High Country News

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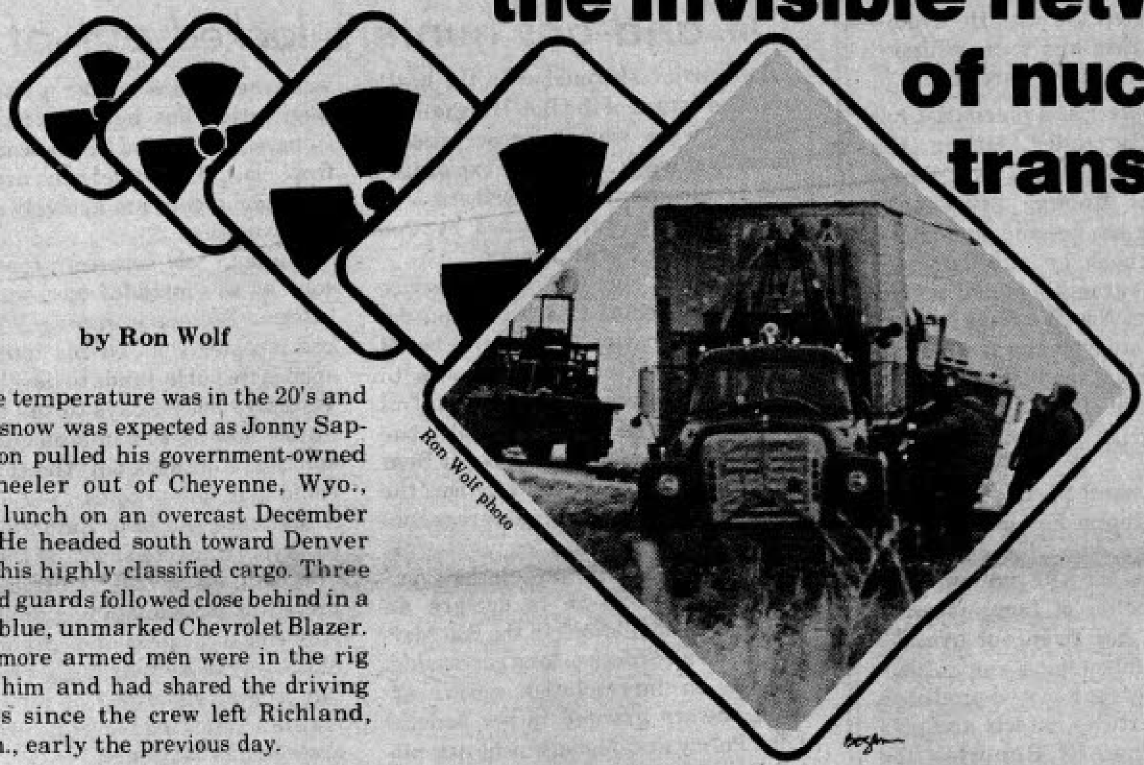
In the News

Rocky Mountain News

Rolling down the road — the invisible network of nuclear transport



Ron Wolf photo

by Ron Wolf

The temperature was in the 20's and light snow was expected as Jonny Sappington pulled his government-owned 18-wheeler out of Cheyenne, Wyo., after lunch on an overcast December day. He headed south toward Denver with his highly classified cargo. Three armed guards followed close behind in a light blue, unmarked Chevrolet Blazer. Two more armed men were in the rig with him and had shared the driving duties since the crew left Richland, Wash., early the previous day.

Despite the threatening weather forecast the interstate was still clear and dry when Sappington started out. But as he neared Fort Collins, Colo., the condition of the road rapidly worsened. Fog hung in the low-lying areas along the Platte River, condensing and freezing and coating the pavement with a thick sheet of ice.

Sappington slowed his rig as he encountered the first large patch. Moments later, he spotted a truck that had overturned about 400 yards ahead. He applied his brakes and tried to avoid the obstruction but his truck slowly jack-knifed and slid onto the median strip. The trailer edged over and came to rest on its side in the ice-encrusted weeds.

So many vehicles skidded off the road that day that the local office of the Colorado State Patrol was unable to respond to all the calls. Motorists were advised to come into the office when the weather cleared to fill out accident forms. Another overturned truck would hardly be noticed but this one was different. It contained a cargo of plutonium, the raw material of nuclear weapons.

For the next 18 hours, local officials and the media got a rare close-up look at one of the government's more secretive operations: the transportation of nuclear warheads, unassembled bomb components and the nuclear ingredients used in the manufacture of these weapons. The disabled truck and its sensitive contents belonged to the U.S. Department of Energy, the agency responsible for developing, manufacturing and transporting the nation's nuclear arsenal.

DOE's transportation safeguards division, based in Albuquerque, N.M., operates a fleet of more than three dozen custom-built "safe secure trailers" (SST's) like the one which skidded off the southbound lane of Interstate 15 with Sappington at the wheel. The division employs an elite force of 150 highly trained and heavily armed "couriers" to escort its shipments, most of them combat veterans recruited from the military services. Under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, they are authorized to use whatever force is necessary to protect what they occasionally refer to as "the goodies."

Last year, DOE's convoys logged 2.5 million miles while moving secret cargoes between 100 locations within the United States. The shipments routinely rolled over most of the interstate highways in the country and through most of the major cities. The nuclear ingredients and components are transported almost continuously between the seven privately-operated plants and two government laboratories that form the heart of the manufacturing complex. The assembled bombs are delivered to, or retrieved from, more than 60 Air Force and Navy bases where nuclear weapons are stored or deployed.

So many shipments are made each year (probably more than a thousand) that DOE frequently has a dozen or more convoys on the roads simultaneously in all kinds of weather during all hours of the day and night. Through it all, the transportation safeguards division has maintained a remarkably low profile. Its trucks are externally indistinguishable from the thousands of other unmarked rigs on the roads. The DOE vehicles are specifically exempted from regulations requiring shippers to identify radioactive or explosive cargoes. Only the government license plates provide a hint about the nature of the shipment. A trained observer might also notice that these trucks are far heavier than most others on the road, a result of the extensive armor plating and structural reinforcement that DOE officials liken to a bank vault on wheels.

The SST's go unrecognized by the millions of travellers who have unwittingly encountered them on the highways. The accident near Fort Collins last December marked one of the very few instances in which such a nuclear shipment was identified publicly.

BADGES AND M-16's

Within seconds after the accident, Robert Walton, the small, wiry commander of the six-person escort team, posted guards around the trailer. The plainclothes couriers could have been easily mistaken for commercial truckers without the M-16 automatic rifles and the badges identifying them as federal officers. People who stopped to help were quickly ordered to move on. Also within moments, Walton established direct contact with his headquarters in Albuquerque on the sophisticated

(continued on page 13)

Dear Friends,

Ron Wolf was a "retired" journalist. His publication, **Straight Creek Journal**, folded in 1980 after years of struggling to survive as an alternative weekly in Denver. Wolf did not spend a lot of time crying in his beer. He began looking for freelance opportunities, and he also offered to let **High Country News** pick his brain about the publishing business.

We were a little mystified when he arrived in Lander, travelling at his own expense. What did he really want? **Straight Creek** had used a lot of material from **HCN** over the years, he said, and he just wanted to return the favor. So he looked us over, and we listened to what he'd learned — which was considerably more than we had — and we enjoyed the visit. He wrote a Roundup item and even whipped Will Murphy at the dart board.

Wolf's career as a journalist has not exactly stalled, either. His piece earlier this year on James Watt in **Rocky Mountain Magazine** has become something of a textbook on the Interior Secretary's evangelical and professional roots. Now Wolf has begun a year-long study of the transportation of nuclear materials. You see the first fruit of his latest labor on our front page.

Wolf's project is funded by the Alicia Patterson Foundation, and to that organization, too, we should give thanks. The APF, named after the late editor of Long Island's **Newsday**, has given out over 50 year-long fellowships since 1965. The reporters so honored produce a series of articles, which are published in the **APF Reporter** and then picked up — for free — by newspapers and magazines around the country.

We have benefited doubly from the APF's largesse; one of last year's recipients was Marjane Ambler, former managing editor of **HCN**.

Maria Casale at APF tells us that copies of the **APF Reporter** will be sent free to anyone who is interested. You might be. Last year we read about everything from disillusioned seminarians to abuses in the meat industry.

In addition, she tells us that the foundation is now taking applications for a new round of fellowships. A reporter must be a U.S. citizen and have five years background as a print journalist. The fellowships range from $15,000 to $20,000 a year. Write Alicia Patterson Foundation, 122 E. 42nd St., New York, NY 10017.

— the staff

Western Roundup

David Spear

Oil and gas hunters locked out of Bob

Two major skirmishes in the battle over the future of the Bob Marshall wilderness were won by conservationist forces last week, as energy exploration and development of the northern Montana preserve were blocked by Congress and the Forest Service.

Two weeks ago, U.S. Forest Service Region I Director Charles Coston denied an application from Denver-based Consolidated Georex Geophysics to conduct seismic testing in a search of oil and gas in the Bob Marshall, the Lincoln-Scapegoat and the Great Bear Wilderness areas. Taken together, the three contiguous wilderness areas contain 1.5 million acres.

Last week, the House Interior Committee voted 23-18 to declare an "emergency situation" in the Bob Marshall area and block oil and gas leasing. The vote on the resolution, which exercised powers granted in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, pitted Rep. Pat Williams (D-Mont.), the author of the resolution, against Rep. Ron Marlenee (R-Mont.), who opposed it. FLPMA provided that a majority vote of either the House Interior Committee or the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee can block action on federal lands.

The Wilderness Society's Montana representative, Bill Cunningham, said he was "absolutely overjoyed," and added, "We hadn't dared to dream of this a few months ago."

Rumors circulated in the environmental community that industry planned to appeal Coston's decision to Forest Service Chief Max Peterson and challenge the Interior Committee's resolution in court. However, Alice Frell of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association (RMOGA) said her group was still deliberating on a course of action.

Williams' resolution will block oil and gas leasing in the wilderness areas until Jan. 1, 1984 — one minute after the deadline for oil and gas leasing in wilderness areas under present law. Legislation has been introduced in Congress to extend that deadline for final closure of wilderness areas; conservation groups are actively opposing any extension.

Williams told reporters that the resolution was intended as a warning to Interior Secretary James Watt, who has repeatedly stated his intention to open more public lands to development. Watt now has 90 days to tell the committee how he will implement the resolution; if he does not, the committee could take him to court.

Marlenee and Rep. Richard Cheney (R-Wyo.), who voted against the resolution, both claimed it would set a bad precedent for managing public lands. Allowing a congressional committee to effectively veto provisions for leasing in any federal wilderness or public lands legislation sets a dangerous precedent, according to Marlenee.

Conservationists, however, said it was unlikely that similar resolutions would be introduced to protect other wilderness areas now facing imminent processing of oil and gas lease applications. The Washakie Wilderness in Wyoming is considered likely to be the first area in which oil and gas leases are processed; it has received 72 lease applications and officials are preparing a draft environmental impact statement.

A similar EIS on the Bob Marshall, Lincoln-Scapegoat and Great Bear Wildernesses, where 350 lease applications have been filed, will now be given a low priority.

The votes of House Interior Committee members from the Rocky Mountain region on the Williams resolution were as follows:

For: Williams, Ray Kogovsek (D-Colo.);

Against: Marlenee, Cheney, Jim Santini (D-Nev.), Dan Marriott (R-Utah), Larry Craig (R-Ida.), Hank Brown (R-Colo.) and James Hansen (R-Utah).

Budget R.I.P. for Butte MHD?

The area around Butte, Mont., already hard hit by the shutdown of the Anaconda copper smelter, may soon have another 180 unemployed workers if Reagan administration proposed budget cuts are approved by Congress.

The Reagan administration wants to cut Department of Energy funding for development of magnetohydrodynamics (MHD). A $40 million MHD testing plant in Butte, the largest in the country, operated for the first time this year, needs federal support to continue.

In the MHD process, gas from burning fuel is treated with potassium salt and forced through a powerful magnetic field to generate electricity. Proponents of the process say that when linked to a conventional steam turbine plant, MHD can increase the energy yield from a given fuel by 50 percent. They say the electricity would cost less and create less air pollution than conventional power generation.

But the Reagan people proposed no funding for MHD during fiscal year 1982, beginning next October. And although both houses of the Montana legislature passed legislation to help fund the project from the state's coal severance tax fund, the bills died when legislators could not iron out their differences in the closing days of the 1981 session.

The Science and Technology Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives bucked the Reagan tide and authorized $29 million for MHD in fiscal year 1982, still way below the $60 million the program requires for full operation. The Butte plant costs $13 million to operate this year and will need more than that for the year that starts in October. Other MHD projects around the country will also compete for any funds.

Les Gapay, a spokesman for Mountain States Energy, Inc., which operates the Butte facility for DOE, said the MHD technology was still as much as 10 years away from commercial-scale use. The government has so far put $420 million into a decade of MHD development; the Soviet Union is also at work on MHD.

Debra Lewis, of the Department of Energy's Experimental branch, said that because of congressional action, "It looks more and more like there might be a (MHD) program." She declined to speculate on whether the Butte facility would be maintained if funding were limited. "We can't speculate on 'what if,' " she said.

Gapay said, "When this is a new facility and the largest one, it's logical that they should put some of the money here."

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Activists forge W. Slope pact

MONTROSE, Colo. — "You've got to shake that environmental image," some 100 western Colorado activists were told last week as they met here to organize a new regional citizens coalition.

Most of those listening to keynote speaker Wally McRae, the outspoken Montana rancher who helped organize the Northern Plains Resource Council in opposition to coal development at Colstrip, were long-time activists with such groups as the Colorado Open Space Council, Friends of the Earth and numerous local environmental groups.

The weekend workshops and strategy sessions, with themes ranging from agricultural land conversion to power lines and oil shale, were also dominated by environmentalists, with only a smattering of agriculturalists and industry representatives.

"It's been hard to get a good discussion going," said Colorado-Ute Vice President Girts Krumins after fielding hostile questions during a workshop on his utility's proposed transmission line. "I definitely feel surrounded by environmentalists," said Roger Blouch, Delta County representative of the development-oriented group Club 20.

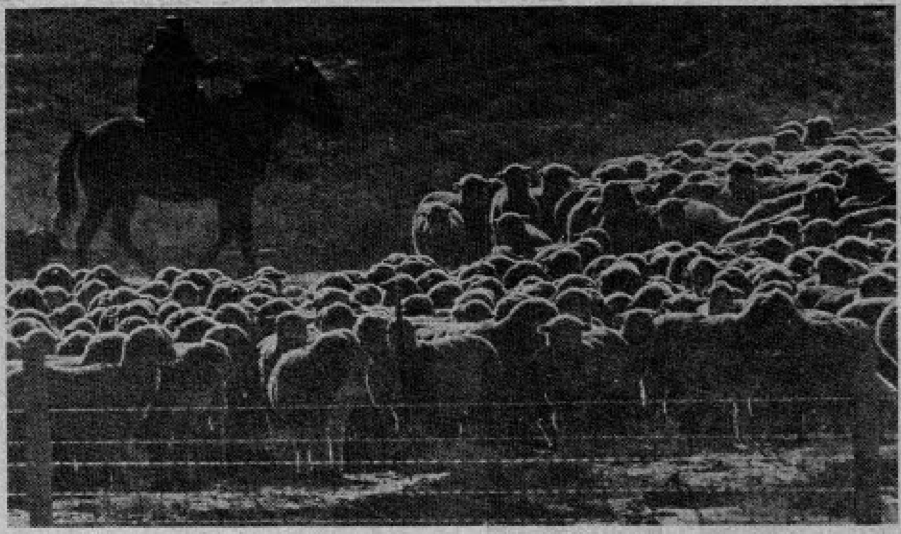
"I think we'll eventually be successful in involving small business and tourism interests," said Teresa Erickson, principal organizer of the new coalition, the Western Colorado Congress. "But there's no doubt that we're being billed as the alternative to Club 20."

But while McRae and others stressed the political gains to be had from avoiding an "environmental" tag, the issues facing the Western Slope region discussed at the Congress could be labelled traditional environmental concerns — oil shale, coal mining, power generating facilities and power lines.

"You've got to find an issue early on that's winnable," advised McRae, "and give it all you've got. Then build on that."

That issue, predicted Erickson, will be the Colorado-Ute 345 kilovolt transmission line proposal, to bisect the region from San Juan, N.M., to Rifle, Colo. (see related story on page 5). "It's the umbilical cord to a slew of development projects surfacing on the West Slope," she said.

BLM grazers face changes



Six years ago a court ruled that the Bureau of Land Management wasn't keeping a close enough eye on the 170 million acres of rangeland that it administers.

The agency responded with a multimillion dollar effort to find out just how many animals those acres can support. All over the West, it has clipped and weighed plants and fed the data to range experts, many of whom now sit in front of shiny new computer terminals.

By court agreement, the BLM had until 1988 to complete site-specific environmental impact statements on its rangelands. The effort was designed to be sophisticated and thorough enough to keep the agency out of court in the future.

Now, with about half its time used up, budgets shrinking and a mountain of work ahead, the BLM is proposing a more modest approach to grazing planning — one that most observers agree is sensible, if not suit-proof.

"We decided we'd better explore ways to clean up our act — to do things in a more streamlined fashion," said Paul D. Leonard, chief of the Bureau's rangeland management division in Washington, at a public meeting in Lander, Wyo., May 20.

The proposed plan is simple: Rather than intensively studying all of its lands, the agency will concentrate on the lands with the greatest unused potential.

Lands that are well-managed by permittees will receive only cursory attention. Lands that don't have much forage-growing potential will be treated with equal dispatch.

Lands with potential that isn't being realized will receive the bulk of the BLM's attention. Only on these lands, which Leonard estimates could be roughly 60 percent of the total, will the BLM do the intensive surveys and computer analyses.

Eliminating the need for intensive surveys where the range is in either excellent or hopeless condition could save the agency a huge sum. The deceptively low-sounding figure of 75 cents per acre for an intensive inventory has helped push grazing environmental statements' average cost to $250,000 each.

It could also save time. Leonard said preparation of the 39 statements completed so far has taken an average of 51 months each.

An element in the proposed policy that pleases many ranchers is a commitment to yearly monitoring of the range to justify cuts phased in over a five-year period. Under the present system, ranchers fear being put out of business unfairly by cuts based on a one-time inventory.

While the proposed "streamlined" system would provide obvious savings in time and money, it may not be as sleek as the Bureau hopes. The cornerstones of the new policy, classifying and monitoring BLM lands, will each take a political and financial toll.

The Bureau needs to take particular care in deciding which lands "to quit worrying about," said rancher and environmentalist Keith Becker of Thermopolis, Wyo. "We don't want to write off lands that may still need serious consideration."

But while there may be bugs in the system to work out, many see it as a big improvement over the status quo.

"This is something the range science profession has been lobbying for for several years," said private range management consultant Dick Loper.

— Joan Nice

Navajos balk at N.M. tax

Navajo Tribe officials have hinted that they may try to avoid paying New Mexico severance taxes on production from an in situ uranium development near Crownpoint.

The tribe and the Tennessee Valley Authority are finalizing an unprecedented agreement that, unlike traditional leases, will allow the tribe to retain ownership of the uranium until it is mined and sold to TVA.

Since the tribe cannot be taxed by the state, the Navajos may argue that the uranium from the project also cannot be taxed. Tribal taxes would thus be more palatable to TVA, which has agreed to pay tribal levies.

The arrangement could also lie beyond the state's environmental jurisdiction. Most uranium operations on the New Mexico portion of the Navajo Reservation must obtain state licenses, authorized under an agreement with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

But returning licensing authority to the NRC would mean tighter controls, said Paul Robinson, uranium specialist and director of the Southwest Research and Information Center. "I don't know of a single instance where the state has done an adequate job with licensing," he said.

State radiation official Gerald Stewart disagrees, arguing that "we have the expertise, and we can respond more quickly and easily when problems arise."

Monitoring the TVA-Navajo in situ operation will be particularly crucial, Robinson said. The site is "severely fractured," he said, and toxic leachates used to extract the uranium could easily escape into the underground water system.

TVA officials said they will not mine if studies still to be conducted show that the fractures will be a problem.

Still pending are tribal approval of the agreement and an environmental impact statement. The state is likely to challenge a tribal argument that the development is immune from state tax or regulation.

— Marjane Ambler

PCB test burn fuels chemical hearse

If the laboratory results pan out as expected, a recent PCB test burn could lead to a truck-mounted incinerator that would tour the country destroying stockpiles of the highly toxic chemical.

One gallon of PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) was burned last week by Rockwell International Corp. at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant near Denver, where 10,000 gallons of highly concentrated PCB liquid are being stored.

The test had aroused concern from nearby residents who feared contamination by airborne PCB, which is dangerous at levels as low as several parts per billion. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved the test, however, and according to Lou Johnson of the agency's Denver office, laboratory tests now being done by EPA and the Department of Energy should prove the burn a success, with a 0.01 percent fraction or less of PCB residual.

If so, said Johnson, the remaining PCB at Rocky Flats will also likely be incinerated, and the new technology may be developed into a transportable incinerator to tackle the millions of pounds of PCB liquid still present in electrical transformers, other fixtures and dumps across the country.

The federal General Services Administration had recommended that EPA operate such a vehicle. But Johnson said the agency does not have the funds, and a private, commercial development is more likely. The design plans for the Rockwell incinerator are owned by the Department of Energy and will be made public.

Another travelling PCB destroyer built by SunOhio has just hit the road, using a new chemical process. But its capabilities are limited to relatively low-level PCB concentrations ranging from 50 to 500 parts per million. The Rockwell incinerator could handle concentrations as high as 40 percent and both, said Johnson, would be needed to help destroy the chemical stores.

PCB is a proven carcinogen and its manufacture was banned four years ago.

Western Roundup

Corps' search for wetlands swamped in public ire

Heather McGregor

Terry Huffman

GUNNISON, Colo. — Soil mottling, water marks and other scientific observations may help resolve the issue. But if the public opinion expressed here recently gets full credence, politics will be the determining factor in deciding what is or isn't a wetland.

The issue has developed into a roiling land use debate here and throughout the Rocky Mountain region. Labeling private lands as wetlands, homeowners and developers fear, may mean new development restrictions as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers carries out its Clean Water Act mandate by requiring permits to dredge, fill or otherwise alter a wetland area.

"We're outraged at the infringement of our private rights," a resident charged at a recent public meeting here, expressing the widespread fear that the Corps may start denying such permits, keeping landowners from building on their property.

"That's nonsense," said Darrell Arnold, a Corps staffer in the agency's Sacramento, Calif., district office. "Of the 49 permit requests in Gunnison County to date, all 49 were approved." Throughout western Colorado, he added, some 200 permits were applied for and granted.

Nonetheless, there was heated public reaction to a draft map released by the Corps earlier this year of areas in Gunnison County that could be classed as wetlands.

To many residents, classifying any of the county as wetland seems absurd. The high desert valley bordering the Gunnison River was largely arid sagebrush country until ranchers began irrigating some 100 years ago.

"These wetlands are not wet," said Rocky Warren, Gunnison County Commissioner and a vocal critic of the Corps, "They're irrigated."

To ecologists, however, the distinction is not so clear — man-made wetlands share many of the soil and botanical characteristics of their natural cousins, including habitat for water-loving wildlife.

To help clarify the issue from a scientist's perspective, the Corps brought to Gunnison last week botanist Terry Huffman to conduct soil and plant surveys.

"In this particular area," he said, turning over a shovel full of rich, mucky soil on a ranch just north of town, "I'm here just to overstate the obvious. Any dunderhead can tell this is a wetland."

To Amax, Inc., however, which recently purchased the 300 acre ranch Huffman called wetland, the issue is not humorous. Amax is planning extensive housing development on the land and prepared a formal analysis to prove the land is not wet, or naturally wet, at any rate.

Huffman and other Corps officials predicted that they'd receive similar reactions at other stops along their tour of western Colorado, and said it's still unclear whether the agency will exempt man-made wetlands from its regulatory reach.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will retain a final say on the question, said Brad Miller, water quality staffer in the Denver office. And Congress may consider the question during its efforts this year to reauthorize the Clean Water Act. Colo. Sen. Bill Armstrong already said he's concerned the Corps may be overregulating.

hotline

WIND FARM GETS GUST

The budget winds blowing out of Washington may be high and dry, but a "wind farm" project in Livingston, Mont., got a fair breeze this month from the state treasury. A grant of $220,000 came from the state's alternative renewable energy program, which is funded by the coal severance tax. That will be enough for a 100-kilowatt wind farm, according to Livingston officials — the power will offset electricity use by the local sewage treatment plant.

OSM CUTBACK

Secretary of Interior James Watt is apparently not kidding about cutting back his department's Office of Surface Mining. He announced last week that the OSM's Denver regional office and several others would be shut down, saving $2 million in administrative costs. Smaller liaison offices will be opened in New Mexico and Wyoming, but Watt suggested that enforcement of the surface mining reclamation law will be left up to the states. Ed Grandis, of the Environmental Policy Center in Washington, D.C., told the New York Times: "This would destroy the program (by turning OSM) into a merely technical service agency. It's like changing the species of the animal — from an eagle into an owl."

WINDY AIR WAVES

KFMU, the world's only wind-powered radio station in Oak Creek, Colo., near Steamboat Springs, reports that its advertisement sales have tripled to $300,000 since the station was retrofitted two years ago with a 2 kilowatt machine atop the station's 163-foot pole on Stagecoach Mountain. Owner Mike Barry says the station now commands 35 percent of Routt County's listenership.

PLANNING TRIBAL WILDERNESS

Wildlife protection will be stressed in managing the Mission Mountain Tribal Wilderness, 95,000 acres on the western slope of the primitive Mission Range in northwestern Montana. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes designated the area wilderness in 1979; parts of it are heavily used by hikers and horse-packers. The management plan, to be developed by Dave Rockwell of the University of Montana, will also cover 80 miles of the lower Flathead River, a nesting area for Canada geese and other fowl.

SAGEBRUSH REBELS REVIVE

Reagan administration officials have been saying "Rest in Peace" to the Sagebrush Rebellion, claiming their public land policies will defuse the movement. But the movement is not buying their promises. Rep. Jim Santini (D-Nev.) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) last week introduced legislation to turn federal lands over to the states — 460 million acres of Bureau of Land Management lands under Santini's bill, and even more under Hatch's proposal. Santini told wire services that Reagan's "good neighbor" policy would not satisfy the West, because Reagan would not be in office forever.

PRODUCTION PUT OFF

Energy firms are "locking up" federal lands by not developing their oil and gas leases, the consumer group Energy Action Educational Foundation has charged. Federal acreage under lease by the 20 largest oil companies jumped 43 percent since 1976 to 160 million acres last year. But the number of leases actually being worked increased only 2.5 percent during the same period. That "demonstrates that the major oil companies, not the federal government, have been locking up land...to cash in on higher oil and gas prices in the future," a group spokesperson said.

COPTERING GOLD ORE

A Las Vegas-based mining company will helicopter about 30,000 tons of ore out of the Crazy Mountains in central Montana this summer in a search for gold. Gallatin Gold, Ltd., will make several hundred helicopter flights a day to the site, which is on private land high in the mountains, to haul out the tonnage for testing. Recreationists and wilderness advocates objected to an earlier gold exploration venture by the same interests, which was halted last summer after the U.S. Forest Service decided the ore was of such low value that it did not warrant commercial development.

DRAINING THE YAMPA

The Juniper-Cross Mountain water project is the largest proposed diversion of Colorado's Yampa River, but some 37 other smaller projects on the drawing-boards could collectively completely drain the river at times regardless of that project, reports the U.S. Geological Survey. Using computers to predict the consequences of the developments, which could include the proposed Vidler and Hog Park transmountain diversions, the agency concluded that the new reservoirs would have a 2.2 million acre-feet capacity, "which is 41 percent greater than the mean-annual flow from the basin."

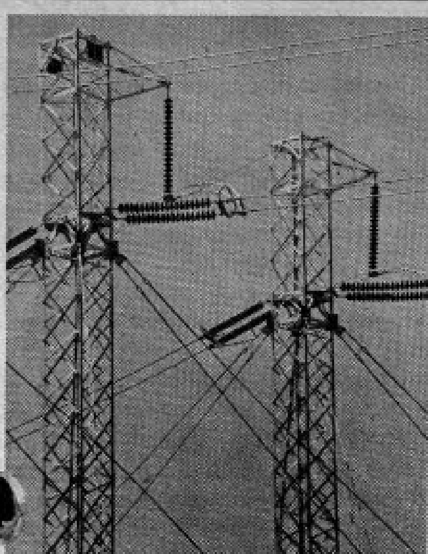
PRO-WATT DRIVE

Starting a battle of signatures, supporters of Interior Secretary James Watt have responded to environmentalists' anti-Watt petition campaign with a pro-Watt drive. Wyoming cattle rancher and state Rep. Marlene Simons is spearheading the effort for her group, Outdoors Unlimited, based in Kaysville, Utah. Also participating in the campaign are the Denver-based United Four-Wheel Drive Association, the Northwest Mining Association, the Idaho-based Committee for Rational Resources, and several other industry and activist groups. A spokeswoman for Club 20 in Grand Junction, Colo. said petitions were sent to that organization's board of directors, but that the group was not endorsing the drive. The Sierra Club, meanwhile, said it has collected 75,000 signatures thus far on its "Dump Watt" petitions.

HUNTING GOLD

Promising areas overlooked when Cripple Creek was the nation's premier gold camp are finally getting attention from gold seekers. Test drilling on some 159 claims covering 850 acres near Victor, Colo., is expected to start this summer. Involved in the new rush are Standard Metals Corp. of New York and Cripple Creek Gold Production Corp. of Cripple Creek.

New powerline crosses West Slopers



Jack McLellan

MONTROSE, Colo. — An array of land use and social impact concerns were raised at a public meeting held here last week on a proposed 345-kilovolt powerline from Rifle along Colorado's western slope to San Juan, New Mexico.

But the key dispute, and as yet unresolved, was over whether the new line is really necessary.

Yes, testified several witnesses for the Colorado-Ute Electric Association, one of the state's two major public utilities and proponents of the transmission line. Power needs in southwestern Colorado will triple to over 1400 megawatts by 1994, with an annual 10 percent growth rate, and the present lines are already loaded to capacity, Association representatives predicted.

No, testified several regional public interest groups, including the Gunnison River Coalition. The utility has overestimated power need, a two to three percent annual growth rate is more likely, and the present lines are fully loaded because as much as one-half of the utility's power was sent last year to Southern California.

The public hearing was held by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission which must approve the powerline.

Some Western Slope residents fear extensive environmental and social costs from energy development fed by the powerline, which Teresa Erickson of the Western Colorado Congress called an "umbilical cord" to a "nest of evil projects."

The double circuit line would run nearly 300 miles through nine western Colorado counties strung along five, 145-foot towers every mile with substations in Delta, Montrose, Norwood, Cortez, Durango and other towns along the path.

Some 44 percent of the proposed 175-foot-wide right-of-way is private land, raising local concerns over land condemnation. Four of the nine counties involved have not yet approved the line.

Two new 1600 megawatt coal-fired power plants are planned by Colorado Ute for the Delta and Grand Junction areas, in addition to a plant now being built at Craig. The electricity from the three would exceed the capacity of even the new 345-kv line.

Colorado-Ute's general counsel Howard Bjelland stressed a 1979 PUC generic ruling on electricity generation that lent considerable credence to large-scale region-wide systems, rather than "uncoordinated or isolated resources."

But Bill Palmer of the Western Slope Energy Research Center at Hotchkiss and other line critics argued that there are several possible alternatives, including upgrading existing power lines, to meet even the utility's growth projections.

A PUC decision is still pending. Agency staff have generally agreed with Colorado-Ute's need projections, but have raised questions about a portion of the proposed route.

barbed wire

David Stockman, head of the Office of Management and Budget and President Ronald Reagan's chief budget cutter, is asking a House appropriations subcommittee for a budget increase for OMB of $4.1 million for fiscal 1982. Said Stockman, "It's not easy to explain." No kidding.

The telephone directory for the Overthrust Belt oil boom town of Evanston, Wyo., contains 23 white pages and 270 yellow pages. Fifty of those yellow pages are listed under "Oil." The Denver metropolitan phone directory, with 1595 white pages, has eight yellow pages under the heading "Oil."

And you thought you had troubles: In a survey of 200 executives with a median income of $88,500 annually, 55 percent of the respondents said they did not expect a higher standard of living two years from now.

"...we want people to stop and spend some money," said Colorado Sen. Martin Hatcher (D-Gunnison), and with that goal in mind led a Senate committee in voting unanimously to lift restrictions on highway billboards that advertise tourist-related businesses. All but 3,700 of the state's 27,000 billboards have been removed under the 1965 federal Highway Beautification Act. The new law, if passed, would add 10,000 new signs on the road. Tourists, we can only feel, may be less inclined to even enter the Centennial state.

SWEETENING WYOMING

One of five sites near Big Piney, Wyo., will be chosen for a $330 million plant to "sweeten" sulfur-laden natural gas, announced the Northwest Pipeline Corp. Four of the five sites are on Bureau of Land Management property; the fifth is on private land. Unlike two gas sweetening plants near Evanston, Wyo., which are being built without a full-scale environmental study, the Northwest plant will be preceded by an environmental impact statement. The earliest possible ground-breaking would be in late 1982, reported the **Big Piney Roundup**.

FUMING FOAM

The use of urea formaldehyde foam insulation in their new home caused flulike illnesses for six months, a Colorado family charged, and they're suing the housing developer for failing to notify them that the controversial insulation was being used. Harvey Prickett of Berthoud claims the developer told him he was using fiberglass, rather than formaldehyde, which under 1980 state law must be disclosed to homebuyers. The illnesses resulted from the insulation's failure to dry properly, the suit alleges, and $116 million in damages are being sought.

REDRAWING LINES

Gerrymandering is alive and well in Colorado, the state's underdog Democrats are charging as solons in both parties struggle to redraw congressional district lines. Colorado gained one more seat in Congress based on its 1980 census gains. Proposals drawn up by the Republican-dominated state legislature thus far would leave only one of the state's three Democratic representatives with a "safe" seat, Democrats charge, and they vow to fight the Republican efforts with Democratic Gov. Dick Lamm's veto powers until a "fair" district plan can be worked out.

EXPOSED FAMILY SUES

Neil and Genevieve Brafford, formerly of Edgemont, S.D., have filed a $40 million lawsuit against the Denver-based Susquehanna Corp. The Braffords claim they suffered from exposure to radiation in their Edgemont home, which was built with uranium tailings from a mill then owned by Susquehanna. A 1971 study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency disclosed that the Brafford home, as well as hundreds of others across the country, had potentially dangerous levels of radiation (see **HCN**, 1-25-80). But the Braffords were not notified until 1980 when South Dakota officials advised them their children should not be sleeping in the basement of the home.

HEALTH CHIEF DUMPED

A Denver-area county health director forced to resign for "administrative" reasons says his dismissal is due to his long-standing criticism of the Rocky Flats weapons plant, reported the **Denver Post**. Jefferson County health director Carl Johnson has frequently become embroiled in controversy over his studies on the health effects of radiation on facility workers and downwind residents. That had nothing to do with the dismissal, said county Board of Health President Otto Bebber. But Johnson claimed the firing was strictly political.

PULLING THE WOOL

Charging the company used a recent public meeting to "pat yourselves on the back," the Colorado Joint Review Process has sharply criticized AMAX's role in a hearing on the proposed Mt. Emmons mining project near Crested Butte, Colo. In addition to taking a "self-serving" tone, CJRP officials, including city, county and U.S. Forest Service staffers, charged that AMAX deliberately withheld pertinent information on water rights conflicts and used inflated growth rate predictions.

URANIUM SUIT REDIRECTED

Their concerns about lax state regulation of uranium mills must first be addressed to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission before the courts can consider the matter, a Colorado coalition of environmental groups was told this month. Denver U.S. District Court Judge Jim Carrigan said that while he shared the Sunflower Coalition's sense of urgency, stating, "You shouldn't have to wait until third generation cancer is born for the public to get relief," the NRC must be given 30 days to consider the coalition's concerns. The groups alleged in their suit filed last January that the state has not adequately regulated uranium mills as required by the 1978 Uranium Mill Tailing Radiation Control Act.

ROCK ART AIDS

There are dozens of places in western Colorado that once supported bighorn sheep, concluded the state Division of Wildlife after discovering etched and painted prehistoric rock drawings of the sheep. "Ideally we would like to reintroduce bighorns everywhere they have ever occured," said staffer Bob Tully. For now, the agency is focusing on reintroducing the animal into the Colorado National Monument west of Grand Junction and on the Uncompahgre Plateau northwest of Delta.

Gasohol moves slowly; corporate stills capturing market

PAONIA, Colo. — It sits unused for now, perched on a bluff overlooking a valley of fruit orchards on the North Fork of the Gunnison River.

But in a matter of hours, this six-foot high mound of scrap metal with its two spiralling antennas can be fed enough coal, apple juice and mechanical pampering to begin gurgling out some eight gallons an hour of only slightly-modified apple cider.

The still's fermented product is ethyl alcohol. Yet unlike the brew produced by more infamous stills, this alcohol is intended to be mixed with gasoline to make internal combustion engines, and not human imbibers, sing for joy.

For a decade or more, gasohol — gasoline blended with ethyl alcohol fermented from fruit, grain and other starch plants — has been touted as a significant alternative energy source.

But despite enthusiasm from the agricultural community, gasohol production remains an infant industry facing a score of obstacles. Recent events have dashed the hopes of many potential producers, especially those with small-scale projects.

Foremost among the economic ills is a Reagan administration proposal to end nearly $4 billion in federal loan guarantees necessary to finance gasohol projects that are otherwise unattractive to many commercial lenders.

Gasohol's exemption from the federal 4-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax is likely to be spared Reagan's ax. But an accompanying five cent tax break given by several states, including Colorado, is being challenged in court by the country's leading gasohol producer, Archer Daniel Midland Co., as an unconstitutional restraint in trade. The tax break is restricted to in-state producers, and excludes Archer — a situation that a Minnesota court has found unconstitutional.

The Decatur, Ill.-based firm is also part of a thrust that some observers fear will result in four or five major corporations dominating the industry, with

Project Lighthawk gets conservationists off the ground

Rocky Mountain News

MICHAEL STEWARTT, flier and director of Project Lighthawk, stands beside the Helio-Courier aircraft he uses to fly conservationists, bureaucrats and journalists around the Rocky Mountain region.

by Geoffrey O'Gara

ROCK SPRINGS, Wyo. — The white plume from the Jim Bridger Power Plant formed an apostrophe above the brown and green landscape of southwestern Wyoming, recently enriched by spring rain. Rail lines, the interstate, high voltage wires, and the deep cuts of the plant's extensive strip mine radiated from the stacks like blood vessels.

Dick Randall, the Defenders of Wildlife representative here, pointed to the cliffs above one of the strip mine terraces. "There's a large population of raptors there — prairie falcon, ferruginous hawks, red-tails, an eagle — they've just hung on."

In a matter of minutes, Randall and his three companions were circling Black Rock, a stovepipe hat of a mesa, its flanks streaked with raptor guano. The spectacular rock is half owned by Union Pacific, half by the federal Bureau of Land Management, and Randall is campaigning for a land trade that would put it entirely in BLM's hands.

Turning west from there, the plane followed a long, narrow strip of wind-carved sand dunes that shroud a layer of year-round ice. Swooping low, the passengers saw the Killpecker Sand Dunes quilted by game tracks; on one of several ponds of trapped water, mallards flapped their wings.

The plane was flying at less than 100 feet — not exactly the flight plan, chuckled the pilot, Michael Stewartt — but the view of drilling rigs in the dunes was excellent.

Since January, Stewartt has been flying journalists, some government officials and activists like Randall around the Rocky Mountain region. Sometimes he is ferrying witnesses to a Bureau of Land Management wilderness hearing; other times he is giving television cameras an aerial view of oil shale country; and at times he is just helping those who need to see from the air how the gigantic patchwork of desert, mountains, powerlines and people fits together.

A private foundation has donated to Stewartt 150 hours of flying time in a six-seat Helio-Curier; the grant includes airplane maintenance and his salary. Flying out of Grand Junction, Colo., Stewartt, now about halfway through the grant, finds himself with more work than he can handle.

Reaction among conservationists has been positive to the idea, less certain about the particular project. Everyone agrees that having an airplane available, and a skilled pilot, is a boon to environmentalists, who can then do in a few hours what might otherwise take large scale projects such as the 40-million-gallon-per-year plant being proposed by the Hunt brothers' Hunt International Resources Corp.

And finally, although researchers say they're close to a breakthrough, production of alcohol fuels is far from technical efficiency. Many investors fear that today's alcohol fuel still may be outdated, and outpriced, in a matter of months, and the trend is to hold out for new developments.

"Everything's up in the air right now," said Dave Carter, staffer for the Colorado-Wyoming chapter of the National Farmers Union, a strong promoter of alcohol fuel production. "The nickel suit (brought by Archer) is especially threatening. There's lots of plants on line that are counting on (the tax break)."

Colorado has the highest potential for alcohol production in the Rocky Mountain region, using grain, other starch and sugar crops to distill a brew that can be blended with gasoline (to make gasohol) or, increasingly, used straight as an engine fuel.

Nearly 100 gas stations in the state now carry gasohol. But none of that is produced in-state. Of the nine plants in Colorado under construction, several may be delayed by the end to federal loan subsidies. Eliminating the state tax break is likely to make all gasohol less competitive.

Not all the gasohol news is sobering. The National Farmers Union is planning a test alcohol plant that will use a new "continual" process that dramatically increases production efficiency.

National Park Service cars have run near Gunnison, Colo. on a mixture of 25 percent ethanol (the norm for gasohol is only 10 percent ethanol to 75 percent gasoline) without any negative effects on engine wear or performance, the agency reported last week.

And, refuting the perception that producing alcohol diverts critical human food supplies, the University of Nebraska has found that the byproduct known as "distillers dried grain" is more nutritionally valuable than soybean meal.

In the meantime, the Paonia still and others sit unused.

For co-owners Steve Walcott and Jamie Jacobson, who built the machine from **Mother Earth News** plans and $350 in scrap materials, producing gasohol commercially proved unfeasible.

Except during the harvest, their feed stock material was unavailable. The market was immature and untested. And running at full power to turn out 50,000 gallons a year required too much of their time.

If they sell the still, the tinkering duo will buy a smaller one, perhaps to be run on Jerusalem artichokes, because even without a commercial market, the still is invaluable, said Wolcott. "It's an insurance policy for when the local gasoline stations run dry," he said,"and it's just one more step toward self-sufficiency."

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them days.

The mustachioed Stewartt has been flying professionally for half a dozen years. He learned the art of bush flying — essentially, flying over rugged terrain and landing on short, often unpaved runways — in Guatemala, where he co-piloted a plane for "Wings of Hope," a medical and humanitarian aid mission. He has since led the gypsy life that he says is common to professional bush pilots.

He worked for Brant Calkin, a Sierra Club regional representative, in Santa Fe, N.M., and first saw a beneficial role for small aircraft in environmental debate in 1975, when he gave journalists an aerial perspective on the site of the proposed Kaiparowits coal-fired power plant in Utah. The fly-over included the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and other surrounding natural wonders, and generated numerous articles. The Kaiparowits project has since been canned.

Dick Randall

CIRCLING LOW over the coal strip mine that feeds the mammoth Jim Bridger Power station near Rock Springs, Wyo., Dick Randall snapped shots like these of the excavation.

Brant Calkin flew with Stewartt's "Project Lighthawk" and two other conservationists to survey potential Bureau of Land Management wilderness lands in Arizona earlier this year. "We were able to cover more country in a day looking for intrusions than we possibly could have done otherwise — if four of us had split up it would have taken five days — 20 person-days."

Stewartt rarely takes just one passenger. On the Arizona trip he carried a Defenders of Wildlife representative as well. On a recent trip out of Jackson, Wyo., to look at U.S. Forest Service lands threatened by oil and gas leasing, he carried Phil Hocker, of the Sierra Club, Howie Wolke, formerly of Friends of the Earth, and a photographer for the **Jackson Hole News**.

The media often get seats on the Helio-Courier, both because it often pays Stewartt publicity dividends that can help him gain foundation support, and because television or newspaper publicity about environmental issues is an obvious use for Lighthawk. He cites these stories to show the cost-effectiveness of the project.

Recently, Stewartt took two television crews aloft for a fly-over of oil shale lands in Colorado. Each crew was up for two hours — at a cost, Stewartt estimates, of about $85 an hour to operate and maintain his plane. The TV station then ran 90 seconds of film made during the flight as part of a news segment on oil shale development. Ninety seconds of advertising on Denver and Grand Junction television to show the public lands threatened by oil shale development would bring a bill of thousands. Lighthawk's time cost only $340.

Stewartt estimates that one-third to one-half of his time has been spent on Colorado's oil shale region. This bothers some conservationists in the region. "I hope he'll make sure that we all get a shot at it," said a Montana-based activist, who asked not to be identified. But Stewartt admits that the long and costly flight to Montana makes his project less useful to conservationists there.

Conservationists were reluctant to be critical, since all agree that the idea is a good one, and that, given the limited time that many volunteers have to give, Project Lighthawk is a valuable time-saver.

But several wondered whether Lighthawk can provide the right tool for every job. If an environmental group could afford it, it might charter a $70-an-hour plane locally rather than bringing in Stewartt from Grand Junction. This would also allow the group to hire a less expensive, two-seat plane if that was all that was needed.

In addition, Stewartt's six-figure proposal for sustaining his operation is reaching individuals and foundations who also give to other conservation groups in the region. "Is this the way we want money that's generally available for conservation in the region spent?" asked one conservationist.

Stewartt would also like to see a network of other fliers, coordinated through Lighthawk, that could help conservationists far away from Grand Junction. Recently, he arranged a flight in Saskatchewan this way. Ideally, there would be a small network of available planes...but that is looking far ahead of Stewartt's immediate concern, which is simply to keep his one-plane operation going. He feels that the donation of a plane, which the donor could write off, would be "noncompetitive" with other conservation fundseekers.

In the meantime, requests from conservationists were becoming more numerous and exotic. The Trust for Public Land, the American Wilderness Alliance (which handles Lighthawk donations), the National Wildlife Federation and the Western Colorado Congress are among those using his services.

Stewartt recently talked to an older woman long active in the conservation movement. She asked him in a timid voice about his project and his plane. He explained it all quietly and was saying good-bye when she piped up: "Just one more thing, Michael — does that airplane you're flying carry bombs?"

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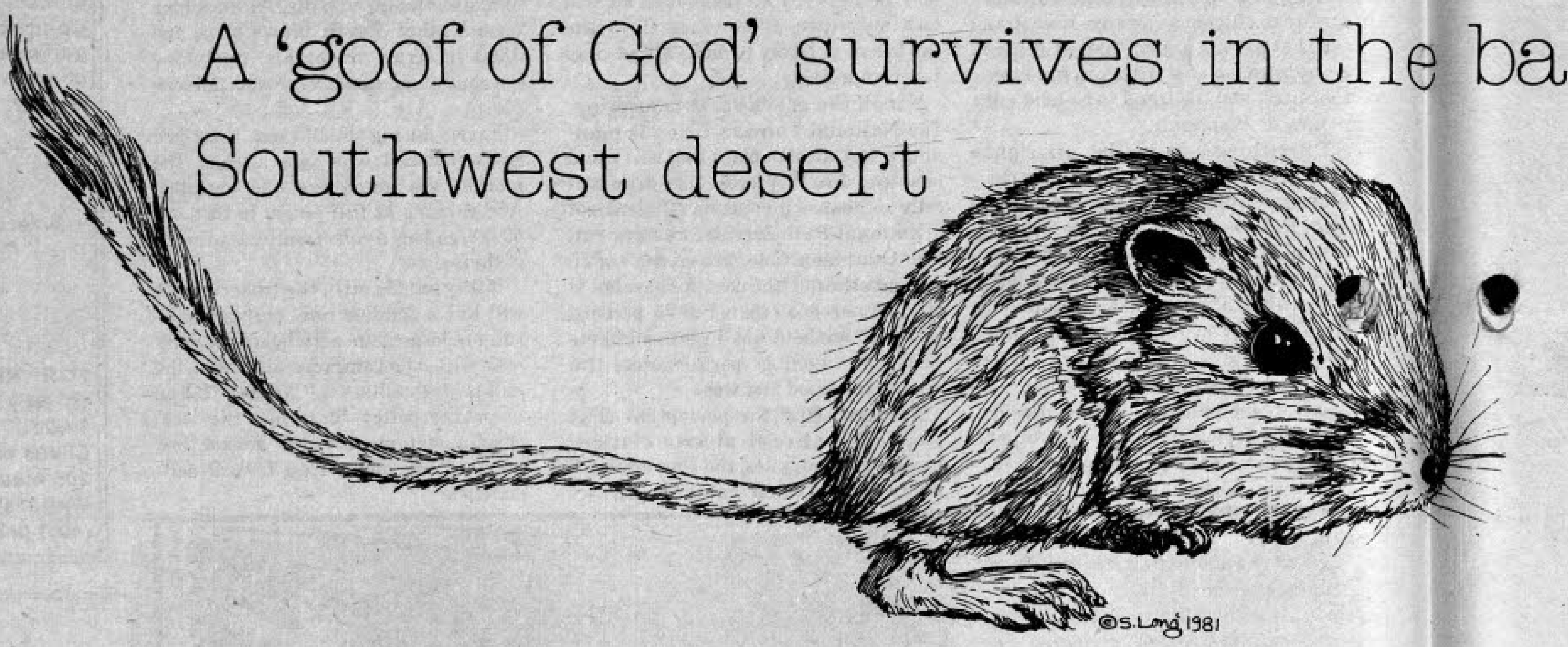
The kangaroo rat: A 'goof of God' survives in the ba[...] Southwest desert



by Tom Jenkins

The kangaroo rat survives in a hostile and arid environment, the desert and sagebrush country of the American Southwest. Barely two inches high, with short forelegs, oversized hind legs, enormous feet, a head as long as its body, and a long skinny tail with a tuft at the end, this bewhiskered little creature looks like a structural mistake, a goof of God's.

The kangaroo rat does not drink water. Although it lives in the desert, it does not retain and concentrate waste for later excretion, or eat juicy plants containing a high percentage of moisture. But that doesn't mean it gets along without water. Said nature author Ann Sutton: "...the kangaroo rat has reduced (water) loss to such a low point that it can stay alive with very little intake of water. It is quite true in the ordinary sense that the animal can remain alive without drinking water."

The kangaroo rat does not perspire or pant, losing little water through evaporation or exhalation. The rat also has kidneys four to five times as efficient as humans, producing greatly concentrated urine. Its feces are hard, dry pellets. Yet it still needs **some** water.

"Dry seeds alone have been proved adequate as the source of all the water the kangaroo rat needs," said Ruth Kirk, naturalist and wildlife writer, "an 'all' that actually is astonishingly little, so small that it must be hoarded in every possible way." All animals produce water within their bodies when food is digested. The sugar is broken down, chemically separated into its constituents, producing hydrogen and oxygen, which recombine into metabolic water. What distinguishes the kangaroo rat is its ability to subsist on metabolic water without any additional source of moisture.

This survival success results from a combination of things. The fact that its primary source of food is air-dried seeds is significant. The starchy seeds "take less oxygen to metabolize than fat does and also use less water in the elimination of waste than protein does," explained Kirk. "But this minute quantity of water must be handled miserly or the rat could not survive. Staying underground throughout the day, where the temperature can be as much as 100 degrees cooler than on the soil surface above, avoids the need for evaporative cooling, a vital saving of body water."

Water conservation in the elimination of body wastes is equally as important. The kangaroo rat's kidneys hold the world's record for efficiency. Additionally, the kangaroo rat belongs to a rather large group of animals, including rabbits and shrews, that eat parts of their own fecal pellets. In this way, essential vitamins produced by the fermentation of food materials in the lower digestive tract are gained, as well as a tiny amount of moisture that would otherwise be lost.

The kangaroo rat's humid home protects it from daily and seasonal extremes of temperature. In winter, it is a place of warmth, in summer a cool retreat. It does not withstand the desert heat, which may rise to 160 degrees in the summer, but escapes it. Burrowing into the sand or dirt as deep as three or four feet by whirring its forelegs like a mechanical auger, it kicks away the accumulated sand with its long hind legs. As the tunnel deepens, the animal pushes the excavated material out of the entrance using its chest and chin like a bulldozer blade. Most of the time it stays underground (where the temperature remains from 60 to 80 degrees), coming out for perhaps a few hours at night. It may spend several weeks underground, eating stored food.

The burrow entrance is plugged with dirt during the day, keeping the relative humidity from 30 to 50 percent, which is two to five times higher than the outside air. Not only does the kangaroo rat lose little body moisture while in its retreat, but seeds stored there absorb some of the air's moisture, as much as a third of their weight. The kangaroo rat benefits from this moisture when the seeds are eaten.

The burrow often becomes an air-controlled granary. Years of digging by successive generations of kangaroo rats, with periodic extending and altering galleries, cause the mounds to become as large as 10 to 15 feet in diameter and 2 feet high. Storerooms for food vary in size but can be large enough to hold different kinds of seeds stored in separate rooms. If a single chamber contains several kinds of seeds, each kind will be piled separately, apparently because of varying ripening periods.

The kangaroo rat is also the desert clown. When it makes the spring-footed leaps that gave it its name, it can cover the ground at speeds up to 20 feet per second, carrying as far as a yard in a single hop. Using its tail as a rudder, it can make 90-degree turns in mid-flight. When fighting or playing, they will leap straight up into the air, two feet or more, sometimes one over the other. (Some fights result in torn ears and gouged noses.) At
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Tom Jenkins
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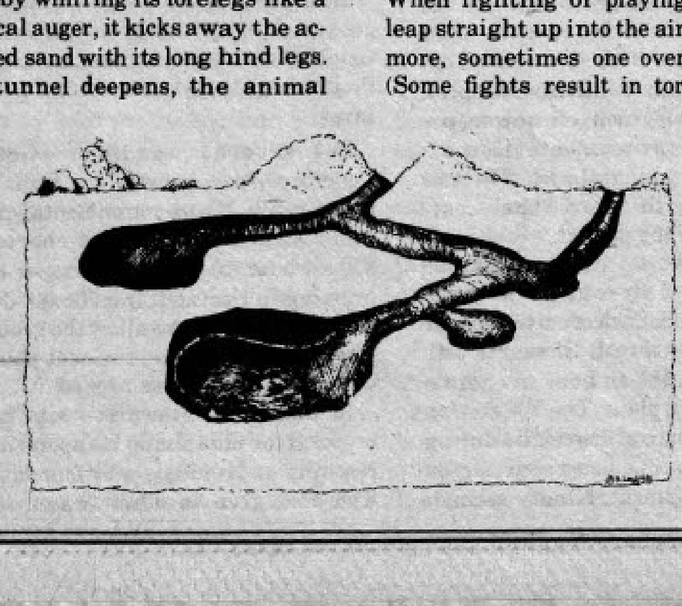

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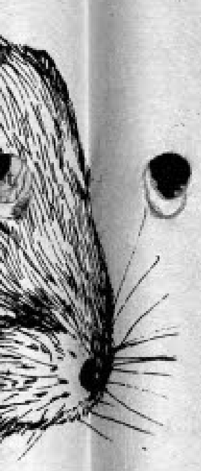

gouged noses.) At play, they will touch noses, then suddenly spring upward and backward in a high leap. On other occasions, they may bounce a foot or two in the air for no discernible reason other than sheer exhilaration.

Kangaroo rats also disseminate seeds and help the spread of plants. The animals will bury temporary caches of seeds during their harvest season and later move them to permanent storage in the main burrow system. However, when the rats return for their caches, they miss some seeds. These overlooked seeds produce clusters of plant seedlings after heavy rains.

Although it doesn't drink water, this impish, grayish-brown rodent is a prize morsel for many desert predators such as kit foxes, bobcats, badgers, snakes, owls, coyotes and hawks. The kangaroo rat's body is 65 percent water. "If kangaroo rats were less numerous, the predators would be hard-pressed to keep alive; and if kangaroo rats were not so well adapted to the desert, they would not be so numerous," said Myron Sutton.

With its primary source of nourishment and energy derived from carbohydrates in dry seeds, the kangaroo rat will dig into anthills and steal the seeds the ants have so laboriously collected. The kangaroo rat kicks sand in the face of its attacker, squeaking as it leaps away. What looks like a goof of God is a marvel of ecological adaptation.

Tom Jenkins is a free-lance writer from Englewood, Colo.

State of Wyoming Public Notice

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO STATE THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS UNDER THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972 (FWPCAA), P.L. 92-500 AND THE WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (35-11-101 et. seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1957, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973.)

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO AND (5) OIL TREATER FACILITIES, TO MODIFY (5) INDUSTRIAL PERMITS, (3) MUNICIPAL PERMITS, AND (1) SCHOOL PERMIT, AND TO RENEW (1) INDUSTRIAL PERMIT, AND (1) COMMERCIAL PERMIT.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: Amoco Production Company

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2520, Casper, Wyoming 82602

FACILITY LOCATION: Wertz ABC Unit Facility No. 1, SW¼ Section 1, T26N, R90W, Sweetwater County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030520

FACILITY LOCATION: Wertz ABC Unit Facility No. 2, SE¼ Section 1, T26N, R90N, Sweetwater County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030538

FACILITY LOCATION: Wertz ABC Unit Facility No. 3, SW¼ Section 7, T26N, R89W, Carbon County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030546

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Sweetwater and Carbon Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Able Creek (Class IV Water), Camp Creek (Class II Water) and Lost Soldier Creek (Class IV Water) all via unnamed draws.

The discharges must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharges and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

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

(2) APPLICANT NAME: Husky Oil Company

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 380, Cody, Wyoming 82414

FACILITY LOCATION: Davis No. 2, Little Sand Draw Field, NE¼, NE¼, Section 11, T44N, R96W, Hot Springs Coounty, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030503

FACILITY LOCATION: Rose Creek No. 4, SW¼, SW¼, Section 2, T48N, R 103W, Park County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030511

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Hot Springs and Park Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Sand Draw (Class IV Water) via an unnamed drainage and the Greybull River (Class II Water).

The discharges must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharges and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1981.

(3) APPLICANT NAME: The Thunder Basin Coal Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Altantic Richfield Coal Company

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1569, Gillette, Wyoming 82716

FACILITY LOCATION: Black Thunder Coal Mine, Near Reno Junction, Campbell County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024091

The Thunder Basin Coal Company which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the ARCO Coal Company operates an open pit coal mine known as the Black Thunder Mine located near Reno Junction, Campbell County, Wyoming.

The discharges to the North Prong of Little Thunder Creek must meet effluent limitations which are considered to represent best available treatment by the State of Wyoming, however, the point also contains language which requires the permit to be modified if more stringent limitations are developed at the federal level.

Runoff from disturbed areas will be controlled by sedimentation ponds which are designed to completely contain the runoff resulting from a ten year - 24 hour precipitation event. Because these ponds will not normally discharge, they are not specifically identified in the permit but are covered by operation and maintenance provisions.

Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire January 31, 1986.

(4) APPLICANT NAME: The Atlantic Richfield Company

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 5300, Denver, Colorado 80217

FACILITY LOCATION: Coal Creek Mine, Campbell County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028193

The Atlantic Richfield Company operates a large open pit coal mine located in Southeastern Campbell County, Wyoming which is called the Coal Creek Mine. The existing discharge permit for the mine authorized discharges from three locations, the mine has now requested that a fourth discharge point be authorized.

The receiving streams are all Class IV Waters.

The discharges must meet effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment." However, the permit also contains a "re-opener clause" which requires the permit to be modified should more stringent limitations be developed at the federal level.

Runoff from disturbed areas will be controlled by sedimentation ponds which are designed to completely contain the runoff resulting from a ten year - 24 hour precipitation event. Because these ponds will not normally discharge, they are not specifically identified in the permit but are covered by operation and maintenance provisions.

Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire January 31, 1986.

(5) APPLICANT NAME: J.M.T. Company

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 88, Madisonville, Kentucky 42431

FACILITY LOCATION: Dutchman Mine, Sheridan County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030571

The J.M.T. Company is in the process of developing a coal mine located approximately 10 miles southeast of the City of Sheridan which will be known as the Dutchman Mine. The only wastewaters associated with the mine will be runoff from disturbed areas and these waters will be held in ponds which are designed to completely contain the 10 year 24 hour precipitation event. Therefore, no specific discharge points are identified in the permit, but the proposed permit does contain requirements concerning the operation and maintenance of the runoff control ponds. All discharges which do occur will be in the Dow Prong (Class IV Water) drainage.

Self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required whenever a discharge occurs with reporting of results within thirty days of the event. The permit is scheduled to expire May 31, 1986.

(6) APPLICANT NAME: The Kerr McGee Coal Corporation

MAILING ADDRESS: Caller Box 3013, Gillette, Wyoming 82716

FACILITY LOCATION: Campbell County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023531

The Kerr-McGee Coal Corporation operates a large open pit coal mine in Southern Campbell County which is known as the Jacobs Ranch Mine.

The discharges flow into Burning Coal Draw, the North Prong of Little Thunder Creek, the South Fork of HA Creek and the Eastern Draw of HA Creek (All Class IV Waters).

The discharges must meet effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment." However, the permit also contains a "re-opener clause" which requires the permit to be modified should more stringent limitations be developed at the federal level.

Runoff from disturbed areas will be controlled by sedimentation ponds which are designed to completely contain the runoff resulting from a ten year - 24 hour precipitation event. Because these ponds will not normally discharge, they are not specifically identified in the permit but are covered by operation and maintenance provisions.

Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire January 31, 1986.

(7) APPLICANT NAME: Shell Oil Company - Buckskin Mine

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2906, Houston, Texas 77001

FACILITY LOCATION: Approximately ten miles north of the City of Gillette, Campbell County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028479

The Shell Oil Company is in the process of developing a large open-pit coal mine approximately ten miles north of the City of Gillette, Wyoming, which will be known as the Buckskin Mine. The mine will have six separate points of discharge. Four of the discharge points will consist of pit dewatering, coal handling and washdown water. The remaining two points will consist of discharges of treated domestic sewage. The discharges are to Rawhide Creek and Spring Draw (Class IV waters).

The proposed permit requires that the discharges comply with effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment" effective immediately. However, the proposed permit also contains a "reopener" clause which requires the permit to be modified if more stringent limitations are developed at the federal level. The proposed permit contains a provision exempting the permittee from effluent limitations when a precipitation event exceeding the 10 year-24 hour storm occurs. The proposed permit also requires control of runoff from disturbed areas.

Self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire January 31, 1986.

(8) APPLICANT NAME: The Town of Bairoil, Wyoming

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 58, Bairoil, Wyoming 82322

FACILITY LOCATION: Sweetwater County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0021075

The Town of Bairoil is a recently incorporated community which was previously owned by the Amoco Production Company. The Town is served by two separate wastewater treatment systems. Discharge point 001 is the outfall from a single cell lagoon system which discharges to Able Creek (Class IV Water). Discharge point 002 is the outfall from a two cell lagoon which discharges to Reed Creek (Class IV Water).

The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with effluent limitations based on National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards. Effluent quality and quantity must be monitored on a regular basis and reported quarterly.

The permit is scheduled to expire May 31, 1986.

(9) APPLICANT NAME: Town of Buffalo, Wyoming

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 430, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834

FACILITY LOCATION: Wastewater Treatment, Buffalo, Wyoming, Johnson County

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0021024

On February 9, 1981 this Department issued the Town of Buffalo a discharge permit which established effluent and self-monitoring requirements on the Town's existing lagoon system and on the planned lagoon system which is scheduled to be completed by July 1, 1983.

After issuance of the new permit of the Town's consulting engineer requested modification of the effluent limitations for the planned system on the parameter ammonia. The consultant requested that during the winter (when the system discharges to Clear Creek) the limitations on ammonia be separated into two

Bulletin Board

WYOMING AIRING

The sky above and the air around is the theme of a June 10-11 symposium in Laramie on air quality in Wyoming. Speakers are coming from the Montana Power Co., the Sierra Club, the League of Women Voters, and the Environmental Protection Agency. To register, or for more information, contact the Air Quality Seminar, P.O. Box 1184, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001.

WIPP HEARINGS

The Department of Energy's request to withdraw nearly 9,000 acres of New Mexico public lands for its proposed WIPP nuclear waste project will be subject to two public hearings, July 14 in Albuquerque and July 15 in Carlsbad. For more information, contact John Gumert, BLM, P.O. Box 1449, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501.

WILD PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Idaho Fish & Game Department is looking for entrants to its in-house magazine's wildlife photo contest. For the contest rules, contact Royce Williams, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Id. 83707

INTERNATIONAL TALK

Feeling worldly? So is the Center for Teaching International Relations, which is sponsoring a July 27-29 conference in Denver on the Mountain West's relationship to the rest of the world. The fifth in a series of North American regional seminars, the workshops will include discussions on energy, food, water, education, finance, population and trade. Contact Ardeth Donaldson, Room 219, 25 East 16th Avenue, Denver 80202; 303-861-2256.

LOOKING SKYWARD

Stopping just short of declaring this the Year of the Sky, the National Park Service has launched a program to increase public awareness of the world above. Among the benefits, claims For Spacious Skies project director Jack Borden, will be a greater interest in air quality issues. Besides a conference to be held this weekend in the Grand Canyon, the project is planning to produce a film, a book, a travelling exhibit and school curriculum, with $60,000 raised thus far from federal agencies, academia, and industry, including ARCO and Polaroid. For more information: FSS, c-o National Park Service, 9th Floor, 15 State St., Boston, Mass. 02109.

THROUGH THE LOOKING-GRASS

Grasslands and other prairie eco-systems in eastern Colorado will be the focus of a July 5-8 workshop sponsored by the Denver Audubon Society and the Grasslands Institute. The $230 fee includes food, lodging and transportation. Contact the society at PO Box 3557, Boulder, Colo., 80307; 303-499-0219.

SOLAR STUDY

Seven weeks and a $1,900 tuition fee (Colorado non-resident) will net you a comprehensive knowledge of solar technology, say the sponsors of the college-accredited course to be held in Alamosa beginning June 15. Sponsored by the Adams State College, the course agenda runs the solar gamut, from audit to retrofit, with a special emphasis on training instructors for secondary and post-secondary school programs. The tuition fee for Colorado residents is $608. For more information: Akira Kawanabe, Architects, P.O. Box 1014, Alamosa, Colo. 81101; 303-589-5184.

WILD STUDIES

Backpacking and day hike trips with an educational twist are being offered this summer by the Colorado Open Space Council Wilderness Workshop. They include jaunts into the Beaver Creek area north of Canon City, the Piedra River valley in the San Juans, and other potential wilderness areas, starting June 27. Contact the workshop at 2239 E. Colfax, Denver 80206; 303-393-0466.

HUNTING BIGFOOT

They didn't say what they'll do if they find her or him (or them), but the Life Systems Center in Seattle is sponsoring a July 24 to 26 journey through Washington's Napeewa River valley to hunt for the elusive bigfoot. Contact the center suite 405, The New England Bldg., 219 First Avenue South, Seattle 98104.

REVOLTING COLONIES

Levi-Strauss and the Association for Humanities in Idaho are sponsoring a June 30 to July 3 conference in Ketchum titled, "The American West: Colonies in Revolt." Contact Bob Waite, Institute of the American West, Box 656, Sun Valley, Id. 83353.

WINDY TV

Tune your television dial to Denver's KWGN-TV (Channel 2) Friday, June 5 at 8 p.m. for a 30-minute show on wind energy — "Catch the Wind" — produced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the federal Water and Power Resources Service. The 400-foot-high machines at Medicine Bow, Wyo., will be highlighted.

SLURRY FURY

It won't be out until July. But to assure getting a copy of the Bureau of Land Management's final environmental impact statement on the proposed Wyoming-to-Louisiana Energy Transportation Systems Inc.'s coal slurry pipeline, send your name and address to Richard Traylor, BLM, Third Floor East, 555 Zang St., Denver 80228. There'll be 30 days to comment once the final report is released.

RECLAIMING GRAVEL PITS

Mollifying the public is a major part of a successful sand and gravel mine reclamation effort, reports the fereral Bureau of Mines in its new study, "Reclamation and Pollution Control: Planning for Small Sand and Gravel Mines," (PB 81-190241). Other concerns covered by the report include general planning guidelines, revegetation procedures, and operating methods. There is also a glossary, a list of relevant state laws, and botanical data. Copies are $14 (or $3.50 for microfiche) from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, Va. 22161.

FOSSILS IN NEBRASKA?

You bet. And the National Park Service, in its new book, a guide to the state's Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, **Agate Fossil Beds**, says they include rhinoceros and camel-like creatures to boot. Send $3.95 for a copy (024-005-00785-7) to U.S. Gov. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

SAFE HERBICIDES

There is no proof that 2,4,5-T is a hazard to human health if used properly, and there is "no scientific evidence to justify the ban," on its use, the American Council on Science and Health has found. Copies of its report are available for $2 from the council, 47 Maple St., Summit, N.J. 07901.

(continued from page 10)

This Department's analysis of the required ammonia limitations for discharge to Clear Creek (see memorandum from John Wagner dated November 25, 1980) indicates that making the requested change will not result in violation of Wyoming's in-stream water quality standards for ammonia.

Therefore, since making the change requested will not violate water quality standards and since the Town will be able to construct a smaller lagoon system (55 surface acres vs 75 surface acres) which will result in a significant financial savings, the requested change is hereby proposed.

(10) APPLICANT NAME:	Town of Pavillion
MAILING ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 37 Pavillion, Wyoming 82523
FACILITY LOCATION:	Fremont County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0020222

The wastewater treatment facility serving the Town of Pavillion consists of a single-cell non-aerated lagoon which discharges to the Pavillion - Ocean Lake No. 6 Drain (Class III Water). The existing permit for this facility was written under the assumption that the receiving water was a Class IV Stream, however, recent investigations by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department show that the drain contains non-game fish which changes the designation to Class III. With modification of the receiving stream classification, it is now necessary to modify effluent limitations for fecal coliform bacteria and total residual chlorine to insure that In-stream Water Quality Standards are not violated.

The proposed permit for this facility requires only that the existing facilities be operated at maximum efficiency, however, the Town has been offered Federal construction grant funds which means the wastewater treatment facilities must be upgraded to meet Federal effluent standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards. The proposed permit includes limitations on BOD5, Total Suspended Solids, Fecal Coliform Bacteria, pH and Total Residual Chlorine.

The proposed permit also contains a schedule which requires compliance with these limitations by July 1, 1983.

The proposed permit requires monitoring of effluent quality and quantity on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire May 31, 1986.

(11) APPLICANT NAME:	Huntley Attendance Center
MAILING ADDRESS:	Goshen County School District No. 1 2602 West E Torrington, Wyoming 82240
FACILITY LOCATION:	Huntley, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0021695

The wastewater treatment facilities serving the Huntley Attendance Center consist of a septic tank which discharges to an unnamed drain (Class IV Water) which flows approximately two miles before entering Katzer Drain (Class III Water).

The existing discharge permit for this facility was written under the assumption that the discharge was directly into Katzer drain. Subsequently, it was learned that this was not the case. Because of the change in the classification of the receiving stream it is now necessary to modify the permit and to loosen the limitation on total residual chlorine from zero to 2.0 mg-l and to tighten the limitation on fecal coliform bacteria from 1,000-100 mls (effective in summer only) to 200-100mls (effective year-round). In addition, it

(continued on page 14)

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE WASHAKIE WILDERNESS OF THE SHOSHONE NATIONAL FOREST

Park, Fremont, and Hot Springs Counties, Wyoming

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, will prepare an environmental impact statement, in accordance with Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, to disclose the environmental consequences of preliminary geophysical exploration of oil and gas leasing within the Washakie Wilderness and four (4) adjoining areas proposed for addition to the Wilderness, all within the Shoshone National Forest. The Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, asked the Forest Service to recommend whether or not 72 proposed oil and gas leases should be issued, and if issued, what terms and conditions (i.e., stipulations) for the management of surface resources should be made part of each lease to prevent or control adverse impacts, and for the prompt reclamation of the disturbed lands upon abandonment of operations. This request was made in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service.

Mineral leasing of these lands is authorized by the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 and Section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, provided that leases contain "reasonable stipulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of the wilderness character of the land consistent with the use of the land for the purposes for which they are leased".

The Bureau of Land Management will make the final decision whether or not to offer the lands for oil and gas leasing. Before operations can take place on a leasehold, the lessee or his representative must submit a proposed operating plan to the Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior. This proposed plan is forwarded to the Forest Service for review and concurrence as to whether the plan meets the performance standards of the surface resource management stipulations of the lease before a permit to drill is approved.

A site-specific environmental analysis is made by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Forest Service during the review of the proposed operating plan. The analysis is documented in either an environmental assessment or as mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act, in an environmental impact statement if the proposed action is a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Craig W. Rupp, Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, is the official responsible for making the Forest Service recommendations on leasing of these National Forest lands.

The following open houses will be held to encourage public participation to determining the scope of the issues to be discussed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

June 30, 1981: Cody Convention Center; 1240 Beck; Cody, Wyoming
July 1, 1981: Natrona County Library; 307 East 2nd; Casper, Wyoming
July 2, 1981: U.S. Forest Service Office; Masonic Bldg., Dubois, Wyoming

Copies of the information brochure will be distributed, question and answer sessions will be held, and attendees will be asked to complete a response form.

The draft environmental impact statement for oil and gas leasing is tentatively scheduled to be completed in October, 1981. A sixty (60) day period for Public review and comment will follow. The final environmental impact statement is tentatively scheduled to be filed with the Environmental protection Agency in February, 1982.

Copies of the information brochure can be obtained by contacting the Shoshone National Forest; West Yellowstone Highway, P.O. Box 2140; Cody, Wyoming 82414. Further information may be obtained from Don I. Campbell, Forest Planning Staff Officer at the same address, or by telephone (307) 587-2274.

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

World Life and Health Ins. Co. of Penna.
550 W. Dekalb Pike, King of Prussia, Penna. 19406
BUSINESS IN WYOMING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1980

Insurance Written	$1,181
Gross Premiums Received	1,181
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	-0-
Direct Benefits and Losses Incurred	-0-
Total Admitted Assets	1,745,708
Liabilities	1,732,079
Capital Stock Paid Up	-0-
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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

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	16,543,297
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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

World Insurance Company
203 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	-0-
Surplus	8,470,369
Income during year ending December 31, 1980	30,696,234
Expenditures for year ending December 31, 1980	29,662,095

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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

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	-0-
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	6,996,848

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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

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	-0-
Losses Incurred	-0-
Total Admitted Assets	6,423,787
Liabilities	1,902,784
Capital Stock Paid Up	1,250,000
Surplus	3,271,003
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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

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	397,830.60
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	9,878,880.59
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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

Western Reserve Life Assurance 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	-0-
Total Admitted Assets	89,466,991
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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

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	33,328,899
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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

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	-0-
Losses Incurred	-0-
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 the State relating to insurance, and it is duly authorized to transact the business of insurance in the State of Wyoming.
Dated May 12, 1981
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

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	-0-
Direct Benefits and Losses Paid	-0-
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	9,843,312

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 repects 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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

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	-0-
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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF WYOMING

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	-0-
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
s. John T. Langdon
Insurance Commissioner

Nuclear transport...

(continued from page 1)

high-frequency radio equipment carried by the convoy.

Another courier checked the area with a hand-held radiation detector, then worked his way over the surface of the trailer to verify that there had been no leakage of radioactive material. The escort team could not simply open the trailer and examine the contents. Couriers are not informed of the procedures for unscrambling the electronically—coded locks on the vault within. Despite the impact, the SST was undented. As state police closed the highway and diverted traffic to a frontage road, DOE officials in Albuquerque made arrangements to retrieve their valuable cargo. A hastily-assembled 45-man team was dispatched from Warren Air Force Base near Cheyenne to provide additional security and assist in the recovery.

Robert Walton read a brief prepared statement for reporters who arrived on the scene. His typed script, presumably kept on hand for such emergencies, described the contents only as a "classified shipment" that was "not affected by the accident" and "did not pose any danger to the public."

The Air Force crew worked throughout the night, hindered by snow and ice. Nervous young airmen huddled in pick-up trucks with their rifles and shotguns, trying to keep warm as they peered into the darkness. Finally, by daybreak, the SST was on the road again, headed back to Warren Air Force Base instead of its original destination, a plutonium-fabrication facility at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in northern New Mexico. A truck-mounted crane and three heavy-duty tow trucks were required to get the trailer upright.

FEAR OF THEFT

Transportation of nuclear materials has always been shrouded in secrecy. As the scientific principles and techniques of building nuclear weapons have become more widely known, the U.S. government has turned to tighter physical security to keep the essential raw materials out of the hands of its adversaries. On paper at least, these defenses are weakest and the material is most vulnerable to theft when it is being moved.

In the early days of the nuclear age, the heaviest security was applied to vital information and assembled weapons, not the raw materials. In 1943, the physicist Glenn Seaborg packed one of the first microscopic specks of the man-made element plutonium in a vial in his suitcase and carried it with him from Berkeley to the secret wartime laboratory at Los Alamos where the feasibility of building an atomic bomb was being studied. A year later, when large quantities of enriched uranium had to be moved from Oak Ridge, Tenn., to Los Alamos the Army organized the first system of nuclear couriers. Soldiers in civilian clothes travelled by commercial train to Chicago and then to New Mexico with the uranium concealed in ordinary luggage.

During the 1950's, as the old Atomic Energy Commission sought to encourage the development of a private nuclear industry, the transportation of weapons-grade plutonium and uranium was entrusted to government contractors and commercial carriers. The AEC reasoned that the high intrinsic value of the substances and the prospect of heavy financial losses would provide adequate incentive for the contractors to protect the nuclear material in their possession.

By the mid-1960's, numerous critics inside and outside the AEC were questioning this logic, especially in light or rising terrorist activity around the world. It was only a matter of time, they argued, before the terrorists might try to obtain a nuclear weapon. In response, the agency slowly began to order tougher security measures at its facilities and started work on an improved transportation system.

The deceptively simple concept underlying the present system was set forth in the early 1970's. The original plan was to build a nearly impregnable shipping container. It would be made of the most resistant steel. Ideally, the device would be impossible for even well-equipped thieves to crack, pry or blast open for many hours, if not days. The second part of the plan called for a highly reliable nationwide communications system to keep track of the containers at all times under all conditions. In the event of an attack against a shipment, reinforcements could be moved to the scene before the perpetrators penetrated the protective layers of the shipping container.

By 1972, the AEC had its first ten safe secure trailers and its secure communications network (SECOM) in operation while still using commercial carriers for many of its shipments. Then came the shock of the Summer Olympics in Munich.

The murder of eleven Israeli athletes by the Black September terrorist group stunned security planners at the highest levels of Western governments. The event forced the realization that terrorism had become much harder to control or even to predict. In the United States, President Richard Nixon appointed a cabinet-level committee to combat terrorism. One result was an expensive program to strengthen defenses against the theft of nuclear material. Scientists quickly jumped from the question of whether terrorists would acquire nuclear weapons to consideration of when, where and how.

In the aftermath of Munich, the AEC ordered the expansion of the transportation system to cover not just finished nuclear weapons, but all material that could be used to build a bomb. The private shipments were ended in 1974.

COMMAND POST

These days, the AEC is gone, broken up in a governmental reorganization. Its Albuquerque Operations Office, the entity which supervised the production of nuclear weapons, is now part of the Department of Energy. Albuquerque Operations still occupies the same quarters within a small fenced compound on Kirtland Air Force Base east of the city. The offices are located in five white concrete buildings that once served as barracks for an anti-aircraft battalion.

Hidden in the basement of one of the office buildings is the windowless command post where nuclear shipments are tracked as they move around the country. Only a hand-lettered cardboard sign on the locked door identifies the vital "SECOM Center."

In an adjacent building, James P. Crane, the director of the transportation division talked about SECOM, his couriers, and their secretive work. Officials like Crane observe a delicate protocol in discussing these matters. By saying too much they could inadvertantly release information useful to potential hijackers. But saying nothing would do little to reassure the public about the reliability of the safeguards. Complete silence also might open the door to foolish adventurism by those ignorant of the defenses.

Crane flatly asserts that anyone attempting to steal one of his shipments will fail and will probably be killed. His couriers are all in top physical condition and are required to stay that way. They're proficient with shotguns, rifles, handguns and grenade launchers. They've rehearsed their roles in realistic combat exercises. And they're well paid for their services; although the base pay for a new courier is about $14,000, most are earning $25,000-30,000 because of the heavy overtime that goes with the long hours on the road.

Explosives, gases, armed escorts, remote controls and booby traps are among the devices used to keep potential hijackers at bay.

The average age of the couriers is 36. The youngest is 21 and the oldest are in their sixties. Turnover is very low and competition for vacancies is intense. The last class of 18 recruits was selected from 165 applicants. At the moment, DOE is not hiring.

ARMOR AND BOOBY-TRAPS

Crane gives fewer details about the safe secure trailers. The SSTs now cost about one-third of a million dollars apiece, roughly three times the price of a standard heavy-duty tractor and trailer without all the specialized armor and defensive systems. The government rigs are crammed with tamper-proof gadgets to slow the progress of attackers until reinforcements arrive. These devices have been described as a series of explosives, gases and other debilitating booby-traps to surprise and confound hijackers. The vehicles can be rendered immobile, perhaps even by a remote radio signal. Official descriptions of these defensive systems are deliberately vague for security reasons. "We try to fuzz it up," explains David Jackson, the director of public affairs for DOE's Albuquerque Operations Office.

SECOM, Crane contends, is now foolproof. The convoys transmit messages on four frequencies simultaneously to four widely separate relay stations. The redundancy decreases the chances that communications could be interrupted by power failures, sabotage or jamming. During a field test of SECOM in 1974, a convoy covered 10,000 miles on a roundabout trip through 31 states; the operator was able to contact the Albuquerque base on the first try 98 percent of the time. Since then, an improved system has been put into use and Crane says that he now has "100 percent contact."

There are numerous other precautions in effect. Routes and shipment schedules are varied. Safe havens like military bases are available along the way if needed, though crews normally drive straight through to their destinations to get the cargo off the roads as quickly as possible. People are rotated between crews and assignments to counter the natural tendency for informal relaxation of procedures or, worse, the opportunity for formation of an insider conspiracy.

The cost of the entire transporation operation is now about $17 million per year. The figure includes chartered rail shipments that are conducted in a manner almost identical to truck convoys.

In the years ahead, Crane confidently predicts, his transportation division will grow larger. The U.S. has an estimated 30,0000 nuclear weapons deployed around the world. About 10,000 of these are "strategic" weapons in the megaton range, the kind that could be delivered by missiles or B-52s to destroy Moscow. The rest are smaller "tactical" weapons in the kiloton range, many of them based in Western Europe. The radioactive components of these weapons gradually decay and become less reliable, so they are replaced periodically. Consequently, DOE is moving thousands of nuclear weapons a year, even when the overall numbers in deployment remain constant. In addition, nuclear weapons must be brought back to the factory regularly for testing, modification or replacement by more advanced designs.

Crane says the country is entering a period when much more of this work will be done, when shipments will increase. At the same time, he predicts that the transportation system is likely to remain very much as it is today. Probably it will become more computerized and will utilize new defensive gadgets that emerge from DOE's ongoing research program, but no major revisions are anticipated.

Crane has no doubt that the system is adequate. He proudly points out that his couriers have never been attacked and have never lost a gram of material entrusted to them. They have never had an accident resulting in the release of radiation.

Well-informed independent evaluations on the adequacy of the system are virtually non-existent, however. Because the details of the operation are so highly classified, outsiders lack the information they need to perform a thorough analysis. A study commissioned by the Ford Foundation in 1971 considered a somewhat related issue, the possibility of theft of weapons-grade nuclear material from the U.S. nuclear power industry. In the final report, authors Mason Willrich and Theodore Taylor outlined the requirements for a transportation system considerably tougher than those employed by the AEC for moving nuclear weapons at that time. DOE's system today seems to exceed the measures recommended by Willrich and Taylor.

Still, DOE's current procedures have never been subjected to the most realistic test of all: an actual assault by determined adversaries. Opinions on the performance of the system are based on simulations, training exercises and incidents like the overturned trailer outside Fort Collins last December. On that occasion, at least, everything appeared to work as intended.

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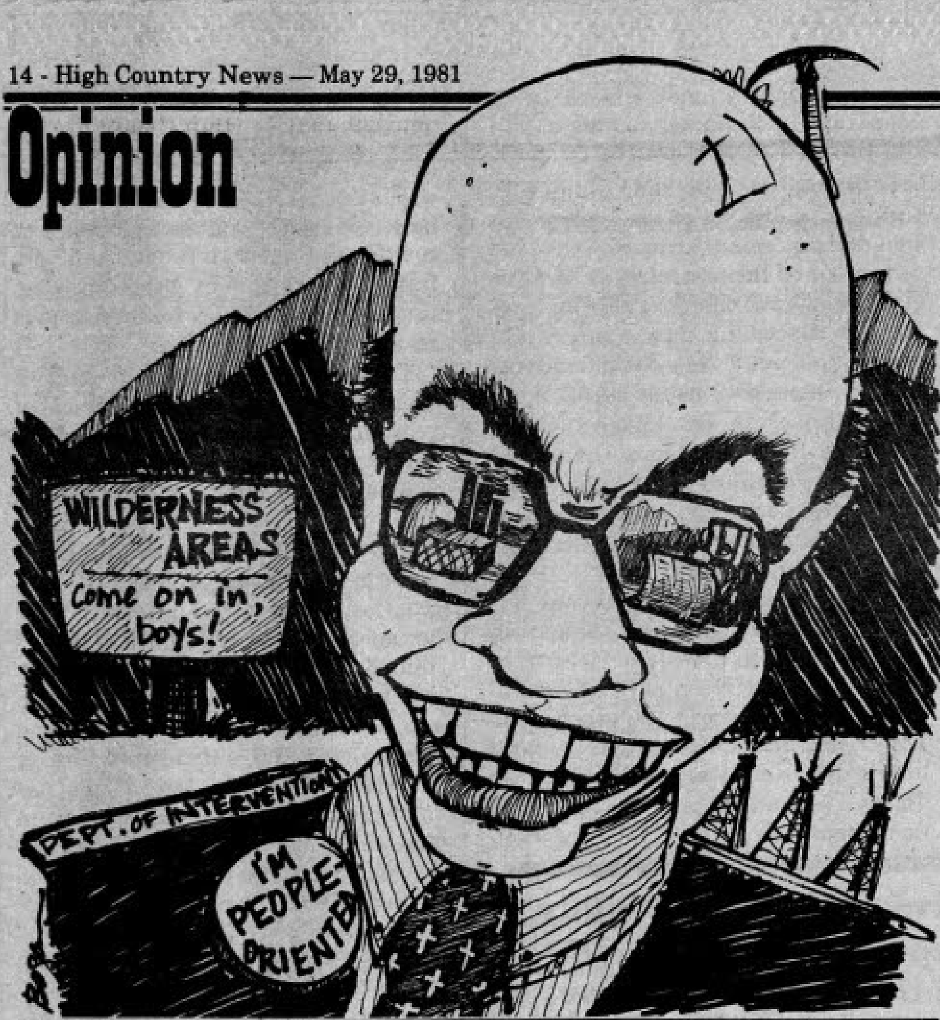
Ron Wolf, former editor of Colorado's **Straight Creek Journal**, is currently an Alicia Patterson Foundation fellow. This story was funded by the foundation.

Opinion



Move to guard Bob Marshall puts real values before rhetoric

There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that the protection of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wildernesses from the depredations of seismic testing for oil and gas must be recorded as a landmark conservation victory. The struggle is not over yet, but two big steps have been taken.

Regional Forester Tom Coston denied Consolidated Georex Geophysics' application to set off explosives in the wilderness, after being ordered by his Forest Service superiors to consider it. Then the House Interior Committee voted to block oil and gas leasing in the three Montana wildernesses. Coston is not now likely to be overruled by higher-ups. Of course, there are still the courts — and one can expect the energy companies to turn to them, just as environmentalists have in the past.

The struggle over preservation of wild lands is a war of words as well as statutes. When Coston says: "Seismic operations conflict with significant wildlife, geologic, scenic and recreation values," he stops ducking the issue — as he did earlier by killing the CGG proposal on a technicality — and openly declares wilderness a superior value. Likewise the House Interior Committee, which voted 23-18 for a resolution by Rep. Pat Williams (D-Mont.), was unequivocal in its goal of protecting the three wilderness areas.

The firm declaration of those values has never been more important. The conservation movement has been on the rhetorical defensive since the Reagan administration came into office. This has allowed the Reaganites, led by James Watt, to set the ground rules: So conservationists try to match the talk about "cost-effectiveness" and react angrily and defensively to Watt's confident assertions. They are playing his game.

Nor have the media helped. Watt gets a lot of ink by calling environmental lawyers "hired guns" and declaring himself "people-oriented" in managing public lands. The press solemnly reports those statements, failing to point out that industry has an army of "hired guns" roaming Interior's corridors, or that oil and gas rigs and mineral digs appeal primarily to a small class of corporate "people."

This abuse of language, akin to calling the bombing of Cambodia a "defensive reaction," tends to sap the initiative of countervailing voices. As language is debased, so is clear thought.

Which brings us back to Coston and the House Interior Committee. With emphatic action and clear language they have clarified a value that has been all but forgotten in the cascade of meaningless verbiage from Washington.

The public can tell the difference between Watt's rhetorical effluent and a clear statement of values. The important thing is that bureaucrats, activists and politicians lift themselves out of the muck and start saying what they really believe in. In the case of the Bob Marshall, that is precisely what happened.

— GOG

letters

FATAL FLAW

Dear HCN,

I just finished reading the piece on Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (HCN, 5-1-81) and felt compelled to drop you a line.

We worked on the Tri-State issue for quite some time, and determined, finally, that their forecasting techniques were the fundamental and, in contrast to Eisele, fatal flaw.

What is important to understand is that G&Ts like Tri-State go by the Rural Electric Administration guidelines in determing their loads — guidelines which were developed many years back when growth was constant and coherent. The most important document to look at, not only for Tri-State, but for all other major electric power plants proposed by any REA borrower is REA Bulletin 120-1. Here, if one looks closely at the formula, it can be seen that electrical forecasting amounts to nothing more than placing a ruler on the last ten years of sales, and extrapolating another ten. The bulletin, in a word, is useless.

It would also be helpful to point out that many private utilities have far more sophisticated forecasting methods than the antique REAs. True, the REA in Washington is largely to blame for not changing their forecasting techniques as time changes, but borrowers interested in becoming prosperous and going concerns have not challenged the method which overestimates their needs.

I think this is a good example of how government subsidized businesses tend to forget their Ps & Qs, looking for the thinnest excuses to pick up the government dole. Synfuels might be another.

Reed Zars
Power River Basin Resource Council
Sheridan, Wyo.

TAUTOCHRONE

Dear HCN,

The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia (10 Volumes) Vol. VII, published by the Century Co. 1903, page 6200:

> **Tautochrone**...In Math., a curved line such that a heavy body descending along it by gravity will, from whatever point in the curve it begins to descend, always arrive at the lowest point in the same time. The cycloid possesses this property from a constant force with no resistance.

Whenever we are frustrated about learning the meaning of a word, we go to our nearly 80 year old 10-volume **Century Dictionary**. Even if the exact information or meaning is not found, seldom do we close a volume without a clue to look elsewhere.

The arrival of an **HCN** issue always adds interest to a day's schedule.

D. Mulaik
Salt Lake City

BIRDS OF PREY

Dear HCN,

Cecil Andrus, as Interior Secretary, demonstrated his wisdom and genuine concern for the public interest by his administrative action expanding the Birds of Prey Natural Area. This action maintains the integrity of the unique natural area so vital to the food base for the birds until Congress may wish to act. It is unfortunate that the opposition takes the view that the rim lands should be farmed, even though there is insufficient water and energy for Snake River Rim land development.

Threats to scuttle Andrus' action by Idaho's congressional delegation would be a rejection of the things that are best for Idaho and the nation.

The Birds of Prey unique natural habitat needs to be kept in place as the highest and best use of these public lands. It is not good policy to farm such public lands for private benefit.

This perception of true public interest is among the reasons why Cecil Andrus has been this nation's best Interior Secretary. He knew there are places that need protection from man's industrial development. It is hoped that the new administration would want to show some class in handling the Birds of Prey Area.

Bruce Bowler
Boise, Idaho

(continued from page 11)

is proposed that the school be given an extension of its deadline for final compliance (from 12-31-80 to 1-1-82).

Periodic monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire May 31, 1986.

(12) APPLICANT NAME: The Black Hills Power and Light Company

MAILING ADDRESS: Osage Steam Electric Plant
P.O. Box 325
Osage, Wyoming 82723

FACILITY LOCATION: Osage, Weston County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001376

The Black Hills Power and Light Company operates a coal fired steam electric generating plant of 33 megawatt capacity located near the Town of Osage, Weston County, Wyoming. The plant has two wastewater discharge points. Discharge point 001 is the outfall from the "ash pond" and includes the following waste streams: Bottom Ash Sluice, Flyash Sluice, Water Supply Reservoir overflow, and plant area runoff. Discharge point 002 included Bearing Cooling Water, Plant and Yard Drains, Water Treatment Wastes, Sanitary Waste Effluent, Machinery Cooling, and Boiler Blowdown. Both discharges are to Poison Creek (Class IV Water) via unnamed drainages.

The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with effluent limitations which are considered by the State to represent "best available treatment." However, the permit also contains a re-opener clause which requires the permit to be modified if more stringent limitations are developed at the federal level.

Effluent quality and quantity is required to be monitored on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire June 30, 1986.

(13) APPLICANT NAME: Grand Targhee Resort

MAILING ADDRESS: Alta, Wyoming
Via Driggs, Idaho 83422

FACILITY LOCATION: Teton County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024708

guest editorial

Reagan budget hits Indian self-sufficiency

by Marjane Ambler

President Reagan's efforts to balance the budget could backfire in Indian Country if Congress doesn't show more foresight than he.

The proposed budget would undermine Indian tribes' efforts to become more self-sufficient, meaning more taxpayer dollars would be spent on Indian reservations over the long term. It would also impair the tribes' efforts to gain control over energy development on reservations, which, for many Western tribes, offers the greatest potential for increasing economic independence.

Indian people realize that action must be taken to stem inflation, and they have indicated they are willing to share the burden. They have not objected strenuously to cutbacks in major Indian agencies, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services. Proposed cuts to those agencies are only about 16 percent.

However, the total federal Indian budget, when all federal programs are considered, is being reduced by 37 percent. The dependency programs, such as Food Stamps and income supplements, continue, while programs that foster independence, such as manpower training and economic self-sufficiency programs, are being cut 45 percent and 80 percent, respectively.

Indians say they are tired of handouts, tired of tying their fate to the whims of Washington. They recognize they will never be totally self-sufficient, just as no state or local governments operate totally without federal funds. But they hope that tribal institutions can come closer to meeting the needs of their people. They accept the "bootstrap" approach to lifting their members' standard of living.

But this takes time. Because of vacillating federal policies toward the reservation system, most tribal governments have been functioning in their present form for less than 10 years. Only in 1968 did Congress give them the authority to serve their own people, to perform the functions previously performed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The bootstrap also requires straps. Since tribal governments can derive little money from property or income taxes, they need federal grants to support their initial efforts.

The Assiniboine and Gros Ventres Tribes of the Fort Belknap Reservation in northern Montana, for example, had decided to purchase a farm and develop a fuel alcohol production plant, which would use farm products. The non-Indian owners of the farm, which is on the reservation, are willing to sell, but the tribes need money to make the purchase. It was to come from the Economic Development Administration, an agency the Reagan administration wants to eliminate. If EDA and other programs are cut, the tribes would lose not only the purchase price but also the jobs of planners who are developing the project.

While the tribes had hoped to lower the unemployment level on the isolated reservation from its current level of about 50 percent, now they expect it to jump to as high as 75 percent, according to Randy Perez, tribal treasurer. As a result of cuts in Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) programs, more than 200 jobs will be lost there; lessons in welding, secretarial and accounting skills will not continue.

The Reagan administration believes a revitalized private sector will absorb those who lose CETA jobs. But other reservations are like Fort Belknap: There is no private sector. Most reservations are so isolated that commuting to urban centers is not feasible. According to the Indian and Native American CETA Coalition, more than 7,000 Indians would lose their jobs if the public sector employment program of CETA is eliminated, as Reagan proposes. The Indian unemployment rate, which had been going down, would leap again.

Even tribes with extensive energy reserves are in trouble. Some, such as the Navajo of the Southwest, the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota, and the Jicarilla Apache of New Mexico, have instituted fee programs so the energy companies are supporting tribal regulatory efforts. However, most others are only in the initial planning stages; they depend heavily upon federal funds to conduct feasibility studies, hire planners and inventory mineral resources.

Reagan budget plans could put a big dent in the Council of Energy Tribes' budget. CERT, an organization of 25 tribes with offices in Washington, D.C. and Denver, had sought $2.9 million from four federal agencies for 1981, with the biggest chunk coming from the Department of Energy. The DOE Indian Affairs budget would be eliminated by Reagan.

Environmentalists might applaud this move, especially if they disagree with CERT and question the advisability of some DOE funded projects on reservations, such as the $2.9 million synfuels feasibility study on the Crow Reservation in Montana. CERT's strategy for fighting the funding cuts won't win any converts from such critics. The board members are pointing out that member tribes are producing the energy equivalent of 1 million barrels of oil per day, a substantial increase over the year before; and CERT implies that its efforts are responsible for the difference.

But if CERT and DOE Indian funds get slashed, will it mean less energy production on Indian reservations? Some tribes might continue to avoid development until they are confident they have control over how it proceeds. Others, now more than ever, might be forced by economic pressures to approve strip mines or power plants on their lands, ready or not.

To them, the lack of money from EDA, CETA and DOE will mean no economic planners or environmental regulators can be hired. Many tribes now lack even the most basic mineral inventory information needed for planning; with money from some of these programs, they were acquiring it.

The administration believes money for feasibility studies should come from private industry, not the federal government. This concept sounds fine, but again it ignores the realities of reservation life. When tribes need information to decide whether to develop and how to finance it, experience has shown they cannot depend upon private industry for objective advice.

If a tribe decides a project is feasible and decides to solicit proposals and negotiate a contract, it needs independent, expert advice. The BIA has only one or two experts capable of helping with such negotiations nationwide, and, with its own budget reduced, the agency cannot be expected to improve.

Thus DOE and CERT funding reduction will not necessarily translate to reduced energy development on reservations; but they could mean less tribal economic development and inadequate environmental control when mines are opened or power plants go on line.

If the Reagan administration was honestly trying to reduce the federal government's involvement in the lives of Indian people — over the long term — it would encourage economic development on reservations. Instead the budget-cutters are turning the clock back to the days when Indians waited for the benevolent federal agency to bring their beans and blankets.

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Marjane Ambler, former managing editor of **High Country News**, recently completed a year's study of Indians and energy development on a grant from the Alicia Patterson Foundation.

The Grand Targhee Resort is a ski lodge and resort located on the west side of the Teton Mountains near the Wyoming - Idaho State line. Wastewater treatment consists of a single cell lagoon which normally has no discharge but which has the potential to discharge to Dry Creek (Class IV Water).

The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards at 001. Discharge point 002 must be permanently plugged effective immediately and there can be no action which would cause a decrease in quality at discharge point 003.

The proposed permit requires periodic monitoring of effluent quality and quantity at discharge point 001 with reporting of results quarterly. Fecal coliform concentration and flow volume must be monitored at discharge point 003 once per year.

The permit is scheduled to expire August 31, 1986.

STATE-EPA TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS

Tentative determinations have been made by the State of Wyoming in cooperation with the EPA staff relative to effluent limitations and conditions to be imposed on the permits. These limitations and conditions will assure that State water quality standards and applicable provisions of the FWPCAA will be protected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to June 29, 1981. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permits Section, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80295. All comments received prior to June 29, 1981 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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

Public Notice No.: Wy-81-007

books

INCIDENT AT EAGLE RANCH
Man and Predator in the American West

Donald G. Schueler; 1980, $12.95 hardback, 296 pages. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco.

Review by Joan Nice

Two men clamber over a barbed wire fence and walk toward a flock of sheep. Turkey vultures on the ground next to the grazing animals reluctantly flutter to safety in the mesquite.

The object of both the buzzards' and the men's interest is a freshly killed ewe with one eye missing, the rib cage opened and the intestine gutted from the rear.

"All right," says one to the other. "Tell me what you see. What's been feeding on that sheep besides buzzards? How did it die?"

The questioner is a man who has made himself famous in Texas by killing mountain lions, coyotes and wolves. His student is an outsider — a Louisiana professor of medieval literature with environmentalist inclinations.

Though the men have traveled the Texas outback for two days together, they can't seem to bridge a basic distrust. The trapper, Roy McBride, lashes out when the greenhorn fumbles for words. "You see how it is! Environmentalists are always saying the ranchers exaggerate, but they don't really know what's going on themselves."

The greenhorn environmentalist, Donald G. Schueler, tells this story on himself in a book that he hopes can somehow work toward bridging the information gap, if not the personal chasm, between those who see predators as bothersome and those who see them as beautiful.

Schueler starts dramatically, with the story of the eagle killings in Texas that led to the conviction of three men in a well-publicized 1977 trial. With a novelist's flair, he moves from what people say in the courtroom to how they act in the more comfortable settings of their ranches, offices and cafes. The characters are "a wondrous assortment of people," Schueler says, including trappers, biologists, enforcement agents, wildlife management officials, environmentalists and ranchers.

On one ranch, Schueler discovers "an El Dorado of wintering eagles" — 50 to 90 on a single spread — and finds himself listening more sympathetically to the ranchers' gripes about the Bald Eagle Protection Act. Another rancher puzzles and shocks him with a freezer full of dead lambs, one of which had been staked out as eagle bait for photographic purposes. In another episode, he spars with shrewd, cigar-smoking Judge W.B. Sansom, who reportedly said that no one would ever be prosecuted for shooting eagles in his county. Later he meets John Elliott, a retired football player from the East, who as sheriff of Real County helped put the handcuffs on one of the suspected eagle killers.

At each stop Schueler paints a vivid portrait and introduces a few new facts, each of which sheds new light on the predator puzzle. At first, he tries to play the patient listener, but in the end he comes down hard on sheepmen for what he sees as their unreasonable hostility toward eagles and other predators. "In the insular world of the sheepmen," he says, "there is a subtle failure of nerve, and a corresponding need to find something or someone to blame. But the weather is God's affair; the government, though blameable, is remote; the market is beyond anyone's control; the New People are an irresistible force; and the destruction of the rangeland, being the ranchers' own sin, is something for which they must forgive themselves.

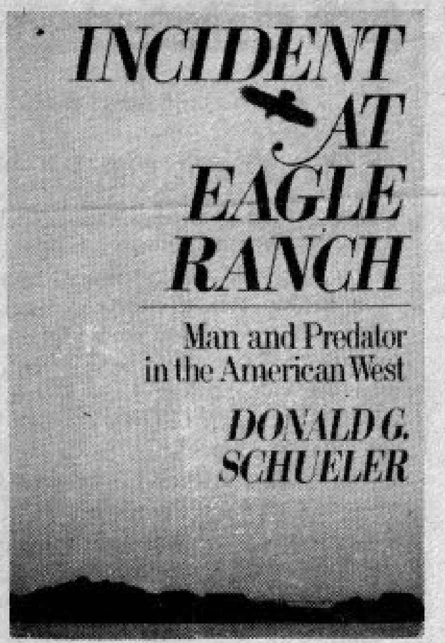
"When all these exceptions have been made, there is nothing much left on which the ranching community can vent its frustrations except that bloody-minded thief and perfect scapegoat, the predator."

Schueler also chides environmentalists, though not so sternly. Varmints do kill sheep — in large numbers on certain ranches, Schueler says. Environmentalists must accept that and defend "the right of a shepherd, even a not very good shepherd, to protect his flock," he says.

The fast moving tale turns into a textbook in the final sections, where Schueler attempts to consolidate the facts he's presented. Here he gives the studious reader a concise picture of the coyote, the bobcat and the mountain lion, as well as the golden eagle. He concludes with some sound proposals for decisionmakers and pinpoints emerging wildlife problems.

For all the book's useful information and skillful yarn-spinning, there are flaws. Schueler promises a reportorial objectivity that he just isn't capable of delivering. He's too passionately committed to preservation. And sometimes, as when he stares down at the dead ewe with McBride, he's not sure of what he's seeing. There is a paucity of credentials here that many readers will not be able to accept.

What's a history professor doing examining carcasses in sheep country anyway? To Schueler, who is also an environmentalist, the mission is clear. It has to do with saving the West.



"The connection between the West and the predators is as literal as it can be," Schueler says. "The West is wherever they are. You can have some of the predators, of course, without the West — the bobcat and the coyote have ranges in the East — but you cannot have the West without them. It may survive only in broken hints and patches — where the coyote can scrounge a living from overgrazed pastures and ranchette garbage dumps. Or it may exist pure and unalloyed — the solid gold coin — wherever the eagle and the lion have their place. But the West must have something of them or it has nothing of itself.

"The predators are our test. Finally, the issue is not so much how we should manage them — as how we should manage ourselves."

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by Bob Anderson

SEATTLE, Wash. — An acquaintance here laughed yesterday when I referred to the arid interior of the continent as "back in the West." To people here there is nothing more western than Seattle, other than perhaps the Olympic Peninsula. To walk the streets of Seattle in the spring is to be overwhelmed by the perfumes of lilac, azalea, roses, lilies, cherry blossoms, and a million other flowering trees and bushes. It is almost too much for a sage-tuned proboscis to take. The reason for the flowers is, of course, the water. Seattle itself is sprawled among several bodies of water, including Puget Sound, Lakes Washington and Union, and shrouded by a hair-curling mixture of water and air which passes as sky. Green is everywhere, saturated green. In fact, all the colors are saturated: dark, if not bright. The West — the arid West — is characterized by such subtle colors, hues so different they require a different set of aesthetic filters to appreciate.

Just as the homesteaders had a hard time adjusting to the Western scenes, so am I overwhelmed by the evident luxury of the northwest coast. It is so close to the literary and artistic images of paradise that I am surprised when Seattle-ites tell me of dams that will be raised, flooding virgin stands of douglas fir and cedar. They tell me about chemical waste spills in the Puget Sound, about the poor air quality which lingers behind the perfume of the flowers, about the results of massive clearcutting practices in the region's forests. Most recently, however, the focus has shifted to The Mountain — Mt. St. Helens.

Charlie Raines of the Sierra Club gave a talk at the University of Washington's Quaternary Research Center Colloquium about the politics and perceptions of the eruption. If what the mountain did was awesome, what we humans are now doing is appalling. Several notions stuck with me from his talk.

Everyone wants to capitalize on the eruption in one or another way. The rash of volcano books since May 18, 1980 — over a year now — is only one example. The Corps of Engineers has taken advantage of such terms as "emergency," "safety," and "protection" to corner yet another massive sandbox to play in. While they happily dredge and bulldoze away, environmental groups are tearing out their collective hair in an effort to approach the matter with a bit of rationality. Overviews are hard to come by; special interest groups will win their little battles. The big fear now is floods, either caused by the breaking of freshly dammed lakes, or by excessive runoff from deforested areas. A simple study shows that the one-time cost of moving everyone out of the potential flood plain is much lower than the day-by-day, year-by-year dredging of the river channels. But no, the Corps has been challenged by The Mountain.

There is a move afoot to create a National Park around The Mountain. Response has been mixed. One response is this: A National Park out of that pile of ash? Have you see that mess? Who would want to visit that? I will not suggest that our notion of beauty will alter enough to include a pile of ash, but I submit that an equally valid reason for preserving such a landscape is for its ability to inspire awe, a perception as much if not more in the center of religiousness as simple beauty. Beauty is not always green. From a purely scientific viewpoint, The Mountain in its present state is a veritable laboratory. Here the biologists can watch a lake — many lakes — evolve from a lifeless muck through to...well, whatever. The geomorphologist can study the processes of erosion on a massive scale, watching the effects of a changing plant cover over time.

This is not to say that the scientist is blameless in the saga of The Mountain. The competition for knowledge is perhaps as myopic as the drive to produce timber or to dredge the channels. Just whose mountain is it? The U.S. Geological Survey, so I read in the local papers, has been giving a hard time to the state survey and local academics, all of whom wish to get a handle on The Mountain One Year Later. Cooperation between the teams, and between disciplines, is far less than ideal.

All this is saddening. It deflates the natural paradise into a typically human drama characterized by myopic folly. The politicized landscape is too visible, too everywhere. Yet still, I look out the window and see green. The follies are more easily hidden here, what with the water-sounds and the fog horns, the smell-scape of flowers, and the hundred yard swaths of timber which insulate the innocent highway traveller from the clearcut hillsides. I almost think I'd rather see and smell sage.