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High Country

news

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Riley Ridge

Gas sours wildlife in Wyoming

by Geoffrey O'Gara

Over a year ago, an exploratory drilling rig in the foothills of the Wyoming Range near Big Piney, Wyoming, sprung a leak, spewing natural gas. The milky gas clung to the ground as it undulated along the landscape like the vapors of dry ice used to simulate fog in theater productions.

The American Quasar Petroleum rig was drilling deep into the Mother Lode of the Rocky Mountains' latest energy bonanza, the Overthrust Belt in southwest Wyoming. At once-unheard-of depths of over 12,000 feet, the gas found is often laced with highly poisonous hydrogen sulfide — dubbed "sour" gas. The blowout last June gave Wyoming residents the first indications that perhaps the impossible *could* happen. Despite reassurances from energy companies, sour gas wells could blow out due to mechanical or human failure. Nearby residents were evacuated and none were injured.

None, that is, if you are counting only human residents. A hapless moose and a few antelope missed the roadblocks and failed to heed the radio warnings. They wandered into the mist and never wandered forth again.

The rotten egg smell associated with hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) occurs only at very low, and relatively safe, levels of the gas. At concentrations in the atmosphere of as little as 1/100 of one percent, a person breathing the gas will lose the sense of smell; much above that, and it will cause respiratory and cardiac arrest. Heavier than air, hydrogen sulfide creeps along the ground unless wind disperses it.

The well was capped after a few days, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department was left with an interesting problem: What would the department charge American Quasar for the lost wildlife?

The answer the agency finally arrived at was a plucky example of official expediency, if a bit nonsensical. American Quasar was billed \$260.41 for the antelope and \$385.10 for the moose. The bill was arrived at by playing with figures from a recent survey on the economic value of the state's hunting and fishing industry that considered everything from motel rooms to chewing tobacco purchases. If you take an average size, field-dressed antelope, that bill figures out to about \$4 a pound; the moose, if average, went for only 60 cents a pound. Game and Fish's Bill Morris, in Cheyenne, said they used the economic survey to figure the charges for the dead game "for lack of anything better." Indeed, they could hardly have comparison shopped at the local meat counter.



Sour gas facility in Whitney Canyon, north of Evanston, Wyoming

But that half-serious attempt to put a value on wildlife comes into a new and sharper focus when we consider what is about to unfold in the vicinity of the errant American Quasar rig. Over the next few decades, energy companies are planning to drill hundreds of new

wells, all of them burrowing deep for sour gas. They plan to build railroad spurs, pipelines, power lines and all the other support structures necessary for a major field development. They plan to construct four enormous plants to remove the hydrogen sulfide from the

gas. They plan to bring thousands of workers into this sparsely settled country to do the work. All this will take place in an area that includes valuable, in some cases critical, wildlife habitat.

(continued on page 10)

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Wilderness oil leasing banned

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation banning oil, natural gas and some mineral leasing in wilderness areas except in national emergencies. The bipartisan, compromise legislation passed 340 to 58 and is a very significant victory for environmentalists. However, with the end of the congressional session in sight and Senate action still questionable, energy development is not out of the woods yet.

The legislation, called the Wilderness Protection Act of 1982, "would immediately and permanently withdraw lands in the National Wilderness Preservation system (except for lands in Alaska) from oil, gas, oil shale, coal, phosphate, potassium, sulfur, gilsonite and geothermal leasing." It also protects National Forest Service lands recommended to Congress for designation as wilderness or for further planning in RARE II (Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) until Congress decides their fate. Alaska leasing rules were decided in the Alaska lands bill.

The bill does allow hard rock mining for gold, silver, cobalt and lead until 1984, the original cut-off date for mining in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The legislation, as passed, does not allow seismic testing in wilderness areas, but does allow it in further planning areas. An amendment to allow seismic testing in wilderness was defeated on the House floor by a 281 to 115 vote.

Perhaps most significant, the legislation does not contain language releasing non-wilderness lands for development. This issue is almost certain to be a sore point in Senate consideration of the bill.



The legislation now goes to the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water chaired by Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.). Wallop has said that he favors withdrawal legislation "in principle," but the subcommittee has so far not acted on identical legislation introduced by Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.). Jackson has requested hearings, however, and they should be held before the end of the session, which is scheduled for October 8.

The significance of full congressional action looms large in light of a letter sent to Wallop by Interior Secretary James Watt early this year. Watt told Wallop that he would not lease wilderness areas for the remainder of 1982 in order to give Congress time to make its intentions clear. If the Senate fails to pass the legislation, Watt will probably consider that there is no congressional mandate to withdraw wilderness from leasing and will proceed with his announced plans to "open wilderness areas." That, at least, is the interpretation of some congressional and environmental sources, but Interior would not comment.

The main stumbling block in the Senate is Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho). He is opposed to the wilderness leasing ban, particularly if it is unaccompanied by release language. McClure is chair-

man of full Energy and Natural Resources Committee, through which the legislation must go.

According to one Senate source, who asked to remain anonymous, "Watt feels that there is a mandate to issue those leases, but I think there is plenty of discretion in the act. He kicked this issue up needlessly. If the bill gets to the floor, it will probably pass. However, there is considerable question whether it will get through the committee. And, this late in the session, anything that doesn't receive unanimous consent on the floor doesn't get considered." Unanimous consent is the parliamentary rule which allows a single objection from a senator to prevent legislative consideration.

ETSI's permits challenged

Two lawsuits have been filed in Federal District Court in Lincoln, Nebraska, challenging the federal government's approval of permits for withdrawal of water from the Missouri River Basin for use in the proposed Energy Transportation Systems Inc. (ETSI) coal slurry pipeline.

ETSI has been sold 50,000 acre-feet of water by the state of South Dakota from Oahe Reservoir for use in its pipeline, which will carry 25 million tons of mixed crushed coal and water from Wyoming's Powder River Basin to Arkansas and Louisiana. The U.S. Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation approved permits for use of the water.

The lawsuits, one of which was filed



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Dear friends,

One of the high points of Jennifer Walford's internship at *High Country News* this summer was finishing the story about Colorado's "Bottle Bill" referendum that appears on page 16 of this issue. She says this, however, with the sort of grimace that makes you wonder if she really means it.

Still, we try to give our interns here at least one major feature to write and we hope readers will find her effort interesting and informative. Jennifer will graduate in December from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley with a major in journalism and a minor in environmental studies. She arrived at *HCN* in mid-June and has been busily turning out Bulletin Board, Western Roundup and Hotline items ever since with the flair of a veteran.

She was born near Colorado Springs and has spent most of her life in Colorado. She also works for the Colorado Public Interest Research Group as media coordinator and newsletter editor. For recreation, she likes to party, bicycle, hike and ski.

Her other "high point" as an *HCN* intern was "finally finding out how a newspaper is run and being up close to the action." Her low point was "not being paid." (Ah, well...)

Jennifer's last day at *HCN* will be August 31. Asked if she had any advice for future interns, she said, "They should take some initiative and really get involved in all the different areas — not just writing — and have fun with it." After a moment's thought she added, "They should also have a large savings account."

HCN's fall intern will be Jeff Stern of Colville, Washington. We are accepting applications for a winter internship. Deadline for application is November 30.

The judges have finally tabulated their votes and would like to announce the winner of *HCN* Contest No. II. Unfortunately, they don't know who it is. The winners, who submitted their address — 305 Prospect Place #4-D, Brooklyn, New York — but not their name (or names), sent the following for the "Create Your Own Cause Celebre" Contest:

**TOFU
LEAGUE for
PEACE &
FREEDOM**
founded June 12, 1982
42nd St., New York City

Who do you know who's for the arms race? Nobody, right? So why isn't everybody out there marching? The Tofu League was established to demonstrate for those disorganized, too timid, too busy or too messed up to get up and shout about their interest in a nuclear-free world. On June 12 we carried the "Moral Majority for Disarmament" banner. Next, it will be "Total Women for Peace," "Sagebrush Rebellion Against Nuclear Armaments." Please join us — the possibilities are endless — don't send money — just get out there with a sign.

Runners-up were Deidre Duncan for a persuasive piece on the need for more cars in national parks, and Richard Albert of West Trenton, New Jersey, for forming the Committee for No Acronyms in Government (NAG) and calling for the establishment of a Government Acronyms Bureau (GAB).

No one entered *HCN* Contest No. III, so the judges will tear up an *HCN* T-shirt and divide it amongst themselves. If our Brooklyn winners will send name and T-shirt size, we'll get a shirt off to them.

— the staff

The *HCN* Publishers Fund drive is nearing its \$20,000 goal. To date, we've received gifts and pledges totalling \$16,926, leaving us a mere \$3,074 to raise in the next two weeks. Since we last wrote, we've received gifts from the following people. Many thanks to:

Connirae and Steve Andreas
Guy Bonniwier
Sarah Doll
Mo Eads
Howard and Mary Alice Evans
Kayleen Evans
Jeff Fereday
Philip Friedman
Donald Heiberg
Kay Humme

Patricia Jones
Mrs. R. Marxhausen
David Pardee
Dr. and Mrs. Walter Spofford
Nelle Tobias
Dorothy and Charles Valle
Emily Wellstood
Anonymous donors

by the states of Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri and the other by the Nebraska Farmers Union, the Sierra Club, Iowa Farmers Union, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and the Kansas City Southern Railroad, contend that the federal government agencies have no authority to issue permits for water use in a coal slurry pipeline without the express approval of Congress. The groups also charge that the slurry line approval is only the first step in a program that will eventually draw one million to three million acre-feet of water from the basin for energy development. The plaintiffs charge that water availability and environmental studies done to date are inadequate to support that level of withdrawal.

The suit was filed on August 18. No date for a hearing has been set. ETSI first proposed the pipeline to the Wyoming legislature in 1974 and has been battling over water and permit issues ever since. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in the spring of 1983.



Idaho Dept. of Commerce and Development

60,000 forest acres up for sale

Some 60,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land will be put up for sale if Agriculture Secretary John Block's recommendations are followed.

In a statement issued in early August, Block recommended that more than 60,000 acres of forest lands be sold immediately and asked that a legislative proposal be developed to give the U.S. Department of Agriculture new authority to sell even more land. In fact, Block told the *Denver Post* that in addition to the 60,000 acres, 18 million acres of forest land should be sold within the next few years.

Block's recommendations are part of the Reagan administration's plan to sell many acres of public land in an attempt to lower the national debt (*HCN*, 7/23/82).

Diane O'Conner, press officer with the USDA, said that after a quick inventory of Forest Service lands, land was grouped into three categories. Fifty million acres were placed into the first category and will not be for sale. They include wilderness areas, national recreation areas, national monuments and wild and scenic rivers.

The second category is the 60,000

acres to be offered for sale immediately. Included in that are 172 acres in Montana, 101 acres in Wyoming, 4,209 acres in Colorado, 510 acres in Idaho, 503 acres in Utah, 3,923 acres in Arizona and 40 acres in New Mexico.

Dick Pederson, forester with the Forest Service in Washington D.C., said the agency already holds authority to sell the 60,000 acres. He explained that in the Rocky Mountain Region, most of the available acreage can be sold under the Townsite Act. Under that act, established in 1958, towns that are adjacent to national forests and have run out of private land for expansion, may apply to purchase forest land, not to exceed 640 acres. Pederson said the sale is limited to town governments. The USDA secretary must consider the town's local needs more important than the retention of the land for public use before the application can be accepted.

Pederson did say that developers are often behind a town's application. An influential developer might persuade a town government that a certain development would be beneficial, convincing the city officials to apply.

Pederson said this method has not been used much in the past. Instead, land exchanges have been the usual process. Private land located away from a townsite that would be beneficial to the forest system is often exchanged for Forest Service land adjacent to the town.

The third category in the forest land inventory placed 140 million acres under further study. O'Conner said probably 15 to 18 million of the 140 million acres will be put up for sale if the new authority to sell is granted by Congress next year. The remaining acreage will be retained and put into category one.

Of the 4,000 acres in Colorado recommended for immediate sale, 80 acres are in the Roosevelt National Forest, 1,200 acres in the Grand Mesa/Uncompahgre/Gunnison National Forests, 1,200 acres in the Rio Grande National Forest, 1,137 acres in Pike National Forest and 590 acres in White River National Forest.

In Wyoming, 100 acres in Shoshone National Forest are considered saleable and one acre in Medicine Bow National Forest will be offered.

In Montana, land for sale includes 160 acres in the Kootenai National Forest, eight acres in the Helena National Forest, three acres in the Lewis and Clark National Forest and the one-acre site of the old DeSmet School.

Jackson Hole land sale favored

Despite substantial local opposition, Wyoming State Land Commissioner Oscar Swan has recommended the sale of nearly 500 acres of state land in Jackson Hole.

And in the wake of his recommendation a state legislative committee has called for a one-year moratorium on all state land sales to allow a review of the entire program. Both recommendations will be considered at the September 2 meeting of the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners, which consists of the state's five elected officials and has final authority on both questions.

The state lands in question consist of two 80-acre parcels on West Gros Ventre Butte and one 316-acre parcel on East Gros Ventre Butte (*HCN*, 6/11/82). A fourth parcel of 23 acres along the Snake River was included in the original package, but was recommended for lease rather than sale.

The 476 acres recommended for sale are currently under grazing leases to

Pete and Mary Mead. Mrs. Mead is the daughter of former U.S. Senator and Wyoming Governor Clifford Hansen, who initiated the sale proposals when he and representatives of the Somerset Company, a California development firm, appeared before the Board of Land Commissioners in April. Under state law, an existing surface lessee can file an application to purchase the state lands under lease; if the land board approves the sale at auction, the lessee also has the right to meet the highest bid.

According to Teton County's State Senator John Turner (R), a member of the Joint Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Committee, which has proposed the moratorium, "These statutes were written many years ago to help ranchers protect the integrity of an agricultural unit. This intent is still justified, but our group was unanimous in questioning the wisdom of allowing preferences to possible speculators and subdividers."

In seeking the moratorium, the committee had one eye on the proposed Jackson Hole sale and the other on a recent Oklahoma court decision (*HCN*, 5/28/82) that raises questions about the constitutionality of selling state lands on terms that subsidize agriculture.

According to Bob Bullock, Deputy Land Commissioner, under current practice, the lessee could purchase the land with a 25 percent down payment and an eight percent loan over 30 years. For the Jackson Hole sale, Swan recommended that a stipulation be placed in the contract requiring payment in full if the land changes from agricultural use.

The legislative committee will be looking at that idea as a possible general stipulation and will also be looking at public hearing requirements and preferential bidding policies. A subcommittee headed by Turner will recommend changes in the law to the legislature next spring.

BARBED WIRE

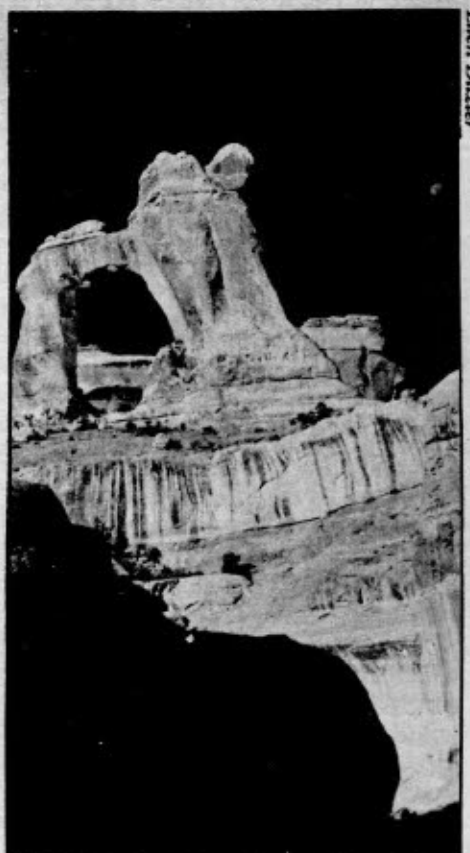
Environmentalists responsible for crime wave! According to an Associated Press news story, a large number of residents of the town of Everglades City, Florida, have turned to marijuana smuggling as their primary source of income because former Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus warned them of a future ban on commercial fishing in Everglades National Park. Everglades City Mayor Herman Askren told the news agency, "The moral fiber is breaking down around here something awful."

Old West meets New West. Horses pulling a stagecoach in Cody, Wyoming, stampeded and rammed into a pickup truck owned by the Cody Gas Company. No one, including the horses, was injured in the accident.

Talk about overregulation. Under a Nevada state law, high card showing on the first visible round of a seven-card stud poker game must bet at least 50 cents.

Still a few bugs in the system. Science News reports that researchers have encountered pocket gophers with a proclivity for burrowing into the cover of low-level radioactive waste dumps. Over a five year observation period, the little rodents moved over 12 tons of the earth. The scientists report that the animal could seriously affect the integrity of the waste burial sites "in many ways not generally considered."

The Alexander Haig I'm In Charge Here Diplomacy Award goes to... the United States government for conducting a well-publicized underground nuclear weapons test on the day before the 37th anniversary of the nuclear attack on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.



Angel Arch, Canyonlands National Park

Utah, feds duke over nuke dump

The siege mentality existing between the state of Utah and the U.S. Department of Energy over the proposed nuclear waste repository near Canyonlands National Park has escalated in recent weeks. Utah Gov. Scott Matheson (D) issued orders that state permits required by the agency be denied until

(continued on next page)

Better yet, get him up there and throw him off. Climbing magazine reports that a new climbers' route up Devil's Tower in Wyoming has been named Dump Watt.

Telling it like it is. Upon the departure of an Interior Department solicitor, the following notice was found taped to a number of Interior office doors in its Washington, D.C. headquarters:

DALE D. GOBLE

IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

that he has accepted a position with
THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO COLLEGE OF LAW

and
that he is no longer obligated
to create legal-sounding lies allowing
JAMES GAUIS WATT,
his cronies, henchmen and flunkies
to break the law
rape the land and
give the public's resources away

AFTER JULY 20, 1982

CAMAS, CAROL & DALE

will be at
**707 B STREET
MOSCOW, IDAHO 83843**

Fellow Travelling Department. Bob Jones, president of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association and a member of the Bureau of Land Management National Advisory Council, writing in the *New Mexico Stockman*, blasted environmental groups, particularly the National Wildlife Federation, for criticism of Interior Secretary James Watt. Said Jones, "Possibly there are a few Fidel Castro and similar Marxist supporters tied to these groups in positions of leadership, guiding the blind and faithful down the primrose paths. These leaders forming a coalition with 'right wing' groups like the Sierra Club Friends of Animals League to Save the Common Cockroach...are attempting to deprive the citizens of New Mexico of a birthright that justly belongs to them."

WESTERN ROUNDUP

(continued from previous page)

DOE agrees to make some concessions and he disbanded a state advisory committee that had been dealing with the issue. DOE is awaiting congressional legislation that it hopes will override state objections and is reportedly considering suing Utah through the Department of Justice.

On July 15, Matheson told all involved state agencies to refuse to issue permits for efforts to explore the Gibson dome site in southern Utah because he felt the agency had violated laws covering state participation and public involvement in the site selection process. Gibson Dome is a bedded salt geologic formation which is being considered for permanent storage of high-level radioactive waste from commercial nuclear reactors (HCN, 2/19/82). The site DOE is studying is about a mile and half from the border of Canyonlands National Park.

Matheson's action means that state agencies will not allow drilling on state land, will not allow rights-of-way across state lands and will not allow oversized loads to be carried across state roads. Matheson wants DOE to agree to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement on the waste dump site that compares the Utah site with other salt sites being considered. Other sites are in Texas and Louisiana. In addition, the governor wants DOE to prepare the EIS on the entire repository facility, not simply the \$50 million exploratory shaft that DOE will sink. DOE has refused to do the programmatic EIS and argues that sinking the shaft does not mean that the repository will be built at the site, which is located in Davis and Lavender Canyons.

Sources said that DOE is counting on legislation, now being considered in Congress, that would override state environmental and institutional safeguards. That bill has been narrowly passed by the House Commerce Committee.

In addition, DOE has consulted with the Justice Department about a possible lawsuit, challenging Utah's permit denials. Justice is reportedly in favor of the suit and is consulting with White House counsel about action.

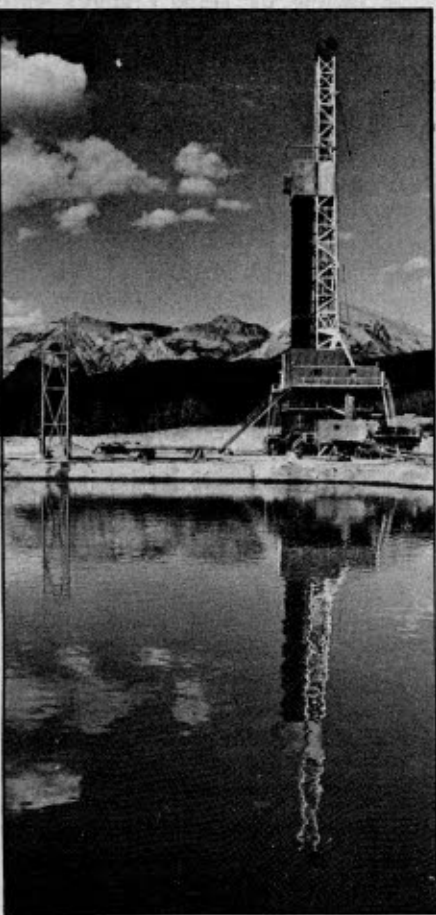
Matheson also disbanded a state waste dump task force that has been dealing with the DOE. Sources said the task force had presented DOE with a forum for its views rather than a critical evaluation of them, so the governor abolished it. In addition, said the source, state money would be more efficiently used by going through existing state agencies.

In late July, five national and state environmental groups filed an appeal with the Interior Board of Land Appeals that challenged the Bureau of Land Management's decision allowing DOE to proceed with its exploration plans under its environmental rules. There will be a hearing this month on that appeal.

Matheson told the *New York Times*, "A federal agency assigned to achieve a the 'highest levels' of the agency want accomplishment of that objective having already made a personal, private and secret decision about what that objective would be, to wit, a nuclear waste dump in Utah." DOE officials admit that the "highest levels" of the agency want an expeditious selection of the site. DOE Secretary James Edwards has said he wants a repository selection before he leaves the agency in October. However, the agency claims that no decision has been made.

Utah also contends that there are flaws in the site analysis DOE prepared. In an unreleased assessment, a Utah official concludes that DOE ignored important archeological sites near the Davis and Lavender Canyon site and arbitrarily applied criteria for thickness of the salt formations. DOE established a min-

imum and maximum thickness for salt beds as criteria in selecting a site. However, the agency eliminated one site, Elk Ridge near Blanding, Utah, even though it met the minimum and included the Gibson dome site, even though the salt there exceeded the maximum.



Chip Rawlins

Wyoming denies Little Granite well

States' rights emerged as a central issue in the most recent round of the Little Granite Creek controversy over a Getty Oil Company oil and gas well slated for a high mountain site in the proposed Gros Ventre wilderness area on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

The jurisdictional dispute erupted when a number of federal employees, acting on the advice of U.S. attorneys, ignored state subpoenas requesting them to give depositions to be used in an August 12 hearing before Wyoming's Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. When the subpoenas were not honored, the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission cancelled the hearing and declined to issue Getty the state drilling permit.

Although the subpoenas were issued by the Oil and Gas Commission, they were drafted by the law firm of Spence, Moriarity and Schuster, which is working *pro bono* on the Little Granite Creek issue for the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning, a leader of the local opposition to the well.

According to Bridger-Teton Deputy Forest Supervisor Sonny O'Neal, the subpoenas, issued on short notice, "just covered everything you could think of" and included questions that "were beyond the concerns that the state will be dealing with." Don Basco, supervisor for the Oil and Gas Commission, said the state permitting procedures primarily concern water quality and land surface disturbance issues. O'Neal said the deposition questions also covered such "federal issues" as scenic quality and wilderness.

O'Neal said that the Forest Service has subsequently agreed to supply the state with documents and information requested under the Freedom of Information Act. In the meantime, Bridger-Teton Forest officials have held up the road permit for the Getty well on the

basis of engineering issues recently raised by the Alliance.

Getty's application to drill was approved by the U.S. Minerals Management Service in May and federal appeals of that decision by the Alliance and other conservation groups were summarily rejected by the Interior Board of Land Appeals in late July. The board dismissed the appeals on the basis of a July 9 letter from Acting Interior Secretary Donald Hodel to Governor Ed Herschler, saying the board had no authority to consider an appeal from a decision approved by the secretary of the interior.

Getty spokesman Bob Jacob said the company is still hoping to begin road construction and drilling this fall, but has not yet determined how it will proceed with the state. He said the company was ready to testify at the August 12 hearing and found it "unbelievable that we have been denied due process" by the commission's cancellation of the hearing.

Oil, water mix in Wyoming

Clean up is still continuing on an oil spill in northern Wyoming that is believed to be the second largest inland spill in the country. Despite the size, officials claim it did not cause significant damage.

A 12-inch pipeline burst August 1 after an irrigation district's grader apparently struck it. Nearly 4,000 barrels of oil spewed into Whistle Creek near Byron, Wyoming. From there it flowed into the Shoshone River and the Yellowstone Reservoir on the Montana border.

The spill contaminated 15 miles of the Whistle Creek drainage and 20 miles of the Shoshone River, the *Denver Post* reported. The oil entered 200 yards into the reservoir.

Fatalities so far include four beaver, one grebe, and two ducks. However, a lawsuit is expected because of the expense of the clean-up operation. The Platte Pipe Line Company, which owns the pipeline, is responsible for paying for the clean-up. It may try to force the local irrigation district to pay if it can prove that a grader hired by the district damaged the pipeline.

Platte lost a similar lawsuit this month, however, when the Wyoming Supreme Court said Mountain States Telephone did not have to pay for damage from a 8,555 barrel spill from a Platte system pipeline into the North Platte River near Casper. That spill in 1980 was the largest inland spill in the country, and it killed over a thousand muskrat as well as many geese and ducks.

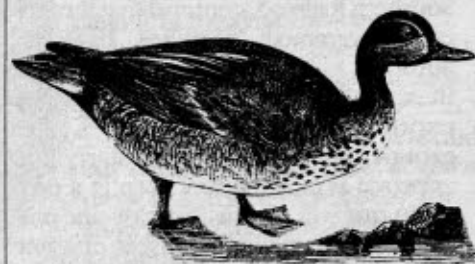
State officials say further casualties are possible as the oil sinks and temporarily seals off the bottom of stream beds.

Investigators are also checking for animals that may have burrowed into holes below the water's surface and died. Louis Pechacek of the state Game and Fish Department said the impact of a pipeline spill is thousands of times smaller than the impact of a tanker spill in the ocean. At its peak, oil covered only about 20 percent of the river surface. The timing of the accident also, reduced the damage since it was between migrations of water fowl through the area.

Some observers complained that it took nearly eight hours to build a dike on Whistle Creek after the spill was reported. However, Leroy Reusner, head of oil spill investigations for the state Department of Environmental

Quality, said Platte responded as quickly as any government agency could have.

— Marjane Ambler



New route eyed for NW pipeline

Opponents of the Northern Tier Pipeline Company in Port Angeles, Washington, are preparing themselves for another battle to prevent construction of an oil terminal in their city.

Led by Getty Oil Company, the recently restructured Northern Tier consortium has initiated a series of meetings with state and local officials in an attempt to resolve the problems that led Washington Governor John Spellman to deny a construction permit last April.

On the recommendation of the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, Spellman turned Northern Tier down because "the proposed project constituted a real threat to Puget Sound, which is a national treasure." The consortium wanted to build an oil port at Port Angeles and a 1,500 mile pipeline under Puget Sound to a distribution point at Clearbrook, Minnesota.

But Spellman left the door open to further discussion when he added that "a proposal for an all-land route, originating at a point west of Port Angeles" could receive favorable consideration.

With Northern Tier now saying it will not again ask for an under-Sound permit the only stumbling block is the Port Angeles site.

Northern Tier officials argued that Port Angeles, on Admiralty Inlet, is the ideal location since it is the only spot on the Strait of Juan de Fuca where oil spills could be contained and kept from reaching the Dungeness Spit Wildlife Refuge. They said restarting the permit process at another location would be economically impractical.

Norma Turner, head of No Oil Port, a citizen's group, said the company doesn't consider the danger of fire and explosion at Port Angeles.

Not long after Spellman denied the permit, Getty increased its stock in the consortium from 32 percent to 64 percent, and became the clear leader of the project. Burlington Northern, an original consortium member, dropped out at that point, and U.S. Steel and Westinghouse, two other major corporate presences, reduced their interests.

Getty then made Jim Shamas, one of the oil company's vice presidents, head of Northern Tier.

While this was happening in the corporate boardrooms, the state sued Northern Tier and the federal government, charging that permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were illegal. The state argued that the Corps had to have state concurrence before issuing permits.

That drew a counter suit from Northern Tier who said that Spellman had no legal right to deny the project.

Those legal maneuverings are presently getting little media attention, however, because of the new round of discussions and the new image Northern Tier is attempting to create through time. Turner and No Oil Port are unimpressed.

"Nothing has changed except the names and faces," she said.

—John Soisson

HOTLINE

LOOKING FOR A CITY

Chevron Oil Company is looking at the possibility of taking over the partially built city of Battlement Mesa in Colorado. The city, which was being built by Exxon, was shut down in May when Exxon's Colony oil shale project was closed (HCN, 5/14/82). Chevron is considering a 100,000 barrel per day oil shale facility in western Garfield County which would require housing for as many as 9,000 workers by the mid-1990s. Exxon has not put up the "for sale" sign yet on Battlement Mesa which was planned to become a city of 25,000.

BUNKER HILL CLEANUP

The Environmental Protection Agency will close one eye if Bunker Hill Co. in Kellogg, Idaho will clean up tons of hazardous wastes at its abandoned mine and smelter. In return, the EPA will ignore several past water quality violations that have not been prosecuted. The trade-off is being done, Steve Provant of EPA told the *Idaho Statesman*, to gain some control over how the Bunker Hill Mill will dispose of the tons of arsenic, cadmium, mercury and other poisonous elements. If disposal methods are not acceptable, the previous charges can be activated.

PARK AIR QUALITY JEOPARDIZED?

The National Park Service has given industry a break by stating that it is not subject to siting constraints under the "integral vista" program when developing within sight of national parks. The program is designed to protect air quality in the parks, but industry has complained that the constraints are excessive. The NPS concluded there are no major impacts on air quality from development near parks and is proceeding with a cost-benefit analysis. The Environmental Protection Agency has responsibility for issuing final integral vista rules and is reviewing its regulations to determine whether it can mandate the program. However, according to 1980 EPA rules, states have the final word on industrial siting.

DENVER RIDES AGAIN

Although the contract wasn't quite what the Regional Transportation District employees wanted, it was accepted and the buses recently began rolling again in Denver (HCN, 6/25/82). The 80,000 regular riders went without bus services for nearly a month, but finally were treated to the reinstated services on August 9. RTD employees grudgingly voted in the contract which does not provide a wage increase in the first year. The cost-of-living clause was removed. RTD employs 1,400 bus drivers. Some employees told the *Denver Post* that when a new contract is up for approval in three years, a more effective bus

strike and a hard fighting union could bring about better terms. As an incentive to bring back bus riders, RTD offered 35 cent bus fares for all regular peak and non-peak hours for one week.

MORE TOXIC BIRDS

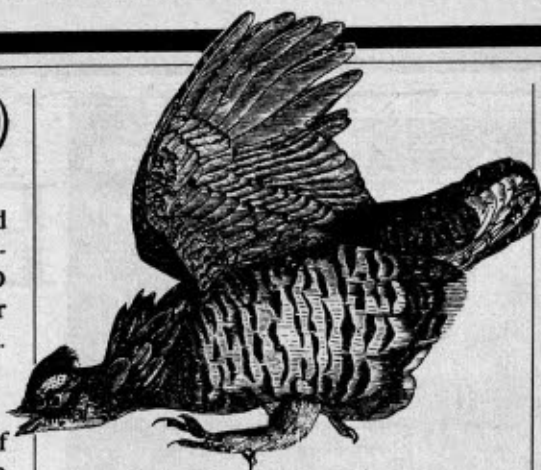
In the continuing search for traces of the pesticide endrin in game birds in Montana, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has found traces of 18 other pesticides that shouldn't be there. Most of the chemicals are chlorinated hydrocarbons and are from pesticides that have been banned or restricted, the *Missoulian* reported. Officials are perplexed as to why many of the birds show such high levels of chemicals that were banned in the early 60s and 70s. They are also trying to pinpoint the state (or location in Canada) where the birds picked up the chemicals. The study results have been turned over to the Environmental Protection Agency.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

A recent "midnight dumping" of 15 containers of hazardous chemicals in Douglas County, Colorado, has officials worried about the consequences of being without a hazardous waste facility. The state closed the Lowry Landfill hazardous waste facility near Denver in mid-July because of safety problems. Of the 15 containers dumped, at least one held a volatile toxic chemical. According to the *Denver Post*, it took officials 19 hours to organize a cleanup and stabilize the material. When a reporter for the *Post* arrived at the dump site, about 19 hours after the illegal dumping had been reported he found the tops of most containers were open. It looked as if some of the contents had overflowed in the previous night's rainfall. Both the county and state refused to take legal responsibility for the situation. The Colorado Health Department said some of the contents included sodium hydrosulfite, citric acid, an industrial cleanser, isocyanuric acid (a bleach) and others.

PIPELINE REGULATIONS

Stricter reporting regulations, affecting 16 intrastate pipeline operators in Montana, will probably be adopted on August 30 by the state Public Service Commission. The rules would require monthly reports on how much crude oil is transported, how much oil is owned and controlled by the company and how much oil is stored for other companies. The amount of oil lost through fire or leakage and gross income and expenses would be listed monthly. An extensive annual financial report is required. Information on how much oil each company controls will not be released. The rules will be adopted unless a hearing is requested by at least two people directly affected by the proposed changes.



IN-STREAM FLOWING AGAIN

Wyoming's in-stream flow initiative may make it on the ballot this November after all. Laramie County District Judge Alan Johnson reversed Secretary of State Thyra Thomson's decision that the initiative petition did not have the correct number of valid signatures. Thomson had declared that 4,934 of the 30,822 signatures collected were invalid. That made the petition 1,266 signatures short. The *Casper Star-Tribune* reported that Johnson ruled the signatures on a properly verified petition are considered valid if they were collected without any knowledge of fraud. Thomson has not decided whether to appeal the decision.

OUT OF THE OVERTHRUST

Chevron Oil and Amoco Oil recently informed the governors of Wyoming, Utah and Idaho that they will bow out of the Overthrust Industrial Association in 20 months. The association was formed by about 30 oil-related firms to help pay some of the socioeconomic costs in boom towns in a five-county area in the three states. Now, Chevron and Amoco say the drilling is decreasing and the tax base in the five counties has expanded enough so that they don't need to help out anymore. The oil group has already granted \$70 million in community impact monies. The governors had asked the two companies to stay in the group and even expand their economic aid. The association will be substantially less effective without the two big companies.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN COAL SLURRY

A bill that would make it easier to lay coal slurry pipelines was passed by the House Public Works Committee. The measure would give federal eminent domain to pipeline builders for rights-of-way construction on private property. Coal slurry is a mixture of water and crushed coal that is pumped through the pipeline from coalfields to electric utilities. Railroads that compete with slurry pipelines are opposed to federal eminent domain legislation. Farmers and ranchers are often against pipelines passing through their property. Such slurry line bills have not made it through Congress in the more than 10 years that they have been offered.

STAGE II PROCEEDING

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation's attempt to temporarily block the construction of the Cheyenne Stage II Water Project was recently refused by U.S. District Judge John Kane, Jr. The environmental group and some landowners wanted to prevent the U.S. Forest Service from issuing permits to build the project through the Medicine Bow National Forest. The project will divert water from the Little Snake River through a tunnel under the Continental Divide and into the North Platte Drainage. Cheyenne will get 5,400 acre-feet of water per year. The Federation is worried that the project will seriously harm streamflows in the Little Snake, Encampment and North Platte Rivers, and that the project could have adverse effects on three proposed wilderness areas. Landowners in the area are afraid their water rights will be disregarded. Construction of the \$60 million project has recently begun.

COAL LEASING PROGRAM

In late July, the Reagan administration released its coal leasing program, which is quite similar to the program the administration proposed last December. Industry's demands for reserves will determine how much coal is to be leased and when, *Public Land News* reported. The rules make the interior secretary responsible for setting leasing levels after recommendations are made by regional coal teams. Opponents of the new policy claim the rules will cause a glut in an already soft coal market and prevent the public from receiving top dollar on the leases.

LEAD LEVELS TIGHTENED

In what would be a major victory for environmentalists, the Environmental Protection Agency is considering tightening the reins on lead levels in gasoline. The new regulations would mean a reduction in the amount of lead entering the atmosphere. The proposal is still awaiting EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch's signature. The proposal is a reversal of the EPA's previous stance on the subject. Last February the agency proposed easing or scrapping lead level standards based on the theory that unleaded gasoline and the manufacturing of less-polluting cars would reduce lead levels without regulations. However, such thinking was met with serious opposition from environmentalists and health officials.

MOBIL BUYS BIG

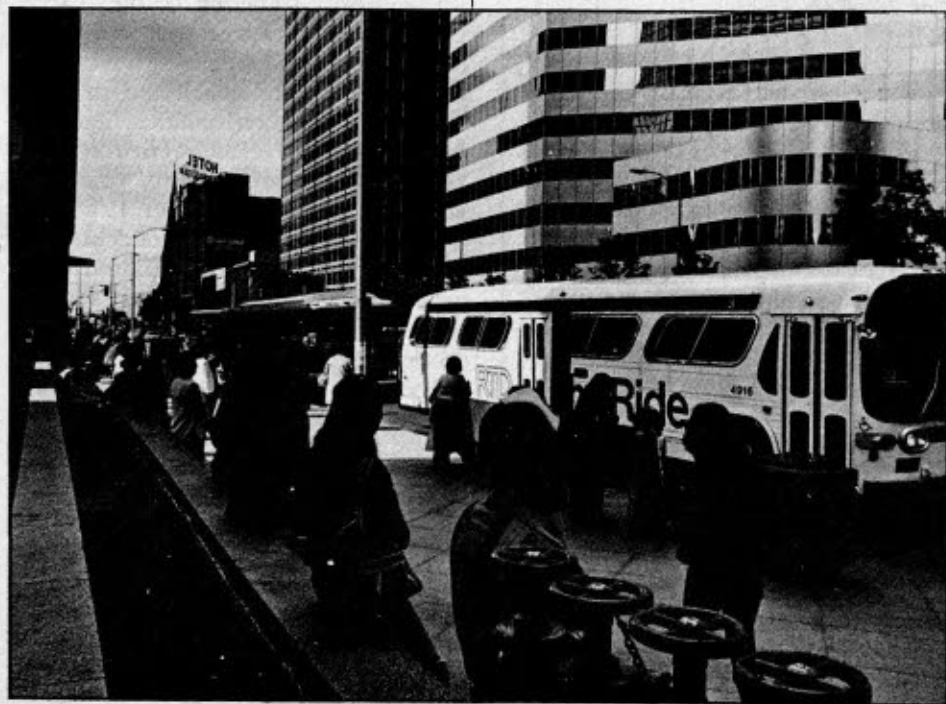
Mobil Oil Corporation has purchased a 50 percent working interest in part of the Anschutz East Ranch Field in Summit County, Utah, an oil and gas field that has been termed the largest domestic U.S. discovery since Prudhoe Bay in Alaska. Mobil and Anschutz have not disclosed the transaction amount, but speculators are saying the figures will be in the multi-hundred-million-dollar range. Estimates on the amount of equivalent barrels of oil that the field can produce range from 100 million to 1.2 billion. It is also supposed to contain between 1.5 trillion and six trillion cubic feet of gas.

OFFSHORE SALES BEGIN

An offshore oil and gas leasing program which will open one billion acres of the U.S. coastline was approved by Interior Secretary James Watt. The five-year plan makes available a total of 41 lease sales off the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, California and the Atlantic coast. One sale reoffering all tracts not previously sold attracted bids on only 40 of the 554 tracts offered. The state of New Jersey filed suit to halt the leasing of 23 tracts off its coast in the reoffering sale. The five-year plan offers offshore areas every two years instead of the three years outlined in the old plan. The oil and gas lease plan gives companies greater access to highly desirable areas off Alaska that have not been drilled before and other "frontier areas." A California federal appeals court responded by ruling that Watt had violated the federal Coastal Zone Management Act by selling leases without determining consistency with California's plan.

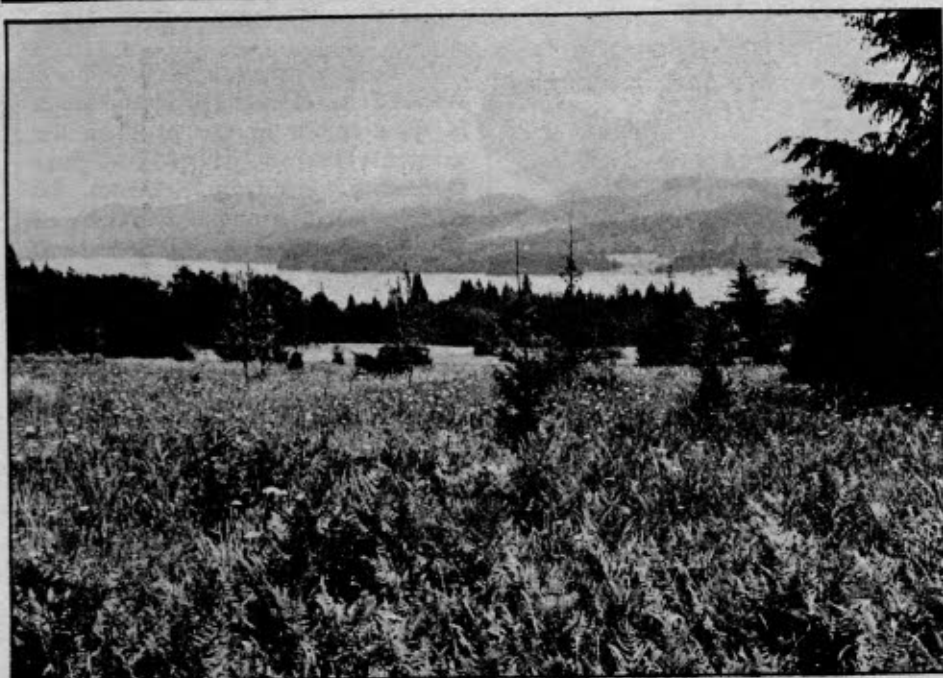
SALT LAKE CITY GROWING

Two annexations in Salt Lake City could bring the city limits to within about two miles of the historic upper level of the Great Salt Lake. The highest elevation of the lake, 4,215 feet, is being used as a guideline for how far development will be permitted. Two annexation petitions have been filed which would add about 3,500 acres to the city's west side. It was determined by city officials that the city could better provide water and sewer services to the areas than the county. If annexed, two areas of unincorporated land would be left jutting into the city, which is illegal. Future annexation of the land is being discussed by officials.



Carol Jones

6-High Country News — Aug. 20, 1982



A view south across South Meadow to Dorena Lake and the Cascade foothills

Ecology meets in New

Story and photos

Some call it the revival of the American Dream.

Others call it a mad fantasy.

Some call it ecological capitalism.

Others call it the epicenter of Ecotopia.

The people who will live there call it Cerro Gordo.

It's located 18 miles south of Eugene, Oregon, and five miles east of Cottage Grove, bordered on three sides by Bureau of Land Management timberland and on the fourth side by the Tow River Valley and Dorena Lake. It is 1,158 acres of south-sloping meadow and rolling hills. And it may be the most ambitious city ever conceived.

It all started with Christopher and Sherry Canfield. While Chris worked for a small publishing firm in Southern California, he and Sherry became involved with the struggles of the Hopi Indians over coal development near Black Mesa, Arizona. The more they got to know the Hopi, the more the simplicity of the Hopi philosophy of living within nature appealed to them. They became Pahnas — white friends of the tribe.

Later, in 1971, while Chris worked as a business manager for a small electronics firm in Santa Barbara, California, the couple's dissatisfaction with the course of their life and their growing concern for the world their children would live in led them to a dream of an environmentally sound, human-scaled community. But they didn't want to drop out of society to get it. They wanted no hermitage nor any monocultural commune. They concluded they would have to start from scratch.

"The big problem in our nation is a lack of a sense of community," Chris Canfield said. "It seemed natural that all the environmental issues and approaches should be integrated at the community level. But we wanted a community of people, not of buildings.

Their solution to the problem was unique. They decided to form a community first and then have the community build an ecological village in which to live.

Most new towns are designed and built by well-financed developers and are often extrusions of suburbia. As a result, they are home to strangers and lack any semblance of warmth.

"We didn't want an ecological development," Canfield explained. "We didn't want to design the structures and then fit the people to them. We wanted to create a new community. There are no precedents for that."

On the other hand, the communal approach posed other problems. The Canfields considered communes to be one-dimensional culturally, divorced from society at large and lacking the variety and diversity that make communities vital and exciting.

They wanted to avoid those two extremes. They wanted to be part of the planning for environmental protection, schools, child care, transportation,

government, energy and waste disposal. They wanted to live in a self-supporting town. A town of the "solar century," and not of the "petroleum century."

They discussed their ideas with friends and formed Town Forum, Inc., a non-profit organization for research, support and membership. They sent out thousands of brochures to people all over the country. And after several meetings solidified the group, they began to look for land.

The criteria for their town site were, at first, very basic. It had to be somewhere north of San Francisco (most Town Forum members lived on the West Coast); it had to be wooded; and it had to have water. They corresponded with about 2,000 realtors, read reports on hundreds of properties, and visited dozens of sites.

After a few mis-starts, they found Cerro Gordo Ranch, an old homestead nestled in a small valley in the foothills of the Cascade mountains. Fir and cedar forests covered most of the property, which was oriented south, towards Dorena Lake, a flood control reservoir built by the Corps of Engineers in the late 1940s. There were streams, abundant wildlife, meadows, agricultural land, and the symbolic security of Cerro Gordo — Fat Hill — to the West. The price was \$312,000. They put \$50,000 down.

"It fit our goals exactly," Canfield

said. "It was all one ranch with natural boundaries. It was separated from the existing community of Cottage Grove but not too distant from a transportation or agricultural center. And, most important, it wasn't prime agricultural land.

"The heart of our goals," he said, "is that we shouldn't misuse land, but use it in accordance with its intrinsic suitabilities."

It was the desire to find the "intrinsic suitabilities" of the land that led the Town Forum members to the theories of Ian McHarg.

In his book *Design With Nature*, McHarg developed an ecological planning method to determine land uses within the limits of nature. He argued that the human dimension need not be imposed upon the landscape but rather can be accommodated within it. Cities and villages can be designed and built while preserving lands most suitable for agriculture and conservation.

Charles DeDeurwaerder agreed. A professor of landscape architecture at Oregon State University at Corvallis, DeDeurwaerder was looking for a chance to test these theories in the field. When Canfield came to him for help in locating a site, DeDeurwaerder jumped at the chance.

With several of his associates, DeDeurwaerder spent two years doing an exhaustive developmental study to determine the carrying capacity of Cerro Gordo Ranch. He prepared maps

for every one-acre rectangle of the site and detailed 25 environmental factors from ecological, planning and economic perspectives. The various aspects of the inventory were analyzed and translated into map overlays. The composite became the subject of Town Forum discussions.

"The result showed that 600 families, but no more, plus their accoutrements, could very easily be accommodated on the site in the 350 acres of the most tolerant landscapes without overwhelming the landscape character," DeDeurwaerder concluded.

By this time, the Town Forum had grown to 4000 member households. About 100 of those formed the Cerro Gordo Co-operative, Inc., and contributed \$150,000 as seed money and down payment.

Those first 100 were a mixed group: a teacher living in Washington, D.C.; a computer specialist in San Francisco; a legal secretary in New York; a 70-year-old couple, retired school teachers; a nuclear chemist at Cal Tech; a lawyer; a minister. Mixed professionally, but essentially middle class.

"We all wanted to develop a non-polluting, cooperative community in harmony with our natural environment," one said, "to give the talents of our members the best chance to develop."

With DeDeurwaerder's studies in hand, the future residents of Cerro Gordo began to plan their town.

"We wanted to live in harmony with nature," Canfield emphasized, "but at the same time we wanted to create a community plan that would maximize community interaction."

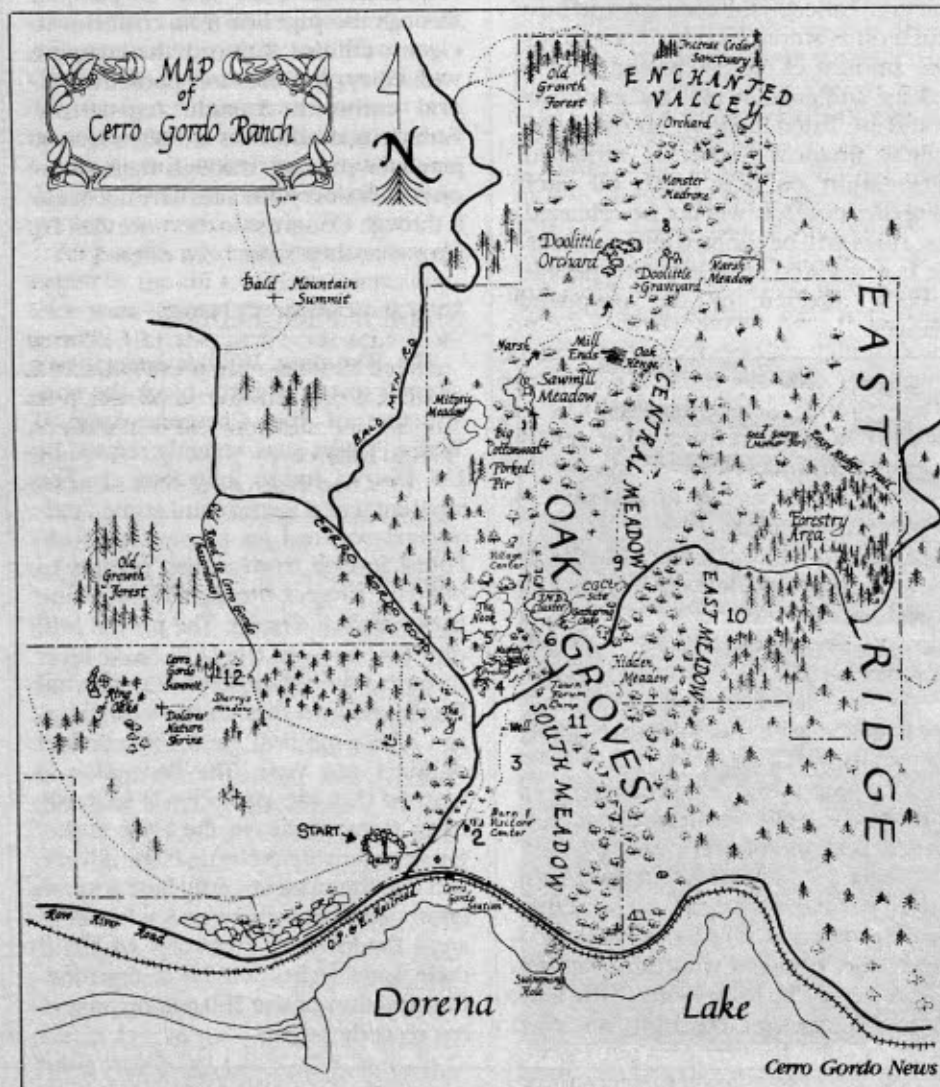
It was easier said than done.

"It hasn't always been peaceful," Canfield admitted, "but we're attracting pioneers. As pioneers, we have strong ideas about what should be done."

In the fall of 1974 a goal was set: by the summer gathering of the Town Forum in 1975 a base plan would be developed and adopted. Seven working committees were established to deal with transportation, utilities, agriculture, community relations, environmental protection, architecture, land use and economics. In November, 1975, the plan was adopted by the residents. Its aim was "to obtain the maximum of well-being with the minimum of consumption," words borrowed from E.F. Schumacher.

The plan employed new approaches to land use by clustering buildings on marginal land, by creating a village-forest symbiosis, and by preserving 90 percent of the 1,158 acres for a resource base, recreation area and buffer.

It called for the reduction of energy use by 50 percent through alternate transportation, organic farming, state of the art space and water heating, and limiting of electricity use to appropriate high quality energy needs.



community Oregon town

by John Soisson

All water would be obtained on-site and wastewater would be returned to the soil with no discharge into surface streams.

It required air quality to remain at its existing level by prohibiting burning of waste materials, limiting vehicular access, and establishing rigorous wood stove emission standards.

The highest priority was recycling waste.

Chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides were prohibited. The plan preserved the best gardening soils for organic agriculture. While it stopped short of calling for food self-sufficiency, it noted that the land was capable of producing food for 2,500 people.

It established managed woodlots for firewood production to back up passive solar home heating systems and for a sustained yield of construction grade lumber for use in building the town.

Commerce within the town and free enterprise were considered an integral part of the community's economic structure.

In addition, plans were laid out for financing the development of the community. Capital would be raised through investment groups made up of Town Forum members and loans were secured by the land.

All homes and homesites would be privately owned but all would be subject to a ten-page charter. About 1,000 acres would be owned co-operatively.

Areas were identified as likely building sites and suitable development was outlined for each area.

The first, at the base of Cerro Gordo Mountain, was called the Barn Site. Originally part of the old homestead, the Barn was close to an existing highway and the track of the Oregon Pacific and Eastern Railway. As such, it was a natural site for a mini-village that would include an inn, a small restaurant, shops and Cerro Gordo offices, and light manufacturing.

The second development area was South Meadow, location of an artesian well that could supply 30 gallons of water per minute and some of the best agricultural soil. Community-scale farming was planned there and attached homes were to be clustered on its northern edge.

What became known as the Prolog Cluster was located further north of the South Meadow. The area became the site of the first construction at Cerro Gordo — a solar prototype house and a log house.

Nearby was the Nook Cluster, with an arboreal enclosure that would allow it to be close to Prolog Cluster but barely visible. The neighborhood formed by the two clusters presently houses two retired couples, a single woman and two families with children.

The Industrial Area was set aside for the community's economic base. Light

manufacturing and small businesses which will export goods were sited there.

The members located the Village Center on a rocky area especially suitable for high density development with minimum environmental impact. They used the traditional European pedestrian village as their model.

At the northern end of the valley they marked out sites for future housing, and to the east of the Village Center they set aside a meadow for community recreation, agriculture, future housing clusters, and the Cerro Gordo Center for Creative Community, an experimental college.

Still further east was East Meadow, a secluded area with good agricultural potential, and the Homestead Neighborhood, where residents could live as an extended family.

From there Cerro Gordo progressed by fits and starts.

Lacking political sophistication, community members posted the land off-limits and local hunters objected. Cottage Grove residents began to regard them as "rich California hippies."

The first application to the Lane County Planning Commission for construction of a cluster of 50 dwellings was rejected, 6-0, for a number of technical reasons.

Soon after, Oregon launched its model statewide land use plan effort and Cerro Gordo had to wait five years before Lane County completed its comprehensive plan and could deal with the new town's applications.

In 1978, plans suffered a severe financial setback when a local bank pulled out from an agreement for home financing in the community.

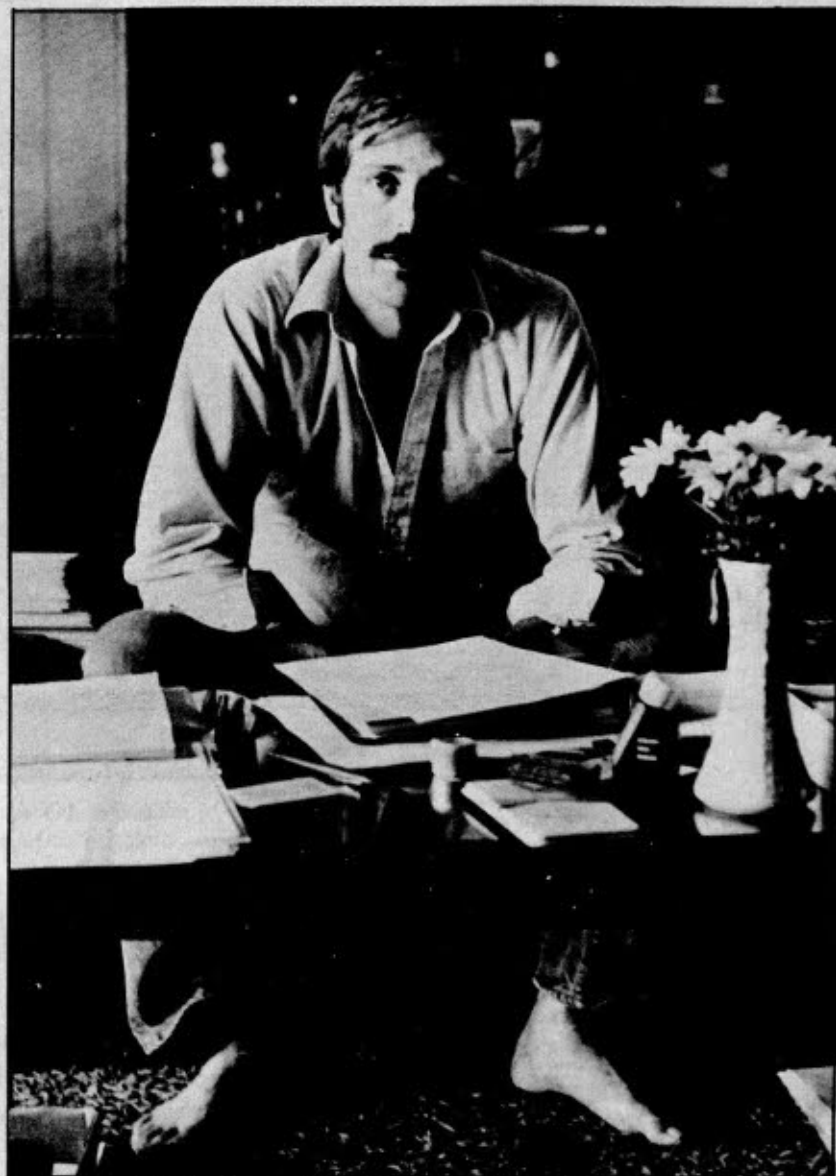
Then, with county approval in hand for a Planned Unit Development of about 100 homes, the state Land Conservation and Development Commission, which oversees the state's land use planning program, found errors in the Lane County Comprehensive Plan and sent it back for revision. That put the Cerro Gordo development in question since it had been approved under the county's new plan.

And the national economic decline has made prospective site buyers more cautious. The number of inquiries are down. "People can't afford to dream," Canfield said.

But in spite of these problems — and perhaps even because of them, — Cerro Gordo persists.

"There are two reasons there aren't more projects like this happening," Canfield said. "Inertia and entropy."

"Inertia is built into all of our institutions. People say you can't do something like this because it's never been done — from the planners who think it's fine we're not going to have cars in the town but still insist we build 60 foot roadways, to the bankers who get excited about our cluster housing proposals but



Christopher Canfield, director and president of Town Forum and originator of the Cerro Gordo Village idea

The Town Forum: Community conscience

The Town Forum is the parent organization for the Cerro Gordo community project. A non-profit, tax-deductible education corporation, it was established in the early 1970s to develop concepts for new and existing communities that respect natural process and limits.

On the short term, Town Forum hopes to encourage demonstration projects that provide alternatives to current land use and community planning practices. For the long term, members hope to have their experiences at Cerro Gordo applied across the country.

Town Forum members share four goals: to build the town of Cerro Gordo, Oregon, as a prototype of a sustainable way of life; to explore a more meaningful future for themselves, whether at Cerro Gordo or elsewhere; to enjoy the company of the Town Forum extended community; to enjoy the beauty of Cerro Gordo Ranch.

There are three directors of Town Forum: Christopher Canfield, founder and president; Nick Cutting, CPA secretary and treasurer, formerly an accountant with the University of California; and Jim Hinman, vice president, a Santa Clara County, California, planner prior to his involvement with the Cerro Gordo project.

Town Forum presently has about 100

supporting members who donate one percent of their monthly income to support Town Forum work. In addition, there are about 200 contributing members and a like number of subscribers.

The members live in various parts of the country, with a concentration on the West Coast. Chapters of Town Forum meet monthly in Seattle; San Francisco; and Los Angeles, California; and Cottage Grove, Oregon.

The organization is attempting to increase its membership to 400 households of supporting members so it can become the community developer, replacing the nine investment groups that have carried the Cerro Gordo project since 1974.

A number of publications are available about Town Forum work, including a *Town Prospectus*, which details the work at Cerro Gordo, and a brochure, *The Cerro Gordo Experiment*. The Forum also publishes regular reports on the progress of Cerro Gordo and other planned communities.

Copies of the publications and additional information can be obtained by writing to The Town Forum, Inc., P.O. Box 569, Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424.

— JS

then decide that condominiums in the country are not an approved risk — even though these aren't condominiums.

"Overcoming entropy is a major logistical problem. We have to bring people, housing, resources and services together — all at one time."

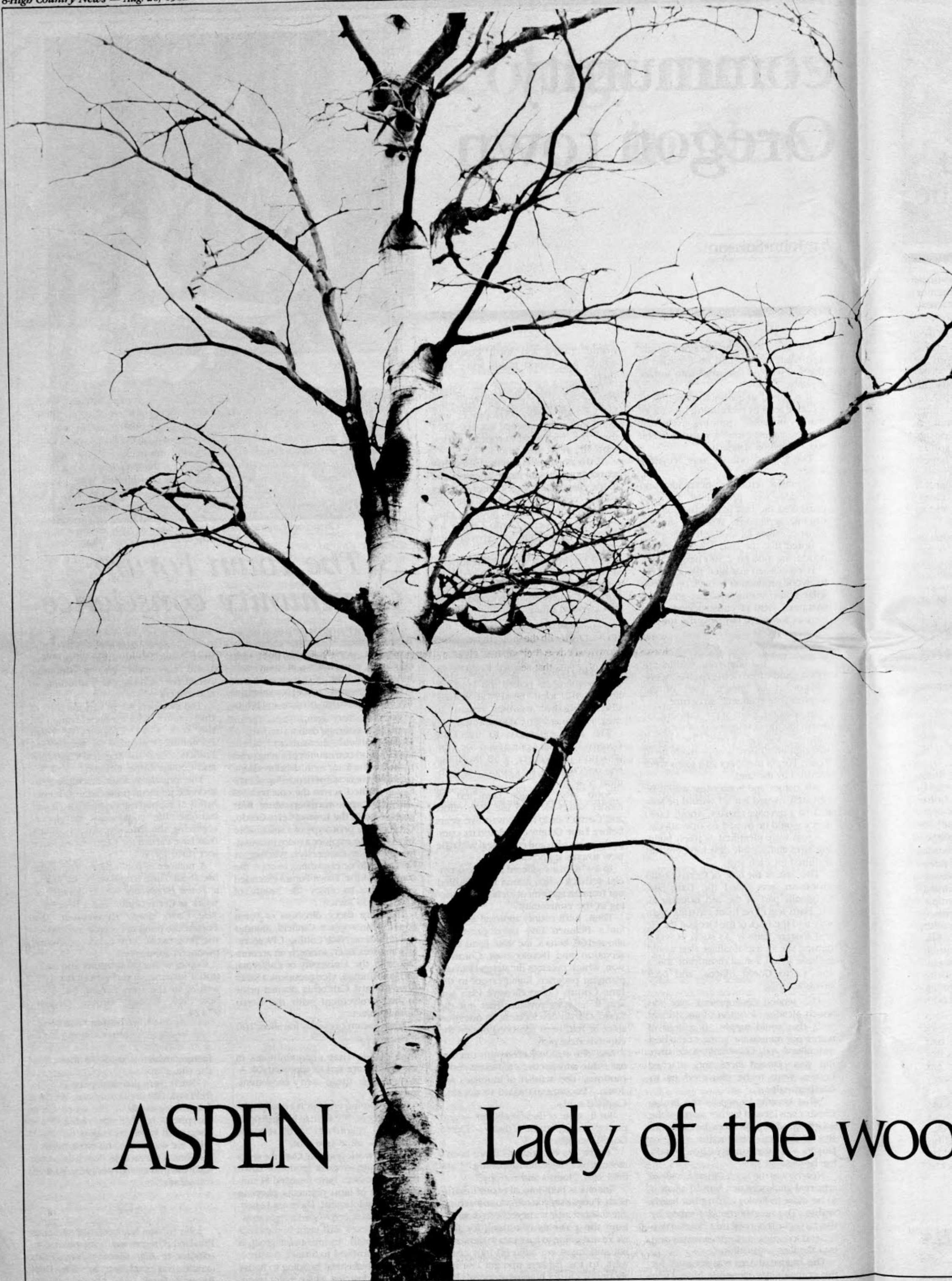
Yet the work goes on. Over the years nine separate investor groups of Town Forum members have financed \$1 million worth of land payments, planning and site development. There are 12 people living at Cerro Gordo right now. Three duplexes and eight homesteads have been built. An investment group is now being formed to finance construction of an industrial building to house Equinox Industries, a bike trailer manu-

facturer which is ready to move onto the site.

"We're very practical people," Canfield says. "We aren't utopians. We think suburbia is utopia — the word means 'no place.' It's just not viable. We're always just barely making it but this is what we want to do and what needs to be done. Our success depends on our ability to find enough people who share our values."

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John Soisson is a freelance writer in Portland, Oregon and a frequent contributor to *High Country News*. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.



ASPEN

Lady of the woods

Lynne Banna



David Sumner

by C.L. Rawlins

Evening settles over the long, rolling slope above the upper Green River in Wyoming, the last dusty rose of sunset blooming and fading on the granite and glaciers of the continental divide to the east. Darkness rises like blue haze from the river bottom over dense willows and grass meadows, crossing slopes of sage and cinquefoil to the margin of the aspens. The growing shadows etch the live white of slender trunks in delicate relief. The parallel rise of the boles is arresting, like the slim legs of a group of dancers at rest.

Aspens have a special fascination in the contrast of slight, pale trunks and a crown of liquid-green leaves which shimmer and beckon with the faintest movement of air. Even as a child, I endowed the aspen with personality and gender which, backed by brooding, stolid ranks of pine and spruce, seemed mercurial and feminine.

Working as a shepherd and forest ranger, I felt the association grow as I watched the trees living through seasons. In winter, they stood stark and leafless, twigs and scars grimly black above drifted snow, only to bud and, with the spring thaw, to throw out exultant leaves and downy seeds as their sap rose clear and bitter through the capillaries of stems that seemed to glow with a subliminal green.

High summer made each copse a refuge from the glare of noon, the cool and changing shade welcoming not only me, but elk and deer with their young, and grouse, rabbits and small birds. Under the shelter of the crown, the flowers of columbine, penstemon, lupine, larkspur, aster and phacelia punctuated the rich green grasses with spots of color, making the grove a choice spot to enjoy lunch while my horse grazed close by.

In the chilly clarity of the high-country autumn, the leaves changed suddenly to a clean, exhilarating gold with accents of fiery scarlet, an elegant swath of color against the somber tones of a landscape anticipating winter's return.

It is typical these days to want facts to pair with intuition and I began to study aspens, spending a few hours in the library to jot notes on the species as I winnowed the findings of scientists to learn more about the life of the tree. It was a pleasant surprise to come upon information that supported and reinforced my feminine characterization of the aspen, in botanical papers as well as in poetry and folklore.

The correspondence of emotion with fact is reflected in the biological nature of the species — *populus tremuloides* — which is called by the most rigorous of scientists a "foster-mother" or "nurse" tree. This is because of its ability to hold and nourish damaged or disturbed soils and permit the growth of succeeding pines, spruces or firs which replace the aspens in time. Though today's women tremble less often and less affectedly than Victorian ladies, the aspen combines the pliancy and strength which is still at the heart of women's heritage.

Aspens have the widest range and distribution of any North American tree, from the Pacific Coast ranges to the glacial outwash plains of Newfoundland and north from the Mexican cordillera to the transitional zones of Canada, beyond which the boreal forest of conifers thins onto the treeless arctic barrens. The aspen is a pioneer, a healer of soils left in the wake of fire, flood and avalanche, sprouting from tenacious roots to stabilize the disturbed ground. They provide nourishment in the form of quickly-decaying leaves and twigs to raise the organic content of the soil and provide shade necessary for the growth of leafy plants and conifer seedlings. The seedlings sheltered by the aspen eventually rise above them and, in turn, cast shade which dooms the aspens. They die and mulch the bases of spruces and firs with their fast-decaying wood as the climax forest establishes its reign. In the cycle of forest succession, the aspen links destruction and stability with patient and short-lived beauty.

This feminine fancy has limits, however. Aspens have two sexes with male and female flowers occurring on separate trees. These bloom early in the season and later release downy seeds that ride the breeze or drift like a brief snowfall on the forest floor. Only seldom do these seeds produce mature trees.

In aspens, most reproduction is via the spreading web of roots that fan out as individual trees become established. Where these roots come close to the surface, saplings or "suckers" spring up profusely, as many as 110,000 to a single acre. There are usually fewer, conditions being less than ideal, and only about one in four survives its initial five years of growth. They are thinned by competition for water, minerals and sunlight as well as by browsing animals. This situation seems to favor rapid growth and individual saplings can grow up to eight feet in one season. As with most fast-maturing trees, aspen are short-lived, having about the same longevity as humans. Only exceptional trees live more than a century as individuals.

But aspens enjoy a collective identity that comes from the sprouting method of reproduction. One highly successful tree may, in time, produce an entire grove based on its spreading roots. These genetically identical groups are called clones and this phenomenon can be clearly seen in the tendency of some copses to leaf out uniformly earlier or to grow taller or exhibit a deeper red tint in the fall than surrounding clones.

The Dakota tribes called the aspen *wagichun* or "walking tree." As the grove of aspens ages, saplings may pioneer the fringes as mature trees in the center die or give way to conifers. If changing conditions favor the growth of saplings on one edge of the clone, it may appear to walk across a ridge, the similar appearance of the maturing trees belying the actual processes of death and the differential success of saplings which change the orientation of the grove. To the eyes of people seeing the grove once yearly over a long time, the trees seem to drift like deer along a hillside.

Foresters with a strictly utilitarian approach to the woods long considered the aspen a "weed" tree and viewed its colonization of lands ravaged by timbering and fire as a loss of valuable timber-producing potential. The silky, fibrous and soft wood of aspen was not commercially important until the recent demand for wood fiber and pulp made them a fast-growing and easily-cultured source of these commodities for industry.

In addition to this newly realized economic importance, aspens foster a diversity of plants and animals which cannot exist in the less open habitat of a climax forest. One of the most ubiquitous residents of the aspen groves is the beaver, which uses the inner bark as its primary food and builds the stripped branches into instinctively-engineered dams that provide wetlands and ponds that are important to brook trout, muskrats, waterfowl, frogs and the occasional foraging moose.

The aspen is a link in many chains: food chains, successional chains, chains of thought. I have a strong recollection of my first week as a shepherd, learning the ways of the sheep and the mountains with the bewilderment of the raw greenhorn. Near the long-used camp on the flank of the Salt River Mountains in Wyoming, there was a particularly tall and perfect aspen. Carved into the jade-white bark was the torso of a woman, sinuous and evocative lines simple and ink-black in the dusk.

I felt kinship then, not only with the aspen, but with the man drawn by its pale, untouched body to etch his dream in a way both personal and immemorial before riding on his way, leaving the overlay of human symbol on the living reality, whether out of simple loneliness and desire or as a *paso por aqui* for other eyes to see and treasure, a shrine just the same.

C.L. Rawlins is a freelance writer in Cora, Wyoming.

woods



John George

Riley Ridge...

(continued from page 1)

The only mystery is why public reaction to the Riley Ridge development has been so muted. According to officials at the U.S. Mineral Management Service, the Riley Ridge field will be something of a giant among oil and gas developments in the Rocky Mountains. It will produce 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas a day, well above the production numbers for the big Whitney Canyon-Carter Creek field near Evanston, Wyoming, a *cause celebre* in the energy industry only two years ago.

Depending on whom you talk to, the Riley Ridge field may or may not be technically a part of the fabled Overthrust Belt. But if it isn't, it's a next door neighbor. It lies on the eastern slope of the Wyoming Range, which in turn lies back-to-back with the Salt River Range, with the Greys River running between. In these mountains, and the Star Valley to the west, seismic testing, and some exploratory drilling, is proceeding

apace, oblivious to the industry's current slump.

Suddenly, then, it is not just a matter of a few antelope and a moose. Large wildlife populations may soon have to make a major readjustment, or perish. In addition, the area can expect an unprecedented increase in oil patch workers, and a multiplied set of worries about the dangers of sour gas.

Still the development has attracted little attention compared to other energy projects of lesser magnitude in the Rockies. In part, this may be due to the location of Riley Ridge. There are no population centers comparable to, say, Evanston, in the immediate vicinity. Big Piney, the closest community, has played host to the oil industry before, though on a considerably lesser scale. The Wyoming Range, too, is less well known than other mountains — pretty though it is, it makes few picture postcard appearances.

There is another possible factor, too, in the relative inattention to Riley Ridge. When the gas field was first discovered, and before its size was fully known, federal agencies held "scoping" meetings, last November, to inform the public and figure out what concerns should be addressed in the environmental impact statement. At the time, only one "sweetening" plant was planned, south of the wellfields near Opal. Nevertheless, hundreds of local citizens turned out to express concern about socioeconomic impacts, sour gas dangers, and wildlife.

In May, with the period for public comment nearly over, the federal agencies involved announced that the EIS would be expanded to include four proposed sweetening plants, several west of Big Piney, and the development of a larger wellfield area. Suddenly, Riley Ridge had become one of the biggest energy developments in the region's history.

The public was given an extra month, until July, to react to the plans for an expanded EIS, but no additional hear-

American Quasar was billed \$260.41 for the dead antelope and \$385.10 for the moose.

ings were held. According to Katherine Eckburg, who speaks for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the leader among agencies involved in the project, only about 30 new comments were received.

The Wyoming Range may not be the best known in the state, but it has its adherents. They include ranchers, hunters and oil patch workers who moved to the Big Piney-LaBarge area a good while back. Oil was first drawn from shallow wells in the area in the 1920s. "This isn't a tourist town," said one Big Piney resident, a wildlife advocate who asked not to be named. "This has been a cow town and an oil town for as long as it's been here. The oil and gas has brought in dollars. The people who do support wildlife...they might tell me, but they can't stand up in public."

The area has taken its knocks recently, suffering the same general economic malaise as the rest of the country, and the dropoff in Rocky Mountain oil and gas exploration in particular. A state legislator from the area, Republican Dan Budd, told the *Casper Star-Tribune*, "This looks good for us."

The energy companies themselves are less sure how good it looks. They are going ahead with the environmental impact study, doing some engineering work and putting up air quality monitors while the 18-month business of writing the EIS proceeds. But Steve Kettelkamp, a spokesman for Exxon, which has proposed two of the sweetening plants, said, "They're not a sure thing. We're still very early in the process of evaluation."

The air of uncertainty among energy corporations interested in Riley Ridge has to do with two things: the quality of the natural gas there, which is very low; and the market for it, which is uncertain.

The natural gas at Riley Ridge is only about 20 percent methane — the rest is mostly carbon dioxide, with about five percent of the potent and dangerous hydrogen sulfide. Exxon hopes it can sell the methane profitably as prices continue to rise and the natural gas market is deregulated; it can also sell the sulfur separated out in the sweetening plants to fertilizer manufacturers. But markets for natural gas and oil have failed to expand according to industry expectations leading to the current energy "glut." And carbon dioxide, while it is increasingly used to pump the last drop out of old oil fields, is a bit more difficult to sell. So the companies are going ahead with the permitting process, but not promising that they will build.

Some of the biggest names in the energy world are waiting to stick their drills into this sagebrush and forest terrain. Northwest Pipeline Corporation, Mobil Oil Corporation, Exxon, American Quasar Petroleum and Williams

Exploration Company own shares in the processing plants, and many other corporations and individuals have interests in the wellfields.

Exxon plans to drill 64 wells to feed its two proposed sweetening plants, one to be located a few miles from Big Piney, the other further south. Mobil and Northwest will drill 67 wells and build a sweetening plant about 16 miles northeast of Kemmerer, Wyoming, which will require carrying the sour gas 43 miles by pipe before processing. American Quasar and Williams Exploration plan together to build the largest single sweetening plant — processing 800 million cubic feet per day of natural gas — to be located near Big Piney, alongside one of Exxon's plants, and to drill approximately 75 new wells.

To most questions, agency officials are now saying "wait for the EIS." Some say even less. Mineral Management Service officials working on the Riley Ridge project have been ordered not to talk to the press; inquiries are handled by an MMS official in the pertinent location of suburban Washington, D.C. In fact, federal officials will not have much of a hand in the EIS anyway. Under a new "third party" system designed to save federal bureaucrats time and money, the energy companies actually go out on their own and hire the writers of the EIS. The federal and state agencies consult with the EIS contractor and do some independent verification, but they are not told the dollar details of the contract.

The contractor on the EIS for Riley Ridge will be Environmental Research and Technology, of Fort Collins, Colorado. That firm, in turn, will hire subcontractors to handle issues such as socioeconomic impacts or archeological sites.

The safety issue in the case of Riley Ridge is muted by the fact that there are so few people in the immediate vicinity, and they are for the most part sympathetic to oil and gas development, which often supports local ranches with lease payments. Big Piney and its Siamese twin, Marbleton, have a population of less than 2,000 between them. LaBarge, 16 miles to the south of the primary location for the sweetening plants, has a population of less than 600.

Bob Thompson, a local rancher who was evacuated during the American Quasar blowout, said after he had returned to his ranch that he was not particularly worried about sour gas endangering his family. One energy company official said that because the companies have "enormous respect" for sour gas dangers, and because locals in this area are quite knowledgeable about oil and gas already, there is no great fear. Exxon's Kettelkamp said he had heard more expressions of concern

Rescuing
us from
the brink
of

BANK
RUPTCY

you brought us 'round the bend
to SOLVENCY
bolstered our spirits



John George

about the odor of the gas than its lethal qualities.

Socioeconomic issues are likewise soft pedaled because many of the local people see oil and gas development as a savior which boosts local retail businesses and pays royalties to ranchers. In addition, local residents will benefit from a recently-passed law giving the state Industrial Siting Council jurisdiction over the sweetening plants — previously, they had been exempt.

Rick Moore, Director of the ISC, hopes to get a clear assessment of the plants' impacts, then require front-end mitigation, but he sees some problems. First, the ISC does *not* have jurisdiction over the wellfields and their impacts — only the plants. And second, it's hard to assess cumulative impacts when you don't know where it will end. "It's entirely feasible," said Moore, "we'll get a whole new bonanza field in the Overthrust Belt nearby. That's the scary thing about the whole problem."

Indeed, there are indications that the current Riley Ridge projects are only the beginning. That is one of the reasons wildlife experts are so worried.

Bruce Johnson, a wildlife biologist with the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish in Big Piney notes that there is extensive seismic testing going on throughout the Wyoming and Salt River ranges, and applications for exploratory and development wells are coming in from outside the area being studied for the Riley Ridge EIS. And energy company officials insist that the geologic zones they are developing now are not actually part of the Overthrust Belt phenomenon — that may be yet to come.

The wildlife issue is a difficult one — difficult to argue, in the face of overriding need for new energy sources; and difficult to locate a constituency for, since the hunters or hikers who appreciate the wildlife are not always locals. In fact, wildlife biologists point out that local ranchers are often at odds with wildlife, be it coyotes, range-digging prairie dogs or fence-busting moose.

But Big Piney Game Warden Chuck Thornton feels it is an overriding issue for Riley Ridge. "We're just losing habitat hourly," he said. He and biologist Johnson point to the critical winter range for mule deer as the most significant potential loss. Three of the proposed sweetening plants would be located on the edge or in the middle of the critical range. The deer migrate here from far to the north, said Thornton, and "if you have a shallow snow, they can go elsewhere. But when the snow is deep and the winter is tough, they can't go anywhere else. That's where they have to go to survive."

The Wyoming Range supports a wide variety of wildlife. Deer, elk, moose, antelope, bighorn sheep, bear, lynx,

Suddenly, Riley Ridge had become one of the biggest energy developments in the region's history.

bobcat, coyote, sage chickens, grouse and a variety of raptors including golden and bald eagles. The bighorn sheep were transplanted in 1980 to Fish Creek Mountain — where the species had thrived in the past — the Forest Service has protected the habitat on top of the mountain. But the seismic lines have been run right up to the mountain's base and wildlife biologists are worried.

One of Bruce Johnson's greatest fears, besides the reduction of habitat, is increased hunting pressure, legal and illegal. Tom Pick, who runs the Round Hill Ranch guest ranch and guides hunters west of Big Piney, agreed. The range already gets a lot of hunting pressure, he said, and "once they put in more roads they have a hard time closing them."

Johnson cites a recent Idaho study that showed a high rate of poaching in the vicinity of a phosphate mine construction project. Five of 15 collared moose were poached; of nearly 58 mule deer, seven to 12 were poached.

He also worries about the effect of siltation caused by road construction on a small population of Colorado cutthroat trout, an endangered species, and the fishery in general. And, looking at plans to run above-ground, heated pipelines for molten sulfur south from the plants, he wonders how migrating antelope will react to the new interference.

"I just don't know," Johnson concluded. That is the biggest problem — even with fairly good baseline data on the wildlife, there are too many unknowns associated with Riley Ridge. The one sure thing is that there will be less habitat afterwards than there is now.

Game Warden Thornton would like to see rehabilitation of old wellfields in the area done as compensation for the development of the new plants and wellfields. But the BLM's Eckburg said that kind of trade-off wouldn't be possible, because different companies were involved. On the other hand, the BLM is trying to improve the habitat in the honeycomb of roads that mar the topography in some of the oil fields in the Big Piney area.

Approximately 5,000 to 10,000 mule deer use the critical winter range about to be invaded by the gas developers. About 300 elk use the winter range, and about 400 more take their meals at the

Finnegan Feeding Ground, which is also within the development area. In the summer, 1,000 or so antelope use the area; in the winter, 400 moose.

The wildlife specialists would like to see the plants located east of the Green River, out on the plain and away from the mountains, or to the south, where Exxon has considered an alternative site at Shute Creek. But those locations do not look as good to the companies, and might have environmental drawbacks as well — the sour gas would have to be piped a greater distance, and the pipelines would have to cross the Green River and there could be serious air quality problems.

The general feeling among federal and state officials is that the Riley Ridge

project will go...presuming the companies feel the business climate is right. Internal BLM memos indicate some questions about the technology of the molten sulfur pipeline and the work force estimates of the companies. In addition, the cumulative effects on air quality in the area may give the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality some problems. But no one expects to stop the wellfield development or the plants. Officials feel they cannot stand in the way of the energy companies.

"You see, most of the leases we granted years ago," said one BLM official, "and we didn't think anything would come of it. We were just collecting their money."

Money, indeed, may be the only form of compensation collected for the inevitable shrinking of habitat and loss of wildlife. "Where do you go to buy a moose?" asked Chuck Thornton. "You just don't replace these animals."

+++

Geoffrey O'Gara is a freelance writer in Lander, Wyoming and a contributing editor to *High Country News*. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

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BULLETIN BOARD

WYOMING HYDROCARBONS

Big Sandy and Salt Wells Resource Areas in the Green River Basin produce a major portion of the oil and gas reserves for Wyoming. A final environmental assessment on development plans is available for review. Copies of the assessment can be obtained from the BLM, Highway 187 North, Rock Springs, Wyo. 82901 or (307) 382-5350.

THE PETROLEUM STORY

The story of Wyoming's oil and gas industry is covered in a publication by the Geological Survey of Wyoming. A five-color map of petroleum activity in the state is included. The oil and gas industry is the state's largest mineral industry in terms of value of material produced according to the Petroleum Association of Wyoming. To obtain a copy of PIC-17, contact the survey, Box 3008, University Station, Laramie, Wyo. 82071 or (307) 766-2286.

BLM FEES TO RISE

Certain user fees on public and recreation programs will be raised by the Bureau of Land Management in an effort to make the program cost-effective. Management practices and procedures will also be streamlined to lower costs. The fee increase, to begin in September, is estimated to affect about ten percent of public land recreation users in the West. Contact the BLM state offices for suggestions and for information.

COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

The public comment and review period for the proposed Montana Beaverhead National Forest Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement has been extended in response to several requests from the public. The new deadline is Sept. 16. Comments and requests for copies of the draft plan and EIS should be directed to Joseph Wagenfehr, Supervisor, Beaverhead National Forest, 610 N. Montana St., P.O. Box 1258, Dillon, Mont. 59725 or (406) 683-2312.

VAIL SYMPOSIUM

Various water options which will influence future growth of Colorado will be examined at the Twelfth Vail Symposium, sponsored by the Town of Vail, the Colorado Forum and the Vail Valley Consolidated Water District. Important decisions are pending which necessitates that Colorado act to preserve and enhance water resources. The conference is Sept. 17-18 in Vail. Registration is \$30 and includes all meals. Contact the symposium, 75 S. Frontage Road, Vail, Colo. 81657 or (303) 476-7000.

CARRYING CAPACITY

Americans must limit their consumption of resources and limit population growth concluded a study done by Carrying Capacity, Inc. *U.S. Carrying Capacity: An Introduction*, examines four systems that make up the natural world — croplands, rangelands, fisheries and forest. The report is \$3 for the first copy and \$2.50 for each additional copy. Write to Carrying Capacity, 1735 DeSales St., N.W., 8th Floor, Washington D.C. 20036 or call (202) 737-1345.

EXPLORING GIBSON DOME

The Department of Energy is authorized to conduct temporary exploratory activities in the Gibson Dome area in San Juan County, Utah. A final environmental assessment concludes the activity could be allowed with strict mitigation regarding archaeological and paleontological values. The final environmental assessment is available for review at libraries throughout Utah and in Grand Junction, Colo. For more information contact the Bureau of Land Management San Juan Resource Area Office, P.O. Box 7, Monticello, Utah 84535, (801) 587-2201 or Moab District Office, P.O. Box 970, Moab, Utah, 84532, (801) 259-6111.

WILDERNESS COURSES

A variety of wilderness experiences, from canoeing and backpacking to seminars on wildflowers, birds and archaeology are offered through the University of the Wilderness, a non-profit environmental educational organization. Most of the courses and seminars are based out of the Snowy Range Campus located west of Laramie, Wyo. Tuition fees vary according to the course and some courses offer college credit. A free catalog is available by contacting the university at P.O. Box 1687, Evergreen, Colo. 80439 or (303) 674-9724. Volunteers are also being accepted to help renovate the camp.



1982 FUELWOOD TREES

Coloradans may harvest dead standing or down trees on most of the forest lands in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests. No permits or fees are required. Cutters are cautioned to leave dead or green trees selected by the Forest Service for wildlife. Some trees have signs signifying this status. Discretion is advised on cutting trees with no signs. Trees with cavities and nest holes are not to be cut.

RILEY RIDGE PROJECT

Work is underway to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Riley Ridge Project in southwestern Wyoming. The EIS will analyze potential effects of proposed field development and four proposed natural gas treatment plants and associated off-site facilities. Comments should be directed to Bureau of Land Management, 555 Zang St., Denver, Colo.

COAL DRILLING PLANNED

Limited core drilling of six holes from 250 to 1,000 feet deep is proposed by the Cravat Coal Company of Ohio. The drilling would be located on the firm's lease on the Greys River District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The leases are located 25 miles northeast of Afton, Wyo. The Forest Service conducted an environmental analysis. Copies of its recommendations can be reviewed at the Greys River District Ranger Office in Afton or the Forest Supervisor's Office in Jackson.

RUSSIAN FURNACE WORKSHOP

The skills required to build a Russian Furnace, a massive wood-burning stove, will be taught at a workshop sponsored by the Alternative Energy Resources Organization and the Cooperative Extension Services of Flathead and Cascade Counties. The workshop will be in the Great Falls area in Montana on Aug. 30-Sept. 1. Cost is \$75, or \$60 for AERO members. Enrollment is limited. Contact Darrell Quinn, 1724 19th Ave. S., Great Falls, Mont. 59401 or Bruce McCallum, County Extension Agent, Kalispell Mont. or (406) 755-5300 ext. 202.

THE ACID TEST

To determine if acidity has contaminated your favorite fishing hole or seeped into your drinking water, a simple acid rain test kit is available. Sports Afield and Early Winters Ltd. developed this kit for home use. It contains two data cards to be submitted to federal, state and private acid rain research organizations. Kits are \$2.95 each with \$2.55 postage for one to five kits, \$3.45 for six or more. Contact Sports Afield/Early Winters, Acid Rain Kit, Dept. 110DX, 110 Prefontaine Place S., Seattle, Wash. 98104 or (206) 622-5203.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture is seeking public comments on proposals for conservation, emergency conservation and water bank programs administered by USDA's Stabilization and Conservation Service. These programs are designed to help farmers perform conservation practices without federal aid. Public comment will be accepted until Sept. 9. Contact the director of ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington D.C., 20013 or (202) 447-6221.

IDENTIFYING RESOURCE USES

Public meetings are scheduled to identify allowable resource uses of the Piceance Basin Planning Unit in northwestern Colorado. Most of the 722,330 acres are administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The meetings will also identify areas suitable for future oil shale development. The Denver meeting is Aug. 24. Meetings will follow in Meeker and Grand Junction the next two evenings respectively. Written comments should be addressed to John Singlaub, Oil Shale Projects Team Leader, BLM, White River Resource Area, P.O. Box 928, Meeker, Colo. 81641. Deadline is Oct. 1. Call Singlaub at (303) 878-3601 for further information.

PARK FUND LAUNCHED

Officials at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado have launched a fundraising campaign to develop education programs and materials and to help restore previously flooded areas. Federal budgeting is not expected to include education programs and restoration of natural features. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the Rocky Mountain Nature Assn., Estes Park, Colo. 80517 or (303) 586-2371.

INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

High country instructors are being sought for the 1983 Seminar Program at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. Seminars on ecology, geology, botany and wildlife management are taught during the summer program. "Innovative instructors" are asked to apply by Sept. 1. Write to Seminar Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Nature Assn., Inc., Estes Park, Colo. 80517 in care of the park or call (303) 586-2371.

EXPLORING THE FAR EAST

A 15-day appropriate technology delegation is being formed to tour the People's Republic of China in Oct./Nov. The trip is sponsored by the People-to-People International Program and plans include field visits to technological sites and exploration of the communal structure, transportation, historical and artistic areas. The estimated \$3,500 cost includes round trip air fare from L.A., ground transportation and room and board. An optional additional excursion to Japan and the Philippines is being planned at no added airfare. For more information, call Tom Feliu at (303) 575-2716 or 494-6789.

HII! GOOD NEIGHBOR

The Secretary of the Interior's Good Neighbor Program, which transfers community expansion lands to local and state governments, will come under more restrictive procedures after Sept. 1. Requests for Bureau of Land Management lands must be filed as formal applications by this date to take advantage of present criteria. Additional information can be obtained at any BLM office.

DUCK STAMP CONTEST

Contest rules and entry forms for the federal government's 1982 "Duck Stamp" contest are available. A design will be selected Nov. 4 for the 1983-84 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. The entry fee for the Oct. 1 deadline is \$20. For entry forms, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

PRESERVING GROUNDWATER

Nearly half of the U.S. population depends on groundwater for drinking. The Natural Resources Defense Council is hosting a two-day conference in Atlanta, Ga. on community water problems. The conference is Sept. 23-24. Registration is \$30. Travel assistance will be awarded to some. Contact Judy Campbell Bird at NRDC, 1725 I St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 or (202) 223-8210. Registration deadline is Aug. 30.

STATE OF WYOMING PUBLIC NOTICE

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (4) INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES, (1) COMMERCIAL FACILITY, AND (3) OIL TREATER FACILITIES, TO MODIFY (1) COMMERCIAL PERMIT AND (1) MUNICIPAL PERMIT AND TO RENEW AND (34) OIL TREATER PERMITS.

(1) APPLICANT NAME:	The City of Cheyenne, Board of Public Utilities
MAILING ADDRESS:	2100 Pioneer Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82001
FACILITY LOCATION:	Albany County, Wyo.
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0031437
FACILITY LOCATION:	Carbon County, Wyo.
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0031411
FACILITY LOCATION:	Carbon County, Wyo.
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0031429

The City of Cheyenne intends to begin construction of the Cheyenne Water Project in the summer of 1982. Portions of the project which will include surface discharges include the Little Snake Diversion Pipeline Stream Crossings, the Rob Roy Dam and Roads, and the Hog Park Dam and Roads. Each of these portions of the project will be issued a separate discharge permit.

The Little Snake Diversion Pipeline Stream Crossings portion consists of the crossing of a total of 35 streams (all Class II Waters) with a pipeline and maintenance roads. The major problem which may occur will be increased turbidity due to in-stream activity and dewatering of the construction area. The proposed permit for this portion of the project requires that the turbidity of the stream within 50 yards below each stream crossing not be more than 10 NTUs higher than the turbidity of the stream above the stream crossing. Turbidity readings above below the crossing must be taken at a minimum of once per week.

At the Rob Roy Dam and Roads portions of the project runoff from disturbed and exposed areas in addition to the effluent from dewatering activities will be treated in the Rob Roy Plunge Pool and the Rob Roy Reservoir Dead Pool. The discharges from the Plunge Pool and Dead Pool must meet total suspended solids limitations which the State of Wyoming believes represents best available treatment for this type of activity. Monitoring of effluent quality is required at a minimum of once per week. The receiving stream will be Douglas Creek (Class II Water).

At the Hog Park Dam and Roads portion of the project, runoff from disturbed and exposed areas in addition to the effluent from dewatering activities will be treated in the Hog Park Dam Borrow Pit Retention Pond, the Topsoil Stockpile Stormwater Runoff Pond, the Hog Park Plunge Pool, and Hog Park Reservoir. All discharges must meet total suspended solids limitations which the State of Wyoming believes represents best available treatment for this type of activity. Monitoring of effluent quality is required at a minimum of once per week. The receiving streams will be Hog Park Creek and the South Fork of Hog Park Creek (both Class II Waters).

At all locations the oil and grease concentration cannot exceed 10 mg/l and must be monitored visually on a continuous basis. Reports on effluent quality are required quarterly unless a permit violation occurs in which case the violation must be reported immediately.

(2) APPLICANT NAME:	Hampshire Energy
MAILING ADDRESS:	Suite 320 5990 S. Syracuse Englewood, CO 80111
FACILITY LOCATION:	Campbell County, Wyo.
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0031127

The Hampshire Energy Project is a proposed plant which will convert coal into unleaded gasoline. The plant is to be located approximately 15 miles southeast of the City of Gillette in Campbell County, Wyoming.

The only surface water discharge from the plant will occur when precipitation or snowmelt runoff exceeds the capacity of the 2 cell "Clean Stormwater Reservoir." This reservoir will collect all surface runoff from non-contaminated areas of the plant site. Under normal circumstances the

water collected in this reservoir will be recycled into the plant for use in the conversion process, however, occasionally runoff volumes will necessitate the discharge of water from the pond into Timber Creek (Class IV Water) via an unnamed drainage.

The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with effluent limitation which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment technology." Periodic monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire July 31, 1987.

(3) APPLICANT NAME:	Winland Enterprises, Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS:	Winland Industrial Park 900 East 8th Gillette, Wyoming 82716
FACILITY LOCATION:	Campbell County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-031402

The Winland Industrial Park is a proposed light industrial park to be located immediately south of the City of Gillette, Wyoming. Wastewater treatment will consist of an extended aeration package plant which will discharge to Antelope Butte Creek (Class IV Water). The facility is located outside of the 201 planning boundary and a separate treatment facility is therefore allowable.

The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with effluent limitations based upon National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-stream Water Quality Standards. Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The proposed permit is scheduled to expire July 31, 1987.

(4) APPLICANT NAME:	Florida Exploration Company
MAILING ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 5025 Denver, CO 80217
FACILITY LOCATION:	NUPEC Lamb Federal #1-2 Well, SW¼, SW¼, Section 2, T51N, R93W, Big Horn County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0031381

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

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

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

(5) APPLICANT NAME:	Hanson Operating Company
MAILING ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 1515 Roswell, New Mexico
FACILITY LOCATION:	Lite Butte Federal #3 Well, SW¼, Section 35, T51N, R92W, Big Horn County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER:	Wy-0031445

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

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

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

Bottle bill...

(continued from page 16)

of Michigan, beverage prices have not increased in bottle bill states. Beer and soft drink prices rose substantially in Michigan when the bill went into effect, but it has since been determined that not all of the price increase was attributable to the deposit law, Massaro said.

The study on Oregon's bottle bill reported that beer and soft drinks in refillable bottles were five to 58 percent less expensive, depending on the container size. Prices in Iowa are four percent lower than those in neighboring states, Massaro said.

Soft drink sales increased 10 percent in Oregon from 1972 to 1973, whereas the population increased less than two percent. The Oregon report also said excise tax records showed an increase in beer sales.

Litter clean-up expenditures dropped in bottle bill states because of

the reduced beverage container litter. A comparison of litter pick-up costs for Washington and Oregon revealed that Washington spends more in roadside maintenance, although Oregon is 42 percent larger in size and has a higher population, said Tom Crisp of Citizens for a Cleaner Washington.

Massaro said the Colorado industry would have to switch over to biodegradable plastic rings or cardboard carriers if the bill passes. Taking the metallic part out of the plastic renders it light-sensitive and it will degrade in a few days when exposed to sunlight, he said. The biodegradable plastic rings are "adequate for six-packs."

But Stroh said the clincher to this requirement is that holding devices must be broken down "by bacteria." Cardboard carriers and photo-sensitive plastic rings are not broken down by bacteria, and "industry's chemists say there is nothing that will break down by bacteria in 180 days," he said.

Jobs in the minimum-wage and part-time sectors increase with bottle bills in

effect, Massaro said. This would be the largest area of job openings. Truck driving and warehouse jobs would also increase.

Layoffs could occur in container manufacturing jobs, he said. Stroh added that small bottling and canning businesses and independent recyclers would get squeezed out. Minimum wage and part-time jobs would increase at the expense of full-time positions, he added.

In other states, there was an increase in the net number of jobs. Vermont's law created 350 new jobs and Maine's added 626. The largest increase was experienced by Michigan with over 4,500 net jobs resulting after the bill. Oregon lost 350 jobs in production, but created even more jobs in other areas as a result of the bill.

Energy costs are viewed from different angles by the two Colorado groups. CRRC said the use of fuel would be increased with the need to use more and larger trucks for deliveries and hauling the containers.

This increase in fuel transportation costs is justified by the much larger increase in energy savings from the production of containers, CFR concluded. Recycled aluminum cans use less than a quarter of the energy consumed by throwaway aluminum cans.

Oregon reported a net savings of 1.4 trillion Btu's each year — enough to supply the heating needs of 50,000 homes.

Other states voting this fall include Washington and California. Both states have seen several bottle bill initiatives fail in previous years.

A national law may be feasible in a couple of years if California and other states pass bottle bills. The industry's power is split if it has to comply with all the different laws in various states, Bree said. The desire for uniformity in beverage container legislation may push the industry into agreeing to a federal law.

+++

Jennifer Walford is HCN's summer intern.

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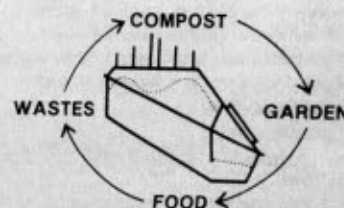
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(6) **APPLICANT NAME:** Ocona, Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS: 1536 Cole Blvd., Building 4, Ste. 375, Golden, CO 80401
FACILITY LOCATION: OCONA #1 Tribal, SE¼, SW¼, Section 15, T6N, R2W, Fremont County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031399

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

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1983.

(7) **APPLICANT NAME:** Mr. Albert Dickinson, Jr. - Dickinson Trailer Park
MAILING ADDRESS: Route 1, Box 555, Riverton, WY 82501
FACILITY LOCATION: North of the City of Riverton, Fremont County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0026344

The Dickinson Trailer Park is a mobile home development located in the north side of the City of Riverton, Fremont County, Wyoming. The wastewater treatment system serving the park is a package treatment plant which discharges to Spencer Draw (Class IV Water).

This permit is being modified at the request of the permittee to change the monitoring from a weekly to a monthly schedule. The proposed permit requires compliance with National Secondary Treatment Standards and limitations based upon Wyoming's in-stream water quality standards effective immediately. Upon completion of an interceptor sewer line designed to serve the area north of the City the park must connect to that line and stop discharging. Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire September 30, 1987.

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

On June 18, 1982 a permit modification was made to the Town's NPDES permit to show two outfall points. However, due to the actual design and construction of the facility, the two discharge points are connected resulting in one final discharge to the Blacks Fork River (Class III Water). The permit is being modified again to reflect the single outfall point.

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

(9) **APPLICANT NAME:** Beren Corporation
MAILING ADDRESS: 2160 First of Denver Plaza, 633 17th Street, Denver, CO 80202
FACILITY LOCATION: Irvine Brothers Federal Lease, SE¼, Section 8, T37N, R84W, Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0026603

FACILITY LOCATION: McChesney Lease, NW¼, Section 17, T37N, R84W, Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0026611
FACILITY LOCATION: Irvine Brothers Federal C Lease, SE¼, SW¼, Section 8, T37N, R84W, Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028126
FACILITY LOCATION: Irvine Brothers Fee Lease, NW¼, SE¼, Section 8, T37N, R84W, Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028321

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Olke Draw (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

(10) **APPLICANT NAME:** Braden - Deem, Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS: 200 East First Street, Suite 520, Wichita, KS 67202
FACILITY LOCATION: Cooper Cove MD Unit, NW¼, SW¼, Section 20, T18N, R77W, Carbon County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024716

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

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

(11) **APPLICANT NAME:** Chevron Oil Company
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 599, Denver, CO 80201
FACILITY LOCATION: Queally Dome Field, Section 13, T17N, R77W, Albany County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024023

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Albany County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Seven Mile Creek (Class IV), a tributary of James Lake.

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

(continued on next page)

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(continued from previous page)

- (12) APPLICANT NAME: Conoco, Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS: 907 Rancho Road
Casper, WY 82601
FACILITY LOCATION: South Glenrock, Block B Unit, State 8 Battery,
NW¼, SE¼, Section 8, T33N, R75W, Converse
County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000914
FACILITY LOCATION: South Little Buck Creek Gov't, NE¼, SW¼,
Section 2, T35N, R64W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028649
FACILITY LOCATION: Leimser Field Conoco Weymouth 5-1, NE¼, Section
5, T36N, R63W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0031160

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Converse, Niobrara Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Deer Creek (Class II), Crazy Woman Creek (Class IV) and Leimser Stock Pond (Class IV).

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

- (13) APPLICANT NAME: Diamond Shamrock
MAILING ADDRESS: 5730 West Yellowstone
Casper, WY 82601
FACILITY LOCATION: Hornbeck State No. 2-16, NW¼, Section 16, T36N,
R74W, Converse County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027022
FACILITY LOCATION: Martin Spring Werner No. 11-9, NW¼, Section 9,
T36N, R74W, Converse County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027049
FACILITY LOCATION: Martin Spring Federal No. 11-21, NW¼, Section
21, T36N, R74W, Converse County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027057
FACILITY LOCATION: Martin Spring Federal No. 1-9, SW¼, Section 9,
T36N, R74W, Converse County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027065
FACILITY LOCATION: Martin Spring Federal No. 13-21, SW¼, Section
21, T36N, R74W, Converse County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027201
FACILITY LOCATION: Martin Spring Water Collection Pit, SE¼, Section
5, T36N, R74W, Converse County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027537
FACILITY LOCATION: Martin Spring Federal #42-8, NE¼, Section 8,
T36N, R74W, Converse County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027707
FACILITY LOCATION: Martin Spring Federal #44-5, SE¼, Section 5,
T36N, R74W, Converse County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027715

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Converse County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Brown Springs Creek (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage and Hornbeck Draw (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

- (14) APPLICANT NAME: Eastern American Oil Company
MAILING ADDRESS: 3025 So. Parker Rd.
Suite 907
Aurora, CO 80014
FACILITY LOCATION: O'Brien Springs Unit #3, Lease W-0775, SE¼,
Section 34, T25N, R86W, Carbon County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030911

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to an unnamed drainage within the Great Divide Basin.

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

- (15) APPLICANT NAME: Farmers Union Central Exchange
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 21479
Billings, MT 59104
FACILITY LOCATION: Sage Springs Creek, Unit A Battery Treater Pit,
NW¼, SE¼, Section 31, T37N, R77W, Natrona
County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024503

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

The discharges must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. No chemical limitations have been imposed on this facility except for oil and grease (10 mg/l) and pH (6.5-8.5). This is due to the extreme aridity of the area which allows for beneficial use of the water for agricultural purposes. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1987.

- (16) APPLICANT NAME: Florida Exploration
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 5025
Denver, CO 80217
FACILITY LOCATION: Federal 5-1, NE¼, Section 5, T36N, R81W,
Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027545
FACILITY LOCATION: Federal 33-1, SE¼, SW¼, Section 33, T37N,
R81W, Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027553
FACILITY LOCATION: Federal 4-1, NE¼, SW¼, Section 4, T36N, R81W,
Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027561

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to the North Fork Casper Creek (Class III) via an unnamed drainage.

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

- (17) APPLICANT NAME: Juniper Petroleum Corporation
MAILING ADDRESS: 1660 Lincoln Street
Denver, CO 80264
FACILITY LOCATION: East Lance Creek Unit A Battery, NE¼, Section
29, T36N, R64W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000817
FACILITY LOCATION: Lance Creek Apex 2 & 3 Battery, SE¼, NW¼,
Section 24, T36N, R65W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000825
FACILITY LOCATION: East Lance Creek Unit B Battery, NW¼, SE¼,
Section 26, T36N, R64W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000906
FACILITY LOCATION: Lance Creek Field, Bell 1-0 Battery, NW¼,
Section 34, T36N, R65W, Niobrara County, Wyoming

- PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023990
FACILITY LOCATION: East Lance Creek Unit B, 19 Well Tank Battery,
SE¼, Section 26, T36N, R64W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028584

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Niobrara County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Lance Creek (Class II WW) and Crazy Woman Creek (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

- (18) APPLICANT NAME: Juniper Petroleum Corporation
MAILING ADDRESS: 1660 Lincoln Street
Denver, CO 80264
FACILITY LOCATION: Lance Creek Apex 1 & 4 and OPC Sundance Battery,
SE¼, SE¼, Section 27, T36N, R65W, Niobrara
County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000841

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

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. No chemical limitations have been imposed on this facility except for oil and grease (10 mg/l) and pH (6.5-8.5). This is due to the extreme aridity of the area which allows for beneficial use of the water for agricultural purposes. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharges and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1987.

- (19) APPLICANT NAME: Vance Katherman
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 773
Casper, WY 82601
FACILITY LOCATION: North Casper Oil Field, NE¼, SW¼, Section 1,
T36N, R82W, Natrona County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001627

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to the North Fork Casper Creek (Class III).

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

- (20) APPLICANT NAME: Harold Kenita
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1346
Casper, WY 82602
FACILITY LOCATION: Forgey Ranch Unit, Section 26, T33N, R87W, Natrona
County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025119

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Rhobaugh Draw (Class IV).

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

- (21) APPLICANT NAME: Ladd Petroleum Corporation
MAILING ADDRESS: 830 Denver Club Bldg.
Denver, CO 80202
FACILITY LOCATION: Esby Unit #9, NW¼, SW¼, Section 23, T19N,
R89W, Carbon County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025917

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

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

- (22) APPLICANT NAME: Milestone Petroleum Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 3309
Englewood, CO 80155
FACILITY LOCATION: J46 Lease Battery, NE¼, NE¼, Section 8,
T37N, R63W, Niobrara County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030627

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

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

- (23) APPLICANT NAME: M & K Oil Operations
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1487
Casper, WY 82602
FACILITY LOCATION: Glenrock Block C Unit, Battery 11, NW¼, Section
27, T33N, R76W, Converse County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023540

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

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

- (24) APPLICANT NAME: Petro-Lewis Corporation
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 73
Hamilton Dome, WY 82427
FACILITY LOCATION: W-48255, Hatfield-Hatfield Federal #1, NE¼,
Section 2, T19N, R88W, Carbon County, Wyoming
PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028835

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

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1987.

STATE/EPA TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to September 20, 1982. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Divisions, Permits Section, 1111 East Lincolnway, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80295. All comments received prior to September 20, 1982 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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

Public Notice No. WY-82-008

OPINION

Wheels in wilderness

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a bill banning oil, gas and some mineral leasing in existing and pending wilderness areas. We applaud this measure and have urged its passage in the past. However, there was a little-noted subject of debate which we think should receive more attention when Congress reconvenes. That is the issue of access to wilderness for the handicapped.

Rep. Ron Marlenee (R-Mont.) introduced and defended an amendment to the Wilderness Protection Act of 1982 that would have provided access to wilderness areas to handicapped individuals. The amendment was defeated. While Marlenee's choice of vehicle for his amendment may have been inappropriate, the idea deserves consideration in the next Congress.

Marlenee argued — correctly, we think — that wilderness areas are effectively closed to the handicapped, especially those confined to wheelchairs. His amendment went too far in that it proposed making wilderness areas accessible to "motorized and mechanized vehicles." However, the idea of maintaining some trails within wilderness areas to make them accessible to wheelchairs seems a worthy one.

There is little question that a number of handicapped individuals have the ability and desire to make use of the wilderness. In two recent examples, wheelchair-bound adventurers have climbed Mount Rainier and the highest point in Texas.

Environmental groups, while claiming sympathy toward this goal, have done little to promote it. The idea is sometimes seen as a "stalking horse" for special interests that want motors in the woods for other reasons. This motive may exist, but that doesn't mean that protections can't be put into the law to curb abuse.

We think Marlenee has a worthy idea that needs further exploration and refinement. Wilderness advocates should be more positive and constructive on a matter that, while perhaps not of earth-shattering importance, demonstrates concern for a substantial portion of the population.

— DSW

LETTERS

FREEDOM AND CONTROL

Dear HCN,

I'd like to make some remarks about appropriate technology from a woman's perspective (HCN, 7/9/82). Twelve years ago I came to the conclusion that I'd be paying for a flush toilet with my freedom, particularly as a woman earning 59¢ to the man's \$1. The rent on running water guaranteed me daily attendance at the electric typewriter and xerox machine. An outhouse seemed to provide the same function as the flush-type toilet, so I made a choice that's led to raising three children, two from infancy, in mountain cabins without utilities.

There have been the years of storing diapers frozen on the porch or in a smelly brew in summer until a trip to town. There have been many kerosene-lit hours of reading out loud. My kids love to draw. Sometimes they resent the limitations I've imposed in my choice of technology but never for long. Separately or together, we always arrive at times when we give unequivocal thanks for the freedom to live in a beautiful natural world.

Hauling water from nearby springs, cutting wood and using these resources carefully take up the time and energy that others spend on recreation. For me, it is recreation (most of the time) to do these things. It's a time of observation and appreciation of nature that has no match when experienced as part of a daily routine. A comparable expenditure of recreational time goes into walking, because total reliance on an automobile would increase my financial burdens...and because cars stink.

Women and Technology Project Director Judy Smith may feel I've made

the mistake of going backwards. If I have, I'd say it's a nice place to be, with the constant reinforcement of nature at my heels and a tremendous potential for peace in my surroundings. I'm not dictating choices for other women, though. I write to reassure the women who have looked enviously at my freedoms and said, "I couldn't do that," that they *can* thrive with simpler technology than they believe.

They won't, for example, be diminished by the simple tasks of cleaning lantern chimneys or sweeping floors with a broom. There's a subtle elegance to the former activity and a healthy rhythm to the latter (and men can do both just as well as women!).

One year, with two small children at home, I did a lot of our laundry by hand, including carrying the water some distance. At that point I began to experience drudgery in almost Dostoevskian dimensions...but still found poetry in hanging sheets out on the line above columbines and parsleys and even snow licks. Thank god for laundromats, but who needs electric typewriters and word processors? Do any of us as individuals have more poetry or knowledge in our souls than we can handle manually?

Project Director Smith mentions "a great deal of anxiety over the loss of control (in a technological society), the sense of helplessness. Women are terribly prone to this." I think in the lifestyle I describe, the sense of helplessness wears off with time and with the necessity to find solutions within one's own grasp. I stay committed to the experiences of helplessness that have occurred in the past twelve years as valuable trade-offs for knowledge of how things work in the natural world.

It seems to me that a healthy, low-energy technology is a matter of attention to details — details that are learned by living conscientiously on the least

amount of natural resources, details that are easily comprehensible if we'll only turn our attention to them. Complex technological solutions are being made up for those who disdain attention to details at a tremendous cost in individual freedom and personal control of ecological behavior.

Liz Caile
Boulder, Colorado



SUDDENLY UNPOPULAR

Dear HCN,

In reference to Joan Nice's excellent article on privatizing the public lands, (HCN, 7/23/82), I have this solution to offer.

If the forces behind privatizing these lands realize that they might not end up owning them, the whole process would screech to a halt. Right now, only "the good old boys" are being offered an opportunity to bid on these lands. If the general public demanded an opportunity to bid on these lands it would do two things: First, the agencies would be so bogged down with processing so many bids that the process would take years and; second, supporters of the sale of these lands would realize that somebody from New York or California might end up as their neighbor.

Thus, I encourage anybody concerned about the sale of public lands to contact the Bureau of Land Management and demand an opportunity to submit a bid for these lands. Then, we will see how fast the process moves along. My prediction is that it will suddenly become unpopular with the current administration.

Bill Schneider, Editor
Wild America
Helena, Montana

NOT TERMINATION

Dear HCN,

Your editorial relative to the Wyoming Water Development Commission meeting of July 7th is noted (HCN, 7/23/82). I also consider "consistency a virtue" and compliance with the law a necessity for the preservation of a free government for sovereign citizens.

A close examination of the tapes of

the meeting will show, I believe, that I took the opportunity, before voting on Mr. Noble's motion, to explain my interpretation of the motion that it *was not* "termination of all negotiations" with the Little Big Horn Water Group, as mandated under the law, but a deferment of the need for their services pending resolution of the equitable apportionment of the Little Big Horn River which was more properly the responsibility of other agencies of Wyoming state government.

The law says, "The commission may suspend the expenditure of time or funds on a project at any level of activity if it is established that it would be in the public interest."

The action taken on the Little Big Horn River and Blue Holes project on the Wind River are, in my opinion, consistent with each other, consistent with the law, and consistent with my personal goal to "remain the advocate of the taxpayer who isn't here." I do not consider either action as a means to slow water development, but, to the contrary, action to accelerate water development by placing first things first.

You have assumed a responsibility to defend many of the objectives of the law. Personally, I solicit and welcome your critical analysis of the opinions that I have expressed or actions taken by the commission while I enjoy this challenging assignment.

Willard C. Rhoads
Cody, Wyoming

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

COMMENDATIONS

Dear HCN,

It was with some satisfaction that I observed recently four publications where recognition was given to some of the *High Country News* former staff:

Joan Nice, for her story on black-footed ferrets in *Audubon* magazine;

Marjane Ambler, as a reference *Empires in the Sun*;

Geoffrey O'Gara, for his update on the ETSI project in *Western Energy* magazine;

High Country News itself as a research source in *Empires in the Sun*.

It is apparent that the sphere of influence of the staff is expanding because of the aspirations to do quality work on topics that are dear to the hearts of Western people who need and appreciate your factual research.

I commend you!

Frank B. Odasz, P.E.
Rocky Mountain Area Manager
Energy Transportation Systems, Inc.
Casper, Wyoming

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Jennifer Waford photo



16-High Country News — Aug. 20, 1982

Colorado's bottle battle

by Jennifer Walford

Do bottle bills really work? Have they, for instance, made a dent in the roadside litter problem that was one of the major impetuses for their initial passage?

The answer from Oregon, which passed the country's first bottle bill in 1972, is a resounding yes. In 1976, the *Oregon Journal* ran a roadside litter survey comparing the number of cans and cars along 10 one-mile stretches of highway in Oregon and Washington, where there was no bottle bill. The result: the Washington highway averaged 293.5 containers per mile with 2,835 cars, while the Oregon highway averaged 38.5 containers per mile and 3,452 cars.

Hoping similar legislation will also lower litter in Colorado, more than 1,000 volunteers have gathered 66,751 signatures on petitions calling for a deposit law. With a buffer of nearly 28,000 names, the Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Initiative sailed onto the Colorado ballot as the first citizen's initiative of the season.

Nine states have bottle bills, with New York being the latest to join the list. Oregon set the pattern for most, requiring a five-cent deposit on beer and soft drink containers. The deposit encourages customers to return the containers for a refund.

Refunds are not the only benefit, according to proponents. Others include a reduction of roadside litter, reduced demands for energy and materials, creation of jobs and reduced product costs.

Opponents of a required deposit say a law is not needed to achieve benefits. They contend the current method of voluntary recycling can be effective in controlling litter and does not burden the industry with added regulations.

The bottle bill is given various titles in each state, but the results have generally been the same. The deposit law usually requires a nickel deposit on each beverage bottle and can. Upon returning the container to the store from which it was purchased, the deposit is refunded. In most states the distributor must pay the retailer a penny or two for handling and storage costs.

Other requirements designed to decrease litter include the use of biodegradable plastic rings or other holding devices which will break down in a specified time limit. Detachable ring tabs, which often end up as litter, are also banned.

Oregon passed the first comprehensive bottle bill and gained almost immediate results from the changeover, said Bill Bree of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The bill was passed in the 1972 Oregon legislature.

Public support was the main impetus, Bree said, and the state received a recycling program in which no taxes are involved. The public took the responsibility of reducing litter while the government provided the mechanism to encourage recycling. The alternative, he said, was to use taxpayers' money for litter pick-up. Bree said 95 percent of Oregon's residents participate in the program and 90 percent have stated their approval.

Other states joining Oregon in requiring deposits were Vermont (1973), Maine and Michigan (1976), Iowa (1978), Connecticut (1980), Delaware and Massachusetts (1981) and New York (1982).

November initiatives are pending this year in Colorado, Arizona, California and Washington. Utah organizers are hoping to present their bill to the January legislative session, according to Becky Wilson of the Utah Energy Office.

Colorado tried once before in 1976 to pass a bottle bill. It was heavily supported by the public, according to Tony



The well-remembered CRRC campaign motto, "The right problem, the wrong solution," eventually pertained to the group's own alternative.

Massaro, director of Coloradoans for Recycling. But when the moment came to pull the lever, the bill was defeated two to one.

Instead, a Litter Control Act, proposed by the Colorado Resource Recovery Committee, was implemented. CRRC is a coalition of organized labor, breweries, soft drink bottlers, container manufacturers, distributors, retailers and recyclers.

The well-remembered CRRC campaign motto, "The right problem, the wrong solution," eventually pertained to the group's own alternative. The litter tax got caught up in the bureaucracy leading to changes which brought about its demise, according to Jeffrey Stroh, spokesman for the group.

The tax was originally proposed to affect only those businesses whose products often end up as litter. The law was amended to include all businesses, much to the chagrin of those businesses, such as doctors, lawyers and barbers, whose byproducts are not normally found as litter.

Stroh said the Department of Revenue created a separate tax form for litter tax assessments, but due to the business community's disapproval, the litter tax died under the Colorado sunset provision.

In the years since the vote, Colorado has developed "one of the highest voluntary recycling programs in the country." The program is growing, Stroh said, with 346 recycling centers in the state and 300 more planned by the end of the year to cater to profit-making consumers.

Consumers reaped \$7 million in "new" money in 1981, Stroh said. The current refund rate is 18 cents a pound, roughly three-quarters of a penny per can. Under the proposed bill, consumers would be denied this profit, he added.

Seventy-seven percent of the aluminum cans sold in Colorado last year were recycled, according to a CRRC-commissioned study by Price Waterhouse and Company. The study, however, does not list the distributors and recyclers contacted in order to "safeguard the proprietary and competitive information unique to each business."

The study also does not discuss its methodology, a failing which lowers its credibility, Massaro said. For instance, Coors, headquartered in Golden, transports 50 percent of the cans distributed in California back to Colorado for recycling, he said. "Double counting," including the same recycled cans from

the retailer and recycler, could have occurred and that possibility is not considered in the released study, Massaro said. CFR estimates the recycling rate is 40 percent for aluminum.

CFR, a coalition of 255 groups, was organized in 1981 by Massaro. Its purpose "is to solve the litter problem in the state." Beverage containers contribute to 35 to 45 percent of the total litter volume, he said.

Rodney Love, president of Associated Grocers, said bottles and cans make up 10 percent of the total litter volume in Colorado.

Massaro estimates that the Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Initiative would double the number of all beverage containers returned and lower the total litter volume.

Stroh of CRRC, disagrees. Voluntary recycling is a growing program which is convenient and rewarding for both consumers and industry, he said, pointing out that the bottle bill does not give the consumer "new" money, but pays back the invested deposit. CRRC wants to see voluntary recycling rates improve and believes this can be achieved without a bottle bill.

It is difficult to say how much litter would be reduced in Colorado, but studies on the first five states to pass deposit laws point to a total litter volume reduction of between 35-45 percent, according to a Stanford Law School report.

Bree said beverage container litter in Oregon was reduced 72 percent in one year and 83 percent after two. A 1979 report by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality concluded that "380 million fewer beverage containers are disposed of in Oregon each year because of the bottle bill."

Perhaps the best illustration of litter reduction was related by Arnold Grossman, advertising consultant for CFR. Grossman was being whisked away on a 25-minute drive to an airport in Oregon recently and asked the cab driver if the state's bottle bill program was beneficial.

"Take a look," the cab driver said, pointing to the land they were driving past. "Tell me the first time you see a bottle or can."

Grossman never saw one.

Grossman is no stranger to the bottle bill issue. In fact, last time around, he was the man behind "The right problem, the wrong solution" campaign by CRRC.

"Six years was enough time to give people a chance to solve the problem," but litter reduction was not being

achieved by recycling alone, he said, explaining his eventual disillusionment with CRRC. The litter tax "was a weak, unworkable law and a very unfair one."

Under the Colorado bill, containers would be accepted for refund only at stores which sell that brand. Cans and bottles would have to be sorted by brand since distributors would be picking up only their cans for recycling. Presently, all brands are indiscriminately thrown into a bin from which they are transported to a warehouse for storage.

Retailers would not be required to charge a deposit and thus not have to pay a refund for accepting the empty containers.

Changes in handling and storage processes would increase costs to retailers, distributors and recyclers, Stroh said. "The more an item is handled, the more expensive it becomes."

Space, pests, pick-ups and extra costs would become real problems for stores, Stroh said. He also said lower sales would result if the bill passed.

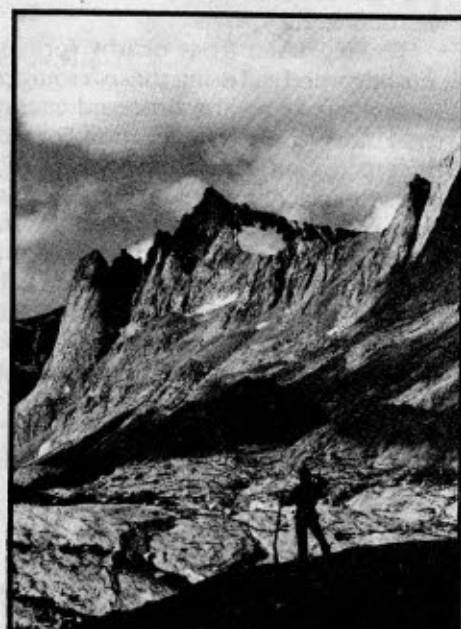
Massaro said increased costs do not have to result. Costs can be cut down considerably by streamlining. He also said deliveries and pick-ups could be coordinated to save time and fuel. Tighter packing practices would increase hauling capacities. Distributors could use recyclable containers rather than refills. This could save the cost of investing in cleaning machinery.

The packaging of beer is 55 percent of the total price that consumers slap down on the check-out stand. The ingredients contribute only 12 percent of the price tag according to 1978 cost estimates of three major breweries.

CFR conducted an "extensive price survey" in Colorado which reported beer is 9.4 percent cheaper in returnables and soft drinks are 37.6 percent cheaper in returnables, Massaro said. Bottles can be reused on the average of at least 20 times, CFR reports, and cleaning them is less expensive than producing new containers each time.

Studies show that with the exception

(continued on page 13)



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