

High Country

news

Friday, May 14, 1982

Vol. 14, No. 10

\$1.00



Dick Randall

Coyote

Predator and Prometheus

by C.L. Rawlins

I woke in the warmth of my bedroll and inhaled a draught of cold air. My partner, Mitch, was rising with a muffled curse. A chorus of howls rent the snowy dark, rising to an excited pitch that shot an involuntary shudder up my spine. Mitch fumbled for the old 30-30 and levered a cartridge into the chamber, where it seated with a metallic click. He thrust the muzzle through the tent flaps as another set of howls formed an eerie, transient chord.

WHAM! click. WHAM! click. WHAM!

The report of the rifle was deafening in the enclosed air of the tent. The howls ceased. He leaned the rifle on the chuckbox and muttered his way back to his bedroll, shivering in his longjohns and vowing an early start to find out if the herd had been scattered. He rolled over and was instantly asleep. I lay awake for long moments, the insistent cries of coyotes on the hunt echoing in my memory to the counterpoint of rifle shots.

The next morning we found two dead lambs. Both had been fed upon, the raw, exposed red of meat and blood shocking against the new snow. One was scrawny and obviously in poor health.

The other seemed fat and in perfect shape — aside from being dead — and since we were short on dog food, I cut off the hindquarters to drag back to camp.

When we brought the herd off summer range after two months high in Wyoming's Salt River Mountains, the final count showed a loss of about sixty sheep. I mentally accounted those I had seen dead: coyote kills, bear kills, a ewe impaled on a sharp stub of wood, several killed by falls, cases of prolapse and lameness which had to be shot, and more dead from poisonous plants. About half the lost sheep were unaccounted for. Whether they had been killed by any of the above causes or had simply wandered away, we never knew. During the entire time, though howls occasionally punctuated the night, I never saw a single coyote.

A persistent fascination for the coyote runs through the religion and lore of America's native people. There are stories of Coyote as the creator of the human race; of Coyote as a rough-coated Prometheus who stole fire from the gods; of Coyote as a consummate trickster who often fell victim to his own devices. The tales range a spectrum from veneration to crude jest. In these different versions, various human

virtues and vices are attributed to the coyote, who, in his mythic being, serves as a mirror for the best and worst in human nature — never wholly good or utterly evil, but always in fluid equilibrium somewhere between the poles.

Not until livestock supplanted the buffalo and elk herds west of the Mississippi did the coyote become all villain. The transformation took almost half a century. The attention of the livestock industry was initially focused on larger predators — grizzly, cougar and wolf. The killing of these animals was regarded as a public duty by anyone who had the means and could get a clear shot.

By the early decades of this century, wolves were practically extinct in the West and grizzlies and cougars had been reduced to a tiny and remote fraction of their original range. The buffalo were gone and the elk population had been vastly reduced and had become a mountain rather than a plains animal, dependent in some places on winter feeding for survival. On the rangelands of the West, huge herds of cattle and sheep fed on the rich grasses, while speculation in livestock became the fashion among the rich investors.

In an optimistic 1892 report, the Bureau of Animal Industry said, "The

extinction of these destructive wild animals (bears, wolves, cougars and coyotes) would reduce the cost of wool production fully one-half. It would beget confidence in the business and make sheep husbandry the most profitable industry in the West."

The influx of livestock created alterations in both biological and human terms. The climax perennial grasslands which had covered much of the semi-arid West disappeared as grazing was carried on in a highly-competitive manner. The two foremost rules of 19th century grazers were: Carry a gun, and devil take the hindmost. The struggle to secure prime, well-watered range led frequently to near-warfare between sheep and cattle outfits. Historical accounts of such killings are numerous, and Raid Lake in the Wind River Range was named for the slaughter of thousands of sheep by raiding cattlemen.

The biological effects of the period of heavy overgrazing are still a problem today. Millions of acres of grass first became beaten dust and then sage or scrubland. Unrestrained grazing and timbering on mountain slopes led to disastrous floods as cover was heavily depleted. These conditions, as well as the much-publicized battles between

(continued on page 10)

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Exxon leaves Colorado shale behind

Exxon Corporation recently announced the cancellation of its Colony oil shale project in western Colorado after hundreds of millions of dollars have already been spent on both the project and on Battlement Mesa, the city Exxon is building to house the estimated 25,000 people that would have been drawn to the area once the project was underway.

Colony and Battlement Mesa are a joint venture between Exxon, who owned 60 percent, and Tosco Corporation which owned the other 40 percent.

Bill Young, senior public affairs associate of Exxon's Colony project, said Exxon bought out Atlantic Richfield's 60 percent of the project in 1980 for \$300 million and has spent \$240 million on Colony and Battlement Mesa since. Exxon is now obligated to buy out Tosco's share, estimated by Young to be \$380 million.

Exxon cited soaring costs, about double the originally estimated \$3 billion, and the soft synthetic fuel market as reasons to phase out Colony. Even though Exxon has made no commitment to reopen the project, Young said the company was looking at options.

However, Young said the company will not stop the work already in progress at Battlement Mesa, the city Exxon and Tosco were creating to house the influx of workers expected in the oil shale country (HCN, 11/27/81). Approximately 1,800 people live in Battlement Mesa currently, most of them construction workers for the Colony project.

Battlement Mesa is located about two miles from the town of Parachute, a town caught in mid-stream of several expansion projects. Ralph Freedman, Parachute's town administrator, said the current population of 1,200 was expected to reach 8,000 by the end of this year, but is now expected to reach only 2,000.

In preparation for the increase, several developers had started projects in town. Freedman said one developer has a 125-unit motel opening mid-May with a 7,000-square-foot restaurant to follow in addition to a planned shopping mall. The largest City Market grocery in that area of Colorado is planned for Parachute and Freedman expects it to be canceled.



Freedman said the developer with the motel unit, restaurant and shopping mall was granted an \$8.8 million development bond. He has spent about two million. It is not known whether he will proceed with his projects or pay back the bond at 13 percent interest.

In Battlement Mesa, Freedman said an elementary school is almost complete, and even though it looks now as if it won't be needed, he expects the school to be finished. There is also a middle school planned, which Freedman said Union Oil Company, which also has an oil shale project in the area, will probably build.

In addition, Battlement Mesa has 600 to 700 apartments in various stages of construction.

Despite the midway halt of extensive growth plans for the area, Freedman said the people are handling it well.

"People here have seen it before," he said. "This isn't the first time oil shale development has been promised and gone bust."

Other oil shale projects in the area have been delayed or canceled, including Occidental Petroleum Corporation's and Tenneco Inc.'s Cathedral Bluff project. However, Exxon's withdrawal was seen as a "major setback" by the synfuel industry.

Union Oil is the only company that is not delaying its planned 10,000-barrel-a-day oil shale project located close to Colony.

As the effects of the closing trickle down, a proposed 279-mile pipeline to carry oil shale from Colony to Casper, Wyoming, has been canceled. The project was estimated to cost \$100 million according to the *Casper Star-Tribune*.

Slurry lines: eminent domain?

The U.S. House Surface Transportation Subcommittee of the Public Works Committee has narrowly passed legislation that would grant coal slurry pipelines the federal right of eminent domain to cross private property. The legislation will probably not be marked up by the full committee for at least two weeks.

Western states legislators are particularly concerned about the legislation because they fear western water rights will not be protected by Congress. Slurry pipelines use a 50-50 mixture of water and crushed coal to move the coal through the pipeline.

A spokeswoman for Rep. Richard Cheney (R-Wyo.) said that Cheney also opposes the legislation because of "philosophical problems" about granting eminent domain across private property.

The eminent domain legislation has already been passed by the full House Interior Committee. As it stands now, western water rights are protected in the legislation. No slurry company may condemn water for use in the pipeline and, once committed, the water is specifically exempted from falling under



High Country News

Published biweekly by the High Country Foundation, 331 Main, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Telephone (307) 332-6970. Printed by the *Jackson Hole News*, Jackson, Wyoming. Second class postage paid at Jackson (USPS No. 087480). All rights to publication of articles herein are reserved.

Tom Bell
Editor Emeritus

Jill Bamburg
Director

Dan Whipple
Managing Editor

Carol Jones
Associate Editor

Kathy Bogan
Design and Production

Marjane Ambler
Geoffrey O'Gara

Peter Wild
Contributing Editors

Phil Heywood
Production Assistant

Betsy Schimelpfenig
Finance

Maureen Dempsey
Circulation

Mike McClure
Photography

Debbie East
Typesetting

Articles appearing in *High Country News* are indexed in *Environmental Periodicals Bibliography*, Environmental Studies Institute, 2074 Alameda Padre Serra, Santa Barbara, California 93103.

Write for permission to print any articles or illustrations. Contributions (manuscripts, photos, artwork) will be welcomed with the understanding that the editors cannot be held responsible for loss or damage. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with all unsolicited submissions to ensure return. Articles and letters will be published and edited at the discretion of the editors.

Advertising information is available upon request. To have a sample copy sent to a friend, send us his or her address. Write to Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520. ISSN: 0191-5657.

Subscriptions cost \$15 per year. Single copies \$1.00.

Dear friends,

It's less than a month away from *High Country News'* renowned annual footrace. June 12 at 5 p.m. the five-mile run begins from Lander's city park.

Our official footrace committee is composed of circulation manager Maureen Dempsey, former staff assistants Ginger Tillemans and Cyndy Simer and associate editor Carol Jones. They are diligently planning the race so that it runs smoothly (they hope.) Volunteers, including those on the staff who for one reason or another have rejected the idea of running the challenging course, and some of our friends in Lander who always seem to be there when we need help, will handle registration and record keeping. Their efforts should result in the correct tabulation of everyone's order of finish and time (they hope).

Registration will begin one hour before the race, about 4 p.m. The cost this year will be \$3 per runner.

And the 1982 vintage HCN T-shirts

will be unveiled at the race, on sale for \$7. However, you won't miss out if you can't make the race — we'll offer the T-shirts mail order in HCN following the race (add \$1 for postage).

At registration, everyone will be placed into a class according to age and sex. There will also be separate categories for walkers and runners. The race will start from city park, proceed down 3rd Street, over to 2nd and up the 2nd Street hill. The course goes past the hospital — which makes it convenient for those who've had enough at that point.

At the mile post, we'll have a volunteer calling out the time so all you hard-core runners will know if you're running up to par. The race continues out of the city limits around a nice country loop and back again to city park.

This year, first place winners in all categories will be awarded a mug, designed, crafted and donated by former staff assistant Cathie Harmon. There will also be special ribbon awards

for second and third places and for the youngest and oldest runners.

And for everyone, there will be a keg of beer, donated by The Hitching Rack restaurant and bar of Lander.

Later that night, after everyone has recovered, it will be time to get geared up again. We'll all be trading Nikes for dancing shoes at the Wyoming Outdoor Council's benefit dance. The Buffalo Chips will perform old-timey favorites for the sore-muscled to stretch out to, and HCN's favorite, Quitz, will croon through the breaks.

Mark your calendar, pack up your tennis runners and we'll look forward to seeing all who can make it on June 12.

We would like to thank Fremont County Clerk Jim Farthing for letting use the county's Addressograph machine after ours went on the blink two weeks ago. Without his assistance we'd probably still be hand-writing addresses on the last issue.

— the staff

the interstate commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution. Western politicians feared that, once water was dedicated to an interstate slurry line, the flow could not be cut off because of constitutional restrictions. The legislation exempts slurry water under the commerce clause, however.

The future of the legislation is uncertain. A source on the Public Works Committee said, "The bill is very controversial. It will come down to a fight between the energy-consuming states and the water-poor, energy exporting states. It is too close to call right now."

In a related development, a South Dakota citizens group called Save Our Soils reported that Energy Transportation Systems Inc., is laying the groundwork for potential construction of a second slurry pipeline through South Dakota. ETSI already plans one slurry pipeline from Wyoming's Powder River Basin to White Bluff, Arkansas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

An ETSI spokesman acknowledged that the company was negotiating for rights-of-way to build an additional line, but said it was simply "keeping its options open." The spokesman said that ETSI could also build lines to transport oil and gas, as well as coal.



Woolsey Peak at right, Cloud Peak Primitive Area, Wyoming

Wyoming wilderness wars waged

Public testimony April 30 on the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1982 was overwhelmingly pro-wilderness and opposed to the bill.

The bill, which enjoys the unanimous support of the three members of Wyoming's Republican congressional delegation, proposes the addition of just under half a million acres to the national wilderness system. Wyoming conservationists, supported by a majority of the 107 people testifying at the April 30 hearing in Casper, are seeking the addition of roughly 2.5 million acres under a proposal called Alternative W. In between are proposals from the governor, who has called for the addition of a little over a million acres, and the Forest Service, which included roughly 1.5 million acres in its RARE II (second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) recommendations.

In addition to the controversy over acreage and areas, the delegation has come under attack for the "release language" of its bill. Following the hearing, both Senator Malcolm Wallop (R) and

Congressman Richard Cheney (R) agreed to take another look at their release provisions.

The bill now says that all released lands "shall be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness," leading conservationists to argue that the bill would require development of those lands. Wallop has maintained that this was not the delegation's intent. He said the intent was to give the Forest Service "the management flexibility it has now to manage them primarily for wildlife or scenic values, to manage them essentially in a roadless condition or to permit more uses. This is the delegation's clear intent, and if the bill language needs to be changed to accomplish this it can be," Wallop's opening statement said.

Wyoming State Senator John Turner (R) proposed a middle ground for released lands in the form of a new non-wilderness backcountry designation, which he called "Wyoming Roadless Resource Areas." These areas would be managed primarily for their scenic, wildlife and recreational values, but would remain outside the formal wilderness system and would be available for timbering, snowmobiling and oil and gas development under special stipulations using temporary roads. Wallop had proposed a similar idea several years ago.

Although the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1982 has attracted support from timber, mineral and snowmobiling interests, traditional wilderness supporters have opposed it. Sierra Club representative Bruce Hamilton believes that in the wake of RARE II, the status quo — under which the Forest Service must give wilderness management to the 1.5 million acres it has recommended for wilderness designation — offers substantially more protection than the delegation's proposal. "Unless there's a drastic overhaul of the bill, we're better off without a bill," he said.

Feds may compensate fallout victims

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee has approved the Atomic Bomb Fallout Compensation Act by a vote of 14 to one. The bill, which must still be approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, would provide financial compensation for victims of radioactive fallout from atomic weapons tests in Nevada after World War II.

According to Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), "The purpose of this legislation is straightforward. It is to provide a proper legal remedy for those persons who believe their cancer to have been caused by ionizing radiation from the 1951 to 1962 Nevada atmospheric nuclear tests."

Under current law, persons who believe they are suffering from cancer caused by the fallout have to pass a test that is virtually impossible to meet. The causes of a cancer cannot be "proven," but are inferred through statistical analyses. The legislation will provide a method for determining if damages are warranted.

The legislation, which is co-sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), is opposed by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio). Metzenbaum said he will "make a major issue of this bill on the Senate floor" if it passes the Judiciary Committee.

Metzenbaum said the cost of the legislation is estimated at somewhere between \$400 million and \$28 billion. He said the \$28 billion figure is "high even by Washington standards."



Coal lease scheduled for Utah

Hot on the heels of the largest federal coal lease in history, the Utah Bureau of Land Management is offering a sale May 27 on two lease tracts in the Uinta-Southwestern Utah coal region. The lease tracts are in the same general area as four other tracts offered in February that received no bids.

BLM will sell 10,999 acres of coal lands in the North Mountain tract, containing an estimated 112.1 million tons of coal. The minimum acceptable bid will be \$3,567 per acre. The Rilda Canyon tract, also up for sale, contains 640 acres with total estimated recoverable reserves of 7.5 million tons. The minimum acceptable bid is \$2,337 per acre.

After the February Utah sale, companies complained that BLM had set the minimum bids too high and that minimums larger than \$25 per acre were likely to discourage bidders.

Max Nielsen, head of the Utah BLM's coal lease program, said, "Ten or 15 companies have expressed interest in the North Horn Mountain Tract. It's pretty much a Who's Who of the big oil companies. We had wondered if the soft market would slow this situation. But this is probably the most competitive tract that's been put up in the last several years. I think there will be at least six serious companies."

The Utah sale follows the Powder River Basin lease auction in Wyoming and Montana. Interior received high bids totalling \$55 million for about 1.5 billion tons of coal. Interior Secretary James Watt called the sale "a resounding success. This far exceeds the total amount of money received in high bids at any previous federal coal lease sale."

Watt also said, "The sale indicates a strong continued interest in the acquisition of publicly-owned coal resources despite current sluggish economic situations."

A close analysis of the sale does not support Interior's contention that the competition was fierce. Six tracts in the basin were withdrawn before the sale was underway. Five were not offered because surface owners would not give their consent for mining and one because of a mistaken reserve estimate. Of the 13 eventually offered, two received no bids at all. Only one tract had more than one bidder. In that case, a group of area ranchers outbid Peter Kiewit Sons for 170 million tons of reserves on the Keeline tract. The top bid was \$500 per acre.

In addition, only three tracts received substantially more than the minimum

bids for the lease. However, the industry had discussed a boycott of the sale. A number of industry officials had questioned the need for the auction prior to the offering. The sale brought in a record sum of money because there was a record amount of coal offered.

Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) recently charged that the government lost \$40 million on the sale because the Interior Department changed the minimum bids it would accept on the leases. He also maintained that lease price plans were leaked to industry before the final bids were in and he is calling for complete investigation into the sale process.

Interior is still considering whether the top bids will be accepted. Apparent high bidders in Powder River Basin were: Wesco Resource, Inc., \$351,220 for 60 million tons in Coal Creek; Western Energy Company, \$121,800 for 120.6 million tons on three tracts near Colstrip, Montana; Montana Royalty Company, \$20,000 for five million tons on the West Decker tract; Thermal Energy, \$4.5 million for 178 million tons, Cook Mountain tract; Meadowlark Farms, \$11 million, for 233 million tons on the Little Rawhide Creek and South Duck Nest tracts; Shell Oil Company, \$25.9 million for 323 million tons in the Spring Draw tract; Texas Energy Services, Inc., \$11.2 million for 445 million tons, Rocky Butte; and Neil Butte Co., 1.6 million for 170 million tons, Keeline tract.

Fifty percent of the revenue from the lease sales will be returned to Wyoming and Montana, in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act.

WPPSS, there goes another...

At the beginning of this year the Washington Public Power Supply System was building five nuclear plants. Less than a month later the number was cut to three when financial and political problems with plants 4 and 5 forced termination of their construction.

At the end of April, with the Bonneville Power Administration twisting their arms, the members of the WPPSS executive board mothballed still another of their plants.

On April 19, BPA administrator Peter Johnson, publicly recommended that WPPSS plant 1 at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in eastern Washington be given an "extended construction delay." Johnson said the plant, which is 60 percent complete, should be delayed based on the findings of his agency's recent power forecast for the Northwest. That

(continued on page 4)

BARBS

Lo! How the mighty have fallen. A type of fuel cell used to provide power on board the manned Gemini, Apollo and Skylab space missions is now being used to power washers and dryers in a Portland, Oregon, laundromat.

Whatever happened to establishing the principles of the party? A delegate to the Wyoming Democratic Convention said the purpose of the party platform should be "to get Democrats elected."

If you have a lemon, make lemonade. The Washington Public Power Supply System is trying to sell its two abandoned nuclear power projects, WPPSS 4 and 5. The directors say that there are several interested parties, including Arab and Japanese buyers.

4-High Country News — May 14, 1982

WESTERN ROUNDUP

(continued from page 3)

forecast concluded that at least one more of the WPPSS plants would not be needed because of reduced energy demands.

Three days later Washington Superior Court Judge Albert Yencopal signed a restraining order barring WPPSS directors from taking any action to terminate, slow down, "or in any other way adversely affect the construction" of the plant. Yencopal issued his order in a suit filed by a WPPSS construction worker.

That restraining order prevented the WPPSS executive board from acting on Johnson's recommendation at a meeting scheduled for April 23. That day, more than 10,000 residents of Richland, Kennewick and Pasco, Washington, near the Hanford reservation, demonstrated in support of the nuclear plant. A shutdown, they said, would end 6,300 jobs in those communities.

However, Yencopal lifted his restraining order and dismissed the complaint that had prompted it. WPPSS lawyers convinced the judge that the order impaired flexibility in developing a financial plan for the troubled system.

Three days later, under intense pressure from the BPA, WPPSS directors called a temporary halt to work at plant 1. Layoffs at the plant began as early as May 3, with a total shutdown expected by September 1983.

The BPA recommendation came about a month before the federal agency will attempt to sell between \$550 million and \$650 million worth of additional bonds to continue work on the remaining plants. The BPA has essentially underwritten 100 percent of plants 1 and 2 at Hanford and 70 percent of plant 3 at Satsop, Washington. That financial arrangement with WPPSS gave the BPA virtual veto power over all financial plans for the three plants.

The May bond sale will allow construction of the remaining two plants to continue on schedule until voters can have a say in further financing. Initiative 394, a Washington state law passed last November that takes effect July 1, will require voter approval of any new bond sales for the WPPSS plants. More than \$3.5 billion is still needed to complete plants 1, 2 and 3.

Ratepayers in Washington, already faced with a \$5.4 billion debt for plants 1, 2 and 3, are revolting against rate increases to pay existing costs and any further bond issues are expected to face serious opposition.

One benefit to Northwest ratepayers is a reduction in the rate increase proposed by the BPA for its wholesale customers. The mothball plan will drop the increase from 73 percent to between 63 and 68 percent. The plant delay will reduce BPA debt cost during fiscal 1983 by \$100 million, according to the BPA.

Meanwhile, twelve Idaho, Oregon and Washington rural public utilities filed suit on April 23 in Washington, asking to be absolved of their \$225 million debt for the two plants terminated in January, a clear indication of the growing influence of the Irate Ratepayer movement in the Northwest.

— John Soisson

Endangered Species Act amended

Amendments and revisions to the Endangered Species Act have been marked up in both Senate and House full

committees. Conservation groups have said both bills are definitely compromises, but there have been some improvements. Both bills would extend the Act with the new amendments for three years.

Ginger Merchant, endangered species specialist with Defenders of Wildlife, said the bills have improved the process of listing endangered animals and plants. She said the House bill sets a time limit of one year for deciding whether or not a species should be listed. Currently the Act gives the Interior Department an indefinite amount of time to make such decisions.

Another improvement, she said, would require that species be listed according to biological data only. Economic determinations would be considered separately, instead of jointly as they are now.

Merchant said another plus that appears in the Senate bill only would prohibit the taking of endangered or threatened plants on federal land. She pointed out that this regulation is not meant to interfere with farmers' plowing, but is specifically meant to keep anyone from actually removing an endangered plant from federal land.

Section 7 of the Act, which requires federal agencies to protect endangered species and their habitat, is being streamlined to accommodate concerns of both industry and conservationists, Merchant said. She explained the amendments would increase the secretary of the interior's role in deciding whether a development project should be allowed given its effect on endangered species.

"In the past, there has been a review board of three people," she said. "An appointment of the president, an

appointment of the Department of Commerce and a non-partisan legally trained objective individual. With the revisions, the review board will be the secretary of the interior and secretary of commerce. With an interior secretary like James Watt, such a change is cause for alarm."

Another controversy has arisen over section 9 of the Act, which prohibits the taking, killing or transport of an endangered species. Industry feels this section overlaps with section 7. Merchant explained that even though it has never happened, if a project were given the okay under section 7, it could be stopped under section 9 if it involved the taking of a species. The bills would eliminate that overlap.

The Center for Environmental Education feels lifting those controls completely would be a mistake. The organization favors language that would preclude "reasonably avoidable takings."

Conservationists had feared a major weakening of the Act, but Sen. John Chaffee (R-R.I.), sponsor of the Senate bill, said he had rarely seen as much support on any issue as he had on the Endangered Species Act. He said a large majority of letters he received supported leaving the Act intact with no amendments.

Merchant said industry complaints that the Act has slowed projects simply have not been backed up with facts.

The Interior Department had recommended reauthorization of the Act with no changes for one year. Merchant said that was probably an attempt to avoid discussion on the controversial issue during this election year.

"The bills are definitely compromises," Merchant said. "We can live with them and we're glad we haven't seen the Act crippled. But the battle is not over. We may have major battles to fight on both floors."

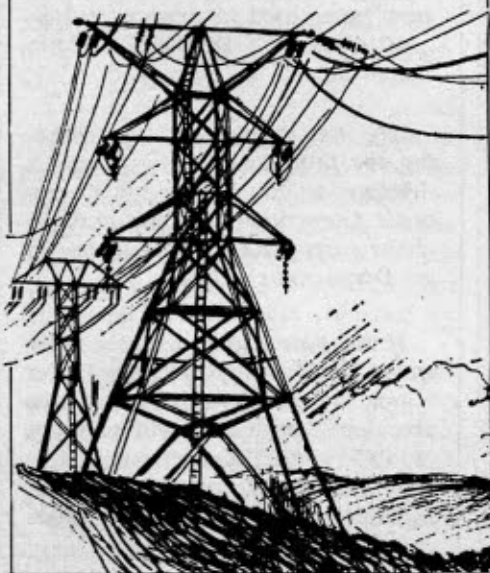
HOTLINE

ALASKA PIPELINE DELAYED

The \$43 billion Alaska natural gas pipeline has been put on hold for at least a couple of years. Exxon Corporation, Atlantic Richfield Company and Standard Oil Company, sponsors of the line, cited high interest rates and declines in energy demand as reasons for the delay. The pipeline would run from Alaska to the lower 48 via Canada.

BACK TO THE SALT MINES

The Department of the Interior has set aside 160 acres of public land near Carlsbad, New Mexico, as a Department of Energy test site to see whether nuclear waste can be safely stored in underground salt beds. The Interior land order sets aside 8,960 acres for DOE use for up to eight years, but permits the Bureau of Land Management to continue managing most of the area around the site for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat and public recreation.



NORTHERN TIER TRIES AGAIN

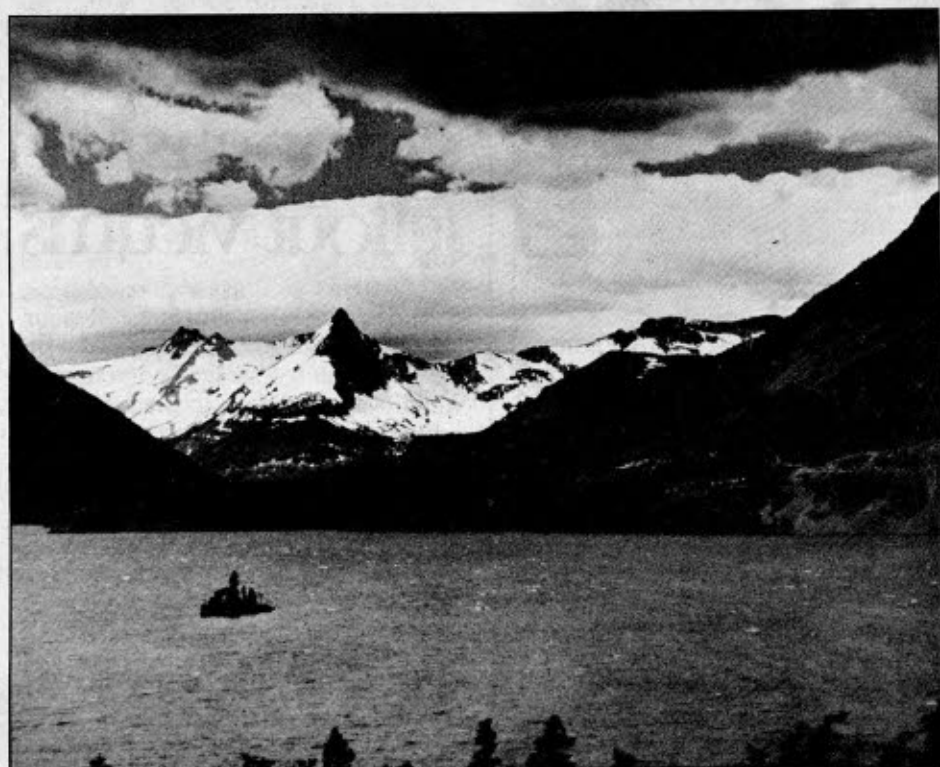
The Northern Tier Pipeline Company may file application for an all-land oil pipeline to run from a point on the Strait of Juan de Fuca or at Clallam Bay (both in Washington) eastward through the northwest to Minnesota. The firm's original proposal would have required building a section of the line under Puget Sound. Washington Gov. John Spellman rejected that application because of environmental hazards (HCN, 4/16/82). However, the Department of Energy is considering pushing for legislation that would overrule Spellman's decision.

FLAT RATES PREVAIL

Idaho Power customers began paying a new flat rate for electricity in May, a rate that replaces the inverted rate system that has been in effect for the last seven months. The inverted rates were instated by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to encourage energy conservation, but opponents successfully pushed for a legislative moratorium on inverted rates. They argued that inverted rates were unfair to customers who at one time were encouraged to heat with electricity. According to PUC, 80 percent of Idaho Power customers will experience higher rates with the flat rate system.

SCS POST QUESTIONED

Conservation groups are worried that Agriculture Secretary John Block will make the U.S. Soil Conservation Service administrator's position a political appointment instead of a career professional position as it has been in the past. Block recently removed Norman Berg, who has 40 years' experience with the SCS, from the administrator position.



Glacier National Park

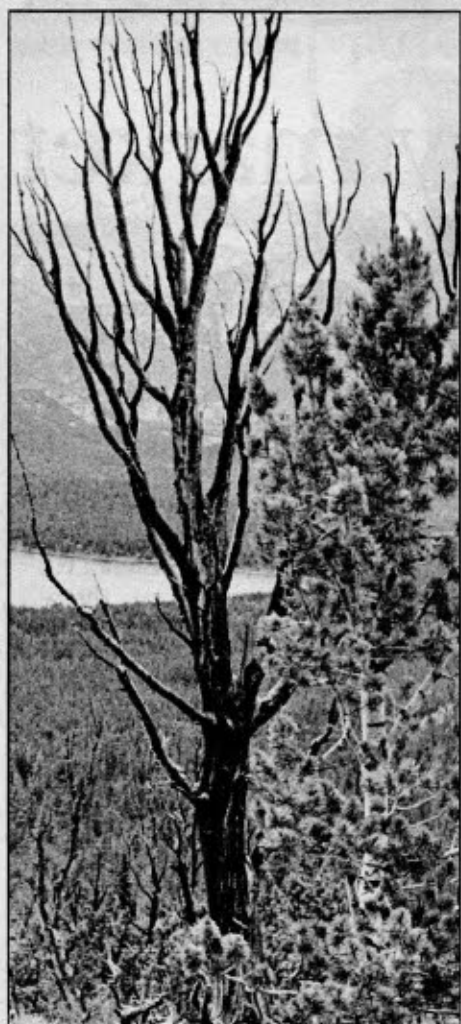
The conservation groups are afraid a political appointment would harm efforts to improve conservation programs.

RELEASE REVISITED

The Wilderness Society has apologized to Montana Sen. John Melcher (D) for misrepresenting his position on wilderness release legislation. The organization sent an "alert" to members last fall saying that Melcher was working behind the scenes for an anti-wilderness bill that would have released millions of acres of wilderness study areas for development. Melcher claimed that his position had been misstated and the Wilderness Society sent out a retraction quoting the senator as favoring a limited release plan that would keep potential wilderness areas from being developed until Congress makes a final decision.

CANADA LOOKS AT ENVIRONMENT

In a reversal of previous position, the British Columbian government has said it will consider Montana Gov. Ted Schwinden's comments on the proposed Cabin Creek coal mine, to be located eight miles north of the Montana border. Conservationists on both sides of the border fear extreme environmental damage if the project is given the go-ahead. The British Columbian government is not required to hold public hearings on the issue (HCN, 4/16/82). However, the *Missoulian* reported a Canadian spokesman told Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) that the mine would not be approved if it poses environmental danger to Montana. Montana's Air Quality Bureau has released a study showing seriously damaging effects to air quality in Glacier National Park if the mine is operated.



FS meets opposition in no-spray rule

U.S. Forest Service officials say they will not change the spruce budworm eradication program despite several

lawsuits claiming the agency failed to protect south central Idaho forests from the invading pests.

Boise Cascade Corporation last fall filed suit against the agency saying it was negligent because it failed to protect timber lands when it refused to participate in the spraying program.

Since then, an Idaho state senator and a Valley County Idaho property owners group have joined the protest by filing similar suits warning of heavily damaged timber lands unless an effective eradication program is adopted.

Meanwhile, Forest Service officials say they will continue to protect trees through selective cutting rather than spraying. Spruce budworm, which eats new foliage of subalpine and grand firs, last year infested about 600,000 acres in the Boise and Payette National Forests. Boise Cascade said it owns about 150,000 acres of timber in the infested areas, most of which have been damaged.

The Forest Service is following a 1978 environmental impact statement that determined spraying would not be the most effective way of protecting forests from the pest.

The report instead recommended the "silvicultural method," or selective cutting of trees that were likely to become targets of spruce budworm, said Max Ollicu, director of the Forest Service's pest management program in Ogden, Utah. "Spraying old partly rotted trees just wouldn't save a lot," Ollicu said.

Instead, the agency is harvesting old grand and subalpine firs and planting new stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir which are less susceptible to the pests, he said. That approach will minimize damage to forests during future attacks by spruce budworm which hit about every 25 years, he said.

The suits by Boise Cascade and the Cascade Lake Improvement Associa-

tion, Inc., said the Forest Service had not complied with federal laws requiring "prudent protection and management" of national forests.

Idaho state senator David Little (R-Emmett) said he filed suit in January after being forced to clear one-fourth of his 1,200 acre ranch because of infestation of trees near the boundary of the Boise Forest.

"I just feel the Forest Service hasn't taken care of the resource like they should," Little said.

—Ellen Marks

More ferrets found near Meeteetse

After six and one-half months of intensive research, approximately 20 black-footed ferrets have been directly or indirectly observed in the Meeteetse-Cody area of Wyoming.

The endangered species, which was about to be presumed extinct (HCN, 11/13/81), was spotted last fall by Max Schroeder of the Denver Wildlife Research Center of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He was later joined by Tim Clark, researcher with Idaho State University and a private consultant, in efforts to monitor and discover just how many ferrets were in the area.

Clark said they have actually seen nine ferrets and have indirectly determined through tracking and other observations, that there are about 22 ferrets in the vicinity. He stressed their data is only preliminary and that they cannot verify an exact number.

Clark said he hopes to find more ferrets in various parts of Wyoming, but

that he doesn't expect to find this large a population in one spot. He said there is a possibility these ferrets are congregated together because they are breeding, but he said it is too soon to say how well the animals will survive. Ferrets breed once a year and usually have between two and five young in a litter.

In response to the discovery, a Black-footed Ferret Advisory Team was formed to set major research goals and make decisions concerning development impacts on the endangered animals. The team is composed of representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming State Land Board, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and a local rancher.

Dale Strickland, the Wyoming Game and Fish representative and chairman of the team, said the team is considering research proposals by Clark and Schroeder. They have also made recommendations concerning a proposal for seismic testing through the ferret's habitat, which is on private land.

Strickland said the team recommended the testing be done, but not until after the young born this year are old enough to be up and on their own — approximately August 1. And the team requested that Clark and Schroeder accompany the surveying crew and that they avoid any area directly occupied by ferrets.

An oil well is also proposed for the area and Strickland said they will determine if any ferrets are on the site by September 1.

Black-footed ferrets once lived throughout the Great Plains, but extermination of prairie dogs, their principal food source, and conversion of grasslands to cultivated fields, have been blamed for their decline. The Meeteetse-Cody ferrets have been found near a prairie dog colony.

INCREASE IN CO PLANNED

The Environmental Protection Agency is planning to change federal regulations to allow a 33 percent increase of carbon monoxide pollution. Some cities could be allowed a 50 percent increase, according to an Associated Press report. A spokesman for the American Lung Association, American Heart Association and the American Public Health Association, said the increases will cause declines in human health and may cause fatalities. EPA spokesman Byron Nelson said those charges are ridiculous. The changes are seen by opponents as a move toward weakening the Clean Air Act.

ANACONDA MOVING SOUTH?

A Boston-based newsletter reported that Anaconda Mineral company is considering building a \$1.5 billion copper and precious-metals refining plant somewhere in the south to replace the Great Falls and Anaconda, Montana plants closed in 1980. The *Missoulian* reported that a spokesman for Atlantic Richfield, which owns Anaconda, said sites in Florida, Georgia and Texas are being considered. He also said ARCO looked at the possibility of a southern site before closing the Montana plants because it would have been more accessible to shipping.

OFFSHORE AREAS EXCLUDED

The Interior Department has decided not to include four controversial northern California basins in its next offshore lease offering. Excluded will be 127 tracts totalling 710,000 acres in the Eel River, Point Arena, Bodega Bay and Santa Cruz basins. Nonetheless, the huge sale will include 1,626 tracts covering 8.8 million acres three to 75 miles off the California coast. A draft environmental impact statement is scheduled for December, 1982, with the sale scheduled for late 1983.

MILLTOWN COCKTAILS

Thirty-three homes in Milltown, Montana, outside Missoula, have arsenic contaminated water. A preliminary study to uncover the source of contamination has failed to answer the question and the cost of more research is holding up further investigation. However, the *Missoulian* reported possible contamination sources include silt from behind Milltown dam, which may have been contaminated by mining waste, a natural subsurface arsenic deposit or seepage from an abandoned landfill east of the area.

WASTE INSURANCE REQUIRED

Some 10,000 hazardous waste facilities will be required by the Environmental Protection Agency to have liability insurance protecting people from chemical contamination. The requirement is a reversal of the EPA's position from last fall. The companies will have 90 days to obtain \$1 million in insurance to cover property damage and personal injury, as well as accidents that result in slow poisoning of nearby residents. Asked about the position reversal, EPA administrator Anne Gorsuch said state agencies, regulated industry and the public have all supported and asked for such requirements.

JACKSON OIL AND GAS POLICY

The Jackson Hole (Wyoming) Area Chamber of Commerce and the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning recently approved a policy on oil and gas development in Teton County. The recommendations urge withdrawal of some areas of Teton County, while placing specific stipulations and restraints on areas approved for leasing. The joint policy is a first for the two groups, which frequently oppose each other.

PARACHUTE, WYOMING?

In the wake of Exxon's pullout from the Colony oil shale project, members of the Powder River Basin Resource Council have questioned the economic viability of the Hampshire synthetic



Jackson Hole News

fuels project proposed for Gillette and Campbell County, Wyoming. "I don't think Hampshire has a chance to finish this project," said PRBRC member rancher Hap Stuart. "If the world leader in new energy source development is getting out of synfuels, Hampshire must have some information the rest of us don't...or be banking on tax dollars to bull its way through."

HALFWAY THERE

Coloradoans for Recycling, the citizen group sponsoring the Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Initiative for the November ballot, has reached the half-way point in its petition drive, gathering 27,500 of the required 55,000 signatures. The balance of the signatures is due by June 10.

Glut and gluttony in the energy market

by Don Snow

When presidential candidate Ronald Reagan defined energy conservation as being "too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter," he glibly undercut one of the key elements of the Carter energy policy. Unfortunately for the energy industry, conservation has reached deeper than a future president's concern with comfort.

U.S. oil refineries are running between 60 percent and 70 percent of capacity in response to congressionally-mandated auto efficiency standards, and with crude oil prices dipping near \$30 per barrel, the exploration sector is cutting back sharply on the record drilling rates of 1981. Moreover, industries and utilities have reduced consumption of natural gas, while the coal market continues to soften. Conservation is at least partly responsible for declining demand.

"Decontrol has had the effect consumers wanted," said Carl Rieckmann, Associate Director of the Montana Petroleum Association. "Right now you don't hear a lot of people crying at the gas pumps, but at the same time lower prices are discouraging exploration."

Like most observers of the petroleum industry, however, Rieckmann cautions against the easy optimism spurred by a temporary lull in price escalation. Oil has become a business based on uncertainty, and only the very largest and most diversified corporations seem relatively immune from month to month perturbations. Meanwhile, smaller firms

Most energy experts now agree that the United States will never again supply a majority of its petroleum needs through production of conventional reserves.

are not weathering the so-called energy glut very well.

A recent *Wall Street Journal* article reported that the oil exploration boom of 1981 is rapidly becoming the bust of 1982, with dozens of small independents competing to sell off promising lease tracts in the oil patch. One Denver-based independent, the Lewis Energy Corporation, has filed for protection under federal bankruptcy statutes. Others, contemplating a period of inactivity and poor cash flows, are selling off cheap leases that last year would have brought astronomical prices.

Rieckmann pointed out that state and local governments that tried to cash in on the energy boom through severance taxes are now having second thoughts.

"North Dakota passed an initiative in 1980 that raised their wellhead production tax by 6.5 percent," he said. "Now that revenues aren't reaching expected levels from the Williston Basin, they're in trouble." A recent Petroleum Associ-

ation editorial reports that oil revenues, expected to fill one-fourth of the state's biennial coffers, are down by more than \$100 million.

But over the long run, state energy tax losses will become only a minor worry compared with diminishing oil. Since 1970, the peak year for domestic oil production, additions to the reserve base have fallen while exploration activities and costs have skyrocketed. Most energy experts now agree that the United States will never again supply a majority of its petroleum needs through production of conventional domestic reserves.

In 1970, the American Petroleum Institute reported 39 billion barrels identified in known deposits. By 1979, the reserve base stood at 27 billion barrels while exploratory drilling had doubled, indicating a serious inability to match discovery with demand.

In addition to known reserves, however, estimated oil resources still exist

offshore and in interior environments such as the Overthrust Belt of the Rockies. It is in these areas that the Reagan administration expects industry to make great gains in reserves.

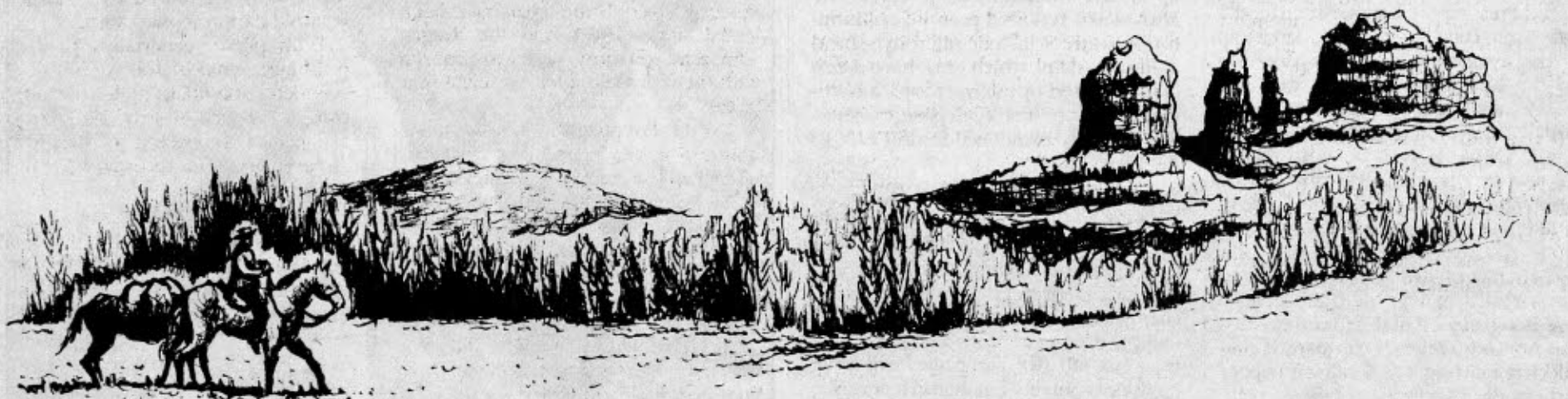
Many experts disagree. Dr. Arnold Silverman, an economic geologist who serves as an energy consultant to the National Academy of Sciences, speculated on the domestic resources not yet identified as reserves: "If we threw environmental concerns and planned development to the wind, we might be able to increase the total amount of petroleum we recovered in the United States by about 25 percent, to maybe 150 billion barrels."

"The United States uses about 5 billion barrels a year, so the increase of 25 to 30 billion barrels would increase our supplies by only about 6 years."

In light of such predictions, a temporary "oil glut" is less than comforting. Sooner or later another price crunch will send the tab for U.S. gasoline upward toward European levels. Ultimately, domestic reserves will no longer act as a hedge against rapid price escalation. The great hope of the domestic industry — Colorado oil shale — has been less than promising, too, with Occidental Petroleum of Los Angeles recently deferring construction of its \$4 billion Cathedral Bluffs facility in Colorado.

And recently Exxon Corporation announced a halt to their multi-billion dollar Colony oil shale project, spreading the feeling of a "major setback" in synthetic fuel development for western Colorado (see Western Roundup this

YOUR LAND IS IN JEOPARDY



Pressures on the Public Lands — your lands — are enormous. More so than ever, now that a National Administration is working hard to give away their resources as rapidly as possible — or to sell the lands in a frantic effort to offset a growing national deficit. **Privatizing** the public lands, they call it.

The Public Lands Institute, organized to protect the public values in our National Forests, the BLM lands, National Parks and Wildlife Refuges — and to work for their good management — is now a division of the Natural Resources Defense Council. That means we have expert lawyers to help — some of the best in the country.

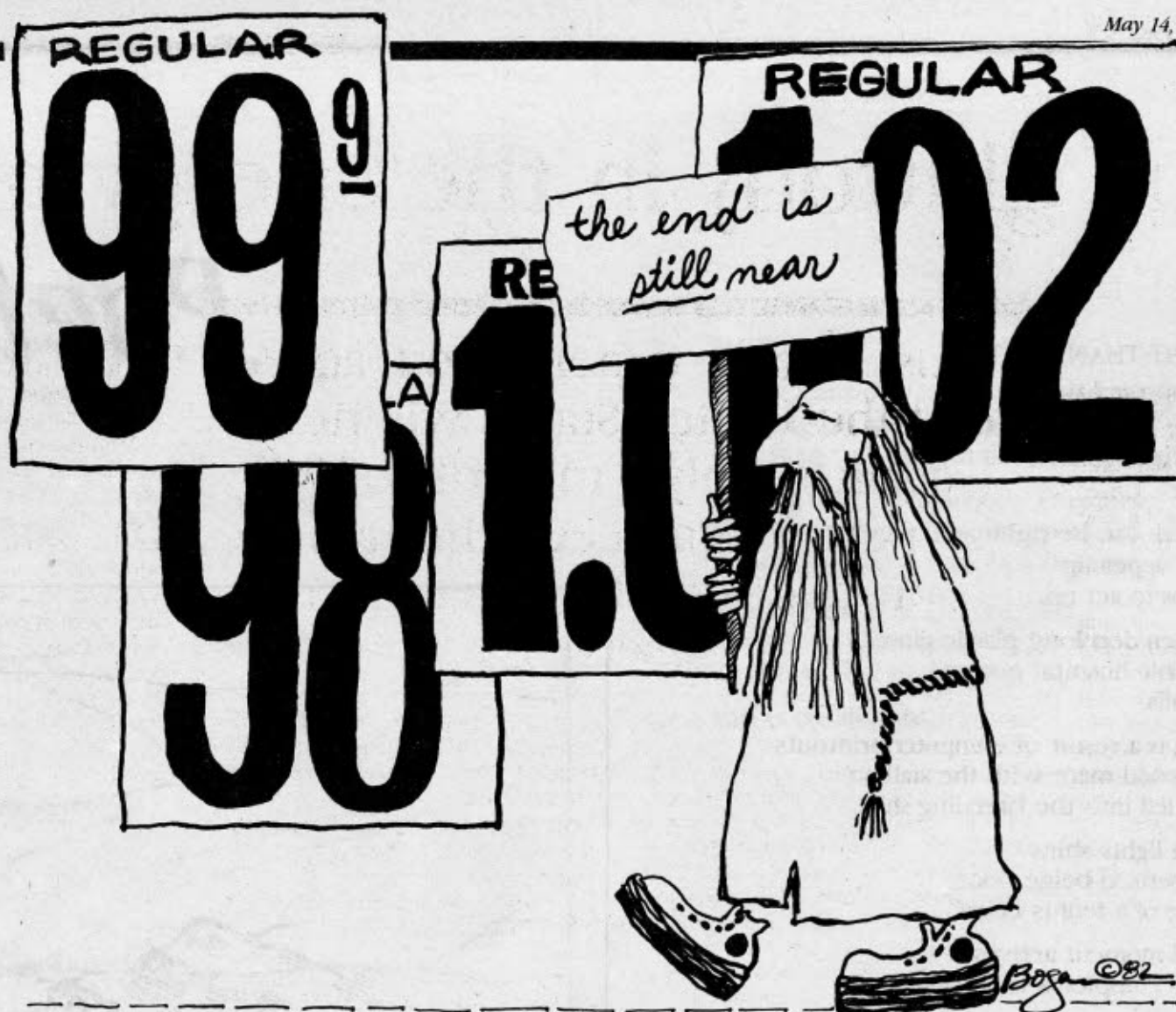
But as never before, we need your help!

We need your active, informed voice — and some of your dollars. \$15 or more for a membership. We'll send you the PLI Newsletter monthly, the *AMICUS JOURNAL*, and other publications and alerts.

Your contributions are deductible. Please print your name and address with zip code plainly.

Charles H. Callison, Director
Public Lands Institute
1725 I Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D. C. 20006





issue, p. 2). Exxon cited escalating costs and soft markets as reasons for the pullout.

Some industry observers are predicting that the current world oil glut will end sooner rather than later. The *Wall Street Journal* reported last week that oil company executives were predicting a rise in the wholesale price of oil on world markets as early as July of this year. Inventories of crude oil, which had reached levels as much as 500 million barrels above normal levels, had dropped to about 100 million barrels above normal in early May. This decline in inventories indicates that refiners have been unable to get enough crude from current production, a circumstance that should spur production in the relatively near future.

"A few years ago industry was saying oil shale would become economical when petroleum reached \$30 a barrel. Well, it's above that now. Where is the shale oil?" asked Silverman.

If the industry is cutting back on exploration, the evidence hasn't reached western Montana where several firms still propose seismic testing in wilderness and roadless areas. Consolidated Georex Geophysics of Denver, the firm that tried to "bomb the Bob" in the parlance of Bob Marshall Wilderness enthusiasts, is still seeking permission for seismic tests in surrounding wild lands. Why the rush to get into wild parts of the Overthrust?

"It's a matter of geology," said Carl Rieckmann of the Petroleum Association. "The Overthrust offers the best bet of making a good well. At \$4 million to \$6 million a shot, you can bet the industry is serious about its potential."

University of Montana geologist David Alt disagreed. "I don't believe they can rationally suppose there is high profit potential in the Overthrust Belt of Montana," he said. "In fact, history shows that in the view of the industry itself, the Overthrust is not terribly promising."

Alt pointed out that Overthrust oil is hardly a new phenomenon. "There were discoveries of Wyoming Overthrust oil as early as 1848," he said. "That predates Titusville," the site in Pennsylvania where the first commercial well was drilled.

Alt speculated that much of the Overthrust frenzy outside of Wyoming can be attributed to simple speculation on leases.

"The lease itself is a salable property," he said. "Before leasing, the land carried essentially no value to energy companies. Wheeling and dealing in leases is a

time-honored way to make money in the oil, gas and mining business."

He pointed to dramatic leaps in stock values associated with lease plays in well-publicized areas. "One would be extremely naive to suppose that speculation is not happening," he said.

But for whatever reasons — simple speculation or sincere hopes of production — seismic crews are blasting, thumper trucks are thumping and drillers are poking holes — 56,000 of them in 1981. They may or may not make money or add significantly to domestic reserves.

While oil and gas are showing severe supply constraints in the long term, coal production is constrained by weakening demand. Most of the National Energy Act of 1978, President Jimmy Carter's "moral equivalent of war," is now a lame duck law in the hands of Reagan appointees. One of the Act's five parts, the Fuel Use Act (FUA) of 1978, tried to build a bridge between utility oil and gas consumption and increased use of coal, but Energy Secretary James Edwards has vowed not to enforce it.

Under FUA, the Department of Energy could issue orders prohibiting the use of oil or natural gas in industrial and utility boilers, thus coercing businesses to switch to coal. The law also flatly prohibited the use of natural gas in any major boilers after 1990.

DOE, under Carter, tried to use FUA to replace a million barrels of oil per day with domestic coal. That would have increased coal consumption by nearly 100 million tons per year, a 17 percent leap. Pollution control requirements would have encouraged the use of low-sulfur Western coal in converted boilers in the Midwest and Southwest.

But enforcement of FUA was irregular and unsuccessful. In 1979, DOE itself subverted the law's greatest potential effect by reversing its policy against continued use of natural gas. Declining industrial use of gas, touched off by fears of a shortage, had begun to create a "gas bubble" by 1977. Then passage of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 made the bubble grow when a rush of new gas hit the interstate market.

Faced with a flood of unexpectedly cheap natural gas, DOE allowed some utilities to switch from oil to gas. Meanwhile, the Department slowed its efforts to mandate fuel-switching in the gas-rich Southwest where some 70,000 megawatts of electricity are produced at gas-fired plants.

Experts in natural gas supply now predict that the three trillion cubic foot bubble will gradually deflate and fuel switching will occur in response to

price. But without federal inducements, conversion will happen slowly.

That's troubling news for the coal industry, but not nearly as troubling as the growing overcapacity in coal production nationwide. In the Northern Great Plains, coal oversupply has become as familiar as sagebrush.

Electricity demand has plummeted in response to conservation and recession. From a reliable seven percent annual growth rate prior to the Arab oil embargo, it fluctuated madly through the latter 1970s, reaching below two percent in 1981. New mine-mouth power plants are no longer needed at levels proclaimed in the '70s, and massive coal-devouring synfuels plants have become the Godot of the energy world.

Nevertheless, nine billion tons of Powder River Basin coal have been leased since 1960, and the Reagan administration now wants to proceed with new leases after an eight-year hiatus.

The 14 Powder River Basin mines now extracting federal coal produced 87 million tons in 1980, 70 million tons below capacity. By 1991, the same mines will be able to produce 238 million tons for contracts that now add up to 158 million.

Jack Schmidt, a Helena-based consultant who recently finished a study of federal coal leasing for the Office of Technology Assessment, says that present trends in production on both leased and fee lands will only exacerbate the problem of oversupply.

"By 1991, planned capacity in the Powder River Basin will reach 348 million tons per year. If the OTA low-demand scenario of 163 million tons is realized in 1991, the development of new lease blocks will be an extremely risky venture," Schmidt said.

The federal government leased about 1.5 billion tons of coal in the Powder River Basin in April in the largest coal lease in history. That leads to the lock-up of over 9.5 billion tons of Powder River coal in a market that at present levels will take 75 years or more to consume.

Industry analysts believe that a new market for coal in the Pacific Rim will again spur demand, but how much and who will supply it are subjects of speculation. In recent years the bituminous coals of central Utah have helped meet Asian demand. Coal export, in fact, revived Utah's sputtering coal industry during the 1960s.

Gene Holdaway of Beaver Creek Coal Company in Price believes that Utah's coal trade will boom again in three to

five years. "The Intermountain Power Project in Delta will consume nine million tons a year. Add that to the export and we'll see a coal boom in Utah," he said.

Holdaway claims that Japan, Taiwan and Korea contracted for two million tons of Utah coal in 1981 and three million in '82. The state's annual production is now about 12 million tons per year.

But companies in the Northern Great Plains plan to compete head-on with Utah for the export trade. Westmoreland Coal and Nerco, a coal mining subsidiary of Pacific Power & Light, are involved in construction of new coal shipping facilities at Portland, Oregon. Burlington Northern Railroad lobbied hard for a successful bill last year in Montana that removed the state's six-year-old export moratorium.

With power generation plans languishing, synfuels too expensive to compete, and utility fuel-switching no longer a federal priority, Western coal companies are looking to the growing Asian market to squeeze down the supply balloon.

Meanwhile, oil and gas explorers are shutting down many of the 4,000 drill rigs that crawled all over Western basins last year, while a skeptical public casts doubting eyes on the need to blast in wilderness.

+++

Don Snow is a freelance writer in Stevensville, Montana and a frequent contributor to *High Country News*.

FOR SALE

Advertising space in the West's award-winning environmental biweekly. With 4,000 loyal subscribers — and an average of four readers per subscription — *High Country News* is an excellent way to reach 16,000 well-informed, environmentally concerned people.

After all we reached you, didn't we?

Write for our rate card today.

High Country News
Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520

Poetry of the

MORE LIGHT THAN HEAT

The mare's tail is taped
and her rear legs are hobbled
in case she tries to kick
the stallion.

A nose twitch can be tightened
around her upper lip
if she begins to act up.

The stud men don long plastic gloves
and disposable hospital gowns
over coveralls.

The mating is a result of computer printouts
matching brood mare with the stallion
now being led into the breeding shed.

Fluorescent lights shine
over a rubberized beige floor
half the size of a tennis court.

The critical moment arrives.
The stallion completes his assignment
swiftly.

The goal is pregnancy. The vet makes
a fertility count and it looks good.
Breeding is a real tax advantage

for the rich man: You get it both ways;
depreciation while the horse continues
to breed and income-producing power later.

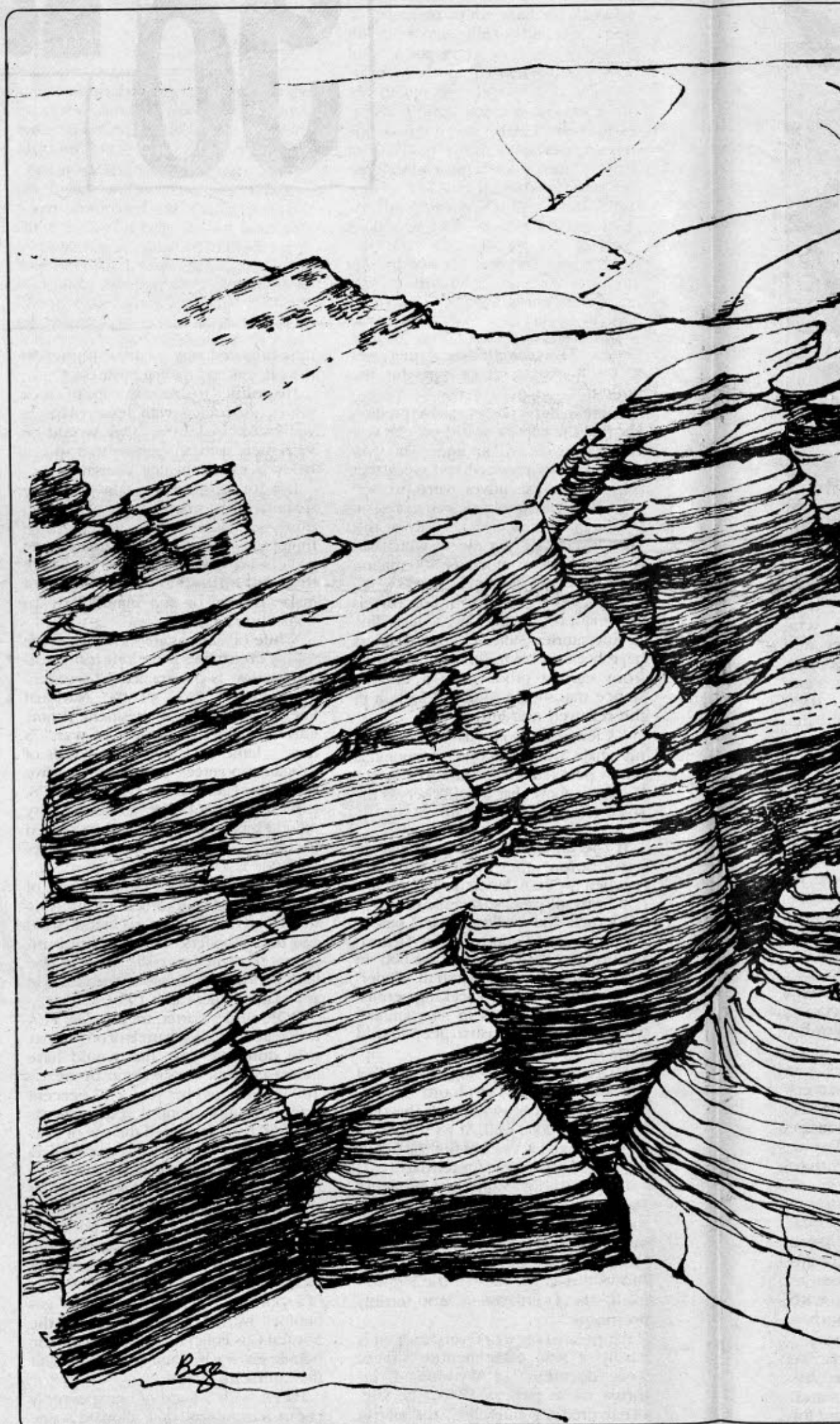
Gold and silver don't breed. Still, to think,
all they might have needed to approach that moment
of sexual fulfillment was a little moonlight
instead of floodlight.

Roberta Metz

HONEY AT THE TABLE

It fills you with the soft
essence of vanished flowers, it becomes
a trickle sharp as a hair that you follow
from the honey pot over the table
and out the door and over the ground,
and all the while it thickens,
grows deeper and wilder, edged
with pine boughs and wet boulders,
pawprints of bobcat and bear, until
deep in the forest you
shuffle up some tree, you rip the bark,
you float into and swallow the dripping combs,
bits of the tree, crushed bees — a taste
composed of everything lost, in which everything
lost is found.

Mary Oliver



of the earth



SHEEP

A boy leans over a book on his knees,
drawing his stool to the window,
watching brothers bat balls in dusklight.

Smiling his joke is nobody's business.
Grownups gather downstairs to talk but
the only sound is icecubes clicking.

Reading the heart in his pulse
like phosphorescent time, he senses
all things lead to sleep
and is up all night.

Roberta Metz

NOON

Now only a broken
lisp where the fall was,
moss water sliding out
of itself in beads, a smooth
sound stuttered, a verb
on crutches, a flicker-flame
projection of sleep.
What the earth doesn't suck
the sun laps. My dog
bites what little water
the pools hold
and the brown boulders sponge
his drool. He eats grass.
We fall asleep in rockshade
with our forearms for pillows,
our dreams falling through us
in pieces.

Frank Graziano

EDUCATION

It was there between the purple fire of the sun
and our thoughts
that we first heard the Spirit of Jamaica.
He told us to dip our feet in the cool water,
close our eyes,
and listen to what the rocks had to say. . . .
They told us not to be ashamed of ourselves,
not to believe in the tyranny of the wind,
and to trust our shadows
for they are nidifugous.
After many hours we awoke
to our sleepy little forest of ten trees,
each one casting a shadow
the size of a suburb.

Rosemary Harrold

Coyotes...

(continued from page 1)

special-interest groups over resource exploitation, contributed to the establishment of federal land reserves and the passage of laws to regulate grazing on the public domain. In 1976, according to the President's Council on Environmental Quality, 75 percent of the public range was producing less than half of its forage potential.

As large predators were annihilated and range wars became a thing of the past, the coyote emerged as the primary villain (along with the government) in the minds of sheepmen. The zeal which had removed wolves, grizzlies and cougars by the thousands from the public domain was transferred to the coyote. Unlike its larger and more-specialized cousins, the coyote was not eliminated as a problem to stockmen. The war against *Canis latrans* accelerated with the introduction of "coyote-getters" (a gun-like device which fires a baited charge of cyanide into the mouth of whatever disturbs it), which, in addition to coyotes, killed many domestic dogs and a few unwary humans.

In the 1940s, thallium sulfate was used to supplement strychnine and cyanide as a predator poison, but proved so fiendishly toxic that trappers became wary of its use. Soon after, the introduction of Compound 1080 (sodium monoflouracetate) made thallium entirely obsolete. The advantage of 1080 was that in controlled tests, it had proved more toxic to Canids (wolves, coyotes dogs and foxes) than to other predators and scavengers. This specificity was intended to kill the target of the poisoning campaign — the coyote — while leaving "beneficial species such as badgers, eagles, hawks, bears, martens, mink, etc. relatively unscathed.

Some stockmen believed the coyote problem might be under control at last, and 1080 was sown far and wide across the public and private ranges. Instead, the average loss of sheep declined far less than had been predicted. In *Coyotes and Sheep*, by Dr. Frederic Wagner, a table of overall losses from 1924 to 1970 based on reports by sheep raisers shows "...little, if any, change in the level of sheep lost between the 1940s and the 1080 period." The northern states show slight reductions and the southern (New Mexico and Texas) exhibit increased losses following 1080 use. On the whole, sheep losses range from 10 percent in 1924-39 to 9.6 percent for 1940-49 to 9.4 percent for 1950-70 when 1080 use was high.

A number of population studies by biologists suggest that such natural factors as climate and cycles of abundance in both coyotes and their prey may have much more to do with overall coyote numbers than control programs, despite the tremendous "body counts" of coyotes, foxes, badgers, bears, etc. racked up by federal and private efforts.

Serious scientific study of the coyote is relatively recent, with most researchers reluctant to set hard guidelines for the management of the species, a reluctance that sheepmen and politicians do not share. A consensus seems to be that coyotes respond to heavy control both with increased rates of reproduction and behavioral adaptations.

This notion is reinforced by the information contained in many recent studies of the biology and behavior of coyotes. Coyotes as a species have behavioral limits on reproduction, when they are undisturbed, similar to those of wolves. Most extensive control techniques disorganize the animal's social structure and actually increase the reproductive rate. As control continues, the adaptive ability of the coyote comes into play — survivors have learned to avoid getters, traps and carrion. Since carrion is normally an important source of food for the species, older coyotes with litters to feed will depend

more heavily on live prey, including livestock.

Government trappers observed that the coyotes killed by control were largely yearlings and two-year-olds, too young to breed. Since coyotes are able to triple or even quadruple their numbers under heavy control, it seems that the effort resulted in elimination of the annual increase while leaving a core breeding population intact. Each control technique showed a decline in success within 10 years of its introduction: Coyotes apparently learn faster than politicians.

Another factor to consider is the effect of overgrazed range on both wildlife and livestock. Several studies have concluded that overgrazing has fostered mixed-cover conditions (shrub/forb/grass) instead of climax grassland, with a significant increase in overall rodent populations which thrive under disturbed conditions. Since rodents and rabbits are by far the most important food source for coyotes, corresponding increases in coyote population would be logical. Other studies have demonstrated the preference of coyotes for injured, weak or abnormal prey over larger, healthier individuals. Badly-depleted range means undernourished livestock, with less resistance to accident, disease and predators.

A common observation among both stockmen and predator control agents is that heavy losses to coyotes are both infrequent and localized. Further, they tend to fall on the outfits with the poorest range and the worst management; precisely the ones which can least afford the losses. Outfits with highly-skilled herders and prime range seem to suffer less trouble from predators.

After the licensing of 1080, most control efforts took the form of baiting, either with poison injected into carcasses or scattered in small portions known as drop baits. Unlike trapping or hunting, baiting requires little skill and time, especially when drop baits are scattered from aircraft, as they often were. Both sheep raisers and federal agencies were extravagant in their claims of success for 1080 as a coyote toxicant, but in no case were sufficient reductions achieved to allow lessened use of poisoning as a control measure. Instead, 1080 use increased steadily without a significant degree of improvement in the reduction of livestock loss.

Critics of the heavy poisoning, including former government trappers who had been fired or had quit in disgust, cited disturbing abuses of law and common sense. Evidence accumulated of massive overdosing of baits which killed not only coyotes, but any other predator or scavenger who ate either from the bait or from any animal poisoned by the bait. There were complaints of illegal baiting on private land belonging to cattlemen, farmers and others, and within areas where no sheep were allowed to graze, in some cases within national parks and monuments. The complaints were largely ignored by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior. Although provisions existed in law for reducing or cancelling grazing permits for illegal poisoning, there are no records of this ever having taken place.

Other abuses included heavy baiting near lakes and streams, a clear danger to public health. Sublette County Commissioner Robbie Garrett said that 1080 baiting near Wyoming's Big Sandy River had resulted in trout kills, of which the local U.S. Forest Service files have no record. There were numerous allegations that herders and sheepmen illegally shot wild game for baits to avoid the cost of using their own livestock. One bitter conflict led to the dismissal of a game warden in this same area and threats by Rock Springs sheepmen to shoot him on sight, after a hotly-contested court case.

Although 1080 is claimed to be more specific to canids, it is clear that when used indiscriminately, it is dangerous to both human beings and wildlife. One problem is that 1080 kills without



Calves dead of natural causes

breaking down chemically. The carcass of a poisoned predator is deadly to any scavenger which feeds on it. When that scavenger dies, the same situation ensues, ad infinitum. Larry Jech, a biologist specializing in entomology said, "1080 is incredibly toxic: It kills mammals, it kills birds, it kills bugs, it kills bacteria, it kills algae. It kills!"

In 1971, a report by the Advisory Committee on Predator Control recommended that 1080 use be made illegal by both the federal government and individual states. The committee was composed of biologists who reviewed the evidence and decided that the use of 1080 was simply not worth the biological and public cost. They also asked that control programs be stopped in wilderness areas, that the federal Wildlife Service be required to employ qualified biologists, that extension training be provided to aid stockmen in non-toxic predator control, and that compensation be provided for losses, possibly in the form of insurance. The report, known as the Cain Committee Report, provoked a storm of public argument.

The National Woolgrowers Association mounted a frenzied political effort to discount the commission's findings, while conservation organizations fired salvos of letters and telegrams at Congress. Outcry on both sides grew increasingly shrill and bitter. Woolgrowers claimed the industry would be crippled without 1080 and widespread collapse would ensue. Opponents of 1080 were accused of being everything from unpatriotic to sexually abnormal. Those against 1080 use characterized sheepmen and government trappers as vicious and brutal killers, with no regard for wildlife, the public interest or common human decency. Biologists ended up somewhere in the middle, under heavy fire from both camps.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon issued Executive Order 11643 which banned the use of 1080 and all other toxicants for predator control on federal lands. There was prodigious

mourning among woolgrowers, who predicted imminent bankruptcy and skyrocketing coyote populations. Individual sheep raisers responded, in some cases, by stockpiling bootlegged 1080 and illicitly continuing to set out baits.

Several Upper Green River residents, some cattle ranchers, have stories of finding baited carcasses well after the ban. Some of them packed gasoline up and burned the offending baits, and threats and counter-threats burned up the local grapevine. Some sheep outfits folded, usually being snapped up by larger and more aggressive operations. Most kept going, hiring more herders to better protect their sheep. Experiments with unsupervised sheep grazing on federal range were decreased as Basque, Mexican and South American herders were imported to offset the reluctance of American labor to herd woolies for low wages.

Some increase in sheep losses was reported and independent observers noted higher coyote populations following the ban, but the sheep industry did not disappear by any means, despite substantial troubles other than predators.

Articles and editorials in the *National Wool Grower* show concern for predator problems, but also on other issues which worry sheep raisers. Marketing is a serious problem which increases as Americans consume less red meat, with lamb suffering a greater decline than beef.

Imports have provided worrisome competition with prices that the domestic industry is unable to match and woolgrowers have lobbied hard for tariffs and restrictions on imports of meat and wool. The popularity of synthetic fibers is also a problem for the industry. Former heavy users of wool such as hunters, hikers and climbers have switched to synthetics and even cowboys and sheepherders sport nylon vests and jackets instead of sweaters. Per capita use of wool has declined. Though part of this might be due to increased

Each control technique showed a decline in success within 10 years of its introduction: Coyotes apparently learn faster than politicians.

costs from predation, more is probably the result of shifting preferences.

Further trouble for the industry lies in the decreasing percentage of the consumer dollar spent for agricultural products which actually goes to the producer. Transportation, processing and distribution take an ever-larger bite, a trend that has not only woolgrowers, but cattlemen, farmers and fruit growers upset. According to Roger Preston, a Bedford, Wyoming, sheep raiser and Farm Bureau representative, agricultural producers have become efficient to the point of driving themselves out of business. He worries about predators as part of the broad spectrum of troubles that face agriculture in the eighties.

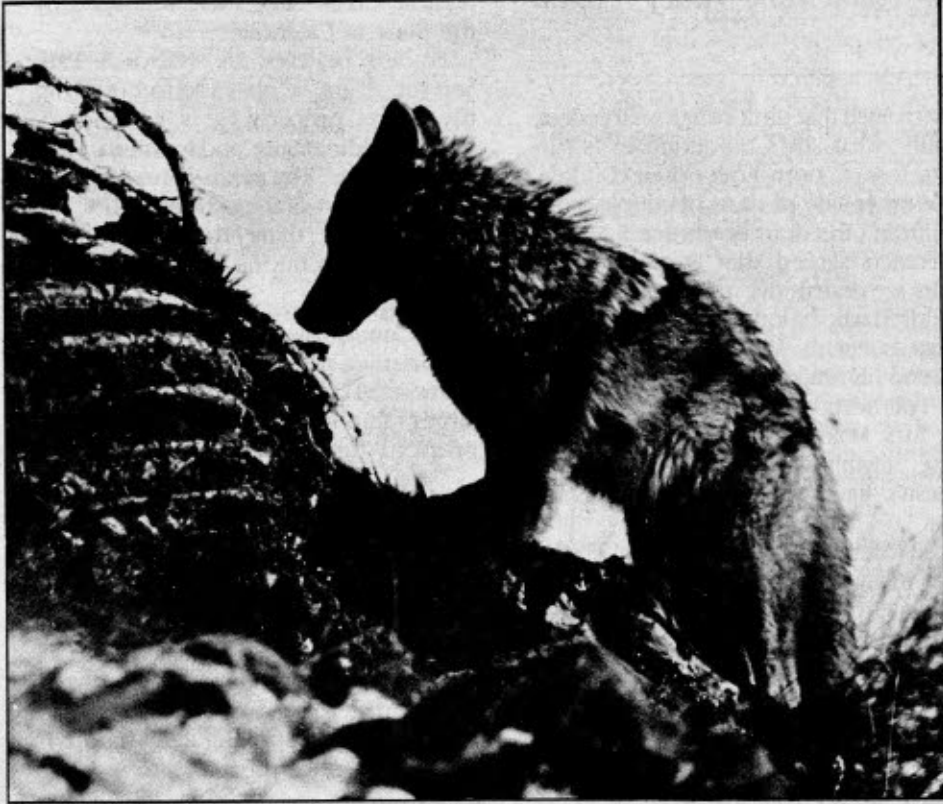
The re-licensing of 1080 has become a rallying point for the woolgrowers, an effort infused with the emotion of a crusade. The financial and personal energy invested seems oddly disproportionate to the actual benefits that accrued to sheepmen from 1080 use. The reasons for this are rooted in the tradition of sheep ranching, which has remained more of a family business over the years than cattle raising.

Many sheepmen worth more than a million dollars on paper still labor day-to-day with their sheep, for which they have a love/hate fascination. Sheep can be frustrating to work with, at times maddening. Lambing time for Roger Preston means back-to-back eighteen-hour days. He earned a veterinary degree from University of California at Davis, which helps him treat his own herds, but he echoes the longtime sentiment of sheepmen that "lambs are born trying to die."

A night in the lambing sheds means a mix of triumph and heartbreak, as ewes abandon newborn lambs on the frozen ground and have to be roped and tied to allow the newborns to suckle. Others give birth to premature or sickly lambs and must be induced, through complex trickery known as "grafting," to accept bum lambs whose mothers are dead, disinclined, or short on milk. Diseases such as enterotoxemia claim a further toll of lambs. Even if they survive the first month, they may fall to infections, hoof-rot, bloat, toxic plants, broken limbs or harsh weather.

Sheep ranchers have an emotional investment in their livestock which comes from family tradition seasoned with a tremendous amount of hard work. Each loss hurts, and the scars are not merely financial. Most factors that kill sheep do so impersonally: disease, poison plants, bloat-causing alfalfa, an unseasonal blizzard. All these are frustrating foes to the sheepman, but it is hard to focus hatred on them. Feral dogs are a major problem in some areas, but thus far they have not been the objects of a concerted control effort. The essential nature of the coyote — savage, clever, elusive — renders it a fit object for a flood of frustrated hate. As Indian storytellers found resemblances between coyotes and themselves, sheepmen seem to find a demonic aura, a devilish ill-will in the species. The resistance of coyotes to the arsenal of control techniques adds to this supernatural potency. Coyote definitely has not ceased to be the stuff of myth and legend, but the lore of today has a dark and bloody hue.

Even so, sheepmen display, as individuals, more restraint than the spokesmen of the National Woolgrowers Association in advocating the return of 1080 to the range. On the grassroots level, many sheepmen favor strict controls and use only by licensed applicators. But amendments to the overall ban permit-



Charlie Smith

ting strychnine, cyanide and possible use of 1080 in sheep collars were characterized thus by Nick Theos, chairman of the NWGA Land Use Committee: "...reminds me of a kid anticipating an electric train and ending up with a yo-yo...Who will pay for and administer the collars and the 1080?"

Since 1979, coyotes have bitten seven people in the vicinity of Los Angeles. In August, 1981, a coyote killed three-year-old Kelly Kean on the street outside her Glendale home, the first documented case of a coyote killing a human. The Woolgrowers instantly seized on the incident and, as Dan Murphy, director of governmental affairs for the NWGA says, "The sheepman in 1981 stood up to the radical environmentalists who would protect at all cost (even human life) the coyote." Since several fully-documented deaths due to coyote-getters and 1080 occurred without arousing the Woolgrower's concern for human life, this qualifies as a somewhat cynical political exploitation of a child's unfortunate death, particularly since some wildlife biologists believe that the extension of the coyote's range to urban areas is partly a result of its harassment by control efforts on its normal range.

Cattlemen have been largely silent on the 1080 issue, despite their common interest as stockmen with the sheep raisers. One reason is that serious calf losses to coyotes are infrequent enough to be accepted without generating a serious political effort. Another is the residue of suspicion for sheepmen that makes cattlemen reluctant to be publicly associated with them. Still another is that many cattle ranchers see the kind of poisoning practiced during the 1080 years as damaging to their interests as livestock raisers. Prior to the environmental groundswell of the 1970s, cattlemen in several states actively opposed predator poisoning, notably in Colorado's Toponas Valley, to little effect. They said the program was increasing their forage losses to rodents and actually increasing calf losses as coyotes adapted to heavy control by increasing their dependence on livestock.

On the Bar Cross Ranch, a cattle outfit near Cora, Wyoming, a heifer and calf were killed by coyotes. Mature cattle are usually safe from coyotes, but, according to Melody Harding, the ranch's cowboss, this one had been attacked while giving birth. The coyotes

killed and ate the calf as it emerged from the prone heifer and, in the process, had chewed the hindparts of the heifer to the point where she died from shock and bleeding.

When the owner, John Barlow, took over the helm of the family ranch, he allowed no coyote killing on his land. The carcasses of calves and cows dying of natural causes were hauled to a dump, where scavengers fed plentifully. "In effect," said Barlow, "what I did was create a coyote sanctuary on my ranch." During the winter of 1979-80, a combination of bad weather and coyote predation caused heavy calf losses. Since then, Barlow and his hand carry rifles and shoot at any coyote they see close to the cattle.

Melody Harding has seen a lot of coyote-killed calves in her years on the Bar Cross and she goes for a rifle when she sees a coyote ghosting along the lines of willows that edge the hay meadows. Still, she is disgusted by the idea of 1080. "Seems like an immoral way to kill an animal," she said.

"It's inhumane," added Barlow. "A lot of the complexity of the coyote problem is because they are such adaptable animals. If they are hunted or trapped heavily in one area, they will adapt as well as they can. If they are able to use livestock as a food source, then they adapt. There's nothing strange about that."

Snook Moore has lived on his small ranch on Tosi Creek outside of Cora, Wyoming, for at least four decades and is respected locally for his knowledge of both livestock and wildlife. In the fall of 1981, he explained what resulted from 1080 baiting on sheep allotments south and west of his ranch. Not only were coyotes killed, but the numbers of bears, badgers, pine martens, foxes and eagles all declined sharply. As a result, the population of Richardson's Ground Squirrels (locally called "chiselers," "potguts" or "picket pins") began to mushroom, wreaking havoc on his hayfields and causing a loss of winter feed.

Similar troubles with rodents erupted elsewhere with serious losses of forage and resulting, ironically, in requests for rodent control programs, some of which also use 1080. In attempting to implement the demands of the sheep lobby, the federal government and state wildlife agencies penalized cattlemen, fur trappers, hunters, outfitters and

wildlife fanciers among the public as a whole, on the theory that the public range might be made safe for an animal as inherently defenseless as sheep.

There are ads in the *National Wool Grower* for alternate predator controls: guard dogs, electric fence, noise generators and flashing lights. The consensus among politically-active sheepmen seems to be that these, along with the possible use of 1080 collars, are a poor substitute for poison baits. They cite cost and problems in practical use as a barrier to use of the collars. Said Nick Theos, "I don't think they realize the difficulty of putting collars on 10,000 range sheep, taking them off to shear, and putting them back on again. Then during lambing, one would have to catch every lamb, put on a collar, and hope the little one didn't get caught in the brush."

With the election of Ronald Reagan, the balance shifted dramatically to the woolgrowers, who stepped up their lobbying to reinstate 1080. Wrote Theos in the *National Wool Grower*, "...I made phone calls to key people in various states to help get Jim Watt, Bob Burford and Ann Gorsuch appointed to the key positions they now hold. I am real glad they hold those offices, because things could be worse; but why aren't they better?"

The sweeping action hoped for by the Wool Growers was delayed, but it finally materialized as President Reagan repaid a longstanding political debt with the revocation of Executive Order 11643 banning predator poisoning.

In a subsequent news release, Don Meike, chairman of the NWGA board of directors, said, "With this single action the President has sent a clear message that he means business about controlling the \$200 million annual loss in livestock predation and the population explosion of coyotes that are now even threatening and taking human life." At an inflated value of \$75 per head (inflated because it includes newborn and diseased animals of no market value) this claimed loss would equal 2.67 million sheep killed per year, which seems higher than is verifiable or even credible.

The issue will be fought at hearings before the Environmental Protection Agency which will examine the pros and cons of 1080 use in a political climate more favorable to woolgrowers than has existed since the Cain Committee Report recommended the 1972 ban. It is disturbingly clear that the problem is too complex to be resolved to the satisfaction of any of the contesting parties. Since the positions of sheepmen and conservationists are both well-defined and opposite, one might ask what the public interest is and how can it be best served in the management of the public rangelands. Coyotes will go on killing sheep and sheepmen will kill coyotes, but should the taxpayer be made to subsidize the poisoning of the public domain with 1080?

+++

Chip Rawlins is a freelance writer in Cora, Wyoming, and a frequent contributor to *High Country News*. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund. A reference bibliography on the subjects covered in this article is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to *High Country News*, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520.

"First we had one cult called the Quick Buck Cult. That was Mr. Forbes. Now we have another."

— Yellowstone Valley resident

Church...

(continued from page 16)

a past life. That's why she's called Mother in the church," she said.

According to Maleck, church leaders use their links with the Ascended Masters and their assumed knowledge of reincarnation to gain control of members' minds. "They are not subject to challenge by the members," said Maleck. "Members are programmed so that anything critical of the organization is immediately rejected by the mind. You can lay out a table of facts and they just reject them all if anything disagrees with the church."

Maleck and her husband belong to an international organization known as the Citizens Freedom Foundation that concerns itself with "destructive cults, mind control and family separation."

"There are 18 affiliates across the U.S., including a new one in Livingston — the Concerned Montana Citizens." Livingston is near the Royal Teton Ranch.

Francis hotly denied every allegation made by Maleck.

"I view her as a religious persecutor and a bigot," he said. "She wants to have

laws passed that limit religious freedom. Really, what she's objecting to is parents' loss of control over their children. The other side of that, of course, is the children's freedom of choice."

Francis agreed that some so-called cults are destructive and that parents of children who belong to them have legitimate concerns. He does not, however, extend his empathy to Marilyn Maleck.

"Following us around is a full-time job for Mrs. Maleck," he said. "She doesn't have anything else to do. She also doesn't have to prove anything she says."

He acknowledged Maleck's charge that many church members turn over personal property to the organization, but he disagreed that such contributions are the result of mind control. "We have a very dedicated membership. If anyone has donated property to us, it's done so completely voluntarily. It is their free will to do so," said Francis.

Maleck said that church leaders have made real estate deals in numerous states, while they have frequently moved the headquarters. "They've been in Washington, Pennsylvania, Colorado Springs, Malibu, back to Colorado Springs, and now Montana. Now I hear

that they want to buy 250 acres in Banff for a million dollar ashram."

Francis denied that a Canadian land purchase is in the offing. He also denied that Camelot is secretly for sale, another allegation made by Maleck.

The 220-acre Camelot property, formerly owned by the Gillettes of razor blade fame, is being considered for inclusion in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area. And across the road from Camelot is the Malibu Creek State Park, managed by the State of California.

Francis believes the National Park Service might be planning to condemn the church property. He is not a proponent of adding more land to the national park system. "The parks should be preserved as part of the national trust," he said. "But I think the government should not be buying up more land."

Meanwhile, a zoning controversy in Park County, Montana has gotten Francis bristling. He said the county's plans to restrict land splits to 40 acres or larger amounts to a taking of private property rights.

"We have therefore separately planned our ranch into 20-acre tracts to preserve their value," Francis said. In a press release, Francis said he wanted to beat the county commissioners to the punch by having a record of his land divisions before the commission adopts the new zoning restrictions. He maintained that a majority of Park County residents oppose zoning and that he is part of a popular protest.

It is clear that he and the 35 other church members who live at the Inner Retreat have not alienated all local residents. In fact, some of them are tentatively praising their new neighbors.

"They might be awful, but they've shown no evidence of it so far," said one long-time resident. "Matter of fact, they're farming and ranching the place better than Forbes ever did."

Said another, "They might be good and they might be bad, but they're not going to be any better because we're mean to them."

The deepest concern so far is over the church's quarterly retreat planned in July. If it happens at the Royal Teton, 3,000 members will appear at the site to hear Prophet's words. While heavy traffic isn't exactly new to the Yellowstone area, residents near Gardiner are not accustomed to mammoth parking lots along the ranchland back roads.

But the summer conference is not assured at the Inner Retreat, unless the membership coughs up the \$1.5 million due to Mr. Forbes. In her recent letter to members, Prophet makes a hearty plea to save the ranch: "I can promise you with the authority of St. Germain that if this amount in full is transferred to me...we can still hold our summer conference at the Inner Retreat."

+++

Don Snow is a freelance writer in Stevensville, Montana. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED ADS cost 20¢ per word, prepaid, \$5 minimum. Rates vary for display advertising; write HCN, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520 or call (307) 332-6970 for further information.

WANT TO BUY: Elk and deer horns, brown or bleached. Large quantities desired. (406) 682-7153.

JUNE 12 MARKS HCN FOOTRACE! Registration begins at 4 p.m. \$3 per runner or walker, \$10 including t-shirt. Lander City Park. Free beer at the finish.

DESIGN AND PRODUCE the High Country News. Position opens August 1982. Responsibilities include bi-weekly layout of newspaper, design and production of brochures, circulation materials, mailings, advertising. Send resume, samples of work and letter of application by June 30 to High Country News, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520.

ALTERNATIVE JOB & INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES! The environment, foreign affairs, women's rights, media, health/education, community organizing, and more. Work you can believe in! Send \$2.00 for latest nationwide listing. COMMUNITY JOBS, Box 130, 1520 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL AMERICA. Pueblo to People (a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-governmental organization) is working with peasant cooperatives to increase informational and economic interchange with U.S. base level groups and the general public. If you share our concern for Central America, believe in grass roots organization, and want to do more than listen to speeches, please send \$1 for an information packet. Pueblo to People, 5218 Chenevert, Houston, Texas 77004.



The Keystone Science School announces the schedule for its 1982 Preservation of Species workshop series:

EXTINCTION: A GLOBAL ISSUE, July 9-11, taught by Dr. Elliott Norse, Director of Science and Policy for the Center for Environmental Education, Washington, D.C.

URSUS ARCTOS HORRIBILIS: THE MARGINS OF SURVIVAL, August 6-8, taught by Dr. Charles Jonkel, Professor, University of Montana, and head of the Montana-based Border Grizzly Project.

SPECIES RECOVERY: QUEST TO RETURN THE BANISHED, October 1-3, directed by John Torres, Chief, Nongame and Endangered Species Section, Colorado Division of Wildlife.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: THE SNAIL DARTER AND BEYOND, November 5-7, directed by Robert J. Golten, Counsel, National Wildlife Federation Natural Resources Clinic in Boulder, Colorado.

Tuition: \$100 per workshop (\$140 with room and board). College credit available.

KEYSTONE SCIENCE SCHOOL
Box 70, Montezuma Route
Dillon, Colorado 80435 (303) 468-5822

SUMMER IN YELLOWSTONE. Join the Yellowstone Institute for over 40 field seminars in Yellowstone National Park. A wide variety of topics offered covering the wildlife, botany, geology and history of Yellowstone. Plus courses on art, fishing, outdoor and wildlife photography, horsepacking, backpacking and canoeing. Also, special one-day courses for children, plus a 3-day camp at the historic Buffalo Ranch. Academic credit available. For a free catalog, write: The Yellowstone Institute, Box 515, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.



**Larsen's
Bicycles**

255 E. 2nd St., Powell, WY 82435
(307) 754-5481

Schwinn — Raleigh

HIGH COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

Contact Joyce at Travel Services Unlimited, 238 Main St., Lander, Wyoming 82520; (307) 332-6500 to learn more about A WIND RIVER EXPERIENCE IN TIME AND SPACE and about WOMEN IN THE WILDERNESS. These backpacking experiences will occur in July in the Wind River and Absaroka Mountains of northwestern Wyoming with outdoor educators and leaders who wish to share their love of the wilderness.



ASPEN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Summer field courses in natural history.

• Ornithology • Nature writing
• Alpine ecology • Mammology
• Wildlife management
• Philosophy • Photography

Write: ACES, Box 8777, Aspen, CO 81612

(303) 925-5756

Experience Aspen!
Wilderness • Culture • Learning

Exercise your mind

While maintaining a well-balanced perspective. Eyes forward (to the future, dearies); stay on your toes. Think lofty thoughts.

Send for High Country News.



\$15 stretches your mind every other week for a year. Send your check to HCN, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520. You'll feel better for it.

Name

Address

City

State Zip

BULLETIN BOARD

CHANGES IN HUNGRY HORSE DAM

The Bureau of Reclamation will hold a public meeting May 18 in Kalispell, Mont., on proposed enlargement of the power generating facilities at the Hungry Horse Dam on the Flathead River. BuRec is considering three possible plans: uprating the existing generators, adding a 55,000 kilowatt power plant, or doing a combination of the two. Construction of a 50-foot-high re-regulating dam is also being considered for a site about 3.4 miles downstream. The meeting to identify significant environmental issues related to the project will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Outlaw Inn. An information brochure on the project is available from Hungry Horse Powerplant, Hungry Horse, Mont. 59919, (406) 387-5241.

BACKPACKING RESEARCH COURSES

The Wildlands Research Institute of San Francisco State University is offering nine wilderness research projects in the Rocky Mountains this summer. The three- to four-week projects will include on-site studies of expanding wolf habitat in Montana and Idaho, and threatened wilderness in Wyo., Colo., and Ariz. For more information on the college credit programs, write the institute at 407 Atlantic Ave., Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062 or (408) 427-2106.

ENERGY & MINERALS FIELD INSTITUTE

May 30 is the deadline for applications to the Colorado School of Mines' Energy and Minerals Field Institute for journalists. The intensive three- and one-half day program features on-site examination of energy and minerals facilities in Colorado and Wyoming, including coal and oil shale mines, molybdenum, uranium and oil/gas operations, and a copper mine and smelter. Cost of the seminar is \$500 and some scholarship aid is available. For more information, call Michelle Foss or Jan Vittum at (303) 273-3900.

HANKE PANKY

The Manhattan Report will soon be publishing White House economist Steven Hanke's proposal to sell 155 million acres of public grazing lands, giving current lessees first crack on the purchases. To obtain a free copy of the Hanke proposal, write Privatizing Grazing Lands, Public Land News, 1010 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 708, Wash., D.C. 20005.

SNAKE RIVER ALERT

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has just released a draft environmental impact statement for the A.J. Wiley Dam proposed for southern Idaho. The dam would impound eight miles of river from Bliss Reservoir to Lower Salmon Falls Dam and would produce 37.5 megawatts of power 90 percent of the time. To comment on the proposal or obtain a copy of the DEIS, write FERC, 825 N. Capitol, NE, Wash., D.C. 20426.

USGS OIL & GAS ESTIMATES

A new 87-page circular from the U.S. Geological Survey, titled "Estimates of Undiscovered Recoverable Conventional Resources of Oil and Gas in the United States," was published as USGS Circular 860. It is available free from the Branch of Distribution, USGS, 604 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, Va. 22304.

OREGON TRAIL REVISITED

A new brochure on the Oregon Trail is now available from BLM offices in Wyo. The trail was officially designated a National Historic Trail in 1978 and is now being marked by the federal government. The brochure includes a map showing sites along the trail from Independence, Missouri, through Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho and Oregon to the Columbia River at Fort Vancouver, Washington.

NEW MINE SUBSIDENCE RULES

The Office of Surface Mining has proposed new rules changing the federal guidelines requiring underground coal operators to file subsidence control plans. OSM Director Dick Harris said that under the new rules, "where subsidence is not expected, we would no longer require the gathering of significant information for a mine plan." The performance standards that actually protect land surfaces from subsidence would remain "essentially" unchanged, Harris said. The rules were published in the April 16 *Federal Register* and comments are now being accepted.

NEW WILDLIFE BOOKLET

A new four-color booklet titled "Wildlife on the Public Lands" may be ordered from the Supt. of Documents, Wash., D.C. 20402 for \$3.50. The 26-page publication graphically portrays wildlife and habitat in the West.

BLM WILDERNESS TRIPS

The Colorado Wilderness Network is sponsoring four summer trips into areas currently under study by the BLM for wilderness recommendation. Trips will be June 12 to Beaver Creek, June 26-27 to Handies Peak Wilderness Study Area, July 3-4 to Redcloud Peak and July 31-Aug. 2 to Handies Peak. For further information, write Colorado Wilderness Network, 2239 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, Colo. 80206.

FORT LARAMIE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A recently approved "Development Concept Plan for Fort Laramie," a national historic site in Fort Laramie, Wyo., is now available to the public. A draft of the plan was released in October, 1981, and the new plan reflects changes suggested by both the National Park Service and the public. Copies of the plan are available from the Supt., Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Fort Laramie, Wyo. 82212.

REPORT ON MINING LAND USE

Statistics on land used and reclaimed by the mining industry between 1930 and 1980 have been collected into a new Bureau of Mines report. Copies of "Land Utilization and Reclamation in the Mining Industry, 1930-80," can be obtained from the Publications and Distribution Branch, Bureau of Mines, 4800 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, Penn. 15213.

CITIZENS' GUIDE TO FOREST PLANNING

A new "Citizen's Guide to Forest Planning" has just been published by CHEC, the publisher of *Forest Planning* magazine. The guide "provides a detailed comparison of the current planning process with the process proposed by the Reagan administration." The publication is available for \$3 from CHEC, Box 3479, Eugene, Ore. 97403.



STATE OF WYOMING PUBLIC NOTICE

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (1) INDUSTRIAL FACILITY, (2) COMMERCIAL FACILITIES, AND (3) OIL TREATER FACILITIES, TO MODIFY (1) INDUSTRIAL PERMIT, AND (2) MUNICIPAL PERMITS, AND AND TO RENEW APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: TLP, Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS: 4731 South Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43615
FACILITY LOCATION: Laramie County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031241

TLP, Inc. plans to construct a lamb slaughtering plant located immediately south of the Town of Burns, Laramie County, Wyoming. The plant will produce approximately 240,000 gallons of wastewater per day which will be treated by means of screening followed by anaerobic lagoons followed by extended aeration followed by clarification and finally aerobic lagoons. The plant will discharge to an unnamed Class IV drainage which flows approximately three miles before meeting Muddy Creek (Class III Stream).

The facility is required to meet effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent best available treatment and to meet Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards.

Continuous monitoring of effluent quantity and weekly monitoring of effluent quality is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire April 30, 1987.

(2) APPLICANT NAME: Bridger Valley Development
MAILING ADDRESS: Bridger Valley Subdivision
1670 Washington
Ogden, Utah 84402
FACILITY LOCATION: Uinta County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031011

The Bridger Valley Subdivision is a proposed housing development of 720 single family units located immediately south of the Town of Ft. Bridger, Uinta County, Wyoming. Proposed wastewater treatment will consist of an aerated lagoon system with pH adjustment and on ammonia dissipation pond for ammonia control. Discharge will be to the Blacks Fork River (Class II Stream).

Proposed effluent limitations for the parameters BOD5, pH and Total Suspended Solids are based on National Secondary Treatment Standards. Limitations for the parameters Ammonia, Fecal Coliform and Total Residual Chlorine are based on the seasonal flows and In-stream Water Quality Standards.

At this time it appears that violation of Wyoming's in-stream standards for dissolved oxygen will not occur provided National Secondary Treatment Standards are achieved. However, this position will continue to be evaluated (and the permit modified if necessary) as more information becomes available.

Periodic self monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The proposed permit is scheduled to expire April 30, 1987.

(3) APPLICANT NAME: Muahawk Partnership
MAILING ADDRESS: Royal Grove Subdivision
c/o Bill Hawkey
400 S. Kendrick
Gillette, WY 82716
FACILITY LOCATION: Campbell County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031232

The Muahawk Partnership is the developer of the Royal Grove Subdivision located approximately six miles west of the City of Gillette, Wyoming. The development will consist of 100 permanent housing units and 350 mobile homes. Wastewater treatment will be provided by an aerated lagoon system which will discharge to an unnamed draw which flows approximately two miles before entering Donkey Creek (Class II Warmwater Stream).

The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with effluent limitations based upon National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards. Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The proposed permit is scheduled to expire April 30, 1987.

(4) APPLICANT NAME: Black Hills Oil and Gas
MAILING ADDRESS: 1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 206
Denver, CO 80202
FACILITY LOCATION: Marquiss, NE1/4, Section 12, T49N, R66W, Crook County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031259

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

The discharge 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 discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1984.

(5) APPLICANT NAME: Florida Exploration Company
MAILING ADDRESS: 717 17th St., Suite 2880
Denver, CO 80202
FACILITY LOCATION: Lamb Federal #1-12, NE1/4, SE1/4, Section 12, T51N, R93W, Big Horn County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031267

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Big Horn County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Dead Horse Gulch (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge 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 discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1984.

(6) APPLICANT NAME: Marathon Oil Company
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 120
Casper, WY 82602
FACILITY LOCATION: Coronado #1, SW1/4, SW1/4, Section 33, T46N, R98W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031275

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

The discharge 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 discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1986.

(7) APPLICANT NAME: Town of Saratoga
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 486
Saratoga, Wyoming 82331
FACILITY LOCATION: Water Treatment Plant Carbon County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003492

The Town of Saratoga has two operable water treatment plants which treat raw water taken from the North Platte River. The old plant, which is now used intermittently, is a standard plant consisting of coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and chlorination. The new plant includes diatomaceous earth filtration and ozonation. Wastewaters from both plants consists of filter backwash and are routed to a single evaporation/infiltration pond.

The Town is now in the process of studying ways in which the treatment system could be upgraded to eliminate any future discharges to the North Platte River (Class I Water). However, the current permit requires elimination of all discharges by July 1, 1982. The Town feels that it will need until July 1, 1983 to determine what needs to be done and then to construct. The proposed permit modification would grant the Town's request for an extension and require no discharge after July 1, 1983.

During the interim period, regular monitoring of any discharge will be required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire April 30, 1987.

(8) APPLICANT NAME: City of Laramie
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box C
Laramie, WY 82070
FACILITY LOCATION: Albany County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0022209

The wastewater treatment facilities serving the City of Laramie, Wyoming consist of a four cell stabilization pond system of 92 total surface acres. The first cell of the lagoon is aerated. The discharge from the final cell enters an unnamed drainage which flows about two miles before reaching the Laramie River (Class II Stream).

The City is now in the process of upgrading its treatment facilities, and all improvements are scheduled to be completed by January 1, 1984. The proposed permit requires compliance with effluent limitations based on National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards no later than January 1, 1984. Limitations on the parameters Total Residual Chlorine, Fecal Coliform Bacteria and Ammonia were based on seasonal flows, temperature and pH.

At this time it appears that violation of Wyoming's in-stream standards for dissolved oxygen will not occur provided National Secondary Treatment Standards are achieved. However, this position will continue to be evaluated (and the permit modified if necessary) as more information becomes available.

Self-monitoring requirements in the proposed permit require the monitoring of all limited parameters on a routine basis with reporting of results monthly. The proposed permit is scheduled to expire on May 31, 1987.

(9) APPLICANT NAME: Town of Granger, Wyoming - Wastewater
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 42
Granger, WY 82934
FACILITY LOCATION: Sweetwater County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0022373

The Town of Granger has recently completed a multi-cell lagoon wastewater treatment facility. This facility has two outfall points to the Blacks Fork River (Class III Water). Since the existing permit for this facility authorizes only a single discharge point, it is necessary to modify the permit to include the new point of discharge.

The proposed permit authorizes the second discharge point but makes no changes in effluent limitations, which are based on National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards, or self-monitoring requirements.

STATE/EPA TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to June 11, 1982. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permits Section, 1111 East Lincolnway, 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 1, 1982 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-82-005

OPINION

The threat — and promise — of environmentalism

We have received here at *High Country News*, along with a nice letter from the author, a study prepared for the Republican Study Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives entitled, "The Specter of Environmentalism: the Threat of Environmental Groups." The report received quite a bit of play in the media when it was released. Its interest lies in the fact that it neatly synthesizes a number of charges made against environmentalists lately by various spokesmen for the Reagan administration, as well as the president himself.

The report said, "Extremist environmentalism threatens to undermine natural resource and economic development. This environmental threat has been spearheaded by a few prominent environmental groups which are engaged in a systematic campaign intent on promoting environmental interests largely to the detriment of energy development and economic prosperity."

When President Ronald Reagan appointed James Watt as interior secretary, Reagan told the media that Watt wasn't opposed to environmentalists, just "extreme environmentalists." Watt confirmed this several times in subsequent remarks, usually saying something like, "We're trying to swing the pendulum away from the environmental extremism of the Carter administration to a more balanced view." The only trouble was — and is — that no one in the administration ever offered to name names. Who are these radicals, anyway? Who did he mean? The Sierra Club? Friends of the Earth? Cecil Andrus?

The Republican Study Committee answers this question — sort of. Though it doesn't say it in so many words, it leaves the clear impression that any environmental group that has tried to influence national policy is extremist. It is particularly hard on those who have been successful in influencing policy. This blanket accusation is thrown over a number of national groups that, in more reasonable times, would doubtless be surprised to find themselves on a list of subversives of the commonweal — the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation and others.

If all these groups are "extremists," who are the "balanced" environmentalists? Since nearly every major organized group was thrown into the former category, there would seem to be a shortage of folks to make up the latter. The Republican Study Committee is vague. "Hunters and fishermen" is the best they can do. Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) once told *HCN* in an interview that he never had any trouble with home state environmentalists, but he sure was irritated with the "professional" environmentalists in Washington. By extension, politicians would be equally annoyed at "professional" oilmen or gun nuts or pro-abortionists, all of whom have extensive lobbying efforts in Washington. Yet these groups rarely draw the invective that is heaped on environmentalists by politicians.

At any rate, what is "extremism"? Barry Goldwater, Republican senator from Arizona and erstwhile presidential candidate, once said, "Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. And...moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue." He was actually paraphrasing American Revolutionary War pamphleteer Thomas Paine, who said, "Moderation in principle is always a vice."

Goldwater's opinions on extremism went a long way toward handing him his landslide defeat to the "moderate" Lyndon Johnson in 1964. However, fighting for one's principles is a highly valued American tradition. No one today calls Patrick Henry an extremist, though he was in his day.

What is an "extreme" environmental position on an issue? Is the federal strip mine bill extreme? The Clean Air Act? Opposition to water projects that will never pay for themselves?

The Carter administration, and Cecil Andrus in particular, is often referred to in these tirades. However, the Carter record on the environment was mixed, at best. He pushed for and got an Alaska lands bill, setting aside 100 million acres of land with varying degrees of protection. He also pushed through the Synthetic Fuels Corporation and synthetic fuels development, which may prove to be the largest environmental disaster in the West since the elimination of the buffalo.

The Republican Study Committee report gives some indication of what the group is worried about. Quoting Malcolm Forbes Baldwin, formerly acting director of the Council on Environmental Quality, it said, "...environmentalism transcends the programs and desires of any particular political, social or economic group. It involves a powerful and complex view of the world, grounded both in science and in human experience, that has attracted all kinds of people and organizations."

Further, said the report, "There is a new revolutionary stream in the environmental movement referred to as 'deep ecology.'...This revolutionary force of environmentalism is seeking 'a new metaphysics, epistemology, cosmology and environmental ethic of person/planet.'"

As a result, environmentalists are "coercive utopians" with a "hidden liberal agenda" striving for a "vague political goal."

About some of this, the report is correct, I believe. Environmentalism, at its best, does have a broad, complex view of the world and its interrelationships — an ecological view, if you will. This view varies from group to group, theorist to theorist. And it is still emerging.

This emerging outlook is not "seeking," but rather uncovering a "new metaphysics, epistemology, cosmology and...ethic of person/planet." When Einstein postulated relativity, he wasn't *looking* to turn the modern world on its head, but he could hardly ignore the implications.

However, rather than being a cause for lament, this quest for a fuller understanding of the world is refreshing. A wise man (me) once said, "It is more likely that things are interrelated than that they are not." No doubt, environmentalists — true environmentalists — look at the world differently from the Reagan administration or Republican Study Committee. If this is "extreme," so what?

It seems clear from an examination of the various threats to the planet that a new way of looking at the world is needed. These threats include some that are obvious, like decimation from nuclear holocaust, and some that are not, like the overheating of the earth's atmosphere from the burning of carbon-based fuels, the damage done by acid rain, overpopulation, depletion of farmland and a host of others.

The "balanced" approach to these problems is to pretend they don't exist. We can't *prove* that acid rain is caused by power plants, so we won't do anything about it. The "greenhouse effect" is only a theory, so we don't look for fuel alternatives. Considering the magnitude of the threats involved here, I would think that someone who worried about such things would be called prudent, not extremist.

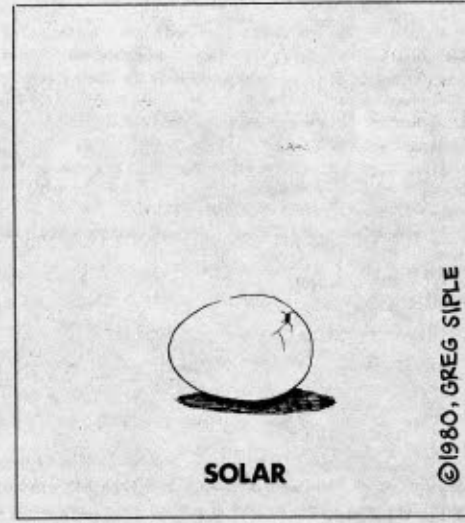
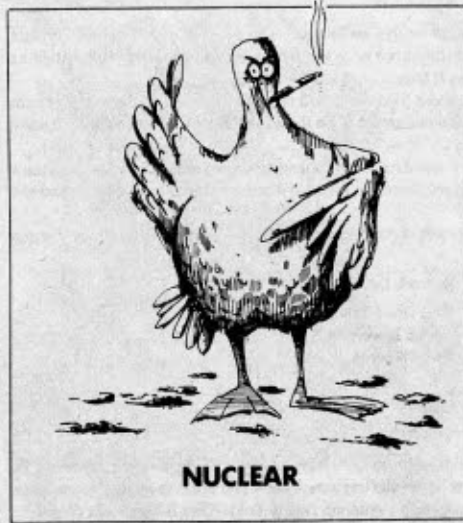
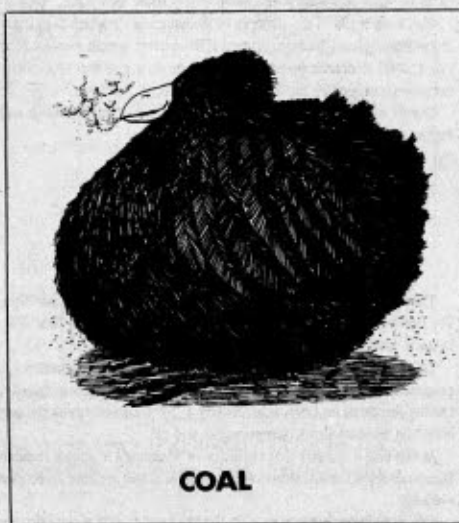
There are a number of people outside the mainstream of the environmental movement who have concluded that new world views are in order. These include physicists Werner Heisenberg, Fritjof Capra and Einstein. The work of these men has shown that reality is different from the way we've always perceived it. Particle physics and quantum mechanics have demonstrated that, whatever reality is, it is vastly different from what we once thought it was. And it is all interrelated in unexplained and perhaps unexplainable ways.

The "rational" Cartesian world view of western culture has taken a severe beating at the hands of these physicist/philosophers. Their views are "extreme," perhaps even "revolutionary." That, however, is not the point. The question is whether they are right or not.

Like the physicists, environmentalists are taking a broader look at the systems around them. This only becomes a problem when they take this view into the political arena and joust with people who clearly don't understand it or agree with the need for a broader view.

This, then, is environmental extremism, at least as far as I can tell from the available literature. It is an ideal translated into political action. It seems that detractors would be better off examining the validity of the ideal, rather than resorting to name-calling.

—DSW



©1980, GREG SIPLE

LETTERS

BULLDOZING WILDERNESS

Dear *HCN*,

I would like to call to your attention a potentially serious misconception appearing in your article concerning the Big Blue Wilderness Area in southwestern Colorado (*HCN*, 4/16/82).

According to the article, the mining operating plan in question proposed to use a bulldozer. A representative from the Colorado Open Space Council was quoted as saying, "There has never been a bulldozer allowed in a wilderness area for mining purposes, especially for an unproven claim." The article stated that environmental groups were seriously

concerned about the precedential effect of Forest Service approval of the proposed plan and administrative and possibly legal challenges to any use of a bulldozer in the operation were forthcoming.

I believe that at least one mining operating plan utilizing a bulldozer under substantially similar circumstances has been approved by the Forest Service in the past.

I worked as a wilderness guard in the Sawtooth Wilderness Area in Idaho during the 1977 and 1978 seasons. In both years, a bulldozer was used to dig test pits on unpatented placer claims located in and around a portion of the wilderness area. The test pits were located from two to four miles inside the wilderness boundary. The bulldozer

was driven into the wilderness in the 1977 season.

I personally witnessed the use of the bulldozer in the wilderness in 1977. The operator operated without a valid operating plan that season and was unsuccessfully prosecuted in federal district court under the provisions of the Wilderness Act. At the time of his criminal prosecution the Forest Service was also contesting the validity of the claims on economic grounds.

The claim holder was restrained by federal court order from operating the claims unless and until an operating plan approved by the Forest Service was in effect.

In the 1978 season I witnessed evidence of the use of a bulldozer on the claims. I am uncertain whether this

activity was conducted pursuant to a valid operating plan.

Before the environmental groups involved expend time and effort to block or modify the operating plan in the Big Blue on the grounds of national precedent, they should explore the specifics of this operation. The operation was regulated by the Administrator's Office, Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Ketchum, Idaho and by the Supervisor's Office, Sawtooth National Forest, Twin Falls, Idaho.

My personal view is that access to wilderness for any commercial purpose should be greatly restricted from its present status. The Big Blue, indeed all wilderness, must be protected from encroachment.

Daniel Prohaska
Moscow, Idaho



Oil shale: no tears, but lots of tangle

It is hard to generate a lot of sympathy for the sponsors of the oil shale industry in Colorado. Exxon, the largest corporation in the United States, is taking a bath. And it is taking a bath on a project that was demonstrably a bad idea in the first place. This is hardly the stuff of tragedy.

However, oil shale is not dead, despite what the daily newspapers may say. The oil shale industry has had its false starts before, as long ago as the 1950s. The promise — or threat, depending upon your point of view — of oil shale will always be with us. It is a bit like Tolkien's dragon Smaug, who lay quietly in his den for years and years counting his gold, then one day, unexpectedly arose and cast his shadow over the land, terrorizing the countryside. Like Smaug, oil shale was a bad idea whose time had come — and gone.

Governor Dick Lamm (D) of Colorado has already predicted when the dragon will again raise its ugly head. "When the next oil crisis arises — and it will arise — the day that happens, the oil shale industry will be back on stage," he said.

Lamm is right, unfortunately. These projects were canceled because of a perceived diminishing market for synthetic fuels, a glut of conventional oil and rapidly escalating costs. There are, however, half a dozen other reasons for not developing synthetic fuels. The disposal of spent shale requires an enormous amount of land; the industry will add salt to the already highly saline Colorado River; the success of reclamation is uncertain at best; oil from conventional sources is cheaper; and under a right-headed energy policy, we would convert our economy from a fossil fuel, non-renewable based economy to one utilizing renewable resources.

This last is the main reason that oil shale will be back. There is no concerted attempt to convert the economy to a more reasonable fuel base. Everyone admits that the world is running out of oil. Gov. Lamm said, "People will look at the possibility of shale since we have two or three times the Saudi Arabian reserves in western Colorado." What he doesn't mention is that even Saudi Arabia will be out of oil in 25 or 30 years at projected rates of world consumption.

The oil shale fiasco should call into question the government's current commitment to subsidizing the development of a synthetic fuels industry. The industry is not now economical and Exxon's experience should raise questions of whether it ever will be. In the early 1970s, shortly after the Arab oil embargo, studies said that oil shale would be an economically viable option if the price of crude oil reached \$22 per barrel. By the mid- to late-'70s, the break-even point had reached \$30 per barrel. The price of crude has risen to \$36 and even \$42 on the spot market, and oil shale is still not economical.

There are other synfuels projects still in the planning stages and one, the Great Plains Coal Gasification Project in Beulah, North Dakota, is under construction. None of these projects would survive without government subsidies or guarantees. In addition, the original reason for most of them has disappeared. At current prices — about \$4.50 per thousand cubic feet — natural gas is being found in abundance. In fact, most of the strikes in the controversial Overthrust Belt in the Rockies have been natural gas.

So, why pay more for synthetic gas when there is plenty of conventional gas? On this subject the experts are silent. The projects are being completed because there is money to be made, and most of the profits are guaranteed by the government and, eventually, by the taxpayers.

There are, as always, human costs in the shutdown of the shale industry. About 2,100 people are out of work on the Western Slope. The economy in the towns of Rifle and Parachute will be damaged. The construction at Battlement Mesa will grind to a halt. However, this kind of dislocation comes with the territory in boomtowns. There is little anyone can do, short of making oil shale economical.

But oil shale will be back, as Gov. Lamm said. It will be back because of greed and shortsightedness. It will be back because people care more about big cars than big country. Parachute and Rifle will welcome the return with enthusiasm, speeches and ticker tape parades, predicting once again the blossoming of the Western Slope. And all of the reasons that it shouldn't be back will also be there once again.

Oh well. There is some hope. The hobbit Bilbo and his brave companions eventually killed Smaug.

— DSW

Interior ignores tribe's special problems

by Marjane Ambler

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe's recent lawsuit that tried to stop the Powder River Basin federal coal lease sale raises several issues that the Interior Department should have addressed long before it attempted to lease the coal near the reservation.

The tribe rightfully pointed out that it will suffer the same impacts of development that neighboring non-Indian communities face, plus some unique problems. But it will get none of the federal or state money designed to ease the strain off the reservation. Nor are the tribal members likely to get many of the jobs.

GUEST EDITORIAL

The Cheyenne also reminded the Interior Department that tribes have no jurisdiction over non-Indians who commit crimes on the reservation. Their jurisdiction over non-Indians who violate civil codes, such as traffic laws or hunting and fishing regulations, is limited. Thus they foresee crises in law administration, a potential that should be obvious to the Interior Department, too.

In court, the federal government made the ridiculous argument that it consciously decided to deal with Indians "simply as people affected by the sale" and their reservation as any other real estate in the sale area. Neither the Indian people nor anyone familiar with their history will be seduced by the argument that by ignoring the Indian tribes' special situation, one is treating them as equals. This rationale has been used too many times to justify attempts to undermine their cultural integrity and to rob them of their land or resources.

The Powder River environmental

impact statement did not even treat them as equals on this limited basis, however. While impacts on non-Indian towns were analyzed thoroughly, reservation towns were not even mentioned. The map of the coal area resembles an attempt at gerrymandering to ignore the reservation.

Federal attorneys argue that the tribe filed no written comments on the environmental statement. But department officials have been hiding their heads in their books for the past 10 years if they were not aware of the tribe's concerns.

Otherwise, they could not have missed the Cheyennes' fight to void coal leases on their own reservation, which proceeded from a formal protest to the department in 1973 to congressional action last winter. Nor could they have missed the tribe's lawsuit to protect its Class I air quality by forcing the utilities building Colstrip 3 and 4 to clean up their stacks.

They also must not have read the 300-page report that the department's own Office of Surface Mining produced in 1979 detailing many of the particular problems that Indian tribes face from coal mining.

In a March letter to Interior Secretary James Watt, the Northern Cheyenne said the tribe would not fight the lease sale if the department agreed to address three issues: mitigation money, reservation law and order, and jobs.

This is not an attempt at obstruction or blackmail. The issues raised are very real problems for any Indian reservation close to coal development, and the Interior Department is the proper agency to face up to them.

+++

Marjane Ambler is a freelance writer specializing in Indian energy development and a former managing editor of *High Country News*.

We just fired our \$9 a week janitor.

Fact is, we had to cut something. And those "somethings" aren't that easy to find in a budget like ours. Once you've cut the major extravagances — the janitor, the accountant, the subscription to the *Wall Street Journal* — you come very quickly to kind of cuts that hurt. Cuts that hurt both people and the quality of our product.

Your tax-deductible donations to the High Country News Research Fund keep us alive. Your contribution of \$25 covers the cost of a "Roundup"; a donation of \$100 buys a medium-length feature; \$550 will cover virtually all of our freelance payments for a month. And any amount will help.



Please send your tax-deductible donations to the High Country News Research Fund, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Thanks.



Church Universal: Prophet's profits

by Don Snow

Camelot! I know it sounds a bit bizarre.
But in Camelot, that's how conditions are.

— Lerner & Lowe

He was born a prophet — Marcus Lyle Prophet — but after his death in 1973, his followers renamed him Lanello, a conjunction of Lancelot and Longfellow. The original church he founded in 1958, Summit Lighthouse, is now called the Church Universal and Triumphant, and its headquarters in Malibu Canyon, California, is known as Camelot. Elizabeth Clare Prophet, now the head of the church, was Marcus' wife. She believes in an earlier existence she was the legendary Guenivere, but to her followers in the here and now, she is simply Mother.

Most residents of the Rockies probably would never have heard of the Church Universal were it not for one of Prophet's penchants — she has invested millions of church dollars in properties adjacent to state and national parks.

Recently, Montanans got an indication of Prophet's fundraising methods when a church foe, Marilyn Maleck, leaked a copy of a church letter to the *Missoulian*. The letter requested a \$1,000 contribution from each member to help pay for a new Inner Retreat near Yellowstone National Park.

Last year the church closed a \$7 million deal with publisher Malcolm Forbes for his 12,000-acre spread near Gardiner, Montana. Montanans were alarmed that Forbes chose to sell his ranch to a California cult, when the Forest Service had long ago expressed interest in the property, which, among other attributes, possesses exceptional wildlife habitat. But Forbes received top dollar for his ranch, renamed the Royal Teton by its new owners, in a deal that includes a \$2.5 million down payment with three installments of \$1.5 million each.

Some nearby residents are not happy with Forbes' good fortune, especially because the publishing magnate overlooked the chance for letting his property become part of the public domain.

"First we had one cult called the Quick Buck Cult. That was Mr. Forbes. Now we have another," said a Yellowstone Valley resident, who noted that Forbes originally purchased the ranch for \$800,000. "They had a right to buy it, but he didn't have to sell it," said the source.

The Nature Conservancy, a non-profit land preservation group, had tried repeatedly to buy the Forbes Ranch to turn it over to the Forest Service, ultimately being repaid by the Land and Water Conservation Fund that Congress established. But when the Reagan administration took over, all hopes of using the fund were dashed.

Bob Kiesling, Montana representative for the Nature Conservancy, explained, "We could have acted as intermediaries if two conditions had been met. First, the appraised value of the land had to satisfy both the Forest Service and Mr. Forbes. Second, the Forest Service had to come up with the funds very shortly after we acquired the ranch. Neither happened."

Kiesling pointed out that Forbes' price of around \$7 million was based on the subdivision potential of the ranch. "Eventually, Forbes appeared prepared to accept an offer of \$6.15 million. Then the government funds got cut," Kiesling said.

Now that news of the church's fundraising appeal has become public, Kiesling is again hopeful that the ranch might eventually be resold in one piece. "In the meantime, the Church Universal is a good interim holder," he said, noting that Forbes probably placed development restrictions in the contract to keep from having the land devalued in the event of default.

"It's hard to tell if the church is speculating," said Kiesling, "but for the time being I doubt if they'll do much with the land."

Royal Teton Ranch manager Ed Francis, who is the church vice president and Elizabeth Clare Prophet's current husband, said, the church has "absolutely no interest in subdividing."

"We are committed to the principle not to subdivide this property. I've been all over the West looking for a retreat. This particular ranch is the ideal property," he said.

But others in Montana say that the church has a record of buying and splitting land. Doug Campbell, a Missoula County tax assessor, recounted his experience with the Church Universal. "They bought a 229-acre ranch on Petty Creek in June, 1975. Before the actual purchase, they applied for tax-exempt status and received it. The very next year after the purchase, they began selling it off," according to Campbell.

"They said they wanted it for a church retreat, but they never used the land. The reason they gave was that the gas shortage and the distance of the retreat from their headquarters made the place unattractive. Now they've bought a ranch that's even farther from the headquarters, so that was a pretty lame excuse. I felt like we'd been taken for a ride," said Campbell.

Campbell acknowledged, however, that after his office complained about the land deal the church paid off a \$200 tax debt that it was not required by law to pay.

Ed Francis denied any ill intentions in the Petty Creek land sale. "After we realized we couldn't use the land as our retreat, we were approached by somebody who wanted to buy a piece," he said. "Then two more wanted about 120 acres jointly. We sold to four people in all. There was absolutely no attempt to defraud the public."

Under Montana subdivision laws, land splits that produce parcels of fewer than 20 acres are subject to review by county planners. Developers complain that the reviews are costly, time-consuming and unnecessary, but environmentalists and health officials say that they are designed to head off problems

with septic systems, soils stability, wildlife habitat invasion and other disruptions. To avoid reviews, developers frequently split large holdings into 20-acre parcels, then use various exemptions in the law to cut the land down even further.

Doug Campbell recalled that the Church Universal sale resulted in extensive splitting of the 229-acre ranch, but Francis denied the allegation. "Some of the people who bought from us split their parcels," he said, "but we didn't sell a piece that was less than 67 acres. We had no intent to subdivide."

Because the Petty Creek property ended up in "10s, 20s and 40s," Campbell believes that officials in Park County, home of the Royal Teton, should approach the church cautiously. But some critics of the church believe that suspicious land deals are the least of the county's worries.

Marilyn Maleck, a California housewife, said the church practices mind control on its members, and among its many victims is her son Bill.

"He was 22 when he got hooked into the church. He was just one course away from getting his engineering degree from U.C. (University of California) Santa Barbara," she said. "We haven't seen him for three years, except occasionally on TV or in the papers."

Maleck said her son, a handsome, articulate 26-year-old, is being used as a public relations man for the church.

"They base their teachings on the I AM movement that was popular in the mid-'30s," she said. "They believe in the Ascended Masters — Buddha, Confucius, Jesus, Pope John XXIII and even Jack Kennedy. Someone serves as a messenger and links the Masters with people living today. For example, Elizabeth gave a 'dictation' claiming that she was the Vicar of Christ."

Maleck said the church also bases many of its teachings on reincarnation theories. "Elizabeth has told some of the members that she was their mother in

(continued on page 12)