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11-79

## Quiet Stillwater disturbed by platinum plan

by Ken Western



Photo by Dale Burk  
 THE STILLWATER VALLEY, shadowed by the Beartooth Mountains, where three mining companies are searching for platinum.

STILLWATER COUNTY, Mont. — The discovery of what may be the largest deposit of platinum in the Western Hemisphere has aroused national interest and heated local debate over the Stillwater Complex, a 30-mile stretch of land along the edge of the Beartooth Mountains in southcentral Montana.

The rich deposit is being hailed for its potential to ease U.S. dependence on southern Africa and the Soviet Union for platinum and palladium, a related mineral. Not surprisingly, it has attracted some of the world's biggest energy-mineral conglomerates. And with the mining companies sniffing around, some locals and state wildlife officials are wondering whether the ranching, hunting, fishing and mountain scenery will be displaced by tunnels, roads and smelters.

The Stillwater Complex also contains a tremendous reserve of chromite, one of the largest known nickel-copper sulphide deposits in the United States, and some gold, silver, and iron.

The Stillwater Complex rests mostly in the Custer and Gallatin national forests near the town of Nye, about 80 miles southwest of Billings. The area has been explored and mined many times over the past century, and portions of the land are marked by pits, trenches, roads and abandoned buildings.

With the price of platinum and other precious metals climbing dramatically on the world market, metal producers' interest in the area has mounted. Platinum is used in producing no-lead gasoline and as a catalyst in other industrial processes. It plays a role in the chemical, drug and electronic industries and has recently come into vogue as jewelry material.

The impact of full-scale mining operations in the area is as difficult to project as their timing. The major companies most active in the area are Johns-Manville Corp. and the Anaconda Co. AMAX (American Metals Climax, Inc.) has also done some exploration. Already, these companies have spent millions on preliminary studies in the area.

In a joint venture with Chevron Resources Co., Johns-Manville has announced plans to explore and evaluate 18,000 acres of the complex for platinum and palladium. Pursuing the same minerals, Anaconda soon expects to begin a 4,000-foot mineral exploration tunnel in the upper Stillwater Valley. AMAX's activity has been limited to prospecting and occasional drilling.

Upset by these ventures, some area ranchers fear that their land, ground water (continued on page 6)



Vol. 11 No. 19

Friday, Oct. 5, 1979

Lander, Wyoming

## Expanding energy town narrows life for elderly

by Phil Primack

SHERIDAN, Wyo. — Four years ago, a new landlord tripled the rent on the apartment that Betty Heien had been renting for 10 years. Living on a small retirement income, Heien couldn't afford to pay the new rent, so she left the building.

"I had to live with my daughter for a year before I could find a place here that I could afford," she said. Now, she added, she has her own place, and feels "lucky the rent is only \$125 a month."

Another elderly Sheridan woman was happily living in her own trailer home until soaring costs forced her out. "It went up to \$110 a month rent for the lot, plus

gas, insurance and taxes," she said; her income is \$249 a month. She had to sell her home, and now lives in an apartment in Sheridan Square, a new 75-unit subsidized housing project for older people.

Such situations are increasingly common in Sheridan, a town with a long history as a retirement area that is now treading the fine line between energy related growth and outright boom.

The influx of well-paid mine and construction workers has squeezed housing supplies and pushed prices skyward. Traffic has transformed Main Street from a pleasant shopping and meeting area to a

fast-paced and often dangerous mechanical obstacle course.

Combined with such daily problems of existence for many of Sheridan's oldest citizens is a sense of powerlessness and frustration. "What bothers me most is that people don't seem to care about us anymore," said 90-year-old Lena Paulus, who was an infant when her folks moved by covered wagon from Kansas to Wyoming.

And while most appreciate what services are offered them, some older people feel that even those agencies and officials designated to act on their behalf don't

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2-High Country News — Oct. 5, 1979

## Park visits down: Who's missing?

The traditional American automobile vacation was run off the road by careening gasoline prices this summer, and visitation statistics for the Rocky Mountain national parks plummeted (see story, p. 13).

To those who fret that the parks often contain more Oldsmobiles than antelope, this news will not cause tears. A million fewer cars chugging along Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park is good news. Ten less shutterbugs scrambling off the loop road in Yellowstone at the sight of a moose's rear end in the bushes is cause for rejoicing.

Fewer people in the parks means less human impact on some of the nation's most precious and unique natural treasures. And those of us who live nearby, for whom the price of getting there is small, can explore the parks' nooks and crannies with a slightly improved sense of solitude.

But before this celebration of human scarcity gets out of hand, we ought to set aside our satisfaction with the quantity of this year's decline in park visitation, and consider its quality.

The decrease in traffic was not a result of any Park Service resolve to limit the number of vehicles within park boundaries, welcome as that would be. Nor has there been a sudden national decline in appreciation of untrammeled natural settings; by all accounts, the public's hunger for the great outdoors is growing ravenously.

People stayed away for one of two reasons: uncertainty over gas availability or certainty that they could not afford the escalating price per gallon.

For every dollar that OPEC raised the price of a barrel of oil, American mobility moved another notch up the economic scale. The cuts in park attendance started at the bottom. The marginal family, which has to save for years before packing the station wagon for a camping trip to distant Yellowstone, put the tent up in the backyard this year.

Some environmentalists would argue that rising energy prices are the sour medicine our nation needs to cure its addiction to wasteful energy use, a variation on the free market argument that energy conglomerates use when they talk about deregulating energy prices. It is convincing in some ways — but not when we consider who is being deprived of what.

### Announcing:

### The Early Bird Bonus

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So save now by sending in your renewal — and while you're at it, why not save on gift subscriptions for your friends and relatives, too.

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Our marginal family does not profligately waste energy. It cannot afford to. And parks, more than any other publicly-owned lands, exist to preserve natural wonders for the inspiration of the general public. They are few, and in the Rockies we have an inordinate share of the best ones.

Of course we would like to see the parks better managed, with less vehicle traffic allowed, restrictions on activities that harm wildlife and habitat, and, yes, fewer people. But to enjoy a park is a privilege. Gasoline pump prices are not the proper arbiters of this privilege.

— GOG

## Opinion



## U.S. Steel's economic blackmail

In its efforts to avoid cleaning up its Geneva steel mill in Utah, U.S. Steel is asking anyone who benefits from the mill or its Wyoming supply mine to put pressure on the Environmental Protection Agency. It would like to portray the conflict as: jobs versus meaningless regulations imposed by an overzealous agency.

Some of the people who live in the Orem, Utah, area and see the rust-colored cloud that hovers ominously over the facility are not impressed. The standards that U.S. Steel is being forced to meet were established to protect human health. Air that fails to meet those standards is dangerous to the people who live there. In fact, many people argue the standards aren't high enough to protect health.

In the case of steel mills, the health problems are documented. People in Pittsburgh — "Steel City" — have been afflicted with lung cancer, emphysema, silicosis and pneumoconiosis (a fibrous hardening of lung tissue) at rates far above the national average. In one pollution episode, 14 people died from health complications caused by the polluted air in Pittsburgh.

A few years ago, when U.S. Steel was fighting a battle against pollution controls in Pennsylvania, a top EPA official said that the company has a "record of recalcitrance which is second to none" and that its behavior "tends to give all of industry a black eye."

There, too, the company used economic blackmail. Threatening layoffs, it ran full-page newspaper ads with headlines such as "Did we make a mistake by locating our new headquarters building in Pittsburgh?"

When it was told by a court to pay a fine of \$2,500 a day for operating open-hearth furnaces at its plant in Gary, Ind., the company refused. It laid off 550 workers on New Years Day 1975 and closed the furnaces.

Such tactics are a brutal manipulation of its workers. These people should not be forced to lobby for lenience that endangers the health of their families and neighbors or of people in a neighboring state.

— MJA

### CORRECTION

The Sept. 7 HCN said the Forest Service had not submitted its recommendations for special air protection for primitive areas. Actually the agency announced its recommendations for redesignation in the **Federal Register** on April 24. The states will make the final decisions on which areas to redesignate as Class I, which allows almost

no degradation of air quality.

Primitive areas in the Rocky Mountain states recommended for Class I include: Arizona — Blue Range; Colorado — Uncompahgre and Wilson Mountains; Idaho — Idaho Primitive Area and Salmon River Breaks; Montana — Spanish Peaks; New Mexico — Gila and Black Range; Utah — High Uintas; and Wyoming — Cloud Peak, Popo Agie and Glacier.



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### DISAGREES WITH REVIEW

To the Editor,

I always read the book reviews in HCN and then go out and read the books.

This time (Sept. 21) edition, I had just finished reading *If Mountains Die* before the paper came. I guess all I can say is that I disagree with the review. (But then, I had also read John Nichols' earlier novels, *The Milagro Beanfield War* and *The Magic Journey*, both of which were based on what he had learned and felt in the Taos area.)

There are times when one doesn't measure another's effectiveness as a conservationist by the time he's lived in an area. I

know that much. Here in Colorado, some of the hardest workers in the areas of conserving and preserving "what we have and love" are those who have moved in since 1965. On the other hand, we have probably an equal number of "old timers" who can only see the profits that are to be made, if the d--ed environmentalists were run out of the country!

As for William Davis' photographs: To me they speak of what the people of the Taos area have, at best; and what they all could so soon lose.

Should Mr. Nabhan want to see the "ugly signs of development that Nichols rants and raves about" all he need do is to visit Taos today!

Lorena E. Darby  
Longmont, Colo.

P.S. Read the previous issue, with the story about Longmont's next-door neighbor, Boulder, with much interest. Our community has no "Danish plan," but there's little affordable middle-income housing here, either. Doubt if a change in Boulder would make much of a change in housing prices here.

## Dear Friends,

We've scrutinized the books here at HCN and no matter how many times we juggle the figures, their message is the same: On Dec. 1 we must raise our subscription rate to \$15.

Since our last price increase in 1977, our income has grown steadily each year; yet it has failed to meet the large increases in our costs. Over the last three years, our basic expenses (printing, postage, salary, utilities and rent) have risen an average of 28 percent, while our chief income source — subscriptions — has grown by only 14 percent. To close a projected gap of \$8,000 between income and expenses this year, we are forced to bring our rates into line with our costs.

In the newspaper business, HCN's financial profile is unusual: 70 percent of our income comes from subscription sales, another 5-10 percent from contributions and only 12 percent from advertising.

Most newspapers get the bulk of their income from advertising.

We have mixed feelings about that: We are proud and pleased to be supported by our readers, and to be relatively free of the space pressures created by ads. On the other hand, we would rather increase the number of advertisements than our subscription rates. But we find ourselves in the classic bind of a small (but avidly read) publication: To increase advertising revenue, we must increase our circulation, and increasing circulation takes money to invest in long-term results, something we've historically been short of.

The extraordinary number of contributions we received from you last fall for our injured staff members' medical fund made this year an unusual exception, however, and allowed us to invest some money in a modest promotion campaign. As a result, we can report that we are growing (reader by reader). New subscriptions are up 84 percent since the drive began. This September alone the number of new subs was double that of a year ago.

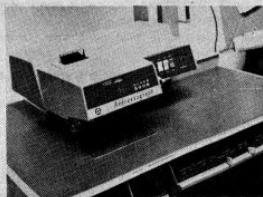
We've also been able to provide staff medical insurance; boost our salaries to \$500 a month; add a half-time position on the news staff; and purchase a long overdue replacement addressograph

machine.

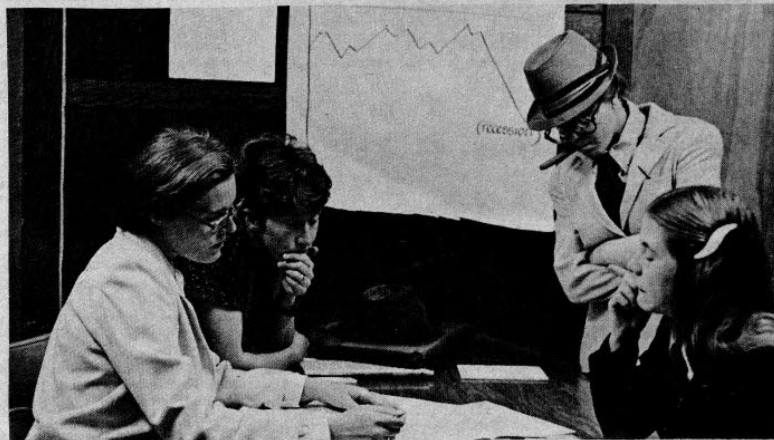
To build steady sources of income, we will continue the promotion campaign while funds permit and we are beginning an extensive campaign to solicit new advertising. These projects, combined with the rate raise this December, should offset our projected loss and set us on the road to self-sustaining growth. Then future rate raises can be few and far between.

— jm

**THE MACHINE**, the newest addition to the HCN staff.



Photos by Sara Hunter-Wiles



**HIGH-POWERED EXECUTIVES** on the HCN board of directors scrutinize records for the last fiscal year.

### JOE PENFOLD DESERVES TRIBUTE, TOO

Dear Editor,

Peter Wild's Sept. 21 article was a well-deserved tribute to Howard Zahniser.

Dave Brower was also properly praised for work he did, when he was with the Sierra Club and later. Nowhere, though, did I find mentioned the name of Joseph W. Penfold, who played fully as significant a role as either of the other two, and in the same fields, from 1949 until his death in 1973.

Wayne Aspinall, chairman of the House Interior Committee for many of those years, virtually dictated what bills might get out of his committee and the form in which they arrived on the floor of the House. Few members of the conservation community could get along with him.

Penfold could — and did. It was Penfold who saw Aspinall as a power to be reckoned with. It was he who arranged a three-day float trip in 1952 through the canyons of Dinosaur with Aspinall and John Saylor, ranking minority member of Aspinall's committee. Joe got in telling lies against Echo Park and Split Mountain Dams on quiet reaches of the Yampa and Green rivers and around the campfire at night.

Penfold and Zahniser were both among those who prowled the corridors of a Denver hotel during a crucial 1956 meeting of Colorado Basin governors and members of Congress, who cooperatively worked out a compromise whereby the Bureau of Re-

clamation would keep out of the National Park System in return for which the conservationists would not oppose the Upper Colorado River Basin Project.

Also, let's be fair to Joe in connection with all those mini-wildernesses established in the East. It was he who recognized the danger to true wilderness of incorporating substandard areas under the parent act. He fought that battle almost alone at times, occasionally against elected leaders of his own organization.

What I've been trying to say is that Zahniser and Dave deserve and should get full credit for their accomplishments. However, let's not ignore a man who achieved greatly in his 24 years on the Izaak Walton League staff, in all of the broad fields in which it was concerned.

In strategic respects, Joe Penfold stood taller than the rest of his era.

William Voigt, Jr.  
Blackshear, Ga.

(Ed. Note: Another reader has mentioned to us that in describing Zahniser's achievements, we failed to mention the important role that Olaus Murie (see HCN 7-1-77) played in the battle for the Wilderness Act. Murie was director of the Society while Zahniser served as executive secretary. The two of them, as well as others, worked together to bring about passage of the Wilderness Act. While crediting Zahniser, we did not mean to diminish the achievements of others.)



**ASSEMBLY LINE.** HCN utilizes the latest technology to expedite its promotion campaigns. Shown at a "stuffing party" are Marjane Ambler, Ben Toland, Phil Heywood, Dan Whipple, Hannah Hinchman and Sarah Doll.

Country News- Oct. 5, 1979



Photo by Robert Hilgenfeld

WILD HORSES in Wyoming and elsewhere in the West are overgrazing the range.

## Ranchers'

by Marjane Ambler

ROCK SPRINGS, Wyo. — With the unexpected blessing of a wild horse advocate and several environmentalists, a rancher group has filed suit to force the federal government to thin wild horse herds in southwest Wyoming. The Rock Springs Grazing Association and the Mountain States Legal Foundation contend the wild horses have caused deterioration of "forage, water, topsoil and property values" on private lands.

At a meeting here the day after the suit was filed, the Sheep Producer-Environmental Committee, a group of Northern Rockies ranchers and environmentalists, endorsed the intent of the suit. John Borzea, vice-president of the Inter-

## Elderly in Sheridan...

(continued from page 1)

truly comprehend the depth of the hardships faced by the elderly.

### PROBLEMS UNSOLVED

"I think it's great that we're maybe going to get a senior citizens center," one 69-year-old woman said, referring to a project that is now in the funding stage. "But what's that going to do about the traffic or the rents around here?" Along similar lines, one local elected official who chose to remain nameless commented that "we have a bunch of people who sit in city hall and say they're working for the elderly. But you never see them really going after the causes of the problems."

"This used to be a great town for us," said one older woman. "But now we're just sort of an extra thing you're kind to, but don't want to really listen to." And, added

Maude Ross, who is nearly 80, "We're going through all this, and it's our folks who were the pioneers of this country."

While the steady increase in mining around Sheridan has had an effect on virtually everyone in the area, old and low-income persons bear the heaviest burdens of the impact while receiving the least benefits. The strain on Sheridan County is particularly pronounced, since most of the population growth is from people working at mines which are in and taxed by Montana.

Sheridan's population has grown by at least a third since 1970, with the city now at about 14,000 of the county's total of about 25,000.

Even with the influx of younger workers, people over 60 still comprise about one-fifth of the city's population. More than 4,000 county residents receive social security benefits, according to Robert

Shire of the Social Security Administration. "Nationally, about one out of seven people draw social security," he said. "Here, it's been almost one out of four."

**"This used to be a great town for us, but now we're just sort of an extra thing you're kind to but don't want to really listen to."**

Just how many of Sheridan's older citizens are living below the official poverty line is unclear; no agency has developed such data.

However, Barbara Gutz, who manages Sheridan Square, did a survey of the 75 residents in that complex. She found that almost half had annual incomes under \$3,000; fewer than 10 percent made more than \$6,000 a year.

She also noted that based on local rates, fair rental value of a one-bedroom apartment in Sheridan Square is \$268 a month — or just about a full month's social security payment. "Without the subsidy," she said, "many of these people could not afford to live here."

As for those not fortunate enough to get into subsidized housing (a planned new complex already has 250 applicants for 75 units), "Some of these people just getting social security have to go without enough food in order to pay their rent," Gutz said.

Of course, in Sheridan today, even people with healthy incomes are having a difficult time finding places to rent. According to the final environmental impact statement for the Spring Creek mine, Sheridan's housing vacancy rate was 7.3 percent in 1970; by 1976, it had plummeted to under one percent.

For all the difficulties they face, "Our seniors have still been able to maintain a remarkable quality of life," in the view of Carlyle C. Dixon of the Senior Citizen

## The natural heritage program



Photo by Philip White

**"WE'RE BUILDING AN ARK."** Key people in the Nature Conservancy's fledgling natural heritage programs in the Intermountain West gathered in Cheyenne Sept. 11 to exchange ideas on how to identify and protect threatened species, communities and habitats. Seated (L-R) are Shelley Feiner, a heritage coordinator at the group's national office in Arlington, Va., and Linda Williamson, data manager for the Wyoming Natural Heritage Program in Cheyenne. Standing are Lou Vincent, coordinator of the Colorado heritage program in Denver; Terry Johnson, coordinator of the Arizona program in Tucson; Mark Stromberg, Wyoming coordinator; Bob Lichvar, Wyoming plant taxonomist; and Don Shute, Wyoming plant ecologist.

## Conservancy warns industry

by Philip White

As the flood tide of energy development advances on the West, The Nature Conservancy is building an ark for threatened flora, fauna and habitats.

The ark, called the natural heritage program, is built of information.

In its 27-year history, the Nature Conservancy has helped preserve more than 1.3 million acres of undeveloped land in the United States, much of it by outright purchase. But in 1974, when the organization began its natural heritage programs in the Southeast, the non-profit group broadened to include protection through information-gathering as well as acquisition. The group's idea is to let government officials and would-be developers know which lands harbor rare forms of life, so that they can steer clear of them in their development plans.

This year, natural heritage programs are under way in Wyoming, Colorado and Arizona.

In the heritage program, experts map and computerize information on rare or endangered plant and animal species, plant communities, habitats and landforms. Then, federal and state land planning and management agencies can dip into the data bank.

In Wyoming, the program is a coopera-

tive effort with the state Department of Environmental Quality. Federal funds provided to DEQ under the Surface Mining Act of 1975 have been used to contract with the conservancy for its data management program.

Mark Stromberg, state coordinator, says that in their first field season heritage staff biologists "have more than doubled the information on Wyoming's rare plants."

In Arizona, the program is funded by private donations matched by an equal amount of federal money.

Half of Colorado's funds also have come from foundations or private donors. The other half comes from the state Department of Natural Resources, which was directed by the Colorado Legislature to identify state natural areas, especially areas needing preservation.

### A NATIONAL NATURAL

On Sept. 10, Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus sent Congress the National Heritage Policy Act of 1979, to establish a national register of natural areas similar to the existing register of historic places.

Andrus emphasized the proposed act is not a federal land acquisition program,

Oct. 5, 1979 — High Country News-5

## group demands legal lasso for wild horses

national Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros, said he, too, supported the suit's purpose although he said the blame lies with Congress, which failed to appropriate enough money for horse roundups, and not with the Interior Department.

The federal district court suit is the latest cry of outrage in a continuing battle across the West to control surplus wild horse populations. The state of Nevada filed a similar suit in August saying the Interior Department should fulfill its legal responsibility to remove excess horses (HCN, 9-7-79).

The Rock Springs suit goes further, however, holding Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus and other officials personally re-

sponsible. It asks for \$10 in damages plus four cents a day for each wild horse in the area, which includes several hundred acres of checkerboard ownership along railroad lines, with alternate sections of private and federally-owned land. The ranchers say they are only trying to make a point; they claim the actual damages are more than \$250,000.

Although the anger has been growing for several years, it was diverted temporarily in the Rock Springs area by negotiations between ranchers and the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros. The group, which was founded by the nation's most famous wild horse advocate, the late Wild Horse Annie, reached agreement with the ran-

chers on how many wild horses should be allowed in the checkerboard area. While the ranchers originally wanted all wild horses removed, their organization agreed to allow some horses on private land if the numbers were controlled.

The Bureau of Land Management, charged with managing the wild horses, applauded the two groups' efforts. "Such cooperation is phenomenal" and possibly unique, according to Don Sweep, Rock Springs BLM district manager.

However, the agency has not abided by the agreement. BLM ran out of money for wild horse management nationwide June 1. Consequently, surplus horses have been

left on the range, where they continue to graze and reproduce.

BLM admits the horses create a problem, which it has decided to solve by temporarily reducing ranchers' grazing allotments on public lands, saying the allotments will be increased again when the surplus horses are removed.

Borzea of the international wild horse group is angry with other horse advocates as well as with Congress. He criticizes two groups, the American Horse Protection Association and the Humane Society of the U.S., which have filed a lawsuit to block wild horse roundups. "I guess these people would rather see the horses starve to death along with the other animals," he said.

The ranchers say the number of wild horses in the Rock Springs BLM district has increased from 1,200 to about 7,000 since 1971, when the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act was passed.

James Magagna of the grazing association said he thinks the 1971 act was needed to protect the horses. However, because of the recent population boom, he thinks drastic reductions are necessary. He supports temporarily changing the law to allow for selling some of the surplus horses, possibly for dogfood or commercial use, to supplement the present adoption program.

After the numbers are reduced to manageable levels, he thinks the act, as recently amended, would be adequate.

## Group juggles hot potatoes

ROCK SPRINGS, Wyo. — Wild horses, sheep and coyotes dominated the discussion at a September meeting of the Sheep Producer-Environmental Committee. The committee, which includes ranchers and environmentalists from Northern Rockies states, agreed on resolutions that called for wild horse controls and endorsed sheep grazing in the wilderness.

However, the committee had more trouble with predator control, the issue that has most often split the two interest groups in the past.

Laird Noh, co-chairman of the committee, opened the discussion of predator control on a pugnacious note with comments on the Interior Department's opposition to certain poisons. "If you want to spark the Sagebrush Rebellion, this is how to do it—throw out anything that works," he said.

After a long discussion sometimes spiked with criticism of each other's organizations, the committee members agreed on a general predator control resolution supporting a "strong, responsive animal damage control program...including a wide variety of methods, lethal and non-lethal, applied under careful supervision as specific circumstances dictate." On the most delicate question—the use of poisons—the committee said, "Until other satisfactory alternatives are found, research must continue to seek an environmentally sound method of employing a selective toxicant in those limited situations where other methods are not effective."

Agreeing on the need for more understanding of predator control methods, the committee decided to hold a symposium to inform the public about current research. Committee members will contact several

(continued on page 6)

Coordinating Council (SCCC). That body coordinates various services and programs for the elderly, ranging from Meals-on-Wheels to an annual Senior Follies.

The Council also manages a mini-bus service, various recreational activities for old people and a senior nutrition program that serves an average of 175 meals a day.

Dixon said that traffic and housing are the complaints she hears most frequently from older citizens in Sheridan. Utility bills and the cost of city services are other worries, she said. "We have a lot of people

**"Children used to help, but now they can't afford to either. Right now, I can't afford to live, and I can't afford to die."**

here who are very self-reliant, who don't want to have to ask for assistance," she

said, "and even some of those who are eligible for programs don't feel they're that badly off."

At a recent meeting called by the Powder River Basin Resource Council to discuss current impact problems, Darlene Elliott, president of SCCC, commented that "we're very concerned about what's happening to our seniors." But, she said, "By no means are the problems of the elderly all due to the impact of energy development. In fact," she said, "some very good things have happened because of the new people we have in the community."

"It's the popular thing to say the problems are all caused by the coal mines," Elliott said, "but it's inflation which is the biggest problem for not only older people, but all residents of Sheridan."

Responding to that view, another participant in the meeting later privately said that he doesn't "see inflation driving all those flashy 4 by 4's down Main Street."

As for the traffic problem, Elliott said that "we have to think about the elderly,"

but at the same time "we have to move traffic through town."

Two older Sheridan residents were killed in 1978 on busy Main Street; at least a dozen other pedestrians have been injured, mainly in the downtown area. The city has conducted several studies of its downtown traffic problem and changes have been slow coming, due mainly to merchant opposition, according to several sources.

SCCC has been very involved in trying to establish a Senior Citizen Center in Sheridan. "We think it's very important that our seniors have a place of their own for programs, activities and other services," said Dixon.

A site has been purchased, and the city is seeking federal funds to supplement the revenue that is coming in from the special one cent sales tax approved last year by Sheridan residents to help finance a law enforcement facility as well as the senior center.

Sheridan Mayor Dean Marshall said he felt his city "is one of the better situated towns in the whole state regarding our ability to deal with the problems caused by energy impact." He expressed a strong reluctance to seek much federal aid. "The federal government has some obligation to help these energy communities," the mayor said, "but I relate to it generally as a bankrupt government, and it is."

However, he acknowledged that such programs as Meals-on-Wheels and a home repair project for the elderly have been "good programs."

The state Department of Public Assistance and Social Services has borne most of the problems caused by sudden growth in Sheridan County.

Office director Mary Paine reported a major increase in cases and need, yet her staff "is still the same size as it was in 1970. Unless we get more help," she said, "we just can't keep up."

Mary Grisham was one of about 75 people having lunch one day last week at the Salvation Army site of the senior nutrition program. "The way things are now," she said, "we just eat and pay the rent. That's about it." She's an outgoing robust woman, but worries what will happen if illness slows her down. "Children used to help, but now they can't afford to either. Right now, I can't afford to live, and I can't afford to die."

Phil Primack is a freelance writer based in Billings. He is investigating the impact of the energy boom on Western communities under a Ford Foundation grant. A version of this story was published in the Billings Gazette.

## about nature's hot spots

only a resource information system.

"The whole point is to avoid problems like the snail darter-Tellico conflict by providing information on rare elements early enough in the process that alternative plans can be made," Colorado coordinator Lou Vincent said.

"This means that sometimes we may say

that, at least from a species diversity point of view, nothing rare will be lost by mining a certain tract of land," Stromberg said. "Over here, however, we have a limestone quarry creeping up on the last known 300 plants of a species. We want to help guide industry around the most sensitive areas."



POINDEXTER SLOUGH. Spencer Hegstad of the Montana Fish and Game Commission talks with Bob Kiesel of the Nature Conservancy about one of the conservancy's latest purchases.

6-High Country News — Oct. 5, 1979

## Stillwater disturbed...

(continued from page 1)

and way of life will be damaged by intense development. They have banded together under the Stillwater Protective Association in an effort to protect "values other than mineral" in the area. The group is affiliated with the Northern Plains Resource Council based in Billings.

### LONG HISTORY

Long before the recent activity by corporate prospectors, the Stillwater Complex was recognized as an area rich in minerals. Prospecting began in the 1860s, and a cycle of boom and bust began. Anaconda opened the Benbow and Mout mines during World War II, spending millions of dollars to produce chrome concentrate. The American Chrome Co. began operating the Mout mine during the Korean War and removed close to a million tons of the concentrate over an eight-year period.

Johns-Manville, active in the area since 1967, expects to complete its exploration for platinum and palladium within five to 10 years. If a decision is made to construct and operate a mine and mill, Johns-Manville and Chevron, its oil-rich partner, have indicated they will continue working together.

Johns-Manville has done extensive claim staking and sampling in the Picket Pin Mountain area of the Stillwater Complex. J-M purchased the 1,500 acres Picket Pin Ranch in 1974 as a potential mill and tailings pond site and late that year started an exploration tunnel about four miles from the ranch.

The tunnel, adjacent to the West Fork of the Stillwater River, extended about 3,000 feet before it was halted by the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences in early 1976. A discharge contaminated with ammonia and nitrate from blasting materials had entered the river through an underground route — an occurrence that some residents fear will be repeated with the Anaconda tunnel.

### Not surprisingly, the platinum at Stillwater has attracted some of the world's biggest energy-mineral conglomerates.

Johns-Manville was fined \$10,000 for this violation.

Before the shutdown, J-M revealed plans that included a mine, concentrator and settling ponds. Employment of about 500 persons and an annual payroll of \$10 million was projected.

In an effort to control possible development in an area under consideration by Johns-Manville, ranchers and others have petitioned the county to have 4,000 acres of land limited to agricultural and recreational use. Commercial use would be restricted to exploration and production of oil and natural gas. Some vacation homes would be allowed.

The county zoning commission has yet to decide on the petition. Members have indicated that they expect a court wrangle whichever way they go.

The zoning request is opposed by some area businessmen and landowners who favor the growth and development that they claim mining would bring to the Nye area. A group called the Stillwater County Association of Taxpayers has been formed to counter the Stillwater Protective Association.

In a study of wildlife populations in the Stillwater Complex from 1971-76, Ronald Stoneberg of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks found that J-M's activities have already disturbed the area's elk herd.

Stoneberg warned that future developments proposed by J-M "would probably remove the Picket Pin area from elk winter range." Housing for the company's work-



Photo by Dale Burk

ANACONDA CO. is drilling an experimental tunnel in the Stillwater Valley, the site of several previous mining operations, one of which is pictured above.

ers would further deplete winter range, he said. He urged that mining of the Stillwater Complex on national forest lands be forbidden until the development of stringent safeguards to protect wildlife.

Following in Johns-Manville's footsteps, Anaconda plans to drive an exploratory tunnel 10 feet wide and 9 feet high (the Minneapolis Adit) near the old Mout Mill this year to take bulk ore samples.

Anaconda attorney Don Himelspace said the company expects to receive a final state permit for wastewater discharge within a few weeks and then to begin work.

But locals still worry that trace metals and chemicals may seep into the streams or groundwater, particularly from settling ponds for wastewater. The state health department has required that Anaconda monitor trout populations in nearby streams, but company officials said the already-variable water quality would make it difficult to assess the impact. Neither company nor state officials could specify the exact "adverse" conditions under which the exploratory tunnel would be closed. But health department officials say they will require that the discharge water be of equal quality or better than the receiving stream.

Himelspace said the company will dig a series of wells to determine seepage from the tunnel. In addition, the company has submitted to the state a plan for a water door that would shut off the tunnel to prevent discharges.

### FOX, CHICKENS

Critics have likened a permit placing Anaconda in charge of monitoring water quality to a fox guarding the chicken coop, but health department officials say the state seldom monitors such activities closely, believing that the penalties are severe enough to ensure compliance.

Surface disturbance from the adit will be limited to less than one acre (excluding the disposal of waste rock), according to Anaconda. The company expects to excavate about 36,000 tons.

The project will require small mine yard buildings and auxiliary facilities, and about 200 feet of new haul road connecting to an unimproved public road. About 500 feet of new power line will be required to connect with an existing line.

Himelspace said Anaconda expects to reach the mineralized area (a distance of 1,000 feet) in December. If results are promising, the tunnel will be continued another 2,000 to 3,000 feet.

Himelspace predicted that any future platinum-palladium operation would be small. It would not employ significantly more than the 18 to 21 workers necessary

to dig the tunnel, he said. "I'm sure that there would never be a smelter, for economical and environmental reasons."

In addition, Anaconda controls chrome and nickel copper deposits in the area. The copper-nickel deposits pose environmental and access problems, Himelspace said, adding that the market is not that alluring. A large amount of chrome does exist, he said, but how much is uncertain.

But area residents express doubts about even a small-scale operation in the Stillwater Complex. "Some see it as a boom," said rancher and Stillwater Protective Association President Jack Heyneman.

Workers and their families, said Heyneman, will be looking for homes in which to live. An influx of 18 to 21 workers and some families "may not seem like a large number, but in a community this size it is large," he said. "The sociological impact is bound to be important."

"I'm not against mining," Heyneman said. "What we're fighting for is time to develop a sense of corporate responsibility, and the only way it can be formed is through people insisting that they have it."

Ken Western is a freelance writer from Bozeman, Mont.

## Hot potatoes...

(continued from page 5)

national groups to seek their sponsorship for the symposium.

"There was a time when no environmentalists thought that coyotes killed sheep," Noh said. A symposium a few years ago changed that, he said. "Maybe this symposium will at least raise the level of argument."

The group has been the catalyst for unusual alliances. After a previous meeting, the Montana representative for The Wilderness Society agreed to help a Montana rancher, Teddy Thompson, who said he was being forced out of the sheep business by wilderness regulations imposed on his summer sheep range.

Bill Cunningham of the Society said the Wilderness Act does not prohibit grazing, and he agreed to investigate the situation.

Members of the committee passed a resolution at the September meeting supporting Cunningham's efforts and calling for an investigation of similar grazing-wilderness conflicts in other states.

Ranchers were surprised by easy passage of a resolution calling for supervised removal of excess wild horses that compete with wildlife and livestock on the range (see separate story).

At its next meeting, the committee plans to discuss energy development's effects on agriculture and the Sagebrush

Rebellion, a move by Western states to take over control of federal land.

Several of the sheep ranchers said they could not understand why Western environmentalists would not support the rebellion, which they see as a protest against over-regulation by the federal government. "Two of the three resolutions we passed today were necessary because Washington is not responsive," Jim Magagna, a Wyoming rancher, said.

The committee was formed after a conference sponsored by the Northern Rockies Action Group at Sun Valley, Idaho, last year. Its members include representatives

### "If you want to spark the Sagebrush Rebellion, this is how to do it — throw out anything that works."

of the Sierra Club; the National Audubon Society; the National Wool Growers and the wool growers associations of Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana; the Montana Wilderness Association; the Public Lands Institute; the Northern Rockies Action Group; the Oregon Environmental Council; the Wyoming Outdoor Council and the Nature Conservancy. However, the members participate as individuals and not as representatives of their groups. e

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Oct. 5, 1979 — High Country News-7

## — U.S. Steel urges workers: fight EPA air regs —

by Marjane Ambler

LANDER, Wyo. — U.S. Steel has set the town astir by announcing that unless the Environmental Protection Agency relaxes its requirements for air pollution controls at the company's mill in Utah, U.S. Steel

will have to close the mill and its Wyoming mine. All the ore from the Atlantic City taconite mine near Lander is processed at the Utah mill.

The company is urging employees at both the Atlantic City mine and the Geneva Iron Works mill in Orem, Utah, to

contact their Congressional delegation about the threat to their jobs.

The mine employs about 550 people — more than any other single business in the Lander area — and brings about \$12 million annually into the local economy.

U.S. Steel says that to satisfy EPA, the

company would have to invest \$178 million in pollution control equipment at the Utah mill. "Fifty million dollars is the limit we can go," said U.S. Steel president William R. Roesch. The company said the Geneva steel mill has been only marginally profitable for the past five years.

Marius Gedgaudas of EPA said the company's estimate of costs is at least \$46 million too high, however. He said the company could not hope to meet the federal standards without adding the equipment EPA has called for.

"We have no discretion in requiring a company to meet these standards," Gedgaudas said. "The mill is not meeting the primary ambient standards that were set to protect human health. Congress dictated that the standards must be met by 1982."

Although unpaved roads and other sources around Orem contribute a "significant amount" of fine suspended particles (particulates) to the air, the U.S. Steel mill's contribution "by far overwhelms all other sources," Gedgaudas said.

The Geneva mill emitted 17,000 tons of particles in 1977, and this must be reduced to 3,000-5,000 tons per year, EPA says.

Gedgaudas said that the company has made significant strides in pollution abatement since 1976 by adding pollution control equipment to its power plant and by rehabilitating its coke oven. However, this is not enough to meet the standards, he said.

Recent research shows some steel mill emissions are "far more dangerous" than other particulates, such as road dust, because they cause cancer, according to Gedgaudas.

The Utah Lung Association urged that the Geneva mill be forced to meet the federal standards. "Our position is that U.S. Steel should do whatever is required by law to protect the health of the people — no more and no less. Any effort to make an

**"Any effort to make an exception is a mockery to companies that have spent millions of dollars to protect health."**

**— Utah Lung Association**

exception for U.S. Steel simply because they have a big problem is a mockery to companies such as Kennecott Copper that have spent millions of dollars to protect health in this area," said Frank Brough, executive director of the association.

"We know we have pollution; we can see it," Brough said.

Ron Rudolph of Friends of the Earth said that a rust-colored cloud hovers over the mill.

Rudolph has notified the EPA that his organization plans to sue the federal agency, the state air pollution control agency and the company if adequate pollution controls are not required.

U.S. Steel plans to announce its intentions Oct. 11, and the state will schedule a public hearing on the proposal soon after. The state is responsible for implementing Clean Air Act requirements, but EPA must approve its plans.

"If they put on the kind of controls there that they're putting on at their (U.S. Steel's) mills elsewhere in the country, we wouldn't have a problem," Gedgaudas of EPA said.

## — BLM chiefs turned topsy-turvy —

Bureau of Land Management leadership in the West has been turned topsy-turvy by the agency's director in Washington, D.C., Frank Gregg.

Gregg has announced changes in BLM's top leadership in eight Western states — all those in which BLM has significant landholdings except Alaska, Colorado and New Mexico.

The changes were made, Gregg said, to keep the agency's leadership from going stale by remaining too long in the same positions. He thinks that state directors should stay in a state no less than three years but no more than six.

Six of the eight departing state directors chose to retire rather than accept Gregg's offer of another BLM position.

New state directors — where they have been named — are all professional land

managers in or near their 40s. All but two of the new directors, Gary Wicks in Utah and Michael J. Penfold in Montana, have previously worked for the Bureau of Land Management.

A summary of the changes follows:

**Arizona:** Bob Buffington will move to the state director's slot in Idaho. A replacement hasn't been announced.

**California:** Ed Hasty has been promoted to the agency's number two position — associate director in Washington, D.C. His replacement is former associate state director Jim Ruch.

**Idaho:** State director Bill Mathews has retired. He has been replaced by Bob Buffington, former Arizona state director.

**Montana:** Edwin Zaidlicz has been replaced by Michael J. Penfold, who has worked for the U.S. Forest Service and the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

**Nevada:** Ed Rowland's replacement will be Ed Spang, associate state director in Arizona.

**Oregon:** Muri Storms has announced plans to retire. No replacement has been chosen.

**Utah:** Paul Howard has retired. His successor is Gary Wicks, former director of Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and a former assistant secretary of the Interior Department.

**Wyoming:** Dan Baker will retire in November. His replacement has not been announced.

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Make checks payable to the Wyoming Environmental Institute—HCNRF, and mail to WEI, Box 2497, Jackson WY 83001.

Photo courtesy of the Colony Development Operation



8-High Country News — Oct. 5, 1979

### IN FUR

They hurt no one. They rove the North.  
Owning the wilderness, they're not lost.  
They couple in joy; in fear, they run.  
Old, their lives move still the same —  
all a pattern across the land,  
one step, one breath, one. . .

Winter bundles them close; their fur  
bunches together in friendly storms.  
Everything cold can teach, they learn.  
They stand together. The future comes.

— William Stafford

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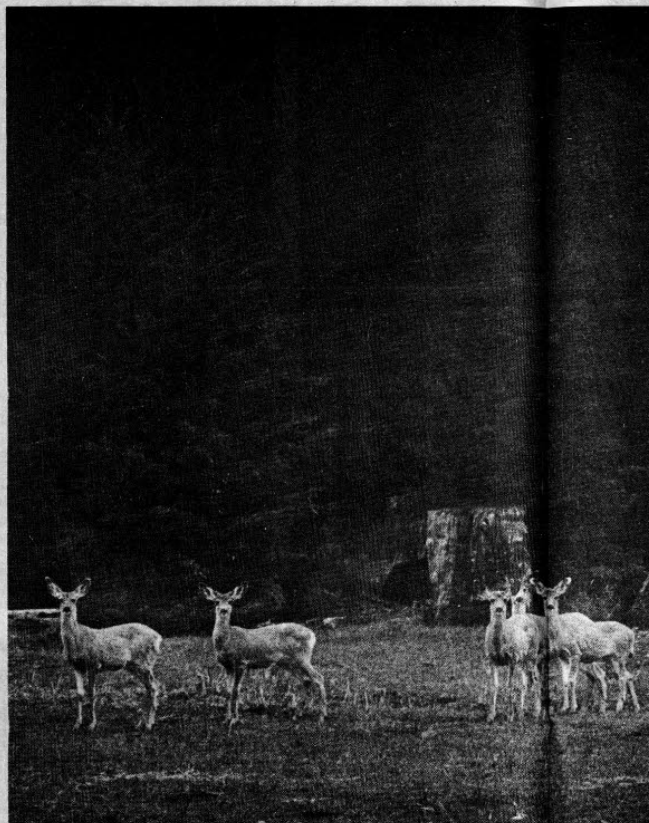


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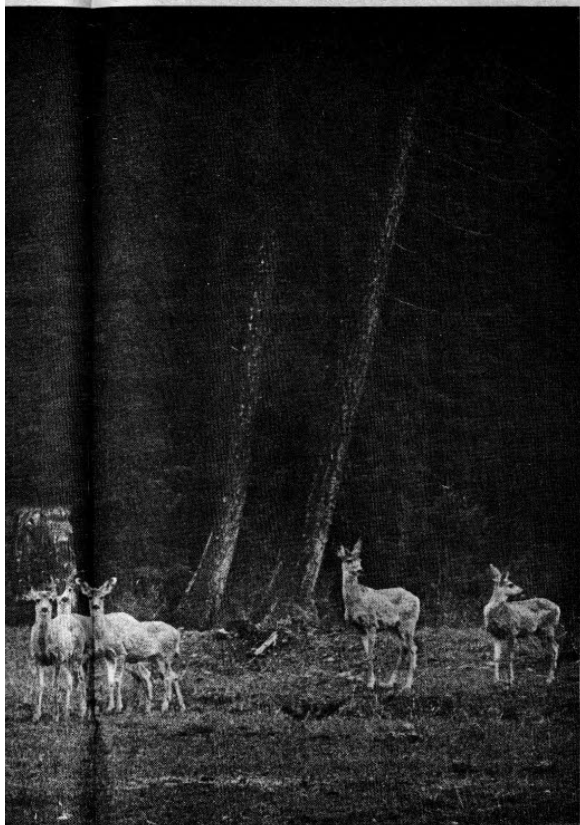


Photo by David Spear



Photo by Robert Hilgenfeld



Photo by David Sumner

10-High Country News — Oct. 5, 1979

## Institute study probes politics of energy in rural America

by Dan Whipple

The Environmental Policy Institute has recently examined the nation's member-owned rural electric cooperatives and found them wanting. *Line Across the Land* concludes that the co-ops have embarked on large-scale coal and nuclear power development programs at the expense of alternate technologies, have resisted energy conservation efforts, have undermined environmental protection efforts and subverted member participation in the operation of the organizations.

The study, subtitled *Rural Electric Cooperatives: The Changing Politics of Energy in Rural America*, is a two-part volume consisting of an overview of the cooperatives and 14 case studies of co-op efforts in individual states. Western states covered by the case studies are Montana, Wyoming and North and South Dakota.

The Environmental Policy Institute is an offshoot of the Environmental Policy Center, a Washington-based environmental lobbying group. The Institute is a tax-deductible, research and educational foundation that focuses on national energy and water resource policy issues.

The study concludes that, because of an increasing flow of money from the federal Rural Electrification Administration to large generating and transmission cooperatives, the large co-ops effectively control the operating network of the nation's 1,000 rural electric systems from the top down. Five of these large organizations—including the North Dakota-based Basin Electric Power Cooperative—account for 42 percent of all the REA's outstanding loan guarantee commitments.

In addition, the report says that 75 percent of the REA money is used by the co-ops in joint ventures with private, investor-owned utilities—which is ironic since the rural cooperatives originally were formed to combat these private power

companies. Consequently, the Institute finds, the co-ops have replaced their old "power company enemies" with a new list, including environmentalists, citizen activists, solar advocates, landowners and even their own active co-op members.

Because of their interest in large-scale power development, the REA and the rural electric's management have resisted environmental laws that threaten this development. The report lists a page and a half of environmental laws, both state and federal, that the co-ops actively opposed. The list includes nearly every major environmental statute passed by the federal government in the last 15 years.

In addition, the report charges, the co-ops are hurting the very people that they were established to aid. The report says that they have refused or resisted paying fair damage claims and other compensation to ranchers, farmers and landowners affected by co-op projects.

Finally, the co-ops have "denied their own co-op members certain rights and due process which are the cornerstones of cooperative philosophy and essential to local member control." The study is replete with examples of co-op management denying members the right to speak from the floor at meetings, denying operating information and financial data to members and denying membership lists. The management of one cooperative presented members with 100 Green Stamps in exchange for proxy votes.

The irony of all this, says the study, is that, because of their structure and demand requirements, the "nation's rural electric cooperatives are in an ideal position to pursue small-scale energy systems." The report notes that 90 percent of the operating REA system need only 50 megawatts of generating capacity to satisfy their annual power needs.

Copies of *Lines Across the Land* are available from EPI, 317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.



The HCN  
Hot Line

energy news from across the country

**UNIONISTS FIGHT 'NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL.'** Twenty trade union members from around the country have called upon other union members to "demonstrate their willingness to stand up to the corporations which are trying to blackmail the nation's wage earners with their deadly technology." A brochure with this anti-nuclear message also says "working people have the greatest stake in putting an end to the nuclear menace." The union members joined with a national group, Environmentalists for Full Employment, to demand new, safe jobs at full union wages, retraining for all now employed in nuclear industries and "a huge shift of investment resources and worker-power to conservation, clean and safe coal and solar energy." Most national trade unions officially support nuclear power.

**LNG IMPORTS APPROVED.** If one more regulatory hurdle is cleared, a consortium of shippers will be bringing liquefied natural gas from Indonesia to California in the 1980s. The plan to import the liquefied gas (known as LNG) won Department of Energy approval last month and now needs only the Federal Energy Regulatory Agency's okay, which is considered likely. The billion dollar project has been opposed by environmentalists who fear ocean spills of super-cooled gas and pollution from the terminal north of Los Angeles. The plan is expected to supply 25 percent of California's natural gas needs.

**GAS RATIONING.** After a week of haggling, Congress finally gave President Carter the gasoline rationing power he has sought for two years—but they didn't give him much. Under the plan worked out by a House-Senate conference, there would have to be a 20 percent shortage of

gasoline, diesel fuel, and heating oil before the president could take emergency steps to ration gasoline. To put that in scale, the Iranian crisis earlier this year caused about a five percent shortage, despite the long lines at the pump. What's more, the plan would not go into effect if both houses passed a resolution of disapproval within 30 days.

**TEXAS ATTACKS MONTANA TAX.** Rep. J.J. Pickle, D-Tex., remembers that Texas once supplied cheap Texas oil to the rest of the country, and now he thinks the Lone Star state is getting a raw deal on the coal it buys from states like Montana. So Pickle, an 18-year House veteran, introduced a bill in Washington, D.C., recently that would limit state severance taxes to 18 percent. That would mean quite a cut in revenues for Montana, with its 30 percent severance tax, and Montana legislators have vowed a fight.

**TVA STOKES STOVE LOANS.** The Tennessee Valley Authority is one utility that would like to reverse the traditional utility goal of increased electricity use. TVA is putting up \$5 million to encourage its customers to heat their homes with wood rather than TVA power. The huge federally-owned utility will expand a program it has been experimenting with in North Georgia: offering interest-free loans to customers to purchase wood stoves. The loans are paid back in small amounts as part of monthly electricity bills. TVA officials say they hope to slow the growth in power demand and avoid the expense of expanding TVA's power-producing capacity.

**ENERGY — WHAT, FORD WORRY?** The Ford Foundation has a solution to the problem of the world's diminishing energy resources: Simply say it isn't so. A 628-page study funded by the foundation argues that there are plenty of untapped energy sources to see us through "the crunch." In the next few decades, the study contends, new sources—primarily solar and nuclear fusion—will begin supplying "essentially unlimited" energy. There's no reason to suffer shortages now, say Ford's experts—not that, if we're willing to spend a lot more money on energy.

## Stripped down 'Hiawatha' train reaches end of Amtrak line

The Amtrak Hiawatha made its last run through southern Montana and Idaho Oct. 5, as a federal judge removed a restraining order that had kept the train rolling five days beyond its scheduled demise.

Legislators, union, and other interested groups waged a last-ditch struggle in a federal district court in Kansas to save the Hiawatha and three other passenger train routes deemed unprofitable by Amtrak.

The effort got the Hiawatha its court-ordered five-day extension beyond its scheduled Oct. 1 shutdown, but prospects for further extensions were considered dim. Amtrak had already closed its ticket offices along the route, taken off sleeper cars and some coaches, and stopped accepting reservations.

"There's no way now we could re-hire the people we laid off," said an Amtrak spokesman, adding that continued operation of the routes was losing the national passenger train system hundreds of thousands of dollars a day.

Without the Hiawatha, Montana and Idaho will be served by only one cross-country train, the Empire Builder, which

runs along the Canadian border, with stops in Libby and Wolf Point, Mont.

Discontent over the cancellation ran high along the line's stops, among them Bozeman, Billings, and Butte, Mont., and Boise and Pocatello, Idaho.

Don Sandman, an Amtrak electrician on the Hiawatha, said, "We drive people away and they still fight to get on this train...and they pay big money for it."

But Amtrak officials pointed to a study done last month for Rep. Pat Williams (R-Mont.) that showed that ridership on the Hiawatha dropped 1,180 from July 1978 to July 1979. The train cannot, officials said, meet congressional requirements that Amtrak trains carry an average 150 passengers a mile and lose no more than seven cents a mile.

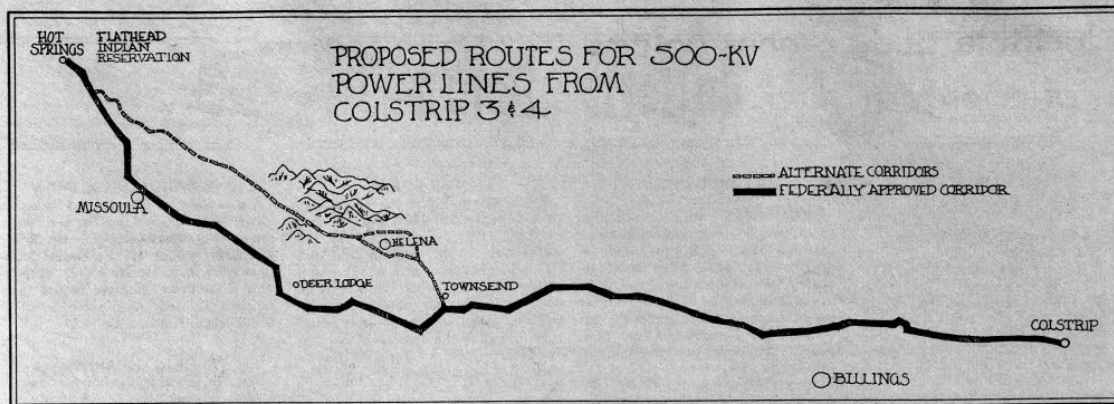
Williams, nevertheless, brought his own suit in a Butte court to keep the Hiawatha running, and supported the Kansas effort.

In the meantime, Amtrak officials in Washington announced a management shake-up and plans to improve the system's on-time record, food service and equipment—all problems that riders say plagued the Hiawatha.



ADVERTISEMENT in the Rural Electric Nebraskan, December 1978.

Oct. 5, 1979 — High Country News-11



## 3-way tangle over Colstrip's power line path

by Geoffrey O'Gara

Plans for high voltage lines to distribute power west from the proposed Colstrip 3 and 4 power plants has sparked a dispute among federal officials, the Montana Board of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Salish-Kootenai Tribal Council.

In September officials at the federal Bureau of Land Management and at the Forest Service said "no" to a state-approved route for the two 500-kilovolt lines that would run from Colstrip through Townsend to Hot Springs, Mont., where it would tie in with other lines going west.

Federal officials proposed a longer route between Townsend and Hot Springs, which they said would do less harm to the environment. But the Salish-Kootenai Tri-

bal Council objected to both routes, which would run through the Flathead Indian Reservation.

BLM's environmental program manager for Montana, Dave Darby, called it "a terribly awkward situation. . . . It gets you into this federal rights versus states rights thing at a terrible time."

In the middle of the squabble is the Bonneville Power Administration, the giant Northwest utility that is planning to construct the power corridor for Montana Power Co. Because Bonneville is a federal agency, company officials say it can supercede state siting agencies. And the utility has had for years a power line right-of-way through the Indian reservation, which Bonneville officials say is large enough for the two 500-kv lines from Colstrip. Indian attorneys say the right-of-way can only be

used for a smaller line.

The debate is only the latest chapter in Montana Power Co.'s long struggle to construct twin 700-megawatt coal-burning plants next to its two existing plants in southeast Montana. Clean air objections by the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation and a court challenge to the state board's 1976 approval of the plants were recently resolved in Montana Power's favor.

The controversy is similar to a dispute that recently erupted in Wyoming, where the Tennessee Valley Authority, a federal utility serving the Southeast, is threatening to bypass Wyoming's siting laws for a planned uranium mine in eastern Wyoming (see HCN, Sept. 21).

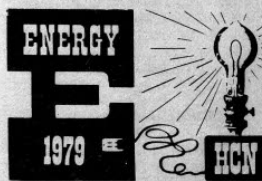
But the Montana dispute differs in that state officials may be willing to back down.

Some Montana officials admit privately that the BLM-proposed route for the power lines is better than the one approved by the state board in 1976 — more expensive to construct, but less environmentally harmful. A BLM official said the state board, having asserted "states rights" in public meetings, would like to "sort of let the power line issue die."

The director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has instructed his staff to research legal options, but no trip to court is presently contemplated. Federal officials said they would not allow power lines on the state board's favored route to cross federal lands, effectively blocking them.

The route favored by the federal agencies would run the two 500-kv wires 430 miles, on twin towers from Colstrip to Townsend, and from Townsend west on single towers. It would cost \$214 million to construct, Bonneville officials estimate. For the most part, it would follow transmission corridors now in use.

The state-approved route would have been 13 miles shorter. According to federal officials, it would have disrupted the



energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

**UTAH COAL GAS PLANT APPROVED.** Mountain Fuel Supply Co. has been given approval by the federal Interagency Task Force on Power Plant Siting for a five unit coal gasification plant in Emery County, Utah. The plant is scheduled to begin production in the 1990s. Top capacity will eventually reach 250 million cubic feet daily. The plant would use about seven million tons of coal annually — a figure equal to the entire current yearly production in Utah. There is still a possibility that the plant would not meet soon-to-be-released visibility standards prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency, but the promoters say that they can meet Class I air quality standards in the area. The Utah Wildlife Resources Division says that the plant could adversely affect the wildlife in the area from population transfers and water usage.

**PROTECTING THE TURF.** The Western Governors' Policy Office, meeting recently in Vail, Colo., adopted a resolution

urging that the proposed federal Energy Mobilization Board not be allowed to bypass state laws. The 10 members in attendance had no objection, however, to giving the board authority to cut through federal laws. The resolution says, "The federal government, rather than state and local government is the primary source of red tape. The sovereignty of state government is as important to the continued vitality of the nation as timely development of energy resources." WESTPO, as the organization is acronymed, is a central policy coordination organization for 10 Rocky Mountain and Great Plains states.

**PARK SERVICE NIXES MINERAL EXPLORATION.** The National Park Service has ordered federal agencies to halt a mineral inventory study on park lands and issued a ban on the search for nuclear fuels in the parks. As a result, work on the \$55 million National Uranium Resource Evaluation program has been halted in 32 parks. Sponsored by the Department of Energy, NURE was surveying the national parks for 45 minerals and metals. NPS director William Whalen told United Press International, "We have to be at an absolute crisis point where there are no alternatives before mining for energy fuels in parks can be considered. . . . If they know the fuels are there, it's not long to the second stage. Then you're in a battle to prevent mining in the parks."

**PIPELINE SEEKS WATER.** Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. has appar-

ently not given up hope of finding water for its proposed coal slurry pipeline from Montana and Wyoming to Texas. The company has proposed using water from both North and South Dakota in the slurry pipeline. The North Dakota water would come from Lake Sakakawea and in South Dakota, the company offered to participate in the proposed West River Aqueduct in exchange for use of 20,000 acre-feet of water. Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler recently rejected Texas Eastern's proposal to use water from Wyoming's Little Bighorn River. The pipeline, if built, will carry 25 million tons of coal annually to power plants near Houston.

**SOLAR IRRIGATION.** The world's largest solar irrigation facility is currently under construction near Coolidge, Ariz. The project, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, consists of a large field of parabolic collectors, which will run a heat engine that generates 150 kilowatts of electricity. The electricity will be used to power deep-well irrigation pumps. A thermal storage tank will keep the pumps operating on cloudy days and extend operating hours past sundown. At the end of the growing season, the project will feed power into the area's utility lines. Participating in the project are the state of Arizona; the Arizona Cotton Growers Association; the University of Arizona; Acurex, a construction firm; and Sandia Laboratories.

**"It's a terribly awkward situation....It gets you into this federal rights versus states rights thing at a terrible time."**

Blackfoot River recreational area and crossed the Mission Mountains in the remote grizzly bear country near Jocko Pass.

Tribal lawyer Evelyn Stevenson said putting the lines on Bonneville's present 250-foot-wide right-of-way through the Flathead reservation would be "an abuse or overuse of the right-of-way as it exists now." The right-of-way was granted for a single 230-kv line, she said. With assistance from the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Salish-Kootenai intend to fight the lines.

Two years ago, the tribes turned down a \$15 million Bonneville offer for a power corridor lease across the southern part of the reservation. A Bonneville spokesman said the company will be reviewing alternatives to the reservation route, but maintained the company had "sufficient rights" to erect the two 500-kv lines on the existing right-of-way.

12-High Country News — Oct. 5, 1979



## Bulletin Board



### LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

As the price of palladium rises  
Stillwater's in for surprises.  
In trade for clean air  
Elk, deer and bear  
It's offered mine dumps of all sizes.

### "NEW GROWTH"

"Ecodevelopment" is the goal of Maurice Strong, who will speak at a luncheon Oct. 12 at the Executive Tower Inn, 1405 Curtis St. in Denver. Strong, former president and chairman of the board of PETRO-CANADA, organized the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and subsequently became executive director of the United Nations Environment Program. Economics and ecology, a combination he has labeled "ecodevelopment," must become allies in achieving a better quality of life for all people, he says. His "new growth" approach seeks to remove the conflict between ecology and economics that he feels is built into our system of economic decision-making. The luncheon, which costs \$8, is sponsored by the ROMCOE Center for Environmental Problem Solving. For more information contact ROMCOE at 5500 Central Ave., Suite A, Boulder, Colo. 80301 (303) 444-5080.

### NEXT TIME YOU FLUSH YOUR TOILET THINK OF YOUR NEIGHBORS DOWN-RIVER

Thoughtful people do not wash their wastes into sewers. That is unkind to our neighbors downstream, and to our lakes and rivers. It also wastes a torrent of fresh water.

Such profligacy is not necessary. The Clivus Multrum is a waterless waste treatment system for the home or public facility which saves all that water and protects our environment. Toilet wastes and organic garbage are composted into a rich fertilizer right in your basement, conserving water, nutrients, and energy.

#### Contact:

Clivus Multrum Northern Rockies  
205 Meadows Rd.  
Whitefish, MT 59937  
or these local distributors:

May Raynolds  
1290 S. Second St.  
Lander, WY 82520

Mike Evans  
P.O. Box 1152  
Saratoga, WY 82331

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P.O. Box 91  
Victor, ID 83455

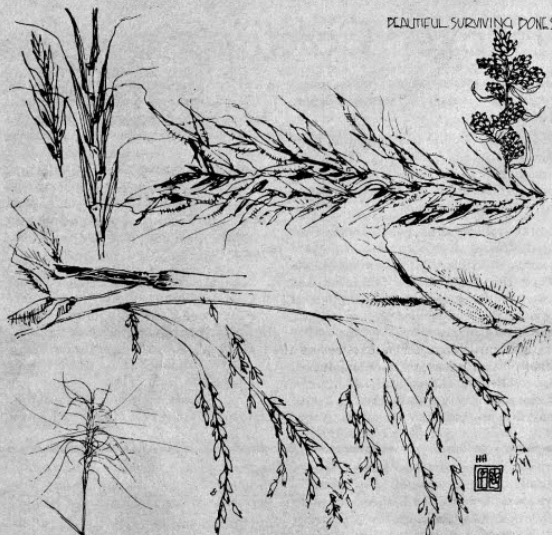
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P.O. Box 18  
Fraser, CO 80442



Clivus  
Multrum  
organic waste  
treatment system

### NUCLEAR POWER REGULATION

The Union of Concerned Scientists has three reports available on nuclear power regulation. **The Nugget File** (\$4.95) includes excerpts from the government's internal file on nuclear power plant accidents and safety defects. **The Risks of Nuclear Power Reactors** (\$6.25) includes a review of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Reactor Safety study. **Looking but Not Seeing** (\$3.50) discusses the federal nuclear power plant inspection program. Write to the group at 1208 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.



### CONCERNED GARDENER

"The Concerned Gardener" is a booklet of tips on outdoor planting to conserve water; reduce energy use, noise and urban stress; preserve stream banks, dunes and wetlands; and control pests. Send \$2 (\$2.50 for first class) to Concern, Inc., 2233 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

### FISHING RIVERS

The American Rivers Conservation Council hopes to protect more fishing rivers under the Wild and Scenic River Act. The Council is looking for suggestions and support from the fishing community, outdoor writers and fishing clubs. Call the ARCC at (202) 547-6800, or Eileen Barthelmy, American League of Anglers (202) 347-7475.

### THREE MILE TRANSCRIPTS

While the full 800-page transcript of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission hearings on the Three Mile Island nuclear incident costs \$60, 100 pages of excerpts are available for \$8. The Nuclear Information and Resource Service has selected what it calls "the most revealing moments." Write to the Service at 1536 Sixteenth St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. The group also publishes a newsletter, **Groundswell**, with information on congressional action, current research and judicial decisions.

### SOLAR GUIDE

**Solar Age** magazine has published a guide to nearly 400 solar energy products from 280 U.S. manufacturers. The products listed include everything from individual components to complete solar heating and cooling systems. The book is designed primarily for professionals who evaluate, select and specify solar equipment. The guide is a loose-leaf binder with insertable pages and will be updated regularly. **The Solar Products Specifications Guide** is available for \$120 from Solar Age, Church Hill, Dept. SG9, Harrisville, N.H. 03450.

### UNCOMPAHGRE SLIDE SHOW

A slide show on the proposed Uncompahgre Wilderness, which has been endorsed for designation by U.S. Rep. Ray Kogovsek (D-Colo.), will be presented Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Montrose, Colo., at the office of the Delta-Montrose Electric Association. The show is sponsored by the Uncompahgre Resource Council.

### TECHNICAL PAPERS

Technical papers for the June meeting of the International Solar Energy Society in Phoenix are due Nov. 1. Papers should be typed, single-spaced, 400 to 800 words, and submitted in triplicate to the American Section of ISES, 205B McDowell Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, Del. 19711.

### SUN JOB TRAINING

Job-seekers interested in the field of solar energy can hone their skills at the places listed in a new publication entitled **Solar Energy Technical Training Directory**. Available free from the Solar Energy Research Institute, the director lists 91 post-secondary institutions offering training programs in fields such as solar system fabrication, installation and maintenance. To order it, call (800) 523-2929. From Pennsylvania, call (800) 462-4983. From Alaska and Hawaii call (800) 523-4700. All are toll-free numbers.

### A LEAGUE LOOK

The Wyoming League of Women Voters has just published the fourth edition of **A Look at Wyoming Government**. A \$5,500 grant from the Union Pacific Foundation helped finance the publication. The 100-page paperback outlines the basic structure and function of state government. Copies are \$1.50 each from: League of Women Voters of Wyoming, Sandra Donovan, 1565 Walnut Dr., Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001.

### BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Wyoming Outdoor Council, a statewide environmental group, will celebrate its 12th birthday at a benefit dance and party in Lander, Wyo., Oct. 19. Tap dancers, door prizes and music by the Buffalo Chips are planned. Tickets for the party at the Lander Elks Club are \$2.50 and can be purchased at the door or from the council office at 331 Main in Lander. The festivities begin at 8 p.m.

### WILD, HARDIN, MOMADAY

"Humanities and the Environment" is the theme of three October programs at the Teton Science School. The series includes Peter Wild on "Poetry of the Earth" Oct. 12-14; Garrett Hardin on "Transcending Tragedy in Preserving Wilderness" Oct. 19-21; and N. Scott Momaday on "The American Indian and the Land: The Development of a Land Ethic and the Evolution of Nativehood" Oct. 26-28. Each speaker will offer an evening public lecture in Jackson, Wyo., and a two-and-a-half-day seminar at the school near Kelly in Grand Teton National Park. Lectures are \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for students. Seminars are \$85 each. Spring programs at the school will feature Buckminster Fuller, Ian McHarg and A. Starker Leopold. For more information contact the school at Box 68, Kelly, Wyo. 83011 (307) 733-4765.

### NUCLEAR FUSION

A short essay on the disadvantages of successful fusion is available from the Committee for Nuclear Responsibility, Inc. Ask for "Power from Fusion: the Real Meaning of Recent Breakthroughs." The committee also has a list of other essays and speeches available on such topics as civil disobedience, nuclear defense, and waste management. Write to Committee for Nuclear Responsibility, Box 332, Yachats, Ore. 97498.

### FARMERS' FUTURE

A meeting on the future of agriculture in the Rocky Mountains is slated for Sun Valley, Idaho, Oct. 24-27. Speakers at the conference will include Alvin M. Josephy, a writer and former editor of **American Heritage**; Rupert Cutler, assistant secretary of agriculture; Isau Fujimoto, an expert on agricultural appropriate technology from the University of California at Davis; Burt Trueblood, an Idaho farmer and conservationist; Thadys W. Box, dean of the college of natural resources at Utah State University; and Guy Martin, assistant secretary of the Interior. For more information, contact the meeting's sponsor: the Institute of the American West, Box 656, Sun Valley, Idaho 83353 (208) 622-9371.



## Western Roundup

### Montana

#### Melcher raises Indians' ire at hearings

Indians say Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.) is ignoring their rights by criticizing the federal government for filing four water lawsuits in Montana.

Melcher said the suits, which involve as many as 100,000 defendants, could be harmful for the tribes since they could lead to "grave misunderstandings." Melcher, who is chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, held hearings throughout Montana where most of the testimony criticized the suits. The suits were filed to determine how much water tribes get.

Melcher said the suits are "unfair to non-Indians and non-federal water users. This strong-arm tactic by the Justice Department must be met with strong resistance by Montanans."

Indians at the hearings said they, too, preferred negotiation to litigation. However, they said, the state legislature forced them to seek federal help. Although tribal leaders from Montana's seven reservations worked with the legislature to reach an agreement, they say the legislators snubbed them and passed a bill that would put all water users, including tribes, under

the authority of the state. Indians prefer federal courts if litigation is necessary.

"It is terribly important that everyone understand that the Indians feel, with good reason, that they cannot get a fair determination of their rights from a popularly elected state official," said Forrest Gerard, Interior Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Interior Solicitor Leo Krulitz said his review of Indian water court cases confirms the Indians' feeling about state courts.

Krulitz said litigation does not preclude negotiation. At one hearing in Montana, the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation urged the state and the United States to seek one-year stays in the water rights cases so that all efforts can be focused on negotiations.

The Fort Peck tribes also proposed a compromise, which would consolidate most non-Indian water users' rights. The state would represent them and the federal and tribal attorneys would represent the tribes in a single federal court proceeding. The compromise would require congressional action, however, to allow for consolidation of the non-Indian rights.

### Colorado

#### EPA will live with Denver's brown cloud

Environmental Protection Agency officials in Denver say the agency will put up with Denver's air pollution a few months longer before imposing a stiff penalty on the state, according to the *Denver Post*.

Federal regulations require inspection-and-maintenance programs to control automobile pollution, but some Colorado legislators are not convinced that such a program is better than a tune-up system. With a tune-up system, engines of all vehicles registered near Denver would be adjusted to manufacturers' specifications annually.

The legislature authorized a study comparing the two systems, but it isn't scheduled to be complete until Feb. 1. In areas that don't meet the minimum fed-

eral standards, the deadline for enacting a pollution control program was last July 1.

Denver's air is second only to Los Angeles' in the danger it poses to health. The city's high altitude exacerbates pollution, which is caused primarily by automobiles.

If the Colorado Legislature does not meet a March 1 deadline for enacting a program, the state faces the same sanctions that were imposed in California recently. There the federal government has banned virtually all major industrial construction. The EPA has been pushing California to adopt an annual inspection program since 1972. EPA may also cut off billions of dollars in federal highway and sewage treatment plant funds there.

### Northern Rockies

#### Wolves to return to Yellowstone Park?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now reviewing a plan to bring timber wolves back to some portion of their former range in the Rocky Mountains. Scientists say Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming is the most logical place to restore the wolf.

Biologists admit the plan may be hard to sell. Opponents say humans, wildlife and livestock aren't safe in an area inhabited by wolves. However, stories of attacks on humans in North America have never been

authenticated, according to Dick Randall of Defenders of Wildlife.

Researchers say the highest deer-hunter success in Minnesota occurred in counties with major wolf populations. Randall says livestock may pose problems, but until something better comes along, padded-jaw traps, checked every day, could be used to capture wolves that are attacking livestock.

A few descendants of the thousands of gray wolves that once roamed in or around Glacier and Yellowstone national parks still exist, according to Randall. He doubts that a structured pack of gray wolves could be found anywhere in the Western states. In the early part of this century, records show that 36,161 wolves in Wyoming and more than 80,000 wolves in Montana fell to bounty hunters and state and federal employees.



Photo by Lynne Bama

**FEWER TOURISTS** visited Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone National Park this summer because of gas shortages and the high cost of travel. Yellowstone officials reported a drop of 32 percent for the first eight months of 1979.

#### National parks attracted fewer visitors this year

Rocky Mountain national parks got a vacation this summer. A spot check of the region's parks indicates a steep decline in visiting tourists.

For the first time in five years, Yellowstone National Park may have fewer than 2 million visitors in 1979. Through August, only 1.5 million tourists had entered the park in 1979 — down from 2.2 million for the same period the year before, when the final total was 2.62 million.

The 32 percent decline, reflected to varying degrees at other parks, corresponds to the steep rise in gasoline prices, said park officials.

Visits to Teton National Park in Wyoming were off almost 20 percent through August. Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado was down 18 percent from last year; and Dinosaur National Monument, in northwest Colorado, suffered an attendance downturn of 36 percent through August.

However, history indicates the decline in park tourism may not be permanent.

In 1972, 2.2 million people visited Yellowstone National Park. But the Arab oil

embargo of 1973 caused an eight percent drop in Yellowstone visitors that year and an additional six percent drop in 1974, when total visitors dropped below two million for the first time in 10 years. By 1975, however, Americans were cooking with gas again. More than 2.2 million passed through Yellowstone's gates. In addition, Americans were increasingly spurning mere automobiles in favor of large recreational vehicles for their Yellowstone trip.

In 1976, a new record of 2.5 million came. Last year, the total was 2.62 million and officials in the park superintendent's office were confidently pointing to their first three-million-visitor year in 1980.

The combination punch of 1979's gasoline supply problems and sobering prices has blighted those expectations.

The 1979 figures also show 38 percent fewer recreational vehicles entering Yellowstone, while buses were up six percent and total visitors entering on buses was up 25 percent. Bus passengers, however, amounted to less than three percent of total visitors.

14-High Country News — Oct. 5, 1979

## 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 1967, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1978).

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE A WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT TO (1) ONE COMMERCIAL FACILITY, TO MODIFY (1) ONE OIL TREATER, (1) ONE INDUSTRIAL, AND (1) ONE MUNICIPAL DISCHARGE PERMIT, AND TO RENEW (1) ONE FISH HATCHERY, (2) TWO COMMERCIAL, (1) ONE MUNICIPAL, (1) ONE INDUSTRIAL AND (1) ONE STATE GOVERNMENT DISCHARGE PERMIT WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING.

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: GARY AND DOLORES BISCHOFF  
"KaTeJa SUBDIVISION"

MAILING ADDRESS: 111 HIGHWAY 32  
LOVELL, WYOMING 82431

APPLICATION NUMBER: Wy-0028436

The KaTeJa Subdivision is a proposed housing development with thirty family units which will be located just east of the Town of Lovell, Wyoming. Proposed wastewater treatment for the subdivision will be provided by a package treatment plant which will discharge to an unnamed drainage, a tributary of Sand Draw (Class IV stream).

The proposed permit requires compliance with national secondary treatment standards effective immediately. In addition, the proposed permit contains limitations on fecal coliform bacteria and total residual chlorine which will insure compliance with Wyoming's in-stream water quality standards.

Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire on September 30, 1984.

(2) PERMIT NAME: GETTY OIL COMPANY

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1650  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74102

FACILITY LOCATION: TRIBAL A UNIT, NORTHWEST  
SHELDON DOME FIELD, SE4, SECTION  
35, TEN, R3W, FREMONT COUNTY,  
WYOMING

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003042

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Fremont County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Dry Creek (Class II stream) via an unnamed drainage.

A letter of beneficial use has been received by an area rancher concerning this discharge, therefore, the permit is being modified to waive the chemical limitations (total dissolved solids, chlorides and sulfates). The limitations on pH and oil and grease will remain in effect.

The Department will continue to evaluate this discharge, and if necessary, will modify the permit 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 date is December 31, 1983.

(3) PERMIT NAME: WYOMING REFINING COMPANY

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 820  
NEWCASTLE, WYOMING 82701

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001163

The Wyoming Refining Company operates an oil refinery in Newcastle, Wyoming, with a rated capacity of 11,000 barrels of crude per day. According to the refinery's environmental engineer one hundred percent of the crude processed receives atmospheric distillation and desalting, and 72.7 percent of the crude processed receives moving bed catalytic cracking. The above information results in a process factor of 1.09 and a size factor of .91. From this information, "best practicable treatment" effluent limitations were calculated for the parameters BOD-5, total suspended solids, chemical oxygen demand, oil and grease, phenols, ammonia, sulfide, total chromium, hexavalent chromium and pH.

The existing wastewater treatment system serving the refinery has been unable to meet National Best Practicable Treatment Standards since July of 1977, when those standards went into effect. As a result of this non-compliance, the State filed a complaint against the company in August of 1978. The company and the State have now reached an out-of-court settlement which necessitates modification of the company's discharge permit.

Under the conditions of the consent decree the State agrees to relax effluent standards for the parameters phenols, ammonia, sulfide and pH. In return, the company has agreed to a schedule of compliance which will result in no discharge from the refinery after October 1, 1980.

A short term permit (expiration date of December 31, 1980) is proposed for two reasons. First, according to the consent decree, the discharge is to be eliminated by October 1, 1980. Once the discharge is eliminated, there will no longer be a need for the permit. Secondly, petroleum refining is one of the industries for which EPA is developing toxic material effluent limitations under the Federal Clean Water Act. EPA regulations require short term expiration dates while those limitations are being developed.

The proposed permit requires that all of the limited parameters be monitored on a regular basis and that the results be reported at monthly intervals.

(4) PERMIT NAME: TOWN OF HULETT, WYOMING

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 278  
HULETT, WYOMING 82730

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020214

The wastewater treatment facilities serving the Town of Hulett, Wyoming, consist of an oxidation ditch with no disinfection equipment. The discharge from the oxidation ditch enters the Belle Fourche River (Class II warmwater stream).

The existing permit for this facility was issued in December of 1978, and the effluent limitations contained in that permit were based on flow data in the Belle Fourche River immediately below Keyhole Reservoir. Since issuance of the permit, the Town has retained a consulting engineer, who has re-evaluated the stream flow data in the Belle Fourche River. The consultant's re-evaluation indicates that the stream flows at the Town of Hulett are considerably larger than immediately below Keyhole Reservoir. As a result, the Department proposes to reissue the permit based on revised flows suggested by the consultant.

The proposed permit requires that the existing facilities be operated at maximum efficiency. The Town has been offered Federal construction grant funds which means the wastewater treatment facilities must be upgraded to meet Federal effluent standards and Wyoming's in-stream water quality standards. The Town has submitted a schedule of compliance which commits the Town to achieving compliance with such standards by July of 1981, and that schedule has been incorporated into the permit.

The proposed permit includes limitations on BOD-5, total suspended solids, fecal coliform bacteria, pH and total residual chlorine. At this time, it appears that violation of Wyoming's in-stream standards for dissolved oxygen will not occur provided National Secondary Treatment Standards are achieved. This position will continue to be evaluated (and the permit modified if necessary) as more information becomes available. Information also

indicates that there is no need for ammonia removal to meet in-stream standards for un-ionized ammonia.

The proposed permit contains a section which requires the Town to begin planning for expansion of the wastewater treatment facilities once 80 percent of the design flow is reached.

Self-monitoring requirements in the proposed permit require the monitoring of all limited parameters on a routine basis with reporting of results quarterly. The proposed permit is scheduled to expire on September 30, 1984.

The Town of Hulett has been exempted from meeting Federal effluent requirements by July 1, 1977 since, in accordance with Federal requirements, it specifically requested an exemption due to the previous unavailability of Federal construction grant funds.

(5) PERMIT NAME: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
"JACKSON NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY"

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1845  
JACKSON, WYOMING 83001

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000019

Jackson National Fish Hatchery is a Federal operation which produces approximately 60,000 fish per year. The hatchery is located four miles north of the Town of Jackson, Wyoming. The discharge is to Flat Creek (Class II stream).

The proposed permit requires that the hatchery effluent be in compliance with what is considered to be best practicable treatment standards for fish hatchery operations effective immediately. This includes a limitation on pH and a kilogram per day and pounds per day limit on total suspended solids.

Quarterly self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the reporting of results semi-annually. In addition to sampling the continuous discharge, samples must be taken during raceway cleaning and the frequency and duration of each cleaning must be reported.

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

(6) PERMIT NAME: VILLAGE SEWER COMPANY  
"TETON VILLAGE"

MAILING ADDRESS: JACKSON HOLE SKI CORPORATION  
TETON VILLAGE, WYOMING 83025

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020087

The Village Sewer Company is the owner and operator of the sewage treatment plant which serves Teton Village, Wyoming. The treatment facility is an activated sludge package plant followed by a chlorinator and a polishing pond. The proposed permit authorizes two discharge points. Point 001 is the "old" discharge point and is located near the southeast corner of lot 6, Section 24, T42N, R117W. Point 002 is the "new" point and is located within the NW4 of the SE4 of Section 24, T42N, R117. Both points discharge to intermittent ditches within the Fish Creek drainage. All waters within the Fish Creek drainage have been designated as Class I waters.

Under Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations, Chapter I, no existing point source discharge to a Class I water may increase its quantity of pollution discharge. Since all waters within the Fish Creek drainage were designated as Class I on July 17, 1979, this proposed permit includes effluent limitations which prohibits pollutant discharge quantities higher than those discharged prior to July 17, 1979.

In addition to the quantity effluent limitations, the proposed permit also contains the same concentration effluent limitations as contained in the existing Teton Village permit. The proposed permit also requires regularly scheduled monitoring of effluent quality and quantity and the reporting of results on a monthly basis. The permit is scheduled to expire September 30, 1984.

(7) PERMIT NAME: COUNTRY MEADOWS ESTATES

MAILING ADDRESS: COUNTRY MEADOW ESTATES No. 39  
LARAMIE, WYOMING 82701

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0021954

Country Meadows is a privately owned 110 acre mobile home park located southeast of Laramie, Wyoming. Sewage treatment consists of a Case-Cotter extended aeration package treatment plant with chlorination. The discharge is to Laramie Spring Creek (Class IV stream) via an unnamed drainage.

The proposed permit requires compliance with secondary treatment standards effective immediately. A strict year around fecal coliform limit of 200-400 organisms per 100 ml. is also included in the permit and, monitoring of residual chlorine is required daily.

The proposed expiration date is October 31, 1984.

(8) PERMIT NAME: TOWN OF EVANSVILLE, WYOMING

MAILING ADDRESS: DRAWER 158  
580 IRON STREET  
EVANSVILLE, WYOMING 82636

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0021881

The wastewater treatment facilities serving the Town of Evansville, Wyoming consist of a three cell non-aerated lagoon with no disinfection equipment. An aerator has recently been installed at the lift station wet well. The facility discharges to the North Platte River (Class II stream).

The proposed permit requires only that the existing facilities be operated at maximum efficiency during calendar year 1980. The permit will expire December 31, 1980, and will have to be rewritten at that time. The reasons for this approach are:

1. The Town of Evansville, Wyoming, has recently been offered Federal construction grant funds for the planning, design and upgrading of their wastewater treatment plant. As part of the Phase I (planning portion) of that grant, this Department will require assessment of the possibility of regionalization of the various wastewater treatment plants (including Evansville's) in the Casper area.
2. Until the Casper area Phase I study is completed, it is not possible to calculate effluent limitations for Evansville because of lack of knowledge about the projected location, quality and quantity of upstream discharges.
3. Until the Casper area Phase I study is completed, it is not certain whether or not Evansville will continue to operate a wastewater treatment facility.
4. The Casper area Phase I is not expected to be completed until October 1980, at which time the Evansville permit will be rewritten using the information contained in the study.
5. If for any reason it becomes necessary to issue a permit to Evansville with definite effluent limitations, the proposed permit may be modified prior to its expiration date.

The proposed permit requires monitoring of effluent quality (including the parameter ammonia) with reporting of results quarterly.

(9) PERMIT NAME: UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 569  
LANDER, WYOMING 82520

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003174

The United States Steel Corporation operates an open pit iron ore (taconite) mine near Atlantic City, Wyoming. The corporation also operates an ore concentrating plant which is located at the mine site.

There are two wastewater discharge points associated with the operation. Discharge point 001 consists of seepage and overflow from the recirculations (reclaim) basin off the mill tailings pond. During the past several years the Corporation has improved the operation of its recirculation system from the tailings pond back to the concentration plant and discharge 001 has consisted only of seepage through the tailings dam. This seepage water is of high quality. Discharge 001 makes up the entire flow of Rock Creek (Class II stream) immediately below the tailings dam.

Discharge point 002 consists of runoff, seepage and drainage from the mine and plant area plus the effluent from a small package treatment plant which treats the sanitary waste from the concentrating plant and offices.

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Discharge point 002 enters Slate Creek (Class II stream) which is a tributary of Rock Creek.

The proposed permit requires compliance with national best practicable treatment standards for the iron ore mining and concentrating industry at both discharge points. In addition, discharge point 001 contains a limitation on turbidity which allows an increase of 10 NTU's above the level of turbidity in Rock Creek Reservoir. This limitation is necessary to insure compliance with Wyoming's Water Quality Standards for turbidity. Discharge point 001 also contains a requirement that total zinc be monitored on a regular basis. This requirement is included because a zinc based compound is used as a corrosion inhibitor within the system. Discharge point 002 contains additional limitations on BOD-5, fecal coliform bacteria and total residual chlorine since these pollutants are associated with the sanitary waste treatment plant.

The proposed permit requires monitoring of all limited parameters on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The proposed permit also includes standard language requiring control of runoff from disturbed areas and an exemption from effluent limitations in the event of a ten year-24 hour precipitation event.

The proposed permit contains an expiration date of December 31, 1980. An expiration date of no later than December 31, 1980, is mandated under Federal regulations for ore mining and milling operations since it is an industrial category for which the EPA is developing toxic material effluent standards.

(10) PERMIT NAME: WYOMING HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
"SUMMIT REST AREA"

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1708  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82001

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020982

The Summit Rest Area is a rest stop located seven miles east of Laramie, Wyoming, on Interstate 80. Sewage treatment consists of an extended aeration package plant with chlorination. The effluent runs down the side of a hill in the Middle Crow Creek (Class II water) drainage basin, but does not reach a defined drainage. Potential for the discharge to reach a live stream is present.

The proposed permit requires any discharge to be in compliance with secondary treatment standards effective immediately. The permit also contains a strict year around fecal coliform limit of 200-400 organisms per 100 ml. and a liberal residual chlorine limit of 2.0 mg/l.

Quarterly self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of residual chlorine which must be monitored weekly.

The treatment plant for this facility will be upgraded within the near future to become a no discharge system, therefore, an expiration date of December 31, 1980, is proposed for the permit.

#### 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 are protected.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to October 22, 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 80286. All comments received prior to October 22, 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) 327-3974, 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 WY-79-010

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## CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads cost 10 cents a word; they must be prepaid.

FALL QUARTER IN THE WILDERNESS 63 day Western Wilderness Course for academic credit. Sept 2-Nov. 20. Mountain Skills, Wilderness Ethics, Field Leadership, Colorado Rockies, Canyonlands, Grand Canyon, Challenge Discovery, Box 229 Crested Butte, Co. 81224. (303) 349-5432.

PERSONNEL. The Northern Cheyenne Research Project, an independent research office of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, has openings for 3 VISTA Volunteers beginning in October. Commitment for one year desirable. College graduate with Science or Educational skills preferred. Experience with Mini-Computers desirable. Benefits total about \$100-week. Rewarding work, invaluable experience. Send resume to NCRP, P.O. Box 388, Lame Deer, Montana 59043, or call (collect) (406) 477-6278.

PART TIME POSITION AVAILABLE. Northern Great Plains office of the Sierra Club has a one half time assistant regional representative opening. Applicant should be able to work independently and co-ordinate well with volunteers. Some state and national legislative and administrative lobbying. Work will focus on regional water, agriculture, and public land issues. Send letter of application and resume to Bruce Hamilton, Box 1078, Lander, WY 82520. For more information call 307-332-9824. Applications due by Oct. 15, 1979.

WANTED. Freelance writers or photographers to cover North Dakota natural resource news. Pay is two to four cents a word or \$4 per photo. One-sided distasteful unacceptable. Contact Marjane Ambler, High Country News, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520.

FOR SALE: Two adjacent 10 acre lots, Driggs, Idaho. Sensational view of the Tetons. \$1,500-acre. Easy terms. 307-332-2871 or write Griffin, 965 Cliff, Lander, Wyo. 82520.

CUSTOM SOLAR DATA (as low as \$5.60) direct-diffuse, hour-by-hour, any day, any weather. Write Solar Clime Designs, Box 9955, Stanford, Ca 94305.

POSITION. The New Mexico Solar Energy Association, P.O. Box 2004, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501, announces an opening for the position of Executive Director. (Salary range: \$13,000-16,000). Applicants with a strong background in solar technology and administration of a technical organization, should send resumes emphasizing skills and experience in administration, contract management and fiscal management, and solar related projects. References from associates in these work areas should be included. Deadline for applications: November 1, 1979.

WANTED: To Save You Money — Send in your renewal check for \$12 by Nov. 30th and beat the rate raise (up to \$15), which is effective Dec. 1st. Please mail a copy of your address label with your check to: HCN, Box K, Lander WY 82520.

ENERGY ADVOCATE position open in Cheyenne, Wyo. The Region VIII Community Action Agencies Association has a Wyoming energy advocacy coordinator opening. Applicant should be able to work independently and coordinate public interest organizations to advocate for energy cost reductions. Job includes: state, regional and national administrative lobbying; influencing public policy decisions through grassroots coalition building; and planning and implementing action campaigns focused on state utility regulatory, energy self-sufficiency, and rate structure reform issues. Send letter of application and resume to Wyoming Energy Advocacy Coalition, 1603 Central Ave., Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001. An equal opportunity employer. For more information call Lorna Wilkes at (307) 635-9426. Applications due by Oct. 15.

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16-High Country News — Oct. 5, 1979

# BIKE TOURING

## THE SIERRA CLUB GUIDE TO OUTINGS ON WHEELS



by Raymond Bridge, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1979. \$6.95, paperback, 456 pages. Illustrations.

Review by Peter Wild

Escape from civilization came easy for John Muir. All he had to do, he boasted, was throw some bread and tea into a sack and jump over the back fence. A hundred years after John-o'-Mountains, freedom comes with more effort. The wilderness is not so close, and just getting to a favorite patch of it may require a drive of several hours.

Raymond Bridge argues that we can recapture some of Muir's spirit by wheeling off for weeks at a time, bread bag tied to the frame of a non-polluting, inexpensive bicycle. He offers visions of carefree nights spent sleeping out in farmers' fields, of days gliding noiselessly through the countryside, entertained by the scenery and the whimsies of our minds.

Yet the person who beats traffic and high gasoline prices by pumping a clunker to the office shouldn't just tool off on a cross-country adventure. Bicycle touring calls for stamina, skill, planning and a well-tuned machine — which is what Bridge's book is all about. After his sales pitch, the writer gets down to the realities.

Those realities can be harsh. It takes nerve to hold bike and mind steady as a semi whooshes past. Ahead, somewhere, the grate of a storm drain lies waiting to

surprise a front tire. However, the hazards only add to the excitement for those who will have a go at it no matter what the odds. After all, as taxpayers, the author reminds us, they have a right to be out there, armored in their T-shirts against the resource-wasting monsters.

By now the queasy have dropped out, weaving shakily back to their car ports. With Bridge we face the no-nonsense business of survival on the highway jungle. That includes, foremost, knowing how to ride properly, how to buy the right bike, and how to choose the panniers, sleeping bags and other specialized equipment needed for long hauls.

Lucid — potentially lifesaving — is his chapter on riding techniques. He begins with basic pedaling, explains how to counter those sinister air blasts from trucks, and describes the fairly sophisticated maneuver of jumping a bike over bike-swallowing chuckholes. The book also goes into other tricks of the trade, dropping good hints about transporting a machine on trains, planes, and buses, and providing tips on how to scout out places to camp.

The old-salt wheelman won't find much new here, but for a less experienced person with an irrational itch for toe clips, *Bike Touring* is a fine place to begin.



## Wilderness Management

by John C. Hendee, George H. Stanley, and Robert C. Lucas. U.S. Forest Service Miscellaneous Publication No. 1365, Oct. 1978. Available from U.S. Government Printing Office, \$10.50, hardcover edition, 381 pages, illustrations.

Review by Bernard Shanks

A few years ago a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge manager refused to take mechanized equipment into a wildfire in the wilderness. The fire spread uncontrolled through the wildlife refuge and eventually damaged state and private lands.

During the congressional hearings that followed this fiasco, it was obvious that many resource managers were not aware of the possibilities for the management of fires — and other destructive forces — in wilderness. At last a good book has come along to help them out.

*Wilderness Management*, written by three Forest Service researchers, offers a comprehensive look at the history, philosophy, problems and management of wilderness.

One chapter details the principles of fire management in wilderness areas. Another discusses management techniques available to wildlife managers. A third presents data disputing the stereotype of the wilderness user as young, athletic and wealthy — a sort of urbanized leisure junky.

For its well-documented information on these and many other topics, the volume should be on every conservationist's bookshelf. But its most important purpose may be the education of Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other agency personnel who manage wilderness or roadless areas.

Bernard Shanks is an associate professor in the department of forestry and outdoor recreation at Utah State University.



by Hannah Hirschman

**NORTHWEST WYOMING** — On Wind River Range foothills 10 miles away we see groves of aspen that have suddenly ignited and reached their most concentrated yellow. New snow has dusted the high peaks two or three times. Aside from a few frosts that have stiffened grasshoppers and shriveled honeysuckle berries, summer warmth has persisted in the valleys.

Headed toward the Northwest, to the high and wild stronghold of Yellowstone country. The park is remarkably empty, its campgrounds quiet, filled with couples rather than families. The usual national park frenzy is absent.

Scene in a Yellowstone meadow: It is dusk, people wander along a creek with a herd of grazing cow elk. Crescent moon setting. Quiet voices. The people aren't snapping pictures or jockeying for position; they're just mingling. The bull in charge circulates among us, stopping to bugle at another band of elk in the forest.

The sound of an elk's bugle is stirring, one of those sounds, like a hermit thrush song, that seems to suit a mountainside's echoing qualities. From five feet away an elk's bugle resonates

in my ribs like the bass drum in a parade.

I don't know if the bull is simply too involved with his hormones to notice our presence or whether he's accepted us as a temporary part of his herd. In any case, I am glad for an encounter

with a wild animal that is not based on fear.

Dusk gets deeper, the air cool and fragrant. Shapes of animals nearby, sounds of breathing and grazing. Pale forms of people sitting in the hot springs, quiet laughter. From all around now bull elk are bugling.

