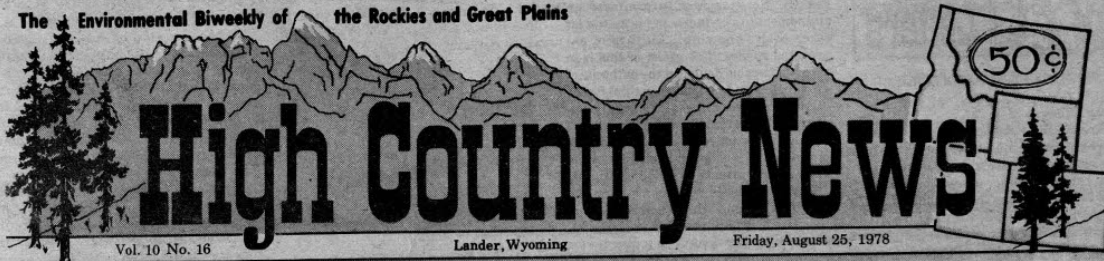


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The Environmental Biweekly of the Rockies and Great Plains



Vol. 10 No. 16

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, August 25, 1978

Water policy reforms face acid test

Congress, Carter lock horns on water projects

by Dan Whipple

With the inclusion of six contested water projects in the 1979 Public Works Appropriations bill, Congress has signalled President Jimmy Carter that his proposed water policy reforms face stiff opposition. Carter has said repeatedly that he will veto any appropriations bill that includes the projects.

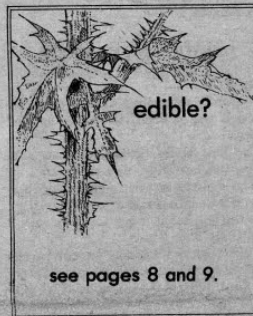
Brent Blackwelder of the Environmental Policy Center says, "This is the acid test of his water policy. He will be the biggest cream puff in the world if he doesn't veto this."

The House-Senate conference committee on the legislation approved \$103 million for 53 water projects. Six of those — Narrows Dam (Colo.), Fruitland Mesa (Colo.),

Savery-Pot Hook (Colo., Wyo.), Yatesville (Ky.), Lukfata (Okla.) and Bayou Bodcau (La.) — have been opposed by the president since his election. The projects had been included on Carter's 1977 "hit list," in which he recommended no funding for 18 water projects.

Blackwelder says Carter already has compromised considerably. He says, "Carter kept his part of the bargain. In his budget request he put in money for some projects he didn't like, like the Russell Dam (in Louisiana). But Congress went ahead and funded most of those projects he thought he'd killed." Carter had agreed to fund many of the projects on the original hit list — if the six worst projects were eliminated.

Carter's water policy, announced last



see pages 8 and 9.

spring, was met with qualified enthusiasm by most politicians. The policy attempts to set standards on which approval of water projects will be based. The criteria for approval include: giving funding priority to those projects that have significantly greater benefits than costs and fewer environmental impacts; emphasizing non-structural alternatives to water projects; stressing conservation of water; encouraging projects that have greater recoverable costs from users; and requiring states to pay a greater share of the costs of water projects that benefit the states.

Most of the criteria can be instituted by administrative action, without congressional approval. The cost-sharing option

(continued on page 4)

George Perkins Marsh

An observer who inspired reformers



Wilbur Collection, Bailey Library, University of Vermont

GEORGE PERKINS MARSH, who observed nature as a sideline, wrote a book in 1862 that became the fountainhead of the conservation movement.

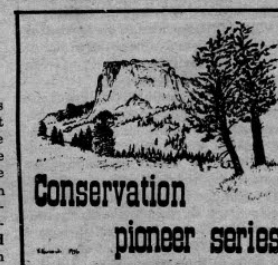
©1978 by Peter Wild

In the summer of 1800 startled villagers of Woodstock, Vt., looked on as fire swept the top of Mt. Tom. Born a year later in the shadow of the local prominence, George Perkins Marsh grew up watching the woods slowly come back out of the ashes. In adulthood he would be praised as a distinguished ambassador and renowned linguist of his day. But a book called *Man and Nature* would be the lasting contribution of this shy, painfully bookish scholar. Ironically, *Man and Nature* was a mere sideline, the result of his lifelong curiosity over man's role in nature's changes.

In the early years of the 19th century, Vermont was still a frontier. According to one lawyer, the Green Mountains west of Woodstock remained a refuge for "all the rogues and runaways" of the former colonies, and Indians kept settlers on their guard in some remoter parts of the nation's newest state.

Yet in the few decades since the first farmers tested the wilderness with plow and axe, the environmental changes were more than evident. The fire that seared the vegetation from Mt. Tom was a symptom of man's dismantling of the hinterland. In Vermont, as in other states, lumbermen had cleared much of the forest cover, leaving acres of debris behind to fuel forest fires. Sheep and cattle grazed over the eroding hillsides. Streams silted and fish disappeared. Reduced to trickles during droughts, rivers tore through villages during spring floods.

Few people stopped to consider the causes or consequences of the changes. One



man did. In his youth, Marsh saw the Quebec River carry off his father's bridge and sawmill and turn neighbors' fields into useless mud flats.

Years later, exploring deserts in the Middle East, he would note a few pitiful tribesmen scrambling after their goats to stay alive where once cities prospered. Aided by his travels and historical studies, all this eventually added up in Marsh's mind to a volume that gave early environmentalists the first massive scientific evidence to document their concerns. Lewis Mumford rightly called it "the fountainhead of the conservation movement."

A CURIOUS BLEND

Marsh's life was a curious, if not melodramatic, blend of ingenious intellectual strokes and pathetic disappointments. It is likely he would have foundered completely had it not been for the advantage of his family's position and the efforts of friends. George's stern father, Charles Marsh,

(continued on page 6)



HCN Letters

MISLEADING ARTICLE

Dear Editor:

An article in your July 28 issue entitled, "Debate raises questions about truth in lobbying" raises even more serious questions about accuracy in reporting. The article, which concerns the recent amendment of the Endangered Species Act in the United States Senate, contains so many errors of commission and omission that its readers will be seriously misled as to what actually happened in the Senate.

The article's most serious error concerns its assertion that many environmental organizations publicly opposed the proposed Senate amendment but privately welcomed it. Among the groups named as having this equivocal posture is the Environmental Defense Fund. The fact is that the Environmental Defense Fund always was of the view, and always stated, that the "Culver-Baker" bill was a well-intentioned, but potentially very harmful, amendment to the Endangered Species Act.

The danger we saw, and continue to see, is that the exemption process that the Senate bill establishes will create a strong incentive for agencies with projects presenting endangered species difficulties to "stonewall" during consultation and refuse to make any concessions, in the hope of getting a flat exemption. Senator Culver apparently believes his bill will prevent that possibility by requiring that its high-level, inter-agency committee first determine that consultation has been carried out in good faith before it proceeds to consider an application for exemption. In practice, however, this "safeguard" is likely to be wholly illusory because the committee will, in most instances, be unable to distinguish "bad faith" consultation from "hard-nosed" consultation.

Compounding our unhappiness with the Culver-Baker bill is a series of amendments tacked on to the bill near the end of the Senate's deliberations. These amendments, most of which were offered by Senators who had sided with an earlier effort by Senator Stennis to gut the act completely, were accepted by the floor managers of the Culver-Baker bill (Senators Culver and Wallop) without objection, even though their effect will be to hinder seriously the endangered species protection effort.

For example, Senator Bartlett, who voted with the Stennis forces and whose state includes a water project so notoriously objectionable that it has been on each of President Carter's "hit lists," offered an amendment to redefine the term "endangered species" for the purpose of excluding a tiny fish which threatens to be more successful in halting this pork-barrel project than the president of the United States.

Without a peep of protest, the Culver-Baker floor managers accepted this weakening amendment. Senator Garn, who likewise voted with the Stennis forces, offered an amendment which will slow the listing process for species to be added to the endangered list and which may have the effect of precluding any possibility of designating critical habitat for the several hundred species that have been listed since 1973.

Senator Scott, another firm supporter of the Stennis effort, had several weakening

amendments accepted. One creates the possibility that authorized but unstarted dams could be exempted from compliance with the act by a presidential decision (thus bypassing the committee) following a flood in the region of the non-existent dam. Finally, Senator McClure offered an amendment to eliminate any penalties for other than "knowing" killings of endangered species. The effect of this is to cast considerable doubt on the authority of the government to impose penalties for the incidental drowning of critically endangered sea turtles in shrimp trawls, the killing of endangered manatees by the propeller blades of speed boats, or a host of other similar threats to wildlife survival.

The inescapable conclusion from the foregoing, none of which was reported in your article, is that the Culver-Baker bill as passed by the Senate is a disaster for endangered species. The Environmental Defense Fund opposes it and will continue to oppose it publicly, privately, and any other way.

Michael J. Bean
Chairman, Wildlife Program
Environmental Defense Fund
Washington, D.C.

QUESTIONING FAIRNESS

Dear HCN,

I recently subscribed to your paper because it was referred to me as a "fair" paper.

The June 30 issue came, and I am wondering just how "fair" you really are.

Page 3 carries an article on Western passenger trains. The article doesn't really get into the millions it is costing taxpayers. I personally favor trains.

Page 7 carries an article on pork barrels and has a bold type box that states "Savery Pot Hook will cost the taxpayers \$745 million." This is simply not true. Western reclamation projects pay back the costs. Flood control like the Garrison Dam project is pure cost to the taxpayer. Let's be fair and honest.

John D. Farr
Frisco, Colo.

Editors' note: HCN said the project would cost \$74.5 million, not \$745 million. The Bureau of Reclamation's latest estimate is \$79.9 million, including inflation.

A representative of BuRec says three percent of the cost of Savery-Pot Hook would not be paid back to the federal government because that money would be spent on acquiring land and mitigating impacts. Local people would repay the government for nine percent of the cost of the project through taxes.

Most of the remainder of the cost would be paid back by revenue produced from the sale of power from other existing dams in the Upper Colorado Basin. In other words, though BuRec says Savery-Pot Hook would produce no power and so would not pay for itself, other projects in the area would be subsidizing it.

But federal water project expert John

VanDerwalker says that, because revenues from existing power-producing projects would be used to help finance Savery-Pot Hook, then the taxpayers are, in a roundabout way, paying for it since the revenue from power sales otherwise would go into the federal treasury.

The biased article referred to on page 3 was an editorial.



sticks and stones

by Justus Bavarekiss

Some random notes:

Congress's vote on Alaskan lands, says the Alaska Coalition, is "the conservation vote of the century." The vote on the omnibus park and recreation bill, says a Sierra Club representative, is "the opportunity of the decade" for environmentalists. Both pieces of legislation are being handled in Washington this year.

Apart from making me think how time flies when we environmentalists are together, the claims remind me of carnival barkers, used car salesmen and Richard Nixon, who, whatever he did, called it a historic occasion, until he finally was forced to do something truly historic.

There's no argument that the Alaska and parks legislation are important. But wild, contradictory claims, rather than inciting me to clamor loudly and automatically for the bills' passage, tend to make me step back a little and wonder, "What are they trying to sell me now?" Just as I wonder, "What are they trying to sell me now?" when I see a cigarette advertisement or a detergent commercial.

A charcoal-gray cloud appeared over the ragged Wind River Mountain peaks and, propelled by steady winds, moved toward the lake where I was camped. "We better put the tent up," I told my brother, "in case it rains." As we did so, I thought about Sterling Munro, head of the Bonneville Power Administration, who said recently that 13 power plants, including nuclear ones, should be built in case they're needed. He had no idea, said Munro, what the

MCKAY MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Dear HCN,

With regard to the final management compromise plan for Canyonlands National Park, as reported in the July 14 HCN issue, I would like to offer a proposal.

When the final strip of asphalt is laid and the splendid new roads are ready for public use, let us dedicate this parkway "the Gunn McKay Memorial Highway" in honor of Utah's esteemed congressman. In the end, it appears that the "compromise" is mostly for the benefit of the Honorable Mr. McKay (and a local Chamber of Commerce here and there).

Why should the National Park Service kowtow to the overwhelming majority of citizens who hoped that these magnificent Canyonlands might be spared the surveyor's stake, when it can kowtow to a U.S. congressman?

Long live the vacillating bureaucracy.
With reluctant resignation,

Jim Stiles
Moab, Utah

DIVERSITY THE BACKBONE

Dear HCN,

Interesting "Sticks and Stones" column in the July 14th HCN. Two publications I read regularly: HCN and *Outside* magazine (which you charge "panders to the armchair environmentalist"). Diversity is, of course, the backbone of environmentalism; isn't it great that individually we're all welcome to our own opinions?

Jean Warren Curry
Missoula, Mont.



demand for electricity would be for the region by the year 2000. But the plants should go up anyway, he said, because it was better to be safe than sorry.

I wondered what was the difference between his power plants and my tent. I remembered that, to buy my tent, I'd made no effort to coerce other backpackers into paying for it. Putting up my tent would leave no permanent mark on the land. And I saw that there was, indeed, a very good chance for a heavy thunderstorm.

John Ostlund, a Republican candidate for governor of Wyoming, has come up with an intriguing theory of government. State government exists, he told the Wyoming Mining Convention, not to harass or intimidate industry, but to serve it.

There is a possibility Ostlund may win election. If he does, some of the leads to news stories detailing his early exploits could conceivably read like this:

Gov. John Ostlund announced today that he was moving the state capital to Gillette, where Wyoming's coal mines are most heavily concentrated, so that "government may be closer to those it serves."

Or:

Gov. John Ostlund proposed today that the Department of Environmental Quality be replaced with a three-person board composed of executives of mining companies operating in the state. Asked to further explain the proposal, Ostlund's press secretary said, "We don't know anything about it here. We just do what we're told. The Wyoming Mining Association can probably tell you what you need to know."



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Photo courtesy of Montana Fish and Game

FINANCIAL compensation to the estate of a grizzly-mauling victim may set a dangerous precedent.

Teach people to respect bears

Michael Frome earned a reputation for hard-hitting conservation commentary in *Field and Stream* magazine. Now he writes for *Defenders of Wildlife* and the *Los Angeles Times*. He is author of a book entitled *Battle for Wilderness*, published by Praeger.

Reprinted from the LOS ANGELES TIMES with permission from Michael Frome.

I have never felt the federal government obligated to watch over me in a national park or wilderness. Nor would I want it to.

Yet such unwanted protection likely would be foisted on millions of Americans visiting those areas if Congress acts favorably on a piece of pending legislation.

On the face of it the bill looks innocent enough. In June, 1972, Harry Eugene Walker, a young man of Anniston, Ala., was killed and partially eaten by a grizzly

thorized area frequented by grizzlies.

"Fortunately, there are few who, like decedent and Bradberry (his companion), come in without paying the required fee and attempt to avoid receiving the services and advice, including warnings, which the Park Service provides," the appellate court said in its 1977 ruling.

"To require the Park Service to post signs and warnings on every boardwalk, path or trail every few hundred feet throughout a park as extensive as Yellowstone would not only be prohibitive in cost but would destroy the park's beauty as well."

That expression merits a hearty "amen," but let it not be forgotten that the beauty in question is implicitly wild, including the wild grizzly and other native fauna that must be met on their own terms.

From all I've read and reviewed, a bear rarely attacks unless wounded, provoked or startled, or if it thinks its home, food supply or family is in danger. Of course, bears are never to be fully trusted because they are wild, but they certainly ought to be respected on their own terrain.

"This private relief bill underscores a multitude of conflicting priorities," Wallop says — and he's absolutely right. "Each year more people are discovering the wonders of wilderness and parks, yet how can such large influxes be accommodated while still preserving the integrity of these areas for future generations?"

I've heard proposals from biologists to "condition" the bears to be more fearful of humans. I'm willing to take my chances with bears *au naturel*. Condition the humans, I'd say, to be more respectful of bears.

This means limiting or controlling human activity in bear country or closing areas where and when necessary. Grizzlies and wilderness recreation are compatible and it's time we learned to do it right.

Guest editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff of High Country News.

Of oil, sweet peas and Bach

Listening to Bach's Fifth Brandenburg Concerto last night I was struck by its complex structure, a complexity that has no trace of labor and nothing forced. What a contrast to the complexity underlying the endangered species debate or the RARE II process. An environmentalist trying to effect changes finds himself dealing too often with this discouraging kind of complexity, and not getting enough of Bach's kind. There is a danger of getting so immersed in politics and economics that the less utilitarian but more embracing concepts that lie deep beneath our actions slip away.

If we have taken the lessons of ecology to heart, we will know that the music of Bach is related to oil in the Overthrust Belt and to the man accused of murder. At more broad and basic levels, Bach and his vision of ordered energies are a musical perception of the same events that occurred as restless, living energy knit itself into coal-age tree ferns. Conversely, a person who has lost any sense of the wholeness and order that inspired Bach, may feel his own life is discordant and so attach less value to any life.

If we try to make the field of environmental affairs into another strictly defined

body of knowledge, with some items judged relevant and others irrelevant, we will miss the wider implications of ecology. It keeps reminding us we are related to processes near and far.

The relations are not always obvious, we are learning painfully; the DDT we dumped on the gypsy moths 20 years ago turns up now, knit into the substance of things. We make a mistake when we don't open our minds to study the myriad strands of relation that surround us.

Our eyes are somehow constructed to perceive the light bouncing off the sweet pea as a scarlet unlike any other scarlet. The yampa plant is somehow constructed to take that same light and turn it into substance, which I eat with relish, and it in turn knits itself into the substance of my body.

By restricting our notion of environmental issues to politics, we may be persisting in the same patterns of thought that caused the mess we're trying to get out of. The need for concrete action can divert us from relearning the lessons of ecology — relation on all levels.

Vincent Van Gogh, admiring a Japanese artist, could have been commenting on the awareness of relation:

"This blade of grass leads him to draw every plant, and the seasons, the wide aspects of the countryside, then animals, then the human figure. So he passes his life, and life is too short to do the whole."

— HH



Is the New York Times out of date?

Or is HCN just ahead of the breaking news?

On May 5, we reported that the EPA might loosen scrubber requirements for Western coal plants.

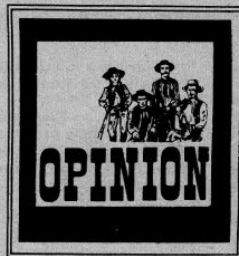
The N.Y. Times news service didn't pick up the story until August 2.

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bear while camping with a companion in Yellowstone National Park. The legislation, sponsored by Sen. John Sparkman of Alabama, undoubtedly with the best of motives, would award Walker's estate a shade under \$99,000 to satisfy all claims against the United States.

Sen. Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming (one of the few states still supporting a grizzly population) shares my concern over the precedent this proposal could establish.

He puts it this way: "If we are obliged to indemnify all who suffer accidents, who are injured in their contacts with nature, then we must begin to fence off all the natural values."

"If there are only to be parks for the safety of people, we can accomplish the same thing in handy metropolitan areas with padded rooms and vinyl scenic photos. My underlying concern is whether we, as a society, are willing to accept national parks and wilderness areas under terms set forth by nature."

There is more still to the Walker case. In 1970 the National Park Service had closed back country garbage dumps that had been used by grizzlies for years as a food source. The park staff felt the longer the bears had the garbage to feed upon the more they would rely on it, and that new generations of cubs would become accustomed to food left by humans.

The Walker family filed legal claims, based on a charge — supported by some scientific observers — that park officials had been negligent by closing the garbage dumps too rapidly. The estate won the case in a district court, but the decision subsequently was reversed in a court of appeal.

Walker and his companion had been hitchhikers who paid no admission when entering Yellowstone and therefore did not receive the brochure available to all park visitors regarding bear danger. Then they camped without permission in an unau-

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Water projects...

(continued from page 1)

must receive congressional approval, however.

The project that represents the most direct congressional slap at the water policy is the Narrows Dam in Colorado. Narrows is a \$145 million dam that the Bureau of Reclamation proposes to build on the South Platte River in northeastern Colorado, primarily to supply supplemental irrigation water to farmers. BuRec says the dam also would provide flood control and recreation and benefit fish and wildlife.

Narrows was on the original Carter hit list. However, a subsequent BuRec report gave the project a "clean bill of health" regarding its benefits and environmental effects. Most environmental groups denounced the report, and the National Wildlife Federation called it a "farical report whitewashing the project."

The BuRec report led many people to believe that the administration was backpedalling in its opposition to Narrows. However, in July, Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus announced that the administration would oppose further funding for Narrows because it did not meet the criteria established by the water policy.

Thus, Narrows became the first water project to be analyzed in light of the emerging policy. Dan Beard, deputy assistant secretary of Interior for land and water resources, says Narrows failed the water policy in three major categories. He says that, first, "The project does not have a large number of beneficiaries. Narrows does not supply any new irrigation water, just supplemental water. It provides water to the equivalent of 230 farm families, but 216 families have to be moved out of the area to make room for the project."

NO SUPPORT

"Second, there isn't any active public support for the dam. Thirteen of the 15 irrigation districts in the area, as well as the city of Fort Morgan, have opposed the project."

Finally, Narrows would decrease flows in the Platte River by 11 percent. This would be in conflict with an existing environmental statute — the Endangered Species Act — because it would have an adverse impact on whooping crane habitat."

Congress, however, appropriated \$1.5 million for 1979 to begin construction. Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) said, "The Senate vote approving the project reaffirms my belief that the administration will have to look even closer at its reasons for opposing these projects."

Hart aide Kathy Bushkin says Hart supports Narrows "for the agricultural and municipal purposes it will serve."

Hart has been an outspoken critic of the way the water policy has been handled. He says the administration is acting on its own and not providing Congress with enough time to review and assess the new criteria for project approval. Bushkin says, "He (Hart) supports a number of the policy parts. He'd like to see some of the reforms go through. However, if you start acting unilaterally, you may hurt the cause of water policy reform..."

"We have never been told what parts of the policy were used to oppose Narrows. Hart was even more concerned about how they used it in this particular case, since the administration had already announced its opposition to Narrows before the reforms were instituted."

EPC's Blackwelder says, however, that members of Congress have had ample time



Photo courtesy Bureau of Reclamation
NARROWS DAM SITE. Looking southwest from the proposed site of Narrows Dam. The dam would be across the center of the picture.

to review the policy. "They've consistently blocked water reform, and now they're just stonewalling it," he says.

The Congressional "stonewalling" may have its origins in the Carter administration's lack of political astuteness in handling the water policy and its opposition to water projects. Hart told the *Rocky Mountain News* that Carter's original hit list created an atmosphere very unfavorable to water reform in Congress. The hit list, Hart said, "wiped out any middle ground for anyone like myself...who could have helped make that transition (for water policy reform)."

The decision to oppose Narrows confirmed Hart's opinion that the Carter Administration was tactless. Hart said, "They haven't learned a thing. That's why I was so angry when the decision was made to cancel Narrows again. It was clear to me that after having given them a year to try to learn that lesson, they hadn't learned it."

Interior's Beard concedes that, politically, a different approach could have been used. He says, "Congress was sent the water policy message, and they saw the public input process. However, we have not done as good a job as we could have of telling the Congress each step of the way. But, we are going to correct that."

"Full implementation of the water policy will take several years. Those steps that are within the purview of the executive we will undertake immediately. We are continuing with efforts to get legislative authority for other portions of the water policy."

Beard insists that the policy is workable. He says, "Some people say no project can meet all of the water policy criteria. This simply is not true. This year, the administration requested funding for 26 new projects that meet the water policy criteria."

One of the major areas of controversy regarding Narrows was the crane issue. The Bureau of Reclamation report on Narrows said the dam would not threaten the endangered crane, so consultation was not required with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Fish and Wildlife said it did "not agree" with that assertion, and that consultation, which is required by the Endangered Species Act, was necessary to protect the whooping cranes' habitat.

In addition, landowners have organized in opposition to Narrows. Marvin Etchison

of Regional Landowners, one of the opposition groups, says the project is unnecessary, costly, and will benefit very few of the people it is supposed to serve.

A number of irrigators hold prior water rights on the South Platte, so that even if the dam is built, there won't be enough water to fill the reservoir, Etchison says.

He says irrigation companies already are providing adequate water to the farmers, and at less cost, than Narrows would. Etchison is secretary of the Weldon Ditch, one of the irrigation cooperatives along the South Platte, and he says, "We're putting water on the land for about \$2 per acre. The Bureau of Reclamation says they'll need \$14.65 per acre from the farmer at the headgate, and a federal subsidy just as large. They want to take Weldon Valley water, buy it for Narrows, and sell it back to us for \$29 an acre. And here we're doing it for \$2."

LEGALIZED ROBBERY

"If they took the money they wanted to spend on Narrows and put it in a trust fund, they could pay the farms that would supposedly benefit \$5,000 per year, every year, forever. The project is nothing but legalized robbery."

Two other major Western water projects would receive funding from the appropriations bill — the Garrison Diversion in North Dakota and the Central Utah Project. The administration has recommended a scaled-down version of the Garrison Diversion but hasn't opposed the Central Utah Project. Environmentalist groups have vigorously opposed both.

The Garrison Diversion is a Bureau of Reclamation project designed to divert Missouri River water from the reservoir behind Garrison Dam. The cost to irrigate 250,000 acres is estimated at well over \$600 million. Rick Madson of the Audubon Society in North Dakota says, "The Garrison project is one of the most rancid of the projects. It is a classic example of what is wrong with water management and development in the U.S."

Madson says that the Garrison

"They want to take Weldon Valley water, buy it for Narrows and sell it back to us for \$29 an acre. And here we're doing it for \$2."

Diversion's social, economic and environmental costs outweigh the benefits. He says, "The Garrison Diversion would use 220,000 acres of land to irrigate 250,000 acres."

"In addition, 0.6 of 1 percent of the agricultural land in the state will benefit, a subsidy of over \$300,000 per farm. The only thing the people of North Dakota will get out of it is the opportunity to pay for it."

"Garrison would also destroy more national wildlife refuges than any other water project in U.S. history."

Secretary Andrus has proposed a scaled-down version that would irrigate 96,000 acres of land, most of which is located near the existing McClusky Canal, one of the main arteries of the diversion. The Congress, however, said that the \$18 million appropriated but unsent on the project should be expended for the "purposes for which it was intended."

Garrison is further complicated by international disputes. The project will impact Canada and is subject to the terms of the Boundary Waters Treaty between the United States and Canada. Lonetree Reservoir, an integral part of the full-scale project, would straddle the border and a divide between the Missouri River Basin and the Hudson Bay watershed in Canada. This would allow the mixture of biota — animal and plant life — between the two basins, which have vastly different ecosystems.

The International Joint Commission, which arbitrates disputes under the treaty, has suggested that the portions of the Garrison Diversion affecting Canada not be built. The Congress, in passing the appropriations bill, agreed to delay construction of Lonetree but proceeded under the assumption that it could eventually be built without damaging Canada.

Wally Sargeant, a spokesman for the IJC in Ottawa, says, however, "Lonetree could be built if all outlets are drained in the Missouri River Basin and if fishing is prohibited..."

"Our report to the governments says none of it that affects Canada should be constructed. The main worry was that the system could not prevent biota transfer between the two basins. They could go ahead if it doesn't drain into Canada, however."

IJC actions are only recommendations to the governments and are not enforceable.

According to Interior's Beard, the Central Utah Project has not been subjected to the administration's water policy criteria because the environmental impact statement has not been completed. Congress funded nearly \$44 million for the Bonneville Unit, which will supply municipal and industrial water to the Bonneville basin where Salt Lake City is located. The legislation also would provide \$2.3 million for the Uinta unit and \$1.8 million for the Upalco unit.

Proponents of the Central Utah Project say that failure to build it would cause economic losses to the state and that

(continued on page 5)

"The only thing the people of North Dakota will get out of the Garrison Diversion is the opportunity to pay for it."

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RARE II may achieve less than expected, says FS

Disagreement between environmentalists and the timber and minerals industries has led the Forest Service to scale down slightly its hopes for what the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation may accomplish.

At the national RARE II wilderness symposium in Missoula, Mont., Aug. 4-5, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture M. Rupert Cutler said he believes RARE II may determine, in "at least half" the cases, whether roadless areas should be reserved as wilderness or opened for timber and mineral development.

"I hope it's more than half," Cutler said. But he said his expectations had been reduced.

The reason for that reduction, said Mike Griswold, the Forest Service's assistant director for recreation management and pro-

ject leader for RARE II, is the reaction to the draft RARE II statement released June 15. Environmentalists were highly critical of the draft, saying wilderness had been short-changed. The timber and minerals industries were more positive about the statement but also expressed some strong reservations.

Griswold said in a telephone interview that the Forest Service originally hoped RARE II would enable it to determine how to designate between 60 and 80 percent of its roadless lands.

Lands that are not designated for wilderness or development in the national process will be designated by regional foresters no later than 1985, though the Forest Service hopes to finish the job two years earlier, Griswold said.

At the Missoula conference, Cutler also

announced that the economic potential for the 62 million acres of land identified as roadless in RARE II would be evaluated on a 1-to-12 scale, and the results may be released to the public early in September.

This, said Griswold, means the Forest Service would be evaluating the potential economic yields from its roadless areas. For example, he said, an area potentially classifiable as wilderness may also have more potential for lumbering, grazing and recreation than another area. In such a case, he said, an area with less development potential would be more likely to receive wilderness classification than an area with better development potential.

Economic potentials were not rated in RARE II — "it was a sheer matter of time,"

Griswold said. "We've been working on it; it's just taken us this long to develop it."

Cutler told the symposium that the evaluations of economic potential, called a Development Opportunity Rating System, may be issued as an addition to the RARE II draft. Such an addition also would "cover some of the weaknesses identified to date" in RARE II, Cutler said.

One such weakness, said a spokesman for a group of North Dakota ranchers, was that RARE II's recommendations for grasslands could reduce by 40 percent the ranchers' 8,000 animal unit months of grazing. An animal unit month is a measure of acreage and time devoted to livestock on public lands.

Zane Smith, Forest Service coordinator for RARE II, said the agency is looking for errors in the grazing data. RARE II "seems to reflect more of a reduction than we think it should," he said.

Douglas Scott, national RARE II coordinator for the Sierra Club, called RARE II "the latest in a 10-year series of quick and dirty efforts" to "settle the wilderness question" and "get on with development."

R. Kirk Ewart, a vice-president for Boise-Cascade Corp., said RARE II threatened to further reduce dwindling timber supplies. Already, he said, national timber production is 1.5 billion board feet behind targets set by Congress. "This is one of the most compelling reasons to complete RARE II quickly," he said. Until RARE II is completed — the target date is next January — no new mineral development or timber production may occur on roadless lands.

Paul Driessen of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association said, without saying how he arrived at the figure, that two-thirds of the nation's public lands were closed off to mineral exploration, and RARE II was closing off even more.

The best way to resolve RARE II, suggested congressional aides attending the conference, was for those arguing over roadless areas to compromise.

"To the degree you people can agree, you will have movement in Congress," said Ted Roe, an aide to Sen. Paul Hatfield (D-Mont.). "If people are divided, Congress is divided."

Fred Hutchinson, legislative assistant to Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), said he had been listening to speakers at the conference for two days; "I've been wondering where compromise is hiding."

The conference, sponsored by the Forest Service and the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station and held at the University of Montana, was one of two to be held in the country. The other RARE II conference was held Aug. 11-13 at the University of Georgia in Athens.

In another RARE II development, several environmental organizations in Wyoming formed the Wyoming Wilderness Coalition to suggest wilderness alternatives not proposed by the Forest Service's RARE II draft.

Bart Koehler, a representative of the Wilderness Society and spokesman for the coalition, says the organization is proposing that about one-third of the three-million acres of roadless Forest Service lands in Wyoming should be designated as wilderness.

The Forest Service says public comment on the RARE II draft will have a large impact on how it designates roadless lands. The public comment period ends Oct. 1. To comment on RARE II lands in the Rocky Mountain region, write to your regional foresters.

Water projects...

(continued from page 4)

253,000 acre-feet of water for municipal, industrial and agricultural use would not be available. They also charge that opponents of CUP are trying to halt population growth in Utah as an environmental measure.

Environmentalists say the project will aggravate downstream salinity problems in the Colorado River Basin, harm the Great Salt Lake by adding a large amount of water to the area that drains into the lake and potentially harm the Ute Indians. The tribe has asked for limitations on the amount of water that can be diverted from some parts of the project and for complete control over fishing, hunting and other recreational aspects associated with six of the CUP reservoirs.

In a memo to the Salt Lake County Board of Commissioners in July, R. Paul Van Dam, Salt Lake County attorney, said Salt Lake City's needs for water could be met without the Bonneville Unit of CUP. Van Dam's office completed a study of the Bonneville unit and concluded, "The total supply situation of the state demands that Salt Lake County not be encouraged to import additional water while its own supplies go under-utilized."

In addition, the Central Utah Project



SEN. GARY HART (D-Colo.) says that President Carter has handled his water policy proposals badly.

Coalition, which includes a number of fishing organizations, argues that the project will damage prime trout fishing areas.

Two other Western projects that the Congress funded are Fruitland Mesa and Savery-Pot Hook. Each of these projects was on the original Carter hit list and

would receive \$75,000 for re-study. Mohammed El-Ashry, staff scientist of the Environmental Defense Fund in Denver, says, "These are two of the biggest turkeys of all the water projects, economically."

El-Ashry says that, at current interest rates, the benefit to cost ratios of the projects are clearly negative and consequently are unjustified economically.

The next major step in the water projects fight will be for the Senate and House to approve the conference report on the appropriations bill. Once this action is taken, probably sometime in early September, it will be transmitted to Carter for either a signature or a veto. If he vetoes, as he has promised, then an override attempt is expected, but probably not until after the elections.

A successful override vote is unlikely, according to observers. The Senate passed the appropriations bill by an 89 to 5 vote; but the House vote was slightly short of the two-thirds needed for an override.

El-Ashry says, "They are trying to throw the whole blame on Carter. They are up for re-election. Most of them are not really wedded to these projects that much. Now they can come back to the state and say, 'Look, we fought hard even against our own president, who is a Democrat like ourselves.'"

However, Blackwelder says, "The veto can be sustained, but it will take a lot of work. Carter's handled himself poorly by not backing people who supported him." Blackwelder cites the example of two senators who were filibustering against the natural gas compromise, thinking they had presidential support, when Vice President Walter Mondale announced a reversal of the administration's position. "Incidents like that don't make congressmen too eager to lead a fight for the president," says Blackwelder.

Whatever the outcome of the debate over these projects, the future of the overall water policy is still in doubt, and the president is still seen by many as opposing Western interests, particularly on water issues.

Trying to dispel that notion, Interior's Beard says, "Because of the hit list, everybody jumps to the conclusion that the administration is anti-Western. But, we requested money for the completion of 83 projects in 17 Western states."



Photo by Verne Huser

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT'S Soldier Creek Dam. CUP is opposed by many environmentalists, but the Carter administration has not raised any objections as yet.



6-High Country News - Aug. 25, 1978

Marsh...

(continued from page 1)

came as close as one could on the raw frontier to being a gentleman farmer. He also was a lawyer, a successful businessman and a U.S. congressman. Building on that base, George went on to hobnob with the foremost intellectuals of the United States and Europe — John Quincy Adams, Louis Agassiz, Robert Browning and Matthew Arnold.

The boy who would become a robust man and an accomplished Alpine climber was something of a strange child. His head was large, and his face bore a dour expression. He preferred the family library to romping off to nearby Quaking Pogue swamp with the village children. By the time he was five he was absorbing the family encyclopedia; by the age of six he was learning Greek and Latin. He became so engrossed with study that his eyesight failed, the beginnings of a painful malady that dogged the book lover throughout his life. Yet his family encouraged his leanings, and his father, an amateur scientist and experimenter with farming techniques, often took young Marsh out to the countryside for informal nature lessons.

At the age of 15 the boy entered New Hampshire's Dartmouth College, only a few miles from his home town. He excelled in the limited college fare of the day: classical studies, mathematics, theology and

won Marsh a seat in the U.S. Congress. There he opposed slavery and the Mexican-American War. He resisted acquisition of new territories in the West because he saw the wild mountains and undeveloped deserts as financial burdens for the compact and industrialized East.

Marsh's wit and intellectual honesty attracted powerful friends. Side by side, John Quincy Adams and George Perkins Marsh nodded off during boring speeches. Marsh's help in establishing the Smithsonian Institution earned him alliances with the country's growing scientific bureaucracy.

Though stimulated and happy in Washington, Marsh yearned to travel. His chance to go abroad came with the election of Zachary Taylor, who appointed him minister to Turkey. It was the beginning of the travels throughout Europe and the Middle East that put Marsh in wider contact with Western civilization's most alert minds and provided additional firsthand evidence to support the conclusions put forth years later in *Man and Nature*.

In contrast to the host of lackluster officials representing the nation overseas at the time, Marsh made an outstanding ambassador. On the verge of the Crimean War in 1849, Turkey was suffering through turmoil, "full of villains of every description," in Marsh's words. Throughout the growing unrest he matched diplomatic skill with humanitarian concern by protecting foreign missionaries and winning asylum for distraught refugees. It was a thankless job for a conscientious man. Congress took years to repay his expenses,



Wilbur Collection, Bailey Library, University of Vermont
MARSH'S CREDENTIALS as a painstaking scholar were well known and impeccable.

the day. For a while he traveled the lecture circuits, but found the task an ill-paying nuisance. As before, every business he touched went sour.

Gradually, though, he worked his way out of despair. The governor of Vermont appointed him to the railroad and fish commissions. The former statesman used the opportunities to lash out at the monopolies that had helped ruin him and to write a report pinpointing the environmental abuses that had nearly eliminated game fish from many of the state's streams. He taught briefly at New York's Columbia University and at Boston's Lowell Institute. The two resulting books, *Lectures on the English Language* (1860) and *The Origin and History of the English Language* (1862), became essential texts of the day. He further solidified his scholarly reputation by contributing to national publications and by working on several important dictionaries. In the midst of these diverse activities, he started taking notes for *Man and Nature*.

The political climate changed with Abraham Lincoln's election and with it Marsh's fortunes. Aided by his growing stature as a linguist — not to mention the influence of friends — the scholar, now 60, set sail as ambassador to Italy. He kept the post for the rest of his life. Severely Protestant, Marsh would never fully understand the ebullient and Roman Catholic country, but the personal circumstances of his new position, the lively intellectual atmosphere, his improved finances and the time to write buoyed his spirits. His wife's

health improved in the balmy climate, and the circle of literati attracted to Italy from all over Europe stimulated his energies.

Though aging, Marsh could work 14 hours at a stretch — most importantly at keeping Italian war materials flowing to the Union Army — and he found time to shoot with King Victor Emmanuel and to spend summers studying glaciers in the Alps. In the midst of the pleasant surroundings he sat down in the winter of 1862-1863 to distill the musings of a lifetime into one of the 19th century's most influential observations on the environment.

SIMPLE, RADICAL VIEW

The massive study is an expanded discussion of a simple view of the earth, yet one radically different for its time. Marsh countered the prevailing enthusiasm for development by proposing that "man is everywhere a disturbing agent," often unwittingly "a destructive power" in nature. With convincing authority, again and again Marsh pointed to ancient civilizations that had expanded and then failed because they neglected to come to terms with this inescapable reality. Nineteenth-century industrialism, he warned, was repeating the mistake, "breaking up the floor and wainscoting and doors and window frames of our (natural) dwelling."

The consequences were obvious to anyone who cared to look into the future with clear eyes: man will create a sterile legacy for his children unless he stops the assault on the natural world. The book discusses the thesis through chapters on forests, water and deserts — each supported by voluminous examples drawn from the author's encyclopedic knowledge of ancient and modern history. The book concludes by weighing the benefits and disadvantages of such 19th-century schemes as the Suez Canal and the widespread drainage of coastal wetlands.

As the first scientific jeremiad on the environment, *Man and Nature* served as a catalyst for early environmentalists. Its conclusions were so irrefutable — and Marsh's credentials as a painstaking scholar so well known and impeccable — that the book became the rallying point for con-

One winter in Italy, Marsh sat down to distill the musings of a lifetime into one of the 19th century's most influential observations on the environment.

law. He used free time to learn modern languages.

After graduating at the head of his class, he took a job teaching at Norwich Academy. But he detested the military atmosphere at Norwich; after a year he quit. At a loss for a profession, he returned home to read law. Four years later he was admitted to the bar.

In 1825 he moved over the mountains to Burlington, Vt., where practicing law bored him as much — and paid little better — as had teaching. Suffering the dilemma of the scholar with no mind for business, he searched for a way to support his love of study. In the following years he tried everything from manufacturing to real estate. Everything seemed to go wrong. His wife died. A flood washed away his new woolen mill. Foreign competition ruined his sheep business and friends connived against him in railroad speculations. Creditors would plague him for most of his adult life.

BRIGHT SPOTS

Yet there were bright spots, indications of untested abilities and future successes. Voters sent him to the state legislature, and in 1839 he married his second wife, Caroline Crane. She was a sickly woman, 15 years younger than he, but a person able to share his intellectual excitements. Learned journals applauded his translation of an Icelandic grammar and then went on to acclaim the 1843 publication of *The Goths in New England*. The essay reflected the popular enthusiasm of the day for things Nordic and mirrored Marsh's Calvinist background, with its tendency to divide the world neatly into good and evil categories.

In the same year as the publication of *The Goths*, the conservative Whig party

while back home Horace Greeley's New York Tribune falsely accused the threadbare ambassador of profligacy.

MAN'S MARK — EVERYWHERE

Marsh ran the embassy in Constantinople so smoothly that he found time for travel. He sailed to Cairo, then rode camels across the blistering Sinai Desert to Jerusalem. His later report to the Smithsonian, *The Camel* (1854), was a compendium of camel lore, and its enthusiasm formed a major basis for the U.S. Army's experimental use of the animals in its Western campaigns.

The weather, geology, flora, fauna and remains of ancient Mediterranean civilizations all whetted the ambassador's intellectual appetites. He sent back crates of specimens to friends at the Smithsonian, and scrambled happily over Greek ruins. In the words of his biographer, David Lowenthal, "Marsh sensed man's antiquity in every quarter...It was here Marsh first realized that man had everywhere left his mark; in time he saw how far that touch had transformed nature." Marsh would eventually synthesize the experiences into *Man and Nature*.

With the election of President Franklin Pierce, however, Marsh lost political favor and the job that had sustained him both intellectually and financially. Returning to Burlington in 1854, he found his railroad stock worthless and his real estate gone. Cheated by enemies and supposed friends alike, \$50,000 in the red, he began the bleakest period of his life. He tried his hand at inventing scientific instruments — and managed to re-create devices that had been in use for years. He threw in with his cousin-in-law to establish the Winooski Marble Company, but the quarry failed because its stone was too hard for the tools of



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(continued on page 7)

classifieds

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ACCOUNTABILITY

Water shortages foreseen in West

by Lynne Bama

"Right or wrong, here it is," said Lewis D. Walker as he summed up the draft version of *The Nation's Water Resources*, the report of the Second National Water Assessment.

Walker, assistant director of the policy division of the U.S. Water Resources Council, was in Cody, Wyo. in late July to answer questions about the study. The Cody meeting was one of four held across the country.

By law, the Water Resources Council is supposed to publish periodic assessments of the nation's water situation. The first was finished in 1968, but, according to Walker, it was only "a hasty assemblage of water data."

The second assessment has had a turbulent history. It was scheduled for completion in 1975. The draft report may be finished by the end of this year.

The study followed three phases — a national overview based on federal data, specific problems articulated by the states and 21 major regions, and an analysis of priorities.

But a consistent national model cannot always handle regional viewpoints satisfactorily. Walker said that the water supplies each area predicts it will need may total more water than the nation contains.

The assessment, by trying to accommodate national and local viewpoints, looked a little schizophrenic. In many cases, the national and state-regional entities did not even agree on basic data.

In the Missouri Basin Region, the assessment summary says that the state-regional forecast shows a greater demand for water by the year 2000 for irrigation and manufacturing than does the national forecast.

In the Upper Colorado Region, the assessment concludes that there would be ample water for the next quarter century. After that, supplies would probably be in-

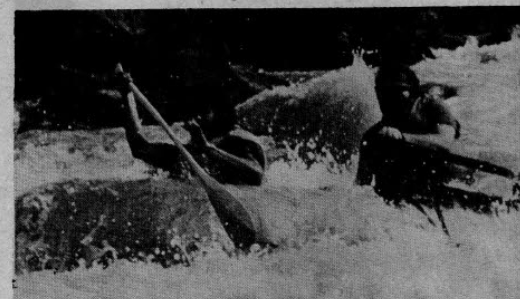


Photo by David Sumner

THE DOLORES RIVER has plenty of water to feed the Colorado River in the spring. But dry summers and increased demands from agriculture and energy producers soon may be asking more of the Colorado than it can provide.

sufficient for the expanding economy. And, the report says, "The Colorado River is approaching the time when it will be unable to supply the demands placed on it."

The national figures for both present and future irrigation use in the Upper Colorado were larger than the state-regional figures.

In the Great Basin, the summary says the available water supply is insufficient in many areas. Here, the national and state-regional figures for 1975 agricultural consumption, steam-electric use and ground water withdrawals were all different.

The national figures saw a declining total water withdrawal for 1985 and 2000, while the state-regional figures said there would be a small increase.

Walker says the assessment is a tool designed to help agency heads decide where to spend money. If it is not used for that, he feels, "It's probably just an academic exercise."

Those attending the Cody meeting — mostly water planning officials from the

Western states — pointed out errors and discrepancies in the study. A Texas water planner complained, for instance, that his state (among others) was accused in the report of failing to integrate management of ground and surface waters in the High Plains area. "We'd be just delighted," he said, "if we had some surface water."

Several people complained that comments they had sent in had not changed the draft version. There also were unfavorable remarks about the short review period of 60 days.

Walker was asked why the president had not waited for the assessment to be finished before announcing his policy.

He replied that it just wasn't done on time. Also, he said it might have been discounted as the product of a previous administration.

There was loud laughter when someone in the audience offered another answer. "There's no requirement," he said, "that national policy be based on fact."

Marsh...

(continued from page 6)

servationists in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. John Wesley Powell drew on Marsh's writings for support in his mighty but largely fruitless efforts to con-

The book's predictions of environmental disruptions became striking realities in the days of the Dust Bowl.

vince Congress that patterns of Eastern settlement wouldn't work in the arid West. Gifford Pinchot, first head of the U.S. Forest Service, called the volume "epoch-making."

Yet there is irony in the course of the volume's fame. After the turn of the century the author was nearly forgotten, his reputation eclipsed by the activities of the reformers he had inspired. However, interest in *Man and Nature* revived during the 1930s — when the book's predictions of environmental disruptions became striking realities in the days of the Dust Bowl. Since then, a number of magazine articles have combined with Lowenthal's bio-

graphy to further a growing appreciation for the work's timeliness and accuracy.

In fact, some of Marsh's ideas were so far ahead of their day that they have received their due only in the last few decades. The early conservationists tended to see problems in isolation. For example, they launched separate campaigns for wildlife preservation and forest protection — failing to see the crucial relationships between the two.

In a way that anticipates the writings of Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson and Barry Commoner, *Man and Nature* viewed the natural world as an integrated whole. A society should first study all aspects of proposed actions, then proceed with the utmost caution for fear of creating "unforeseen mischief" in disturbing the biosphere.

Additionally, Marsh was prophetic in pointing to overpopulation and food shortages years before the subjects would appear as newspaper headlines. He advocated land use planning, wilderness areas, game preserves and solar power. He touched on the coming environmental crises of the cities long before they would be life-and-death issues for politicians.

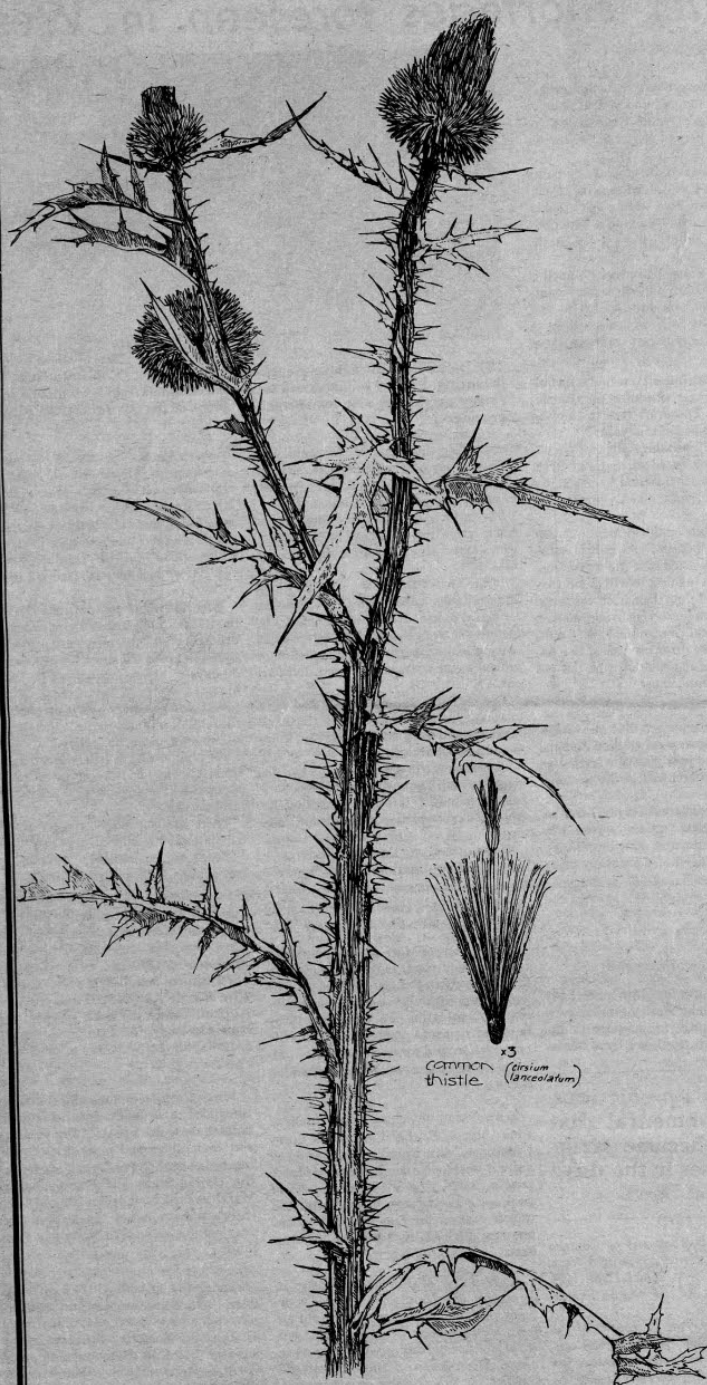
Influential in Europe as well as in America, *Man and Nature* went through several printings. Marsh was able to take

time out from his duties at the embassy to revise the book twice, reorganizing and adding supporting evidence. The revisions appeared in 1874 and in a posthumous 1885 edition, both bearing the new title, *The Earth As Modified by Human Action*. Today the book is most often known by its original title, the one used in a 1965 reprint by Harvard University Press.

While the aging ambassador revised and continued to write articles, he enjoyed a belated measure of peace. "The years passed tranquilly under Roman skies," according to Lowenthal. Prestigious societies in the United States and Europe honored Marsh as the former debtor basked both in Italy's climate and in "an almost legendary" status as scholar and elder statesman.

During the summer of 1882 an Italian friend invited the American ambassador — now in his 80s — to take a holiday in Val-lombrosa, a monastery converted into a forestry school. In the mountains around the ancient city of Florence, Marsh chatted with the school's students and strolled through the hillsides that reminded him of his native Vermont. There he died suddenly. The forestry students carried his casket draped with an American flag down through the wooded hills, "a fitting end," writes Lowenthal, "to his long and distinguished life."

8-High Country News - Aug. 25, 1978



Jane, in the sun at the edge of the aspen grove, digs with a trowel, as happy as a bear in an ant nest. She holds aloft a small, plump white root, wipes the dirt off it and hands it to me. It is the root of the yampa plant and tastes like a sweet crunchy carrot. I eat it with relish.

We sit contented, root-grubbing, while inside the grove the rest of the group grazes in silence: they are selecting the tenderest dandelion greens and violet leaves while keeping an eye out for the bent stems of wild onions. We are on a foray over Freak Mountain near South Pass, Wyo., seeking wild edible plants. It is noon, we are resting in the shade and gathering greens and garnishes for the evening feast.

During the morning, following a jeep trail through sagebrush and deafening cicadas, we knelt to look at a plant with its seed pods neatly arranged around a vertical stem: pennycress. Our instructor-friend John Mionczynski described how to strip the dry seed pods from the stem and winnow the seeds from the husks in the palm of your hand. The tiny brown seeds, used as seasoning, have a delectable pepper-garlic taste.

"We have heard that the seeds and fruits (of pennycress) have been used to flavor other food," says D.H. Harrington in *Edible Plants of the Rocky Mountains*, "but we cannot recommend doing so since they have caused illness when fed to cattle in hay." John had packed several reference books in the panniers of his milk goat, Heidi. Her menu of edible wild plants was far broader than ours, and she converted them into fresh and frothy milk as well.

We browse on the buds of salsify, like a small dense lettuce, and eat the scarlet heads of Indian paintbrush, like peppery cabbage, both growing along this trail. Salsify is said to be cultivated for the unusual flavor of its root, "like that of an oyster," says Harrington, which explains its otherwise curious name of "vegetable oyster."

As we emerge from the aspen grove, sucking on the licorice-flavored seeds of sweet cicely, someone spots a giant red mushroom that looks like an edible boletus to Joan. It goes into Heidi's panniers along with an unknown flower to be keyed out later. We leave the trail to cross a high ridge, hoping to surprise bighorn sheep on the other side but are disappointed. The route enters timber and here we are introduced to the Rocky Mountain columbine. Each spur of the five-spurred blossom has a bulb on the end full of nectar. You can bite into the bulb and suck a drop or so of nectar, or eat the whole blossom. It is sweet and delicately perfumed. None of our reference books mentions the columbine's blossom, one of the few edible members of the buttercup family.

The descent into the next drainage is through an undisturbed lodgepole forest.

We hear the hoofbeats of large animals, perhaps elk, running away at the bottom. It is here, John tells us, that we may find squirrel caches containing pine nuts. There are plenty of holes in the mounds of needles, soil and cone scales that mean many generations of squirrel activity, but no nuts turn up. We speculate that last year's stores are depleted and this year's not yet accumulated. John shares his practice of raiding squirrel caches with both black and grizzly bears, though the bears demolish the squirrel mounds and eat any squirrels they might unearth too.

THISTLES AND THRUSHES

At our campsite by the creek, a Swainson's thrush sings while we prepare vegetables to be cooked or put raw into a salad. John returns with stalks of something resembling celery. They are the stems of thistle, prickles removed. Dipped in salad dressing or stuffed with peanut butter, they are eaten with enthusiasm, despite a few tough fibers.

Some people like the seeds best. If you grab a tuft of thistle down you can nip off a mouthful of seeds from the end. The American goldfinch likes the seeds so much it feeds exclusively on them when they are ripe and waits to build its nest until it can gather ripe thistle down to line it.

Harrington confirms that the thistle was a valuable source of food for Indians and explorers and that the root, stem, crown and seeds of any thistle species are edible.

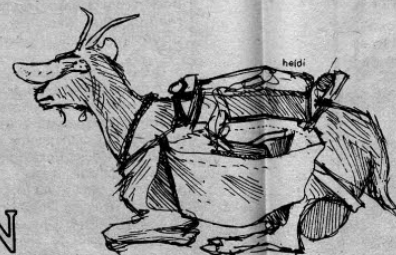
Joan and Jane dig a sampling of American bistort roots around the camp but instead of finding them big, starchy and rather pleasant, they were small and "tasted like Milk of Magnesia."

It becomes a many-course meal. Someone prepares a wilted lettuce dressing for the salad. If you eat them without chewing too much you can avoid the bitterness of our overage dandelion greens.

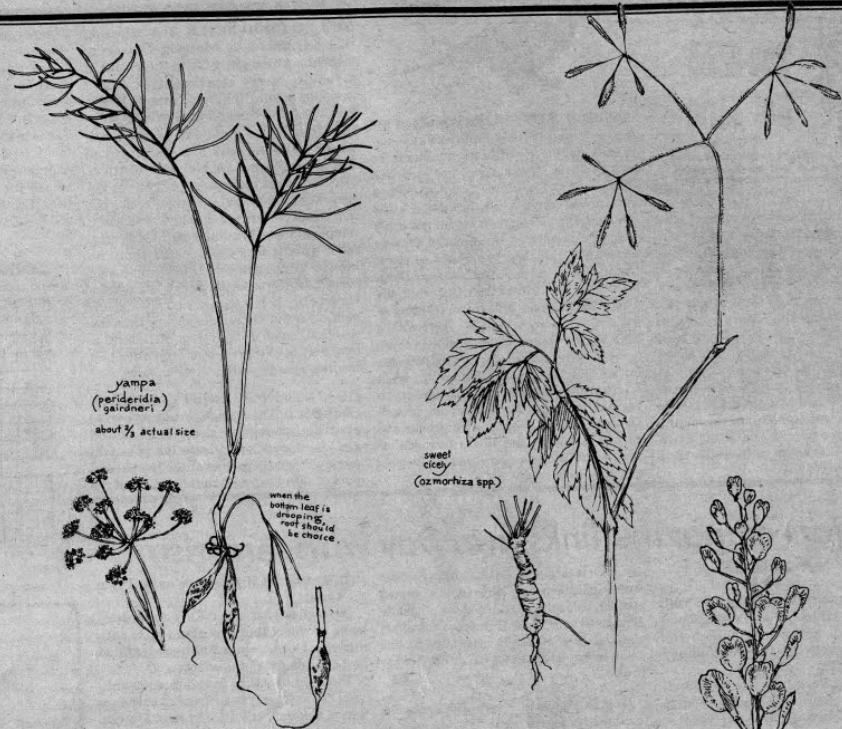
The same applies to our mess of cooked greens. It is the white milk in the veins of the dandelion leaf that makes it bitter. (That applies to most plants.) We knew by the scanty milk and the toothier leaves that we were picking common and not mountain dandelion, which has milk in every vein and smooth sided leaves, but we should have been more discriminating in the size of the leaves we chose.

A columbine garland on the no-bake cheesecake made with Heidi's milk transforms it into ambrosia. We eat until the sunset gives way to the campfire as our source of light.

The utopian image of migrating over the countryside feasting on wild edibles sours when you compound it by the number of people taking to the hills. In the case of mushrooms, the familiar forms aboveground are only the fruiting bodies, and plucking them is no more damaging to the



FEAST ON FREAK MOUNTAIN



main body of the plant underground than picking an apple from a tree.

We found greens in such abundance that we gathered enough for a big meal in an area no more than 20 feet across, and still made hardly a dent in them. Like garden lettuce, they have leaves to spare.

Columbines and paintbrushes are flowers much rarer than dandelions and should be used for garnishes or seasonings only. When you dig roots such as yampa or bistort, be sure you take them from an extensive, well-established patch, and try not to be greedy (with yampa, that's difficult). Raiding a squirrel cache in the fall may mean the difference between a safe or a starving winter for the squirrel. If you find pine nuts in the spring, they are left over and can be eaten then without hardship to the squirrel.

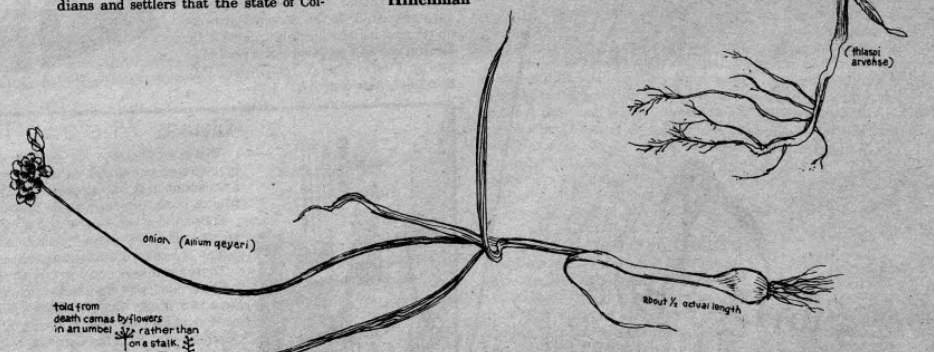
Yampa, a plant so esteemed by both Indians and settlers that the state of Col-

orado was almost named after it, remained undefeated as our favorite wild edible. Had the buffalo, whortle-, goose- and raspberries been ripe it might have been a different story.

Rainer Maria Rilke said, "Men have made even eating into something else: want on the one hand, superfluity on the other, have dimmed the distinctness of this need, and all the deep, simple necessities in which life renews itself have been similarly dulled."

The ancient response to the "deep, simple necessity" of eating was to pull a root out of the ground you were traveling over and eat it to sustain you. Now we have dulled that necessity by putting the packaging expert and the supermarket between ourselves and the root in the ground.

Story and drawings by Hannah Hinchman



10-High Country News - Aug. 25, 1978



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country



GASOLIN ADVANCE. The Clean Air Act says that, if fuels and gasoline additives do not meet emissions standards for motor vehicles, they may not be used. But the Environmental Protection Agency says that, unless it receives information to the contrary, the prohibition would not apply to gasohol, a mixture of unleaded gasoline and alcohol that has been used to power some vehicles. EPA Administrator Douglas Costle says the agency may formally waive restrictions on the marketing of gasohol in mid-September. Tests with a 1978 Mercury Monarch showed the vehicle emitted more hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, but less carbon monoxide, when fueled with gasohol than it did running on regular gasoline. An American Motors Concord emitted more hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide, but fewer nitrogen oxides, when using gasohol than when using gasoline, says Costle.

SOLAR ENGINE. A combination of solar power and industrial waste heat eventually may provide three-quarters of the nation's electricity, says Nathan Brussels, president of Solar Engineering Systems, Inc., of Burlington, N.J. The firm recently demonstrated a Rankine vapor engine that can be operated by the sun or waste heat from a factory flue. Presently, says Brussels, the engine could drive generators that produce between 7.5 and 150 kilowatts of electricity. It would cost about \$30,000 to build a 25-kilowatt system, and the engine is not yet in commercial production, Brussels says. The average home uses about five kilowatts of electricity.

Fusion magazine links Sun Day with terrorism

by Dede Feldman

Solar energy and specifically Sun Day 1978 are the targets of a new magazine, *Fusion*, which critics have dubbed the "first anti-appropriate technology magazine in the country."

Published by the Fusion Energy Foundation, the magazine says in a May editorial, "The ritual insanity known as Sun Day 1978 is not just another counter-culture caper. Sun Day is a key element in an all-out attack on the republican institutions and the industrial base of the United States."

Fusion criticizes Energy Secretary James Schlesinger for ordering "the Department of Energy to throw its full resources behind the week-long Sun Day

event." It accuses him, among other crimes, of attempting "to scuttle advanced nuclear technology," calls him a "White House saboteur" and urges his immediate removal from office. It also tries to link solar energy advocates with drugs and terrorism.

An article entitled "Sun Day: Umbrella for Anti-Nuclear Terror" is illustrated with the picture of one of the hooded Black September terrorists who killed Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games. In an arc around the sinister figure are the words "Sun Day is May 3 Sponsor."

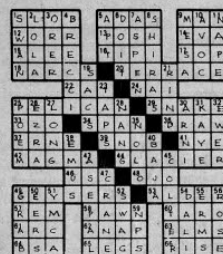
In an "investigative" report *Fusion* reporter Stuart Pettingell links Sun Day with the "zombie drug culture" because a

NOT SO GOOD AFTER ALL. Hearing that scientists at a Princeton University laboratory were pleased with the results of a fusion energy experiment, a Miami newspaper called the event "a major breakthrough." The breakthrough was "gratifying," but not as gratifying as the newspaper believed, says a Department of Energy spokesman. Dr. Melvin B. Gottlieb, director of the laboratory, says the scientists aimed a powerful energy pulse at a gas in a small research reactor and produced a temperature of 60 million degrees Centigrade. This is four times hotter than the interior of the sun, which feeds on fusion energy. However, Gottlieb says, the reaction lasted only half a second, and the experiment used 100 times more energy than the reaction created. Scientists still have a long way to go to prove that fusion can be a leading energy source, Gottlieb says.

COALITION AGAINST NATURAL GAS BILL. The congressional proposal to eventually deregulate the price of natural gas "is an insidious private tax that takes money from the pockets of the people and puts it into the over-bulging coffers of the

oil and gas industry," says William W. Wimpisinger, chairman of the Citizen-Labor Energy Coalition. Wimpisinger's remarks came during a press conference in Washington at which he launched the coalition's fight against the bill. The coalition is made up of organizations that contain a total of 20 million members, says a coalition press release, and includes groups such as the United Auto Workers, the National Football League Players Association and the Environmental Policy Center.

conservation crosswords



NO PARKING HERE

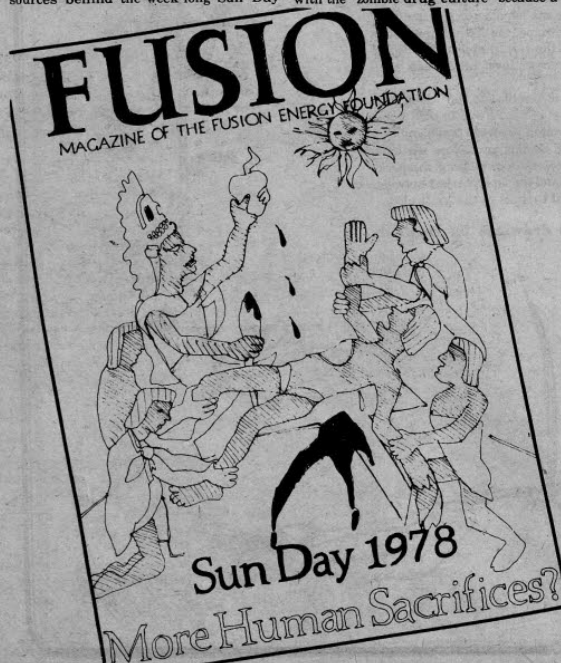
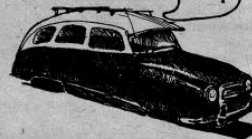
This space reserved for the High Country News Research Fund.

Without it, we couldn't pay our phone bill for stories like the ones on water projects and the omnibus parks bill in this issue.

If you think this is a waste of space, why don't you send a tax-deductible contribution to the HCN Research Fund? Then we could reserve this space for a story.

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

Beep



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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.

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

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Tim O'Brien —
Eclectic fiddle

Aug. 25, 1978 - High Country News-11

Uranium tailings — who pays what for cleanup?

The major question remaining in decontaminating the 22 inactive, potentially hazardous uranium tailings piles in the country — most of them in the Rocky Mountain states — appears to be how much federal and state governments pay for the cleanup.

A subcommittee of the House Interior and Foreign Commerce Committee unanimously adopted Aug. 11 a provision that the federal government should pay 90 percent of the cleanup costs and the states 10 percent. It could cost a total of \$130 million to decontaminate the tailings piles, which were abandoned in some cases with little or no provision to prevent them from leaking cancer-causing radon gas when uranium mills shut down.

"The bill (adopted by the subcommittee) is almost identical to the Interior Committee version...and we should have little trouble getting the two together for a floor vote in early September," says Rep. Dan Marriott (R-Utah).

The Carter administration is backing a measure that would require the federal government to pay 75 percent of the cleanup cost and the state governments 25 percent.

"If we in Utah were required to pay 25 percent, that could mean more than \$11 million, a totally unreasonable financial burden on the people who have already suffered a potential health risk for more than 20 years," Marriott says. "It was a federal problem, and a federal solution is required."

Almost all the inactive tailings piles in

Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming and other states were created by mills processing uranium for the nuclear bomb program.

The Senate also is considering a measure to clean up the piles, and Marriott says he expects a cleanup bill to be signed into law this year.

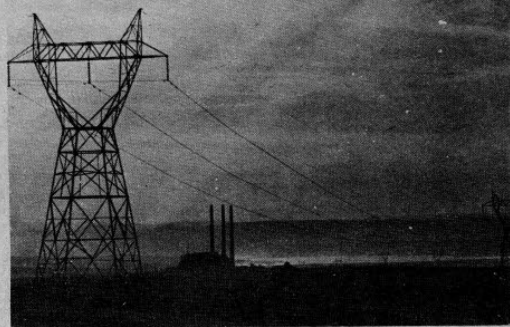
However, Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), chairman of the House Interior Committee and backer of the administration's 75-25 percent proposal, said, "The chances of getting a bill this year become dimmer and dimmer if we push for full federal funding. If we keep nibbling away at the states' share and the states' responsibility, we're going to get a bill that can't move."

In the Senate, Sens. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) and Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) have proposed to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee that the federal government retain control over uranium tailings until permanent legislation for such control can be adopted.

Presently, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission controls the tailings so long as the mill is operating but loses control once the mill shuts down.

Both the House and Senate are considering long-term control over uranium tailings, but Hart is doubtful the legislation can be adopted before Congress adjourns.

The Hart-Domenici proposal, offered as an amendment to the 1979 Nuclear Regulatory Commission budget, would not affect agreement states, which license their own uranium mills. Colorado is one of the 10 such states.



Jack McLellan photo

NAVAJO POWER PLANT and transmission lines.



energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

to the state. The permission for drilling came after the company agreed to pay a \$5 per acre one-time royalty on the 34,000 acre lease, in addition to a \$1 per acre annual rental. The company plans to minimize environmental damage to the popular resort lake by slant drilling under the lake from the shoreline. Utah has not allowed drilling for oil and gas on its side of the lake.

SENATE PUMPS UP OIL SHALE. The U.S. Senate has approved a measure that could speed Colorado oil shale development and aid communities faced with impacts from such development. A bill sponsored by Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.) would allocate \$1.4 million to allow the federal government to pay private companies to build three test facilities at sites in Colorado; would appropriate \$5 million to develop four experimental oil shale recovery processes; and would provide \$30 million in impact aid funds for communities experiencing oil shale-related growth. The legislation must still be approved by the House of Representatives.

KERR-MCGEE URANIUM COMPROMISE. The Wyoming Industrial Siting Council will allow construction of four uranium mines near Douglas, Wyo., without requiring Kerr-McGee to obtain a siting permit. The order will permit construction of the four mines without a permit, provided that the number of employees on the project remains under 150. Kerr-McGee is planning a complex of 13 mines near Douglas, and the ISC has required that the firm submit an application for a permit before work on the other nine mines can begin. Kerr-McGee had argued that an ISC permit was not required because work on the mines had begun before the state industrial siting law became effective. The compromise has been opposed by the Powder River Basin Resource Council and the Glenrock school district, which is near Douglas.



BEAR LAKE DRILLING OKAYED. After months of battling over lease royalty provisions, the Idaho Land Board has voted to allow Hunt Oil Co. to drill for oil and gas under Bear Lake on the Idaho-Utah border. Hunt has held a lease for several years, but when drilling was proposed, Idaho Gov. John Evans blocked it, saying the company would not be paying a high enough royalty

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12-High Country News - Aug. 25, 1978

Parks bill has Carter caught between two goals

A \$1.4 billion omnibus parks bill — the most expensive piece of legislation ever to affect the National Park Service — has President Carter caught between two campaign promises.

The principal opponent of the legislation has been the Office of Management and Budget, which at first called the bill inflationary and reminded the president he was committed to shrinking federal spending.

At the same time the National Park Service and others have been reminding the president that he also is committed to parks.

"When we sat down and started going through everything, we saw there was only about \$150 million difference between the bill and what Carter has proposed (in his

Georgia and the lower canyons of the Rio Grande in Texas. In addition, it would prevent a ski development from being built in the Mineral King Valley in California and would stop the Tocks Island Dam from going up on the middle Delaware River.

While the bill would be of most benefit to the Park Service, some projects would involve agencies such as the Forest Service. Local governments would receive \$650 million in matching grants for an urban parks recovery program.

JUST HOUSEKEEPING

A second omnibus parks bill, S 2876, recently passed out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. It addresses primarily only the housekeeping

The main provisions in the House parks bill that would affect the Northern Rocky Mountain region are listed below. The dollar figures represent authorizations — the House's recommendations to the budget committee, which may be altered depending on other budget considerations.

In Colorado — \$842,000 to enlarge Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site by 622 acres; and \$166,000 to add 1,109 acres to the Great Sand Dunes National Monument.

In Idaho — A \$28 million increase to buy land for Sawtooth National Recreation Area; a change in the boundary of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area to correct an error on the map establishing the area in 1975. The change reduces the protected area by about 600 acres, but places the boundary on the ridge between two watersheds, where Congress intended it, says the U.S. Forest Service.

In Montana — a \$275,000 increase for Grant Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site; a study of the main stem of the Madison River from Earthquake Lake to Ennis Lake for

possible wild and scenic river designation; an increase of \$4,083,000 in loan acquisition and development funds for the Fort Union Trading Post National Historical Site on the Montana - North Dakota border.

In Utah — \$320,000 in development funds for a new sewage system, extension of utility buildings, campground expansion and planning for other developments at Capitol Reef National Park.

In Wyoming — a boundary expansion for the Fort Laramie National Historic Site; \$30 million for the acquisition and upgrading of the Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone National Park; \$5.25 million to set up a commission to draft a Jackson Hole Scenic Area plan and to provide some funds for emergency acquisition of land and easements.

Trails — the bill would authorize money to establish the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail from Nauvoo, Ill., to Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail from the Montana - Canada border to the New Mexico - Mexico border.

"Cutting the budget is a lot like a toy that came out a couple of Christmases ago to teach children the vicissitudes of life. It's a puzzle — and any way you put it together, it's wrong."

environmental and urban messages)," says Joel Pickelner, who heads the Park Service's legislative division.

After passage in the House and negotiations in early August, the bill's sponsor, Rep. Phillip Burton, gained administration support for all but about \$80 million worth of provisions in the bill, over the protests of OMB. But time is running out for the bill in the Senate, which is planning to adjourn Oct. 1.

Linda Billings of the Sierra Club says, "Unless Congress perceives that this is a must-pass bill, we risk coming up short on time."

Although large and complex, the bill, the National Park and Recreation Act of 1978 (HR 12536), passed the House July 12 by a vote of 341-61. "But the Senate is a more conservative body," Pickelner says. "They are likely to narrow the scope of the bill."

The bill would add seven rivers to the wild and scenic rivers system, authorize the study of 19 other rivers for inclusion, establish five new national trails, and designate about 3 million acres as wilderness within the national parks. It also would take care of what Pickelner calls "the housekeeping chores" that are part of Congress's annual park duties — authorizing, development and land acquisition funds and land acquisition ceiling increases.

The bill also would protect the Santa Monica Mountains in California, the Pine Barrens in New Jersey, Jackson Hole in Wyoming, the Chattahoochee River in

Georgia, and the lower canyons of the Rio Grande in Texas. In addition, it would prevent a ski development from being built in the Mineral King Valley in California and would stop the Tocks Island Dam from going up on the middle Delaware River. While the bill would be of most benefit to the Park Service, some projects would involve agencies such as the Forest Service. Local governments would receive \$650 million in matching grants for an urban parks recovery program.

Pickelner and Billings are both staunch defenders of the House approach to the bill. "When you neglect the (national park) system and visitation is increasing every year, you have a lot of catch-up work to do," Pickelner says.

"We're tired of having the park system in this country nicked and dimed to death,"

"We're tired of having the park system in this country nicked and dimed to death."

Billings says. "Compare the cost of this bill with the defense appropriations bill. A Trident submarine costs \$1.2 billion and an aircraft carrier is \$2.4 billion.

"Every year that we delay with this kind of parks legislation is another year that

land prices escalate. This is a national priority and it ought to be treated that way," she says.

OMB now stands behind the administration's general support of the bill. In explaining the office's initial opposition, Donald Crabill, OMB's deputy associate administrator for natural resources, says, "You must remember that this president came into office after a campaign in which he promised to get the budget under control." But some of Carter's other promises — his environmental and urban policies — forced OMB to reconsider.

"Cutting the budget is a lot like a toy that came out a couple of Christmases ago to teach children the vicissitudes of life," Crabill says. "It's a puzzle — and any way you put it together, it's wrong."

JACKSON HOLE

Some of the few remaining areas of disagreement between the administration and the House bill go beyond money to questions of philosophy, Pickelner says.

For instance, he says, the administration is afraid of the precedent that might be set by the Jackson Hole Scenic Area proposal, a part of the parks bill that once had the blessing of the National Park Service. The House proposal would provide \$5.25 million for a one-year study and emergency acquisition of land and easements in the Jackson Hole area.

"We're not opposed to doing something in Jackson Hole," says Deputy Assistant Secretary of Interior David Hales. "But we don't know what we're going to go for. We need to evaluate the situation and recom-

mend what ought to be done early in the next Congress."

"We don't want the feds roped into supporting every area with any federal significance when possibly the job could be done better by states or local authorities," Pickelner says.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Rupert Cutler opposes the Jackson Hole provision for both philosophical and financial reasons. "We believe Teton County is not without sufficient authority to prevent and control land uses that are not compatible with the local scenic values. And the administration is concerned about the high and rapidly escalating costs for federal acquisition of private development rights," Cutler says.

Conservation groups, while generally supporting the bill, are working to improve a few sections. The bill "includes language which we find unacceptable and seriously damaging to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act," says the American Rivers Conservation Council in its July newsletter.

The group objects to an amendment to the bill that would withdraw the Sauk River in Washington from designation as a wild or scenic river, if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decides that a dam would be the most cost-effective means of flood control.

In general, however, the bill is "a monumental turning point for the Wild and Scenic River System, which up to this point has grown much too slowly," the council says.



CATHEDRAL VALLEY in Capitol Reef National Park.

Photo by Kevin Dahl



Western Roundup

HCN

113
Aug. 25, 1978

Mont. delegation not behind Great Bear

Bills to create a Great Bear Wilderness in Montana have been introduced in the U.S. House and the Senate without the support of any member of the Montana congressional delegation. It usually is difficult to pass wilderness bills without support from the state's delegation.

The proposed 360,000-acre wilderness would border the Bob Marshall wilderness south of Glacier National Park and is con-

sidered important for grizzly bear habitat. However, the bills may be too late to pass Congress this year, according to *The Missoulian*.

Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), a longtime friend of the late Montana Sen. Lee Metcalf, introduced the bill (S 3429) in the Senate. Metcalf had supported the wilderness. Rep. Morris Udall introduced the bill in the House (HR 13972).

Denver microwave level may be too high

Radio-wave radiation at several sites in Denver exceeds the limits set in the Soviet Union, according to a copy-righted story by Ron Wolf in the *Straight Creek Journal*. While the United States does not have a standard for radio-wave radiation, the Environmental Protection Agency is testing the level of radiation in several cities following several studies that have linked radio-wave radiation with cancer, genetic damage and changes in the bioelectric function of the

brain in test animals.

The high readings in Denver were found near FM stations, but the potentially dangerous waves also are emitted by radar units and microwave ovens.

Richard Tell, the EPA physicist supervising the national monitoring program, told *SCJ* that the Denver readings were not cause for alarm. However, he conceded that research is inadequate on the effects of long-term exposure to low levels.

Industry rep heads anti-litter project

A container industry executive has been loaned to the state of Colorado for six months to run its litter control program. Richard Powell, a leader in the industry's \$500,000 fight against the bottle bill initiative in 1976, says he will "pull all the stops" to set up an effective program, according to the *Straight Creek Journal*. Proposed legislation would have discouraged the use of throw-away containers by requiring deposits.

The Colorado Legislature funded the state anti-litter program with \$240,000 for this year, but the program has been floun-

dering. The Colorado Resource Recovery Committee, a beverage and container industry group, will be paying Powell's salary.

Powell says he plans several "exciting projects," including a booth at the state fair, a slide show and an anti-litter board game for children.

Straight Creek Journal says, "Hopefully, the CRRC will prove as proficient in getting the litter control program off the ground as it was in convincing Coloradans that the Oregon Bottle Bill was not working."

ARCO stockholders get free mailgrams

A public relations officer for Atlantic Richfield Co. has confirmed that the company is offering free mailgrams to stockholders who want to write their Washington, D.C., representatives about the Alaska National Interest Lands legislation now being considered, according to the *Alaska Advocate*.

"Becky Pfanner of ARCO in Anchorage, Alaska, at first expressed disbelief that the company would pay for such mailgrams, but after checking with headquarters in Los Angeles, she confirmed the report," the *Advocate* says. Jack Anderson had reported the offer in his column, saying

ARCO encouraged people to oppose the legislation.

However, Pfanner says ARCO did not ask its shareholders to take any particular stand. The company itself has protested the bill.

"Lobbying by mailgram is a grassroots effort in keeping with the company's civic action program efforts to inform our membership of stockholders, employees, retirees...on the...lands issue," she says. She says this is the first time ARCO has offered free mailgrams to shareholders to express an opinion on an issue.

Ski Yellowstone development approved

Despite protests from environmentalists, U.S. Forest Service Chief John McGuire has upheld the decision of local and regional Forest Service offices in Montana to approve the Ski Yellowstone project near Bozeman.

Environmentalists have argued that the ski development, which will include condominiums, a ski lodge and other housing to accommodate 4,450 visitors, will severely affect the habitat for grizzly bears and other wildlife. An environmental impact statement on the project confirmed there will be adverse consequences. The environmentalists also say that the public lands will be used to benefit nearby land-

owners, subdividers and profiteers.

The Montana Wilderness Association, Montana Wildlife Federation, the Environmental Information Center, the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club joined in the protest. Rick Applegate, who coordinated the opposition, says the groups may go to the courts to stop the development, according to the *Billings Gazette*.

Ski Yellowstone was first granted a study permit in March 1973. The environmental groups applied for a special permit to use the area for cross country skiing, but their request was denied.

The proposed development would include 1,880 acres of national forest land.



Colorado Division of Wildlife photo

WIRED FOR SOUND. To find out where young peregrine falcons go when they leave the nest, researchers at Colorado College are attaching radio transmitters to them. Five of the falcons were fitted with such transmitters this year. Here, Dr. James Anderson of Colorado College attaches a transmitter to a young falcon.

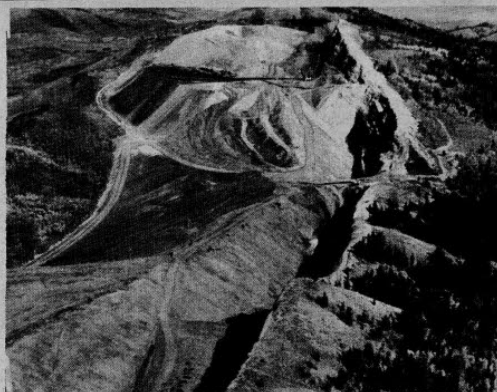


Photo courtesy of the Idaho Fish and Game Department

PHOSPHATE MINING in Maybe Canyon near Soda Springs. Gov. John Evans wants the Interior Department to approve Beker Industries' plans for mining in South Maybe Canyon.

Idaho governor wants phosphate leased

Idaho Gov. John Evans has asked the Interior Department to approve plans for four phosphate mines in southeastern Idaho.

Since an environmental impact statement said the mining would have a negative impact on wildlife, Evans asked that the federal government provide money to alleviate the damage to fish and wildlife and contract with the state to monitor wildlife.

He also asked for federal money to enable the state to assess impacts on water quality and water flow.

An environmental impact statement that analyzed plans for 16 new or expanded mines in southeast Idaho, including the four recommended by Evans, said there would be impacts on wildlife, water quality, agriculture and social services.

Evans said approval of the four plans is necessary to keep the phosphate mining industry operating in the state.

According to the Idaho Environmental Council, the South Maybe Canyon mine recommended by Evans would be one of the most environmentally destructive of the 16 mines.

14-High Country News - Aug. 25, 1978



by Myra Connell

Intellectually I accept all living things as parts of creation, necessary in the ecological scheme. But emotionally I reject snakes, particularly rattlesnakes.

J. Frank Dobie, in his book *Rattlesnakes*, declares that these reptiles have the "worst reputation in the whole Southwest." He could as well include all the Western United States.

Dobie believes that the rattlesnake

population is rapidly decreasing, due to the unrelenting war against them.

However there was still an ample supply when I lived with my parents on a ranch in central Wyoming many years ago. Several dens were thought to exist in our vicinity. We children were so conditioned to fear them that any type of buzzing sound gives me a violent start to this day.

Our family and neighbors had many a lively encounter with the dreaded creatures. It was my good fortune to have only one close call when I was about nine years old.

My older sister and I set out one fine spring morning to walk several miles to a friend's home. On the way we had to cross a small stream, swollen by melting snow. She managed to leap across, but it was too wide

for me. So I clambered along the bank looking for a narrow place. Just as I climbed over some big rocks into a clump of brush I heard "bzzzt" close by and discovered a big rattler right between my feet. I plunged into the creek, scrambled up the opposite bank and ran up the road.

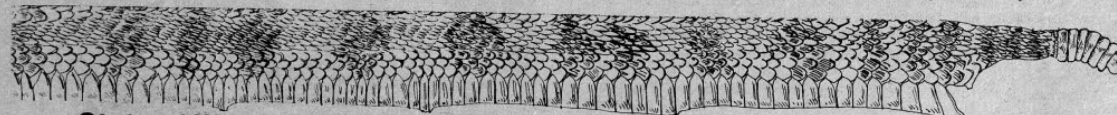
During haying time snakes were often found in the fields, apparently coming in from the dry hills to seek coolness and moisture. Often one would be picked up by the buckrake with the hay and tossed upon the haystack. The men who were working on the stack never lost any time getting down when they saw a snake dumped in their midst. Now that haymaking machinery has changed, I suppose snakes are smothered in the tight bales.

I have wondered how the Indians dealt

with rattlesnakes before the white invasion. The white man's way, motivated by fear, has been by brute strength and awkwardness. Dynamiting of dens has become great sport in some regions and live-capture contests are a popular pastime. Setting fire to a clump of brush that harbors a snake is said to be an effective method of destruction.

However, despite white man's war, the rattlesnake is not on the federal government's threatened or endangered lists. If protection is ever afforded these hated creatures, some persons will be horrified.

Even though I cannot overcome my bred-in fear and revulsion, I could not join in the outcry. I am positive that rattlers have their place in the system.



State of Wyoming Public Notice

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO STATE THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS UNDER THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972 (FWPCA), P.L. 92-500 AND THE WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (35-11-101 et. seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1957, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973). IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (4) OUR OIL TREATERS DISCHARGES, TO RENEW (1) ONE COMMERCIAL DISCHARGE PERMIT, AND TO MODIFY (1) ONE INDUSTRIAL AND (2) TWO U.S. GOVERNMENT DISCHARGE PERMITS WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: DIAMOND B INDUSTRIES
P.O. BOX 608
NEWCASTLE, WYOMING 82701

MAILING ADDRESS:

(2) FACILITY LOCATION: TUPPER LEASE, TANK NO.1 & NO.2,
NW 1/4, SE 1/4, SECTION 15, T49N,
R65W, CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING

APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0027979

(3) APPLICANT NAME: ELK OIL AND GAS

MAILING ADDRESS: 6200 SOUTH QUEBEC
ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80110

FACILITY LOCATION: GOVERNMENT LEASE NO. W-39082-A,
NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SECTION 15, T49N,
R65W, CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING

APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0028011

(4) APPLICANT NAME: KEDCO MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

MAILING ADDRESS: (7) MINERALS MANAGEMENT
ENERGY 11 BUILDING, SUITE 250
351 WEST WERNER COURT
CASPER, WYOMING 82601

FACILITY LOCATION: FEDERAL NO. 11-17 AND GALLS FEDERAL NO. 1,
NW 1/4, SECTION 17, T36N, R63W,
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0028002

(4) APPLICANT NAME: KENNEDY & MITCHELL

MAILING ADDRESS: (7) MINERALS MANAGEMENT
ENERGY 11 BUILDING, SUITE 250
351 WEST WERNER COURT
CASPER, WYOMING 82601

FACILITY LOCATION: FEDERAL 1-17, MAHONEY 1-77-2 TANK
BATTERY, NW 1/4, SE 1/4, SECTION 4, T25N,
R88W, CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING

APPLICATION NUMBER: WY-0027987

These facilities are typical oil treaters located in Crook, Niobrara and Carbon Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. All discharges are to Class IV waters of the State.

The discharges must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. Because the discharges are to Class IV streams, limitations more stringent than those indicated in the Produced Water Criteria are not necessary to insure compliance with Wyoming's Surface Water Quality Standards.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is September 30, 1980, with the exception of the Kedco and Kennedy & Mitchell permits. These permits have an expiration date of December 31, 1982.

(5) PERMIT NAME: JACKSON HOLE SKI CORPORATION

MAILING ADDRESS: TETON VILLAGE, WYOMING 83025

PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0028087

Teton Village is a resort community located northwest of Jackson, Wyoming. The wastewater treatment facilities serving the village consist of an activated sludge package plant followed by a chlorination unit and a polishing pond. The discharge is to Fish Creek which has recently been designated as a Class I water.

Under Wyoming's Water Quality Standards, any discharge to a Class I water may not increase its quantity of pollutant discharge above the level it was discharging at the time of designation. Therefore, this permit renewal includes quantity or weight limitations as well as concentration limitations. The weight or quantity limitations proposed are based upon the average flow volumes reported by Teton Village during its maximum use months.

(December, 1977, and January, February and March, 1978). This flow volume (.125 MGD) was used in conjunction with the concentration limitations contained in the existing discharge permit to compute the quantity or weight limitations.

The concentration limits of the existing permit, which were based on National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming Water Quality Standards, have simply been transferred to the proposed permit without change.

An evaluation of the need for ammonia removal based on an average pH of 7.5 (estimate), a maximum temperature of 15.5°C (estimate), a discharge volume of .125 MGD and an in-stream seven consecutive day - ten year low flow of 2.75 MGD (estimate), indicates that as long as ammonia concentrations in the discharge remain below 52 mg per l the in-stream standard of .02 mg per l of unionized ammonia will not be violated. Since raw sewage generally has an ammonia concentration of approximately 30 mg per l, there is no need for an ammonia limitation at this facility.

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

The proposed permit requires continued self-monitoring of the effluent quality and quantity on a regular basis and requires submission of reports monthly. The permit will expire September 30, 1983.

(6) PERMIT NAME: HALLIBURTON SERVICES

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 369
ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING 82901

PERMIT NUMBER: WY-002604

Halliburton Services operates a large oil, gas and water well servicing facility in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Wastewater originates from two sources: (1) A "new" truck and equipment washing unit; and, (2) The "old" or original truck and equipment washing unit.

The new unit has a waste treatment facility which consists of oil and grease skimming, pH adjustment and final settling. There is the possibility of a discharge to Killpecker Creek (Class IV stream). Any discharge must meet effluent limitations considered to be "best practicable" for this type of operation. This discharge point (001) was covered in original discharge permit.

The oil wash unit has a newly constructed settling basin and oil trap which will discharge to a storm sewer, a tributary of Killpecker Creek. It is to add discharge point (002) that this permit is being modified. It is the intention of Halliburton to eventually route this discharge into the City of Rock Springs' sanitary waste collection system. The connection will be granted by the City when its new sewage treatment plant is completed, which is expected by January 1, 1979. In the interim, the permit requires that the oil and grease content of the discharge be held to a maximum of 10 mg per l.

The proposed permit requires periodic monitoring of the quality of the discharges with reporting of results quarterly. The permit will expire June 30, 1983.

(7) PERMIT NAME: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1630
MILLS, WYOMING 82644

FACILITY LOCATION: BOYSEN POWER PLANT

PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0020907

FACILITY LOCATION: KORTES POWER PLANT

PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0020915

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation operates small package wastewater treatment plants which serve the staff of the Boysen and Kortès power plants. Under regulations recently promulgated by the State of Wyoming, both of these plants discharge into waters designated as Class I (the Kortès plant discharges into the "miracle mile" of the North Platte River and the Boysen plant discharges into the Wind River). Under these regulations, existing point source discharges to Class I waters may not increase the quantity of pollution discharged.

Since the existing discharge permits governing these plants limit only the discharge concentration, it is now necessary to modify the permits and also include quantity or weight limitations. These limitations are calculated based on the maximum average flow volumes reported for these plants (179 gallons per day at Boysen and 97 gallons per day at Kortès) and the concentration limitations in the existing permits.

The proposed permits require the permittee to meet both the quantity and the concentration limitations (taken directly from the existing discharge permits) effective immediately. Self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permits will expire July 31, 1983.

STATE EPA TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to September 24, 1978. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permit Section, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permit Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80295. All comments received prior to September 24, 1978 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling the State of Wyoming, (307) 777-7781, or EPA, (303) 327-3874, or by writing to the aforementioned address.

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

Public Notice No. WY-78-010



HCN Bulletin Board



WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL RULES REVISIONS

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality will promulgate final rules for its land quality division and discuss proposed water and air quality regulations at a public hearing in the auditorium of the Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyo., on Aug. 29 and 30, 1978. Among the topics of discussion are proposed rules governing in situ mining in the state and water quality standards for groundwater. Persons wishing to testify or submit written comments should contact DEQ, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82002. Copies of the proposals are available from DEQ at the above address and the Lander District Office, 933 Main, Lander, Wyo., and Sheridan District Office, 30 E. Grinnell Street, Sheridan, Wyo. 82801.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FOR WILDERNESS

A group of construction workers and other working people have formed an or-

ganization to protect de facto wilderness on public lands in Wyoming. Members receive mailings and newsletters on wilderness issues. Membership is free. For further information contact Obed Martinez, Box 401, Jackson, Wyo. 83001.

CHALLIS GRAZING EIS

A draft environmental impact statement on the Challis grazing unit in Idaho says a new management plan will increase the amount of forage from 10,436 animal unit months (an animal unit month is the amount of forage necessary to maintain a cow and calf for a month) to 17,369 AUMs over a 15-year period. In addition, the EIS predicts improved forage for wild horses, burros and wildlife, as well as improved fish habitat. Copies of the document are available for public review at the Idaho State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Federal Building, 550 W. Fort Street, Boise, Idaho 83724 and at the BLM's Salmon District Office, Highway 93 South, Salmon, Idaho 83467. Written comments

will be accepted until Oct. 2, 1978 and should be sent to the Boise address. A public hearing will be held on Sept. 6, 1978 at 9 a.m. at the American Legion Memorial Building, Challis, Idaho, and on Sept. 7, 1978 at 1 p.m. at the Rodeway Inn, Boise Idaho. Those wishing to speak should contact the Idaho BLM state office before Sept. 1 at (208) 384-1513.

NUCLEAR POWER CONFERENCE

A third national conference on nuclear power and alternatives to it will be held Oct. 6 to 8, in Washington, D.C. "Critical Mass '78" will have workshops, panels and speakers covering such subjects as nuclear economics, low-level radiation and health, radioactive wastes, solar energy, legal strategies, and direct action. The meetings will be in the Capital Hilton Hotel. Registration is \$15 for individuals and \$100 for industry representatives. To register or obtain more information contact Critical Mass '78, Box 1538, Washington, D.C. 20013.

tems have been prepared by the National Center for Appropriate Technology. The documents are available free from NCAT, P.O. Box 3838, Butte, Mont. 59701.



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NCAT BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Six bibliographies that identify "useful, introductory level publications" in the areas of solar power, wind power, community gardens, economic development, building and energy and alternative waste sys-

NEW WIND OFFICE

The American Wind Energy Association is keeping an eye on the federal government from its new Washington, D.C., office. The address is: Suite 1111, 1717 K St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

There was an attorney named Bell,
Thought fishing in spillways was swell.
When he hooked a darter,
He bagged the wee martyr
And used it in court show and tell.

WILDLIFE REFUGES UNSAFE. John Grandy of the Defenders of Wildlife says current policies governing wildlife refuges make them unsafe for the animals they were designed to protect. Grandy was a member of the Interior Department's task force on wildlife refuges, which recommended that grazing, haying, timbering, pesticide use, predator control, hunting

and trapping be limited on the refuges unless they maintain or enhance wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the refuges, rejected most of the task force's suggestions.

WASTE CLEANUP. "Toxic industrial chemicals in sewer systems can cause a number of potentially serious health and environmental problems," said Barbara Blum, deputy administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. With that, she announced the EPA would require about 40,000 industrial plants to remove poisonous pollutants before dumping them into city sewage systems. Within 18 months, the EPA will set waste treatment standards for 21 industrial categories. Compliance will be required three years after each standard is set.

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16-High Country News - Aug. 25, 1978

Time running short for Endangered Species Act

Editors' note: In the July 28 issue of *High Country News*, we carried a story headlined "Debate raises questions about truth in lobbying." The story dealt in part with accusations that some environmental groups, in lobbying to preserve the Endangered Species Act, took one position privately and another publicly. Deadlines prevented us from including responses from the groups accused of such tactics. The following story contains the replies of those groups to the accusations and updates the status of pending legislation on the Endangered Species Act.

by Justus Bavarskis

When it announced its support for an amendment to the Endangered Species Act, the National Audubon Society felt it was adopting the most realistic option to keep the act as strong as possible, given the political climate in the Senate.

Other environmental organizations disagreed, and said Audubon's stance may work to weaken the bill even more than it would be weakened by the Senate's adoption of an amendment co-sponsored by Sens. John C. Culver (D-Iowa) and Howard Baker (R-Tenn.).

There is a slight possibility the debate may be moot because, unless the House acts before Congress adjourns early in October, the Endangered Species Act conceivably could die for lack of funding.

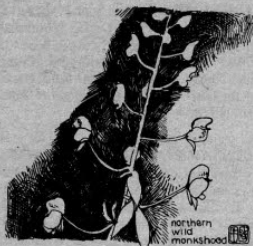
Toby Cooper, wildlife program coordinator for Defenders of Wildlife, says the House subcommittee on fisheries and wildlife conservation and the environment recessed Aug. 17 without making any significant progress toward marking up the legislation. The Senate, meanwhile, adopted a provision in the appropriations bill for the Interior Department that forbids funding for the Endangered Species Act unless Congress specifically passes such a law.

Normally, if funds for an existing program are not re-authorized, the program can continue under a continuing resolution, usually a legislative formality. That would not apply in this case because of the Senate provision.

Martha Pope of the National Wildlife Federation says there is a remote possibility the act may not be re-authorized,

though she expects it will be. Other environmentalists generally agree with that assessment.

The act presently forbids the construction of a project if it would harm the habitat



of an endangered plant or animal. But the Senate, by a 94-3 vote July 19, adopted the Culver-Baker amendment, which would establish a seven-member committee that could, by a 5-2 vote, allow a project to be built even if it does threaten an endangered species.

In the House subcommittee, proposals range from a measure that would be stricter than Culver-Baker, to one that would more easily allow the construction of projects when they conflict with endangered species.

However, the Endangered Species Act will be debated in the House under the open rule, which means congressmen may propose any amendments they wish on the floor. Cooper expects that the amendments offered will range from gutting the act to leaving it unchanged.

What the House finally comes up with may in some degree be influenced by how the Senate voted. The Audubon Society, believing it was a political reality that the Senate was bent on weakening the act — particularly in view of the Supreme Court's decision that the Tellico Dam may not be built — said it reluctantly supported the Culver-Baker amendment because that would do the least damage to the act.

A source on the staff of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee says Audubon's support of Culver-Baker was extremely important because it

brought more votes for the amendment, and thus put the Senate in a better bargaining position when the time comes to work out a compromise with the House.

Cooper and Michael Bean, chairman of the Environmental Defense Fund's wildlife program, disagreed both with Audubon's and the Senate staff committee source's reasoning.

"I find not a shred of support for the Audubon reading" of the Senate's mood, said Bean.

Bean said he feels that if Audubon had not supported the Culver-Baker amendment, then the Senate may have approved a stronger version of Culver-Baker. As it was, he says, the Audubon letter may have encouraged the Senate to pass a watered-down version of Culver-Baker.

Several changes were made in the Culver-Baker amendment before the Senate finally approved it. Those changes included a provision to exempt developments in disaster areas from adhering to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

Cooper said Audubon's letter was "a tremendous mistake. A lot of people associate Audubon with a substantial bloc of the conservation community...If a senator who's not environmentally aware perceives that the position of environmentalists is to accept Culver-Baker, then his tendency is to chip away at the act a little more," Cooper said.

As for the assertion that Audubon's position may help bring a stronger bill from the House, Bean said, "There's a critical question whether it's preferable for the Senate to go to the House with a less desirable bill that's strongly supported. I think it may be better to have less support for a better bill."

The Senate staff committee source and sources within environmental organizations lobbying for the Endangered Species Act also accused Defenders of Wildlife, the Environmental Defense Fund and Friends of the Earth, among other unnamed environmental organizations, of telling Culver or his aides privately that they had no great objection to the Culver-Baker amendment, but of stating publicly that the amendment was unacceptable to them.

"Our private, public, any other position was that we didn't want the act amended,"

said Cooper, of Defenders. "Never at any time did we say that Culver-Baker was acceptable or desirable."

"The most I might ever have said is that their bill (Culver-Baker) is the least bad, but still unacceptable and needs various improvements before it can even approach acceptability," said Bean of EDF.

Liz Kaplan, who lobbied for the act on behalf of Friends of the Earth, said, "We met with the Senate staff committee people and said we'd give them suggestions for improving the bill, but we also made it clear we'd attack the (Culver-Baker) amendment, not support it. Culver twisted that into saying environmental groups winked and nodded at him. That's really unfair."

While still maintaining that they would by far prefer to see no amendment, some environmental groups appear to be indicating that political realities may force them to accept some weakening amendment. The National Wildlife Federation, in a July 31 letter, "with great reluctance" suggested that, "in view of the present mood of Congress," the House subcommittee adopt an amendment similar to one proposed by Reps. John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Edwin Forsythe (R-N.J.). That amendment would weaken the act less than the Senate's Culver-Baker amendment.

"We still want no amendment," said Cooper. "But if we had to choose, then Dingell-Forsythe would do less harm than the others. But we're trying to avoid getting caught in the same kind of semantic traps as happened in the Senate, where we'd say, 'This amendment is the least damaging,' and someone would translate that into our saying, 'It's acceptable.'"



Dear Friends

Three and a half years ago, August Dailer wandered through the doors of HCN, asking if there was anything he could do to help. He had a degree in advertising and some good ideas, and we quickly put him to work although we could not pay him for the first several months. He'd bring his daughter, Aimee, into the office with him during the day and find odd jobs in the evenings and weekends to supplement the income of his wife, Pat. In September 1975 when we started accepting advertising, we hired him.

Now August is moving on, but through his efforts HCN is much better known to readers and advertisers in the region. Readers all over the country carry HCN's address scrawled across their chests on T-shirts; legal advertisements have a HCN promotional poster on their backs each year; several newspapers carry a HCN news column.

There were times, no doubt, when callers were a little startled by his sense of humor, such as the woman who asked if she could have a subscription. "Sorry," August said, "we're all full up." The staff will miss his jokes, his blues songs during paste up, and his willingness to help, whether it was getting settled in Lander when we were newcomers or trying to figure out why our cars wouldn't start.

August almost drowned this summer in a canoeing incident. He realized then he still wanted to try other careers in his lifetime, so he accepted a scholarship to learn to teach the handicapped.

By the time August left, he had brought advertising revenue from nothing up to \$6,200 a year, and his T-shirt sales and other promotions brought in another \$3,000 — income we've obviously grown to depend on.

To keep this needed money coming in, we've reorganized the advertising and promotion department. We're now contacting professional advertising

representatives across the country who may be soliciting advertising for us on a commission basis. Jazmyne McDonald, office manager, will be adding promotion to her other duties. Jacque Shaw will be taking on more circulation tasks. Hannah Hinchman, staff artist, will be working with advertisers and adding her creative touch to the design of ads.

— the editors



AUGUST DAILER

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