High Country news

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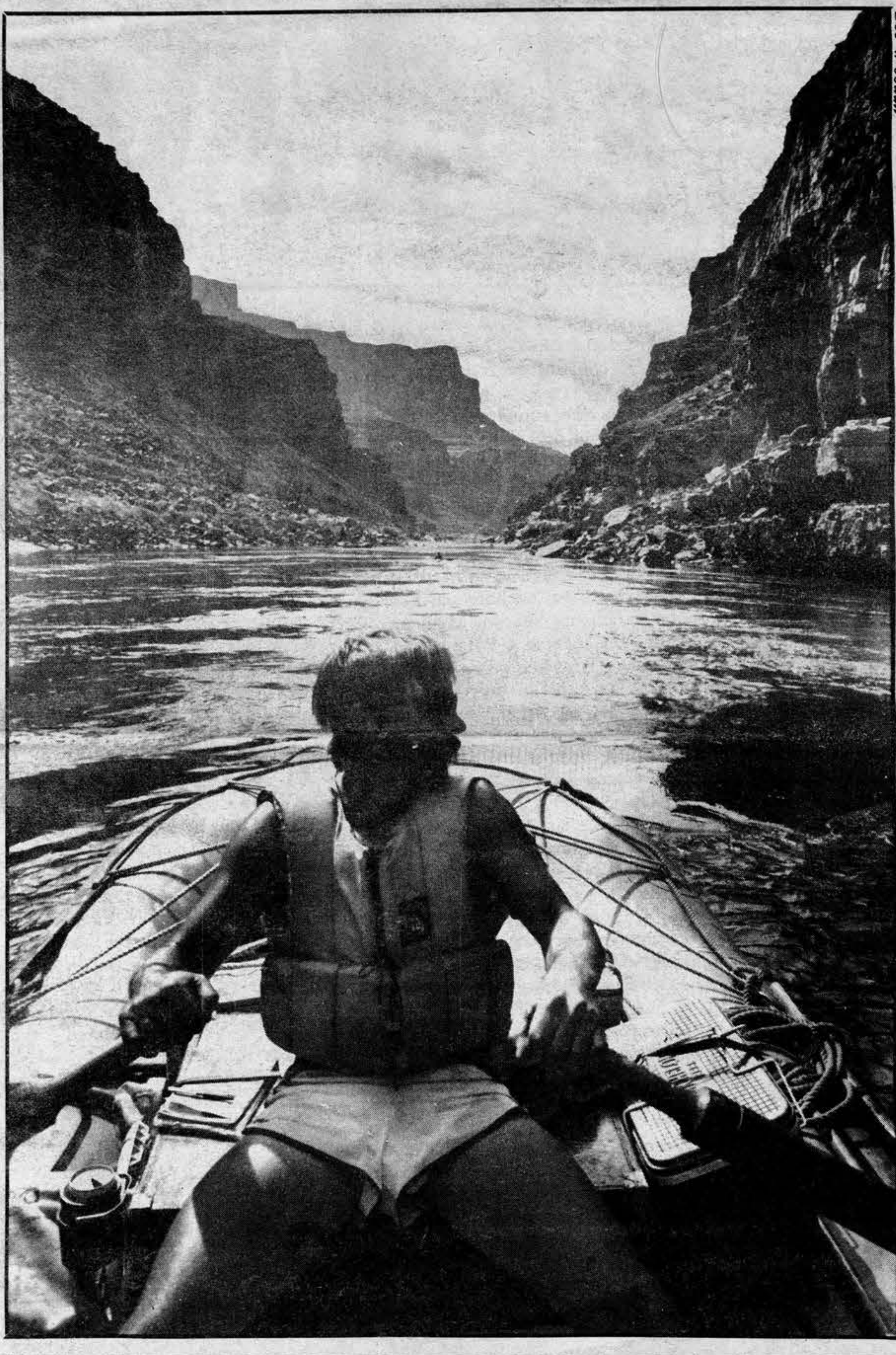

Bob Woodall

The Big Dam Era on the Colorado River enters a new stage

by Ed Marston

Because there has been a great deal of talk about western water shortages and the apparent end of the nation's federally-financed Big Dam Era, some assume that the Colorado River and its many tributaries have reached a plateau so far as development goes. Nothing could be less true.

Instead, the stage is now being set for a legal and physical reworking of the Colorado River. Taken separately, the potential changes are not major. Taken together, their effect could be as large as the 1956 Colorado River Storage Project Act, which authorized Glen Canyon Dam, Flaming Gorge, and Curecanti.

The physical fate of the 1,400-mile-long Colorado River is at stake. Also at stake is how, and perhaps whether, Arizona and Colorado will develop. Water is running out in the over-appropriated Colorado River, and Arizona and Colorado are in a race for the dribbles that remain now that California has slaked its thirst.

The action covers the entire river, starting at the headwaters in Western Colorado, and proceeding downstream to Lake Powell and Glen Canyon Dam in Utah, through the Grand Canyon, and finally to the complex of dams dominated by Hoover in Boulder City, Nevada.

At the top of the river, the urbanizing Front Range of Colorado, located outside of the Colorado River basin, is moving with unity and confidence to build the massive 1.1 million acre-foot Two Forks Reservoir. It would take water out of the headwater streams of the Colorado and pipe it through the mountains.

Far down river, at Hoover Dam, a potential rewinding of the 50-year-old generators would provide key financing for completion of the Central Arizona Project. CAP is a multi-billion-dollar project that will transport 1.2 million acre-feet of Colorado River water to Phoenix starting in 1985, and later to Tucson. The use of revenues out of Hoover is an important way around Congressional reluctance to appropriate money for water projects.

Upstream of Hoover Dam and the Grand Canyon, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has started rewinding Glen Canyon's generators. The rewinding will produce more power. But it could also send more water downstream, further threatening the Grand Canyon's beaches and riparian habitat.

The importance of the rewinding of Glen Canyon's turbines goes beyond possibly accelerated erosion of Grand Canyon beaches. Glen Canyon may look like a dam. But like Hoover, it is a money machine, turning falling water first into electricity and then into cash.

Glen Canyon and its Colorado River Storage Project compatriots were conceived by Congress as mother dams, paying for smaller, less profitable irrigation projects throughout the Upper Basin states of Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico

[Continued on page 10]

Dear friends,

There are miles, and then there are miles. The four-mile *High Country News*/Burrell's Market footrace on May 26 wasn't long by today's standards, where every other person runs 26-mile marathons one weekend and does triathalons the next. But as many of the 37 competitors pointed out, what miles there were in our footrace were Real Miles.

The race started at 1 P.M. on a bright green day in the Paonia town park and was conventional enough for the first five paved city blocks. But five blocks in almost any direction takes you out of Paonia. In this case, it took the runners, aged 8 to 41, onto a steeply-climbing dirt trail that led to a large irrigation ditch.

Normally, the ditch is crossable only by swimming. But this being a footrace rather than a biathalon, Buzz Burrell of Burrell's Market and *HCN* staffer Mary Moran had laid a wobbly two-by-twelve board across the ditch. The 'bridge' proved serviceable, but people scurried rather than ran across it.

From the ditch, the course climbed steadily along dirt trails for almost two miles -- to a height of several hundred feet above the town of 1,400 -- before turning onto a downward trending trail and then onto the road along the irrigation ditch leading back to town.

It was no accident that the race course and irrigation ditches were intertwined. Paonia and its surrounding fruit orchards are green only because of a network of reservoirs and ditches which lead mountain snowmelt down to crops and lawns. In the old days, the roads bordering the ditches were used mainly by ditchriders on the lookout for dam-building beavers and burrowing muskrats. Today, even in a traditional town like Paonia, they've become greenbelts for joggers and mountain bikers.

We'd like to say that readers came from all over America for the race, but that wouldn't be true. However, people looking for an excuse to stretch their legs did come from all over Western Colorado. They were rewarded with the comradeship of the race course and, for the winners, free dinners in local restaurants and free *HCN* T-shirts.

The overall winner was Kenny Metcalf of Cedaredge, who finished the four miles in 21:11, taking the under-20 category. Buzz Burrell of Paonia took the 20 to 40 category with 22:54. Ginger Egger of Pea Green

Runoff runners get ready *HCN*

(don't look for it on a map) was the fastest woman at 28:42. The youngest, Drek Rupel of Montrose, finished in 39 minutes.

After the race, runners could help empty a keg of beer (we discovered runners aren't big beer drinkers) and find food and amusement in the May Fair put on by Paonia's private Lamborn Valley School. The May Fair is the first of an unending number of town and regional festivals and rodeos Western towns put on between mud season and hunting season. Many are agriculturally oriented -- Potato Days, Cherry Days, Strawberry Days, Cattle Days -- but most are simple celebrations, as when homesick Midwestern expatriates import 10,000 White Castle hamburgers to remind them of what a really good heartburn feels like.

The footrace last year in Lander, Wyoming, was followed by an *HCN* board meeting at which it was decided to move the paper to Paonia. The move created some journalistic discontinuities. But today continuity is again in the saddle, as stories that appeared in earlier issues are followed up in current issues. This paper has two examples.

The story on the Montana Supreme Court decision on rafting and fishing involved a familiar name -- Paul Curran. Sure enough, we found Curran mentioned in a 1983 story by writer Don Snow on the Montana gas pipeline dispute. In that story Snow had written about Curran's penchant for driving trucks over inflated rafts.

An obscure press release from the Colorado Division of Wildlife triggered another memory. We had written in October 1983 about three alleged Colorado elk poachers being protected by Oklahoma governor Nigh. As this issue shows, two of the poachers decided that life with a felony warrant is no life at all.

The lead story looks at water development in the Colorado River Basin. It attempts to describe what we think is an historic moment -- the shift from dependence on the U.S. Treasury for funding of water projects to dependence on electric power revenues generated within the West.

By rights, given the mistake we understand we made a month ago on the Glen Canyon spillways, we should not again write about water. Using a writer who asked to be anonymous, quoting a Bureau of Reclamation Engineer who asked to be anonymous, the story said the spillways would not be ready by early summer, as the Bureau was insisting. We now understand that while all the bells and whistles won't be completed, the spillways will be ready as scheduled. We would love to swear off Deepthroat Journalism, but even this latest word comes anonymously from within the Bureau.

--the staff

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Montana's streams opened to recreation

Montana residents can wade, float or fish any stream in the state, so long as they stay within the high water marks. The recreational right is a result of a 6 to 1 Montana Supreme Court decision on May 15.

Although the decision strongly favors those who would float or fish streams over property owners who would exclude people from the stream, the recreational rights are not absolute. The public has no right to reach the stream by crossing private land, or to leave the stream to enter onto private land.

The ruling was hailed by conservation groups, according to the *Great Falls Tribune*, and deplored by agricultural groups such as the Woolgrowers Association. The decision resulted from a lawsuit brought by the Montana Coalition for Stream Access and two state agencies against rancher D. Michael Curran of Wolf Creek. Curran had attempted to restrict use of the Deerborn River, which flows through his property.

He attempted to restrict access in a rather direct fashion. According to writer Don Snow (*HCN* 11/14/83), Curran last summer "drove his pickup over an inflated river raft that sat poised to float the Deerborn River through his ranch."

Snow was writing about Curran in connection with construction of a controversial natural gas pipeline which, like the crushed raft, was slated to go through his land. In the case of the pipeline, Curran found himself in court on the side of conservation groups and labor unions opposing pipeline construction, partly on the grounds of environmental protection.

Curran told the *Tribune* that the court ruling constituted an uncompensated taking of private land, burdening them with a public easement. He said it also appeared to threaten landowners' right to develop mineral resources.

It is possible that the court ruling will not be the last word on river access. Agricultural interests may again try to put a stream access law through the Montana Legislature. An attempt in 1983 to limit access to streams large enough to float a raft or kayak was defeated. Whether or not an attempt is made may depend on how well fishermen, kayakers and landowners work together under the new rules.

--the staff

High Country News

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Elk antlers create a stimulating business

The U.S. balance of payments would be even more serious without the 7,500 elk who spend each winter in the National Elk Refuge near Jackson, Wyoming.

The several thousand pounds of antlers the bulls drop each year are collected in May by Boy Scouts and sold at an annual auction. Most are bought for export to the orient, where a 'soup' made from the antlers is prized as an aphrodisiac. The antlers come back to the elk in the form of hay they are fed during the winter.

Until 1983 the Jackson-area Boy Scouts had a monopoly on antler collection through a special permit from the Refuge. But poachers were reportedly active that year and the one-day harvest dropped sharply. The Boy Scouts did better this year.

The 1984 harvest of 6,600 pounds of antlers netted $44,000, or $6.66 a pound at the May 19 auction. That's way up from last year's 5,000 pounds, but down from 1982's 7,800 pounds. San Francisco resident Johnny Wang again bought most of the antlers -- 3,500 pounds for $20,000 -- for export to China and Korea. The other 49 buyers included artists who turn them into belt buckles and buttons, and people with bare spots in their dens or over their garage doors.

Antlers may weigh up to 15 pounds each, making them quite valuable. According to an article by Jim Robbins in the May 28 *Great Falls* [*MT*] *Tribune*, the poaching of antlers dropped by Yellowstone Park's 13,000 bull elk had zoomed. But increased patrolling of the 2.2 million-acre park coupled with heavy fines and jail sentences, has reduced the number of offenses. Antlers may legally be collected in National Forests.

--the staff

Anne Newcomb

1984 antler auction at Jackson, Wyoming

Critic says feds are energy 'gluttons'

According to a recent Government Accounting Office report, the Reagan administration is squandering more than $700 million annually by ignoring efficiency standards designed to control federal government energy consumption.

The report was released by Representative Richard Ottinger (D-NY), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power. Ottinger sharply criticized the Department of Energy and the Office of Management and Budget for failing to fulfill longstanding legislative and executive order mandates intended to improve federal energy management.

"If the President had been running a company, the stockholders would have fired him long ago for gross energy gluttony," said Ottinger.

"The President turned around five years of steady reductions in federal energy consumption by making bad jokes about energy conservation, eliminating thermostat restrictions in federal buildings, weakening the minimum efficiency standards for the federal automobile fleet, axing personnel in DOE's energy management office, and all but ignoring federal mandates to retrofit government buildings to maximum cost-effective levels," Ottinger charged.

The federal government is the nation's largest consumer of energy, accounting for roughly 2.5 percent of the country's total energy use, at a cost of approximately $14 billion per year. The GAO report notes that from 1975 through 1980, federal energy consumption declined from 317 million barrels of oil equivalent (MBOE) to 294 MBOE, or seven percent. However, after two years of the Reagan administration, consumption had risen back to 310 MBOE, nearly wiping out all the gains of the previous administrations.

The GAO found little improvement since their evaluation and recommendations of the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) in 1981. Until recently, staff was not available on a full-time basis, and despite inadequate funding since its inception, the Reagan administration axed FEMP's budget by 70 percent.

Ironically, it was DOE's own Energy Research Advisory Board, dominated by Reagan-appointed corporate executives, that came to the same conclusions as the GAO report in their 1983 assessment of federal energy management efforts. The government, the board concluded, lags far behind the private sector in purchasing efficient vehicles or efficiently operating buildings. AT&T, for example, used 12 percent less energy in 1982 than in 1973, even though the volume of business had grown more than 97 percent. To achieve similar savings both the Energy Board and the GAO concluded that there must be top management commitment and support for energy conservation programs, including data collection and monitoring systems, long-term planning and goal setting, line-item amounts included in federal agency budgets for retrofits/renovations and energy efficient purchases, and substantial funding increases in federal conservation research and development.

None of the recommendations have been heeded. In fact, the conservation research and development budget has been slashed from $743 million when Reagan took office in 1981 to $74 million requested by the administration for FY84.

"Status of the Federal Energy Management Program," Report RCED-84-86, may be ordered from GAO Documents, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20760. "Energy Conservation and the Federal Government," Report DOE/S-0017, is available from DOE Energy Research Advisory Board, Washington, D.C. 20585.

--Michael Totten

BARBED WIRE

What makes a flower bloom? Solar Utilization News reports that octogenarian Ted Handwerk got into trouble with his Denver-area neighbors recently by harboring an "eyesore" on his property. The eyesore was his compost pile. Handwerk reportedly explained, "I don't know what they're calling rubbish. It's the humus and organic matter that we put into the soil that helps us bring something back out." Handwerk raises 5000 petunias, marigolds and geraniums each year.

Four legs are better. Wisconsin Energy News reports that pigs allowed to set the temperature in their pens like less heat than farmers think they need. Spelling each other at a snout-depressible switch, pigs preferred a high of 80 degrees for an hour during the day and a low of 60 degrees one hour a night. Since farmers usually keep pens at a steady 80 degrees for young pigs, letting the animals control the thermostat cut natural gas costs by 50 percent.

HOTLINE

Moly mine revived

Although AMAX recently wrote off its entire $155 million investment in the Mt. Emmons molybdenum mine near Crested Butte, Colorado, two companies are close to buying a $20 million interest in the project. The Crested Butte *Chronicle* reports that the companies, U.S. Energy Corp. and a Riverton, Wyoming firm called Crested Butte Silver Mining, Inc., hope to be in production in two years with a leaner and longer-lasting operation. Up to 250 people would be employed for 60 to 100 years rather than up to 2000 people for 28 years, said Jack Larsen, president of U.S. Energy Corp., and Mt. Emmons would not be collapsed as mining progressed. Instead, backfill would fill the shafts. Production would also be scaled down to 5000 tons a day rather than AMAX's 30,000 tons a day. Larsen said so far community response to the sale has been positive. "People know it's going to be mined and this is what they wanted to see anyway." If the small mine deal goes through, AMAX would receive a 6 percent production royalty in addition to $20 million for its interest in the mine.

Canada geese have returned to Wyoming


Cary Hull

Canada geese are doing well in Wyoming, thanks to a waterfowl program that began 31 years ago. In 1953 the Game and Fish Department released 88 goslings in Fremont County's Ocean Lake. Over the years more geese were transplanted to the state and their presence then attracted migrating geese to nest in the area. A major attraction, says the department's Al Langston, has been secure nests made from tires which are mounted on pipe and driven in the ground at the water's edge. One way Game and Fish measures the success of its Canada geese program is by comparing hunter harvests: In one area in 1970 697 birds were shot; by 1982 the harvest was almost 4000.

Coal mine deaths up

Deaths in coal mines rose during the first quarter of 1984 to 30, reports MSHA, the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Ten miners died during the first quarter of 1983. There were 174,992 coal miners working during the first quarter of 1984, an increase of 2,787 from the same period last year.

HOTLINE

Appeal to FERC

Idaho Dept. Commerce & Development

Henrys Fork of the Snake River

The Idaho Conservation League has joined the Interior Department in urging a cumulative impacts assessment of six proposed hydroelectric projects on the Henrys Fork watershed of the Snake River. In a May 18 letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which licenses hydroelectric projects, the 1400-member group urged FERC to look at the river as a whole, and at the total impact of all 6 projects on fishing, wildlife and recreation.

The League has opposed most proposals to put small hydro facilities on the Henrys Fork just west of Yellowstone National Park, warning that the projects will substantially harm a fishery and recreational use of the river. Interior's letter requesting a cumulative impact study was sent to FERC in April. FERC, however, usually looks at each hydro project separately. In 1982, the League joined other groups in asking FERC to consider cumulative impacts from some 50 hydro projects proposed in the Salmon River drainage. The commission refused.

A conservation experiment

A two-year energy conservation program is now underway in Hood River, Oregon. Its goal is to discover whether a county of about 15,000 people in 6300 homes can rely on conservation to meet the region's forecasted energy needs. The $20 million project was conceived by the Natural Resources Defense Council and Pacific Power and Light Company, and it is administered by the Bonneville Power Administration. Homeowners are being paid the full cost of added home insulation and weatherstripping as well as caulking and putting in triple glaze windows.

Who will be the leader?

Assuming the U.S. Senate stays Republican in 1984, there is a good chance that the next majority leader will come from the nation's empty quarter -- the West. The four contenders for retiring majority leader Howard Baker's (R-TN) spot are: James McClure (R-ID), Pete Domenici (R-NM), Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), as well as 'easterner' Robert Dole (R-KS).

Environmentalists will probably root for McClure, since the majority leader has relatively little formal power. For if elected, McClure would have to resign as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which handles coal leasing and other public lands issues. He would be replaced by Lowell Weicker, a liberal from Connecticut.

Wyoming group seeks true multiple use

Residents of west-central Wyoming are trying to steer a middle course between what they see as two evils: wilderness on the one hand and clearcutting by large timber firms on the other. As an alternative, they are trying to pass a law to force the Forest Service to practice what they describe as true multiple use on a section of the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Cora, Wyoming rancher John Barlow says area residents "are wary of wilderness; the term summons up the Sierra Club and the spector of mountains overrun by elitist backpackers." But, he adds, locals are even more concerned about large-scale clearcutting.

Their unhappiness with the two choices has led residents of Sublette County to suggest to Congress a middle-ground proposal between wilderness and large-scale development.

An ad hoc group meeting in Pinedale last month proposed a "special use" classification for a large area in the Upper Green River. The meeting at which the proposal was formulated was attended by ranchers, businessmen, local forest users, congressional staffers and elected officials.

Led by state senator John Turner of Jackson, they called for protection of recreational, wildlife, grazing and watershed values. They wish to ban mining and geothermal activities and allow only small-scale, sustained-yield timbering. No new roads would be built. Recreational four-wheel-drive vehicles and motorcycles would be prohibited. Snowmobiling would be allowed "where compatible with the protection of wildlife."

The proposal shows hostility to wilderness as well as deep unhappiness with the way the U.S. Forest Service carries out its multiple-use mandate. Fred Kingwill, spokesman for the Bridger-Teton National Forest, says the Pinedale area has been unhappy with the Forest Service's management since at least the early 1960s. A beetle infestation triggered the agency's authorization of "lots of large clearcuts. This polarized people against clearcutting and (Forest Service) harvesting techniques."

According to Barlow, a prime mover of the citizen's group, "you just can't have multiple use with... large scale timbering. When the Forest Service fences off clearcut areas to prevent erosion, grazing areas are reduced. New timber roads disturb wildlife and attract four-wheel-drive hunters."

Kingwill speculates that another key to Pinedale's disinterest in big timber may be that the closest large timber mill is on the other side of the Wind River Range, in Dubois, Wyoming. So Pinedale-area residents don't receive economic benefits from large-scale timbering. Barlow acknowledges that "We have no economic interest in large-scale timbering because Louisiana Pacific gets all the choice timber."

But, he continues, "we don't want any big mills here... a lot of people live here for the natural qualities of the area and don't want to see them changed. They're not the kind of folks who would enjoy being called environmentalists, but the fact remains they are."

If there were a proposal to move the mill from Dubois to Pinedale,"I can guarantee there would be as much opposition to that as there is to (Louisiana Pacific's) timbering now," says Barlow.

Locals fear timbering even more than they fear wilderness, according to the Cora rancher. As a case in point, he says that before the special use idea, even some snowmobilers, who have traditionally used the proposed area for their sport, signed a petition to declare the area Wilderness.

When asked why a local group feels it must take forest multiple-use management into its own hands, the Forest Service's Kingwill admits differences of opinion between his agency and locals, and says that the Forest Service must consider national needs as well as local needs. He calls the citizens' plan "a good public expression through a democratic process" and is pleased that the plan "calls for multiple use rather than Wilderness." But he thinks that the desired management could be incorporated into the Bridger-Teton Forest Plan now in the works.

Barlow claims that gross Forest Service mismanagement of the Bridger-Teton arises because the people in the local Forest Service offices are "utterly powerless"; they must fulfill timber quotas received from Washington that are based on tree-growth models for the Pacific Northwest and the Southeast. The quotas, he says, are absurd in the arid, high, cold Wyoming climate, where tree regeneration times are tripled.

Ironically, since the citizens meeting, the Forest Service has proposed a long-term 2.4 million board feet timber sale along Moose Creek in the proposed special use area.

The Sublette County group will formally submit the plan to Congress after they meet again in June when, according to Barlow, they hope to get wider community support. The group wants the middle-ground language to be inserted into the Wyoming Wilderness Bill, though they don't favor any particular use classification. The Wilderness Bill has been stuck in the House Interior Committee since being passed by the Senate more than a year ago. About 40 percent of the newly proposed special use area is an addition to the Gros Ventre Wilderness in the Senate-approved bill.

--Mary Moran

Bisti Badlands coal swap moves ahead

One of the last steps in a long-awaited trade of a federal coal lease inside New Mexico's Bisti Wilderness Study Area is set for June 13 when the Bureau of Land Management holds public hearings on a coal lease exchange negotiated by BLM and the leaseholders.

Authorized by Congress in 1980, the BLM's 3,968-acre Bisti Wilderness Study Area would remain unmined by giving the coal leaseholders a substitute lease in an adjacent area outside the proposed federal wilderness area.

With the public strongly in favor of preserving portions of the Bisti Badlands in northwestern New Mexico, BLM recommended in its 1981 land use plan that the Bisti Wilderness Study Area with its spectacular slickrock canyons be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The proposal has been discussed in several environmental impact statements published since then, and legislation is pending in Congress which would designate the Bisti as a federal wilderness area.

Years of negotiations between BLM and Sunbelt Mining Company, the subsidiary of Public Service Company of New Mexico which acts as agent for the two leaseholders, have been necessary to agree upon the value of the coal in the existing lease areas compared to coal in the substitute coal lease area, says the BLM.

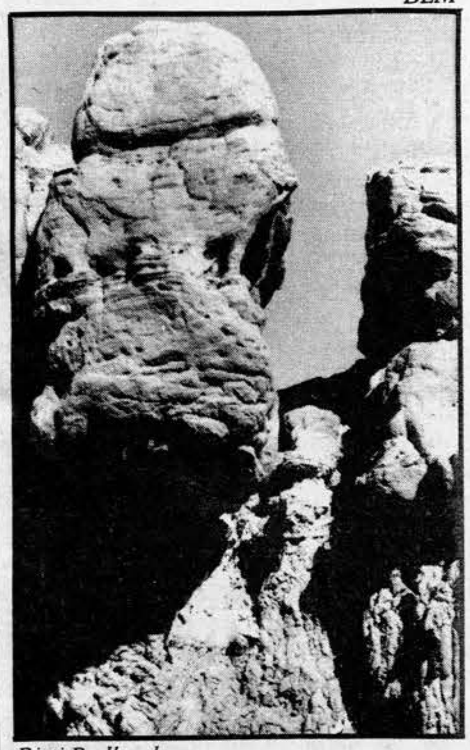
The final agreement assumes that 26.13 million tons of coal are recoverable from the leases within the Bisti Wilderness Study Area. That compares to 28.91 million tons in the substitute coal lease area which is just east of the Bisti Wilderness Study Area. BLM and the company agreed to a formula whereby the coal lost and acquired would be of equal value, as required by law.

Hypothetical mining plans were developed for each tract, using similar cost criteria. It was found that the resulting mine cost in the substitute lease area would be slightly higher than mining in the existing leases. To offset this higher cost and reimburse the leaseholders for money already invested in the existing leases, an exchange of an additional 2,570 tons of recoverable coal would be required to achieve equal values.

The leased area now within the Bisti Wilderness Study Area amounts to 2,046 acres, while the area proposed for the substitute lease is about 928 acres, says Jeff Radford of the Albuquerque BLM office.

Public hearings will be held June 13 in the Acoma Room of the Albuquerque Convention Center. The first session begins at 1 P.M. with an informational presentation on the issues and methods used to arrive at an agreement on equal values of coal to be exchanged; the formal public hearing starts at 2:30 P.M. In the evening session, the information portion begins at 6:30 P.M. and the public hearing at 7:30 P.M.

BLM



Bisti Badlands

--the staff

Wilderness fight leads to symbolic hanging

Three members of a grassroots environmental group in south-central Utah were hanged in effigy last month in the town of Escalante, pop. 750.

A week later on May 20, Robert Weed, 35, a member of the group, found his rural home near Escalante vandalized. Someone had poured salt into his springbox and pump and broken the water pipe. Down at the spring he found a sign which read: "If you want wilderness, then carry your water."

What Weed didn't know was that someone had also buried boards with protruding nails in his dirt driveway. His children walked to school unscathed, but Weed's wife, Carol, drove over the nails on her way to work, and later a car tire blew out on a dangerous stretch of cliffside road. She was not injured.

Weed is a co-founder of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, which formed six months ago to press for wilderness designation in Utah's spectacular canyon country. According to the *Deseret News*, the lifesize dummy left hanging in Escalante for three days and then dragged behind cars bore a placard with three names: Weed's and alliance cofounders' Clive Kincaid and Grant Johnson. The writing on the placard was reportedly the same as the sign at Weed's spring.

What probably turned resentment into dangerous acts of vandalism, Clive Kincaid said in a telephone interview, was the recent dispute over wilderness designation for Box-Death Hollow Canyons. Flanked by Bryce Canyon National Park to the southwest and Capitol Reef National Park to the east, the area includes the Escalante River and sixty miles of slickrock canyons.

Until four months ago, Kincaid said, Box-Death Hollow "was the most non-controversial proposed wilderness in the Forest Service bill. It's an awe-inspiring place." Supporters included the Garfield County Commissioners, a five-county association of local governments, and the local cattlemen's association, he added.

But in March 1984, "ARCo caught everyone by surprise," Kincaid continued. At Rep. John Seiberling's wilderness hearings in Washington, D.C., ARCo said new data revealed that Box-Death Hollow contained valuable and recoverable reserves of CO_2, used to flush more oil from wells.

After that surprise announcement, Kincaid said, Garfield commissioners reversed their pro-wilderness stand for Box-Death Hollow. The state of Utah and Forest Service, however, are still on record as supporting wilderness designation for the ridge separating Box and Death Hollow Canyons.

But opposition began to mount. Jim Catlin, a member of the Sierra Club in Salt Lake City, said pressure to develop the canyons came from Garkane Power Company in southern Utah. In March, Garkane customers were sent a flyer with their bill which urged people to press for elimination of any further wilderness areas in southern Utah. The flyer said customers should express their concern to Congress about "economic stagnation."

Clive Kincaid said the economic development issue also arose a few months ago when the wilderness alliance appealed a Forest Service timber sale. "A local sawmill sent out notices to 90 employees that we threatened their jobs," he recalled.

Adding to the perceived threat to current and new jobs, Kincaid said, is the fact that alliance members are recent arrivals "to a very rural area." Weed has lived near Escalante for two years, Johnson for six, and Kincaid for one year.

"This is the edge of the frontier," Kincaid said. "Garfield County is one of the least inhabited counties in the United States -- 200 miles long and just 4000 people. You could live here twenty years and never belong. This was one of the last Mormon outposts of the 1880s and outsiders are not made welcome."

What is unfortunate, he said, is that local people don't see the economic potential of creating more wilderness in southern Utah. "There's a reluctance to take what we have here and make the best of it. Always, some potential for development comes up and people grab at it."

Kincaid, a former wilderness coordinator for the BLM in Arizona, said he is not intimidated by what has happened so far and none of the alliance members intend to move. Some 1500 people receive "alerts" and newsletters from the alliance, he said.

During a brief telephone interview, Robert Weed said, "The intimidation makes you kind of nervous. But I'm not backing down."

Kincaid added, "Alliance members feel very strongly about what's at stake. We want wilderness designation to be looked at with a national perspective, and we want to raise the level of discussion."

Garfield County's sheriff and the U.S. Attorney for Utah are investigating the vandalism to Weed's home and the effigy that was dangled on store signs in the town of Escalante. Escalante's mayor Mohr Christensen, however, has no sympathy with the investigation, which has extended to the FBI and Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. Christensen told the Deseret *News* that Weed himself trumped up the incidents.

"Do you know who funds that outfit (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance)?" he was quoted as asking. "The EPA. They fund the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club funds this bunch of parasites down there."

Senator Jake Garn (R-UT), however, deplored the incidents in a statement issued in late May. He said the acts were "without merit and will hurt chances to rationally develop a Utah Wilderness Bill..."

--Betsy Marston

UP drives a spike into an EPA cleanup

Union Pacific is suing the Environmental Protection Agency to block the agency-ordered cleanup of its four hazardous waste ponds at the closed railroad tie plant southwest of Laramie, Wyoming.

The railroad company charges that the EPA plan to remove and transport all contaminated sludges and soils in and beneath the ponds is "extreme" and would cost too much money. The plan UP favors involves at least temporary storage of the wastes at the plant site (*HCN*, 5/14/84). But the early stages of the two plants are compatible, and UP has begun some cleanup work.

Earlier this year the EPA rejected two UP cleanup proposals and ordered a more comprehensive pond cleanup, to be completed by April 30. But the cleanup hadn't begun when officials from the two parties met on May 10, and EPA refused to extend the deadline or modify their plan. UP filed suit the same day.

EPA's Lou Johnson says no compromises were reached at a preliminary pre-trial conference on June 1, but the company and agency did agree to immediately set up negotiating teams in an attempt to settle without a trial. The trial is scheduled to begin in August.

The legal dispute only concerns the 4-acre pond area; future plans will deal with the soil and groundwater under the remainder of the 100-acre contaminated site.

Meanwhile, Wyoming's Department of Environmental Quality has become a party to the federal lawsuit.

Fears that the Laramie River adjacent to the plant would flood the pond during this year's runoff have been abated, according to Johnson. UP's extensive dike work last year and this spring should withstand a 100-year flood, at least in terms of surface water, he says.

--Mary Moran

Oklahoma elk poachers surrender

It turns out that even the Governor of Oklahoma couldn't shield two poachers from the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Governor George Nigh (D) last summer refused to extradite three Oklahoma residents accused of illegally shooting and leaving to rot nine antlerless elk in October 1982 near Montrose, Colorado (*HCN*, 10/14/83). Nigh turned down a personal appeal for extradition from Governor Richard Lamm (D), saying the evidence wasn't compelling.

Colorado officials charged that political influence was at work. And the Division of Wildlife set itself to making sure that the men didn't enjoy their Oklahoma haven. Destruction of elk is a felony, and notice of the felony warrants and Colorado's willingness to extradite were sent to police in every state. Last October, DOW officer Glenn Smith told *High Country News:*

They "spent a lot of money fighting extradition. But all they've done is paint themselves in a corner... they can't travel now. If we find they've left their state, we'll ask whatever state they're in to extradite them."

In the five months since Smith made that statement, two of the three poachers have come to agree with him. Vestal Hale and his son Randy, both of Vici, Oklahoma, recently worked out a plea bargain. They paid Colorado $3,538 each for killing and abandoning the elk. They also agreed never again to hunt in Colorado.

The $7,076 bought the Hales the freedom to again travel. Still wanted on a felony charge is the third accused poacher Nigh refused to extradite -- Joseph Rosa, Jr. of Tulsa. *--the staff*

HOTLINE

'Unattractive,' but free

The Bureau of Land Management issued emergency rules May 16 permitting without fee the adoption of some 2,000 "unattractive" wild horses and burros. The usual charge is $125 for wild horses and $75 for burros, plus transportation. The problem is that some 2000 animals still have no home and costs are $4000-$5000 a day, says the BLM. Comments on the emergency order may be sent to: Director, BLM, 1800 C St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, or call John Boyles, 202/653-9215.

Severance tax attack

A Senate Finance Subcommittee has scheduled a June 21 hearing on a bill that would cap Montana's coal severance tax. Montana's Senator Max Baucus calls the bill, sponsored by Senator Alan Dixon, (D-Il), the latest "in a long series of attempts by Eastern and Midwestern Senators to take away Montana's right to levy taxes." The Dixon bill would restrict state severance tax revenues to a level that does not exceed costs that are *directly attributable to the production* of crude oil, natural gas or coal.

The Dixon bill would also permit the U.S. Attorney General to sue states that violate the severance tax restriction.

Baucus said a delegation of elected officials from Montana are expected to testify at the hearing, which will be conducted by the Subcommittee on Energy and Agricultural Taxation.

Stronger Superfund urged

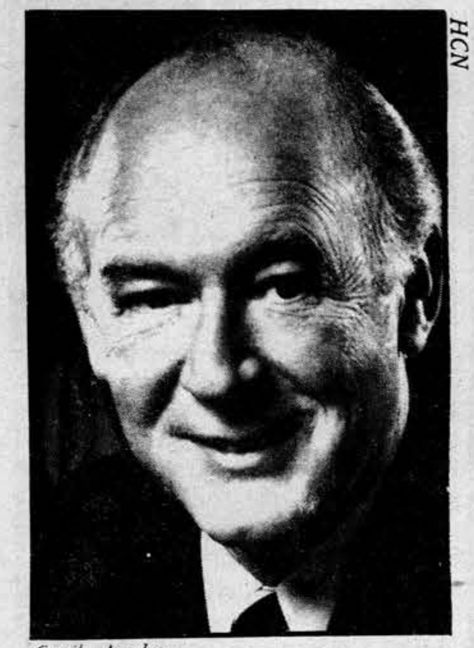
An effort to reauthorize and strengthen Superfund has picked up steam in the House of Representatives. Four eastern Congressmen have introduced H.R. 5640 which would require the Environmental Protection Agency to begin cleaning up 150 inactive hazardous disposal sites each year, beginning in 1986. The bill would also increase hazardous product fees to raise $9 billion over five years, allow citizens to petition to add a site to the national priority list for action, and add new rules for underground storage of gasoline and petroleum tanks. One of the bill's sponsors, James Florio (D-NJ) intends to consider H.R. 5640 in his Commerce Subcommittee.

Permit for Riley Ridge

Exxon is free to build its $517 million Riley Ridge gas sweetening plant in Wyoming without worrying that it may some day have to meet stiffer air quality standards. The U.S. Forest Service had recommended such a provision in case study showed that Exxon's sulfur oxide emissions were damaging the nearby Fitzpatrick and Bridger wildernesses. But the Wyoming Air Quality Division issued the permit without the retroactive provision. The permit does require Exxon to monitor the wilderness areas for acid rain.

HOTLINE

Andrus made the correct decision



Cecil Andrus

Since former Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus probably wouldn't say "I told you so" to those who criticized his 1980 expansion of the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area, the *Idaho* (Boise) *Statesman* said it for him in a May 17 editorial. The occasion was the dedication of the Peregrine Fund, Inc.'s World Center for Birds of Prey just outside Boise. It was constructed with substantial government and corporate support to study peregrine falcons, harpy eagles and other endangered species. Its opening, said the *Statesman*, underlined the wisdom of Andrus' 1980 expansion to 500,000 acres of the federal raptor refuge. The paper said multiple use of the Snake River area is successful and that Andrus made the correct decision despite those who denounced him in 1980 for "extreme arrogance."

ETSI plans expansion

Just when it seems that ETSI has sunk from sight, the massive coal slurry pipeline proposal releases yet another announcement. This time, the consortium said that it will extend the six-state, 1,700-mile, $4 billion system ten miles into southeastern Montana so as to ship 5 million tons of coal to power plants in Austin and Houston, Texas. The ambitious Wyoming/Montana to Texas project is currently blocked by a federal district court judge, who says the Secretary of Interior exceeded his authority when he gave ETSI permission to buy water out of South Dakota's Oahe Reservoir. If built, the project would create 30,000 construction jobs. Once built, it would take about 800 people to ship 17 to 25 million tons of coal a year, most originating in Wyoming.

Colorado-Ute remains a regulated utility

The Colorado-Ute REA will remain under the jurisdiction of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission for at least another year. A deregulation bill (S.B. 120) was passed by the Colorado legislature but was vetoed by Gov. Richard Lamm (D). The Legislature did not attempt to override. The defeat was hailed by the Western Colorado Congress, which said that monopolies should not be deregulated. Colorado-Ute, which is a co-operative wholesale electricity supplier, said the defeat would cost its 170,000 consumers millions in higher rates because, "Wall Street does not like regulation," and would set a higher interest rate on $300 million in bonds the utility is about to sell.

Coyote control leads to a clash in Idaho

Idaho's Department of Fish and Game has rebelled against efforts by the state legislature to force the agency to contribute an additional $30,000 for livestock predator control.

The state wildlife agency, whose funds come entirely from sportsmen's licenses and federal taxes on sporting good sales, was directed by the Idaho Legislature to add $30,000 to the $21,000 it has been contributing annually to the Animal Damage Control division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

But on May 17, the Fish and Game Commission voted to back its department's director, Jerry Conley, in refusing to release the extra funds. The $30,000 now goes into a holding account, since all expenditures by the Fish and Game must be approved by the legislature. The issue for the state agency is whether hunters should pay to help protect the ranching industry.

"We don't think that 6,000 sportsmen should have to buy a $5 hunting license so that a couple flocks of sheep are protected better from coyotes," Conley said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Animal Damage Control division is involved in the control of rodents, birds that raid fish hatcheries, and predators that kill wildlife. But most of its efforts go into protecting livestock from coyotes, bear and cougar, according to ADC state supervisor Joe Packham. Although Idaho's Fish and Game department is required by state law to contribute a minimum of $12,000 each year to the ADC, the actual contribution has risen steadily over the years. The current $21,000 is "a political concession to the livestock industry," said Fish and Game's spokesman Bill Goodnight. He added that the state occasionally requests the federal agency to kill coyotes if they are endangering a particular deer herd.

To the director of the Idaho Wool Growers, all predator control adds up to help for the state's deer and elk herds. "Fish and Game has been riding on the shirttails of agriculture," said Stan Boyd, director of the Idaho Wool Growers Association.

"Wildlife resources receive a direct benefit of these control programs because that coyote (killed by ADC) is going to quit killing deer." Boyd said there is a boom in the coyote population and "if the livestock industry is losing 27,000 head to coyotes (a year), how many deer and elk are we losing?"

Boyd said the state's Fish and Game department has "disappointed a lot of people by not being willing to meet their responsibility... It'll be a lot tougher for them to get their programs through (the legislature next session)."

While the Fish and Game does not discount the possibility of repercussions in the legislature next session, the department questions whether predator control benefits deer and elk herds. "Deer and elk have grown up with these predators over eons," said department director Conley. Conley said that although predators do kill some deer and elk, the losses are part of the natural system, and since the elk herd is growing by 5,000 head a year in Idaho, "obviously the coyotes are not hurting the elk herd."

Conley noted that the cattlemen of Idaho do not contribute any funds to the federal Animal Damage Control division. "It seems rather odd to us to ask the hunters and fishermen to donate money when you've got the cattlemen not donating money." The Idaho Wool Growers group does contribute some $215,000 each year to ADC through taxes on wool and individual sheep.

Ironically, Idaho has no legal authority over coyotes because the animal is classified as a predator by the state legislature along with skunks, starlings, jackrabbits and weasels.

Caught in the middle of the fray is the Damage Control division itself, which spent over $700,000 in 1983 to limit predators. State supervisor Packham said the amount of money contributed by the state is their business, and "Whether deer and elk need to be aided (by predator control) is a decision the Fish and Game needs to make."

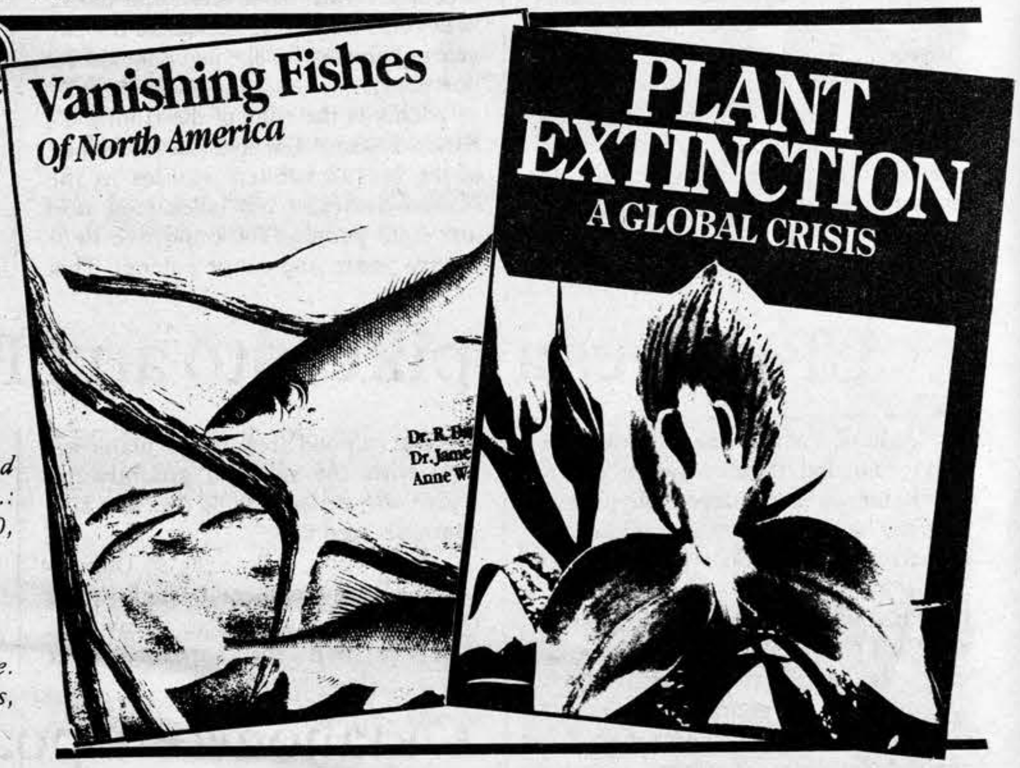
But, Packham added, predator control is vital to the livestock industry. Without it, Packham warned, the livestock industry would suffer "a severe economic impact." "It would be decimating to the sheep industry, no doubt about that," he added.

ADC killed 3,047 coyotes in 1983 with a staff of 15 field men shooting the coyotes from helicopters and airplanes, trapping them, calling and shooting them, or setting cyanide "coyote getters."

--Glenn Oakley

BOOKS

We lose when a species vanishes



Vanishing Fishes of North America

R. Dana Ono, James D. Williams and Anne Wagner. Washington, D.C.: Stonewall Press, 1983. $27.50, hardback.

Plant Extinction

Harold Koopowitz and Hilary Kaye. Washington, D.C.: Stonewall Press, 1983. $16.95, hardback.

Review by Diane C. Donovan

Koopowitz and Kaye's *Plant Extinction* and Ono, Williams and Wagner's *Vanishing Fishes of North America* are not likely to head the best-seller lists as their serious scientific examinations would deter casual readers of nonfiction. But though both books are written with scientific expertise, the general interest reader will still find plenty of information on the plant and fish kingdoms to make for stimulating, unusual, and thought-provoking reading.

The authors of *Vanishing Fishes* reveal that the value of a species may not lie wholly -- or even mainly -- in its attractiveness to humans: "Every species of animal and plant that disappears before its properties are fully known represents the loss of potential discoveries that might improve human welfare. As an example, certain species of pupfish can tolerate spring waters that are several times saltier than seawater. Understanding how the kidneys of the pupfish are able to cope with such extreme salinity could help us redesign kidney dialysis units."

Vanishing Fishes highlights the disappearance of potentially helpful fishes in a series of illustrated chapters which in turn examine the plights of western trout species, Atlantic and Gulf freshwater fishes, and more obscure southern and midwestern fishes. The book takes readers through the histories of a variety of endangered species such as the sturgeon and the snail darter, demonstrating that habitat alteration -- often by artificial means -- is the most common threat to fishes.

Habitat alteration is also the primary threat to plant species. But when medicinal qualities of plants are revealed, it is often easier for people to comprehend the importance of preserving these habitats. Most of us can understand the intrinsic value of species preservation when considering that the foxglove or digitalis plant, responsible for the relief of various heart ailments, could have cousin species which may contain cardiac glycosides to reduce the side effects users of digitalis commonly experience.

As Koopowitz and Kaye so eloquently state: "We tend to forget that plants feed us, clothe us and protect us from the elements. Because they are ubiquitous, we take plants for granted. They move so slowly that we consider them inanimate. Their leaves usually are not hairy enough to pet. They just sit there and look pretty. For most people, relating to a fuzzy caterpillar is far easier than relating to a plant."

Timber firm's meeting attracts activists

When Louisiana-Pacific held its annual meeting in South Carolina May 14, the timber company found there were 50 striking mill workers and union organizers ready and waiting to do battle.

Most of the concerns expressed were about union matters, but others were environmental: the damage the company could do by clearcutting aspen for Waferboard; the hazards of formaldehyde emissions at some L-P plants. The protest was organized by the Western Council of Lumber Production and Industrial Workers which struck L-P ten months ago. Some 1500 workers are still on strike at 17 mills in Idaho, Montana, Washington, Oregon and California.

The roots of the conflict go back to a contract signed last spring between major timber producers in the West and the union. L-P refused to enter that labor agreement, insisting on wage reductions for new people hired, elimination of union security provision, mandatory overtime, and other changes workers did not accept.

Union members charged that L-P was out to bust the union and wanted a strike; the company countered by trying and sometimes succeeding in replacing striking workers or getting workers to vote out the union.

The ten-month struggle with the union coincided with L-P's promotion of a market for Waferboard, which it describes as the "hottest new product to enter the industry in recent years." Waferboard is a plywood substitute made from aspen and other "junk wood" species. A phenolic resin glues together wood chips under heat and pressure.

L-P has established Waferboard mills in three states and will add new mills quickly in Louisiana, Chilco, Idaho and the towns of Montrose and Kremmling in Colorado. L-P chairman Harry A. Merlo said the expansion is moving the firm "toward our target of one billion square feet of Waferboard capacity by 1985..."

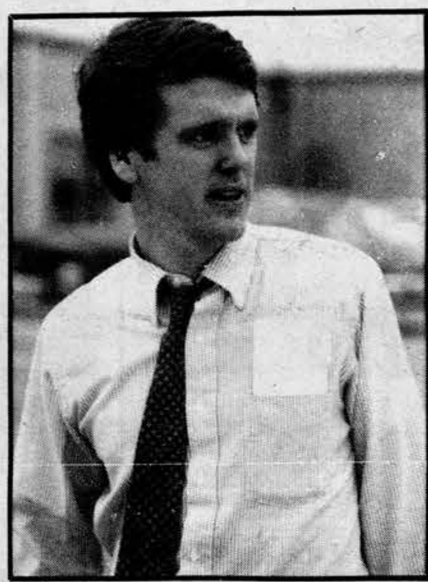
But this bid to outpace the industry has brought L-P into conflict with labor and with environmental groups. On the labor front, in the 1970s, when demand for goods and labor was high, strikes were potent weapons. But in these days of high unemployment, bankruptcies that cancel labor contracts, and unsympathetic politicians, strikes are often not enough. So the carpenter union turned to economic muscle.

Union members went to Wall Street in March to hand out 10,000 leaflets about the strike to investors and brokers. A boycott was instituted and endorsed by the AFL-CIO; as a result, L-P products are not handled at some western shipyards and New York City construction sites, and retailers of L-P products are subject to picketing.

In addition to their marketing efforts, the unions also took aim at the stock market. The striking employees already own 4,500 L-P shares as a result of stock option plans. To augment that amount, the unions sent letters to 50,000 of L-P's 62,000 shareholders asking for support.

They recieved proxies to vote 1.8 million of the firm's 33 million outstanding shares, giving the union a voice at the annual meeting. Their purpose was to introduce resolutions, raise questions about management, and shake up what they saw as complacent stockholders.

But they were up against a tough corporation. Chairman Harry Merlo said L-P has "the strongest balance sheet in the industry." Profits have been consistent, totalling over $700 million in the company's eleven-year history. Investments are made only out of cash flow, and the debt to equity ratio is a low 14 percent. By comparison, AMAX has a ratio of about 50 percent.


Gary Sprung

Ed Durkin

The union challenged the strong financial situation by saying that without the strike it would be even stronger. Ed Durkin, the campaign organizer for the Carpenters, said that Merril Lynch and other stock analysts peg the cost of the strike to the company at $15 to $20 million thus far. The union's proxy solicitation notes a decline in stock price from $33.50 to $22.50 during the ten-month strike.

The company anticipated these charges and answered them at the meeting even before the protestors got their say. Finance Vice-President John C. Hart said that the cost of the strike was only $4 million thus far, and "we believe that anyone who follows the general market or the forest products market will see our stocks merely track the market... We do not feel the strike has any negative effect on L-P."

After routine corporate business ended, the union was permitted to introduce its resolutions. With control of a large majority of the stock, Chairman Merlo could have 'quick-gavelled' the meeting to a close. But he instead permitted substantial dialogue.

Then the Waferboard plants came under fire. At two of its plants L-P has applied for Urban Development Action Grants. The grants provide cheaper financing, but require that the company establish that, but for the federal grants, it would not be building there.

One labor organizer said, "So you're telling us you went ahead and purchased the land, you're pumping this product -- it's on the cover of your annual report, on the cover of your proxy statement -- that your commitment to this product is so tentative that it's dependent on getting a federal government grant? Or is there some question about the market for this product?... Who are you lying to, the shareholders or the federal government?"

Merlo replied, "It would be imprudent for us not to conduct ourselves in that manner if that opportunity is available to us."

As he closed the meeting, Chairman Merlo noted that the unions had represented only 1.8 million of 33 million shares. However, union organizer Ed Durkin said afterward that two banks -- Chase Manhattan and American National Bank and Trust -- had given proxies to the union. Next year, Durkin predicted, the union would get 10 million shares.

--Gary Sprung

Environmental issues and L-P

Louisiana-Pacific began life in 1972 as a Federal Trade Commission-mandated spinoff from the giant Georgia-Pacific Corporation. Its birthright was 20 percent of G-P's assets and a small timber base. L-P still has a small timber base, but it has made up for that by becoming the nation's largest purchaser of federal timber, deriving 20 to 39 percent of its logs from public lands.

Although often called one of the largest timber companies, *Business Week* listed 13 other paper and forest product companies as having larger total assets. L-P is most active in reconstituted wood products like fiberboard, particleboard, and Waferboard. About 5 percent of its sales comes from redwood trees, down from 21 percent in 1973.

In addition to pure wood products, L-P also manufactures windows and doors under the Weatherseal and Heat Mirror names and is diversified into industrial insulation (the Pabco plant in Fruita, Colorado) and a ski resort-real estate operation (Northstar at Tahoe).

At the moment, the spotlight is on L-P's labor problems. But as a natural resource company, it is also involved in several environmental issues.

Aspen: L-P's new Montrose, Colorado mill has run afoul of the 50-year plan for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council. If NRDC wins its case (a protracted legal battle is foreseen) against federal subsidies to timber cutters in the form of road construction, then the economics of Waferboard could change since L-P and other firms buying federal timber would have to pay more.

Formaldehyde: L-P did not mention emissions of formaldehyde from its Montrose plant in its state air pollution permit application. The Carpenters Union, as part of its bird-dogging of L-P, reported the omission to the state, delaying L-P's permit for several months. (The plant is scheduled to open in 1985.)

Abe Vasquez, Colorado public health engineer for the Air Pollution Control Division, travelled to Wisconsin to see a Waferboard mill there that uses the same technology but is three times larger. The state of Wisconsin is forcing L-P to reduce that plant's formaldehyde emissions by 85 percent. It is unlikely similar steps will be taken in Colorado. Vasquez says L-P's controls are state-of-the-art and that the technology to achieve an 85 percent reduction does not exist. Colorado has no formaldehyde standard and will regulate the pollutant by its odor.

--G.S.

LETTERS

NO ILLUSIONS

Dear *HCN,*

Like Russel Martin, I come originally from southwestern Colorado, if not the Montezuma Valley referred to in his article, then the nearby mesas and valleys a few miles to the east where my family in the 1880s, like hundreds of other settlers coming into the region, bamboozled the Utes out of huge tracts of land. But unlike Martin, I share no illusions that the Dolores Project will benefit, indeed was really ever intended to benefit, the small farmers of the Montezuma Valley, be they Anglo or Ute. I think Martin is ignoring the current trend of what is happening in southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico: massive energy development and huge population increases. I submit that if any farms survive in the Montezuma Valley, they will be large agribusinesses. It is my belief that most of the small farmers will go under from the sheer weight of the costly water from the Dolores Project, combined with the cost of having to ship crops out of an extremely isolated region already glutted with crops grown at the huge Navajo Indian Irrigation Project. I also submit that most of the water from the Dolores Project will ultimately go for subdivisions, condominiums, and golf courses, as is already happening near Durango about 40 miles to the east, or to energy development, as have huge quantities of water from the nearby Navajo Reservoir and Lake Powell.

I believe the Bureau of Reclamation, land developers, and energy companies have once again pulled the wool over the eyes of gullible people who honestly believed that someone would try to help the small farmer survive the onslaught of massive population growth in the West.

Kathleene Parker
Denver, CO

HOTLINE

Conservation or else

With America awash in electricity, there is unspoken agreement among the foundering utility industry that this is not the time to conserve. But the Northwest Power Planning Council disagrees.

It told a Helena, Montana meeting in May that utilities that do not adopt conservation standards will be penalized: They will be charged up to 50 percent more for the electricity they purchase from BPA. A council member said the surcharges were not meant to punish utilities but to make up for the fact that utilities whose customers do not conserve force the building of expensive new power plants.

Timber buyouts proposed

Legislation allowing overbid timber companies to "buy out" part of their contracts has been introduced in the House and is expected soon in the Senate. Timber operators would be allowed to buy out up to 200 million board feet or no less than 15 million board feet on one contract, with buyouts based on a comparison between a purchaser's net worth and projected losses from an overbid contract. The result: The greater the loss the smaller the buyout payment to the federal government.

Plains Indian Women Explode the Myth

text and photos by Sara Hunter-Wiles

In the journals of early trappers and explorers, Plains Indian women in Wyoming were sometimes referred to as "beasts of burden." Their roles were little known and often misunderstood. Later, during the second half of the nineteenth century, an Anglo pattern was imposed on the Northern Arapahoe and Eastern Shoshone tribes of the Wind River Reservation. This pattern tended to exclude women from equal participation in economic and political life.

But some 50 years ago, Plains Indian women began to emerge as fuller partners on the reservation. This change came as steady and better-paying jobs became available to them. Nowadays, women work in schools, for government agencies or as craftspeople, and they are often heads of extended families.

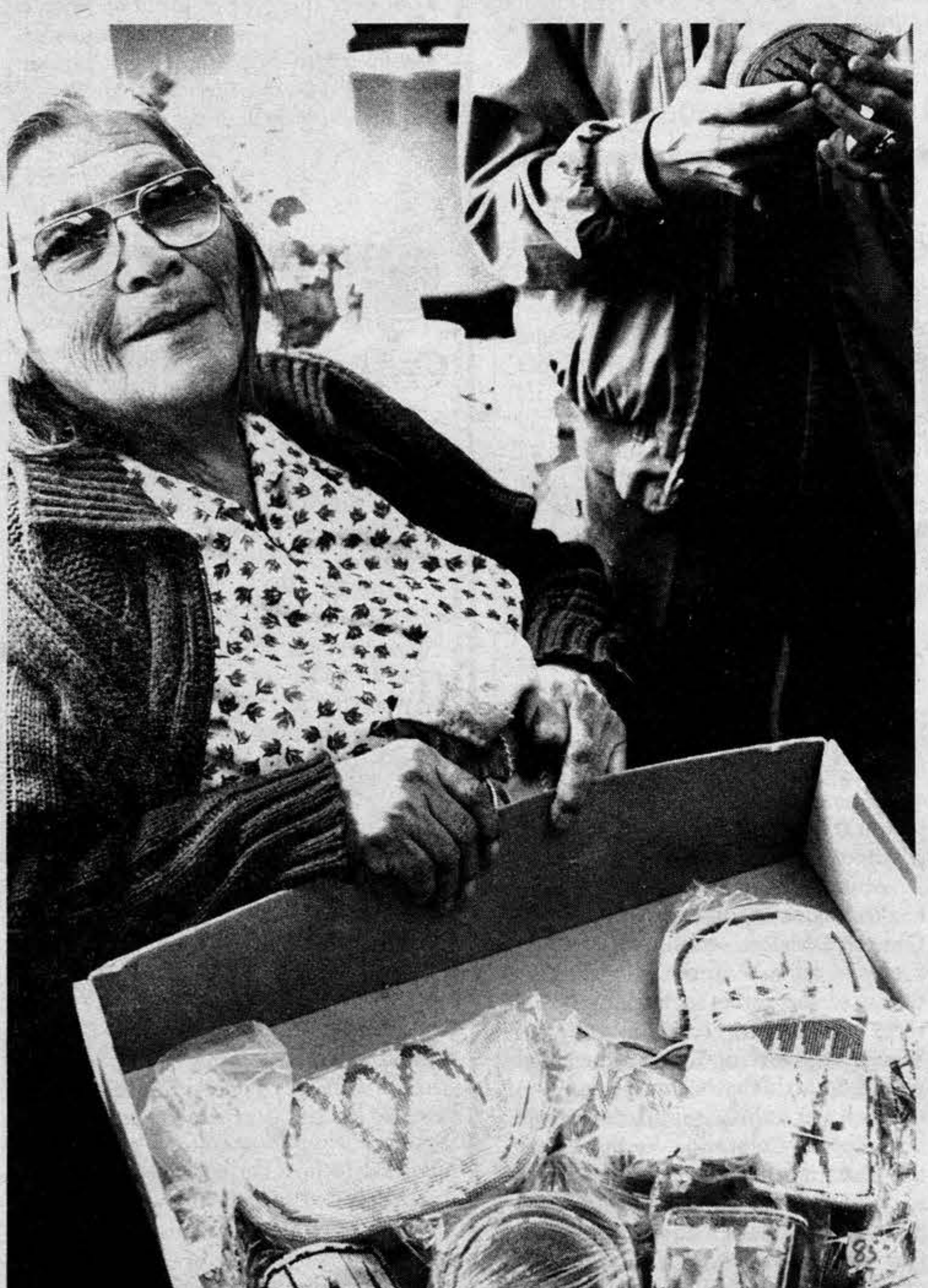
Ironically, the same Anglo assumptions that made men chiefs and women only mothers and cooks, also has meant greater economic independence for women. For checks for "per capita" oil and gas payments to children as well as welfare for dependent children routinely go to Plains Indian mothers.

□

Sara Hunter-Wiles is a former photographer for *High Country News,* and now a free-lance photographer in Lander, Wyoming. She has worked and studied on the Wind River Reservation for many years.

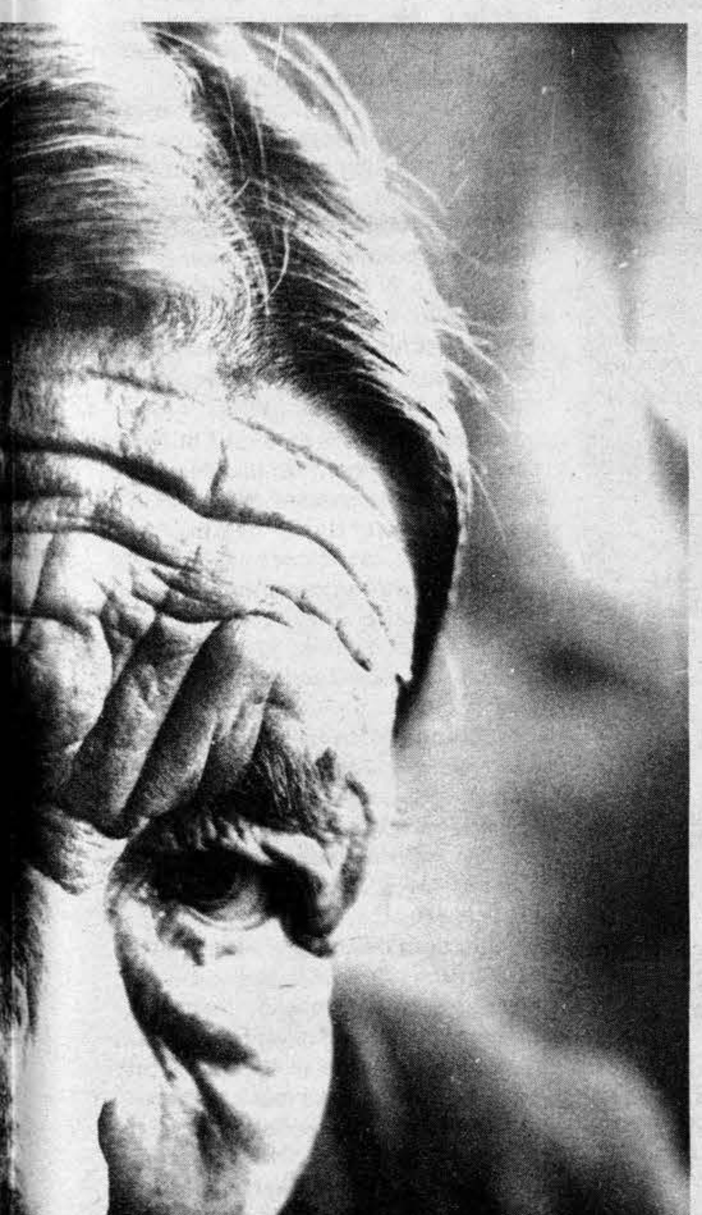
LOTTIS SHOYO, Shoshone, 1983. Lottie is the head of a large extended family and a member of the Shoyo

DOROTHY BROWN, Arapahoe, 1979.



GLADYS HILL, Shoshone, 1983. Gladys displays the beautiful beadwork done by her and other Shoshone women. Gladys is a teacher of Shoshone language and culture at Wyoming Indian High School.

Family Singers, the only all-woman drumming and singing group in the country.



AMBROSIA HARRIS, Arapahoe, 1984. Ambrosia is the head of a large extended family. She has raised eleven children, thirty-one foster children, and numerous grandchildren. She is pictured here with her grandson, Michael Ferris.

INEZ OLDMAN, Araphaoe, 1979. Inez, an important tribal elder and daughter of the last Arapahoe chief Yellow Calf, receives goods at a give-away, an important event in the community-wide redistribution system.

Water projects...

[Continued from page 1]

and Colorado. Some promised projects have been built. But in Colorado, especially, most have not been built.

This breaking of what was seen as a federal promise is a source of enormous bitterness to Colorado agricultural and development interests. Now, however, Colorado -- by following Arizona's Hoover Dam approach -- hopes to finance projects it believes it was promised.

Colorado has two related handicaps as it attempts to follow Arizona's lead. First, it does not have a leader with the strength and stature of Congressman Mo Udall (D-AZ). He is the man who is almost singlehandedly driving the Hoover rewind bill through Congress, laying a new financial base beneath the Central Arizona Project. Second, Colorado is divided, lacking the in-state leadership to galvanize diverse interests into support of a single idea.

As a result of Colorado's disarray, Arizona may get its Hoover bill through Congress this year without an accompanying bill for the Upper Basin. The Hoover bill will give Arizona the money to complete the Central Arizona Project and it will give California the money to work on weather modification and salinity control.

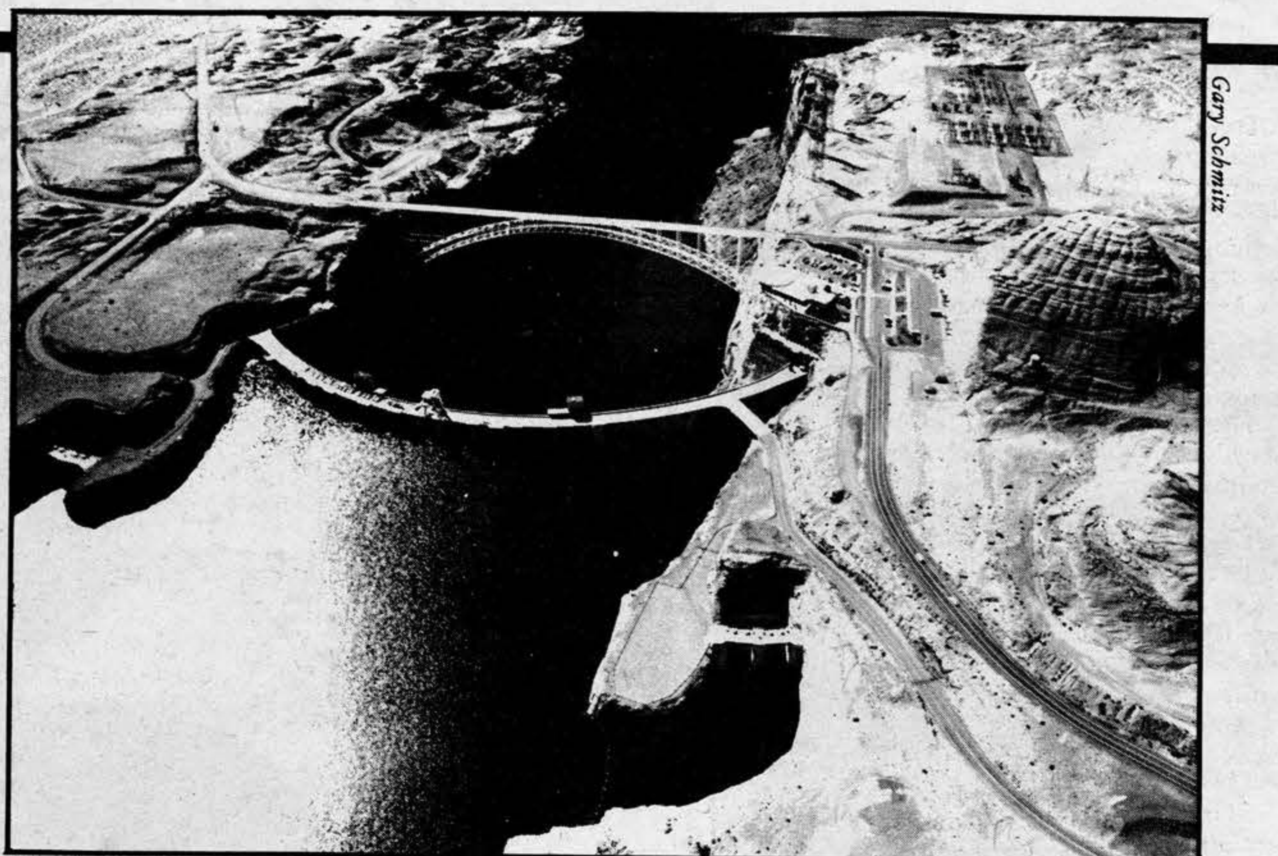
Increasing the snowpack in Colorado and Wyoming and reducing the load of salt in the Colorado are both important to California. A greater snowpack would give it more water, and the salt already in the water is stunting California's vegetable crops to the tune of several hundred million dollars a year.

But if California and Arizona get their bill, they could, despite promises to the contrary, oppose passage of a similar bill for Colorado next year. Arizona has the strongest reasons to do so. Right now, Colorado lets roughly one million acre-feet of 'its' Colorado River water flow unused out of the state. In dry years, that unused Colorado River water would spell the difference between full CAP aqueducts and half-full CAP aqueducts. Further development in Colorado would also be bad news for California: more development means more salt in the river, and greater crop losses in southern California.

Colorado sends a million or so acre-feet of its entitlement downstream because it lacks uses to put it to: it lacks irrigation projects to put dryland into alfalfa or fruit; it lacks massive electric power plants to consume cooling water; and it lacks oil shale or coal gasification projects that require cooling and revegetation water.

It does have a rapidly expanding Front Range population, but that population is not in the Colorado River basin, leading to a split between Colorado's Front Range and its Western Slope. And it does have a growing recreation industry, in part dependent on free-flowing water for fishing, rafting and sightseeing. But recreation has never lured development interests the way industry, municipal growth and irrigated farming has. And the latter uses require impounding water behind dams.

Given Arizona's interest in seeing Colorado's last one million acre-feet of water remain undeveloped, the bright thing for Colorado would have been to have an Upper Basin bill ready to stick onto Udall's Hoover bill. But Colorado couldn't get its warring clans in line.



Gary Schmitz

Glen Canyon Dam

So the powerful Udall train pulled out of the station tugging only the Lower Basin's Hoover bill.

Udall's Hoover Bill

The bill (H.R. 4274 in the House and S. 268 in the Senate) passed both the House and the Senate, but in drastically different forms. A question now, as the Congressional session draws to a close, is whether the House and Senate can reconcile their differences.

The Senate bill, shepherded by James McClure (R-ID), started out as a public works bill to construct hydroelectric projects in California, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. The centerpiece was the $76 million enlargement of the Palisades Project near the Idaho-Wyoming border.

Just as this bill was coming to the Senate floor, Udall helped negotiate a compromise between Arizona, California and Nevada on the reallocation of Hoover Dam power and rewinding of its aging turbines. Rather than introduce the compromise as a new bill, it was tacked onto the McClure bill by the Lower Basin senators as an amendment. The bill, including McClure's public works projects and Udall's compromise, was passed by the Senate and sent on to the House.

Compromise between the three Lower Basin states was necessary because a multi-billion-dollar treasure was up for grabs: the dirt cheap (less than a half penny a kilowatt-hour) electric power produced by Hoover Dam's 17 generators.

The fifty-year contracts governing the sale of that power expire in 1987, and the attempt by the federal government's Western Area Power Administration to reallocate the power bureaucratically had been blocked by disputes and lawsuits among the states. The stakes were too large for a regulatory solution, so the ball bounced to Congress.

The fight is understandable. Hoover produces about 1,400 megawatts of power -- the equivalent of a large nuclear power plant or of three coal-fired power plants. And it produces the power at less than one-tenth the cost of power from a coal or nuclear plant. So those areas that get the Hoover power at existing prices gain an enormous windfall.

The compromise to divide this multi-billion-dollar treasure is complex. First, existing users get to hang onto their present allocation. But the pot is enlarged for some newcomers by authorizing reconstruction of Hoover's turbines so that they will produce 1,900 megawatts instead of 1,400 megawatts. Electricity is most valuable during peak periods, when everybody is running air conditioners and appliances. The upgrading of the turbines means Hoover will have more power available to sell at peak times, and less to sell at off-peak times, when plenty of coal-fired power is available.

Having taken care of the power interests, the bill then turns to broader state interests. It calls for surcharges on the half-penny electricity. Arizona users will pay an extra 0.45 cents per kilowatt hour, which will go to help pay Arizona's share of the Central Arizona Project. California and Nevada users will pay an extra 2.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, which will go for weather modification to increase the snowpacks in the mountains which feed the Colorado. The rest of the funds will be used to reduce the salt going into the river.

The Udall Hoover portions made it through the House, but McClure's $257 million in public works projects didn't. A House staffer said the lack of a front-end cost-sharing mechanism killed the projects. The staffer also said that it was not yet clear what kind of compromise with McClure might be necessary to get the Senate to go along with the House version.

Udall's bill didn't get through the House without opposition. Led by Representative Barbara Boxer (D-CA), a coalition of congressmen attempted to mandate an auction of the power from Hoover Dam. They argued that in a time of massive federal deficits, "Fifty years of bargain-basement benefits would seem long enough for the exclusive Hoover club." An estimated extra $3.5 billion could have been raised from an auction in the first ten years of 30-year contracts.

But Udall argued that all parts of the nation enjoyed federal power in some form or other. The implication is that if Hoover power is sold to the highest bidder, so might power from the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Bonneville Power Authority, and all the other public power projects in America. His argument carried the day, as the key "Boxer Rebellion" amendment failed 214 to 176.

The Boxer Rebellion was strongly supported by several environmental groups, including the Environmental Policy Institute, the Environmental Defense Fund and the National Wildlife Federation. Ed Osann, a staffer with NWF, said, "The Boxer amendment was the first try to treat hydropower" in an economically rational way. He said there would be additional attempts.

Osann also said the Udall bill was not a complete loss. "At this point, I'd rather see it enacted because" it requires that those getting the additional Hoover power pay the $77 million bill for the expansion and that they emphasize energy conservation.

Glen Canyon

Colorado River Storage Project (Glenn Canyon, Navajo, Flaming Gorge, and Curecanti) power is now where Hoover's was last year. Its contracts end in 1989, and the Western Area Power Administration is setting up bureaucratic guidelines for the redistribution of that power. Western has held hearings and taken comments on a proposal, but won't release its final guidelines for who will get Glen Canyon's approximately 1,400 negawatts until this summer.

Whatever guidelines it releases, there will be a fight. For starts, the Environmental Defense Fund and National Wildlife Federation have asked Western to do an Environmental Impact Statement on the reallocation and to require that those getting the power practice conservation.

'Fifty years of bargain-basement benefits would seem long enough for the exclusive Hoover club'

David Marcus of EDF in San Francisco says, "We argue that this is Western's big chance to make conservation a living part of allocation. As long as Western is going to do bureaucratic allocation, they should do it in a constructive way." Western has indicated it will build conservation into the requirements, but a voluntary EIS seems unlikely.

From a very different angle, Utah Power and Light, a private utility serving much of Utah, has been aggressively demanding a chunk of the cheap hydropower. At present, the CRSP power all goes to public power entities such as city-owned utilities and REAs. UP&L argues that the people it serves are as deserving of penny a kilowatt-hour electricity as customers of public utilities, and has vowed to carry the fight as far as necessary.

There is also an interstate fight between Colorado-Ute, a large REA supplying much of rural Colorado with power, and Arizona. At present, Arizona utilities get 20 percent of the power produced by the Upper Basin's dams. Colorado-Ute wants Western to give that cheap power back to the Upper Basin -- in particular, to Colorado-Ute. The REA argues that with Arizona's large Palo Verde nuclear plant due to come on line soon, Arizona won't notice the loss of the 240 megawatts.

But led by the publicly owned Salt River Project near Phoenix, Arizona argues that it has a right to the power, and to the hundreds of millions of dollars the cheap power saves its citizens each year.

Colorado's Tactics

Although the utilities care deeply about the reallocation of the power coming out of Glen Canyon, the overriding issue for the states is the use of the power revenues to help develop the Upper Basin's water. At present, there is a stalemate. Of the five projects (Dolores, Dallas, West Divide, San Miguel, and Animas-La Plata) that Colorado says it was promised when CAP was authorized in 1968, only Dolores and Dallas are under construction. Animas-La Plata has a shot at starting but San Miguel and West Divide appear dead.

These main 'participating' projects, plus six others in Colorado that are even deader than San Miguel and West Divide, were to be built out of funds generated by Glen Canyon and the other cash registers. But the projects have been attacked as uneconomic by the executive branch of the government many times.

More significantly, the utilities which buy the Colorado River Storage Project electricity have organized themselves into a group acronymed CREDA (Colorado River Energy Distributors Association). These publicly owned utilities in the Upper Basin states and in Arizona have convinced the federal government to reduce funding to proposed dams. This has kept their electric rates down, and made it more difficult to build dams.

The result is that the cash generators Congressman Wayne Aspinall thought he was building at Glen Canyon, Curecanti, Navajo and Flaming Gorge aren't generating dollars for dams. They are instead generating cheap electricity for consumers.

In an attempt to change this, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), a group appointed by Governor Richard Lamm (D) to set water policy for the state, has come up with a strategy. Under CWCB director Bill McDonald, the board proposes to do for Colorado what Udall is doing for Arizona.

In Congressional testimony March 6, 1984 on the Udall Bill, McDonald said, "The passage of HR 4275 will establish precedents for what Colorado intends to seek for the Upper Basin... Colorado has proposed that federal legislation be enacted which

[Continued on page 12]

Denver tunnels toward more Colorado River water

In the Lower Colorado River Basin, Congressman Morris Udall pushes the Central Arizona Project, preparing for the day when Arizona will begin to divert 1.2 million acre-feet of Colorado River water to Phoenix and then Tucson.

And high up in the Rockies where most of the Colorado River water originates as snowpack, representatives of two million Denver-area residents prepare to take more water out of the Colorado River Basin by tunneling under the Continental Divide.

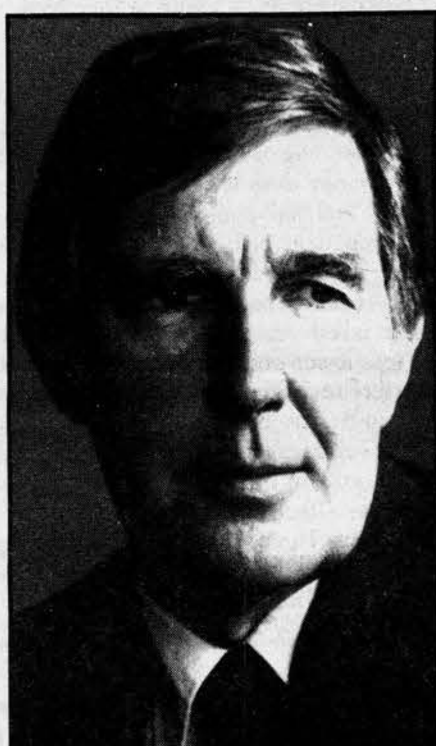
The planned additional diversions (the Front Range now diverts 540,000 acre-feet) into the Missouri River Basin concern all seven basin states. The more water diverted off the top, the saltier the remaining water flowing into Arizona, California and Mexico becomes, and the less water there is to generate electricity at the various power plants along the way to Mexico.

But while transmountain diversions affect the entire basin, the other six states have no say in the decision. The various compacts specify how much water Colorado can take out of the river. How it uses that water is a matter for the state, which leaves the decision to the Denver area and rural Western Colorado's 300,000 people.

That very political decision is now being made under the umbrella of a $6.8 million Environmental Impact Statement conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers. The study is supposed to determine the Denver area's need for water through the next 50 years and describe where that water will come from.

The so-called Systemwide EIS was started in May 1982 for completion this summer. But from the start, Western Colorado and the mainly Front Range Environmental Caucus charged that the study was being poorly done and was a captive of the 46 Denver area water suppliers who were paying the Corps to do the work.

This May, the Corps appeared to at least partially agree. After two years of work by its contractor, Engineering Science, the Corps told the public that because of poor quality documents, a lack of initial public contact, and apathy on the part of groups that should have been involved in the EIS, it was going to start the process over. In a series of late May "scoping" meetings held throughout Colorado, including Western Colorado towns it had avoided in its May 1982 scoping, the Corps solicited suggestions on how it should revamp the study.



HCN

Rep. Morris Udall [D-AZ]

The "rescoping" appeared to be a victory for those who wish to limit the Denver area's ability to tunnel under the Divide for additional water. But the rescoping was also favorable to Denver. The initial document was to be theoretical -- determining water need and ways to get it, but not laying the groundwork for the permits Denver and its suburban allies would need to actually build a project.

The rescoped Systemwide EIS will continue to study the big picture. But it will also do the "site specific" work necessary for the Denver area to build Two Forks Reservoir -- a 1.1 million acre-foot reservoir on the South Platte River near Denver.

Denver and the 46 or so suburban entities that will share the cost of Two Forks play down the importance of Two Forks, saying it will only allow them to capture additional South Platte River flows (the South Platte is east of the Continental Divide) and provide storage so it can bring some additional Western Colorado water under the Divide.

But Western Colorado and the Environmental Caucus fear otherwise. They say the enormous Two Forks would give the Denver area the storage space to build a series of very large, very expensive transmountain diversion projects which would reach deep into the Western Slope to deplete it of several hundred thousand acre-feet of water a year.

There is also fear that Denver would choose to empty its Dillon Reservoir -- a major recreational asset to Western Colorado -- in order to keep Two Forks full and to generate associated hydroelectric power to help finance the project. There is also the Compact Call concern -- the worry that Denver will take its water and leave Western Colorado to meet the water demands of the Lower Basin states in some future drought year.

Those concerns and others were raised at the May 24 scoping meeting in Grand Junction, just a few miles east of Utah. After an introduction by the Army Corps, a retired journalist named Bill Nelson summoned up the memory of how East Slope - West Slope battles used to be fought. Denver, he said, is "slippery... slimey ... scoundrels." Two years ago, the Army Corps would have grimaced. At this scoping meeting, they took down all of Nelson's comments on large sheets of paper mounted on an easel.

But Nelson was the throwback rather than the rule. The other comments were short on emotion and long on the issues. Delta County Commissioner Fred Calhoun told the Corps that he had two concerns. He was worried that Denver would divert water off the top, leaving Western Colorado to meet minimum stream flows the federal Fish and Wildlife Agency might impose to protect endangered species.

And he was determined, he said, to see that Denver built reservoirs in Western Colorado and for Western Colorado residents to compensate for the water it was diverting. Moreover, he said, so-called compensatory storage -- one acre-foot of storage for each acre-foot diverted -- shouldn't be applied only to future diversions. It should be retroactive, requiring Denver to compensate Western Colorado for past diversions. In the request for retroactive compensatory storage, Calhoun was echoing Club 20, an influential consortium of Western Colorado counties, towns and businesses.

Judy Moffatt, a Glenwood Springs resident, told the Corps that if it were going to study Two Forks in detail, it should also study the Green Mountain Exchange. This plan, proposed by a Western Colorado committee, would give Denver the use of water in the West Slope-controlled Green Mountain Reservoir.

Green Mountain Reservoir is located just west of the Continental Divide. If Denver could pump water out of Green Mountain into nearby Dillon Reservoir, it would not have to build canals, pumping stations and reservoirs deep in Western Colorado. That would save Denver money and save Western Colorado environmental damage. In return, however, Western Colorado apparently expects a cap on Denver's thirst for water, abandonment of a large Two Forks, and other compensation.

The Army Corps has tentatively said that the Green Mountain Exchange is too theoretical and distant for it to study in the same site-specific detail as Two Forks.

Ted Nation of the Two Rivers Citizen Association in Grand Junction asked the Corps why the Homestake II transmountain diversion proposed by Colorado Springs and Aurora wasn't included in the Systemwide EIS. Nation said that Homestake Water is to go to the Denver Metro area and should be part of any systemwide analysis. The Corps said the Homestake II project was being examined in a separate EIS nearing completion.

In another comment on the danger of a fragmented approach, Mark Pearson of the Colorado Open Space Council said it made no sense to discuss a massive reservoir like Two Forks without also investigating the transmountain diversions that would be built to fill it -- East Gore, Eagle-Piney and Eagle-Colorado.

Connie Albrecht of Friends of the Earth objected to relegating water conservation to the "no federal action" classification in the scoping document. She said, "No action is usually the kiss of death."

The Army Corps is taking comments until June 15. It will then issue a description of what its study will cover. Those wishing to contact the Corps should write: Planning Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 6014 U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

Water projects...

[Continued from page 11]

would amend the 1956 Colroado River Storage Project Act to make CRSP power revenues payable directly to the Upper Basin states. Such funds would then be used by those states to finance water project construction..." McDonald said Colorado and the other Upper Basin states would ask Congress to put a surcharge on Glen Canyon's power sales starting in 1989, with the surcharge going directly to the state to build projects.

Why didn't Colorado attach that proposal to Udall's bill? CWCB board member Dick Johnston of Montrose says the various Colorado interests were unable to agree on a strategy in time. Surprisingly, he says the major problem wasn't with CREDA power users afraid of a surcharge, or with Denver fearful of seeing Western Colorado develop projects that would deprive the Front Range of water, or with local water project sponsors reluctant to redesign Bureau-designed elephants to fit today's environmental and economic realities.

Those problems, he said, proved negotiable. But "the Colorado River Water Conservation District takes the position that the five participating projects have to be built the same time as the Central Arizona Project." Given that belief, the River District, which speaks for Western Colorado on water matters, can see no reason to move ahead with a power surcharge to build projects the federal government is supposed to build anyway.

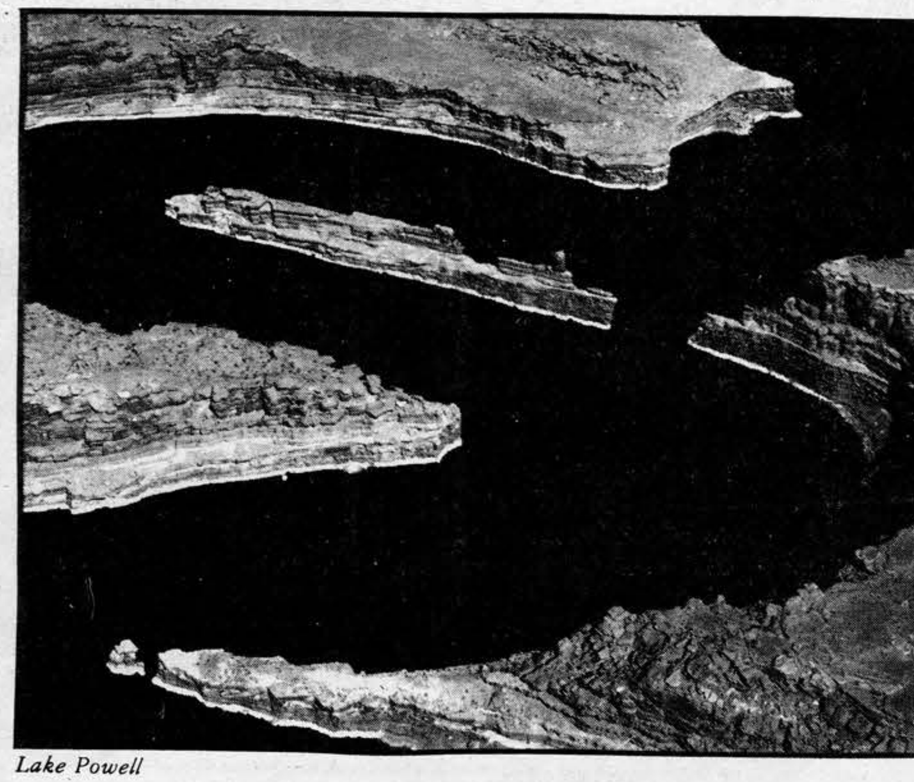
And without the River District on board, Colorado did not have the unity it needed to go to the Congress with a Udall-like plan.

The Grand Canyon

The Byzantine politics of water seems abstract, but there are down-to-earth consequences. Those consequences were on display last spring in the Grand Canyon and below Hoover Dam along the Parker Strip. By law, Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon are to be operated first for flood control. But except when Parker Strip is under water, the political forces all focus on generating electric power rather than on the passive activity of providing empty space in reservoirs for flood protection.

In response to the overwhelming pressures for power and stored water, the Bureau operates the reservoirs on the brink -- keeping them as full as possible without causing flooding. Last spring the Bureau went over the brink. This spring, it came close to the brink. Glen Canyon is spilling 15,000 cubic feet per second beyond the 30,000 cfs being used for power generation.

Bob Lippman of Friends of the River in Moab, Utah, says, "We've seen enough evidence to say the Bureau hasn't learned much. All winter they said they'd hold output at 30,000 cfs. But a week ago, they raised it to 45,000 cfs."



Jack McLellan

Lake Powell

As a result, he said, Grand Canyon National Park is again being damaged. "Since 1963 (the year Glen Canyon Dam was closed), there has been virtually no new sediments deposited in the Grand Canyon. So beaches weren't rebuilt." Sand that got swept off beaches and down the canyon wasn't replaced by sand coming down river because Lake Powell above Glen Canyon Dam traps all the sediment. The high releases this year are further damaging the beaches, Lippman says.

But even in normal times there are problems. The erosion of the beaches, Lippman says, is aggravated by the peaking operation of Glen Canyon Dam, as releases rise and fall in step with electric power production. Professor Robert Coats of Berkeley, writing in *Environment* magazine, says the river can rise or fall by as much as six feet in a few minutes due to changes in power production. The "tides," says Lippman, eat away at the beaches.

If the villain is peaking power water releases, then Glen Canyon Dam is becoming more villainous. The Bureau is in the middle of upgrading the turbines in the dam so they can generate more peaking power, and therefore release more water.

More generally, Lippman says, "To us, the major issue is the physical resources and values of the Grand Canyon National Park. They're being run roughshod over by the Bureau of Reclamation. If it continues, what is the meaning of a National Park -- what protection does it offer?" He charges that the National Park Service has "jumped in bed with the Bureau in order to get study money."

There is no immediate danger of increased peaking releases to generate power out of the upgraded reservoirs. Bureau of Reclamation head Robert Broadbent has promised that releases won't be increased until $4.8 million in studies are completed on the effects of higher releases.

John Thomas, who is coordinating part of the studies for the National Park Service out of Grand Canyon headquarters, says they will look at sediment transport and erosion, the effect of increased flow on land and water wildlife, and the effect on river running and trout fishing as well as recreation in general. Based on the reports, he said, recommendations would be made in late 1985 on the best way to manage Glen Canyon Dam: whether to allow maximum peaking releases, to operate as at present, or perhaps even to damp down peaks to reduce damage.

According to Thomas, the upgrading would increase peak river releases from 31,500 cfs to 33,100 cfs. In comparison with an earlier plan, he said, this is a small change in peak conditions. "There was a proposal in 1980 to greatly expand Glen Canyon by installing new turbines." The propsal was in response to the demand for new peaking power. But Thomas says the expansion, which would have sent a great deal more water down river, met with intense opposition and was dropped by former Interior Secretary James Watt in 1981.

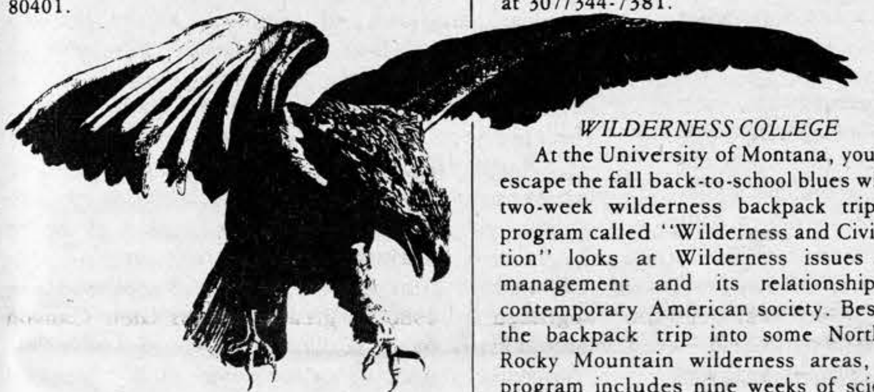
BULLETIN BOARD

CAMPAIGN AGAINST TOXICS

A National Campaign Against Toxic Hazards is underway with 55 state and local groups and 40 national organizations as sponsors. The goal is to effect legislation that gives citizens the right to know about the risks of disposal and the right to compensation for damages, among other safeguards. The national coordinator is John T. O'Connor and the coalition can be reached at Clean Water Action Project, 733 15 St., N.W., Suite 1110, Washington, D.C. 20005.

SCHOOL OF MINES WASHINGTON WORKSHOP

The Colorado School of Mines' Energy and Minerals Field Institute held a Washington Workshop this spring on the topic *"Western Energy and Mineral Development in the Global Context."* A talk by Anita Ruud, assistant counsel to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, painted another grim picture for the nuclear industry. Along with cost overruns, project cancellations, and more stringent enforcement of rules, Ruud said, a major problem has been the huge increase in scale of power plants from 200 to 1000 megawatts. Ruud said Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Energy bills already introduced in Congress seek standardized plant design, early site review, and a combined construction permit and operating license to consolidate regulatory requirements. Workshop talks are written up in *Field Notes* published by the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO 80401.



HAWKWATCHERS

Two ornithologists are looking for volunteers to help in their hawk studies during this fall's migration. One project is in the Goshute Mountains of Nevada and the other is on the Maine coast. Volunteers sign on for ten days of self-funded, hands-on study. Write to Raptor Projects, Earthwatch, 10 Juniper Road, Box 127N, Belmont, MA 02178.

IT'S NOT ALL SUNSHINE

Farming may be hazardous to your health, concludes a report from Nebraska's Center for Rural Affairs called *"It's Not All Sunshine and Fresh Air: Chronic Health Effects of Modern Farming Practices.*Citing epidemiological studies, the report concludes that farmers are particularly prone to cancers such as leukemia, multiple myeloma, a cancer affecting the bones, and lymphoma, a cancer that attacks the lymphatic system. The report is available for $5 from Center for Rural Affairs, Box 405, Walthill, NE 68067.

ALTERNATIVES

The Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies is dedicated to rooting out new ways to help state and local government operate more in the public interest. In addition to a quarterly newsletter titled *Ways and Means*, the non-profit group does research into various subjects. Among its publications are a handbook for toxic waste activists, a progressive agenda for local government, and an account of "America's Poisoned Playgrounds: Children and Toxic Chemicals." The group is at: 2000 Florida Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 20009, (202/387-6030).

COLORADO AND WORLD WILDERNESS

Colorado's Front Range will be the first U.S. site for the World Wilderness Congress. The September 12-18, 1987 convention in Denver, Estes Park and Fort Collins will be the fourth of its kind, bringing together ecologists, world leaders, natural resource managers, environmentalists and other conservationists. Colorado's eastern cities competed with San Diego, Chicago and Eugene, Oregon in site selection for the Congress.

NEW MEXICO'S ENVIRONMENT

The year-old New Mexico Environmental Advisory Council is looking for public input and participation. The council was established by Governor Toney Anaya to make specific recommendations on issues that would lead to greater protection and enhancement of the environmental quality of the state. The eleven-member council is seeking ideas, suggestions, notices of existing and potential environmental problems, solutions and methods to deal with such problems, and proposed changes in laws or the regulatory process. The group is also setting up committees to pursue issues of concern in greater detail and is looking for committee members. Contact Lynda Taylor, Chair, P.O. Box 4524, Albuquerque, NM 87106 (505/262-1862).

YELLOWSTONE REGS

Yellowstone National Park is digging out of the snow and announcing new entrance, campground and boating regulations. All the roads into the park are now open and this year's $2 entrance fee is good for seven days in both Yellowstone and Teton National Parks. All campgrounds, services and facilities were open by early June. First-come, first-served campground spaces mean you need to get there before noon if you expect to find a space, and campground stays will be limited to seven days in July and August. Boat permits will cost $5 to $10. To find our about road and weather conditions (and the inevitable Wyoming June snowstorm), call park headquarters at 307/344-7381.

WILDERNESS COLLEGE

At the University of Montana, you can escape the fall back-to-school blues with a two-week wilderness backpack trip. A program called "Wilderness and Civilization" looks at Wilderness issues and management and its relationship to contemporary American society. Besides the backpack trip into some Northern Rocky Mountain wilderness areas, the program includes nine weeks of science and humanity classes and shorter field trips to wilderness areas and to hearings on wilderness issues. For more information and application forms, write to the Wilderness Institute, School of Forestry, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812 (406/243-5361). Applications will be accepted through early September, but space is limited.

CATCHING UP ON RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Ranchers or companies who have had unauthorized rights-of-way on public land for more than seven years have less than three months to legalize the improvements without charge. Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, dubbed flipma, a permit is required for all ditches, roads or pipelines which cross federal land. Now playing catch-up, the Bureau of Land Management is giving a grace period until July 31 for permit applications on all rights-of-way which existed before flipma was passed. Applicants will not be charged a filing fee or back rental, says Wyoming's BLM director Hillary Oden. Unauthorized rights-of-way which aren't legalized by July 31 can be removed by BLM or by authorized users who have obtained a right-of-way, Oden warns. For more information, check with your local BLM office.

In the meantime, both the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service are asking for comments on fees for rights-of-way. Approaches vary from basing fees on a specific measure such as a mile or acre or on sound business practices. Send comments by July 3 to Director, BLM, 1800 C St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, or to Max Peterson, Chief, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013.

ON TO DESOLATION CANYON

The Utah Wilderness Association is co-sponsoring a trip on the Green River to Desolation Canyon June 21-25 with Lee Johnson, a Canyonlands Institute guide with 15 years of experience. The river run costs $300 and reservations are necessary. Write to the UWA, 325 Judge Building, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 or call 801/359-1337. The UWA also plans a trip September 1-2 on the Colorado River to Westwater Canyon.

DIAL-A-DAM

If you're a river runner or if you just want to keep up with the excitement at Glen Canyon and other western dams this runoff season, the Bureau of Reclamation has a toll-free number that gives the elevations, inflows and releases of several reservoirs and dams. Besides Lake Powell and Glen Canyon Dam, the daily updated recording includes Colorado's Blue Mesa, Crystal, and McPhee Reservoirs, Utah and Wyoming's Flaming Gorge Reservoir, and their associated dams. The numbers are: 800/624-1094 for calls within Utah and 800/624-5099 for calls originating anywhere else in the U.S.

CAMP FOR RENT

Conservation education groups can now rent a former Bureau of Land Management Youth Conservation Corps Camp near Powderhorn, Colorado. The BLM recently signed over use of Indian Creek Camp to a camp board of directors made up of representatives from several soil conservation districts, schools, the BLM, and the Lake City Recreation Department. The camp consists of several cabins with fully equipped kitchens, in a spruce-aspen forest 35 miles southwest of Gunnison. Group rates are only $.50 to $2.50 per person per day. Contact Terry Reed, BLM, Gunnison Basin Resource Area, 11 South Park Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401 (303/249-6624).

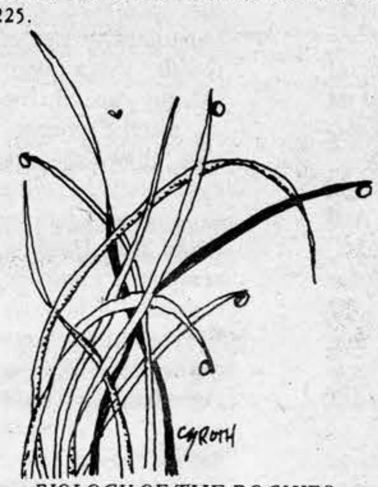
SAN MIGUEL - SAN JUAN RMP

The BLM has released a draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the San Juan-San Miguel District in southwestern Colorado, southeastern Utah and north-central New Mexico. The RMP covers a million acres of public lands and an additional 300,000 subsurface mineral acres, and analyzes various resource issues such as wilderness, wildlife, recreation, livestock grazing, coal, and oil and gas leasing. It is one of the last BLM grazing EIS's to be completed in Colorado.

Comments will be received on the RMP through July 28, 1984. Public hearings are scheduled for late June. Copies of the document, including maps, can be obtained from the BLM San Juan Resource Area office. Comments should be addressed to: David J. Miller, BLM Area Manager, San Juan Resource Area, Room 102, Federal Building, 701 Camino del Rio, Durango, Colorado 81301, (303/247-4082).

AQUATRAIN REPORT AVAILABLE

A recently released Bureau of Reclamation report examines possible corridors, including alternate routes through Colorado, for a proposed 1,400 mile long, multi-purpose pipeline system called "Aquatrain." Aquatrain would have the dual objectives of reducing Colorado River salinity and transporting western coal. Copies of the Aquatrain Corridor Study Report may be obtained by writing Michael Clinton, Project Manager, Saline Water Treatment and Use Office, Bureau of Reclamation, ERC-190, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225.



BIOLOGY OF THE ROCKIES

Rocky Mountain biological diversity and change is the subject of a conference planned for Fort Collins, Colorado this August. The 35th Annual Meeting sponsored by the American Institute of Biological Sciences will feature field trips, symposia, poster sessions, workshops, business meetings and, of course, social functions. The registration fee for the August 5-9 conference is $55 or $25 for full-time students, but rates go up after June 15. To register or for more information contact Meetings Department, A.I.B.S., 1401 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209 (703/527-6776).

SUN BEAR SPEAKS

A lecture and two-day workshop on Native American philosophy and healing will feature the founder of the first new Indian tribe of this century -- the Bear Tribe. Sun Bear and his helper Wabun will discuss spiritual philosophy, herbal medicine, vision quests, the medicine wheel, sweat lodges and general living in harmony with nature. The lecture will be at 7:30 P.M. on Friday, June 22 at Baseline Junior High School in Boulder, Colorado. The workshop will be the following Saturday and Sunday at Camp Wondervu near Golden, Colorado. Fees are $7.50 for the lecture or $75 for the workshop, including lodging and meals. For more information, contact Sun Bear Reservations, 1300 Jackson, Golden, CO 80401.

INDIANS AND LAW

American Indian religion and the law will be the subject of a two-day conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Presentations and panel discussions will explore the limitations of past and present judicial and legislative attempts to protect Indian land-based religions, and will suggest new approaches. Dates of the conference are June 21 and 22, and the registration fee is only $10. Contact the National Indian Youth Council, 201 Hermosa Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108.

'STOP ACID RAIN'

After a House Subcommittee deleted acid rain provisions from the Clean Air Act last month, the Sierra Club and four other environmental organizations decided to launch a national campaign. Their goal is to generate political pressure for controlling acid rain caused by coal-fired power plants, and "Stop Acid Rain" postcards are the tools to convince public officials that people are concerned. The cards are available from the Sierra Club, 530 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108. Other participants in the campaign are the National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Earth and The National Clean Air Coalition.

WYOMING LAND EXCHANGE

The Bridger-Teton National Forest is planning to exchange 140 federal acres of mostly meadows and hayland for 320 private acres of mostly riparian and aquatic habitat. The lands are on the southwest flank of the Gros Ventre Range about 25 miles southeast of Jackson, Wyoming. You can review the Environmental Assessment of the Bondurant land exchange at the Jackson District Ranger's Office or write for one from the Forest Supervisor's Office, P.O. Box 1888, Jackson, WY 83001. Send comments to the Regional Forester, Forest Service Intermountain Region, 324 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84001.

HOW SHOULD COUNTIES BE REIMBURSED?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is considering a tax equivalency system to replace the current way of sharing national forest system receipts with local governments. Under the proposal, payments would be made to counties equivalent to what would be received by them in taxes if the lands were owned privately. Present law provides that 25 percent of the gross receipts from sale of timber, grazing, recreational activities and other uses on Forest Service lands are returned to states to be used for roads and schools in the counties where the lands are located. Through the years, counties with large acreages have complained that their tax bases are devastated by the 25 percent policy and that county revenues fluctuate from year to year, depending on the lumber market. The USDA is seeking comments on the proposal from more than 40 national organizations which are interested in the management of the national forest system. Congress would have to pass legislation before any changes could be made to the present system.

GUEST ESSAY

A critic profanes the West's

_______by Jeanne Willoughby Englert

Is a man entitled to buy up, settle or promote a chunk of desert land and then demand that his government bring water to him from the general direction of the North Pole?

--Major General Jackson Graham

The question people invariably ask me, after I describe the Colorado-New Mexico Animas-La Plata project, with its 13 electricity-guzzling pumps sucking the Animas River out of its bed up 900 vertical feet over to the La Plata River drainage to irrigate land so high a freeze has been recorded all twelve months of the year, is: "Who would support something like that?"

To answer that question, I must raise the concept that in Colorado water is a religion, the prime tenets of which are that dams, no matter how much they cost or what they destroy, are unqualified goods, that these dams pay for themselves, and that a free-flowing stream is an abomination in the eyes of the Lord. If water is the lifeblood of the West, as John Gunther once said, then the only part of the circulation system the Colorado water religionists understand is the spleen.

I picture them at church on a Sunday morning, seated placidly in their respective pews -- hands clasped, eyes closed, legs folded -- while the preacher reads the Gospel of the day, visualizing, not Jesus being baptized in the River Jordan, as the Bible says, but wading across the exposed foreshore (mudflats) of a Colorado reservoir to embrace John the Baptist who is slowly, slowly, slowly sinking into the ooze.

The catch phrase employed by the faithful to express the prime tenets of their religion is "use it or lose it," which in Colorado water law means that if a holder of a water right fails to use the water he is entitled to by law, he will lose that water to somebody else who can put it to "beneficial use."

What we feared when I was growing up was that if Colorado did not build sufficient dams and reservoirs to trap the spring runoff from the Rocky Mountains, California would take the water which Colorado was legally entitled to and as a consequence Colorado would "lose" it, the corollary of "use it or lose it" being, "We can't let California take our water."

This leviathan of a potential water grab by California (as later refined to include the Arizona, Pima, Papago, Navajo, Paiute, Jicarilla Apache, and Ute Indian threats) became the chief propaganda tool of the Colorado water religionists -- the special interests which promote the dams -- their high priests, the water attorneys (who live well off the dedicated tithing of the faithful), the "pork-barrel" Congressional subcommittees and their minions at the Bureau of Reclamation, the federal agency which pursues with single-minded zeal its mission of damming every river in the West, sometimes two and three times.

But can Colorado actually put its legal entitlement to true economic beneficial use? And what if California (or Arizona, etc.) does "take" our water? Is there any harm done? These questions are well beyond the scope of the Colorado water religion to answer and anyone who probes beneath the surface of the store-it-or-lose-it-we-can't-let-California-take-our-water mentality will be met with an incredulous stare and no answer. Does a fundamentalist Christian question the Biblical assertion that the world was created in seven days?

In fact, neither terrain nor climate makes Colorado's Western Slope ideal for agriculture. Most of the land on the Western Slope lies 5,000 feet or more above sea level, which means that the growing season is short -- only 80 to 90 days -- the variety of crops which can be produced is small, and the soils are only marginally suited for farming.

But the 1902 Reclamation Act was originally established to build irrigation projects to settle the West and though the Bureau of Reclamation no longer builds single-purpose irrigation projects, those now being totally uneconomic to construct, irrigation water is still a substantial component of most BuRec projects including the ones in Western Colorado, despite the natural limitations of the land.

Does it make sense for Colorado to develop its legal entitlement of the waters of the Colorado River to grow low-value crops like alfalfa when the Imperial Valley in California can grow much more? The federal investment in the Animas-La Plata would be over a million dollars per farm. Can such an investment rationally be justified?

Usu-fructos. Literally use of the fruit. Each August the apple tree next door to my house would let loose its barrage of apple bombs, dropping onto my neighbor's prefabricated Montgomery Ward toolshed. Bam, bam, bam, the apples would fall all night long, roll down the little crimpled gutters of the shed's tin roof and fall to the soft earth below, there to rot. After years of canning and steaming and peeling and coring, having grown weary of putting up countless Mason jars of applesauce, apple jelly, apple butter, my neighbor had no use for her crop of bam-bamming apples. Since she would no longer use her annual apple crop, naturally she lost it.

What she would do though was lean over our backyard fence and offer me the entire apple crop careening onto her toolshed roof. "It's a shame not to use them apples," she'd say.

As a matter of fact, California already has "use of the fruit," as all the water in the Colorado River Basin is used. The river no longer flows into the Gulf of California as it did before it became a vast plumbing system tapped and tamed by man. But though California gets the use of Colorado's entitlement under the Compact, Colorado reaps the benefits of that use in the form of cheap fresh food year round, as I, in exchange for the use of my neighbor's apples would bestow upon her a few jars of my applesauce.

Does Colorado, then "lose" anything by allowing usufructory use of its water in the Lower Basin when we as well as others reap the benefit of the food produced with that water? As one La Plata County Commissioner put it (but not for the record of course; such heresies are only uttered in private), the best use of Animas-La Plata water, should there ever be a true food production crisis in this country, would be to let it flow 200 miles downstream where they can really grow something.

And, ironically, every acre-foot of water dammed in Colorado will exacerbate the problem of downstream salinity, which is the accumulation of dissolved minerals in the water. When these saline waters are applied to the land, they stifle plant growth. In the case of the Animas-La Plata, the increased salinity of the river due to the consumptive use of water in the project would result in a net loss agriculturally due to salinity-caused crop loss downstream.

But the tenets of the Colorado water religion do not allow the thought that it might be to everyone's benefit to let the Lower Basin continue to borrow Colorado's undeveloped water. And so when Ben Harding, a Boulder consulting water resource engineer, modestly proposed at a (usually scholarly) water conference in the Western Slope town of Gunnison that it might make sense for Colorado to forego its development rights and lease water to Imperial Valley growers, he was told in explicit terms exactly how he would look after the sharp blade of an irrigation shovel had cleaved his face in two.

No religion would be complete without its panoply of rituals. The Colorado water religion is no exception, possessing its high holidays, such as the dedication of a dam or the annual Lenten pilgrimage to Washington each spring dressed in polyester sackcloth and ashes (which means flying Coach instead of First Class) -- tin cups rattling -- to ask for the annual appropriation from Congress to pay for construction of the dams. Or to beg for the next one before the altar of the Congressional Subcommittee on Irrigation and Reclamation of the Committee of Interior and Insular Affairs, which in 1966 was presided over by none other

HCN

Wayne Aspinall

than the Pontifex Maximum of the Colorado water religion, Wayne N. Aspinall.

The question before the subcommittee was whether to authorize five Western Colorado water projects: the Dolores, Dallas Creek, Animas-La Plata, San Miguel and West Divide. One of those who testified before the subcommittee was Victor Paulek, chairman of the La Plata Water Conservancy District and a farmer who would receive water from the Animas-La Plata project. Paulek's support of the project made sense because no matter how much it would cost to build it, he as an irrigator would pay only a small portion of that cost because his water is subsidized by the federal government.

In 1966, the Bureau of the Budget (now Office of the Management and Budget) estimated that the farmer beneficiaries of the Animas-La Plata would repay only 13 percent of the cost of their water. By 1983 the irrigation subsidy in the nearby Dolores project had reached a staggering 95 percent (the true meaning of the word "beneficiary" of a reclamation project). The irrigator's repayment obligation to the federal government is based on his "ability to repay," which is determined by a complex farm budget analysis independent of the actual costs involved of delivering water to his land. As the cost of the project rises, so does the irrigation subsidy.

Who, then, actually pays for Victor Paulek's water? That residual cost, or what we could call the irrigator's "inability to repay," is paid by the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund, which is where the "excess revenues" (governmentalese for profits) from electric power generation at Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Curecanti and Green Mountain projects are stashed. These dams in turn are also subsidized by the federal taxpayer, who finances them at extremely low interest rates, some as low as 2.5 percent.

Shouldn't the taxpayers then be entitled to the profits from these dams? No, only a special class of federal citizen is entitled to them, the Western, or reclamation, irrigator (such as the large agribusiness corporations in Southern California which have their corporate headquarters in Manhattan skyscrapers).

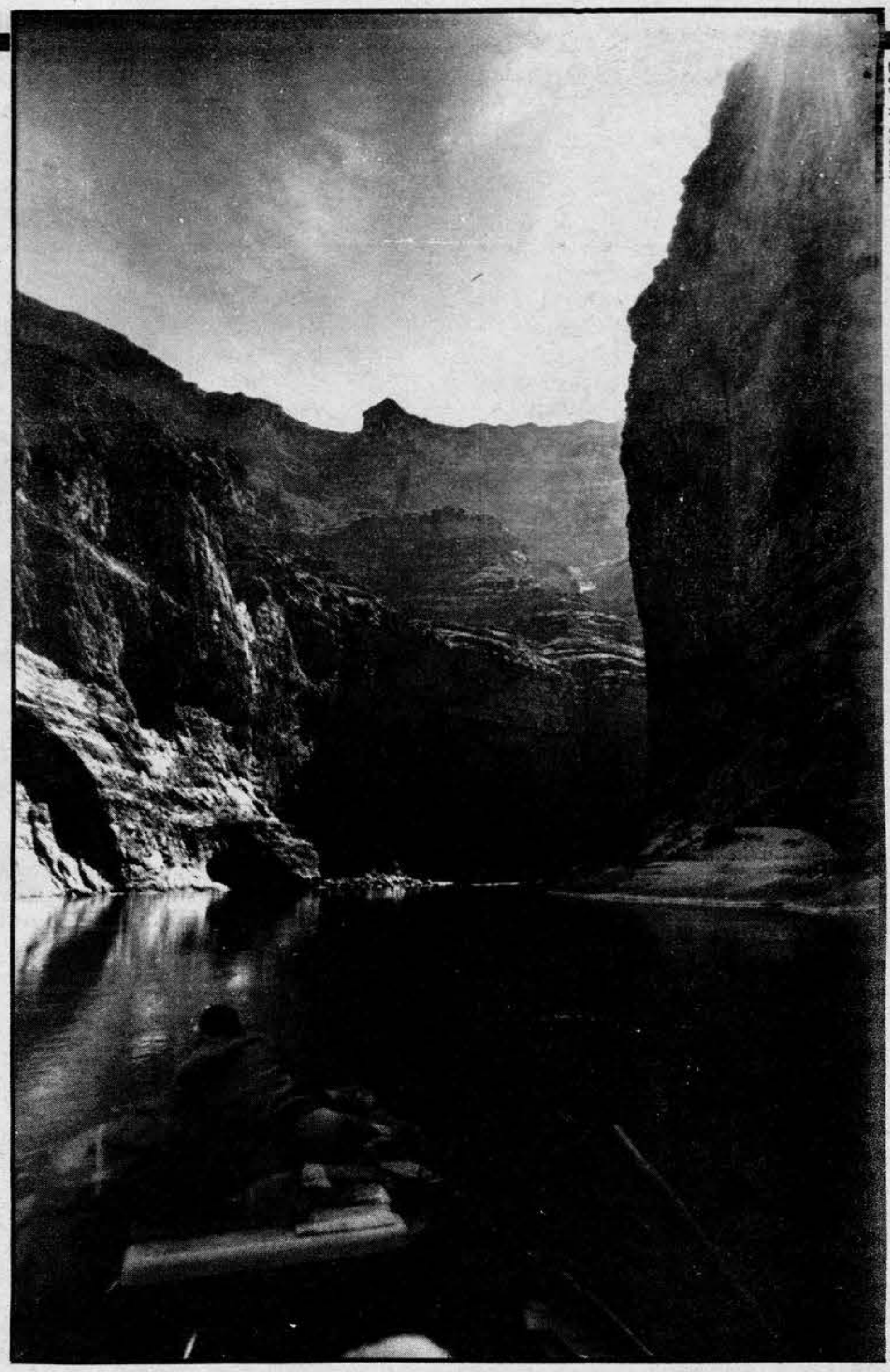
The truth is the irrigation component of federal reclamation projects is paid for by:

- Gouging power consumers;
- Stealing profits from the federal taxpayer;
- Both of the above.

It was no wonder then that Victor Paulek would support the Animas-La Plata project since others would bear the brunt of the cost of constructing it. Buoyed with the knowledge that somebody else would have to pick up the tab, he sailed through the hearing, waxing eloquent in his role as yeoman farmer without saying one word about the price of the dam. Others also testified, including Fred Kroeger, a member of the board of the Southwestern Water Conservation District, and F.F. Montoya, representing the New Mexico Water Conservancy District, also to receive subsidized water.

The water conservancy districts were key figures at those 1966 hearings. In fact, they continue to be the cornerstone of Colorado water religion, supplanting the irrigation districts in the

water gospel



Bob Woodall

late 1930s because of the need to have a broader property tax base. Whereas irrigation districts tax only those who directly benefit from waterworks, water conservancy districts tax all property owners within their boundaries.

Although they have broad taxing powers, they have almost no accountability because their boards are not elected. They are appointed to their posts by district court judges, a throwback to the reign of King George III and "taxation without representation." The mute, and sometimes unwilling, property taxpayers underwrite the costs of the annual tin-cup week junket to Washington by board members or others who stand to gain from a federal water project by testifying for it before the appropriate Congressional subcommittees. Although these non-elected supplicants have no actual local constituents, the committees interpret their appearances to mean there is broad local support for the project.

What was actually at stake in the 1966 hearings was authorization of the Central Arizona Project (CAP). The prospect of its construction was a matter of particular concern to Chairman Aspinall because he feared there was not enough water in the Colorado River to supply the CAP without tapping into Colorado's entitlement under the compacts. This fear was confirmed by the findings of a report prepared for the Upper Basin Stream Commission by the Denver engineering firm of Tipton and Kalmbach, which concluded:

It would appear extremely unwise to authorize the construction of a project in the lower basin on the supposition that there will be enough unused water in the upper basin to supply the needs of the project until importation of water is made. If the Central Arizona Project is to be authorized, the authorization for the importation of water into the Colorado River Basin should be made at the same time.

Judging by California's reluctance to back water development projects in other Western states after its dams had been constructed, Aspinall feared that once Arizona had use of Colorado's Compact water it would not support construction of upstream projects which would take away water Arizona was using.

And so Aspinall told Arizona Congressman Morris Udall he would not support the Lower Basin project unless the five Western Colorado projects were authorized at the same time, with the agreement that they would be constructed in tandem with the CAP. The fact that there was insufficient water in the Colorado River Basin for six more reclamation projects did not bother Aspinall as he supported studies to import water from the Columbia River to the Colorado River Basin.

Did I say Columbia River? I sure did. I realize it's a thousand miles away in the northwestern United States with several mountain ranges and God know what else in between. But to Aspinall the Columbia River's location was but a mere inconvenience, the importation of its water being a minor problem the Bureau of Reclamation's engineering ingenuity should be able to solve. What counted was that the ***unused*** flow of the Columbia River was twelve times the virgin flow of the Colorado. And if the Good Lord couldn't see how wasteful it was to have all that water flowing unused into the Pacific Ocean, then Aspinall, who believed it is mankind's duty to improve upon the works of nature, could.

Besides, he had the perfect spots picked out for more hydro-electric dams on the Colorado to finance the importation scheme: in the Grand Canyon there was a perfect site for a reservoir. (After all, aside from its pretty sunrises and sunsets, what good is it?)

Aspinall's demand that the five Colorado water projects would be the sweetener he needed to swallow the CAP put the Bureau of Reclamation in a bind. Of the five, only the Dolores was anywhere near authorization status. But Udall, anxious to please his Arizona water religionists (Colorado is not the only Western state which has one), told the Bureau of Reclamation to work overtime if it had to to prepare the projects for authorization.

But then the projects hit a second snag. They came under heavy fire from the Bureau of the Budget, which criticized the unusually high irrigation subsidies in the Colorado projects. The Bureau of the Budget summed up its position this way:

Since these new projects in the Upper Colorado Basin would require such heavy subsidies for irrigation farmers, we question the desirability, in areas of critically short water supply, of Federal Government sponsorship without further consideration of both alternative uses and of supplemental water sources.

The Bureau of the Budget had also singled out the Animas-La Plata project as failing to meet even the minimum economic criterion a project must have to be eligible for authorization or construction. To be authorized, a water reclamation project must have a one-to-one cost-benefit ratio, which means that for every dollar spent on construction of the project, it must return at least a dollar in benefits. The cost-benefit ratio of the Animas-La Plata project was only .97 to 1.

But Chairman Aspinall was adamant. He would have all five Colorado projects (later dubbed by the rafters as the "Filthy Five") or no Central Arizona Project.

Modify it, the BuRec was told. Make it work. And they did. Fortunately for the Bureau of Reclamation, in 1964 Peabody Coal had entered into a lease agreement with the Southern Ute Tribe for future development of the tribe's coal resources, and had subsequently contacted the Bureau unilaterally to inquire about the availability of water. So the Bureau cut out 22,420 acres of marginal land, most of it Indian land, from the irrigation service area and increased the municipal and industrial water allocated in the project from 9,700 acre-feet to 76,200 acre-feet, much of it earmarked for a coal-fired power plant on the Southern Ute Reservation.

Thanks to these modifications, the project's cost-benefit ratio climbed from .97 to 1, to 1.11 to 1. The Animas-La Plata had crossed the authorization threshold. Aspinall would get his Filthy Five. And in a true expression of the Colorado water religion, Aspinall's efforts to authorize the Western Colorado water projects were lauded in a 1966 Grand Junction *Sentinel* editorial:

No one in Colorado [*and certainly no one in Western Colorado*] *should fail to praise Congressman Aspinall's courageous stand. Now it is doubtful that the Arizona project will even get a hearing until the Colorado plans, long a part of the Upper Colorado Projects, are approved according to agreement.*

All this demonstrates once again just how valuable to Colorado is Wayne N. Aspinall. If the Upper Colorado Basin states did not have a man of his stature fighting their battles it would take less than five years for all the water in Colorado to be stolen, divided and appropriated by Southern California. Reclamation in the Upper Basin would be left completely high and dry.

It was thus that in 1968 Wayne Aspinall, the father of Colorado Reclamation, was able to push through the Animas-La Plata project in complete disregard of its lack of economic value and with full knowledge there was insufficient water in the Colorado River Basin. As political scientist Helen Ingram put it, it was a case of reclamation politics... as usual.

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Jeanne Englert is a freelance writer who lived until recently in Durango near the proposed Animas-La Plata water project. She now lives on Colorado's Front Range. This article is adapted from a chapter in Ms. Englert's *The Ute Line*. She gave a version of this talk at Water '84, a May 12 conference at Glenwood Springs, Colorado organized by Friends of the Earth.

OFF THE WALL

Another Olympics plug

No more Mister Nice Guy. After 14 years of public service journalism, *High Country News* is going commercial. As a first step toward a tawdrier future, *HCN* beat out *Not Man Apart* and *Rain* to win designation as "The Official Environmental Newspaper of the 1984 Olympics."

The designation allows *HCN* to display the Olympic Rings on its front page. It also becomes sole purveyor of environmental stories about the Olympics. *HCN* is planning several exciting features, including the effect Olympic visitors will have on LA's sewage treatment plants, and whether deep breathing by competing athletes will worsen the city's air quality.

The staff emphasized that despite the Olympic designation, the paper was not abandoning its independent editorial stance. In fact, said a spokesperson, "We may urge editorially that an EIS be done, or that special air quality permits be issued for each event. Long distance running events, which are notorious for their large-scale use of oxygen, are of special concern."

One blight on the Olympic designation is the feud it has caused with the Audubon Society. Audubon, which reportedly paid the Olympic Committee $20,000 to report on bird stories, claims it has story rights whenever a bird is struck by a discus or javelin. *HCN* claims such collisions are environmental events, especially if birds belong to an endangered species.

They're worth millions

The *New York Times* appears to have lost the power of rational thought. In a May 8 front page story, writer Michael Blumstein asks if auto execs should get million-dollar bonuses just as workers are taking wage cuts and the administration is keeping out Japanese imports.

The answer to Blumstein's question is obvious: Of course they should get their million dollars. Does the *Times* think it's easy to convince tough labor leaders to accept pay and benefit cuts? Does the *Times* think the quota on Japanese imports just happened? Heck, *Times* executives would deserve a million dollars too if they could bludgeon the Newspaper Guild into pay and benefit cuts and figure out how to send Rupert Murdoch back to Australia.

In truth, what we're seeing on the *Times* front page is corporate sour grapes. The *Times* knows that GM's Roger Smith deserves his $625,000 salary and $866,000 bonus. And Ford's Phil Caldwell earned every penny of his $520,000 salary and $900,000 bonus.

They earned it by knowing when to twist arms, when to cajole and when to shut down a plant for a week or a year to bring workers and congressmen into line. Mixed in with the ability to bully labor and congress is a light public relations touch -- they can convince the American public that if one additional Honda or Toyota sails into a California port, the U.S. economy is done.

Moreover, these men do many things they can't take credit for. Their flacks can trumpet the way they've shaved labor costs and increased efficiency to where it only costs $2,000 more to build a car in Detroit than in Japan. But they can't publicly take credit for the high-tech way they've replaced "built-in obsolescence" with a new concept.

Detroit can no longer afford to retool every few years, so it can no longer make cars obsolete with dramatic styling changes. To get around that, the mini-computers in each car are secretly programmed to give out a variety of rattles, creaks and pings once the odometer passes 36,000 miles.

Auto engineers once boasted that they could build ten million cars without repeating the same combination of colors and options. Now they boast that they can build 10 million cars without programming in the same mix of alarming mechanical noises. Even more impressive, the in-car computer will sense whenever you pull into a service station and shut off the sounds.

Market and motivational research show that car owners can live with anything but suspicious noises. Detroit predicts the noises will lead to one million additional sales a year, thwarting the trend to drive cars longer.

Clearly the *Times* was off base. The decision makers in Detroit are worth several million a year.

Power breakfasting

Much has been written about intimidation through food. Although the subject has been latched on to recently by a host of corporate Emily Posts, it was really launched by writer Edmund Wilson in *Memoirs of Hecate County*. There, the hero intimidates the villain by munching enthusiastically on partially boiled muskrat, showing that good guys can be tough too.

Despite Michael Korda and Edmund Wilson, one strategic meal has been neglected -- breakfast. Breakfasts are especially important because that's when most deals are cut. In today's no-caffein, no-sugar, health-conscious world, the key to power breakfasting is to show a reckless disdain for your own well being while appearing on the verge of a high-energy attack on your table mate.

As in any meal, get him to order first. If he orders chamomile tea, or even English Breakfast, along with whole wheat toast, you've got the deal in your pocket.

You simply order coffee -- black. When it comes, dump in four packets of sugar -- make sure he knows it's not saccharin -- and stir. Along with the coffee, have two fried eggs, an order of bacon and toast. Be sure it's white toast -- "Bond Bread, if you have it." And just as the waiter is leaving, snap your fingers and say, "Don't forget the Coca Cola."

Gulp alternately at the coffee and Coke while putting away the bacon and eggs. For light openers, talk about the Twinky Defense and how sugar always revs your motors (only wimps have one motor). After twenty minutes of this, take out the contract you prepared the night before and shove it at him. Nine times out of ten, he'll sign, glad to get away so cheap.

Only a foreshadowing

The following appeared in the May 11 *Washington Post* under reporter Dusko Doder's byline.

"The Soviet Union tonight sharply escalated rhetorical charges against President Reagan, describing him as a liar and comparing his foreign policy to that pursued by Hitler. The shrill personal accusations against Reagan appear to foreshadow a tough propaganda stance against his administration in the coming months."

The story went on for many more paragraphs, but Mr. Doder never did explain his use of the word "foreshadow." Calling Reagan a liar and a throwback to Hitler would seem about as tough as you can get without mailing a guy letter bombs.

But journalists, like most people, hate to do themselves out of a job. It could be that Doder figured: "If I write that the Soviet propaganda campaign has peaked, the editors may lose interest. They like things to be going up or going down. If they don't see movement, they may assign me to cover construction of a memorial to Tito in southern Yugoslavia. So I'd better say the campaign is just building. Then, after a while, if they compare him to -- let's say -- Mussolini -- I'll say the peak has passed and softer times are coming. Then they'll let me stay in Moscow to cover the thaw."

--Ed Marston

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