

SPECIAL ISSUE

High Country

news

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Sara Hunter-Wiles

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

WESTERN ROUNDUP



High Country News

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Bob Marshall Wilderness

House bans wilderness leasing

The House Interior Committee passed, 34-7, legislation that would prohibit leasing of most minerals within

existing wilderness areas. The bill, sponsored by a bipartisan group of congressmen led by Reps. John Seiberling (D-Ohio) and Manuel Lujan (R-N.M.), is expected to go to the full House by late July. Passage there is anticipated, but tougher going is expected when the bill reaches the Senate.

The committee added two amendments that were of minor significance to western wilderness areas. The law now exempts most hard rock minerals on eastern national forests from coverage by the bill. Minerals prohibited from exploitation in all wilderness areas under the bill are oil, natural gas, oil shale, coal, phosphate, potassium, sulfur, gilsonite and geothermal energy.

In addition, the committee accepted an amendment that permits leasing of minerals in wilderness area if they will be exploited by slant drilling from adjacent lands. No surface occupancy on wilderness acreage would be permitted. The committee defeated an amendment that would have released for development lands not already declared wilderness. Another defeated amendment would have permitted motorized access for the handicapped into wilderness areas.

Because of the bipartisan support and general popularity of the legislation in the House, it is expected to get through the full House without difficulty. However, there is no comparable legislation in the Senate, a development that worries activists. Interior Secretary James Watt, in a letter to Sen. Malcolm Wallop

(R-Wyo.), said that he was imposing a moratorium on leasing until the end of 1982 but, if Congress had not acted by then, he would consider it a mandate to lease.

One source said, "This legislation won't go anywhere in the Senate without the leadership of people like Wallop, who is chairman of the subcommittee that would consider the bill. But he hasn't lifted a finger to do anything about the issue except in the Wyoming Wilderness Bill, and that only covers one state." The Wyoming wilderness legislation, which is supported by the three-man state Republican delegation, would ban leasing and drilling in Wyoming's existing wilderness areas.

A spokesman for Wallop's office said that the senator does not presently have any plans to introduce companion legislation in the Senate, nor is he aware of any other senators who plan to.

Wilderness allies rally for Little Granite

More than 200 protesters braved rain and lightning July 3 to hear Earth First! crusaders tell them why Little Granite Creek in northwest Wyoming is the most crucial front in the war between wilderness protectors and oil and gas developers.

"If we lose on Little Granite, they can put wells in any wilderness in the coun-

Dear friends,

There are worse things than being broke.

Being broke without any ideas is one of them. Being broke with a lot of ideas is another.

At *High Country News*, we're in the latter position. We have unlimited ideas for stories, great people to write them, tremendous opportunities for serving the people of this region, and even some clever new schemes for financing our efforts.

Meanwhile, however, we're flat broke.

As our recent Research Fund ads have indicated, we cut out the "frills" long ago: our \$9-a-week janitor has been fired; our \$89-a-year subscription to the *Wall Street Journal* was dropped and later reinstated by a reader; our extravagant 15-cents-a-mile mileage reimbursement was cut back to 10.

In mid-May, we cut back further. Three of our full-time staff members were put on half-time duty at half-time pay; a fourth agreed to work full-time for half-time wages.

Despite the hardship and uncertainty this pay cut has engendered, morale around the office has been surprisingly good. Individually and collectively, we've reaffirmed our commitment to *High Country News* and the readers we serve. Once again, we've made contact with whatever it is that keeps each of us going and once again we've discovered that it isn't money.

Still, it's unrealistic to think that we can go on like this forever. Staff salaries aside, we don't have the money to pay our printing bills — and lofty ideals go only so far with printers.

Against that rather desperate backdrop, we have conceived a plan.

Like all good and serious plans, this one began with a vision of where we'd like to be. In the best of all possible worlds, *High Country News* would have a paid circulation of around 15,000... at least a third of our expenses would be covered by advertising... flush from that support and an occasional foundation grant, *HCN* reporters would devote their full attention to covering — and uncovering — the most important stories in the region... and readers would be able to enjoy the paper, making one or two tax-deductible contributions a

year, without being constantly badgered for money with threats of the paper's imminent demise.

The challenge of the plan was to develop a means of getting from here to there. And in four far-from-easy steps, the plan does that.

It begins with something we're calling the Publishers Fund. This new fund, which has been designed to complement the Research Fund we use for editorial purposes, will finance with tax-deductible donations (yours!) those necessary efforts that a commercial publication would finance with profits, operating revenues, bank loans or stock sales.

While the Research Fund will continue to subsidize investigative pieces and other in-depth editorial projects, the Publishers Fund will be applied to the business end of the paper, helping us to implement the other three stages of our four-part plan: securing foundation support, building circulation and selling advertising.

The Publishers Fund drive, like our fall Research Fund drive, will be an annual appeal, with specific projects tar-

geted for funding each year. The goal this first year is to raise \$15,000 to cover a shortfall in operating expenses this summer, and another \$5,000 to initiate and follow up on contacts with foundations, and conduct preliminary market research that will lay the groundwork for circulation and advertising expansion.

Can this new plan really work? And will the Publishers Fund really generate enough money to get it off the ground?

The response so far has been quite encouraging: an extremely generous \$5,000 gift from the person we asked to be our kick-off donor... an especially moving gift from a former staff member... an exciting gift of two valuable art objects from a couple short on cash and long on a desire to help *High Country News*.

Elsewhere in this issue, we're offering you an opportunity to contribute to this campaign and, in effect, become a publisher of *High Country News*. In a non-profit, reader-supported enterprise like our own, our readers are not only our dear friends, but are, quite literally, our publishers, as well.

Things are a little scary around here right now, but our optimism about the future is sincere. Once again, we're counting on you.

— the staff

1982 INCOME \$113,852

OTHER \$6,487	6%
ADVERTISING \$11,700	10%
GRANTS \$12,400	11%
PUBLISHERS FUND \$15,000	13%
RESEARCH FUND \$20,250	18%
SUBSCRIPTIONS \$48,015	42%

1982 EXPENSES \$113,852

EDITORIAL \$51,478	45%
PRODUCTION \$31,370	28%
OVERHEAD \$17,024	15%
CIRCULATION \$13,980	12%

try....If we're from Nevada or Pennsylvania or New Mexico or Oregon, we must fight here," said Dave Foreman, a founder of Earth First!, a radical national conservation group.

Howie Wolke, an officer of Earth First! and the Wyoming Wilderness Association, said Little Granite Creek is in one of the largest unprotected wilderness study areas in the lower 48 states.

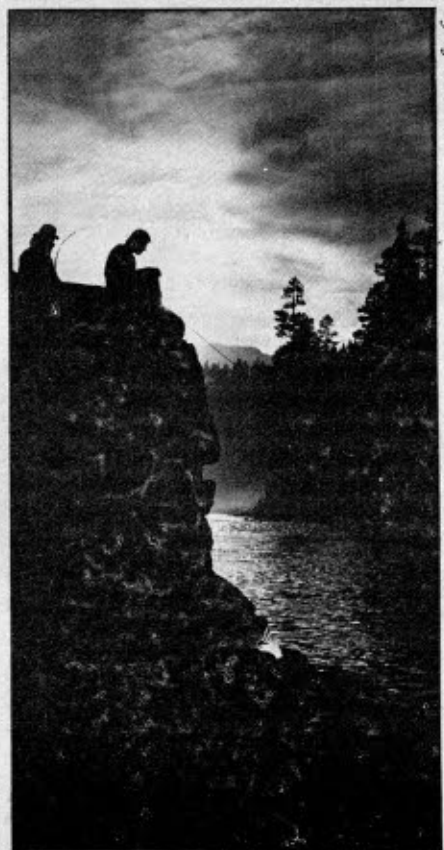
Foreman encouraged the participants in the rally at the development site to return to block bulldozers if Getty Oil starts to build a road. Getty has received the necessary federal permits but is waiting for a permit from the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. The commission has scheduled a hearing August 4. While it has never refused a permit for environmental reasons before, a vote against Getty is considered possible since Gov. Ed Herschler (D), who heads the commission, has already objected to Getty's plans (HCN, 6/11/82).

Wolke said he supports the efforts of the Wyoming Wilderness Association, the Sierra Club and the Jackson Hole Alliance to block the development through official channels. The groups have appealed to the Interior Department, the U.S. Minerals Management Service and the Forest Service and plan to file an injunction if necessary to stop the road building. However, if such formal protests fail, Earth First! plans civil disobedience.

Meanwhile, survey stakes were removed from Getty's lease, and Getty says it will cost the company \$5,000 to resurvey. None of the speakers claimed to know who was responsible for that vandalism. Bart Kochler of Earth First! said that, as a condition of its permit to hold the rally, the organization had to announce it did not condone such actions. Foreman suggested that some ravens might have hauled off the stakes.

Edward Abbey, whose book *The Monkeys Wrench Gang* is a how-to manual for ecotage (ecologically motivated sabotage), said at the rally that he never advocated such tactics — "except after dark."

— Marjane Ambler



Placer mining toxic to trout streams

A proposed 1,000-acre placer gold mine in southwestern Montana could cause a high concentration of toxic metals in the Beaverhead River, one of Montana's blue ribbon trout streams.

Golden Rule Mining has proposed one of Montana's largest placer mine operations in recent years for Grass-

hopper Creek, a tributary of the Beaverhead.

Dick Pedersen of Montana's Water Quality Bureau said the operation, near the historic mining district of Bannack, may require an environmental impact statement because of its magnitude. Most placer applications are for less than 100 acres.

The project would involve digging cuts up to 40 feet deep and could release such heavy metals as arsenic, copper, mercury, lead, zinc and cadmium into the Beaverhead. Pedersen said the pollution could be exacerbated by the fact that Grasshopper Creek was heavily mined in the late 1800s and high concentrations of metals that have settled could be disturbed.

According to Pedersen, the effects on the Beaverhead have yet to be determined, but he said toxic metals can accumulate in fish and become toxic to humans.

"We're trying to determine exactly what will happen," Pedersen said. "We need a lot more data." The operation would remove 10 million to 15 million pounds of gravel over a 15-year period.

The application for the mine was returned to Roy Moen of Virginia City, a spokesman for the company, because it lacked information necessary for granting the permit. Pedersen said Golden Rule is currently re-evaluating its application and will probably re-apply.

— Jim Robbins

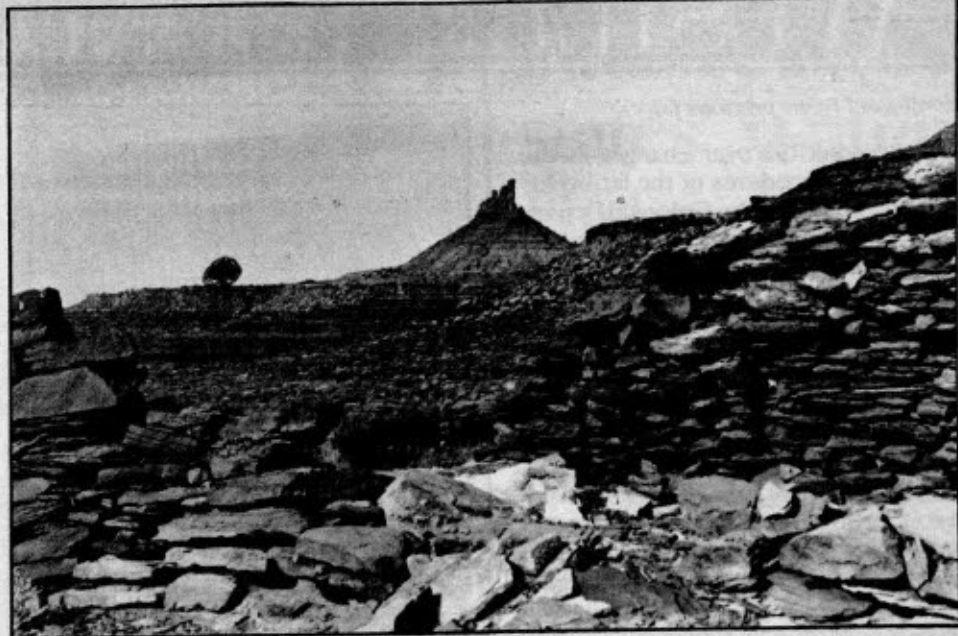
Cultural study done with tunnel vision

The Bureau of Land Management has said the environmental assessment prepared by the Department of Energy in connection with the proposed nuclear waste repository near Canyonlands National Park does not address important archaeological problems (HCN, 2/19/82).

BLM archaeologist Charles Cartwright said the main problems relating to the EA are in archaeological survey. Cartwright said, "The original survey was very inadequate, as far as I am concerned. It looks like it was done with blinders on. We are very displeased also with the language used in the EA. One section stated, 'There are no archaeological, cultural or historical sites near any of the bore holes or any of the access roads.' I am not sure what they mean by 'near.' In my opinion if they can see an archaeological site from the area in question they should record it, but they went through the survey with tunnel vision. We just won't allow that."

Cartwright also will recommend that many areas be resurveyed to include sites recorded by the public but missed by the survey conducted by Nickins and Associates. Cartwright pointed out that one site is an Anasazi village recorded by the Utah Chapter of the American Rock Art Research Association. The information was subsequently sent to the BLM by Steven Manning from North Salt Lake.

"The ruins are located about one mile from the primary borehole and they include two archaeoastronomy sites," said Manning. "These are sun watching stations, or buildings constructed to view the sunset at winter solstice, and the other to view sunrise at winter solstice." Manning said the lives of the prehistoric Indians were guided, and time measured, by the rising and setting of the sun. He said, "The Hopi Indians of Arizona have a Sun Chief who is responsible for controlling the path of the sun. When the sun reaches its farthest point south the Sun Chief has to bring it back north again so summer will return and crops can be planted for the next year. It was this southern point that occurs in December that the Anasazi were recording from the two ruins located by our group," Manning said.



Ancient Anasazi wall one and a half miles from proposed nuclear waste dump site

One point that the BLM archaeologist felt should be covered is that of secondary impact. Cartwright said the construction of the waste dump will result in increased usage of the area by the construction workers and the employees of the plant. Cartwright said, "We want to know what effect the vibrations caused by the large equipment that will be brought in to dig the holes and grade the roads will have. We also want to know what effect the seismic lines will have on cultural resources."

To help lessen the secondary impact to the ruins and rock art of the area Cartwright will propose that indoctrination classes be held for the work crews to educate them to the importance of the archaeology located in the area. "We cannot stop the drilling in Davis Canyon," Cartwright said about the possibilities of the plant being built. "But I will monitor the activities during and after the drilling and force the DOE to comply with the items that we will recommend." Test drilling is scheduled for both Davis and Lavender Canyons near Canyonlands.

Drilling for the test holes was scheduled to begin in May but will not begin before July to allow the BLM time to complete their comments and send them to the DOE.

— Layne Miller

Running out of chances for dump site

Concerned Citizens of Eastern Colorado (CCEC), a group formed to oppose the location of a hazardous waste dump near Last Chance, held a barbecue recently to celebrate the Adams County Commissioners' unanimous decision to reject a proposed dump site in their area. Even though the site was approved by the Colorado Department of Health, Adams County officials maintained that the dump was a potential threat to public safety and ground-

water, and that its location in the middle of agricultural lands would be inconsistent with local land use policies. The board denied the Browning-Ferris Industries application to locate a clay-lined disposal pit on a 1,280 acre site, which would have eventually held 48 million gallons of hazardous materials. On June 28, Browning-Ferris announced it would request a new hearing with the Adams County Commissioners.

Hazardous waste disposal is regulated by Colorado's state siting act. Corrosive, ignitable, reactive and toxic by-products are produced by a number of industries along the Front Range, including oil, pharmaceutical, photographic, computer, pesticide, and beer manufacturers. "Industry is caught in a corner," said O.L. Webb, director of environmental affairs for the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry. "Due to the high diversity of wastes involved, disposal can be done more efficiently and most economically if done collectively. Industry can't afford anything less than using a safe, approved site. The penalties and dangers are too severe."

With the Last Chance location now unavailable, another smaller dump site in Lincoln County, six miles east of Limon, is being investigated by Chem-Security Systems of Bellevue, Washington. But that site is more than a year away from formal consideration, and the only dump site in Colorado is the Lowry Landfill just southeast of Denver. Located on an abandoned bombing range, Lowry is owned by the city and county of Denver and operated by Chemical Waste Management, Inc.

Citizens of nearby Aurora, concerned over groundwater pollution from old storage drums, convinced Arapahoe County to close Lowry 18 months ago. However, dumping continued while the Colorado Supreme Court ruled on the decision. The Court decided in June that Arapahoe County had acted improperly by failing to give proper notice that Lowry might be closed. But, the Court added, Arapahoe County does

(continued on next page)

BARBED WIRE

Very appropriate technology. The new government building housing the Defense Intelligence Agency near Washington, D.C. will use waste paper to help heat the building.

Watched pot. Torrington, Wyoming, police seized marijuana plants growing in large flower pots donated for downtown beautification program by a local garden club. The club was called the Grassroots Garden Club.

Understatement of the week. A "Note to Editors" from the Tennessee Valley Authority said, "We thought you might like to have this background paper for your files, since the supply and cost of fuel for nuclear power plants is likely to be in the news from time to time."

Just because the Equal Rights Amendment's dead, they think they can say anything. The Casper (Wyo.) *Star-Tribune* ran this headline about a female candidate for the post of Natrona County sheriff: "Housewife will clean up sheriff's office."

Nobody appreciates the rocket's red glare anymore. A Townsend, Montana, man tried to market recreational homesites near the town, only to find that his proposed subdivision was in the middle of a National Guard war games area. He told the Associated Press that he "sold one lot to somebody who liked to watch howitzers," but gave up trying to sell the rest. He sued the state for damages, but lost in the Montana Supreme Court.

WESTERN ROUNDUP

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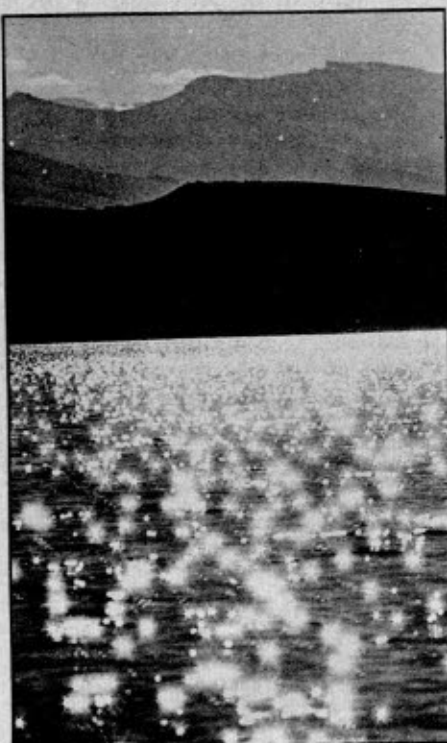
have jurisdiction over changes in the operating procedures of the facility.

Chris Sutton of the Colorado Department of Health explained that generators of hazardous wastes may store the materials on their operating site for 90 days and sometimes longer by applying to the Environmental Protection Agency. Incineration of wastes or transportation to other locations are also alternatives. However, the dump nearest to Colorado, located in Wichita, Kansas, closed in January due to groundwater contamination. The nearest dumps now are at Twin Falls, Idaho and Beatty, Nevada.

The Colorado Waste Exchange, modeled after the successful 12-year-old St. Louis, Missouri, program, was begun by the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry in October, 1981. Substances available and desired are listed in a quarterly bulletin. These hazardous waste want-ads have proven successful for many companies that otherwise might throw away materials.

Still, a certain amount of hazardous materials cannot be incinerated, used by other manufacturers or transformed into harmless substances. Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm (D) has maintained that control over hazardous waste dumps should remain in local hands. Adams County Commissioners firmly stated in their Last Chance ruling that the state siting act is too weak and should be redone. Pete Fogg, land use consultant with Porreca and Associates in Boulder, who advised Concerned Citizens of Eastern Colorado, agreed. "We're not obstructionists, but if land disposal is still a necessity, it should not be left up to the private sector operating under loose guidelines — and the decision should not be put on the shoulders of local government. It's important to remember that if hazardous waste dumps are a liability to all the state, then the whole state should take a strong stance in locating and controlling new sites."

— Deidre Duncan



States water rights evaporate

Western states received a severe blow to their authority over water rights when the Supreme Court recently ruled that states do not have the right to ban transportation of groundwater across state boundaries.

In a precedent-setting decision, the Supreme Court overruled a Nebraska judge who had upheld the state's law over the border to Nebraska. The two farmers had been pumping groundwater to irrigate their Colorado fields for several years, but in 1977, Nebraska officials sued to stop them (HCN, 2/19/82). The state of Colorado supported the Nebraska officials.

Both Colorado and Nebraska, as well as many other western states, have strict rules prohibiting the transportation of groundwater over state lines. The Supreme Court ruling declared groundwater an article of commerce and therefore subject to federal regulation. The possibility of such regulation is something western states have always ferociously opposed.

Jeris Danielson, Colorado state engineer, said the decision was a blow to the protective right to control state water, but not a fatal blow.

"Colorado will have to make changes (in water law)," Danielson said. "Currently we have an absolute banning of groundwater transportation."

He did say it would be possible for the state legislature to design water laws making transportation of groundwater within the state more restrictive, thereby making it easier to place stringent restrictions on interstate transportation. Another case currently in federal district court with similar circumstances, involves the city of El Paso, Texas, and the state of New Mexico. El Paso sued New Mexico, saying New Mexico's refusal to allow the city to drill wells over the border for municipal needs was unconstitutional (HCN, 2/19/82). New Mexico contended it has the right to control the export of water and that such a move would be illegal because of the Rio Grande Compact through which the river's water is apportioned to Colorado, Texas and New Mexico.

It is that compact that makes this case different from the Nebraska case and gives New Mexico the advantage, according to Richard Simms, general counsel for the New Mexico state engineer. He said the compact, which divided the surface water of the Rio Grande River in 1938, was agreed upon by the states involved and he maintained that Texas cannot now ask for more.

Simms said another distinction in the two cases is that Nebraska and New Mexico are very different in terms of

climate and available water. He said other rulings on transport cases would be determined on an ad hoc basis and would look at the particular state's need for water. New Mexico is a much more arid place than Nebraska and water needs are greater there.

He also said the Supreme Court did not rule all states' anti-transport statutes unconstitutional — only Nebraska's.

However, Colorado and Nebraska officials are still worried that the decision could create a rush on interstate transportation of water.



Lava Falls, Grand Canyon

Surf 's up on the Colorado

In a late May demonstration test, Bureau of Reclamation officials witnessed the on-site implications of their controversial proposals to increase the range of daily releases from Glen Canyon Dam into the Colorado River.

The Bureau is planning to rewind the eight generators at the dam to increase the generating capacity by 200 meg-

HOTLINE

CLEARING THE AIR

Front Range cities in Colorado may receive a blast of clean air if a plan aimed at cleaning the air by 1987 is accepted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The clean air plan was devised by state, regional and local governments under the 1977 amendments to the federal Clean Air Act. The plan proposes expanding the emissions inspection program, encouraging and possibly requiring ride-sharing, increasing the number of Regional Transportation District Park and Ride facilities and building a light rail transportation system for the Denver metropolitan area (HCN, 6/25/82). Less intensive measures were outlined for Colorado Springs, Greeley and Ft. Collins.

POLICE FEAR VANDALISM

New Mexico state police agent Roger Payne is wondering if opponents of mining in northwestern New Mexico might resort to vandalism to halt coal mine development. Payne appeared incognito at several federal hearings on coal leasing and is interested in four environmentalists who opposed plans for large-scale mining in the San Juan Basin. Two are Sierra Club representatives, one a representative of the Committee on Coal and the fourth is a Southwest Research and Information Center representative. The Sierra Club is drafting a letter of concern to the state police. Payne, who works in Farmington, refused to comment if an investigation was underway. Richard Watts of the BLM's Farmington office told the *Gallup Independent* that the four did not present a threat to the operation.

MOTION FILED ON KOOTENAI DAM

A group of environmental organizations and Indian tribes opposing the Kootenai Falls Dam in Montana have filed a motion with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission charging that the dam would reduce trout populations in the Kootenai River by 47 to 63 percent and could exterminate Montana's last remaining population of white sturgeon. As matters now stand, these charges would be reviewed in September, a month after the public hearing on the whole dam licensing question. The motion seeks to halt those proceedings, claiming that the schedule is in violation of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Planning and Conservation Act and federal regulations.

CASH FOR GAS

In an effort to convince customers to convert from electric heat to natural gas, Idaho's Intermountain Gas Company has suggested that Idaho Power Company offer cash incentives for the conversion. However, Idaho Power doesn't like the idea and claims such conversions would not remain economical for customers if natural gas prices rise. Washington Water Power Company, which provides both gas and electric service to northern Idaho, has proposed paying homeowners \$500 for installing gas heating equipment in new homes. For existing homes, there would be a \$200 incentive to convert. That company told the *Idaho Statesman*, the program is lower than the cost of expanding its electricity system to serve new customers.



Sequoyah Nuclear Plant near Chattanooga, Tennessee

ONE IN A THOUSAND

A new study by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory has concluded that the likelihood of a major accident occurring at a nuclear power plant is once in every 1,000 years. According to a New York Times News Service story, with 74 operating nuclear plants in the country, the nation gains 1,000 years of reactor operating experience every 13 and a half years. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission had recently set a safety goal of one accident in 10,000 years — or 10 times the safety level estimated by the new study. The study was based on a survey of 19,400 failures at nuclear plants from 1969 through 1979; 169 of those incidents were identified as being potential contributors to serious accidents.

OIL SHALE DELAY

The sole surviving active company in oil shale on the Colorado Western Slope has added another blow to the area's

industry. Union Oil Company of California had announced that they would move ahead on schedule for planned expansion near Parachute despite Exxon Corporation's shutdown of the billion dollar Colony project (HCN, 5/14/82). But now, Diana Bender, a spokeswoman for Union, said there will be a delay of 6 to 12 months. Further studies are needed to obtain a permit for expansion of the facility.

GAS SPILL POLLUTES STREAM

A ruptured pipeline owned by Conoco, Inc., situated beneath LaValle Creek in Missoula, Montana, spilled thousands of gallons of gasoline into the stream. Jim Ford of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department told the *Missoulian* that the spill is responsible for "killing all the fish" and other aquatic life in the stream. He said it might take up to a year before fish will return. Gas vapors were present for more than a day forc-

awatts. In addition, they hope to generate more electrical power at periods of peak demand which would necessitate a change in the existing pattern of releases. Since the total amount of water that may be released annually is fixed by law, higher peak releases infer longer periods of low, occasionally very low, releases.

In an unprecedented river trip, BuRec officials were escorted down the Colorado by National Park Service river rangers. During the trip an exaggerated flow regime was released from Glen Canyon Dam. The test flow was designed to model expected daily fluctuations if the proposed uprating and peak power proposals are implemented. The Park Service believes that such gross distortions in daily levels of the river would negatively affect canyon floor vegetation, aquatic ecology and beach stability, and could endanger the 12,000 people who float the river each year.

"One of the primary purposes of the test was to graphically demonstrate to BuRec brass that there are specific hazards associated with high and low water extremes," said Canyon District Ranger Larry Van Slyke. "We can talk ourselves blue in the face about the hazards of Horn Creek at 3,000 cubic feet per second, but a picture is worth a thousand words."

The bureau argues that the extremes in daily releases will be dampened or "attenuated" by the distance the water must flow in the canyon before it arrives at any given point downstream. BuRec also contends their studies have concluded that greater extremes than those now authorized will have no significant impact on the canyon floor ecology or on the whitewater industry.

"What you saw during May was a worst-case scenario," said bureau official Arlo Allen, who was on the trip. "We held the flows down for a long time so that they would reach Horn Creek unimpeded."

Allen and other BuRec officials along with National Park Service Director Chapman had to wait at Horn for four hours before they decided they had enough water to safely run the rapid. Horn Creek is among a handful of rapids

that are recognized by experienced boatmen as particularly dangerous at extreme low water. "Horn is an evil place," said one boatman. "It's dark and gloomy, and all you've got is a very sketchy and dangerous route down the right."

Grand Canyon park rangers are also concerned about the possible erosion of the canyon's scattered beaches that now serve as the only campsites. They believe high water extremes will quickly erode beaches that low water phases won't replace. In a crowded canyon where campsites are extremely scarce the implications of gradual and irreversible destruction of the beaches are ominous.

The mutual sparring between the two agencies continues. For their part of the lobbying do-si-do BuRec flew Grand Canyon officials to Montrose, Colorado to observe what their operation entails. Meanwhile the draft environmental analysis prepared by the BuRec is under review. A final report should be issued later this summer.

— James Udall



Pumping perils pupfish

A proposed 17,000-acre development in the heart of Ash Meadows, Nevada on the California border threatens

what at least one scientist has dubbed, "the most dramatic living example of rapid and episodic evolution" — the Devil's Hole pupfish. Dr. James Deacon of the University of Nevada has called pupfish, of which there are five species in the Death Valley region, "the Darwin finches of the desert," referring to the birds on the Galapagos Islands which Darwin studied for their divergent evolutionary developments which depended on the types of food available to them.

The Devil's Hole pupfish evolved over 50,000 years into a distinct species in an isolated 92 degree, spring-fed pool at Devil's Hole cavern. It gets its name from its frisky, tail-wagging style of swimming, and could almost be classified as a new genus, according to Johns Hopkins University Professor Dr. Steven Stanley, and its population ranges from 200 in winter to 600 in summer.

According to Fish & Wildlife Service staffers Jack Williams and Gail Kobetch, the pupfish is not the only unique aspect of the 40,000-acre, spring-abundant Ash Meadows region. There are nearly 30 plants and animals which are found only in Ash Meadows. The area has long been the focus of scientific and environmental protection efforts.

The residential, commercial and industrial development planned by Preferred Equities Corporation for Ash Meadows would create a desert city of 76,000 people with water needs exceeding 51,000 acre-feet a year. According to Cynthia Williams, author of a report submitted to Nevada Attorney General Richard Bryan in May, the discharge of all 30 springs in Ash Meadows equals 17,000 acre-feet a year. Moreover, according to the Nevada State Engineer's Office, certified water rights in the Amargosa drainage basin, of which Ash Meadows is a part, exceeds the total recharge by some 300 percent. "The crux of the matter is the water issue," noted the FWS's Jack Williams.

In an effort to meet water needs, Preferred Equities is planning to construct three reservoirs with a combined storage capacity of 23,000 acre-feet which would be filled over a period of time by spring discharges. However, even if the reservoirs were filled to capacity and spring discharges of 17,000 acre-feet a year were added to supplies, there still would not be enough water to meet the needs of the city, according to author Cynthia Williams. The developer would then have to bring in surface water from outside the basin or begin pumping groundwater — an unlikely possibility in light of a 1976 Supreme Court decision upholding the Park Service's right to protect the Devil's Hole pupfish by restricting groundwater withdrawals.

When the Department of the Interior won its case, the 12,000-acre Spring Meadows Ranch which had originally sought to pump out the water claimed that it could no longer farm the land economically, and offered to sell the property to the Fish & Wildlife Service. The Service refused; but Preferred Equities did not, acquiring an additional 5,000 acres over the next five years.

The government's case for protecting the pupfish and Ash Meadows in general has been strengthened recently as a result of an emergency listing of an additional two fish on the endangered species list — the Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish and the Ash Meadows Speckled Dace. The Devil's Hole and Warm Springs pupfish acquired endangered species status in the late 1960s and mid-1970s respectively.

As a result of the designations, Preferred Equities has entered into negotiations with the Fish & Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management, owner of much of the property around the proposed development, to discuss the effects of the project on the aquatic environment and the corporation's interest in trading land in Ash Meadows for BLM acreage around Las Vegas. These discussions are now ongoing and land sales which were intended to get underway in July have been suspended by the corporation.

— V.M. Kahn

Feds restore states' water authority

The new U.S. water policy recently promulgated by Attorney General William French Smith has gladdened the hearts of many state officials, ranchers, developers and other water-user groups in the West. The new policy reverses a Carter administration ruling.

Under the new policy, federal agencies are limited to water rights as determined by state law, unless Congress overrules state water law. Dick MacRavey, executive director of the Colorado Water Congress, said the policy "appears along the general lines that this organization has been seeking."

MacRavey is reserving further comment until he can study the 80-page legal opinion released by the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

The previous policy, as issued by Interior Department Solicitor Leo Krulitz in 1979, stated that federal agencies could claim unappropriated water on federal land unless Congress specifically gave state law supremacy.

Craig Bell of the Western States Water Council said that agencies have not claimed unappropriated water in the West. Bell is the executive director of the council, which was established by the governors of 12 western states, to study water policy issues.

The Carter policy created a "basis for federal agencies to circumvent state water laws" and provided additional means for agencies to obtain water without complying with state laws, he said.

The Carter policy was resisted by western states and had not been implemented in the West. Western states were anxious to see a policy change come about under the Reagan administration because they feared the time would come when agencies would assert their rights over state law, Bell said. He told the *Denver Post* that federal agencies have access to water under the traditional doctrine of reserved rights and don't need other methods.

Bell said the policy's shortcoming is that it "doesn't fully recognize traditional congressional deference to state water law."

The National Wildlife Federation is preparing a lawsuit to block Smith's new policy. Christopher Meyer, attorney for the organization, said the ruling is a "complete abdication of federal responsibility to protect wildlife."

Studies had been done to determine how much water was necessary for fish and wildlife in the region. After determining the amount of water needed, federal agencies would appropriate the specified amount in order to set it aside for fish and wildlife purposes. In this way, other water-users would be prevented from appropriating water needed for the survival of the wildlife. The process of appropriating water for wildlife use had just begun when the administration changed, he said.

There is a fear, he said, that the water determined essential for fish and wildlife survival will be rapidly appropriated under the new policy, possibly drying up streams so they will no longer support fish and wildlife.

Noting that Smith had stated that "the nightmare is over" for the Western states with the new policy, Meyer said, "It's the beginning of the nightmare for the fish and wildlife that depend on protection" by federal agencies for survival.

Dave Conrad, a water resource and public land specialist with Friends of the Earth, said western states would appropriate waters left in-stream as allowed by state law. He added that he doubted the current administration "will follow through for preserving water for in-stream flow."

— Jennifer Walford



IDAHO NONGAME WILDLIFE

Idaho is joining more than 30 other states in the management of nongame wildlife. The Department of Fish and Game is initiating a program of managing some 280 species of wildlife in Idaho that are not hunted or trapped. Programs discussed include enhancement of mountain bluebird (the state bird) populations, a rehabilitation station for birds of prey, nesting platforms for osprey, photographic blinds and nature trails. Most of the funding is expected to result from the nongame tax checkoff, a voluntary contribution system on state income tax returns. Tax-deductible contributions can also be made. Officials estimate contributions could range from \$48,000 to twice that much in the first year.

OSM REVISIONS CONTINUE

The Office of Surface Mining has recently proposed more coal mining regulation changes in its ongoing revision of regulations. One proposed change would make it easier to claim valid existing rights to coal on federal lands — in wilderness areas, for example, — where mining is usually banned. Such rights are valid if the operator had the necessary mining permits before the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act went into effect in 1977. The other proposal would make it more difficult to have land declared unsuitable for coal mining. Currently, anyone who would be affected by the operation can attempt to ban a mining proposal. The proposal asks that the petitioner have a "property interest" before submitting a petition.

ing some residents to evacuate. The 10-inch pipeline, located west of the Missoula County Airport, had a three-eighths of an inch by five and one-half inch crack. It was estimated that 1,200 barrels of gas, about 50,400 gallons, spilled from the pipeline. The spill was siphoned off by cleanup crews.

STRIKE FOR THE RIDE

Denver's already problem-ridden Regional Transportation District may have a strike if it cannot agree to terms for a new contract with the Amalgamated Transit Union. The union's contract expired in April and negotiations over wage increases are the stumbling point for the two sides. Kathy Joyce, RTD's manager of communications, said the district's proposal calls for no salary increases. She said with RTD's troubled financial status, it cannot guarantee cost-of-living increases (HCN, 6/25/82). The union is planning to strike if a contract is not accepted by July 12. It would be the first strike against RTD.

Reagan budget foresakes appropriate tech for nukes

by Carol Jones

Shortly after Ronald Reagan took office he made it clear that alternative energy and conservation would not be part of his energy policy. He said solar technologies are not viable alternatives to oil, coal or nuclear power. He followed up those statements by proposing major reductions in renewable energy budgets while maintaining budgets, credits and subsidies to coal, oil and gas, and nuclear power.

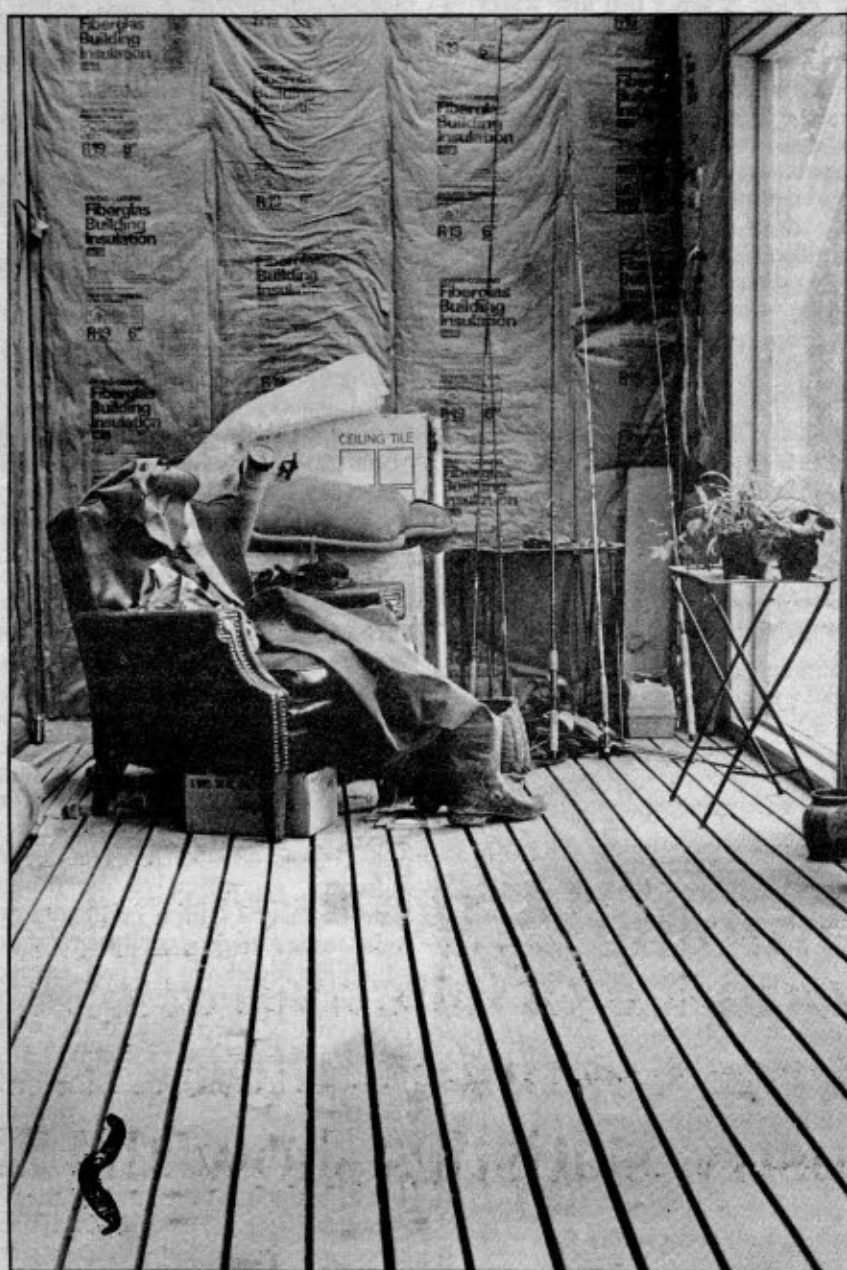
However, the public was not with him. Americans have been and are conserving. Utilities have lowered their demand forecasts and have, in turn, killed many new or partially constructed energy projects.

Oil and gas exploration is down and the market for coal and synthetic fuels is soft. One well-known example of this slump is Exxon Corporation's recent shutdown of its billion dollar oil shale project in western Colorado (HCN, 5/14/82).

There are no new nuclear plants on the boards at all and construction of planned plants has come to a complete halt. The mothballing of two and possibly three of the Washington Public Power Supply System's (WPPSS) five proposed nuclear power plants in the Northwest is only the most dramatic example of the rapid downswing of the nuclear industry. There is little demand for the power and WPPSS is frantically trying to bail itself out from the projects' enormous costs.

But while energy demand is lower than a few years ago, costs are higher. Capital and operating costs, along with inflation, have soared and utility bills reflect the escalation. Consumers have responded by conserving — weatherizing their homes and looking seriously at the long-term savings of solar and other renewable energy sources. Studies by the Solar Energy Research Institute, National Academy of Sciences, the Mellon Institute's Energy Productivity Center, the Harvard Business School and others show that by the year 2000, conservation could reduce energy consumption below what it is today, without hindering economic progress.

While conservation and renewable



"We need diverse, broad options in energy, but Reagan thinks solar is exotic."

— Scott Sklar, Solar Lobby

energy resources are possible long-term solutions to rising energy costs, Scott Sklar, political director of the Solar Lobby, said incentives are still needed to help people make the move from conventional energy to alternatives.

The Reagan administration contends that the savings made by conserving plus the current federal income tax credits available for conservation efforts and installation of solar systems are incentive enough. But Sklar doesn't buy that. "Most people can afford small weatherization projects like insulation, caulking and weatherstripping without (tax credit) incentives," he said. "But there are not many who have the capital or savings to install effective solar systems. It's like I know I could get a more energy-efficient car today, but I don't have the \$6,000 to purchase it."

Income tax credit incentives do exist at both the federal and state levels. Since 1980 and until 1985, individuals can claim 40 percent of expenditures up to the first \$10,000 spent on solar, wind or geothermal energy systems. There is a 15 percent tax credit on weatherization for the first \$2,000 spent. Those incentives are not threa-

tened by the Reagan administration.

There are also a number of business tax credits available: a 15 percent tax credit for solar, wind, geothermal and ocean thermal systems; an 11 percent credit for small-scale hydro systems; and a 10 percent credit for biomass combustion and fuel producing energy systems (alcohol fuels). There are also two different tax credits on a per-gallon basis for the use of blended or straight alcohol fuels. These business incentives were a target of the Reagan cutbacks, but Sklar said both the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee sent letters to the White House supporting the incentives. The administration dropped its efforts to repeal them.

All of the Rocky Mountain states except Wyoming offer income tax credit incentives (Wyoming has no state income tax). The state credits are in addition to federal credits.

According to the Colorado Department of Revenue, Coloradoans may take a 20 percent tax credit on the first \$1,000 spent for energy conservation measures. They may also take a 30 percent credit on the first \$10,000 spent for installation of solar, wind or geothermal systems. There are similar credits for businesses.

In Utah, individuals may take a 10 percent credit on the first \$10,000 spent on solar, wind or hydro power systems.

In Idaho, there is a 40 percent first-year credit for installation of solar, wind, geothermal, wood stoves, and fluid to air heat pumps and all conservation measures. For the next three succeeding years, there is a 20 percent credit. In all four years, the credit extends to the first \$5,000 spent.

Montana has a tax credit of five percent on the first \$1,000 spent and a two and one-half percent credit on the next \$3,000 spent for installation of solar, wind, geothermal and small hydro systems. For conservation measures, the credit is 15 percent, not to exceed \$150. There is also a 10 percent property tax exemption over a 10 year period for single families for up to \$20,000 of the system's appraised value. Higher credits are allowed for businesses.

Even though these federal and state tax credits are relatively safe until 1985, it is clear these incentives are as far as the Reagan administration wants to go in promoting conservation and alternative energy.

The administration's 1982 and 1983 proposed budget for the Department of Energy clearly shows the priorities, explained Russell Collier, DOE's chief of conservation, solar programs and support branch. Of the total \$13 billion 1982 budget for DOE, only \$286 million was appropriated for solar development, \$75 million more than Reagan had requested and \$307 million less than the Carter administration recommended. Moreover, it was a substantial drop from the 1981 budget of \$548 million. And Reagan's 1983 request for solar development is a mere \$72 million.

Collier said the cuts in energy conservation are similar. In 1981, under the Carter administration, energy conservation had a budget of \$709 million. Carter recommended a 1982 budget of \$922 million, while Reagan requested only \$195 million. Congress compromised and appropriated \$386 million. Reagan's request for 1983 is a drastic \$21 million, a cut that Collier said would surely jeopardize state and local programs for weatherization and energy extension service among others. It would clearly make DOE resort to a "fundamental research and development" effort only, Collier said. However, he added that he doesn't think Congress will agree to such a cut in the conservation budget and suspects it will appropriate much more than Reagan's proposal.

In contrast, Collier said atomic defense was appropriated \$4 billion or nearly one-third of the 1982 budget. The 1981 budget was for about \$3 billion and Reagan has requested a \$5 billion budget for 1983.

The fossil energy budget, which includes coal, oil and gas, has also declined since the Carter administration. The 1981 budget was \$662 million, \$432 million was appropriated in 1982 and Reagan has requested \$104 million for 1983. Collier attributed the decrease in that budget as well as the conservation and solar budgets to Reagan's preference for nuclear development.

Another big chunk of DOE's budget goes to strategic petroleum reserves. This program, which was appropriated \$3.3 billion for both oil acquisition and facility construction in 1981, received a

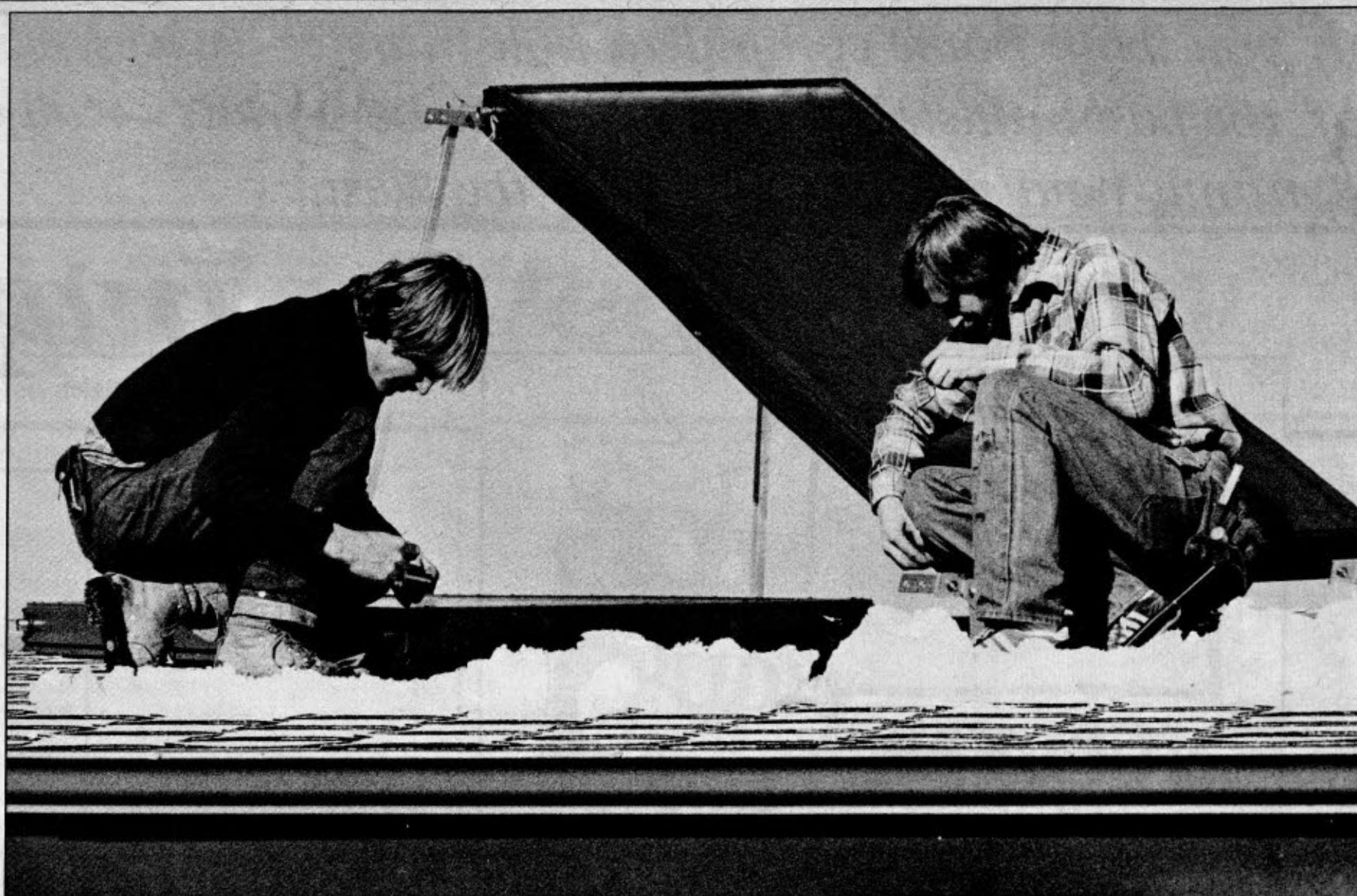


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Kent and Donna Danner

Installing a solar hot water heater

Despite these efforts by the Reagan administration to suppress the importance of alternative energy sources and conservation, and the continued efforts to support an almost dead nuclear industry, statistics show the alternatives are slowly growing.

total of \$3.9 billion in 1982. The 1983 request is for \$2.3 billion, slightly less because capacity limitations will force a smaller purchase of oil. The reserves are stored in salt domes in Louisiana and Texas.

Such drastic proposed cuts in conservation solar budgets and the fact that the Reagan administration has proposed to completely phase out DOE are two signs of the administration's indifferent attitude toward conservation, Sklar said. "Yet public opinion polls show 76 percent of the people support solar above all other types of energy," he said. "And there is strong bipartisan support in Congress. The president is out of touch with his Republican leaders on this issue."

"This administration has an unbalanced view of energy. Nuclear plants are just not economical today. Even if all regulations were cut, no one would build nuke plants anyway. We need diverse, broad options in energy, but Reagan thinks solar is exotic."

Another effort by the Reagan administration to de-emphasize energy conservation is evidenced in the attempts to eliminate the Solar Energy and Energy Conservation Bank. The bank was created in 1980 under the Carter administration as part of the Energy Securities Act to provide loans and grants for installation of solar systems and for conservation measures. It was designed to especially help lower income groups who could not take advantage of tax credits.

At its creation, \$3 billion was authorized. However, when Reagan's administration took over, it asked that the bank not be activated. Congress appropriated nearly \$22 million last year any-

way and the administration responded by asking that the funds be rescinded. A group of conservation organizations, cities, individuals, members of Congress, financial institutions and builders filed suit against the administration in April to force the enactment of the bank. On June 29, 1982, the Reagan administration was ordered to put the bank into operation by August 30.

Another obvious attempt to smother the case for conservation and alternative energy was the administration's effort to keep secret a report on the economics and feasibility of conservation and alternatives by the Solar Energy Research Institute in Golden, Colorado. SERI was told not to publish "A New Prosperity, Building a Sustainable Energy Future," a study which clearly shows the impressive mark conservation and solar can make on our future energy needs. According to the report, by the year 2000, 20 to 30 percent of the nation's energy needs could be met by renewable energy sources while maintaining a growth-oriented, but energy-efficient economy. According to the Solar Lobby, renewable energy currently supplies six percent.

Another direct hit on conservation that affects western states is the closing of both the Utah and Idaho offices of Western SUN. Western SUN, which began in 1978, is a program designed to provide solar information and assistance to builders, architects, homeowners and local governments in 13 western states. Reagan's budget cuts have dried up the federal funds upon which the program depended.

Despite these efforts by the Reagan

administration to suppress the importance of alternative energy sources and conservation, and the continued efforts to support an almost dead nuclear industry, statistics show the alternatives are slowly growing.

According to Sklar, in 1975 there were 500 passive solar homes in the United States; in 1981 there were 60,000. There were 50 solar manufac-

turers in 1975; in 1981 there were 382. In 1980 Americans spent \$4.5 billion on renewable resources and \$8 billion on conservation. The trend to conserve, whether the incentives are high utility bills or tax credits or both, show that Reagan's definition of conservation — being "too cold in winter and too hot in summer" — is a way of life people are willing to live with. □

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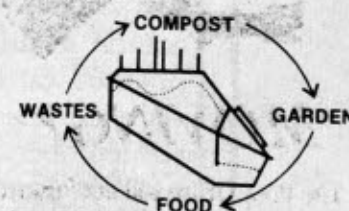
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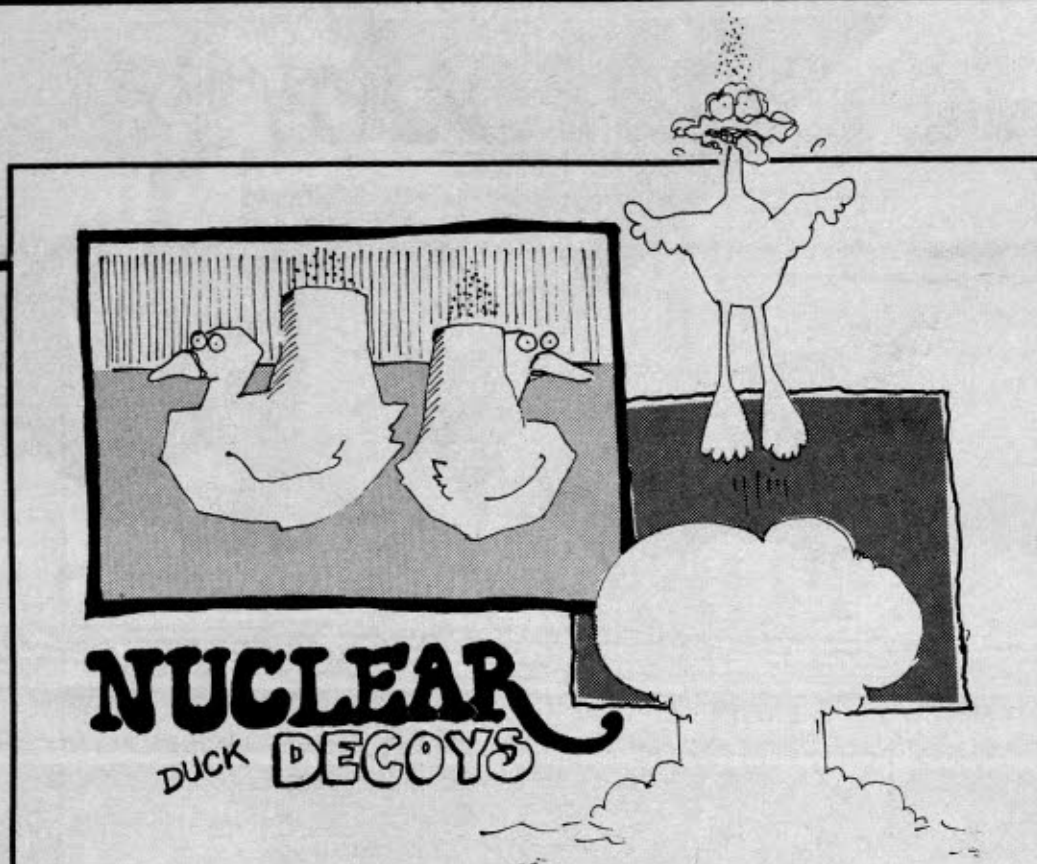
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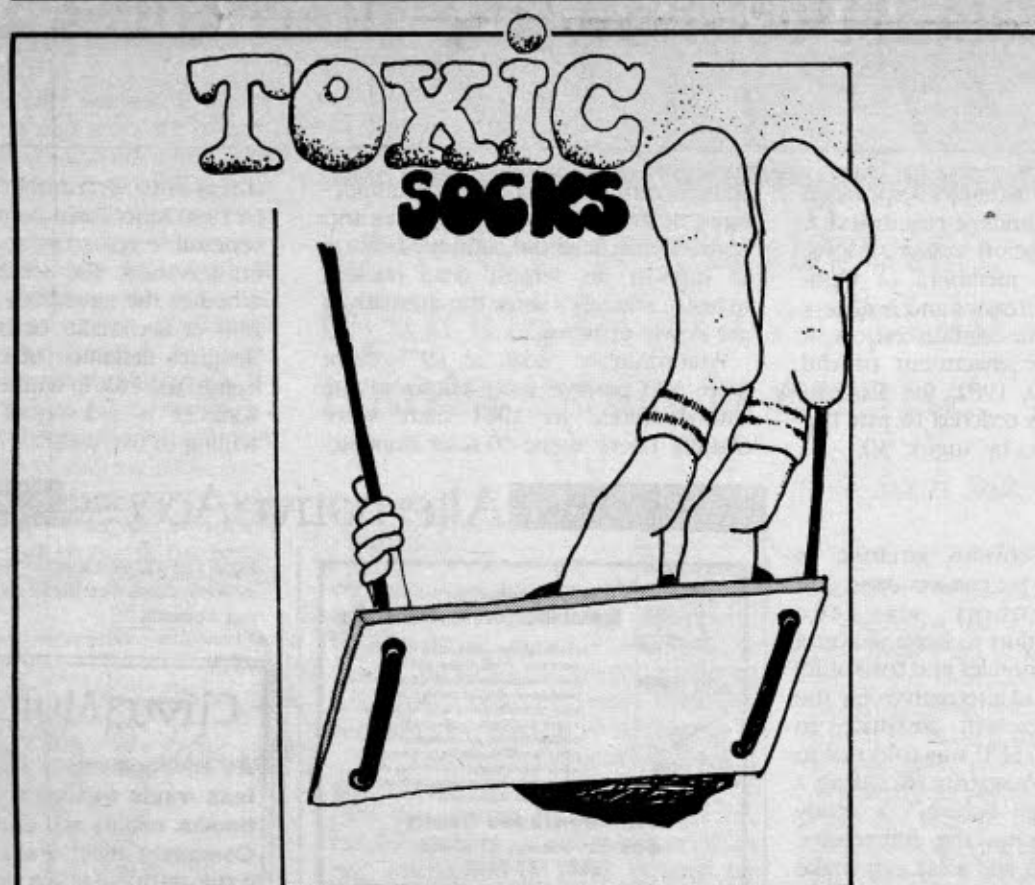
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Tiptoe through Love Canal in these. Based on the same concept as vaccinations — that small doses of the disease will build up the body's natural immunities — Toxic Socks provide full protection against polluted earth as well as floors and foundations constructed with recycled mine tailings. The hiker's model, laced with chemically-treated fibers, is perfect for heavier recreation. Trudge through any national park and the toxic waste dumps that nudge their borders. Pre-tested in Canyonlands.

Toxic Socks are just one innovaton from the engineering genius of Pollute-A-Parel, Inc., makers of clothing that lets you cope with the discomforts of modern technology. Other products include Acid Rain T-Shirts (a hit in the Great Lakes), Naugahyde Panty Hose and Hazardous Underwear.

Ino

by Ellen Ditzler

Tiny, diesel-fueled snowmobile allow you to go anywhere on a Mountain winter. Just as noisy and so you'll still be certain to miss n

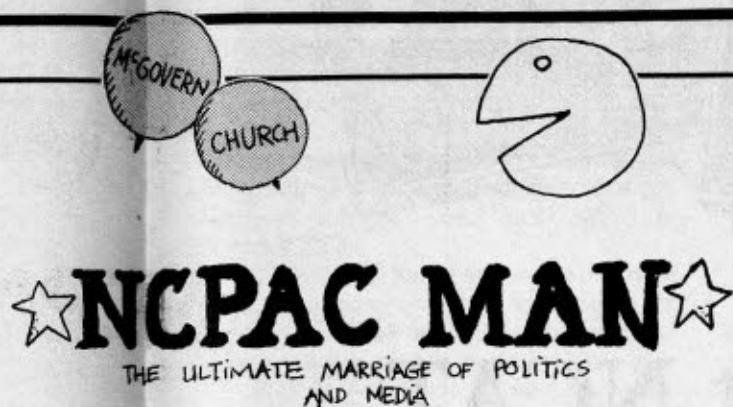


ces, electric flour sifters and "L'il Fritters" are just a few weird products — all of which may be catalogued under the most exciting and

inappropriate technology

n Ditzler

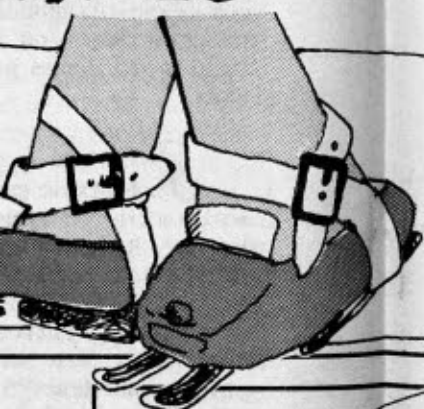
Don Snow, Technical Consultant



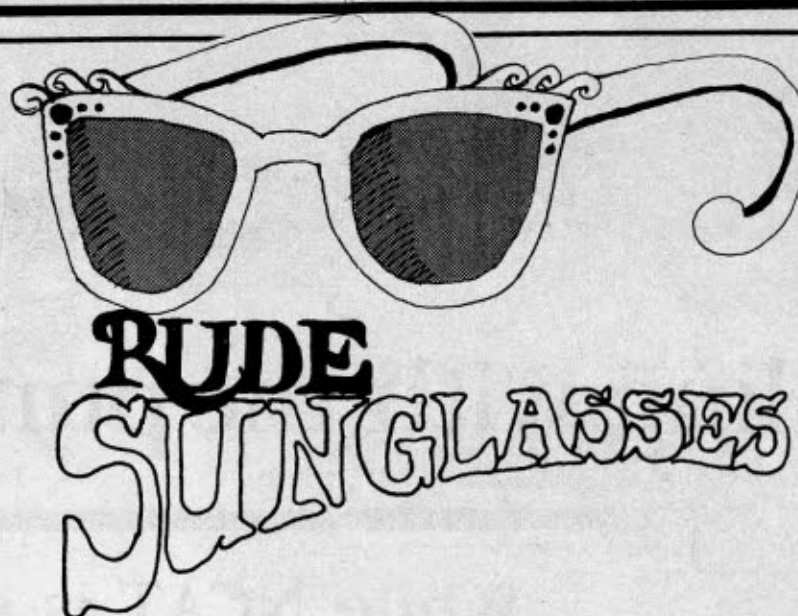
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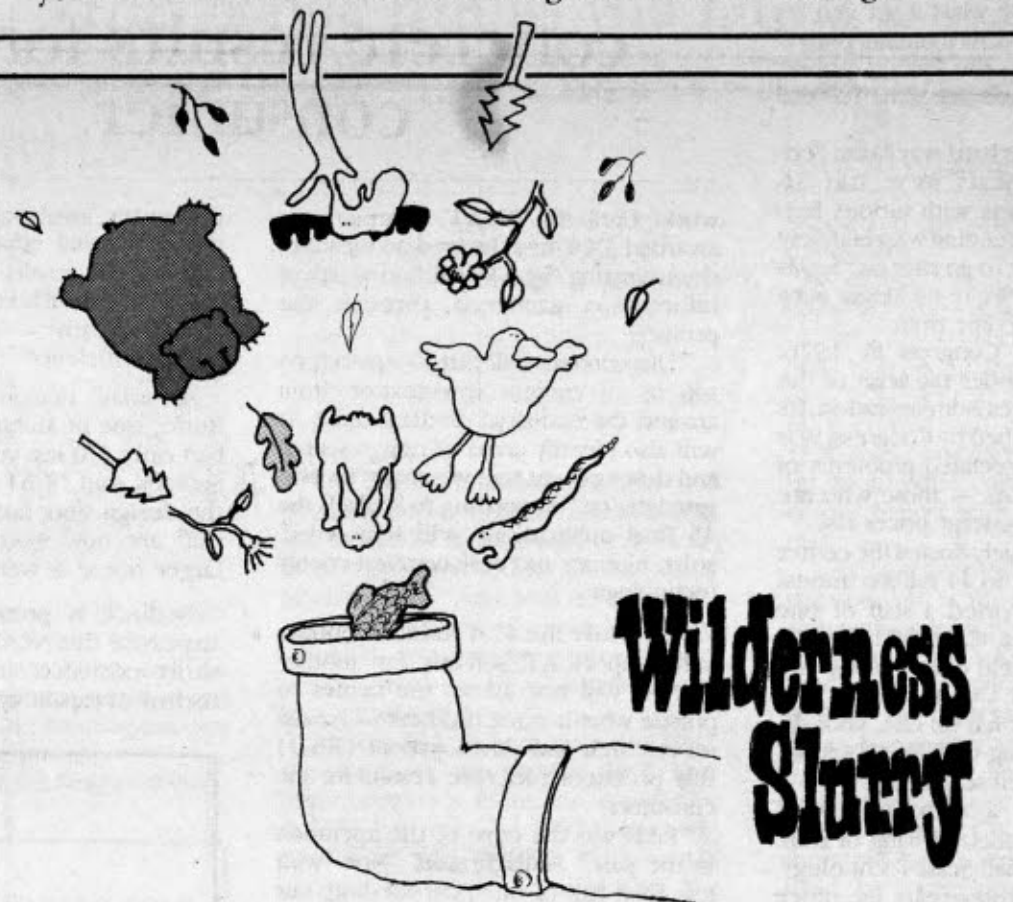
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Picture yourself in this. Rustic yet comfortable, solid but sleek, the Log-A-Bago gets you back to Nature before you get there. Accessories include little log lawn chairs, TVs and imitation walnut veneer CBs.



Designed to end those Freedom of Information Act hassles, Rude Sunglasses look like any innocuous California product but actually are specially equipped with x-ray lenses that allow you to see right through government or corporate file cabinets, microfilm or microfiche storage containers, and the clothing of bureaucratic personnel. The deluxe model has a small sonic device hidden in the frames which tosses insults at any query-weary pen-pusher who tries to throw up roadblocks to your needs. Ideal for both sunbathing and industrial sabotage.



Built with heavy gauge, claw-and-fang-resistant steel, this pipeline allows for the clean, cool and efficient export of public lands. Wilderness slurry puts an end to those testy public hearings in hot stuffy rooms where people from California and New York talk about solitude, ecological preservation and genetic diversity — things we all know merely obstruct profit.

"Wilderness slurry will solve the land management problems that plague the West," claims R.P. Stuffit, designer of wilderness slurry and author of the recent bestseller *Mountains: Are They Cost-Effective?*

Wilderness slurry has already proven quite popular in the East where the population suffers sorely from wilderness deprivation. Newark, New Jersey has just back-ordered Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Washakie is due to arrive any day at slurry terminals in suburban Detroit.

10-High Country News — July 9, 1982



Solar forge



Solar water heater



Solar water heater

NCAT photos

Rolling with the punches at NCAT

by Don Snow

Joe Sedlack, executive director of the National Center for Appropriate Technology, is a born optimist. When his Butte-based center suffered a nearly death-dealing budget cut last November, Sedlack began scouring federal agencies for enough funds to keep it afloat for another year. He succeeded. Today, NCAT supports a staff of 30 on a \$1.4 million contract with the Department of Energy, and while the center isn't doing exactly what it set out to accomplish in 1976, its founding year, it is still involved in the kind of public education that made its name for the past five years.

"We learned the hard way," said Sedlack. "Over the years we've had 16 grants and contracts with various federal agencies, and funding was relatively easy. Now we have to go after our funds very aggressively. We're no longer sure where funds will come from."

Established by Congress in 1976, NCAT operated under the aegis of the Community Services Administration. Its mission, as prescribed by Congress, was to address energy-related problems of low-income citizens — those who are hit hardest when energy prices rise.

CSA funding largely floated the center with a \$3 million to \$4 million annual budget that supported a staff of one hundred, including about 30 technical experts and ten field offices across the country. Then in October 1981, the Reagan budget ax fell on CSA, abolishing it entirely, along with NCAT's funding. Sedlack started scrambling.

He discovered a niche for NCAT within a little-publicized wing of DOE — the Office of Small-Scale Technology.

"Over the past three years, the office has awarded some \$33 million spread across 2,400 grants for small-scale energy projects," according to Sedlack. "The grants went to individuals, small businesses and so forth, largely for alternative energy demonstration projects."

In May, 1982, NCAT signed a contract with DOE to review the results of all 2,400 grants and to produce a series of 15 consumer-oriented publications summarizing the best of the grantees'

While NCAT is solvent for another year, it cannot pursue what it once did best — hands-on research and development that produces concrete results for the consumer.

work. Until the NCAT contract was awarded, DOE had devised no means of disseminating the \$33 million worth of information garnered through the projects.

"This contract will put us squarely on top of all current information from around the country," Sedlack said. "It will also identify areas of new research and development that we might investigate later on." According to Sedlack, the 15 final publications will treat wind, solar, biomass and conservation energy technologies.

But while the \$1.4 million contract will keep NCAT solvent for another year, it will not allow the center to pursue what it once did best — hands-on research and development (R&D) that produces concrete results for the consumer.

"R&D was the core of the operation in the past," Sedlack said. "Now with less than half of our past funding, our whole in-house R&D capability is dormant." Sedlack is not happy about that, nor is he pleased that the 10 NCAT field offices, designed to bring small-scale technologies to the poor, are now closed.

He pointed out that when the budget ax fell, NCAT stood on the brink of making a major contribution to the public in such areas as super insulation and solar greenhouse design. "We developed a

computer insulation model to determine thermal efficiencies in houses. One of the results was a set of house plans for a small home — two bedrooms and one bath — which is extremely energy efficient."

A small demonstration house in Butte, one of Montana's coldest cities, had only \$70 last year in heating costs. Sedlack said NCAT sold 400 copies of the design since last November. Center staff are now working on plans for a larger house as well.

Sedlack is proud of the technical expertise that NCAT has attracted in its short existence, and he pointed to the technical capability of his staff as one of

the features that sets the center apart from other promoters of alternative energy.

"Part of our mission is to get information out, primarily through publications, about small-scale technologies that are technically sound. Other organizations also put out information, but sometimes the technical aspects are less than reliable," Sedlack said. "We have a great deal of professional talent here."

Through the Reagan years, it appears the center will have to rely on funding schemes that are uncertain at best, swinging from vine to vine in the bureaucratic money tree. Sedlack is aware that DOE, like the Community Services Administration, is an agency built on sand, but he expects the DOE will be around long enough to help NCAT fulfill part of its mission, at least for a few more years. In addition, Sedlack is exploring funding through the Department of Health and Human Services to continue its low-income focus, and through the Bonneville Power Administration for specific projects in energy conservation.

"At one time, we hoped to become a national energy laboratory to work on technologies for the poor," Sedlack said. Apparently, however, the poor must wait.

Don Snow is a freelance writer in Stevensville, Montana, and a frequent contributor to *High Country News*. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

BEFORE THE WYOMING INDUSTRIAL SITING COUNCIL

NOTICE OF SHELL OIL
COMPANY APPLICATION
FOR PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT THE
NORTH ROCHELLE COAL MINE
DOCKET NO. WISA-82-1

Pursuant to provisions of the Wyoming Industrial Development Information and Siting Act (W.S. 35-12-101 through 35-12-121; Wyo. Stat. Anno., 1977) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SHELL OIL COMPANY, HAS FILED AN APPLICATION WITH THE INDUSTRIAL SITING COUNCIL FOR A PERMIT AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF THE NORTH ROCHELLE COAL MINE, CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING

The coal mine and processing facilities described in the application filed on June 8, 1982, will have a capacity of 8 million tons of coal per year. The North Rochelle Mine will be a conventional surface mine operation utilizing a combination shovel/truck and dragline system. The coal processing facility will consist of crushing facilities, storage and loadout facilities, and other ancillary facilities.

The proposed North Rochelle Mine will be located entirely within Campbell County approximately 55 miles south of the City of Gillette, Wyoming. The estimated total capital cost for the North Rochelle mine is \$166 million. The estimated cost exceeds the cost criterion under W.S. 35-12-102(a)(iii)(B), thereby requiring that the permit application be filed.

Shell Oil Company will begin construction of the mine during March, 1983 and should complete construction by November, 1983. The mine is expected to have a peak of 346 construction workers in November, 1983 with a second peak of 333 construction workers during March and April, 1984. Production will begin in 1985 with a workforce of 163 employees. The production workforce will then build steadily until 2009 when 351 workers are anticipated. Shell Oil Company considers that the local governments primarily affected by the proposed facility will include Campbell County, Campbell County School District No. 1, and the City of Gillette. The unincorporated community of Wright, Wyoming will also be affected primarily by the facility. Weston county and the Town of Newcastle will also be secondarily influenced by construction of the North Rochelle Mine.

Copies of the Application have been filed with the County Clerks of Converse County, Campbell County, and Weston County. Copies have also been forwarded to the Converse County Library, 300 Walnut, Douglas, WY 82633; Campbell County Library, 412 S. Gillette Ave., Gillette, WY 82716; and Weston County Library, 25 W. Main St., Newcastle, WY 82701, and are available for public inspection.

Persons desiring to become parties to the permit proceedings may do so pursuant to W.S. 35-12-112, by notifying the Office of Industrial Siting Administration in writing of their intent to become a party.

Limited appearance statements will be received in the matter in accordance with provisions at W.S. 35-12-112(c). There should be mailed to the Director, Office of Industrial Siting Administration, Suite 500, Boyd Building, Cheyenne, WY 82002.

Dated this 28th day of June, 1982.

Office of Industrial Siting Administration
Suite 500, Boyd Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7368

The Water Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality will hold a public meeting in the auditorium of the Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming on July 21, 1982, at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive public comment and input regarding the development of standards pertaining to domestic sewerage systems, treatment works, and disposal systems. These standards shall be included as Part A of DRAFT Chapter XI Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations.

William L. Garland, Administrator of the Water Quality Division, will conduct the public meeting for the purpose of receiving input from government entities, individuals, and others interested in the development of standards pursuant to W.S. 35-11-302 (a)(iii) of the Environmental Quality Act. Public input will be utilized in the formulation of draft standards concerning application requirements, review criteria, design standards, and construction, installation and modification standards for domestic sewerage systems, treatment works and disposal systems. Specifically not included in these standards are land application systems, small wastewater systems and sewage collection systems in mobile home parks which are contained in other sections of DRAFT Chapter XI.

Oral or written statements can be made at the public meeting or sent to the Water Quality Division at 1111 East Lincolnway, Cheyenne, WY 82002. Oral comments may also be provided to Jake Strohmman or Mike Hackett at 777-7781.

SERI: Reining in the sun king

by Marice Doll

Under the Carter administration, the solar Energy Research Institute in Golden, Colorado, enjoyed the popular reputation of being "everyman's" solar energy source. It provided information to homeowners, builders, architects, and anyone interested in learning more about the growing solar industry.

However, in 1982 came the shift in administration, major budget cuts and a re-direction to the original mission of SERI. It became only a long-range, high-risk research institute — testing and developing solar technologies that private industry could not afford to undertake.

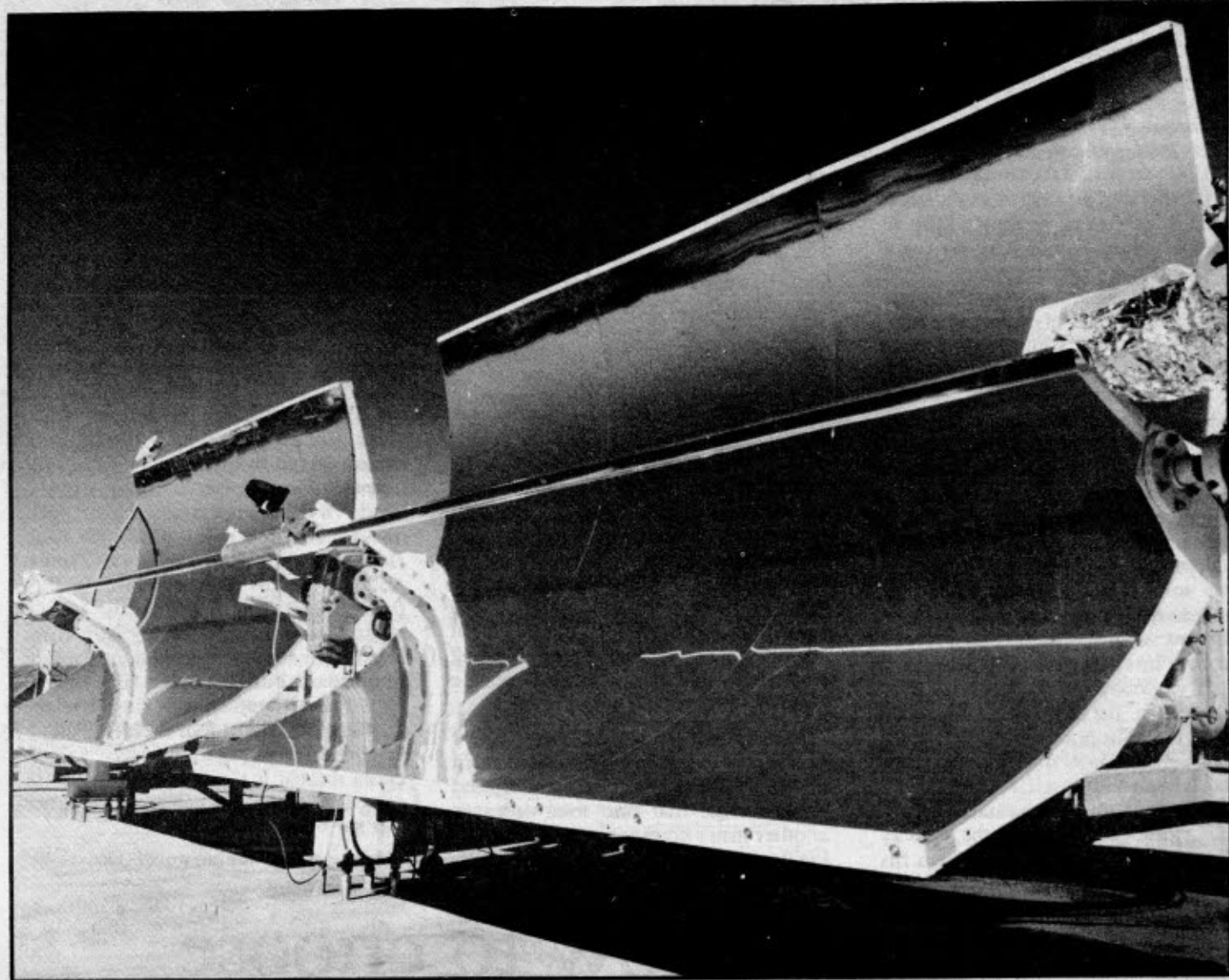
"Granted, studies and analysis of what are the most viable solar techniques are a lot more visible to the public than the passivation of grain boundaries in photovoltaic cells (devices used to capture the sun's energy)," Judith Morison, public affairs specialist with SERI, explained. "We're really not doing something different — the research was always there, but the press gave us attention for things that had more popular appeal."

SERI was established during the height of the environmental movement and because of the energy awareness created by the 1973 oil embargo. By 1974, enabling legislation had been passed and the funding to start SERI rolling was granted by the Department of Energy.

By July, 1977, SERI began to perform research and development and to gather information building and supporting a national solar program. During the first two years, SERI scientists studied solar activities in other countries. By the end of that period the SERI laboratory was built and scientists were ready to begin their own applied research.

In 1978, Denis Hayes was appointed director of SERI. His appointment was controversial, since he was the first non-scientist to head a national scientific laboratory. But, he had earlier impressed and influenced then President Jimmy Carter with his book, *Rays of Hope: The Transition to a Post-Petroleum World*.

When he took office, his staff was not convinced that an environmental activist could run the institute effectively. Hayes was the organizer of the first Earth Day twelve years ago. However, Hayes confidently took the reins with the support of the Carter administration, and began to lead SERI down paths other than research alone — hosting passive solar tours of homes, introducing builders and architects to solar technology and making recommendations



Solar collectors for industrial applications will be part of the testing focus for SERI's new field test site.

"The public thinks you failed if you're not appealing to them. They're not our audience anymore."

— SERI official Judith Morison

for government national energy policies.

SERI sailed along competently for a number of years with Hayes, growing from 40 employees to 960. It has been managed and operated since the beginning by Mid-West Research Institute (MRI), a non-profit private research institute in Kansas City, Missouri, on a five-year contract. The contract has been extended for 15 months to June 1983, when it will be reopened for competitive bidding.

With the coming of the Reagan administration, Hayes was forced to resign. His parting was bitter and his staff, which had grown to respect and admire him, gave him a standing ovation after his resignation speech.

For eight months, the Reagan admin-

istration worked to redefine SERI's mission. It ended in directing SERI to conduct and coordinate long-term, high-risk research that private industry couldn't afford to undertake, and to establish a technological base from which the private sector could make well-informed choices among technological options.

"Dr. Harold Hubbard (present SERI director) doesn't think a research institute should be in the policy or advocacy roles it got involved in (in the past)," Morison said. "And MRI never had the image of its advanced research lab being involved in energy policy-making, which is what the Carter administration kept expecting."

But, can SERI expect longevity? Morison said there are signs of the Reagan administration's increased confidence in SERI. For one, the 1983 budget will remain at the present level, which means it can continue on as it has. For another, the long-awaited groundbreaking for a 70,000 square-foot building for alcohol fuels research was recently held. The DOE had postponed giving final approval for the \$9.5 million for the building that had been allocated in 1981. Construction also will begin on an outdoor photovoltaic test facility. Present construction is the first stage for a permanent facility.

But the Reagan administration has limited SERI. It cut SERI's budget from \$100 million to \$42 million and its employees from 960 to 600. However, SERI officials seem undeterred by the cuts. "National labs should be able to stand on the value of the research performed and not depend on politics," Morison said.

To that end, SERI lunged into its long-term research programs — problems that were viewed as high risk to private companies because the payoff

was down the road, instead of more immediate.

A patent recently granted to SERI scientists makes possible the fabrication of cost-effective, technical photovoltaic cells with potential efficiencies of more than 35 percent, a considerable advance over current cell efficiencies. "We're DOE's lead research and development for photovoltaic cells. About 38 percent of our budget goes for that," Morison said.

Among other projects to emerge into the spotlight is the development of an alternative automotive fuel — hydrogen methanol. Also, researchers are in the final stages of testing a low-cost, mass-producible system for turning wood chips into methanol.

Today, SERI's research efforts are grouped into three areas: solar photovoltaic research; the production of solar fuels and high energy chemicals to be used for energy production; and solar thermal energy research, such as cooling systems, which can be integrated into prototype systems that small industries can use to expand or improve their products.

"It's important to get technological information to the technological audiences in the industry," said Morison. "The public thinks you failed if you're not appealing to them — if you can't get it at Sears. They're not our audience any more, even though everything we do ends up eventually in the public domain. But it's not our role to tell the public how to choose a domestic hot water heater. If we do our work right, SERI can make a contribution to the solar energy field in the next decades."

Marice Doll is a freelance writer living in Denver. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wyoming Environmental Quality Council and the Local Government Coordinating Committee will hold a joint public hearing on August 5, 1982, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sweetwater County Library, 300 North First East, Green River, Wyoming.

The purpose of the meeting will be to receive comments and recommendations regarding proposed modifications to Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations, Chapter VI, Salinity Standard/Criteria for the Colorado River Basin and Proposed Revisions State of Wyoming Water Quality Management Plan.

The proposed revisions to Chapter VI are intended to make the State Standards consistent with Salinity Standards and a report prepared by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control forum, which is dated July 9, 1981, and which was prepared pursuant to the Clean Water Act. The proposed revisions to the State of Wyoming Water Quality Management Plan involve changing the amendment process to allow for a more efficient updating of the plan and to eliminate duplicative public hearing and adoption requirements relating to municipal point sources and the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum.

Interested persons may present written or oral statements at the public hearing. Written comments other than those presented at the public meeting should be submitted to Wyoming Environmental Quality Council, 1111 East Lincolnway, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, telephone (307) 777-7781 or Mr. Paul Schwieger, State Engineers Office, Barrett Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, telephone (307) 777-7354.

Copies of Chapter VI, Proposed Revisions to the Water Quality Management Plan and the report of the Colorado River Salinity Forum are available at the following locations:

Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
1111 East Lincolnway
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

John Teichert, Superintendent
Water Division Number Four
Cokeville, Wyoming 83114
(307) 279-3441

Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
2161 Colleen Avenue
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801
(307) 672-6457

State Engineers Office
Barrett Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
210 Lincoln Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520
(307) 332-3144

City of Green River
50 East 2nd North
Green River, Wyoming 82935

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BOOKS

A disciple of Rousseau

Down the River

Edward Abbey. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1982. \$13.95, cloth; \$6.95, paper. 242 pages.

Review by Peter Wild

In pondering Edward Abbey's latest collection of essays, we might keep in mind that Plato would have no truck with poets, i.e., creative types, in his ideal republic — and with good reason. Dreamers, spinners of myths and fables, would excite the young and distract them from their purpose: to help the state run smoothly. Furthermore, such woolgatherers are in essence peddlers of lies, and if one accepts the premise that ideals held up by any government do not always jibe with the realities, a better reason for our ancient philosopher to rend his robes and root out poets comes clear. A prevaricator of the grand sort himself, Plato wanted to eliminate the competition.

Edward Abbey, author of *Desert Solitaire*, etc., has been around long enough so that we know pretty well what kind of a liar he is. He has admirers who hail him as the Thoreau of the twentieth century. But Thoreau, they must not know, banished himself — at least symbolically — from the city-state of Concord. Alone at Walden, the finicky bachelor required little more than his

natural surroundings and the blossoming gardens in his head, so he said, for contentment. He built his 10-by-15-foot cabin in the de-fanged New England woods. But as a superb realist when it came to the vicissitudes of humanity, he urged no other man to do likewise. He darted into the thickets when crowds approached; he eschewed the mob.

Not so Edward Abbey. Beneath his thin disguises of bombast, of bad manners and bad language — beer cans thrown out car windows, billboards chain-sawed in the night, to mention the mentionables — stands a disciple of Rousseau, an evangelist of nature's balm.

In the words of *Down the River*: "My theory is that a vigorous, free, outdoors life is good for people. It fills them with cheer and high spirits...." Instead of the alb, the bearer of this message wears the vestments of a hiking outfit. And he walks behind a monkey wrench, his symbol of destruction to the industrial society that is paving, damming, blasting and clear-cutting the haunts of the blessed.

In a trice, Plato would have pitched Abbey over the walls of Piraeus for such nonsense. Thoreau, realizing with good Yankee sense that one man's meat is another man's hogwash, that wet sleeping bags and wet firewood, rattlesnakes

and charging grizzly bears can make a shambles of blithe visions, would have slunk blushing into the blueberry bushes at Abbey's advance.

Still Abbey advances, striding past the cringing Thoreau, calling out along the highways and byways for a return to "...the freedom of the old and original world." As if shivering in a cave meant freedom. As if the eagle wearing his wings out searching for food were free.

How, one wonders, can people who are rational in their everyday lives — people who pay their bills and vote, who would tremble at the thought of exposing their offspring to the venom of the viper, the gnashing jaws of the bear — be transfixed by the palaver of this wilderness Pied Piper? In these diverse essays of the wilds, extracted from such mostly sensible publications as *Geo*, *Harper's* and *The New York Times*, Abbey takes us plunging down a life-threatening river, a goat skull grimly affixed to the prow of his quivering kayak. He has us jogging along beside him, hearts bursting in our rib cages as we strain to keep up with Hopi Indians in their traditional foot race. Throughout he keeps piping the message: in half-cooked meat, in the delirious "nonsense of peaks" glimmering all around us, lies our salvation.

Like a good Gothic novel, *Down the*

EDWARD ABBEY

author of *Desert Solitaire* and *The Journey Home*

DOWN THE RIVER

River makes good escape reading. And escape may be a temporary but necessary illusion. Plato's obedient drudges had their ideals to keep the state humming along in its grooves. And environmentalists have Edward Abbey holding out his decidedly more exciting carrots.

So we can chuckle at Abbey's jejune moments, forgive his childishness and the antics of his gypsy friends revealed in these pages. So Abbey's hero is Robin Hood? So he tries to shake hands with a bear? So be it. Conservation needs its wild-eyed types to stretch us toward possibilities — possibilities that refresh even as we reject them.

A sense of how to choose

One Way To Spell Man

Wallace Stegner, 1982. \$14.95, cloth; 177 pages. Doubleday, Garden City, New York.

Review by Peter Wild

When Wallace Stegner's parents trekked out of Montana in 1914 to homestead in Saskatchewan, the future novelist lost his Teddy bear in the move. His childhood was a deprived affair on the short-grass farm. Stegner had no contact with movies or museums, little with books. But once, when the frontier boy caught a mallard chick in a slough, he felt the little duck's heart in his palm — and, fortunately for conservation, that heartbeat from the earth stayed with Stegner as he scrambled to earn his Ph.D., became director of the creative writing program at Stanford, and wrote such masterpieces of the American West as *Angle of Repose* and *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian*.

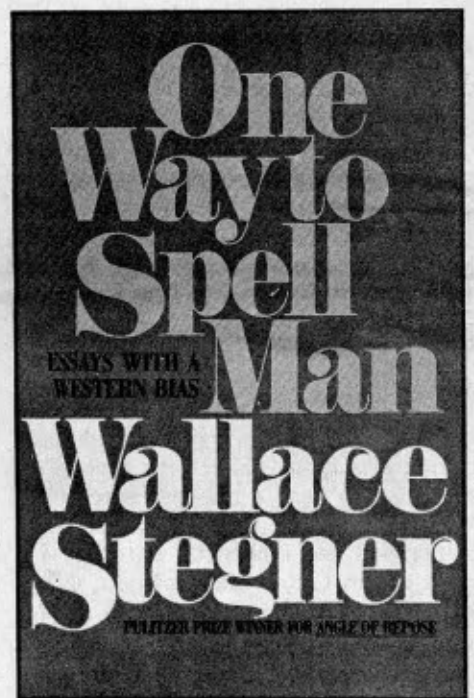
An avid environmentalist throughout his productive life, Stegner supported Stewart Udall's reforms in the Department of the Interior, promoted the Wilderness Act of 1964, and wrote essays that captured for his readers their deepest feeling about wild nature. Now he is one of the Grand Old Men, both of literature and conservation. His latest book collects articles from the last 30 years of his busy writing career. They include pieces as diverse as a study of Walter Clark's *The Ox-Bow Incident*, advice to young writers, and an exceptionally informative and revealing essay on the work of photographer Ansel Adams.

Significantly, *One Way to Spell Man* concludes with "The Gift of Wilderness." Here the craggy novelist condemns the James Watts of the world as "believers in the machine." What, asks Stegner of those who measure progress in terms of stainless steel, "could Vermeer make of a General Electric kitchen?" In contrast, Stegner believes

civilization means having the "sense of how to choose" wisely for the future. Wilderness advocates, he argues, are saving something of themselves by preserving nature.

Yet, for the most part, this is not a book about conservation. Rather, it is a book about conservation as a context for the life of one man. Camping out in Utah or dedicating a university's new library do not spell Man, but Stegner. The author, however, spells a little of all of us as he ponders on thinkers as far apart as the Hopi elders and the French historian Tocqueville to define America somewhat irritably as engaged in "a blindfold battle royal."

Despite that, we are not blind if we know what is of ultimate importance in our lives, if we, like Wallace Stegner, can wake from our sleeping bags in a wilderness night and feel the wind blowing "from unimaginably far places, across a vast emptiness" to tell us what our place is in the universe. James Watt would be



puzzled by *One Way to Spell Man*, but lovers of wild things and wild places will know instinctively what Wallace Stegner is talking about.

BOOK NOTES

Herbal Teas, Tisanes and Lotions
CERES, 1981, \$6.95, paperback, 128 pages with glossaries, tables and illustrations. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016. A guide to growing, preparing and using herbs for making stimulating tonics, soothing infusions and refreshing drinks.

Elk of North America, Ecology and Management
Compiled by Jack Ward Thomas and Dale E. Towell, a Stackpole Press/Wildlife Management Institute Book, Cameron and Kelker Streets, Harrisburg, Pa. 17105. \$39.95, 698 pages. Illustrations. Everything you wanted to know about elk, with excellent, varied illustrations. It shouldn't be compared to the pioneering work of Olaus Murie; this is a book assembled by committee. But a more thorough compendium of the history, physiology and behavior of elk is not available.

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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.

OPENING: Executive Director, wilderness organization, starting December 1, 1982. \$22,000. NOLS certification or equivalent; knowledge of mythology and self-generated ritual; experience with personnel/program supervision, grantsmanship and fundraising, public speaking and writing. Resume by September 15th to: Rites of Passage, 857 De Long Ave., Novato, CA 94947.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, West Michigan Environmental Action Council. Experience or training in environmentally related field; leadership skills, interaction with people from varied social, economic and political backgrounds. Responsibilities: program development and maintenance, fundraising and media relations. Mail resume by July 19 to 1324 Lake Drive, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506.

STAFF DIRECTOR: Montana Public Interest Research Group in Missoula is looking for a Staff Director. Grass-roots organizing, supervision of student staff in research and issue campaigns, writing and editing. Familiarity with Montana environmental and consumer issues, fundraising, accounting procedures and lobbying strategy. Salary range \$6-11,000, negotiable. Send resume and/or

request for additional information to MontPIRG, P.O. Box 2818, Missoula, MT 59806.

THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY. Send for sample copy of the Citizens Press from the Wyoming Citizens Alliance, Box 238, Laramie, WY 82070.



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BULLETIN BOARD

ALASKA MAP SERIES

The USGS has designed a series of 233 maps showing federal conservation areas in Alaska. The number of maps contained in each of the 31 sets ranges from one to 76. The maps are available for \$2 apiece. Write to Branch of Distribution, USGS, Box 25286, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colo. 80225 or Map Section, Eastern Distribution Branch, USGS, 1200 S. Eads St., Arlington, Va. 22202. Alaska residents may order from Distribution Section, USGS, Federal Bldg., Box 12, 101 12th Ave., Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

ROAD POLICY IN MONTANA

A road management policy is being adopted by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks which takes into consideration the impacts of roads on outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife habitats. Interested persons may review the proposal by contacting the department, 1420 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, Mont. 59620. The deadline for comments is July 20 and the policy will be discussed in a meeting in early August.

PERMITS FOR BOAT USE

Operators of private power boats will need to obtain a permit for boating along an 80-mile stretch of the Salmon River east of Riggins, Idaho. This section of the river, from Long Tom Bar to Corn Creek, was classified as "wild" in 1980. Permits must be used between June 20 and Sept. 7 and are available at North Fork Ranger Station, Salmon National Forest, North Fork, Idaho 83466, (208) 865-2383 or USDA Forest Service, Riggins Fire Center, Riggins, Idaho 83549, (208) 628-3213 or Salmon River-Slate Creek Ranger Station, Nezperce National Forest, White Bird, Idaho 83554, (208) 839-2211.

TRANSFORMATION

Antioch University, Seattle, Wash. is offering a series of workshops and conferences from July 16 to Sept. 24. Physicist Fritjof Capra, author of *The Tao of Physics*, will speak on an emerging world view combined with many disciplines of science at 7 p.m. July 16 at the Seattle First Baptist Church. Other conferences include Women and Transformation, Mediation and Conflict Negotiation, Transformation through the Arts, and Order Out of Chaos. For tickets, registration or information, contact Antioch University Seattle, 1729 17th Ave., Seattle, Wash. 98122 or (206) 323-2270.

ENERGY CONFERENCE

The Colorado Council of Local Energy Officials is hosting its second annual conference on July 16 at the Lincoln Center in Fort Collins. The theme of the program is Energy and the New Federalism: Colorado's Local Response. Pre-registration is \$40; cost at the door is \$55. Contact the CCLEO, 8101 Ralston Road, Arvada, Colo. 80002 or Deanna Jenne or Laura Belsten at (303) 431-3003.

NO NUCLEAR NEWS

A source of information for anti-nuclear power and weapons activists is *No Nuclear News*, a monthly publication. To obtain a complimentary copy, write to *No Nuclear News*, P.O. Box 149, Somerville, Mass. 02143.

ACID RAIN REPORT

The Dept. of Energy is issuing a 200-page report on the current understanding of acid rain with a title almost as long, "Acid Rain: Commentary on Controversial Issues and Observations on the Role of Fuel Burning." The study details the occurrence of acid rain and analyzes the relationship between oil burning patterns and acid rain. For information about obtaining a copy of the study, write to U.S. Dept. of Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Wash. D.C. 20585.

NATURE FIELD TRIPS

On your next trip to Calif., take advantage of free natural history field trips to Mono Lake near Lee Vining, Calif. Offered by the Mono Lake Committee, the half day trips are every Sat. and Sun. through Sept. 19 and provide first-hand explorations of the geology, botany, zoology and human history of Mono Lake. Accommodations are available. For information, contact the Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, Calif. 93541 or (714) 647-6386.

AIR QUALITY MEETING

To help keep those mountains in sight, the Colo. Dept. of Health is holding a public meeting to invite comment on the revision of inspection procedures and emission standards for motor vehicle exhaust gases for the Automobile Inspection and Readjustment Program. The annual emissions inspection determines the maximum concentration for carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons for motor vehicles. The meeting is 9 a.m., July 22 in Room 150 of the Colo. Dept. of Health Bldg., 4210 E. 11 Ave. in Denver or call (303) 320-8333 ext. 3348.

WESTERN WILDLIFE

A four-color booklet describing the diverse wildlife and habitat on the 327 million acres of public lands in the western U.S. has been published by the BLM. The 26-page publication, titled "Wildlife on the Public Lands," is available for \$3.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, Wash. D.C. 20402.

BLM VOLUNTEERS

If you're looking for a volunteer opportunity, try the BLM. Volunteers are needed for campground hosting, issuing permits, recreation operations and nature interpretation. You can also contribute your skills in forest, wildlife and fisheries management and in biological and physical inventories and surveys. Individuals and organized groups interested should contact their local BLM state or district office.

IDAHO ARTIST CONTEST

Idaho professional artists are invited to compete in the second annual muzzle loader and archery stamp contest. The contest is sponsored by the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game. Winning artwork will be used on the limited edition of 1983 stamps. The deadline for entries is Aug. 31. Copies of the contest rules and the agreement to be signed by entrants are available at all Fish and Game offices.



BOBWHITE QUAIL STAMP

David A. Maass's painting of three bobwhite quail bursting out of tall grass has been adopted as the International Quail Foundation's first annual 1982 Quail Research Stamp. The limited edition of 50,000 stamps are \$5 each, \$20 for plate blocks and \$50 for a sheet of 10 stamps. Art prints (6 1/2" x 9" image size) are available through major wildlife art dealers or at IQF for \$130, which includes a stamp. Contact International Quail Foundation, P.O. Box 550, Edgefield, S.C. 29824 or (803) 637-3132 for information or to order the stamp.

CONSERVATION OUTINGS

The Sierra Club is offering a series of one to two week service trips in the western U.S. The trips are to build trails and restore wilderness areas that have been damaged by people. Trips are usually backpack style and are accompanied by a leader, cook and staff. Cost is around \$80 and each member is responsible for transportation to the site. For information on trips that are still open, contact the club's Outing Dept. at 530 Bush St., San Francisco, Calif. 94108 or (415) 981-8634.

WILDERNESS CLASSES

"Wilderness and Civilization," a program of classes involving various studies will be offered by the Wilderness Institute at the U. of Mont. The program will begin with a 12-day trek into an area adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. The fall quarter program offers 18 academic credits distributed through five classes. Applications are due by July 15. Contact the Wilderness Institute, School of Forestry, University of Mont., Missoula, Mont. 59812.

TURNING SOLAR

Against the backdrop of the World's Fair, in Knoxville, Tenn., the Seventh National Passive Solar Conference and Exhibition, "The World Turns to Solar," will be right in step. The Annual Conference of the Passive Systems Division, American Solar Energy Society stresses the increasing importance of solar design and technology in today's building industry by exploring cost effectiveness, thermal performance and aesthetics in passive solar projects. Running from Aug. 27 through Sept. 2, the conference will be at the U. of Tenn. in Knoxville. Pre-registration costs are \$100 for ASES members, \$140 for non-members and \$65 for students. Fees will increase after July 16. Single day rates are also available. Contact the U. of Tenn., Dept. of Conferences, 2016 Lake Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. 37996 or (615) 974-5261 for registration information.

BIG GAME SEASON

The Colo. Div. of Wildlife is seeking input in determining big game hunting season dates and length for seasons 1983-85. Bag limits and number of licenses will also be discussed at the meetings throughout western Colo. Meetings will be in Glenwood Springs on July 12, Craig on July 13, Hot Sulphur Springs on July 14, and Grand Junction on July 16. Contact the Div. of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colo. 80216 or (303) 825-1192 for times and locations of meetings.

ISSUING REPORTS

The American Solar Energy Society will be publishing government research reports on solar energy, alternative energy sources and specialized technical information. An advisory board will select the reports to be published. Copies will be on sale by the ASES after they have been made available to a number of libraries. For more information, write to the American Section of the International Solar Energy Society, Publications Office, 110 W. 34 St., New York, NY 10001 or (212) 736-8727.

BLACK HILLS TAPES

There's no Watergate lurking within the Black Hills of South Dakota where the Lakota Nation of Sioux reside, but there are significant deposits of uranium, oil, gas and coal which may cause a gap of a different sort. Many deposits are on federal land and subject to possible exploration under new federal policies. These policies and other subjects concerning energy development, effects on land, water supply and food sources are examined in a radio documentary, *Energy Development: The Lakota Nation and the Black Hills*. Cassette copies of the program are available for \$7 for individuals, \$10 for non-profit groups, and \$12 for corporate or for broadcast. For information on the tape or to order, contact Black Hills Project, P.O. Box 3726, Minneapolis, Minn. 55403 or (612) 379-2333.

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

• A polite (more or less) visit with Anne Gorsuch

I drove to Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park about two weeks ago to listen to a speech by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Anne Gorsuch. Gorsuch was speaking to the Wyoming Mining Association convention.

The lodge is a beautiful setting with a large picture window overlooking Jackson Lake and framing the spectacular Grand Teton in the distance. The air in the park is as clear as any in the country. The conventioners, all of whom were of the mineral industry persuasion, occasionally made gallows humor sorts of jokes about the potential mining in the park, but they always looked apologetically around them, as though they were talking too loud in church.

Gorsuch was the keynote speaker after the luncheon. WMA executive vice president Bill Budd had extended a generous complimentary registration to *High Country News*, but that registration, understandably, did not include free meals. *HCN's* budget and my personal finances being what they are, I passed on the luncheon, but from my vantage point it appeared to be generous portions of ham and vegetables.

Gorsuch's talk, which followed, was low-key — not the sort to make her partisan audience rend the hall with cheers. In fact, Gorsuch seemed an odd choice for a speaker at a mining convention. EPA's regulatory hand is not particularly heavy in the mining industry, and the current main EPA battleground — the Clean Air Act — does not unduly constrain mining activities.

Still, there she was, looking a bit like Doris Day, but business-like. She dispensed some Reagan-style EPA-isms:

— "The goals and purpose of the Environmental Protection Agency remain the same — protection of the health, welfare and environment of the American public. However, this is far from saying this is business as usual."

— "We have four items on our agenda. We want to improve the scientific basis for EPA's decisions. We want to improve relations between the state and local government and the federal government. We want to pursue regulatory reform — not deregulation. And we want to do a better job with fewer federal resources."

— "EPA must recognize the real economic problems of this country."

Gorsuch's critics claim that, given the EPA budget cuts the administration is asking for, attaining the goal of environmental protection with fewer federal dollars is an illusion. The Natural Resources Defense Council's *Amicus Journal* ran a special issue in the winter of 1982 with a series of articles under the theme "Cutting EPA in half." According to charts accompanying one story, EPA's budget under Gorsuch would drop over 25 percent between 1981 and 1983 — from about \$1.3 billion to \$950 million — and the full-time work force would fall from about 11,000 to about 8,000. NRDC said the Office of Management and Budget target would cut EPA's budget fully in half from 1981 levels, if that agency has its way.

At the same time, the workload of the agency has increased dramatically. Since 1976, EPA has taken on a large number of new statutory duties. In



EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch

1980, Congress added another, the so-called Superfund, which will pay to clean up abandoned chemical sites.

Gorsuch talked about one issue regarding the Clean Air Act, currently before Congress, that seemed freighted with irony — the amendment concerning integral vistas. This is a provision in the law that requires EPA to develop rules that protect visibility in national parks — like Teton National Park. Gorsuch said, "The Carter administration proposal says that a federal land manager can stand within a national park and everything he can see should be the parameters of protection. The rule had not been finalized when this administration took office. The Senate has now taken that rule and put it in the Clean Air Act." This criticism surprised me because Wyoming's Sen. Alan Simpson, a leading Senate Republican in the changing of the act, has been bragging recently about the Senate's fine compromise of the integral vista language. Nevertheless, said Gorsuch, "You should hire federal land managers that are near-sighted" to limit the application of integral vistas from national parks.

Gorsuch's talk was instructive from the apparent way that the Reagan administration views its environmental adversaries. She said, "It (the integral vista standard) was adopted because there is basic lack of understanding among the electorate of the need for changes in the act. The people who are concerned about making changes have

not been effective in explaining the need for these changes."

Further, she said that the environmental groups are effective, well-publicized and winning the battle in the trenches over the Clean Air Act. This is exactly the opposite impression I get from reading reports about the debate and the urgent bulletins forthcoming almost daily from the environmental lobby in Washington. Moreover, her statement that the electorate does not understand the need for change ignores the fact that every major poll on clean air shows that the public understands the controversy and vigorously opposes any change in the act.

In any event, after the speech, the administrator was to meet with the press. For this encounter, I had armed myself with sheafs of information — reports, newspaper and magazine articles, budget data and legislative trivia. For every question on my list I had a follow-up question depending on the answer and for every follow-up I had a follow-up.

I wish I could report that my preparation was rewarded with surgical dissection of Gorsuch's arguments, leaving the corpse exposed as the festering fraud I believe it to be in my heart of hearts. Alas, I cannot.

I was, I think, suitably obnoxious, taking far more than my share of time from the other reporters present. In fact, a reporter from the *Casper Star-Tribune* and I were the only ones who got in any questions at all of the 10 or so reporters

there during the course of the half hour news conference. However, the issues are too complicated for easy resolution.

"EPA is not cutting staff by 40 percent," as NRDC contended, Gorsuch said. "That figure is much too high. There was a nine percent cut between 1981 and 1982 and we are proposing an additional 12 percent cut. Out of 10,000 employees, fewer than 110 have been involuntarily cut...The agency grew by 62 percent between 1977 and 1980."

"Yes," I said, "but the work load grew, too..."

"Yes," she said, "but 45 states have taken over various compliance programs..."

"So, how many positions will be dropped?" I asked.

"We don't know exactly. There won't be involuntary layoffs."

"But the question isn't involuntary layoffs, the question is whether there are enough people to adequately enforce the law."

"Yes," she said, brightening. "That is the question and we think there are."

Maybe she does. In fact, maybe there are, though I doubt it. But it is unlikely that a reporter, even a well-prepared one, will be able to wrestle a conclusive answer about such intricate matters in the time allotted. This was only one of several topics I wanted to ask about, almost none of which we touched upon. As it was, I learned later that another reporter thought I had been "rude" to the administrator.

Driving back, I picked up a hitchhiker and he brought home to me more than the convention and Gorsuch's talk the implications of Reagan's policies, particularly in light of the administrator's statement that EPA must be aware of the economic problems of the country.

The hitchhiker was named Jim. He was about 20, very slim with yellowing teeth. He was hitchhiking to Gillette, Wyoming, to look for work. He was from California, which he had left two weeks ago because there was no work "except in the fast food places, if you want to work for nothing." He had spent four days in Evanston, Wyoming, looking for work on oil rigs there without success.

I had talked with an executive from Carter Mining, an Exxon subsidiary based in Gillette, just before Gorsuch's speech. He told me that the problem in Gillette used to be that "you couldn't find anybody to work. Now it seems there are five guys for every job." I relayed this information to Jim and it did not noticeably buoy his spirits.

We talked, and it turned out that he hadn't eaten in four days. I used to hitchhike a lot myself and remember fondly people who fed me in my travels. I figured it was time to return some of the favors, so I bought Jim a meal when we got to Dubois.

I'm not certain of the significance of this, or if there even is any. But it seemed a curious twist that an environmental reporter had skipped a \$5 meal at a mining association convention so that he could spend his last six dollars on a hitchhiker looking for a job in the mines. And the EPA administrator is worrying about the effect of environmental regulation on the nation's "real economic problems."

— DSW

LETTERS

MUCH TO COMBAT

Dear HCN,

Bless you for Barry Flamm's article "Where is the anger?" (HCN, 6/25/82). The anger, disgust and revulsion are out there (amongst thinking people) but coupled with the frustrations of what (and how) to do to combat this frightening administration. Organizations are seemingly working hard behind the scenes to stem the disasters wherever possible and people are contributing financially as best they can, but it seems to me we need a real crusading rally point and person. There is so much to combat immediately, one hardly knows where to start.

I hope Barry Flamm keeps up his anger and talks and writes wherever and whenever he can. Maybe he can be the catalyst to funnel the frustrations that are out there.

Sandy Sargent
Corwin Springs, Montana

A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION

Dear HCN,

I have just finished reading, with a good deal of interest, Dan Whipple's story on Wyoming water development (HCN, 6/25/82).

I assume that you would appreciate my personal opinions as I appreciate yours.

In my opinion, Chapter 59, session laws of Wyoming 1982 and previously enacted legislation setting the parameters under which the Wyoming Water Development Commission operates is very constructive legislation that will

benefit the greater good for all of the people of Wyoming. I believe that this has been demonstrated in the Park Reservoir and Fremont Lake legislation which recognized "minimum pool" and "minimum stream flow" as a beneficial use of water, which is so dear to you.

I would prefer stream-by-stream water planning and development rather than the approach taken in Chapter 60. I would also prefer a more moderate and sustainable pace. However, the commission is composed of honorable and sincere men who will do their best in a very difficult situation.

In my opinion, you could be of help to the commission, and to your own cause, by writing a critical analysis of all of the projects authorized by the legislature for the commission to pass judgment on, and spend your money on.

The polarization that results from the impression that many people have — "conservationists are against all water development" — is not good. Environmental values can be enhanced by sensibly planned water developments. The evidence is that the vast majority of people in Wyoming are convinced of its necessity.

You are in a position to be of great service to your state and I look forward to reading future issues.

Willard C. Rhoads
Cody, Wyoming

(Ed. note: Willard Rhoads is a member of the Wyoming Water Development Commission.)

WATER COURSE

Dear HCN,

Tom Wolf's letter (HCN, 6/25/82) stated that clear cuts collect snow that

would normally stick in the forest canopy and that the accumulated snow in the clear cuts would melt later in the spring. However, research by Charles Troendle and Charles Leaf at the Rocky Mountain Forest & Range Experiment Station, Ft. Collins, Colorado, has concluded that the increased snow accumulations were more the result of redistribution changes between clear cuts and the surrounding forest than savings in snow from the canopy. Also they showed that the snow in the clear cuts melted earlier in the spring because it received more solar radiation.

Bart Trucano
Evanston, Wyoming

WATER COSTS

Dear HCN,

I have read with much interest about the high price of water in this great state of ours.

How much should water cost? For a thousand gallons, is \$2.50 too low? Is \$30 too high?

Ever compare the price of water to something else...say scotch? A thousand gallons of that stuff costs \$42,000. That's without the sales tax. But who drinks 1,000 gallons of scotch a month? Probably no one. It just seems like my neighbor does.

So what about beer? A thousand gallons of fermented hops will separate you from \$3,560. Unless you live with a motorcycle gang, it would be difficult to guzzle that much beer in a month.

A soft drink? A thousand gallons of the carbonated "real thing" costs \$2,290. That's too much of a good thing.

Milk? A thousand gallons of that white

bone builder will milk you for \$2,090. Now, is \$30 for water too high?

We all know that the real cost for water is having it delivered to our houses 24 hours a day and at a good pressure.

Just imagine what that \$42,000 worth of scotch would cost if it was piped into your home. Just go to the spigot and draw a little nip. Also, it would sure make it easier to find some to repair leaks.

Bob Moore
Wyoming Rural Water
Mills, Wyoming

SKEPTICISM

Dear HCN,

Don't believe everything you read in the papers. I thought of this immediately upon reading that "Gorsuch has asked her agency to press lawsuits vigorously." (HCN, 6/11/82).

What I most often hear about Gorsuch is that she has been and is now presiding over the dismantling of the Environmental Protection Agency, that she is about as much into environmental protection as James Watt is engaged in land preservation.

Getting her to protect the environment and Watt to protect our land seems to be as easy as keeping a great white shark from biting off your leg once it's clear down the shark's throat.

A lawsuit must first be filed before it can be pressed. I am thinking that the statement would be somewhat more accurate if it read, "If any lawsuits are filed by the EPA they will be pressed..."

Harris Heller
Boulder, Colorado



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We've been missing something.

For the past six months, there has been an unpublicized opening at *High Country News*. Since October, when the paper officially became a non-profit entity, we have been without a publisher, a niche that founder Tom Bell had filled from the paper's beginning in 1970.

We have not, of course, been without friends and supporters who have often filled the publisher's role, caring about the quality of our product, believing in its importance, investing money in its future.

This summer, we would like to formally recognize this ad hoc publishing family through the High Country News Publishers Fund. This fund, designed as a complement to the Research Fund we use for editorial projects, will provide financial support for such non-editorial purposes as circulation building, advertising promotion, foundation fundraising and other survival tactics.

Join the Publishers Fund. And welcome to the family.

..... Count me in. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for \$

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* Unless donors ask to remain anonymous, we plan to acknowledge all contributions to the Publishers Fund in the paper. In addition, names of the Publishers Circle (\$5,000), Publishers Friends (\$1,000) and Publishers Associates (\$500) will be printed on the masthead of *High Country News* during the coming year.

..... Please check here if you *do not* want your gift acknowledged in this manner.

Appropriate technology

It's a woman's world

by Don Snow

The Women and Technology Project at the University of Montana has received national attention for its focus on how appropriate technologies can be used as instruments of social change, and how they can improve the lives of women. Project director Judy Smith, a faculty affiliate for the Women's Studies Program, is the acknowledged force behind the project's many activities. She is also a popular lecturer at Montana universities and other schools around the region, where she frequently delivers her messages for social change.

One of her favorite targets is the use of non-renewable resources in the American economy, a system she believes is showing signs of extreme wear.

"Economics is called the science of the rational man," she said. "I'm very happy that I am under no obligation to be either of those things. I'm not interested in the world that the so-called rational man has made." That world, according to Smith, is dying. "When we factor in all of the costs, including social and environmental, of maintaining huge, centralized energy systems, we find that they cannot afford their own excesses and failures," she said, adding that nuclear power is the clearest example of technological failure.

But she acknowledged that many women, including many feminists, are wary of "simpler" technologies that might lead to more drudgery at work and in the home. She pointed to one organization, called Nuclear Energy Women, which cautions that the abandonment of nuclear power will put women back into a technological stone-age. While Smith charged that such claims are ridiculous, she acknowledged that there is a receptive audience for them, and that sound arguments must be made in favor of appropriate technology.

One of Smith's fears is that new technologies, like the older ones they are displacing, will perpetuate some of the same social problems that women have been forced to suffer since the Industrial Revolution — namely, a tendency toward domination by "experts" accompanied by a distinct lack of democratic decision-making. "We know that certain kinds of technologies make people feel alienated and apathetic in regard to their own society," she said. "There's a great deal of anxiety over the loss of control, the sense of helplessness. Women are terribly prone to this."

Smith said that complex technologies tend to spawn an aristocracy of experts — usually engineers — who, like the tools they create, become masters instead of servants. She cautioned against this trend among proponents of alternative technologies, and asserted that the way to combat it is by insisting on democratic decision-making at the local level and by adopting community strategies for solving technological problems.

"I disagree with Amory Lovins when he says that politics should be removed from the soft path," she said. In fact, political decisions lie at the heart of Smith's vision for the future. Amory Lovins is a British energy consultant and author who has been the leading theorist for replacement of centralized energy systems with appropriate — or "soft" — ones.



"I disagree with Amory Lovins when he says that politics should be removed from the soft path."

— Judy Smith, Director

Women and Technology Project, University of Montana

"There are two ways to restructure our energy systems," she said. "One way is through technological fixes, like the eventual use of photovoltaics in homes." But technical fixes alone will tend to glorify the experts once again, according to Smith. Thus her second

solution, which she called the social fix, is critically important.

"It begins with individuals working out their own energy solutions, or maybe working in small communities like neighborhoods in New York City to design systems that people share. The

next step is to look at larger groupings and begin building political constituencies that support new energy options." Smith said that the community development model is appropriate for community-wide energy planning.

She pointed out that citizens in Montana and other states have used the political process to condemn nuclear power. Montanans, for instance, have passed initiatives banning uranium milling and requiring voter approval of nuclear energy facilities. Smith said now that citizens have enunciated what they do not want on the energy menu, it is time to proclaim what they do want. Coalition politics can help them, she said.

But along with a gradual shift to appropriate technologies there must be a broad commitment to task sharing and equity in employment so that women do not get shuffled once again to the bottom of the social deck, according to Smith.

"Women are the nation's poor," she said. "We make 59 cents for every dollar earned by men in comparable jobs. We have been the energy resources that have performed society's maintenance work. It's time that we address the question of job quality, and it's time that we begin looking to community solutions rather than expert solutions to get basic work done."

As one who holds a doctorate in molecular biology, Smith is in favor of women entering the professions.

"Women should become scientists and engineers if they want," she said, "but they should also be aware that science and technology are often at odds. Science emphasizes simplicity and elegance, while many technologies tend to be complicated and inefficient," hence inappropriate, according to Smith.

She believes that the alternative energy path can help restore meaning to individual lives by trimming energy systems down to personal scale. Nevertheless, she said advocates must be careful not to associate alternative technology with sacrifice.

"When the alternative energy debate began, we started it with a discussion of limits," she said. "They were called limits to growth. Unfortunately, many people began to associate appropriate technology with making sacrifices and with the idea that we have to go backwards instead of forward. It's not a very attractive image to offer, that the alternative to alienation is returning to something that people have already progressed beyond."

Like Lovins, she believes that alternative energy is catching on around the country, especially in the Northeast and Northwest, but she fears that the Reagan administration is out of step with it. "I was invited to testify before a Department of Energy panel on the Reagan energy plan last year," she said. "While I sat there with my data, listening to others testify, I actually identified more closely with those out in the lobby who were passing out pieces of baloney in protest. In the Reagan plan there was no room for renewables, no room for conservation. I realized I would not be able to communicate with the people who drafted that plan. They live in another culture."

Her data, anyway, were useless, she said. "We're wasting our time if we're still focusing on number-crunching. We no longer need to prove that alternatives work. The paths are quite clear. Now we have to win over people's hearts and minds."

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Don Snow is a freelance writer in Stevensville, Montana, and a frequent contributor to *High Country News*. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

The distinction of extinction



Black-footed ferrets appear to have avoided it, but Paul Ehrlich (remember *The Population Bomb*?) isn't too sure about the prospects for the rest of us. And Bill Barbat, publisher of a quarterly newsletter on the greenhouse effect, has his doubts about the planet itself. And if all that sounds depressing for July 23 HCN, take heart: it's our last issue before summer vacation — and we promise to return in a much better mood.