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High Country News

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Photo by David Sumner

In the News

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Opinion



Review of 1979

Comforting but cockeyed big solutions

The Sagebrush Rebels were the region's media stars this year. While most of them were no more radical looking than a corporation chief, they offered an off-beat solution to the West's resource management woes — transfer of federal land to the states. Their uprising captured headlines by offering a big, if implausible, solution.

Apparently the country felt comforted by big solutions, whether or not they would do the job. Eroding leadership in the face of complicated problems gave us not only the sagebrush solution but also legislation to subsidize synthetic fuels, the Energy Mobilization Board, and general confusion over how to use and protect natural resources. In response to the confusion, new hardline environmental and anti-environmental groups emerged, each trying to put the country back on what it deemed the proper course.

Older environmental groups were on the defensive this year. They made progress on only one major federal initiative — the Alaska National Interest Lands legislation. House approval of the Alaska bill, which still awaits Senate action, was "the sweetest victory I've ever had a part in," said Sierra Club spokesman Brock Evans. "We beat big oil: we beat big timber; we beat big mining; we beat the National Rifle Association; and we beat them all at once on an issue they really cared about."

But on other wild lands issues, it was a different story. The Bureau of Land Management's wilderness inventory was like a rummage sale where tracts of land were verbally pawed over by people with selfish intent, including many who claimed wilderness was unconstitutional, un-American and anti-business. To a nation obsessed with pocketbook issues, a two-by-four was sometimes more valuable than a forest.

Western governors considered wilderness designation a political hot potato. Only Colorado's Gov. Dick Lamm asked Congress to designate more wilderness than in the Forest Service's modest proposal. While timber interests remained outspoken in the wilderness debate, a sour housing market was shutting down timber mills all over the region. There was speculation that the nation's timber industry was beginning a major shift from the West to the South.

Environmentalists' euphoria over the Alaska victory in the House faded quickly into despair over President Carter's big "solution" to the nation's energy problems. His Energy Mobilization Board and synfuels proposals were anathema to some ranchers, states rights and conservatives in the West as well. The nation's leaders seemed too agitated to listen to the calmer voices that were heard this year, such as that of the Harvard Business School report, *Energy Future*, which touted energy conservation as the nation's first priority.

Coal developers took one step forward and one back. The Interior Department unveiled a coal program designed to end an eight-year coal leasing moratorium. But as the feds prepared for action, industry found reason to hesitate. Steam coal prices were down from \$35 a ton in 1974 to \$22 a ton or less in 1979. When 14.8 million tons of federal coal were offered for lease in Montana this month, Decker Coal Co., the most likely buyer, said it was no longer interested. The price asked by government and the financial risk are too high, according to the company.

Bracing for energy development, the West had its social problems this year. But in some cases, such as in Wheatland, Wyo., problems were created when planners geared up for a bigger boom than actually occurred. Wheatland lost good agricultural land to subdivisions to be inhabited by workers that never were hired.

While the Three Mile Island incident dealt the nuclear power industry a blow, its impact was cushioned in the uranium-rich sections of the Rockies. Uranium mines and mills here kept right on producing to fill the needs of existing nuclear plants around the world. Politicians in the West became increasingly skeptical about the industry they'd been wooing since the 1950s, however. This fall former Atomic Energy Commission Director Dixy Lee Ray, now governor of Washington, demanded a temporary halt to shipments of nuclear waste to her state until safety practices improved.

Citizen groups of all persuasions arose to influence Western resource policy. In South Dakota, where a battle over uranium development is brewing, the Black Hills Alliance emerged with the straightforward mission of stopping all uranium mining.

The town of Crested Butte, Colo., was no less emphatic about the protection of its surroundings. While AMAX pokes at big molybdenum deposits inside Mt. Emmons, the town plans a legal assault that it claims will "leave the 1872 mining law in tatters and AMAX pleading for mercy."

But environmental groups were not the only ones talking tough. Others, such as the Sagebrush Rebels, often sounded just as hard line. Occasionally, they adopted the words and tactics traditionally reserved for environmentalists. The "Committee to Protect the Environment," for instance, a tongue-in-cheek conservation group composed mainly of Utah miners and businessmen, tried to use the National Environmental Policy Act to stop construction of a solar electric plant at Natural Bridges National Monument. When plaintiffs failed to appear in federal district court in November, the suit was dismissed.

As private groups asserted themselves, state governments in the West moved to wrest power from the federal government. A number of state legislators unsuccessfully tried to raise the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit, a move which would have made them ineligible for federal highway funds. A small step in itself, it was designed to be a major slap in the face to the feds. Next year many of the same legislators, now on the Sagebrush Rebellion bandwagon, will go after bigger game, working to pass bills designed to get the federal government out of the lives of Westerners. While appealing to many, eradicating federal influence is just another big, dangerous solution.

During the debate over synfuels subsidies, Sen. Dale Bumpers said, "The American people are in the mood to do something, even if it is wrong." If he's right — or even if Congress thinks he's right — we may have to endure another year of increasing polarization and big, cockeyed proposals that don't come close to solving our problems. And if we do, the Rockies and their resources are in trouble.

Because our energy and natural resources problems won't wait, we will lose more wild lands. We will shrink the number of energy options before us and face a time when we can't afford to develop in an environmentally acceptable manner. We will lose the last frontier.

Or will the American people let their leaders know that, while they want action, they will not accept simplistic answers?

The environmental protection gains of the past must be built upon and reasonably enforced, not torn down. At the same time, environmental leaders must make a good faith effort to avoid delaying decisions that should be made now. Those on both sides who consider moderates "pussyfooters" should stand back and listen.

Granted, there's only a slim chance that Congress and other leaders will hear such a message in 1980. Still it offers our best hope for a difficult but satisfyingly productive decade.

— JN

Letter to the editor

Grazing and wilderness in

Dear HCN,

Marjane Ambler's fine article describing Forest Service grazing policy and actions in wilderness was long overdue. I hope our Forest Service friends read the article closely, and I urge the various public land grazing associations throughout the West, particularly in Utah, to pay close attention to the article also.

In Utah the RARE II study showed many of the roadless areas receiving automatic 50 percent grazing reductions if these areas were recommended for wilderness. Clearly, these proposed reductions, initiated solely as a result of proposed wilderness designations, are contrary to the law and intent of Congress. In Utah the issue was compounded when the *Logan Journal* ran an article on Sept. 13, 1978, quoting Bill Murray, a deputy regional forester in Region 4, as saying, "Grazing is not compatible with wilderness. To designate an area as wilderness is to designate it for one use, and it would be very difficult to keep grazing in there."

Conservationists complained bitterly about these statements and actions and brought them to the attention of the regional forester and the chief's office. Although the chief's office did apologize for any confusing impressions and did say grazing and wilderness are compatible and that no grazing cuts have ever been made solely as a result of a wilderness designation, neither office retracted the statements or explained why, how or what logic applied to the proposed cuts or the statement.

Until this kind of Forest Service man-

agement philosophy ends, the natural coalitions of conservationists and public land grazers will be strained.

However, just as disturbing as some of the impromptu Forest Service policy is the fact that many grazers resist coalitions with conservation organizations, oppose wilderness in a unilateral fashion and advocate the ludicrous goals of the "sagebrush rebellion." In Utah on numerous occasions we have attempted to rationally discuss the grazing issues revolving around wilderness and public lands with the Utah Cattlemen's Association and the Utah State Department of Agriculture. Unfortunately, we have been met with opposition to all wilderness by the Utah Farm Bureau, Utah Woolgrowers and the Utah Cattlemen.

The challenge for all of us — and I speak primarily to the Utah State Department of Agriculture, the Utah State Planning Coordinator and his natural resources coordinator, the governor's office and the public land grazers — is to cool the rhetoric, sit down like other Western state public land users and seek common ground where it exists. And it obviously exists. But it is going to require some cooperation. Our office and many other conservationists in Utah have certainly attempted to find that ground, knowing full well we will not always agree. But we certainly stand ready, as we have in the past, to offer our expertise and assistance to begin a reasonable discussion.

To this extent we owe folks like Bill Cunningham in Montana and our own Bruce Hucko here in Utah a real debt. Bruce is the coordinator of Slickrock Country Council in Moab and has shown a

LOOKING FOR CANDIDATE

Dear Editors,

As a patriotic American, I am definitely concerned with our nation's goals, our nation's potentials, but especially our nation's ideals. Only in the U.S. is there even a possibility for idealism to remain viable. My American birthright demands I support those candidates concerned with the very real presence of non-American ideals and with the defense of our nation against these forces, i.e. power-seeking Soviets, religion-crazed Muslims, subversive types of all nationalities, Americans included.

But I am not a fanatic. I actually despise the use of force. Let me halt this wandering digression and take up the other intended theme of this letter.

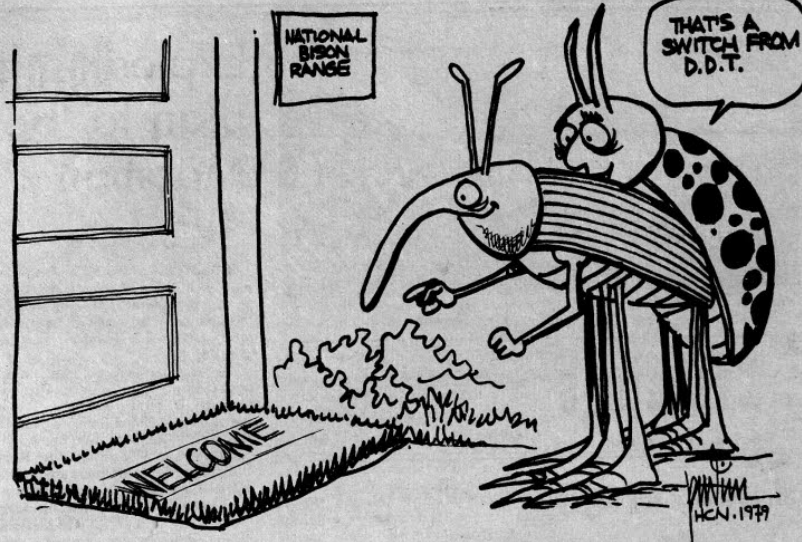
Right alongside with and comparable with my American birthright is my "humanity" (for whatever it may be worth). Because I am a Human Animal, I am not only interested but extremely concerned with the raping of our spaceship Earth. Whoever decided our unrenowned waters and air are toilet bowls was suffering a derangement far more subtly insidious than Stalin, Lenin, Hitler, Khomeini, etc. Answer me one question: Is there one candidate for office who can honestly say his/her two primary motives for seeking office are:

(1) Salvation and preservation of our one first basic necessity for life, namely, our EARTH?

(2) Strong and consistent defense of our nation's ideals and boundaries?

Is it that these two thoughts are completely incompatible, or does no one really care?

Peter S. Kinnebrew
Mobile, Alabama



High Country News — Dec. 28, 1979-3



PREDATOR POLICY 'ABSURD'

Dear Editor,

You carried, on page 13 of the Nov. 30 issue, a story about Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus' long-awaited new policy direction for coyote control. The issues surrounding his decision are too complex and lengthy to properly address in a letter to the editor.

However, every citizen interested in wildlife conservation, as well as those interested in the nation's food and natural fiber supply, should take time to examine carefully what happened with the Andrus decision.

After almost six years of turmoil, congressional hearings, millions of dollars of research, an environmental impact statement, and a fine year-long evaluation of all factual data by a broadly-based committee, the Assistant Secretary for Fish,

Wildlife and Parks and the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presented Andrus with a set of carefully reasoned recommendations, which probably would have been acceptable to at least 65 percent of livestock producers and 65 percent of the environmental community.

Just about all of the possible compromises had been painfully reached between conflicting interests, but still those compromises were grounded in fact and would have worked. Andrus, for whatever unknown reason, apparently then further compromised those positions so carefully worked out by his assistant secretary with an extreme, virtually absurd proposal written by Jan Yarn of the Council on Environmental Quality.

At this point in time it is highly questionable if enough trust and confidence remain with the livestock community for any federal animal damage program to survive. In every state, ranchers and farmers on both public and private lands anticipate pulling back cooperative funds from the federal program and searching elsewhere for means to protect their animals.

It is ironic that the most basic issues involved in protecting both the environment and the food supply come clearly into focus in the most controversial element of coyote control — the use of

compound 1080. Many are of the mistaken belief that woolgrowers developed and chose 1080 because it kills coyotes effectively. That is not true. 1080 does, indeed, kill coyotes, but no more readily than dozens of other products available at the farm store, the drug store, or on the shelves of the local supermarket. 1080 was, in fact, chosen years ago for coyote control, from a long list of available lethal agents, by scientists and wildlife biologists because it, unlike any of others, could be used in such a way as to protect the environment.

Sincerely,
Laird Noh, Chairman
Environmental Committee
National Wool Growers Assn.
Kimberly, Idaho

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ss in Utah

form of patience and initiative unmatched. He knows the problem of grazing in southeastern Utah — lack of water, meaning developed stock ponds and springs are necessary for the grazers who settled southern Utah. Grazers simply fear that stock ponds and other simple structures will be terminated if an area is designated as wilderness. Under Hucko's direction SRCC has made every attempt to acquaint the public with what the Wilderness Act says. For the most part, Bruce has indicated these efforts have been met with sterile response.

We also applaud Governor Scott Matheson. At a recent Utah Cattlemen's Association meeting, he urged the grazers to work with the Bureau of Land Management in solving range problems rather than advocating the "sagebrush rebellion." The Governor has offered the state's assistance through workshops involving state, federal land managers and grazers. However, he should be reminded that many conservationists have been strong advocates of protecting legitimate and properly managed grazing rights and should be included in these workshops.

The work by Bruce Hucko and our office, hopefully, will not go unnoticed or ignored because of an illegitimate "mind-set" by some public land grazers or politicians. We do not think our goals are much different than most ranchers in the West — maintenance of the open Western landscape.

Dick Carter
Utah Wilderness Association-
American Wilderness Alliance
Salt Lake City, Utah



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Trackings

followups on previous stories

Stillwater Complex

(see HCN 10-5-79 for original story.)

STILLWATER COUNTY, Mont. — Opposition is mounting against exploration in the Stillwater Complex in southcentral Montana where both Johns-Manville Corp. and the Anaconda Co. are interested in a potentially rich deposit of platinum.

The Stillwater Complex is of vital interest to area ranchers and outdoor enthusiasts who fear that extensive mining will harm the area's water, wildlife populations and natural beauty, as well as disrupt the present way of life in the region with a large influx of miners.

Anaconda, which began digging an exploratory tunnel in the Upper Stillwater Valley this past fall to take bulk ore samples, has met further resistance from members of the Stillwater Protective Association.

The SPA has petitioned the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences for a ruling on the applicability of a specific state water quality law. SPA believes the law requires Anaconda to apply for a permit if there is a possibility of discharge from the percolating ponds for the exploratory tunnel degrading groundwater. No decision was expected on the issue, which Anaconda views as critical, until early 1980.

Johns-Manville, after announcing plans to explore and evaluate a large portion of the Upper Stillwater, has stumbled over a strict zoning measure recently approved by the Stillwater County Planning and Zoning Commission. The measure limits more than 4,000 acres, including some property held by J-M, to agricultural and recreational uses.

J-M has filed suit in District Court to overturn the zoning decision, contending that it was narrowly drawn and unlawfully attempts to gerrymander zoning and planning in the county. A group of five Nye-area landowners also has filed suit against the commission, charging that members failed to fully consider the issue. Both suits ask that the West Ford Planning and Zoning District be declared unconstitutional and illegal.

In its drive to protect the quality of groundwater, the SPA asked Anaconda to allow an inspection of the Minneapolis Adit area, which Anaconda rejected, noting that it does not permit outside individuals to undertake inspections or per-

form testwork on its property. The firm says it will conduct its activities in the area in an "environmentally aware manner" and has a public information program underway.

What SPA sought was a look at Anaconda's settling ponds area, including rock sampling and digging a few percolation test holes, said Marc Ledbetter, a staff member of the Northern Plains Resource Council, with which SPA is affiliated. Geotechnical Services of Missoula had agreed to conduct the on-site investigation to determine if any hazards existed.

— Ken Western

Lake DeSmet

(See HCN 11-30-79 for original story.)

A challenge to Texaco Inc.'s right to use water from Lake DeSmet in northeastern Wyoming was rejected by the state Board of Control this month, clearing the way for Texaco and Texas Eastern Corp. to build a massive coal gasification plant and strip mine in the area.

Under Wyoming law, water rights can be forfeited if a company or person fails to exercise the water rights over a 10-year period.

Rancher Morris Weinberg, president of the L slash X Cattle Co., petitioned two years ago to have the board declare 55,000 acre-feet of Lake DeSmet water "abandoned." Texaco has rights to 239,000 acre-feet from the lake, but because of limited annual rejuvenation of the lake's water levels, Weinberg's challenge could have hampered the gasification plant. The plant will require at least 8,000 acre-feet of water annually.

Weinberg claimed that Texaco and the preceding owner of the lake, Reynolds Metals, Inc., had failed to develop planned industrial projects at the site. He asked that the water be freed for farm use.

Texaco argued that Reynolds had done extensive work on the lake, including increasing its capacity, to prepare for future industrial use.

Texaco is now conducting an 18-month feasibility study for the gasification plant, which would produce 250 million cubic feet of high-Btu gas a day.

Weinberg and his attorney, Stuart Healy of Sheridan, told the Sheridan Press they will appeal the case to the state district court in Sheridan.

Explosive issue: plan to 'bomb' Bob Marshall

by Dale A. Burk

KALISPELL, Mont. — A plan to detonate explosives in the Bob Marshall Wilderness in a search for oil and gas deposits has sparked anger among environmentalists and words of caution from federal officials.

The emotionally-charged issue surfaced repeatedly at the annual convention of the Montana Wilderness Association, where the plan was dubbed "Bombing the Bob Marshall Wilderness." The theme of the gathering was "Wilderness Under Siege."

Actually, three wilderness areas are involved. Consolidated Georex Geophysics, a Denver-based exploration firm, has sought permission from the U.S. Forest Service to detonate 5,400 dynamite charges as part of an exploration program in the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Lincoln-Sagegoat wildernesses.

The 1 million-acre Bob Marshall Wilderness lies on the Continental Divide in northwestern Montana, flanked by the 240,000-acre Lincoln-Sagegoat Wilderness to the south and the 286,700-acre Great Bear Wilderness to the north, bordering Glacier National Park.

The seismic blasting would take place along a 207-mile line in the three wilderness areas — though a geologist speaking at the convention suggested there is little likelihood of oil and gas being found there.

Still, one recurrent answer came from Forest Service officials at the meeting, including R. Max Peterson, the agency's top officer: "We don't know for sure what's under the surface."

The company would set off plastic explosives on supports 30 inches off the ground and record shock waves bouncing back from underground rock strata. Spaced up to 320 feet apart along four east-west lines through the wilderness areas, the explosions should, according to company offi-

cials, provide data for charting the underlying geological structure.

Equipment and crews will be transported into the wilderness by helicopter, and the company promises that no heavy equipment will be moved overland. Similar seismic tests have been conducted in the adjacent Lewis and Clark National Forest, but Forest Service officials say this is the first proposal to use explosives in a wilderness area.

The Forest Service is presently preparing an "environmental analysis" of the request, Buster LaMoure, staff director of the agency's Northern Region Office of Minerals and Geology, emphasized. He said that any recommendation to ultimately lease or not lease lands in wilderness areas for actual mining will be made by the chief of the Forest Service.

Peterson, appearing at the convention later in the day, was asked if the agency intended to protect the wilderness or "give in" to the oil and gas companies. Peterson noted that the Wilderness Act allows such exploration through 1983.

"We can reject such a request only for good reason," Peterson said, adding that the exploration request "puts us in a hard spot with the Bob Marshall Wilderness, one of the premium units in the wilderness system."

He said any response to the request had to be carefully reasoned. "If it isn't, we could get run over by a steamroller, particularly with the Energy Mobilization Board," Peterson said. "It can't be just an emotional response."

Wilderness defenders suggested, however, that they are willing to face any steamroller in their determination to protect the three areas involved.

"The Bob Marshall is the quintessence of wilderness," Dr. Arnold Bolle, newly-elected president of the Montana Wilder-



Photo copyright 1978 by Ann and Myron Sutton

THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS, over 1 million acres of undisturbed mountains, forests, and rivers, is the proposed site for setting off explosives in search of oil and gas.

ness Association, said. "We have to accept the challenge of protecting it as a major endeavor of the 1980s."

Bolle, now retired, is former dean of the School of Forestry at the University of Montana and was chairman of the "Bolle Committee" that conducted a critical inquiry that led to changes in management policies on the Bitterroot National Forest in the early 1970s.

NO OIL TO BE FOUND?

Dr. David Alt, a geologist, suggested that even though the oil and gas industry points to the Rocky Mountain "Overthrust Belt" as the country's most promising source of oil, the facts indicate otherwise.

He said that drilling throughout other parts of the Overthrust area has been mostly fruitless. "My guess is that there is no profitable oil in the Bob Marshall," he said but added that other geologists disagree. "You have to drill to prove," Alt conceded.

Alt likened the exploration proposal to a last gasp effort. "We have to ask why (the Bob Marshall area) is still undrilled after 125 years," he said. "All these years it has been regarded by the industry as one of the least promising areas to drill."

He said the overthrust structure in the Bob Marshall area is extremely complex and broken up.

"It's probable that there's some oil there, but no evidence there will be much," he said. "It's likely that any oil trap will be small, expensive and difficult to find. It's not a place you'd like to invest to drill unless you have obscene profits you have to invest somewhere."

The Denver company is an exploration firm and would not be involved in any subsequent mineral leases. The information it would gather would be sold to companies interested in possible gas and oil extraction.

According to the company's proposal, the explosions would knock leaves off trees within eight feet of the blast and clear forest floor material directly beneath the mounted explosives. The company expected to complete the work in about 100 days and predicted no lasting damage to trees, shrubs or the ground.

"NATURE'S GREATEST CREATIONS"

MWA board member and panelist Elizabeth Smith of Bozeman assailed her fellow panelists, the Forest Service and those who want to conduct seismic blasting in the Bob Marshall.

"Why drill or explore at all? Why destroy this place I love best in the world for a week's worth of oil and gas? Why defile something we have fought to protect over long, long years?" she asked.

"Our title 'Wilderness Under Siege' leads to some interesting questions," Smith said. "Why is it that destroying man's greatest creations, such as works of art, is considered criminal, while destroying nature's greatest creations, such as the Rocky Mountain Front, is considered objective, or balanced, or practical?"

She said that allowing explosions and drilling operations on the Rocky Mountain Front is — despite whatever restraints federal agencies impose — "like slashing the face of the Mona Lisa."

Dale A. Burk is a freelance writer from Missoula, Mont. and a columnist for the Missoulian.



Montana Department of Highways photo

NATIONAL BISON RANGE grasses must be managed, just as the bison themselves, to be sure a healthy diversity of vegetation survives.

Biologists herd beetles where the buffalo roam

by Betsy Bernfeld

It would seem that 400 head of buffalo along with whitetail and mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and a few Rocky Mountain goats would be enough to keep any wildlife biologist busy. But the managers of the National Bison Range in northwest Montana claim one of their most important jobs is herding a healthy population of beetles and gall flies.

The habitat of the buffalo is 19,000 acres of grassland interspersed with park-like forested areas. The grasses are generally classed as "short," though most reach about mid-thigh. More than 50 species of grass are mixed with an even greater variety of showy wildflowers.

Maintaining this natural grassland is not as easy as building a fence or controlling the amount of grazing. The land has to be protected from "invaders" — plants that thrive in areas disturbed by roads, overgrazing, or other activities.

Roads within the range, buffalo wallows and gopher diggings provide footholds for the invaders, and from there, they encroach upon the growing space for grass and other forage plants. Invaders from surrounding farmlands and towns impose more pressure on the range.

When the weeds get out of hand, the managers invoke the insects.

HUNGRY FOR GOATWEED

Goatweed is one of the main problem invaders on the range. In Europe, it is called St. Johnswort because it was said to bloom on June 24, St. John the Baptist's Day.

Among the goatweed of southern Europe some tiny chrysalina beetles were discovered that had voracious appetites for the weeds and apparently nothing else. In 1944, these beetles were introduced into California, where 2.3 million acres were infested by goatweed, and they quickly reduced the weeds by 95 percent.

Chrysalina beetles were introduced on the bison range in the early 1950s. While the results were never as spectacular as in California, they did seem to keep the

When the weeds get out of hand, the managers invoke insects.

goatweed in check. Then a few years ago, the beetle population took an unexplained, drastic plunge. The following spring the increase in goatweed was equally drastic.

Plans were made for a helicopter herbicide spraying program. However, this past summer and fall, for the first time in many years, great numbers of beetles were observed hard at work on the goatweed. The helicopter never got off the ground.

Managers of the bison range also have had to deal with musk thistle in the past few years. *Rhinocyllus confusus*, a weevil, is their weapon. These insects were obtained from France and Italy by the Beneficial Insect Introduction Lab in Albany, Calif., and in 1969 were introduced in Montana in the Gallatin Valley near Bozeman.

SENSITIVE WEEVILS

This year 6,000 of the weevils were brought to the bison range, and the results have been promising. Last fall in the thistle stands monitored, both seeds and seed heads were being consumed.

The only drawback has been that the weevils can tolerate very little disturbance. Thistles along the tour route through the range, where there is a great deal of traffic and dust, have not been damaged much by the weevils.

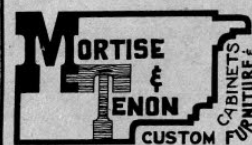
The two other noxious weeds that periodically cause problems on the range are yellow toadflax (sometimes called wild snapdragon) and spotted knapweed. No biological controls are known for toadflax, but a knapweed gall fly has been effective in other parts of the country. About 600 of the flies were released on the range in 1975, but they seemed to have little effect. If a flare-up in the knapweed population should recur, the managers of the range plan to try the gall flies again.

"A grassland is harder to manage than a forest area," said Hugh Null, assistant

manager of the bison range. "Management must be more fine-tuned because everything can change so quickly."

To maintain this grassland in top condition, "We'd rather rely on biological controls, period," he said. Null and other bison range managers are struggling now to establish a steady, reliable population of weed-eating insects. "Eventually," Null said, "we'd like to get to the point where people can come pick our weevils for their own yards."

Betsy Bernfeld is a freelance writer in Wilson, Wyo. Research for this article was paid for in part by donations to the HCN Research Fund.



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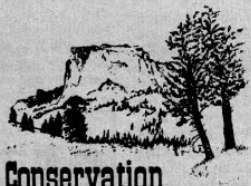
6-High Country News-Dec. 28, 1979



Photo from the FDR Library Collection
AT LEFT, Franklin D. Roosevelt at the dedication of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1940.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Fending off nature's bill collector with planning



Conservation
 pioneer series

© by Peter Wild

A fusillade from 11 guns made the holiday crowd flinch as Theodore Roosevelt's caravan chugged into view out of the high desert canyons. Overweight and still bubbling about an African trophy-hunting expedition of the previous year, the former chief executive traveled to the Arizona Territory in March 1911 to dedicate a dam on the Gila River named in his honor.

Twenty-two years after Theodore Roosevelt looked proudly on his namesake dam, his fifth cousin laid a hand on the family's Dutch Bible and became president of a despairing nation. A quarter of the work force — 13 million people — had no jobs. Factories stood idle; every bank in the country had closed. In Europe, Hitler and Mussolini were rallying their people from economic sloughs with Fascism, but in America listless and hungry men shuffled through the streets. Some feared that

the nation was tottering toward revolution.

Economic theorists still debate the causes of the Great Depression. Though they were international and complex, there is little doubt that prolonged abuse of nature contributed heavily to the near collapse of the world's most technologically advanced nation. Stewart Udall, secretary of the interior under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, described the process: "The economic bankruptcy that gnawed at our country's vitals after 1929 was closely related to a bankruptcy of land stewardship. The buzzards of the raiders had, at last, come home to roost, and for each bank failure there were land failures by the hundreds. In a sense, the Great Depression was a bill collector sent by nature."

"It seemed every field in western Kansas began to move," testifies Vance Johnson chronicling the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Across America's wheat lands,

once-prosperous watched in despair as their rich prairie soil blew away. Children lost their way home from school in the dust. The clouds rose to thousands of feet, then drifted eastward to cast pall over Baltimore and New York. Meanwhile, in the West ranchers formed their cowboys into firing squads. In one mass slaughter near Fort Worth, they shot 61,000 emaciated cattle in less than six weeks.

Millions of acres across the country lay stripped of trees, flooding and eroding from generations of misuse, producing a rural poverty that deepened the economic lethargy of the cities. The new president had inherited near chaos.

One of a long line of Knickerbocker aristocrats, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's father, James, busied himself building baronies in steamships, coal, railroads. His wife, Sara, augmented the Roosevelt wealth with the Delano shipping fortune. On their Hyde Park estate overlooking the Hudson River, the Roosevelts lived in Victorian gentility.

Born in 1882, their son grew up bright and full of energy, accepting his birthright as a matter of course. He spurred his Welsh pony around the estate and sailed his father's yacht. His parents took him abroad so often that he acquired a foreign accent. He went to exclusive Eastern schools, Groton and Harvard.

"It would have seemed preposterous," puzzles Roosevelt biographer Frank Freidel, "to believe that this stripling, almost too high-toned for Groton, would in another generation become a new Bryan, a professed champion of the common man." Yet in the conservation field, George Bird Grinnell, Gifford Pinchot and Robert Marshall all used inherited wealth to promote the common good through liberal causes. Families of Roosevelt's class gave at least lip service to democratic ideals, ideals that an occasional tradition-breaking upstart took seriously.

At 13, Franklin mused on his own heritage: "Some of the famous Dutch families in New York have today nothing left but their name.... One reason of the virility of the Roosevelts is this very democratic spirit. They have never felt that because they were born in a good position they could put their hands in their pockets and succeed. They have felt, rather, that...there was no excuse for them if they did not do their duty by the community...." With the benefit of hindsight, it appears that Franklin already was on the road to the New Deal.

Eyebrows shot up in Knickerbocker drawing rooms when at the age of 29 the scion left his job with a Wall Street law firm and announced his campaign for the New York senate. For Democrat Roosevelt it seemed a futile undertaking in the heavily Republican county. Yet in unpatrician style he rented a red Maxwell, and, flags flying from the fenders, he bumped over country roads to pump the hands of corn-husking farmers. As it turned out, his opponents squabbled among themselves, throwing the election to the young attorney.

In Albany, Roosevelt irreverently bucked his own party's machine, the infamous Tammany Hall, by championing progressive reforms. Then in 1913 Woodrow Wilson rewarded the New Yorker's support during the presidential election by

appointing him assistant secretary of the Navy.

Throughout World War I he performed his duties with such characteristic efficiency — and attention to his growing public image — that the Democratic convention of 1920 nominated him for vice president. Despite the landslide for Republican Warren G. Harding, tall and suave Roosevelt had gained invaluable nationwide exposure. The polio that crippled him for the rest of his life struck in 1921, but it didn't rob him of the high spirits and genuine warmth that later helped restore America's confidence during the bleak Depression years.

Remaining politically active during his convalescence, in 1928 he ran for governor of New York — again against an unfavorable tide for a Democrat. Voters looked with skepticism on a man who, for all his abilities, campaigned in leg braces. Presidential candidate Al Smith shot back at his friend's detractors, "A governor does not have to be an acrobat." As a political worker noted, Roosevelt's "broad jaw and upthrust chin, the piercing, flashing eyes," drew attention away from his infirmity. Smith lost, but Roosevelt won by a comfortable margin. Democrats began thinking of him as a possibility for the presidential race of 1932.

The governor of the Empire State pleased farmers with his work for rural tax reform and consumers generally with his efforts to cut the cost of public utilities. The rest of the country, stunned by the Depression, took note of New York. While Herbert Hoover sat hidebound in the White House, Governor Roosevelt was rallying his administrative machinery to provide relief for his state. Mildly progressive until then, he was learning the value of innovation. In the 1932 presidential campaign he easily toppled the incumbent.

FDR's slow shift from Hyde Park patrician to New Dealer owes much to the influence of cousin Theodore Roosevelt. Franklin, 24 years TR's junior, grew up watching robust "Uncle Ted," as he sometimes called him, become one of America's most popular presidents. As a young visitor to the White House, Franklin was entertained by TR's rollicking table talk. He later courted TR's niece Eleanor — an idealist, and influential in her own right — who was given away at their wedding by the president himself.

The men often shared a common rhetoric. FDR's words — "I am fighting as I always have fought, for the rights of the little man as well as the big man — for the weak as well as the strong, for those who are helpless as well as for those who can help themselves" — might have come from the mouth of colorful Uncle Ted.

As for conservation, from their youths both loved the outdoors. TR's main contribution lay in preserving what was left of wild America by creating government reserves. The job of the second President Roosevelt was to restore the abused land, to expand and add more sophisticated details to his cousin's unfulfilled plans for federal resource management.

A NATIONAL HYDE PARK

Patrician FDR understood stewardship — understood the significance of an America overgrazed, overfarmed, and carelessly logged. While still in his 20s, Franklin had assumed responsibility for restoring Hyde Park, the family farmstead sapped by years of overproduction. As a remedy, he planted its depleted soils in trees — Norway pine, poplar, hemlock — "in the hope that my great grandchildren

will be able to try raising corn again — just one century from now."

For the new president, well-managed, thriving Hyde Park represented a utopia in miniature: his ecological dream was to reshape worn-out America in its image.

With the country in disarray, Roosevelt had plenty of opportunity for reshaping. FDR gathered a cadre of bright, often young, specialists about him, eager to try out their new ideas. In the first hundred days of his administration, the president met the Depression with bold changes, massive federal programs designed to put people back to work and start the rusted wheels of the economy turning. In contrast to Herbert Hoover's aloofness, Roosevelt proceeded with flair, humor, and self-confidence. "Reporters," says historian Arthur Schlesinger, "took from his press conferences images of urbane mastery, with the president sitting easily behind his desk, his great head thrown back, his

"In a sense, the Great Depression was a bill collector sent by nature."

—Stewart Udall, former Secretary of Interior

smile flashing or his laugh booming out in the pleasure of thrust and riposte."

FDR's schemes brought results. And, whether they reached out to pluck the jobless from bread lines and put them to work building roads or sent out teams of social workers to correct children's nutritional deficiencies, they set a precedent for government planning that would affect the life of every American thereafter.

His proclivity for planning extended to his conservation policies. They ranged from game law reform to pollution control, from soil conservation to expansion of national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. Roosevelt's immediate goal was to provide jobs while mending the land. The president also took the long view: The nation could avoid such unnecessary bankruptcy as the Dust Bowl through permanent programs of resource care.

TVA, CCC: REVITALIZING

His administration's most striking example of the integrated approach is the Tennessee Valley Authority, a mammoth project focussed on seven states. Forest fires, floods and tuberculosis plagued the region. Years of unrestrained lumbering and farming had left the people in the drainage basin of the Tennessee River with the lowest incomes, the most ramshackle housing, the poorest diets — and the least hope — of any area in the nation.

A series of dams on the Tennessee provided jobs and eventually abundant electricity to the undeveloped area. The dams curbed flooding, and locks opened the river to navigation. To boost agriculture, TVA developed a fertilizer plant at Muscle Shoals. The TVA administration not only sponsored development of recreational sites and reforestation of bare hillsides, it helped combat malaria and provided library services.

In order to revitalize the political processes, the planning was undertaken with the cooperation of local governments. TVA restored the land while giving prosperity a chance to take hold again according to Roosevelt's ideals of a rural, Jeffersonian democracy.

Another program brought immediate relief to cities as well as to the countryside.

Enrolling unemployed youths from blighted urban areas, the Civilian Conservation Corps sent young men into hundreds of forest camps. They fought fires, planted trees, built much of the trail system now in use on our national parks and forests, and improved watersheds — helping to pay off the overdue debt to nature.

While learning construction trades, the CCC men received \$30 a month, but much of their benefit was intangible. They were strangers to the wilderness, to ice on the morning drinking water and forests that went on endlessly drainage after drainage. Some couldn't take it. Rattled by quiet nights interrupted by hooting owls and wailing coyotes, they escaped back to the jangle of subways and the comforting noises of the streets.

For most, however, the experience was a revelation. One testified, "I weighed about 160 when I went there, and when I left I was about 190. It made a man of me all right." Another, full of nostalgia, promised himself, "Some day when these trees I planted grow large I want to go back and look at them."

Other agencies enlisted professionals for Roosevelt's multifaceted approach to land restoration. The Soil Conservation Service, concerned with controlling erosion, sent out teams to instruct growers on the techniques of crop rotation, terracing and contour plowing. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration, responsible for striking a balance between agricultural production and market demand, also stipulated that farmers benefiting from its programs practice soil conservation. A "permanent long-range planning commission," the National Resources Board, received a broad presidential mandate to peer 500 years into the future and "put the physical development of the country on a planned basis."

DISAGREEMENTS

None of the herculean jobs were accomplished without the usual bumps and grinds

of politics, struggles with Congress, interagency jealousies, and disagreements among the planners themselves. Occasionally, there were dramatic feuds.

At the turn of the century the Department of Interior had transferred the national forests to the Department of Agriculture. But Interior now and then coveted its former woodlands. Harold Ickes, one of Roosevelt's most enthusiastic cabinet members, developed grand designs for his agency. He wanted to turn Interior into an all-encompassing Department of Conservation — a superagency that would include the national forests in its fold.

Over in Agriculture, Secretary Henry Wallace quite naturally resisted the campaign for transfer that Ickes promoted. When aging Gifford Pinchot, first head of the Forest Service, jumped into the fray on Wallace's behalf, Ickes dealt the old forester a hefty blow by calling him "the Lot's-wife of the conservation movement." Returning kind for kind, Pinchot drew on current events to label Ickes "the American Hitler."

The combatants broke their lances on the issue for years, while Roosevelt stood placidly on the sidelines. He had a keen administrative sense. The running battle kept the two agencies busy proving their worth by straining to outstrip each other in conservation work. While internecine feuds and wrangles with Congress burst out periodically, streams across America began to run clear again: crops were growing where sand dunes once buried farmers' fences.

Nevertheless, some conservationists had misgivings. They saw engineers waving on bulldozers to reshape entire watersheds, CCC boys blasting unneeded roads into the wilderness and formerly unemployed artists painting tableaux on new buildings in the national parks. Was such

business really conservation — or was it conservation run amuck?

As the doubters saw it, government agencies develop a destructive momentum. Their prestige is based on the number of dams, visitor centers and parking lots they build. Aldo Leopold reflected on the intricate workings of the biosphere as contrasted with the federal programs begun in Roosevelt's day. He argued in *A Sand County Almanac* (1949) that "We are remodeling the Alhambra with a steam-shovel, and we are proud of our yardage." For all the good it can accomplish, technological civilization seems unable to resist "land doctoring," as Leopold called it, that leads to "derangements" in nature.

Bearing out Leopold's fears, well-intentioned government programs have created unforeseen results that nag the nation. Air pollution, crime and motorized crowding now plague our national parks. Electricity from dams on the Colorado River has spurred the economy of Los Angeles, but it also encouraged the city to sprawl into what many people today regard as a smog-shrouded urban monster. The Tennessee Valley Authority, for all the relief it provided decades ago, now is one of the nation's largest users of strip-mined coal. And it has dutifully followed the urgings of industry and government to construct nuclear generating plants.

Roosevelt's vision of a healthy land gave conservation a strategic boost at a critical time. However, concerned with the immediate problems of unemployment and land restoration, he did not see all the implications of his plans. As was true in his cousin's case, the programs he spawned have led to excesses promoted by an entrenched, often industry-backed bureaucracy. Because of this, most of the conservation progress since FDR's administration has resulted from pressures exerted from outside, rather than from within, the federal government. *W*



Photo from the FDR Library Collection

TALKING with homesteader Steve Brown at Jamestown, N.D., about the drought in 1936.

8-High Country News — Dec. 28, 1979



NOTCH PEAK

NOTCH PEAK unacclaimed

Ph

Scenery in Utah's canyon country and mountain areas is widely acclaimed. At the same time, Utah's basin and range lands, covering roughly the western third of the state, are practically unknown.

This 20 million-acre enclave of Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense and state-owned lands is currently being evaluated as a home for power plants and MX missiles. In the meantime, however, sightseers or recreationists who are not deterred by dirt roads and an absence of people and services, will find unique and outstanding natural features such as Notch Peak hiding in Utah's "wastelands."

Notch Peak, a 9,725-foot landmark located 40 miles west of Delta, Utah, is the highest point of the House Range. Its north-facing fault scarp, a 3,000-foot sheer precipice, is some 600 feet higher than Zion National Park's famous Great White Throne and, in fact, is comparable in size to Yosemite's El Capitan. Unfortunately for the big-wall climber, the loose shales and limestones that compose the awesome face of Notch Peak rule out direct assaults. The mountain can easily be scaled from any other angle.

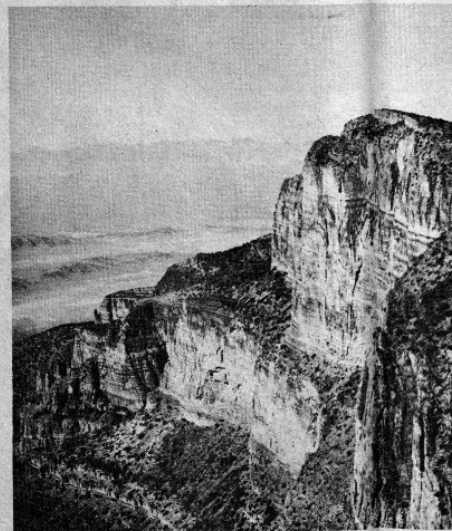
According to a summit register placed by the Wasatch Mountain Club in 1963, an average of only nine people per year make the trip to the top, a tribute to Notch Peak's

anonymity, and not an indication of the difficulty in reaching the summit. Hikers are cautioned to carry water since there are no perennial sources in this desert environment. Topographic maps (Notch Peak Quadrangle) should also be consulted for approach routes.

Geologic studies have identified rock formations on Notch Peak's summit that are identical with those on the valley floor, one vertical mile below, indicating that the range was formed by a massive uplift. In fact, groans from the fault that produced the range are occasionally heard today, audible evidence that Notch Peak is still growing.

Pure stands of bristlecone pines are well established on the dry, windswept slopes and ridges above 9,000 feet. So far as is known, these particular trees have neither been scientifically described nor their age calculated, although many twisted and gnarled specimens appear to be very old. A tree in a similar environment in the Snake Range, 40 miles to the west, was sawed down in 1964 and found to be about 5,000 years old, older than California's "Methuselah" tree by 400 years.

The Notch Peak area is public land, but no trails or other recreational developments of any kind are found here. Notch Peak was recently designated one of BLM's first wilderness study areas.



VIEW of the Tule Valley from t

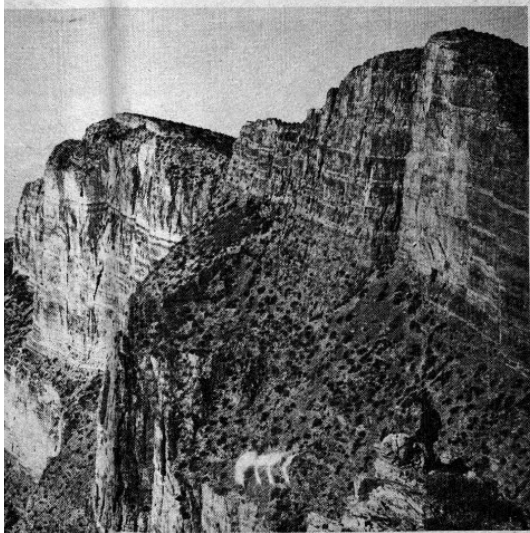


HIKING in a bristlecone pine forest

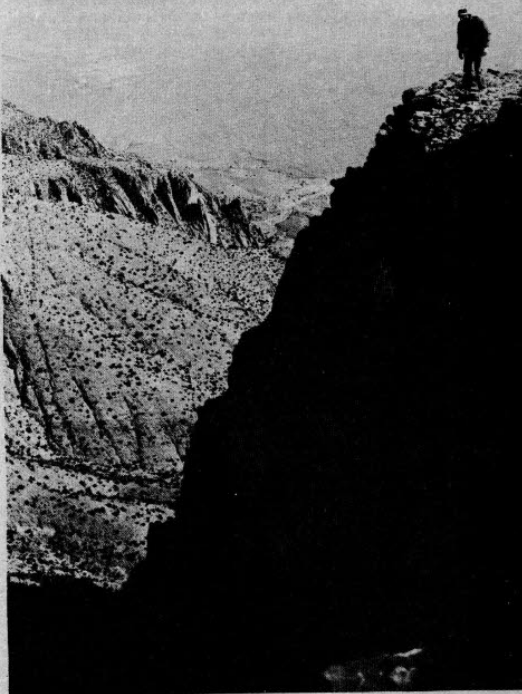
CH PEAK

nacclaimed geologic wonder

Photos and text by Mike Young



W of the Tule Valley from the sheer cliffs that dominate the House Range



10-High Country News — Dec. 28, 1979

ENERGY

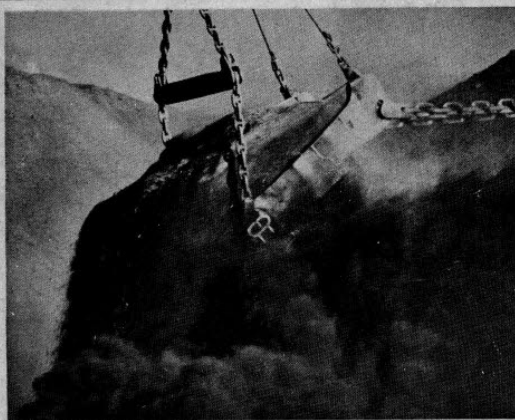


Photo by Gordon Anderson

Hot Line



Across the nation and around the world

KENNEDY RAIDS MOBIL. When he isn't trying to break up the big energy conglomerates, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) finds other ways to do them damage: such as stealing advertising whiz Herbert Schmetz from the Mobil Corp. Schmetz, who fashioned Mobil's million-dollar defense of oil industry practices in now-familiar editorial-page ads, took time off from his oil industry job last month to work for Kennedy's presidential campaign. His timing was right: Mobil had just been hit by Department of Energy charges that it had overcharged for gasoline by \$274.6 million between 1973 and 1976. Perhaps Schmetz felt it was easier to explain Chappaquiddick than oil prices and profits.

GEORGES BANKS FACE DRILLING. It may be hard to imagine 660,000 acres of land in the United States that has never been explored for minerals, gas, or oil. But it exists — underwater. The Georges Bank, on the continental shelf off the Massachusetts coast, has been opened to bidding for oil and gas drilling leases by a federal court decision. The First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston upheld a lower court ruling rejecting the objections of environmentalists. Massachusetts fishermen, who have caught cod, scallops and haddock in the area for generations, fear the drilling, for an estimated 123 billion barrels of oil, will destroy their livelihood.

JAPAN SCOUTS WESTERN COAL. The market for coal in this country may have been soft for a year or two, but new outlets are expected to open up soon abroad — especially in Japan. Utah energy developers, on the verge of massive new coal-mining projects in that state, predict markets for the coal on the West Coast and overseas. Japan, which presently gets its coal from Australia, South Africa and the Soviet Union, is trying to diversify its sources and is expected to have a large coal deficit in the mid-1980s. Several Japanese companies, including Mitsui, Mitsubishi, and Marubeni, have sent representatives to explore the American coal market.

INSIDE SKINNY ON WOOD. A Minnesota physician is warning that the comeback of woodburning stoves in this country may mean big business for dermatologists. Dr. Robert Goltz warns that intense heat from wood stoves can cause a brown discoloration of the skin. The discoloration, caused by infrared rays, is a precancerous condition, said Goltz.

COAL DUTIES OUTLINED. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the Office of Surface Mining, and the U.S. Geological Survey will not be stepping on each other's toes in the coal fields any more, if a plan announced by Interior Secretary Cecil B. Andrus has the desired effect. In a 43-page document, available from any of the three agencies, Andrus outlined responsibilities for land use planning, leasing, reclamation, abandonment, and joint meetings and hearings.

SOLAR DISHES FUNDED. The U.S. Department of Energy is providing \$1.2 million to General Electric Space Division to build three dish-shaped solar collectors at a National Aeronautics and Space Administration site in Edwards, Calif. The collectors will channel heat to a heat absorber, which will run an engine and generator. DOE officials say the experiment could provide electrical energy to small, rural communities.

ENERGY ADVISORY GROUP FORMED. A Local Government Energy Policy Advisory Committee has been formed by the U.S. Department of Energy to provide local government input into national energy policy. From the Rocky Mountain region, representatives will include Veronica Murdock of Arizona; Delbert Sundberg, a Los Alamos, N.M., county councilman; Robert White, deputy mayor of Boulder, Colo.; and Lorna Wilkes, an independent energy consultant from Lander, Wyo.

COAL USE HEATING UP. The National Coal Association, an industry group, has forecast that coal use in 1983 will reach 893 million tons. That would be a rise of over 230 million tons from 1978. Electric utilities would use about 660 million tons under the NCA projection, and exports would rise to 59 million tons. NCA predicted production in Eastern mines of 582 million tons (up from 469 million in 1978) and production in Western mines of 305 million tons (up from 185 million in 1978).

Utah water conflict unites environmentalists, ranchers

A few years ago residents of Kane County, Utah, hung actor Robert Redford in effigy for his activities in the environmental field.

But recently Kane County ranchers and environmentalists have discovered they have at least one foe in common. Seven county residents and three national environmental groups have jointly filed a protest with the Interior Department against a coal strip mine proposed for southern Utah.

At one time most Kane County people equated power plants with prosperity. But now residents Leon S. and Caroline Lipincott, Jet Matkelpang, Cynthia Myers, Susan Hittson, Larry Little and Sylvan Johnson have decided that a strip mine in the Alton coal field could mean the end of their way of life.

The problem is water.

Johnson is a fourth generation Utah rancher and farmer who owns 1,400 acres of land 10 miles south of the proposed mine. He depends on springs and wells to stay in business. Matkelpang, another long-time rancher in the area, said, "Without a water supply the land is worthless."

The strip mine would supply two proposed power facilities: the 3,000 megawatt Harry Allen plant near Las Vegas and the 500 megawatt Warner Valley plant in Utah. Residents fear it would both dirty and dry up nearby streams and wells.

Also claiming the land is unsuitable for coal mining are Friends of the Earth, the Sierra Club and the Environmental Defense Fund. In a formal petition, the coalition told the Interior Department that the mine would "irreparably damage the hydrologic balance of the Alton area by destroying localized aquifers....Damaging these aquifers would destroy springs essential for wildlife and livestock in the af-

fected area." Mining would also muddy the area's surface streams, they said.

The petition, filed Nov. 28, is aimed at forcing the department's Office of Surface Mining to hold hearings on the suitability of coal mining in the Alton field. The petition process is outlined in OSM's strip mine regulations promulgated under the Surface Mining Act of 1977.

The environmentalists' concerns go beyond water. They fear that the facility would be an eyesore for tourists at Bryce Canyon National Park's Yovimpa Point Overlook, only three miles away. It would also, they say, add to the curtain of smog that is building in the once pristine public lands nearby, including eight national parks, 26 national monuments, three national recreation areas and 13 national forests. Dust from the 8,300-acre strip mine could reduce visibility from Bryce Canyon by 60 percent, according to the groups.

The petition cites strip mining regulations that forbid agencies from leasing federal coal where reclamation "is not technologically and economically feasible." The rules also protect important ecologic, historic, cultural, scientific and esthetic values, as well as the water supply and productivity of food and fiber products.

The project is one among many environmentalists oppose in their fight to preserve the canyon country of Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

In preparing an environmental impact statement on the Allen-Warner Valley Project, the Bureau of Land Management has developed a list of alternatives to the full project. One involves digging coal at Price, Utah, instead of at Alton. Building smaller plants or building one plant instead of two are other options being studied.



Photo by Reed L. Madsen

THINGS HAVE CHANGED in Kane County, Utah, since actor Robert Redford was hung and burned in effigy in April of 1976.

From the Source



The Rockies and Great Plains

FIGHT FUND CUT-OFF. Wyoming legislator Bob J. Burnett plans to propose a 12 percent tax on coal produced in the state to protect against any cut-off of federal funds. Burnett, responding to threats to cut the state's share of federal highway funds if Wyoming failed to enforce the 55 mph speed limit, said the tax would be in effect only when necessary to cover shortfalls in federal aid. He is considering expanding the proposal to cover other minerals that could be productively mined despite a small tax increase.

URANIUM MINE PLANNED. Using in situ mining techniques, Ogle Petroleum is planning to open a uranium mine in Bison Basin in southwestern Wyoming. Officials say the mine will be the largest in-situ uranium operation in the state. The company plans to produce 1 million pounds of uranium oxide, "yellowcake," annually at the site. In situ mining involves injection of a solution — in this case, sodium bicarbonate — into underground wells. The solution leaches out the uranium, which is then pumped to the surface for processing.

BOISE LOOKS AT GEOTHERMAL. Underground reservoirs of hot water may be tapped for space heating in Boise, Idaho, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. DOE, the city of Boise, and the Boise Warm Springs Water District are investing almost \$5 million in a pilot study of the feasibility of a city-wide system. Geothermal heating was widely used in Boise at the turn of the century, before cheap gas and electricity became available.

Regional network formed to help fight uranium development

Groups opposing uranium development in the West met in Denver Dec. 10-11 and formed a new organization, the Uranium Resource and Action Network. The network will open offices in Albuquerque, N.M., and Rapid City, S.D., to provide affiliated groups with information, coordinate regional citizen actions, and supply groups with training and technical assistance.

The two day meeting was attended by 47 representatives of Chicano, environmental, Indian and agricultural groups from nine Western states that oppose uranium development or are working to minimize its impacts.

The Eastman Foundation and the Youth Project funded the Denver organizational meeting. Future activities will be funded by several private foundations, according to Lynn Dickey, who organized the first meeting.

Groups included in the network include: Friends of the Earth and DNA Legal Services (of the Navajo Nation), which filed an unsuccessful suit to require a regional en-

ROSEBUD COAL GETS THE BRUSH.

What if they gave a coal lease auction and nobody came? That is exactly what happened this month when the U.S. Bureau of Land Management attempted to auction 14.8 million tons of coal in Rosebud County, Mont. Decker Coal Co., which has other mining operations in the area and was expected to lease the coal, lost interest when BLM set the minimum price for the lease at over \$5,000. Government coal has previously been leased at much lower prices, but BLM is attempting to raise prices to private market levels.

SOLAR, COAL FAVORED. More so than the rest of the country, Rocky Mountain residents want to see greater reliance on solar energy and coal for generating electricity, according to a recent poll by the Behavior Research Center of Phoenix, Ariz. In a survey of over 1,000 households in the eight Rocky Mountain states, the independent, non-partisan polling agency found that 78 percent wanted to see solar energy given a high priority, and 53 percent wanted coal-fired electric plants emphasized. Enthusiasm for oil was low: 77 percent would give it a low priority in the future, and natural gas was given a low rating by 53 percent of those polled. Nuclear energy was labeled high priority by 38 percent of those polled, and hydroelectric dams by 43 percent.

IPP TO USE UTAH COAL. Intermountain Power Project may use some Wyoming coal for its 3,000-megawatt power generating plant in southern Utah, according to IPP spokesmen, but no contracts have been signed. IPP officials suggested the possibility of Wyoming coal to Utah legislators, but, "we expect to give deference to Utah coal," spokesman Clark Layton told United Press International. However, Wyoming strip mined coal may be cheaper for IPP than underground coal from Utah, officials think, especially if Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus rejects a proposed IPP site in Wayne County, forcing project backers to locate further from the Utah coal fields and raising transportation costs.



COLSTRIP is expected to become the 11th largest city in Montana during construction of two additional coal-fired power plant units.

BOOMTOWN GOING UP. Approval of Colstrip 3 and 4, two 700-megawatt coal-burning power plants in southeastern Montana, means the town of Colstrip will grow around Montana Power Co.'s operations there. The city, expected to reach a peak population of 7,900 during plant construction, will rank 11th in population in the

state, according to MPC. The new Colstrip units will join two existing ones to produce 2.1 million kilowatts of power; 2,000 workers and their families live there now. Construction of 3 and 4 had been held up by air quality standards on the neighboring Northern Cheyenne Reservation prior to a recent okay by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

We'd like to join them

...BUT PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IS A YEAR ROUND JOB FOR High Country News. After all, neither Congress nor the energy companies hibernate when the bears do.



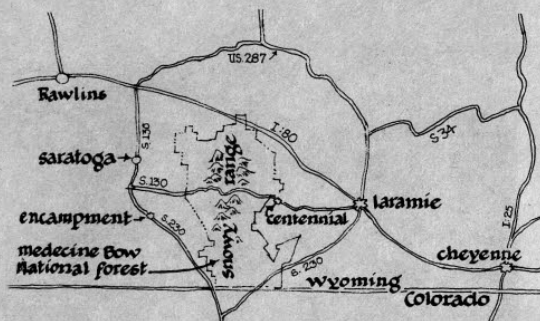
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12-High Country News — Dec. 28, 1979

Friends of old, slow Snowy road send SOS



by Philip White

LARAMIE, Wyo. — The Federal Highway Administration's proposed reconstruction of old, narrow State Highway 130 over the Snowy Range west of here seemed innocent enough to agency planners.

A 1970 Wyoming Highway Department survey of the structural adequacy and safety of state highways rated the topmost 13 miles of the Snowy Range road "well below the tolerable" level. The road has no shoulders and few turnouts. It curves around three 15-mile-per-hour switchbacks. More than one motorist impatiently ignoring the speed limits has careened into the ditch.

The FHWA expected little opposition to what the agency felt was a necessary, overdue project. But after the first public hearing five years ago, the highway-builders knew they had a hot one on their hands.

The \$6.5 million project has provoked what one FHWA engineer calls the greatest opposition ever generated against a highway administration proposal in Colorado, Utah or Wyoming. The opposition comes from citizens here who have formed "Save Our Snowies," a group dedicated to

protecting the terrain crossed by Highway 130.

As it climbs over the Medicine Bow Mountains, the highway passes the only expanse of fragile alpine tundra in southeast Wyoming. The 16,500-acre proposed Snowy Range wilderness just north of the highway is a land of sedge bogs, dwarf willows, moraine lakes, talus and wind-bent "elfin timber" or *Krummholz* firs. Ptarmigan and pikas make homes there and, in summer, deer and elk browse among wildflowers and marble boulders.

Highway 130 is the second-highest paved highway in Wyoming. At 10,840-foot Snowy Range Pass, it offers a stunning panorama of Colorado and Wyoming mountains, including the cirques, cliffs and lakes of 12,005-foot Medicine Bow Peak.

Abundant wind and snow force winter and spring closure of the road. As much as 120 inches of snow has been recorded top, where Sugarloaf campground sometimes is snowed in until August.

FHWA says "there are no plans" to keep the road open during winter "with or without the proposed road."

SOS, a loose amalgamation of conservationists and fiscal conservatives, claims a wider, faster and straighter road would

bring more trucks and traffic, would be less safe and would detract from the scenic and natural values of the wilderness.

Extolling the virtues of a "bit of historic mountain road beautiful enough to be driven slowly," SOS spokesman Robert Righter, a University of Wyoming Western historian, said FHWA's plan is akin "to building a road for dinosaurs" since the chief beneficiaries, "gas-devouring large recreational vehicles, will probably be extinct by the time the road is finished" in about 1987.

The wagon road over Snowy Range Pass was first paved in 1938 by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, forerunner of FHWA. All but the highest 13-mile section was rebuilt in the 1960s. The U.S. Forest Service and the Wyoming Highway Department have been pressing hard to complete the work.

In 1975, a number of Laramie citizens protested that the old road had "character" and objected to the first FHWA plan, which called for a new road with significant alignment changes. In early 1978, SOS demanded that FHWA produce an environmental impact statement, something the regional office had never done before.

In April 1979, the agency recommended a compromise plan following more closely the present alignment. The old, 20-foot-wide pavement would be completely removed, the east side switchbacks would be straightened and a new 32-foot-wide road with 30 pullouts and several parking areas would be built.

SOS STILL OBJECTS

SOS rejected the compromise, and 600 residents signed a petition calling for a hearing here. FHWA acceded, but the hearing was set for May 22, two days after university commencement, making attendance by students less likely.

Only four of the 130 people at the hearing supported the FHWA proposal. Most favored SOS's alternative, which called for maintaining the present road, adding shoulders where needed, constructing about seven turnouts and parking areas and designating the road a "scenic, slow-speed, limited-access highway."

On the other side of the range the next night, at Saratoga, Wyo., public sentiment strongly favored FHWA. "But they were not informed about our alternative," Righter said. "If they had known there was a compromise position between building an entire new road or doing nothing, I think many would have supported us."

Commenting on the proposal, the

Wyoming Game and Fish Department said "the higher speeds attained on a new road will undoubtedly result in more vehicle-animal collisions of all kinds."

Bob Arensdorf, environmental planning engineer with the FHWA in Denver, said the final recommendation has been submitted to regional administrator Dan Watt, and the final EIS should be released in January.

Arensdorf admitted that the majority of public response favored the SOS plan and said the agency has moved further toward the SOS position. "We've decided to follow the present alignment closer, even to retain the east side switchbacks," Arensdorf said. SOS claimed that taking out the switchbacks would ruin a delicate alpine meadow.

"The SOS people agreed at the hearing they would have no argument with building a new road if we followed the old road's alignment. We have an inadequate substructure on that old road, and it can't be maintained anymore," Arensdorf said.

Righter said his organization never agreed to building a new road. SOS concurs that improvements are necessary to make

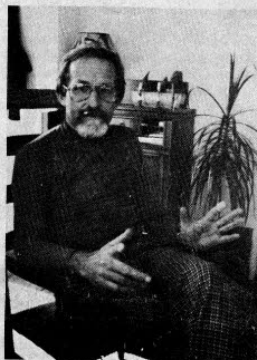


Photo by Phil White

ROBERT RIGHTER, a member of Save Our Snowies.

the road more relaxing for drivers and that some paved turnouts are needed to replace driver-made pull-offs which are harming vegetation and soils. "We feel our alternative addresses these problems at a much lower cost. Surely if we can put men on the moon we can build shoulders and turnouts and maintain that old road," Righter said.

BACKYARD VACATIONS

Arensdorf said a new road is necessary to safely handle future traffic volume. "Statistics show that a wider road is safer for the type and amount of use we will have. We believe the energy problem will cause people to visit nearer recreation centers instead of taking long vacations, and it will cause even more, not less, travel on the Snowy Range Road."

Righter claims the present road is safer. "I don't think FHWA really believes their own safety argument. They know that raising design speed from 25 to 45 greatly increases the likelihood of fatalities in accidents."

"During the past 10 years, no deaths have occurred on the 13-mile section while two have occurred on the reconstructed sections. We wonder how FHWA can improve upon the old road's record."

Alfred Atkins, FHWA highway safety engineer in Cheyenne, says the Snowy Range proposal has spawned more opposition than any other project in this region. Atkins remains convinced that the SOS plan would "do more damage to the land and cost more" than rebuilding the road entirely.



Wyoming Highway Department photo

SNOWY RANGE ROAD is closed by snow all winter. A proposal to improve the highway has caused the greatest opposition to a road project ever generated in the region, according to one federal highway official.

Western Roundup

High Country News
— Dec. 28, 1979-13

The West

Bill sets deadline for wilderness action

Rep. Thomas Foley (D-Wash.) has introduced a bill that environmentalists call "the most extreme anti-wilderness bill ever put before Congress."

The bill would set deadlines for Congress to decide whether to designate as wilderness national forest areas involved in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) or presently managed as primitive areas. If Congress did not meet the deadlines, the areas would automatically be permanently designated non-wilderness "notwithstanding any other provision of law."

Millions of acres would be affected by the bill, HR 6070, the "National Forest Multiple Use Management Act of 1980."

Areas that have been classified primitive areas and managed as wilderness would also be designated non-wilderness if Congress doesn't act before Jan. 1, 1984.

When introducing the bill, Foley said, "I am seeking to bring to a final resolution

the controversy surrounding the management of the roadless and undeveloped areas within the National Forest System."

Three national organizations, the Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth and the Sierra Club, are fighting the bill. Bruce Hamilton, Northern Plains representative for the Sierra Club, said that Foley's "meat ax approach" takes away Congress' prerogative to act on individual areas with adequate time for study and debate.

If Foley's bill becomes law, Congress would accept Forest Service recommendations for non-wilderness in 2,000 areas, which would instantly be committed to permanent non-wilderness status.

By Jan. 1, 1984, Congress would have to decide on any area recommended for wilderness, and by Jan. 1, 1987, on any area recommended for further planning. Areas not designated would automatically lapse into non-wilderness on that date under the bill.

Conservationists say wilderness issues should not be blanketed in a single nationwide bill. "Passage of Foley's bill" would deny conservationists the opportunity to work out area-specific solutions with their own representatives and senators," said the three groups fighting the bill.

Utah

Fallout policies blamed for Utah deaths

Some cancer cases and livestock losses in Utah may have been caused by a government policy in the 1950s and '60s to detonate experimental nuclear bombs at a Nevada test site only when the wind was blowing to the north or east, according to documents discussed in a *Deseret News* article.

The article quotes the transcript of a 1956 trial in which Utah ranchers claimed damage from the nuclear tests. A federal court judge ruled they had not proven that fallout caused the livestock losses.

During the trial, a witness quoted a U.S. military official as saying, "The clouds have to go that way. We can't let them go south. It would contaminate the Las Vegas area, possibly into Los Angeles."

The official, identified in the transcript as Col. Harting, said he had thought the towns would be evacuated, but they never were. "It is between all of us, these people know and we know, that the Groom area is dangerous. The people should not live there, especially during the test. I wouldn't live there by any means, and I certainly wouldn't want my family there," he is quoted as saying.

The witness, Daniel Sheahan, said that one test was detonated under a small thundercloud. "This cloud then soared right over our property, joined some other clouds, and it started to rain. And in the rain were large particles of fallout material, many of which were iron," he said. Radiation readings could not be taken on the particles because the equipment went off the scale, he said.

After some nuclear tests, Sheahan found cattle, horses and deer that had been burned on their backs by fallout.

The transcript of the 1956 trial surfaced during hearings held April 19 of this year by the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Witnesses at the hearing this year charged that the nuclear tests caused cancer in humans and death to livestock.

Colorado

BLM may stall Glenwood Canyon highway

The Bureau of Land Management may stall construction of a section of Interstate 70 through a scenic Colorado canyon, according to United Press International. Construction has been opposed by environmentalists who say a new four-lane highway is not necessary in Glenwood Canyon.

The BLM owns small pieces of the land through which the expanded highway would run, and the state director has requested a supplement to the revised impact statement on the project.

The Colorado Highway Department had planned to advertise for bids in December and start construction in 1980. However, the BLM wants more information on the environmental effect of enlarging the road from two lanes to four lanes by using two tiers.

New Mexico

Petrified wood, coal claims compete as BLM studies Bisti

The Bisti Badlands south of Farmington, N.M., have been designated as a wilderness study area by the Bureau of Land Management. Conservationists regard this as a major victory in the 15-year struggle to preserve the area, which is viewed by paleontologists and geologists as a treasure house (see HCN, 4-20-79).

Keith Rigby, a paleontologist with the BLM, commented, "This is one of four places on earth where the transition between dinosaurs and mammals is found. It is possibly the only place in the nation with petrified stumps the size of redwoods."



Photo by Martin Epp

PINGORA PEAK in the Popo Agie Primitive Area in Wyoming. Under a bill now being considered, the area would be declared non-wilderness if not acted on by Congress before Jan. 1, 1984.

Colorado

Denver's brown cloud shrouds Neb., too

Smog from Denver may be drifting as far as North Platte, Neb., 250 miles away, according to a National Weather Service spokesman. Harry Spohn said southwest-to-northwest winds may have carried the pollution west, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*.

When the wind does not blow, air pollution alerts are often called in Denver and elderly persons or those with heart or lung problems are asked to remain indoors.

Colorado legislators have until March to pass a bill to reduce automobile pollution or face cuts in federal funding. However, 27 legislators filed a suit early in December challenging the federal

government's attempt to force the state to enact an auto emission inspection law by using sanctions. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has threatened to cut off sewer and highway funds from Front Range cities.

The legislature adjourned in 1979 without enacting any emission control law after the senate and the house could not agree on a program. Since then, EPA Regional Administrator Roger Williams has voiced qualified approval of the bill passed by the senate, which the house did not approve. The house preferred requiring annual engine tuneups for all cars while the senate provided for emission inspections.

The badlands are part of 2.2 million acres, out of a total BLM acreage of 13 million acres in New Mexico, that will remain under consideration for eventual wilderness designation. BLM accelerated study of the Bisti area and two areas adjoining it because of minerals conflicts there.

Western Coal Corp. has held leases in the area since 1961. As a wilderness study area, the land will be administered in the area, the land will be protected from most forms of development until Congress makes its final decision. BLM will analyze

the resource conflicts and must report to the president before 1981.

Jean Herzegh, national chairman of the Sierra Club BLM Wilderness Task Force, calls the Bisti controversy "a classic example of conflicts in resource management. On the one hand you have the national energy crisis and the need for coal, and on the other, those who feel the area is significant and unique in many ways and should be preserved."

Over 1,300 comments were received by the BLM from the public regarding the Bisti Badlands, and 83 percent of them backed wilderness study area designation.

14-High Country News — Dec. 28, 1979



Bulletin Board



LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

As the 70s draw to a close,
Our demand for new energy grows
So they mine and they mill
And they breech and they spill
Will the 80s be plus des memes choses?

BLM WILDERNESS

A variety of activities, including oil and gas exploration, will continue on Bureau of Land Management lands during wilderness review under a policy announced by the agency in December. The policy will



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apply to the 56 million acres that are being studied for possible inclusion in the wilderness system. "We have made every attempt...to avoid any unnecessary impact on development activities, especially for energy resources," Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus said in announcing the new policy. Copies of the Interim Management Policy are available from the Bureau of Land Management State Offices and from the Director (430), Bureau of Land Management, 18th and C Sts., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

NATURAL GARDENING

Anyone with information on practical, ecologically sound methods of vegetable gardening is invited to participate in or contribute ideas to the Idaho Museum of Natural History. The museum staff is planning a conference this spring. Contact B. Robert Butler at (208) 236-3717, ISU Box 8183, Pocatello, Idaho 83209.

LIFE AFTER MINING

The University of Arizona will host a two-day workshop April 23-25 on re-establishing vegetation on mine tailings. The sessions, aimed at professionals in the hard-rock mining industry, will include "seeding and planting techniques," "species selection" and "irrigation alternatives." For more information contact: Mine Reclamation Center, Office of Arid Lands Studies, 845 North Park, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. 85719. (602) 626-2086.

CONSERVATION POSTERS

Free posters depicting children at play with the words "They will thank you for conserving energy," are available from the Department of Energy. Write ENERGY, Box 62, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830. Several conservation-related publications, education materials and fact sheets are also available at the same address.

OIL SHALE SYMPOSIUM

The third annual Oil Shale Conversion Symposium will be held Jan. 15-17 in Denver. It is sponsored by the Department of Energy. Contact J.H. Weber, Laramie Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 3395, University Station, Laramie, Wyo. 82071.

EARTH DAY '80

The National Citizens Committee for the Second Environmental Decade is sponsoring an Earth Day celebration for April 22, 1980. Earth Day '80 is planned to assess the achievements of the 1970s, explore ways that environmentalism has broadened since Earth Day 1970, and explore the future. Local communities are encouraged to plan their own celebrations. For more information, contact the Solar Lobby, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 293-2550.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

URAN FORMED

Uranium Resource and Action Network (URAN), a recently-formed alliance of groups working to control or abolish uranium development, is making contact with local citizen groups working in this field. For more information contact Paul Robinson, interim director, URAN, Box 4524, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106, or call (505) 242-4766.

WASTE ALERT CONFERENCES

Five national organizations are putting on workshops around the country to inform citizen groups of sound waste management practices, waste issues, public participation, and implementation on the state level of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Though sites for the conferences are yet to be announced, the meeting for the region that includes Nevada and Arizona will be held in May or June 1980, and the workshop for the Northern Rockies region, including Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and the Dakotas, will be in July or August 1980. For more information contact the Waste Project, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Other groups involved are the American Public Health Association, Environmental Action Foundation, the Izaak Walton League of America, and the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

NEW WITHDRAWAL REGS

Most public lands serve a multiplicity of uses. When land is set aside for a specific purpose, however, it is "withdrawn" from uses that conflict with the intended use. The Bureau of Land Management, in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, has proposed new procedures for making withdrawals. Copies of the proposed regulations are available from state offices of the BLM. Public comments are due March 3. They should be sent to the Director (210), Bureau of Land Management, 18th and C Sts., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

SOCIAL VALUES, SOLAR ENERGY

The Department of Energy's Solar Energy Research Institute has released a report called **Social Values and Solar Energy Policy: the Policy Maker and the Advocate**. The report explores how the solar energy public policy-maker views economic, environmental and social values and how those values differ from the solar advocate's. The report, SERI RR-51-329, is available from National Technical Information Services, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va. 22161 for \$5.25 per printed copy or \$3 for microfiche.



RAG BAGS AND APPLE BOXES

by Myra Connell

Most country people have always known how to "make do" with whatever materials were at hand. Ranch and farm people were recycling long before the recent trend. This was even more so during the Great Depression.

In those days apples and oranges still came from the market in wooden boxes. Although the wood was not of superior quality, it was durable and usually of soft workable pine. These crates were often re-used in many ways by the family handy man.

Housewives kept "rag bags" for saving out-grown or partially worn out garments for remodeling or for passing on. Times change. Fruit now comes packed in cardboard; garment makers in Taiwan, Korea or Hong Kong have largely out-moded the rag-bag.

However, there is one aspect of American life that hasn't changed. During the Great Depression, as now, children expected Santa at Christmas, empty though the purse might be.

Therefore, during those bleak 1930s my children's father and I noted the close approach of Christmas with anxiety. We had money for only the barest necessities, grocery staples such as flour, salt, cereals, sometimes sugar. Most of our food came from the farm land where we lived. But the thought of disappointed little

faces on Christmas morning was unbearable.

The rag bag yielded a large garment of lovely bright red virgin wool flannel. I ripped the seams with great care and pressed the pieces with sad-irons heated on the wood-burning kitchen range. A shirt for the six-year-old boy! I took an old shirt apart for a pattern. Working while he was at school or late at night by kerosene lamp light I carefully set the pieces together on the treadle-powered sewing machine. White pearl buttons, also salvaged, finished it off.

Our little girl had a dolly but its clothing had long ago "gone by the wayside." Perhaps a new dress would make it seem like a new dolly. The trusty rag bag came to the rescue once more with some pretty pink stuff. A few hours more at the sewing machine after the children were in bed resulted in a dainty doll's dress, slip and panties, trimmed with a scrap of lace.

Meanwhile, Father did his stuff. The wood of the fruit crates became a doll's cradle. I added mattress, pillow and blanket.

On another Christmas the apple boxes became a toy kitchen cabinet and a little girl's chest of drawers that my daughter treasures to this day.

A few strokes of Taylor's saw and plane on a box-end would produce a toy boat; more time and patience would bring forth a full-rigged sailing ship.

Our kids always had Christmas. May it always be so for all kids everywhere, even if it must be a recycled one.



by Steve Smith, Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, Montana, 1979. \$14.95, cloth, 278 pages. Photographs.

Review by Peter Wild

The lyrical title of this book anticipates a lyrical, informative read. In 1919 the federal government first hired pilots to spot fires over its Western forests. Back then, aircraft were skittish machines, collections of wood, steel and flapping canvas often held together with baling wire or whatever else was handy.

The public looked on the men who flew them — demonic in their goggles and trailing scarves — as not wholly sane. Perhaps they weren't. And not until the 1930s did airplanes win acceptance as tools of conservation. They began by supplying backwoods ranger stations and assisting biologists with game counts. They went on to become flying fire trucks, dropping smoke jumpers and fire retardant.

As it happened, pilot and inventor Bob Johnson made much of this possible. A high school dropout with a wife named Bubbles, in 1926 he started "a gritty little aviation concern," as the author describes it, with money from bootlegging. Over the years, though, Johnson Flying Service of Missoula, Mont., became renowned

throughout the West for the daring, inventiveness and dependability of its pilots and planes. It was the heroic age of flying, spiced with risk and the thrill of doing something new. Some of Johnson's men loved the work so much that they spent day and night at the airport, sleeping on cots in a hangar.

This book is the story of the Johnson company, of its breathtaking rescues, its crashes, its sometimes kooky approach to work contracted with the U.S. Forest Service. Bob Johnson prided himself on his accurate airdrops. He loved nothing better when making a run over a camp of fire fighters than to bombard the cook's table with free-falling sleeping bags. It's also the story of the OX-5 Swallows, the Travelairs, and the Ford Tri-Motors — the stouthearted planes of the early days. Lovers of aircraft will feel a tug at their hearts just leafing through the many old photographs.

But mostly this is the story of Johnson and the men who surrounded him. Dick Johnson, later killed in a crash while on an elk count near Jackson Hole, Wyo., once kidded his brother, "There you go, worrying about money and losing a wing now and then." Brother Bob did worry about money, sometimes frantically. Beating the bushes for flying business during the lean Depression years, he developed a credo: "Try this, try that, try everything."

One of his tries was a school for mountain flying. Training young pilots in the art of landing on the short airstrips of the backcountry, he offered them terse advice with a compelling, symbolic ring to it: "Land short, boys, because whatever's behind you is wasted."

One essential paragraph bears quoting here because it illustrates the crustiness that Johnson passed on to the men who flew for him. "I've flown Travelairs for

Bob Johnson loved nothing better than to bombard the cook's table with free-falling sleeping bags.

thousands of hours without using any parachutes. You can't use a parachute in them anyway because the cargo is loaded to the roof and you can't get out. But why get out? If you can't fly the biggest piece back, then ride it down. Fly what you have left to the ground and land the damn thing.

The Complete Handbook for the Citizen Lobbyist

HOW YOU CAN INFLUENCE CONGRESS

"The complete operating manual for the citizen lobbyist. Written by one of the few people to ever practice the art of the lobbyist. The book will get you on a footing reaching that of the respected professional lobbyist who too often gets too much attention from legislators elected to represent us all. How the law follows. Capital belongs on the shelf of every concerned citizen."

George Alderson, President and Founder, Friends of the Earth

George Alderson and Everett Sentman

by George Alderson and Everett Sentman, E.P. Dutton, New York, 1979. \$15.95, cloth; \$9.95, paper, 360 pages.

Review by Peter Wild

Activism for most of us takes place in rather limited spheres: writing letters to congressmen or rising to speak at public

Even in the trees, land it and walk away...."

Passengers arriving at Missoula's airport no longer are greeted by "Johnson Flying Service" emblazoned across a hangar. The legendary business is gone, and the book's final chapters tell of its recent, sad passing, though at 86 Bob Johnson remains active.

At \$14.95 for an oversized, well-illustrated book, the price is attractive. It may be ordered, postage paid by the publisher, from Mountain Press Publishing Company, P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, Montana 59806.

hearings. **How You Can Influence Congress** is for people who want to expand their effectiveness as well as their activities. The subtitle sums up its thrust: **The Complete Handbook for the Citizen Lobbyist.** The advice inside, compiled by two authors, a former lobbyist for The Wilderness Society and a publisher's consultant, is about as complete and hard-headed as one might hope to find in a how-to book on the subject.

It is divided into topics spanning the obligatory "how to write better letters" to the more sophisticated "what to do on the first visit to your congressman's Washington office." Because of the range, the book will prove a handy reference for citizen groups. In order to get a feel for its scope and detail, let's take a few for instances.

For months you've been pounding away at the typewriter, encouraging your representative to support a wilderness bill. It makes sense to shoot off carbon copies of the letters to your senators, right? Alas, if you do that you're wasting your time. Rightly or wrongly, legislators take such a dim view of carbons that they don't bother reading them. "At the risk of getting writer's cramp," advise Alderson and Sentman, "write to each senator and congressman individually, because it is the only way to be taken seriously and to get a good answer."

Or let's say you've wrangled a precious five minutes in the congressman's office. You arrive armed with your wilderness facts, yet all this powerful person wants to do it seems is exchange pleasantries. What can you do for wilderness in the remaining three minutes? You say — also pleasantly — "I'm here to ask you to vote in favor of the bill. Can you tell me whether you will?"

That will set him back on his pins. It also will earn you his respect, for now he knows you know how to play the political game.

The book, however, isn't all about thrust and parry. Its 360 pages are crammed with hints about building needed support in the community for a sympathetic congressman. All along the way the authors realize that you, the private citizen, may well be a stranger to the political woods. Their aim is to make you as effective and comfortable as possible while you tread the often confusing paths.

They know, for example, that just getting something to eat at lunch time on Capitol Hill can be a hassle for the uninitiated. What to do for sustenance? They suggest the Library of Congress cafeteria: "It's in the cellar of the library's main building, and you get there by entering the rear doors of the library, on Second Street, going down a flight of stairs...." **How You Can Influence Congress** is that thorough.

Books

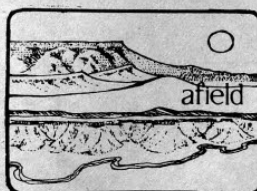


flesh-and-blood ruddiness to stone and a bright flush to flesh-and-blood faces.

The year, as it's defined by the Roman Calendar, is about over. Our hemisphere has withdrawn far from the light; we receive only oblique rays. Now we've changed our direction; we are on the way back. It's interesting that this was the season of the birth of a being whose task was to restore us to light.

Mary Back in the Upper Wind River country has made her fall season report to "American Birds." She keeps a private "blue list" of birds she used to see more frequently than she does now, from observation spanning 40-some seasons. Mary says all three species of teal have declined: she saw no blue-winged or cinnamon teal this year. Hummingbirds, mourning doves and flickers appear on the list, too. (Perhaps all the flickers moved to Lander; we have more here than anyone knows what to do with.) Mary was standing on the ridgepole of her house scraping out the chimney when she noticed at least 70 snow geese flying southeast in a triple-V formation.

We found our Christmas tree this year on Togwotee Pass after wading through thigh-deep snow, floundering in willow weirs. It was a bristling Englemann spruce, whose sharp needles had plucked a clump of deer hair and two grouse feathers.



by Hannah Hinchman

LANDER, Wyo. — For a few evenings lately we've watched a phenomenon that must have a name, but I don't know it. A layer of high altitude clouds, cirrocumulus, has appeared above us, signaling the approach of a front. It sometimes takes on ripple forms like fine sand in a strong current, or it becomes dense, blown back on itself. After the sun sets, ordinary light illuminates the cirrocumulus for a moment, then the cloud begins to display the warm-colored long rays of the spectrum as the sun sets on it, too. First comes yellow, then a lurid orange that, paired with the sky's last blue, makes an unholy combination. Red follows orange, then the lights go out. The cloud is suddenly gray. The earth seems incredibly dark without the light reflected from its underside. It had bathed all the landscape, adding a



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HAIL AND FAREWELL!

1979



Salutations and greetings to HCN's friends
On cold city curbstones, on chill river bends,
To the lichens, executives, marmots and trees
Who make our subscription list menagerie.
It's time for reviewing the year first to last:
A remembrance of two dozen deadlines past.

Water and wilderness, endangered species,
Oil, Alaska, railroads and coal leases;
Tailings spills, dry deserts, oil shale and grazing,
Indian energy, owls and trail blazing;
Bark beetles, mountain tops, synthetic fuels,
A column on Ponda gave readers the blues;
We're usually gentle, but we used incisors
To rip off the cover on dangers to geysers;
Colstrip's expansion, the fight to erect it;
Boomtowns and doomed towns, and hydroelectric;
Drilling for oil in the Overthrust Belt,
They're stripping for coal, and they're sluicing for gelt;

All over Wyoming they're finding uranium —
Hold onto your hat or they'll dig out your cranium;
BLM, EMB, FOE or FS
Can be evasive, so we cut the B.S.;
IPP, TVA and ANG —
Acronyms make me gag: 2,4,5-T!
Nader, Bob Marshall, and Freddy Law Olmstead
Slept with some Roosevelts in HCN's homestead;
Ranchers and eco-freaks met and decided
On a number of issues their tissues coincided;
Weather be damned, we have more folks than ever,
Which is not the best news for the furred, finned, and feathered.
Swift foxes and prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets,
Whooping cranes, bighorns and sturnus vulgaris;
Bark beetles, nuthatches, kestrels and moose,
Moved to the back of the Rocky Mt. boose.

Should airplanes be landing in Grand Teton Park?
Should Rocky Flats e'er have a glow in the dark?
Should Indians asCERT strong control of their minerals?
Should grizzlies be hunted and shot down like criminals?
These are some questions that often engage us.
Inspiring our own small Revolt in the Sagebrush.
But we'll air all angles, dig facts where we can,
And leave it to you folks to judge as you scan.
Still, a warning to those now disturbing the feral:
Don't argue with those who buy ink by the barrel!

Here in the office we've had our upheaval:
Dan Whipple went south to the Texas Primeval,
To mark the Week's Business, while Somebody pines...
Oh, she'll Amble on, when she's got us in line.
Success frightened Murphy, our resident Wicked:
Subscriptions kept jumping, how could he play Beckett?
So he's selling ads, spinning discs, clearing plates,
While Jaz does promotions and raises the rates,
And patches the holes in our buck-leaking slate,
And warns crazy poets when it's time to brake.
With pen and ink Hannah makes manna for readers,
She lays out the paper. And then come the breeders...
For Joan has just published young Kate, a gardenia,
And Geoff begat Genya (with help from Berthenia).
(As long as we're at it, give credit to Bruce.)
And Sara and Steve will soon have a papoose.

Fresh fallen snow has now glazed our environment;
We'd go out skiing, then scribe till the fire's spent
Rivers of doggerel, rhyming with glee,
But after that eggnog, who's got energy?

And that is a question for 1980. — GOG

