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The Environmental Biweekly of the Rockies and Great Plains

# High Country News

Vol. 10 No. 25

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, December 29, 1978

## BLM catches flak for wilderness inventory

by Philip White

With the wilderness evaluation by the U.S. Forest Service now nearly in Congress' lap, attention is shifting to the Bureau of Land Management's wilderness inventory on the mind-boggling 174 million acres it oversees in 13 Western states. Things are heating up in a hurry.

Industry spokesmen are leveling charges of "land grab" at environmentalists and claiming that only minuscule portions of BLM territory could possibly qualify as wilderness. Conservationists are concerned that compressed timetables and a dearth of knowledge about these public lands could allow many pristine and important areas to be passed over.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and a wilderness inventory handbook subsequently developed by BLM divide its roadless lands into three main categories.

About 36 accelerated inventories are being done on lands that would be impacted by imminent energy development

ESCALANTE CANYON is high on Utah conservationists' list for wilderness study. Pictured is Cliff Arch.

projects. Some of these are already completed.

In Nevada, for instance, state BLM director Ed Evats says his staff evaluated the wilderness potential of 1.5 million acres of roadless areas in the eastern part of the state under the gun of oil and gas development. Nearly 99 percent were released for development, with only 20,000 acres found suitable for further wilderness study.

In Utah, environmental groups are questioning the methods used for an accelerated review for a proposed power line corridor.

The 55 areas that BLM had classified as primitive or natural areas prior to FLPMA have been placed in an "instant study area" class. BLM will make a recommendation on the suitability of each of these areas for wilderness designation by July 1980.

The bulk of BLM domain falls into the third category. These roadless lands will be

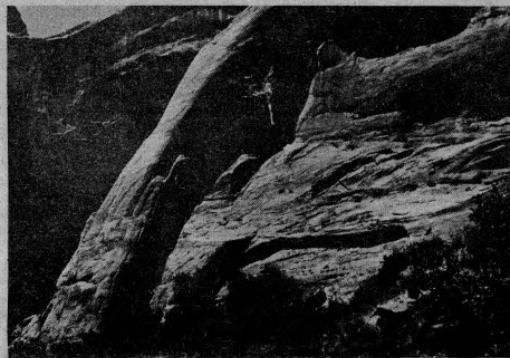


Photo by Phil White

considered in a six-step process set out in the inventory handbook. Copies are available at any BLM office. Having developed a "public involvement plan" under step one,

most BLM district offices in the West are already working on steps two and three, the initial inventory and recommendations. At this stage, large roadless areas could be classified as "clearly and obviously" lacking wilderness values, thus releasing them for development as early as March 1979.

This timetable, combined with the accelerated inventories, puts wilderness advocates such as Sierra Club regional representative Bruce Hamilton of Lander, Wyo., on tenterhooks. "Unlike most RARE II (the Forest Service's roadless inventory) areas, we simply don't know much about these BLM lands. I'm concerned that we're suddenly dealing with millions of acres of land at a time and being asked to make snap decisions without time to even look at the land on the ground," Hamilton says.

According to Wayne Erickson, wilderness coordinator for the BLM in Wyoming, it is essential for BLM to quickly identify roadless areas and eliminate those obviously unworthy of further study. "FLPMA requires us to manage our roadless areas so that their suitability for wilderness is not impaired during the inventory process. The national office wants us to move rapidly on this initial inventory so we don't have to leave all lands under interim management any longer than necessary," Erickson says.

A proposed list of areas in the Rocky Mountain states that obviously do not qualify for further study will be ready sometime between January and June of 1979.

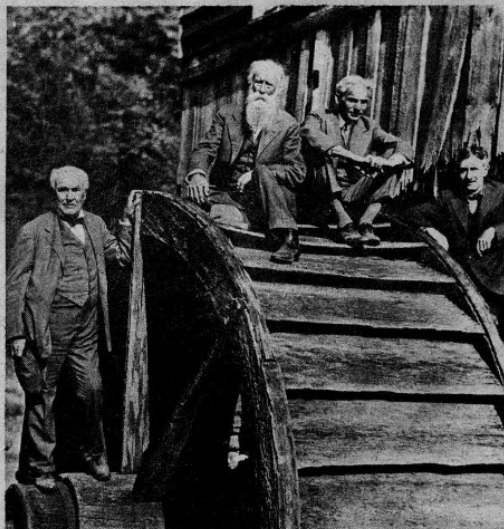
After a 90-day public comment period, the state directors will make a final list of non-qualifying areas, releasing them from interim restrictions. The other roadless areas will go back in the hopper. Again, a

## John o' Birds tempered industrialists

©1978 by Peter Wild

John Burroughs sits on a waterwheel flanked by Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and Harvey Firestone. He looks as if he is about to cry, but that is not the case. He is old, the sun is in his eyes, and he's a bit weary from the zany automobile excursions the industrialists took across the countryside as diversions from the strain of making their millions. Financially, the rustic Burroughs did not qualify as part of the select group, but he was a celebrity in his own right — the most widely photographed American of his time.

As the rich often do, the band liked to have a famous outsider along to add a charming dimension to the "travelling circus." Besides, as Harvey Firestone says in *Men and Rubber: The Story of Business*, Burroughs "could tell us about the birds and the flowers" as the caravan bounced along America's primitive roads, springs sagging from the tents, cots, electric lights and portable kitchen that assuaged the hardships of camping out. For his part, Burroughs was no spoilsport on the boyish frolics. There he is in the photographs of the Ford Museum archives, a woodsman well into his 80s blazing away at a target with a Winchester or taking on



Ford Archives Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Mich.

JOHN BURROUGHS (second from left), a bit weary from the zany automobile excursions he shared with industrialist companions Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and Harvey Firestone.

(continued on page 4)

(continued on page 6)

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**HCN  
Letters**

### SOLAR RECHARGE

Dear HCN:

The simile on page 4 of your "Recharge" article (HCN 12-15-78) was delightful. I, too, have begun to use the sponge concept in illustrating how Wyoming's Madison Formation is recharged.

In recent discussions with my favorite environmentalist — my daughter, Ann — the thought occurred to me to ask: "What is the source of the energy that recharges the Madison?"

She answered correctly, "The sun! Gee, Dad, you have a fuel-less, equipment-free application of solar energy."

In addition to your observation that the underground reservoir is "safe from desiccating winds," the underground reservoir does not inundate hay meadows or homesites, and it doesn't interfere with free-flowing fishing streams.

The lesson is clear. Always try to be in harmony with Nature.

Frank B. Odasz, P.E.  
Rocky Mountain Area Manager  
Energy Transportation Systems Inc.  
Casper, Wyo.

### URANIUM EVIDENCE SOUGHT

Dear HCN readers:

Help!!

If you're able, a group I'm in could use some help. Union Carbide and TVA, among others, plan to mine uranium in western South Dakota. I was at a meeting last night where Union Carbide officials explained their planned activities to the

**HCN  
white  
sale**


We've just finished our annual inventory here at High Country News and discovered that we're overstocked on unused subscriptions!

We need to sell these items quickly to make room for all the features, investigative articles, photos and artwork that will arrive with the new year.

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public. And I'm afraid most of the public took their word for it.

What we need are documented examples of violations and other safety problems involving Union Carbide and TVA especially, but any companies you can find will help. People here tend to accept a developer's reassurances quite readily, and I'm afraid we're going to get stuck with some pretty miserable side effects after the money has been made and the developers are gone.

The Black Hills Energy Coalition is circulating petitions to impress upon the S.D. Legislature the need for aggressive measures to protect the state's citizens.

Steve Paulson  
Black Hills Energy Coalition  
Box 267  
Deadwood, S.D.  
57732

### ARGUMENTS FOR TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Dear HCN,

Concerning the Bridger-Teton National Forest's Timber Management Plan, Bart Koehler's guest editorial in your Dec. 1 edition makes a very strong implication that

timber management activities are detrimental to wildlife, scenic, recreational, watershed and wilderness values. Although it is true that wilderness options are foreclosed when an area is managed for timber production, healthy, productive, managed stands of timber can be highly complementary to resources other than wilderness.

Timber management is the growing, tending and ultimately harvesting of stands of trees. Potential for catastrophic fires, epidemic bark beetle infestation and disease infection are minimized in a forest where timber is managed.

We are currently in the first stage of management in western Wyoming — removal of old growth and replacement with a new stand. This would be done at a rate that would result in an even distribution of age classes of trees some time in the future (about 250 years from now) if the proposed timber management plan were implemented. That portion of the forest which is proposed for timber management then would be producing between two and three times the yield of timber it currently is. These estimates are based on two different computer models utilizing our current timber inventory information.

The timber management plan identifies 969,104 acres of productive forest land (about 25 percent of the forest) which could be managed for timber production. All timber activities would be coordinated with the other resources. Yields of timber have been substantially discounted on 251,565 of these acres because of management constraints. In addition, there are 478,202 acres of productive forest land which are primarily in wilderness or wilderness study areas. These lands are not proposed for timber management.

Also in this forest there are 685,310 acres of unproductive forest land which either are growing noncommercial species such as aspen or do not grow 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year. In those areas not proposed for timber management, natural pathogens and fire will essentially be allowed to run their course during the life cycle of the forest.

Mr. Koehler states that the proposed timber management plan proposes to cut timber "at full potential" in roadless areas. On the seven areas identified as the "chief wilderness study areas" during the RARE I process, no harvest has been programmed. The areas deferred are the Gros Ventre, Teton Wilderness addition, Sweetwater Midslope, Sweetwater Needles, Silver

Creek-Toboggan Lake, Snake Lake and South Wyoming Range. Timber inventory and timber management have been done on RARE II areas, but actual harvest or other timber management activities are not planned until RARE II is complete.

The timber management plan is designed to be adjusted to reflect changes in land management decisions. Depending on the outcome of RARE II, the harvest levels would be adjusted upward or downward, if the change is significant. "Full potential" in Mr. Koehler's editorial is quoted out of context.

The statement that "the growth rate of timber within the roadless lands to be cut is very low — less than 50 cubic feet per acre per year" is also very misleading. The national standard separating lands suitable for producing industrial crops of wood from those that are unsuitable is 20 cubic feet per acre per year. Although some people consider this standard to be low, it is the one currently in effect. Further, the growth rates given in the plan are current rates in unmanaged stands. Managed stand yields would average about 69 cubic feet per acre per year. Currently within roadless areas there are stands of timber growing well in excess of 50 cubic feet per acre per year.

Mr. Koehler states that the "Bridger-Teton plan keeps the public in the dark about sales." The current five-year plan's availability was announced in the newspaper and on the air. A public meeting was held to introduce the five-year plan. It is based on the timber management plans currently in effect. We explain in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Timber Management Plan that a document identifying specific sales should follow the timber management plan. To do otherwise would be putting the cart before

the horse. Areas which support commercial forest are identified on a map attached to the timber management plan.

It is difficult to look down the road hundreds of years, but it is important to consider that through timber management we can reach the goal of having a healthy, productive forest with crops of trees continually on the way. In the long run, we feel this will be to the benefit of other resources as well as the timber resource.

We are interested in what the public feels is the best use of their national forests. In regard to the proposed timber management plan, we need to know whether or not people consider the proposed harvest levels to be appropriate.

Reid Jackson  
Forest Supervisor  
Bridger-Teton National Forest  
Jackson, Wyo.

### NO SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT

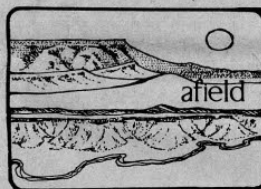
Dear Editor:

Re: Yellowstone River Water Reservation Proceedings

In your issue of Nov. 17, on page 13 you say, "As a result of limitations the board has recommended on the Yellowstone tributary, the Powder River, Intake Water Co. has announced it intends to file suit."

This statement is in error. No such announcement was made by Intake Water Co. and no decision has been made by it to file suit.

Sincerely,  
Henry Loble  
Attorney for Intake Water Co.  
Helena, Mont.



by Ed Foss

CONDON, Mont. — This valley, three miles in width, lies in northwestern Montana. On the west it is bounded by the Mission Mountains and its primitive area and on the east by the Swan Range and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Old log buildings now have been repaired and the new cabin, also of log construction, complements the natural scene. The soft golden-brown of the log interior provides an excellent background for the copper, brass and books housed there. The cabin contains no radio, no television and no telephone. A sound system is the only means of breaking the silence if it becomes no longer bearable.

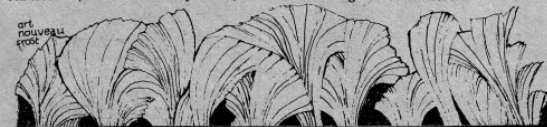
To thoroughly enjoy life in these surroundings, one must revise one's sense of values. The identification of scat becomes of greater importance than the cut or color of a sport coat, the housekeeping of the mountain bluebird of greater interest than the latest model car. As time passes, one becomes more possessive of these surroundings. Beautiful mountains become old friends, deer become "my" deer, birds

"my" birds, and much can be learned from watching them.

When winter arrives, one stops playing games and learns whether one is fond of mountain living. The season is long, days are short, and there may be little sunshine. When frozen drains convert both toilet and shower to mere conversation pieces, love for this paradise may waver. Yet for the truly addicted, winter has great charm. Picture a snow-covered cabin with lighted small-paned windows on a night when the moon is full. Roofs, rail fences and trees are loaded with snow, a sky full of bright stars which add their light to that of the moon. Against this is a backdrop of snow-covered mountain peaks. All will be quiet, or the silence may be broken by the hooting of an owl or the singing of a coyote. On such a night a hike along the narrow, winding mountain road is a jaunt through fairyland.

About mid-morning one bright day in February, I finished work in the cabin and brought clothing to the window so that I might dress while watching birds feeding. My first glance outside showed me something was wrong. Stellar and gray jays flew about in great excitement and there were no small birds in sight. Beneath one of the feeders was what appeared to be a mass of brown feathers. Certain that some predator had made a kill, I opened the door and rushed outside for a better look.

Excitement subsiding, I became aware of the total picture. The predator, a boreal owl, sat on the ground clutching its kill, a gray jay, a nude male holding binoculars stood in the snow nearby. The temperature was 10 degrees below zero.



## Guest editorial Environmentalists should reach out to workers

by Howie Wolke  
Wyoming representative, Friends of  
the Earth

Last spring, at a Forest Service hearing on the DuNoir Special Management Area, a snowmobile dealer, a small sawmill operator, ORV enthusiasts, construction workers, mechanics, ranchers and even an oil rig worker spoke in favor of wilderness.

Perhaps the DuNoir hearing was an extreme case. But there is little doubt that support for protecting Wyoming's threatened de-facto wilderness is now coming from nearly all segments of the population. The environmental movement, in recent years, has developed broad support.

Yet many people still hold to a gross misconception perpetrated by the oil and gas industry, the mining industry, the timber industry, and some segments of the news media. People think that the environmental movement consists of a bunch of upper middle class and upper class "elitists": doctors, lawyers, university professors, actors and actresses and other people with lots of time and lots of money. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Unfortunately, environmentalists must also share some of the blame for this stereotype. The day, if it ever did exist, for using the names of actors, singers and other celebrities to publicize environmental causes has long passed. Environmental activists are often dirt poor, dedicated, and hard-working people who barely eke out a living. We do not need the names of celebrities to legitimize our efforts. What we do need is the names and support of working people throughout the country.

The working class men and women in the United States have long been victimized by corporate propaganda designed to play upon their fears. Workers are told that cleaning up pollution or protecting a wilderness will cost them their jobs; factories threaten to close down if the government enforces anti-pollution requirements.

I've made a living in more ways than I wish to remember. Construction work has been a mainstay, but I've also driven trucks and worked on ranches, in restaurants, factories and warehouses. I've found



that while many working people have fallen prey to industry propaganda, there are also large numbers who do not buy the industry line.

There are plenty of working people who are genuinely concerned about contaminated air and water and shrinking wilderness. I've met dozens of construction workers who love to hunt and fish and are angry about the needless deterioration of the Rocky Mountain wilderness. Yet most have simply resigned themselves to believing that there's "not much anybody can do about it." Perhaps this is the fault of the environmental movement, for not reaching out, for not letting these people know that they can be effective. Construction Workers For Wilderness is an attempt to do just that: to mobilize working people in Wyoming into an effective pro-wilderness force.

But the environmental movement still has much work to do in finding and mobilizing the large numbers of sympathetic and potentially sympathetic working people in the region. The way to do this is to focus on specific types of issues. For example, CWW will limit its scope to public lands and wilderness. While this may seem a narrow perspective, it allows members to come together on the single most important issue in Wyoming, without having to worry about more divisive issues. Wilderness is easy to fire people up about.

The challenge to environmentalists is to begin to involve working people in other issues that threaten the region, such as strip mining, air and water pollution and nuclear development.

If we can succeed to some degree in doing this, then we'll have taken a step toward preserving the earth's ecological integrity.

Guest editorials do not necessarily represent the opinions of the staff of HCN.

## Dear Friends

For High Country News readers, whooping cranes, the Overthrust Belt, pork barrels, RARE II, uranium mining and passive solar energy made the big headlines this year.

We'd guess that most activists invested more time in wilderness issues than in any others, what with the opportunities presented by the Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, the omnibus parks bill, the Bureau of Land Management's wilderness inventory, Alaska and other wilderness legislation. Their reward was a record-breaking year for wilderness designations. But, at the same time, the excitement of the RARE II opportunity turned to exhaustion and disillusionment for some environmentalists. We should know soon whether their skepticism about the process was merited.

After the drought of 1977, water — and dams to store it in — were also on people's minds. In what must have been Carter's most difficult environmental battle, a compromise was reached just before the 95th Congress adjourned this year which insures that some of the worst dams will not be funded next year. A series of HCN headlines told the story: "House funds 'fat, sick turkeys in pork barrels'"; "Congress, Carter lock horns on water projects"; and finally "House sustains public works veto."

Soul-searching over strategy in 1978 brought carefully prepared compromises from some conservationists on the Endangered Species Act, on a uranium mine in the Red Desert, on the Gospel Hump Wilderness in Idaho, on a range improvement bill, and on oil and gas development in the Overthrust Belt. Most of these middle-of-the-road positions drew fire from within environmental groups as well as from without.

Ironically, the experience of having friends in high places also set environmentalists to soul-searching. When federal bucks and blessings move behind an environmental cause, what's an activist to do? Relax? Work with the feds? Or continue to watchdog government — increasing your fervor as the possibilities for change increase?

If 1978 was the year for compromise and soul-searching, it was also the year of protest demonstrations over natural resources in the Rockies. Remember Rocky Flats, Foothills and Carlsbad?

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Even in peaceful little Worland, Wyo., ranchers marched on a Bureau of Land Management Office — all signs that interest in the resources of the West is intensifying.

Environmentalists' increasing interest and participation in politics spawned a new HCN feature: the Western Watch on Washington series, in which we analyzed the performance of the Rocky Mountain states' congressional delegations. We also tried to pin down a fashionable political phenomenon in an article entitled "Environmentalists, backlash and the 'New Right.'"

Uranium and oil and gas interests made big news this year as they tangled with conservationists over remote desert and forest areas. The coal beat was quiet by comparison, while the Carter administration took a time-out to shape its coal leasing policy.

In the year of the government's Sun Day leap onto the solar and energy conservation bandwagon, we took a critical look at alternative technologies: "Are commercial solar systems worth the price?" "McGraw calls insulation push a consumer ripoff." We also took a look at promising technologies that weren't getting much federal attention at the time ("Passive heating and cooling, a solar Cinderella?").

As the Clean Air Act deadlines approached and the brown clouds over Denver and Salt Lake City darkened, states seemed to grow more serious about air pollution cleanup. It's clear that smug Westerners are not immune to the problem ("Dirty air a health hazard in 30 areas of West") and that air pollution threatens agriculture in the region ("Power emissions may reduce ag productivity").

Meanwhile, the Northern Cheyenne tribe, which had decided in 1977 that it wanted to keep its air pristine, reaped its first reward. The Environmental Protection Agency ruled in June that two coal-fired power plant units, Colstrip 3 and 4, could not be built north of the reservation in southern Montana because of their probable effect on air quality.

Three men who were loved by conservationists in the Rockies died this year: a senator, Lee Metcalf; a naturalist, Alfred Etter; and a rancher, Boyd Charter. They worked in different ways — through politics, writing and personal example — to protect the land and inspire the people of the Rockies and beyond. Their differences reflect the diversity of the environmentalists in the region who will carry on their mission.

And what of next year? We'll leave that kind of speculation to correspondent David Crosson in our next issue.

We've had a devil of a time with address changes lately, so please try to remember to notify us of your new address when you intend to move. If you don't, the Post Office charges us 25 cents for having to return your paper to us. What's worse, you miss at least one issue of HCN while we are trying to straighten out the mess.

### CORRECTION

"Environmentalists claim many RARE II victories," in our Dec. 1 issue, quoted Ralph Maughan as a spokesman for Citizens for North Idaho Wilderness. Maughan is not a member of that group, but should have been quoted as a spokesman for the Idaho Environmental Council. We regret any confusion our error may have caused.



Photo by Richard Murphy,  
Jackson Hole News

MOUNTAIN SHEEP above  
Shoshone Pass in the DuNoir Special  
Management Unit.

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Ford Archives, Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Mich.

BURROUGHS was the most widely photographed American of his time.

## Bird man Burroughs. . .

(continued from page 1)

the younger Ford in a spontaneous tree-felling contest.

It would not be difficult to make a case for Burroughs as a conservation slacker. "I have picknicked all along the way," he said, reflecting somewhat guiltily on his long life, off "a-fishing while others were struggling and groaning." While he picknicked, such campaigners as Carl Schurz, Gifford Pinchot and Teddy Roosevelt were risking their careers to stop the rapid wastage of America's wilderness and wildlife.

Burroughs' record in activism may be spotty, but his part in protecting the nature he loved was far greater than he himself imagined. Fulminating on the forefront of conservation, the early activists succeeded only because of widespread sympathy and political support from a public made aware of nature's fragility by such writers as Burroughs. That has been one of the most essential, if uncelebrated, roles in the story of protecting the environment.

In any case, Burroughs would have made a poor campaigner. He loved nature, and he loved to write. After that the devil could take the hindmost — at least so it appeared. While John Muir cajoled citizens into action from California's Sierras, Burroughs was holed up among his vineyards and celery patch on the banks of the Hudson River. When the two John — "John o' Mountains" and "John o' Birds" — met on camping trips, exuberant Muir had no end of poking fun at the stolid farmer. One critic compares buoyant Muir to a squirrel, Burroughs to a woodchuck — an observation not entirely off the mark. The lively Douglas squirrel was one of Muir's favorite creatures, while phlegmatic Burroughs had painted "Woodchuck Lodge" on the mailbox outside one of his writing retreats.

Puzzling over the rural New Yorker's childlike lack of competitive drive, Harvey Firestone whimsically comments, "He was different from the rest of us." By "us" Firestone of course meant Edison, Ford and the other go-getters of American industry. But Burroughs was different from the go-

getters of American conservation as well. In short, he was his own man, a conservationist by default and — despite his appeal as a backwoods prophet to nostalgic Victorians — not at all as prosaic or intellectually entrenched as some have imagined.

### HOME IN THE CATSKILLS

In 1837 Burroughs was born in an unpainted farmhouse on the western slopes of New York's Catskill Mountains. John's surroundings were thoroughly rural. As was the case with many families of the time, the Burroughses were nearly self-sufficient on their back-country dairy farm. John's father, Chauncey, obtained the little cash he needed by driving his wagon loaded with butter 40 miles through the woods to the nearest market town. As to culture, little reading matter besides the traditional Bible, a hymnal and an occasional newspaper graced the Burroughs household. Years later when John became the most celebrated nature writer of the time, none of his 10 brothers and sisters felt moved to read his books.

With few needs and rich soil, the family enjoyed long periods of ease. After the usual farm chores, young John had the freedom to hunt or fish for trout, to range at will through the rolling Catskills.

"Ah, I am the . . . now!" he said in his old age when he transported himself back to the maple-sugaring days of early spring. "I see the woods flooded with sunlight, I smell the dry leaves, and the mould under them just quickened by the warmth. . . I see the brimming pans and buckets, always on the sunny side of the trees, and hear the musical dropping of the sap. . . . Elsewhere he remembers a life centering on the cathedral-like barn: "My memory is fragrant with the breath of cattle."

### NO MERE BUMPKIN

"The freshness of the farm boy's outlook" and "a sense of fundamental calm" pervade

Burroughs' nature writings, according to nature writer Edwin Way Teale. Readers born in the heady Gilded Age responded to Burroughs' reflections precisely because they evoked the natural richness and innocence of a way of life quickly passing from the American scene.

But Burroughs was no mere country bumpkin blessed with a flair for idyllic descriptions. The accuracy of his observations on wildlife rival those of John James Audubon and at time outstrip Henry David Thoreau's. And his work ranges far beyond nature writing. Approximately two-thirds of his nearly 30 books deal with travel, science, theology, philosophy and literary criticism. Much of his more speculative work may not carry great impact for today's readers, but his probing

**"Wisdom cannot come by railroad, or automobile, or aeroplane, or be hurried up by telegraph or telephone."**

analyses of Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Walt Whitman remain essential for modern scholars approaching these three literary giants of the last century.

Burroughs' own scholarship began in a one-room schoolhouse near Roxbury, N.Y. There he wrestled with Jay Gould, the future financier, while absorbing the rudiments offered by a country education. His father's butter sales, however, provided little money for the luxury of advanced learning. John was able to manage only about six months of further study at nearby Hedding Literary Institute and Cooperstown Seminary. By then in his late teens, he moved on to teaching jobs, first in New Jersey, then in New York and Illinois.

Though his future was unsure, he married Ursula North, and with the romantic self-importance of youth informed his new wife: "If I live, I shall be an author." He set his course by contributing literary essays to the *Saturday Press*, a New York

weekly with a bohemian slant. So closely did Burroughs' developing style resemble Emerson's that the public mistook one of his unsigned articles in the *Atlantic Monthly* for the work of the famous New England philosopher. Burroughs students still debate whether Emerson or the poet Whitman had the greatest influence on the maturing writer. Both men were Burroughs' lifelong philosophical mentors, contributing much to his transcendental view that physical nature reflects man's inner spiritual realities.

But neither man had the dramatic impact on Burroughs of John James Audubon. In 1863 while idling in the library at the West Point Military Academy, Burroughs discovered a large, illustrated book. With the first glance at Audubon's *Birds* he "took fire at once. It was like bringing together fire and powder." The volume provided the young man with a focus that would expand to other wildlife encountered on his woodland ramblings. "I was almost wild," he said of a birding expedition into the Adirondacks a few months later.

### CAMARADERIE WITH WHITMAN

In the midst of his new enthusiasm, however, Burroughs needed a better paying job than teaching; he also wanted to meet Whitman, an avant-garde poet with a small but zealous following. Combining the two goals, Burroughs set off for Washington, D.C., where Whitman was nursing the wounded brought in from Civil War battlefields. The two were soon hiking through the woods surrounding the nation's capital, and on these excursions Whitman's expansive view of the world infected the young man. Burroughs' first book — the first of a lifetime of writings about the poet — was *Notes on Walt Whitman* (1867). Meanwhile, during working hours Burroughs sat guarding a vault at the Treasury Department and completing the manuscript of his first book on nature, *Wake-Robin* (1871), a volume with a title suggested by Whitman. But the influence was not all one way. Burroughs sharpened his companion's eye for nature, resulting in imagery such as the hermit thrush symbol in Whitman's famous poem "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd."

Despite his camaraderie with Whitman, the treasury guard recognized that "my blood has the flavor of the soil in it; it is rural to the last drop." After nine years, homesickness for his native ground overwhelmed him. Returning to New York, he built Riverby, a substantial stone house on the banks of the Hudson River. He would live in the area for the rest of his long life. In order to support his family, for a while he worked as a bank examiner. Then, as one book followed another, his finances improved, and he was able to divide his time between writing and tending his vineyards and a favorite celery patch.

"I am bound to praise the simple life," he said, "because I have lived it and found it good." The tender reflections on his idyllic childhood in the Catskills and his loosely-structured essays pointing out the wonders of forest rambles became ever more popular as the nation plunged into industrialism.

Yet Burroughs' hard-won pastoral reality had at least one nettlesome complication. His wife, Ursula, looked on her husband's books as "unremunerative dawdling," as historian Perry D. Westbrook puts it. Oddly enough she had a warm place in her heart for disheveled Whitman, who during the Washington days strolled in late for Sunday breakfasts to gobble up her pancakes. But she disliked her husband's unrefined country friends, who tracked leaves into the house when

(continued on page 5)

they came to visit. Besides, the country life, whatever charms it held for her husband, fell far short of her aspirations. Once a year she'd pack up and move to more civilized Poughkeepsie, ostensibly to avoid the blizzards raging 10 miles away up the Hudson. For his part, to keep from getting underfoot while she was at Riverby, husband John often took refuge in Slabsides, a cabin he built in a swampy place a mile from his home. Their married life was a standoff.

#### PUBLIC ADULATION

If John Burroughs' cup contained mostly ullage at Riverby, it more than overflowed with public adulation at Slabsides. Vassar girls, newspapermen, portrait painters and curious bicyclists streamed to the rough cabin hideaway looking for the last of a vanishing species: the simple American folk hero grown wise from contact with the earth. Aging John Burroughs would greet them in worn farm clothes and might invite them for a walk to the spring for a drink. In him they found the embodiment of the white-bearded, amiable and patriarchal image they were seeking.

Fame begat fame. The literati lavished endorsements on the vineyardist. William Dean Howells had said of *Wake-Robin*: "it is a sort of summer vacation to turn its pages." A few years later, none other than Henry James called the author of *Winter Sunshine* (1875) "a sort of reduced, but also more humorous, more available, and more sociable Thoreau." The railroad magnate E.H. Harriman offered Burroughs an expense-paid tour of Alaska if he would be the historian of his expedition. From humble but shrewd Yankee stock, "John o' Birds" often accepted such invitations. After all, he reasoned, rich people had the right to spend their money as they pleased.

Henry Ford, who surrounded his mansion near Detroit with 500 bird houses, found himself so charmed by the New Yorker's ornithological passages that he bought the old Burroughs family farm and presented it to the writer as a gift. Delighted by another Burroughs book, the automobile tycoon had a Model T crated up and shipped to Riverby. By then in his 70s Burroughs was still game to master "the blind, desperate" contraption. But in an oft-repeated American cliché of the period, he drove the shiny automobile into the side of his barn.

Honors crowned his recognition. The distinguished American Academy of Arts and Letters elected the Seer of Slabsides to its membership. Yale and Colgate awarded him honorary degrees. The White House responded to new Burroughs volumes with notes of appreciation. President and Mrs. Roosevelt found themselves joining the national pilgrimage to the cabin by the celery field. Soon T.R. and Burroughs were fre-

quent companions, the president calling the author "Oom John," in reference to his avuncular qualities. Not to be outdone, Burroughs returned the compliment by dubbing Roosevelt "His Transparency." On one occasion, T.R. invited Burroughs on a railroad trip to Yellowstone National Park and chuckled to himself when crowds rushed forward at some stops to cheer John Burroughs rather than the president of the United States.

As to activism, "John o' Birds" said, "I was never a fighter; I fear that at times I may have been a shirker." Though he rarely took public stances on the conservation issues developing during the progressive era, he lent his support to such wildlife organizations as the American Game Association. In 1913 he campaigned openly for passage of the McLean Bird Protection Bill.

Yet the real contributions of this mostly passive man were far broader. They lay in the public's near frantic appetite for his nature writings. His popularity covered the whole spectrum of society to a degree not since duplicated. One after another over a period of 50 years — from *Wake-Robin* in 1871 to *Under the Maples* in 1921 — his volumes celebrating countryside pleasures appeared in the bookstores. More importantly, school reading texts included Burroughs' essays, in-

still the young with sympathetic attitudes toward the natural world.

#### AGE OF IRON

His influence on the rich and the support his fame gave to conservation's leaders is even more difficult to measure. As far as is recorded, he worked no miraculous conversions, neither on railroad tycoons, automobile producers, nor tire manufacturers. But praising Burroughs became fashionable among the wealthy. In a somewhat bewildered tone, Harvey Firestone admitted that through rubbing shoulders with Burroughs he had a glimpse of "a different world." Such industrialists at least became less antagonistic toward the growing impulse for preserving nature. At times they saw the wisdom in what Burroughs once wrote Firestone — that "We live in an age of iron and have all we can do to keep the iron from entering our souls" — and dug into their pockets to support fledgling conservation causes.

Roosevelt was doing more than being gracious when he invited the celebrated celery farmer on the railroad trip to Yellowstone. Such presidential programs as creation and expansion of the national forests were under almost constant fire from exploiters. Furthermore, preservationists took Roosevelt to task for his hunting fervor. Burroughs improved the President's image with both groups. The nature writer not only carried a certain amount of clout with opponents of conservation. He was also a reformed hunter, who said, "I do not outrage the woods; I do not hunt down a bird."

Roosevelt had created a public stir by indicating he would find himself a mountain lion trophy in the nation's first national park. But the public's outrage rapidly cooled when newspapermen reported that the unarmed president had settled for chasing a mouse while Burroughs watched approvingly. This and other appearances with Burroughs helped

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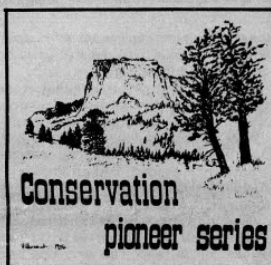
strengthen the president's political hand. As Westbrook notes, Burroughs "quite unknowingly had become a political force, and not a small one, in the cause of conservation."

However, the Seer of Slabsides was not at all unknowing in a larger sense. For years he had tried in his writings to resolve the dualities in Western civilization: of good and evil, of matter and spirit, of nature and science. Throughout much of the intellectual struggle he had maintained a sense of optimism, but in his later years he looked into the future and saw that "wisdom cannot come by railroad, or automobile, or aeroplane, or be hurried up by telegraph or telephone." Man had deceived himself with "howling locomotives... pouring out their huge volumes of fetid carbon."

Through strong words that indicated disillusionment with progress, at the age of 75 he warned readers of the *Atlantic Monthly*: "A riotous, wasteful, and destructive spirit has been turned loose on this continent, and... a nature fertile and bountiful... has been outraged..." Industrialized civilization had become "an engine running without a headlight."

All his life John Burroughs drew sustenance from the familiar faces and countryside of his boyhood. For years he struggled to maintain the old family homestead, just over the Catskills from Riverby. Each year he faithfully visited the graves of relatives. As he approached the age of 84 and saw his friends dying and his old haunts changing, sadness crept into Burroughs' life. Still, New York's rolling hills remained the source of his strength and vision.

He died returning on a train from a winter spent in California, asking with his last words, "How far are we from home?" Some lines he wrote 20 years earlier might serve as his epitaph: "Here I sit," he mused, "night after night, year after year in my little Study perched upon a broad slope of the Hudson, my light visible from afar...."



Ford Archives, Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Mich.

THERE HE IS in the photographs of the Ford Museum archives, a woodsman well into his 80s blazing away at a target with a Winchester.

## classifieds

**STAFF WANTED:** The Dakota Resource Council has an immediate position for an organizer. DRC is an organization of ranchers, farmers and other citizens concerned about coal and energy development in North Dakota. Responsibilities include research, travel and organizing on related issues. Salary: \$500 per mo., liberal vacation time. Health insurance paid. Call (701) 227-1851; Write: Box 254, Dickinson, ND 58601.

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

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## BLM wilderness inventory. . .

(continued from page 1)

proposed list, comment period and final list will identify official wilderness study areas by September 1980. Finally, BLM and the secretary of Interior will make wilderness recommendations to the president, who will in turn make recommendations to Congress, which has sole authority to create wilderness areas.

### FLAK FLYING

Before BLM even started its initial inventory, its interim management responsibilities were the focus of a major dispute in the Rock Springs, Wyo., district.

In September, organizers of a "Committee for the Survival of the Red Desert" conducted a tour of the desert's prime roadless areas. At Honeycomb Buttes northeast of Rock Springs, they found newly-bladed uranium exploration roads. Bart Koehler, Wilderness Society representative in Wyoming, and Dick Randall, regional representative for Defenders of Wildlife, complained to BLM about its failure to provide interim protection in the area. "Since the equipment could have moved easily across this area, the roads were unnecessary," Koehler says.

When they contacted BLM, they were told that BLM wasn't aware of those roads. In November, assistant district manager Jerry Ostrom told Koehler and Randall that BLM had found about 12.5 miles of new bladed trails to uranium exploration holes. "Fremont Energy Company has admitted they were responsible for this destruction," Ostrom's letter said. "We have asked for a solicitor's opinion as to whether BLM can take legal action against this company. We hope at the minimum that

the area will be rehabilitated by the company to the extent possible," Ostrom said.

Ostrom said his office had provided Fremont Energy and several other companies with the "general locations" of these potential wilderness areas in the spring of 1978.

Fremont Energy president W.J. Murphy says his company hasn't admitted anything. "We haven't even been asked if we made them (the roads), but it won't make a damn anyway. We have the right to make roads on our mining claims, and BLM has no authority in this regard. The 1872 mining law gives us carte blanche to explore."

Ostrom disagrees. "The solicitor's opinion interpreting FLPMA indicates that the act amended the 1872 mining law, allowing us to control development which would impair the wilderness values of a roadless area until a final decision is made on whether the area fits wilderness criteria. Honeycomb Buttes has been identified by this district as one of our roadless areas," Ostrom says.

The very idea of a BLM wilderness inventory upsets Fremont Energy's Murphy and Bill Budd of the Wyoming Mining Association in Cheyenne.

Murphy says it is "idiotic" to consider Honeycomb Buttes a roadless area. "There have been roads in there since 1900, active oil prospecting since 1910 and active uranium exploration since 1967. The area is full of roads already, and the entire area is claimed."

In the Nov. 9 *Wall Street Journal*, Budd is quoted as saying that opposition to mining in the Red Desert is "the biggest land grab I've ever seen by the environmentalists and do-gooders."

Budd told HCN that he wasn't misquoted. "If all of the areas recommended by



Photo by Dick Randall

**ROADS IN THE RED DESERT.** The BLM is considering legal action against Fremont Energy because the company allegedly built roads near the Honeycomb Buttes for uranium exploration. The Buttes area is being considered for wilderness designation.

the environmental groups are acted upon favorably, most of the desert will be withdrawn from mineral entry."

Budd says he doesn't believe that much of Wyoming's desert lands are "particularly unique or rare or uncommon" or qualify for wilderness designation. "I never have believed the idea put out by environmental groups that Mother Nature is fragile. I don't think Mother Nature is fragile by any means."

This kind of talk raises the hackles of Dick Randall, who has worked in the Red Desert for 25 years, photographing and studying its topography and wildlife. "Take the Seven Lakes area northwest of Rawlins," Randall says. "Here we have 500,000 acres, and 90 percent of it is already staked for uranium. I say it's a big land grab by the dollar worshippers. If they can't have it all, it's sour grapes."

Speaking of Honeycomb Buttes, Randall says they may be the most "irreplaceable, pristine area in the whole Red Desert. There is no more awe-inspiring place in the state. Although not large, the land has beautiful colors, unique formations with gar and turtle fossils and important raptor nesting sites. Man has made little impact."

Randall says, "We're not going to compromise on the Honeycombs like we did for Minerals Exploration's uranium mine at Chain-of-Lakes. If it comes to lying down in front of the dozers, we'll do that."

The Honeycombs road dispute "is symptomatic of what's happening all over," the Wilderness Society's Koehler says. "We're losing land right and left that nobody knows about."

### CORRIDOR CONTROVERSY

Over in Utah, conservationists have objected to procedures used by the Moab BLM district in an accelerated inventory of lands that would be impacted by one proposed route of the Intermountain Power Project power line. Dick Carter, Wilderness Society regional officer in Utah, says Moab's method "smacks of the obsolete 'sights and sounds of man' criteria," referring to a Forest Service rule debunked by the Carter administration that prevented any area from being considered for wilderness if a person could see or hear civilization from it.

"Three BLM districts are involved," Car-

ter says. "The Cedar City district identified about 35 roadless areas the power line would affect and recommended two for further study. The Richfield district found

(continued on page 7)

## We need the desert and its assets

by Douglas M. Crowe  
Wyoming Game and  
Fish Department

The desert has a magic to it that you feel in no other kind of country. . . . Stretching to the horizon was a variety of land forms beyond compare. To the north were the eroded forms of butte and mesa rising from the desert floor in all shapes and sizes. A look south revealed a twisted and forbidding array of adobe pediment, the colors appearing clean and brilliant even at great distance. Scattered throughout was a maze of canyons, dry stream beds, alluvial deposits, salt flats and escarpments. . . .

But all the natural wonders pale in relation to the desert's greatest asset: space. Space to breathe and space to stretch your mind. A place to look across the miles without being reminded that the continent is infested with your own kind.

We need the desert to remind us who we are and where we come from. We need it as a place to rejuvenate our souls. We must exploit natural resource treasures with great care here, for like so many beautiful things, the desert is fragile and once it is gone, we will all be the poorer for it.

Let us never forget that we have not inherited the land from our fathers but have borrowed it from our children. Those children have a right to see the desert as we have seen it; unspoiled and with panoramic vistas inviting them to stretch their limit of hope.

Reprinted from December, 1978, *Wyoming Wildlife*.

## Oil industry group files suit

The Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association has filed a lawsuit challenging the Bureau of Land Management's restrictions on minerals exploration in roadless areas.

The association says the BLM wilderness inventory, which is now in progress, cannot fully consider mineral values because of these restrictions. The suit was filed Dec. 22 in U.S. District Court in Cheyenne, Wyo.

RMOGA says, "There may not be any oil and gas in the BLM lands, but our information indicates that mineral po-

termining if the area is roadless or has wilderness characteristics.

However, he also said many activities can occur during the study period if they can be "effectively terminated" without impairment of the wilderness qualities of the area.

RMOGA says such restrictions conflict with the language of FLPMA, which says, "Nothing in this act...shall be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, right-of-way or other land use right existing on the date of approval of this act."

Krulitz says Congress intended to allow activities in a particular area that began before the act was passed. However, he says that if a mining claim was not actively worked before the act passed, then any subsequent work is subject to the restrictions.

Saying it is impossible to generalize, Krulitz advises that each claim, permit or lease be examined individually.

RMOGA, however, wants the department to clarify what operations it intends to permit in those areas rather than relying on a case-by-case analysis, according to the *Casper Star-Tribune*.

Draft regulations allow approval of wildcat drilling and construction of temporary access roads for some new oil and gas leases in wilderness study areas — under certain conditions.

BLM is expected to release its final draft of the interim regulations next week.



© Carol Snow

tential is very high. The only way to find minerals and make informed decisions about the use of these areas is to do geophysical and drilling work. The solicitor's opinion prohibits that work."

RMOGA's suit names Interior Solicitor Leo Krulitz and Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus as defendants. The association objects to Krulitz's Sept. 5 Interpretation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Krulitz said the BLM should not allow activities that could impair the suitability of an area for wilderness without first de-

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## Range manager Gary McVicker, a target for angry ranchers

by Judy Donovan

Gary McVicker is a little like the messenger who was beheaded for carrying bad tidings.

A 34-year-old specialist in desert range management with the Bureau of Land Management, McVicker was assigned in early 1977 to implement the federal

government's range management plans for over one million acres of public land north of Kingman, Ariz.

McVicker was trying to enforce allotment management plans, cooperative grazing agreements between ranchers and the bureau. The plans consider both stock production and conservation goals.

The majority of the 29 allotment management plans in the Kingman area al-

ready had been written by the time McVicker arrived. Three of them were already in operation. So McVicker helped get the program moving and ordered grazing cuts. Forced by a court order to get the work done in a certain amount of time, he said he was not able to develop the plans on a one-to-one basis with each rancher.

Then all hell broke loose.

Some of the ranchers resisted the changes, and McVicker, who brought the bad news, became the target of rancher pressure. Letters were written to Arizona congressmen. The Kingman newspaper and local radio stations took up the ranchers' cause. McVicker was harangued at public meetings. Eighteen months after taking the job as BLM resource manager in Kingman, McVicker felt he had to ask for a transfer.

The bureau promoted him to a job as assistant district manager in Yuma. De-

spite the furor McVicker says he feels good about the attention he was able to draw to grazing problems.

"I wasn't hard on the ranchers. I was just carrying out the administrative policy the bureau had applied elsewhere," he says. "But I finally realized that it had gone so far I was an albatross to the program, and it was better I move," McVicker says.

Some don't feel McVicker was attacked just because he was the bearer of bad news. Other BLM personnel in the area worked on the same program and drew no ire.

But McVicker's boss, Robert Buffington, BLM state director, says the ranchers outlay of money for improvements they fear won't be recovered. They also cite the need for a "reasonable" approach that allowed over-reaction and began firing off letters prematurely.

"Gary is probably the best range manager in the state. He came in at a difficult time when a lot of things were changing. The principles he tried to apply haven't needed improvement," Buffington says.

The ranchers object to the bureau's plan primarily because it requires an initial low a three- to four-year period for herd reduction, done in stages, with a review to see if it works and is worth continuing.

Buffington agrees that the plan needs refining. Several ranchers have valid complaints about the changes, he says.

Ranchers have a lengthy appeal process available if they disagree with the allotment management plans, beginning with a local hearing examiner and extending all the way through the secretary of Interior and the federal court system, he says.

"I've been through a few of these adjudications, and I've been told we'll put people out of business before," says Buffington. "And after 20 years or so the same guys are there, making more money with their range considerably improved. I've never seen anyone put out of business by government range management plans."

Ranchers point to an allotment management plan in the Music Mountain area in Mohave County, Ariz., as an example of how the government plans don't work. Buffington says that plan failed because the stocking rate was too high, mountain lions took a heavy toll and planning in general was not good.

He cites a successful example of an eight-year-old allotment plan at the Pipeline Ranch near Wickenburg, Ariz. A downward trend in forage production on 28,400 acres of BLM land, 4,077 acres of state-leased land and 80 acres of private land was reversed, Buffington says.

BLM officials argue that the future of Arizona's range hinges on the allotment management plans. Local ranchers say they are not against public rangeland management, but they do differ with McVicker and the BLM over methods.

### A blow to multiple use management?

This fall at press conferences in Washington, D.C., and Phoenix, Ariz., several environmental groups asked the Bureau of Land Management to investigate why Gary McVicker was forced to leave his BLM job in Kingman, Ariz.

"Kingman ranchers feel like they should be able to dictate grazing policy, and they think they're doing a fine job of it," says Jay Reed of the Audubon Society. The McVicker case is "the first test of whether BLM has thrown off the yoke of the district grazing boards," he says. In attacking McVicker, the ranchers were attacking the multiple use management principles in the BLM organic act, Reed says.

"I don't see it as an attack on the organic act at all," says Arnold E. Petty,

acting associate director of the BLM. "The story has been blown way out of proportion."

Petty says no further investigation is necessary, since "both the director and the state director have looked into the situation and decided that Gary was doing a good job."

"We're going to hire a multiple use manager of Gary's caliber to fill the position. For some people around Kingman that will be hard to take, but they are in a small minority," Petty says.

"We knew by the time we held the press conferences that McVicker had to leave Kingman, but we wanted to make sure that this kind of attack would not be permitted in the future," says Bob Turner of the Audubon Society.



### BLM wilderness inventory. . .

about 45 areas and recommended three. For the most part, we were not unhappy with the study areas selected.

"Instead of considering the wilderness characteristics of all roadless lands crossed by the proposed line," Carter says, "the Moab district considered only the corridor itself. By eliminating the entire three-mile-wide corridor from further wilderness

study, they may have cut off some excellent areas without even studying them."

Debbie Sease of the Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C. says Moab "should have considered the wilderness characteristics of the land as it is now, without regard to potential development. We are protesting because we don't want those

methods employed in the larger inventory."

Gene Day, Moab district manager for BLM, admits his approach varied from the other two Utah districts involved, but denies that the study was substandard. "We used the visual impact criteria to decide how large of a corridor to study. Then we looked only at existing intrusions and decided that none of the roadless tracts in the line's zone of influence had sufficient wilderness characteristics to merit further study."

"Sure we used the corridor approach," Day says. "Where the power line would go through the middle of a roadless area, we evaluated the whole area. Where it would go along the edge of a roadless area, we looked only at the corridor itself. We used standard procedures, and I think it will stand the tests of fairness and adequacy."

Day said it was "not a portent that we will wipe out everything in a cavalier fashion" in the larger inventory. After meeting with Sierra Club personnel in mid-December, Day said he had asked for an extension of the December 18 public comment deadline to give the public "time to look at the area on the ground."

Carter says the IPP inventory did not affect several areas that are high on Utah conservationists' list for wilderness study. These are the Escalante and Kaiparowits areas, the Deep Creek mountains in west Utah, Dark Canyon primitive area, Grand Gulch and surrounding canyons and the Dirty Devil River.

Carter hopes BLM won't exclude all but the most spectacular tracts. "There are several nice flatland areas that are still natural treasures," he says.

Bruce Hamilton of the Sierra Club voices similar concerns. "Many areas will never be backpacking mecca, but they should be protected nonetheless. We're talking about preserving land forms and wildlife as the primary reasons for wilderness protection in these areas. In others, the recreation potential will be most important," Hamilton says.

### BLM wilderness contacts

For more information about the wilderness inventory, contact the Bureau of Land Management wilderness coordinator in your state or a conservation group coordinator.

The BLM contacts are:

Cary Brown, BLM Alaska State Office, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dick Burch, BLM Arizona State Office, 2400 Valley Bank Center, Phoenix, Ariz. 85073

Harold Belisle, BLM Colorado State Office, 1600 Broadway, Room 700, Denver, Colo. 80202

George Weiskircher, BLM Idaho State Office, P.O. Box 042, Boise, Idaho 83724

Gary Leppart, BLM Montana State Office, P.O. Box 30157, Billings, Mont. 59107

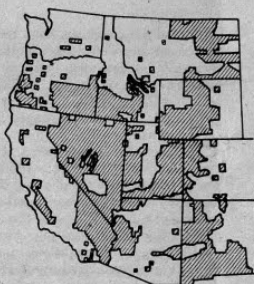
Dan Wood, BLM New Mexico State Office, South Federal Plaza, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501

Kent Biddulph, BLM Utah State Office, 136 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Wayne Erickson, BLM Wyoming State Office, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001

For information from conservation groups, write BLM Team, The Wilderness Society, 1901 Pennsylvania Ave.,

NW, Washington, D.C. 20006 or John McComb, Sierra Club, 330 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.



Interior Department map

BLM LANDS are found primarily in the West. (The agency's few Eastern holdings are not shown on the map above.) The wilderness review applies to all BLM lands except those on the Outer Continental Shelf and those held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts or Eskimos.

Judy Donovan is a reporter for The Arizona Daily Star in Tucson, Ariz.



photo by Dick Randall,  
Defenders of Wildlife

**DUNE BUGGY SCARS** on sand dunes. The Red Desert contains the largest unsettled sand dunes in the U.S.

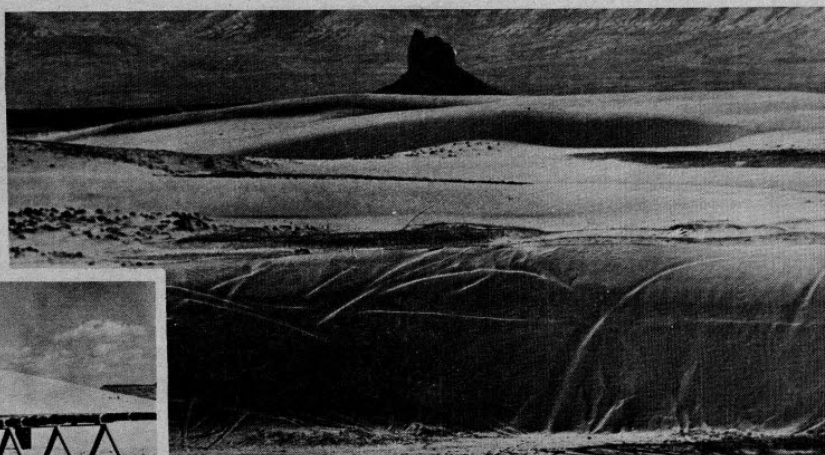


Photo by Sara Hunter Wiles

**OIL RIG PARTS.** Oil drilling and production in the desert has been going on since the early 1900s.

## Great Basin besieged — th



**HONEYCOMB BUTTES.** The colors in the Honeycombs range from dark reds to browns to grays to buff, distinctly layered and tinted, changing with the light. The Honeycombs are an excellent example of badlands

by Jack Pugh

The scene is the Honeycomb Buttes in Wyoming's Red Desert. The date is mid-September, 1978. Members of a tour of the Red Desert are looking in dismay at a new road into the Honeycombs.

The road was apparently bladed by Fremont Energy Co., though the company denies it — for uranium exploration. It is a symbol of the conflict that the desert now faces — mineral exploration, particularly for uranium, versus preservation of the desert wilderness.

The Honeycombs are one of seven areas in the desert for which a group called the Citizens for the Survival of the Red Desert is seeking protection. The others are the Killpecker Sand Dune field, Bush Rim, Oregon Buttes, Steamboat Mountain, Red Lake and Pickett Lake. The group considers

these areas unique in Wyoming, offering a variety of scenery, wildlife and terrain. And nearly all of them are threatened with mineral development.

The Red Desert is an arid, sagebrush-covered area in the Great Divide Basin in southwestern Wyoming. It harbors diverse wildlife — including elk, raptors and waterfowl. A large antelope herd grazes in the desert, sharing the range with sheep and cattle. The area also contains valuable energy resources, including oil, natural gas and uranium.

The September desert tour revealed signs of rapid industrialization — mining camps, airstrips, new roads, recently set drill sites and uncounted numbers of claim stakes.

Oil and gas operations have been conducted for about 60 years and there are currently four producing fields in the desert. The Bureau of Land Management says that about 95 percent of the desert has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

Coal mining here began with the advent of the Union Pacific railroad in 1868. The early mines shut down in the 1950s, when the railroads converted to diesel fuel. Demand for some of the desert's coal deposits re-emerged in the '70s with the "energy crisis." Red Desert coal now helps fuel Pacific Power and Light's Jim Bridger Power Plant, Wyoming's largest. However, immediate development of more desert coal is unlikely, because seam quality and thickness is relatively uncharted, according to BLM.

The greatest pressure on the desert today is uranium development. Uranium

deposits were discovered here in 1935 and about 90 percent of the desert is claimed for uranium. Minerals Exploration Co., a subsidiary of Union Oil of California, is expected to open a mine this spring. As many as a dozen other companies may follow.

Conservationists fear that this development will severely impact the basin. According to Dick Randall of Defenders of Wildlife, several thousand ducks may be produced in the desert during a wet year. Randall also considers the Red Desert and its fringes to be "highly significant" raptor areas, particularly important as wintering grounds.

The desert's antelope herd is estimated to number in the thousands. There are also

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Photo by Mike McClure

**ABANDONED SHEEP WAGON.** The Red Desert once provided grazing for some of the largest sheep flocks in the U.S. Changing markets have caused many ranchers who use the desert to shift from sheep to cattle.

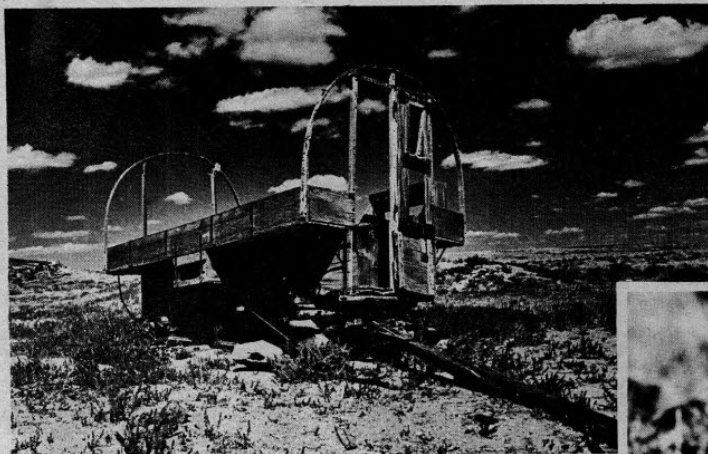


Photo by Dick Randall, Defenders of Wildlife

**BLACKTAILED JACKRABBIT.** Many species of wildlife thrive on the desert, including elk, rabbits, coyotes, raptors and possibly the endangered black-footed ferret.

## — the fight for the Red Desert



Photo by Mike McClure

om dark  
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topography, formed when weak clays or shales are exposed to rain wash and gully erosion.

elk in the western end of the desert, a unique herd because it utilizes a lowland habitat — its crucial wintering ground is the desert around Essex and Steamboat Mountains. The elk was a plains animal until population pressures forced them into the mountains; the Red Desert herd still lives as its ancestors did, but conservationists worry that the resource development pressure will force this herd to higher ground as well.

Randall is also convinced that the desert still harbors the rare and endangered black-footed ferret. "I saw one there several years ago," he says.

The wildlife resource, plus vast expanses and diverse landscapes — ranging from greasewood flats to stark badlands to rocky escarpments to sand dune fields — are some of the values that the ad hoc citizens

group is trying to preserve.

But, while resource development efforts continue, preservation efforts are facing obstacles. Citizens for the Survival of the Red Desert has petitioned the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council for "rare or uncommon" status for the seven areas in the desert. The designation would allow the EQC to reject mining permits if the mining activity would disturb the values for which the areas were listed as rare or uncommon. The designation would not affect grazing or oil and gas exploration, however.

A spokesman for the citizens' group says, "It's not much protection, but it would help."

However, this "help" will not be forthcoming, at least for a while. On Nov. 29, the EQC placed a moratorium on "rare or uncommon" designations.

The moratorium was the result of a court decision overturning an EQC designation in the upper Wood River Valley near Meeteetse, Wyo. The designation was challenged in court by Amax Mining Co., which hopes to mine copper in the area. The court ruled in favor of Amax, saying that the company had not been given a proper hearing. The court suggested that the EQC draw up standards for making the designations and possibly conduct an inventory of the state's "rare and uncommon" areas. The EQC subsequently decided not to designate any new areas as "rare or uncommon" until after resolution of the Amax case. The council is currently deciding whether to appeal the

court's decision.

With that avenue blocked, Citizens for the Survival of the Red Desert is turning to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management wilderness review. BLM has been ordered by the 1976 BLM organic act to inventory its lands for wilderness potential. BLM has mapped 115 roadless areas, most of which they say will not qualify for wilderness designation or further study.

Of the seven areas that the conservationists want protected, three — Honeycomb Buttes, Killpecker Sand Dune fields and Red Lake — will be given a closer look by BLM as potential wilderness areas. Dick Randall says that the group will try to get the other important areas included when public hearings begin in early 1979.

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10- High Country News — Dec. 29, 1978

## Indians learn dos, don'ts of solar energy — by experience

by Dede Feldman

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Solar energy development on Indian reservations has progressed far enough for the tribes to be learning now from their own mistakes.

Several of the solar energy projects — and some of the problems they've run into — were topics at a recent conference here on Indian solar and alternative energy.

The conference was sponsored by the Native American Natural Resources Development Federation (NANRDF), a Denver consulting group formed in 1974 by 26 Indian tribes from the Northern Great Plains.

"We see a conflict of philosophies concerning development among the tribes," Rashid Makdoo, NANRDF executive director and conference organizer told *High Country News*. "We wanted to lay the options out at the conference," he said.

"Non-renewable resources such as coal, oil and uranium should be developed to generate short-range funds for the ultimate objective of a self-sustaining and self-perpetuating economy," Makdoo believes. "But most tribes are ignoring this."

While several tribes are looking into the possibility of using alternate energy sources, they haven't gotten beyond erecting solar homes and greenhouses. And in this area, tribes have sometimes been the victims of solar charlatans.

A member of the Crow tribe, for example, spoke of how his tribe had been sold complicated active solar collectors and left with a leaky mess . . . and cold homes.

Reacting to these and other stories, Malcolm Lillywhite from the Domestic Technology Institute said, "Your technology should be based on what you have and what you know. . . . Be careful about solar systems; don't be tied into a bind where maintenance costs are really high. Be sure to look at what you have and not what someone wants to sell you."

Two reservations in Montana illustrate Lillywhite's point. The Blackfeet reservation has a HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) solar housing solar housing project that includes family residences and rental units for the elderly. The houses are active solar homes with Solaron panels attached to the roof that have been in operation for one year. Hot air is collected in the panels and circulated by mechanical means through the house to a rock storage pit in the basement.

Each house has electric backup heat and a wood stove. Built by a tribally-owned construction company, the houses cost approximately \$45,000 each. The Solaron solar units, which cost \$7,400, were purchased with grant money.

According to Connie Bremner, executive director of the Blackfeet Housing Authority, the houses are 50 percent cheaper to heat than all-electric houses on the reservation. However, they are complicated and require maintenance and repair by people familiar with solar apparatus. In addition, Bremner says that the housing authority had trouble persuading people to live in the homes.

"Some people said they're building us barns and chicken coops. We really had to talk to persuade people to live in them. And once in, one lady said she was afraid the

Solaron system would blast her into outer space."

Virginia Toews from the Northern Cheyenne Housing Authority said that the Northern Cheyenne are trying to avoid some of these problems by trying passive solar designs as well as Solaron systems.

"We don't have the expertise to handle and repair Solaron systems," Toews said, "so we went to the National Center for Appropriate Technology in Butte, Mont., for a passive solar design that used only materials we have here." The design they are using has south-facing windows, massive walls and requires little maintenance.

But the Northern Cheyenne had trouble getting the design approved for HUD funding because it had only a wood stove and fireplace for backup heating. Finally, the National Center for Appropriate Technology provided the money.

According to Toews, the cost of the five-bedroom house will be \$60,000.

The Northern Cheyenne reservation has tremendous deposits of coal, but Toews had trouble convincing HUD back in 1971 to let the tribe install coal furnaces in the homes.

"They said they didn't know anything about coal," she recalls with a smile, "so I sent them a huge sack of it."

"It takes a long time to work with HUD and to get them to realize that people are not mechanical. But we're hoping to show them a thing or two," she said.

### LAGUNA GREENHOUSE

A solar project of a different type is now under way at Laguna Pueblo in the town of Pagueate, N.M. The project, sponsored by Tawa Bahanne, an Indian group pushing for solar development among tribes in the Southwest, is a 40 foot by 8 foot solar greenhouse attached to the south side of a preschool. The preschool is within sight of the Jackpile mine, the largest open pit uranium mine in the country. The Lagunas own more uranium than any other tribe in the United States.

According to one of the organizers, Tom Heidlebaugh, materials for the greenhouse at Pagueate cost \$3,500. The labor was sup-



Photo by Dede Feldman

HEAD START teachers learn how to care for a solar greenhouse.



Photo by Dede Feldman

THIS SOLAR GREENHOUSE is being built on the side of a preschool at the Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico. The Jackpile uranium mine is nearby.

plied by Lagunas and other Indians and paid for by CETA (the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) funds. When complete, the greenhouse will supply heat to the adjacent classrooms and be used by classes. At present, Head Start teachers from the pueblo are being trained how to plant the greenhouse and care for it.

Another solar greenhouse at the pueblo,

which was built by the New Mexico Solar Energy Association several years ago, now stands empty and unused; no one from the tribe could ever figure out how to use it.

Heidlebaugh says, "The greenhouse is part of a coordinated, phased community approach to solar energy." The next phases involve solar heating residences and using solar energy for commercial purposes.



### The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

**ONE-FIFTH SOLAR BY 2000?** A high-level interagency report to President Jimmy Carter says that solar energy can supply as much as 20 percent of the nation's energy by the end of the century and recommends a major federal effort to achieve that goal. The "Domestic Policy Review of Solar Energy" presents a series of options to Carter, ranging from continuation of current efforts to greatly increased solar energy expenditures. However, the report says that even a less-than-maximum expenditure could present a dramatic payback. By spending more than \$2.5 billion — but less than the maximum \$42 billion — by the year 2000, the federal government could bring about solar pro-

duction of 20 percent of the nation's energy needs. The report is the result of work that the president ordered on Sun Day last May.

**NEW LOOK AT OLD TIRES.** Tosco's plans to sell oil from scrap tires is facing a couple of hurdles, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. The popularity of radial tires and the glut of oil on the West Coast are making the enterprise look less attractive. Tosco planned to use a process that is essentially the same as its process for retorting oil shale. Tosco has recovered carbon black, oil and scrap steel successfully at its research center near Denver, hoping to sell the carbon black to tire producers for new tires. However, radial tires use a higher grade of carbon black than is produced by the process, and Tosco says this is forcing the company to take a new look at the economics.

**CALIFORNIA PASSES SOLAR BILLS.** The California legislature has passed 13 bills dealing with solar energy. Among them are a bill to restrict the planting of trees or shrubs that would interfere with a neighbor's collector, a bill appropriating \$800,000 for wind research, and a

bill to discourage utilities from restricting growth or competition in the solar industry. Defeated in the legislature in the wake of Proposition 13, were bills to provide financial support for solar development. Among these bills were appropriations of \$3 million for low-interest loans to small businesses to market alternative energy systems, \$5 million to add solar devices onto newly-built low income housing and \$2.5 million for solar demonstration projects.

**ENERGY GOALS VERSUS ANTI-INFLATION EFFORTS.** Some aspects of President Carter's energy program may be at odds with his anti-inflation schemes. According to the coal industry, the Office of Surface Mining's proposed strip mining regulations will boost the cost of coal by close to \$3 a ton. The OSM, meanwhile, is conducting its own analysis regarding the proposed regulations' economic impact. Also, Department of Energy head James Schlesinger and Carter are still considering the potentially inflationary step of reviving the crude-oil tax, bringing U.S. oil prices to world levels, in accordance with a recent Carter pledge to OPEC leaders.

## Montanans scrutinize alternative energy program

Would you give a well-to-do Montanan a grant to buy himself a new piece of furniture?

No? Then why should you give him a grant to add a solar heating system to his \$75,000 house?

Whether or not the analogy is apt, a \$1.7 million alternative energy grant program in Montana has helped make solar installations so commonplace that some Montana legislators have begun to ask such questions. A battle is expected in the January legislative session over whether state funds are needed to hasten develop-

ment of solar, wind and geothermal systems. The state's grant program, which has funded 126 projects, has been criticized for both the type of projects and the type of persons it is funding.

"We feel that the department has been giving grants to individuals on almost a first-come, first-served basis," says George Roskie, a Republican state senator from Great Falls. A large percentage of the money is going to "demonstrate" solar space and water heating devices that have already been proven, he says. "Since there are now several hundred commercial out-

lets for solar heating units, we feel the need for demonstration is questionable." The department has also been criticized for giving grants to individuals with high incomes.

Gary Knudsen, who administers the program, says some changes are needed. But he makes no apologies for the past.

"At first we let Montanans come to us with their ideas to gain a knowledge of what seems to be appropriate for the state. Now that we have some experience and can see the voids and the repetitions, we are developing a more structured program," Knudsen says. Knudsen, chief of the Montana Conservation and Renewable Resources Bureau, says that the legislature did not require that grants go to low-income people.

Roskie is a member of the Coal Tax Oversight Committee, which has called for a suspension of the grant program pending legislative review. Even before this threat, Knudsen was preparing a plan for the future of the program, which he says will place more emphasis on the state's asking for proposals on projects it chooses and less emphasis on unsolicited proposals. This approach will avoid duplication of effort within the state and allow Montana to "complement other programs around the country," Knudsen says.

While Knudsen says that the tax committee's action has merely delayed

grant-giving for about a month, he admits the legislature could vote to shut the program down completely. Roskie says the alternative energy grants "unquestionably" will come under legislative review.

The grant money is derived from a small portion of the state's coal tax revenues.

Sen. Tom Towe (D-Billings), who authored the Montana coal tax legislation and is the alternative energy grants programs' strongest backer on the Coal Tax Oversight Committee, says, "Perhaps we don't need so many grants for simple solar systems. But I still think there is plenty of room for spending money to raise people's level of awareness." He says the program has generated a greater interest in alternative energy projects in Montana than there is elsewhere in the country.

Towe sees the grants as a key part of the state's coal tax strategy. "We will need these technologies to take up the slack once the coal is gone," he says. "While the technologies may have undergone tests in other parts of the country, I want to make sure they will work when applied to the ordinary citizen's home in Montana."

Towe says he doesn't expect major changes to be made in the coal tax law. A utility's attack on it through the courts has made most of the state "more firmly behind it than it ever has been," he says.



The John Muir Institute for Environmental Studies, Inc.  
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Donald C. Lee: "Some Ethical-Decision Criteria with Regard to 'Precreation'."  
J. Baird Callicott: "Elements of an Environmental Ethic: Moral Considerability and the Biotic Community."

#### Book Reviews

Daniel Leacock, Garrett Hardin, *The Limits of Altruism*, Indiana University Press.  
Mark Sagoff, Bruce Ackerman, *Private Property and the Constitution*, Yale University Press.

The summer issue (April 1979) will contain an unpublished essay by Aldo Leopold: "Some Fundamentals of Conservation in the Southwest," with commentary by Susan L. Flader, Leopold's biographer.

Subscription Price, anywhere in the world: Individuals, \$15; Institutions, \$20; Single copies, \$5.

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energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

**NUKE PLANT TEST SUCCESSFUL.** Scientists at the Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering Laboratory are achieving better-than-expected success in a test of nuclear reactor safety. INEL staged an "accident" in a 50 megawatt nuclear reactor to see how well emergency core cooling systems would work if the reactor's cooling system failed. In the test the cooling water was cut off, and the reactor temperature rose from 650 to 900 degrees Fahrenheit. The emergency cooling system flooded the reactor in less than a minute, quicker than expected. Scientists had expected the temperature to reach 1,375 degrees F. Critics argue that the test results cannot be applied to commercial reactors because of the small size of the test reactor and the narrow range of experimental conditions, according to *Engineering News-Record*.

**CHEAPER TO WEATHERIZE THAN TO ENERGIZE.** The Montana Public Service Commission has approved a proposal by Pacific Power and Light Co. to weatherize the 2,000 electrically-heated single family and duplex homes in its Montana service area at no cost to the consumer. The project will cost PP & L about \$1 million. The company suggested the plan after completing a cost-benefit study that concluded that weatherization "saved energy and capacity at less expense than

the cost of supplying an equal amount of energy and capacity by constructing new generating plants."

**SHALE OIL UNECONOMICAL.** A Colorado Energy Research Institute study prepared by a former oil shale executive says that, contrary to industry claims, oil shale is not economically feasible and cannot compete in the marketplace with foreign crude oil without heavy government subsidies. John Hutchins, a former manager of the Colony Development Operation and past president of Cameron Engineers, concludes that oil from shale can only be extracted at the cost \$20 to \$27 per barrel. "Obviously," the report says, "this would indicate that shale oil is not economic with current world prices now at \$15 per barrel."

**COAL LEASE EIS DRAFTED.** The U.S. Interior Department has issued a draft environmental impact statement on a proposed new federal coal management program. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus tentatively has rejected the option of no new leasing. He says that Interior's new program would set up a two-stage leasing procedure that could be under way in 1980. In the first stage, characteristics of the land and competing resource values would be reviewed to decide which areas are unsuitable for mining. The second stage would determine which of the remaining lands should be leased for coal mining, based on other possible uses, the nation's energy needs, production goals, market factors and other considerations. Hearings on the draft statement will be held in most Western states and some Eastern ones during January and February. Copies of the EIS are available from the Washington Office of Public Affairs, BLM, Room 5627, 18th and C Sts., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240 and at all Western state offices of the BLM. Comments will be accepted until Feb. 15. A final statement is scheduled for about June 1.

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## Review by Philip White

Retrogression is the word, friends, with industries and utilities going back to coal and homesteads going back to wood. Those in the latter category will be interested in a special wood stove issue published this fall by the weekly *Maine Times*.

The edition contains 50 pages of articles and advertisements on every phase of heating with wood, including a cartoon that speaks to the virtues of simplicity. A zealous stove salesman is shown trying to sell the latest innovation, an "XL-18" stove complete with AM-FM radio and a thermal print out console.

A Maine Audubon survey recently indicated that almost half of Maine's households burn wood for part of their heat. As a result, Maine is a hotbed, can we say, of experiments with old and new ideas in wood heating.

The special issue begins with a discussion of the implications of growing dependence on wood, such as forest destruction and air pollution potential.

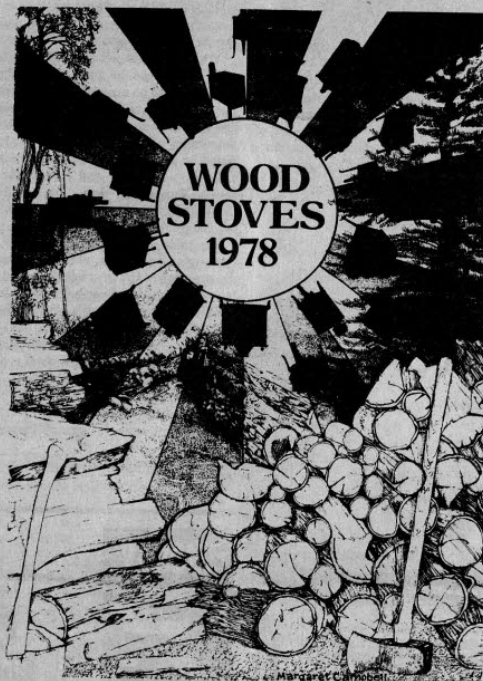
Retrogression is serious business for the subject of one article, a man who restores antique stoves and heats his large house with them and isn't convinced that the new airtight stoves are much better than the old ones. The family cooks on an elaborate old Queen Atlantic cook stove and heats rooms with an 1894 Art Sparkle and an 1876 Sunshine parlor stove.

The *Maine Times'* issue discusses in detail the latest importation from Europe and Russia: the masonry stove or the so-called Russian fireplace. This is defined as a "closable fireplace with a flue that is convoluted in a number of folds." Utilizing a large mass of bricks inside the house, the fireplace absorbs and stores heat.

A full-page advertisement depicts the Kachelofen ceramic tile wood and cold-burning heaters from Europe. Either portable or built-in, these heaters have an air-

## Old and new ideas in wood heating explored

Special Maine Times issue



tight cast-iron stove surrounded by a tile-covered shell.

Another article describes the "Rolls-Royce" of stoves, the Styria from Austria, available in expensive, but finely crafted, cookstove or heater models.

The *Times'* editor reveals the staff's growing pains upon switching to a total dependence on wood heat in their 20-room office (a house built in 1820). He indicates that the switch from fuel oil will provide a net savings of \$2,000 this year.

Other articles concern a low-pollution home wood furnace developed by a mechanical engineering professor and safety and testing standards being developed by Underwriters' Laboratories.

According to the *Times*, 25 American companies and eight Taiwan foundries are

**Many companies are producing Jotul imitations, some of them complete with "Jotul" embossed on the door.**

producing Jotul imitations, some of them complete with "Jotul" embossed on the door. The Maine Jotul importer, Kristia Associates, has filed a series of lawsuits to stop the practice. According to the article, "the fakes are not as airtight, are not cast nearly as well, do not have the quality of workmanship nor burn as efficiently as the real thing."

Finally, advertisements in the special issue offer a smorgasbord of types of stoves and accessories, including stoves that fit neatly into existing fireplaces, stove-top ovens, ashpans, multi-fuel boilers and furnaces and even Shaker-style woodboxes.

The issue can be obtained, postpaid, by sending 75 cents to *Maine Times*, 41 Main Street, Topsham, Maine, 04086.



## HCN Bulletin Board



### LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

We need it. No doubt about it.  
Newspapers heavily tout it.  
An electric comb  
In every home.  
Just how have we managed without it?

### HELPING CITY BIRDS

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has published a free booklet telling city dwellers what they can do to help birds around their homes. It is based on many calls the division gets from people each year who want to know how to enhance habitat or solve bird problems. Write Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colo. 80216.

### EAR'S HAS MOVED

The Environmental Action Reprint Service (EARS) has left Denver and set up shop in La Veta, Colo. Here they hope to construct their own 100 percent passively solar-heated building. EARS provides a centralized source of information regarding the hazards of nuclear energy and the practicality of alternative energy sources. Their catalog may be ordered from them at Box 545, La Veta, Colo. 81055.

### GROWTH MANAGEMENT

A series of workshops on growth management techniques for Rocky Mountain communities will take place in January and February. The workshops will focus on development permit systems in Breckenridge, Colo., and Big Horn County, Wyo. The planning consulting firm that will conduct the workshops, Wickersham and Associates, will show how permit systems can be used as alternatives to zoning for rural areas and for communities trying to deal with rapid growth. The workshops will be held Jan. 18 at the Ramada Inn in Casper, Wyo.; Jan. 25-26 at the Holiday Inn in Frisco, Colo.; and Feb. 1-2 at the Ramada Inn in Bozeman, Mont. For information on costs, write Wickersham and Associates, Inc., 1503 Spruce, Boulder, Colo. or call (303) 443-2734 or (406) 586-6427.

### HIGH SCHOOL WORK PROGRAM

High school and college youths interested in working in national parks or forests in 1979 should write to the Student Conservation Association, Box 550, Charlestown, N.H. 03603. Information requests must be received by Feb. 1.

### SAVING WHALES

Students at the Marmalade Hill School in Salt Lake City are now selling necklaces with pewter whales on them and collecting aluminum cans and newspapers to earn money for a trip to see the Gray Whales near Baja California. They are also setting up booths with information about the whales. They say, "The whale is becoming for many people the symbol for all ecological crises." For more information, contact Marmalade Hill School, 860 S. 10th East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102 or call (801) 532-4792.

### PROFITS FOR EDUCATION

The profits from the North Dakota Wildlife Federation's wildlife calendars will be used for wildlife conservation education programs. The calendars feature 12 new paintings by artist Tom Beecham, including ruffed grouse, Canada geese, mule deer, pintail ducks and white-tailed deer. They may be ordered from the North Dakota Wildlife Federation for \$2.50 plus 50 cents for postage and handling. Write to the federation at RR5, Carufel Addn., Bismarck, N.D. 58501.

### NATIONAL FOREST FILM

"Common Ground: Changing Values and the National Forests" is a 29-minute color film documentary produced by The Conservation Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, to help people better understand the uses of the national forests. It is available through The Conservation Foundation, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036 for \$10 per showing. Most Forest Service offices can also provide a copy.

### WASTE WATCH

"WASTE WATCH is a campaign to expose the federal nuclear waste management program for the sham that it is," says Dick Bell of the Energy Policy Information Center. Bell says a federal report on the problem of disposal of nuclear wastes presents a rosy view, "which is misleading and dangerous." WASTE WATCH hopes to counter this optimism with a "citizens' media blitz," a "phone tree" and a mailing list with contacts in about 25 states. The group sends members an information packet. Contact EPIC at 3 Joy St., Boston, Mass 02108.



# Western Roundup



13  
Dec. 29, 1978

## Majority of flow to stay in Yellowstone

The state of Montana has finalized its allocations of water from the Yellowstone River, giving more than half of it to fish, wildlife and water quality protection, according to the Missoulian.

Water allocations can be changed by the state upon demonstration of need. They also might be changed when Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian water rights in the state are resolved. The Bureau of Indian Affairs told the Missoulian that the state board of natural resources is taking a risk in allocating water derived from tributaries on Indian land.

Cities along the river received a total of

60,913 acre-feet. All but one received from one-tenth to one-half of what they had sought. The municipalities are required to file water conservation plans.

A total of 613,574 acre-feet of water were allocated for irrigation.

In an average year, 8.6 million acre-feet of water flow through the Yellowstone. The board set aside 5.5 million acre-feet as in-stream reservations for the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.

In most states in the West, there are no guarantees of minimum flows and water cannot be allocated for fish or wildlife.

## No-drive day proposed for Denver

The Colorado Air Pollution Control Commission has completed a state plan to curb air pollution that calls for a no-drive day once a week in Denver. The no-drive day would be voluntary for a year and a half, and then it would become mandatory. Cars carrying more than one person would be exempt.

However, Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm is expected to delete the no-drive proposal before submitting the plan to the Environmental Protection Agency. The legislature, which must act on most of the plan's proposals, also objects to the no-drive day.

The commission is trying to solve the city's pollution problem, which is caused primarily by automobile emissions. The city's air is below national health standards for carbon monoxide and ozone and isn't expected to meet the standards until 1986.

Other recommendations include modifying the auto emission control inspection program, enacting an incentive program for purchasing cars with high altitude emission modifications, eliminating state and local sales taxes on purchase of vehi-

cles using alternative fuels, and funding a study on diesel engine emissions in high altitude areas.

Denver suffered its longest pollution alert the week following the commission's meeting, with extremely poor ratings on carbon monoxide levels for 31 hours. The health department told elderly people or people with heart or respiratory ailments to stay inside. Motorists were asked to reduce their driving, but since it was the week before Christmas, the warning didn't seem to be heeded.



## EPA, Denver agree on Foothills project

A vigorous dispute between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Denver Water Board has finally ended. The two sides narrowly avoided a court battle over the board's proposed Foothills water treatment plant by holding an all-night negotiating session earlier this month. With certain conditions, EPA agreed to withdraw its objections to the project. Construction could begin next spring.

The Denver Water Board agreed to implement a water conservation program that will reduce average water consumption by three percent by Jan. 1, 1982, and by five percent by Jan. 1, 1984. Further reductions of between five and 10 percent may be required by the Army Corps of Engineers. EPA Region VIII Administrator Alan Merson had objected to the plant, saying it would encourage growth of the city and discourage water conservation. The plant could handle initially 125 million gallons of water a day. It was designed to mesh with other projects as part of a massive water expansion plan for Denver. However, the water board says Foothills could stand alone, according to the Denver Post.

The water board also agreed to do what it can to minimize environmental damage to Waterton Canyon, the site of the dam and reservoir.

Environmentalists had said a dam could be built at the mouth of the canyon instead of at the proposed site, which would have reduced damage to the canyon. However, a Corps study said the board's preferred site was cheaper and more efficient than proposed alternatives.

Both sides of the dispute said U.S. Rep. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.) convinced them to negotiate and maintained a non-combative atmosphere at the meeting.



SHIP ISLAND LAKE and Cathedral Rock are in the present primitive area, which would become the River of No Return Wilderness Area.

## Carter proposes Idaho wilderness area

A few months after his visit to Idaho, President Carter has proposed legislation to create a 1.9 million acre wilderness in the central part of the state. The bill would add 400,000 acres to the existing Idaho and Salmon River Breaks primitive areas, which were established in the 1930s, to create the River of No Return Wilderness Area.

Ernie Day of the River of No Return Council says his group will push for more — a 2.3 million acre area. Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) will introduce both bills without taking a position on them until public testimony has been received and until results of the Forest Service's Road-

less Area Review and Evaluation are released, according to the Idaho Statesman.

Rep. Steve Symms (R-Idaho) also wants to look at the RARE II results. He wants a smaller (1.5 million acre) area but said he could accept the Carter proposal if enough acreage is allocated to other uses elsewhere in the state, according to the Statesman.

Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, who shaped the wilderness proposal when he was governor of Idaho, says Carter's trip down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in August was probably the turning point in the president's decision to support the wilderness expansion.

## Group to monitor Utah wild horse care

Wild horses and burros that have been adopted in Utah will now officially have protection from the Humane Society of Utah. The society has signed a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Land Management that authorizes society members to monitor how the animals are cared for after their adoption.

This agreement was provided for by amendments to the rangelands improvement bill passed by Congress this year. Previously, the society had checked on adopted wild horses and burros when they had received tips that they were being mis-

treated or neglected, but it had not been a regular practice.

If members of the Humane Society find animals that are being mistreated, the BLM will follow up on the violations and prosecute where warranted.



Stouffer Productions photo

BALD EAGLES are being counted by the National Wildlife Federation this year, and help is needed. The survey will be conducted during the last three weeks in January in the lower 48 states. "The midwinter census will provide valuable information on total numbers and age ratios and will identify important wintering locations," according to Thomas L. Kimball, NWF executive vice president. To help, contact Raptor Information Center, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036 or call (703) 790-4264.

## Montanans honored

Three Montanans have been named recipients of the 1978 American Motors Conservation Awards. John J. Craighead of Missoula is noted for his studies on the grizzly bears of Yellowstone, as well as other pioneering studies in wildlife management. Nels Thoreson of Belt is being recognized for his leadership in the 10-year battle to protect the upper Missouri River against development. Doris Milner of Hamilton is cited for her activities as chairperson of the committee that led a successful campaign against logging in the Magruder Corridor of the Selway-Bitterroot National Forest.

*Nyctea scandiaca*

Ghost-like designs of the lonely arctic region, snowy and dark, upon the tundra ground. They are dependent on lemmings or arctic hare for food. When lemmings or hare are scarce, the snowy owl wanders their arctic homes or often migrates nearly a thousand miles south to survive.

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14-High Country News — Dec. 29, 1978

BEARING THE LION —  
ROUND TWO

by Myra Connell

In the last issue I described a unanimous decision by our city council to add two small parcels of land in my neighborhood to the city parks system. This was in 1974.

For about two years, things went along as before. The open spaces remained open. Kids played there, cut across on their way to school and people walked themselves and their dogs. In winter the areas were filled with snow that was removed from the streets.

New council members replaced some of those who had voted for the parks. A new mayor took over. A professional planner was hired. Land values climbed toward the sky, and home builders looked at the two nice locations with covetous eyes, especially since water connections had already been installed.

A certain councilman charged with re-



viewing the status of all city property recommended that the land be sold to acquire money to buy other property and rights of way.

I envisioned all my previous efforts to save the open spaces going down the drain. But I wasn't ready to give up.

I asked the newly-organized chapter of the Audubon Society to consider possible ways of preventing sale of the land. Less than two acres was too small for a wildlife refuge, but the Audubon president went with me to a council meeting to plead the cause of mini-parks. We received a promise of 60 days' grace in which to try to work up a "development" plan.

Once more I put on my armor and canvassed the neighborhood with a petition

opposing sale of the property and suggesting several recreational uses for which the space might be used. I obtained signatures of most nearby residents.

Shaking in my boots, I approached the city planner with dim hopes of support. My expectations proved correct. He would not recommend both areas for parks because, in his opinion, the street dividing them would be a danger to children. Leaving tracts as open space would inevitably result in unsightly litter, "just like any other vacant lot," he said. However, he would recommend that one of the two pieces be retained for future development.

When the 60-day grace period expired, the Audubon president and I again at-

tended a council meeting (not having been able to come up with a plan in such a short time). Both of us argued in favor of standing by the decision that had been made two years before. Several members of the parks and recreation board added their support to our pleas.

Two of the councilmen were much more concerned with the dollar value of the land than with any other possible benefit.

The tide was against us so I proposed a compromise: that the city sell one parcel and keep the other for recreational uses. The compromise was adopted; the council "yielded to public pressure" in the words of the local newspaper.

Three large dwellings stand where the footpath used to cross. The area that was retained by the city is still a mountain of dirty snow and ice. But any day I expect to learn that the city council will accept bids on it. If this happens, I expect I will fight one more round.



## 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 1987, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973).

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (3) THREE OIL TREATER DISCHARGES; AND TO MODIFY (2) TWO INDUSTRIAL PERMITS: (1) ONE WATER AND SEWER DISCHARGE PERMIT AND (24) TWENTY FOUR OIL TREATER DISCHARGE PERMITS WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING.

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: ANT HILLS PRODUCTION  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 864  
LUSK WYOMING 82225  
FACILITY LOCATION: ANTOINE GOVERNMENT NO. 1,  
SW4, SECTION 1, T37N, R83W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING  
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0028134  
(2) APPLICANT NAME: BEREN CORPORATION  
MAILING ADDRESS: 2160 FIRST OF DENVER PLAZA  
633-17th STREET,  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202  
FACILITY LOCATION: IRVINE BROTHERS FEDERAL "C" LEASE,  
SE4, SW4, SECTION 8, T37N, R84W,  
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING  
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0028126  
(3) APPLICANT NAME: EXETER EXPLORATION COMPANY  
MAILING ADDRESS: 2300 LINCOLN CENTER BUILDING  
DENVER, COLORADO 80264  
FACILITY LOCATION: ASHLAND FEDERAL NO. 13-22  
SW4, SW4, SECTION 22, T15N, R91W,  
CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING  
APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0028100

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Niobrara and Carbon Counties, Wyoming. The produced water, separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The Ant Hills discharge is to Lance Creek (Class II stream) via an unnamed drainage. The Beren discharge is to Okie Draw (Class IV stream) via an unnamed drainage. The Exeter discharge is to Dry Cow Creek (Class IV stream) via an unnamed drainage.

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. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate these discharges and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration dates for the permits is December 31, 1982.

Since the Exeter discharge is within the Colorado River drainage, the provisions of the Colorado River Salinity Control Policy apply. That policy states that there shall be no industrial salt discharges which exceed 1 ton per day. Since this discharge will be considerably less than 1 ton of salt per day (approximately 100 pounds per day) it is allowable under that policy.

(4) PERMIT NAME: PACIFIC POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY  
"WHITE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE"  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1200  
ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING 82901  
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0021822

This facility serves White Mountain Village, a permanent housing development located west of the City of Rock Springs, Wyoming. Sewage treatment consists of a package treatment plant with a polishing pond and chlorination. The discharge is to Bitter Creek (Class III stream) via an unnamed drainage.

The permit is being modified to change the total residual chlorine effluent limit to 2.0 mg per l. The modification is justified since aquatic life will not be affected by the increase in chlorine at this location.

Self-monitoring of residual chlorine in the proposed permit has also been changed from weekly to daily. All other parameters and conditions of the permit will remain the same.

The proposed expiration date of the permit is December 31, 1984.

(5) PERMIT NAME: PARADISE VALLEY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT  
MAILING ADDRESS: 109 MARIGOLD  
CASPER, WYOMING 82601  
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020141

The Paradise Valley Utility Company which was privately owned and operated, recently sold its wastewater treatment plant to a public entity known as the Paradise Valley Water and Sewer District. Paradise Valley is a large housing development located southwest of the City of Casper.

The sewage treatment facility consists of a mechanical sewage treatment plant followed by a polishing pond and a chlorination unit. The discharge is to the North Platte River (Class II stream) and is immediately above the City of Casper's water supply intake.

The discharge permit, which was issued to this facility in January of 1977, required only infrequent (quarterly) self-monitoring. Now, due to the relatively large volume of discharge (3 MGD average) and its significance in relation to Casper's water supply, it has been suggested that more frequent self-monitoring is necessary. Therefore, the proposed modification requires self-monitoring of most parameters weekly with reporting of results monthly.

The effluent limitations in the proposed permit remain unchanged from the existing permit and requires compliance with national secondary treatment standards effective immediately. In addition, effluent limitations designed to insure compliance with Wyoming's in-stream water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria and total residual chlorine are included. The limitation in fecal coliform bacteria will insure that the concentration of fecal coliform bacteria at Casper's water supply intake will not exceed 200 organisms per 100 ml at anytime.

While the proposed permit requires self-monitoring for ammonia, it does not contain any specific limitations for the parameter. One reason for this is that in the near future a Step I plan for the entire Casper area will be prepared. It is assumed that the plan will recommend consolidation and elimination of many of the sewage treatment plants in the Casper area. The proposed expiration date of December 31, 1981, is intended to correspond to the date when the answers to those various questions will be known. The other reason is that during the summer and fall of 1978, DEQ conducted a complete monitoring program on the North Platte River through the Casper area. The results of that program indicate that the river meets all in-stream water quality standards (including ammonia) down to the City's sewage treatment plant, and that even below that point the violations were marginal. Therefore, it does not appear that a limitation on ammonia for the Paradise Valley plant is critical at this time.

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

The Star Valley Swiss Cheese Corporation located at Thayne, Wyoming, processes into cheese an average of 300,000 lbs. of milk per day. The plant has two waste streams; the first is a process waste line which is routed to a manhole at which point the flow can be diverted to the Town of Thayne's sewage treatment plant (the normal procedure) or to Flat Creek (discharge point 001), a Class II stream. The second waste stream is a cooling water discharge which is routed to the Eastside Irrigation Canal (discharge point 002), a Class IV water.

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

A discharge permit for this facility was previously issued in July of 1978. However, it has now been discovered that the Department erred in its calculations of the effluent limitations and this permit modification is now necessary to correct that error. In addition to correction of the calculation error, the proposed modification extends the date of expiration from June 30, 1983, to December 31, 1983. All other provisions of the previously issued permit, including a requirement for periodic self-monitoring and monthly reporting are retained in the modified permit.

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

(7) PERMIT NAME: AMOCO PRODUCTION COMPANY  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2520  
CASPER, WYOMING 82601  
FACILITY LOCATION: MAHONEY UNIT  
SECTION 34, T26N, R88W,  
CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING  
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025780  
FACILITY LOCATION: BAILEY DOME  
NE4, NE4, SECTION 21, T26N, R89W,  
CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING  
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027316  
FACILITY LOCATION: LOST SOLDIER PLANT NO. 3  
SECTION 11, T26N R90W,  
SWEETWATER COUNTY, WYOMING

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PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025771  
(8) PERMIT NAME: ANT HILLS PRODUCTION COMPANY  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 864  
LUSK, WYOMING 82225  
FACILITY LOCATION: GOVERNMENT DELAHOYDE LEASE  
SECTION 25, T37N, R63W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001554  
FACILITY LOCATION: GOVERNMENT O. AND G. LEASE  
SECTION 30, T37N, R62W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001554  
(9) PERMIT NAME: ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY  
MAILING ADDRESS: 1860 LINCOLN STREET, SUITE 501  
DENVER, COLORADO 80295  
FACILITY LOCATION: FORD CHEYENNE WELL NO. 2  
NE4, NW4, SE4, SECTION 33, T36N, R65W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024856  
(10) PERMIT NAME: BUTTES RESOURCES  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 121  
OSAGE, WYOMING 82723  
FACILITY LOCATION: RANGER GOVERNMENT LEASE  
NE4, SECTION 13, T37N, R63W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028972  
(11) PERMIT NAME: CLINTON OIL COMPANY  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3280  
CASPER, WYOMING 82601  
FACILITY LOCATION: LIGHTNING STATE LEASE  
NO. 0-5756A, 3-36 BATTERY,  
NE4, NW4, SECTION 36, T35N, R66W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025712  
(12) PERMIT NAME: JUNIPER PETROLEUM CORPORATION  
MAILING ADDRESS: SUITE 2410, LINCOLN CENTER  
1660 LINCOLN STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80264  
FACILITY LOCATION: EAST LANCE CREEK UNIT A BATTERY  
SECTION 29, T36N, R64W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000817  
FACILITY LOCATION: LANCE CREEK APEX 2 AND 3 BATTERY  
SECTION 24, T36N, R65W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING  
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000825  
FACILITY LOCATION: EAST LANCE CREEK UNIT  
B BATTERY,  
SECTION 26, T36N, R64W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING,

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000906  
FACILITY LOCATION: LANCE CREEK FIELD  
BELL 1-0 BATTERY  
NW4, SECTION 34, T36N, R65W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023990  
(13) PERMIT NAME: WALTER KANT  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 57  
LANCE CREEK, WYOMING 82222  
FACILITY LOCATION: WELL NO. 4  
NE4, SW4, SECTION 35, T36N, R65W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024317  
(14) PERMIT NAME: LADD PETROLEUM  
MAILING ADDRESS: 830 DENVER CLUB BUILDING  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202  
SECTION 32, T36N, R65W,  
FACILITY LOCATION: ESPY NO. 9 UNIT  
NW4, SW4, SECTION 23, T19N, R89W  
CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025917  
(15) PERMIT NAME: MARATHON OIL COMPANY  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 120  
CASPER, WYOMING 82601  
FACILITY LOCATION: LANCE CREEK FIELD  
ELLIOT BATTERY,  
NW4, SECTION 5, T35N, R65W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0026395

FACILITY LOCATION: LANCE CREEK FIELD  
CONVERSE SHEEP BATTERY  
SECTION 32, T36N, R65W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001872  
FACILITY LOCATION: LANCE CREEK FIELD  
ORHOFF BATTERY  
SECTION 32, T36N, R65W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001864  
FACILITY LOCATION: LANCE CREEK FIELD  
C. PUTNAM BATTERY  
SECTION 32, T36N, R65W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001881  
FACILITY LOCATION: LANCE CREEK FIELD  
SCHURICH BATTERY  
SECTION 6, T35N, R65W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001856  
(16) PERMIT NAME: NATURAL GAS PROCESSING COMPAN"  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 541  
WORLAND, WYOMING 82401  
FACILITY LOCATION: COW CREEK NO. 2-12 WELL  
NE4, SECTION 12, T16N, R92W,  
CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027359  
(17) PERMIT NAME: POLUMBUS CORPORATION  
MAILING ADDRESS: 1515 ARAPAHOE STREET  
SUITE 200  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

FACILITY LOCATION: LANCE CREEK FIELD  
NO. 11 THOMPSON  
SECTION 6, T35N, R65W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001597  
FACILITY LOCATION: LANCE CREEK OIL FIELD  
NO. 9 NOVICK  
SECTION 6, T35N, R65W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001589  
(18) PERMIT NAME: SIMASKO PRODUCTION COMPANY  
MAILING ADDRESS: 1776 LINCOLN STREET  
401 DENVER CENTER BUILDING  
DENVER, COLORADO 80203

FACILITY LOCATION: LEASE W-26684  
TANK BATTERY NO. 468 & 469  
NE4, SE4, SECTION 26, T35N, R64W,  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING  
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027286

Facilities are typical oil production units located in Niobrara, Carbon and Sweetwater Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. All of the discharges are to Class IV waters of the State with the exceptions of Ant Hills Production Wy-0000523 which is to Old Woman Creek, a Class III stream, and Juniper Wy-0000817, Wy-0000825, Wy-0023990, Kant Wy-0024317 and Arco Wy-0027294 which discharge to Lance Creek, a Class II stream.

These discharge permits are being modified to simply change the expiration dates from 1980 to December 31, 1982. These modifications will help spread out the expiration dates of all oil treater discharge permits and, will greatly reduce the work load for renewal permits in 1980.

All of the discharges, with the exception of two, must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Letters of beneficial use have been received from area ranchers concerning the Arco Wy-0027294, and Simasko Wy-0027285 discharges, therefore, the effluent limits on chlorides, sulfates, and total dissolved solids have been waived. Semiannual self-monitoring of these parameters is still required, however, and the oil and grease and pH limits are still included in these permits.

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. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate these discharges and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

The Natural Gas Processing Wy-0027359 discharge is within the Colorado River drainage, therefore, the provisions of the Colorado River Salinity Control Policy apply. That policy states that there shall be no industrial salt discharges which exceed 1 ton per day. Since this discharge will be considerably less than 1 ton of salt per day (approximately 100 pounds per day), it is allowable under that policy.

Semiannual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for all of the permits is December 31, 1982.

#### 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 January 29, 1979. 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 January 29, 1979, will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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

Public Notice No: WY-78-014

16-High Country News — Dec. 29, 1978

## Construction workers for wilderness? You bet!

by Jill Bamburg

There's a new voice for wilderness in northwestern Wyoming, a voice that could carry all the way to Washington, D.C.

It's the voice of the blue collar worker, organized last summer into Construction Workers for Wilderness (CWW).

The organization is the brainchild of Howie Wolke, Wyoming representative of Friends of the Earth and a man who's subsidized his work in the environmental movement by working construction four to five months a year.

Wolke got the idea last spring when he began collecting his co-workers' signatures on a petition supporting wilderness designation for the DuNoir area near Dubois, Wyo. He found considerable support for the DuNoir proposal and for wilderness in general, but what got him going was the crowd's reaction at the hearing to the petition signed "Jackson Construction Workers for Wilderness."

"They loved it," he says.

There was something powerful in the incongruity of rank and file members of a timber-dependent industry coming out in support of a policy that industry spokesmen claimed would put them out of work.

The political significance of the event was not wasted on Wolke, a down-to-earth environmentalist who's long been distressed by the elitist image he feels has been foisted on the environmental movement by industry and the media with, in some cases, the complicity of people within the movement itself.

"The charge that environmentalists are a bunch of rich, leisure class type elitists has been with us for a lot of years," Wolke says, "and I think it's been invalid."

Construction Workers for Wilderness is, in part, intended to counter that image. "If for no other reason, it's important politically," Wolke says. "Let's face it, for protecting wilderness, we're dependent upon the political process. A bill has to be introduced into Congress and it's got to be passed."

"If at a wilderness hearing the only people who get up and testify are a few well-known environmental crazies and a couple of university professors or whatever, a politician who may be sitting on the fence at the time is going to look at that and is going to say, 'Well, there doesn't appear to be broad support. I'm not going to introduce a bill on this.'"

"But if he can look and see that there



photo by Jill Bamburg

**BILL GILL:** "Wilderness is actually the future of the economy of this area, as opposed to mining oil or logging."

**"We want to show the people in Washington that it's ours, too, the working class's; it's everybody's land."**

really is broad support, politically, it makes an awful lot of sense."

Wolke served as a consultant when the new group, Construction Workers for Wilderness, was chartered July 1.

Under the leadership of journeyman ironworker Bill Gill and carpenter Obed Martinez, the group has grown to 65 or 70 members in a matter of months. Members are mostly construction workers based in Jackson, Wyo., but the list includes at least one oil rig worker, logger and millworker and a handful of members from Kemmerer and Rock Springs, Wyo., and Driggs, Idaho.

Recruitment is easy, according to Gill and Martinez, and the demands upon members' time and pocketbooks are minimal. Members allow their names to be used in pro-wilderness testimony submitted by the organization, receive occasional mailings on wilderness issues and are encouraged to submit individual statements

**"A lot of these guys are... not buying the old industry arguments that conservationists are going to put people out of jobs."**



Photo by Jill Bamburg

**OBED MARTINEZ:** "We don't want to hear, 'You can't go hunting any more, boys, 'cause there's an oil well up there, and the game's all gone.'"

when opportunities such as RARE II (the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) present themselves.

Unlike many other environmental organizations, CWW is a one-issue outfit, and it appears likely to remain so.

"Wilderness is something that an awful lot of people with diverse interests can often times come together and agree on," Wolke says. "A lot of working people who really don't have much spare time but who like to go out and hunt and fish when they do have time can really see the need to protect wilderness."

"If, on the other hand, we were to have the organization become involved in things like air and water pollution and strip mining and nuclear power and other issues like that, it would be an administrative nightmare to try and reach consensus among people with such diverse backgrounds and interests."

At some point, worries about jobs might begin to enter the picture. On the wilderness issue, however, the apparent contradiction between preservation and the pocketbook has not been a problem.

Wolke says, "The Rocky Mountain region contributes very little to the national timber supply. When you couple that with the fact that even in the Rocky Mountain region, the most productive sites are not being considered for wilderness, I think people really start to see that there's no basic incompatibility between construction workers and wilderness."

"I think a lot of these guys are starting to realize that and they're not buying the old industry arguments that conservationists are going to put people out of jobs."

Gill arrives at the same conclusion from a slightly different tack, pointing out a

connection between wilderness and construction that hinges on tourism.

"Our economy here (in Jackson) is definitely tourism," he said, "and most of the people who live here work construction. As long as tourism is up, construction is up."

"Jackson Hole is considered more or less a wilderness-type setting. The fact that there's the beautiful Tetons, two national parks and a great amount of wilderness and potential wilderness draws people to this area. That is actually the future of the economy of this area, as opposed to mining, oil or logging."

For Martinez, the motivation is different still. He grew up an avid outdoors man in Colorado, and moved to Wyoming to be closer to the wilderness values that he'd seen destroyed in his native state. For Martinez, it's a fight that has little to do with economics.

"We want to show the people in Washington that it's ours, too, the working class's; it's everybody's land. We want to draw a bottom line. You can't make wilderness. You have just as much as you have to work with and that's all."

"Sure we want to see wilderness areas stay wilderness. We don't want to see it depleted and to hear, 'You can't go hunting any more boys, 'cause there's an oil well up there, and the game's all gone. And there's no more elk 'cause all the calving areas are destroyed; no more fishing 'cause there's pollution.'"

"You just start from there. If you're not going to designate a wilderness area, then pretty soon you're going to have tract houses there maybe. I'm a construction worker — so what? I don't want to see those houses in there."

Construction workers aren't "the dumb, cinder block-toting gorillas you might think," says Gill.

Individuals interested in joining Construction Workers for Wilderness or forming similar organizations are invited to contact the group at Box 2617, Jackson, Wyo., 83001.

### In The News

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

The Wyoming Environmental Quality Council will hold a public hearing to consider a request for an exception from the State's Water Quality Standard for turbidity on the North Platte River from Guernsey Dam downstream to the Nebraska State Line at 7:00 P.M., Monday, January 15, 1979, at the Citizens National Bank, Torrington, Wyoming.

Several irrigation districts in southeastern Wyoming and in western Nebraska have requested the hearing, indicating that without the requested exception the method of operation of Guernsey Dam will have to be altered to eliminate the annual sluicing of silt from Guernsey Reservoir. The irrigators indicate that without the "silt run" there will be a loss of water due to increased seepage, damage to the irrigation canals, and a significant detrimental economic impact to the area.

Groups or individuals wishing to make statements may submit written comments on or before January 15, 1979, to:

Mr. David B. Park  
Chairman  
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
Hathaway Office Building  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Groups or individuals wishing to make oral statements may do so at the hearing, however, it is requested that a written copy of all oral statements be provided to the hearing officer. The hearing record will not be held open after January 15, 1979.

Questions or comments regarding this hearing should be directed to Mr. John Wagner, Water Quality Division, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming, telephone 307-777-7781.