



High Country News

75¢

Friday, May 15, 1981

Lander, Wyoming

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No room in this field for the young

by Michael Moss

LAFAYETTE, Colo. — Since great-grandfather Sabatino sailed over from Italy in the 1880s, the Domenico family has grown wheat, barley and alfalfa on these 80 acres of Front Range foothills. Succeeding generations have reworked the soil; today the farm still produces income, though 80 acres is not enough to support the growing family. Joe Domenico also holds down a town job, while his wife Helen and sister shoulder the remaining chores. Visiting children are always put to work.

A century after Sabatino, however, the Domenico homestead may be raising its last crops. The farm is on the Lafayette fringe, a few miles from ever-growing Boulder. Encroaching subdivisions portend the same fate that has already paved their neighbors' fields: it's only a matter of seasons, the Domenico's fear, before their fields become suburban homes' backyards.

Cindy, Joellen and Robert, the fourth generation of Domenico's in America, dream of carrying on the family's agricultural tradition. But none of the three can afford to buy his or her own farm, and the 80 acres, pressured on all sides by development, is no longer enough to support even one family in today's era of large-scale agriculture.

Inflated land values and sky-high, unreachable financing have created an economic picture that discourages young ranchers and farmers throughout the Rocky Mountains.

NOWHERE TO START

Increasingly in today's agricultural world, a younger person, however intent on farming, has nowhere to make a start. Land is too expensive. The start-up costs are too great. Operating capital is too costly to borrow.

The situation draws a mixed reaction. It's distressful for watchdogs of the family farm, who see rural America weakened as the number of "small" homesteads dwindles. Others more inclined towards agri-business remain confident that enough farmers are making a start to sustain an industry that needs larger, more mechanized operations to survive the 20th century.

To the young person, however, with a farming appetite whetted by years in 4-H or the Cowbelles or working on the family farmstead, the difficulty of getting started causes frustration and anguish. If there's help on the horizon, it's as fickle as the weather.

The average age of today's farmer or rancher is nearing 60, and persons over 55 own nearly 57 percent of the nation's non-corporate farmland. Individuals under 40 years of age own less than 12



LANDER FARMER Garry Trautman has sidestepped the obstacles to starting a new farm these days. But many other young agriculturalists face a hopelessly bleak economic picture, and many eager starters are being put on hold.

of every 100 acres.

While nearly half a million persons under 35 entered the agricultural trade between 1964 and 1974, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is projecting fewer than 285,000 start-ups in the next two decades.

That trend will lead to just three percent of America's farmers owning one half of the country's farmland. The causes include escalating farmland prices (up four-fold since 1970), soaring interest rates on loans (up six-fold since 1967), and ever-increasing start-up costs, now averaging \$200,000 to \$500,000 for a moderate size, modern farm or ranch. (By comparison, the cost of starting a retail store today is about \$44,000.)

THE LUCKY ONES

Not all young agriculturalists have been snubbed by bottom-line economics. A few lucky ones have sides-

tepped their way into the business.

Patti and Garry Trautman are 29-year-old agriculture graduates of the University of Wyoming at Laramie. They have a country home near Lander, Wyo. with chickens, a milk cow and four young children, all of which Patti's mother frequently babysits while Patti helps Garry turn the soil.

The 231 acres they're now planting grew enough hay last year to pull her uncle's drought-stricken cattle in eastern Wyoming through the winter. Patti, sitting on the ground in front of an idle plow while she waits for Garry to come in from the field, says they are lucky: Their days are filled with work they love and neighbors they cherish, in a community they have long called home. As young ranchers, they are both lucky and an anomaly.

But even they have a problem. The land they're now toiling over 16 hours a day is not theirs.

(continued on page 10)

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Dear Friends,

Every so often, HCN becomes embroiled in a dispute about a story that results in a furious exchange of letters among the people written about, the author of the piece and the editors. Such is the case regarding our recent article about the Colorado Grizzly (HCN, 3-20-81). While the topics of these disputes vary, the chain of events is usually the same—a person written about feels wronged and questions the validity of the story and the integrity of the author in everything from his reporting to his natural hair coloring. The author feels wronged and demands space to defend himself and his piece.

This could go on ad infinitum. So HCN's editors have an internal policy regarding the handling of such arguments.

The basic rule is that the subject of a story who feels misrepresented has a right to present an alternative point of view. The author has had his or her say, so both the readers and the subject of the piece have a right to reply. We have a natural aversion to detailed "Editor's notes" at the end of a letter. An article should stand on its own. When there is a dispute, the reader can go back to the original and decide for himself who is right. Hence, you will see few lengthy "Author replies" blurbs in HCN.

HCN makes every effort to check the basic facts behind a story before publication. On letters, we tend to let the correspondent sound off without our meddling. This offends some of our writers. One recently said: "If letter-writers' stories were checked out as carefully as are those of authors, many letters would never see print."

Not a bad point. But more often letters concern the author's hair-coloring, not the substance of the story. When a letter rebuts the underlying facts of a story, and not merely the interpretation of the facts, we will give the author a chance to clarify the facts, when possible.

So even as we lay out the rules, we're creating the loophole. On page 15, you'll see it all in action. John Roberts, author of the article on Colorado grizzlies, wrote us in response to letters from the Colorado Division of Wildlife, which were written in response to Roberts' piece in HCN...you can see how it goes.

— the staff

Western Roundup

Fresh start for native seeds



WILD SPECIES OF sunflowers, beans, chiles and gourds thrive under Karen Reichhardt's watchful green thumbs. The Southwest Traditional Crop Conservancy Garden in Tucson is preserving a remnant of ancient agriculture.

Whenever Western farmers gather to talk, the discussion inevitably turns to the woes of drought, heat, pests and poor soils. For 3000 years, Indian farmers have also been struggling with these problems.

Although all their techniques are not necessarily applicable to modern agriculture, ancient agriculturalists did pass on one potentially valuable legacy: hardy seedstocks.

Native American crops have developed a resistance to drought, heat, blight, salt, root knot nematodes and other pests. Some grow so quickly that they mature in 60 days, thereby avoiding the stress of late season drought-altogether. Many are finely adapted to local conditions, producing reliable yields of highly nutritious beans, grains, or vegetables in environments much too severe for other non-adapted crops.

Many of the crop varieties that sustained native Americans for centuries are so rare they can be considered "endangered." As their land and water resources were usurped over the last two centuries, Indians had difficulty maintaining many of these traditional varieties. Special kinds of squash, flint corns, jack beans, sunflowers, and leafy vegetables have already disappeared, never to be grown again. Others persist in just a few Indian villages. Cultivators are often not aware that their

seedstocks are unique, let alone rare.

At the same time, many wild relatives of more common crops have become increasingly scarce on Western wild lands. Wild species of sunflowers, gourds, beans and chiles are now on regional endangered species lists— isolated by overgrazing and habitat manipulation. These plants are also valuable, especially as donors of genes to their cultivated kin, and have been used in breeding improved, hardy commercial crops within recent decades.

To conserve these seedstocks and make them available to a larger number of farmers and gardeners in the West, the Southwest Traditional Crop Conservancy Garden and Seed Bank was set up in Tucson, Ariz.

"The most rewarding aspect of this effort is when we can fill requests for seed from the very people whose ancestors were responsible for the development of these varieties: the Hopi, the farmers of Taos Pueblo, the Yuma of the Colorado Delta, and the Papago of southern Arizona and northern Mexico," said Mahina Drees, garden manager.

While native farmers receive top priority, Drees says, some plant varieties are also distributed to community garden projects, off-reservation subsistence farmers and researchers.

— Gary Nabhan

Mormon leaders find MX ungodly

The first presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has expressed concern over the basing of the MX missile in Utah and Nevada. The church deplored the build-up of vast arsenals of nuclear weaponry and expressed concern about a large population influx into the area, depletion of water supplies and possible damage to the fragile ecology of the area.

The statement, issued by LDS church leaders Spencer W. Kimball, N. Eldon Tanner and Marion G. Romney, said, "By way of general observation, we repeat our warnings against the terrifying arms race in which the nations of the earth are presently engaged."

The statement further said, "Inevitably, so large a construction project (as the MX) would have an adverse impact on water resources, as well as sociological and ecological factors in the area ...

We are not averse to consistent and stable population growth, but the influx of tens of thousands of temporary workers and their families together with those involved in support services, would create grave sociological problems.

"Our fathers came to this western area to establish a base from which to carry the gospel of peace to the people of the earth. It is ironic, and a denial of the very essence of that gospel, that in the same general area there should be constructed a mammoth weapons system potentially capable of destroying much of civilization."

After the statement, Gen. Richard H. Ellis, commander of the Strategic Air Command, accused the church of overlooking its patriotic duty. The general said, "In its release, the Mormon Church did not discuss the responsibility of its members as citizens pledged to defend our nation."

A spokesman for the church said, "I don't think you can read a lack of patriotism into the church's MX statement."

While the stand was apparently well-received in Utah, the long-range political effect is less certain. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger told a Chicago luncheon that the MX is "necessary and essential" to bring the U.S. into a strong position relative to the Russians.

Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.), asked what effect the Mormon position would have, said, "It ought not to have any. I am one who continues to believe in the separation of church and state. They have a right to make a comment, but the country has a right to defend itself, and make its decisions on the basis of national need ... I honestly don't think that project is going to hinge on the support or opposition of any church group."

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Interior Secretary James Watt

Cold eye cast on Interior regs

The Interior Department has identified those regulations it will review to determine whether they are "excessive, unnecessary or burdensome." Interior Secretary James Watt has sent a memorandum to upper echelon department officials establishing a review task force — consisting of the deputy solicitor, the under secretary and assistant secretary for policy, budget and administration — asking for a review schedule from each office.

Not surprisingly, the regulations leading the list for review are the federal surface mining rules. Virtually the entire program will be examined, as will the federal coal management program.

Onshore oil and gas leasing programs "should be reviewed with the objective of reducing delays and paperwork associated with oil and gas applications for permits to drill," the memo stated. "This review should also assess approaches for compliance with environmental and operating regulations that provide operators with greater flexibility."

Wilderness Study Procedures and Interim Management Policy will be reviewed "with the objective of...allowing more flexibility for mineral exploration within wilderness study areas. The review should also develop proposals for returning areas not suitable for wilderness classification to multiple use."

Watt also wants to look over rules that were proposed toward the end of the Carter administration but which have not yet become final. The major programs falling in this category are the regulations for the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge and National Park System and the rules enforcing the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

A third category consists of those areas identified by bureaus and offices which can take immediate action. Most of these are very specific and several deal with paperwork requirements.



Feds wallet closed to Colo. wildlife

Colorado's nationally acclaimed endangered wildlife program faces a budgetary drought that state officials say will mean an end to numerous species recovery projects.

The Colorado program has gained much of its fame from an innovative funding scheme that allows taxpayers to subsidize the programs with a portion of their state tax payments. The tax checkoff netted the state Division of Wildlife some \$650,000 last year.

Ironically, that success now translates into an equally sizable budget cut. At press time, Congress was likely to accept a Reagan administration budget that eliminates \$4 million in federal matching grants, with Colorado losing \$550,000.

Such a 40 percent cut in the state program's total budget, said John Torres, head of the state Division of Wildlife's non-game species program, will mean abandoning many of the agency's projects. He predicted the

agency would have to scrap recovery efforts for the greenback cutthroat trout, the white pelican, and the sandhill crane, as well as general species inventories of the South Platte, Arkansas and Colorado Rivers.

Staff levels, however, will remain largely undiminished. None of the division's 14 permanent workers, and only 12 of 34 seasonal worker positions would be cut, Torres said.

"We've tried everything to find funding for these programs and it seems like we're at the end," he said.

Torres, an outspoken defender of his agency's endangered species program, also criticized efforts to tap the funds gained from the tax checkoff for other programs. Although legislation to split the proceeds with the state parks agency failed to pass the legislature this year, legislators have traditionally extracted as much as \$175,000 a year from the endangered species budget for park and other non-wildlife projects.



WHITE PELICANS and other endangered Colorado wildlife may lose human helping hands as federal dollars for recovery efforts dry up.

Congress mulls water council shift

A Reagan administration proposal to disband the federal Water Resources Council (WRC) and shift much of its oversight power to the Department of Interior is meeting some resistance in Congress.

At press time, the Senate Environment and Public Works and the House Public Works and Transportation Committees were working on a May 15 deadline to consider rescinding the WRC's budget authority. The WRC's future was getting the committee leadership's attention.

The administration, which has called the WRC a "graveyard of projects" in its criticism of the interagency panel's water resource policy reviews, wants to move the WRC function under Secretary of Interior James Watt's control. Those powers include the divvying of research and development grants to states, as well as specific project review. Overall water resource policies would

be reviewed by a cabinet level team headed by Watt.

Opposing the shift, Sen. James Abdnor (R-S.D.) has introduced legislation that would retain an independent interagency policy board.

Fiscal conservatism, dominant in Washington politics these days, has encouraged opponents of federal water projects to argue against dam construction on economic grounds, frequently citing poor cost-to-benefit ratios.

But environmentalists and others express discouragement at the administration's policy towards the WRC, and water projects in general.

"The administration, especially Watt, has a traditional pork barrel perspective on water projects," said one environmental lobbyist who asked not to be identified. "They're continuing to dangle projects in front of Western governors for political ends."

'Release' bill push

Conservationists are up in arms about a wilderness release bill sponsored by Sen. S.I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.) which would place all 36 million acres allocated to non-wilderness by the RARE II (Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) into permanent non-wilderness management by the Forest Service. The legislation is supported by the Reagan administration, but Wilderness Society head William Turnage called it a "narrow special interest bill" for purchasers of federal timber.

In addition to the release provisions, the bill sets deadlines for the completion of action on areas recommended for wilderness — January, 1985 for Western lands and January, 1983 for Eastern lands. If Congress has not placed the areas into wilderness by 1988, the lands automatically become non-wilderness. In addition, the bill protects RARE II from judicial review.

Peter Coppelman, forest issues specialist for the Wilderness Society, said, "The nationwide bill is simply to put an end to the RARE II process. The approach doesn't create a single area of wilderness. The supposed emergency that spurred this bill simply doesn't exist. The bill's sponsors argue that areas designated non-wilderness are not being managed for that purpose and it simply isn't so. There were a billion board feet of timber sold on RARE II non-wilderness lands last year and they expect another billion this year."

Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.), who has supported some sort of wilderness release for the past two years and serves on the Senate Agriculture Committee, said, "I have strong objections to the way this bill is waving the red flag. I don't think it can pass very easily."

Melcher was wooed by the bill's sponsors — Hayakawa, Sens. James McClure (R-Idaho), Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) and Steve Symms (R-Idaho) — but he did not join as a co-sponsor. Melcher favors letting those lawsuits currently in the courts continue and allowing Congress to determine the fate of wilderness and further planning areas at its own pace.

In Colorado, for which a statewide wilderness bill was successfully hammered out in Congress last year, conservationists and Sen. Gary Hart (D) and Rep. Hank Brown (R) argue that their approach is more reasonable. "It can be done in other states," said Clifton Merritt of the American Wilderness Alliance in Denver, noting that compromises included the immediate release of lands not likely to ever be classified as wilderness.

Hard on the heels of the Hayakawa release bill came Rep. James Santini's (D-Nev.) National Mineral Security Act. Santini wants to establish "a coherent national minerals policy to avoid the existing and impending challenge of a major minerals crisis."

Conservationists are most upset about a Santini provision that would extend the deadline for new mining claims within existing wilderness areas until Dec. 31, 1993. Under the Wilderness Act of 1964, mining claims in wilderness areas can be staked until Dec. 31, 1983.

Santini lined up 39 co-sponsors of his bill in the House, including Rep. Richard Cheney (R-Wyo.) and Ray Kogovsek (D-Colo.).

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Western Roundup

Budget mauls Cabinet grizzly study; ASARCO starts its own

Budget cuts may mean the end of a grizzly study by bear authority Dr. Charles Jonkel in the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness and the Kootenai National Forest in northwest Montana, but the company whose drilling may be endangering the grizzlies has announced a study of its own.

The Cabinet grizzlies have been the focus of concern from wildlife experts since ASARCO, Inc., began mineral exploration in the area last year. Conservation groups sought unsuccessfully in court to stop ASARCO from drilling.

Jonkel, head of the University of Montana Border Grizzly Project, last year began studying habitat and bears in the Cabinets. He was funded with \$10,000 from Kootenai National Forest.

But last month, federal and state agency officials met and decided they could not afford another year of Jonkel's work. "With the current budget crunch we're experiencing we don't have that flexibility," said a Kootenai spokesman. He added that the forest officials still hoped to gather information on grizzly habitat — but that there were potentially 800,000 acres of it in the area.

ASARCO, meanwhile, has hired Dr. Albert Erickson, of the University of Washington, to begin its own study of



National Park Service

the bear population in the Cabinets. Erickson has flown the area in a company helicopter, but will not begin intensive work on the ground until next year.

Jonkel remained philosophical about the halt to his study. His Border Grizzly Project continues to study bear populations in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and elsewhere in northern Montana, and he recently became involved in a grizzly study on the Blackfoot Reservation adjacent to Glacier National Park. Numerous bear attacks have taken place in the vicinity of the Glacier-

Blackfoot border in recent years.

"The Cabinet grizzlies are isolated, and very low numbers," said Jonkel. "I've always felt that we shouldn't sink our money into them, if we can't sink enough — if that's the choice, I'd go where the bears are more numerous."

Hank Fischer, the Defenders of Wildlife representative in Missoula, who led the fight to block ASARCO's drilling in the Cabinets, told the *Missoulian*: "Everything they have done up there so far to protect the bears is a sham unless they have that research."

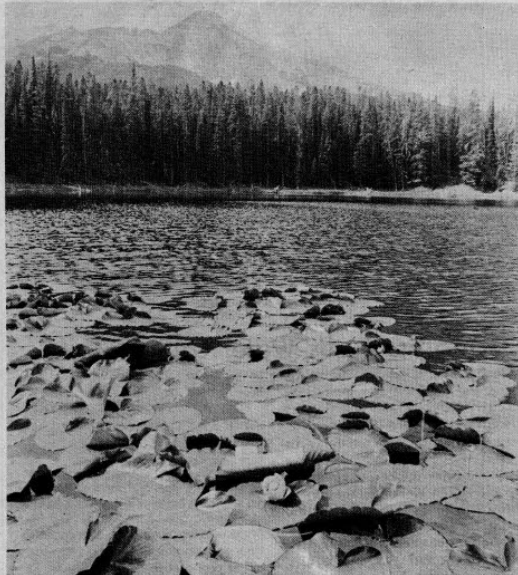
Metcalf wilds up

The proposed Lee Metcalf Wilderness area in southwestern Montana got a boost last week from a poll that showed stronger than expected support for protection of roadless areas, and relatively small, but vocal, opposition from snowmobilers in Gallatin County.

Legislation to create the wilderness is expected to be introduced soon in Congress. The bill, sponsored by Sen. John Melcher (D) and supported by the entire Montana delegation, is the result of a compromise between conservationists and Melcher, who wanted to allow Burlington-Northern access to some of its timber holdings in the Jack Creek area. Some other BN holdings in the proposed wilderness area would have to be traded for other public lands.

But Gallatin National Forest officials still disagree with the half-million acre Madison-Gallatin Alliance proposal. A Forest Service report including public opinion information gathered from public hearings is expected soon and spokesman Ross MacPherson said it draws a more negative conclusion about public attitudes towards the proposed wilderness.

Michael Bond, of Public Resources Management, Inc., conducted the poll for the Madison-Gallatin Alliance and several other Montana conservation groups. He talked to a random sampling of 304 people in the county. Bond found a high use of the Gallatin and Beaverhead National Forests by locals, primarily for hiking, fishing, picnicking, hunting and skiing. But the survey only showed 10 percent of the population used the forests for snowmobiling, although snowmobilers have been among the most active opponents of wilderness designation.



William Noll

JACK CREEK, which would be excluded from the Lee Metcalf Wilderness under legislation to be proposed this year, begins at Lower Ulreys Lake, west of Big Sky in the Madison Mountains.

A high percentage (93 percent) wanted no more roads in the forest; 86 percent wanted logging stopped if it destroyed scenic values or wildlife. Eighty-seven percent of those surveyed agreed that the Forest Service should trade for Burlington-Northern lands in South Cottonwood Canyon and the Porcupine Creek elk range in Gallatin Ca-

nyon.

The current Lee Metcalf proposal would include almost all of the Madison Range west of the Madison River. The Jack Creek area, owned by Burlington Northern as part of federal land grants made to railroads during the 1800s, would now be excluded from the wilderness.

hotline

INQUEST DELAYED

A Pitkin County, Colo., inquest into the deaths of 15 miners in the Dutch Creek Mine No. 1 at Redstone has been postponed after one day of hearings. The county coroner told wire services that the inquest would await the findings of the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration investigation, not expected for another two months. Since the methane explosion in the mine, questions have arisen about whether the miners were killed outright or survived several hours, while rescue efforts were delayed by safety precautions imposed by federal mine officials.

LOW POTENTIAL

Three potential wilderness areas, the Powderhorn Instant Study Area near Gunnison, Colo., Bear Trap Canyon Instant Study Area near Bozeman, Mont., and the Scab Creek Instant Study Area in Sublette County, Wyo., have low mineral and energy resource potential, according to the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines. The Colorado area includes 51,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands. Some small mines were established near Powderhorn to explore for precious metals, but the USGS said further exploration would be "economically unfeasible." Approximately 10,000 acres in the Scab Creek area, southeast of Pinedale, Wyo., were evaluated as having some low-grade thorium and poor potential for oil and gas. Bear Trap Canyon in southwestern Montana showed "low nickel values" and "no potential for coal, oil or gas." The three areas are among 22 previously-designated "natural" or "primitive" areas being evaluated for wilderness potential.

CACHE STASHED

A draft environmental statement on proposed oil and gas drilling in the Cache Creek area near Jackson, Wyo., has been delayed until June. The controversial proposals by the National Cooperative Refinery Association and Getty Oil, Inc., have generated strong local opposition. The U.S. Forest Service said more extensive staff review of the document was necessary by the Forest Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. Cache Creek is a favorite area of many Jackson locals; Getty's site is on Little Granite Creek, within the proposed Gros Ventre Wilderness.

SEVERANCE VOTE

Spurned by the state legislature this year, a Denver-based environmental group is pushing for a voter referendum next year to get a new Colorado severance tax. The legislature's failure to even hold hearings on the proposal to increase the state's fossil fuels tax was a major defeat for Gov. Dick Lamm (D), who had called its enactment one of his top priorities. Lamm is backing efforts by People for Renewable Energy Sources to seek a ballot initiative. PRES secretary More Wolfson told the Denver weekly *Westword* that the tax is necessary for financing a transition to renewable energy sources, as well as providing energy impact assistance.

DEEP CREEK WEAK

U.S. Forest Service Chief Max Peterson this week rejected an appeal by conservation groups trying to stop oil and gas leasing in the Deep Creek Reservoir North Further Planning Area, which borders the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana. Oil and gas leasing in the area could now go ahead in the 42,000-acre tract, unless wilderness advocates go to court or appeal Peterson's ruling to the Bureau of Land Management. (The BLM is charged with approving energy leases on all public lands.) The area, which contains abundant wildlife, received the Forest Service's highest wilderness potential rating during the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II).

**CRUDE**

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FERTILIZING OIL

Indian Head Refining Co., a Casper, Wyo. firm which recycles used motor oil into reusable crude, reports that a new refining method it has discovered not only increases the yield of recoverable oil to 90 percent, but also creates fertilizer suitable for house or garden plants in the process. "Damn fool luck," is how a company official described the discovery, although he also said the search for a new method was prompted by objections from the Environmental Protection Agency to the old process.

FINDING A PIPE PATH

The American Natural Resources Co. has filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to build a natural gas pipeline from Cheyenne, Wyo., to Greensburg, Kansas. The \$140 million project will carry gas from Wyoming's Wind River Basin, and will connect with the company's Michigan Wisconsin Pipe Line Co. in Kansas. The proposed Pathfinder Pipeline would transport 175 million cubic feet of gas per day, and will require a compressor station at the Cheyenne end. The final Environmental Impact Statement on another pipeline, the Trailblazer pipeline from Uinta Co., Wyo., to Gage Co., Neb., has been released by the Bureau of Land Management. This one will carry 665,000 cubic feet of gas daily. Copies of the EIS are available from the BLM offices in Cheyenne, Rawlins and Rock Springs.

TROUT, LOOK OUT

Development along and around the North Fork of the Flathead River in northwestern Montana could disrupt two-thirds of the spawning beds of bull trout or Dolly Varden in the area, according to a recent study. The annual report of the Flathead River Fishery Study, conducted for the long-running Flathead River Basin Environmental Impact Study, brought bad news, especially for bull trout. Already having lost half its spawning areas with the construction of the Hungry Horse Dam on one of the Flathead tributaries, the big fish may lose more to oil and gas development, timbering, and plans to divert the waters of Howell Creek for a coal mine operation northwest of Glacier National Park.

SABOTAGE DANGER

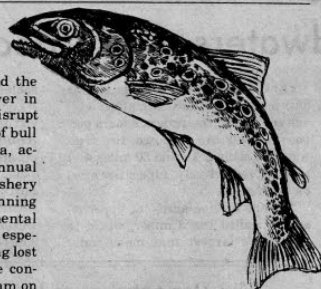
National black-outs could result if terrorists ever attack the vulnerable national power grid, according to a recent report from the General Accounting Office, an agency serving the U.S. Congress. An executive order now ten years old required the Energy Department to plan for such an emergency, but the GAO found no planning had been done, due to budgetary constraints.

PAVING BUTTE

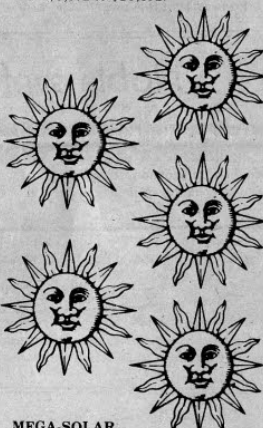
Crested Butte Mayor W. Mitchell took an uncharacteristic pro-development position last week in supporting a plan to pave the Colorado ski resort town's streets. Most of the residents testifying at a city council meeting opposed the paving, fearing a big-city intrusion into the small town. Said Mitchell, however, "Having asphalt ribbons running through offends my town, but the dust over town offends it even more."

THIN EGGS

The reproductive failure of Colorado ospreys may be due to pesticide contamination, according to the Colorado Division of Wildlife. From a total of 12 active nests in the state, only one young has been fledged in each of the past two years. Eggshells collected by biologists contained DDE, a by-product of DDT, and averaged a 22 percent thickness reduction. According to division raptor specialists Jerry Craig, the birds apparently pick up the pesticide while wintering in Latin America.

**MOVE WEST, MOVE UP**

A recent Commerce Department study reports that the South and West, and Alaska, are on the rise. Alaska's per capita income is now over \$12,000 annually, highest in the country, followed by Connecticut and California. Wyoming is fifth on the list. While the Rocky Mountain region is still well below the Northeast in per capita wealth, the dollars, like the population, are moving this way. Colorado's average income rose between 1970 and 1980 from \$3,833 to \$9,964; Idaho went from \$3,243 to \$8,126; Montana rose from \$3,395 to \$8,445; Utah climbed from \$3,169 to \$7,485; and Wyoming jumped from \$3,672 to \$10,692.

**MEGA-SOLAR**

Calling itself one of the "largest publicly held solar companies," United Solar Associates, Inc., Denver, has just been formed through the merger of Solar Industries and Solar Control Corp. United President Larry Stordahl said his new firm's "aggressive" expansion plan includes acquiring small solar firms in several other states.

UTAH SWEET-N-SOUR

Energy company executives whose companies are drilling in the Overthrust Belt near the Wyoming-Utah border, are threatening to build their sour gas sweetening plants in the Beehive State now that Wyoming has brought such plants under its Industrial Siting Act. An Amoco representative recently told the Petroleum Association of Wyoming that if Wyoming's siting requirements delay projects two or more years, they might slip across the border. A spokesman for the siting council said their review process normally takes no more than six months.

barbed wire

Federal Register, January 23, 1981, p.7651 — "Comment: If you build a highway, it is bad for dogs, rabbits, opossums and field rats and such that get run over by cars and trucks, but it is good for crows and buzzards that eat dead meat."

"Response: The (U.S. Fish and Wildlife) Service has not come across many instances where crows and buzzards could be considered scarce, but when such a circumstance can be documented and verified, the Service will certainly try to protect and enhance valuable highway habitat."



The May-June issue of *Wet: the Magazine of Gourmet Bathing* announces the invention of the solar-powered electric chair. The magazine warns that the \$5,000 price tag "might seem a little steep, especially for smaller states."



"My signature on the line is worth so many millions to an oil company, but what do you think it's worth to my bank?"

— John Fraher
United States Geological Survey
Rocks Springs, Wyo.



State officials keep saying things are all right at the Montana Environmental Quality Council. Nothing to worry about, despite a critical article in the *Montana Eagle*, a fledgling state weekly, and grouching in the legislature about the council's "lack of credibility and failure to defend the environment." Most of the criticism has centered on EQC director Terry Carmody, but Council Chairman Dennis Iverson (R-Whitlash) says he is not out to can Carmody. All he's doing is advertising for applications for Carmody's job — "but he (Carmody) can apply for the job, just like anyone else." Sounds like a wonderful place to work. Said Sen. Dorothy Eck (D-Bozeman), a new council member: "It's surprising how many people have offered condolences."



Silver Lining Department: Membership in the Sierra Club is up 24,000 since the November elections, topping 200,000 nationwide. The new total is the highest ever and a goal the club had originally set for all of 1981. Said Regional Representative Bruce Hamilton, "We ought to make James Watt our honorary membership chairman."

Yampa's floodwaters carry boaters and dreams of a dam

by Michael Moss

CRAIG, Colo. — Jim Pughe's father emigrated to this northwestern Colorado valley to practice law in 1909. Glendon Culverwell's father came two years later to run cattle and raise garden crops. Ever since, the two families have staked opposite sides on an issue that recurs as regularly as the spring's green offering.

Their battleground is the Yampa River, one of three major Colorado rivers that, despite more than 100 small diversions along its 150 miles, regularly scours its channel with spring flood waters. The issue is a much larger dam that would finally harness the Yampa waters.

The specifics have fluctuated with the region's needs, but there have been proposals to dam the Yampa in a major way since 1905. The latest plan, which combines several earlier schemes, formally took root four years ago when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted the 12-county Colorado River Water Conservation District a permit to study the matter and apply for a construction license.

FERC, which could take as long as four years to consider the matter, is involved because the project's main purpose is power. As proposed, two dams would be planted 25 and 50 miles west of Craig, respectively, nine miles apart on the Yampa.

The one million-acre-foot upper reservoir, called the Juniper, would be the state's largest man-made water

roelectric turbines could jump from a standstill to 98 megawatt production virtually instantaneously as demand requires — a virtue unshared by coal plants.

The dams' reservoirs, just 30 miles north of the oil shale rich Piceance Basin, would also provide much of the water needed for extracting that energy source.

\$250,000 interpretive center; water quality would improve in general, with some sport fishes like rainbow trout enjoying clearer waters; and, perhaps most significantly, the state of Colorado would use its water rather than lose it to Utah and other locales further along the Colorado River system.

Best of all, proponents point out, no federal funds will be used. It's all private financing.

ANOTHER SIDE

For every promotional statistic the project backers present, though, critics of the Juniper-Cross Mountain scheme raise contradictory data.

Among the critics until recently was the federal Department of Interior. Until the present administration took office, the agency's concerns were wide ranging. From 4,000 to 7,000 acres of rich farmland would be flooded, with no guarantees that any of the new irrigation would occur as project proponents suggest.

The loss of riparian wildlife habitat would threaten several endangered species of fish. Salinity and temperature changes downstream could upset delicate balances downstream. White

"The Department of Interior's request for further studies is merely 'paralysis by analysis.'"

— Rolly Fischer

body and would feed the lower reservoir, one-fifth its size, with enough flow to turn out some 350 million kilowatt hours of electricity every year.

It's not the quantity of power that turns on the project's promoters, however; the Craig-Hayden region already produces billions of kilowatts through four, and soon to be five, coal-fired power plants. Rather, the project's selling point is the quality of power, known as peaking power. The hydro-

And there'd be a host of other benefits say proponents: some 18,000 acres might be irrigated into new cropland; half a million tourists would boost the local coffers by spending several million dollars every year, attracted by power boating, picnicking and ice fishing; river rafting would be more feasible during the warmer month of August rather than June; a regional history of human habitation dating back to 11,000 B.C. would be recorded in a

capitol currents

by Lonnie Rosenwald
and Lavinia Edmunds

If environmentalists have found a bright spot in Ronald Reagan's first one hundred days, it's been in the area of synthetic fuels.

Reagan's budget director, David Stockman, fervently crusaded against spending federal money to build commercial-size synfuels plants. Although Stockman was unable to convince the president to trim much from the \$20 billion that's in the budget for new plants and research this year, he can take comfort in the man Reagan chose to spend it.

Ed Noble, 53, is a wealthy conservative oil man from Oklahoma who fits the Reagan appointment mold. His nomination recently to chair the federal Synthetic Fuels Corporation is at least partly a reward for loyal Republicanism, including past membership in the Golden Eagles, an elite club whose members give \$10,000 or more a year to the Republican Party.

His family maintains the large but unheralded private Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, which has given millions of dollars to agricultural and cancer research and conservative organizations, including the Heritage Foundation in Washington. In his younger years Noble converted a family oil fortune into a real estate empire in Atlanta; Noble remained in the political back-ground until 1980, when he ran in Oklahoma's Republican Senate primary and lost.

Missing from this resume is a record of strong support for federal involvement in energy. When he was picked last fall to head Reagan's transition team for the synfuels corporation, Noble's only qualifying credential for the post seemed to be his geology degree from the University of Oklahoma. A colleague on the team described Noble

as "a quick study," but members of the synfuels industry aren't so charitable. "Ed Noble is not what you'd call a die-hard aficionado of synfuels," one energy company official said. He fears

Noble "will adhere minimally to the intent of Congress and spend very little of its money."

One especially uneasy member of the synfuels industry predicted the pres-

pective chairman will become the "Bermuda Triangle" of synfuels.

Noble, a slight, sneaky-haired man, won't discuss policy until his appointment has been confirmed by the Senate, which hasn't yet held hearings.

Milton Copulos, a Heritage Foundation energy analyst who was on the transition team, said industry criticism is a cheap shot.

"Ed has stated repeatedly he feels synfuels is needed," said Copulos. "But he's also stated that to the extent possible, he'd like it to be developed by the private sector."

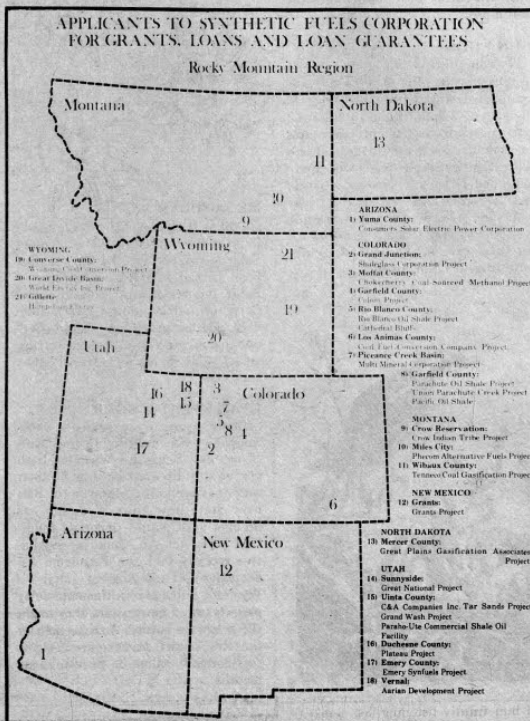
The organization Noble hopes to head works like a bank. Congress has given it \$17.7 billion to award to private companies in the form of loans, loan guarantees, grants and price supports over the next two years.

To pass ethical muster before the Senate, Noble most likely will have to put some of his financial holdings in trust. These include his real estate, a string of motels in Georgia and Florida, and an interest in Noble Affiliates, the family oil business. He has said he'll forgo a salary and serve for \$1 a year. The chairman's salary, originally set at \$175,000 a year by former president Carter, caused such a stir on Capitol Hill that the acting corporation chairman voluntarily cut it to \$69,600.

At a dollar a year, environmentalists consider Noble a bargain. Synfuels won't "be a big issue for us," as it has been in the past, predicted Mathew McWilliams of Environmental Action.

John Marshall Hobbs, executive vice president of the Chamber of Commerce in Noble's birthplace of Ardmore, Okla., was also cheered by the nomination. Recently his town has been getting all its publicity from another of its native sons — John W. Hinckley, Jr., the man accused of shooting President Reagan.

Noble synfuels' Bermuda Triangle



water boating now enjoyed each year would be decreased as the Yampa's flow is smoothed out to 3,000 cubic feet per second.

A National Park Service study team recommended in 1980 that 47 miles of the Yampa downstream from the site be designated a wild river — a classification that disallows FERC permits for upstream projects that "unreasonably diminish" wild river values. Finally, the Bureau of Land Management is studying the Cross Mountain site for wilderness status.

Other critics of the Juniper-Cross Mountain project include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Wildlife Federation, the Colorado Open Space Council, Western River Guides, and Empire Energy Corp. (which owns nearby coal leases it fears will be inundated) — a "coalition" that project proponents view as a conspiratorial effort.

Significant among their objections to the project is the question of need for the dams' electricity, which the Wildlife Federation says has not been adequately proven, as well as the availability of alternatives.

ANOTHER LOOK

In a scathing response to the Interior Department and other comments, Rolly Fischer, manager of the conservation district, wrote to FERC last March disputing all of the criticisms. In short, Fischer argued that the agency's comments and request for further studies would not "gain new information but rather delay the project, increase costs to the breaking point and ultimately defeat the undertaking. In a word...the agency seeks paralysis by analysis."

FERC, however, stood by its request for a wealth of new information about the project — data the commission felt was necessary to complete an environmental impact statement required before it could issue or deny a construction permit.

Project proponents have found more sympathy in the Reagan administration. On March 24, under Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel wrote to FERC announcing the agency was withdrawing its comments on the project to undertake a "full scale reevaluation."

The reevaluation, said Don Sant, who is coordinating the study for the Office of Policy Administration and Budget, should be completed by June.

Sant said he is primarily concerned with ensuring the agency has adequately coordinated its comments with other agency analyses on wilderness designation for Cross Mountain and wild and scenic river designation of the Yampa. Sant denied charges that the agency was attempting to rescind past criticism of the project.

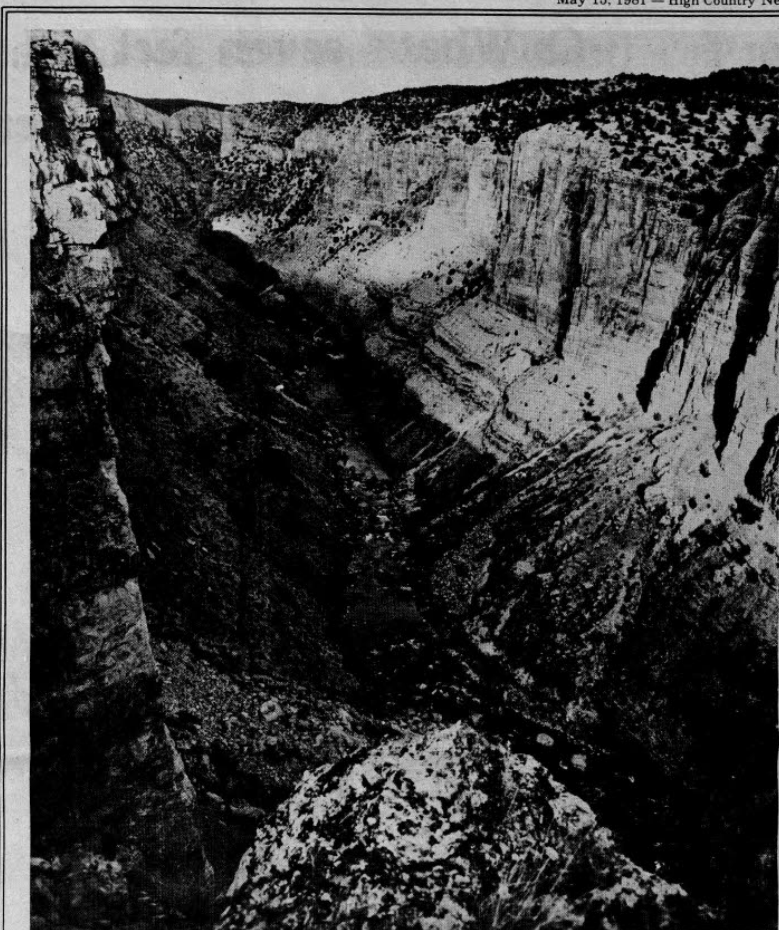
BACK HOME

And then there's Glendon Culverwell. His objection is that the project would flood some 2,000 acres of his land — one acre of which, he wrote the local paper last month, would "raise enough garden crops...to feed our family of six people."

For Culverwell, the solution is to move the larger Juniper dam site half a mile upriver, saving all but 700 acres of his land.

"But hell," he said in a phone interview, "they won't believe this dumb old farmer."

Among the disbelievers is Jim



David Sumner

THE YAMPA RIVER flowing through northwestern Colorado is one of the state's last three rivers that seasonally flood. For years, the Yampa has lured both whitewater boaters and people with dreams of dams.

Pughe, the conservation district's local representative. "All you need to do is get a topo map to see he's wrong," he said.

Pughe easily rolls off the statistics used to counter criticism of the project, and invokes historical precedence, arguing that his father's participation in efforts to expand the Dinosaur National Monument was predicated on a promise that water resource development upstream on the Yampa would not be thwarted. "Now they're trying to do just that," said Pughe.

But the biggest issue, Pughe argues, is use it or lose it. "If we don't conserve the water, it's just going to run down to Arizona and Los Angeles, and boy, have they blown it," he said. "Give us a chance to do it right, is what we're asking, and we can't conserve it if we don't store it."

The next steps in the controversy are completion of an environmental impact statement by FERC, public hearings before an administrative law judge, and finally, a permit decision by FERC.

Meanwhile, just like spring's green growth, the debate rolls on. "I thought I had him finally listening last week,"

Pughe said of Culverwell after meeting him on the post office steps. "He was friendly and all smiles. And then I found out why."

Culverwell had just mailed off another blistering letter to the local newspaper editor.



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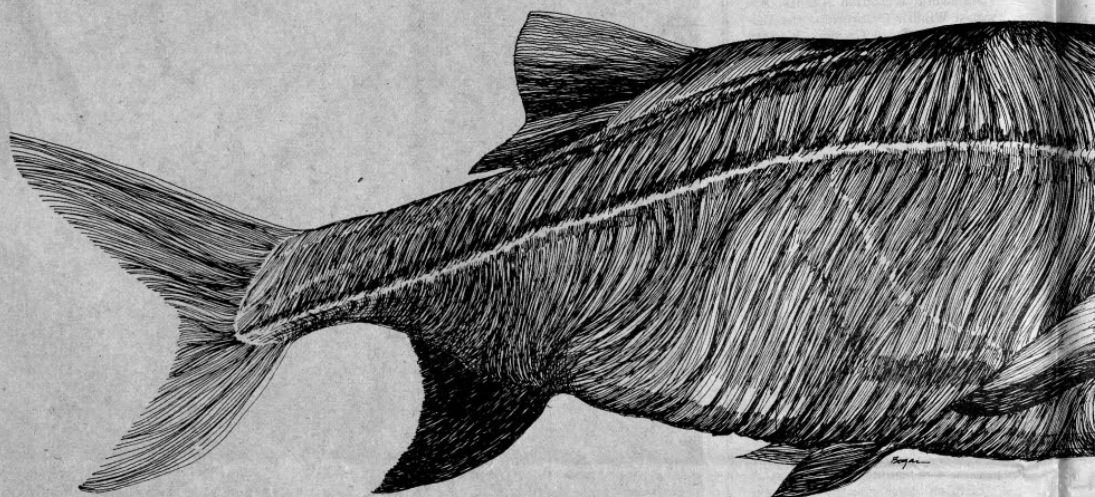
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8-High Country News — May 15, 1981

Q: What's seven feet tall, lays \$200 eggs and has been around since the



(hin

A:

by Hank Fischer

Montana's highly unique paddlefish, a relic from the days of dinosaurs, now faces 20th century problems: its eggs are valuable for caviar, and a large commercial market has developed.

These huge, long-billed fish, which live in the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, may be Montana's most unusual wildlife species. Archeological evidence suggests paddlers have been around for nearly 60 million years, long enough to see pterodactyls and saber-toothed tigers come and go. Yet in the eighty brief years of this century, paddlefish populations have plummeted to the point where many fisheries biologists fear for the fish's future.

Paddlefish were once native to many parts of the Mississippi River system, but pollution, dams and overfishing have taken a heavy toll. Only a few rivers in the United States still maintain healthy spawning populations; for now, at least, both Montana populations appear stable.

But serious threats to paddlefish have developed in the past year. There are threats to habitat, including a dam proposal on the Missouri River, pipeline crossings, energy development and a

bill in Montana's Legislature to repeal the state water reservation system.

Second, and a bit more unusual, is the commercial threat. The eggs of paddlefish have become extremely valuable for sale as caviar, bringing as much as \$40 per pound.

SLOWER THAN WHALES

These huge fish, which may grow to seven feet and weigh 150 pounds, are extremely long-lived, occasionally reaching 30 years of age. Even more remarkably, females only become sexually mature at 12-14 years of age. In other words, they must live more than a decade before they can even begin to replace themselves. Paddlers are slower to reproduce than a grizzly bear, a whale, or even an elephant. Because of these quirks of biology, population problems might not be apparent until it is too late to do anything.

If there's any species that requires a conservative management approach, it's the paddlefish. That's why wildlife officials get so concerned when developments are planned in key paddlefish areas. These fish are not only sensitive to pollution, but they also have specific spawning requirements; these include spawning beds and surges

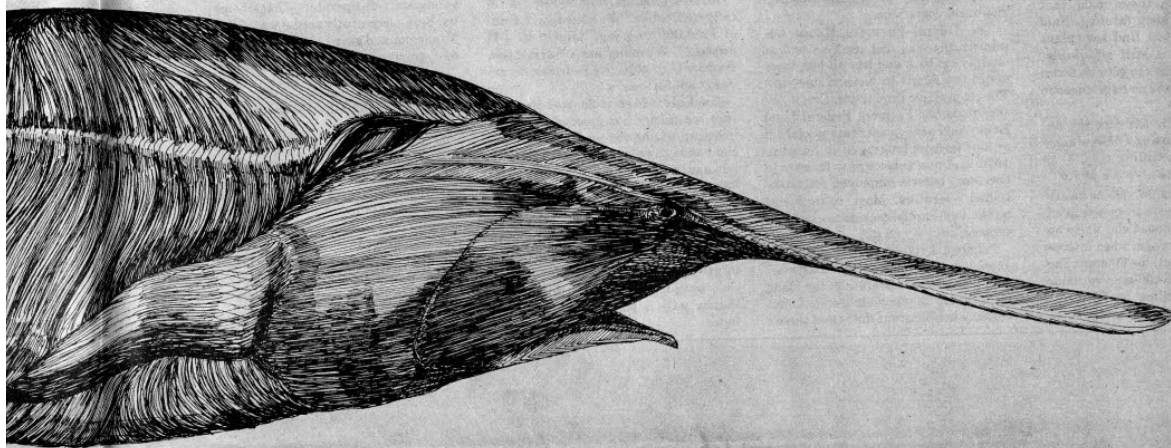
in river flow that trigger reproduction.

Biologists fear that Montana Power Co.'s proposed Carter Dam, which would be located on the Missouri River near Fort Benton, could cause serious problems for paddlefish. Similarly, the proposed Missouri River crossing for the Northern Border Pipeline, they fear, could affect paddlefish spawning areas.

Energy development, particularly synthetic fuels, is a problem still on the horizon. These projects will require large amounts of water. Presently, Montana law permits water to be reserved instream for wildlife like the paddlefish, but several bills have been introduced in the Montana Legislature to remove that provision.

While these habitat threats are serious, the problem of commercial exploitation may even be trickier. The commercial interest in paddlefish has been exacerbated by the loss of caviar supplies from Russia and Iran. Sturgeon in Russian rivers and lakes have apparently been hurt by pollution, and Iran's internal problems have slowed that country's caviar trade. The rush on U.S. paddlefish started in the spring of 1980. According to Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks fisheries biologist Al Elser, "The pressure at In-

O eggs, reproduces slower than an elephant,
since the days of the pterodactyl?



(hint)

er reproduction, Montana Power Co. Dam, which is on the Missouri River, caused serious problems. Similarly, the crossing of the Pipeline, they fish spawning

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take (on the Yellowstone River) seemed to be the highest outside of Tennessee." He pointed out that the prices are phenomenal, as much as \$200 per fish. "Apparently all the horror stories we were hearing about the value of paddlefish eggs were true," said Elser. "Reported values ranged from \$18 to \$40 (per pound) with some rumors of even higher prices."

According to Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, one well-to-do egg-buyer from Tennessee — who travels around the country in a Lear jet — threatened to sue the state for not allowing him to buy eggs. Wildlife officials were quick to point out, however, that Montana state law clearly prohibits the sale of game fish such as paddlers.

THE N.D. CONNECTION

The Tennessee egg-buyer apparently moved his operations to North Dakota when he met resistance in Montana. North Dakota has no such laws protecting paddlefish. The result: paddlefish were being legally taken in Montana, transported to North Dakota, and then sold for their caviar.

It was this chain of events that led to an emergency meeting of the Montana

Fish and Game Commission last spring. The Commission moved immediately to close the paddlefishing season. This solved the problem for now, but fisheries biologists concede the paddler's new value has created management headaches.

Montana's current paddler fishing season does not allow the standard hook and worm. Paddlefish feed on plankton and other microscopic life forms, so they don't fall for the standard fish-fooling lures, either, or even the smallest dry flies. Paddlefish are caught by snagging — dragging a treble hook through the water and retrieving it in short jerks. Paddlers tend to congregate at the base of dams or diversions that block their spawning runs. When the paddlefish are running in the spring, several thousand fishermen typically gather at the Intake diversion dam near Glendive, on the Yellowstone River. The limit is two fish per season.

Despite this restrictive limit, state officials believe they are near the upper limit of allowable kill. The Montana Fish and Game Commission adopted a special paddlefish tagging system in January, which should help regulate the take, as well as give officials an idea of how many fish are being taken.

One can expect to hear a few snickers

when people start yelling "Save the Paddlefish!" But for those who aren't captivated by the peculiarity and antiquity of the paddler, and for those wallet-watchers who always must ask, "What good is it?", there's another answer.

The paddlefish is of considerable importance to comparative biologists and physiologists because of the similarity of its blood's immunization responses to human's. Right now medical researchers are using the prehistoric paddlefish to try to find a cure for cancer and the reasons for tissue rejection in heart transplant patients.

It's difficult to comprehend the amount of time that it takes for a complex life form like the paddlefish to evolve. Paddlefish have competed successfully with other life forms for 60 million years, while the oldest human species have only existed for about 4 million years. But history tells us that once an animal becomes valuable to humans, it often falls on hard times. Consider the fate of the buffalo and passenger pigeon.

Hank Fischer is the Montana representative for Defenders of Wildlife. Research for this article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

10-High Country News — May 15, 1981

Young ranchers ...

(continued from page 1)

"All this," said Patti, meaning both the farmland and the machinery, "belongs to my father. He supplies the money and we supply the labor."

The Trautmans are farm managers; tenant farmers, of sorts. "It's not ideal, being dependent on my parents," said Patti, "We'd like to have our own place, but we simply can't afford it. We'd have to move to Texas or someplace where the land was much, much cheaper."

Raised in Lander, Patti wouldn't relish such a move. Later, however, she and Garry say they'd make that sacrifice just to keep farming. Said Garry, "Unless you find someplace where the land is still affordable, there's only two ways to get into farming: inherit a farm or manage someone else's."

John Slutsky, 31, has done the unconventional by leasing a 75-cow dairy operation near Ft. Collins, Colo. — an opportunity that he says is a rarity.

And Lyle Schuetz, 36, says he luckily beat the whole situation by acquiring his 100-cow Loveland, Colo., dairy operation three years ago, when interest rates were 8 percent, his land was one-half its current \$6,000-an-acre value, and cows were selling for \$660, less than half the current price tag.

But even the lucky ones have economic problems. The Trautmans continue their farming only as long as her father keeps the land. The FHA last year rejected John Slutsky's proposal to acquire a new goat herd dairy. And Lyle Schuetz says operating costs are sending him to some increasingly unsympathetic bankers.

TIGHT FINANCING

To a young person with a financial portfolio limited to determination and a dream, borrowing the necessary money to get started is increasingly difficult. The traditional lenders are shying away from even proven, established agricultural operations.

The federal Farmers Home Administration has had its loan budget sharply cut back and has all but abandoned any efforts to finance start-ups. The cooperative Production Credit Associations and Farmers Federal Land Banks have abandoned their special aid to new farmers programs, initiated in 1970, and now subject new farmers to the same criteria employed for established operators. Most commercial banks will hardly consider a start-up proposal.

"There's a crying need to get, even keep, young farmers in the business," said Leland Fife, a staffer in the Idaho Department of Agriculture in Boise. "Even when a parent dies (and there's

The part time farmer is a growing phenomenon, with uncertain ramifications for the rural agricultural social fabric.

an heir willing to take over), you see farms going on the market. Farms are selling at twice what they're worth, and if the inheritance taxes aren't prohibitive, then operating costs are."

State efforts to help new farmers include programs to provide low interest land-purchase and operating loans. But in the Rocky Mountain region, there's been little exertion to lend a hand.

Idaho's program, admits Fife, is totally ineffective. "We loaned out a total of \$150,000 last year, largely to 4-H projects." Wyoming has a Farm Loan Board which is largely restricted to existing operations.

The Colorado state Senate's agriculture committee has approved a measure authorizing the marketing of special bonds to assist farmers with loans, but again the focus will be on established operators, if the program is approved.

And in Montana, where operations vary in size from 300 irrigated acre farms to 30-section ranches, the Legislature approved this session a measure that would establish a farm loan authority with a potential \$200 million fund.

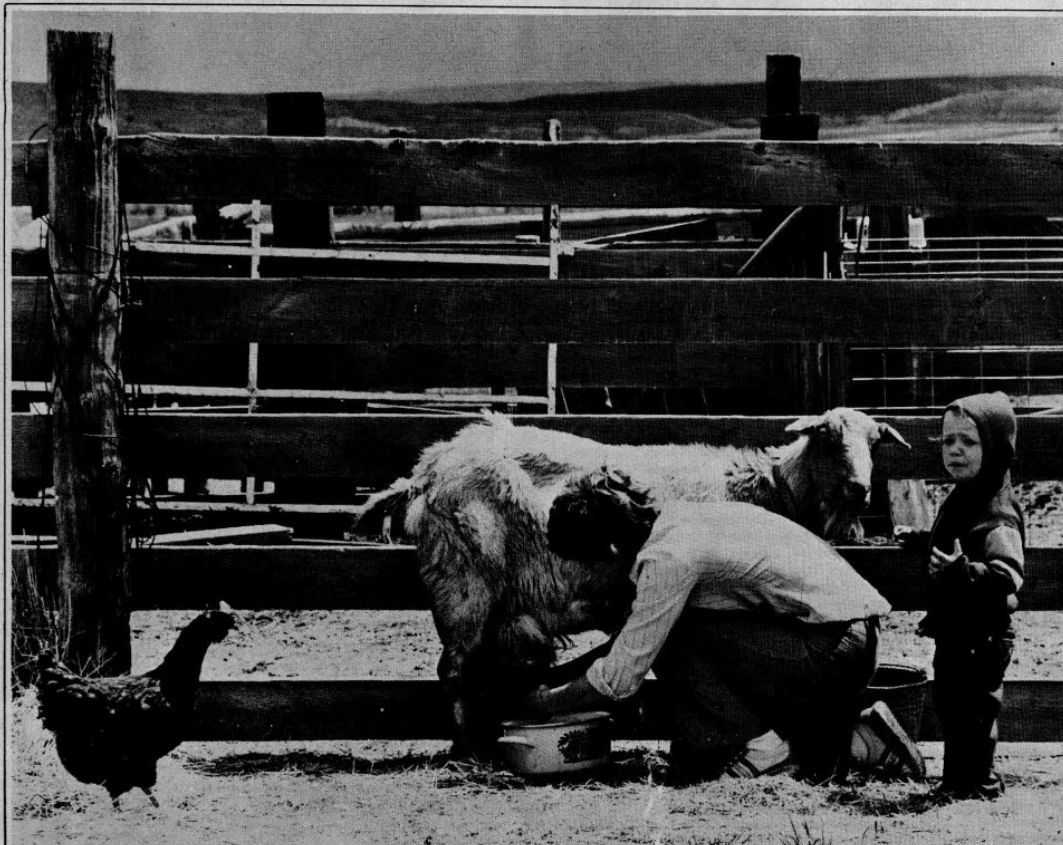
The interest rates on the Montana and Colorado loans would fluctuate with the market. Observers in both states are hoping for averages of 10 percent, far below the 16 to 18 percent prime rate.

Montana legislators have also considered, but not passed, an innovative proposal to give retiring farmers tax breaks if they sell their operations to young, start-up operators. That scheme has been successfully used since 1977 in Minnesota and since 1972 in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan.

HELPING BEGINNERS

In North Dakota, where agriculture retains a high place in the state's economy, the legislature this year approved two measures to aid beginning farmers — a tax incentive program like Minnesota's and a low-interest guaranteed loan program.

Both bills expand the assistance programs set up in 1979; programs which have been "moderately" successful in aiding new farmers, according to state Agriculture Commissioner Kent



WITH YOUNG SON in tow, Patti Trautman works their Lander farm with an enthusiasm that shines.

Jones.

Under North Dakota's tax incentive program, a landowner selling to a beginning farmer can exclude up to \$50,000 from capital gains tax calculations, while a landowner choosing to lease land to a beginner can deduct one-half that amount from his or her taxable income each year, according to estimates by the Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies, authors of a 1980 study, **Assisting Beginning Farmers**. Over 400 landowners participated in the program's first year.

Since 1919, North Dakota farmers and ranchers have also enjoyed the unique state-owned Bank of North Dakota. The only one of its kind in the country, the bank was set up to ease the burden of high interest rates on loans being charged by commercial banks, and the bank's \$400 million in deposits ranked it the 40th largest agricultural lender in the nation in 1977. Since 1978, more than 200 farmers have received an average of \$100,000 apiece in state bank loans.

Commissioner Jones says that the total loan fund, and individual loan limits, are still too small to help many farmers, especially beginning operators. But the North Dakota program has spurred a new federal plan to help the young farmer.

Introduced this spring by Rep. Berkley Bedell (D-Iowa), the Beginning Farmers Assistance Act (H.R. 2977) would establish a \$250 million fund for loan guarantees to states that have beginning farmer loan programs.

A family farm, as defined by Bedell, is one supplying at least 30 percent of a farm family's income and operated with no more than one hired hand. Successful applicants must prove "ability" and unsuccessful efforts to obtain credit elsewhere.

The 90 percent loan guarantees would be divided amongst 20 states, however, and some observers believe the Bedell bill will hardly make a dent in the credit problem of beginning farmers.

Furthermore, while it has the backing of farm groups ranging from the National Family Farm Coalition to the conservative Farm Bureau, the Bedell bill's passage is by no means assured. A similar \$1.6 billion, four-year scheme

was unsuccessfully introduced in 1979 by Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisc.).

RETHINKING THE ISSUE

There is some sentiment in the agriculture community that efforts to help the beginning farmer may be futile, or even self-defeating.

Even among staunch supporters of the family farmer, there are doubts about a loan program's long range success when the financial picture is bleak even for established operators. "It's nice to get someone into agriculture," said Colorado Agriculture Commissioner Morgan Smith, "but what's the use if they're going to struggle for a few years, and then quit in financial disaster."

Proponents of larger, more mechanized farm structure argue against "subsidizing" new, small-time farmers. In his 1976 book, **Beyond the Furrow**, agri-business advocate Hiram Drache presents a line-up of dozens of bankers and farm experts who argue against special breaks for new farmers. A retiring farmer's land, they believe, is often best acquired by a neighboring farmer so he or she can expand their operation into a more competitive, profitable farm.

"There is much talk today about repopulating the land," writes Drache, "But...it is the progressive family-oriented farm, far different from its predecessor, that...will show the way toward tomorrow's harvest."

In lieu of successful government assistance programs, one Illinois banker recently interviewed by the trade journal, **Successful Farming**, notes his bank's abandonment of a special young farmer program and advises new farmers to "work full-time (at other jobs) for four or five years to build a little equity to help justify their loans. We also suggest he find an older farmer who has no one to take over his operation and is willing to let a young man work into the business."

While the Trautmans will probably eventually get their own ranchland through their family, many of their friends work part or full time at the local U.S. Steel taconite mine, and operate small ranches during their off hours.

According to several studies, farmers and ranchers increasingly hold jobs in town — ranging from construction

labor to holding a seasonal seat in the state legislature. The part time farmer is a growing phenomenon, with uncertain ramifications for the rural agricultural social fabric.

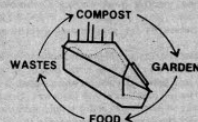
BIDING TIME

The Domenicos, meanwhile, plot out alternatives and cultivate hope. Cindy, 25, has taken agricultural-related work with the Denver-based National Farmers Union. Robert, 19, says he'll probably work as a fieldman for Coors or Great Western Sugar when he graduates, building the bank account necessary to purchase his own farm. And Joellen, 22, thinks a farming husband and cheaper land in the eastern Colorado plains may be her solution.

"It's hard to believe that you can get attached to the land," said Joellen. When pressed for the most painful loss, "It's the closeness," she said, "the closeness that farming brings to your family."

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RUNNING THE RACE. The staff of HCN, our spirits buoyed by the spring weather, invite one and all to the Fifth Annual High Country News Footrace Saturday, June 13, 6 p.m. in Lander. You can run, walk or chaperon children through the five-mile scenic loop and afterwards languish at a post-race potluck dinner. Lace 'em up.

STAFF COORDINATOR for the Montana Environmental Information Center in Helena. Duties include administration of a 1,300 member non-profit organization, fundraising and financial management, and coordination of a 5-member staff. Natural resource background, administrative and fundraising skills required. \$900 per mo. plus benefits. Send letter, resume, references and writing sample to Don Snow, EIC, Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624. Deadline May 23. Job starts immediately.

EDITOR for the Montana Environmental Information Center in Helena. Duties include writing, editing, layout, advertising management and volunteer recruitment for bimonthly tabloid. Must assume other duties as a staff member in a non-profit organization. B.A. in English, Journalism or related field. \$700 per mo. plus benefits. Send letter, resume, references, writing sample to Don Snow, EIC, Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624, by May 23. Job starts June 1.

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Environmental Action
Suite 731-H
1346 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone orders 202-833-1845

STATE OF WYOMING

Financial Statements of Insurance Companies which are Authorized to do business in Wyoming. Published in High Country News May 15, 29; June 12, 26; July 10, 24, 1981.

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING
World Life and Health Ins. Co. of Penna. 550 W. Dekalb Pike, King of Prussia, Penna. 1906 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Insurance Written \$1,181 Gross Premiums Received 1,181 Direct Benefits and Losses Paid - Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred - Total Admitted Assets 1,745,708 Liabilities 1,732,079 Capital Stock Paid Up - Surplus 13,629 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 3,255,753 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 3,191,996 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	Yosemite Insurance Company 717 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Gross Premiums Received \$17,499 Losses Paid Deducting Salvage - Losses Incurred 3,432 Total Admitted Assets 44,264,144 Liabilities 31,569,545 Capital Stock Paid Up 2,100,000 Surplus 10,549,599 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 9,168,457 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 6,996,548 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	Western National Life Insurance Company P.O. Box 871, Amarillo, Texas 79167 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Insurance Written \$6,568,364 Gross Premiums Received 397,330.60 Direct Benefits and Losses Paid 140,090.66 Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred None Total Admitted Assets 279,887,671.58 Liabilities 268,608,790.99 Capital Stock Paid Up 1,500,000.00 Surplus 9,878,980.59 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 112,298,523.20 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 112,060,241.69 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	Westfield Insurance Company Westfield Center, Ohio 44251 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Gross Premiums Received \$-0- Losses Paid Deducting Salvage - Losses Incurred - Total Admitted Assets 125,956,727 Liabilities 82,991,689 Capital Stock Paid Up 1,500,000 Surplus 41,465,038 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 87,985,868 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 82,139,427 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING
World Book Life Insurance Company P.O. Box 3476, Chicago, Illinois 60654 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Insurance Written \$214,000 Gross Premiums Received 8,849 Direct Benefits and Losses Paid 165 Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred 147 Total Admitted Assets 60,983,128 Liabilities 55,285,401 Capital Stock Paid Up 1,540,000 Surplus 4,157,727 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 10,394,938 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 9,756,472 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	York Insurance Company 209 North York Street, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Gross Premiums Received \$-0- Losses Paid Deducting Salvage - Losses Incurred - Total Admitted Assets 6,423,787 Liabilities 1,502,754 Capital Stock Paid Up 1,250,000 Surplus 3,271,033 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 2,017,710 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 1,524,326 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	Western Reserve Life Insurance Co. of Ohio 201 Highland, Box 5068, Clearwater, Florida 33518 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Insurance Written \$-0- Gross Premiums Received 3,717 Direct Benefits and Losses Paid 4,905 Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred - Total Admitted Assets 89,406,991 Liabilities 82,613,996 Capital Stock Paid Up 1,200,000 Surplus 5,652,995 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 32,787,656 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 32,351,942 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	Westfield Life Insurance Company Westfield Center, Ohio 44251 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Insurance Written \$50,000 Gross Premiums Received 612 Direct Benefits and Losses Paid - Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred - Total Admitted Assets 35,333,350 Liabilities 23,902,373 Capital Stock Paid Up 1,500,000 Surplus 9,930,977 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 11,069,834 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 9,943,312 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING
Zurich American Life Insurance Company 231 North Martingale Road, Schaumburg, Illinois 60196 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Insurance Written \$None Gross Premiums Received 4,040 Direct Benefits and Losses Paid 1,668 Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred 1,800 Total Admitted Assets 22,209,980 Liabilities 18,543,297 Capital Stock Paid Up 1,100,000 Surplus 4,456,683 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 9,775,501 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 9,060,562 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	Zurich Insurance Company 231 North Martingale Road, Schaumburg, Illinois 60196 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Gross Premiums Received \$121,555 Losses Paid Deducting Salvage 54,608 Losses Incurred 87,606 Total Admitted Assets 797,683,621 Liabilities 635,792,124 Statutory Deposit 600,000 Surplus 121,291,496 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 372,602,999 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 359,978,367 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	Western States Life Insurance Company Box 2907, Fargo, North Dakota 58108 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Insurance Written \$1,063,672 Gross Premiums Received 137,465 Direct Benefits and Losses Paid 71,063 Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred 22,053 Total Admitted Assets 118,084,440 Liabilities 106,711,500 Capital Stock Paid Up 1,790,484 Surplus 9,582,455 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 32,328,899 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 31,404,401 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	The Wisconsin Life Insurance Company 709 North Segoe Road, P.O. Box 5099, Madison, WI 53705 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Insurance Written \$296,000 Gross Premiums Received 33,698 Direct Benefits and Losses Paid 29,105 Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred 27,167 Total Admitted Assets 122,356,818 Liabilities 102,938,025 Capital Stock Paid Up - Surplus 19,418,793 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 67,947,557 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 68,706,415 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF WYOMING
World Service Life Insurance Company 303 South 18 Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Insurance Written \$45,344 Gross Premiums Received 25,806 Direct Benefits and Losses Paid 77,200 Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred 53,409 Total Admitted Assets 97,892,414 Liabilities 89,442,044 Capital Stock Paid Up - Surplus 8,470,369 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 30,696,234 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 29,663,095 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	World Service Life Insurance Company Home Office: 7346-A South Alton Way, Suite 129, Englewood, CO 80112 Mailing: Post Office Box 1876, Fort Worth, Texas 76101 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Insurance Written \$29,198,762 Gross Premiums Received 756,609 Direct Benefits and Losses Paid 259,234 Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred 251,182 Total Admitted Assets 283,077,499 Liabilities 275,548,354 Capital Stock Paid Up 1,250,000 Surplus 6,279,145 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 85,126,330 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 79,567,950 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	Western Surety Company 908 West Avenue North, Sioux Falls, SD 57192 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Gross Premiums Received \$256,007 Losses Paid Deducting Salvage (4,664) Losses Incurred 7,160 Total Admitted Assets 42,754,765 Liabilities 22,968,805 Capital Stock Paid Up 4,000,000 Surplus 15,785,960 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 22,371,479 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 18,874,606 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner	Woodmen Accident and Life Company P.O. Box 82288, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501 BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980 Insurance Written \$1,601,402 Gross Premiums Received 468,056 Direct Benefits and Losses Paid 232,208 Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred 90,974 Total Admitted Assets 227,774,504 Liabilities 207,901,365 Capital Stock Paid Up - Surplus 19,873,138 Income during year ending December 31, 1980 70,622,670 Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980 70,108,336 Pursuant to Section 26-3-129 (b), Wyoming Insurance Code, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the insurer above named is in all respects in compliance with the laws of this State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming. Dated May 12, 1981 a. John T. Langdon Insurance Commissioner

Bulletin Board

CLEARING THE AIR

Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson (R), a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said he and Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) will conduct field hearings on the reauthorization of the Clean Air Act. The hearings have been scheduled for Billings, Mont. on May 26 at the Sheraton Hotel and Casper, Wyo. on May 27 at the Ramada Inn. Persons wishing to submit statements should mail them to Paul Chimes, Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate, Washington D.C. 20510.

BISON BASIN

A final environmental impact statement on Ogle Petroleum's plans to operate an in-situ uranium mine in the Bison Basin near Jeffrey City, Wyo., is available for review at the Fremont County Library, Lander, Wyo., the Office of the State Planning Coordinator, Office of the Governor, Cheyenne, Wyo., and in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's document room in Washington, D.C. The pilot-scale project was found to be "without significant risk" by the NRC.

CHEYENNE PLAN

A revised version of the Cheyenne Stage II Environmental Impact Statement is available to the public at the U.S. Forest Service offices in Laramie, Wyo., and Lakewood, Colo. Public information meetings on the controversial water project are scheduled for June 9 in Laramie, Wyo., from 7-9 p.m. at the University of Wyoming Ballroom Lounge, 2nd floor Student Union; at the Cheyenne City Council chambers, 2101 O'Neill Ave., June 10, 7-9 p.m.; and in the Music Room of the Morrill School in Baggs, Wyo., June 11 from 7-9 p.m.

GETTING ORGANIZED

The North Country Institute, a non-profit organization located in Woodsville, N.H., is holding a week-long training session for rural community organizers. The first session, June 3-7, is in Newbury, Vt., the second, Aug. 23-27, in E. Sebago, Me. The sessions will use case studies to aid people interested in grassroots fundraising, mobilization, newsletters, energy issues in rural locales, and other topics. The fee is \$275. For more information, write Meg Campbell, North Country Inst., P.O. Box 184, Woodsville, N.H. 08785.

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POWDER RIVER RANK

The Powder River Regional Coal Team, a group of federal and state officials working on federal coal leasing plans, are meeting May 21 at the Ramada Inn in Casper to discuss the selection and ranking of tracts of federal coal in the Powder River Basin for new leases. The team will review the work of the environmental impact statement team, and discuss the recently enlarged regional lease target. For further information, contact Robert Buffington, Bureau of Land Management, Rm. 398, Federal Bldg., 550 West Fort St., Boise, Idaho 83724, or Stan McKee, Project Manager, BLM, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001.

WIND ABOUT WIND

There will be lots of talk about wind energy at the Department of Energy's Solar Energy Research Institute Wind Energy Conference and Workshop, Oct. 5-7 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. Federal and private research projects will be presented, new products, and workshop discussions will be held on federal programs. For more information, contact: Conferences Group, SERI, 1617 Cole Blvd., Golden, Colo. 80401, or call (303) 231-7361.

AMERICAN SOILS

Canadian and American natural resource management policies will be the theme of the 36th annual gathering of the Soil Conservation Society of America in Spokane, Wash., August 2-5. Contact the planning committee at 7515 Northeast Ankeny Road, Ankeny, Iowa, 50021 for an agenda.

Summer in Yellowstone

Join the Yellowstone Institute this summer for field seminars in Yellowstone National Park.

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The YELLOWSTONE Institute
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(406) 443-0861

WALKING THE DIVIDE

Designing and managing the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Corridor is the focus of a new newsletter being produced by the Forest Service, P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood, Colo. 80225.

OFFICIAL UPDATE

An updated roster of state elected officials and state supreme court members is available for \$12 from the Council of State Governments, Iron Works Pike, P.O. Box 11910, Lexington, Ky. 40578. The publication is a supplement to CSG's *Book of the States*.

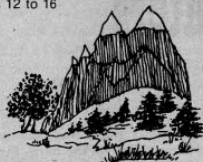
SHOPPING SHRIFT

Everything you might want to know about shopping centers in the United States and Canada is contained in the study, "Dollars and Cents of Shopping Centers: 1981," available for \$65 from the Urban Land Institute, 1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

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Opinion



Letters

EARTH FIRST!

Dear HCN,

You recently ran a short and very interesting article on the Earth First! group (HCN, 4-17-81). I would like to find out more about them. Unfortunately there was no source of information or membership in the article. I am hoping you can assist me in this.

Chris Prator
Paradise, California
P.S. note: Earth First! can be reached at P.O. Box 536, Breckenridge, Colo. 80424.

SHOOTING BACK

Dear HCN,

Compared with the standard conservationist strategy of middle-class commitment, tedious lawsuits and flawless

photography, Earth First! (HCN, 4-17-81) is a dazzler indeed. There's a bit of the radical in a lot of us, and nothing lifts the spirit quite like kicking a Reaganite in the political groin.

But, as with almost everything that is fun, Earth First! raises the ubiquitous Important Question. This one is: Is this kind of scheme (confrontation) worth the risk (polarization)? In other words, will Earth First! make us feel better, but make our goals harder to realize?

Assuredly, Earth First! is a defensive gesture, not a malicious first strike. James Watt and his mean-hearted pals fired the first shot, and then were audacious enough to hide behind the flag — but that's another story. Suffice it to say that when the battle to save the planet is chronicled (if anyone is left to chronicle it), it will be noted that Earth First! did not draw first.

Earth First! did draw, however, or proposed to. The assumption here is that since the plunderers started the shooting, it is acceptable to shoot back. I

am not sure I agree with that. But this moral issue is not the Important Question: the effect of Earth First! on the attainment of conservation goals is. There is more than enough philosophical justification for Earth First!, but we can be morally right and still fail.

One might reasonably ask what awful consequences Earth First! could have. A radical strategy of confrontation tends to cast its practitioners as outsiders, uncooperative, even threatening. Any substantial change in law and government policy toward the earth will come not from exterior assault, but from a shift in mainstream American attitudes. Such a shift has already begun, I hope. Radical confrontation may deflect the momentum. Americans are not fond of radicalism.

Also, the simplification of conservation issues for the benefit of television is unhealthy. Television is the quintessential promise of instant gratification, and there are not quick solutions to the mess we've made of our planet. By making the problems seem simple, televi-

sion, by implication, makes the solutions seem simple as well. And when the simple solutions are not forthcoming, there is the risk of frustrating and alienating America's multitude of quick-fix junkies. There is no point in reducing conservationism to the level of colas and fabric softeners.

Earth First! does point up defects in the prevalent conservation strategy. It is staid and predictable, and has been successfully imitated by our opponents (Mountain States Legal Foundation, et al.). Earth First! probably isn't the answer to our problem, but it is a tonic.

Dan Elliott
Denver, Colo.

REACTIONARY ECONOMICS

Dear HCN,

While Thomas N. Bethell's views on the free market influence on alternative energy (HCN, 4-3-81) are interesting and not without merit, there's another aspect to the story that we dare not let President Reagan's short-sighted views lead us away from. That is, should free market principles be given free rein in the energy field — to the exclusion of some accounting for the effects of such exploitation — there may be a pricey debt to pay in the future.

Specifically, coal currently appears to be a most expedient source of BTU's for the foreseeable future. And "bottom line" reasoning will no doubt drive our country in its direction for years to come. Yet an increase in fossil fuel consumption (or, perhaps, even a continuation at our current rate of use) may have serious consequences.

A flood of new information on the influences of fossil fuel combustion on climate has been published in the last two years (though R. Reagan and staff are apparently ignorant of it). Carbon dioxide, atmospheric particulate loading, atmospheric and surface albedo changes, and acid precipitation are the "stars" of our society's emphasis on combustion. There isn't, today, any consensus as to our fate: freeze, bake, or a happy balance of the two; but there is universal scientific agreement that we are in the process of altering global temperatures to extents which cannot be compared with any natural variations in climate over the last 10,000 years.

In short, there are, I believe, more important concerns than the mere economics of energy. Prudence dictates that we develop those energy sources which are thermodynamically (and environmentally) suited to our needs. 2,000 degrees F. coal plants are only slightly

COLORADO GRIZZLY

Dear HCN,

Despite the Colorado Division of Wildlife's claimed steadiness of approach, the Colorado grizzly (HCN, 4-20-81) still inspires them to amazing feats of hand. Steve Bissell (HCN, "Letters," 4-17-81) pulls off the neat trick of praising DOW's association with Ron Zaccagnini and denouncing him in the same breath. The fact is, Zaccagnini took care to list only the sightings made by professionals. These "bear men" are the very experts who would be sent out to check others' sightings. Who else must confirm the confirmers? DOW's policy of disallowing such sightings exhibits a paralyzing caricature passed off as scientific restraint and reveals the huge gap between field biologists and office bureaucrats, a gap which effectively swallows sound rationale for wider study.

Moreover, Zaccagnini says he was not hired by DOW, as Bissell contends he was, "for the express purpose of following up and evaluating grizzly bear sighting reports in our files." Rather, he was working full time on river otter and black-footed ferret projects when he heard about some grizzly sightings on his own. He had started gathering information "as a sideline." And: "There were no records before I put that list together."

Such is the state of DOW's record-keeping that they sometimes report Lloyd Anderson — in 1952 — killed the last Colorado grizzly before the

Wiseman and bear, and sometimes that Ernie Wilkinson did in 1951. Mr. Tischbein (HCN, "Letters," 4-17-81) chooses Anderson in '52. Talks with the men themselves reveal both kills came in 1951. Anderson's in August, Wilkinson's in September.

As for Mr. Tischbein's grizzly article in *Colorado Outdoors* (Jan.-Feb.), his tentative conclusion that grizzlies remain "a question mark in places like Colorado's rugged back country..." I suppose should be applauded. At least it represents some movement from denial. I knew about the article, wish I had had room to include it, and accept the criticism for not having done so. But had I, the inaccurate information about Anderson, the reshaping of only the two most benign sightings that Zaccagnini was allowed to publish in 1975, and the misleading account of the Wiseman incident, all of which also appear in Tischbein's article, still leave one to wonder how DOW could choose this as a defense of either their attitude or their science in the matter.

The "official report" on the Wiseman incident, by the way, consists largely of magazine and newspaper clippings.

As for the 1956 study, Lloyd Anderson, chief consultant for the work, denounced the procedure and left the study. Remaining were people largely inexperienced in the area. Officials refused to place bait stations at locations Anderson had identified as most likely to turn up grizzlies. Many baits were placed for the convenience of being checked along sight lines from the highway — not exactly prime grizzly



habitat. Other baits, placed without regard to grizzly feeding habits, were overrun by black bears.

I am glad DOW now seeks publicly to convince us of their interest in the grizzly. There are some fine young biologists who may have a chance now of doing what they are supposed to do. So far, however, this is still not the case. No roads have been closed; no developments have been stopped. No areas in which a hunter might mistake a grizzly for a black bear have been closed to hunting. No grazing permits have been reevaluated in light of the bear's probable occurrence. And no agency has sponsored the Colorado grizzly's inclusion in the efforts of the national grizzly recovery team.

John Roberts
Boulder, Colo.

Regulatory evil is in the eye of the beholder



A disturbing trend is emerging in the literature of environmental advocates. The current national mania for a return to the economic principles of the Hoover administration has produced a defensive attitude among normally aggressive environmental spokesmen. Nothing, it seems, can any longer be advocated unless the advocate first genuflects in the direction of "free enterprise" and "good business."

President Ronald Reagan's chainsaw style of budget cutting, some of which is merely painful and some disastrous, is apparently responsible for this attitude. We are seeing a sort of backlash with environmentalists dusting off their freshman economics texts and bandying about terms like "cost-benefit analysis," "capital costs," and "annual growth in the GNP."

Writing in the recent issue of *Sierra*, the *Sierra Club* bulletin, the group's executive director, Michael McCloskey, goes to great lengths to explain that "Environmental protection is good for business." Doubtless he is right, but this approach isn't going to sell any catalytic converters.

The reason is simple — the most ferocious advocates of the free enterprise system during the current debate are the ones who believe in it least. American businessmen have a deep distrust of capitalism and the operation of market forces.

One needn't look far to see this. The auto industry is the most glaring example. Chrysler's troubles are well-known, as is its humiliating trek to the government offices to beg for a handout — just like every other welfare dependent. When government showed faith in Chrysler's management ability to compete with the competition and awarded it loan guarantees, that faith was rewarded when the company came back in January, bottomless bowl in hand, and said, "Please, sir, I want some more."

Then, too, the industry has gone to Congress and the president asking for relaxation of air pollution controls on automobiles and import restrictions on Japanese cars. The pollution relief was requested so that U.S. automakers could get back in the running against the Japanese competition. But, just in case that doesn't work, the auto industry would also like to hamstring the opposition — not by tried-and-true Adam Smithian solutions like better quality products or lower prices, but by — what have we here? — government regulation.

This lack of faith in the competitive system demonstrated once again that the chief loser is the consumer. Not only have air quality rules been relaxed, but as seen as the Japanese agreed to voluntary import restrictions, we began hearing that American car prices would rise next year by an average of \$400. How's that for a tough stand against inflation?

Then there is the poor, beleaguered oil industry. The major corporations have been yelling for years for the complete deregulation of the oil business. Prices have been skyrocketing for imported petroleum products and it has irked the major corporate barons that they were unable to squeeze a few more cents out of consumers for domestic crude because of government pricing rules. These complaints were particularly difficult to understand when, simultaneously, indus-

try profits were at record levels.

In real life, however, the situation is somewhat different. For one thing, the oil industry wouldn't know a free market if it hit them with a subpoena. Long before the Arab oil embargo, the domestic petroleum industry was bolstered by government support, largely in the form of tax incentives like the oil depletion allowance.

Now, particularly, there is no such thing as a free market — with or without the interference of the U.S. government. Prices are set by a cartel — a monopoly — not by the sacred laws of supply and demand. The price of crude oil has jumped several thousand percent per barrel over the past ten years with a relatively small increase in the actual costs of production. A chimpanzee could have made money running an oil company under those circumstances.

Further eroding what little credibility is left in these arguments, the major energy companies — with the notable exceptions of Mobil and Exxon — are lined up outside the Reagan handout office for government money to private synthetic fuels. In Adam Smith's world, if synthetic fuels are such a great idea, private capital would be attracted to the investment. But private capital has stayed away from synthetic fuels for decades — too risky. Now that it's the government's money, it sounds like a great idea. This hardly amounts to affirmation of the value of a rough-and-tumble marketplace.

Then there is the hallowed concept of "cost-benefit analysis." This concept is used very selectively. No one, for instance, is saying anything about the cost versus benefit of synthetic fuels. The unquestioned goodness of the idea has been handed down from On High — hang the costs.

Similarly, few large water projects can withstand an objective look at their costs versus their benefits. The Tennessee Valley Authority's Tellico Dam is a classic example. Forget the snail darter, the whole project was a lemon. Even the administrator of the agency said, when Tellico was 99 percent complete, that there would be a negative cost-benefit outcome if the reservoir behind the dam were filled. The argument carried little weight. The dam was filled — apparently for no other reason than it was there.

To argue economics with the high priests of this mysterious discipline is to punch a tar baby. They keep changing the rules, twisting the issues along ever more tortuous flights of logic. Government regulation — strip mine laws, wind-fall profits tax, endangered species legislation — is bad. Government regulation — synthetic loan guarantees, import restrictions and tax incentives — is good.

It is unpopular these days to defend regulation, particularly regulation that interferes with the currently trendy "supply side economics." So environmentalists find themselves wandering into murky water, defending rules and laws that don't have dollar pay back. It is difficult to determine the cost-benefit of saving the grizzly bear, or to provide a loan guarantee to an elk herd.

Environmentalists have to stop pretending that they are Milton Friedmans appearing on "Wall Street Week." They have to address the real values that supply side economics overlooks. There is a difference between good and greed.

— DSW

more suited to the heating of a home to 65 degrees F. than are 10,000 degrees F. nuclear plants. Solar energy promises temperatures which are well matched to demands...especially those of a thoughtfully conserving society.

The sort of economics that I read from Mr. Bethell's editorial are — just as are Mr. Reagan's — inherently reactionary. Our country is, as usual, in desperate need of planning.

David Schoonmaker
Associate Editor
Mother Earth News
Hendersonville, N.C.

FRUSTRATION NO EXCUSE

Dear HCN,

Your unabashed approval of industrial sabotage in the Opinion section of your May 1, 1981 edition leaves me more than mildly dismayed.

If frustration is all that is needed to justify "ecotage" on the part of the so-called environmental movement, then the same should be true for groups trying to develop so-called needed resources. Lord knows, they've experienced a great deal of frustration over the past decade.

If there is some philosophical sense to this form of "ecotage," then there is

philosophical sense for developers to use the same instrument of persuasion.

Why not knock the windows out of environmental press rooms and destroy their tools? Why not publicly and physically abuse their possessions? Why not run rampant through their (they seem to think it belongs only to them) wilderness slashing tents and stomping on pack frames when they are left untended?

It is also rather ironic your main concern about full approval of ecotage is your fear of alienating "the upper class constituency that pays the bills of lawyers and lobbyists." Where on earth do you think your "upper class constituency" gets its bucks to pay these bills? They most likely come essentially from resource development — either directly or through trust investments.

I only hope you can see the fallacy of your editorial. If you can't take a better disciplined position, you're going to help sacrifice everything we've gained.

Walter Hills
Sheridan, Wyoming

(Ed. note: Lest there be any confusion, HCN's editorial position is foursquare opposed to industrial sabotage.)

MORE MUIR

Dear HCN,

While I agree with the tone of Peter Wild's article on Horace Greeley, I was disappointed by his description of John Muir's life. Muir did not experience the destruction of lands by sheep in the Sierras under the guidance of Mr. Underwood, but as a shepherd, as described in one of his autobiographical texts, "My First Summer In The Sierras." Muir was a resident of Yosemite Valley and a backcountry traveler, and it was in this role that he became known as "John of Mountains," not as a vineyardist in northern California.

It would be nice to credit Muir as the founder of national parks, but I do not think that private citizens had that power, even in the late 1800's. Muir's most famous camping trip involved an outing with Teddy Roosevelt in the Sierras. If anyone was a founder of national parks, it was President Roosevelt. Finally, if anyone tried to live his life today as Muir did, he would be violating laws of conduct on public lands lobbied for by environmentalists for so many years.

Steve Skelton
Colden, Colo.



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books

New Roots for Agriculture

Wes Jackson; 1980, \$4.95, paper, 155 pages. Friends of the Earth, San Francisco.

Review by Gary Nabhan

Historically, environmentalists have been more interested in agriculture's effects on the surrounding landscape than on the farm itself. Agriculture was scrutinized only to the extent that its pesticides had impact on wildlife or its irrigation projects dammed wild rivers and fouled the water.

Yet all along, there have been individuals who have looked at agriculture with an ecologist's point of view and tried to integrate the lessons of natural ecosystems into a strategy of food production. Such a viewpoint can help us evaluate the various energy and nutrient costs of different ways of farming. It recognizes, too, that the way humans obtain their food has changed the face of the earth more than any other activity.

Or as Wes Jackson puts it, "We can say without any exaggeration that corn, as a technological product, has re-

duced more options for future generations than the automobile."

In less than a century, modern mechanized monoculture crops have depleted the finite resources of soil nutrients, tilth, groundwater and energy that accumulated over hundreds of thousands of years. Now, with the ecological capital of the continent squandered, we are recognizing that the American breadbasket can't continue feeding the world forever. Despite more energy, fertilizer and technical know-how being pumped into annual crop production, yields have leveled off or are declining. The problem, Jackson suggests, is not the side-effects of modern mechanized farming, nor agribusiness, nor chemicals—it is the very way we are farming.

Jackson, a Kansan, is particularly concerned about soil mining in the plains and prairie states, where farms typically lose 10 tons of soil per acre for every 100 bushels of corn crop produced. His alternative is based on perennialism or what he calls "new roots."

Jackson proposes an agriculture of seed-producing herbaceous perennial plants. He is actively screening natives adapted to the grassland biome that are capable of enhancing and stabilizing

soils rather than degrading them. Mimicking the original prairie assemblage, Jackson's ideal would include mixtures of perennial grains, legumes and sunflowers, some to be grazed, some to produce seed for direct consumption, and some for fuel production.

Jackson and colleagues have developed 28 acres near Salina, Kansas, into The Land Institute, where experiments are already evaluating the efficacy of "rooted" agriculture. Jackson and his collaborator Marty Bender have discovered that seed yields of many perennial herbs and grasses are remarkably high and that the technology to harvest mixed seed crops is quite feasible.

There are still some tough questions to answer: How many years does a perennial plant sustain a yield before disease or senility catch up to it? Which combinations of grains and legumes produce the best yields per unit area? How will his ideas be received by farmers and consumers?

It is notable that the environmental group, Friends of the Earth published this book on agriculture—gone are the days when environmentalists could limit their concern to the protection of remote "recreation areas." Jackson

New Roots For Agriculture

Wes Jackson



Friends of the Earth

shows that a healthy agriculture modeled on natural ecosystems should go hand in hand with the preservation of those wild places.

Gary Nabhan is an author and botanical researcher in Tucson, Ariz. His book, *The Desert Smells Like Rain*, will be published soon.



by Duane Howe

A calf, only a few days old, stands alone while its mother grazes nearby. Its dam is one of 1200 elk that migrate into northwestern Wyoming's DuNoir basin in the spring; they pause to enjoy grasses nourished by early snowmelt on south facing slopes. Most have spent the winter on the public lands of Spring Mountain and the Game and Fish Department's East Fork Game Winter Range 20 miles to the southeast. They are now returning to their historic calving grounds and summer ranges where they will be largely undisturbed by human activity.

Several hundred calves will be born on the sagebrush flats and sparsely timbered slopes of DuNoir basin. Later some will follow their dams to higher ranges in the adjacent Teton Wilderness to the northwest or Washakie Wilderness to the northeast. Others will share the higher, timbered slopes of the DuNoir and grass-covered plateaus above with bighorn sheep and mule deer during the summer. Cattle will then replace the elk in the lower meadows.

When explorer John Coulter first came to this country at the turn of the century, there were still charred remnants of a fire from a century before, mixed with younger growth, and he called it the "Black Forest."

Spending a June night at the edge of a meadow near Frozen Lake Creek I hear a constant barking and squeaking all around. Cows are signalling their calves and cohorts, keeping the family groups together. Coyotes yelp in the

distance, but the elk aren't bothered. Great horned owls join in the mysterious conversation. Coffin Butte to the west and the Ram-horn to the east direct my eyes to the brightness of the stars overhead.

By sunrise the elk have drifted into the timber and their squeaking is replaced by the thump — thump — thump — pum — pum — pum — pum — prrrrr of ruffed grouse, the pee-bee-bee of the Mountain Chickadee, the pervasive flute-like notes of distant hermit thrushes and the occasional rattle of a Williamson's Sapsucker. Trumpeter swans on Trail Lake are silent, but a shrill "quick-three-beers" is whistled repeatedly from a nearby treetop. We see fresh bear tracks in the dirt.

As I wander in search of photogenic subjects I see fading signs of the logging activity of another generation. Stumps, skid trails, wagon roads and remains of a mill site are evident. Skidding was done with horses and mules then. Trees were selected here and there for felling with crosscut saws. The harvest was gentle.

Last winter the thunder of dynamite could be heard in the DuNoir. The Forest Service allowed a seismograph company to explore for oil and gas even though the agency is recommending the area for wilderness preservation. Chevron would like to hear the churn of oil pumps in the DuNoir basin. Louisiana-Pacific would like to hear the roar of chain saws working there.

If John Coulter were to revisit this "Black Forest" today, 74 years after his first visit, he would notice some subtle changes. The forest that last burned some 135 years before Coulter's arrival has become old and diseased. Bird life has become more diverse in response to a variety of insects supported by the dying old trees. Trees that have fallen or been cut have been replaced by a younger, healthier generation breaking up the even-aged condition of the regenerated forest. Pine martens are more abundant too, thanks to a growing supply of voles and nesting cavities in the mature forest.

