

High Country

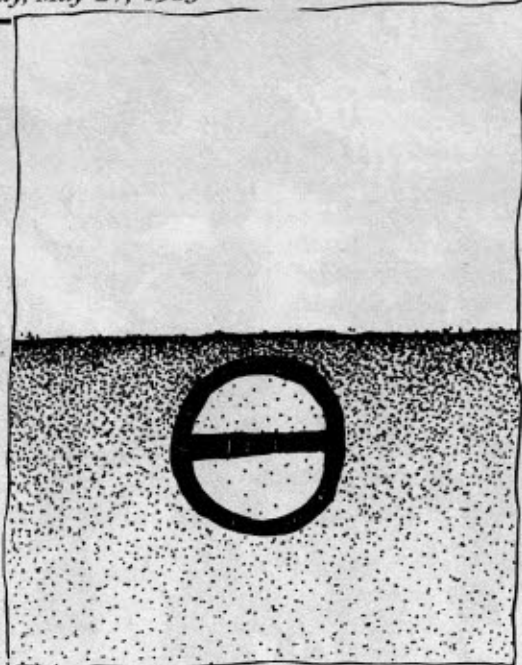
news

Friday, May 27, 1983

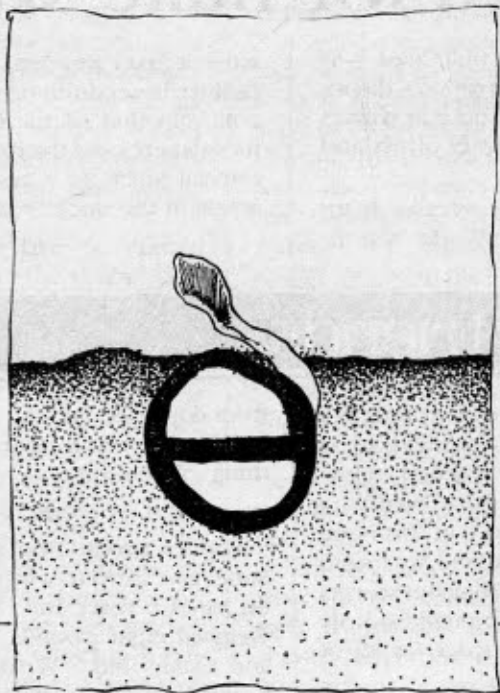
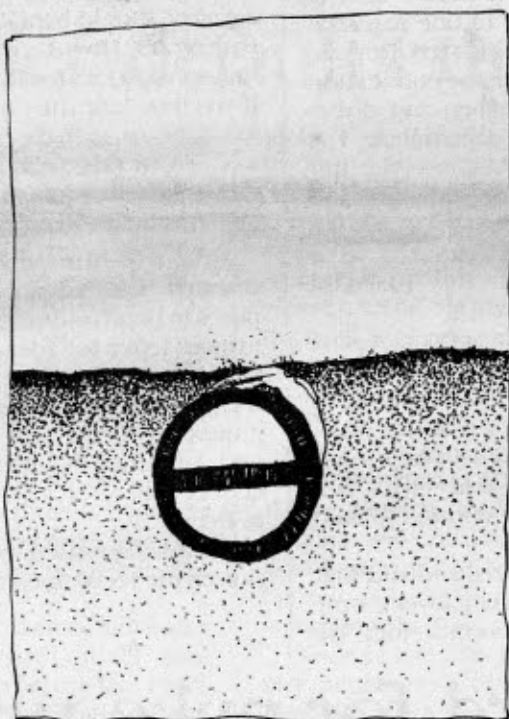
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The environmental watchdog of the Rockies

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Going from good to better



The state of the environmental movement

So, here we are. It's been two years since the inmates took over the asylum. Ronald Reagan swept to the presidency on a tide of the new conservatism. Promising a "more reasonable" approach to environmental affairs, he went to work trying to diminish the strength of environmental groups in the nation and railed against the "environmental extremists" who were allegedly crippling the country's standard of living.

For his field commanders in the war, he brought in a number of conservative ideologues, people out on the far wingtip of the New Right — Interior Secretary James Watt, former Environmental Protection Agency administrator Anne Gorsuch Burford, Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Burford and EPA regional administrator Steve Durham, to name a few. They set for themselves an ambitious agenda: the opening of wilderness areas to oil and gas drilling; "fine-tuning" the Clean Air Act; more mineral leasing. In fact, more of just about everything, since the premise of supply-side economics seems to be that more of everything is inherently better.

Much of the time, the Reagan administration's pique seemed directed not so much at environmental protection laws as at the environmental movement itself. Led by Watt, whose confrontational style and rhetoric have inspired political cartoonists to ever greater heights, the administration has at various times characterized environmentalists as opponents of jobs and economic development, communists, homosexuals, "agin-ers," elitists, Nazis and, of course, extremists. The idea seemed to be to launch a blitzkrieg of polemic that would break the credibility and political strength that environmentalists had worked for a decade to acquire.

So, how is Reagan's War on the Wimps going? Not too well.

"The environmental movement is booming," said Bruce Hamilton, Rocky Mountain regional representative for the Sierra Club. "It's one of the few growth industries left in the souring economy."

According to the Audubon Society's vice president for national issues, Brock Evans, "It's more powerful than ever. We've become a real factor in the American political life."

Mike McCloskey, Sierra Club executive director, said, "The complacency was shattered by Reagan's election. It stimulated a much greater awareness of electoral politics and how much the fortunes of the movement ride on the election."

American political life is nothing if not paradoxical. The election by a sizeable popular majority of the most outspoken anti-environmental presidential candidate since Earth Day, 1970, has sparked an unprecedented growth in environmental groups. The National Audubon Society topped a half a million members. The Sierra Club nearly doubled its membership in less than two years, from 180,000 to 350,000. According to McCloskey, the growth rate in 1981-1982 was greater for the club than in the era of the initial burst of ecological fervor after Earth Day.

However, all this good news for environmental activists is largely confined to the national level. At the state and local level in the Rocky Mountain West, many groups are facing tough funding competition and stable or only slightly increasing membership. The reaction to the

administration threat has largely confined itself to growth in the large national groups. In fact, the growth of the national groups has caused some serious problems for the local and state-wide efforts. But first the good news.

It is certainly ironic that, while the Reagan administration's policies have alarmed most conservation-oriented Americans, the personification of those policies by James Watt has provided environmental groups with an easy target for their own rhetoric. This, in turn, has mobilized citizens in regard to the threats to the environment and sent them to the large established conservation groups in record numbers.

The Sierra Club's McCloskey said, "The environmental movement is now emerging from a second growth period. It has been prompted by Reagan and Watt. Now, I think, that period is behind us. The shot of adrenalin is now over, but the movement as a whole is stronger. The effects seem to be long-lived."

Since the 1960s, the environmental movement has gone through several rather distinct periods of development. These might be called the three L's — Lobbying, Litigation and Lecturing. As Brock Evans, an activist since the early 1960s, said, "In the early days, we were street fighters, amateurs in regard to Congress." In those days, lobbying was a dirty word, something done by characters of questionable reputation carrying canvas bags full of cash. However, the environmentalists decided to take on Congress, led by "a thin line" of Washington-based lobbyists and organizations.

Andy Weissner, a staffer on the House Interior Committee, said, "Lobbying Congress is one thing that environmental groups have always been good at. Industry does not have volunteers and people committed to these issues. With very few exceptions, environmental lobbyists provide solid facts, not rhetoric."

After Earth Day in 1970, a number of new groups — Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense Fund and others — emerged to join the older, more traditional conservation groups. The impetus provided by those organizations launched the entire movement into the litigation decade, in which a number of landmark environmental suits clarified the gains made in Congress earlier.

Now, in the 1980s, it seems clear that the environmental movement has discovered electoral politics, once as dirty a word in some quarters as lobbying had been in the 1960s.

Evans said, "It is clearly the intent of the movement to get more involved in electoral politics." And, said McCloskey, "The movement will never be the same."

The elections of 1980 were the impetus for this change. Voters went to the polls and the "forces of darkness," as Evans called them, emerged victorious.

However, as environmental leaders are fond of reminding us, the Reagan victory was not a mandate to gut environmental protection laws. Most voters, in a well established American tradition, voted with their pocketbooks, not their backpacks. At that time, inflation was eating away at the consumer's wallet, and Reagan marched in with his promises of lower taxes, a balanced budget, less inflation and an end to deficits.

(continued on page 12)

WESTERN ROUNDUP



High Country News

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Cut urged in Colorado wildlife research

An internal battle in the Colorado Division of Wildlife may result in a 27 percent reduction in the highly regarded research department staff. The recently released recommendations from a committee authorized by the wildlife division to audit the research department concluded that by redirecting 27 percent of the research staff, the division could enhance its efforts to provide "public benefits."

However, the research department — the majority of which is located in Ft. Collins — disagreed and is alarmed by the recommendations made by audit committee chairman Ed Prenzl, acting assistant director of the division. Research personnel, who wish to remain unidentified, believe Prenzl has never supported a strong research department and that he had made his mind up on the subject before the audit was ever conducted.

They claim that the study was not objective and that supporting recommendations by some of the six-member audit committee were completely ignored. The committee consisted of Prenzl, three other division employees and two outside wildlife specialists. Although the research department was given a few days to offer comments on the recommendations, one researcher said, "There appears there will be no room for any rebuttal. We've never had any indication that this audit was objective."

John Torres, nongame chief, agreed. He pointed out that the wildlife commission had asked for an audit of the entire wildlife division, but because of pleas by division director Jack Grieb, who was supposed to retire at the end of this year and who did not want an audit of administration, the study was reduced to just the research department. "It's ridiculous to audit just research," Torres said. "If there is going to be an audit, the entire division should be audited because it is all interrelated."

Torres said he is sure the reduction will have an effect on nongame research. That is also the concern of the Colorado Nongame Advisory Committee. In an apparent attempt to gain support, Prenzl shared the results of the audit with the nongame committee the same day the results were released to the



Six week old golden eagle

research department. But one committee member said he is concerned with what the reduction of staff will mean to the state's nongame program. He said the recommendation seemed to be an arbitrary decision with no data base to show that the reductions were appropriate.

One example of Prenzl's lack of objectivity, according to one research employee, was his decision to eliminate *Research News*, an in-house publication that reports on the efforts and directions of the research department. The employee said the publication was discussed "only briefly" in the audit and that Prenzl did not talk to anyone about its value. His recommendation to eliminate *Research News* was "based on nothing but his gut feeling."

The research department's purpose is to gather basic information about relationships among species and between species and habitat as a basis for management decisions. "Without such a system for gathering data, we will jeopardize our wildlife resources," said the biologist.

But Prenzl disagreed and said that out of the 85 research employees, only 33 held advanced degrees in biology. He

argued that by "redirecting" about 22 of those employees to other departments within the division, research can become more productive, along with other departments.

Prenzl said that the research department is top-heavy with administrators who are doing things that management should handle. "My opinion is Parkinson's Law — if you have eight hours to do a job, it will take eight hours. If you have half the time, you'll get the job done in half the time," Prenzl said. "With this redirection, I feel we can do a better job and provide more public benefits."

Although the dispute between research and administration is supposed to be an internal problem, an anonymous letter to "friends of Colorado's Division of Wildlife Research Department" went out to several conservation groups across the state, asking for support and requesting that letters of concern be sent to Jack Grieb, the director in Denver.

Grieb is supposed to make his decision on the recommendation on June 2.

— Carol Jones

Court okays Hanford for nuke waste

The U.S. Supreme Court has removed the last legal impediment to the use of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in southeast Washington as a regional — and perhaps national — low-level nuclear waste dump.

In early May, the court upheld a ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that an initiative passed by Washington voters in November, 1980, unconstitutionally interfered with interstate commerce by prohibiting the shipment or storage of out-of-state nuclear waste at Hanford. The initiative did not ban nuclear waste from Washington sources. About 95 percent of the waste deposited at Hanford is from out-of-state.

The remaining hope of Washington residents to limit waste storage at the Hanford dump is the Northwest Interstate Compact, authorized by the federal Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act of 1980. Under that act, use of the Hanford site may be limited after January, 1986, to participants in a regional compact. The compact, which involves eight states, has been submitted to Congress for approval. Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, Idaho, Utah and Montana have approved the compact, but Wyoming and Alaska have yet to act.

In addition to low-level waste, the Hanford site — along with sites in Nev-

ada, Utah, Texas and the Gulf Coast — is under study as a possible national disposal facility for high-level nuclear wastes produced by nuclear power plants and the military.

Studies of radioactive releases from the Hanford area since World War II,

when it first came into use as a nuclear facility, have documented radioactive contamination of the Columbia River, its sediments and the Pacific Ocean continental shelf as a result of leaching action in the nuclear storage beds.

— John Soisson

Dear friends,

A word of advice. If you ever start out to do a special issue of a publication on the state of the environmental movement, make sure you have plenty of room to cover the subject. In this issue of *HCN* dealing with that field, we found ourselves reluctantly leaving out stories that we had commissioned simply because we lacked the space for all of them. Good stuff, too.

However, we are going to follow up this discussion with some additional articles in future issues, primarily profiles of some of the prominent and long-suffering activists in the region. We had also hoped to have an opinion piece by *HCN* founder and editor emeritus Tom Bell on the path the movement has taken since he started the paper, but scheduling problems prevented him

from doing the article. Hopefully, we'll be able to prevail upon him for something in the future.

Former production assistant Cyndy Simer gave birth to a baby boy, Fletcher, on May 12. Peter and Cyndy's new son weighed eight pounds, eleven ounces and Cyndy said, "We're doing great." Congratulations to them from us.

HCN photographer Mike McClure has been awarded a scholarship to the Ansel Adams Workshop, Session II, August 8-14, near Carmel, California. The workshop is a week of intensive photography taught by Ansel Adams and a number of other prominent photographers.

— the staff



Sara Hunter-Wiles

The Knife River Flint Quarry of western North Dakota goes by two names. Dr. Lawrence L. Loendorf, chairman of the University of North Dakota anthropology department, calls it "the primary archeological resource in North Dakota." The Bureau of Land Management refers to it as the Dunn Center tract of the Fort Union coal lease and has recommended its sale July 15.

Artifacts from the flint quarry have been dated back 11,000 years. The site was used by nomads of the Northern Plains as a source of arrowheads, tools and currency. There is evidence that the unique flint has been distributed all over central North America, from Idaho to Ohio and Alberta to Missouri. The quarry has been referred to as the archaeological equivalent of the Grand Canyon, representing humanity's early effort to mine the earth.

North Dakota coal battle

The latest effort at mining is not so well appreciated. The Dakota Resource Council and local historians are protecting the BLM's plan to lease the quarry's underlying coal this July to the Nokota Company for use in a coal-to-methanol synthetic fuels project. The plant would be located one-quarter mile south of the archaeological district and portions of the quarry would be strip mined as the primary source of fuel.

An attempt to protect the quarries by nominating them for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places failed after a hard lobbying effort by the Nokota Company. The company sent letters to the affected landowners outlining why they should defeat the measure. "These disadvantages include the inability to do as you see fit with your property without government permission; another level of bureaucratic red tape will be imposed upon you; your property values will decline; and you will see few, if any, tax advantages," the letter stated.

Of the 66 landowners within the archaeological site, 62 sent notarized letters to the state historical society in February objecting to the national register status. While the Nokota Company presented some possible adverse effects of the protective status, it failed to address the potential adverse effects of strip mining. The landowners are now caught in the middle. While the majority do not want the protective status, they remain uncertain about the mining.

The BLM has taken more permanent steps to assure that the Dunn Center tract does not become ineligible for mining. On March 1, 1983, the BLM proposed a federal rule change which would eliminate the protection currently afforded all sites eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The Dakota Resource Council has charged the BLM with initiating the rule change to specifically prevent the Dunn Center tract from being designated "unsuitable" for mining.

"The decision to apply for the rule change came from Washington," said an official at the BLM's regional office in Billings, Montana. "We're not sure if it will be decided before the July sale."

The Dakota Resource Council, in an effort to prove the pending rule change was the result of Nokota's influence on the BLM, has filed a Freedom of Information Act request for all correspondence between the Washington office of the BLM and the Nokota Company.

The Nokota Company has all the necessary permits to begin operation and is expected to bid on the Dunn Center tract in July. Actual leasing of the quarry site this year, however, will ultimately depend on the outcome of the congressional resolution to place a moratorium on the Interior Department's leasing program (HCN, 5/13/83) and Secretary Watt's approval of the Fort Union sale. Both decisions are expected in the next few weeks.

— Dan Gorham

HOTLINE

Coal sale recommendations

The Fort Union regional coal team has recommended that the Interior Department offer 510 million tons of coal for lease along the Montana and North Dakota borders in July, 1983, and another 450 million tons in April, 1984. The dates of the two sales are the result of a compromise between representatives of Montana and North Dakota, who want to ensure the fair values of their reserves by spreading out the leases. The recommendation now goes to Interior Secretary James Watt for his approval.

Hart moves to close loophole

Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) has proposed legislation that would block the Interior Department's plan to give Alaska's St. Matthew Island, a national wildlife refuge, to a native corporation. The island, which is a breeding area for 1.5 million birds, has been included in a proposed land exchange between the Interior Department and three native corporations. However, there is speculation that the corporations will turn it over to ARCO to build a staging area for oil exploration along the Alaska coast.

Sour gas plants delayed

Citing poor market conditions, sponsors of four proposed natural gas sweetening plants in western Wyoming have announced plans to alter their construction schedules. American Quasar Petroleum, Mobil Oil, Northwest Pipeline and Williams Exploration, while maintaining faith in the future viability of the project, have decided to delay construction for two to five years. Only Exxon, which has proposed to build two of the plants, is continuing its work on permitting, engineering and environmental evaluations of the sites.

Timber defaults threaten Northwest

Senators from Idaho, Washington and Oregon have joined forces to try to head off a massive default on timber sale contracts which some timber industry experts say could wipe out as much as 25 percent of the lumber production capacity in Oregon and Northern California alone.

Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho), Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) and Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) have co-sponsored legislation currently before Congress to allow timber operators to escape full performance on government contracts they hold that have become unprofitable in the past few years as a result of an erratic economy.

The operators got themselves into a fix, said Forest Service timber sales expert Emil Sabol, during the late 1970s when prices at federal timber auctions skyrocketed during wild bidding.

"The high prices were predicated on the good housing markets at that time," Sabol said. Then the recession hit the housing market and timber prices tumbled. "The companies can't possibly redeem the value of the contracts at current prices."

"The companies have a certain number of years to cut the timber contained in the contract," Sabol said. "They must cut by the expiration date. If they don't cut it, the Forest Service takes the timber back. The problem now is that if they cut the timber they can't sell it at a high enough price to pay off the contract. Lumber prices have fallen too low. So the companies stand to suffer big losses."

"If they default on the contracts the Forest Service will put the timber up for sale again. But if the second sale price is lower than the first — which it surely will be — the first contractor has to pay the difference. Either way, the contractor loses."

An existing Forest Service waiver program gave most of the contractors a two-year extension, but in the next few months many of the extensions will expire, raising the spectre of a wave of defaults that would severely damage the Western economy.

"Before the logging season gets under way," Sabol said, "there will have to be

some kind of legislative or administrative relief from the government."

The pending legislation would allow companies to terminate contracts covering up to 40 percent of the timber footage for which they are liable and would extend the payment deadlines of the remaining contracts up to five years. About 10 billion board feet of timber is presently uneconomical to cut.

"The problem is centered west of the Cascades," according to Lloyd Olson of the timber management division of the Forest Service in Washington, D.C. "Idaho and Montana, and eastern Washington and Idaho face the problem but not as bad. We're in the process of compiling the hard data."

Olson pointed out that the Forest Service negotiates 4,000 to 5,000 timber contracts each year and that 25 to 30 defaults a year are normal.

A legislative solution to the problem may be hard to come by, though. The Reagan administration has withheld support of the measure, believing that a demand for contract performance will force the companies to solve the problem themselves. That position is supported by timber growers and congressmen in the South, who say the bill under consideration favors one section of the country and threatens unfair competition.

And some big companies in the Northwest, with large private holdings, oppose the bill. Officials of the Potlatch Corporation say that a federal bailout would allow many companies to undersell them.

Industry trade groups argue that since the government was in large measure responsible for the problem, it should help solve it. They charge that government economists in the late 1970s predicted timber shortages and thus fanned the bidding competition. Soon after that the government instituted a tight money policy that resulted in high interest rates and a shrinking housing market.

In spite of the impending crisis, however, timber contractors don't seem to have learned a lesson.

"Contract bids are two, three and four times the appraised value," said the

Forest Service's Olson. "We may have another problem developing."

Fueled by the hope that the economy is recovering and the housing market will bounce back, federal timber contracts are selling for high prices again.

"If the bidding pattern re-establishes itself as it was in 1980 and 1981," said Idaho's McClure, "it would destroy our ability to help."

— John Soisson

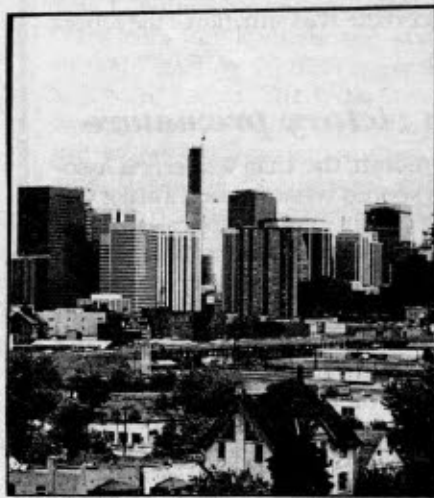
BARBS

At least the stork isn't an endangered species. Two Australian researchers, in a study of children ages five to 15, found that North American youngsters are the worst informed worldwide about sex. One child thought a uterus was "a tunnel somewhere in Sweden." Another said pregnancy was "the name of a restaurant." And a third defined contraception as "a brand of soap."

They're about a hundred years too late. A group of Indian tribes is working with the Defense Department to see if Indians can get a bigger chunk of defense contracting.

We often make cookies out of deadly poisons around our house. Environmental Protection Agency spokesman Albert Heier, defending the safety to humans of predator poison Compound 1080, said, "It's used for rodent control and there's been no human effect other than a couple of deaths associated with it when some children got into a pickup and got some cookies that had been laced with it to use as bait. That can happen with medicine in a medicine cabinet."

However, they still believe that the earth is flat and ships keep falling off the edge but there's a conspiracy to keep it out of the papers. Pope John Paul II said on May 9, 1983, that the Roman Catholic Church erred in condemning the astronomer Galileo Galilei in 1633 for saying that the sun and not the earth was the center of the solar system.



Denver skyline

Support for Denver's brown cloud

While Denver city officials struggle to find ways to meet federal carbon monoxide standards by 1987, metro-area motorists aren't helping matters by ignoring the auto emissions inspection law. The 1980 law, which affects eight counties along Colorado's Front Range, set the pollutant standards in an effort to clean up Denver's notorious brown cloud. If vehicles exceed the standard, adjustments must be made before the owner is given an inspection sticker to display on the windshield. Enforcement has been difficult because only moving cars can be cited for an expired inspection sticker. The Colorado Department of Revenue recently reported that 25 percent of the vehicles checked in a Department study had not been inspected. According to the *Denver Post*, that is a 12 percent increase over a similar study done last summer.

Carol Jones

HOTLINE

EPA lightens up on PCB charge

The Environmental Protection Agency has given the city of Ft. Collins, Colorado, a break by suspending an \$8,100 fine for improperly storing toxic chemicals. The city was cited last November after an EPA inspection found polychlorinated biphenyls — PCBs, a known carcinogen — unmarked and improperly stored at a nonfunctioning power plant. The handling violated three month-old regulations. City officials feel EPA overreacted and the agency decided to suspend the sentence if the city does not violate any more regulations for one year.



Dick Randall/Defenders of Wildlife

Big game here, but for how long?

A recent report by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department had some good news and some bad news about the state's wildlife. While the population of big game species is judged to be at an all-time high, the report warned that due to human population increases and encroachment on habitat the populations are headed into a decline. "It appears likely the overall trend for these species in Wyoming is downward. Current and projected pressures on elk habitat throughout the state are anticipated to exacerbate this situation," the report stated.

Utah victory premature

Last month, the Utah Wilderness Association scored what seemed a major victory in a successful appeal to have 855,000 acres included in BLM wilderness study areas. However, in the fine print, the Interior Board of Appeals did not direct the BLM to include the acreage in wilderness study areas; it simply instructed the agency to study the lands more carefully (HCN, 4/29/83). The Utah Wilderness Association, in cooperation with other environmental groups, is considering a possible court suit if the lands are eventually excluded.

**\$1400 fine for killing grizzlies**

A Montana judge fined a Billings man \$1400 and suspended his hunting privileges for 30 months last week for the illegal shooting of a grizzly sow and cub. Keith Elder, a Billings minister, testified that he shot the cub thinking it was a black bear and then was forced to shoot the sow in self-defense. Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks officer Guy Shanks said, "I hope it will deter people...and help them to think about what kind of animal they're hunting."

BuRec eyes new dam site in Teton Park

In Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park, the possible solutions to some serious dam safety problems at Jackson Lake have begun to create more controversy than the problems themselves.

Specifically, two of the alternatives being considered by the Bureau of Reclamation would involve construction of a second large dam in the park on Pacific Creek about four miles downstream from the present dam. One of these alternatives would flood approximately 2,000 acres of park land and over four miles of river, including the scenic Oxbow Bend area.

Either of these two Pacific Creek options — one for a storage dam and one for a detention or "catchment" dam that would be used only in the event of a failure of the original Jackson Lake Dam — would be considerably cheaper than modification of the present dam, according to BuRec. Other alternatives include restricting the dam's storage capacity to one of three possible levels, and doing nothing.

The last alternative is unlikely to be acceptable, given the risk of dam failure

identified by a 1978 safety study initiated after the failure of the Teton Dam in Idaho. The study found that the probability of dam failure at Jackson Lake due to seismic activity is about 40 percent in the next 100 years.

The problems at the dam pose a classic dilemma for the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service, both agencies within the Department of Interior. On the one hand, BuRec has a commitment to maintaining the dam for its flood control, recreation and irrigation values. The dam stores irrigation water for 1.2 million acres of fertile crop land in eastern Idaho's Minidoka Project. On the other hand, the National Park Service has an equally firm commitment to preserving the natural character of Grand Teton National Park.

Spokesmen for both BuRec and Grand Teton National Park said that the Park Service "would not be supportive of" the Pacific Creek alternatives, but neither could recall an official statement to that effect.

The Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning, a citizen conservation group, has been more vocal in its

opposition. Alliance coordinator Story Clark said her organization is opposed to the construction of any new dam structure in Grand Teton National Park.

Criticizing the "beaver mentality" of the Bureau of Reclamation, she said the agency "needs to be looking at a wide open spectrum of non-structural alternatives that they are just not oriented to thinking about." She also objected to the bureau's approach to costs, saying that it basically evaluated construction costs only. "The problem is with the alternatives they are considering and with the way they are assessing the alternatives they have."

The bureau has scheduled four meetings on the dam proposals during the coming month. Informational meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. May 31 at the Westbank Motel in Idaho Falls and 7:30 p.m. June 1 at the Wort Hotel in Jackson. Workshop meetings, at which the bureau will accept public comment, are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. June 21 at the Westbank in Idaho Falls and 7:30 p.m. June 22 at the Wort in Jackson.

—Jill Bamburg

ASARCO fights water citation

A court suit is sure to evolve in the dispute between the Colorado Department of Health and ASARCO, Inc. over the Department's issuance of a cease and desist order at the company's Leadville, Colorado, mining operation. The company was recently issued a citation for "discharging pollutants without a permit" into the Arkansas River.

But ASARCO, which mines for zinc, lead, gold and silver near Leadville, feels the citation is unfair because of the circumstances involved. According to Curtis Johnson, unit manager of the Leadville Unit, ASARCO has a permit to discharge into the Yak Tunnel — a 70-year old structure built to drain mining run-off and channel it into California Gulch, which eventually flows into the Arkansas River. Johnson said that part of the permit required ASARCO to maintain the Yak, which meant an annual "walk through the tunnel."

In February of this year, Johnson said a crew did take the annual walk through the tunnel and during that inspection a number of naturally-formed blockages in the tunnel were kicked loose. Behind the blockages were collections of mining sediments — many of them toxic — from abandoned mines in the area. The hazardous chemicals released eventually ended up in the Arkansas.

Johnson explained that many abandoned mines continue to drain and discharge into the Yak. He pointed out that the mines are not owned or operated by ASARCO and that they have no control over the discharge. "The cease and desist order was for all waters out of the Yak," Johnson said. "But we don't have control over hardly any of it."

However, Bob Shukle, unit chief for industrial permits and enforcement with the Health Department, said ASARCO did not have the authority to "maintain" the tunnel. He said the firm's discharge permit, which expires at the end of June, only allows a small discharge into the Yak. He said that during the early stages of the permit process the question of maintenance was acknowledged, but it was not included in the permit.

And Shukle said the discharge from the tunnel is ASARCO's responsibility regardless of the origin of the material because the tunnel passes through much of ASARCO's land and because the company owns the portal of the tunnel. The portal is considered the point source of all pollutants out of the Yak and is, by the department's definition, the responsibility of the owner.

Johnson said his company has stopped all of its discharge into the tunnel in accordance with the cease and

desist order. But ASARCO also was ordered to submit an application for a discharge permit to both the department and the Environmental Protection Agency, Shukle said. The company had until May 17 to respond, but Shukle said the office had received nothing by the deadline and expects the issue to be resolved in court.

Because the abandoned mine discharges have left the waters heavily toxic, the four-mile Yak tunnel and California Gulch were listed on EPA's Superfund cleanup sheet. According to Pat Davies, aquatic toxicologist with the Colorado Division of Wildlife in Ft. Col-

ins, the toxic waters are a great stress to fish. He said the added rush of discharge in February, which includes cadmium, copper and zinc, left those elements in acutely toxic concentrations in some parts of the stream. For example, he explained that the allowable standard for zinc in most waters to protect fish is 50 parts per billion. However, the standard below California Gulch is 750 parts per billion because the standard was set according to how toxic the stream already was from the abandoned mine pollutants. On February 24, after the mishap in the tunnel, the zinc reading was 3,700 parts per billion.

— Carol Jones

BLM approves land swap

After months of bitter controversy, the Bureau of Land Management has approved a transfer of land ownership that consolidates two important tracts of checkerboard coal lands in McCone County, Montana. The chief beneficiary of the coal swap is the Meridian Land and Minerals Company, a subsidiary of the Burlington Northern Railroad.

The controversial trade gives both BLM and Meridian contiguous tracts of land that contain about 400 million tons of lignite each. The adjacent tracts, totalling about 45,000 acres, straddle Nelson Creek near Circle, Montana, a tiny ranching community that has been eyed for a decade by prospective developers of synthetic fuels.

Burlington Northern along with the Union Pacific and Santa Fe railroad companies control about 15 billion tons of coal under their vast and scattered acreage of checkerboard lands, granted to the railroads as an incentive to build lines into the West. Partly because of these coal holdings, the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 forbade the leasing of additional federal coal to the railroads.

But BN and Union Pacific have both applied to the Interior Department for land swaps that give the companies — and the government — large, contiguous tracts of mineable coal. The UP proposal would create a 21,000 acre tract in southern Wyoming's Red Rim country.

Leaders of the Billings-based Northern Plains Resource Council have expressed concern that by consolidating the McCone County tracts, BLM is, in effect, offering federal coal to the railroad.

"Through this method the railroads can acquire by exchange what they are forbidden to acquire by lease," said an

NPRC spokesperson.

BLM Montana state director Mike Penfold disagrees. He noted that while Meridian received a mineable chunk of significant coal reserves, BLM ended up with a tract that it can now offer up for lease to a conventional mining company.

"The exchange creates a more marketable tract of federal coal, and development of such a tract would create jobs and add to the general economy," Penfold said.

But Penfold has already expressed the opinion — which brought guffaws from both environmentalists and the coal industry — that no formal ties between Meridian and Burlington Northern have been established.

Some residents of Circle believe that since BLM apparently views Meridian as an independent mining company, the agency might turn right around and lease the second McCone County tract to the company, too.

Rep. Pat Williams (D-Mont.) last year called for a General Accounting Office investigation of the proposed land swap, but he was not pleased with the results.

The report acknowledged that making mineable coal units more accessible to railroads raises serious questions about competition in the coal market, but concluded that there is "no sound basis" for interrupting the McCone County swap.

Concerned that BLM was creating a *de facto* policy by allowing the trade, Williams argued that the federal government should not be using the 800 million ton reserve as "a guinea pig for determining how to manage the remainder of the public coal."

— Don Snow



A bill that gives the state of Colorado the authority to set hazardous waste disposal regulations more stringent than those set by the federal government recently passed both houses and is now awaiting Gov. Dick Lamm's (D) signature.

The bill, which also gives Colorado counties until mid-1985 to come up with enough disposal sites to handle the state's waste, has far more pluses than minuses, in the eyes of Colorado environmentalists.

Briggs Bamblin, lobbyist for the Colorado Open Space Council, said although he favors other means of disposal than landfills, the bill has made industry look at ways to lessen the waste it generates and to consider alternatives to landfill disposal.

Gamblin said that it will be up to environmentalists and local health groups to put the pressure on the state's Hazardous Waste Management Council to toughen up the waste disposal regulations. The council, created in 1981, is appointed by the governor and is

Colorado disposes of hazardous waste

responsible for working out the regulations. It consists of three citizens at large, three industrial representatives, one U.S. Geological Survey representative and one representative from the Colorado Department of Health.

The bill originally had called for counties to choose disposal sites by mid-1984, but that was changed in the House to mid-1985, and bill sponsor Martha Ezzard (R-Cherry Hills) urged her colleagues in the Senate to approve the bill anyway so its passage would not be delayed another session. Those opposing the 1985 extension fear it will substantially delay the time when Colorado will select a safe waste disposal site.

If a county does not choose a site by the deadline, the bill allows the governor to appoint a state council to pick a site for that county. The site must meet State Geological Society safety standards for hazardous wastes, and the company applying to operate the facility must prove through past experience that it can do an adequate job.

And to strengthen the law's deterrence value, the fine for violating a disposal law was increased to \$10,000 per day from the current \$500 per day.

Another provision of the original bill

introduced by Ezzard would have removed a clause in current law that allows operators of hazardous waste facilities to be forewarned of inspections (HCN, 3/4/83). In the bill that passed operators can still be forewarned if the inspection involves a suspected problem, explained Gamblin, but routine inspections, when nothing is suspected, can occur unannounced.

Gamblin said COSC "could live with that for now," but will work on improving it next year.

A bill recently passed by both houses and awaiting the governor's signature is a bill to raise the state gasoline tax by three cents per gallon and diesel fuel tax by four cents per gallon. The governor had said he favored a larger increase in the diesel tax because he does not feel the trucking industry — the largest user of diesel fuel — is footing its share of the cost of road and highway maintenance. But the latest word is that Lamm is softening his stance and will probably sign the bill. The current state tax is nine cents a gallon on all fuels.

The legislature wrapped up its session May 21, but it will reconvene June 20 to work on any post-session problems.

— Carol Jones

No grizzly death trend: panel

While headlines continue to appear about the demise of the grizzly bear in the Yellowstone National Park area (HCN, 3/18/82), a panel of government scientists has recently injected a note of skepticism into the debate.

In a May 13 press release, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that no trend in grizzly numbers — up or down — could be proven by the scanty information scientists have collected on the bear since 1974. The release was based on a report commissioned by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Steering Committee, which includes representatives of the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

The report said that while the number of female bears with cubs has declined significantly since 1959, no trend is evident from 1974 to 1982. In 1980, a minimum of 183 to 207 grizzlies roamed the area, according to the report.

Last summer the steering committee's chairman, Roland Wauer, stated in a memo that was later widely publicized, "Unless some change occurs to reduce the grizzly's mortality rate soon, the probability of retaining this wildland species in Yellowstone Park is minimal."

The new report implies that this con-



clusion is merely Wauer's opinion and not a provable fact. However, Wauer appears to be in good scientific company. His views about the bears' plight are generally shared by the biologist who has been leading the research effort on Yellowstone grizzlies for the past 10 years, Dick Knight, and by the team that preceded him, Frank and John Craighead.

State officials in both Montana and Wyoming are skeptical, even suggesting that grizzly numbers may be going up, not down. Dale Strickland of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department pointed out that current population estimates

are based on the number of female bears with cubs spotted by researchers in the Yellowstone area. Some bears could have been missed. "I don't believe you can count all the female grizzlies in the Yellowstone ecosystem," Strickland said.

But on the other hand, some bears also could have been counted twice, according to Knight.

The fact is, nobody knows exactly how many grizzlies still lurk in the Yellowstone area. But in Wyoming's recent crackdown on grizzly poachers and tightening of black bear hunting rules, the state has chosen the conservative approach. "Because it's a difficult population to study, we must maintain a large margin of error," said biologist Larry Roop of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Montana wildlife officials have been less willing to leap on the save-the-grizzly bandwagon. Gene Allen of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks believes that grizzlies may be rebounding from a decline that occurred after the National Park Service shut down its garbage dumps in the late 1960s. The current panic is being caused by "the long-term lumping of statistics," he said in an Associated Press story.

— Joan Nice

Earth First! launches lake protest

The Earth First! protest at the 20th anniversary of the building of Glen Canyon Dam got a lot of ink from the news media, but was barely noticed by its prime target, Interior Secretary James Watt. Earth First! rented a houseboat, redecorated it as a "pirate ship" and floated some 500 yards from the press barge, where its placards could be seen, but the messages on them could not.

Watt was at Arizona's Lake Powell to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the damming of the Colorado River at Glen Canyon, an event that still brings anguish to environmentalists. The destruction of Glen Canyon Dam was one of the major events in Edward Abbey's

novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, which, in turn, was a prime motivator for Earth First!, a radical environmental group (see story, page 16).

Neil Cobb, an Albuquerque-based member of the group, said, "There is more than one reason people came out here to demonstrate. One of them is to protest the fact that the Glen Canyon Dam was built in the first place. The other was the fact that they invited James Watt as guest speaker. That's adding insult to injury."

About 150 protesters turned out to join the demonstration, which a large phalanx of police generally kept out of Watt's line of sight. Watt called for people with foresight to withstand the

"abuse of public opinion" so that 20 or 30 years hence, other gatherings will celebrate projects like Lake Powell. He praised the development of the lake by the Del E. Webb Corp., which sponsored the trip.

Watt said that he had never heard of Earth First!, nor read *The Monkey Wrench Gang*. He also said that he didn't notice the demonstrators. The dam, he said, was "a dead issue."

Cobb said, "For us, it isn't a dead issue. And even if it is, it's important to raise people's consciousness, to let them know that all is not well with the building of Glen Canyon Dam and the enjoyment of it."

—George Hardeen, Mary Tolan

HOTLINE

Lavelle cited for contempt

The House voted unanimously last week to cite former Environmental Protection Agency official Rita Lavelle for contempt of Congress due to her refusal to testify about her actions as the administrator of the controversial Superfund, the federal toxic waste cleanup program. The measure now goes to the Justice Department, where a grand jury indictment is possible. If convicted, the misdemeanor could result in a one year jail term and \$1000 fine for Lavelle.

Kentucky at odds over Wyoming coal

The decision by a Kentucky utility to invest in a new generating plant which will burn low-sulfur coal from Wyoming has sparked a protest among residents. Mountain Truckers Association, a lobby for the Kentucky coal truck operators, claims the decision will threaten 3,000 Kentucky coal jobs and cost the state \$12 million in lost royalties. However, utility officials note that the coal contract was the result of an open bid in which the Wyoming coal was less expensive even with delivery costs.

Ranchers get first land option

The Interior Department is modifying its Asset Management Program by giving adjoining land owners first preference on the purchase of surplus public lands. The change in policy is considered a victory for western ranchers and state officials who were critical of the Interior's competitive bid proposal. The new policy will result in a revenue loss for the U.S. Treasury, but should help ranchers protect their rangelands from larger corporate interests.

In-stream flow casts off

Documents have been filed and volunteers organized in an effort to get in-stream flow legislation on the Wyoming ballot in November, 1984. Tom Dougherty, chairman of Wyoming Citizens Committee for in-stream flow, said volunteers will canvass the state this summer seeking 25,810 signatures of registered voters. The initiative option was prompted by the legislature's failure to establish in-stream flow standards. "It seems inconsistent that it is illegal to pollute our streams, but legally acceptable to dry them up," Dougherty said.

EPA housecleaning continues

Four more top Environmental Protection Agency officials have resigned as the agency continues to overhaul its personnel in a housecleaning effort. Stepping down were Frederic Eidsness Jr., assistant administrator for air, noise and radiation; and regional EPA chiefs Peter Bibko of Philadelphia and Lester Sutton of Boston. The resignations came on William Ruckelshaus' second day as administrator. Thus far, 20 political appointees have left the EPA.

Great Salt Lake rising

The Great Salt Lake is getting greater by the day. Above average precipitation and snowpack run-off have raised the level of the lake 3.9 feet since last fall, causing an estimated \$47 million in damages to lake shore property owners. The lake is only 35 deep at its deepest point, so increases of just a few inches of water can send flood water dozens of feet over its virtually flat shores. The Utah Department of Natural Resources predicts that damages to wetlands, recreational areas, highways, railroads and other facilities will continue to increase through July.

Cost to the people? Hundreds of millions of dollars.



The state of the environmental movement

The changing face of the opposition

by Don Snow

James Watt has a habit of calling his critics "extremists." He has said that two kinds of people inhabit the Republic: liberals and Americans. He has suggested that Indian reservations are hotbeds of failed socialism, and he insists that the leaders of national environmental organizations are deeply committed to the ideals of Karl Marx.

One by one, he has parted ways with the organizations that have attacked him — from Friends of the Earth to the conservative National Wildlife Federation — and there is plenty of evidence that the Interior Department under his guidance has tried to weed out the "extremists" within its own ranks.

For all of this, James Watt has told ABC News in an interview that he is probably the ablest interior secretary this country has ever had. He gives the impression that he believes his own rhetoric.

But James Watt, the inflammatory cabinet member, is merely the prominent tip of a very large iceberg. Beneath the choppy sea of his rhetoric thrives a colony of individuals and organizations who believe what Watt believes, and worse.

His real constituency is comprised of business executives, unemployed workers, and ultraconservative ideologues who have become embittered through a decade of rapid environmental policy-making. They have organized to fight back, and in many respects their strategies and tactics parallel those of the early environmental movement of the 1970s — the use of alarming rhetoric, concerted efforts to feed the ever-hungry media and broad emotional appeals to attract members and converts.

States with well developed environmental records are especially prone to anti-environmental witch-hunts. Montana, for example, with over 100 conservation groups scattered across the state, hosts a lively crew of environmental nay-sayers, but nowhere in the West are they more active than out in Reagan Country — sunny California.

The Abalone Alliance last year organized a statewide protest against the start-up of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. The embattled reactor, owned by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, captured national attention during its 16-year-long construction marathon because of its proximity to an important earthquake fault. By 1982, residents of nearby San Luis Obispo had grown to share the concerns that California's anti-nuclear activists had publicized about the plant.

While Abalone organizers plotted an act of mass civil disobedience at Diablo,

residents of San Luis Obispo organized a peaceful march protesting the plant.

The Abalone recruits came from all over the state. Their acts of civil disobedience were peaceful but illegal. Some blocked entry to the power plant gates, some hiked through the coastal back-country and scaled the fence, others arrived by boat, D-day style, and scaled the treacherous cliffs onto PG&E property. In all, 1,900 were arrested.

Today, a year later, three Abalone members as well as the Alliance itself have been named in a suit asking for \$1 million in damages plus the costs of law enforcement required to discourage the illegal acts.

Representing the plaintiffs in the case is the Pacific Legal Foundation, an ultra-conservative "public interest" group based in Sacramento. Founded in 1973, PLF's early organizers were the California Chamber of Commerce; Gov. Ronald Reagan's former Welfare Department head, Ron Zumbun; Edwin Meese, now Reagan's chief advisor in the White House; and the Sacramento law firm of Deipenbrock, Wulff, Plant and Hanegan, whose principal, Deipenbrock, served as Reagan's northern California finance chairman during the 1980 presidential election.

Part of a national network of ultraconservative legal foundations organized under an umbrella group called the National Legal Center for Public Interest, PLF has distinguished itself as the nation's leading anti-environmentalist organization. While PLF has not been very successful in its cases — critics say it has won about 30 percent of them — it has blistered a number of court records with arguments favoring unbridled free enterprise.

Joyce Howerton, named in the PLF suit because of her role as an Alliance organizer, alleges that "pure harassment" is the aim of the Foundation's action.

"Originally they named 25 to 30 individuals in the suit and asked for \$2.7 million in damages," Howerton said. "Unfortunately for PLF, many of those named were not involved in organizing the action, some didn't participate in it, and one was a man we'd never heard of."

Howerton admits to organizing the action and asserts proudly that she has spent 15 years in the anti-nuclear movement. But she claims that another defendant named in the case, Dick Krejsa, a professor at California State Polytechnic Institute, took no part in organizing civil disobedience.

At the time of the demonstration, Krejsa worked as a county supervisor, and Howerton believes that his position as a public official sympathetic to the

Alliance incited the wrath of the Foundation.

"They want to stamp out that sort of thing," she said.

The third defendant is Susan Swift, who staffed the Alliance's San Luis Obispo office. Swift was the one Alliance staff member who opposed civil disobedience at Diablo, according to Mark Evanoff of Friends of the Earth in San Francisco.

Evanoff agreed with Howerton that harassment is the Foundation's goal in the Abalone case, but he said that's normal for PLF. It is part of a broad strategy to suppress the environmental and anti-nuclear activism that have been successful in California.

Kathy Dickson, a San Francisco attorney who has battled PLF in court, observed that Foundation attorneys turn normal environmental logic on its ear in making their cases.

"They will take something like the Endangered Species Act, for example, and use it to overturn a pro-environmental decision," she said. Dickson points to a Los Angeles case in which the Environmental Protection Agency sued the city to block ocean disposal of Hiperion Sewage Plant waste. PLF intervened on behalf of the city and used the Endangered Species Act to declare a preferred land-based disposal site unsuitable for dumping, according to Dickson.

She litigated part of the recent case in which the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld California's nuclear moratorium which prohibits power plant construction until an approved federal plan for nuclear waste disposal is in effect.

PLF sued the California Energy Commission to overturn the ban. Denied standing in District Court, PLF ended up representing a nuclear engineer who alleged that the ban has destroyed his career. The Foundation's client went on to ignominious defeat in both the appellate and U.S. Supreme courts.

"In their fundraising brochure they claim a 75 to 85 percent success rate," Dickson said, "but it's really closer to 30 percent. They are successful at raising money, however."

Recently, California Governor Dukmejian (R) appointed PLF to investigate the California Coastal Commission, an agency dedicated to protecting public access to coastal areas. Dickson said that PLF carries a long history of fighting the Commission under the popular banner of preserving private property rights against public encroachment.

"This is a good example of how our so-called public interest foundation operates," she said.

But PLF is not the only organization dedicated to fighting environmentalists in court. James Watt's old home team, the Denver-based Mountain States Legal Foundation, also owns a record of battles with the Sierra Club, the National Wildlife Federation, the Bob Marshall Alliance and other groups.

Founded in 1977 by Joseph Coors and a handful of other Colorado businessmen, MSFL quickly established a fund- and hell-raising record that rivals PLF's. Mountain States has a 27-member board of directors representing nine Western states, and a 25-member "board of litigation" comprised of prominent corporate and private attorneys. Former governors Calvin Rampton of Utah and Stanley Hathaway of Wyoming have served on MSFL's boards, and former Rep. Wayne Aspinall of Colorado and former Sen. Clifford Hansen of Wyoming still do.

Hansen sat on the MSFL board when President Reagan considered nominating him for secretary of interior. When conflicts of interests kept him from accepting the job, Joseph Coors pushed the nomination of another colorful MSFL official, Chief Legal Officer James G. Watt.

While at the helm of MSFL, Watt established a reputation for bruising environmentalists. A popular speaker at conservative functions, his rhetorical outbursts against "extreme environmentalists" captured media attention in Western and national newspapers.

He once said that environmentalists are the greatest enemies of environmental preservation in the West because the laws and regulations they support are impediments to innovation in such industry-endorsed endeavors as mined land reclamation and air and water quality protection. Leave it to American enterprise to solve these problems, said Watt, and they will be solved quickly.

Under Watt's management and with Coors' fundraising influence, MSFL grew rapidly. Coors' own foundation chipped in \$25,000 and the Boettcher Foundation of Denver, a trust run by a prominent mining and cement manufacturing family, gave \$10,000 to the fledgling organization.

From a first year budget of \$194,000, MSFL's funds grew to \$1.2 million in 1981. Chevron, Shell Oil, Morrison-Knudsen Construction, Day Mines, Boise-Cascade, Idaho Power Company, Zion's First National Bank, Union Pacific Railroad, Empire Bolt and Screw and other corporate entities gave either money or management expertise to the Foundation's board.

Beverly Kinard, the Foundation's

(continued on page 11)



“As a newspaper reporter, I treated environmentalists as cute little fuzzy bears who offered me something different in the way of a news article. I thought they would go away — but they didn’t.”

Gary Langley of the Montana Mining Association

Opposition...

(continued from page 6)

Director of Communications, said that MSLF's goals remain clear. "We exist for the purpose of making precedent-setting lawsuits for free enterprise. We also have an interest in averting attempts to use constitutional amendments to enact social change," she said.

Contrary to common opinion, said Kinard, "We mostly sue the government, not environmental groups or private organizations." In fact Kinard claims that environmental litigation forms a very small part of MSLF's activities.

The Foundation is probably best known for its efforts against the Equal Rights Amendment in Arizona and Idaho, and for its intervention against an affirmative action program at the University of Colorado Law School.

Critics of the Foundation say that it, like its cousin PLF, uses friend-of-the-court briefs to bolster its public image and pad its success ratio in litigation. Both the ERA and affirmative action campaigns were waged through *amicus* briefs, allowing the Foundation to get its name into prominent conservative fundraising circles for little cost.

But MSLF also litigates major cases. The Foundation intervened on behalf of the Denver Water Board in a recent case involving the Williams Fork Diversion, a plan to create a city right-of-way through a national forest area west of Denver.

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund intervened on behalf of the Forest Service and won a decision that forces the Water Board to come up with a comprehensive water plan and to seek a new, less disruptive right-of-way through national forest land.

Tony Ruckel, regional director for the Legal Defense Fund, commented on MSLF's role in the case. "They lost on six or seven major substantive points, and won one. The point they won virtually guarantees less efficient administration in the Forest Service. Altogether it was a resounding loss for Mountain States."

Ruckel does not consider the Foundation to be an enemy, but a reliable — if unsuspecting — ally of environmental litigants.

"We consider them a friend," he said. "When Mountain States comes in you have a reactionary party in the case. From our point of view it's a boon for them to come in. They take positions so extraordinary that ours always look quite reasonable in comparison. In a

legal proceeding it's often a question of balance that's at stake. Mountain States has a way of throwing the balance in our favor."

It is not likely that James Watt means the same thing when he speaks of his "balanced approach" to environmental decision-making.

In addition to attacking environmental policy directly through litigation, anti-environmentalists try to use their political muscle to stamp out the green fire wherever they find it.

In 1981, the pro-development Western Environmental Trade Association teamed up with Evergreen Timber, Boise-Cascade and a Eugene, Oregon, sawmill operator to try to force the University of Oregon Natural Resource Law Clinic off campus.

Charles Landman, an Oregon law school graduate now living in Missoula, Montana, was a student in Eugene when WETA and its allies went to work against the clinic, which they alleged had no place at a publicly-funded academy.

"The community was outraged about it," Landman said. "A timber baron named Aaron Jones from Eugene organized local businessmen to threaten to withhold donations to the university athletic department if the clinic wasn't barred from campus."

Landman explained that the fracas started when the clinic represented a group of Idaho plaintiffs who had appealed a Forest Service land management plan for the Salmon River country.

"Lots of timber was at stake in the Forest Service decision," Landman said. "The plaintiffs were concerned about the high natural resource values of the area. It's part of the Idaho batholith country where soils are highly erosive. The plaintiffs challenged the adequacy of both the EIS and the planning process itself, and also launched a Freedom of Information Act case over the agency's refusal to disclose documents."

WETA, according to Landman, tried to pressure both the university president and the state Board of Regents into barring the clinic, which was funded by the National Wildlife Federation. They lost, but the Federation left a year later to open a national litigation office in Portland. The state of Oregon now picks up the tab for the clinic, which remained on campus.

"We felt pretty good about beating them," Landman said. "It's a good example of how ineffective their meat-axe approach is."

WETA was somewhat more successful in Missoula where a similar law clinic, also funded by the Federation, moved downtown a few months ago after WETA officials complained about its campus office. The clinic is the prin-

cipal intervenor on behalf of environmental groups in the licensing proceedings for the Kootenai Falls hydropower project in northwest Montana.

A loosely organized alliance of individuals, labor unions, and businesses, WETA got its start in Washington state then spread into neighboring states where it has lobbied to reverse the decade-long trend of environmental policy-making in the Western states.

While the five WETA's of the West have gradually ceased operations due to inadequate funding, Montana's office still perks along in Helena.

In 1979, it helped organize a vocal group in northwest Montana called NEED — Northwest Energy, Employment and Development — to champion the Libby Re-Regulation Dam and the Kootenai Falls project. NEEDster Alice Priest of Libby led the group to a public hearing to protest the testimony of a local group called Save the Kootenai. To the delight of newspaper photographers, she wore a jersey bearing the slogan "Pave the Kootenai" in bowling-league script. A few weeks later a local wit organized GREED — Get Rich Exploiting Earth's Environment — to counteract the antics of the NEEDsters.

Patterning its organizing campaigns after those of the early environmental movement, WETA sought to enlist the support of grassroots citizens, many of them unemployed loggers, miners, and construction workers, to lobby against environmental issues.

The group has seized on a single theme that it has successfully broadcast all over the state: environmental regulation is the principal cause of unemployment. WETA leaders have never proven the point, nor even tried to, but its mere assertion has become a leading anti-environmental battle cry.

Another organization that effectively uses the "little guy" in successful lobbying is the Montana Mining Association and its counterparts in other western states.

Executive Director Gary Langley, a former Lee State Bureau reporter in Helena, fashions himself a crusader cut from the same white cloth as James Watt, and uses the same kind of inflammatory rhetoric to blast his arch-enemies, whom he calls "the extreme, anti-development obstructionists."

Last year, Langley told the Montana Snowmobilers Association that he was once somewhat charmed by the environmentalists, but no more.

"As a newspaper reporter, I treated environmentalists as cute little fuzzy bears — even though they were somewhat unwashed — who offered me something different in the way of a news article. I thought they would go away — but they didn't," he said.

Instead, according to Langley, they

duped millions of unsuspecting Americans into joining their organizations, which quickly became infiltrated by leaders who carry the "goal of strangling our society and stopping everything with which this state and country needs to grow."

The average Sierra Club member, he suggests, would have second thoughts about a membership in John Muir's old club if he understood that wilderness areas are places closed to Jeeps.

Sometimes growling like a professional wrestler, Langley throws Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, the Wildlife Federation and the Northern Plains Resource Council into the same rhetorical meat-grinder, suggesting that all of them are dominated by subversive leadership.

A favorite lobbying tactic of the Mining Association is to use its considerable membership of "small miners" — defined under Montana law as those who disturb fewer than five acres — to do the bidding for the large corporations that also belong. Any proposed change in mining law favored by environmentalists is greeted with a veritable pack-string of "small miners" who are seldom affected by reform — they are exempt from state reclamation requirements — but who tell legislators and agency officials that such amendments will put them out of business.

Said one conservation lobbyist, "These guys are classics. You expect any day now they'll bring a string of burros and some placer pans into committee."

The James Watts, the conservative legal foundations, the WETA's and the Mining Associations all have a point: environmental regulation costs money and inevitably affects natural resource allocations. But the groups' vitriolic arguments and their growing tendency to paint environmental leaders in shades of pink have perhaps hindered the success of their own cause.

If Tony Ruckel is right, such groups may eventually hoist themselves on their own petards. According to Ruckel, the Mountain States Legal Foundation has already run afoul of the Denver business community — including Joseph Coors — over its recent lawsuit challenging the city's decision to grant a city-wide cable TV franchise to a single company. Coors reportedly left the MSLF board because of its decision to challenge the city. Ruckel believes that a sizeable fundraising base left with him.

The next presidential election should say a lot about Americans' acceptance of the flamboyant anti-environmentalist line. It may soon become clear that Secretary Watt and all he represents have become an enormous albatross around an endangered president's neck.

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I am outraged at your environmental policies. The destruction of the EPA was bad enough. Now we find you and James Watt plan to deal away America's public lands. These magnificent lands belong to all Americans. What gives you the right to sell and lease them to developers just to shave your budget deficits? For short term cash, you are squandering America's natural legacy.

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To: **Sen. James A. McClure**, Chairman
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Name _____
Address _____

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President Reagan and James Watt are plundering the U.S. public lands. They're making "sweetheart" deals with energy companies to mine and drill on millions of acres, even around our great national parks. They want to sell huge chunks of our land outright. All this at "fire sale" prices. We're counting on you to stop them from dealing away America's natural heritage.

Name _____
Address _____

To: **Rep. Sidney R. Yates**, Chairman
Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

We applaud your past resistance to the irresponsible policies of James Watt and President Reagan. Now comes the heaviest test. Don't let them deal away our remaining public lands by selling and leasing them to developers. These lands have been protected for 200 years; they are the heritage of our children's children. We urge you to deny funds for this giveaway program.

Name _____
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☐ I mailed the coupons. ☐ Here is a contribution of \$_____ to help pay for this ad.
☐ I would like to join FOE. Here's \$_____ for membership (\$25 regular, \$35 supporting, \$100 sponsor, \$1,000 life, \$12 ☐ student or ☐ retired).
☐ Sign me up to work on the 1984 elections.

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L4

Selling-off Chunks of America

And other White House proposals



LA TIMES PHOTO

RON WOLF

DEALING AWAY THE NATIONAL HERITAGE

After two years, it's clear that Ronald Reagan and James Watt do not believe in preserving publicly owned land for the future. They have made unconscionable "sweetheart" leases to oil, mining and timber companies within your national forests and wilderness. They have refused to add to the national parks. Now they're planning the biggest land sale and leasing program of the century, using your public land. ♡ Reagan and Watt have shown virtually religious devotion to converting public land to private use. They've thereby reversed the policies of prior presidents who worked to preserve the American legacy of wilderness, parks, forests and seashores. ♡ You can help stop this. Read the details below. Clip and mail the coupons today.

federal coal. When Mr. Watt pushes leases, at deliciously low prices, they're not bought for mining, but for speculation. Buy cheap, hold on, sell later for more.

(To give you an idea of the kind of money in this, one old Utah lease package, sold first for \$25,000, was resold lately for \$171 million.) Responsible managers would halt this practice. Mr. Reagan and Mr. Watt are encouraging it.

2. **OIL AND GAS.** Last year alone, the Reagan administration leased 50 million acres of public land to

likened us to "socialists" and lately "Nazis." But who are the extremists here?

Here we have two men charged with the preservation of America's future who want to undo 100 years of hard-won protection for the American land.

They have gutted most agencies that preserve human health and natural resources—the EPA tragedy is only one among many. Now they seek to divest

oil and gas companies, more than in all four years of the prior administration. 90% of the Reagan leases were offered first-come, first-served. *No competitive bidding.* Cost to the people? Hundreds of millions of dollars, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

3. **TREES.** Timber firms have a three-year backlog of uncut trees on public land. They don't need more trees. They want bargains. So Mr. Reagan wants forests cut twice as fast, while prices sink.

4. **GRAZING.** U.S. public range land is also a bargain. Where grazing fees on private land cost \$8.83 per unit, the U.S. offers permits for \$1.40. Generous. It also promotes overgrazing and the destruction of the land.

5. **OIL SHALE.** Watt has proposed *unlimited* oil shale leasing in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, even though all three governors object. Colorado's Piceance Basin is most critical. Development there will cause air and river pollution near Dinosaur and Rocky Mt. National Parks and the Flattops Wilderness.

Most revealing is that the President dropped 800,000 acres of potential Wilderness, thus eliminating most protections for them. And he has refused to use funds allocated by Congress to add to our National Parks, losing hundreds of thousands of acres of beautiful land. Why? So they'd be available for the "private sector" to rip up, cut down or pave.

III. THREATS TO THE NATIONAL PARKS

The law prevents any leasing or sale of land within the National Parks. But Reagan and Watt plan to avoid the rule by promoting development along the edges of parks, on Federal land that has served as a buffer. Some of the plans:

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK, UTAH. A tar sands mine, nuclear dump and a railroad to carry the waste. Within a mile of the Park border!

CHACO CANYON, NEW MEXICO. Home of perfectly preserved Anasazi villages, dating to 500 A.D. According to a Park Service official, "So many strip mine proposals are pending," at the edge of the park, "that it would leave Chaco standing on a pillar."

GRAND TETONS. Oil and gas drilling. **CAPITOL REEF.** Coal strip mines. **YELLOWSTONE?** See box.

Also, the administration has issued new rules allowing owners of private land *within* our parks to mine and drill. A visit to your favorite National Park may soon be like visiting a construction site.

* * *

When environmentalists have opposed Mr. Reagan and Mr. Watt, we have been called "extremists" by them, trying to "bring America down." They have also

I. BARGAIN BASEMENT SALE

President Reagan and Interior Secretary James Watt have proposed selling 35 million acres of publicly owned land in the U.S. That's as large as Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts combined.

The immediate purpose of this sale — and an ambitious leasing program — is to raise some fast cash to help the President with his budget deficit. It's like selling the house to make a payment on the interest.

Mr. Reagan has identified public land in 11 western states to be *first* to go, including: 143,000 acres in Colorado, 289,000 in Wyoming, 580,000 in Arizona. Forests, open range, mountains. And 500,000 acres of open space in and around cities. The governors of all western states say no, but the President is not listening to them. (Instead, just recently, he listed 441,000 *more* acres he'd sell from 13 of Colorado's National Forests and Grasslands, 50,000 acres from Boulder County.)

The buyers of the public land will be real estate developers and oil, gas, coal, timber, mineral and geothermal companies. Mr. Reagan says this transfer from public to private ownership puts the land to "a higher economic use." Mr. Watt agrees, saying "a sheep pasture will become an industrial site, desert lands will be used for hotels and resorts."

Selling huge chunks of America to cover Mr. Reagan's economic blunders is worse than shortsighted. It's bad business. Market prices are now severely depressed. Rep. John Seiberling, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands, says the Administration is offering the land "at fire sale prices." Should a future president try to buy some land back, to save it for our grandchildren, it will be much more costly.

II. INCOMPETENT MANAGEMENT

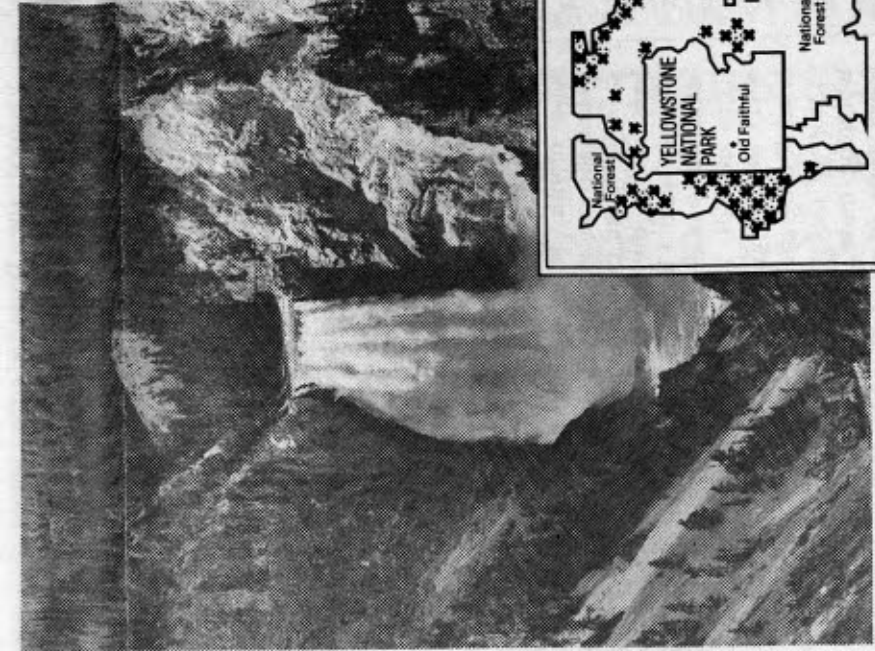
Where Mr. Reagan and Mr. Watt are not permitted to sell your land outright, they want to lease it. The goal is the same. Convert U.S. land to private control. Quickly. And the price be damned. If these two behaved this way in business, they'd have been fired long ago. Consider the following examples:

I. COAL. In two years, Mr. Reagan and Mr. Watt have increased the leasing of public coal by 800%. Included were 1.6 billion tons in the Powder River Basin, for which the U.S. was paid 3½ cents per ton. The going rate in that region is 18-20 cents per ton. *On that sale alone, the American people lost \$225 million.*

What's more, such leasing frenzy does *not* produce energy! Here's why —

Coal companies *already* have a 200-year supply of

MICHAEL MCCLEURE/HIGH COUNTRY NEWS



LOWER FALLS, YELLOWSTONE RIVER



INDUSTRIALIZATION OF YELLOWSTONE

Yellowstone National Park, home of Old Faithful, plus 28,000 elk, and grizzly bear, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, wolverine, moose, bison, deer. President Reagan and Secretary Watt plan to allow mining and drilling along the edge of the park, within U.S. National Forests which have served as buffers against just this sort of exploitation. (See shaded areas in map.) Once the oil and gas leases are issued, hundreds of miles of road will criss-cross the wilderness. Animal habitats will be destroyed, poachers will have fast access and escape. Each gas field might contain 200 wells, pipelines, railroad spurs, "sweetener" plants. Pollution will waft across the Park. And explosions. A single crew might set 100 dynamite charges daily. Geothermal drilling is also planned, a few miles from Old Faithful, reaching into the same subterranean pool. How will this drilling affect our national landmark? We may find out too late. Please use the coupons.

Americans of a huge part of our natural heritage. We are speaking of a heritage protected by virtually every president. We are speaking of a National Park and Wilderness system that is the pride of all Americans.

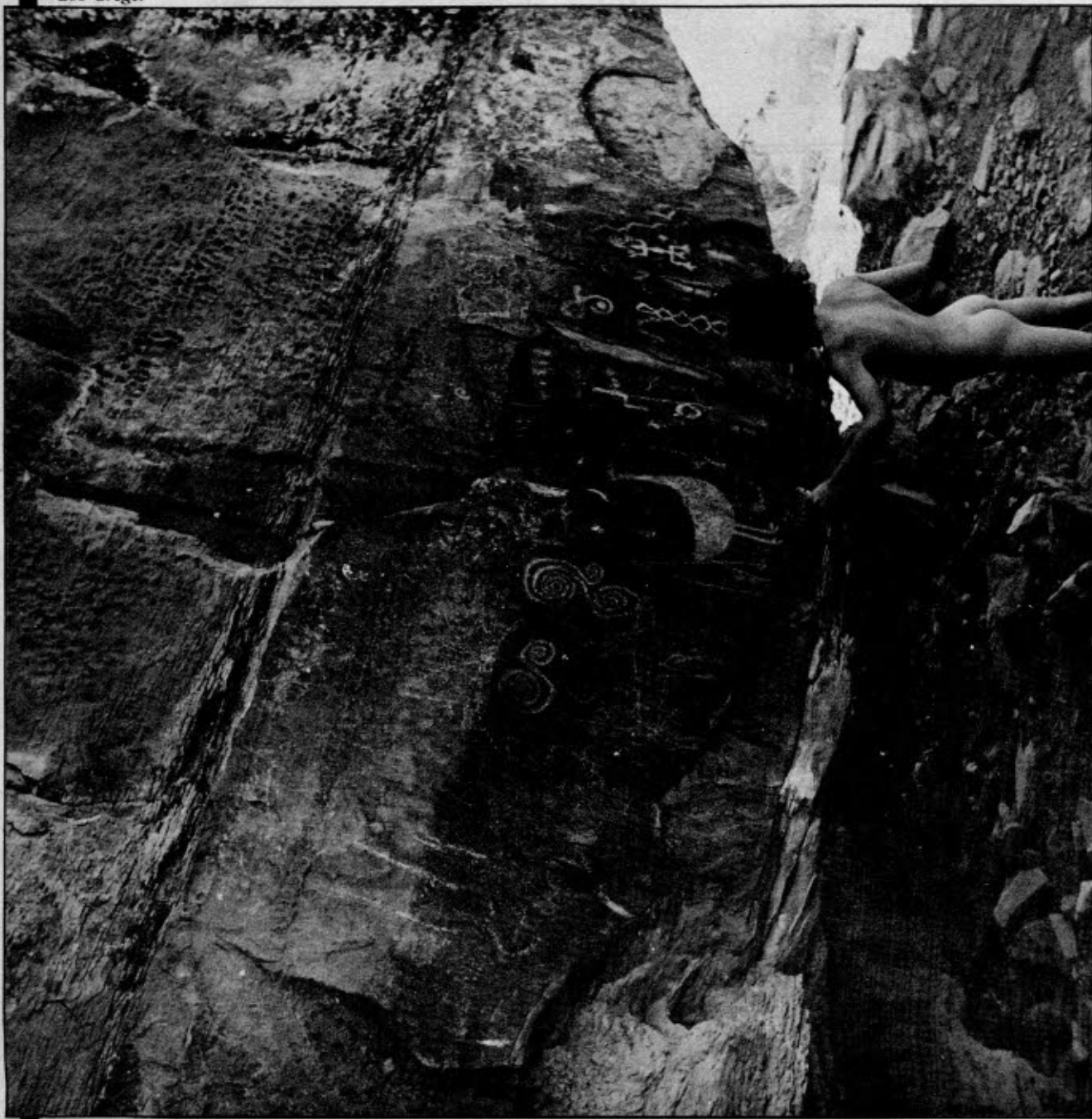
We've now had two years of Reagan and Watt. We thought at first they'd come around to appreciate the American legacy. But their minds are set in concrete and their hearts are cold to the natural world. To them, the only values in nature are commercial ones. They are not going to change. And it's not too soon to speak of voting them out in 1984. But meanwhile, we need to stop them from destroying more. Use the coupons. Do it now. Thank you.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Rafe Pomerance, Pres.; Jeff Knight, Exec. Director
San Francisco: 1045 Sansome St., CA 94111. Washington D.C.: 530 7th St., S.E. 20003.



© Bob Greger



Teaching kids about ecology

by John Soisson

Challenging 4, 6, or 8 weeks this summer on 40,000 acres. Western riding, horsemanship, pool, 5 new tennis courts, creative arts, environmental studies, survival training. 45th consecutive summer.

They're advertising environmental studies in *Sunset Magazine*. Right in there with the Atari Computer Camp and Camp LaJolla for Weight Watchers. In the front pages of the most consumer-oriented magazine in the West, if not the whole country. Is middle America finally discovering environmental education? Are we now on our way to faddish overkill, sending nature into the boneyard with Transcendental Meditation and communal living?

Not according to environmental educators.

It's true, they say, that there's a complete menu of programs and courses for both the curious and the devoted, ranging from the subject-oriented "Arts in the Wild" approach, through the technique-obsessed "High Tech Outdoorsmanship" style, to the conspicuous environmentalism of the "Affluent Survivalist." But there are also youth programs concerned with exposure to non-consumer values, teachers interested in new teaching methods, and inquisitive lay people interested in a "bird and bunny" program in natural history to replace or supplement an annual summer outing on Martha's Vineyard.

A lot of the courses and programs are fated to go the way of the encounter group, but the good ones, say the educators, are here to stay. The world can't afford to live without them.

said McDonald, a member of the committee. "So this led us to develop entirely new programs. We based them all on process learning, which we felt was better than traditional lectures by teachers or resource agency people."

Process education is a highly democratic approach to learning. It makes teachers discussion leaders rather than lecturers and implies that the teacher doesn't know everything there is to know about a subject. The teacher learns with the students, and they all learn to think for themselves.

"We tried to break the dependency of the student on the teacher and the public on the expert," said Vern Fridley, a forester who became involved in process education in 1970, and who now runs a Forest Service education program at Alpine Junction, Wyoming. "We take a non-technical approach so people don't have to have scientific background to make decisions about use of the environment. We teach that there is no one right answer to problems — that people can evaluate a situation and make any number of right decisions about management of their environment."

The new approach caught on quickly, and by 1968, when federal money began to dry up, was well established within the Forest Service and some public school districts, especially in the Northwest.

It had also caught on in private education circles. Such people as Ted Major, a biology teacher in Jackson, Wyoming, saw the advantages of getting his students out of the classroom and into the

At Alpine, Wyoming, and at Camp Sawtooth, near Ketchum, Idaho, Vern Fridley works primarily with adults.

"At our workshop, 50 percent of the people are classroom teachers and 50 percent are agency people from the Sierra Club, Audubon, Boy Scouts, garden clubs, that sort of thing," said Fridley.

"We bring in 50 to 80 people a week — mostly from the West — and help them learn about the environment. We emphasize techniques to determine the condition of forests, parks, water and soil so teachers can teach their kids that the whole community they live in is their environment."

"We break everyone up into small groups that get involved in problem-solving activities. Everyone contributes information. In a water study, for example, they'll collect insects, use test kits, observe how the body of water fits into the ecosystem, examine its origin and watershed, consider possible problems in the environment that might affect it."

"Our intention is to make people aware that their environment can be the block they live on in a city and that the people on that block need to take responsibility for it. Too many people feel they've lost control of things around them."

Fridley's workshops, like so many other environmental education programs that focus on teachers and adults, depend heavily on the trickle-down effect and networking. Fridley teaches 500 teachers a year and hopes they will teach others, eventually touching just

"We take a non-technical approach so people don't have to have a scientific background about use of the environment. We teach that there is no one right answer to problems."

— Forest Service educator Vern Fridley

kid can understand the natural process — stand how these things interrelate. We hours as children alone or with a few

problems."

— Forest Service educator Vern Fridley

hours as children alone or with a few friends in a relatively pristine habitat that was accessible every day. "That habitat could have been anything from vacant lots to city parks to farmland. ... I suggest schools institute programs in which elementary and junior high students regularly play half day 'hooky' in loosely improvised small groups in the most pristine habitat locally available," Tanner wrote. He called his notion the Huck Finn School of Environmental Awareness.

But until we figure a way to keep the kids out of the video parlors and down on the farm, and get them to like it, we'll have to stick with the formal approach. And that means the Teton Science School, Forest Service camp at Alpine Junction, the outdoor schools in public school systems, and even *Sunset Magazine's* Camp Runnamucca. Every moment in the real world helps.

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

stand how these things interrelate. We teach them processes. We don't try to do everything."

Last fall, the 100,000th sixth grader from the Portland schools went through the outdoor school.

"No other region in the U.S. can compare with us," said the Forest Service's McDonald. "No other place in the nation has had this type of widespread success."

Even with the progress of the last two decades, the proliferation of courses and programs, and the increase in the number of people who receive an intensive period of environmental education, the effect may be short-lived. A study conducted a few years ago by Thomas Tanner, assistant professor of environmental studies and secondary education at Iowa State University, concluded that programs limited solely to classroom instruction, to occasional field trips, or to short outdoor camping experiences are falling short of their goal.

Tanner found that adults who are environmentally aware "spent many

kid can understand the natural processes then they can understand the things that oppose the natural processes."

As a member of the public school system, Gilfillan was able to introduce the new approaches the committee developed into the mainstream of the educational system. With system support he arranged the lease of five youth camps in the Portland area during the fall and spring. Week-long programs were developed to teach water, soils, plants and animals according to the process method. The target audience was the sixth grade population in the Portland area — over 7,000 students each year.

Each student was bused to a camp for one week of the school year, assigned a cabin with several other students and a carefully selected high school-age monitor, and for four days was given instruction in each of the four subject areas.

"We aren't really teaching environmental education," Gilfillan claimed. "All we do is supply the building blocks. We take the kid away from his home and put him in a place where he can under-

Bears don't write history

grasp of vocabulary is so sparse, but that their grasp of metaphor is so impoverished, so mechanical.

Time after time, we found ourselves struggling for apt images that our readers could fathom. Certainly, it would be difficult to find a single child in Denver who understood the expression "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." Or even "the grass is always greener on the other side of the hill."

How, for instance, do you explain the impact the horse had on the Plains Indians to a kid who rides a bike to school? Or explain the influence of fashion on the fur trade (and the impact of trappers on beaver populations) to a child who wears polyester?

Well, somewhat to our chagrin, we found ourselves using mechanical metaphors. Here's what we said about the arrival of the horse: "The horse was mankind's very first time machine, the original space shuttle. The horse broke speed limits 50,000 years old. But the horse was not just speed, it was also horsepower. A horse could drag a tipi, pull a wagon, pack supplies."

Here's a longer excerpt on the beaver: "In prehistoric times a beaver weighed 700 pounds, but now it's a furry animal shaped like a football with a tail that lives in streams and gnaws down trees so that it can eat their inner bark. In other words, a beaver is a buck-toothed, vegetarian chainsaw that swims."

"Unfortunately for beavers, around 1600 someone discovered that a beaver worked as well as a hat as it did as a

Whenever the Children's Museum of Denver *BOING!*, its newspaper for kids, it discovers that urban children are famished for animals. And no wonder. For though Denver is a pleasant enough place, its children have short life lists — beginning with squirrels, perhaps, and ending with E.T.

So, as we began work on the museum's most recent publication, a 40-page book on western history, we hoped to highlight the environmental aspects of our topic. As well as to emphasize that, though bears don't have legal "standing" in the eye of the law, they do have a place in the laws of the land.

Writing for kids is challenging. The few minor requirements are fairly easily dealt with: Keep your sentence structure and vocabulary simple. Use crisp images. Lighten up, you nerd — don't write like a dork. In addition, the museum's particular style is playful and humorous.

These formal considerations overcome, we encountered another hurdle: What was the nature of our audience? Whom were we addressing? For language is like a letter — you have to know to whom you're sending it. And one significant and distressing discovery we made while writing about ecological topics for urban kids is not that their

Northwest. It had also caught on in private education circles. Such people as Ted Major, a biology teacher in Jackson, Wyoming, saw the advantages of getting his students out of the classroom and into the field. In 1967, Major and his wife, Joan, founded the Teton Science School within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park. Among their earliest students was Colleen Cabot, who in 1978 took over as director of the school.

"Our idea has always been to get people into the Yellowstone/Teton ecosystem where they can learn field ecology by doing it," Cabot said. "They get a greater understanding of the human role in the environment and make better personal and political choices as a result."

In at least one important way, though, the Teton Science School differed from the Forest Service approach. While the Forest Service worked primarily with teachers, the Science School was at the other end of the education chain. A large number of its students were of junior and senior high school age.

"A lot of our programs are geared to kids since they're more open to change," said Cabot. "We work with about 1,000 students a year and most of them are kids. Teachers multiply the effect, though, and so we have a number of adult programs, too."

Most of the youngsters come from Wyoming these days, largely due to travel costs from other parts of the country. But the adult programs are very cosmopolitan.

"The adults are a broad group," Cabot said, "with a wide range of professions. Some of the people have a long interest in natural history, but there's a whole bunch for whom this is their first outing — and those are who we influence the most."

The youngsters engage in week-long programs during the winter, living at the Science School with their teachers and doing field studies. In the summer, some of them stay for as long as six weeks, working with staff on in-depth projects and research.

Adults enroll in year-round programs that last a week to 10 days, usually coming in groups sponsored by the Natural History Museum in Denver, or Smithsonian Associates. Or they meet for the Outdoor Classroom Summer Seminars, five-day, eight-hours-a-day courses in subjects like archaeology, astronomy, flora and fauna, keyed to the serious amateur.

And most of the year the school sponsors lectures and discussion groups with prominent figures in the humanities and environmental studies.

The Teton Science School, though, like the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, the Yellowstone Institute, and the Cloud Ridge Naturalists, deals with a limited audience, many of whom are already environmentally aware and educated. When you consider that three-fourths of U.S. children now grow up in urban or suburban environments, the problem of environmental education is quite a bit larger than the resources of those programs.

Vineyard.

A lot of the courses and programs are fated to go the way of the encounter group, but the good ones, say the educators, are here to stay. The world can't afford to live without them.

Environmental studies were being taught in the United States as long ago as the 1920s and 30s, when the U.S. Forest Service began sending foresters around to schools to teach or lead students and their teachers on field trips. The Forest Service has always been happy to do that, considering education part of the agency's broad mission to conserve the resources of the country. By the late '50s, though, when demand for instruction began to outweigh the supply of foresters, alternatives began to be considered.

In some states, like Michigan and Tennessee, pioneering educators successfully created programs for environmental education within public school systems, as part of the curriculum. In other states, like Oregon and Washington, the programs were slower to take hold.

Everywhere, there were experiments. In most cases, however, the experiments depended on the resources of state and federal agencies or on individual teachers who quickly burned out from the hard work and frustrations. And even where something was put together, its long-term usefulness was doubted.

"Mostly, we used the 'show and tell' approach," said Emile McDonald, a longtime employee of the Forest Service in Portland, Oregon, and the "guru" of environmental education in the Northwest. "We'd go into a classroom or take teachers on a bus trip somewhere. But there was nothing for the teachers to take back to their students. The problem was the transfer of knowledge to students in a way they could understand."

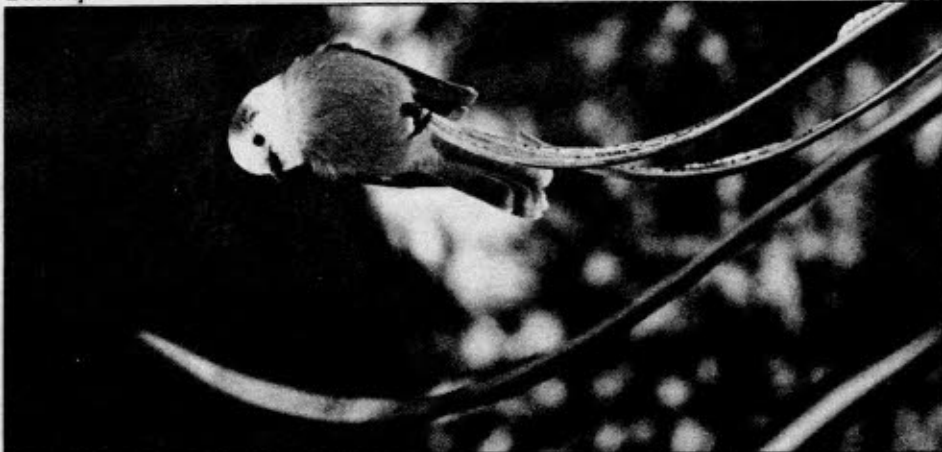
What was needed, most educators agreed, was federal funding for the development of a model program. In 1965 Lyndon Johnson sponsored the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which provided seed money for the work. The Office of Education in Washington, D.C., had the year before begun to create regional education labs throughout the country and those labs were asked to look at ways to effect changes in the educational system. What happened in Region Seven of the Forest Service is representative of what began to take place around the country.

There are eight Forest Service regions. Number Seven, in Oregon, Washington and Northern California, comprises 19 national forests, each of which has five or six ranger districts.

A committee of local teachers, foresters and educational theorists was formed in Portland, where regional headquarters are, and the committee worked with the regional education lab in a study of the problem.

"The educational philosophies developing about that time said that people had to be involved in their learning."

David Spear



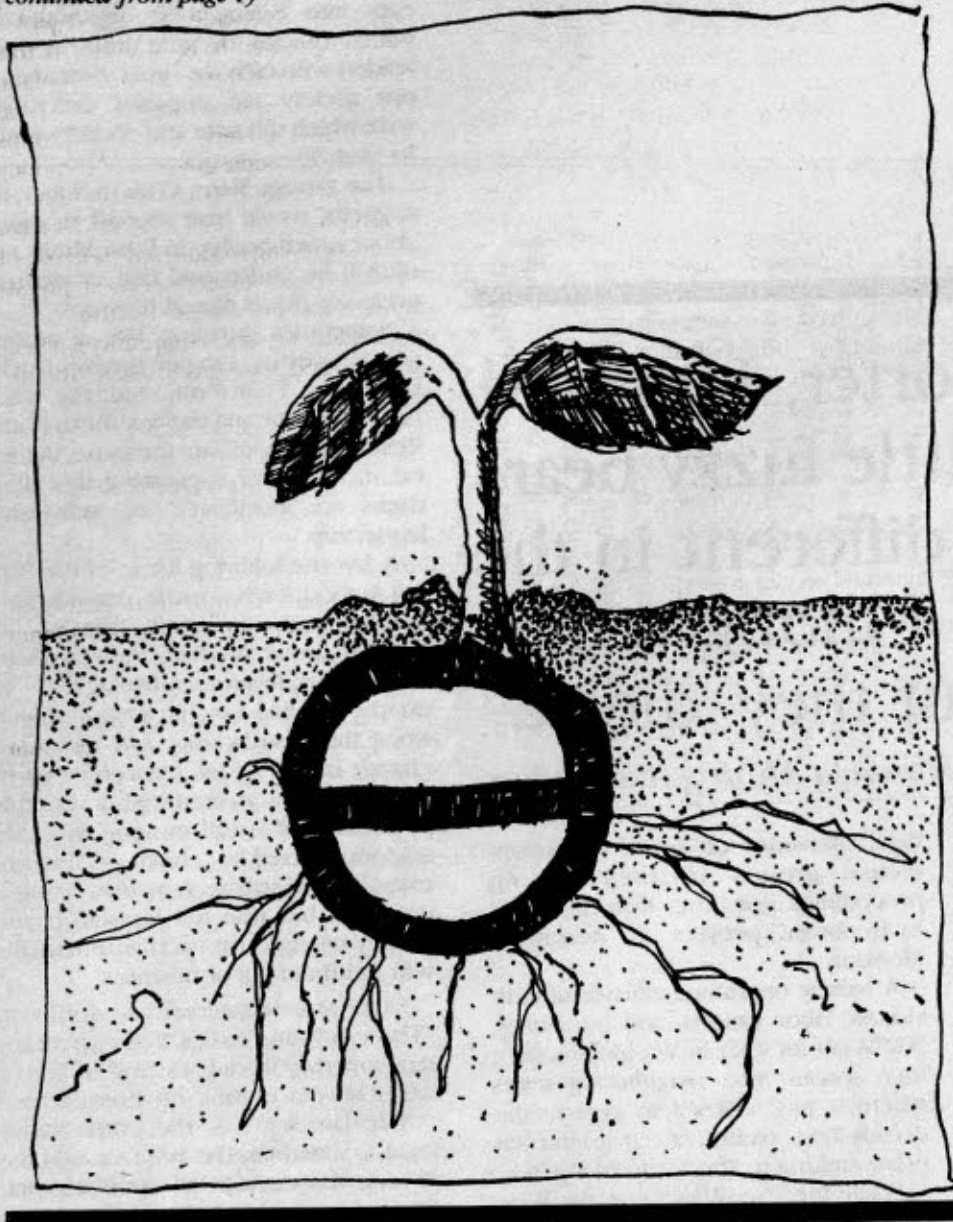
tory Books." This column reappears periodically throughout the book and has as its purpose the goal of helping kids understand, for instance, that the Midwest, currently the "nation's breadbasket," used to be a "sea of grass."

Or, in the bear's words, that "the banks of Denver's Cherry Creek (which are now scuffed by waffle shoes) were once trucked by elk and grizzly."

— James Udall

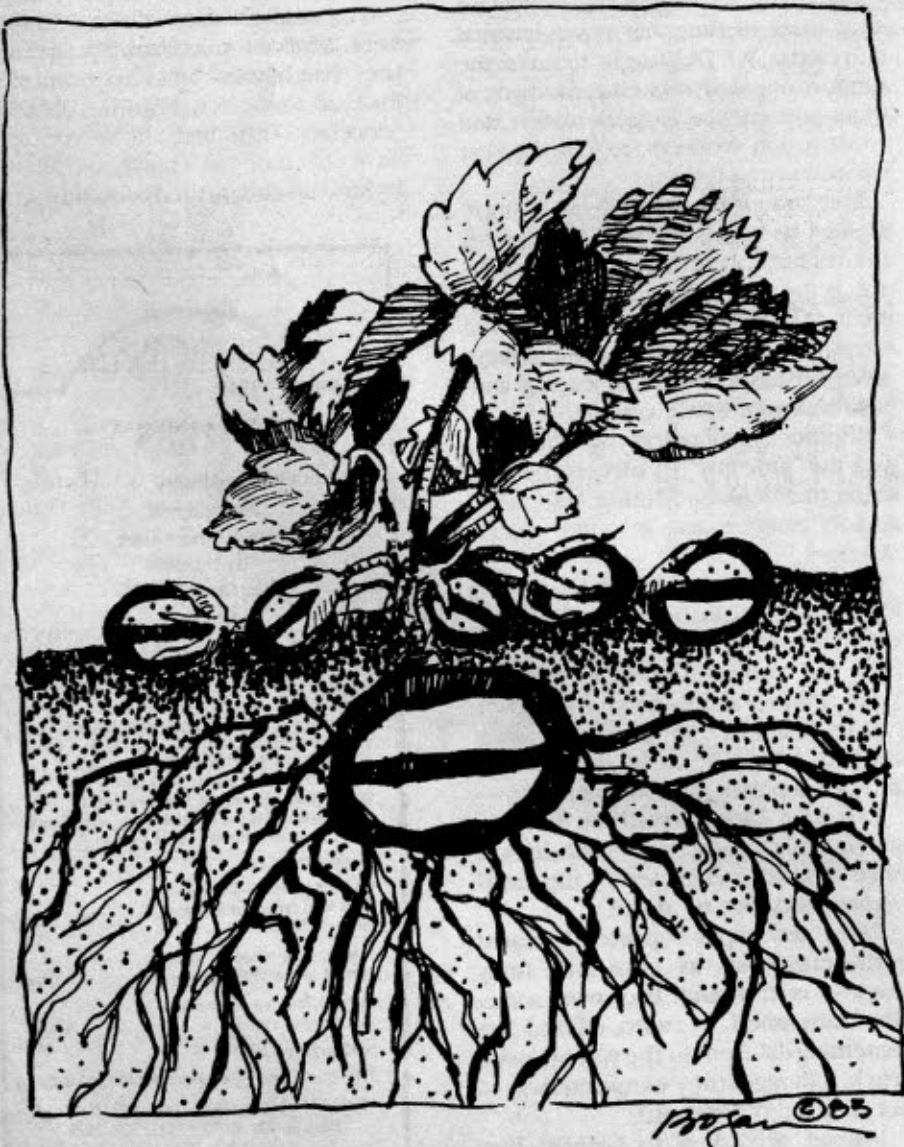
Good to better...

(continued from page 1)



“The environmental movement is booming. It’s one of the few growth industries left in the souring economy.”

— Sierra Club representative Bruce Hamilton



Incidentally, he believed that trees caused most of the pollution, but he didn't make a major campaign issue of it.

By the 1982 elections, the environmental groups had surveyed the damage and rallied some support. Five environmental groups collected about \$2 million for separate political action committees. The groups were Friends of the Earth, Solar Lobby, Environmental Action, the League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club. Most other large national groups were precluded from political activity by their tax-exempt status.

The Sierra Club collected \$500,000 to distribute among candidates and enjoyed phenomenal success. They supported 15 candidates to the U.S. Senate. Eleven won. They supported 10 gubernatorial candidates. Nine won. And they supported 153 House of Representatives candidates and 121 won. In that total, 27 of the candidates who eventually won were in races that they were apparently losing or that were too close to call when the Sierra Club Committee on Political Education entered the fray.

In all, SCCOPE distributed \$235,000 in cash and in-kind contributions to candidates. Another \$200,000 was spent in education. The groups also mobilized 4,000 volunteers. In the 1983-84 election cycle, SCCOPE has planned a budget of \$750,000.

At least in part because of the efforts of these groups, the new Congress is considerably more conservation conscious.

A second emerging trend for the 1980s has to do with the issues that environmental groups are dealing with on the national level. Evans said, “We’ve become a real factor in American life. We clearly dominate the environmental field, but now other groups are seeking us out. It’s a clear sign of success in politics when people want to use us in their coalitions.”

Politically, the environmental movement has been subject to the same ebbs and flows of any other interest group. During the Arab oil embargo and its aftermath, membership and interest reached a plateau. Industry was gloating that the environmental movement was a fad. Now, however, “Things are far better than any of us dared dream of two years ago, or even five or 15 years ago,” according to Evans.

One public opinion poll after another demonstrates the American public’s support of environmental goals and legislation. For example, the Harris Survey in 1981 — about six months after Reagan took office — showed that 80 percent of those polled favored either making the Clean Air Act stricter or keeping it the same. Sixty-five percent opposed relaxing health standards even if “costs are too high.”

A survey conducted for the Continental Groups of Stamford, Connecticut, an energy, forest products and packaging company, documented an “environmental ethic” that spanned business leaders, the unemployed, liberals and conservatives, even in the face of economic hard times. The poll was released in November of 1982 and found that 55 percent favored maintaining present air standards even if that meant factory closings; 56 percent favored strict regulation even if it slowed energy production; and 60 percent favored environmental cleanup priorities even if companies had to charge more to cover costs. In short, it appears that Americans are willing to suffer some decline in their standard of living to pay for environmental protection. In fact, one surprising conclusion of the poll was that sentiment for strong environmental protection was stronger among the unemployed than among full-time job holders.

Translating this concern into votes has always been difficult for environmental groups, however. While Americans are concerned with environmental problems, they usually vote their economic concerns. That explains partially

the success of Reagan in 1980. The advent of the environmental PACs should alter that somewhat. In addition, the Sierra Club tried a tactic in 1982 which gave a sort of checklist on candidates’ stands on important environmental issues. Called the “Platform for the Future,” some club members considered it a good idea that wasn’t very well executed. “It wasn’t clear why this was important either to yourself or to the Sierra Club,” said one. One obvious tactic for exposing the environmental positions of incumbents would be a more comprehensive reporting of votes and records. The only systematic approach is currently done by the League of Conservation Voters, but that group reports only once a year and its list of votes is by no means complete.

The issues of the ’80s are changing as well. Brock Evans pointed out the broadening of environmental concerns to reflect other interests. For instance, Audubon will have a contingent in the “March on Washington” this summer, a civil rights rally to commemorate Martin Luther King.

But the biggest and most controversial issue of the ’80s is nuclear war and the nuclear weapons freeze. Environmental groups have been fairly schizophrenic about their involvement and most are concerned that it will dilute their efforts on behalf of more conventional conservation goals, though few will say so in public.

The “lead” environmental group in the pro-freeze, anti-weapons issue has been Friends of the Earth. FOE has taken a strong, aggressive position in favor of the freeze and has assigned a full-time staffer to the issue. FOE head David Brower ran for the national board of the Sierra Club this year, in an effort to push the club into a more active role. Interestingly enough he was defeated for the position by incumbent board member Phil Hocker of Jackson, Wyoming, who has been a leading opponent of further Sierra Club involvement in the freeze issue. However, the board race was not fought on a pro- and anti-involvement campaign. The Sierra Club has endorsed the nuclear weapons freeze in a board resolution, but has not committed a substantial amount of resources to the effort. Few other major national groups have even gone that far.

Nevertheless, the weapons and war issues seem to be emerging as mainstream environmental issues for the 1980s. A number of local chapters of groups, particularly those in Northern California, “want to work on the freeze and only the freeze,” according to one environmental leader. In addition, if the Watt/Reagan scare is really running out of steam as a membership builder, it is hard to see how national groups could resist the obvious recruitment potential of the issue.

There is the danger that the time and effort involved in working on such a complex issue would dilute efforts in other areas of environmental and conservation affairs. However, Audubon’s Brock Evans said, “I don’t think that will happen. We’re only getting bigger. We’re climbing the mountain and the view is getting larger. Other fields have become apparent. We’ve got more people working on issues, not fewer.”

Other issues that seem to be gathering steam include the global environment, population and the effects of CO₂ in the atmosphere. However, these issues are complex and difficult to explain to members.

The Reagan administration has made a number of charges in an attempt to divert the national environmental movement and detract from its credibility. One of the most frequent is that Washington, D.C. environmentalists are out of touch with their constituency. The Reagan/Watt argument is that, well, yes, the environmental lobby is strong, but the people it represents are really a lot more conservative than that and, if explained, all the facts would support the administra-

tion's policies. The people the movement represents answer that with a clamorous, "It ain't so, Joe!" The National Wildlife Federation, perhaps the most conservative of the politically active groups, took the charge to heart and polled its members about its Washington staff's policies. The results were strongly supportive of the staff's positions.

Brock Evans said, "It's like the so-called 'environmental backlash' of the '70s. It ain't there. They wish it was."

However, despite these relatively favorable reports, it would not be quite correct to say that the Reagan administration has not had an adverse effect on environmental groups. The Sierra Club's McCloskey admits that environmentalists have been on the defensive in the first two years of the Reagan administration. He said, "We're in the process of making a transition from being on the defensive to the offensive. We're beginning to find ways to move the offensive campaigns along."

In addition, McCloskey is declaring the defensive campaign a success. "The timber industry's forest lands release campaign has collapsed. Drilling in wilderness has collapsed. The clean air defense appears successful. The removal of Burford as EPA head was a turning point."

There have been losses. The decimation and demoralization of career personnel at EPA may have long-term effects. Watt has succeeded in leasing substantial federal resources that cannot be bought back. And, the sale of public properties will probably be the real long-term legacy of the administration. McCloskey believes that serious regulatory damage has been avoided through lawsuits brought by environmental groups.

Evans said, "In the elections of 1980, the forces of darkness won. We faced the flames and didn't run. The president has lost."

Around the Rockies, though, the picture for local and statewide environmental groups is not so rosy. Some of this bad news is inherent in the native political conservatism in the region. Some is the result of poor strategic decisions by the groups themselves. And, paradoxically, some results from the very success of the national groups.

Despite the very conservative character of the Rockies, there are probably better than 60,000 card-carrying environmentalists in the region. A survey done in Montana indicated that the major environmental groups in that state had about 10,000 members, with relatively little duplication of membership. In Colorado, there are about 7,000 members in the Sierra Club alone. Every Rocky Mountain state has a relatively strong statewide group.

However, most of these groups have been unable to capitalize on the anti-Watt sentiment that has swelled the rolls of the national groups. Some groups have experienced a modest numerical growth in their ranks, but nothing spectacular. The Wyoming Outdoor Council, the Cheyenne headquarters of which is about 65 miles from Wheatland, where Watt grew up, found it prudent to dispense with criticism of the secretary altogether. WOC Executive Director Tom Wolf said, "We may be the only environmental group that didn't attack Watt. But he has a local constituency and we couldn't capitalize on those issues. We would have lost as much as we'd gained."

Dick Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association said, "We haven't really tried to capitalize on Watt to make our membership grow. However, we have used the Watt scare to build a commitment from the members to sustain the organization. That has worked."

While Watt's presence as interior secretary has increased the ranks of the national groups, his impact on local groups has been more deleterious. Carter said, "Watt has forced us to go to

court and into the administrative appeal arena a lot more to stop his actions. This is a big financial drain. If we had an interior secretary who kept us out of court, I wouldn't worry so much about membership increases."

A second reason for the relative lack of emphasis on Watt has to do with the nature of the Rocky Mountain conservation movement itself. A number of groups, like the Powder River Basin Resource Council, the Northern Plains Resource Council and the Western Colorado Congress, have a large rancher-farmer constituency. They blanch when called "environmental," preferring the term "conservation group." It is from the agricultural sector that Reagan drew much of his support in 1980 and that sector is still generally supportive of the interior secretary. PRBRC's Jon Huss said, "Our membership has risen a little, but I haven't noticed a general high response to the Reagan people."

A second failure of the environmental movement in the Rockies, with a few notable exceptions, has been in building effective coalitions with other interest groups. In most cases, the coalitions haven't gotten together at all and in others, they haven't worked very well. WOC's Wolf said, "We've got to learn to compromise with other interest groups — first the other environmental groups and then other progressives like seniors, women, labor and so on. And we need to reassess our relationship with agricultural groups."

WOC has pursued an active policy of accommodation with Wyoming agricultural groups. However, two of WOC's major initiatives in the state legislature this year, the Wyoming Wildlife Trust Fund and instream flow legislation, were killed in committee by agricultural interests. Wolf said, "We've failed to deal with the ag groups through their leadership. Environmentally-oriented ag people have to get active in the Stockgrowers and the Farm Bureau. The leadership of those organizations are out of touch with the majority of their members."

UWA's Carter said, "We were able to bring in non-traditional groups in a coalition of agriculture, religion, county commissioners, and environmentalists in opposition to the MX missile in Utah. However, that cooperation hasn't been sustained on other issues. I'm not sure why. The MX leadership was excellent."

"There is a serious problem in that all the organizations that are involved in public interest are very dogmatic. We all have an image to uphold and our own goals. We complain about Watt being dogmatic, but we environmentalists are, too. So are the others — hunters, fishermen, unions. It is very hard to bring a coalition together."

There are two notable exceptions to the "coalition problem." The Western Colorado Congress was started three years ago, and has successfully brought together senior citizens, Hispanics, agriculture and environmentalists.

Staff director Theresa Erickson said, "Some issues unite people more than others. We focus on electric utilities and rate issues. They affect everybody. Everybody is a ratepayer. Nobody likes the utility company." The emphasis on the utility rate issues has brought in people on fixed incomes. Power line corridor rights-of-way have brought in agriculture. Erickson said, "The people who condemn land for the utility are our best recruiters."

Environmentalists are involved because "utilities are basic to every other kind of development in western Colorado," Erickson said. Coal, oil shale, irrigation and Shell's proposed CO2 pipeline would all require large amounts of electricity.

There are some issues that WOC can't go after, though, notably wilderness and the nuclear freeze. WOC has found that issues having a local focus work best.

In Montana, the Montana Committee for an Effective Legislature — MontCEL — is a dramatic example of both successful coalition-building and a statewide group's foray into electoral politics. In 1982, MontCEL got involved in 72 races. The group gave substantial help in 42 races and 32 of those candidates — 87 percent — won.

MontCEL is a coalition of individuals who represent agriculture, labor, women, conservation and education. The group does not provide money to candidates, but consults with candidates to develop their campaigning skills. Executive Secretary Gail Stoltz said, "We've found that candidates have the ability to raise money. We help them deal with strategy and how to make the most of their money. We get people out and help to produce volunteers. A lot of different people are represented. There are 800 to 1,000 different donors."

"One thing I ought to emphasize is that building coalitions is hard work. You need to take time. Leadership has to look at what issues you can organize around. You have to look at who your friends and enemies usually are. But, it's applicable to any state in the region."

MontCEL operates on consensus decision-making. Everyone must agree that a particular candidate is going to get the organization's support. Stoltz said that rather than being a negative factor, this consensus method narrows a vast field of candidates to a manageable number. MontCEL had about \$40,000 to work with in 1982 and, while that's a substantial sum, it isn't enough to help every deserving candidate.

Stoltz said, "We don't run negative campaigns. We stay out of races that don't have a good candidate. Support is strictly on an issue basis. We compile the voting records of incumbents and there is a questionnaire for new people."

Montana has a history of progressive politics and cooperation among progressives that is unique to the Rockies (HCN, 4/29/83). Stoltz said, however, "I don't think that's absolutely necessary. But it is hard work."

Like the national groups, state and local groups are gearing up to get more involved in electoral politics. Some Wyoming activists recently met to discuss the possibility of setting up a state PAC somewhat like MontCEL.

UWA's Carter said, "The Frances Farley against Dan Marriott race (for U.S. House in Utah's Second District) was a major action for us. We showed we could help run a major campaign and provide volunteers. We've got to do the same thing on a local level."

BULLETIN BOARD

INDIAN WOMEN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The fourth annual Ohayo conference for American Indian-Alaska Native women will feature a four-day leadership training program June 9-12 at the U. of N. Dak. in Grand Forks. Leadership development will focus on business ownership for yourself/your tribe and on skill-building for non-traditional careers. For more information about the conference contact Sedelta Verble, Ohayo Resource Center, 2301 Midwestern Parkway #214, Wichita Falls, Tex. 76308, 817/692-3841.

RAFTING THE COLORADO

The Denver Audubon Society is sponsoring a six-day raft trip down the Colorado River through Cataract Canyon, from June 26 to July 1. The trip will be led by Greg Williams of Sidewinder River Expeditions and will coincide with the heavy spring runoff, promising an eventful ride. The cost

The final problem facing the local and statewide groups is not a new one. It is money. In this regard, however, the very success of the national groups has damaged the local and statewide ones. National groups that once got some government money are no longer getting it and are going to foundations for help. Foundations, which are giving less anyway because of the recession's impact on their investments, tend to donate to the larger established groups. Foundation giving for local and state groups has virtually dried up.

WOC's Wolf said, "Local groups are left with money that's available locally. There is barely enough to go around. New York and California money will go to the Sierra Club for work in the Rockies, but I can't get it for WOC."

Carter said, "Two to four years ago, we went outside of Utah to get money from various foundations. That money has completely dried up."

WCC's Erickson said her group originally got \$30,000 from foundations, but because of competition from larger groups, that money is no longer available. However, she said, "In a way it's good. Our members now have a better idea of what it takes to run an organization. The fact that they raise the money themselves gives them a stake, a greater appreciation of the organization."

Carter echoes that. "We've been able to build up the funding base from existing membership. We've built up the excitement with the members of the organization. We're having a little trouble. The foundations that would give to the national organizations are the same ones that would give to the state organizations and we can't compete with them. But we're more vital and viable than ever."

For the future, Carter would like to see the state and local groups combine to give them some representation in Washington. He said, "Local groups not affiliated with a national group need to become policy makers. There needs to be a sort of sagebrush rebellion of local groups to have their own representative in D.C. It's not that the national organizations are ineffective or even insensitive to local groups, it's just that sometimes work on the site-specific issue gets lost in the big picture."

Despite the problems of the local groups, none are in imminent danger of collapse and most feel pretty good about prospects for the future. As the Sierra Club's Bruce Hamilton pointed out, "I can't think of a single organization that's folded and quite a few new ones have started up."

is \$450 per person, with registration open until June 15. For more information contact the Denver Audubon Society, 1720 Race Street, Denver, Colo. 80206, 303/399-3219.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The Sierra Club is hosting an international assembly entitled "The Politics of Conservation," June 30-July 4, in Snowmass, Colo. Featured speakers include presidential candidates — Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Gary Hart (D-Colo.), Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) and former Florida Governor Reubin Askew. Participants will also hear energy experts Amory Lovins and David Freeman, labor leader Robert Goss, and wildlife filmmaker Marty Stouffer. The registration fee is \$35 for adults. For more information contact the Sierra Club International Assembly Manager, 530 Bush Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94108.

DATELINE

- June 1** **WYOMING BLM LAND SALES, SEALED AND ORAL BIDS**
BLM state office, 2515 Warren Avenue, Cheyenne and Worland District Office, 307/772-2111.
- June 16** **NORTHWEST REGION, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS, PUBLIC HEARING.**
Red Lion Downtowner, 1800 Fairview Avenue, Boise, Idaho 208/334-1938.
- June 27, 28, 29, 30** **SOUTHWEST WYOMING, RILEY RIDGE DRAFT EIS, PUBLIC MEETINGS**
BLM will conduct four public meetings on the Riley Ridge gas field in Sublette and Lincoln counties, Wyo; Pinedale, June 27; Big Piney, June 28; Kemmerer, June 29; Rock Springs, June 30; 307/772-2111.

ACCESS

ADVENTURE

IDAHO AFLOAT. Main Salmon raft trips — special price to HCN readers \$400 August 6, 14, 22, 30. IDAHO AFLOAT, Rome, Jordan Valley, OR 97910. 503/586-2612.



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GROUPS

RURAL NETWORK: organization for single, country-oriented people. "Going it alone" is easier with social support/cooperative efforts. Information with SASE. Rural Network, Rt. 1, Box 49B, Avalon, WI 53505.

HELP

Environmentally sensitive Wyoming real estate broker will help you find Wyoming property suitable to your needs. Also available for ski-tours, backpacking, etc.

Contact Vernon J. Scharp, Century 21 Roundup Realty, P.O. Box 2161, Jackson Hole, Wyoming 83001; (307) 733-2900 (Office); (307) 733-5008.

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REMOTE CANYONLANDS RANCH for sale. Dolores River, Utah. 55 Ac., 3 Houses, 3 Cabins, Barn, Orchard, 15 Ac. irrigated pasture, power, \$230,000. Terms. (303) 442-1102.

NATIVE TROUT STREAM - high quality mountain stream in 160 acre valley surrounded by National Forest. Elk and Bighorn winter range. Substantial tax credit to buyer. Lane Coulston Broker, Box 9432, Missoula MT 59807.

LEARNING



offers university accredited, multi-day, residential workshops, conducted by recognized experts, in nature photography, endangered species reintroduction, wildlife management, mountain ecology for educators and high altitude physiology. For information on this summer's schedule, contact the Keystone Science School, Box 704 Montezuma R., Dillon, Colo. 80435. (303) 468-5824.

WILD AMERICA IS OUR CAMPUS Challenging career-oriented B.S., M.S., or high-school, or summer expedition degree programs. Practical, 1-in-4-year, small group camping. Encounters with ecological problems, society, and self. Financial aid available. Directors: Dr. Mike & Diana Cohen, Frank & Trudy Trisco, Dan Fishman. NATIONAL ALTA BOSS SOCIETY EXPEDITION INSTITUTE 950 Third St., N.E., N.Y. 10022 (212) 546-9126.

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WORK

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS is anticipating some staff turnover and a possible reorganization come fall. We're interested in reviewing applications from people with skills in writing and editing, production and design, administration and fundraising. Send letter, resume and work samples to HCN Talent Search, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520.

SPORTSTUFF

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Powell, Wyoming 82435

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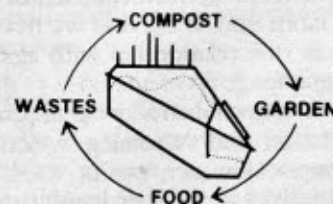
CONSERVATION

PASSIVE SOLAR/LOG HOUSE BUILDING WORKSHOP. Learn basics of solar design plus an introduction to alternative energy technology. Participate in building a solar cabin. June 15-20. Tuition \$100, Tinkers and Traders, Box 91, Victor, ID 83455; 208/787-2495.

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STATE OF WYOMING PUBLIC NOTICE

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME:
MAILING ADDRESS:

FACILITY LOCATION:

PERMIT NUMBER:

Nortey Gas and Oil

P.O. Box 17538, T.A.

Denver, CO 80217

Federal #6- Well, NW 1/4, SE 1/4, Section 7,

T36N, R93W, Fremont County

Wy-0031542

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 Muskrat Creek (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.

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

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1988.

(2) APPLICANT NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

FACILITY LOCATION:

PERMIT NUMBER:

Amox Coal Company

P.O. Box 3005

Gillette, WY 82716

Eagle Butte Mine, Campbell County, Wyoming

Wy-0026018

The Amox Coal Company's Eagle Butte Coal Mine is a large open pit mine located north of the City of Gillette, Wyoming. Wastewaters consist of pumpage from the mine pit, runoff from the coal processing plant area, and sanitary wastewater. Wastewaters are treated in settling ponds and are then discharged to Little Rawhide Creek Draw #2, Diversion #4, Eagle Draw, North Draw and East Fork Revlon Draw (all Class IV Water).

Discharge points 001, 004 and 010 are being eliminated; 005, 008, 009 modified and 011, 012, 013, 014, 015 and 016 are new discharge points in this modified permit.

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

Self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire June 30, 1988.

(3) APPLICANT NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

FACILITY LOCATION:

PERMIT NUMBER:

Thunder Basin Coal

P.O. Box 406

Wright, WY 82732

Coal Creek Mine, Campbell County, Wyoming

Wy-0028193

The Atlantic Richfield Company operates a large open pit coal mine located in southeastern Campbell County, Wyoming which is called the Coal Creek Mine. The existing discharge permit for the mine authorized discharges from four locations, the mine has now requested that the description of two of those points be changed.

The proposed permit authorizes the two discharge points to be described as follows:

002 - The outfall from plant Settling Pond #2, located in the SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Section 8, T46N, R70W, which consists of disturbed area runoff and equipment washdown water and which discharges to Blackhawk Draw.

003 - The outfall from Pit Dewatering Settling Pond #7 located in the SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 18, T46N, R70W, which consists of disturbed area runoff and pit water and which discharges to Coal Creek.

The receiving streams referenced above are all Class IV Waters.

The above discharges must meet effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment." However, the permit to be modified should more stringent limitations be developed at the federal level.

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

Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire June 30, 1988.

(4) APPLICANT NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

FACILITY LOCATION:

PERMIT NUMBER:

City of Worland

Worland Board of Public Utilities

P.O. Box 816

Worland, WY 82401

Washakie County

Wy-0020176

The wastewater treatment facilities serving the City of Worland, Wyoming consist of a two-cell non-aerated stabilization pond with no disinfection capabilities. A design for a new four-cell aerated stabilization pond system with ultraviolet disinfection is nearing completion.

The proposed permit authorizes a continued discharge for the "old system" via discharge point 001 until October 1, 1984. The "old system" must be operated at maximum capability and efficiency until the new system comes on-line. Effective October 1, 1984 the "new system" must be on-line and must meet effluent limitations based on National Secondary Treatment Standards and Wyoming's In-Stream Water Quality Standards. The discharge from cell #3 of the new system is designated as discharge point 003 and the discharge from cell #4 of the new system is designated as discharge point 004. Discharge point 002 from the old system has been eliminated. All discharges are to the Big Horn River (Class II Water).

The permit limitations for the parameters fecal coliform, total residual chlorine and ammonia are based upon the following:

1. Projected design discharge volume - 1.12 MGD.
2. Q7-10 of Big Horn River (May-September) - 44.8 MGD.
3. Q7-10 of Big Horn River (October-April) - 91.1 MGD.
4. Average pH of Big Horn River (May-September) - 8.2.
5. Average pH of Big Horn River (October-April) - 8.2.
6. Maximum temperature of Big Horn River (May-September) - 22°C.
7. Maximum temperature of Big Horn River (October-April) - 15°C.
8. In-stream water quality standard for fecal coliform - 400/100mls (estimated concentration needed to assure meeting 200/100 mls at Basin water treatment plant intake).
9. In-stream water quality standard for total residual chlorine - .002 mg/l.
10. In-stream water quality standard for unionized ammonia (as N) - .02 mg/l.

Self-monitoring requirements in the proposed permit require the monitoring of all limited parameters on a routine basis with reporting of results quarterly. The proposed permit is scheduled to expire on June 30, 1988.

The City of Worland had been exempted from meeting federal effluent requirements by July 1, 1977 since, in accordance with federal requirements, it specifically requested an exemption due to the previous unavailability of federal construction grant funds. In addition, the Town requested and received a less stringent limitation on total suspended solids. This modification is allowed by federal regulations if the method of treatment is stabilization ponds and the design flow is less than 2 MGD.

(5) APPLICANT NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

FACILITY LOCATION:

PERMIT NUMBER:

Targhee Village, Inc.

477 West 4125 North

Ogden, UT 84404

Teton County

Wy-0027880

Targhee Village is a 154 room motel golf and tennis club, located on the west slope of the Teton Mountains in far western Teton County. Wastewater treatment consists of a two cell aerated lagoon. Under normal circumstances there is expected to be no discharge, however, should a discharge occur, it would flow into an unnamed ditch which could eventually (within five miles) reach the Teton River in Idaho. Unless there is an extremely high precipitation event it is doubtful that the effluent would ever reach the Teton River.

The proposed permit requires effluent quality to meet National Secondary Treatment Standards effective immediately. Due to the fact that the effluent will not reach waters supporting fish life (except after traveling a long distance), a strict year-round limitation on fecal coliform bacteria is coupled with a liberal limitation on total residual chlorine.

Monitoring of effluent quality is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire July 31, 1988.

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 July 5, 1983. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permits Section, 1111 East Lincolnway, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80295. All comments received prior to July 5, 1983 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-83-006

OPINION

Right and truth and... "Bonanza"

by Larry Mehlhaff

Many people, environmentalists included, have the mistaken belief that the American environmental movement began with Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* or Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac*. Others will argue that the

GUEST EDITORIAL

growing threats from air and water pollution spawned an environmental ethic in America. Wrong again! The real origin of modern environmental awareness was the blockbuster NBC television show "Bonanza."

Guffaw if you wish, but it's true. Surely you don't believe that America's child of the '60s read Stewart Udall's *The Quiet Crisis* before bed. I know I didn't. I watched "Bonanza," along with millions of other impressionable children. Every

Sunday evening at my house was "pop-corn and Bonanza time" — a tradition that continued for almost 18 years.

In a recent interview on "Good Morning America," Lorne Greene (Ben Cartwright), when asked why "Bonanza" was so successful, said, "We expressed the goodness of truth, the family, the land and the wilderness," (emphasis added).

Just watch some of the old reruns. In one episode, miners were attempting to open up new claims near the Ponderosa ranch. Ben Cartwright said, "I've seen these miners come to our land before and I've seen the devastation they left. I know that the water will never be the same. We shall not allow mining on this ranch or even near this ranch." The lessons here include the concept of buffer zones for national parks, watershed protection and the need for reform of the 1872 mining law.

On another show, newcomers killed

some antelope and sold the meat to miners in Virginia City. The Indians, who depended on the antelope for food, were in an uproar. Now, I don't know how things worked in Nevada, but in the Colorado of the 1800s, the ranchers would have taken care of the problem by shooting the Indians. But not the Cartwrights. They explained how these newcomers didn't understand the Indian ways and how the killing of antelope must stop because the Indians were in Nevada before the white man. Hear that, James Watt?

You cynics may say that the newcomers were underselling Ponderosa beef, thereby influencing the Cartwright's position. But, who could really doubt the virtue of those four men who stood and rode so tall?

And look at Lorne Green today. He's doing what every staunch environmentalist is doing — calling for Interior Secretary Watt's resignation.

Probably few of you have heard the words to the "Bonanza" theme song. I am one of the lucky ones who has. One evening after a long tough day of baling hay, Uncle Maynard and Aunt Adeline took us to Corsica, South Dakota for the stock car races. During a break in the action, over the ancient loudspeaker, the "Bonanza" theme song rang. And there were words! Listen with me now: "Three men strong, riding the range, fighting for right and truth, Boonaaanza."

Why, it brought tears to the eyes of some of the most hardened farmers in the crowd. What better monument can there be to "Bonanza's" influence? I rest my case.

+++

Larry Mehlhaff is on the staff of the Colorado Open Space Council in Denver. His current favorite television show is "Grizzly Adams."

LETTERS

ANIMAS-LA PLATA

Dear HCN,

I wish to comment on the article entitled "Critics boil over water district bill" (HCN, 5/13/83). House Bill 1272 re-created Colorado's 46 water conservancy districts by statute. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Richard D. Lamm (D) on February 23, 1983, after a unanimous favorable vote by the Colorado Senate.

The Municipal Subdistrict, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District went into the bond market after the bill became law. The "tombstone" for the bonds was advertised in the *Wall Street Journal* on May 3, 1983. In the opinion of bond counsel, House Bill 1272 removed the cloud which had been placed on the legality of water conservancy districts by the Animas-La Plata litigation. This was the motivation for the Northern District's strong support of the bill. Had the court ruled in favor of the Animas-La Plata opponents, the identical legislation would have been placed before the Colorado General Assembly.

Persons who file such lawsuits must realize that the courts do not have the exclusive say on the existence of our legal institutions. The Colorado General Assembly and the governor, who unlike the federal courts are elected by the people, determined that Colorado's water conservancy districts should exist regardless of the outcome of the lawsuit.

The Animas-La Plata opponents made their case to the Colorado General Assembly for exclusion of that district

from the bill and lost overwhelmingly when the vote was taken.

Jeanne Englert apparently does not like this aspect of the democratic process. Her point of view is understandable, in light of the many years she has been fighting the existence of the Animas-La Plata district.

Gregory J. Hobbs, Jr.
Associate Counsel
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Denver, Colorado

FOREST VOLUNTEER CRITICISM

Dear HCN,

On the HCN Bulletin Board for the last several issues was the announcement "Forest Service calls for volunteers." Please let me point a few things out about the Forest Service volunteer program.

Traditionally, these have been paid seasonal positions provided by the Forest Service. The jobs listed in the volunteer bulletin are not by-and-large representative of new undertakings within the national forests; rather, the attempt here is to get the same old jobs done in a new way — by spending less federal money.

Federal spending and cutting being what they are, it comes as no surprise that paid jobs are often scarce in the very locations where the transition to voluntarism is being promoted. For instance, Clearwater National Forest, which uses volunteers, takes in Clearwater County, where unemployment figures in March were above 30%. For every job filled by a volunteer, a potential paid opening is lost.

From personal experience, I can substantiate this last statement. Year before last, after having been offered just such a seasonal position in the national forest



for a wage, the personnel officer called me back, retracting the offer. He explained that a college student from Maryland had agreed to do the job as a volunteer. If I want to volunteer, he said, he could hire me — otherwise not. Suddenly here is an in-road to government employment which selects those who can afford to work without pay.

To take a quick look at the demographic effects of this policy, note the following. The volunteer program bulletin is aimed at people not now living in the

area, and without economic concerns. The people from Clearwater County unemployment lines can't afford to volunteer for that job.

If it is a question of volunteering, let us join together with our friends and neighbors — people in our own communities — to help each other out. As for the national forests, we are all invited to come — neither as laborers, nor as guests, but as property owners.

Steve Paulson
Lenore, Idaho

Executive Director Wyoming Outdoor Council

Location: Cheyenne, Wyoming

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Job Description: Administration and direction of statewide conservation group. Emphasis on political organizing abilities. Extensive travel involved. Fundraising talent required. Legislative lobbying.

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16-High Country News — May 27, 1983

Earth First!, founded in the spring of 1980, has established itself as the renegade child of the environmental movement. Preaching civil disobedience and radical politics in outlaw rhetoric, the group offers a rigid mandate for wilderness preservation.

Operating without an official hierarchy, the 5000 members of Earth First! are a loosely knit group of purists unafraid of putting their bodies where their exclamation point is. Literally. Earlier this month on Oregon's Siskiyou National Forest, Earth First! members protested construction of a road along the northern boundary of the Kalminopsis Wilderness Area by sitting in front of an oncoming bulldozer until partially buried. At the same site a few days later, Earth First! spokesman Dave Foreman was run over by a truck while blockading the site from construction workers.

Earth First! originated when three conservation group lobbyists grew tired of the compromises that most environmental groups have begrudgingly accepted as a congressional fact of life. Describing themselves as "half-starved rednecks," Dave Foreman, Howie Wolke and Bart Koehler quit their jobs and established Earth First! as the uncompromising alternative in defense of wilderness.

"Once a wilderness is lost, it's gone forever," said Howie Wolke. "If the Sierra Club had been consistently taking positions that were needed, we wouldn't have formed Earth First!"

Although small and controversial, Earth First! hopes to rely on grassroots enthusiasm to support its goal that 10 percent of the U.S. be designated as wilderness. An impressive agenda, considering that only 1.2 percent of the land is currently under wilderness status. "Wilderness has a right to exist for its own sake," said Dave Foreman. "We're trying to return the environmental movement to the morality, vision and courage it was founded on. We want to put passion, emotion and fun back into it."

Foreman's perspective is unique. As the former Southwest regional representative of the Wilderness Society in Washington, he is well aware of the political power of coalitions, yet remains a strong critic. "The failure of the environmental movement is the result of heterogeneous groups forming broad-based coalitions. It's just not efficient. Groups of like-minded people, although smaller, are flexible and stronger," Foreman has concluded.

During the past few years, demands for additional energy sources and threats from the Reagan administration have made wilderness preservation an increasingly difficult goal. While conventional environmental groups have responded with a more sophisticated approach, Earth First! argues they have done so at the expense of losing touch with the movement.

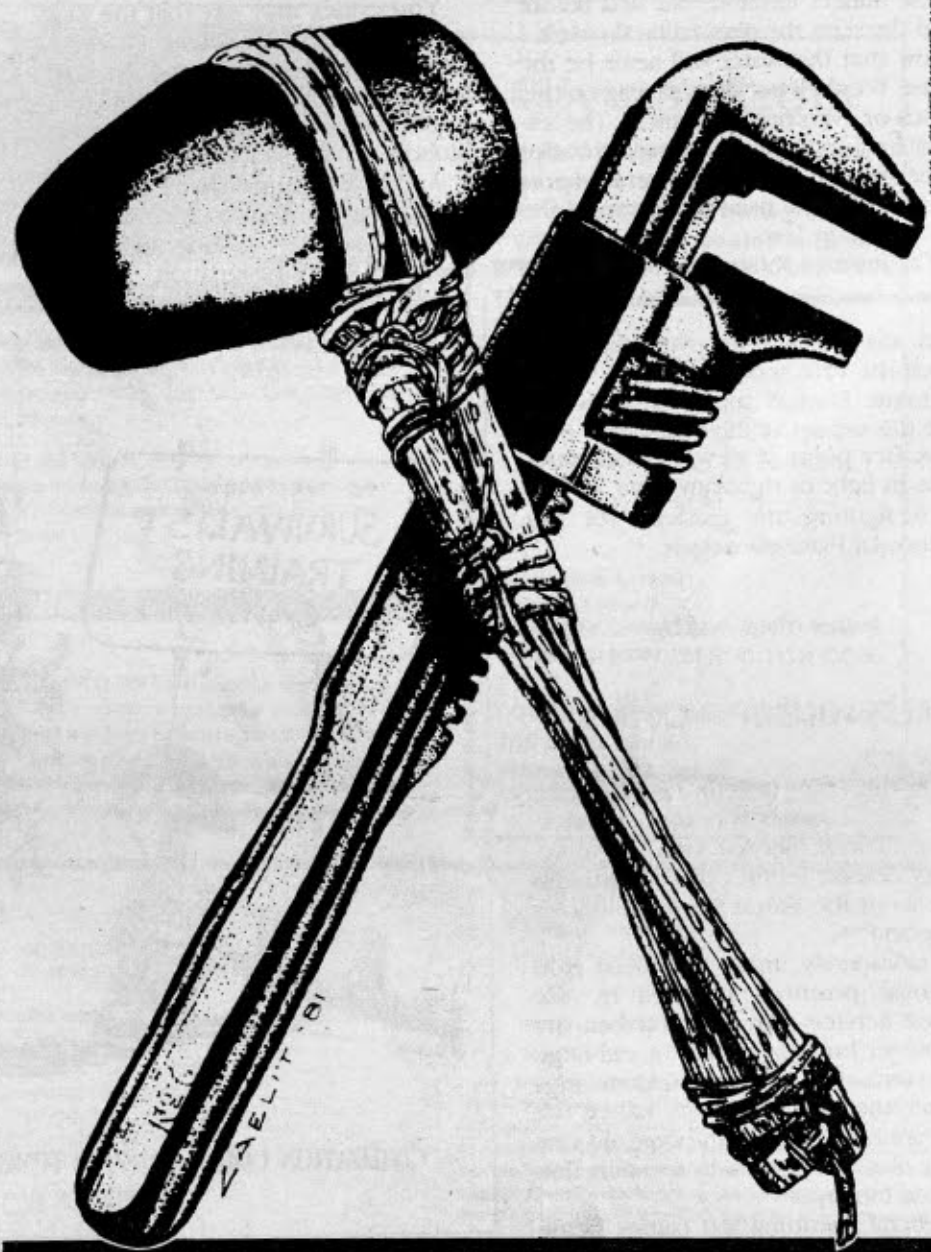
"The environmentalists of the '70s have become the bureaucrats of the '80s. Does the leadership of the Sierra Club ever go backpacking? The powers that be? Hell no. They make \$60,000 a year and expect senators to return their calls," said Spurs Jackson, Utah coordinator for Earth First!

The unique approach of Earth First!, although relatively new, has its skeptics. "You have to be effective where the decisions are made, not where they're implemented," said David Gancher of the Sierra Club. "Environmental results and emotionally satisfying events are two different things. Sure it's more fun to do things their way, but is it effective? . . . The Sierra Club and every other conservation group, whether we're wearing three-, four- or five-piece suits, work hard for environmental protection."

Despite their confrontational rhetoric, the leadership of Earth First! is a politically astute group which uses the established channels of environmental mediation while they are open, and relies largely on mainstream environmental organizations to do the thank-

EARTH FIRST! PUTTING THE FUN BACK IN THE FIGHT

by Dan Gorham



"Everyone likes to be irresponsible, drink beer and act righteous once in a while. We do get kind of stuffy, they have fun. Groups like ours and the Sierra Club need needles poked into us."

Friend's of the Earth's Tom Turner

less leg work. In fact, Dave Foreman recently ran for a seat on the Sierra Club board of directors, only to have his Trojan horse tactic fail at the polls.

The success of Earth First! is the group's mixture of homespun folksiness, humor and purpose: it is a straightforward appeal to those who have been alienated by the growth of environmental politics. "Everyone likes to be irresponsible, drink beer and act righteous once in a while," said Tom Turner of Friends of the Earth. "We do get kind of stuffy, they have fun.

Groups like ours and the Sierra Club need needles poked into us."

Civil disobedience, a diverse membership and an unabashed self-righteous perspective are Earth First! novelties. Unfortunately, the group's showboat humor and preference for carbonated beverages give critics plenty of ammo. In reference to Earth First!'s assessment of the environmental movement, one conservationist who asked not to be identified concluded, "That's probably the perspective looking through the bottom of a beer bottle."

It is this same image of fun-loving eco-freaks which leaves observers wonder-

ing: Are they hard-core environmentalists or frustrated sheep looking for a cause? While the leadership of Earth First! can preach with fervor the virtues of radical politics, one is left wondering how far the congregation will follow.

Recent news accounts have covered Earth First! confrontations with the law during protests of the G-O Road in California's Six Rivers National Forest and oil drilling in the Salt Creek Wilderness of New Mexico. Earlier this month, Earth First!, the proverbial uninvited guest, orchestrated a funeral party for Glen Canyon in honor of Interior Secretary James Watt's visit to Lake Powell. While the majority of the Earth First! membership is spread over the western U.S., the group claims supporters nationwide and abroad. An Earth First! related event in Australia earlier this year resulted in the arrest of 700 who were protesting a hydroelectric dam in the Tasmanian Wilderness.

The principal tactic of Earth First!, due to its size, is to send organizers around to coordinate with local grassroots coalitions. "Earth First! is a catalyst," Foreman explained. "When a few of us came to Oregon the locals had all but given up on blocking this road (in the Siskiyou National Forest). We're able to get people excited and worked up over the issues." The group plans to continue its blockades in Oregon, New Mexico and California, as well as protest any attempt the federal government may make to use lands adjacent to Canyonlands National Park as a nuclear waste dump.

Politics aside, just or unjust, the activities of Earth First! tend to be immediately associated with the factious antics of Edward Abbey's *Monkey Wrench Gang*. While the group's official position is that it will not as an organization participate in the destruction of private property, Earth First! leaves plenty of room for individual expression. "If an Earth First! member wants to go out at night and pull up a few survey stakes, we wouldn't condemn it," said Howie Wolke.

More creative accounts of ecological sabotage are provided in the monthly Earth First! newspaper (disassociated from the group for legal reasons), including the "Dear Ned Ludd" column which offers helpful hints for both the malicious prankster and the professional saboteur. Ned Ludd was the mysterious leader of an anti-industrial rebellion during the early part of the 19th century in England. This month's column outlines the most sensitive parts of a helicopter's anatomy, with repeated warnings that all alterations should be performed while the conveyance is on the ground.

Indeed, Earth First! likes to associate itself with the outlaw image. Complete with alias names and a macho attitude, Earth First! has chosen to portray itself as the self-appointed savior of remaining wilderness. It is western chauvinism at its best, and that has proven to be the group's strongest attraction.

"The experience of talking to the folks at Earth First! is much more similar to the experience of hiking than talking to a Sierra Club lobbyist," conceded the Sierra Club's Gancher. "They are able to embody the spirit of the wilderness."

Bantering with the established environmental organizations, stirring controversy and practicing civil disobedience, Earth First! is hard to ignore. Whether the group is successful in sparking a revival of emotional protest or simply in making conventional environmental proposals appear more reasonable is irrelevant. The very presence of Earth First! as a critical watchdog is an incentive for all environmental coalitions to do a much needed self-evaluation. As Spurs Jackson succinctly put it, "Earth First! has given the whole environmental movement a kick in the ass."

+++

Dan Gorham is the current HCN intern.