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High Country

news

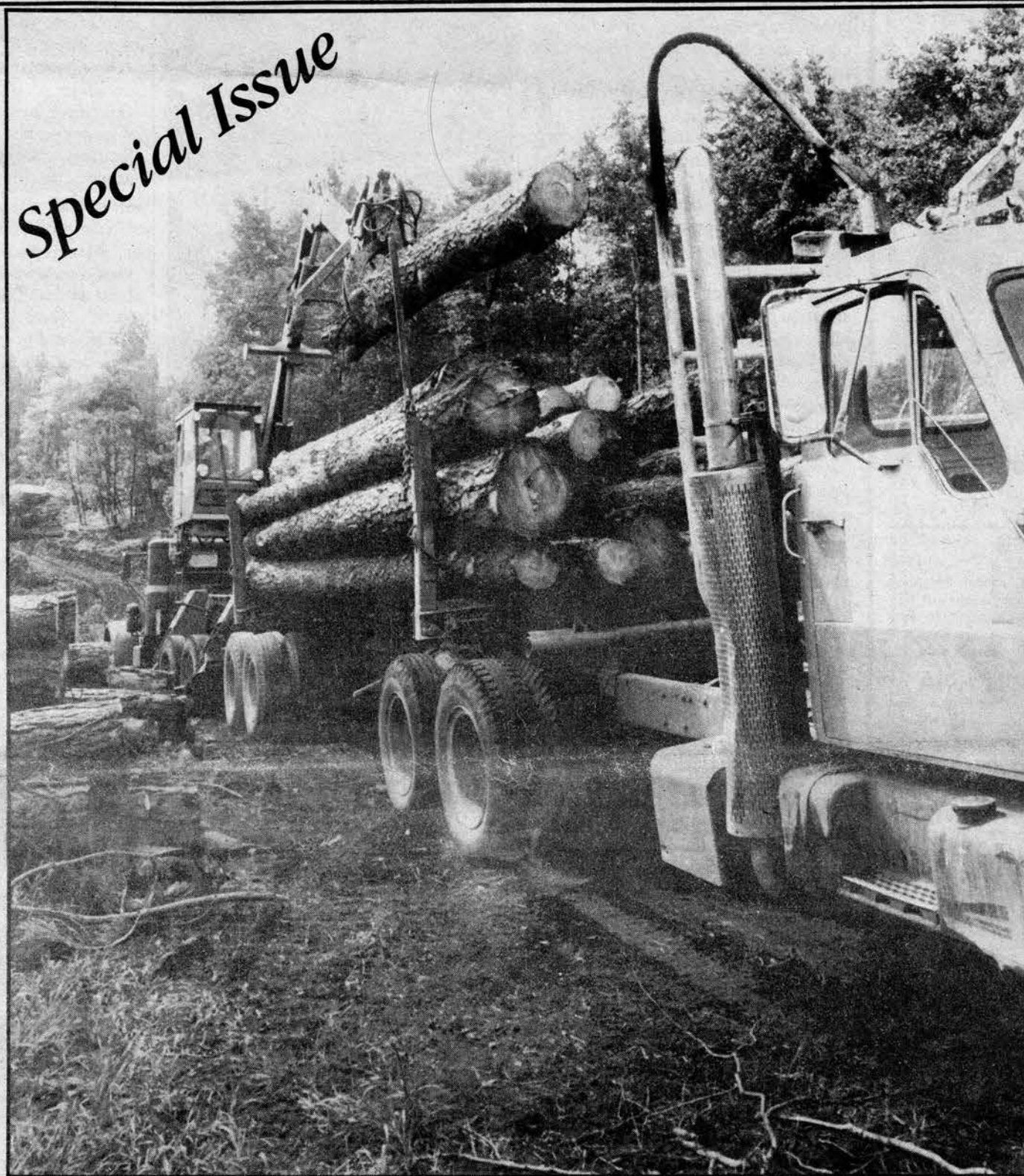
October 15, 1984

Vol. 16 No. 19

The Paper for People who Care about the West

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Special Issue



F.R. Martin

Loading timber in Montana

America debates and litigates the future of its forests

We have no racial memory of it, but we once depended on trees for everything -- food, shelter, a place to sleep, a place to mate. Back then, no doubt, the species took trees for granted.

Today, weaned from the aboreal habitat, we no longer take trees and forests for granted. In Europe, they are watching their forests die, and are wondering uneasily if man can break such ancient links with the past and survive. An American scientist who recently returned from a visit to the afflicted areas said the residents of the German towns in the forests described themselves as permanently depressed by the death around them.

In the western United States, our

trees have not yet been -- and may never be -- hit by the man-made plague which is devastating Europe. Instead, we have the luxury of arguing -- over coffee, in the courts, and in Congress -- about how we should manage our forests; whether to leave them to nature's mercies, whether to intensively manage them in tree farms, or whether to take some middle, multiple use route.

In this issue of *High Country News*, we concentrate on the "multiple use" parts of the National Forests -- the parts of the 183 million acres that Congress has not put into wilderness and that is therefore more or less up for grabs. It is an attempt to

tie together and put in perspective every story you have read in the past year about timber sales, road building, herbicide spraying and the 'threat' of RARE III.

The issue opens with an overview (page 6): the legal fight that individuals and environmental groups are waging with the Forest Service over forest management. The next story (page 7) puts the legal issues in a political context via interviews with forestry consultants Randal O'Toole and Andy Stahl. A profile of Walter Minnick (page 10), a maverick timber industry executive, provides another view of the timber cutting.

The stories then move to the ground, looking at two case studies:

logging in the Flathead National Forest west of Glacier National Park (page 11) and aspen cutting and conflicts of interest in Western Colorado (page 13).

The issue closes with an act of faith: a leisurely article by George Sibley on work within the Forest Service that may lead to multiple use management, as opposed to today's timber cutting. It is an act of faith because it assumes that there is more to making decisions about forests than winning political or legal struggles so that one side or the other can implement its ideology. The assumption in this article is that information counts.

WESTERN ROUNDUP



High Country News

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The Black Canyon 'rescue' ends in rancor

The Nature Conservancy's attempt to preserve several thousand acres of ranchland on the north rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument in Western Colorado has ended with threats of a lawsuit against the conservation group, the National Park Service and an appraiser.

At the center of the dispute are the continuing financial difficulties of Rocky Mountain ranchers (see story on Wyoming rancher John Perry Barlow, HCN, 10/1/84) coupled with the decline in the speculative or development value of rural land.

In this particular case, Richard Mott, a rancher and land developer faced with foreclosure, began this summer to slowly put in water lines and roads for a second home subdivision to approximately 4,200 acres of land he owns along the spectacular canyon rim (HCN, 6/25/84). The roads and homes would mar the view visitors have from the developed trails, roads and campgrounds on the south side of the national monument, and the construction caused an uproar and received widespread publicity in the regional press.

Mott stopped development when Congress began moving a bill to authorize purchase of the land by the Park Service. The Congressional action was strengthened by a contract between Mott and the Nature Conservancy; it made the Conservancy an intermediary, buying the land from Mott to later sell to the more slowly-moving Park Service. A middleman was necessary because a Mott spokesman said the rancher was in financial trouble and needed the cash to avert foreclosures.

Despite the contract, the foreclosure came on September 25 when the Southwest Production Credit Association (PCA) recorded a quit claim deed on more than 7,500 acres of Mott's land in lieu of payment on a \$2.2 million note. Mott spokesman Tom Chapman told the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel:

"We're now sustaining the damages we've been talking about since last spring." Chapman also said that in his opinion, Mott may file a lawsuit charging the Nature Conservancy, the Park Service and the appraiser with collusion to keep the price of Mott's land low. Neither Mott nor his attorney has confirmed the threat.

The appraiser, Jim Mollica of Aspen, reported that the 4,200 acres were worth \$200 an acre (\$840,000 total) as agricultural land, rather than the \$600 an acre (\$2.5 million total) Mott valued it for second homes. Mollica didn't appraise it as a subdivision because of the lack of water.

Mollica's appraisal found that the water Mott owns requires 3.5 miles of pipe, some of it across BLM property, to reach his development. As of the appraisal, Mott had not applied for a BLM permit. The lack of water plus the glutted market for second-home land led Mollica to conclude that subdivision development was speculative. Mott, however, had an appraisal done a year ago by realtor Roger Blouch of Delta which valued the land at \$600 an acre.

Sydney Macy, who handled the negotiations for the Nature Conservancy, said Mollica was chosen by Mott from a list of appraisers given



Black Canyon National Monument

him by her organization. According to Macy, Blouch is not a registered appraiser and was therefore not on the list. "His appraisal wouldn't be acceptable to the Park Service." She also said, "We feel Mollica did a competent, thorough job. We don't feel he'd ever have come in at the \$600 an acre Mr. Mott thinks it's worth."

Despite that, "We spent all last week (Sept. 24-28) talking to Mott and his attorney, trying to extend the agreement. But they refused to agree to a second appraisal. The PCA also encouraged Mott to go to a second appraisal."

Mott spokesman Tom Chapman charged that the Nature Conservancy knew there was a problem with the appraisal in August and should have taken action. Macy said Mott did not notify the Conservancy that he objected to the appraisal until September 17. She said the Conservancy then extended its option deadline from September 24 to October 1 to allow negotiations. This was done, but the negotiations were fruitless: the Conservancy wouldn't accept the Blouch appraisal of \$600 and Mott was not interested in a second appraisal.

Macy said the Nature Conservancy's contract with Mott was binding, and the organization could have forced a sale at \$200 an acre. "But we don't do business that way. We deal on a willing seller-willing buyer basis."

There is still a chance the 4,200 acres will end up in Park Service hands. According to Macy, "The appropriations bill looks good in Congress." If passed, it would appropriate \$1.3 million for land at the Black Canyon. But, she said, the Park Service can't pay more than the value set by a registered appraiser. Presumably it will now be the Production Credit Association that could sell to the Park Service. As for the Nature Conservancy, "We're out of this."

Macy said that the Nature Conservancy has not yet seen many distress situations in the Rockies such as that facing Mott. But she said it is common in the Midwest. "A lot of farmers there are in trouble. We are in the funny position of buying farms at auctions -- land we've been watching for years for our own portfolio that we're now able to get at a better price than before."

--the staff

Dear friends,

With 4000 envelopes stuffed and sealed, and with nine hamburger deluxes, two giant bags of potato chips (no preservatives), and many cans of pop consumed, the crew below feels free to cut up a bit. The broad gestures are the Paonia version (junior high level) of breakdancing.

The stuffed, sealed envelopes, of course, contain the High Country

News annual Research Fund appeal, which most subscribers should have received by now. We hope you will pardon the stray bits of ketchup they may be emblazoned with, and recall that we've avoided crisis appeals over the last couple of years because subscribers have been so generous at Research Fund time.

--the staff



Chance Chamberlain, Denise Wardlaw, David Marston, Jacob and Rhonda Rodstrom, Eric Robinson, Wendy

Marston, Chris Thompson; seated, Jessica Wheeler.

HCN

Falconers caught in the claws of a sting

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Operation Falcon," a dramatic three-year undercover operation aimed at ferreting out illegal traders in birds of prey, has seen the arrests of 39 people so far. Wildlife officials promise at least that many more arrests in the next couple of weeks.

The fact that many of those arrested during the three-year-long "Operation Falcon" are falconers has prompted wildlife groups to call for new government restrictions on how hawks, falcons and other federally protected raptors may be bought and sold in the United States. There were two separate markets for the birds, which were taken from the western U.S., Canada and Alaska -- falconers in the Middle East and Europe, and falconers in the U.S.

The international portion of the sting is steeped in intrigue. Officials say a number of regal white and silver gyrfalcons were sold by a government informant working out of Great Falls, Montana to members of the Saudi Arabian Royal family, and to German falconers. An official of the Finnish government has also been indicted for allegedly bringing Finnish goshawks into the U.S., where he planned to sell them.

The domestic end of the sting has been denounced by the North American Falconers Association, which claims the government enticed people to buy desirable birds at a very low cost. Roughly half of those arrested belong to NAFA, whose members fly raptors for sport. "They entrapped people," said Ralph Rogers, of Winifred, Montana, an official of NAFA. "Instead of packets of dope or bundles of money they used a precious wild resource. And in the process they endangered that resource."

NAFA also claims that there was no major illegal market in birds of prey until it was created by the Fish and Wildlife Service's undercover operation. "They're like the devil," said Williston Shor, a NAFA publicist. "They entice you to do something and then they punish you for it. I'm ashamed to say it was my government."

An attorney for the Justice Department, which is prosecuting the case, denied the sting constituted entrapment. "We don't believe we caused anyone to do anything they weren't already disposed to do," said Donald Carr, chief of the Wildlife and Marine Resources Section of the Justice Department.

Falconry is an ancient sport which uses a trained raptor to hunt prey -- either game birds or small mammals. The hunter carries the bird perched on his arm and when prey is spotted, either on the ground or in the air, the bird is released.

"Operation Falcon" was born in 1981 when falconer John Jeffrey McPartlin began buying and selling gyrfalcons, peregrine falcons, goshawks and other birds of prey in the West and Midwest. Throughout the three years McPartlin surreptitiously taped hundreds of telephone calls and conversations with people who had birds to buy or sell.

Among the best customers was a West German family, whom the Fish and Wildlife Service claims are at the core of a worldwide raptor smuggling ring. Lothar and Marcus Cielieski, both in their early twenties, bought a total of 19 gyrfalcons over several years from McPartlin for \$5,000 apiece, and paid a similar price for



Peregrine falcon

percegrine falcons. Agents say the gyrfalcons were sold for \$50,000 each in the Middle East; the peregrine falcons fetched substantially less. After renting a plane and flying the birds to Washington, D.C., the Fish and Wildlife Service said the two brothers passed the birds on to a man who purchased first class airline tickets for the birds and flew with them to Saudi Arabia. Gyrfalcons and peregrine falcons are highly prized by falconers throughout the world both for their speed -- they can fly more than 160 miles per hour -- and superb hunting abilities. Gyrfalcons are larger than peregrines.

Carr said the arrests only partially reveal the market. "We've only seen the tip of a huge iceberg of illicit traffic in birds of prey that, by all indications, leads to a lot of exotic places." The Fish and Wildlife Service believes that the number of birds traded during the course of the investigation -- from 400 to 600 -- severely depleted raptor populations.

Much of the illegal trade among U.S. citizens arrested involved birds taken from the wild and then doctored to make it appear they were captive bred. Last year, the Department of Interior published regulations which allowed captive bred birds to be bought and sold, but only if they are fitted with a small metal band which cannot be removed after the bird is two weeks old. The band is meant to distinguish them from wild birds, which may not be bought or sold.

Federal agents say a number of falconers stole eggs or eyasses (young birds) from nests in the wild and put the captive-bred bands on them.

"It's too easy to cheat," said Jim Leape, attorney for the Audubon Society, which opposed the regulations, and now asks that they be repealed. "All you need to do is steal eggs or eyasses from the wild and put on a seamless band." Secretary Clark promises to review the regulations "in depth."

Another complaint of falconers, according to Shor, was that several people informed state and local authorities of McPartlin's illegal activities, which they did not know were part of a government sting. "We repeatedly tried to clean our own ranks," Shor said.

When officials took no action against McPartlin, Shor continued, many falconers figured officials did not care that the law was being broken. "If everybody drove 90 miles an hour on the freeway every day for three years," Shor said, "and all the Highway Patrol did was wave at them, you can imagine how much compliance with the speed limit there would be."

Carr disagrees. "We commend the innocent and legitimate falconers," he said. "But it is not legitimate to infer from supposed government inaction that laws on the books are fair game to be broken."

--Jim Robbins

Couple drops radon suit

A Moab, Utah couple recently dropped their lawsuit charging that government negligence risked their health. William and Karen Price had lived in a house contaminated by uranium mill wastes (HCN, 8/6/84).

In an out of court settlement, government attorney Ralph Johnson offered the family a comprehensive medical exam at government expense. The agreement also specified that the government will neither be liable if any claim arises from the exam nor be considered guilty as a result of the settlement.

Price said he was concerned about his family's health after living for several years in a house with high indoor radiation levels. He said he had already experienced digestive problems that disappeared when he moved out of the house and wasn't sure if radiation from the uranium tailings was the cause.

The government's attorney said that although he realized any effects on Price or his family's health might

take years to show up, the government did not agree to any further medical exams. Johnson said radon measurements taken in the Price house would not have stood up in court. For his part, Price said that he did not have the resources to pursue the case against the government. But he said he is seeking legislative relief for the \$14,000 lost equity in his Moab house.

--Marjane Ambler

BARBS

How's that again?

Carl Bagge's National Coal Association is a dedicated, hardline opponent of environmental controls on coal mines. But the deregulation of the railroads is another matter. He told *Coal Week* that the Interstate Commerce Commission members are "mindless ideologues" who rubber-stamp any action perceived as deregulatory.

HOTLINE

Lake Alice resort denied

A request by an Afton, Wyoming man to build a resort at Lake Alice in the Bridger-Teton National Forest has been denied by the Kemmerer District Ranger. Lake Alice is located in a roadless reevaluation study area in Lincoln County. The resort would have included facilities for fishing, hunting, boating and winter sports, and access was to have been by airplanes landing on Lake Alice. The district ranger said the proposal was contrary to current management direction for the area, which is for primitive undeveloped recreation. The Forest Service received 220 comments from over 360 people.

Elk hunt challenged



Kent and Donna Danner

Three animal protection groups are trying to stop the fall elk hunt at Grand Teton National Park National Elk Refuge immediately adjacent to Jackson, Wyoming. Late last month the Animal Protection Institute of America, the Humane Society of the United States, and the U.S. Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a complaint in U.S. District Court and requested an injunction and ruling on the validity of the hunt. Citing an agreement between Wyoming Game and Fish and National Park Service officials that 7500 elk must be maintained at the refuge, the protection groups estimate that only 6900 elk are left and 450 elk have been authorized for killing this year. Also, according to the court document, much of the existing herd population level data required by the Grand Teton National Park Act was compiled before 1967 and is outdated. Finally, the animal preservation groups say that the lottery system for distributing hunting licenses needs to be changed because it allows inexperienced hunters in on the hunt. The critique cites one instance in which "a group of hunters shot the horses they had been riding." This year's hunt is scheduled to last from October 27 through mid-November.

BULLETIN BOARD

CARIBOU FOREST PLAN

The Forest Service has released its proposed Land and Resource Management Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement for southeastern Idaho's Caribou National Forest. After a comment period, a final plan will be drawn up and, according to Caribou Forest Supervisor Charles Hendricks, hopefully implemented by next spring. The three volumes of documents, which were four years in the making, can be reviewed at Forest Service offices in Pocatello, Soda Springs, Montpelier, and Malad, Idaho as well as at public libraries in southeastern Idaho, Cache Valley, Utah, and Star Valley, Wyoming. The Forest Service will hold several open houses throughout southeastern Idaho to discuss and gather comments on the plan and EIS. The open houses will be from 2 to 7 p.m. on: October 29, Malad Ranger District Office, Malad; October 30, Franklin County Court House, Preston; October 31, Montpelier Ranger District Office, Montpelier; November 1, Soda Springs Ranger District Office, Soda Springs; and November 2, Pocatello Ranger District Office, Pocatello. Written comments can be submitted until December 19 to the Caribou National Forest, Federal Building, Suite 282, 250 South 4th Ave., Pocatello, ID 83201 (208/236-6700).

WHITE RIVER PLAN CHANGES

The Multiple Use Land Management Plan for west-central Colorado's White River National Forest underwent a major evolution from its draft version to its newly-released final version. The Forest Service says the changes resulted from public comments on the draft plan. The changes include: a reduction by one-half of the roads proposed for closure; a timber harvest reduction from 52.8 million board feet to 35.9 million board feet annually; fewer ski areas being retained for development; fewer campground closures; and no reduction in trail mileage. You can find copies of the final plan at Forest Service offices in Aspen, Meeker, Frisco, Eagle, Minturn, Rifle, and Carbondale, Colorado, as well as public libraries in the area.

RANGELAND PROGRAM

Utah's Bureau of Land Management has released the Rangeland Program Summary and Record of Decision for the Henry Mountain Grazing Environmental Impact Statement of the Richfield District. The BLM would like your comments on the document by October 29, 1984. For a copy, write Bureau of Land Management, 150 East 900 North, Richfield, Utah 84701.

SHOSHONE WILDCAT

The Forest Service plans an environmental study before acting on a proposal for a wildcat well southwest of Meeteetse, Wyoming in the Shoshone National Forest. For the project, three miles of forest road would have to be rebuilt and realigned and the road would be extended one mile to the drill site, at an elevation of 10,754 feet in the Absaroka Mountains. The study will deal with possible effects of the road and drill pad construction on soil, water, human solitude opportunities, and wildlife, particularly elk and bighorn sheep. The study will also look at various restrictions and engineering alternatives that would keep the impacts to a minimum. The Forest Service is accepting comments until October 20 on these issues and ideas for other issues to be addressed in the study. Contact Daniel Fritz, Box 158, Meeteetse, WY 82433.

PALISADES DRILL PERMIT

An application for a permit to drill has been filed by the Anschutz Corporation with the Bureau of Land Management for an exploratory oil and gas well in the Palisades area near the Idaho-Wyoming state line. The Forest Service must decide whether to approve the application and allow access to the site, determine if the proposed location is the best alternative, identify issues and concerns related to the proposed location, and identify mitigation measures. Written comments regarding the proposal are requested by October 25. Write the District Ranger, Targhee National Forest, Palisades Ranger District, Route 1, Box 398B, Idaho Falls, ID 83401.

TREES STUMP SCIENTISTS

In 1983, two large, upright trees (6-7 feet diameter, 60-70 feet tall) were found submerged in Jenny Lake of Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park. Park officials recently announced efforts to determine the origin and geological significance of the trees. Divers will try to determine how the trees became inundated in the lake at an 85-90 foot depth, survey the lake for other trees, determine if the trees are rooted, photograph them, and gather information that could explain their origin, age, and condition. Scientists say the information may help explain the seismic history of the region, and that this could affect safety planning for the Jackson Lake Dam and Reservoir.

GRIZZLY HABITAT REOPENS

Yellowstone National Park's Pelican Valley in Wyoming has been reopened for day use. This portion of Yellowstone had been closed since early August when a grizzly killed a Swiss hiker at White Lake. No overnight camping will be allowed, however, and visitors are advised to follow the park's guidelines regarding backcountry travel. Contact park headquarters at P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190-0168 (307/344-7381).

SAFE ENERGY PLATFORM

Public Citizen has released its Safe Energy Platform, full of recommendations to get America back on "The Road to Trillion Dollar Energy Savings." The report describes low-cost, low-risk energy systems that the technological revolution has brought and that "the Reagan administration seems to be ignoring." It's available for \$5 from Public Citizen, 215 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

NON-PROFIT FUNDRAISING

A day-long workshop on fundraising for non-profit organizations will be conducted at the Casper Ramada Inn on Thursday, October 18 from 8:30-5:00 p.m. Entitled "The Search for Funds," the workshop will provide an in-depth look at the fundraising process, from prospect identification to proposal writing. Other topics include raising money from the public sector, corporate and foundation fundraising, acquiring support from individuals and small businesses, planning fundraising events, and other devices for raising money without "asking" for it. The workshop fee of \$50 covers registration, lunch, and all materials. For more information, contact the Wyoming Council on the Arts, 2320 Capitol Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82002 (307/777-7742).



POETS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

A Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada will be hosted by the Institute of the American West from January 31 to February 2, 1985. There will be exhibits, recordings, and a book published about cowboy poetry, but first the Institute must find cowboys, rodeo hands, ranchers, or other cowpeople who write or recite cowboy poetry. Send names and addresses to Hal Cannon, Director of Regional Folklife, Institute of the American West, P.O. Box 656, Sun Valley, Idaho, 83353, or call him collect at 208/622-9373.

TAR SAND LEASING AT GLEN CANYON

The National Park Service has just released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement which analyzes proposed tar sand leasing in the Orange Cliffs region of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The Orange Cliffs region, which lies just to the west of Canyonlands National Park, is a remote, rugged landscape of flat-topped mesas and deeply incised canyons. Tar sand development is still in the conceptual stage, thus making Glen Canyon a testing ground for the new technology. To receive a copy of the DEIS, write Robert Kosparek, NPS, Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225.

ACID RAIN PIN-UPS

America's upwind neighbors seem to give a bigger hoot when it comes to controlling acid rain. To increase public awareness, the Canadian Embassy and the National Wildlife Federation have produced six colorful acid rain posters that tell where acid rain falls, describe its effects and suggest solutions. The posters are available in two forms: six folded posters (order #79667) for \$1 shipping and handling, or six posters rolled in a tube (order #79660) for \$2.95. Write to the Canadian Embassy, 1771 N St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

If you're a Montanan concerned about the nuclear arms race and want to do something about it, a publication put out by the Montana Network for Nuclear Disarmament is for you. The September 1984 issue of *Network News* is crammed full of ideas from, and accounts of actions by, peace groups and individuals throughout the state, along with quotes and poems, references to other sources of information, and a surprisingly long calendar of upcoming events in the state. Also featured is a "partial listing" of Montana peace groups -- 107 of them -- with each listing including the name and phone number of a contact person within the group. To subscribe or obtain a sample copy, write to MNND *Network News*, Box 11, Helena, MT 59624. The Network asks that you try to send \$10 a year for the publication.

A NEW RANGER

The Estes-Poudre District on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado has a new ranger -- Robert Russell. He was a staffer on the White River National Forest. Before that he was district ranger on the Grand Mesa National Forest in Western Colorado, but was removed by Forest Supervisor Ray Evans. The removal decision was affirmed at the regional level but reversed after fact finding at the Washington, D.C. level.

KOOTENAI FALLS HYDROPOWER

The Government Accounting Office has published a new report concisely entitled "Bureau of Indian Affairs' Participation in a Proposed Hydroelectric Facility at Kootenai Falls, Montana." In 1980, the BIA and seven electric cooperatives agreed to pay up to a 10.5 percent share of a study of the feasibility and licensing of a proposed hydroelectric facility. The report discusses how the BIA improperly spent Flathead Indian Reservation Irrigation and Power Project revenues and did not report to Congress its juggling of project funds to pay its share of Kootenai Falls participation expenses. The Department of Interior has made plans to correct the problems. The report is available from the U.S. General Accounting Office, Document Handling and Information Services Facility, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Request report: Acc. No. 124876 (GAO/RCED-84-126), July 11.

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I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete.
Edwin H. Marston, Publisher

Native Americans are confronted with a backlash

Indians and non-Indians alike will be watching Washington state this November. There, approval of a hotly contested citizen initiative on the state ballot could give opponents of Native American rights a shot in the arm, and possibly set off a national backlash against Indian rights. Or, if defeated, it could announce that Americans, even in an embattled state like Washington, approve of the direction in which the nation's dealings with Native Americans is moving.

The bellweather initiative is supported by the Interstate Congress for Equal Rights and Responsibilities (ICERR), a nationwide group which advocates the breaking of Indian treaties and the limitation of Indian rights. The group sees the initiative as a step forward in what they call a new civil rights movement.

"Are we giving America back to the Indians?" asks an ICERR promotional brochure. ICERR claims that Indian - U.S. treaties give the tribes special privileges which infringe on the rights of other citizens. They cite Indian rights cases across the country -- land settlements in Maine and Alaska; unsettled Indian land claims in South and North Dakota, Montana and Minnesota; water rights claims in every Western state; hunting rights in Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico and New York; and fishing rights allocations in the Great Lakes, Oregon and, especially, Washington.

ICERR cites the above as examples of the "Indian problem." Mitchell Platt, a lawyer and ICERR supporter in Arizona, says, "They have all the rights of U.S. citizens and none of the responsibilities. And that causes all of the problems. They control our county here."

Platt is referring to Apache County, Arizona, which is 80 percent Navajo. He objects to the separate Indian government because "they can elect inept or corrupt county politicians and they don't have to deal with them because they're only subject to tribal jurisdiction."

ICERR proposes to solve these and other problems by removal of the Indians' special treaty rights -- by declaring "equal rights and responsibilities under the law for all citizens, Indian and non-Indian."

Native Americans respond that "Indian rights are not superior, they're not super, they're just different," says Susan Harjo, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians. Also, in return for treaties signed between the tribes and the U.S. Government and "affirmed by the Supreme Law of the land and by the Courts" for "as long as the rivers shall run and the grass is green" the tribes ceded almost the entire continent of North America to non-Indian settlement.

The conflicts ICERR complains of come out of the relationship of the tribes, which are sovereign but subordinate nations, to the U.S. Government. Under the treaties, the tribes retain their power of internal self-government. This allows them to levy taxes, enforce zoning regulations and exercise other regulatory powers similar to municipalities within the boundaries of their reservations. This power has been repeatedly confirmed by the federal courts, according to Felix S. Cohen, an authority on federal Indian law.

Were the Indian tribes exercising authority only over Indians and Indian land and resources, ICERR would probably not exist. But due to past



1981 steelhead release into Clark's Creek near Puyallup, Washington

federal policies of "opening" reservation lands up for settlement by non-Indians, and of encouraging the parcelling out of tribal lands held in common, most reservations have non-Indian inholdings.

Only recently has federal policy shifted from that of breaking up reservations to merge Indians into America's mainstream to a new emphasis on reestablishing or strengthening reservations to encourage tribal self-sufficiency. These swings in policy have led to confusion and conflict: Indians lay claim to former reservation land now owned by non-Indians; non-Indians own land and water of uncertain title within tribal-governed reservations, and Indians and non-Indians clash over ownership of 'resources' such as fish and water.

One typical conflict exists in South Dakota, where unresolved land claims cloud titles to thousands of acres of land owned by non-Indians. "Title insurance companies won't guarantee titles on this land. Property prices are dropping. People are trapped. They can't sell and get out (of the reservation) because no one wants to buy land under Indian control," one source says. The inholdings also lead to cries of taxation without representation, "since non-Indians living on reservations are subject to tribal taxes, zoning, and health and safety regulations but have no voice in tribal government."

Such situations recruit ICERR members, many of whom blame the federal government as much as the tribes. "The government allowed this land to be sold (to non-Indians) and now they come back and say, no, this really is reservation land and you have to live with" tribal jurisdiction, says Bob Bruns, a resort owner in the recently reestablished White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota. "That is against our Constitutional rights."

Native Americans say that tribal jurisdiction is similar to any local government. "If you live in one county and work in another," says one Indian law expert, "you pay taxes and are subject to regulations in a county you can't vote in."

In the West, land ownership patterns and governance are also important. But they are relatively minor compared to Indian fears of a backlash on water rights. "Water rights are potentially the most explosive, conflict-prone issue in the Western states. That's where the trouble will flair," says Tom Fredericks, an Indian lawyer representing a number of tribes in the Rockies.

Over 100 Indian communities in sixty Western water basins were involved in litigation or negotiation of water rights in 1982, according to Western Network, a non-profit foundation based in New Mexico. In Western water law, priority to water is awarded to the user with the earliest established water right. Indians often have senior water rights based on their treaty dates. But they almost always lack capital to develop those senior water rights. As a result, their water has often been allocated to users who could afford to develop it.

It is not hard to find examples of water rights conflicts. In New Mexico, several Pueblos are suing to get control of water in the Pojoaque Valley in the Aamodt case (HCN, 3/5/84). In Wyoming on the Wind River Reservation, the state and the tribes are attempting to negotiate settlement of an Indian court victory which non-Indian irrigators say could dry them up.

Unlike the Wyoming negotiations, Washington State Initiative 456 represents a renewed confrontational approach to almost a century of fishing rights conflict. Passage of the initiative would require the state to take sole control of resources within its boundaries, including the controversial salmon and steelhead fisheries. It also would declare equal rights and responsibilities for all citizens, specifically including Indians.

Passage would not be a quick fix. It would almost certainly lead to litigation over the initiative's constitutionality and consistency with recent federal court decisions upholding Native Americans' treaty rights.

But there would be immediate practical effects. Initiative 456 would throw fish management back into the courts, says Bill Wilkerson, the director of the State Department of Fisheries. Wilkerson is not eager to again see judges managing fisheries. "We had nearly ten years of judicial fisheries management since the Boldt decision, and it didn't work."

The Boldt decision was a landmark federal court ruling in 1974. It allocated to the tribes half of the yearly catch, and ordered the state and tribes to co-manage the fishery to ensure the Indians' opportunity to catch their share.

Before the decision, non-Indian commercial fishermen caught 90 percent of the fish. The multi-million dollar commercial and sport fishery harvested huge numbers of fish before they returned to the rivers, where the Indians net spawning runs by traditional fishing methods. There simply were not enough fish left to allow the Indians their livelihood.

Allocation of half of the fish to the tribes angered the state and the fishing industry, leading to ten years of chaotic and often violent 'fish wars.' The state refused to support Indian treaty rights, instead spending years and dollars unsuccessfully challenging the Boldt decision in the federal courts.

While the lawyers wrangled, the fish populations declined. "We finally realized that there is no sense fighting over how to cut the pie if there's no pie left," says Wilkerson. So the state and the tribes are now working together to rebuild the fisheries and to protect salmon and steelhead habitat. Meanwhile, they keep one eye on Initiative 456.

Is the initiative important outside Washington? "Yes," says Reid Chambers, chief Indian lawyer for the Department of Interior during the Boldt decision. "Because the Boldt decision, in upholding treaty fishing rights, not only gave the affected tribes an economic shot in the arm, but it also affirmed their culture, their way of life and ultimately their self-respect as a people. The dominant society has said to Indians, 'You are an inferior race, your treaty rights are not important.' Now that is changing. Self-respect may be the most important effect of Native Americans asserting their rights."

Bill Frank, Jr., Fisheries Manager for the Nisqually Tribe, puts it differently. "When the salmon is gone, then the Indian is gone. We depend on them, not only economically, but also for religious and ceremonial use. Salmon are our culture."

--Susan Tweit

Susan Tweit is a freelance writer based in Olympia, Washington. This article was paid for by the High Country News Research Fund.

HOTLINE

Chimney Rock

The Chimney Rock Archaeological site in southern Colorado will not be invaded by a coal strip mine if a September 10 decision by the U.S. Forest Service stands (HCN, 5/14/84). Regional Forester James Torrence refused to give the agency's consent to mine 2 million tons of federal coal under 80 acres of the 3,160-acre preserve on the San Juan National Forest. Perma Mining, which asked for the expansion in order to keep its 120-job mine in operation near Pagosa Springs, has not yet said if it will appeal. In its decision, the Forest Service encouraged Perma to apply for other suitable coal in the area. The application to expand had been fought by local citizens with the help of the Colorado Open Space Council (COSC). Mark Welsh of the COSC Mining Project praised the decision. He said local people, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and the State Historical Preservation Office were all instrumental in preserving the site.

Chimney Rock, dubbed the Machu Picchu of the United States, is a Chaco Canyon 'outlier' -- an outpost believed built by the Anasazi culture from 500 to 1300 A.D. A federal joint management plan for the outliers, many of which are connected by prehistoric roads, is currently in the depths of the Department of Interior. It is to be presented to Congress to provide 33 of the outliers, including Chimney Rock, with protection.

Those wishing to tour Chimney Rock should call the Forest Service at 303/264-2268.

Animas-LaPlata

The long stalled Animas-LaPlata water project for Colorado and New Mexico has taken a large step forward with the appropriation by Congress of \$1 million in start-up money. Although the sum is tiny compared to the estimated cost of over a half billion dollars, proponents hail it as a breakthrough. The project was authorized in 1968.

The courts are now the forum for resolving forest disputes

by Ed Marston

In the early 1970s, massive clear-cutting by the U.S. Forest Service resulted in some major lawsuits and a nationwide uproar which led in 1976 to passage of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Now, almost a decade later, the timber issue is getting hot again.

This time the battle is a dispersed guerilla war, with the Forest Service's timber practices under attack in scores of ranger districts by citizens angry over timber or chemical spray programs; by ad hoc or local groups which have sprung up to contest a particular "management" action; and again, as in the 1970s, by traditional environmental groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and National Wildlife Federation (NWF) acting with a sense of long-term strategy.

The scale of the action against the Forest Service can be seen in the Western regional press, which has run countless stories over the past year on the struggle. Some are national, such as the recent General Accounting Office audit which found the Forest Service selling timber in the Northern and Central Rockies for large net losses.

But most stories are local. In September, Wyoming papers reported that roads on the Medicine Bow National Forest cost \$1.82 million over three years, but produced only \$237,000 in sold timber. A National Wildlife Federation suit in Montana attacked a policy of roading roadless areas and asked that the road-building be stopped on 13 National Forests in the Northern Rockies. A Wilderness Society proposal reported by Wyoming and Montana papers attacked deficit timber sales, and suggested that such sales be abandoned in favor of more intensive production off good tree-growing land.

Sometimes, it is the Forest Service's allies who come under attack in the press. In Montana, according to the *Great Falls Tribune*, the Butte Skyline Sportsmen's Association accused Senator John Melcher (D) of lying. Melcher had said he supported the building of a road into the North Big Hole area to give sportsmen access to game. But the Butte group said Melcher was actually listening to timber interests when he backed construction of the Howell Creek Road into a wilderness candidate area.

The regional drumbeat of publicity generated by grassroots action helps shape the public's perception of forest issues. But in addition to the more or less uncoordinated actions by grassroots groups such as those in Butte, or in Polebridge, Montana (see related story), or in Western Colorado (see related story), there is also a more coherent effort being put forward on a number of fronts.

Rand O'Toole, an independent forest consultant based in Oregon, says: "The Forest Service is facing an increasing number of more sophisticated lawsuits. An attorney representing the Forest Service told me that five years ago they'd come up against three or four legal issues a

year, and they were generally easy to respond to. Now they're seeing two a month that are very sophisticated, very hard to respond to."

They're sophisticated enough so that the agency is suffering major losses where they are proudest: timber management. The losses, as well as the establishment of damaging precedents, have come in the nation's most productive timber region: Washington and Oregon.

It is there that individual citizens and ad hoc groups such as the Citizens Against Toxic Sprays (CATS), now joined by an alphabet soup of other groups such as SOS, SOCATS, NCAP, et al, in 1976 began fighting the agency's use of herbicides and pesticides on the forests. The Forest Service sprays herbicides to eliminate the brush that competes with commercial trees for soil and nutrients, and pesticides to fight insects that may slow tree growth.

A multitude of groups and suits, with a variety of attorneys, battled the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in the trenches until this spring, when several of the suits came together climactically in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco to give the citizens an almost total victory over the agencies.

The victory was so complete, in fact, that the agencies didn't seem to either absorb its import or understand how to cope with it. On March 1, 1984, their immobility led Federal District Judge James Burns to say, "These officials will spend their spring in jail -- in jail -- if they don't stop."

"These officials" were Secretary of Agriculture John Block, Secretary of Interior William Clark, and assorted other bureaucrats and attorneys. The upshot was a "voluntary" suspension of most herbicide spraying throughout the nation by the Forest Service and the BLM.

According to John Bonine, an attorney with the Pacific Northwest Resources Clinic in Eugene, Oregon, the decisions which led to the halt were based on two requirements which came out of the cases. No longer could the agencies in their EISs or EAs plead ignorance as to the effects of the chemicals. "They had to do worst case analyses." And that meant, Bonine continued, that they "will have to say there is no safe level for any carcinogens."

Bonine speculated that the agencies don't want to do that. "It is a political liability. They're reluctant to reveal those facts. They're embarrassed to admit their spraying is likely to cause cancer."

The courts also imposed responsibility on the agencies for determining the safety of the chemicals. They can no longer hide behind the EPA, Bonine said, because EPA registration of herbicides or insecticides only means it has weighed economic advantages against economic disadvantages.

"If a chemical causes 90 cents worth of cancer and a dollars worth of benefits, then it is licensed." That, he said, doesn't mean the EPA has found it safe. So, Bonine said, the courts say

the agencies must determine the safety before applying it.

Finally, Bonine said, the cases make it much easier for environmental groups to obtain injunctions to stop certain actions. "If the agency is violating NEPA (the National Environmental Policy Act), there is a strong presumption for an injunction." Before these rulings, the judge had to weigh the economics of stopping an action, as well as find that the law had been violated.

Bonine said the cases also involve a non-legal perspective. "We see in timber, in herbicides, in actions on the Freedom of Information Act, a lot of different lawyers working on this. They're not just from the traditional environmental groups."

"This is a second wave of legal activism, different from the first traditional wave in the early 1970s. There's a whole spreading network of young attorneys in private practice who don't depend on traditional support from environmental groups."

The herbicide cases are also sending out legal waves that could extend beyond herbicide use. In April, for example, timber cutting was stopped on the Mapleton District of Oregon's Siuslaw National Forest as a result of a suit brought by Terence Thatcher of the NWF. The federal district court injunction was significant because Mapleton is the most productive timber district in the nation -- 100 million board-feet a year.

The case was won because the judge said the Forest Service hadn't done a worst-case analysis, as required by the herbicide ruling. The court ruled that it hadn't calculated the effect landslides produced by timbering could have on the very productive salmon streams in the Mapleton forests.

In addition to establishing precedents such as the requirements for worst-case analyses and easier injunctions, the Northwest cases may also indicate how timber-related cases in the Northern and Central Rockies can evolve.

Quick and definitive results are unlikely; it took eight years of litigation for the herbicide and pesticide lawsuits to have an effect. If that time scale holds in the Rockies, the timber subsidy and roading issues now being litigated in Montana, Idaho, Colorado, and Wyoming may not produce results one way or the other until the early 1990s. On the other hand, it could be that the precedents established in the Northwest or congressional action will speed up the cases.

The best known case on the economic issue is that being brought by NRDC against the Forest Service on the Gunnison and San Juan forests in central Colorado. The case, still in the appeal stages at the Secretary of Agriculture level, charges that roads built to reach timber cost more than the timber earns. It argues that the National Forest Management Act forbids such losses.

The NRDC effort also illustrates a new competitiveness in the legal community. Attorney Michael Axline,

also with the Pacific Northwest Resources Clinic, is suing the Forest Service in Ninth District Court in San Francisco on the same economic issue. But he is using a different section of the law than NRDC is using. Axline is using a timber cut on the Nez Perce Forest in Idaho as an example. He says the legal code his case is based on requires the Forest Service to construct roads on an economically sound basis, with no discretion. A hearing is set for early November, and it is possible that a Nez Perce decision could come before NRDC even gets into court.

As the herbicide cases show, it takes more than a single lawsuit to change Forest Service policy. And forestry consultant O'Toole argues that lawsuits are only part of a larger strategy -- a strategy in which losses can be as important as victories. "You can't expect a lawsuit to give you anything. If we win, industry goes to Congress. If we lose, we go to Congress."

Why not go to Congress first? Because, says O'Toole, you must first show that you have explored the power and limits of existing law before you can ask Congress for a new law. So while a victory may stop a certain practice, as in herbicide spraying, a loss may provide the basis for an appeal to Congress. If the timber economic cases the environmental community is bringing lose, then environmentalists are likely to ask Congress to revise the National Forest Management Act.

It is not just NFMA that is under scrutiny. The much older Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act has not proven useful to environmentalists in influencing Forest Service actions. Although it would appear to be a powerful weapon against an action that may emphasize timber cutting to the detriment of other forest values, it has not proven so in practice. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which handed down the herbicide ruling, has said the Multiple Use Act "breathes discretion with every pore," and the courts have not used it to enjoin or modify Forest Service actions.

O'Toole says, "Congress has very specific ideas about how they want the National Forests managed. They don't want timber to dominate everything. But Congress wrote the laws so loosely that the intent isn't clear. If we can't get the courts to enforce them, we have to go back to Congress. The estimates are that we'll be back in Congress in two years with a major effort to revise the forest management laws."

A recent spectacular example of how a lawsuit can lead to new laws is provided by *California vs Block*. That case, brought by the state of California and litigated by NRDC, created the threat of a new round of roadless area studies (RARE III). Andy Stahl, a forester with the NWF in Oregon, says the spectre of another round of studies, combined with a stoppage of roading, timbering and mining on wilderness candidates, "got Congress to move on wilderness. It gave

wilderness opponents an excuse to ride the fence" and gained more wilderness land than at any one time in the past.

The passage of all those wilderness bills has put the roadless issue in a new stage, as environmental groups now attempt to prevent road building in areas that were not included in wilderness. The struggle is likely to be a long one because it may be 10 or 15 years before this land is again considered for wilderness by the Congress.

The lawsuits which attempt to require timber cutting to pay for its roads is one aspect of the struggle. Another approach is on display in Montana, where attorney Tom France of the NWF is challenging road building in the 13 National Forests in the Northern Rockies (Montana, Idaho, the Dakotas and eastern Washington). About eight million acres of roadless land is at stake within the 25-million acres of National Forests.

The basis for the suit is alleged violations of NEPA. Regional Forester Tom Coston manages road construction on these forests in a centralized way. According to the suit, the top priority of his Capital Investment Program is to build roads into roadless areas.

There is no law against giving the roading of roadless lands the highest priority. But the NWF suit alleges that

Coston does not consider the "full range of environmental consequences of the decisions he makes each year under the program." Moreover, the suit says, the Capital Investment Program makes major environmental decisions without giving the public a chance to comment or review them. The EISs and EAs done on the individual forests or districts on individual roads do not make up for

the lack of a NEPA examination of the overall program and its cumulative effects, the suit alleges.

The suit asks that road construction be halted "until a programmatic environmental impact statement" is prepared for the entire region considering the impacts of his decision, alternatives to the decision, and other factors required by NEPA. At issue in fiscal year 1984 is the

building of 189 miles of road, 139 miles of which were in wilderness study areas.

The NWF suit failed on its first bounce last month, when U.S. District Judge Paul Hatfield denied a preliminary injunction to stop the road building. He said the group failed to show they had a reasonable chance of prevailing on the merits. The case will go to trial later.

Randal O'Toole says, "You can't expect a lawsuit to give you anything. If we win, industry goes to Congress. If we lose, we go to Congress."

Two Forest Service critics analyze the agency

In a recent letter to *High Country News* (10/1/84), retired regional forester Vern Hamre charged that environmental appeals and lawsuits "cost all of us many thousands of dollars and take money away from worthwhile on-the-ground activities of the Forest Service. The Forest Service would like nothing better than to take people out of the office and put them back in the field."

As the accompanying articles on appeals and lawsuits show, the agency is unlikely to get back on the ground for a long time. And forestry consultant Randal O'Toole of Eugene, Oregon, thinks that's just fine. "Their perception of their job is to cut trees, and we don't agree with it. That's not our concept of multiple use."

But O'Toole, one of the more uncompromising critics of the agency, has helped organize a Forest Service Mission conference to be held in San Francisco in December. The goal, he says, is to bring the agency and environmentalists together "to understand each other. Nobody's entirely right, least of all the Forest Service. We'd like to see them move away from the idea that the way to implement their mission is to cut trees. It's clear that they think the way to protect wildlife, water, streams and so on is to cut trees."

O'Toole thinks there's hope of success. "I think the Forest Service is changing. We definitely see it in Region 6... Their (political) insulation is gone." The advent of John Crowell, the former Louisiana Pacific corporate counsel, as Undersecretary of Agriculture, he says, has put them closer to politics than they like to be. "Crowell has threatened to fire the chief (Max Peterson) and the Regional Supervisors if they don't do what he wants. This is a new thing."

The issue between Crowell and the agency, O'Toole says, is increased cuts in the Northwest. "In Colorado, Wyoming, Montana," the Forest Service doesn't mind increasing the cut. "But they're fighting tooth and nail to get it down here."

Some of the disagreements, he suggests, may be on the issue of control rather than timber cutting. One tactic for maintaining independence is to use the environmental lawsuits. "The Forest Service can go to Crowell and say the environmentalists won't let us cut. They use us against Crowell. Because Crowell is so extreme, they see us as potential allies. If we were in power, they'd be using the timber industry against us."

Andy Stahl, a forestry consultant with the National Wildlife Federation

in Oregon, has a different view. "I don't see a balancing of us against Crowell. Max Peterson is trying to persuade us he is standing between the environment and John Crowell."

"I think that's a flat-out lie. The Forest Service, as always, likes to perceive itself in the middle. As long as it manages to polarize its constituencies, it has wide latitude."

Crowell, Stahl says, "is not an extremist. He's more pragmatic than most people like to think. The Forest Service is using Crowell just as they use the timber industry and environmental groups -- to give themselves the discretion to go where they want to go."

Peterson, he says, uses the spectre of Crowell to scare environmental groups away from some appeals and lawsuits. "He tells the vice president of some national group that 'such and such an action will hurt us against John Crowell.'" In reality, Stahl continues, "Crowells come and go, but the Forest Service has the power." According to Stahl, despite rumors of Crowell firing Peterson, it is Crowell who is leaving. "John Crowell is quitting January 20. Everyone knows that. Peterson has outlasted him."

What was the central issue? "Crowell wanted the National Forest to be run like a tree farm. That doesn't mean rape the environment." But, he

says, it also doesn't mean preservation of old growth trees for wildlife or keeping streams crystal clear.

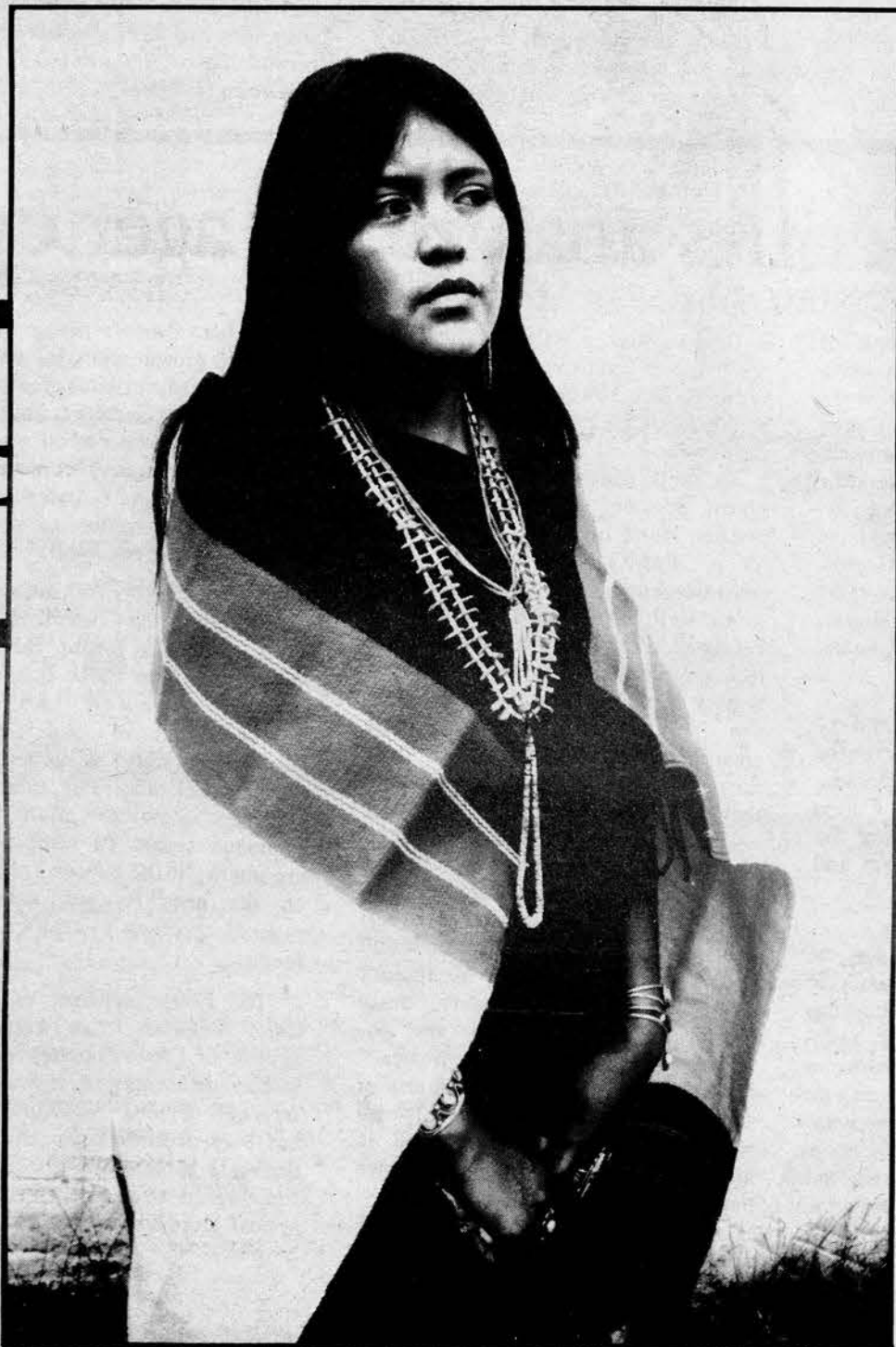
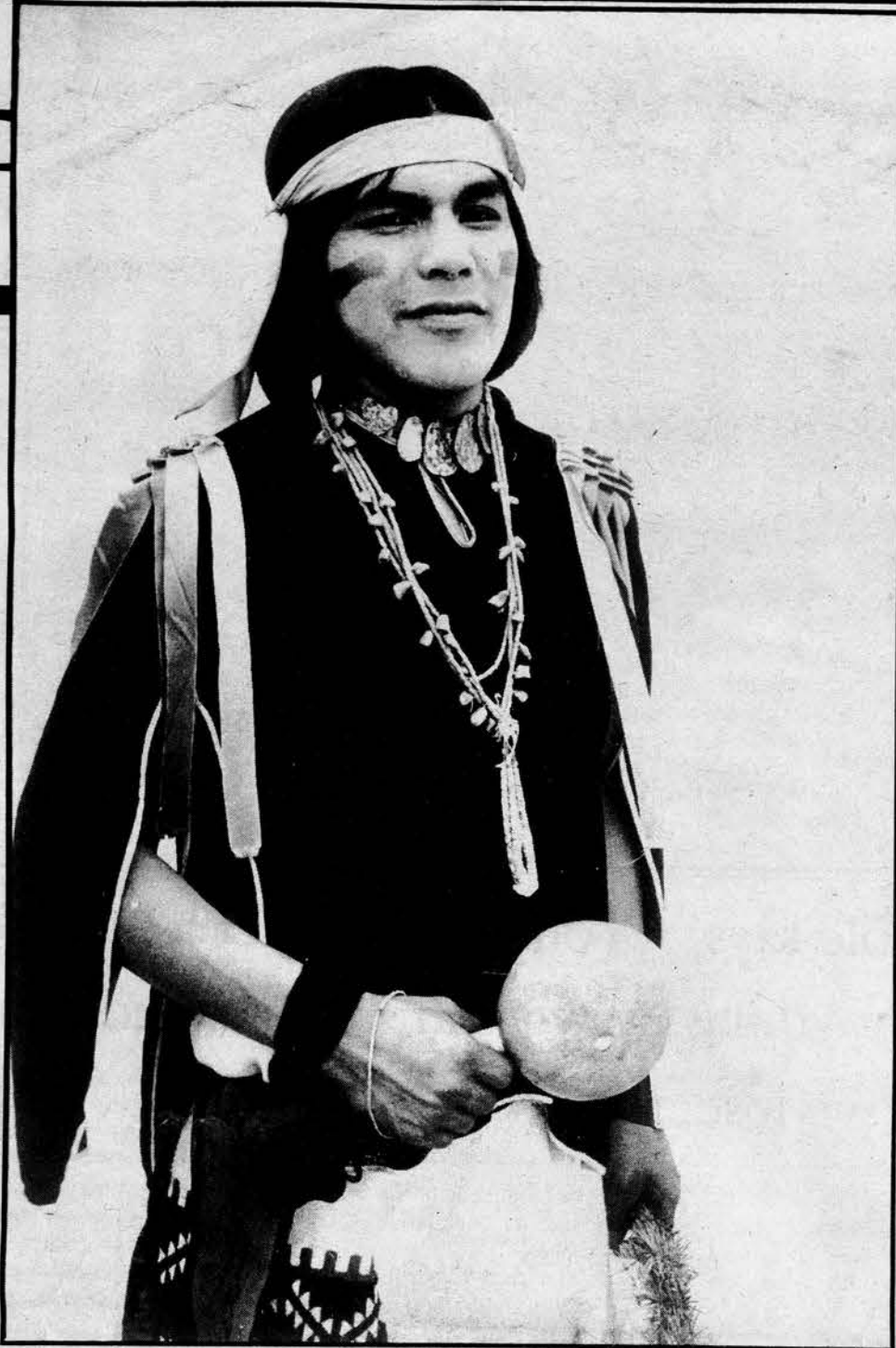
"The Forest Service comes within 70 percent of what Crowell wants. In a lot of cases, the quarrel is over who makes the decision." And the agency, he concludes, wants to keep the decision-making for itself.

Major differences between the Forest Service and Crowell could come out in an unusual forum. Secretary of Agriculture John Block has assigned Crowell to review the Natural Resources Defense Council challenge (see related story) of several Forest Plans in Colorado. The major NRDC argument is that the plans make no economic sense. In support of the argument, NRDC quotes John Crowell on the need for an economically rational approach to timber management.

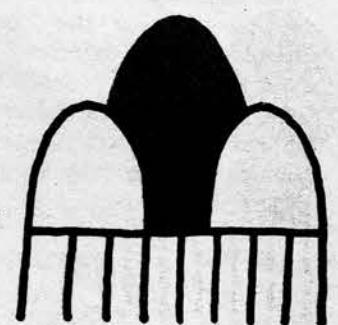
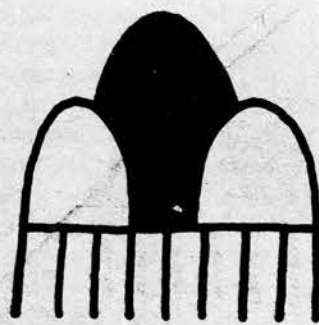
The Forest Service, right up to Chief Peterson, has rejected the appeal. If Crowell believes that the forests should pay their way through intensely logging the Northwest, but has been frustrated by the agency's desire to build roads everywhere for "management," then the NRDC appeal gives him a chance to express himself.

--Ed Marston



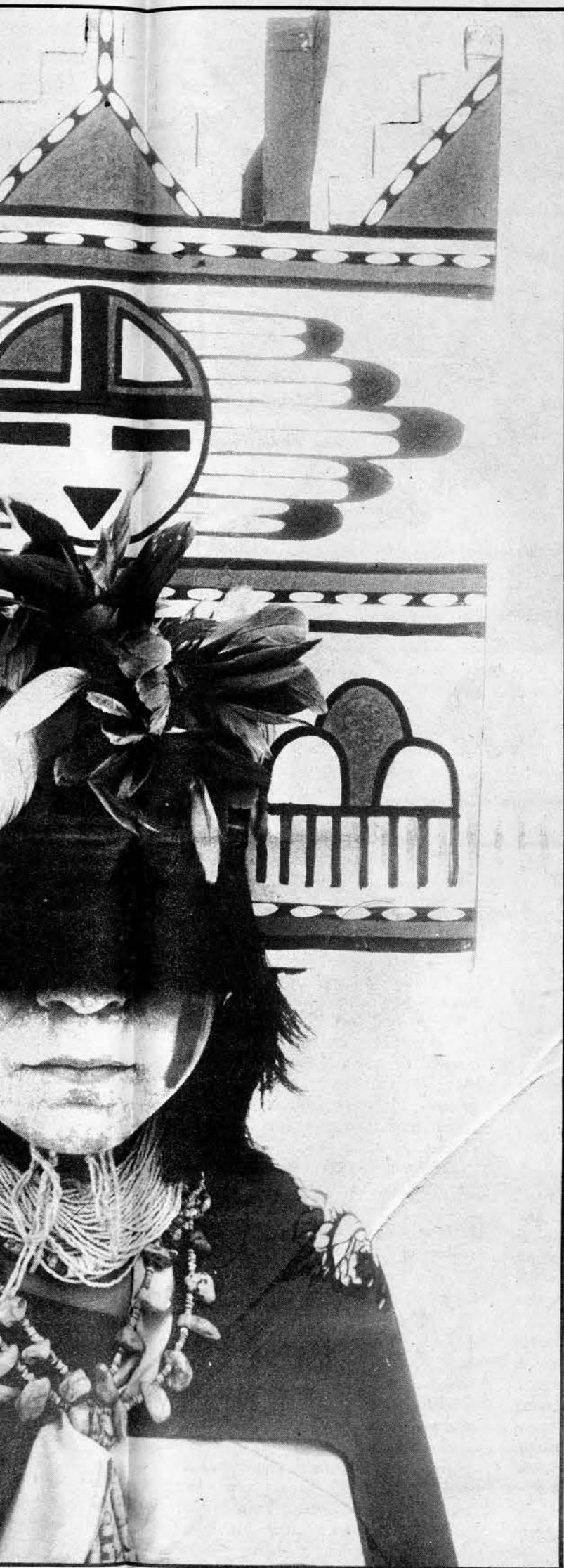


HOP



OPI

photos and notes by John Running



The Hopis are believed to be some of the first occupants of the Colorado Plateau. They live in villages on the mesas of northern Arizona and plant corn, and their prayers help keep our world in order.

I haven't spent much time working on the Hopi Reservation because the Hopis don't usually like people walking around in their villages with cameras. Yet, I noticed when I visited Hopi homes that photos were often a predominant wall decoration. Old photos, school photos, photos of servicemen and Polaroid snaps were often collaged together in one great family album. A family album on the wall. So it is a false notion that Hopis don't want their pictures taken because it will steal their spirit. They don't want their dances photographed because the dances are sacred, and they don't want photos taken of themselves that make them curiosities.

To give this some perspective, think about how it would be if your neighborhood and home were visited by thousands of curious tourists and anthropologists a year. Would you like strangers tramping through your yard, asking why you plant flowers or vegetables, taking pictures of your quaint front porch, peering in your open front door? Think about the way we value privacy. Would you want to reside in a "living museum"? Well, the Hopi villages are not a museum as we might think. They are old but viable communities where people live, work, worship and die, and I don't want to intrude on Hopi privacy.

The photographs presented here were made at the people's request and given back to them. It is always a delight to return to a Hopi home and see one of my photos tacked on the wall along with the other snaps.

10-High Country News -- October 15, 1984

A timber man attacks deficit sales

by Glenn Oakley

Walter Minnick does not sound like the president of a \$100 million a year international timber products industry. The Idaho businessman argues for more wilderness, an end to federal subsidies for logging road construction and increased development of the backcountry recreation industry to replace closed mills.

But Minnick, a Harvard MBA and law school graduate and a deputy assistant director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Nixon, says his positions are what one should expect from a conservative.

"It is hypocritical," he recently told the House Interior Committee, "for our (Idaho) Congressional delegation to campaign for re-election as fiscal conservatives while simultaneously advocating special interest forest legislation which would cost the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in deficit timber sale subsidies."

Minnick, a former farm boy from eastern Washington, is president of Trus Joist Corporation, a building products industry specializing in laminated wood trusses and joists used in residential and commercial structures. Manufacturing plants are located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Ohio, Oregon and Alberta, Canada. As he often states at public hearings, "The success of our business is 100 percent dependent upon the efficient use of the nation's forestry resource."

In a nutshell, Minnick maintains:

The Rocky Mountain logging industry is shrinking, with or without federal subsidies, because it is a marginal timber-producing region;

Federal subsidies by the Forest Service artificially lower the price of timber, hurting the profits of timber companies that log private lands;

Subsidized logging adds to the federal deficit and causes high interest rates, the chief cause for the slump in the timber products industry; and

The uneconomical logging of the wilderness destroys the basis for the region's new economic base: backcountry recreation and electronics.

Minnick, a youthful 42, pounces most quickly on deficit timber sales, where Forest Service road building costs exceed the value of the timber sold. He would like to see deficit sales statutorily prohibited, and says so at the public hearings he frequently attends. Such a statute, he says, would simply "require that the Forest Service manage its affairs like any other business would." The Forest Service, he suggests, should make at least \$1 per acre on timber sales, allowing for exceptions such as timber sales to control insect infestations.

Testifying before Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho) on the Idaho wilderness bill, Minnick said, "My company's order files for residential building products have for the past 30 days been declining because the Congress and the President can't agree on the tough political decisions required to tackle a budget deficit so gargantuan that it is now appropriating something like 80 percent of our society's net savings..."

Minnick further argues that the abolishment of deficit sales "is in our interest as an industry." The timber products industry he says, "is the most interest sensitive industry in the country. We're being impacted worse than any other industry in the country."

"The solution is to cut all government spending -- defense and entitlements as well as social spending -- and to have the political guts to raise taxes by enough to make up the remaining shortfall. That action -- not logging our remaining wilderness -- is the meaningful thing you can do immediately to put people to work and ensure our future growth."

In addition to reducing the federal deficit and interest rates, Minnick believes an end to the deficit timber sales would directly benefit timber producing companies such as Weyerhaeuser. By footing road construction costs on public land, Minnick says, the Forest Service is "subsidizing a resource that is in oversupply," and is "creating unfair competition" for private landowners who must pay for their own logging roads.

A ban on deficit sales would produce "a lot less (hardship) than the supporters of the present program suppose," suggests Minnick. "If the taxpayers would cease paying the subsidy, sales would still occur." Prices for timber would rise marginally, he expects, but not enough to seriously affect the industry.

He believes such a move would force the Forest Service to conduct more logging sales near existing roads "rather than mindlessly building roads" in the wilderness. "Only an insignificant amount of the nation's timber supply exists within roadless areas," he says, adding that there is already enough timber available outside roadless areas "to swamp the market."

Such opinions, pronounced frequently by Minnick and Trus Joist chairman and co-founder Harold Thomas, have made the company an unpopular oddity in the industry.

Idaho Forest Industry Council director Joe Hinson notes that Trus Joist buys little or no timber from Idaho and says, "I question his qualification to speak knowledgeably about the timber industry in Idaho."



Walter Minnick

Hinson further disagrees with the basic premise of Minnick's argument: he does not believe deficit sales occur in Idaho. "We've yet to be shown that the government has been losing money on a continuing basis on timber sales in Idaho." Hinson disregards as "trash" a Library of Congress study released this summer which showed Idaho Forest Service sales losing \$21.2 million in 1983, and which showed similar losses for Alaska, Montana, Colorado, Minnesota, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona.

That study, said Hinson, "had analytical flaws in it. It's not a credible study." Hinson responds with a study by his organization which shows a profit of \$11.3 million from Forest Service logging sales in Idaho over the past five years.

For his part, Minnick dismisses "our paid public affairs specialists" and reiterates, "It is pious and self-serving for our industry's public spokesmen to demand spending cutbacks for everyone else while simultaneously advocating deficit sale taxpayer subsidies for ourselves."

He says that since Rocky Mountain timber industry is "going to shrink regardless of federal subsidies," money saved by not subsidizing logging roads would be better spent "on a one-time basis" retraining logging workers and bringing in new industry.

The national timber industry, he says, is shifting to the southeastern and eastern U.S. where there are longer growing seasons, more rain, no road building costs, and where the timber and mills are much closer to the major markets. He also sees a continuing timber industry in the Pacific Northwest. He believes the timber industry in the Rockies "has a substantial future," but on a smaller scale.

Trus Joist buys the bulk of its timber from the Cascades and the Southeast, because, says Minnick, that is where the high-strength timber required by the company is grown.

Minnick sees subsidized logging

needlessly destroying the very basis upon which the economic future of the region rests. "The reason our company is located in Boise is its easy access to recreation and its relatively clean air. The fact that you can get a wilderness experience three hours from your back door is a powerful incentive. We can attract any kind of talent from any place in the country," he says.

He believes the growing electronics industry is locating in the Rockies for the very same reasons.

Finally, he points to the growing backcountry recreation industry. "We've had McCall transformed in less than five years from a mill town to a recreation town. And it's never been more prosperous," he says of the central Idaho community that was considered dead after its logging mill closed.

Minnick considers his positions to be obvious and apparent. Yet he acknowledges that the majority of his fellow Republicans and industry colleagues disagree strongly.

Many of the politicians, he surmises, "got locked into these positions very early, and they're reluctant to eat crow." Furthermore, he adds, the industry and politicians are often "old friends," their friendships cemented by shared philosophy and money. Those with the new ideas, he says, are their traditional opponents. "Frankly," he states, "the bulk of it is ideological more than anything else. As a matter of principle they believe wilderness is wrong."

Minnick says that he returned to Idaho from Washington, D.C. because "I love the backcountry and the state's unspoiled quality of life." But when he adds: "In all multiple use areas we should ensure that recreational interests like big game hunting, steelhead fishing and snowmobiling are not automatically subordinated to cutting down trees," he is talking about more than aesthetics. The balance, he points out, is "just plain old free enterprise."

A town resists the Forest Service

by Darby Junkin

Polebridge, Montana. It is not so much a town as a settlement of approximately one hundred fiercely independent souls who are, by choice, end-of-the-roads, living as far north as one can go into the wildland and still be in the lower 48.

Their gas-lit houses and log cabins are in the thick Flathead National Forest on the west bank of the wild and scenic North Fork of the Flathead River. Canada is thirteen miles north on a one-lane gravel road, and Columbia Falls, Montana -- the nearest electricity and newspaper -- is 35 miles south on the same road. Glacier National Park is just to the east.

Time moves slowly in Polebridge; the two buildings which comprise Main Street -- the Polebridge Mercantile and the Northern Lights Saloon and Cafe -- served the early settlers. But they have not become useless relics -- they are vital to the community today for the telephone and supplies they provide.

News from the rest of the United States comes twice a week by mail, which is often enough for Polebridgers since "nothing much changes in a week." That sense of slowly changing time is created by the surrounding, slow-to-change old-growth forest, which isolates residents from the staccato pace at which most of America lives.

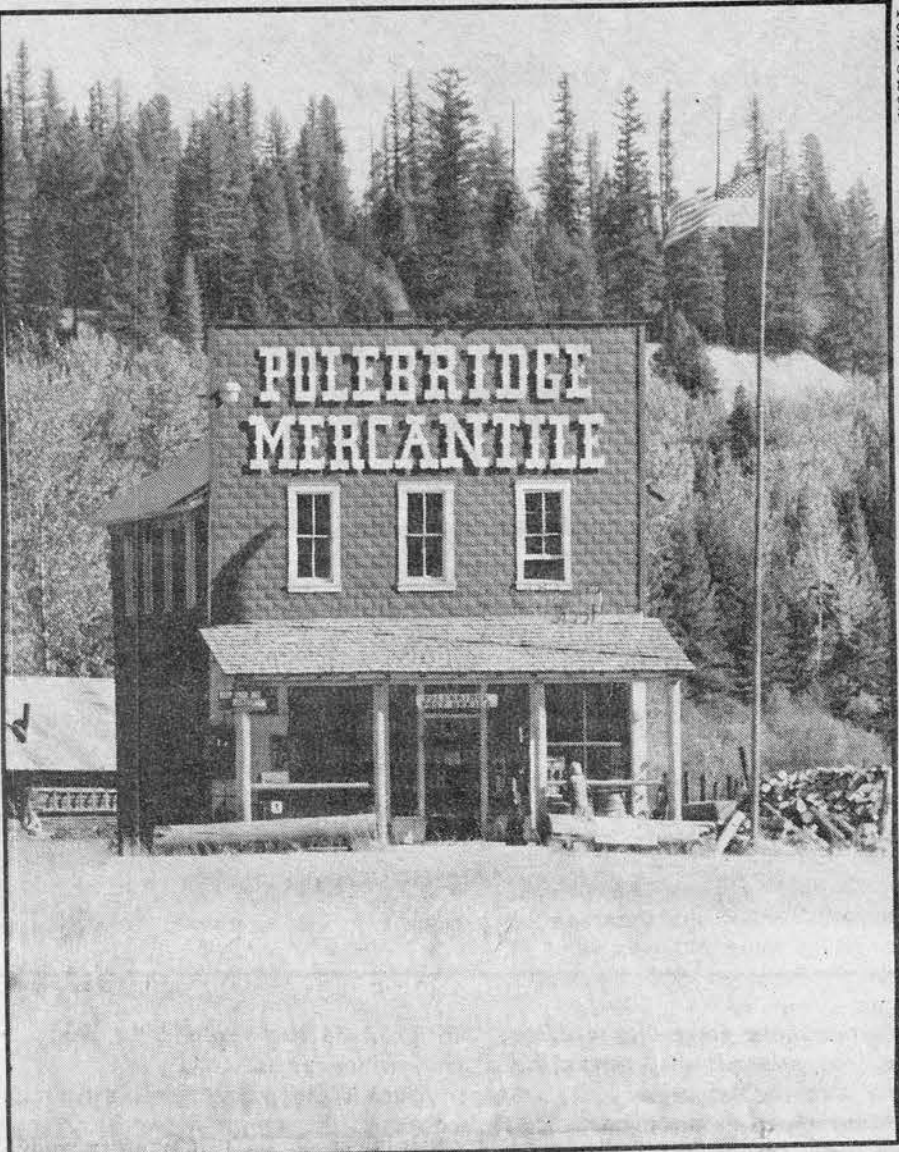
One lives in Polebridge only by choice, a choice for solitude amidst a teeming forest of spruce, lodgepole, fir and larch. But if people are scarce, animals are not. Polebridge is in the middle of the densest grizzly population in the continental United States, and moose, black bears, pileated woodpeckers and a host of other animals are common. And now the area has something far more rare than the grizzly -- a recovering population of the gray wolf. It is the only place in the lower 48, except for Minnesota, where the species is found.

There is no such thing as a "typical" Polebridger and Rosalind Yanishevsky illustrates this as well as anyone. The Ph.D. microbiologist came here six years ago to work on a bear research project and never left. She says of her part of the Flathead National Forest:

"It's really the last stronghold left for the grizzly... and for lovers of the wild. We're up against the wall, up against the border, on the edge of the last vestiges of the frontier. And they're trying to make it look like Anyplace, USA."

"They" is the U.S. Forest Service, which has a timber-cutting plan which would accelerate the passage of time in the forest around Polebridge. Polebridgers like neither the Flathead Forest Plan -- still in draft form -- nor the Environmental Assessment and sale schedules for the Glacier View Ranger District around the community. The plan would cut an average of 18.7 million board-feet a year off the district. And the agency would take 100 million b-f a year from the Flathead National Forest as a whole for the next twenty years, and then increase the harvest to 150 million b-f a year through 2030.

Besides rankling at the specifics, residents quarrel with Forest Service philosophy which defines old-growth forests as "overmature" or "deca-



One of two public buildings in Polebridge, Montana

dent," a philosophy Polebridgers say inevitably leads to logging.

So, although Polebridgers like their solitude, they are taking on a bureaucratic battle for a second time. It was just two years ago that the only two civic associations in Polebridge, which together comprise the entire population, joined to fight the paving of the gravel road from Columbia Falls.

To keep the pavers out, they sought a jeopardy opinion that said the road would endanger the habitat of the wolf and grizzly, both protected under the Endangered Species Act. They won that issue and the road remains dusty and rough.

But now the Forest Service has proposed to sell late this winter an initial 440 acres of timber around Polebridge for clear-cut. The cut includes part of two corridors that biologists deem critical to bear movement. Beyond this first cut, the Forest Service intends to eventually log approximately 770,000 acres of land in Flathead National Forest.

"We're not saying no logging," says Yanishevsky. "Just logging less with more of a wildlife concern. If it can't be done right from the wildlife point of view, then don't do it."

So far as she is concerned, the Forest Service isn't planning to do it right. In one sale, she says, they will harvest a south-facing slope with avalanche chutes. "It's extremely critical early grizzly habitat," since the chutes green up before other areas melt off. In the Center Mountain sale, she says, they plan to build 12 to 15 miles of new road on a steep northern slope. The road, she argues, will add silt to Whale Creek, which provides 22 percent of the bull trout in Flathead Lake.

The old growth the agency plans to leave "is not well distributed for wildlife." In deep snow, she says,

moose move better through old growth; they get better "flotation" and the dense canopy limits the snow depth. But to be useful, she continues, the old growth must be in the proper places. And "proper places" are not the buffer strips the Forest Service will leave along streams to reduce siltation.

Polebridgers' fears are not assuaged by looking around them. Residents say that thirty years ago the area looked like wilderness. But seeing the forest from the air now reveals the clear-cutting of 924,000 board feet that has taken place over the last 30 years.

There are stands of trees shorter than the rest of the forest, cut in perfect squares, or in odd shapes that appear in the forest as mange does on a dog's back. There are areas with six-inch-high trees and areas where all trees are the same height and age, and three inches around. Also visible are hillsides that look from the air like amphitheatres, with the rows of 'benches' actually roads switching back and forth across the bare eroding slopes.

"We can't do anything about that because it's already been cut," says local Greg Ouelette. He is looking at a clear-cut that is now a square of 12 to 36-inch high trees, and that he says is a wildlife wasteland. "In summertime it's extremely hot out here and they need shade, too. In winter they need the thermal cover from the cold," which tiny trees don't provide.

Yanishevsky says, "The Forest Service says the area will reforest -- but they define 'reforest' by saying trees two inches high are reforestation. A bear or a moose or a wolf can't hide behind two-inch-high trees. They have to have cover in order to stick around and survive."

Nor do the members of the Preservation Association see eye to eye with the Forest Service on the

definition or value of old-growth forests. Leaving a forest for 300 or 400 years -- long enough to create snags and the rich forest floor melange that provides security and cover for wildlife -- is, to the Forest Service, an inefficient use of the forest.

Glacier View Ranger Dick Call says a 300-year-old tree grows at a very slow pace. "It produces a lot less than if you plant a young tree and let it grow 120 years. That's what the name of the game is."

According to the proposed Forest Plan for the Flathead, by the year 2065 -- a blink of the eye for a slowly growing northern forest -- only 5.5 percent of the commercial timber part of the land will be over 200 years old. Most of the rest will be in the seedling-sapling or pole stage, useless to a grizzly or moose.

Resident Tom Owen, who buys wood from old trees to make dulcimers and fiddles, says he heard a Smokey the Bear-type ad saying that "if you don't watch these forest fires, these trees won't be around any more. I say if you don't watch out for the Forest Service, (the trees) won't be around any more. They're timber mining, not cutting renewable resources... unless you've got 400 years to wait around."

John Frederick, who runs a hostel in Polebridge, says, "They always say that timber is the highest multiple use -- that's what we're protesting. The area is important as habitat, but their balance is timber, timber, timber and maybe wildlife after that... that's how they're coming at it."

Fred Hodgeboon, a planner on the Flathead National Forest based in Kalispell, thinks his agency is coming at it in a very reasonable way if the big picture is considered. He is angered by Polebridgers who say the forest will become poles and saplings.

"That's absolutely a false picture of how the forest will appear. We have on the Flathead over 2.4 million acres. Of that, 1.1 million acres is in wilderness -- there is no logging even though over 500,000 acres of it is capable of producing commercial timber.

"Of the 1.3 million acres that isn't wilderness, we have 835,000 acres that is productive forest land. Of that we're proposing to harvest only 720,000 acres. And those acres are all interspersed" with land that won't be harvested. "We have made an analysis of the spectrum of species. We will provide enough habitat for the various species."

"Our picture of what the forest will look like is entirely different from the picture given by quoting a few numbers." The 5.5 percent number is misleading, he says, because it only applies to 720,000 acres. And those acres are all interspersed" with land that won't be harvested. "We have made an analysis of the spectrum of species. We will provide enough habitat for the various species."

What about the mess logging has left in the forest around Polebridge? "Some of the harvests took place in the 1950s when there were huge insect infestations and blowdowns. We went in and clear-cut. Things were done then we wouldn't do today." As for the amphitheater-like roading, "What you saw up there is probably the

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12-High Country News -- October 15, 1984

Documents are a window into aspen

Leaked documents from the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service show that the latter agency's extensive aspen-cutting plans are creating tensions in both organizations.

The DOW's internal memorandum of September 14 orders employees in the Montrose regional office to clear all statements on aspen management with superiors and to "refrain from voicing divisive opinions." The memorandum was issued by Regional Manager Ron Desilet, whose predecessor left the agency in August to join Louisiana-Pacific as a consultant. L-P plans to cut about 2,000 acres of aspen a year in the area the DOW has responsibility for.

A ten-page unsigned Forest Service internal document is very different from the DOW's attempt to give an impression of unity. The Forest Service document, drafted by staff in the Regional Forester's office in Denver, frankly outlines the many problems the agency is faced with and lays out alternative solutions.

It states that the public is suspicious of the agency's links to L-P and of its ability to keep its promises on road closings; it admits to being on the defensive; and it says there is a lack of consensus on aspen cutting among the various Forest Service regions in the West. The Denver regional office, for example, justifies aspen cutting as a way to save the aspens by keeping out conifers. But Region 3, based in New Mexico, cuts aspens, it says, in order to introduce conifers.

There is also a hint that Regional Forester Jim Torrence, who took over after the aspen management program was underway, may not be enthusiastic about the approach: "Regional Forester may not subscribe to past/present aspen management direction."

The pressures from national and grassroots environmental and citizen groups, as well perhaps as muckracking columns by Jack Anderson on the subject, were also acknowledged: "The Office of Information is moving



from a pro-active stage to a re-active stage." Translated, that means the agency is on the defensive.

On an issue of more substance, critics have homed in on apparent gaps in the way in which the Fifty Year Forest Plan for the Gunnison-Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre National Forests addressed the cutting of thousands of acres of aspen a year. The critics have asked for a new or supplemental EIS. The internal Forest Service document says: "Forest Plans do not effectively address aspen management."

The document also talks of the speed with which the Forest Service is moving to sell aspen to L-P. "Sale program moving with the speed of a jet and the public understanding moving like a horse and buggy." The agency also states, "Presence of L-P

in Colorado has resulted in public questioning of our veracity."

Some of the cures the staff lists are cosmetic: "Regain pro-active Office of Information by show and tell," and "Develop a videotape showing the succession of aspen stand treatment takeover by conifer."

But some have substance: "Formulate a position paper to allow Regional Forester to amend/sanctify aspen management direction;" "Strengthen unpublished Forest Plans disclosing aspen management needs and impacts;" and put out very strong environmental assessments "that address cumulative effects over large areas." This last task is usually done in an EIS.

The Forest Service document is more or less self-contained, present-

ing a problem and a variety of solutions. The DOW document, however, has meaning only within a broader array of events.

In pursuit of its legislative charge to protect wildlife, the DOW often functions as an environmental watchdog on Forest Service and BLM land. In the past, the Montrose regional office in southwestern Colorado has been very aggressive on a variety of issues ranging from AMAX's proposed molybdenum mine near Crested Butte to river dredging by ranchers, to forest road building for gas and oil drilling rigs on Forest Service land.

But on L-P's plans, which involve the clearcutting of several thousand acres a year for several decades, the DOW has been nearly silent. One exception occurred on a July field trip

Polebridge...

[Continued on page 11]

worst-case scenario. But it was a reaction to natural events."

Hodgeboon says that the Polebridge forest is not as slow to change as it looks. "In the northern Rockies, natural events take place on a large scale -- they wipe out whole drainages. We want to replace that with planned recycling."

Although winter comes early and spring late, there is a lot of biological activity during the summer. "The growth rate is double the decomposition rate. Nature takes care of that with fire. Do we let that happen, or do we manage it for man's benefit" by cutting the excess growth?

The arguments don't convince Polebridgers. Yanishevsky suspects the Forest Service may treat its current non-timber land like God's Little Acre. The plans are revised every decade, she says. And the agency's plans are predicated on their accelerating growth of new timber through management. If that doesn't happen, she says, they could move onto the reserved land.

She agrees with Hodgeboon that numbers don't tell the story. "There is a lot of land not harvested. But in terms of the North Fork here, that doesn't help. It's isolated. The nearest thing to the North Fork is the park." The Glacier National Park boundary goes right down the North Fork stream, and logging nearby hurts the park. "The North Fork is the buffer."

She also says averages don't help Center Mountain. "One hundred percent of Center Mountain will be converted from old growth to a managed stand. The old growth to be left on the (Glacier View) district is not well distributed. It will be left along the streams. We'd like better interspersed of old growth for the wildlife."

Polebridgers say averages don't indicate that it doesn't take much activity to affect the grizzly or gray wolf. This spring, there were sightings of a female wolf and six pups. Last winter, local resident Tom Owen heard the wolf's howl. He then saw its paw prints in the snow on one of the roads next to the day-old tracks of a Forest Service cat-tractor.

"In the snow, there were the cat tracks, with some snowshoe tracks that went about ten feet away from the

tractor, then back. That was their outdoor study.

"Then there were the wolf tracks, fresh in the snow from the night before. I took a plaster cast, picked up its scat, and saw the moose it was chewing on. That was enough for me. To know that the wolf is there and is able to survive in spite of us is enough for me."

Ranger Call says, "We don't really see what we would really change in wolf management in relation to what we're not already doing for the other wildlife that's already there." Adds Assistant Ranger Bonner Armstrong "Where it would make a big difference is if we come on a denning site where they were actually reproducing and recovering. Then we would put some mitigating changes that would extend the" non-logging period.

The concerns of Polebridgers, who are represented by an attorney and who intend to carry the fight beyond the local Forest Service level, were expressed formally to the agency in an appeal of the first scheduled 440-acre clear-cut. Their appeal had 32 requests for relief. The Forest Service responded to all 32, even though officials felt only five or so applied to

the sale, with the rest applying to the Forest Plan.

"We put in 32 requests for relief and we got 32 no's," says Yanishevsky. "But that they bothered to say it 32 times makes me feel like we're getting somewhere."

Time is moving fast now for residents of Polebridge. They have winter to think about, and getting through the long, dark days of deep snow in the forest. Soon, the northernmost roads to Canada will be closed by snow, and mail will come up from the south once a week, weather permitting.

But the winter is not likely to end the struggle. "It took at least 400 years to create this forest," says Yanishevsky. "We can fight for at least a lifetime."

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Darby Junkin is with the *Newsweek* bureau in Denver. Her aerial perspective was obtained on a flight with Project Lighthawk, a non-profit environmental service based in Missoula, Montana and Santa Fe, New Mexico. This article was paid for by the High Country News Research Fund.

issue

organized by the Forest Service to look at a proposed aspen cut in the Norwood area on the Uncompahgre National Forest. DOW environmental affairs staffer Rick Sherman, who is based in Montrose, told the group of citizens, officials and L-P executives that the DOW was not being consulted by the Forest Service or by L-P on anything to do with the proposed cuts in the area. He asked the Forest Service and L-P to sit down and discuss wildlife concerns. Sherman also made some general comments about the effect the cuts could have.

On September 14, just before another Forest Service public tour, Montrose acting regional manager Ron Desilet issued the memorandum saying that staffers shouldn't speak without first clearing it with superiors. The memo also changed the DOW liaison on aspens, taking Sherman off the tour and assigning the local wildlife officer, in this case a man named Lyle Bennett, "to represent the Division on the Show-me trip scheduled for September 21" in the Norwood area. Bennett, however, didn't attend the tour, so the DOW was not represented. L-P was represented by Robert Rosette, who held Desilet's job until this spring.

Rosette's association with L-P raises the question of whether he has violated Colorado's code governing conflict of interest. He told HCN that he started working for L-P as a consultant in mid-June. But he didn't officially retire until August 3, and did some work for the DOW during the May through August period he was on terminal leave. The state code of ethics appears to forbid the holding of two jobs of this nature: "State employees are not to engage in incompatible activities."

Beyond the narrow question of a legal conflict of interest lies the same question asked about John Crowell, the former L-P executive who is now Undersecretary of Agriculture in charge of the Forest Service. Rosette sees no conflict of interest. He said he had always felt that aspen trees needed clear-cutting for the good of wildlife. "So I was real pleased to have the opportunity to work for L-P." Although aspens are at 8,000 feet or higher, he believes the clearcutting will provide more late fall and early winter range, taking some pressure off true winter habitat.

Rosette also said he has not used his status as an ex-DOW regional manager to influence his successor. He said he has spent almost all his time attending seminars on behalf of L-P to learn more about the subject.

And Desilet said that Rosette has not spoken to him on official matters since he went to work for L-P. Desilet also said that the September 14 memo was not meant as a gag order. He said it was an attempt to have the agency not take sides on the aspen issue until all the facts were in. The facts, he said, are best gathered by the field people, and then fed up to the environmental staffers. That, he said, was the reason for assigning Lyle Bennett to the field trip.

The DOW, he said, has no overall policy on aspen cutting so it must look at each site on a case-by-case basis. He also said that so far as he knows there is no timetable at present to come up with a uniform policy.

Although the DOW is a state

agency, it must also function in the public arena, and the pro-L-P pressure in the area is intense. The Montrose County Commissioners were flown back to Washington, D.C. to testify in favor of aspen cutting on an L-P plane. One Montrose County Commissioner threatened nearby San Miguel County with the withholding of use of Montrose's jail unless San Miguel County stopped trying to get L-P to pay for road damage their logging trucks did. And the local press has had a gag on criticism of L-P. Radio station KUBC dropped a program called "Colorado Speaks" for interviewing a speaker critical of L-P and the local daily paper, *The Montrose Press*, has refused to print a letter critical of L-P.

There is also pressure from another direction. A Hotchkiss-based group called the Western Slope Energy Research Center has appealed the two aspen cuts proposed by the Forest Service for the Red Canon area and the Lone Cone area on the Uncompahgre National Forest. The Red Canon cut is being negotiated with Gunnison-Uncompahgre-Grand Mesa National Forest Supervisor Ray Evans. The Lone Cone appeal is wending its way through the bureaucracy.

Both appeals charge that the Fifty Year Plan did not adequately discuss aspen cutting; both challenge the environmental assessments on the individual cuts; and both challenge the adequacy of the guidelines meant to direct aspen cutting.

Gretchen Nicholoff, a member of the negotiating team, says, "The DOW has been conspicuous by their absence from the issue. As an agency they have done zero. They're not intervenors in the appeal. They haven't come to the negotiating sessions."

The tiny Redvale Community Center in southwestern Colorado was transformed into a tense arena last month when local citizens and public officials volleyed complaints, accusations and counter-accusations.

The meeting had been called by the West End People's Association, a citizen's group on the Western Slope, to discuss the Forest Service's proposed aspen treatment program for the surrounding Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison National Forests. Forest Service officials started the meeting with a technical explanation of the need and objectives of their aspen cuts.

Louisiana Pacific, the company that seeks to clear-cut stands of aspen for waferboard, quickly became the focus of the controversy. Western Colorado Congress director Chuck Worley attacked the Forest Service's sincerity in maintaining "protective custody" of the aspens, and mentioned the much-publicized fact that the political head of the Forest Service, John Crowell, was once chief counsel to Louisiana Pacific. There might be a "little hanky-panky going on," he suggested. As evidence, he cited L-P's apparent assurance of getting aspen to cut.

"Louisiana Pacific came into this area and built a \$15 million factory without owning one stake of aspen," he said. "I have never seen a coal company so stupid or so reckless with its money, that it would go and spend \$15 million without having a contract for coal."

Clear-cut aspen from treatment areas will go to L-P's new waferboard

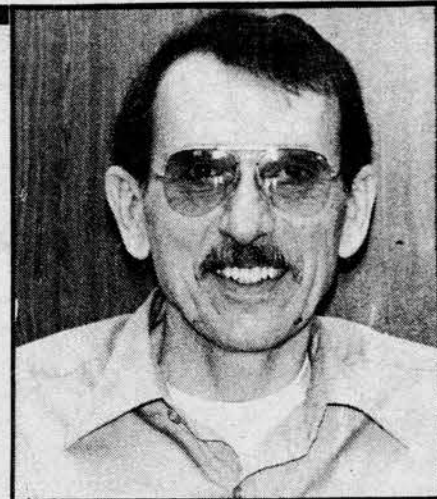
Kevin Williams, a staffer with the Western Colorado Congress, a Montrose group which has also appealed the cuts, said he'd had no luck involving the DOW. "I've tried to get (Lyle) Bennett to come to meetings. He hasn't. And we can't get anyone in the Montrose regional office to return our calls."

Jim Ruch, who took over as head of the Division of Wildlife in May, 1984, said the Division is very much involved in the aspen issue. "We're deeply into formulating positions on aspen management." The present goal, he said, is to discover how much is known about the subject and to then formulate a program to come up with a policy. He also said there have been meetings at the state level with the Forest Service and BLM.

He said, "I am very worried about the relation between aspen cutting and wildlife resources, and that there is a feeling that the DOW is not concerned or doesn't want to become involved." He said "there isn't any question but that we're going to have a significant aspen harvest. The Forest Service is under overwhelming direction to produce timber products. The question is: will the wildlife interests of this state be able to have some influence? And do we know enough to influence it?"

On the issue of Rosette and the Montrose office, Ruch said his personnel department had told him that Rosette had not violated any laws, rules or guidelines. He also said that the September 14 memo Desilet wrote was a reaction to phone calls from the Forest Service to Desilet asking if Sherman was expressing an official DOW position on the July tour in which he deplored the lack of inter-agency discussions.

Ruch said that Sherman was



Jim Torrence

rebutted not for speaking his mind, but for not making it clear he was expressing a personal opinion on the tour, and then for not informing his superior of what he had said. Ruch said DOW employees are encouraged to speak out, so long as they stay within those guidelines.

Desilet's memo, which was directed to the Montrose region, said: "All Position Statements will be subject to approval by the Director and/or Regional Manager prior to their being voiced in public. Position Statements reflect the Policy of the Commission and Division and the strength of our stand on any issue lies in our individual ability to set aside personal biases, refrain from voicing divisive opinions, and lend total support for positions taken by the Division. Your collective cooperation in this regard will be appreciated."

On a related matter, Ruch suggested that the lack of responsiveness the citizen groups perceived in the DOW Montrose office may have come about because they were attempting to contact the wrong people.

--Ed Marston

Aspen management is a bitter subject

plant in Olathe. Production of the plywood substitute could mean as many as 140 new jobs in economically-depressed Montrose County. Yet, Worley charged, L-P will pay food-stamp level wages, and should not be thought of as an economic savior, or as a savior of the forests.

Others in the polarized audience disagreed. "What have you got against putting people to work?" asked Montrose County Commissioner Robert Corey. Montrose County has double-digit unemployment and is desperately needy for jobs, he said.

"Our welfare and social services this year in Montrose are going to go over by about a hundred thousand dollars because we don't have people working. We thought it was a wonderful idea to bring in Louisiana Pacific and provide jobs, improve the economy, and put the aspen to beneficial use," Corey said.

Sue Merritt, mayor of Montrose, echoed Corey, and said that L-P will pump \$10 million yearly in the local economy.

Worley insisted he was not opposed to the cutting of aspen and using the resource to provide jobs. Louisiana Pacific, however, is not the right company to look to for jobs, he said.

"Why didn't you guys inquire into a company that pays higher wages? I get the impression that you guys will go for anything that looks like jobs regardless of what they pay or how they treat their people or anything else," Worley said. What would be better for Montrose County, he continued, would be a company that would be willing to pay higher wages,

and conduct aspen treatment "on the right scale so there will not be severe damage to other important segments of our economy."

Corey suggested that Worley was simply in favor of a "wilderness concept... You're discriminating against L-P and using it to try to stop aspen management. I don't think L-P's labor relations have anything to do with it," Corey said.

Neil Reams, another Montrose County Commissioner, later charged that Worley, "like all environmentalists," was opposed to multiple-use. When Worley denied that WCC was an environmental group, Corey said, "Well, you look like one, you talk like one..."

"Reagan also claims to be an environmentalist," rebutted Worley.

Reams also accused WCC of being a "secret organization" after Worley said he would not reveal WCC's membership list and contributors.

It became clear that the meeting had deteriorated from its intended purpose when Paul Senteney, range and wildlife biologist with the Forest Service, stood and chided the quarreling participants.

He said he resented the "half-face" allegations made against the Forest Service officials earlier in the evening.

"I think when you start right off the bat and call us liars, you set the wrong tone for the meeting. As far as I'm concerned, we're all wasting our time and we should go home," he told the audience of about 50 people, who applauded.

--Jeff Marti

The search for a true multiple use approach continues to challenge the Forest Service

by George Sibley

It seems obvious that a resource management plan can be no better than the information on which it is based. Right now, the U.S. Forest Service is coming under fire for its fifty-year forest planning efforts. A major complaint is that they appear to be little more than the old macho timber-management plans dolled up in multiple-use drag. If true, it may be because they have been trying to do multiple-resource planning with nothing to go on but an incomplete timber inventory.

The Forest Service is aware of this. The most critical study I've found on its resource inventory procedures came from within the agency: a 1971 research study by John Wikstrom and S. Blair Hutchison. The two took a good look at the forest inventories of six dispersed western national forests and found that all had overestimated the timber-growing land base.

Of some 4 million acres listed as timber land, the researchers found only 3.1 million acres qualified for sustained yield timber harvesting unaffected by other forest values (and that said nothing about the economic viability of harvesting on the 3.1 million acres). Estimates of timber land ranged from 11 percent too high in two northwestern forests to a whopping 40 percent in Colorado's Arapaho National Forest.

The reasons varied. One was simply lack of down-on-the-ground data about steepness of slopes, soil quality, and the like. Another reason for disqualification was new ecological criteria not formerly taken into account. But the biggest factor was "land use conflicts" -- a failure to recognize that some land classified as timber was already being used in ways that precluded or curtailed timber management in practice.

This is the kind of thing that turns citizen groups into metaphorical lynch mobs today. But Wikstrom and Hutchison said the victim of the inventory errors was actually the timber management program, since high estimates misled the Forest Service into thinking it has more productive land than it does.

The 1971 report concluded that "the major problem is lack of basic planning information, much of which is costly to obtain." The authors made several recommendations, mostly on the necessity of having more extensive and comprehensive forest inventories. They wrote:

"The timber resource cannot be described meaningfully unless it can be described within the context of the land, ecology and land-use situation. Thus, there must be balanced financing for soils-hydrologic surveys, ecological habitat surveys and resource inventories."

It is now thirteen years later and I thought it might be instructive to look at Forest Service inventories today, to see what they are, to see if timber inventories are any more accurate, and to see if they are taking into account the multitude of factors that influence the forest.

We should start by sketching the magnitude of the task. There are 183 million acres of National Forest land, give or take a few hundred thousand (and measurement adjustments, land trades, and the like are giving and

taking all the time). That is only 8 percent of the U.S., but it is still a lot of land.

We know most of that has trees on it to one degree or another; most of it is home to a variety of wild and domestic animals; a lot of it is very beautiful mountain country; and out of those forested mountains runs the water millions of people drink.

But if you were to walk up to the big wall map in a National Forest district office, point at random to a spot on the map, and ask for a thorough description of the people's forest there, the odds are you wouldn't get it. There is a fair chance the ranger would be able to pick out a folder for the area covered by your fingertip. But there is only a one in five chance that it would contain anything more than what a forester had been able to glean from an aerial photograph.

That one in five ratio isn't enough to allow useful planning. Good inventory requires that quality data and observations be collected for literally every forest site that has a relatively homogeneous tree cover, slope and soil. Those uniform sites are generally about 30 acres or less in the central Rockies, where abrupt changes in terrain mean that larger tracts can include wildly differing trees, soils, and slope. Since most forest districts in the Rockies are about 250,000 acres or more, a filled-in district map requires detailed information for maybe ten thousand different forest sites.

That is a lot of 30-acre sites to go tramping around, and -- to make a long story short -- the agency doesn't or can't do a lot of that tramping. Nevertheless, it does have some sort of information on every acre of forest in the nation -- information that comes on two different levels, or stages.

The Stage I inventories that come out every ten years look at all 737 million acres of forested land in the U.S. -- national and state forests, industrial forests, farm woodlots -- everything with enough living trees to shade ten percent of the land at high noon.

They are designed to tell how much forest we have, what kinds of trees are on it and in what ratios, how old the trees are, how big, how fast growing, how fast dying, and so on. This information is meant to give the big picture of the national timber resource; to enable the agency to set national, regional and forest-level timber production "targets."

The Stage I information is mostly gleaned in offices, where photo interpreters examine a small number of points on aerial photos. Only a small proportion of those photo points are actually visited on the ground where trees are counted, measured and otherwise evaluated.

Obviously, Stage I is broad stroke. Each photo point must stand in for 250 surrounding acres. Each site visited on the ground represents 4,000 acres. One fears that there are many acres in such a lump that get represented about as well as I get represented by my congressman. Moreover, the data must be time warped to make it stand together, since it is collected over a ten year period.

The Forest Service doesn't make a secret of the potential for problems. Its tables show the standard error. In the case of Colorado, for example, that error for volume is 7 percent. The miracle of compound interest means that over a decade some of the volume figures from from which timber targets for the state are set could be off by a factor of two, and over two decades... well, you get the picture.

The other Forest Service inventory is Stage II -- the down-on-the-ground, district level task of "filling in the map." The difference in scale is indicated by the rule of thumb that no ground sample point in Stage II should represent more than ten acres, as opposed to the 4000 to 1 ratio for Stage I.

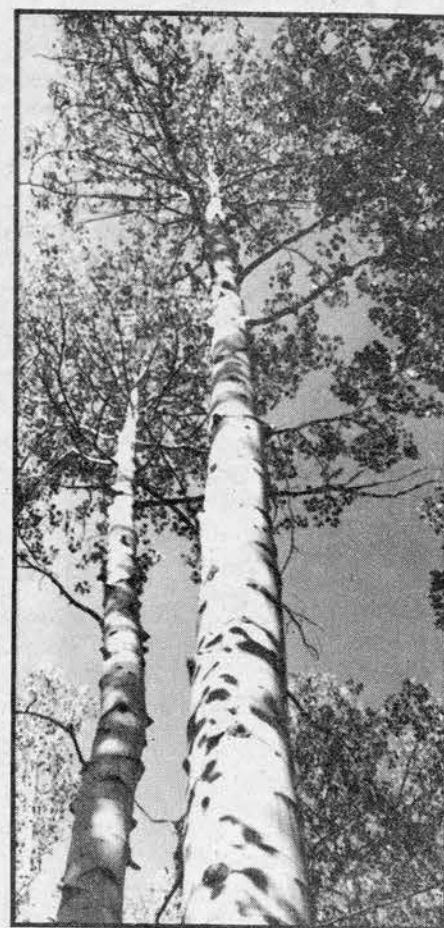
Some of the Stage II inventory is done in the office, again from aerial photos and onto mylar overlays. But Stage II also includes at least a quick walk through the 30 to 60 acre sites. And if some sort of "management" is planned -- usually timber cutting, but also road building or wild life management -- then much more detailed on-site examinations are made. But again, the focus is generally on the trees -- their size, age, species, health, and so on.

Considering the value of the information, a Stage II inventory doesn't seem outrageously expensive -- in Region II the aerial photo look costs about fifty cents an acre; a detailed on-the-ground examination by a crew costs up to \$3.50 an acre. What makes it expensive is that there are many, many acres.

Moreover, the \$3.50 only gets you "single resource" information -- essential to the timber manager, but not adequate for preparing multiple use management plans. And, as Wikstrom and Hutchison showed, information only about timber doesn't even make a good base for preparing a timber plan. It will inevitably be found to include as "timber land" areas for which some other use is already established de facto -- part of a grazing allotment leased to a guy who doesn't want the old aspens his cows like to lie under replaced by impenetrable stands of aspen doghair, and who just happens to be the bosom buddy of Congressman so-and-so; or a big chunk of the favorite view of the president of the local chapter of the Sierra Club. Even the most unregenerate timber beast -- maybe he especially -- needs a multiple resource inventory in a multiple use forest.

The question is: how to get such an inventory. The Forest Survey Research Units and the National Forest System Timber Inventory staffs have been working together on the design of true multiple resource inventories, with interdisciplinary crews that would literally start below the ground with soil pits and work up through the whole forest ecology of a site. In fact, there are crews out "cruising" now with the new methods, mostly on an experimental basis.

The problem, of course, is figuring out what data those expensive crews should collect and feed into what one ranger calls the "common jug." It is not too difficult to describe a tree in numbers for timber management. But how do you objectify and quantify the



role of trees in the lives of the forest animals, or the flow of water out of the forest, or the aesthetic experience of a jeoper or hiker or skier? It's not easy, not as easy as measuring the number of board feet of timber on an acre. But ways of doing it are emerging.

Actually, one other resource is already well inventoried -- range. About 55 percent of the land in the National Forests is used for grazing; the allotments on that land are well mapped; the type, quantity and quality of forage is well known, and is as easily reducible to keypunch codes as the comparable information about tree cover.

But after grazing, things get hard. Inventorying the "wildlife and fish" resource requires more than a census of animals -- which doesn't exist anyway, not even for the economically important game animals. Plus, it's not numbers that are important; the vital thing is protecting or enhancing the habitat.

Since the amount of winter range usually determines an animal population, that is an important item to map into inventories. There are also specialized habitats -- snags, certain old growth stands, and the like -- that can be put into the "common jug" for a site. If the site information included data on the quantity of specialized habitats, a decision on cutting timber on that site or putting a road through it could be made on a more informed basis.

The water resource is probably the most important yield of National Forests in the West -- and the most difficult to inventory by sites. Good soil-hydrologic surveys are the most crucial perspective -- information about the soil, how it retains or sheds water, how the water works its way through the soil and biological life of the forest. Such information is generally missing.

The inventory of recreational opportunities in the National Forests has received the most aggressive and imaginative attention over the past decade. When the Multiple Use-Sus-

[Continued on page 15]

OPINION

Louisiana Pacific threatens more than just the forests

Almost ten years ago, the U.S. Senate investigated whether the Forest Service had played hanky panky with Howard 'Bo' Callaway, then Undersecretary of the Army, over the permitting of his Crested Butte ski area.

Nothing came of the investigation. But it had effect on the ground. It left three National Forests twisting in the wind for several years as a result of the trauma. The investigation had that effect because the Forest Service must be like Caesar's wife -- free of even the scent of scandal.

Today, the whiff of scandal is again hovering over the agency -- this time with regard to aspen management in Western Colorado. The scent is strongest over the same three forests that suffered in the Crested Butte affair -- the Gunnison, Uncompahgre and Grand Mesa.

The appearance of impropriety arises because of the way the brass of those forests approved the clearcutting of thousands of acres a year of aspen trees. They did it without an environmental impact statement; in fact, they did it without even explicitly considering large scale cutting in the forest plan.

The haste, sloppiness, failure to inform the public, and the legal gaps can be explained most easily by theorizing that strong political pressure from Washington forced the people on the ground to make decisions without strict adherence to procedures.

To the credit of the Forest Service, it appears to be not just repenting at leisure, but to be also working to put a foundation under a house built in a swamp. The leaked agency document described elsewhere in this issue shows it struggling to put both a better face on aspen management and to make real changes. Negotiations on coming sales between the Gunnison forest supervisor and two

citizen groups are also a good sign. We wish the agency well and hope it can make legal and acceptable what is now irregular and unacceptable.

We wish we could be as positive about the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Another leaked document shows that agency attempting to shut off any criticism of the aspen management program. Most striking, the DOW's head, Jim Ruch, who was brought in to clean up this bureaucratized state agency, appears to be part of the problem. His reasoning is straight out of 1984.

After telling HCN that the DOW policy is to permit its people to speak freely so long as they identify statements as their personal opinion, he doublethinks himself into not seeing an absolute, unambiguous gag order issued by his Montrose division head for what it is.

The odor around the DOW, like that around the Forest Service, is a product of Louisiana Pacific, the firm which has pursued the Central Rockies aspen trees the way jackals pursue carrion. When they built their Waferboard mill at Olathe, they also built a network of political operatives to complement John Crowell, their man at the top.

Most brazenly, they hired the head of the DOW Southwest office, giving the strong appearance of conflict of interest. This hiring was followed by total, uncharacteristic inactivity by DOW staff on the subject of aspen cutting, even though clearcutting thousands of acres of aspen a year in the Montrose area will affect wildlife. Then, when a Montrose staffer dared say something on the subject, he and everyone else were silenced by a memo which clearly goes against departmental policy as outlined to us by Ruch. It also goes against past practice as we have observed it over the past 10 years.

L-P's good offices have extended to the county

level. In total disregard of appearances, L-P flew three Montrose County officials to Washington, D.C. this summer to argue in favor of the Gunnison Forest's aspen cutting plan.

Some time after the flight, one Montrose commissioner resorted to extracurricular strongarm activities. When neighboring San Miguel county moved to tax L-P for the damage its logging trucks will do to county roads, one Montrose commissioner threatened to no longer allow San Miguel county use of the Montrose jail. The threat was withdrawn, with embarrassment, when it became public. San Miguel went on to negotiate a road mitigation agreement with L-P.

At this point our concern isn't as much with the aspen forests as with the social and political environment. The way L-P has chosen to operate in Washington and in the West is demoralizing and corrupting to society. It has at least created the impression that it will have its way regardless of fairness and established procedures.

We also worry about the little people in the agencies the firm appears to be running over. Eventually the political winds will change, and liberal senators and representatives will be holding investigations. As we have seen in the past, the top people will be beyond reach. But the lower-level people, the guys who have been justifying the unjustifiable rush to cut aspens and those who have been issuing or justifying gag orders in the Division of Wildlife -- will be on the spot. We hope for their sake that they have saved the memos and kept logs of telephone calls and conversations which led them in the direction they are taking.

--Ed Marston

Search...

[Continued from page 14]

tained Yield Act was being drawn up in 1960, there were people who didn't even want to include recreation as a resource; they said it was a use, not a resource like range or timber. There may be a picky truth to that. But in the decades since the act, the identification, classification and mapping of the "recreation resource" has begun to be something of an art.

I spent part of an afternoon in Pete Wingle's recreational planning shop at Region II headquarters in Denver, and was struck by the extent to which the Forest Service has managed to begin describing and objectifying the elements of forest recreation experiences that I had assumed were indescribable.

Basically, the recreational planner is charged with protecting two things: an attractive forest, and opportunities for recreation within that landscape. To do that protecting, however, first a classification jargon is necessary -- one that lets the recreation specialists talk in code the way the timber specialists do. So the type of recreation available is defined along a continuum called the "Recreation Opportunity Spectrum" (ROS) with "Primitive" experiences in pristine wilderness at one end and "Urban" experiences such as one might find on the ski slopes over Christmas at the other end.

Ideally, some day every site on every district will be classified according to the opportunities offered by the site. The forest plan would then make the same kind of decisions about recreation it now makes about timber cutting: it would determine whether that opportunity should be maintained on the site, whether it should be shifted to another part of the forest, or whether there is no demand for it and so it should be phased out.

While there is an increasing amount of hiking, climbing and skiing on forests, the major recreation uses are still non-self-propelled -- the Sunday drive, or visitors who don't stir 50 feet from their campgrounds. For them especially, views, which the Forest Service calls "settings," are important.

"Settings" are to be classified and mapped according to a Visual Management System that describes the entire "viewshed" from a particular point or corridor in terms of: character type (what kind of landscape it is), distinguishing features in the landscape, distance zones (foreground, middle-ground and background), sensitivity levels (how many people will see it and what will they expect to see), et cetera. With all those factors inventoried, it is possible to set "Visual Quality Objectives" (VQOs) for various parts of the viewshed, ranging from "Preservation" (no change) to "Maximum modification" (go ahead because nobody'll be able to see it).

As a result of this work, the criteria for the inventory of forest resources in addition to timber are emerging and a more balanced set of information ought to be making its way into the common jug -- the forest service computer, the folders in the file cabinets at the district office, the mylar overlays of maps. Even as a beginning, it is hardly a perfect system; there are purely physical and logistical problems with the assimilation and organization of so much information. "You get three or four overlays on the basic map and you can't see anything," says Ranger Karl Brown, the man who walked me through Stage II inventories in his Fort Collins, Colorado office of the Estes-Poudre District of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest.

There are design problems too, or

lack-of-design problems. Even though the name of the basic land unit has been changed from the timber-biased "stand" to the more neutral "site," the site map to which all the others are overlays is still a timber map. A true multiple use approach won't occur until the common jug contains the timber resource as just one of five resources "described within the context of the land, ecology, and land use situation," to again quote Wikstorm and Hutchison.

Imperfect though it may be, it is a long step in the direction of recognizing there is more to a forest than board-feet. But such recognition isn't of much use until forest-level planning staffs learn to use the new information confidently and imaginatively.

And in the plans that have come out so far, the information in the common jug hasn't been

used. That's partly because the new information is rough and incomplete. But one also suspects that a chronic timber bias is hard to shake, especially when the Forest Service won't even acknowledge its existence. The double problem is that both the public interest and the agency's own narrow timber-cutting goals are handicapped by its failure to take a multiple resource look at the National Forests.

And then, of course, there is the larger, philosophical question. Do we really want to take the same numerical, objectifying approach to recreation and landscape that we take to timber cutting? Can these "resources" be objectified and classified?

George Sibley is a freelance writer who lives in Colorado.

BARBS

Power lines aren't all bad.

It turns out that high voltage power lines do more than degrade the environment. They can also cause writer's block. Best selling Western author Louis L'Amour told a public hearing that he opposed construction of a power line that would pass his home near Durango, Colorado. "The line would go down there across the land in front of me, across the road. I don't want it there... I do not want to look at it. I can't sit up and try to write looking at it... If this power line goes in, I'm moving out." People who like power lines, he added, can see them "in Pittsburgh and Cleveland. It shouldn't be here." Most of the testimony on the proposed Colorado-Ute Electric Association's 345-kilovolt line urged that the north-south line be moved to some other valley.

But what kind of testimonial?

A spokesman recently celebrated the completion of WPPSS nuclear power plant number two by saying: "Bringing this plant on-line at this time is a testimonial to the diligent work of thousands of individuals who would not give up in the face of intense public scrutiny and criticism." The surviving plant came in \$2 billion over budget, its power probably won't be needed until the end of the 1980s, it will produce the most expensive electricity in the Northwest, and it was built only because of a continuing seven-year-long subsidy from Bonneville Power Authority ratepayers topped off by a \$150 million dollop at the end.

16-High Country News -- October 15, 1984

OFF THE WALL

The Ballad of Aspen's Last Stand

(To be sung to "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's 9th)

Aspen Verse

We are trembling, quaking aspens
Standing in a sylvan glade.
Birds are nesting in our bowers,
Elk are grazing in our shade.
Forbs and sedges, bush and grasses
All spring up beneath our feet.
Those who carve on us are asses
We're a tree that can't be beat.

Conifer Verse

I can beat you wimpy quakies
You are weak and I am strong.
I'm a climax conifer so
I am right and you are wrong.

I am master of this forest.
I'm a valued product tree.
You are in a sad condition
Old and senile -- wait and see.

Aspen Verse

Help, oh, help, will no one save us
From th' intruding Conifer?
Save, oh, save your Color Sunday
From the likes of spruce and fir.
Surely Woodsy Owl will save us.
Smokey Bear, please heed our state.
Help, oh, Help us, Forest Service,
Save us ere it is too late.

Forest Service

We will save you lovely aspens

What is there for you to fear?
Man will halt the course of nature,
Calm yourselves for we are here.
Who could doubt that man is wisest?
Who could think that we might fail?
Those who doubt us cannot stop us,
We will throw them all in jail!

Cut them, timber operators,
Lay them down upon the ground.
For to save them we must kill them,
That's a truth that is profound.
Never mind the shouts and cursing
Of the hippie eco-freaks.
We're the henchmen of big business,
They're just anti-progress geeks.

--Gretchen and Robin Nicholoff

LETTERS

A GRAZING COMMENT

Dear HCN,

I found the article on the Savory Grazing Method by Jim Robbins (HCN, 7/23/84) to be most enlightening. His method works well when properly applied because it is based on sound ecological and hydrological principles.

However, the short report by the staff entitled "Savory has Competition" needs some elaboration relative to the part on land imprinting. Land imprinting and the Savory Grazing Method are, in fact, highly complementary practices for improving degraded rangeland. Hoof printing by ungulates is the principal form of natural imprinting and it is highly cost-effective where there is an adequate supply of seeds of desirable forage plants to be trampled into the ground.

Where the seed supply is inadequate or other forage species need introduction, then strip treatment with a seeding imprinter might be in order. I am working on a new invention called the cowbell seeder which is strapped around a cow's neck and dispenses seed when she lowers her head to graze. She then imprints the soil and implants the seed with her hooves. Hoof prints are especially well-formed when the soil is moist.

Robert M. Dixon
Soil Scientist
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Tucson, Arizona

DELEGATION ANALYZED

Dear HCN,

The Montana delegation must be suffering from delirium caused by either the "homesick wheat ranch blues" or a case of over-exposure to fluorescent light.

The Montana "Wilderness" Bill our delegation has drafted and presented to Congress reads like a treasure map given to Caterpillar Tractor Corp. Of the 6 million acres of de facto wilderness in Montana today, all but 747,000 acres are released to some type of development. Most of the released land will require huge tax-paid subsidies (stolen from our wages) for roadbuilding, clearcutting, oil drilling and a variety of other federal deficit increasing activities, not to mention the mega-dollars that will be flushed down the federal sewer pipe via Forest Service budget expenditures to "manage" the development of our last public roadless wildlands.

If we Montanans are unable to meet the increasing demand for wilderness areas, future generations will surely overuse the existing wilderness areas of today and lose experience of wilderness forever. America was once, not that long ago, all wilderness. There is now more pavement in the U.S.A. than wilderness. Now may be the last time we will have the opportunity to choose between wild land and man-trampled land, between back-country trail and logging road, between trout stream and barren mud-bottomed creek, between true hunting and road gunning.

The choice is ours. The Montana delegation does not personally know or use the lands in question and depends on our information to decide which lands should be raped and which lands should remain wild. Help them see; help them understand what is out there worth preserving.

A minimum of three areas in the Flathead should be added to the Wilderness Bill: first, the Swan Lake back-country with its scenic trails, abundant wildlife, and crystal clear alpine lakes; second, the Thompson-Seton area in the North Fork of the Flathead River drainage, with the best grizzly and grey wold habitat anywhere; and third, the Jewel Basin Hiking Area with its many alpine lakes and the finest hiking trail system to be found on earth. These areas need protection, not destruction. The West Big Hole area is another disastrous exclusion, as are the Rocky Mountain Front areas on the eastern border of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The Crazy Mountains were also killed with the same legislative callousness. Montana will be indistinguishable from the other western states if the 1984 Wilderness "Axe" Bill passes Congress.

Steve Kelly
Swan Lake, Montana

FLAT YES, DULL NO

Dear HCN,

I've been out of the country for the past seven months, so have only just read your special issue on grazing.

Thanks for giving the topic so much attention and your readers a sense of what the issues are. I hope you're planning to give the topic more coverage in the future.

One small quibble: surely I didn't describe BLM land as "dull and flat." Flat yes. Dull no -- except where all that's to be seen is crested wheat.

Johanna H. Wald
Natural Resources Defense Council
San Francisco, CA

EVOLVING

Dear HCN,

Your publication is standard reading for a course I teach on the American West. A complete set of HCN is kept on reserve at the undergraduate library. Now, in organizing materials for next semester's course, I find that two issues are missing. I need your help in completing the set. Could you please send me another copy of Vol. 16, #9 and #10 of HCN? The copies I put on reserve are my own personal copies, so missing issues are a doubly sensitive subject with me.

I've subscribed to HCN for what must be seven years now, and I feel confident in telling you it has been evolving, expanding, maturing for the better. Keep up the excellent work. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

David J. Larson
Department of Geography
University of California
Berkeley, CA

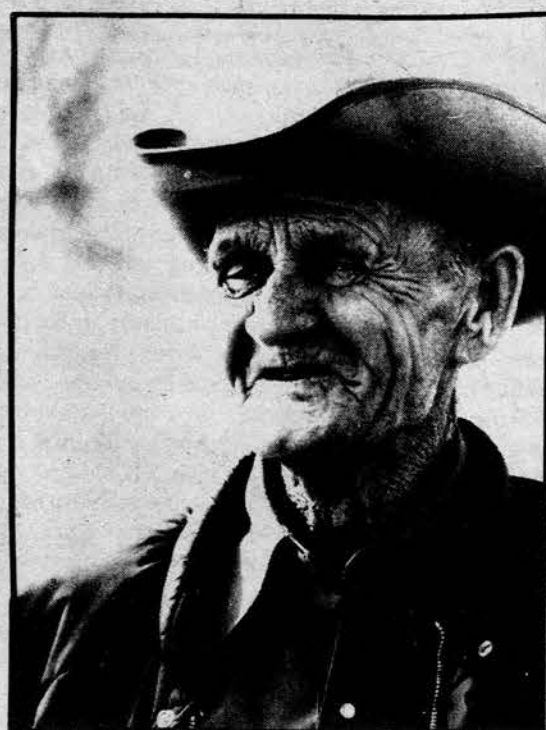
HELD INCOMMUNICADO

Dear HCN,

I appreciate the news concerning the squabbling and fratricidal strife at the Friends of the Earth in San Francisco that we learned about in *High Country News* this past summer. We FOE members were held incommunicado all summer. According to the most recent issue of *Not Man Apart*, the FOE board of directors has finally quit fighting one another and have now resumed their much publicized fight to protect the environment!

Let us hope that our favorite conservation and environmental organization, the Friends of the Earth, will now be able to pick up the pieces. Our Mother Earth needs lots of Friends, Friends, and more Friends!

Daryl Glamann, Sr.
Wichita, KS



High Country News

The paper that cares about the future of the West.

The West we know has many faces. Cattle moving to summer pasture through the streets of small towns. Clear spring water from the kitchen tap. Elk bugling in the high mountain meadows.

Will we recognize tomorrow's West? Energy development subdivided rangeland and pressure on wildlife are increasing. The rest of the nation wants in: to our minerals, our land, our culture. In a time of great change, *High Country News* captures the many faces of the West.

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