

High Country News

Friday, Nov. 16, 1979

Lander, Wyoming

Vol. 11 No. 22

New coalition inspired by FARM conference

by Marjane Ambler

SUN VALLEY, Idaho — The future of agriculture in the Rocky Mountain states will hinge on a trade-off with energy development, the farmers, ranchers, environmentalists and others attending a conference here last month were told.

"The energy crisis confronts us with an awesome dilemma: How much productive land, how much clean water and how much pure air must we trade off to become energy self-sufficient? The political answer seems very clear. It is as much as we have to and as fast as we can," said K. Ross Toole, author and a professor at the University of Montana.

Despite four days talking of the overwhelming problems confronting agriculture in the region, many participants at the Future of Agriculture in the Rocky Mountains (FARM) conference went home hopeful because of an environmental-agricultural coalition they spontaneously formed at the conference.

A small but enthusiastic group, it remains to be seen whether it can remain together long or, working with similar coalitions in the region, make meaningful gains.

About 100 people, approximately one-third of them farmers and ranchers, attended the conference. The conference was conducted by the Institute of the American West, which is part of the Sun Valley Center for the Arts and Humanities, an independent, non-profit educational institute. The Northern Rockies Action Group, a non-profit management support organization, helped plan the conference.

By the third day, several of the farmers, ranchers and environmentalists became frustrated with the repetitious litany of woes that came up at meeting after meeting: competition with energy development for land and water; discriminatory taxes; low prices for agricultural commodities

and high costs for the energy, chemicals, and equipment needed to produce them.

After hearing about ranchers and environmentalists cooperating in Wyoming and other states, the group at the conference decided to encourage such efforts. State leaders were elected for Montana, Wyoming and Idaho (see p. 6), and John Peavey, a southern Idaho sheep rancher and former state senator, was elected chairman for the Northern Rockies region. State groups are now defining goals and planning further meetings.

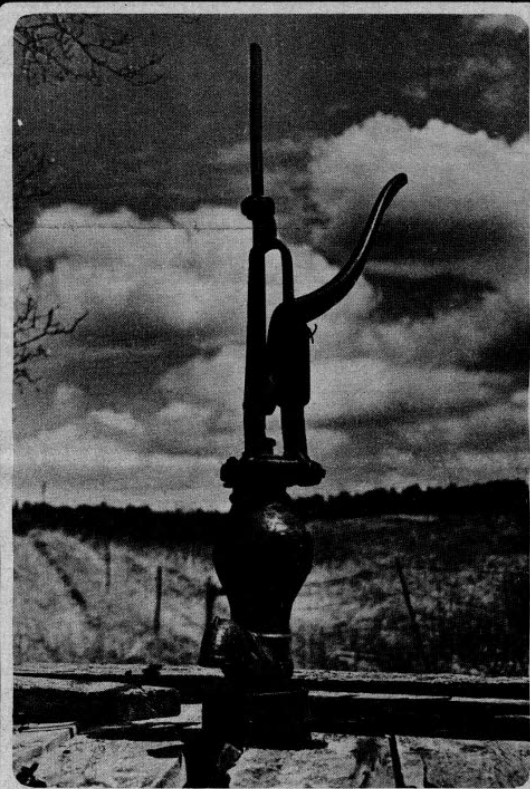
Chuck Coiner, Jr., a potato and seed farmer from southern Idaho, said he was surprised by the formation of the coalition and especially by his role in it. Borrowing a phrase from K. Ross Toole's speech, Coiner said he had heard of "eagle-freaks and daisy pickers" who weren't very practical in their goals and who were pushy in their tactics.

"The people (environmentalists) here at this conference recognize the importance of agriculture, and they understand better than we do what can be gained by working together instead of keeping our independent ways," he said. Although he considers himself apolitical, Coiner was so impressed that he accepted when the Idaho par-

(continued on page 6)

Photo by Mike McClure

ENERGY development causes conflicts between traditional agricultural values and new demands.



The boom reaches across the tracks

by Phil Primack

RAWLINS, Wyo. — If you want to place a trailer within the city limits here, head for the South Side, home of Rawlins'

mainly Hispanic community. It's the only part of town where you can set up a mobile home on a lot without joining a trailer camp, and if land and services were available there, it's likely that a lot of trailers

would be rolling that way.

Rawlins has been swollen by a steady influx of people drawn by coal, uranium and other energy development. They come seeking the good-paying jobs, which seem to be recession-proof. Most of the newcomers are white and well-paid and desperately looking for places to live.

Most of the people living in the South Side are Hispanic, people with a long history of economic and social discrimination who, having reaped some of the benefits of recent growth, are starting to wonder just how the boom is likely to affect their community over the next few years.

Literally and figuratively, the Southside is on the other side of the Union Pacific tracks. It is a section of mainly small and older homes, some dating back

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Fairlie attack on conservation: a wild shot at too many targets

An essay by Henry Fairlie, an Englishman who has been writing creditably about America for many years, has caused a stir in the West since its publication recently in *The New Republic*. It is the kind of provocative writing that we'd like to see more of, a bouncing on the springs of the conservation movement's philosophical underpinnings, if you will. At the same time, we emphatically disagree with Fairlie's conclusions. (We have reprinted most of the essay in this issue.)

Fairlie contends that the energy crisis has given "conservationists" in the United States an opportunity to draw together diverse factions and form a national force of unprecedented political power. The end result, he thinks, will be the imprint of "wishful thinking about the past" on national policy, which in turn will prevent the country from grasping and coping with our present-day problems.

He points out that America was uniquely born under "propitious circumstances" with abundant resources and open spaces — a good point. But then he begins to shoot wildly in several directions. The everpresent American desire for self-reliance and our hankering back to the days of the frontier have, in Fairlie's analysis, deluded us into approving an excess of wilderness, too many protected species, too much investment in alternative forms of energy, and, most repugnant of all, protection from pollution for Robert Redford's property in Utah.

Fairlie's point is a familiar one, though he tries to elevate it with references to 19th century English thinkers. He is, like many others, simply exhausted by the thought of yet another tract of wilderness and tired of the cautionary cries that accompany any energy project proposal. Like Englishmen old and new he tends to view this American movement as a rambunctious child who has not grown tall enough to see beyond the confines of his Rousseauian playpen.

But the specifics of his argument are inconsistent. He worries generally about over-investment in alternative energy sources, when the most massive investment by far proposed in this field is President Carter's synthetic fuels program — against which environmentalists have protested loudly. He picks on Robert Redford — a politically-active film star and therefore an easy target — and belittles air pollution near his land by comparing it to Pittsburgh: as if endangering the health of a few in Utah was laughable compared to the thousands in Steel City.

Fairlie's big target is wilderness. Additions to the national store of it are the

work of a gang of "backpackers and kayakers" who, driven by guilt over an imagined fall from the natural purity of the past, are trying to drive us back, he says.

What Fairlie does not acknowledge — and could this be a European bias? — is that the preservation of wilderness represents another unique experiment that our "propitious circumstances" allow us in this country. We are not creating deer parks or Versailles gardens — though we have our versions of those, too — but unique enclaves in which nature can continue its work without man's guidance. Forget the romanticism, though, if we must: Remember that wilderness areas are open to mineral exploration until 1984. Think, too, of the wilderness system as an experiment in preservation, like the rare seed banks that international scientists are now hurriedly assembling, that may someday prove an invaluable resource to the world's future generations.

Fairlie dumps his various complaints into a messy pudding, assuming that "conservationists" can now be identified with every cause that ever nagged an industrial producer.

But the bogeyman of a unified environmental force sweeping the country backwards is, again, not as real as he imagines. While many groups get together on issues like the Alaska lands legislation or clean air standards, there are numerous examples of willful, independent environmentalists who cannot agree — a natural consequence of their often regional, grassroots origins.

Of course, many conservationists would love to enjoy the solidarity that Fairlie attributes to them. Indeed, like executives at trade meetings, they often get together to reassure each other they are not alone. But they are less likely than industry to present a unified front — in the National Coal Policy Project, for instance, a foundation-funded attempt to arrive at industry-environmental compromises, it has more often been industry, not the environmental representatives, that presents unified positions.

Like political writers who assume that every liberal favors free abortion or that every conservative would hand the keys to the kingdom to the American Petroleum Institute, Fairlie has listened too much to his own inner grumbling, and not enough to the folks he is writing about.

—GOG

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Conservation

by Henry Fairlie

From time to time a political issue will seem to become more important than itself. Conservation may be one in the coming year. Until recently the conservationists have been a collection of pressure groups and individuals with disparate if related concerns; as a result they have been able to cause difficulties for candidates only in some constituencies and regions of the country. It is only metaphysically that it has been possible to say that the conservationist at a town meeting in New England has the same concerns as the conservationists whose feet are planted on the western slopes of the Rockies.

The conservationists have needed one overriding national concern to act as a nucleus around which their own separate concerns could be congregated and be given at least the character of a general political issue. They may have found it in the energy shortage. Once the conservation of energy is proclaimed to be an urgent national policy, the conservationists are suddenly able to make all their other interests seem relevant to it...

There is really no reason why a care for the environment should lead one to oppose the continued operation of nuclear power stations and the building of new ones; why an anxiety about pollution in Pittsburgh should lead one to defend Robert Redford's ranch in the wilderness; why even a wish to protect the wilderness should lead one to support every extravagant claim of the conservationists to set aside yet more vast tracts of it for the backpackers and the white-water kayakers; why an awareness that our world consists of innumerable ecologies that are interdependent should lead one to go to excessive lengths to rescue every endangered species; why a worry about the existing sources of energy



should lead one to throw all one's dollars into the development of alternative sources of it which promise no adequate or certain return and are even rather quirky.

But when Jimmy Carter and others set so much store by the need to conserve energy, the conservationists saw the possibility of an electoral issue that at last nationally would be more than a nuisance.

It will be very tiresome if conservationists write in to say that I do not care for nature, or that I do not think that pollution is an evil, or that I ignore how fragile each ecosystem is, or that I am blind to the fact that resources can be frittered. I simply think that affirmative action on behalf of the wilderness can be carried beyond its legitimate and intended objective. There is a man-made environment that deserves our celebration and our care as much as any natural environment. Nothing of what I wear or eat or drink, except the occasional haunch of venison sent to me by a hunter, whose love of nature of course exceeds my own — comes to me from mother nature's larder. Even the conservationists are sustained not by nature but by man's cultivation of it...

It takes a long time for ideas to percolate into the political realm. It was in 1932 that Franklin D. Roosevelt said America could

Dear Friends,

The biweekly ritual of paste-up day will no longer be enriched by D. Sawyer Whipple. Mr. "Disco paste-up" has gone to Houston, Tex., to be a *Business Week* news correspondent.

Dan didn't like to get up early. But every other Thursday morning he'd report to the paste up room with a stein of coffee and sandpaper contact lenses. We had a sort of harmony worked out. We'd stand and look at the tables covered with blank pages and not say anything. It was more respectful A.M. taciturnity

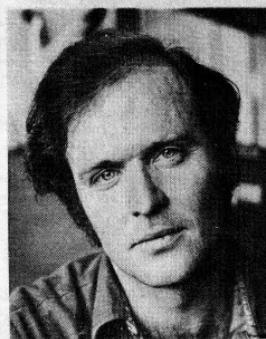


Photo by Sara Hunter-Wiles
DANIEL S. WHIPPLE, master straightener.

the false issue

no longer expect to find new resources by pushing farther and farther West, so it must henceforth organize its society to produce what it needed from the resources that were available.

So it is a little late in the day to discover that the frontier is closed and that resources are finite. The fact was placed before the American people almost 50 years ago. In fact, it is very late in the day. There is some remarkably far-sighted writing of the past showing not only that the present difficulties were foreseen, but why this question continued to touch a nerve in the American people. The English political writers who gazed so long and so fruitfully on the great American experiment at the beginning of the 19th century were responsible for what came to be called the doctrine of "propitious circumstances." The experiment being conducted in America was only possible, they said, because its circumstances for the moment were so auspicious. The nation had a relatively sparse population in a continent that was almost boundless and still largely unoccupied. The days of America's "propitious circumstances" are over, but the desire in America to recover and preserve them remains strong.

Behind the theme of conservation is a yearning for independence. America is the only industrialized and trading nation for 500 years which at the back of its mind still covets self-sufficiency. This in turn makes its problems seem more numerous and more intractable than they really are. The kind of adjustments that are needed and within reach are lost in another injured effort to make the nation over yet again. The most bitter anti-Americans are always Americans, because they feel the need not just to criticize but to reject: to reject not only certain aspects of the present, but no less than the whole of America's own past. Americans — it is

than discouragement because we knew we'd have the issue cooking in a few hours.

Dan was hired as a half-time energy and politics writer three years ago, but he joined the rest of the staff on Thursday production marathons and became, by his own decree, the "master straightener." I think he enjoyed it, though he did his share of complaining. From across the room where he bent over a page with a ruler we'd hear the sigh of the patient and long-suffering as he tried to correct for "slovenly" type trimmers and absent-minded page designers.

A look at Dan's desk, cluttered with EISs and old copy, would not suggest his capacity as master straightener. But he was so trustworthy that he was appointed to check other people's work and pass judgment.

He had his own oblivious style of working. He'd sing whatever came into his head, inspired by what he was pasting up at the moment. Over the energy pages he'd sing "Hotline, hotline — calling on the hotline for your love..." a Motown version in a strong Irish tenor. He'd lull us into somnambulism with "Harvest Moon" then suddenly thunder (in the middle) that the whole page he was working on was ruined. He'd turn to us as we struggled with a story that was 10 inches too long for its allotted space and ask, "When your boy goes out the door does he re-buckle his knickerbockers BELOW the knee?" And just

said — raped the Indians, they raped the land, they raped the blacks, and of course they raped their women.

What or whom, according to this vocabulary, did they not rape? It is as if Americans must, when they are in this mood, feel a personal guilt about the past, because they will not treat it as past. It must be brought back to be buried again at Wounded Knee. The American wilderness is not now to be fittingly protected; instead, the whole of America's past is to be returned to the wilderness.

This is always the danger in the general theme of conservation in America: It makes too strong an appeal at too many levels to the American mind. It leads to wishful thinking about the past — the desire to bring back the lost state of innocence — instead of leading to practical readjustments in the present. The frontier is closed, so let us produce, said Roosevelt with sound sense; the frontier is closed, so let us conserve, is the message today.

It seems more and more likely that some important lines will be redrawn at this election, lines that have been waiting to be redrawn for perhaps two decades. Against this background, the battle between the conservationists and producers will not be trivial. It may even be the first class conflict America has known in political terms for a long time. It would do everyone at the White House a lot of good to go back and read Roosevelt's speech to the Commonwealth Club. It might convince them that one does not gain the future by trying to regain and refurbish the past.

Henry Fairlie is a British columnist who writes for various U.S. magazines.

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when we'd noticed that someone's name was spelled wrong in a story 28 times, Dan would come through with a few choruses of "Jubilation T. Cornpone."

There will be more than a pang of regret this time to see a paste-up room without the trail of empty coffee cups that marked his passage. Who will make a run for the hearty burgundy — and who will lead us in singing "The Tale of the Alice C. Wentworth"?

— HH

LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

He roosted in Lander and tipped;
When loosed on a lead his pen rippled.
His tenor was sweet,
And he had dancing feet,
Now Houston's about to get Whipped.

CLARIFICATION

In a story by Geoffrey O'Gara on the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (HCN 11-2-79), it was stated that Clay and Karen Taylor, a Montana ranching couple whose grazing allotments on the refuge were cut back this year, had gotten by with additional grazing on Bureau of Land Management land.

George Newburg, the BLM district manager in Miles City, Mont., asked HCN to explain that the Taylors were not given any special dispensation to overgraze BLM land. Newburg said that when the Taylors bought their ranch last spring, the previous owner had used only a fraction of his ranch's annual grazing privileges on BLM land. Up until Nov. 9 of this year, the Taylors were well within grazing limits for 1979, and still had 228 AUMs (animal units per month) for the remainder of the year.

Though HCN did not imply that BLM was allowing the Taylors to overgraze, we are happy to clarify the situation.



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SAME OLD BANDITS

Dear HCN,

Your Nov. 2 issue was loaded with material that needs comment.

The Geoffrey O'Gara piece on page 1 about the couple who put \$200,000 in a Montana ranch and were unhappy because the Fish and Wildlife Service reduced livestock grazing on refuge range, spoke twice in the second paragraph about their range "rights." It was back on page 5 that he finally got around to noting, in quotes from an FWS official, that grazing on all federal public land is a "privilege," not a "right." That the Taylors apparently didn't ask ahead of time about possible cuts in their grazing privilege seems to me to have been first degree folly in view of their heavy investment.

The Bernard Shanks article about the Fish and Wildlife Service told of killing a lot of predatory animals, mostly coyotes. He could have written a book on that subject without exhausting its many aspects. He did not make it clear that they were predominantly on national forest and national resource lands, not refuges.

I'm sorry he didn't write that the increased budgets for the killing come as the administering agencies continue to report decreases in grazing almost every year, caused not by mandatory cuts such as the Taylors reported but in most cases because the federal ranges have been so badly overused that, in general, they just do not produce enough forage to maintain larger numbers.

I wish Shanks had noted that the "less controversial" fish hatcheries scattered all over the country are in many cases pork barrel boondoggles just as reprehensible as some of the big dam building projects of the Corps of Engineers and BuRec.

Finally, "Sagebrush Rebellion" is far too romantically appealing a label for what's happening nowadays. The stock lobby is hiding in the chaparral, in the mesquite, mountain mahogany, and rabbit brush waiting for the right moment to appear and claim what they'd choose to buy for their use after the lands in general are turned over to the states.

It's funny in a way, that the sons and grandsons of the people who turned down the remaining public domain in the West in 1930 when President Hoover offered it to the states (without underlying minerals) now have the eagles.

Your page 13 story about the Lander meeting at the end of October seems accurate enough, what there was of it, but do you really believe that the 18 conservation-environmental organizations you named as signing the resolutions should be called no more than "several"?

William Voigt, Jr.
Blackshear, Ga.

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Other side of the tracks...

(continued from page 1)

to the early days of transcontinental railroad-building, which originally spawned the South Side. Some new and larger homes have been built in recent years, a sign of Rawlins' current prosperity, which has indeed benefited some in the South Side with better paying jobs and opportunities.

The 1970 census reported that over 1,700 people lived in the South Side, about one-fourth of Rawlins' total population at

the time. About 70 percent of the South Side was listed as Mexican-American. The proportion of Hispanics has declined in today's Rawlins since most of the incoming new people have been white.

For years, the South Side has been a distinctly separate community — much of it without sidewalks, adequate sewer, curbs and gutters. Many residents mistakenly thought they had voted a bond issue for

improvements in 1951, but it paid only for storm sewers. A grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, matched with city money, is at last supposed to provide the South Side with physical amenities long ago attained by other parts of the city. Some residents won't believe it until the asphalt is laid. A few are wondering if the improvements may eventually change more than just the pavement in the Southside.

"I don't think the majority of people here realize it yet," commented Sadie Garcia, "but this big crowd and big money coming in is going to push us out. They're going to find excuses to move the Spanish people

out, tear down our houses and put up trailer courts."

That concern is not commonly expressed, at least not yet. "They can't make you sell your house," said Max Martinez, who came to Rawlins from New Mexico in 1920. Besides, he added, "Sometimes it's better to live in new trailers than in some of the shacks around here."

Martinez's son DeBari is one of two Hispanics on the seven-member Rawlins City Council. Gains have been made by individuals in the South Side, he said, though not easily. "Ten years ago there were only two places to work here, the railroad or the oil refinery," he said. "And the railroad simply didn't hire Spanish people. Now people are getting jobs and making more, even in view of the inflation here. Bread may be \$1 a loaf instead of 40 cents, but at least you can buy it."

However, Martinez is worried about the future of the South Side. "The discrimination against us is because we're the other side of the tracks, an old part of a growing town. Everyone is more interested in the new developments going up. Old residents are finding their areas neglected in favor of the new ones" which offer more potential taxes to the city, and more opportunity for developers.

CROWDING SOUTH SIDE

From above the South Side, the bulk of central Rawlins can be seen rising across the tracks. In its own little hollow, the green and brown roofs of the Southside offer the look of an old encampment.

Major new housing and trailer developments are being built around the South Side, including new townhouse condominiums occupied mainly by newcomers, which contrast sharply with the small, frame and stucco homes that dominate the district.

Many of those older homes are substandard. But, according to Pauline Gonzalez, "People are afraid to complain or request funds for repairs, because then their homes might be condemned." And it's hard enough for anyone to find a place to live in boomtowns like Rawlins. For low-income or fixed-income older people, what could be found would be impossible to afford. Rent for one-bedroom apartments is pushing \$400 a month and higher.

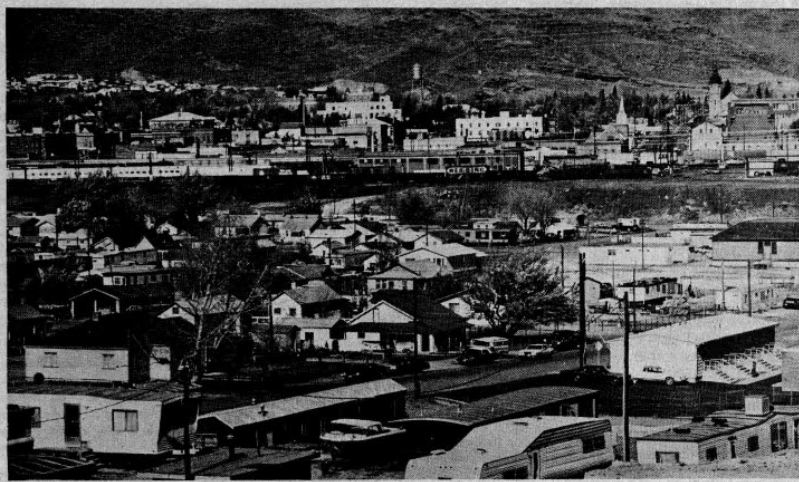
Gonzalez is an organizer for the Concerned Citizens of the South Side, a group made up mainly of Chicanos trying to make the city more responsive to their needs. "Because some of our people are doing a lot better today, they're not looking enough at some of the negative aspects we're starting to feel," she said.

Like other energy towns in the west, Rawlins is indeed facing the backswing of the economic development pendulum: inflation and inadequate services. Older residents of the city tend to feel the economic burdens most, particularly if they have lower incomes than the newcomers to whom much of the local economy is now geared. For the South Side's people as well as the whole town, things are getting very tight.

The overall cost of living comes from a double inflation: first the general inflation the whole nation is experiencing and then a local version fueled by the boom.

An analysis of Rawlins employment patterns reveals a sharp polarization in incomes. In December 1978, over 8,300 people had jobs in Carbon County, a 200 percent increase in just five years. About half were relatively high paying jobs in mining, manufacturing or construction. The rest were in service and support jobs.

The biggest single employer was mining (see next page)



THE SOUTH SIDE, home of a sizable population of Chicanos, sits across the Union Pacific railroad tracks from the rest of Rawlins, Wyo.

Photo by Edna Primack

Rawlins: growing for broke

Rawlins is beginning to learn that it can cost a lot to be prosperous.

The city's population of 7,855 in 1970 has since doubled, and that trend is likely to continue well into the 1980s. These new people require housing and services like sewer and water. They bring with them the need for extra service by police, fire, school and other departments. Rawlins is finding that one of the most-vaunted pro-development arguments — increased tax revenues — has not materialized. Taxwise, at least, the benefits of the boom aren't keeping up with costs.

"People who have lived here for a long time are paying again for the privilege of living in Rawlins, Wyo.," said City Treasurer Harriett Carlson. "It's not only costing more to live here. We've also lost the atmosphere of a friendly small town that we were always so proud of."

Perhaps even worse to her, "We're losing our ability to be financially independent. We don't want to be obliged to the federal government for assistance, but it looks like we're going to have to be unless we can somehow get these companies to pay for the work they cause us to do."

Rawlins' total assessed valuation is about \$17 million today. As that figure has increased, the city has lowered its mill levy, thus enabling property taxes to remain low. But rates for sewer and

water hookups and fees have soared.

Right now, it costs between \$1,300 and \$1,500 for a new residence tap-in. Water and sewer fees are about to double, according to Assistant City Engineer Kim Keaton. "We have to raise them to at least meet operating costs," she said. But the increases still won't come close to meeting the estimated \$50 million in capital improvements the city says are needed for a Rawlins of 25,000 people.

Heading the list of essential needs is water. The city's main supply is piped 30 miles from Sage Creek by a wooden pipeline built in 1923. "I know people always think, 'wolf, wolf' when we say this," said engineer Keaton, "but that line is about to blow." She added that it suffered major breaks three times this past summer, one shutting it down for 26 hours. The city's one-month storage capacity saved it then.

The city estimates that necessary water improvements will cost \$21.5 million. Another \$3.9 million is needed for new sewer mains and other related work. Street improvements are slated for \$11.2 million; and other expenses including police, fire, flood control and airport add \$13.4 million to total \$50 million.

Not included are social and cultural facilities, additional water rights and other water-related needs.

"We are broke from the growth,"

Keaton said, "and we are getting further and further behind."

Carlson said that even though city revenues have increased during the boom, "existing laws make it very difficult to move money into the proper places." And, she added, the companies which are bringing in all the people simply aren't "paying their share." Another problem is that the development — and the resulting increases in tax base — are occurring outside the city limits while the impact is felt most in the city.

Under Wyoming law, a company is not required to negotiate up-front payments or other assistance with local governments if the value of its operation is under \$65 million. "So what they do is set up four different mines in the same place, under the same management, but call them separate operations so they each are less than the \$65 million," Carlson said.

For the most part, she continued, efforts by the city to get advance payments have not succeeded, partly because most of the development is out in the county, beyond city tax jurisdiction.

The initial euphoria which came in the earlier days of the boom has faded as fiscal and social problems have increased, Carlson said. "Just like the cattlemen once saw the sheepherders as a threat to their economy and way of life, so do a lot of people see the energy development today."

"I don't think the majority of people here realize it yet, but this big crowd and big money coming in is going to push us out."

— Sadie Garcia

ing, where 2,700 workers averaged \$471 a week, according to the Employment Security Commission of Wyoming. The next biggest job supplier was "services with agriculture, forestry and fisheries," which along with railroading had long been the economic staple of the county. The 1,800 people working in this group averaged only \$168 a week — about two-thirds less than the miners' pay.

Six hundred construction workers averaged \$244 a week, and about 400 manufacturing employees earned almost \$320. But the 1,440 people working in retail trade averaged just \$149 a week. Those who have held steady retail or other service jobs for years now find that the \$3 or \$4 an hour wage which was once adequate simply is insufficient today.

One result is an increase in two wage-earner households, according to Marie Hill of the Carbon County Job Security office. Women have found some work in the better-paying energy field, but not generally at high levels, she said. Overall, the county's unemployment rate is only 1.3 percent. "This is a job-seekers' market," Hill stated. The influx of people hoping to land the big boom paychecks continues, she added, despite the housing shortage. However, the few "help wanted" ads in a recent Rawlins Daily Times were mainly for waitresses, motel maids, housekeepers, clerks and babysitters. The paper, incidentally, didn't even carry a "for rent" classified section — why bother to advertise gold?

These are jobs that Chicanos have been able to get, according to Gonzalez. "But you just can't make it on that kind of money," she said, "and older people and single parents either can't afford or are

unable to drive the 40 miles or more that is sometimes necessary to reach the better paying jobs. "We have a lot of people who because of lack of education or living situation can't cash in on those jobs," Gonzalez said. "And they're really hurting."

FAMILY LIFE

Gonzalez has deep roots in the South Side. Her father was a shepherd; her mother did motel cleaning and hospital work. Of five sisters and one brother, all except one remain in the Rawlins area. Her husband works at the oil refinery and of her six children, all are either working locally or in school. Such family cohesion is typical in the South Side. The availability of jobs has meant many families can stay together.

Yet even strong family ties face serious stress from the boom cycle. "Historically, Chicano families absorb old people into their homes," said Betty Chavez-Holcomb. "But if the children are already hard-pressed financially, this could cause tremendous social problems. This pressure, combined with all the changing values being introduced by the new people coming in, is starting to cause real strains on the structure of families."

That problem is not limited to the South Side, or to Rawlins, of course. As is now routinely reported from fast-growing areas throughout the West, the increase in social and financial pressures, combined with the transient nature of boomtown life, sometimes explodes in such forms as spouse and child abuse.

In 1972, only two cases of child abuse were reported in Carbon County, according to Ray Ring of the Department of Public Assistance and Social Services. "It looks like we'll end up with about 35 this year," he said.

Ring, however, feels that for the most part, his agency is able to handle such in-

"Historically, Chicano families absorb old people into their homes. But if the children are already hard pressed financially (it will) cause real strains on the structure of families."

— Betty Chavez-Holcomb

"They don't want to help us out, even when we're long overdue for it."

"A lot of people around here would like to have better homes," said 76-year-old Alfonso Sandoval. "I'm one of them. But I don't want to go into debt, and I don't want to give up what I have." Living on a \$392 a month railroad pension and the income from two part-time jobs, Sandoval says he can barely get by. He currently has an outstanding \$1,500 hospital bill.

"All I have is the value of my home," Sandoval said. It's a tenuous feeling of security. He worries that the infusion of trailers in developments in and near the South Side will cause property values to go down.

Gonzalez is frustrated that more people in her own community are not active. "Anglos have always been organized to do all kinds of things," she said. "But when minorities do it, it's a threat. Somehow we become militants."

Militancy is not part of the South Side's recent history. Gonzalez calls herself Chicano, but notes that others use the terms Spanish or Mexican to describe themselves. "There are different levels of consciousness," she said, "and a certain



Photo by Phil Primack

SADIE GARCIA, a resident of Rawlins' South Side, fears that the influx of energy workers in the region may push people like her out of the community.

creased problems, though the staff "is basically the same size as it was in 1965." He acknowledged that older and fixed-income people "are getting killed" by the local cost of living, but insisted that he has "more goddamn money than we can spend" for aid and services.

"There's no real poverty in this county today," he said, "except in some large families and among illiterate people." He added that most requests for emergency relief come from transients who haven't yet landed jobs. "There's no excuse for any able person in this county to be unemployed," Ring said.

But Gonzalez and others claim that Ring's office does a poor outreach job, and that many who need such benefits as food stamps don't know how to go about it or otherwise find the DPASS office "a hostile place to go," Gonzalez said.

That view seemed to be generally shared within the South Side. "It's part of the whole picture," one older resident said.

amount of apathy. We don't have enough self-confidence, and we too easily accept 'vicisitudes de vida' (fortunes of life). We've been taught that to be poor is to be blessed."

A recent city council meeting saw over 30 Concerned Citizens defy an early snowstorm to demand more action by the city to halt the movement of heavy trucks through the South Side on their way to the construction site of the new state penitentiary. Residents fear for the safety of their children on streets that often don't even have sidewalks.

Even though "No Trucks" signs are posted, the traffic continues. Residents of the South Side point to a memo written by the mayor to the city's chief of police that they say instructed him to go easy on trucks violating the prohibition. The mayor, according to Martinez, felt it was too time-consuming and costly for the trucks to bypass the South Side.

The group was told then by the city council that the matter would once again be reviewed. But the presence of a sign-bearing, organized group of South Side residents had an impact, Gonzales said.

At a city council meeting Nov. 6, council president June Aylsworth announced that the project manager for the penitentiary, which attracts much of the truck traffic through the South Side, was negotiating to have the trucks use certain ramps off Interstate 80 to the penitentiary, rather than going through the South Side. Gates on the ramps are often closed and locked, and a final decision on their use lies with federal and state transportation agencies, but Aylsworth was optimistic the problem would be solved.

Councilman Martinez, though, is unwilling to wait. He walked out on the council when it refused his motion to force immediate enforcement of the "no trucks" ordinance. "We've been fighting this truck traffic for years," he said afterwards. "It goes right by a grade school, and there are no sidewalks for the children. It's discouraging when you have an ordinance on the books, and it's not enforced."

"We have a lot of work to do if we're going to get through all this development and survive," Gonzalez said. Sadie Garcia agreed. "I've been here for 26 years. It was a boomtown then, which was why we came — my husband was a bartender and gambler." Now Rawlins is a boomtown again. "I think the future's going to be kind of hard on us here in the South Side," Garcia said. "We're going to be feeling a whole lot of pressure."

Phil Primack is a freelance writer based in Billings, Mont. Working under a Ford Foundation grant, he is investigating the impact of energy development on Western communities.

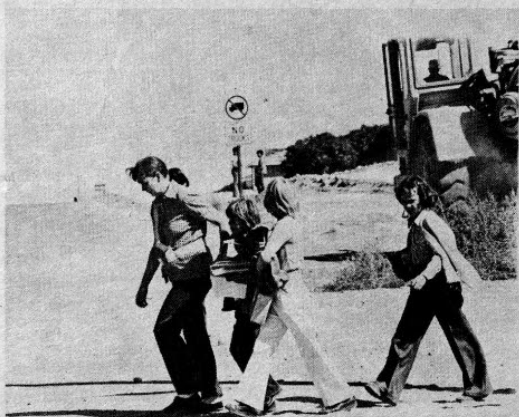


Photo by Tom Howard

CROSSING GUARD in the South Side helps students from Pershing Elementary School. Neighborhood residents are concerned about the safety of their children when trucks travel through the area.

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FARM conference coalition...

(continued from page 1)

participants chose him as the leader of their FARM coalition.

"The environmentalists are looking to the farmers and ranchers for direction, which seems strange to me since we're so disorganized in comparison. They're saying, 'We want to help; we want to do something,'" Coiner said.

URGENCY

With funding from Levi Strauss & Co. and the Association for the Humanities in Idaho, the Institute of the American West brought in speakers to discuss threats to water, air, land and people. An Arizona poet and several movies gave the participants an emotional grasp of the values that are at stake.

From the opening speech entitled "The Time is Now" by Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., the conference program encouraged a sense of urgency among the environmentalists, farmers and ranchers.

"From the start, what should be recognized is that almost everything that is treasured and deemed worth saving about the Rocky Mountain West has existed — and continues to exist — because in large measure this region rests on a ranching-farming economy. That economy has played a key role in protecting and maintaining what is treasured here — the wide open spaces, the unpolluted air, the bounties and beauties of nature, the ease and grace and freedom of life," said Josephy, who has written several books on Indians and the West and is a former editor of *American Heritage* magazine.

While most of the participants were aware generally of most of the threats mentioned at the conference, farmers,

ranchers and environmentalists were sometimes surprised by the specifics.

Researcher Neil Sampson ended his discussion of land and water losses by saying agricultural potential in the region is dropping by two to three percent a year. An Idaho farmer asked incredulously, "Are you telling me that what I depend on to keep food on my family's table is disappearing?"

Sampson, who is the executive vice president of the National Association of Conservation Districts, said that water is more important to agriculture in the Rocky Mountain region than in any other region of the country. Irrigated land produces two-thirds of the crops in the region. However, he said groundwater is now being extracted from the underground water tables faster than it is being replenished.

At the same time, tons of topsoil in the

region are being lost due to erosion; on some lands, more than 30 tons per acre are lost each year. The reason is the region's large proportion of poor quality land. Seventy percent of the non-federal land is designated as Class VI through VIII, meaning it can only be safely cultivated with intensive conservation treatment to prevent erosion, Sampson said. Yet the best land is being lost to other uses, such as housing. Sampson reported that the total acreage of cropland in Classes I-III in the region dropped by almost half a million acres in the past 10 years.

ENERGY THREATS

Much of the new housing is necessary to shelter people attracted to the region by energy boom jobs. However, farmers and ranchers at the conference seemed most concerned about energy development's threat to water. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Rupert M. Cutler, a presidential appointee, told the conference that one of the biggest threats to water supplies for agriculture comes from future synthetic fuel production, a cornerstone of President Carter's energy plan.

"Unlimited purchase of surface water rights by companies for a 2 million barrels per day (oil shale) industry could withhold water from 20 percent of the acreage currently irrigated in the oil shale regions," Cutler said. Carter has called for 2.5 million barrels a day of synfuels, including oil from oil shale.

Toole emphasized in his speech how little we know about the impacts of strip mining on ground water. In much of the West, coal seams are the aquifer through which the water flows. "If that aquifer is broken by strip mining at the low point of any given groundwater basin, the water flows into the abyss...and surrounding wells go dry," he said.

"We run the risk of simply drying up extensive areas of productive range and

cropland, far from the actual strip mining operations," he said.

Coal-fired power plants can also have drastic effects on agriculture hundreds of miles away, Toole said. Acid rainfall caused by sulfur emissions not only damages vegetation where it falls but also causes permanent damage to the soil and can make lakes sterile, Toole said.

While state and federal air standards supposedly are set to protect against such threats to agriculture, another speaker, C.C. Gordon, said current research indicates they are not strict enough.

"There's no one out there protecting you," Gordon told the farmers and ranchers. Gordon, a botany professor at the University of Montana, has been researching the effects of air pollution on agriculture for 17 years. He said the long-term effects of exposure to pollutants from coal-fired power plants can be as bad as the acid rain.

"If the legally allowable concentrations of (several pollutants) were actually present in the arid regions of the Northern Great Plains and Northern Rocky Mountain states 20 to 30 percent of the time during the growing season, farming and ranching would no longer be possible or profitable in these areas," he said.

He also said there is a bias toward siting coal-fired power plants in agricultural areas. "When and if agricultural crops are seriously damaged by air pollution, it costs less to pay for these damages, or even to buy the farm than to face an irate public in large urban areas," he said.

Toole said President Carter's proposed Energy Mobilization Board to speed energy projects could do even more damage. Referring to Carter, Toole said, "This pietistic man has cried havoc and let loose the dogs of devastation. If this is the 'moral equivalent of war,' why are we killing off our own soldiers?... That industry (agriculture) is no less vital to the West than it is to America."

COALITION LEADERS

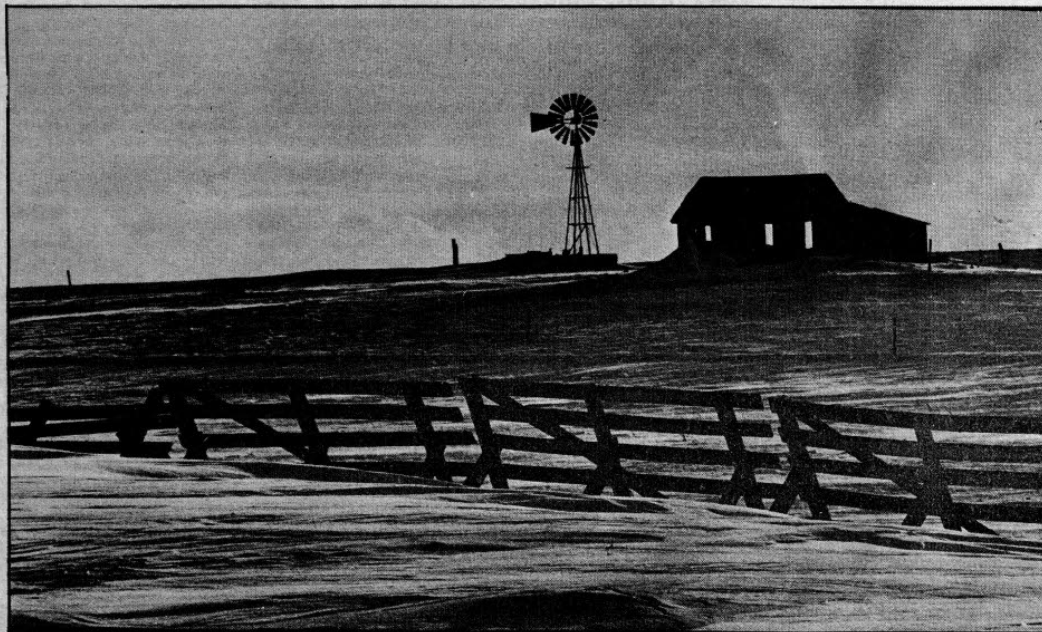
For more information about the FARM coalitions contact:

Northern Rockies: John Peavey, Box 8, Carey, Idaho 83320. (208) 788-2850.

Idaho: Chuck Coiner, Jr., Rte. 1 Box 157, Hansen, Idaho 83334. (208) 423-4015 or 734-1675.

Montana: Bob Oset, 320 Lost Horse Rd., Hamilton, Mont. 59840. (406) 821-3269 or 363-4048.

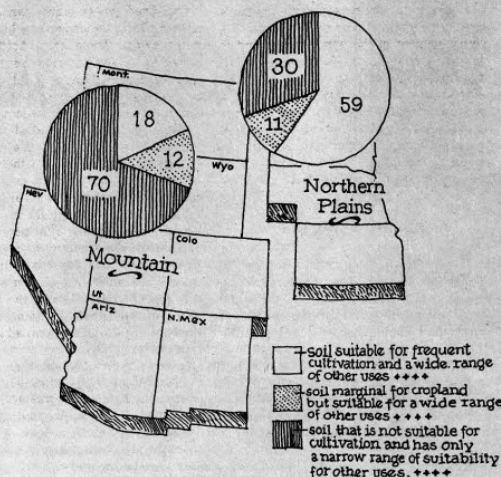
Wyoming: John Barlow, Cora, Wyo. 82925. (307) 367-2466. Or Sally Forbes, Rte. 2, Sheridan, Wyo. 82801. (307) 672-5831.



CHANGING FACE OF THE LAND. Farms and ranches in the West are getting bigger as the result of government policies that encourage people to "get big, get more efficient or get out," according to agricultural people at the FARM conference. The result is a growing number of abandoned farm houses such as this one north of Cheyenne, Wyo.

Photo by Mike McClure

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POWERLESS?

Faced with threats such as these, many farmers and ranchers said they often feel powerless, especially since they constitute only three percent of the voters in the country. Some of the other conference participants called this a false sense of weakness, however. "They have power if they decide to use it. They have the food. An army can't go anywhere without food," said Bob Oset, a Forest Service ranger in Montana. Conference speakers pointed out that other people would support farmers and ranchers on these issues if they understood the situation and knew what the agricultural community wanted.

Isau Fugimoto, who has written several books about the family farm, said many seemingly disparate groups are interested

in preserving the family farm — people connected with the ecology movement, civil rights, appropriate technology, community development, local control and alternative energy.

While many of the conference participants became heady at the prospect of what an effective coalition of interests could accomplish, they were reminded several times of the hurdles they face within their own interest groups.

Many Western legislators, the majority in some states, say they support agriculture. However, they actually support food processors and subdividers — often at the insistence of lobbyists for national farm organizations, such as the Farm Bureau, one unidentified man said.

Farmers and ranchers are often their own worst enemies, said John Barlow, a

rancher from Pinedale, Wyo. "They have such a deeply ingrained sense of futility, that they act as if they have a vested interest in keeping it," he said. "If you told them they could solve some of these problems if they were willing to work a little harder," they would get resentful, he said.

Jeff Woodard, a grain farmer from southern Idaho who was a leader in the American Agriculture Movement, said he

agricultural issues, such as commodity import and export regulations.

SOLUTIONS?

Nevertheless, coalition enthusiasts hope that cooperation will continue growing. The Northern Plains and Rockies region has a history of conservationist ranchers and farmers in organizations such as

"Almost everything that is treasured and deemed worth saving about the Rocky Mountain West has existed — and continues to exist — because in large measure this region rests on a ranching-farming economy."

— Alvin M. Josephy, Jr.

was frustrated by his experiences trying to organize the farm strike.

In addition, an Idaho corn farmer's interests do not necessarily coincide with a Wyoming cattle rancher's, and in some cases they directly conflict. Low corn prices are an advantage to a cattle feeder, for example. Environmentalists have some dissension in their own ranks. While most of the major environmental groups in the Northern Rockies states have supported coalition-building with agriculture, some groups from other parts of the country do not.

At a meeting held in Denver the same weekend as the FARM conference, 48 national, regional and local groups clashed head-on on the subject. A handful of people at the meeting were so upset with overgrazing that they thought livestock should be removed from some public lands.

Among members of the environmental groups that support coalition-building are people who say they would be eager to help on issues with direct environmental implications. But because their time and energy are limited, they're not so eager on strictly

the Northern Plains Resource Council, the Powder River Basin Resource Council and the United Plainsmen.

At the only state FARM coalition meeting so far, the biggest problem was deciding which issues to tackle first. Coiner, Idaho's coalition leader, said he was somewhat disappointed with the meeting; he had hoped they could choose issues and "come out charging." However, the meeting did attract new interest with representatives from a senior citizens' organization and more farmers and environmentalists.

Woodard of Idaho is excited about the potential for the new FARM coalition. "This conference kind of lifts me, inspires me a little more," he said. "You know farmers are openly very pessimistic. But inside we're optimists; we've got to be."

Travel expenses for researching this article were paid for in part by the HCN Research Fund.

BLM: no wilderness future for 55 million acres

by Philip White

Summary of BLM's initial inventory decisions (millions of acres)

State	Dropped	Further Study
Arizona	6.4	5.5
Colorado	7.1	1.3
Dakotas	.025	0.0
Idaho	8.7	2.6
Montana	6.3	2.2
Nevada	31.6	16.1
New Mexico	10.7	2.2
Utah	14.5	5.4
Wyoming	16.6	1.2

Over 56 million of the 70 million acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana and the Dakotas will receive no further consideration for wilderness designation.

During the first stage of BLM's ongoing wilderness evaluation, the agency found that 53.2 million acres in these states "clearly and obviously" lacked wilderness characteristics. Another 3 million acres were ruled out as wilderness in various accelerated inventories caused by impending energy projects.

Almost 13 million acres remain to be evaluated in BLM's "intensive inventory." Next spring, the BLM directors in each state will publish a proposed list of areas to be made "wilderness study areas." A 90-day comment period will follow.

The large first cut frees 57 million acres in the seven states, an area larger than Utah, from development restrictions imposed during the wilderness inventory. Most of these lands were eliminated be-

One portion of the Red Desert area is known as the "Big Empty."

They may look like the wide-open spaces to the casual observer.

But the Bureau of Land Management's initial wilderness inventory found surprisingly few places of 5,000 acres or more without indelible signs of human industry.

Between Rock Springs and Rawlins, Wyo., for instance, two areas totalling nearly 800,000 acres were dropped from further wilderness consideration. BLM's explanation shows that there isn't much left of the frontier West.

cause man-made intrusions have already degraded "naturalness."

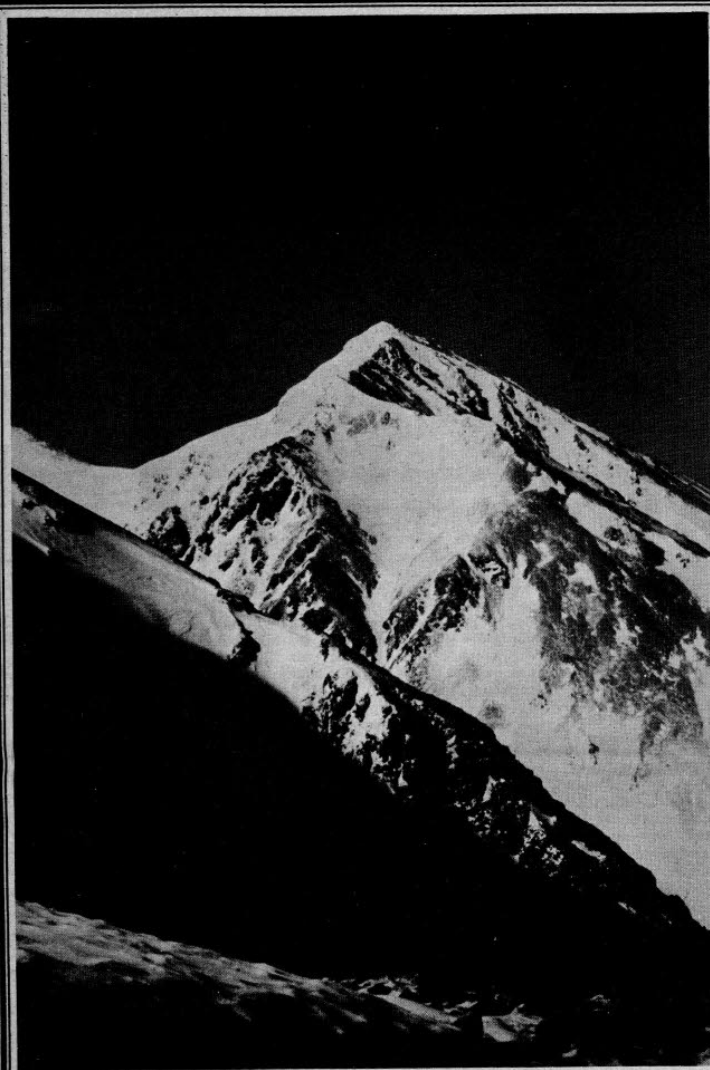
Less than seven percent of the 17.8 million acres managed by BLM in Wyoming survived the first cut. Sixteen percent survived in Colorado, 22 percent in Idaho and about 26 percent in Utah and Montana.

Accelerated inventories in Utah have brought industry, state government and the Sierra Club into the fray. The focus of one battle is the 360,000-acre Dirty Devil

(continued on page 16)

Indelible signs of human industry

"(The areas) contain ongoing intensive uranium exploration, oil and gas exploration, a large number of livestock-related developments and utility corridors. Hundreds of miles of seismograph trails exist in the area, and many are maintained and used as roads today. Several thousand uranium pits and drill holes are found in the area. (Other intrusions are) vegetation manipulation areas, more than 100 reservoirs, fences and hundreds of miles of two-track trails."



"From the looks of it, that snow cornice is hanging over a lot of nothing."



Something

by Thomas N. Jenkins

"In soft beds and warm houses. That's where they are!" I said as Jon Sudar and I approached the snowy mountain at dawn.

"Who?" my companion asked.

"Everyone in the world, except us!"

"Don't complain," he said quietly. "You wanted to come here."

Jon was looking upward. High above us was the angular, snow-crested summit of Torrey's Peak, 14,267 feet high, imperturbable in the gathering light on the crest of Colorado's Continental Divide. It was clear and cold, near zero.

Jon Sudar, one of the state's best-known climbers, had been here before and also on the summit of almost 500 other peaks during the past 18 years. "We'll have to go through about 100 yards of hip-deep snow before we reach the base base of the ridge," he said. "You ready?"

We moved through the icy dawn toward the northeast ridge we had come to climb. The quiet mood of the frozen white world was broken only by our footsteps in the deep snow. The lower spine of the ridge was mostly windblown, with only occasional patches of snow. As we began to climb, the sky to the west over Loveland Pass started filling with dark clouds.

The climbing was more difficult on the rocky ridge but not at all dangerous. I thought of those high, remote mountainous regions of the earth where climbers have danced their precarious pirouettes of death. "When Messner and Habeler

Photo by Tom Jenkins

AT LEFT, Northeast ridge of Colorado's 14,267 foot Torrey's Peak.



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hing done in your own way—the pull of high peaks.

climbed Everest last year, they did it without Sherpas or oxygen. Can you believe that? Why do you think they did it?" I asked Jon.

Jon was next to me now, climbing steadily toward the curving, narrow arete that was about halfway to the summit. The wind was increasing, and the clouds had moved in, preventing any long-range view. My hands were beginning to feel numb. "There are a lot of reasons, I suppose. Maybe it's the privacy of the summit...the feeling of such a solitary achievement. Something done in your own way; in their case, something unique. And for them, for anyone, it's something you do by yourself."

We reached the point on the ridge where it turned sharply westward and upward; the arete above was covered with enough snow to make handholds and footholds treacherous. It angled upward, almost vertically, for about 60 feet with a 200 foot drop-off on each side.

We roped up, with Jon leading. It started to snow. Jon moved carefully upward, testing each hold before trusting his weight to it. He reached a belay point out of my vision. With a few yells in the now snow-speckled air, we signaled to one another.

After reaching the middle point of the arete, I was about to plunge my ice axe into its snowy trest for an anchor spot.

"Watch out for the cornice!" Jon yelled. I acknowledged and moved upward before driving the axe's entire length into the snow and wrapping a loop of the rope



Photo by Tom Jenkins
ABOVE, CLIMBER looks at the summit of Torrey's Peak as it appears out of the mist.

around it. Jon climbed up to where I was belaying. He immediately gave me a dismayed look.

"Let's move!" Jon snapped.

"What's the hurry?" I asked.

As he scrambled past me, he said, "I think there is only snow under us." I followed, quickly.

We climbed until we were above the precipitous arete reaching the lower part of the summit ridge. Jon stopped and looked at me. "From the looks of it, that snow cornice is hanging over a lot of nothing, 200 feet of air," he said.

We were there, on the crest of a continent. Yet we could see nothing; we were in a "white-out," with earth and sky blurred indistinguishably into an enveloping bowl of whiteness. After a few minutes of rest, food and drink, we consulted map and compass, then moved downward to the south. A few moments later, the snow sud-

denly stopped falling, and the clouds started to dissipate. We looked out in amazement.

As if a curtain had magically risen, we could see a spectacle of endless ridges, peaks and spires unfolding below us all the way to the horizon. All the talk about mountain climbing philosophy and motives and why one makes ascents faded into vapor and disappeared. I mumbled to Jon. "What?" he asked.

"I was trying to say something."

"Don't," he responded flatly.



Photo by Tom Jenkins

AT LEFT, Jon Sudar silhouetted against the clouds near the summit.

Thomas M. Jenkins is director of the division of communication and arts at the Red Rocks campus of the Community College of Denver.

Across the nation and around the world

SIX OF ONE, HALF A DOZEN...Some California gas stations have found a way to avoid the frowns and curses that high gasoline prices inspire: The window on their pumps shows a price that all of us over 20 years old can remember: 25.6 cents. How do they do it? Sell gas by the liter. At 25.6 cents per liter, those smiling customers in Sacramento are paying 96.9 cents a gallon.

NUCLEAR SWITCH TO COAL. The Virginia Electric and Power Co. is studying the possibility of switching two planned nuclear power plants to coal. A spokesman for VEPCO told the National Coal Association's **Coal News** that uncertainty over nuclear power's future in this country had prompted the study. After eight years of work, the two plants in Louisiana County, Va., are a year late and only 10 percent complete. The cost of nuclear power to VEPCO consumers would make the switch economically wise, according to the company.

NUCLEAR LICENSING STOPPED.

Reversing itself, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has halted licensing of nuclear plants until it can establish new safety and operating standards. Though one NRC official told the **Washington Post** that licensing could resume as early as next spring, observers were uncertain that the commission, which has maintained an unofficial moratorium on licens-

ing since the Three Mile Island accident last spring, could meet such a deadline. Meanwhile, a presidential commission studying the TMI accident recommended a complete overhaul of federal regulation of nuclear power, including abolishing the NRC, which the commission said had failed to do its job.

STRIP MINE DEADLINES EXTENDED.

The federal Office of Surface Mining, bowing to a federal judge's ruling, has extended the deadline for submitting state strip mine reclamation plans to OSM. The plans, which were due Aug. 3 under the original OSM legislation, will now be due March 3, 1980. For the moment, OSM is still bound to a June 3, 1980, deadline for deciding whether state plans comply with the 1977 federal law. However, the Senate has approved legislation that would extend the deadline for final approval until December 1980.

This map illustrates the Snake River Overthrust Belt region, spanning the border between Montana and Wyoming. The map shows the following features:

- Geographic Features:**
 - Ranges:** Gallatin range, Absaroka range, Wind River range, Wasatch range.
 - Mountains:** Teton, Snake, Pine-Cedars.
 - Water Bodies:** Snake River, Great Salt Lake.
 - Towns:** Evanston.
- National Forests:**
 - Yellowstone Natl. Park
 - Grand Teton Natl. Park
 - Bridger-Teton Natl. Forest
 - Targhee Natl. Forest
 - Caribou Natl. Forest
 - Wasatch-Ute Natl. Forests
- Legend:** Elements of the Overthrust Belt =

Map by Hannah Hinchman

THE OVERTHRUST BELT, a geological formation running through the Rockies that many consider a rich oil and gas source for the future, got special attention in the Energy Mobilization Board legislation approved last month by the Senate. Section 38 of the bill says that any energy projects involving the belt would automatically get fast-track treatment from the EMB. Because the Overthrust Belt also contains numerous potential wilderness areas and delicate mountain habitat, speculation about developing its energy potential has sparked controversy. A conference committee composed of Senate and House members is at work on a compromise EMB bill.

Governors from 10 Western states will meet with tribal leaders from the region in Phoenix Dec. 5 in an attempt to coordinate a response to federal energy initiatives.

Several Western governors and the Council of Energy Resource Tribes have already announced independently that they oppose President Carter's plans for an Energy Mobilization Board that could interfere in state or tribal decisions on energy development.

In addition, CERT Chairman Peter MacDonald has said that if Carter would direct one-half of one percent of his proposed national energy security budget into Indian energy-development programs, it could bring an additional 2 million barrels of oil per day.

The agenda for the unprecedented meeting will cover a range of issues reflecting the tribes' and states' common concerns for the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of energy development and the need for a Western voice in national energy decision-making.

While the tribes and the states have agreed that Carter's energy plans run

counter to Western interests, tribal and state approaches to energy development problems conflict in areas such as water rights, taxation of mineral production and jurisdiction over air pollution questions.

The meeting is sponsored by CERT and the Western Governors' Policy Office, an independent, non-partisan organization of governors of Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

CERT is a coalition of 25 Indian tribes, formed four years ago to "assist tribal governments in promoting the general welfare of their people through the production, control and prudent management of their energy resources," according to CERT literature.

The CERT board of directors is meeting in Phoenix Dec. 6-7 to discuss the role the tribes will play in the country's drive for energy independence.

U.S. Energy Secretary Charles W. Duncan, Jr. and Ibrahim Shihata, managing director for the OPEC Special Fund for Developing Nations, will address CERT.

Senate okays Carter synfuel plan; Western solons split

President Jimmy Carter's synthetic fuels plan was approved this month by the Senate, despite opposition from a motley coalition of liberals, conservatives, environmentalists and lobbyists from energy companies.

Under the Senate-approved Carter plan, the Synthetic Fuels Corp., a federal agency with a five-man board, would finance commercial-size synfuel projects — primarily oil shale and coal liquefaction or gasification plants. The funds could be used to guarantee purchase prices, loans, and to make direct loans.

The House is yet to act on Carter's synfuel proposal.

Even while the Senate was fighting over the Synthetic Fuels Corp. bill, House and Senate appropriations conferees were agreeing to legislation providing \$19 billion in initial funding. The Senate bill would authorize another \$68 billion, to be appropriated after the initial funding is exhausted.

Energy company spokesmen object to the Senate legislation because it would allow government ownership of synfuel plants. Environmentalists pointed to the failure of previous synfuel pilot projects and predicted severe environmental consequences in the West, where synfuel plants would use scarce water and would create waste and pollution.

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) offered a substitute bill that would have provided only \$3 billion for a synfuels demonstration program but was soundly defeated. A compromise substitute offered by Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.), which would have authorized \$14 billion for an Office of Energy Security within the Department of Energy, lost 37-55.

Senators from the Northern Plains and Rockies voted as follows:

Senator	Proxmire sub.	Hart sub.	Carter synfuels
Garn (R-Utah)	Yes	Y	No
Hatch (R-Utah)	Y	Y	N
Wallop (R-Wyo.)	Y	Y	N
Simpson (R-Wyo.)	Y	Y	N
Hart (D-Colo.)	Y	Y	Y
Armstrong (R-Colo.)	Y	Y	N
Church (D-Idaho)	N	N	Y
McClure (R-Idaho)	N	N	Y
Malcher (D-Mont.)	N	N	Y
Baucus (D-Mont.)	Y	Y	N
Domenici (R-N.M.)	N	N	Y
Schmidt (R-N.M.)	Y	Y	N
McGovern (D-S.D.)	Y	Y	Y
Preslar (R-S.D.)	Y	Y	Y
Burdick (D-N.D.)	N	N	Y
Young (R-N.D.)	N	N	Y

Energy boom hurts women, minorities most

by Dede Feldman

The oil, gas, coal and uranium boom that has hit the Rocky Mountain West in the past five years has often been praised for bringing jobs and prosperity to an underdeveloped area. But a collection of papers presented a year ago at a conference sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission says that for women and minorities, the energy boom has often not been a shot in the arm but a kick in the face.

"There is good reason to believe that minorities and women are not receiving an equitable share of the benefits, and in some areas are being adversely affected" by the energy boom, the report's preface states.

According to several of the papers, there is a significant shortage of job opportunities for women and minorities in the energy extraction industry. Most of the high-level jobs in the energy corporations are held by engineers and businessmen from outside the area, and the two major blue collar fields — mining and construction — are traditionally closed to women. In Colorado, said a representative of the League of Women Voters, women are prevented from working underground by an antiquated (and unconstitutional, according to the league) law; in other areas unions have been less than receptive to women.

In almost all the Western states, there has been a marked lack of affirmative action programs and training for both minorities and women. Even on reservations that are rich in energy resources, unemployment hovers around 50 percent, a member of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) reported to the commission.

In addition, women are hit hard by what sociologists and others are now calling the "boomtown syndrome." This syndrome is a pattern that accompanies rapid growth in small rural towns unequipped to handle an influx of construction workers and



'ALUMINUM GHETTOS' are particularly hard on women. The boomtown syndrome includes divorce, delinquency and drugs.

miners from other parts of the country. The pattern goes like this: The population of a town like Craig, Colo.; Grants, N.M.; or Gillette, Wyo., doubles or even triples in five years. Existing services — sewage, water, schools, housing, police roads — are strained to the maximum with no increase in the local tax base or bonding capacity to support them until several years later.

Often, localized inflation hits senior citizens and long-time residents hard, trailer parks or "aluminum ghettos" proliferate, there's a lack of adequate health and recreational facilities, and the gap between the newcomers and the old residents broadens.

The result is spiraling crime rates, alcoholism, and an increase in child abuse and domestic violence.

According to Gay Holliday, a rancher from Roundup, Mont., who presented a paper at the conference, it is women who must confront the effects of the boomtown syndrome head on.

"In the impacted area the woman is the first to experience the breakdown of church, school and family," she said. Women must cope with the loneliness of the aluminum ghetto, the husband who comes home tired and angry after a double shift, rents that the Department of Housing and Urban Development says typically double or triple in boomtowns and school enrollment that increases by 500 percent.

Often, said Holliday and other women at the conference, the women are caught in a web of drunkenness, depression, divorce, delinquency and even suicide. And in the

rural boomtowns there are few support services such as day care centers, women's groups, or universities.

What to do about the problem? The most typically offered solution is the application of millions of dollars of federal "impact assistance." However, several papers presented at the 1978 conference offered other solutions. The Urban League's "Operation Grubstake" in Denver, for example, provides seed money for urban blacks and Chicanos to relocate to the rural areas where the resources are located. The idea, of course, is to bring minorities to where the jobs are. The Wyoming Human Services Project provides direct assistance to hard-pressed boomtowns. They use "help lines," day care facilities and other forms of intervention to try and minimize the adverse effects of energy growth.

Other solutions to the problem cited at the conference included a stronger commitment to affirmative action programs and the hiring of local workers and a new approach to the siting of generating facilities and mines. According to William Freudenburg, a professor at Washington State University, power plants — the worst boomtown generators — should be located in the areas where the power will be used, not in the sparsely populated areas where the fuel is produced. Building plants in the area where the energy is used would increase the cost of transporting fuel, but that would be offset by a reduction in the substantial electricity losses that occur in long transmission lines, according to Freudenburg. And if the plants were built in the regions where the energy will be used, Freudenburg suggests that the costs (i.e. social disruption and pollution) as well as the benefits of the plants would be borne by the energy users.



The report from this conference is available free from the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Suite 1700, 1405 Curtis St., Denver, Colo. 80202. Ask for Energy Resource Development — Implications for Women and Minorities in the Intermountain West.



The Rockies and Great Plains

COLORADO GAS CONSUMPTION DOWN. Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm has released data showing that Coloradans reduced consumption of gasoline in June to 14.9 percent below the levels of June 1978. According to the *Denver Post*, Lamm and other state officials believe that Colorado avoided the serious gas supply problems that plagued other major cities because of this voluntary conservation by citizens. An estimated 20 percent decline in tourism also contributed to the savings, officials say.

BUILDING BUREAUCRACIES. The state of Idaho is proposing a department level Resource Development Bureau so that the state can take hold "of its own energy matters and lessen the hold of the federal government on energy decision-making." Idaho Energy Director Robert

Lenaghen says the agency will take into account "the economic, environmental and institutional ramifications of all sources (of energy)." Proposals to create a comprehensive energy agency have been defeated by the legislature in the past. Lenaghen's current position was created by executive order of the governor.

OIL IS FOR THE BIRDS. Individuals and companies interested in the oil and gas potential within the proposed expansion of the Birds of Prey Conservation Area have taken out 100 leases on 161,000 acres of federal and state-owned lands, according to the *Idaho Statesman*. Under the proposed expansion, the Birds of Prey area would be increased from about 32,900 acres to 720,000 acres. The U.S. Interior Department says that if the expansion is approved, oil and gas exploration will be permitted within the area. The area would be preserved as raptor habitat. The proposal has previously sparked controversy because some want the area used as irrigated farmland.

URANIUM MINE PROPOSED IN COLO. The Cyprus Mine Corp. and Wyoming Mineral Corp., (a Westinghouse subsidiary) are planning to build Colorado's largest uranium mine near Canon City. The mine and mill, which would begin operating in the mid-1980s, would process 4,500 tons of uranium ore

per day, according to a report in *Mine Watch*, newsletter of the Colorado Open Space Council Mining Workshop. Because of low concentrations of uranium at the proposed site, located along the Tallahassee and cottonwood creek drainages, over 95 percent of the ore will have to be disposed of as radioactive waste tailings. The mine is applying for water and air quality permits from state agencies and the Environmental Protection Agency.

PIPE DREAMS. Thirty-five U.S. Senators have signed an industry-authored letter supporting the construction of the proposed Northern Tier Pipeline. However, two senators directly involved in the controversy, John Melcher and Max Baucus, both Montana Democrats, did not sign the letter, which was initiated by Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.). Both Baucus and Melcher have indicated support for the pipeline. The industry letter called the plan "a vitally needed, all-American, crude oil transportation system which will provide increased security of energy supplies to the agricultural and industrial sectors of the interior states." Senators who did sign the letter include James McClure (R-Idaho), Frank Church (D-Idaho), Quentin Burdick (D-N.D.), George McGovern (D-S.D.), Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.), Milton Young (R-N.D.) and Jake Garn (R-Utah).

12-High Country News — Nov. 16, 1979

Groups charge:

Logging plans threaten Salmon River's namesake

by Jim Verley

In an unusual alliance, Indians, sportsmen and environmentalists are working together to halt a U.S. Forest Service plan to increase timber cutting in areas of Idaho that contain traditional salmon and steelhead spawning areas.

The three groups, which have often been at odds concerning use of natural resources, have filed appeals on the Warren Unit of the Payette National Forest and the Landmark Unit of Boise National Forest, where the Forest Service proposes to resume timbering.

Several West Coast fishermen's associations, two Indian tribes (Shoshone-Bannock and Nez Perce) and the Idaho Wildlife Federation have all requested a more detailed study of the area before the cutting gets underway.

Logging operations in the 1960s along the South Fork of the Salmon River and its tributaries caused siltation problems in the South Fork drainage. This resulted in an 18 percent decrease in fish populations, according to Forest Service calculations. With the salmon population still not fully recovered from the earlier impact, groups opposing the new plan feel that a further increase in sediment produced by additional roads and logging operations could produce problems from the Salmon River to the Pacific Coast.

One reason for the concern is the fragility of the Idaho batholith, a geologic structure which lies at the core of folded and faulted mountain ranges. It could be compared to a huge sugar cube with a paper wrapping. The sediment problems of the 1960s proved how hard it is to protect against soil erosion and excess sediment in the watershed.

According to the Environmental impact statement for the Warren Unit: "Roading and associated timber harvesting will precipitate an estimated 50 percent increase in total sediment over natural (levels) with a 25 percent reduction of fish populations. If levels of sediment produced were to be even higher than predicted, the effects could be disastrous."

According to a spokesman for the Forest Service, no additional sediment will be allowed in the Landmark Unit.

Timbering operations would be monitored once a year under the Forest Service plan.

Opponents of the plans note that summer chinook salmon are currently being studied by the National Marine Fisheries Service for classification as an endangered species.

Shortly after the Forest Service proposed the logging, other government agencies objected, including the Idaho Fish and Game Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. After modifications in the Forest Service plans, the appeals by the other agencies were dropped early last summer.

The Idaho Wildlife Federation is also concerned with other endangered species within the two areas. The Forest Service says the presence of such species is "unsubstantiated." However, the wildlife federation says the gray wolf, the American peregrine falcon, the bald eagle and other rare plant and animal species are all residents of these areas. The federation says the Landmark impact statement used information on Idaho mammals that is 11 to 30 years old. The Forest Service responded to this charge, saying that individuals involved in the preparation of the impact statement made personal observations before preparing the reports.

In addition to the environmental and economic impacts on the areas, the federation questions plans to use public funds for road construction. One of three different bills introduced by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) to create the River of No Return Wilderness area would have appropriated \$1 million for logging roads in the units. However, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee ignored this version when it wrote the bill that will be considered by the full Senate later this year.

Since the economic value of the timber would not cover road costs and since the Congress won't appropriate funds specially for the project, the money would have to be taken from the Region IV Forest Service budget. Without the government subsidy, private industry does not consider the timbering project economically feasible.

Although a long-term analysis was not done, the Forest Service thinks the roads would eventually pay for themselves through timber sale receipts paid by private companies.

Subsidizing road construction is not an uncommon practice but is generally limited to roads needed for several purposes.

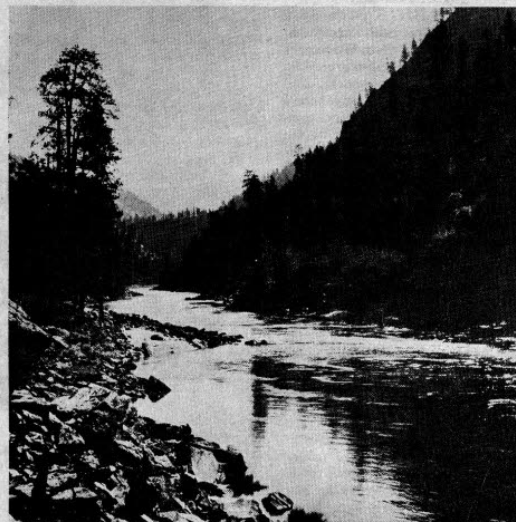


Photo by Verne Huser

SEDIMENT PRODUCED by additional roads and logging in the South Fork of the Salmon River watershed could create problems from the Salmon River to the Pacific Coast, according to the Idaho Wildlife Federation. Pictured is the Salmon River.

The impact statement for the Warren unit concluded that additional roads are not needed for recreational purposes and would not be justified for any uses other than timber.

The River of No Return Wilderness bill as it was written by the Senate energy committee would speed review of the appeals. The bill says that a decision must be

made by the secretary of agriculture by Feb. 1.



Jim Verley is a freelance writer in Lander, Wyo.

Research for this article was paid for in part by donations to the HCN Research Fund.

Group to hire rebellion researcher

The Idaho Conservation League is seeking a researcher to investigate the Sagebrush Rebellion in the state. However, unlike several environmental groups that took a position last month strongly criticizing the rebellion (HCN, 11-2-79), the Idaho environmental group may support some of the forces behind the movement.

Pat Ford, director of the league, said his organization wants to refocus the debate from land transfer to land management. Most proponents of the Sagebrush Rebellion want to transfer certain federally-managed lands to state ownership.

While Ford's group does not support such transfers, he suspects there are legitimate problems inspiring the rebellion. That's what the researcher they plan to hire will find out. "The conservationists' list of complaints with the federal government may be different but it is just as long as the cattlemen's," Ford said. If meaningless red tape is blocking actions that don't harm the resource, something should be done, he said.

The temporary staff person will work in Boise, December through March, making phone calls and visits to people who support the rebellion to analyze their arguments and goals. The researcher will also study the economic impact of transferring federal land to state ownership.

The Idaho legislature will be consider-

ing several bills early next year concerning the Sagebrush Rebellion. Some bills would transfer all the federal lands while others focus on specific areas, such as state claims to phosphate resources, to the stream beds in wild and scenic river systems and to the Birds of Prey Natural Area, according to Ford.

Judge says miners can cross BLM land

A U.S. district court judge has ruled that the state of Utah and the Cotter Corp. have the right to cross federal land to reach state land.

The problem arose last May when Cotter, a subsidiary of Consolidated Edison of Illinois, began bulldozing a road across federal land to reach its state uranium lease. Since the Bureau of Land Management is considering the area for wilderness, BLM filed a suit to halt the work.

U.S. District Judge Aldon J. Anderson said the BLM could regulate the right of access in a reasonable way to prevent destruction of wilderness characteristics in the Dirty Devil area. However, he said the BLM could not "damage the competitive economic development" of the lease and could not prohibit access.



Photo by Bill Meiners

THE IDAHO BATHOLITH is a highly erodible geologic structure. When logging roads are built over it, it is difficult to prevent excess sediment from polluting the watershed and killing fish.

Western Roundup

Opposition to MX rises at likely sites

by Sarah Doll

Opposition to the MX proposal for Utah, Arizona and Nevada is mounting as the scope of the missile project becomes more clearly defined.

If approved, the MX would be the biggest construction project in the nation's history. The price tag is estimated at \$33 billion, about three times the cost of the Alaskan pipeline, and construction would bring around 125,000 new residents into an area that now has fewer than 60,000.

The MX system calls for "racetracks" for each of 200 missiles. Each missile would carry 10 warheads, which would be towed on their tracks to and from 23 long shelters, so the Soviets would be unsure where the missiles were at any time. The system would require 10,000 miles of road — about a third as much as the entire federal highway system.

Utah Gov. Scott Matheson, formerly a staunch backer of the plan, is beginning to have misgivings. "We didn't realize the scope of the thing was so big, so huge, so enormous," he said. Matheson and Gov. Robert List of Nevada have asked for \$2 billion to handle the expected impact on their states.

A recent poll showed that a majority of Utahns favored the project but had doubts, with the portion of the populace living close to the site having more doubts than others. Utahns are still embittered from the discovery that cancer rates in their state went up after atomic testing in the 1950s, and distrust of federal projects lingers, according to the *Deseret News*.

Sen. Jake Garn (R-Utah) backs the MX project but has doubts that it will ever be built. He believes the enormous cost, opposition from environmentalists and the social disruption it would bring will kill it. Garn feels, however, that the system is needed to counter the Soviet SS-18 missiles. His fondest hope, he says, is to defeat the present SALT treaty and negotiate a new one which would ban the SS-18 and eliminate the need for the MX missile. Although he has said he supports the project, Garn cited the impact on Rock Springs, Wyo., of the development of coal resources, and said, "I'm for economic development, but not at that price."

Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) has said he will introduce an amendment in the Senate to kill funding for the project. He asked the Senate Appropriations Committee to eliminate \$650 million from the \$670 million allocated in the 1980 budget for research and development of the project, but his request was voted down. He wanted the remaining \$20 million to be used to study the Shallow Underwater Missile System as an alternative to the MX. This plan would place existing Minuteman III missiles aboard 138 small submarines, which would skirt the nation's shorelines.

Even strong supporters of increased military spending have doubts about the MX system. It would not be operational until 1986 at the earliest, and the Soviets would have the upper hand until then, they say. It would also make Utah a prime target for enemy missiles.

Environmentalists have opposed the project from the start. It would mean new

roads and rail lines in presently untouched valleys, and the loss of grazing and hunting land. Billions of gallons of water would be needed. At a hearing held at Cedar City, Utah, Dick Carter, representing the Utah Environmental Coalition and the Wilderness Alliance, said the project would threaten several already endangered species, including the black-footed ferret, the Utah prairie dog, the wound-fin minnow, the humpback chub and the Colorado squaw fish.

Other groups expressed reservations at the hearing. They included the Utah Wool Growers Association, cattle ranchers, miners, and citizens who fear the loss of "a way of life."

One supporter of the project is Rep. Dan Marriott (R-Utah). He says the direct benefit to Utah would be around \$440 million a year, and it would generate 25,000 construction jobs and another 25,000 indirect jobs. He says he is convinced there will be no displacement of wildlife or problems of land use as a result of the project. "Most of the land around the actual grids will still be open land and will be virtually unaffected," he says.

Mining, sprawl endanger two cacti

Due to urban sprawl, mining and amateur plant collectors, two species of cacti have been added to the endangered plant list. A third has been listed as threatened.

The purple-spined hedgehog cactus and the Wright fishhook cactus, listed as endangered, are found only in certain areas of Utah. The hedgehog cactus has just one population, located in the Mojave Desert north of St. George. The fishhook cactus occurs in two places, near San Rafael Ridge in Emery County and in Wayne County, near the Fremont River.

According to *Federal Register* data, "disease and predation (including grazing)" are not threats to either of these species; the pressure is due to urban sprawl, mining and collectors.

In the case of the Uinta Basin hookless cactus, the report says that limited livestock grazing appears to be beneficial. The hookless cactus is found on eight sites in Colorado and Utah, mostly on public lands.

Scenic desert trail proposal wilts

A Desert National Scenic Trail from Mexico to Canada would not be worth the effort and money it would require, concludes a draft environmental assessment published by the National Park Service. The NPS launched a feasibility study of the project because of lobbying pressure from the Desert Trail Association.

Much of the land studied for the trail lies within three deserts, the Sonoran, Mojave, and Great Basin; the northerly parts are grassland or mountain forest.

Supporters of the trail favor a very simple trail design with no water or campsite improvements. Most supporters express little



ARREGETCH PEAKS in the area proposed as part of the Gates of the Arctic National Park.

Senate Alaska action expected soon

Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) has introduced amendments to the Alaska bill recently approved by a Senate committee so that the legislation would offer more protection for prime park, refuge and wilderness lands in Alaska.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee bill passed Oct. 30 would allow mining, timbering and hunting in many of the undeveloped areas in Alaska with few restrictions to protect wildlife or Alaskan Natives. The Alaska Coalition, a group of several organizations

pushing for strong protection for Alaska lands, said the Senate energy committee bill is "totally unacceptable."

Tsongas' amendments would prevent mining roads and mining towns in the proposed Gates of the Arctic National Park by making it a wilderness area; the committee-passed bill would make it a national park but allow mining. Tsongas' amendments would protect the calving grounds of Alaska's largest caribou herd in the Arctic National Wildlife Range. The committee bill, on the other hand, would subject the calving grounds to mandatory oil exploration by private industry.

Under Tsongas' suggested amendments, 65 percent of the proposed Wrangell-St. Elias National Park would be open to hunting dall sheep — less than the energy committee proposed opening.

An aide to Tsongas said the Tsongas amendments would make the Senate bill conform more to the House-passed bill, which conservationists consider a good bill. However, Tsongas included some compromises to please Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska). Stevens still isn't expected to support the Tsongas amendments, but the aide said the compromises will attract more support from other senators. At press time, it appeared that all the senators who cosponsored last year's strong Senate Alaska bill would also cosponsor the Tsongas amendments.

The Tsongas aide said there is a "reasonable" chance the Alaska legislation could come up on the floor of the Senate this year. If it doesn't, it probably will be delayed until after the Senate completes consideration of the SALT II treaty.



14-High Country News — Nov. 16, 1979

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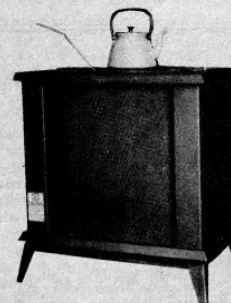
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16-High Country News — Nov. 16, 1979

BLM wilderness future...

(continued from page 7)

River roadless unit. In April, BLM proposed that 90,000 acres be designated a wilderness study area. Cotter Corporation then moved to build a road to its mining claims on state land, which are surrounded by federal lands being studied for wilderness. Cotter claimed the 1872 mining law prevented BLM interference.

BLM went to federal court for a restraining order to defer road-building on study lands. The state of Utah joined the lawsuit on the side of Cotter Corporation, claiming BLM had to allow access to state lands within the area.

"On October 1, the court ruled that we must allow access to state lands, but that the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 amended the 1872 mining law and gave us authority to regulate activities on wilderness study areas," said Kent Biddulph, Utah BLM wilderness coordinator. Biddulph said the court ordered the state to cooperate with BLM in selecting a suitable access route.



Photo by Mike McClure

FERRIS MOUNTAINS will be studied further in BLM's inventory of roadless areas that might be recommended for wilderness. The mountains are located north of Rawlins, Wyo.

An accelerated inventory of lands which would be crossed by the proposed Intermountain Power Project's powerlines has brought a protest from the Sierra Club, Biddulph says. In the Moab district,

BLM eliminated all but one unit, the 31,000-acre San Rafael Knob, from wilderness consideration.

The largest Utah areas moving into the intensive inventory are in the Salt Desert

west of Salt Lake, the Book Cliffs north of Moab, the Henry Mountains near Hanksville and the Kaiparowits Plateau near Escalante.

In Wyoming, where 93 percent of BLM's desert and basin lands are being dropped in the initial inventory, seven areas of more than 100,000 acres apiece were eliminated by the Worland BLM district alone.

The badlands area called "Adobe Town" southwest of Rawlins will be studied further — the largest survivor at 115,000 acres. Other areas to receive further study include Honeycombs (65,500 acres) in the Worland district, Ferris Mountains (25,000 acres) north of Rawlins and the Honeycomb Buttes (72,781 acres) and the Red Desert Group (one portion of which is called the "Big Empty" — 92,000 acres) near Rock Springs.

BLM has recommended that 61,380 acres be studied further and 92,000 acres be dropped after an accelerated inventory of Overthrust Belt and other Wyoming areas facing imminent energy development.

Largest survivor of that accelerated inventory is 33,000-acre Raymond Mountain in southwest Sublette County. A pure strain of Utah cutthroat trout lives in one of the Raymond Mountain streams.

Colorado state director Dale R. Andrus says the 1.3 million BLM acres to be studied in Colorado range from 14,000-foot mountain peaks to sagebrush plains and desert and canyon areas. Most of the areas are along the western border near Grand Junction, and east of Dinosaur National Monument in northwest Colorado.

In Idaho, the 374,000-acre Great Rift near Arco will be considered further. Other large areas remaining in the running for wilderness designation in Idaho are Bruneau River (134,000 acres), Deep and Battle Creeks (137,000 acres) and Jarbridge River (111,000 acres), all in the Boise District.

The Overthrust Belt accelerated inventory in Montana has identified 20 proposed study areas totaling 170,000 acres, and 28 units of 152,000 acres to be dropped. Comment period on these proposals ends Jan. 15, 1980.

Bulletin Board



FISH AND WILDLIFE BRIEFS

The Department of the Interior has released three briefs assessing the impact of coal-fired power plants, geothermal development and the Clean Air Act on fish, wildlife and their habitats. Direct inquiries to the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Services Program, Washington, D.C. 20240.

INTERMOUNTAIN POWER FINAL EIS

The Bureau of Land Management has released its final environmental impact statement for the proposed Intermountain Power Project, a 3,000-megawatt coal-fired generating station to be located at Salt Wash, Utah. In the interest of cutting costs, the final EIS includes only a summary of the project's adverse impacts as well as commentary on the draft EIS and changes in the draft text. Hence, the final EIS is useful only in conjunction with the draft EIS. Both are available by contacting Leroy C. Montoya, Acting District Manager, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Richfield District Office, 150 East 900 North, Richfield, Utah 84701.

NONGAME BIRD MANAGEMENT

A workshop on the management of Western forest and grasslands for non-game birds will be conducted by the U.S. Forest Service Feb. 11-14, 1980, at the Little America Hotel, 500 South Main St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84101. Pre-register with Richard Sanders, USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region (4), State and Private Forestry, 324 25th St., Ogden, Utah 84401, before Jan. 10, 1980.

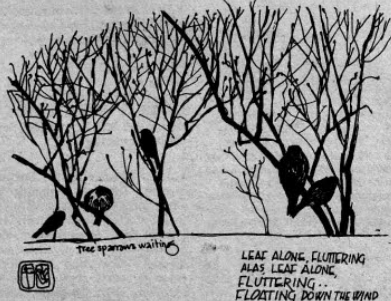
SOLAR ENERGY INFORMATION

Four solar engineering primers are available from Horizon Institute, 12606 Burton St., North Hollywood, Calif. 91605. They are: Design Manual for Solar Water Heaters (\$5.00), Estimating Solar Energy Available for Collection (\$3.00), Illustrated Solar Energy Guide (\$3.00), and Solar Pool Heaters (\$2.00). The Department of Energy's Solar Energy Research Institute has available a layman's guide to disseminating solar energy information. "Reaching Up, Reaching Out: A Guide to Organizing Local Solar Events" is available for \$6.00 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. When ordering, include stock number 061-000-00345-2. Model solar building codes have been drafted by the National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards, Inc. and are available from that organization. Contact Henry S. Wakabayashi,

Energy Program Director, 1970 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Va. 22102. The national conference also will hold a public meeting regarding model solar codes on Dec. 5, 1979, at the Airport Hilton Inn and Conference Center, Denver, Colo. The meeting is at 9 a.m.

GALLATIN ENERGY PLAN

The Gallatin County, Mont., chapter of the Environmental Information Center is planning to draw up a county energy plan. The group is focusing its energy "to build a renewable-based, energy efficient community." The group will develop the plan design and search for funding until December, then proceed through completion of the plan, encouraging community support and political involvement to promote the concept through June of 1980. For further information, or to help, contact the Bozeman EIC, Box 673, Bozeman, Mont. 59715.



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ALAS LEAF ALONG,
FLUTTERING...
FLOATING DOWN THE WIND

