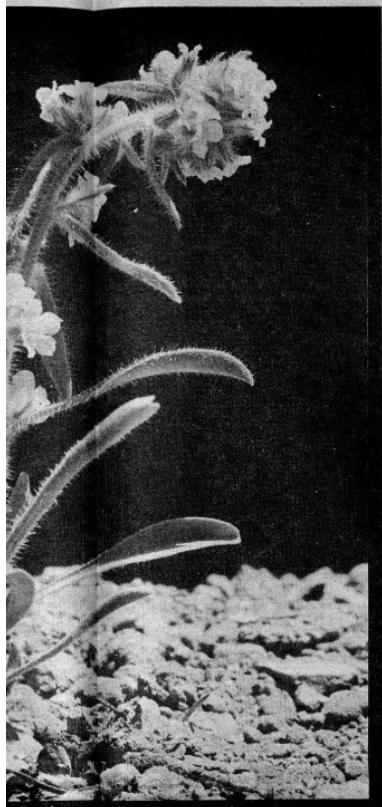
Regardless of the methods for surviving with little water, the desert plant's ability to do so provides a foundation of life on which all animals of the desert depend.



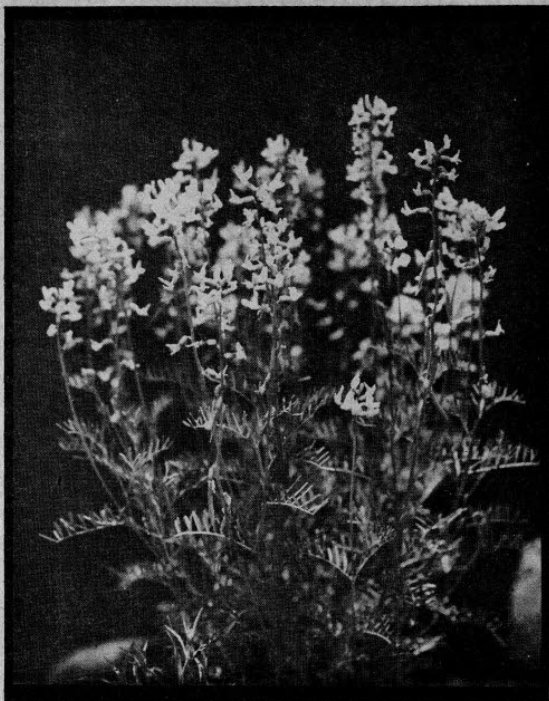
MINER'S CANDLE (*Cryptantha* sp.) has grown hair to reduce surface evaporation.



July 14, 1978 - High Country News-9



has grown hair to reduce surface transpiration of water.



MILKVETCH or loco weed (*Astragalus* sp.) concentrates poisonous alkaloids from the soil. Cattle grazing on it have gone insane and even died. It occurs at various elevations.



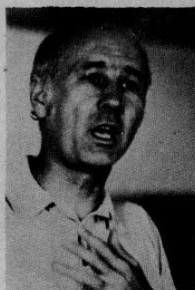
Photos by Stephen R. Wenger

EVENING PRIMROSE (*Oenothera caespitosa*) is characteristic of short-lived plants that grow quickly during the wet season, produce seed and die. To avoid the sun's heat, the fragile flowers open at night.

10-High Country News - July 14, 1978

Small is fruitful

Center for Innovation makes inventors' schemes come true



CLYDE LA GRONE,
looking for ingenuity.

Clyde La Grone is out to help the little guy — the creative, isolated inventor who wants to transform a good idea into a salable product.

The Center for Innovation, a non-profit group he directs in Butte, Mont., supports inventors with ideas related to pressing human needs.

A few of the center's projects include an efficient solar collector, an efficient fireplace and window and door insulation. About 70% of the projects are related to energy, 15% of them solar energy. The center is a division of the Montana Energy and Magnetohydrodynamics Research and Development Institute, Inc. (MERDI).

The Old West Regional Commission provided most of the first year funding for the center, in the hope that marketable inventions will bring jobs and increased prosperity to the states the commission represents — Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska. For its second year, the center has a budget of about \$450,000 — two-thirds from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and the

Economic Development Administration and one-third from Old West.

Inventors all over the country send ideas to the center, but, because of obligations to funders, it develops and markets most ideas in Montana and the other Old West region states.

The center "goes out and works with inventors over the kitchen table," La Grone says. The staff tries to link good ideas with technological, manufacturing, engineering, marketing and financial expertise.

La Grone says the center can shrink the usual 6-10 year development and marketing time for a new product to 1½-3 years. The center has yet to get a product on the market, however.

Jerry Plunkett, director of MERDI and an inventor himself, created the center as an alternative to large technological institutions.

"The one thing I worry about more than anything else in the whole energy picture is that the process of innovation is going to be stifled," Plunkett says.

The big labs tend toward esoteric research and "sheet metal bending" (style changes), Plunkett says. Innovations such as the Polaroid camera, the ballpoint pen, and the Xerox machine were the ideas of independent inventors.

CONCRETE WITH MIRRORS

In the solar energy field La Grone says, "I am very encouraged by what I see coming out of small efforts. And very discouraged by the millions of slabs of concrete with mirrors on them (for a large, solar electric plant) that I see coming out of places like Sandia Lab."

While individuals do important exploratory research on a low budget, Sandia is spending millions to demonstrate an old idea, he says. "I suspect that home generation of solar power may be more viable than large scale solar generation," La Grone says.

The Center for Innovation has chosen to

work on about 50 of the 600-700 ideas it has received so far. Ideas that are not technically feasible are rejected. And, since one of its missions is to provide jobs, the center rejects ideas that could not be easily manufactured and marketed. Of the projects that remain, those related to energy get special attention, La Grone says.

The center may refuse to tackle a good energy project if too many marketing barriers exist. It shies away from auto im-

provements "because we'd be unable to crack the Detroit barrier," La Grone says. It also avoids energy-wasting devices, even if they would sell.

An inventor with an idea for a better electric toothbrush, for instance, would get an emphatic "No," La Grone says.

The Center for Innovation can be reached at P.O. Box 3809, Butte, Mont. 59701 (406) 494-6100.

Alternative funding for energy ideas

The Center for Innovation is but one of many sources of funding for alternative energy projects. Others include:

— **The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Residential Solar Demonstration Program.** Cycle Four A grants are due August 1st. Write: Solar Demonstration Program, Room 8158, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C. 20410.

— **The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Passive Design Contest.** HUD will provide winners with \$5,000 for design and up to \$15,000 for construction. The retrofit passive design award will be \$2,000. Write HUD, Washington, D.C. 20410.

— **The Department of Energy's Inventor's Program.** Write for a brochure that explains how to submit an unsolicited proposal. DOE, Forrestal Building, Independence Ave., Washington, D.C. 20314.

— **The Department of Energy's Nonresidential Building Demonstration Program.** Cycle Four is expected to begin late this fall. Write DOE, Forrestal Building, Independence Ave., Washington, D.C. 20314.

— **The Department of Energy's Ap-**

propriate Energy Technology Program. Grants are expected to be available for groups and individuals in the Rocky Mountain region next year. Write DOE, Forrestal Building, Independence Ave. Washington, D.C. 20314.

— **The National Bureau of Standards' Energy-Related Innovation Evaluation Program.** Submit an energy idea. If it receives favorable reviews, NBS may consider funding the development of it, up to \$50,000. Write Office of Energy-Related Inventions, NBS, Washington, D.C. 20234.

— **The Small Business Administration** is developing a program to provide \$75 million in loans and loan guarantees to small businesses to manufacture, market and install solar energy equipment.

— **The National Center for Appropriate Technology** has almost one million dollars in grant money for appropriate technology projects that would benefit low-income people. Write Hiram Shaw, NCAT, Box 3838, Butte, Mont. 59701.



The **HCN**
Hot Line

energy news from across the country

COURT UPHOLDS NUCLEAR LIABILITY LIMIT. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that liability limits for a nuclear power plant accident set by the Price-Anderson Act are constitutional. That law sets a limit of \$560 million on damages recoverable from any single nuclear accident. The decision is considered a major victory for the nuclear power industry, according to the Rocky Mountain News. In the ruling, Chief Justice Warren Burger acknowledged that the ceiling is arbitrary, but said that no one knows what would happen in the case of such an accident.

\$1.5 BILLION FOR SOLAR CELLS. Funding for solar energy would leap to the billion-dollar bracket with the passage of a bill funding solar cell research, development and demonstration. The bill, overwhelmingly passed by the House at the end of June, would provide \$1.5 billion over a 10-year period. The Carter administration opposed the measure, and it is expected to face tough opposition in the Senate.

SEEK POWER OVER LINES. "We are not as isolated out here as we think," said Jeanne Charter, a member of the Bull Mountains Landowners Association in Montana, after attending the first meeting of a nationwide coalition to influence the siting of transmission lines. The alliance hopes to protect landowner interests in decisions about power plants and right-of-ways and to promote decentralized power sources that would make big power lines unnecessary. "Rural and property concerns elsewhere are the same as ours, and people are as opposed to centralized coal-fired plants as they are to nuclear ones," Charter said in a report on the meeting published in the newsletter of the Northern Plains Resource Council. For

more information contact NPRC, 419 Stapleton Building, Billings, Mont. 59101.

SEABROOK STOPPED. To New Hampshire Gov. Meldrim Thomson, it's a concrete monument to bureaucratic stupidity. To nuclear foes in the Clamshell Alliance, it's a potential disaster, halted in the nick of time. However one looks at it, the Seabrook nuclear power plant has been stopped by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The commission ordered an indefinite construction delay to protect its "freedom to decide on alternatives to the Seabrook site" and to allow time for Environmental Protection Agency hearings on the plant's cooling system. "Continued construction of Seabrook is in-

compatible with the conduct of the site comparison required by the National Environmental Policy Act," NRC said.

FEDERAL COAL HOOPS. Getting into the coal business on federal lands means coping with as many as 18 federal permits, 13 federal agencies and nine environmental laws, according to Maynard Chapman, editor of Rocky Mountain Energy Summary. The regulatory process takes a minimum of one year and a maximum of 11.8 years, he says. "The nation's coal industry is now doing its own version of the hoop dance. The hoops are government regulations; the bureaucracy is beating the drum; and the environmental groups are providing the backdrop," Chapman says.

UNCLE SAM, THE MINER. The Senate has voted 51-34 to put the federal government in the oil shale business. A bill introduced by Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.) would establish a Federal Oil Shale Corporation to build at least three oil shale demonstration projects at a cost of between \$600 million and \$1 billion. Sen. Cliff Hansen (R-Wyo.) spoke up for private enterprise in the Senate debate, saying that the federal corporation "is the worst possible approach to testing commercial viability, since there is no profit motive and no incentive to hold down costs." Haskell believes that oil shale won't be developed without government help. The bill now goes to the House.



Colony Development Corp. photo

OIL SHALE development won't occur without government help, Sen. Floyd Haskell says. He recently pushed a bill through the Senate to provide that help. The photo above shows oil shale bearing cliffs in Colorado.



energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

DRILLING IN SALT LAKE. The University of Utah and the Utah Geological Survey recently conducted seismic tests along the width and breadth of Great Salt Lake. "Based on data from these tests, the potential for oil and gas hydrocarbons does exist," Carlton Snow, minerals specialist with the Utah Department of Natural Resources, is quoted as saying in the *Deseret News*. Three companies already have received leases for offshore exploration on 86,000 acres of the lake, and they are seeking leases for another 340,000 acres. That would amount to almost the entire eastern half of the lake. Donald Prince, assistant director for the state land board, says, "What we're trying to do is work out a reasonable program that will encourage oil and gas development but also protect other users." He says, "The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has a number of wildlife management areas where we won't let them drill, although we might let them slant drill underneath."

POWER STRUGGLE OVER RECLAMATION. Gov. Dick Lamm and the Colorado legislature are engaged in a dispute over the reclamation of land disturbed by mining. The dispute has raised constitutional questions that may well have to be settled by the state Supreme Court. Toward the end of its 1978 session, the legislature passed a joint resolution that repealed many of the regulations issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board. Lamm "vetoed" the measure, even though it wasn't sent to him because legislative rules say the governor's signature is not required to make joint resolutions effective. Lamm cited a provision in the Colorado Constitution that requires the governor to act on any "order, resolution or vote" that needs to be approved by both houses of the legislature. In the meantime, the reclamation board recently voted 5-2 to ignore the legislative resolution.

WYOMING ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM. The state of Wyoming has begun an energy conservation program in which grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to communities for energy conservation programs. Any community projects that would encourage energy conservation or renewable energy technologies will be considered for funding. Contact Lynn Dickey, Office of Energy Conservation, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82002.

COAL IN THE WILDERNESS. The Interior Department reports that proposed additions to the West Elk Wilderness Area in Colorado contain about 1.6 billion tons of good quality bituminous coal. **Coal Week** says that two companies, Atlantic Richfield Co. and U.S. Steel, have coal leases in the wilderness study area. Atlantic Richfield Co. has filed a mine plan to begin mining in the study area, but final approval has not been given yet. The Interior Department study of the West Elk additions was required by the Wilderness Act, but the agency made no recommendation regarding whether the areas should be added to the wilderness.

MONTANA ALTERNATIVE ENERGY GRANTS. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has approved 23 grants totalling \$345,391 for renewable alternative energy projects. The grants, ranging from \$510 to \$98,318, will be spent by groups and individuals throughout the state for research, development and demonstration of alternative energy technologies, including solar, wind, wood, geothermal and biomass. The largest grant went to the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Government to develop a national test center to evaluate the efficiency and performance of wood stoves.

COAL TAXES. A report sponsored by industry says coal mining companies in Wyoming will pay more in taxes by 1985 than state, county and local governments will have to spend on additional public services needed to accommodate population growth. "Even so, changes throughout the state in both revenues and pressures on services over the 10-year period mean that most of the state's 23 counties face a period of significant adjustment in public finance," says the study, prepared by the University of Wyoming Institute for Policy Research, for Western Fuels, Inc. According to the study, 44 million tons of coal were mined in Wyoming last year, and 140 million tons will be mined by 1985. It says state severance taxes from coal will rise from \$17.7 million last year to \$91.6 million in 1985. The state's population, now estimated at 400,000, will reach 487,000 in 1985, and coal production will account for 42 percent of that.

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

July 14, 1978 - High Country News-11

Further delay for uranium mine

Objections from environmentalists forced Minerals Exploration Co. to change part of its plans for a uranium mining and milling operation in Wyoming's Red Desert. The company submitted the change to the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council.

But the council ruled 4-3 July 12 that the company would have to resubmit its application altogether for a fourth time, because the altered plan constituted a major change, and in that case state law requires a complete new application. The decision constituted a victory for the Wyoming Outdoor Council, which had sought a new application.

Minerals Exploration twice had applied to build a mining and milling complex that

would process 3,000 tons of uranium ore each day in the Red Desert's Battle Spring Flats, near Chain O'Lakes, prime habitat for birds and antelope.

Both times, the state Department of Environmental Quality turned down the application. The department accepted a third application, but the outdoor council protested that, too, saying the reclamation plan and tailings pile design were inadequate. WOC sent a copy of its protest to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which ordered the company to redesign its plans for storing the radioactive tailings.

The decision could set back the start of operations for up to a year.

Sun Day, a tough act to follow?

Sun Day — that day in May when people all around the country celebrated solar power — may be a tough act to follow. But Solar Action Inc., the Washington, D.C., group that coordinated Sun Day, has been granted \$186,970 from the U.S. Department of Energy to try.

The group has been given the money to report on barriers to solar energy development and strategies to remove them. Solar Action, in turn, has given money to groups and individuals around the country to gather information and, incidentally, form a nationwide network of solar energy advocates.

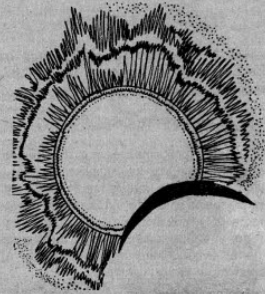
Harold Liebovitz of Solar Action says, "We'd like to see that network coordinate itself to provide political punch for solar in each state. That's our broadest objective."

Liebovitz hopes that farmers and ranchers, churches, community groups and trade unions will join with established solar energy groups to produce the report for DOE.

Meetings have been planned in each state this summer to discuss barriers to solar energy development and send a representative to a national solar energy conference in Washington August 4, 5, and 6. At the national meeting, state representatives will try to come to a consensus on eight to ten issues defined by the state meetings.

"We'd like to say to the administration, here's what the grassroots people of America feel about solar," Liebovitz says. "It's one of the last times we'll be able to affect Carter's energy policy before the 1980 elections."

At a regional meeting held near Helena in June, Sun Day organizers from Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, and North Dakota discussed why solar power wasn't



being used by more people. Among the barriers they identified were utility rate structures that make solar more expensive than other fuels, lack of public awareness of solar energy's potential, lack of low-cost commercial equipment and reluctance to give loans to solar projects.

State meetings have been set for:
UTAH — July 26, contact Debbie Johnson (801) 272-3786.
WYOMING — July 29-30, contact Gary Garber (307) 635-9291.
COLORADO — July 22-23, contact Karin Sponberg (303) 753-2744.
NORTH DAKOTA — Contact David Givers (701) 237-8386. (The meeting was held June 24.)
MONTANA — July 23-24, contact Kye Cochran (406) 259-1958.
IDAHO — July 22-23, contact Pat Glaub (208) 345-6933.



A LARGELY IGNORED provision of the strip mine reclamation act may make it more difficult for companies to begin strip mining.

Support the Alaska Coalition

Wear a great Alaska T-shirt this summer. Silk-screened by the Alaska Center for the Environment. Here's how they look. The real ones are even better, with a red-orange sun, on a high quality, gold, blue, yellow, or beige shirt. Adult sizes small, medium or large, only.

The Alaska Coalition needs increased grassroots and financial support to get the Alaska bill through the Senate and signed by the president this year. An Alaska T-shirt worn by you will help both ways!

Send \$5.50 per shirt plus size and color preference to: Pam Rich Minier, 8907 Cowboy Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

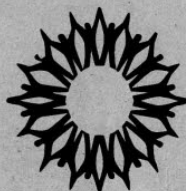
(Please make checks payable to Pam R. Minier, who had to front the money to get the T-shirts. \$2.50 per shirt goes to the Alaska Coalition.)



12-High Country News - July 14, 1978

Energy for a Livable Future
comes from the . . .

SUN!

A HANDBOOK
FOR THE SOLAR DECADEEdited by Stephen Lyons
Foreword by David R. Brower

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

edited by Stephen Lyons, *Friends of the Earth*, San Francisco, 1978. \$2.95, paper, 364 pages.

Review by Peter Wild

Though experts quibble as to the precise date of demise, our coal supplies are going fast. Many of the faucets tapping the last underground seas of liquid fossils are in the hands of unpredictable potentates. The dream of cheap nuclear energy is turning sour as accountants urge their boards of directors to cancel contracts.

What's left is the sun. With that revelation, people in astonishing numbers have been scrambling up to their rooftops to install collectors; at ground level, they're loading stones into solar storage bins. Most popular books on the subject are designed to help people capture this free and abundant energy.

Sun! pauses in the midst of these sometimes frantic activities. There are no blueprints here for the latest solar cookware; rather the book is an overview, an analysis of the causes and implications of the coming solar age.

Essays by such notables as Ivan Illich, Lewis Mumford, Paul Goodman — even Art Buchwald — show an intriguing array of thought surrounding solar issues. Gathered from previously published sources, the book ranges from law to architecture, from humor to social philosophy, and hence tends to be broad rather than deep. Yet those unable to keep up with the mass of new solar literature will find Sun! refreshing for this very diversity. Let me mention just two pieces that seemed especially buoyant.

Looking to the past, Stephen Lyons analyzes the course of technological development in the United States. His conclusion is stunning, if not convincing. Despite lip service to the profit motive, the country historically has chosen technologies for noneconomic reasons, then instituted economic policies to justify the choices. For instance, the railroads. "No shrewd businessman would have considered building a transcontinental railway; it would have taken decades to recoup the staggering investment needed to launch such a project. But as soon as the checkerboard land grants were offered, the race was on. Alas, the railroads, out-subsidized by the next technological darling, lost the second heat to the auto, and the public finished dead last."

Henry Ford's amazing machine might

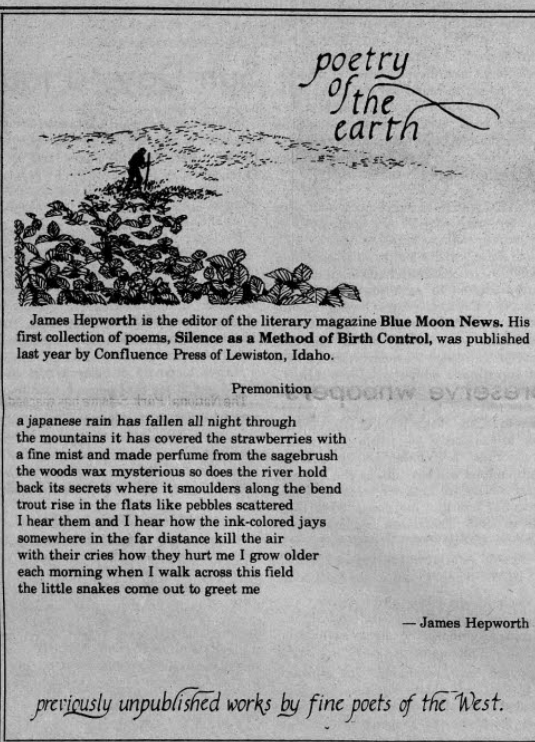
The country historically has chosen technologies for noneconomic reasons, then instituted economic policies to justify the choices.

have died aborning if it hadn't been for public-supported highway subsidies. Similarly, nuclear power has proven an economic will-o'-the-wisp, repeatedly bailed out by Congress. Seen in that historical background, the palaver about nonpolluting solar power being uneconomic is pure sophistry.

Everything isn't rosy for the solar aficionado, however. Looking to the future in "The Right to Light," Gail Hayes probes the terra incognita of legal disputes. You've just stepped outside to admire your new solar home when a neighbor comes

charging up to announce he can't stand "that ugly contraption on your roof." He's going to plant a row of trees on his property that will screen the eyesore — and cut off your sunlight. You run to your lawyer, who tells you you've been had. Then the building inspector wants to take a second look at all those coils, fans, and ducts. Later, the local utility, feeling slapped in the face, calls to say it's raising the price of the electricity you'd counted on for back-up power.

So there are problems as well as advantages ahead for a solar age. Sun! brings both into the open.



James Hepworth is the editor of the literary magazine *Blue Moon News*. His first collection of poems, *Silence as a Method of Birth Control*, was published last year by Confluence Press of Lewiston, Idaho.

Premeditation

a japanese rain has fallen all night through the mountains it has covered the strawberries with a fine mist and made perfume from the sagebrush the woods wax mysterious so does the river hold back its secrets where it smoulders along the bend trout rise in the flats like pebbles scattered I hear them and I hear how the ink-colored jays somewhere in the far distance kill the air with their cries how they hurt me I grow older each morning when I walk across this field the little snakes come out to greet me

— James Hepworth

New grazing rules calmly received

Both environmentalists and ranchers are calmly accepting new grazing rules adopted July 3 by the Department of Interior.

"I don't expect that the changes will be very controversial," says Dean Prosser, executive vice-president of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association.

The rules govern livestock users on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in 11 Western states. The bureau says the rules are designed to provide stability for ranchers, less paperwork for bureaucrats and protection for the range.

Major provisions of the new regulations include:

- restoration of 10-year rather than 5- or 1-year grazing permits.
- protection of soil, water and wildlife resources on the range.

— strengthened penalties for livestock trespass.

— elimination of a requirement that ranchers produce livestock feed on their private lands.

"The long-term permit offers the livestock operator a degree of stability both in his grazing privilege and, in the absence of changes in range conditions or other land uses, in the number of livestock he can reasonably expect to graze," according to BLM Director Frank Gregg.

Environmental protection provisions in the rules "put in formal language what we've been required to do anyway," says Dale Brubaker of the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming.

Elimination of the rule telling stockmen what to grow on private lands will eliminate paperwork for the BLM, according to Brubaker.

STORIES
THAT
COULD
BE TRUENew and Collected Poems
WILLIAM
STAFFORDby William Stafford, Harper & Row
Publishers, New York, 1977. \$10.95,
hard cover, 267 pages.

Review by Peter Wild

A friend who teaches art wails whenever she is assigned beginning courses. "Half the students want to paint sunsets," she moans, "the other half puppies with melting chocolate eyes."

The exaggeration illustrates a central problem of all the arts — especially in the area of "nature poetry." We are all familiar with the clichés — "the blistering heat" and "the sighing of the pines" — those expressions that are convenient substitutes for imagination.

For 20 years, William Stafford, perhaps the foremost poet of the American West, has met the problem head-on. This book, containing all the poems in his five earlier volumes, illustrates his success. For Stafford has chosen not to travel paths into poetic brushlands where only English majors can follow. Instead, he comfortably admits that most of his — and our — experiences are commonplace. Seen through his gentle vision, though, they also are full of discoveries.

What can one say of any real significance about a dead deer, the dying family dog, or driving across Kansas? In that seemingly impossible challenge is precisely where Stafford's genius succeeds, and often without the least hint of straining. He can do this because he is a spiritually rich man, deeply engaged with the things of the natural world. And he is able to make his richness ours. For example:

Stories from Kansas

Little bunches of
grass pretend they are bushes
that never will bow.
They bow.

Carelessly the earth
escapes, loping out from the
timid little towns
toward Colorado.

Which of the horses
we passed yesterday whinnied
all night in my dreams?
I want that one.





Western Roundup



13
July 14, 1978

Colorado group calls for experimental 1080 program

The Public Lands Institute, a Colorado-based environmental group, has urged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to experiment with "single lethal dose" use of the

predator poison 1080 as a means of controlling coyote predation on sheep.

PLI says that carefully controlled experiments should be conducted to determine if

1080 can be used "in a more specific way" so that species other than the target coyotes would not be harmed. The Institute also says, however, "such experimental use must be strictly controlled and not used as an excuse for widespread relaxation of the present executive order ban on 1080." PLI's suggestion came in comments on the FWS draft report, "Predator Damage Management in the West."

Use of 1080 has long been opposed by most environmental groups. The poison — also known as sodium monofluoroacetate — deteriorates very slowly in the environment. In the past, the practice of putting out large baits laced with the poison resulted in the accidental poisoning of species other than coyotes, such as eagles, foxes, domestic dogs and badgers.

Several groups maintain their staunch opposition to the use of 1080 in any form. Hank Fischer, Montana representative for Defenders of Wildlife, says, "They're (Fish and Wildlife Service) getting way ahead of themselves with this 1080 experiment. They don't even know yet if the coyotes will pick up the baits. They don't need to use 1080 to test that."

"They want to pour all this money into 1080, but not into other non-lethal

methods, like taste aversion," Fischer says there has been considerable success in Canada with injecting lithium chloride into baits. The chemical makes the coyotes sick and they develop an aversion to sheep.

PLI's Todd Bacon says his group also favors testing non-lethal methods of coyote control, but that the group's board of directors, which includes several sheep ranchers, "thinks 1080 experimentation has promise and wants it pursued."

Fischer says, however, "I don't think we have any indication that we need a 1080 program. Instead of concentrating on coyote control, we ought to concentrate on better management, for example more and better herders. We could set up a program on the level of vocational training, even if it has to be federally subsidized."

PLI is careful to say that it does not advocate a return to previous methods of 1080 use, in which an entire cow or sheep carcass was impregnated with the chemical. The group says, "In theory, the 'single lethal dose' method would utilize small baits strategically placed to kill only the coyotes that prey on livestock."

PLI is a non-profit citizens' organization formed early this year to work for better management of government-owned lands.

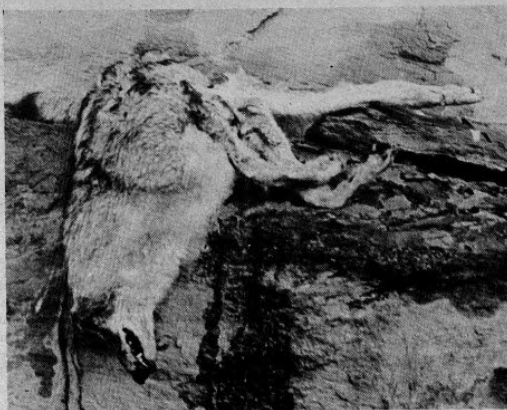


Photo by David Sumner

POISONED COYOTE. A Colorado-based environmental group is urging further experimentation with 1080, the controversial predator poison.

Dam halt asked to preserve whoopers

The Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society charge that the U.S. Interior Department has failed to protect the endangered whooping crane adequately. In a "notice of violations" of the Endangered Species Act, the two groups say court action is contemplated if the violations continue.

The groups say that 600 miles of the northern portion of the cranes' flyway have not been protected by critical habitat designation, in spite of requests by both groups that six areas be so designated. Three proposed projects — North Dakota's Garrison Diversion, South Dakota's Pollock-Herred Unit, and Nebraska's

O'Neill unit — "will impinge on areas used by the migrating cranes for feeding, resting and roosting," the groups say.

The notice says that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency of the Interior Department, should immediately begin formal consideration of critical habitat along the northern flyway and that no further construction should take place on the projects.

The notice to Interior says, "The whooping crane, North America's tallest bird, has become a symbol of the country's efforts on behalf of endangered species." The current population of cranes is 76 in the wild, up from 29 in 1938.

The National Park Service has reached a compromise over road paving in Canyonlands National Park in Utah that had sparked controversy between environmentalists and local businessmen. The paving of the four-wheel drive road to the Confluence Overlook in the Needles District was dropped from the final park management plan, while another four-wheel drive road to the Colorado River Overlook, four miles upstream from the confluence of the Colorado and Green Rivers, will be paved.

The final Park Service management plan for Canyonlands includes the paving of about 30 miles of roads in the Needles and Island in the Sky districts of the park. The cost for improvements and paving is

expected to total about \$18.7 million over the next 15 years.

Moab businessmen had been severely critical of the park service's failure to pave the Confluence Overlook because they say the paving would mean a boost to the tourist trade. Environmentalists charged it would be very damaging to ecology and solitude.

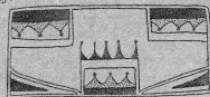
Copies of the management plan are available from the National Park Service in the Federal Building, 125 S. State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.



Pine bark beetle gives lumber blues

The mountain pine beetle, a scourge in the forests, is apparently a gold mine for lumber manufacturers. The beetle, which kills mature lodgepole and ponderosa pine, leaves a blue stain fungus in the wood which has become highly prized for decorating.

Colorado and the West magazine reports that lumber from beetle-killed pine often has a slightly better life than other wood products, and is perfectly acceptable for use in most construction applications. The magazine reports that the wood is in great demand for decorating because the blue stain "highlights the wood's natural beauty."



Land bought for elk

In an attempt to protect its investment in the National Elk Refuge in Jackson, Wyo., the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is using \$10.4 million in federal funds to buy up private lands in Jackson Hole. A major portion of the 1,350 acres the agency would like to buy is within a subdivision.

FWS says it has notified property owners within the subdivision of the government's interest in negotiating for their property. The agency says it would prefer a "willing seller-willing buyer" relationship, but that it is prepared to use the government's powers of eminent domain to get the property.

All the land that FWS is interested in is south of the Gros Ventre River between Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge.



NATIONAL ELK REFUGE. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is trying to buy up some private land in Jackson Hole to preserve the area around the elk refuge from human overpopulation.

14-High Country News - July 14, 1978

House passes parks bill with Jackson Hole rider

The omnibus National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, called "the park-barrel bill" by its critics because it includes a national park, river, wilderness area, seashore or historic site in virtually every other congressman's district, easily has passed the House.

Included in the bill was a proposal to create the Jackson Hole Scenic Area.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Phillip Burton (D-Calif.), was approved by a 341-61 vote July 12. It was not possible at press time to get full details of the bill's provisions.

Making the Jackson Hole bill an amendment to the omnibus bill was seen by its backers as the last chance. They had sought authorization for up to \$200 million, but got only \$5.25 million. Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) introduced the measure. Despite the reduced authorization and

other changes, backers seem pleased.

"It's good as a first step," says Jean Hocker, local coordinator for the scenic bill. "It recognizes that Jackson Hole is of national significance. It gives us time to iron out the bugs and test the water." She says all three Teton County Commissioners support the measure.

The amendment would set up a nine-member commission, with six members from Teton County, charged with drawing up a scenic area plan within one year. The commission also would make recommendations about how to use the \$5 million the

bill sets aside for emergency acquisitions of easements and land.

In consultation with the commission, the secretaries of Agriculture and Interior would choose acquisitions — only those "of critical importance in their relationship to federally owned lands and which are demonstrably threatened by a change in land use." Each purchase would need the approval of both the House Interior Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Roncalio fought for a provision in the amendment that would have banned using

condemnation to acquire lands. While he failed to get that provision in the bill, Roncalio says he doubts that condemnation would be allowed under the legislation, because the power isn't specifically granted to the secretaries.

THE LAST AND THE GREATEST

NEW SCHOOLS EXCHANGE
1978 DIRECTORY AND
RESOURCE GUIDE

* 1978 DIRECTORY OF ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS * DIRECTORIES OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS * BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATORS WITH CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT GUIDE * INFORMATION ON HOME STUDY * ARTICLES INCLUDING: A HISTORY OF PUBLIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS; A HISTORY OF FREE UNIVERSITIES; and CHOOSING A SCHOOL. Issue 140 - 124 pages - \$5 Prepaid.

NEW SCHOOLS EXCHANGE
PETTIGREW, ARKANSAS 72752



Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world



Gillette water...

(continued from page 5)

turn down aid requests from boom communities. He says, "We've heard so much about the impact and growth in Gillette and Rock Springs. I know they're in a difficult situation, but they've created an emotional obligation to help out. They aren't treated in the legislature the same as other communities."

Release says several companies were approached by his office when the project was first discussed, and asked if they would help in the funding. He says, "They all admit that they will need water at some point in the future, but when it came to putting up the money for it now, they were all very evasive. Only Black Hills Power and Light agreed to help." Black Hills will buy 1.4 million gallons per day for its own industrial use from the Madison project. Pacific Power and Light may also buy some water. PP&L owns the water rights for some of the Madison project and drilled the test well for the project study without charge.

Despite the unwillingness of the coal companies to help finance the projects, their representatives spent time working for the proposal. C. E. "Ed" Smith, head of Carter Mining's operations in Gillette, was very active in the political action committee. In addition to lobbying, Smith contributed \$200 of the \$638 budget that the committee collected. The head of the Chamber of Commerce is Frank Bice, of Kerr-McGee's coal operations in Campbell County.

In the long run, the final \$22.5 million cost estimate of the Madison project may be considerably low. The project evaluation assumed the water would not require treatment and the city would not be required to build new water treatment facilities.

The current water treatment capacity of the city is 2.3 million gallons per day. If the Madison water needs to be treated, this capacity would have to be quadrupled. In addition, the water from the Madison is not certain to be of the high quality that the Chamber of Commerce suggests in its brochure favoring the project. The level of hardness from two samples of the water averages 421 parts per million, significantly higher than the 300 ppm the state engineer's report calls "excessively hard." Total dissolved solids are also well above recommended levels, and the water may have to be treated for that under federal "safe drinking water" standards.

PUPFISH EXTINCT. Biologists have been looking for the Tecopa pupfish since 1970, without success. As a result, the one-and-a-half-inch fish, a native of the Amargosa River near California's Death Valley, has been declared extinct. It is the first time that the Interior Department has removed an animal from the endangered species list because it is presumed to be extinct. Stream channelization, pollution and the introduction of competing species destroyed the pupfish's only known habitat, says Robert L. Herbst, assistant secretary of Interior. "The most depressing thing about this loss of life form is that it was totally avoidable," Herbst says. "The human projects which so disrupted its habitat, if carefully planned, could have ensured its survival."

PROPOSE BAN OF PCBs. Last year, manufacturers voluntarily stopped producing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are toxic and persistent chemicals that cause cancer and birth defects. The chemicals are used as insulating fluids in heavy-duty electrical equipment at power plants, industries and large buildings. Douglas Costle, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, now is proposing a ban on the manufacture and use of PCBs. A public hearing on the proposal will be held Aug. 21, at 401 M. St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

CLEAN WATER. The state Department of Environmental Quality has designated 16 surface waters in Wyoming as being of Class I quality. This means that those waters cannot be degraded by pollution. New development would be allowed so long as water quality is not impaired.

DESERT TRAILS. The Oregon Desert Trail Task Force has ruled out a proposed trail to the Oregon side of Hells Canyon, saying only about 25 percent of the route would appeal to hikers. As a result, two other routes are under consideration for the Oregon section of the proposed National Desert Trail, which would stretch 2,500 miles from Mexico to Canada. In Idaho, a route has not yet been chosen, but members of a task force said during a hearing that the trail should not go through plant communities that may be damaged by heavy use. The National Park Service hopes to propose a trail to Congress by the end of next year based on the recommendations of state task forces.

Mothering
a quarterly publication

ON NATURAL MOTHERING

Home births midwifery nutrition
natural child care alternative education

Single Issue: \$2.25
One Year: \$8.00

Box 184, Ridgway, Colo.
81432



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



STONECROP
PO BOX 585-1
GREELEY CO 80631

Environmental/educational
notecards, posters &
prints.

Proceeds from sales will
be shared with HCN.
* Write for free catalog *

classifieds

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.

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.

CANYON COUNTRY GUIDEBOOKS. For a list of 12 guidebooks and maps describing the canyon country of southeastern Utah, write Waaatch Publishers, P.O. Box 963H, Moab, UT 84032.

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.

PERSONNEL. The Northern Cheyenne Research Project, an independent research arm of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, has openings for 3 Vista workers beginning in August. Commitment for one year desired; prefer college graduate with writing or media skills. Benefits total about \$100 per week. Rewarding work, invaluable experience. Send resume to NCRP, P.O. Box 388, Lame Deer, Montana 59043, or call (406) 477-6278.



HCN Bulletin Board



15
July 14, 1978

LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

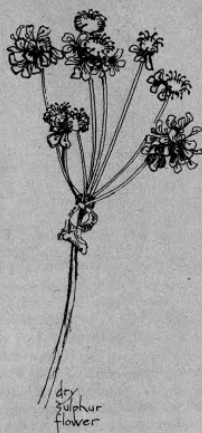
Said a cow to a wild horse one day,
"We've just got to stop eating this way
When all the grass goes
Man will propose
To adopt you, and make me filet."

SAVE THE WHALES

In 1976 and 1977, Japan and the Soviet Union killed more than 25,000 whales — three-quarters of the world's total kill, says the Center for Environmental Education. Fearing that this slaughter may threaten whales with extinction, the center is urging a boycott of all products made in the Soviet Union and Japan. The center is also looking for contributions and for people to sign petitions against whale killing. Write to: The Whale Protection Fund, care of Center for Environmental Education, 2100 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

NATIONAL WATER POLICY

Cody, Wyo., will be the site for one of four national meetings being held by the U.S. Water Resources Council to review the Second National Assessment on Water. This will be the only meeting in the West. The national assessment is an analysis of the U.S. water supply and the projected adequacy of water for 1985 and 2000. A limited number of the reports from the assessment are available for a 60-day review period that closes Aug. 28. The meeting will also include a brief overview of the President's Water Resources Policy announcement of June 6 and a discussion of the grant program to states for water planning. The meeting will be at 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Buffalo Village, Cody, on July 26. For more information, contact the Water Resources Council, 2120 L St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, or call (202) 254-8290.



CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

Architects, engineers and building contractors are being invited to a series of workshops on the energy conservation code for new public buildings in Wyoming. Workshops will be held in Cheyenne on July 17; Rock Springs on July 19; Jackson on July 21; Cody on July 24; Casper on July 26; and Buffalo on July 28. All of the workshops will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Rick Hunnicutt at the Wyoming Energy Conservation Office in Cheyenne at (307) 777-7131.

N.M. WILDERNESS TRIPS

The New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee is conducting several field trips to areas that are being considered for wilderness designation in the RARE II planning process. The trips started in late June and are continuing through early August. For more information on how you can help study an area, contact the committee through John Buchser in Santa Fe at (505) 455-2190 or Harriet Collins in Albuquerque at (505) 843-9612.

TVA IN NEW MEXICO

The Tennessee Valley Authority is proposing to open a uranium mine in New Mexico in partnership with Mobil Oil Corp. and is seeking public comment. A hearing will be held at the Town Hall in Crownpoint, N.M., on July 25 at 10 a.m. Part of the mining will be on Navajo land. A draft environmental impact statement has been prepared. Copies are available from the TVA Information Office, 400 Commerce Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. 37902, and from public libraries in several communities in the area. Initially a conventional underground mine will be constructed, but in situ mining is also being tested.

RARE II SYMPOSIUM

The University of Montana School of Forestry is sponsoring a national symposium to offer a professional examination of the draft environmental impact statement for RARE II (the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation). Papers will be presented by Doug Scott of the Sierra Club, Kirk Ewart of the development interests and Dr. M. Rupert Cutler of the Department of Agriculture. Papers also will be presented on the Alaska RARE II process, economic impacts and Congressional viewpoints. Preregistration fee is \$10. After July 21 it is \$15. Campus housing is \$7 per night not including meals. Copies of the proceedings will be \$10. To register write: RARE II Conference, School of Forestry, University of Montana, Missoula, Mont. 59812 or phone (406) 243-5521.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

→ Peregrine Smith, Inc. →
Purveyors of fine books—
including Western history, fiction,
art and architecture.
Write for Catalog
P.O. Box 667 • Layton, Utah 84041

CARVED HIKING STAFF

Handsome oak, displays seagulls, tree,
fish — postpaid \$14.95. (It's unique.)
Lifetime quality.

STAFF OF LIFE
P.O. Box 17751
Memphis, TN 38117

dealers for:
Clivus Multrum
composting toilets

Sunlite® fiberglass glazing for
greenhouses and solar panels
for information send SASE to:
tekton linkers + traders
box 91 Victor, Idaho 83455

WILDLIFE PHOTOS

ORIGINAL CUSTOM PRINTED WILDLIFE
PHOTOGRAPHS HAND PRINTED ON
BEAUTIFUL GLOSSY NON-FADING
CIBACHROME PHOTOGRAPHIC PAPER.
VERY TRUE COLOR, ALL AGAINST BEAUTIFUL
NATURAL BACKGROUNDS.

ANTELOPE — Newborn fawn, running
doe, buck, big herd. DEER — Buck in velvet,
buck leaping fence, fawns in winter. ELK —
Bull on snow, bull in velvet, bugling bull.
GOLDEN EAGLE — Immature bird in nest
(extreme closeup). CANADA GEESE —
Feeding.

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) 332-3600.

**Rocky Mtn. National
Park Hiking Trails** — plus Indian
Peaks. Complete guide to 440 +
miles of trail. Maps, drawings.
Quality guaranteed. Free
Catalog. \$7.50 postpaid.
The East Woods Press
6000 Kingstree, Box 6X, Charlotte, NC 28210

KAYAKS & CANOES

Do it yourself and save 50%.
FREE CATALOG, PLASTICRAFTS
2800 N. SPEER BLVD.
DENVER, COLO. 80211

LARSEN'S BICYCLES

233 EAST 2nd — PHONE 754-5481
POWELL, WYOMING 82435

RALEIGH

**BACK TO THE LAND
MAILING SERVICE**

Receive mailings from dozens of back-to-
the-land publications and businesses.
From solar and wind energy to dehydrators
and drip irrigation. Keep informed; save
time and postage. Receive mailings for six
months. \$3 or write for information.

G & J Distributors, Dept. MM, 4523 Labeth, Santa
Rosa, CA 95401

Kayaks — Canoes — Accessories

White water boats by Dick Held
For brochure contact:

Steve Peterzen, Dept. A, 924 1/2 East Fremont,
Riverton, Wyoming, 82501,
307-856-7432 or Bob Peel, Dept. A, 209
East Monroe, Riverton, Wyo. 82501,
307-856-6498.

CLIVUS MULTRUM

Organic Waste Treatment System

The Clivus odorlessly composts bathroom wastes and organic garbage for on-site reuse. It uses no water and recycles nutrients, saving energy. These characteristics, its simplicity and long life make the Clivus an appropriate tool for an age of rational technology. Distributors sought. For more information contact: Clivus Multrum Northern Rockies, 205 Meadows Road, Whitefish, MT 59937.

WIND CONVENTION

The American Wind Energy Association promises many notable wind energy experts as well as exhibits of wind energy hardware will be at the association's eighth annual convention to be held at Cape Cod this fall. The convention will be at the Sheraton-Regal Inn in Hyannis, Mass., Sept. 25-28, 1978. For more information, contact Colleen Horning, Environmental Energies, Inc., Box 73, Copemish, Mich. 49625, or call (616) 378-2921. The cost for the proceedings only is \$10 for nonmembers.

Classroom Subscriptions

Educators, order High Country News for classroom use in bulk for the September school term.

HCN centerspreads often cover the flora and fauna of the West. Natural history classes have found them an exciting resource.

Journalism classes use HCN as a research tool and as an example of alternative reporting. Environmental design classes read HCN for ideas on alternative energy use. Business and law schools subscribe to HCN for news of natural resource conflicts.

For bulk rates for your school or students, contact HCN at Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520 or call (307) 332-4877. (Individual issues of HCN may be purchased in bulk, too.)

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 Opelia Swing Band).

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



Tim O'Brien —
Eclectic fiddle

16-High Country News - July 14, 1978

A 2,400-mile walk along the top of the continent

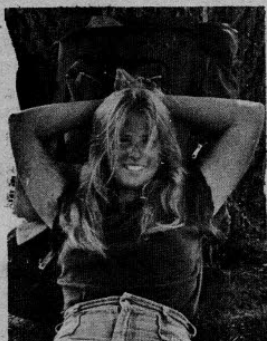


Photo by Bart Smith

NANCY GARDNER

by Marjane Ambler

On May 2 Nancy Gardner and her hiking companion stood near the foot of the San Juan mountains in southwestern Colorado watching storm clouds gather on the peaks. Gardner knew the storm would make her travel along the Continental Divide treacherous, and her companion, who had been hiking with her since they crossed the Mexican border, had already announced she was heading for lower elevations.

"It was one of the hardest decisions I've ever made," Gardner said during an interview in Lander, Wyo. It meant she would be continuing her 2,400-mile trek to Canada alone. But, "I had to go for the high country," she says.

Gardner fits no one's stereotype of a person who would set off on a six-month long hike alone. An exuberant, blond 19-year old, she seems to enjoy people as much as the mountains. She is full of tales of old and young characters she meets along the way, and she loves to come out of the hills every few days ("like the mountain men," she says) to flirt and dance and carouse before heading for the high country again.

Although she grew up in Philadelphia, hiking is becoming a way of life for her. She

spent six months of last year hiking the Pacific Crest Trail through California, Oregon and Washington. After taking a few months off to earn money as a cocktail waitress in Fairbanks and to line up equipment and food manufacturers to sponsor her, she set off on her Continental Divide trip on March 17.

Since she had completed the Pacific Crest Trail and since she would be the first woman to walk the Continental Divide, the companies were willing to supply her with hiking equipment and food to test. "I was a proven horse," she says.

When she decided to continue climbing toward the San Juan peaks last May, Gardner didn't know the clouds were bringing one of the Southwest's worst snow storms in several years, a storm that was to close major highways and stymie activity at lower elevations for almost a week.

She holed up in her tent for two days while the blizzard raged, but when the storm showed no sign of stopping, she packed up and began a treacherous two-day walk out.

She finally reached the first signs of human habitation, a tourist camp, and rushed to the manager. He received her coldly. She says he told her, "You can't stay here; this is private property; go back to where you came from." She explained she had come from "up there." He was unmoved. She shouted in frustration, "I'll turn you in to the SPCA," and he finally said he would consult his wife.

He returned to where she waited, huddled in the snow, and reluctantly agreed to let her stay one night. He explained that the year before they had turned away hunters and later had to put up the rescue team that came to search for them. "I guess it's better to have just you instead of the whole team," he told her.

After taking a few days off while some of the snow melted, she returned with her snowshoes to the high country and continued to fight the heavy, wet snow, narrowly escaping several avalanches. She also had to face the occasional loneliness when she wanted to share a special moment or a frustrating experience; sometimes she would hike for six days without seeing another person. But the time passed

quickly. Figuring out where you are takes lots of time since there are no trails along most of the route, she says.

Gardner is willing to tackle these obstacles not just because she is enthralled by the high country. She feels she has a mission. She plans to write a book for women about her experiences, not to teach them about going into the wilderness but to inspire them to venture out. She says a study on the Appalachian Trail several years ago showed that only five percent of the hikers were women. Along the Pacific Crest Trail, she found only a slightly higher percentage

through Wyoming and Montana, following the wildflowers' spring as the snow melts.

Gardner would like others to experience this diversity, which hikers won't see without traveling a transcontinental route. However, she has mixed feelings about whether a Continental Divide Trail should be established, as proposed. "It would make travel a lot easier," she says. On the other hand, an established trail would bring heavier use, and some areas might be damaged even if the trail planners avoid particularly fragile alpine or desert sites.

"I don't think the Continental Divide Trail would ever become like the Ap-

"The high country is for everyone — not just for the big macho men but also for the women, the pipsqueaks and the children."

of women hikers.

Most women she talks to are interested in her adventures, but they feel they aren't capable of backpacking. "Hell, I'm no super woman; I've only got one leg," she says, referring to a bad knee that grounded her temporarily in Lander. "The high country is for everyone — not just for the big macho men but also for the women, the pipsqueaks and the children," she says. Women, Gardner says, shouldn't stay home just because they might walk more slowly than their male friends.

Her book will include many highlights from her trip. Following the Divide from Antelope Wells, Mexico, she found in New Mexico's ranchlands abandoned homesteads and Indian pottery and met an old rancher who shared pinon nuts with her. The Divide led her up above 14,000 feet in the alpine tundra of Colorado.

She dropped out of the Wyoming mountains and into the Red Desert, where an antelope discovered her curled up in her sleeping bag amongst the sagebrush and stood over her snorting throughout the night.

Later she will likely encounter bighorn mountain sheep, mountain goats and possibly grizzly bears as she travels north



palachian Trail," which is almost a highway of hikers, she says. "It would tear my heart out to see that."

Overuse won't be a problem this summer, Gardner says she hadn't seen another backpacker along the 1,200 miles she had hiked by the time she reached the Red Desert. She expects to see more as she continues north after picking up more food and maps at her South Pass, Wyo., mail drop. By September 14, she expects to end her journey in Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada — before next winter's snows begin.

Dear Friends,

RARE II — the Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation — is something of an obsession around here. It makes us nervous to think that the future of that much land may be largely in the hands of the side that has the most powerful and most numerous lobbyists in Washington. We're continually checking to see if the Forest Service, which we believe began the process in good faith, still has its feet on the ground. Since the publication of the draft environmental statement that we wrote about in our last issue, we're not sure.

Last summer Forest Service officials asked conservationists and commodity interests to work together on RARE II and try to find areas of agreement. Now the agency is asking conservationists to "bite the bullet."

It seems that somehow during the innocuous-sounding inventory stage of RARE II, conservationists have been changed from consultants to casualties.

Once asked for help, they are now being asked to endure the torture of losing — and to do it in a dignified manner.

In the draft environmental statement released June 15 the Forest Service claims it "mechanically" came up with 10 alternatives for the public's consideration. However, along the way someone made a very human judgement — not to consider more than the top 50 percent of potential roadless areas in any alternative. In no option does the Forest Service look at potential wilderness and try to disturb a minimum to provide for the country's economic needs. That looks like anti-wilderness bias to us, not pure mechanics.

The "wilderness attribute ratings" are another place where politics pushed aside facts. The ratings reflect local Forest Service officials' feelings about the areas as well as hard data. Where wilderness ratings are low, they sometimes show more about the wilderness manager's bias than about the quality of the areas.

It is understandable that the draft

was skewed in favor of commodity interests. A shrewd, year-long demonstration of anti-wilderness feeling by commodity interests forced the statement in that direction. And while wilderness foes were causing a commotion that couldn't be ignored, conservationists were quietly gathering data — just as the Forest Service had requested.

We resent the Forest Service's claims that it has been in no way swayed by the anti-wilderness demonstration of the past year. But we are not sure that an unfair draft environmental statement will harm the cause of wilderness preservation. Conservationists are angry about the draft. They are coming up with their own alternatives.

We hope that anger will give them the adrenalin they need to win during the next stage of RARE II — the stage when the Forest Service has said public opinion is supposed to be weighed. Considering the stakes — the last remnants of wild forest land — we certainly hope so.

— the editors

In The News

Wild horses

from few to too many?

1

Water

not for animals or fish.

1

Gillette

residents nicked by project.

5

Drought

how desert plants survive.

8

Profile

a solo walk on the Divide.

16