

High Country

news

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San Juan Basin faces massive coal sale

by Nolan Hester

The San Juan Basin — on the ground it is a wide-open land of tawny mesas, sandy washes, vacant skies and barren beauty. In a state known for open country, the basin is the most sparsely populated corner. Here in northwest New Mexico lie the still unexplained ruins of the vanished Anasazi Indians and the present-day homes of several thousand traditional Navajos. Locked in the basin's rocks are the largely untapped fossil deposits that trace the crucial transition from the Age of Dinosaurs to the present era of mammals.

But here too lie great seams of coal, billions of tons of which lie at shallow depths where they can be easily reached by strip mine operators. Now Interior Secretary James Watt's plans to lease tracts containing as much as 3.7 billion tons of that coal have thrown into question the future of this once remote region.

The proposed San Juan Basin sale is only one of four massive competitive lease sales currently planned for the West, where as much as 12 billion tons of coal would be offered in the next 18 months. This unprecedented amount would come atop Interior's plans to release this fall as much as five billion tons of coal staked out under long-pending, non-competitive leases. An estimated 2.2 billion tons of the coal under those non-competitive leases are within the San Juan Basin.

The first competitive lease sale, scheduled for sometime this fall, would be the Ft. Union sale on the Montana-North Dakota border where the Bureau of Land Management wants to lease lands holding 500 million tons of coal. In December would come the San Juan Basin sale. The state-federal Regional Coal Team, under pressure from New Mexico's newly-elected governor, Toney Anaya, (D), has recommended that 800 million tons of coal be offered in competitive bidding, down from the original leasing target of 1.5 billion tons. However, Watt is not scheduled to make a decision on whether to accept the lower leasing level until just a month before the sale.

Following the San Juan sale in rapid order would be: the Uinta Southwest sale in Utah and western Colorado, where 1.6 billion to 2.1 billion tons of coal would be leased, some within sight of Bryce Canyon National Park; the Green River-Hams Forks sale in western

Colorado and Wyoming, with 1.9 billion to 2.4 billion tons of coal; and a second sale of 1.6 billion to 4.8 billion tons in Wyoming's Powder River Basin, where the sale of 1.6 billion tons of coal last year set off a storm of congressional criticism.

Two reports, one by the House Appropriations Committee and another by the General Accounting Office, Congress's investigative arm, raised serious questions of whether bids were properly handled in the 1982 Powder River sale. While the two reports disagreed on whether Interior officials had leaked information on minimum bid levels to some firms ahead of time, both reports concluded that the tracts were sold for \$60 million to \$100 million less than they should have been.

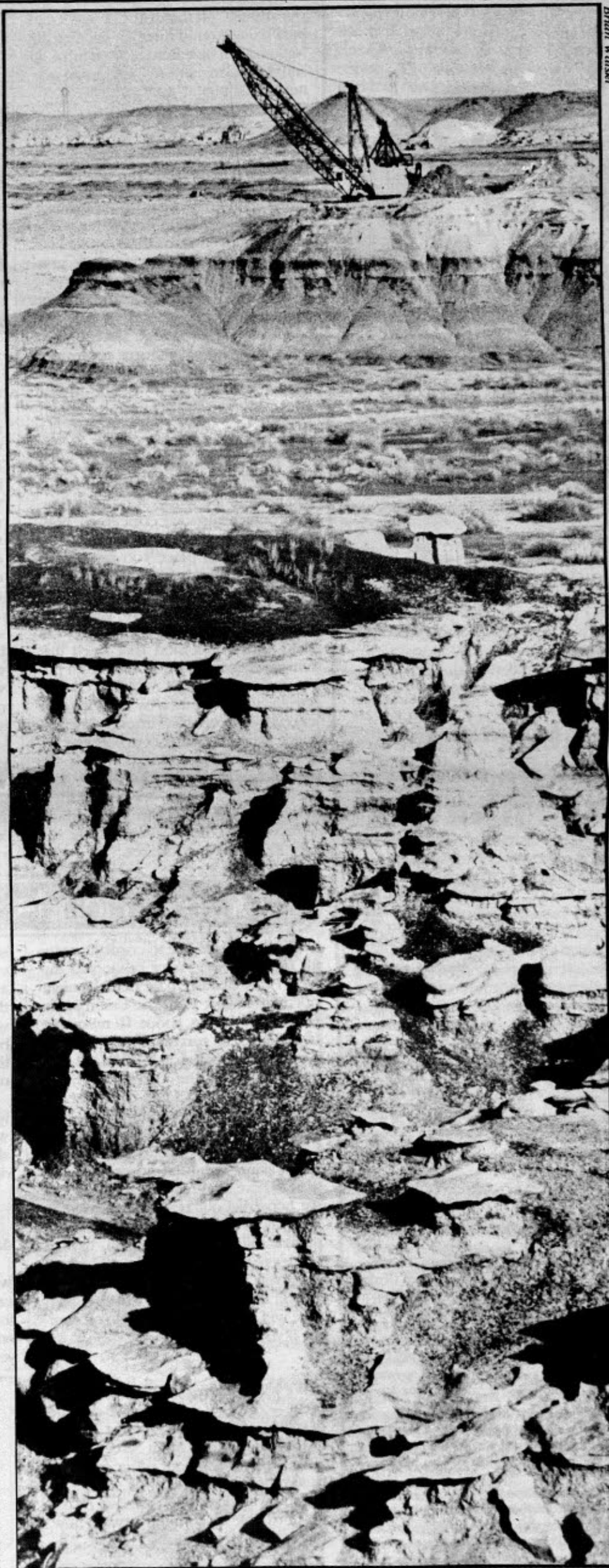
While it remains unclear if Congress will cut off funds for the 1984 sales, as Illinois Rep. Sidney Yates (D) of the House Interior Subcommittee on Appropriations has advocated, the Senate has already rebuffed a House-approved measure to freeze 1983 funds for the Ft. Union sale.

Environmentalists urging that the sales be halted argue that Watt's massive lease sales play directly into the hands of speculators. They predict that the government inevitably will be cheated out of a fair return on pre-mining bonus bids because the national coal market is already glutted. At the same time, they warn that the recent relaxation of federal laws requiring timely development of lease tracts will encourage speculators to simply buy leases cheaply and hold them for resale on the private market when coal prices rebound.

Ed Grandis, a coal specialist with the Washington-based Environmental Policy Center, said Watt's insistence on going ahead with the sales, despite continued criticism, will create an unprecedented transfer of public resources into private hands. If that happens, Grandis warned, residents in coal mining areas will have lost their influence over future federal land use policies for those tracts.

Brooks Yeager, a Washington lobbyist for the Sierra Club, said Watt's proposed sales ignore the reality of the current coal market, where sagging electrical demand has created a relatively soft market for Western coal. "You're never going to get fair market value if you sell in a depressed market," says Yeager.

Fair market value is a pivotal concept in federal coal leasing policy. Its superficially simple aim is to ensure that public coal is not sold for less than what sur-



Sunbelt Mining Co.'s Gateway Mine, edge of Bistis Badlands

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WESTERN ROUNDUP

Wildlife refuges may host oil leases



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Following up on Interior Secretary James Watt's promise to facilitate access to resources on public lands, the Department of the Interior has been busy laying ground rules for opening the National Wildlife Refuge System to oil and gas leasing and to "expanded economic and public use."

The Interior Department has issued regulations which will allow oil and gas leasing in parts of the refuge system, reversing a 25-year-old policy prohibiting leasing. In a separate but related move, an internal memo from the head of the Fish and Wildlife Service to the regional directors outlined guidelines for increased timber harvesting, grazing, farming, concessions and hunting and fishing in the refuges. The Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for administering the refuge system.

Environmental groups responded with criticism of the "single-minded, commercial approach" of the Reagan administration, and accused the administration of "trying to wring the last dollar" from the refuges.

A FWS official said the timing of the two policies was coincidental and both had been in the works for a long time. Environmentalists are concerned, however, that the combined effects of the two moves will place too much pressure on sensitive habitats and threaten the future of the refuge system.

Interior's new oil and gas policy stems from a 1981 Interior Board of Land Appeals decision that ruled that refuges acquired by purchase from private or state owners, which were not specifically withdrawn by secretarial or executive order from energy development, would be subject to oil and gas leasing upon determination that the activity is compatible with the purpose for which the refuge was established. The ruling affects about four million acres of the 12.8 million-acre refuge system in the lower 48 states.

The Interior Department said that the rest of the refuges — those established on existing federal lands — would not be open for leasing, but that agency officials would "continue to examine oil and gas leasing on national wildlife refuges" and may issue a new leasing policy for the remaining lands, according to Jim Norton of the Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C.

A memorandum outlining the new leasing regulations states that once the regulations are published in the *Federal Register*, the leases are to be "analyzed appropriately and as quickly as possible." Currently there are 33 leases pending and 155 lease applications for 614,876 acres in 24 states. The regulations have been approved but not yet published in the *Register*.

Norton said the regulations do not allow for public involvement because they require an environmental assessment by the FWS on each application rather than a full-scale impact statement. The Wilderness Society is also worried because the American Petroleum Institute, the nation's largest oil industry trade group is cooperating with Interior on the survey to determine impacts of oil and gas development on the refuges. Norton said, "It is curious that they (Interior) are conducting the review with the industry that would benefit from the policy."

Raw data from the impact survey showed that where oil and gas activity has taken place in refuges, oil spills, water contamination, destruction of wildlife habitat, poaching and other negative impacts have occurred, Norton said.

Another memorandum from the head of the FWS provided guidelines for increased timber harvesting, grazing, farming, concessions and hunting and fishing on the refuges. In a published interview, FWS director Robert Jantzen responded to criticism from environ-

mentalists by saying the memo was laying out the upper limits of what would be possible rather than recommending increased uses. He said the activities must be compatible with refuge objectives.

Meanwhile, said Norton, a draft copy of a FWS study on the state of the refuge system lists several specific threats, including pollution, development on surrounding lands and the limited amount of commercial activity that now takes place. "The increased economic use will greatly threaten an already threatened area," added Norton.

The National Wildlife Refuge System was established by law for the purpose of conserving and enhancing wildlife species and habitat. Oil and gas leasing has not been permitted since President Dwight D. Eisenhower prohibited energy development in the refuges in the 1950s. The only development to date has occurred where oil and gas leases predated the establishment of the refuge, or where oil beneath the refuges was being drained by wells on private land. Other activities, such as recreation, grazing and timber harvesting, have been permitted upon determination that they are compatible with the refuge's purpose.

Oil and gas leases and lease applications are pending in several refuges in the western states. These include the Monte Vista, Arapaho, Alamosa and Browns Park Refuges in Colorado; the Seedskadee and National Elk Refuges in Wyoming; the Upper Souris and J. Clark Salyer Refuges in North Dakota; the Bitter Lake and Maxwell Refuges in New Mexico; the Cold Springs Refuge in Oregon; the Columbia, Saddle Mountain and Toppenish Refuges in Washington; the Umatilla Refuge in Washington and Oregon, and the Colusa, Delvan, Pixley, Butte Sink and Hopper Mountain Refuges in California.

— Jan Valdez

Dear friends,

The staff would like to cordially invite all *High Country News* readers to the HCN Farewell Bash to be held the night of Friday, August 12 at the Union Bar in Hudson, Wyoming, about 10 miles east of Lander. The party will start at 8:30 p.m. and the dancing at 9:00. Music will be provided by the Grizzlies, a local band. Tickets are \$5 per person at the door. Come and meet your favorite HCN celebrities.

The party will be a combination leave-taking and fund-raiser. We also plan to have a rip-roaring good time, so we hope that our readers can make it. We may even have an auction of HCN memorabilia. You, too, will have a chance to buy Dan Whipple's old potato chip bags, Kathy Bogan's orange peels and Jill Bamburg's crying towel. A good time will be had by all, so plan on coming if you can.

We will be having a real sale of equipment — that is of whatever we can find of value — on Saturday, August 20 here at the office at 331 Main Street. We're also trying to sublet our office space, so if anyone wants space or knows of anyone who does, you can save HCN a lot of trouble by coming forward now. Reasonable rates available.

Several of our readers have written recently to complain about receiving duplicate copies of our special issue on the Yellowstone ecosystem, which we sent to members of a host of environmental groups active in the region. Mercifully, most of you have complained more about the presumable costs of

such duplication than about having the extra copies *per se*. Let us set your minds at ease: It was a lot cheaper to mail out the duplicates at 15¢ apiece than it would have been to "clean" the membership lists of the various groups and throw out the duplicates before the mailing.

One reader actually wrote to thank us for sending the duplicates along. She was glad to have the extra copies to pass along to friends. We think she had the right idea. We hope you'll do the same.

Our second annual Publishers Fund drive is now officially underway.

The Publishers Fund, for those of you who are not familiar with it, is a fund-raising campaign that seeks support for special projects — especially non-editorial projects — here at HCN. This year's appeal has a goal of \$14,500, all of



which will be applied to expenses related to our upcoming move.

Specifically, we're seeking \$2,000 for "transitional expenses," including three regional trips for Ed and Betsy Marston to acquaint them with the people, the issues and the area they'll be covering on their new beat; \$5,000 for equipment acquisition that will permit us to acquire a second-hand personal computer, low-budget typesetter and a relatively inexpensive "interface" unit that will permit us to link the two into a system that will handle both typesetting

The Second Annual

PUBLISHERS FUND DRIVE

— Please send me a copy of your second annual "Publishers Fund Report."

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The great reforestation shell game

Forest worker representatives claim that the Reforestation Trust Fund, \$140 million designated to be spent on backlogged reforestation work by the U.S. Forest Service, has been "ripped off."

According to Gerry Mackie of the Northwest Forester's Association based in Eugene, Oregon, the money was shuffled between different fiscal year budgets until its effectiveness was lost. "They (the USFS) have been ordered to substitute the trust fund money for their regular appropriations, which circumvents the intent of the law and doesn't provide for the extra work needed to end the problem of the backlog acres," Mackie said.

Forest Service personnel deny the charge, maintaining that the Reforestation Trust Fund money is now being spent on the approximately two million acres of National Forest land that comprise the reforestation backlog. However, the situation is generally murky, compounded by partisan politics and the ongoing political struggle in Washington, D.C. between Congress and the Office of Management and Budget.

In 1981, the Reforestation Trust Fund passed the Congress and began to accumulate money. The fund legislation had been sponsored by Sen. Robert Packwood (R-Ore.) and was designed to reduce the large backlog of U.S. Forest Service timberland that needed to be planted, thinned or released. The fund provided money, gathered from a tariff on imported wood, to be spent in addition to the normal congressional appropriations for the USFS.

The Forest Service never spent the money, claiming that it needed further congressional authorization. That came with an amendment to the Surface Transportation Act of 1982, which required that at least \$104 million of the \$140 million that had accumulated in the fund be spent during fiscal 1983.

The Forest Service now states that it is complying with the law. According to Budget Analyst Milton Hill of the USFS

and circulation; and \$7,500 to provide partial funding for our Montana bureau (\$2,500) and a new Wyoming bureau (\$5,000) that will insure our continued coverage of the Cowboy State.

We recently sent a special "Publishers Fund Report" to individuals who contributed to or were contacted about the campaign last year, or who had made large donations to the Research Fund more recently. We'd also be happy to send copies of that report — and to receive donations, for that matter — from any of the rest of our loyal readers. Just drop us a line or use the convenient form below.

— the staff

P.S. A special hello and good wishes to Mickey East from HCN staff and friends.

BARBS

Next it'll be the *Bingo Environmental Protection Act (BEPA)*. The Colorado Open Space Council ran this headline in the June, 1983, issue of its newsletter: "Bingo held vital to environmental protection." The group has raised about \$13,000 this year through bingo games to support its conservation efforts.

Well, for god sakes, don't tell Secretary Watt or he'll lease us. A veterinarian from the University of Seattle reports that the biologic chemicals in the human body are worth a fortune. The body's 40 grams of myoglobin would cost about \$100,000 on the open market. Prothrombin and immunoglobulin are both worth \$30,600; albumin, \$4,800; hemoglobin, \$2,500; and cholesterol \$525.



Washington D.C. office, \$21 million of trust fund money had already been spent as of May, 1983. Though Hill insists that the money in the trust fund is being spent on backlog acres, he does admit that congressional appropriations for the Forest Service were smaller in fiscal 1983.

It is the level of appropriated money that forms the crux of the argument. Mackie said that the fund was designed to create additional jobs and bring backlogged timber land back to optimum productivity. But because of the lowered appropriations level, the Forest Service used the trust fund money to help make up the difference. "That lowers their overall budget request, helps reduce the federal deficit and make everyone look good," Mackie said. "It's done on the orders of the Office of Management and Budget."

In reality, this shell game ignores the needs of forest workers for employment in a time of timber recession and does not result in the investment needed to improve the productivity of national forest land, Mackie charged. "They're borrowing from our future resources, bleeding us to sustain the military and other national budgetary priorities," he said.

Mackie stated that when the forest workers learned of the fate of the Reforestation Trust Fund, they were "really

angry." They planned a public relations campaign to force the USFS to reserve trust fund money for use on additional backlog areas. That campaign has lost some of its momentum with the passage of the Emergency Jobs Bill which added \$35 million to the USFS budget to be spent entirely on the reforestation backlog. "That removed the real economic sting," Mackie said.

According to the Northwest Forester's Association, \$108 million was released from the trust fund for use in 1983, but another \$108 million of the regular USFS budget was deferred, that is, declared unspent and pushed into fiscal 1984. And in 1984, that \$108 million will be spent on cooperative law enforcement (\$5.2 million), road maintenance (\$8.2 million), trail maintenance (\$30.5 million). Those amounts will thus be deleted from the 1984 budget requests, and the additional reforestation work will not be done.

Of about 1.7 million acres requiring timber stand improvement (conifer release and thinning) nationwide, roughly half are located in the seven states of the Northwest and northern Rocky Mountain region, according to the USFS Annual Report from fiscal 1982. Idaho leads with 191,150 acres, followed by Colorado with 175,288.

— Bill London

Eagle population comeback in Yellowstone

The banning of the pesticide DDT in the early 1970s is the primary cause of a rapid increase in the bald eagle population in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, according to Jon Swenson, a biologist with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Swenson estimated that there are now about 200 bald eagles in the area, which includes Yellowstone National Park; the upper Madison River and Red Rocks Lakes area in southwestern Montana; the upper Henrys Fork area in Idaho; and the Snake River drainage in Idaho and Wyoming. The number of breeding pairs of eagles has increased from 32 pairs in 1971 to 50 today.

The eagle population had been declining since the 1800s due to hunting and predator control programs which indirectly led to the poisoning and trapping of eagles. The use of DDT in the region to control spruce budworm outbreaks led to an even greater decline in numbers. The only stable eagle population was along the Snake River near Jackson, Wyoming, where DDT had not been sprayed.

Eagles ingested DDT through their diet of fish and waterfowl. According to Swenson, the DDT would then break down through metabolic processes into

DDE, a chemical which interfered with the eagles' reproduction. The DDE affected the shell glands, resulting in eggs with abnormally thin shells, which broke easily or allowed egg fluids to evaporate, killing the embryos.

Since the ban in the early 1970s, eagle populations have increased throughout the country, and the birds are making a particularly dramatic comeback in the Yellowstone Park area, Swenson said.

But all is not good news. The eagle population of the Yellowstone ecosystem now faces another threat. Subdivision development and other land use activities are destroying eagle nesting habitat. According to Bob Oakleaf of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, subdivisions and other development in the greater Yellowstone area could eliminate 29 breeding territories. Outside of the national parks there are 11 nesting territories and nine of these could be eliminated if present land use trends continue, said Oakleaf. Ironically, most of these threatened sites are in the Jackson Hole area that escaped spraying with DDT and have been the most important sites for maintaining the eagle population for the region.

— Jan Valdez

HOTLINE

Oil consumption may pick up

The decline in U.S. petroleum consumption will bottom out in 1983 and consumption will begin to rise through the first half of 1984, according to an Energy Information Administration report. The administration, an independent statistical agency within the Department of Energy, based its projections in the *Short Term Energy Outlook* on the assumptions that the average price of imported fuels will remain stable at about \$29 per barrel, and that the economy will continue its recovery. Other projections in the report are that natural gas consumption will continue to decline through the same period, but that coal consumption will rise about one percent. Coal production, however, is expected to decline by about 15 percent due to a projected drop in coal exports, withdrawals from stockpiled inventories and the slow growth in consumption, according to the report.

Dick eyes Armstrong's seat

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dick (R) of Colorado will "wage the most vigorous campaign in the history of Colorado" in her challenge for Sen. William Armstrong's (D-Colo.) seat in the 1984 elections. In her statement of candidacy, Dick took issue with Armstrong on a number of matters, including his support of James Watt and his votes against the Clean Air Act and the nuclear freeze. Dick was elected to her second term as Lieutenant Governor of Colorado in November, 1982.

Wheeling and dealing in Colorado

The traditional conflicts of interest over water between eastern and western Colorado have been temporarily shelved in a water plan that would have eastern interests build a reservoir on the Western Slope to be shared equally with Western Slope interests. The Denver Water Board recently allocated \$7.5 million to acquire a site for a Western Slope reservoir, possibly in Grand or Eagle counties. In exchange for building the reservoir, Denver will receive water from the Green Mountain Reservoir south of Kremmling, which will be transferred to Denver's Dillon Reservoir. The plan would provide water to help fill the proposed Two Forks Reservoir on the South Platte River near Deckers. The agreement was reached by members of Gov. Dick Lamm's Metropolitan Water Roundtable in April.

Chemical industry will study toxic waste effects

Fearing congressional action to tax the chemical industry to set up a compensation fund for persons injured by toxic wastes, the Chemical Manufacturers Association has offered to pay at least half of a \$1 million study on the health effects of hazardous wastes. Supporters of a compensation fund proposal, including Rep. James Florio (D-N.J.) and John LaFalce (D-N.Y.), who both represent districts with toxic dumps, say that sufficient evidence of a potential problem exists. The chemical industry, however, said it is not clear that toxic wastes have harmed people. William Simerali of DuPont Co. expects the study "will clearly identify what is and what isn't known about the effects of exposure to hazardous waste." The association has asked government, academic and environmental groups to share the costs and serve on a governing board. The study will be conducted by Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology, a consortium of universities set up to conduct public health research.

HOTLINE

Price-Anderson under attack

An attack has been launched on the nuclear industry's protection from liability for damages to the public caused by an accident at a nuclear power plant. Identical bills have been introduced to the Senate and the House by Senator Gary Hart (D-Colo.) and Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio) that would make three major revisions in the Price-Anderson Act. The bills would remove the provision that exempts the nuclear industry from liability exceeding \$570 million, would make the industry liable for all accidents and would remove the current 20-year statute of limitations on recovery of damages. The Price-Anderson Act has protected the nuclear industry from full liability for accidents since the 1950s. "If nuclear power cannot survive in a market free of hidden subsidies, then we should allocate our energy resources to other technologies that can," said Hart in a press release.

Whooping it up in Idaho

Idaho's foster parent plan for the endangered whooping crane has produced a bumper crop of chicks this year, according to Elwood Bizeau, University of Idaho professor of wildlife resources. The plan, part of an effort to establish an intermountain population of whooping cranes to increase the chances that the cranes can avoid extinction, involves taking eggs from a wild flock in Canada and from a captive flock in Maryland and placing them with sandhill crane foster parents in Idaho. Bizeau said that 26 of the 28 eggs placed this year hatched, which is the best hatch rate on record. The Canadian flock, previously the only wild flock in North America, has about 70 birds; the Maryland captive flock, about 30 birds. So far, the Idaho effort has accounted for 14 whooping cranes now between one and seven years of age.

Timber sales to be investigated

The Justice Department has agreed to investigate allegations that two companies which hold 50-year timber leases in the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska have violated antitrust laws. Alaska Lumber and Pulp Co. and Ketchikan Pulp Co. underwent six Justice Department investigations of pre-1975 actions which resulted in no charges against the companies. The new investigation will focus on alleged violations since 1975. The companies are charged with setting excessively high bids in a 1979 timber sale to discourage another company from participating, and with having financial ties to supposedly independent sawmills. The two 50-year sales were issued in the 1950s to give industry an incentive to harvest timber under difficult conditions, but competitors argue that the companies have turned the situation into a monopoly.

DOE accepts waste responsibility

The U.S. Department of Energy has signed contracts with all of the nation's nuclear electric utilities stating that DOE will locate, build and operate nuclear waste repositories for the utilities' nuclear waste, with the utilities paying the full costs of the program. DOE will charge the utilities a fee of one mill per kilowatt hour of electricity generated, which is expected to produce revenues of about \$400 million per year. Under the contract, DOE will begin accepting waste for disposal not later than 1998. As yet, no site has been selected for the first repository, but sites in Nevada, Utah, Washington, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi are being evaluated.

Crowell admits conflict

Assistant Agriculture Secretary John Crowell admitted to a Congressional committee that he himself had made the decision to reduce the administration's wilderness acreage recommendation in the DuNoir area of northwest Wyoming from 34,000 acres to 11,000 acres. Crowell made the decision even though it is of direct benefit to his former employer, Louisiana-Pacific, and even though he had told Congress when he was appointed to the agency that he would not participate in decisions that would affect L-P.

The DuNoir is located near Dubois, Wyoming, where L-P has a large lumber mill. The company and environmentalists have been fighting over the DuNoir area for over 10 years. L-P has pushed for an 11,000 acre "rocks and ice" designation leaving most of the timber available for sale. Environmentalists have pushed for a 35,000 acre area that includes the valley and most of the trees.

In House Interior Committee hearings on the Wyoming Wilderness Bill, Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio) asked Crowell who had made the decision to reduce the size of the area. Crowell said, "It was reached by myself and the top management of the Forest Service."

"You didn't recuse yourself?" Seiberling asked.

"I did not. I didn't know the timber would go there (to L-P's Dubois mill)." Crowell also said he no longer holds any financial stock or even pension rights in Louisiana-Pacific, for which he served as legal counsel before joining the Agriculture Department.

There will apparently be no follow-up by the committee on the conflict of interest question, even though Crowell also has apparently made decisions on wilderness in south central Wyoming, where L-P also has a mill.

— Dan Whipple



Near Shoshone Pass, DuNoir area

Richard Murphy/Jackson Hole News

Bad wilderness bills may wait in wings

The Wyoming Wilderness Bill now being considered by the U.S. House of Representatives — a bill that state environmentalists have called worse than no bill at all — is having implications for two other Rocky Mountain states as they begin to consider their own legislation. Senators from Idaho and Utah are apparently using language in the Wyoming bill, particularly the controversial "release" language, as models for their own legislation.

The Wyoming bill, which has already passed the Senate, has the support of the three-man Republican delegation from Wyoming. It designates about 635,000 acres of new wilderness in the state. It also contains what is called "hard release language." This is a provision in the bill that would require all forest lands not declared wilderness to be managed for multiple use. Further, no additional land could be studied for wilderness in the state until after the year 2000.

This type of release is favored by the timber industry but opposed by environmentalists.

Wilderness activists prefer the so-called "Colorado release language," which was a compromise reached in the Colorado wilderness bill passed last year. That language declares that RARE II (second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) is sufficient for the next round of forest planning, which will schedule forest activities until 1995, at least.

However, it seems clear that the Utah delegation, which is currently considering a statewide bill, and the Idaho delegation, led by Sen. James McClure (R) are looking at the Wyoming language as the type they want included in their legislation. Agreement among those delegations about a bill is likely. Once that happens, passage by the full Senate is virtually guaranteed.

Once the bill passes the Senate, pressure is brought to bear on Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio), a strong wilderness advocate and chairman of the House Interior Committee subcommittee which handles wilderness legislation. Seiberling doesn't want to agree to

the hard release language, but he also doesn't want to be seen as obstructing bills that have the unanimous agreement of the delegations.

The Sierra Club's Tim Mahoney said that he expects McClure to bring up an Idaho bill by September. Said Mahoney, "The Idaho-Wyoming combination is very important. Those two states are more important to the timber industry than Utah. The Idaho bill will probably have the Wyoming release language."

Ironically, although the Wyoming delegation is calling its language a compromise, as Mahoney said, "It's hard to see who it's a compromise with. They certainly didn't compromise with us." And it appears from other cases that the timber industry is willing to settle for a lot less. When a North Carolina bill began to be considered this year, a cooperative effort with a number of state, federal and private interests was undertaken. In that case, the timber industry agreed to the Colorado release language.

— Dan Whipple

Ski Yellowstone leaps final mogul

Montana's Quake Lake was formed suddenly one night in August, 1957, when a mountainside jarred loose by an earthquake slid into the Madison River just outside Yellowstone National Park. The big rubble plug dammed the river, and it's been dammed ever since. Now, a manmade dam crosses the head of Quake Lake, holding back the two fat fingers of Hebgen Lake, a popular tourist and fishing spot.

It's the sort of area that has attracted Yellowstone visitors since the 1870s — a place that shows the dramatic evidence of all that is unpredictable in nature. One day a river, the next day a lake.

In a year or two, Hebgen Lake may have another attraction gracing its shores — this one showing all that is predictable in man. The Ski Yellowstone project is back on track again after a decade of administrative appeals, inadequate corporation financing, which caused the Forest Service to withhold its lease; and a series of court battles over who actually owns the company that wants to build the project. At last Ski Yellowstone appears to have leaped the final mogul.

Developer John Hall of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, is seeking approval again for the 893-acre resort planned for the north shore of Hebgen Lake's Grayling Arm. The Gallatin County, Montana, commissioners are in charge of reviewing Hall's application for a preliminary plat that will allow him to develop Phases One through Four of his resort.



©1977, GREG SIMPLE

liminary plat that will allow him to develop Phases One through Four of his resort.

Last summer Hall received a Forest Service permit to lease 1,660 acres of federal land on Mount Hebgen, where the ski slopes will be located. Closer to the lake, Hall plans to build 210 single-family units, 493 condominium units, a shopping center, a golf course, hotel and marina and, of course, a sewage treatment plant.

Ski Yellowstone, Inc. has apparently proven to the Forest Service's satisfaction that it has the finances to proceed with development. That proof, or the lack of it, was what the Forest Service used to refuse the ski-area lease for several years.

Barring another round of exhaustive legal appeals by conservationists — who are frankly sick of the whole project — it appears that the developer from Pennsylvania will finally give Montana its first, true Colorado-style ski resort.

—Don Snow

BARBS

National priorities department. Democratic presidential contender John Glenn told the Gridiron Dinner, "I have to wonder about an administration that wants to sell Yellowstone Park and buy Times Beach, Missouri."

Water under the bridge. An Aspen, Colorado man threw his former lover off the Stillwater Bridge into the Roaring Fork River in what he called "a statement of finality." The woman was unhurt.

On the other hand, don't invite them over for dinner, either. The construction supervisor for Worland, Wyoming's Green Hills Municipal Golf Course has advised golfers not to jump about or scream, if they can help it, when they see a rattlesnake on the course. The snakes have been forced above ground by construction at the course and golfers are using a variety of woods and irons to dispatch them.

Groups win Montana power line appeal

HOTLINE

Responding to an administrative appeal from three Montana conservation groups, the Forest Service has agreed to block construction of the Bonneville Power Administration's Colstrip transmission line across western Montana. The twin 400-kilovolt lines would have crossed five RARE II (second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) areas in portions of Montana's Lolo National Forest on their way to a substation in Spokane, Washington, where they would feed into the BPA power grid. The groups that filed the appeal alleged that in light of recent court decisions about RARE II lands in California, the Forest Service and Bonneville must come up with a plan to protect the roadless areas from damage that may disqualify them from inclusion in the wilderness system. The Forest Service agreed, delaying indefinitely the completion of the lines.

Now the scheduled completion of Colstrip, the power source for the line, is also in question. Following the Forest Service decision, officials from the Montana Power Company, the principal owner of the Colstrip project, announced that completion of units 3 and 4 may be delayed until the power lines are finished. BPA and Montana Power were working together to meet the autumn, 1985, schedule for finishing both power lines and Colstrip unit 4.

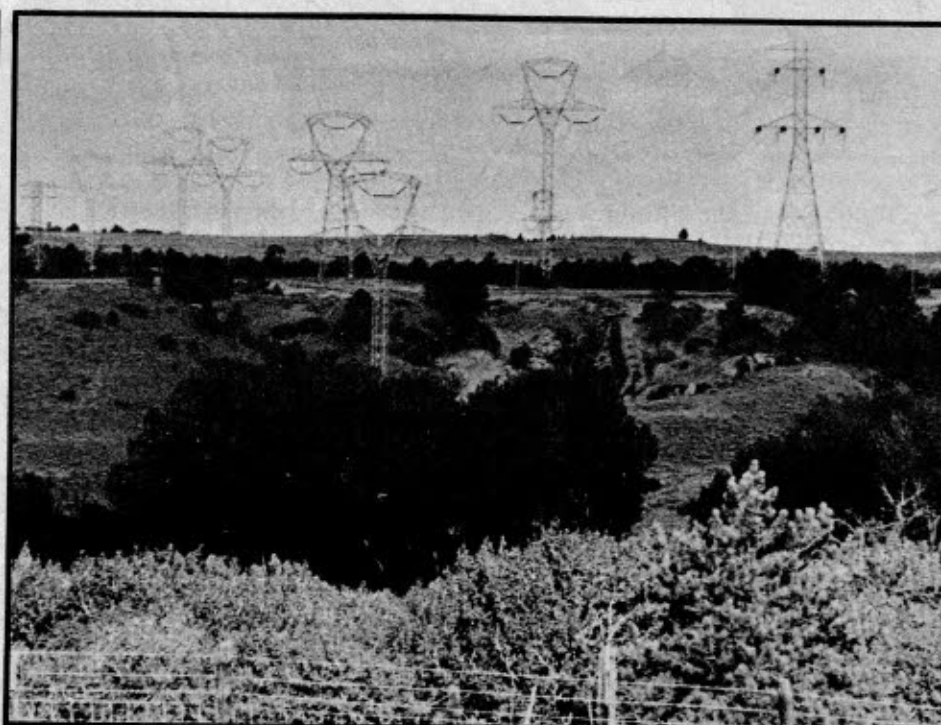
Citing a 1982 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in California, an attorney for the West Slope Chapter of Trout Unlimited told Forest Service Chief Max Peterson that building the lines across RARE II lands is a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. The California decision found inadequacies in the RARE II review process for California forest lands and directed the Forest Service to correct the problems before allowing any actions that would damage the wilderness character of RARE II lands. The Trout Unlimited attorney, Karl Englund of Missoula, said that the same situation applied to the lands that will be crossed by Bonneville's lines.

Joining Trout Unlimited in the appeal were the Montana and National Wildlife Federations. They alleged that BPA and the Forest Service have not taken adequate steps to protect the five RARE II areas crossed by the proposed lines. They have called the environmental impact statement on the project inadequate, and charged that BPA did not consider all available alternatives to the so-called Taft-South route that BPA selected.

BPA officials fear that the decision could block powerline construction until after 1985, when Colstrip Unit 4 is expected to come on-line to provide power for the Northwest. The two unfinished Colstrip units 3 and 4 are jointly owned by Montana Power and four northwest utilities. Pacific Power and Light, owner of 10 percent of the projects, recently announced plans to sell its share of Colstrip because of decreased electricity demand. Puget Sound Power and Light, another Colstrip partner, is now expected to purchase the PP&L share, ending recent speculation that the Northern Lights Power Cooperative of Sandpoint, Idaho, would buy the PP&L share in lieu of building a hydropower dam across Montana's Kootenai Falls near Libby.

The 12-year-old Colstrip power project has been a nest of controversy ever since Montana Power announced plans to build the plant near the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in 1971. The recent administrative appeal is at least the tenth major legal action taken by conservation groups, Indian tribes, and state and local governments to halt or modify portions of the Colstrip power plan.

In 1980, BPA refused to submit its



Colstrip

Colstrip transmission line plans for state scrutiny under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, claiming that as a federal entity BPA was exempt from compliance with state siting laws. Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation sued, and in March, 1982, a federal district court ruled that BPA had to comply with "substantive requirements" of the siting act.

That same month BPA identified the Taft-South route as its preferred powerline corridor across western Montana, partly because Taft-South involved a maximum of federal and a minimum of private lands. The route runs from Garrison Junction west of Helena along a corridor that roughly parallels the Clark Fork River. Portions of the Deer Lodge and Lolo National Forests would be crossed before the lines leave western Montana.

Selection of the Taft-South alternative angered sportsmen because the 175-foot-tall towers would cross Rock Creek, a nationally famous trout stream that enters the Clark Fork east of Missoula. In recent years Rock Creek has been carefully tended by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and thousands of anglers have complied with special fishing restrictions that have kept the stream productive. Announcement of the Taft-South route triggered a loud public outcry over the environmental and aesthetic degradation the lines would cause.

One of the five RARE II areas to be crossed by the lines, Silver King, is a 46,000 acre study area that adjoins the Welcome Creek Wilderness Area in the Rock Creek Basin. Conservationists fear

that the powerline would disqualify Silver King from eventual addition to the wilderness area.

Trout Unlimited's attorney, Karl Englund, said that his client stands an excellent chance of getting the Forest Service and BPA to re-do the EIS and eventually produce an adequate study.

"We're looking to have the process done properly," he said. "Once a decent EIS is done and the agencies have done a better job investigating alternatives to the Rock Creek crossing, then Trout Unlimited can sit down and decide which alternative they would prefer."

Despite the fact that the Forest Service knew of the powerful California RARE II decision as long ago as last October, neither Forest Service nor BPA officials in Montana did anything to modify their power line plan. "The court essentially told them that what they were doing couldn't be done" — namely crossing a string of wilderness review areas in a way that could severely alter their wilderness potential, according to Englund.

Englund said that the agencies' refusal to modify their plans, even in the wake of the California decision, grows out of a policy set by Forest Service head John Crowell, a Reagan appointee and former timber company executive. "The policy is to ignore the decision until they are confronted by an administrative appeal someplace else," Englund said. "That's like saying I haven't committed a homicide until I've been convicted, so I'll go out and kill somebody and it won't be murder."

— Don Snow

Teton land swap complete

A complicated land swap in Wyoming has gained Grand Teton National Park 1,221 acres of private inholdings; Rocky Mountain Energy Company, 1,190 acres of Bureau of Land Management coal land; several educational and charitable institutions, a total of \$9,812,000; and the National Coal Association and the Mining and Reclamation Council, a possible lawsuit.

The possibility of the exchange developed several years ago (HCN, 4/2/82) when Laurance Rockefeller donated 1,221 acres of the J-Y ranch within the park boundaries to Princeton University, Dartmouth College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Vermont Law School, the Woodstock Foundation and the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Foundation. In the past, similar donations had been purchased by the National Park Service, with the educational and charitable institutions receiving the proceeds.

In this case, arrangements were made

for Rocky Mountain Energy Company, the minerals subsidiary of Union Pacific, to purchase the property from the institutions for roughly \$9.8 million. A simultaneous exchange allowed Rocky Mountain Energy to receive 1,190 acres of coal land from the BLM. The value of these lands, located in Carbon County, is about \$11.4 million. The difference in value, about \$1.5 million, was then paid by Rocky Mountain Energy to the BLM.

The National Coal Association and the Mining and Reclamation Council had appealed the proposed exchange on the basis of the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act, which barred railroads from leasing additional federal coal lands. The appeal was denied by the Interior Department, which stated that the ban does not prevent a company from acquiring federal coal under an exchange. The two groups have not decided whether to take the case to court.

— Jan Valdez

Western governors unhappy with leasing program

Five western governors are urging the establishment of a commission to recommend major revisions to Interior Secretary James Watt's federal coal leasing program. The House approved the idea of a commission in a fiscal 1984 appropriations bill it adopted, but the governors want the commission established in a supplemental fiscal 1983 appropriations bill so it can evaluate the results of the planned Fort Union coal sale in North Dakota and Montana this summer and recommend changes in the program before the San Juan Basin coal sale in New Mexico scheduled for late 1983 or early 1984. The governors requesting the commission in a telegram to key congressmen were Richard Lamm (D-Colo.), Ted Schwinden (D-Mont.), Toney Anaya (D-N.M.), Scott Matheson (D-Utah) and Ed Herschler (D-Wyo.).

Endrin use may be banned

The Montana Department of Agriculture has proposed a rule that would suspend the use, sale or purchase of endrin in the state. The chlorinated hydrocarbon is highly toxic and the finding of high levels in fish and game birds last year prompted the preparation of a draft environmental statement. The proposed rule, which resulted from the draft EIS, would take effect immediately upon adoption, although commercial or farm applicators having stocks on hand could use the chemical for two years under certain conditions. Public hearings will be held on the draft EIS but have not yet been scheduled.



National Elk Refuge

Elk refuge land swap proposed

Plans for an exchange of BLM coal lands for private lands owned by the Teton Valley Ranch Co. within the National Elk Refuge in Jackson, Wyoming, have been filed by the BLM. The exchange was requested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the National Elk Refuge. The Fish and Wildlife Service has tried to acquire private lands within the refuge for years, but has felt more pressure since plans for a proposed recreational resort on the parcel have been released. Although the proposal is still in the study phase and the acreage is uncertain, a BLM spokesperson said a 354-acre parcel within the refuge was being considered, and a 1,900-acre tract of BLM land near Point of Rocks, Wyoming, was being looked at. A public meeting on the exchange will be held in Rock Springs on July 27.

Impact funds received

Coalville, Utah, and Evanston and Kemmerer, Wyoming, have received energy impact funds totaling over \$1.2 million from the Overthrust Industrial Association, a group of 36 petroleum producers and service companies involved in oil and gas development in the Overthrust Belt of Utah and Wyoming. The money is part of an \$80 million mitigation plan for improvement of facilities and services in the impacted area. Kemmerer received \$603,000, Evanston received \$656,111 and Coalville received \$50,000. The money will be applied to a variety of community projects.

6-High



Kent and Donna Dennen

Volunteers in Parks: a booming program

by Ellen Ditzler

Voluntarism is as American as beer, apple pie and rolling bandages in World War I. It carries with it a sense of patriotism, the opportunity to serve lofty principles, and a commitment to the idea that not all work need be measured by monetary return. In 1981, one out of six Americans worked as a volunteer in some capacity — 40 million people, whose service was valued at \$60 billion.

The Reagan administration has touted voluntarism as a means of restoring national pride and rekindling those charitable impulses that have allegedly been anesthetized by federal welfare. But this call to voluntarism is more than a call for the proud swell of the national bosom. It is a critical part of a policy that would substitute free enterprise and individual philanthropy for federal budget money.

This policy is changing the volunteer programs in the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. Both agencies are relying more heavily on their already highly successful programs and the number of volunteers in the parks and national forests is increasing. Volunteers are assuming a greater role in providing services that supplement the basic levels of land management. For these agencies, one antidote to staff and program cutbacks is already in place and booming.

Conservationists have generally taken a wait-and-see attitude toward the increase in volunteers. While they are understandably concerned about the shift from paid professionals to unpaid amateurs, there have as yet been no disasters attributable to increased reliance on volunteers in the parks and forests. So far, no volunteer has knocked a visitor into the Grand Canyon or leased Yellowstone National Park to Mobil Oil. But there is a danger, conservationists fear, of losing the policy consistency and continuity of service in the land management agencies.

The National Park Service's Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program was authorized by law in 1970. In the early years, a few unpaid workers, many of whom were college students, worked mostly in interpretive and visitor services during peak seasons. That work force has grown and diversified. Throughout the

national park system in 1981, 8,300 volunteers — young, old and in between, and working all seasons — put in 400,000 hours in maintenance, clerical work, research, resource management, interpretive services and nearly all other areas except law enforcement, where the use of volunteers is restricted. In 1982, volunteers in the parks numbered 12,000 for a service equivalent of \$4 million to \$5 million.

As the program expands, the Park Service is becoming more selective in recruiting volunteers. "In the first years of the VIP program, we weren't fussy about who volunteered. We accommodated just about everyone who was interested," said Roy Graybill, system-wide VIP program manager in Washington, D.C. That meant that park personnel spent "nearly as much time supervising the volunteer as the volunteer returned in unpaid services." However, as budgets tightened, permanent staff positions decreased and workloads grew, "the luxury of training was no longer as available."

At the same time, the number of people willing to work without pay was increasing and among those were more people with the skills the Park Service needed. As a result, its procedures for "hiring" volunteers came to more closely resemble those used for regular employees. The work to be done is identified, a written job description is prepared, volunteers and jobs are matched, and agreements are signed. The VIP program is administered with an annual appropriation whose growth also reflects a greater investment in substantial returns. This year's VIP appropriation in Yellowstone National Park, for example, is \$9,000 — nearly \$7,000 more than last year.

These Yellowstone volunteers represent a substantial amount of work. In 1983, there are 105 volunteers in Yellowstone versus 90 in 1982. The increase came mostly in the number of campground hosts — there are now 35, up from about 20 — a non-professional position, but one which often helps determine the quality of time a visitor has in the parks. A park official said, "Their non-monetary value is tremendous."

Those 105 volunteers are balanced by about 200 permanent staff in Yellowstone, both full- and part-time.

Graybill feels that the policies on voluntarism in the past two or three

years have encouraged a "more aggressive recruitment of people with skills intact and the removal of obstacles to the VIP program so that it can be made more adaptable to the needs of the park." Last year, the Department of Interior asked each national park to prepare a "management efficiency plan" that identified specific ways it can optimize the use of funds and personnel "to the advantage of the American taxpayer." Along with internal matters, concessioner and private sector involvement, the plan also deals with volunteer programs and will formalize many of the changes from the last few years — expanding the use of volunteers in non-traditional areas, diversifying the VIP work force, and establishing administrative guidelines for volunteer programs as well as ceilings that identify the optimal number of volunteers a park can manage.

For most park managers, the VIP program is a tool for meeting their obligations to the public within the constraints of budget and personnel. "To accommodate 2.5 million visitors — with 90 percent of them coming to Yellowstone in a three-month period — our staff would have to be tremendous to fulfill our mandates of public service and resource preservation," said George Robinson, chief of interpretive services at Yellowstone National Park and administrator of its VIP program. Robinson also feels that the VIP program allows the Park Service to respond to the apparently overwhelming desire of a large number of people to come to the parks and work for nothing.

For a variety of reasons — ranging from noble desires to contribute to the public good, to the mystique of the national parks or the allure of the wild, to high unemployment and the simple desire for practical experience — more and more people want to volunteer. With little scarcity of willingness and less and less of a scarcity of skills, the limiting factor for volunteers in most national parks is housing. In the western parks in particular, there simply is no place to put all the people who are willing and qualified to volunteer.

People volunteer to help out in national parks for many reasons. Retired folks are often excellent campground hosts; unemployed workers can get a little subsistence money, at least, while

trying to find a fall job; and spouses of paid employees often simply want something to do. However, the largest single reason that the agencies can attract volunteers is that college students and graduates in resource management fields see it as a means of gaining direct experience and becoming a "familiar face" when a paid position opens up. Said a summer intern at Canyonlands National Park, "Volunteering is virtually the only door into the Park Service these days."

Maureen Briggs worked one summer as a paid seasonal naturalist at Yellowstone. In 1980, the Park Service told her that there was no longer a paid position for her, so she volunteered to be a winter naturalist at the park. She was the only volunteer naturalist in the park that year. The position gave her experience in her field and put her in a better position to be hired for paid Park Service work. The tactic paid off as Briggs now works as a paid staffer at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon.

"With volunteers doing the same kind of work as paid staff," she said, "it seemed reasonable to expect hard feelings from people worried about volunteers taking over their jobs. To my knowledge, that hasn't happened at all."

The number of volunteers in the Forest Service also is increasing. That agency has been using volunteers since 1973, when the Department of Agriculture was given the authority to use gratuitous services. At first the program was largely a district-level effort that used local unskilled labor. In the early 1970s, there were 50 volunteers in Region I of the Forest Service, which includes Montana, northern Idaho and parts of North and South Dakota. At the current rate of growth, the region's volunteer work force will reach 3,000 in 1984, and the volunteers will come from all parts of the country.

The volunteers work in trail and facility maintenance, timber management, fire control, clerical work, archaeology, economics and as legal interns. They come on their own initiative or through programs such as the American Hiking Society's Volunteer Conservation Corps. Many of the Forest Service's "campground hosts" — unpaid campground managers — are from the Good Sam Club, a group tied together by their

Airstream recreation vehicles, those gleaming aluminum lozenges on wheels.

Richard Williamson, assistant director of personnel for Region I, believes that the volunteer program has boomed because of public interest and the fact that, like the Park Service, the Forest Service has become more sophisticated in recognizing how to use skilled people. However, economics also plays a major role. "With budget ceilings on paid personnel, we would not be able to accomplish the work of the Forest Service without volunteers, Job Corps programs and other help," Williamson said. "If it weren't for the campground hosts, for example, we'd be forced to shut down campgrounds in some places."

Despite the willingness of a great number of people to volunteer, the programs are not entirely without drawbacks. Although qualified volunteers are being found, managerial time still must be spent to train and supervise them. The turnover in volunteers can be great since subsistence pay (usually \$9 a day) is hardly enough to keep the occasional frustrated worker on the job and doesn't usually stand up against external offers. Having a different volunteer each year sacrifices the continuity of the seasonal veteran who returns year after year. And, no matter how qualified volunteers may be, the occasions can arise — in health or safety, for example — for which they have no experience. Williamson said that volunteer tenure in Region I of the Forest Service averages about 25 to 30 days. "It would be a lot easier to have trained, paid personnel," he said, "But we don't."

The combination of necessity and a large volunteer pool has affected the composition of the work force on public lands. In the words of VIP program manager Roy Graybill, "Volunteers are not displacing career professionals, but they are replacing them." The distinction is subtle. As operating budgets vary from year to year, seasonal jobs that were funded one year may not be funded the next, and a volunteer will fill in. When a program is cut from the budget but is still in public demand, volunteers may keep it going.

In the national parks, volunteers are filling the gap left by a staff that can't



"By contracting out services that were formerly done internally, a major criterion of the current administration appears to be to save money."

— NPCA's Bill Lienesch

grow enough to accommodate increased park use. Inflation, reduced federal spending and lowered ceilings on professional personnel have reduced the rate of staff growth and have produced a greater dependence on the other elements of the traditional mixture of people working in the parks — concessioners, youth and adult conservation corps, natural history and recreation associations, private non-profit groups, volunteers and others. This year, Yellowstone's major concessioner, TWA Services, will be involved in a limited number of interpretive services. About 10 TWA Services employees will join the permanent and seasonal Park Service staff of 57 interpreters. They will be trained and supervised by the Park Service, but TWA will pay the bill.

George Robinson of Yellowstone finds this use of concessioners appropriate. "Our perception of national parks will undoubtedly be compromised, at least in the eyes of some people," he

said. "But if there are sufficient controls, our involvement of the private sector, the public through voluntarism and the use of programs we haven't even thought of yet are entirely acceptable and appropriate. As long as the best of tradition is retained, change is healthy."

Despite these glowing and optimistic reports, the two agencies seem to have done very little formal evaluation of the volunteer programs to determine how well they are working. And a report that has been prepared by the archaeologist for Montana's Flathead National Forest, while generally optimistic, does sound some warning bells.

The Forest Service is quick to note that the report, covering the 1982 volunteer program in cultural resource management on the forest, does not necessarily reflect the views of the Forest Service. The forest archaeologist, Gary McLean, noted on page one, "The idea of trying to recruit volunteers for CRM purposes was directly related to budget constraints. I had hoped to have enough funds to hire at least one temporary, but no such luck."

McLean eventually got five volunteers, selecting from an "amazing" 50 responses to an ad.

McLean pointed out several problems with the volunteer program. Transportation to and from work sites became a problem, because the agency budget and resources had not considered the additional burden. The volunteers received only two weeks of on-the-job training, which McLean recommended be increased to four weeks.

However, the single biggest problem McLean found was the amount of "indirect costs" associated with it. He said, "I grossly underestimated the impact the volunteer program had on my time. Some of this indirect cost was simply due to the fact that it was a new experience and most of these problems will be resolved next season. Nevertheless, the fact remains that supervision of the program requires considerable effort and the impact on the archaeologist's time should not be understated."

McLean concluded also that the use of volunteers, at least in his field, has its limits. He said, "It is not a substitute for

professional expertise, rather it augments a professionally based program."

There are fears that the use of non-federal personnel and programs might become a surrogate for services best done by the Park Service. Bill Lienesch of the National Parks and Conservation Association said that in the privatization of park functions, there is a danger of losing sight of what the national parks ought to be. "By contracting out services that were formerly done internally, a major criterion of the current administration appears to be to save money. There are, of course, other criteria."

Those criteria are embedded in the chronic dilemma of the National Park System — that is, the inherent difficulty, if not impossibility, of simultaneously providing unlimited visitation and the essential qualities of an unconventional and non-urban experience. As park visitation grows and pressures on visitor services and natural resources increase, the traditional response has been to respond to growth with more growth. And part of that growth can be supplementing a limited work force with more volunteers or extending the functions and responsibilities of private entrepreneurs and concessioners. The alternative is to minimize public services and personnel and manage the parks in ways that give the visitor more freedom to set his or her own agenda.

Because they are a good idea and work well, volunteer programs will be a part of any policies applied to public land management — be they policies of preservation or ones that accommodate what has been described as "industrial tourism." The use of volunteers and the emphasis on the private sector in the next few years will reflect policies that say that although most Americans agree that we should have natural reserves in the public domain, their management can involve private and individual initiative more extensively. Whether these policies are contradictory or compatible remains to be seen.

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

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WHAT CAN THE AVERAGE
CITIZEN DO ABOUT NUCLEAR
WAR WHEN THE MISSILES
BEGIN TO FALL?

Cartoons by



GREG SIPLÉ

Greg Siple is known to most *High Country News* readers as a political cartoonist. His work has been published frequently in *HCN*, illustrating topics as varied as MX missiles, toxic wastes and pesticides.

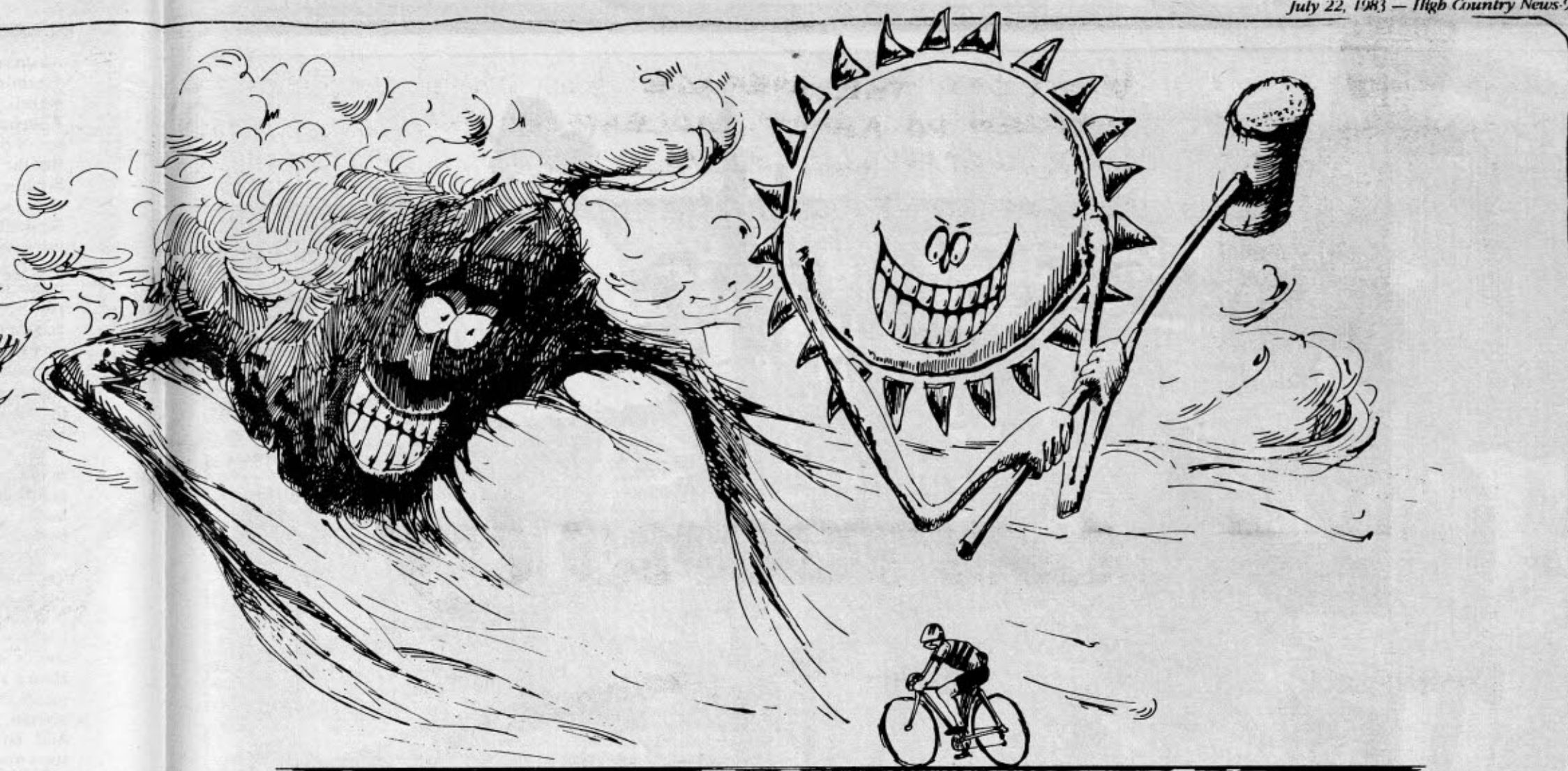
However, Greg has been known in other circles as an avid bicyclist and biking activist. He has been an advocate of bicycle use for both recreation and utility uses since the early 1960s.

Siple is a co-founder of Bikecentennial, an 18,000 member bicycle touring service organization (*HCN*, 6/10/83). He is currently employed by that group as an artist, cartographer and photographer. He has toured Europe by bike on three occasions and was a member of the 1972 18,272-mile Alaska to Argentina bicycle expedition.

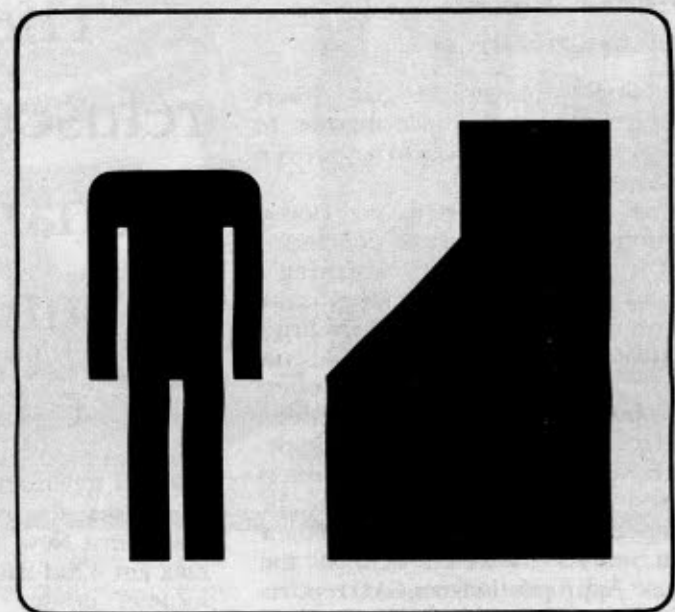
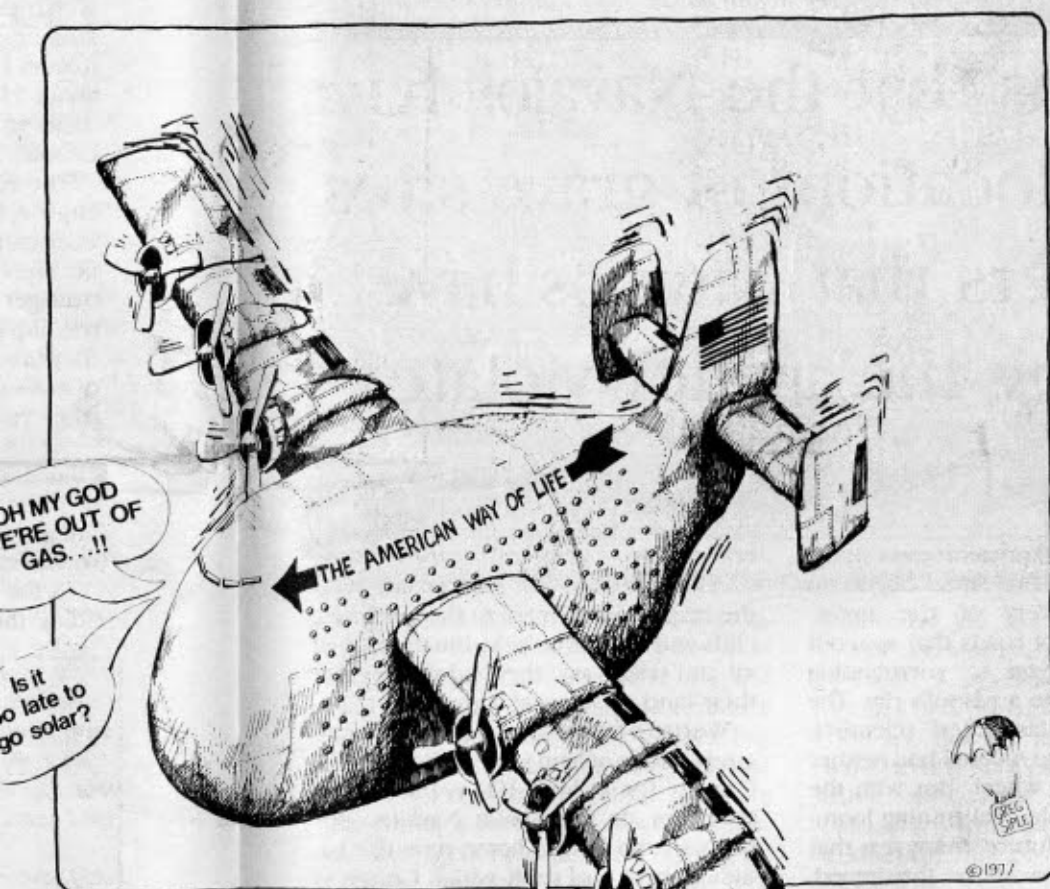
Born in 1946, Greg Siple received his formal art training at the Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio. He has been doing editorial illustrations since 1977. He currently lives in Missoula, Montana.



NOT MUCH

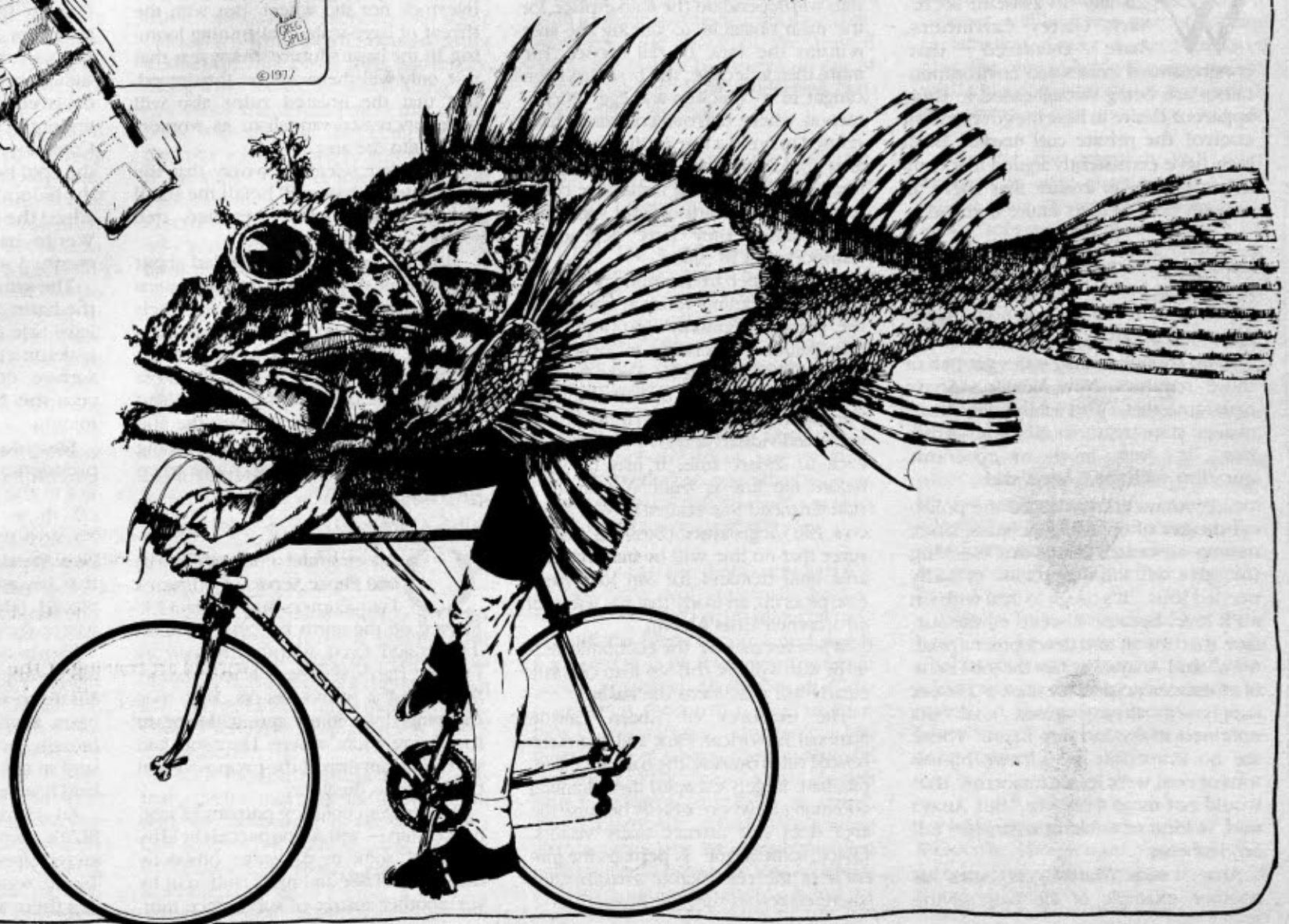


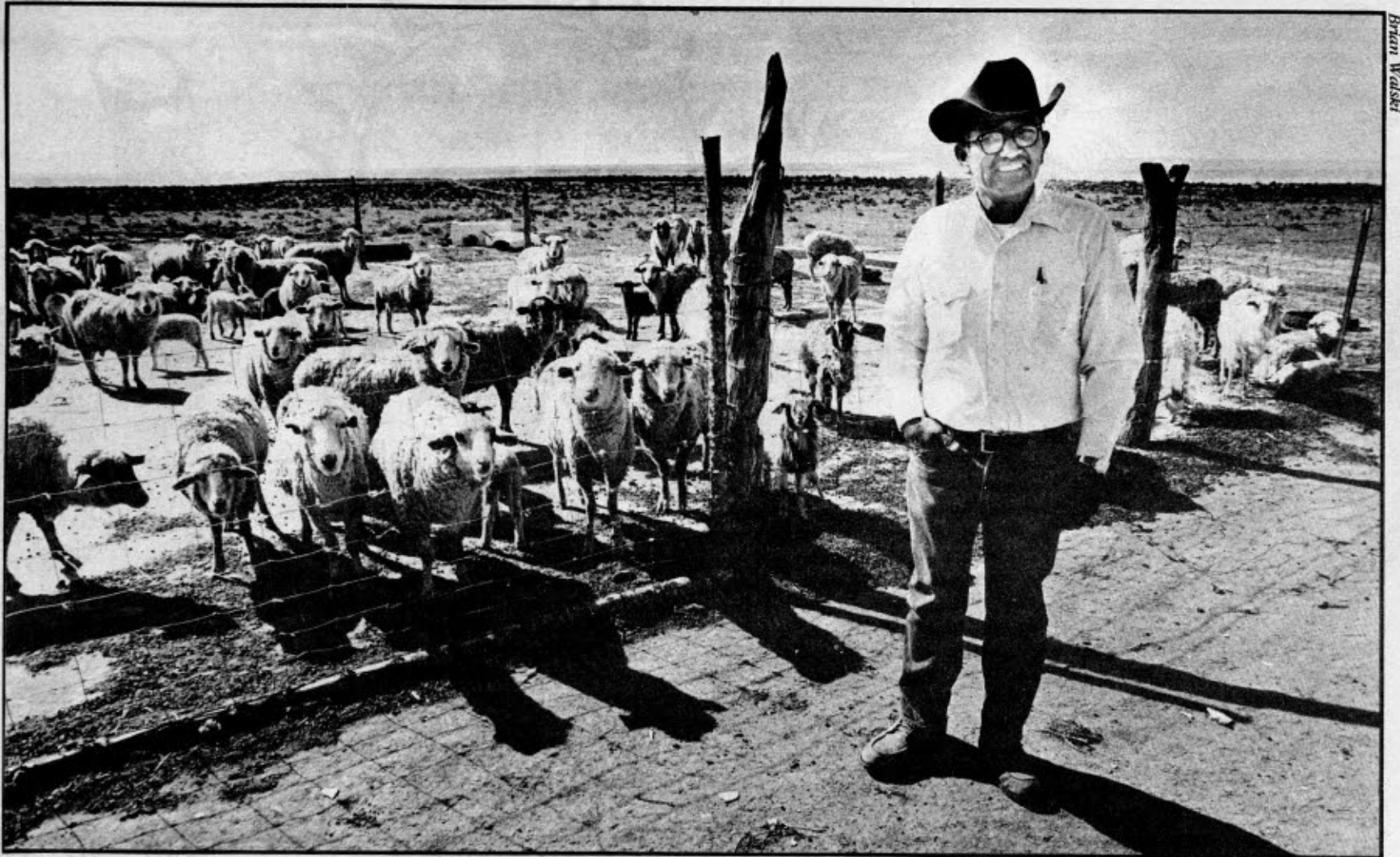
GREG SIPLE



INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL
FOR VIDEO GAMES

©GREG SIPLE, 1982





Cecil Werito, Navajo sheep rancher of San Juan basin

Coal . . .

(continued from page 1)

rounding privately-held coal tracts would fetch on the open market. In practice, however, that goal has proven maddeningly elusive.

This spring's report by the House Appropriations Committee concluded that few federal coal sales ever bring a fair market value. That, the report said, stems from the fact that only a few firms control most of the nation's coal market. The fact that these firms operate mines on private land next to federal coal tracts aggravates the lack of competition, since each firm bids on the tracts closest to its mines, while would-be competitors divvy up tracts near their own mines. However, neither the House Appropriations nor GAO reports offered a solution to the dilemma.

Watt and his assistant secretary, Garrey Carruthers, have countered that congressional critics and environmentalists are being wrongheaded in their apparent desire to have the government control the private coal market. Both men have consistently argued that only the market can ensure that there is enough coal to meet future demand.

Carruthers said that the department's critics are mistaken in their focus on pre-mining bonus bids, arguing that the royalties garnered once mining begins are much greater.

Even though mining states get half of those royalties, New Mexico's Anaya maintains that "Watt's folly" will short-change state treasuries of billions of dollars. "It's very much an economic question with me," Anaya said.

Still, Anaya acknowledged the political danger of opposing the sales, since mining advocates charge that blocking the sales will kill the promise of badly needed jobs. "It's tough to deal with on a PR level because it seems on the surface that it's an anti-development position," said Anaya. For him the jobs issue is a false one, especially since a 25-year supply of already leased coal sits unmined in the San Juan Basin. "There are no immediate jobs. If two billion tons of coal were leased tomorrow, that would not mean more jobs." But, Anaya said, "I kind of think my arguments fall on deaf ears."

Anaya sees Watt's coal sales as another example of the West giving

The BLM complains that the Navajos have refused to reveal the locations of grave sites. Leonard Tsosie counters that Navajos have no intention of helping the agency violate their traditions.

away its inheritance to outsiders. He argued that this is at least part of the reason that New Mexico continues to rank just 42nd nationally in per capita income, despite its great mineral wealth.

Despite Watt's intentions, whether large-scale mining in the basin ever begins will depend on the marketplace, for the main obstacle to mining the area remains the lack of rail service. For more than a decade, the basin has been caught in a "chicken-and-egg" phenomenon, where railroad companies have refused to build a line until mines in the area could show they had coal buyers lined up. The mining firms have countered that they cannot land such contracts unless they have dependable transportation in place.

While the debate has gone round and round, the leading railroad contender, the Santa Fe Railway's proposed Star Lake Railroad, received a major setback in early 1983 when a U.S. District Court in Washington ruled that the firm had improperly obtained rights-of-way across individual Navajos' property. Sent back to square one, it may be years before the line is built. A plan for a state-financed line stalled in New Mexico's 1983 legislature. Business leaders agree that no line will be built into the area until demand for San Juan Basin coal picks up, an irony that has left local environmentalists gleeful.

Whatever may be the economic merits of Watt's plans, the San Juan coal sale clearly will transform the basin.

The treasures of Chaco Canyon National Historical Park and the many related ruins outside the park, for example, have largely escaped the trampling common elsewhere chiefly because the area does not attract many visitors. Chaco, some argue, is perhaps the pinnacle of the remarkable Anasazi ruins scattered across the Southwest.

In recent years, archaeologists studying Chacoan culture have begun to unravel the mystery of the arrow-straight network of roads that spin out from Chaco Canyon to surrounding ruins like spokes to a wheel's rim. The roads have long fascinated scientists, especially since the Anasazi had neither livestock nor the wheel. But with the threat of large-scale coal mining looming in the basin's future, many fear that not only will the roads be threatened, but that the isolated ruins also will suffer increased vandalism as workers flood into the area.

Still other scientists worry that the same fate of abuse will befall the Fossil Forest, where intact petrified tree stumps stud the landscape.

But the people most worried about the possible strip mining are the Navajos of the basin. Though they and their ancestors have lived there for hundreds of years, the Bureau of Land Management maintains that technically most are squatters. Denied control of the land and coal beneath their homes, the 500 to 1,200 Navajos affected by the mining may have no choice but to move when the draglines arrive.

On a clear afternoon with Arizona Public Service Company's Four Corners power plant billowing on the north horizon, Leonard Tsosie and Cecil Werito dropped by Eugene Harrison's spare Navajo home. Waving off a pair of sheep dogs, they exchanged greetings and gathered in the living room where Harrison had spread a giant map of the proposed coal tracts across the floor.

The map's confusing pattern of land ownership — with some parcels held by the BLM, some by the state, others by the Navajo Tribe and most undercut by yet another matrix of subsurface min-

eral rights — graphically captured the conflict over the San Juan Basin. With the map lying oriented to the landmark cliffs and washes outside, the three men sat and talked as if they had already lost their land to the coal companies.

Werito's family has lived on the same sandy piece of land just north of Chaco Canyon for at least 100 years, raising sheep as do most basin Navajos. But beneath the Werito home runs the basin's richest coal seam, which Congress declared federal property in 1873 under the Coal Lands Act. Arch Minerals Company has since staked a claim on the coal beneath the Werito's and since the federal government never acknowledged the Navajo's home above the coal, Werito has no legal right to stop the eventual mining of his homeland.

The same dilemma exists throughout the basin and even where Navajos have legal title to the surface of the land, the government continues to own the subsurface coal, effectively limiting any veto the Navajos might seek over the mining.

Sheridan Glen, associate vice-president of Arch Minerals, said, "We're not in the business of running anybody off their land." Acknowledging the Navajos' worries, Charles Luscher, the New Mexico director of the BLM, added that his agency will help relocate displaced families within the same area where they are now living.

Tsosie is skeptical and says the BLM's offer simply emphasizes the agency's failure to understand Navajo life in the basin. Both Tsosie and Werito note that literally every inch of useable grazing land in the basin is being used. "All the land has been spoken for," says Werito.

An even more volatile issue is the BLM's plan to move Navajo graves and sacred sites found on coal-mining tracts. Tsosie scoffs at the bureau's estimate that there are just 35 to 43 grave sites in



McKinley Mine, southwest of San Juan Basin



Bisti Badlands



Mary and Betty Trujillo, Navajos who would be displaced to make way for San Juan coal mining

the thousands of acres slated for mining, especially since Navajos have lived in the area for generations. Gene Day, the BLM's coal sale project director, admits that there are many more graves, but complains that the Navajos will not reveal their locations. Tsosie counters that Navajos have no intention of helping the agency violate their traditions. "To disturb it later is not in the mind of the Navajo," he explained.

Chamber of Commerce officials in nearby Farmington predict the mining will mean a boom in local employment, sparking a broad-based resurgence of prosperity for everyone, including the Navajos. Tsosie, however, believes most of the new jobs will go to Anglo outsiders. For that reason, he wants the BLM to extract pledges from mining firms to hire local Navajos before the firms are issued coal leases. Luscher of the BLM says that's not within the agency's power. But without such a local-hiring requirement, Tsosie predicts that his family and others will lose their present livelihoods and get nothing in return.

The BLM has been negotiating with the local Bureau of Indian Affairs office to resolve some of the conflicts. But even Ed Plummer, director of the BIA's Eastern Navajo Agency, said his agency has little clout to challenge the coal sale. "The Navajos have spoken — they don't want any development," said Plummer.

For the most part, the basin's Navajos feel abandoned. They are outside the formal boundary of the Navajo Reservation and so feel powerless to stand up to the BLM. Still, many hope the Navajo tribal government will come to their aid. Tribal Chairman Peterson Zah says he's aware of their plight and will do what he can, including go to court if necessary. Yet he admits that there is

little time left to prepare the complicated case required to block the sales.

Tsosie is pessimistic that the basin's Navajos will be able to stop the sales. "We are not the kind of people who write letters to Congress or carry placards," says Tsosie. He notes that some particularly frustrated residents wonder if sabotage may prove their last resort. Along with Werito, he sees nothing unique about the displacement that could come with mining. They compare it to the tribe's Long Walk to Fort Redondo at the turn of the century, the current controversy over the Navajo-Hopi Resettlement Act and even the forced relocation of Times Beach, Missouri, residents after their community was contaminated with dioxin.

Even if the Navajos' concerns can be satisfied, there remains the question of whether the arid area can ever be successfully reclaimed. The basin receives a scant seven to eight inches of rain a year; there is no drier coal mining region in the country. None of the basin's existing mines have been in existence long enough to prove that reclamation is possible.

University of New Mexico geology professor Stephen Wells pointed out that the basin is especially difficult to reclaim since there is not enough rain to aid revegetation, but there is still enough to carve deep gullies in only a few seasons.

That is especially true in the badlands that overlie much of the basin's coal deposits. Dominated by clay-laden soils that support virtually no plant life, the badlands will present the greatest reclamation challenge.

The badlands also contain some of the most visually spectacular scenery in the basin. The most well-known badland area is the Bisti, where a rainbow of water-sculpted rock layers creates a landscape with an otherworldly quality. With its name springing from the Navajo word for "the place of the crusted earth," the Bisti is, however, only one of three proposed BLM wilderness badland areas in the basin.

Of the remaining two, the nearby De-na-zin may be denied wilderness status through a pending bill introduced by Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.). Under the bill, the Bisti would be granted immediate wilderness protection, but the De-na-zin would be placed in a further study category until at least 1985. Dave Glowka of the Sierra Club's New Mexico chapter opposes the bill, noting that even the BLM wants to move ahead to make De-na-zin a wilderness. Glowka suggested that Domenici is using the popular cry of "Save the Bisti" to cloak an effort to open the De-na-zin to mining, a charge Domenici staffers reject with exasperated disbelief.

Even though the 3,600-acre Bisti wilderness area will eventually be surrounded by coal strip mines, it will nonetheless likely be preserved simply because it is so well known. The future of the proposed Ah-shi-sle-pah ("the place where the earth is grey") wilderness is less certain. Lying only a few miles north of Chaco Canyon National Historical Park, the Ah-shi-sle-pah shows badlands formation in action. There, a network of flash flood-formed arroyos are cutting into the surrounding grassy uplands. But there also Arch Minerals holds mining claims to much of the

wilderness and, consequently, the BLM has recommended that the area be released for development.

Sunbelt Mining Company's controversial Gateway Mine, which projects into the heart of the proposed Bisti Wilderness, will be a test case of badland reclamation. Under a state-approved plan, the mining firm will cover the site with crushed sandstone once mining is completed, since the area has no topsoil.

Whether the approach will work remains an open question. Ed Kelley, whose state Mining and Minerals Division approved the plan, admits it has never been used on such a large-scale basis. He insists, however, that minerals in the sandstone will provide the essential plant nutrients.

Glowka is skeptical. He believes wind and water will carry away the sandstone before plants can stabilize the area.

Wells said that long-term reclamation in the badlands may depend less on the techniques used on individual mining plots than on the surrounding geology. If, for example, nearby arroyos are allowed to continue upstream erosion into former mining areas, it won't matter very much what the coal companies have done.

Glowka fears that reclamation of the basin will be a giant experiment with disastrous consequences if it fails. He added that even if the badlands can be stabilized, the beautifully colored rock layers for which they are famous will be gone forever.

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Nolan Hester is a reporter for New Mexico's *Albuquerque Journal*. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

12-High Country News — July 22, 1983

BOOKS

Poisoning the countryside

A Bitter Fog: Herbicides and Human Rights

By Carol Van Strum. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1983. 288 pages. \$14.95, cloth.

Review by Peter Wild

One spring morning in 1975, Carol Van Strum's four children were playing outside their home in rural Oregon. A tank truck spraying weeds along the roadside unintentionally hosed down the kids. By night, all four were sick with vomiting, cramps and nausea.

The crew had given them a dose of 2,4,5-T, a defoliant banned years ago by the U.S. government in Vietnam because it caused cancer, malformed human fetuses and various mental disorders. The workers told the children's father that the stuff was harmless. Dow Chemical insisted that their product was

"extremely safe." *A Bitter Fog* tells two stories: how the lives of the people in Five Rivers Valley changed because of continued spraying and why a poison outlawed for use against a supposed enemy continues to be used in our own country.

One might once have called both stories chilling and shocking. But that would have been in the days before revelations about abuses to citizens by government in cooperation with industry had become all but commonplace.

On this point, Van Strum confirms what came to light in the latest upheavals in the Environmental Protection Agency: government officials playing footsie with corporation executives, chemical companies burying adverse information, and the naive addiction that keeps many of the employees in the Department of Agriculture gaa-gaa-eyed over quick-fix technology. All this would be of little moment if it weren't for the results: one billion pounds of

poisons dumped annually on the national forests, county roads and playgrounds of the United States. The effects are twofold: 1) enormous profits for chemical companies and 2) depression, impotency, anorexia, hyporeflexia and renal glucosuria for a growing number of citizens.

Lest the impact is lost in the abstraction of medical terms, consider what happened to the people of the Five Rivers Valley after repeated sprayings by tank trucks and Forest Service helicopters. Their gardens wilted, their ducks hatched grotesquely formed ducklings, and human mothers started having babies born without brains. Local doctors, who hadn't witnessed such horrors in lifetimes of practice, were appalled. All the while, officialdom attributed the hideous outbreak to the weather, insects and low soil moisture.

The spraying went on, punctuated by growing protests on the part of valley farmers. But the powers that administer

A BITTER FOG

Herbicides and Human Rights
Carol Van Strum

the laws had refined the techniques of stalling while the whirlbirds flew. Finally, local citizens armed themselves and a torched a helicopter on the ground. That fairly recent event, described with eye-witness detail in this book, brought a temporary halt to the troubles. But it is little consolation to the men riddled with cancer and the mothers grieving over their malformed children.

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 FACILITIES, TO MODIFY (2) INDUSTRIAL PERMITS, AND (2) OIL TREATER PERMITS, AND TO RENEW (1) MUNICIPAL PERMIT.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

- (1) APPLICANT NAME: Amoco Production Company
MAILING ADDRESS: 109 W. 14th St.
Powell, WY 82455
FACILITY LOCATION: Meeteetse 15 Battery, SW¼, Section 18, T46N,
R98W, Hot Springs County
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0032042
- Facility is a typical oil treater located in Hot Springs County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to the Grass Creek (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.
- The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.
- Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1986.
- (2) APPLICANT NAME: Terra Resources, Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2500
Casper, WY 82602
FACILITY LOCATION: Salt Creek South Unit, Well #1-113, Tract 9, NE¼,
SW¼, Section 1, T39N, R79W, Natrona County
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0032026
FACILITY LOCATION: Salt Creek South Unit, Well #18-330, Tract 30,
NE¼, SE¼, Section 18, T39N, R78W, Natrona County
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0032034
- Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Niobrara County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Castle 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 permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.
- Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1985.
- (3) APPLICANT NAME: John H. Trigg
MAILING ADDRESS: c/o DM Consulting Inc.
330 S. Center St., Suite 419
Casper, WY 82601
FACILITY LOCATION: John H. Trigg Tank Battery #1, SW¼, SE¼,
Section 12, T46N, R100W, Hot Springs County
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0032018
- Facility is a typical oil treater located in Hot Springs County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to the Left Hand Creek (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.
- The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.
- Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permit is December 31, 1986.
- (4) APPLICANT NAME: The Kerr McGee Coal Corporation
MAILING ADDRESS: Gallier Box 3013
Gillette, WY 82716
FACILITY LOCATION: Campbell County
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0025531
- The Kerr McGee Coal Corporation operates a large open pit coal mine in southern Campbell County which is known as the Jacobs Ranch Mine. "Process water" discharges at the mine at six points. The permit is being modified to add the sixth discharge point. Discharge point 006 is described as follows:
- 006 — The outfall from Reservoir 15-3, located in the NW¼, SW¼, Section 15, T43N, R70W, which receives runoff water from disturbed areas and possibly sump water from Pit 1. Discharge is to the North Prong of Little Thunder Creek (Class IV) via an unnamed drainage.
- The above discharges flow into Burning Coal Draw, the North Prong of Little Thunder Creek, the South Fork of HA Creek and the Eastern Draw of HA Creek (All Class IV Waters).
- The above discharges must meet effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment." However, the permit also contains a "re-opener clause" which requires the permit to be modified should more stringent limitations be developed at the federal level.
- Runoff from disturbed areas will be controlled by sedimentation ponds which are designed to completely contain the runoff resulting from a ten year - 24 hour precipitation event. Because these ponds will not normally discharge, they are not specifically identified in the permit but are covered by operation and maintenance provisions.
- Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire August 31, 1988.
- (5) APPLICANT NAME: Rochelle Coal Company - Rochelle Mine
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 14008
Aurora, CO 80014
FACILITY LOCATION: Campbell County
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0030899
- The Rochelle Coal Company plans to develop an open pit coal mine in southern Campbell County which will be known as the Rochelle Mine.

"Process water" will now discharge to only four points. The permit is being modified to delete discharge point 001 from the original permit issued in 1981.

The above discharges flow into Red Fox Draw, Coyote Draw, Rattle Snake Draw, and Peabody Draw (all Class IV Waters).

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

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

Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire August 31, 1988.

- (6) APPLICANT NAME: Braden Deem, Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS: 125 N. Market, #1250
Wichita, KS 67202
FACILITY LOCATION: Cooper Cove MD Unit, NW¼, SW¼, Section 20,
T18N, R77W, Carbon County
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0024716

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

The permit is being modified to add an additional discharge point. An overflow pit from the main pit will be allowed to discharge but will be under the same limitations as the main pit. The overflow pit will be known as discharge point 002.

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, 1987.

- (7) APPLICANT NAME: Milestone Petroleum
MAILING ADDRESS: 5613 DTC Parkway
Englewood, CO 80111
FACILITY LOCATION: J46 Lease Battery, NE¼, NE¼, Section 8, T37N,
R63W, Niobrara County
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0030627

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

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

A permit modification is necessary to reflect a change in the definition of the sampling point.

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

- (8) APPLICANT NAME: The Town of Jackson, Wyoming
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1687
Jackson, WY 83001
FACILITY LOCATION: Teton County
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0021458

The wastewater treatment facilities serving the Town of Jackson, Wyoming consist of an aerated lagoon followed by two non-aerated cells followed by seven infiltration/percolation beds. The facility was completed in 1981 and since that time there has been no discharge to Flat Creek (Class II Water).

While it appears that the I/P beds will continue to function properly and that the facility will continue to have no discharge, the proposed authorizes a discharge during cold weather (October 15 - April 30) should severe weather hamper the operation of the I/P beds.

Effluent limitations are based on Wyoming In-stream Water Quality Standards and National Secondary Treatment Standards using the following data (all based on the October 15 - April 30 period):

- Maximum plant discharge volume: 1.75 MGD.
- Q7-10 of Flat Creek: 32.2 MGD.
- Median pH: 8.0.
- Max. Temperature: 5°C.
- In-stream Water Quality Standard for unionized ammonia: .02 mg/l.
- In-stream Water Quality Standard for fecal coliform: no standard.
- In-stream Water Quality Standard for total residual chlorine: .002 (no need to chlorinate due to no standards for fecal coliform during cold weather).

Using the above data the effluent limitation on ammonia would be 31.7 mg/l. Since this level of ammonia is higher than that normally encountered in raw sewage, no limitation on ammonia is included in the permit. Also, it appears that in-stream standards for dissolved oxygen will not be violated provided secondary treatment standards are achieved, however, this situation will continue to be evaluated and, if necessary, the permit will be modified to reflect more stringent limitations.

Self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity as well as area test well quality and water depth is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire September 30, 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 August 30, 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 August 30, 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) 327-5874, 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-83-008

BULLETIN BOARD

"FOUR CORNERS" SHOWING

The film "Four Corners: A National Sacrifice Area" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. on July 28 at the public library in Sheridan, Wyoming. The showing is sponsored by the Powder River Basin Resource Council and admission will be \$1. "Four Corners" depicts the threats to the Southwest's Colorado Plateau from energy development. It was reviewed in *HGN* on May 13, 1983.

PUT THE SUN TO WORK

The Solar Energy Association of Oregon will sponsor its annual conference October 14 and 15 at the Eugene Hilton, Eugene, Oregon. "Solar '83: Putting the Sun to Work" is the theme. The conference will offer the latest information on photovoltaics, the pros and cons of superinsulation, building code updates and other current developments. For more information, contact Allen Brown, 2637 S.W. Water Ave., Portland, Ore. 97201, 503/224-7867.

ANOTHER DAM SAFETY STUDY

The Challis National Forest in Idaho is studying and preparing an environmental assessment on methods to remedy potential safety hazards on the Buster Lake Dam. Public comments will be accepted until August 12. To obtain more information or to submit comments contact Lew Curry, Forest Supervisor's Office, Challis, Idaho 83226, 208/879-2285.

CAPITOL REEF PLAN

The National Park Service has published its Record of Decision on the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Statement of Findings for the General Management Plan for Capitol Reef National Park, Utah. The record describes what decisions were made and what alternatives were considered. For copies of the decision or more information, contact the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the National Park Service, 655 Parfet St., P.O. Box 25287, Denver, Colo. 80225.

GATEWAY ENERGY CONFERENCE

The Gateway Energy Conference will be held November 2-4 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of technical and useful information on current energy issues for engineers and managers in business, industry and government. Topics include alternative energy sources, energy management, economics of energy and conventional energy sources. For further information contact Lorrie Evans, Conference Secretary, 118 Electrical Engineering, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, Missouri 65401, 314/341-4532.

ADOBE TOWN/FERRIS MTS. HEARING

A public hearing will be held July 26 on the draft environmental impact statement for the Adobe Town/Ferris Mountains Bureau of Land Management wilderness study areas of southwest and south central Wyoming. The hearing will be held at the Jeffrey Center in Rawlins at 7 p.m. Under consideration are 102,366 acres in Carbon and Sweetwater counties. Copies of the draft EIS are available at the Rawlins District Office of the BLM, 1300 3rd Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301, 307/324-7171. Public comments on the draft can be submitted to the same address until October 6.

ADVISORY POSITIONS OPEN

The Colorado Bureau of Land Management is accepting nominations for membership on the state's four district advisory councils. Each district will fill three positions in specific categories of interest for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1984. The council's function is to advise the district managers on programs and policies concerning management of the public lands within the districts. Nominations will be accepted until August 15 and should include name, address, telephone, biographical sketch, and category of interest in which the nominee is best qualified. For more information on the categories, or to submit nominations, contact the appropriate district office. BLM district offices in Colorado are: Grand Junction District Office, 764 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, Colo. 81501; Craig District Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, Colo. 81626; Montrose District Office, 2465 S. Townsend, Montrose, Colo. 81402; Canon City District Office, 3080 East Main Street, Canon City, Colo. 81212.

REFORM ACT COMMENTS EXTENDED

The Bureau of Reclamation is extending the comment period for the proposed regulations to implement the 1982 Reclamation Reform Act. The public will have until August 5 to submit comments. The proposed regulations define eligibility for obtaining federal water for the expanded acreage limitations of the new law and discuss other aspects of the Reform Act, including excess lands, appraisal of lands, water conservation, leasing arrangements and operation and maintenance charges. Copies of the proposed regulations are available from the Bureau's regional offices in Amarillo, Tex.; Denver, Colo.; Billings, Mont.; Boise, Ida.; Boulder City, Nev.; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Sacramento, Calif. To submit comments or obtain more information, contact Vern Cooper, Bureau of Reclamation, Engineering and Research Center, Acreage Limitation Branch, Code D-410, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, Colo. 80225.

ADVISORS WANTED

The Rock Springs (Wyo.) Bureau of Land Management is accepting nominations for membership on its District Advisory Council. Three positions are open for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1984. The categories of interest up for nomination are recreation, public-at-large and transport-rights-of-way. Nominations should include name, address, telephone number, biographical sketch and category of interest for which the nominee appears best qualified. The District Advisory Council advises District Manager Don Sweep on land management issues in the district. Send nominations to the BLM District Office, Box 1869, Rock Springs, Wyo. 82902 by Aug. 15, 1983.

BEAR SCOPING

The Shoshone National Forest is undertaking a study to evaluate ways of limiting visitor use impacts on the grizzly bear. The study will evaluate several permit systems that could be used. A scoping statement is available which explains the study, discusses objectives, identifies some issues and concerns, and describes the management tools and alternatives being considered. Copies of the scoping statement are available at the Forest Service offices in Powell, Cody, Meeteetse, Dubois and Lander, Wyo. For further information contact Charles Riggs, Shoshone National Forest, 225 W. Yellowstone Ave., Cody, Wyo. 82414.

FIRE IN THE WILDERNESS

The fire management plan for the Great Bear Wilderness and the northern two-thirds of the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana has been approved and is scheduled for implementation this summer. The plan allows for fire to play a more natural role in the wilderness complex. Some lightning-caused fires will be permitted to burn with careful monitoring to contain the fire within prescribed areas. Precautions will be taken to advise visitors of fire situations and to insure their safety. Copies of the new plan are available at the Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office, P.O. Box 147, Kalispell, Mont. 59901.

PUBLIC INPUT WANTED

Public input is being solicited by the Craig District Bureau of Land Management office for the resource management plan and environmental impact statement for the Little Snake Resource Area in northwestern Colorado. Concerns may be submitted at public meetings in Denver on July 18 at the Ramada Inn; in Steamboat Springs on July 19 at the Yampa Valley Electric Building; and in Craig on July 21 at the Craig/Moffat County Library. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Written comments may be submitted by August 26 to Robert Haburchak, Area Manager, BLM, Little Snake Resource Area, P.O. Box 1136, Craig, Colo. 81626, 303/824-4441.

VIRGIN RIVER DAM

The Bureau of Land Management has released a draft environmental assessment on the proposed Quail Creek Reservoir west of Hurricane, Utah. The plans include a 73-foot high diversion dam on the Virgin River and 9.5 miles of pipeline. The water stored is intended for irrigation, municipal use and recreation. Comments on the document will be accepted until Aug. 1 at the Dixie Resource Area Office. Copies are available at the BLM Dixie Resource Area, 24 East St. George Blvd., St. George, Utah 84770.

DAM WORKSHOP

"Dams: Damned If You Do, Damned If You Don't" is the title of the eighth annual water workshop to be held August 1-3 at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado. Topics include dam economics, safety, management, politics and alternatives. The sponsors are the Rural Communities Institute of Western State College and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The cost for the entire seminar is \$100 for advance registration. For more information, contact Theo Colburn, Rural Communities Institute, Western State College, Gunnison, Colo. 81230, 303/943-2029.

ACID RAIN GUIDE

The National Wildlife Federation has prepared a teacher's guide on acid rain for grades four through 12. The 11-page booklet explains what acid rain is, what it does to the environment and how students can help fight the problem. "The Acid Rain Teacher's Kit" (item 79678) can be ordered for \$1 from the NWF, 1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

BITTERROOT TIMBER SALE

Comments are being solicited on two proposed timber sales and a road construction plan near Painted Rocks Lake in the Bitterroot National Forest of Montana. An environmental assessment for the Kraft Gulch and Mud Basin sales and the Hughes Creek South transportation plan is being prepared. Issues of concern may include economics, visual impacts and regeneration. Comments and questions on any of the issues can be sent until Sept. 30 to the West Fork Ranger Station, Darby, Mont. 59829.

AUDUBON ART SHOW

The fourth annual Audubon Wildlife Art Show will be held in Lander, Wyo. September 13-18. All artists who feature Wyoming residential and migratory flora and fauna are invited to enter the show. Three original works may be submitted in the professional, advanced amateur, amateur, teen or child categories. Entry forms and fees are due Aug. 29. Brochures and further information can be obtained from the AAS, Box 701, Lander, Wyo. 82520, 307/332-3665.

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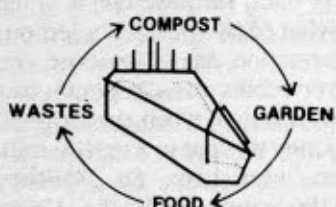
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14-High Country News — July 22, 1983

OPINION

A bad decision for badlands wilderness

Some people like Paris. Some like beaches. Others, mountains. Me, I like deserts. If you ever want to hear what quiet really sounds like, visit the desert on a summer night and listen. That, my friends, is silence.

Of course, I see the desert differently than a lot of other folks. To take an example at random, I see the desert differently than the Bureau of Land Management. I think certain deserts would make dandy wilderness areas. The BLM does not.

BLM has recently issued its draft environmental impact statement covering the Adobe Town area of the Wyoming Basin in south-central Wyoming. The proposed alternative for the areas — totaling 81,871 acres — is "no wilderness, intensive resource management."

BLM has criteria for off-road vehicle designation, road and pipeline location, reclamation of disturbed areas, unitized gas field development plans and standard operating procedures. I didn't find anything in the EIS about silence. Granted, this is hard to measure on a scale of one to 10.

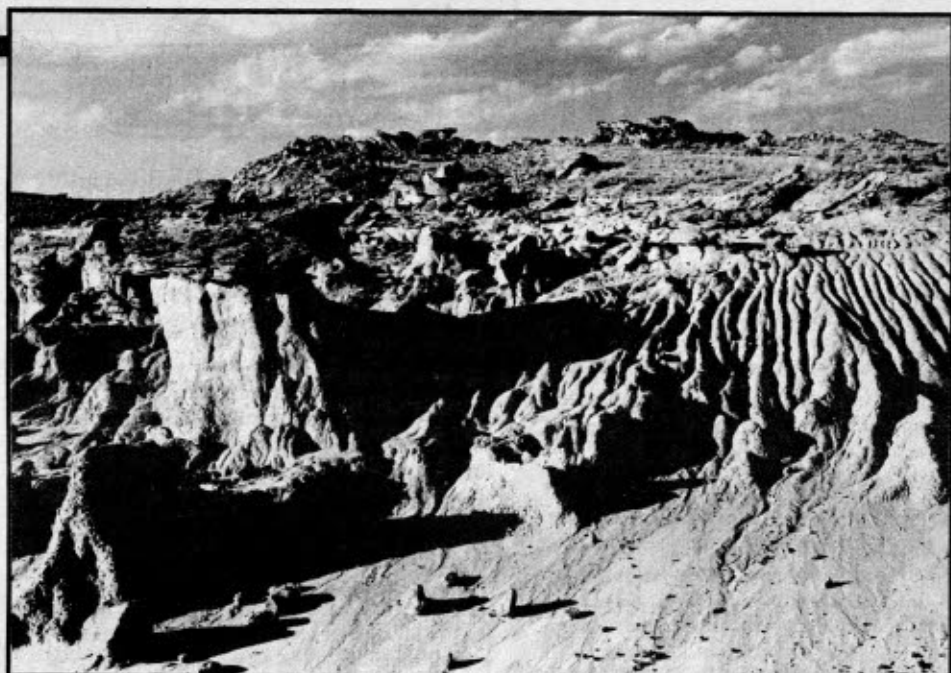
Here's what BLM saw in Adobe Town: "The vegetation in the Adobe Town WSA is sparse and visually dominated by shrubby plants such as big sagebrush, black greasewood and several species of saltbush. Grasses and forbs are intermingled with the shrubs and there are a few junipers in the area. The plants supply food and cover for livestock, wildlife and wild horses.

"Soils consist of clays and clay loams overlain, for the most part, by stabilized sand dunes."

Doesn't sound like much, does it?

When U.S. Geological Survey founder Clarence King visited Adobe Town, the usually professional and restrained geologist saw "Egyptian fortresses" in the desert landscape.

A visitor named Cope — his first name has been lost to history — wrote, "We strike Bitter Creek and follow it west into a howling wilderness, where the water is scarce and bad, with grizzly bears plenty . . . As I proceeded, I found the marks of mankind — the most dangerous animal of these wilds."



Adobe Town

And, when I visited the area in the summer of 1975, I wrote, "From a distance, the mountains look like a series of crayoned, inverted cones — like haystacks piled upon one another in technicolor."

In its EIS, the BLM admits that Adobe Town has substantial wilderness value. It provides solitude, rugged topography, a maze of small canyons and draws. "The erosional landforms are perhaps the area's most outstanding feature," the BLM said with its genius for understatement. "Although similar landforms are found elsewhere in southern Wyoming, these are perhaps the most spectacular."

Further along, the agency admits that under the proposed action, "the wilderness resource of Adobe Town would be irreversibly and irretrievably lost."

The reason for this loss is one you've heard before — oil and gas leases. The area has been leased for oil and gas and the agency can't abrogate "prior existing rights" on the land.

Well, I for one am tired of all the good places getting locked up in oil leases. The government commits them to a single use so that only the wealthy — people who can afford oil leases in the first place and can then buy \$16,000 four-by-fours to get to them — can enjoy them.

BLM should recommend Adobe Town for wilderness designation. Then all of us could enjoy it and leave it relatively undisturbed, instead of allowing only one special interest group, which promises irreversible and irretrievable damage, to benefit from the area.

— DSW

Are we ready for the three-day work week?

by William Voigt, Jr.

From misty memory emerges the figure of a youngster on the outskirts of Atlanta, pulling a little red wagon into the woods across the road to pick a pot of berries or sweet purple muscadine grapes, a load of American chestnuts or hickory nuts — whatever might be in season and fit to eat.

Dad later taught that youngster to fish and hunt, sports that also often brought meat to our table. Over the years I've berried and nutted and fished and

GUEST EDITORIAL

hunted in most of the lower 48 states. In doing so, I revert to what was necessity, not pastime, in the Age of Hunting and Gathering that preoccupied mankind in the species' first three and a half million or so years of existence.

About 10,000 years ago, the Age of Agriculture was born as humanity learned to cultivate the soil and make use of tamed wild plants and domesticated beasts such as the cow, horse, sheep, goat and chicken. Most people who thought about it at all probably figured the Age of Agriculture would continue indefinitely as the economic kingpin of earth, but, by comparison with the hunting and gathering period, agriculture had a brief reign. By the time the United States could call itself an independent nation, the Industrial Age had come on the scene and was taking charge. It, too, seemed invincible.

Now, just a little more than 200 years later, the Industrial Age is on the verge of abdicating in favor of an aggregation of high technology newcomers. These include the computer, the robot, the extraordinary laser and the mysterious but promising science of gene manipulation sometimes called bio-engineering.

We are not likely to entirely abandon the Industrial Age. It will continue in a lesser role, even as we still go hunting and gathering. And we certainly won't drop the corporate agriculture that keeps our bellies bulging. However, our world does face a mass of changes in its way of living. Just about everyone on earth will be affected, but exactly how, and if for good or ill has not yet shown up in full detail.

What does seem certain is that the new technology must surely plant one more big mile marker for both labor and management: the end of the five-day work week. This has critical implications. No, that won't come for everyone, and it may not arrive for many blue- or white-collar workers until, say, the end of the century — which is little more than 16 years ahead — but come it will. Here is a sampling of what we've seen and heard from the pundits lately:

- *Esquire*, April, 1983: By 1990 the number of robots in the United States will increase from today's 6,000 to between 100,000 and 200,000.

- *Nation's Business*, May, 1983: Amazing cost savings and profits will come to American business because of the proliferation of ever more versatile and efficient computers.

- CBS Evening News, May 30, 1983: "Gene splicing" will guarantee a huge increase in the production of foods and fibers around the world.

- *The Rotarian*, June, 1983: Fantastic tasks will be performed with lasers, in industry, science, health, by the military, and especially in the field of communications.

- *U.S. News & World Report*, May 9, 1983: This one outdid everybody with a 42-page spectacular on the wondrous things the next 50 years will bring. Every now and then there was a cautionary phrase or clause, here and there even a whole sentence, but otherwise even the sky wasn't the limit.

That's the good news. In the *Esquire* story an official of a big investment house said there would be significant "cost benefits" in connection with labor and because of improvements beyond "other traditional automated devices." Translation: fewer people on the payroll, with robots ordered about by computers doing the dirty work.

Nation's Business was downright cagey about the extent to which the computer will permit a cutting down of the work force. However, *Newsweek* for March 21, 1983, said flatly that the "smokestack" world is on its last legs. Blue-collar workers, once-upon-a-time industrial "princes," are seeking jobs gone, their dreams shattered perhaps forever, with previously "proud men waiting in welfare lines and leaden-eyed women staring from windows." In its May 16, 1983 issue, the same magazine said the Department of Labor was hinting that unions would seek smaller wage increases because of fear of jobs being lost to automation. It hastened to add, though, that productivity per worker would increase, and for the same reason.

World Press Review, May, 1983, said Sweden was taxing "all machinery" in factories to recoup revenues lost when jobs are "automated away." In the same issue of *WPR* the editor of *The Economist* of London was interviewed. At one point he said our world was in transition, that those who can and will learn the new technology should do all right, but then there are all the rest here and all over the earth, especially in the "LDCs," those "less developed countries," where the birth rate is astronomical and seems not about to slow down. What will be their plight while high and middle income Americans and their opposite numbers in certain other "advanced" nations are racing into the glories of the new era?

Unemployment rates in the advanced

nations may be low for those who have the capacity and opportunity to fit into a high tech era, but the outlook is not so bright for all those others all over our world who don't, and humanity doesn't appear at all ready to come to grips with the one factor above all others that just does not seem about to go away. This is the rapid population increase that goes on and on in most of the nations of earth. The population of the United States is growing at a pace that will put over 300 million of us on the census rolls early in the 21st century.

The Amicus Journal, Fall, 1981, used quotes indicating the world population would be between 10 and 12 billion a century from now. Robert McNamara, retired head of the World Bank, said that the gravity of the population threat was being underestimated by world leaders while hard choices become more insistent. Zero Population Growth, in a paper used in a briefing last spring of people from member groups of the Natural Resources Council of America, said this country has for years been telling other nations they should set population stabilization policies — but we have none of our own.

We have a way of assuring ourselves that each new so-called labor-saving device won't take jobs away but will create new ones. The same tale is being heard in what *USNE-WR* has labeled our new "Information Age." However, the record often rebuts that. I suspect it was being said in Britain when the original spinning jenny was put in a textile mill, and when, over here, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in the 1790s and went on to make interchangeable parts for rifles for the Army in the early 1800s. It has occurred with almost every new industrial invention. All of them combined failed to prevent our creeping into two-digit unemployment in these first years of the 1980s.

(continued on next page)

LETTERS

FLEXIBLE HART

Dear HCN,

Your review of Gary Hart's environmental record (*HCN*, 7/8/83) was generally well balanced. However, Gary voted for the MX missile regularly and consistently until two years ago when the Pentagon decided they might base it in Colorado.

Since he is now organizing a filibuster opposing it, his admirers can speculate whether his patterns are flexible, wishy-washy or simply slow to emerge.

Bob McFarland
Boulder, Colorado

GOOD WORK

Dear HCN,

Don Snow has been doing great things! His writing is excellent, and we appreciate the Montana focus.

Thanks for your work. You spoil us with good journalism.

Jack Schmidt
Barbara Rusmore
Helena, Montana

ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETING

Dear HCN,

I found the observations in your article, "The state of the environmental movement" (*HCN*, 5/27/83) most interesting, particularly the fact that although national environmental groups are growing, local groups in the West are not. I would like to add my own theory as to why this may be: Local environmental groups are failing to "market" their "product" — environmental issues — to the people.

While national environmental groups can capitalize on James Watt, local groups have failed, I feel, to use the mass media and established marketing techniques to focus attention on state and local environmental problems in order to gain membership and the badly needed support of public opinion.

In Colorado, for example, I feel it is a sad track record for the Sierra Club to only have 7,000 members when the city of Denver alone has a population in excess of a million people, many of them liberals sympathetic — but largely uninformed — about environmental

problems. I say uninformed because many of them, depending upon the Denver media for information, are totally unaware of many environmental issues and problems occurring throughout the state. That media, for example, has provided almost no coverage of controversies raging over several proposed water projects. Nor does that media often deal with the many growth issues impacting almost every community in the state. The list goes on, but the bottom line is that the television and print media for Denver, percentage wise, provide little coverage of environmental issues and much that is provided is slanted.

While environmental publications are invaluable for keeping memberships informed of critical issues, these publications, after all, are "preaching to the church choir," those already involved in environmental issues. These do not reach the hundreds of thousands of people outside of the environmental movement, as does the mass media.

I feel that it is vitally important that environmental groups in the West

become more sophisticated at recognizing the importance of the media and, like industry, learn to deal with that media on an almost daily basis, through press releases, media contacts, and when needed, paid advertising. It is hard, after all, to mobilize people behind environmental issues about which those people are largely ignorant.

Such marketing of the environmental viewpoint, I feel, would very rapidly increase memberships, sympathy for environmental issues, and quickly erode away at the information vacuum that industry and, to a large degree, elected officials are using to continue activity harmful to the quality of life in the West. Marketing, after all, determines the success or failure of products and determines the outcome of national elections. If we as environmentalists continue to fail to market our viewpoint in the West, our memberships will remain small and environmental quality will continue to be threatened.

Kathleene Parker
Denver, Colorado

3-day work week . . .

It has not been our nature in this country to tolerate excessive numbers of the permanently unemployed. Full employment has been as popular a slogan of organized labor and its favored candidates for public office as the "full dinner pail" and "a chicken in every pot" were to older generations. Our numbers of unemployed have wavered for some time just above and below the double-digit mark, and the figures have taken on some kind of symbolism as a break point where both the forces of labor and politicians of almost all leanings become constrained to throw tax dollars at it to try to make it vanish.

This time throwing money at the problem won't be enough. That *US&W*R extravaganza of May 9, 1983, while optimistic beyond comprehension in some respects, still had the wisdom to exercise caution now and then. The chief example is this paragraph:

The traditional 40-hour work week will go by the boards. Higher levels of productivity will permit wider use of job-sharing, flextime, and other innovative work schedules. The average work week will be down to 30 or 32 hours by the year 2000.

My prediction is that the factory work week may go as low as 24 hours, consisting of maybe three eight-hour shifts Monday-Wednesday or Thursday-Saturday, with each worker also getting Sundays off either at the beginning or the end of the work period. Numerous variations can and will be worked out to suit specific situations. Some people — such as those who persist in running family-size farms or ranches — will keep on working seven-day weeks, just as they have long been doing.

Shorter work weeks should not in themselves frighten us unduly. They've been with us here and there for decades. In fact, there may be as many people today working 35 to 37 hours a week as are working 40. What really bothers me is the number and variety of side effects we face.

Picture the scene: For multiplied millions of us there's suddenly that extra time every week without the habitual place to go, the habitual motions to make, the habitual things to do. Money and other adjustments will be painful. They already have been in many places.

The immensity of the psychological challenge alone of the approaching changes is staggering. However, all that free time will be a critical factor, perhaps harder to handle than changing work times and conditions. We must

hope many will use their new leisure for self-improvement, looking toward the next spot up the career ladder or a change to something more satisfying. We must encourage participation, if only as a spectator, in cultural activities. More reading is a must, as is volunteerism of many sorts, including efforts to help men and women unable to cope. It is likely we will see a resurgence in the arts and humanities in our colleges and universities as the new age brings more need for such skills. Spectator sports undoubtedly will enjoy tremendous increases in popularity.

But what about the millions upon millions of the rest of us? Shall all the hours be spent in front of the tube as the flab thickens about our middles?

A great deal of the coming new leisure will be used in the kinds of outdoor recreation that require no spectator benches. These can be strenuous or mild, and *can* make us healthier and happier. The problem is that we seem nowhere near ready for the onslaught facing our out-of-doors. Our established national, state, and local park systems are the wonder of the rest of the world, but they have been filled to overflowing for years.

As far back as 1924, Calvin Coolidge, perhaps our most underrated president in resource conservation matters, which is another story, called a conference of national leaders to discuss how to handle the already bothersome lack of outdoor recreation facilities. Such recreation was rising fast in popularity even then, spurred by the millions of "tin lizzies" being turned out on Henry Ford's revolutionary assembly lines and the drive for better roads the automobile industry eagerly promoted. Coolidge told the 300 people at the conference he wanted Americans to use their growing leisure time for "enjoyment," but also to "strengthen the quality of citizenship." He had recognized that the leading role must be "taken by the national government."

That was the premise on which Joseph W. Penfold, conservation director of the Izaak Walton League of America, built his concept of a national study, which became the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review, 1958-1962, chaired by Laurance Rockefeller and directed by Francis Sargent, who later became governor of Massachusetts. The ORRRC Report, in 28 volumes, brought on the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which Interior Secretary Watt has tried mightily to reduce to zero except for certain Park Service purposes; and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, which Watt wiped out with a stroke of his pen. ORRRC led to creation of a score or more of national seashores and such, and many

times that number of state and local recreation areas.

By the beginning of the 1970s the sheer weight of humanity pressing against Mother Nature was laying her bare and vulnerable. The Park Service in 1972 used the centennial of Yellowstone National Park as the peg on which to hang a symposium at Yosemite where it was hoped guidance for the next century might evolve. The Conservation Foundation then published a report volume titled *National Parks for the Future*, in which much food for thought may be found. Attention tended to center on problems of urban dwellers, and there was much discussion of whether advance reservations in parks should be mandatory everywhere. Follow-up was sparse. Reservations are required on a spotty scale in our national park camping areas, and, of course, for rooms at hotels and motels run by concessioners. If you want to rent a modern cabin in a state park in Georgia and most other areas for a week or weekend in summer, it is wise to start asking in January.

Probably more significant is the fact that the national government leadership Coolidge called for so long ago seems totally missing today. True, Secretary Watt retained the career National Park Service director in office, and has given that agency a better budget in some respects, but the general outlook in the federal establishment is bleak. One honored retired assistant director of a recreation agency wrote me there'd be no improvement "until we get the present administration out of our hair."

That won't be easy. The poor manners of some outdoor recreation devotees are causing "No Trespassing" posters to go up on thousands of acres of once open private land. Nearly all old-line conservation organizations, and a good many others, are supporting the "Outdoor Ethics" program begun in 1980 by the Izaak Walton League of America with help, then or later, from the J.N. (Ding) Darling Foundation, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the Fred Bear Sports Club. Even so, Jack Lorenz, the IWLA's executive director, tells me the going is neither easy nor smooth.

A prestigious group assembled by Resources for the Future, Inc., a Washington think tank, has issued *Outdoor Recreation for America, 1983*, subtitled "An Assessment Twenty Years After the Report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission." A letter of transmittal to Laurance Rockefeller, so active in the original ORRRC, comments on the "extraordinary changes" that have taken place in American life and says its "central finding" is that outdoor recreation is "more important than ever" as "a fundamental expression of our national character." It

"has become a major component of the health and fitness movement and remains a powerful force in the drive for environmental quality." Despite this, the letter laments that "governments at all levels have been retrenching and providing less recreational opportunity." It sees "a growing gap between performance and need" and asks for revitalization of government policy, led by a new "commission based on the successful model of the original ORRRC."

Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) has introduced a bill in Congress with bipartisan support to establish a National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission. The new commission would succeed the old one and recommend policies for governments at state, federal and local levels to "assure the continued availability of quality outdoor recreation experiences in America to the year 2000."

In his speech in the Senate introducing the legislation, Wallop said, "There have been suggestions that the manifold changes in American society and government were great enough to warrant a fresh, broad scale examination of recreation policy . . . Technology, and a search for adventure, have combined to make traditional outdoor recreation activities accessible to the public."

Will such an effort be enough, even if it is carried out fully in the near future, with appropriate follow-through? One day notices will start going up on factory and office bulletin boards all over America saying, "Beginning the first of the month this place will work a three-day week" or the equivalent.

We bear a reputation as a nation of having a "crisis" mentality. We tend to wait until all hell is about to break loose before we act. This has put us in many a bind before now. We seem to be eternally playing catch-up. Will we hunker down on our duffs until those signs start going up before we seriously try to find workable solutions to the problems that already smolder and will explode in fury when that day actually arrives? Ample and sensibly managed outdoor recreation has a legitimate place in whatever we do, whenever and however we do it.

+++

William Voight, Jr. is the author of *Public Grazing Lands*, a study of the federal lands in the West. The book can be obtained by joining the Public Lands Institute. Voight now lives in Blackshear, Georgia.



16-High Country News — July 22, 1983

Brant Calkin

"Keeping Tense" in New Mexico

by Bryan Welch



The sign on his desk says "Keep Tense," but that wording seems inaccurate. New Mexico's Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources seems not so much tense as infectious enthusiasm.

"Basically, what we want to do is get more goddamn people involved," Brant Calkin said. "We have to let people feel that they have a personal stake in the environment."

To many New Mexicans, Calkin seemed an unlikely candidate for the position to which he was appointed late last year. Gov. Toney Anaya (D) made no pretense, in Calkin's case, of appointing a moderate, facile bureaucrat to his cabinet. The deputy secretary is, in truth and in reputation, an avid, outspoken environmentalist.

Elected chairman of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club in 1969, Calkin developed a distinguished enough reputation to gain the office of national president of the club in 1976. Since 1970, he has been the executive director of the club's Frontera del Norte Fund and from 1977 until his recent appointment, he was employed as the Sierra Club's Southwest representative. Meanwhile, he has served as chairman of the New Mexico Wilderness Commission and as a member of the New Mexico Council of Ecological Advisors, the BLM Multiple Use Advisory Board, the National Petroleum Council, the

"Some people have said, 'You're crazy. All you're doing is going out and asking the public to give you a lot of grief.'"

— Brant Calkin

Department of Energy's "Energy Advisory Committee" and the state's Legislative Subdivision Task Force, Land Use Advisory Council, Air and Water Pollution Advisory Committee, Range Management Task Force and Energy Conservation Commission.

His detractors, Calkin said, "are doubly suspicious now — of what I've done in the private sector, and what I might do in the public sector. The change is not one of attitude. I just have a chance to work on the very same things from a different point of leverage."

The New Mexico Department of Natural Resources oversees the state's forests, parks and recreation, and soil and water conservation programs. Because the department's financial resources are extremely limited, its primary role in the state has been spreading the good word about prudent management policies in regard to natural resources, and administering the many state parks as good examples of sound management as well as samples of New Mexico's varied natural environment. Natural Resources Department personnel work in conjunction with the staffs of the state Water Engineer, the Game and Fish Department, the Energy and Minerals Department and the Health and Environment Department.

Calkin and Secretary of Natural Resources Shirley Hill Witt (who recently announced her resignation, effective August 4) decided at the outset of their administration that the goal was not to enlarge the department through the usual bureaucratic tactic of funding increases, but to build a "grass-roots campaign" of environmental education through interested persons throughout the state and in the department. These days, Calkin spends most of his time on the telephone, pacing

behind his desk while he implores someone in Clovis or Lordsburg or Albuquerque to join the campaign. Hearing how excited he is about it, one can hardly help wanting to join.

"We haven't sold our department or our concerns the way we should have," the deputy secretary explained. "I can't believe how ignorant individuals and governments have been in terms of development. Most of downtown Albuquerque is below the bed of the Rio Grande. What I would like to do is set up a sales program for soil and water conservation," he said, through the "grass-roots" channel of 47 soil and water conservation districts across the state, currently run by volunteers. In the next legislative session, Calkin plans to introduce a bill to fund those districts, so that the information in the possession of the experts in Santa Fe can make its way out into the rest of the state. On the part of the public, he said, "there is a growing interest in learning how to serve."

Calkin believes, basically, that everyone is interested in protecting the environment if shown simple, efficient ways of accomplishing such protection. And he believes that if more members of the public are directly involved in the programs of the natural resources department, more people will develop a vital interest in conservation issues.

"Some people have said, 'You're crazy. All you're doing is going out and asking the public to give you a lot of grief,'" Calkin said. "But we think we have a great opportunity here, to get people involved with protecting their state before it's too late. Perhaps if the people in New Jersey had been more informed, Love Canal would not have

developed. We have a great opportunity here, but the thing that will kill it is ignorance. In four years, if there aren't a whole lot more people concerned, we've clearly failed."

For New Mexico's environment, Calkin recognizes that time is of the essence. The state is the site of aggressive mineral exploration and development, hazardous waste storage and some fierce battles over the use of public and agricultural land. In the north, water rights which were traditionally allocated to agricultural land are being set aside for subdivision and development for recreational purposes. A Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is being constructed as the nation's first try at permanently putting away radioactive waste. The southeast and the San Juan Basin, in the northwest, are targets for widespread rapid development of coal, uranium, oil and natural gas resources.

"We need to get people from places like Pueblo Pintado, Bloomfield and Nageezi (in the San Juan) involved," Calkin said. "We can succeed as a small department because we plan to multiply our efforts by having a lot of people involved and interested." In Calkin's first meeting with Secretary Witt, she concurred. "We've got to invest in getting some help," she said.

Fifteen years as an advocate for environmental issues in New Mexico has earned Calkin some strange "bedfellows," and convinced him that conservation is a vital issue to many unlikely persons around the state. A Socorro rancher, for instance, was in Santa Fe frequently, a few years ago, to oppose protection of the state's mountain lions by designating them "game animals." After battling the rancher for several years, Calkin became one of his friends and learned from his wife that the man who worked so hard to prevent protection for the big cats was incapable of killing one of the animals himself. Even when solid proof was provided that the predator was eating his cattle, the rancher had to ask his wife to shoot the menace.

"An awful lot of hate has been directed towards people who work on environmental issues," Calkin admitted. "But most people who have worked in opposition to me are reluctant to follow that in their personal relationships," he said, adding that even the most fervent anti-conservationists are ultimately educable.

What people on both sides of New Mexico's environmental battle often share, according to Brant Calkin, is concern and love for the country. It is that concern which he believes is consistent across the geographic and political barriers of the complex state, and can become the cornerstone of a new popular awareness of conservation issues.

"This is where we choose to be," Calkin said, "and it's very easy to make a commitment to improving it."

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Bryan Welch is a reporter in Taos, New Mexico. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.



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