

High Country news

November 26, 1984

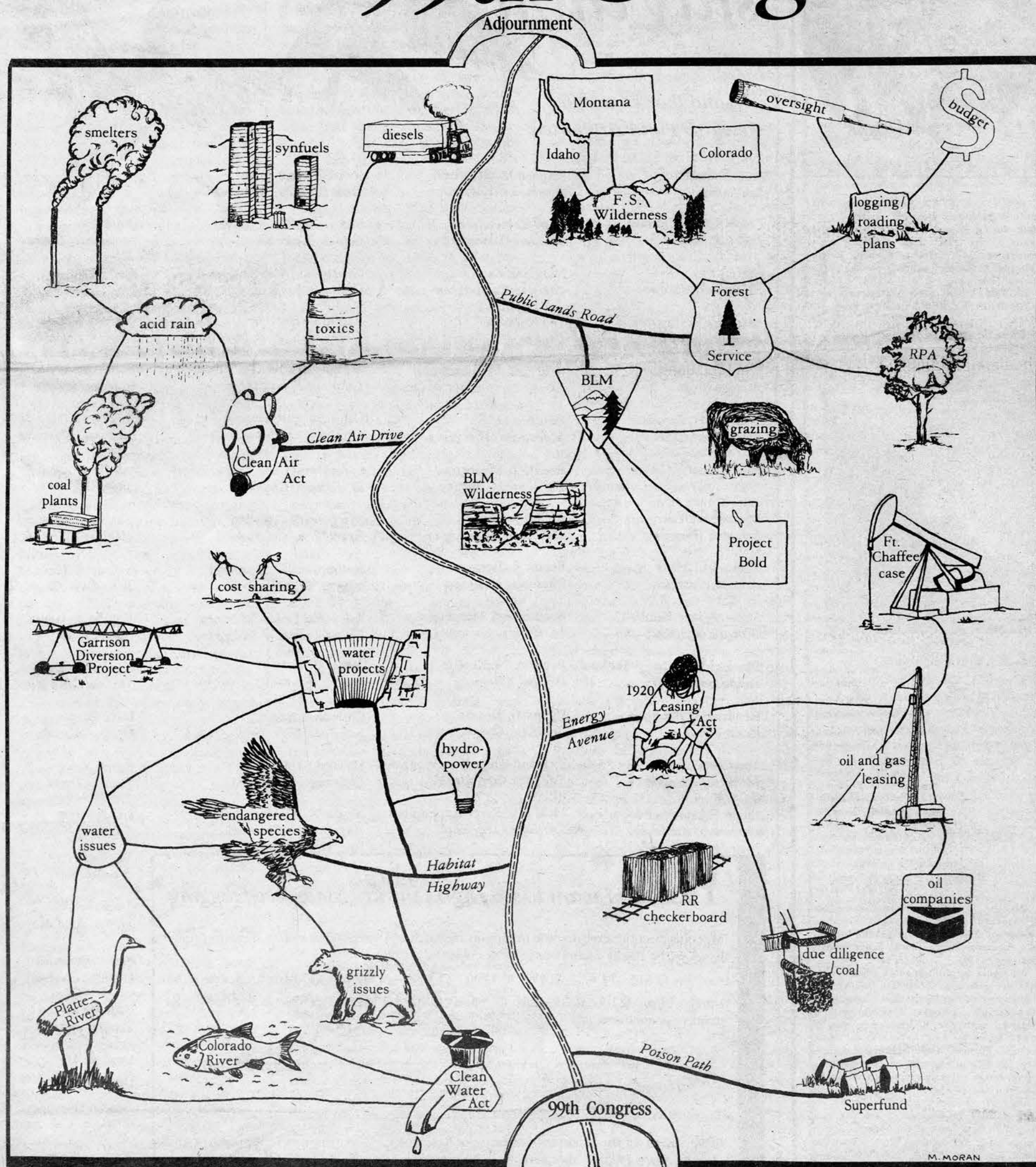
Volume 16, No. 22

The Paper for People who Care about the West

\$1.00

A SPECIAL ISSUE

A Guide to the 99th Congress



INSIDE: What hath the electorate wrought?

Dear friends,



High Country News

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Unlike the rest of the conservation community, *High Country News* as an organization did wonderfully well in the November 6 elections. Both editor Betsy Marston and promotions person Judy Moffatt lost bids to become commissioners of their respective Western Colorado counties. Betsy has been half-time for the past several weeks (here on the home front it felt like several months) and Judy has been on leave since the spring. We welcome them both back.

HCN did have one winner: the

election: Board President Lynn Dickey was sent back to the State House by her neighbors in Sheridan, Wyoming. We understand from what Lynn tells us that she and her fellow Democrats in that body will be a very compact group for the next two years.

There will be a changing of the intern guard this month. Jeff Marti, who wrote this issue's story on a barricaded Wyoming mountain, returns to Iowa State. He will be replaced by two interns: Lynda Alfred, a Princeton graduate who comes to us from St. Martin's Press in New York,

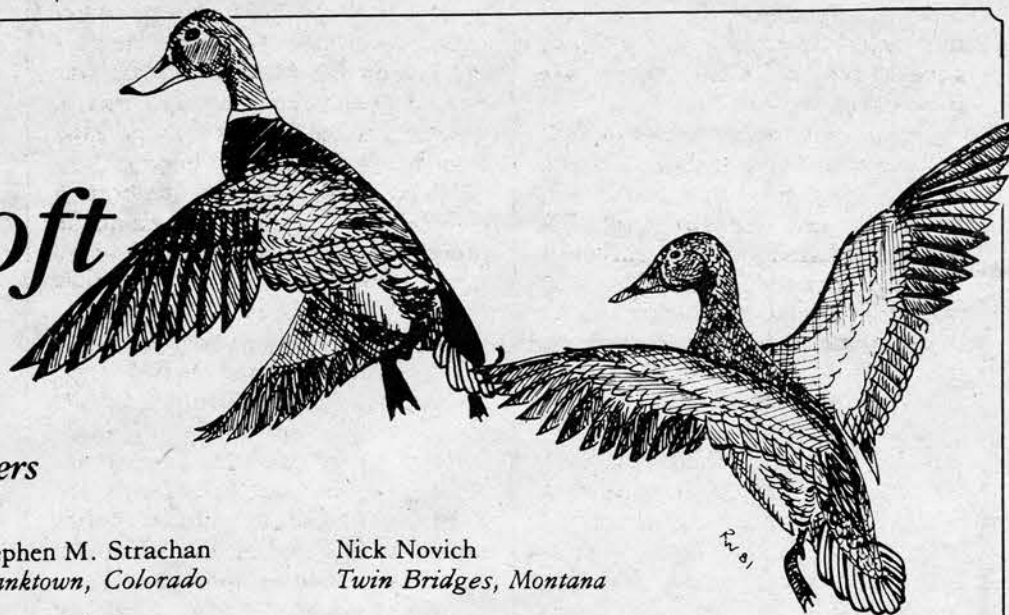
and Bruce Farling, a backcountry ranger from the Selway-Bitterroot National Forest, who will spend his off-season this year in Paonia.

This doubling assumes, of course, that we can squeeze our budget hard enough to buy a table for the second intern to work at. And that, in a very graceful and unobtrusive segue, brings us to the 1984 Research Fund. With the elections over, it is time to turn attention back to a paper that has the following virtue: it does neither pre-election nor exit polling.

--the staff

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WESTERN ROUNDUP

Rancher puts Berlin Wall around mountain

A dispute involving public access across private land is growing at the base of Elk Mountain near Rawlins, Wyoming.

At the center of the dispute is an access road which bisects local rancher Norman Palm's land and leads to public land higher up the mountain. Elk Mountain is home to much wildlife, and attractive to hunters and fishermen. The road through Palm's land is the only way for sportsmen to reach the top of Elk Mountain by vehicle. But Palm says that unless sportsmen pay a yearly access fee of \$225, they are trespassing.

Palm owns several square-mile sections of land at the northern base of Elk Mountain. He is also part owner, secretary and treasurer of Elk Mountain Safari, Inc., a collectively owned guiding and outfitting business which charges the access fee.

The company's practice prompted the Wyoming Wildlife Federation to file a complaint in District Court in Rawlins seeking a permanent injunction against Elk Mountain Safari for blocking access to public land. The federation has also requested a temporary restraining order to immediately take down the gate placed across the road by Palm's business. During hunting season, an employee is stationed at the gate to warn hunters they will be trespassing if they don't pay the access fee.

A right-of-way was granted by the Palm Livestock Company to the

Bureau of Land Management in 1957. BLM needed the easement for its employees to reach BLM land. Land ownership on Elk Mountain forms a checkerboard pattern with square sections owned by private landowners, BLM, Union Pacific Railroad, and the State of Wyoming. There is now uncertainty as to whether the right-of-way is intended for general public use or only for the BLM.

Palm contends that the road is for BLM maintenance purposes only, even though the BLM quit maintaining the road fifteen years ago. He says the reason Elk Mountain Safari was formed twenty-five years ago was to prevent his and fellow ranchers' land from being overrun with hunters.

Palm says of the federation complaint: "They're supposed to be protecting our wildlife, but if I have to take down the gate, the habitat would actually be destroyed."

John Ernst, Executive Director of the federation, refers to two legal opinions by the U.S. Solicitor, counsel for the Department of Interior, which state that the easement is also for general public use. Ernst says the BLM has failed to enforce public access by not making Elk Mountain Safari take down the gate.

Mike Karbs, BLM's Associate District Manager in Rawlins, says there is "nothing to enforce." The interpretations by the U.S. Solicitor, he says, are merely opinions and not legally binding court orders. The BLM, he adds, advises people that the

road is for public use "but in the same breath we caution them there's a fellow up there who feels differently."

The Cheyenne-based federation is asking the court to require a full accounting of all fees collected by Elk Mountain Safari, and asks that these fees either be returned to the individuals or be paid to the Game and Fish Department for wildlife management purposes. That request is a "bunch of baloney," says Palm.

Ernst's group has also asked the District Court to prohibit the Carbon County Court from prosecuting sportsmen who are charged with trespassing as a result of being on the access road, or on public lands beyond the road. Ernst says he has heard of several occasions when people have been chased by armed guards off the access road.

"That's wrong," Palm says. "An absolute lie."

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation decided to seek the injunction because "lots of people have complained" about the access dispute, Ernst says.

Palm admits he is being perceived as "wearing a black hat" on the issue. He adds that he has nothing against letting people drive up the mountain just for sightseeing. Hunters and fishermen, he says, are his main concern and need to be limited. "We just try to control people. The fee gives us a choice who's up there and why."

--Jeff Marti

HOTLINE

No match



Denver's voluntary no-drive campaign against carbon monoxide (HCN, 11/12/84) got off to a bad start. Mayor Federico Pena took a much publicized trip by bus to work; and then sent two police in a police car to his home to bring his car to the office. Parking lot counts indicated those who should have left cars at home (as indicated by the last number in their license plates) had driven in the usual numbers. At first glance, anyway, good intentions may be no match for a sprawling metro area with relatively poor mass transit.

Safe for sodbusters



Sodbusted land, Montana

The Great Plains are still safe for sodbusters (HCN, 10/1/84), thanks to the defeat of bills in the last session of Congress meant to remove federal incentives to convert grasslands to croplands, regardless of the long-term ability of the land to support crops. New attempts to pass bills to discourage sodbusting are expected in the 99th Congress.

Idaho's EnviroSAFE

Idaho's long-running dispute over its EnviroSAFE Services, Inc.'s hazardous waste dump continues (HCN, 12/26/83). An aroused Owyhee County has passed an ordinance providing for inspection as well as taxation of the dumped waste, but the firm has challenged the ordinance in court. On the federal level, the EPA in October cut a fine it had levied on EnviroSAFE from \$156,100 to \$67,500, but never announced the cut and the dropping of some charges. EnviroSAFE was also an issue in incumbent Congressman Larry Craig's (R) campaign to retain his seat. Democratic challenger Bill Heller charged that Craig had "protected" the firm.

Chevron is a bad omen for Wyoming

Rock Springs, Wyoming. The lakes of the Bridger and Fitzpatrick wildernesses, including some of the most remote and high quality fishing areas in the country, could soon succumb to acid rain.

The Wyoming Environmental Quality Council heard that claim and opposing views during hearings last week on an air quality permit. It was issued by the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to Exxon, Inc. to build a \$500 million natural gas processing plant in southwest Wyoming. Last year, the U.S. Forest Service asked the DEQ to add a provision to the Exxon permit that would empower the state to force Exxon to cut emissions if lakes in wildernesses, 160 miles away, began turning acid.

In May, the DEQ issued the Exxon permit without such a stipulation, and three environmental groups, led by the Wyoming Outdoor Council, appealed. They questioned Exxon's data and asked the State Environmental Quality Council to overturn the permit. Instead, the Council decided on November 15 to let the permit stand. The plant is now under construction.

The appeal was rejected in part because the head of DEQ's air quality division, Randolph Wood, told Forest Service officials that under state law he could already revise existing permits. Wood's assurances were somewhat undercut when it was revealed at the hearing that enormous pollution emission violations have been taking place at several plants already operating in southwest Wyoming. For example, Chevron, Inc.'s Carter Creek natural gas sweetening plant is allowed under its permit to emit 158 tons per year of

sulfur dioxide. In 1983, it actually released over 27,000 tons, or 170 times more than allowed.

Wood assured the Council his agency was moving forcefully to bring Chevron and other sources into compliance. But the excess emissions complicate things. The data presented by Exxon in defense of its plant was calculated as if Carter Creek and others were emitting no more pollution than their permits allowed. That left observers to wonder how much wind-borne acid would actually be blowing toward the Wind River Range when the Exxon plant opens in early 1986.

That concern is heightened by indications that the area may already be in trouble. Rainfall samples taken by the Forest Service in Pinedale, Wyoming this year indicate some of the moisture dropping in the area is already ten times more acid than "pure" rain. Agency officials say the barren high altitude lakes in this area have almost no "buffering" capacity to neutralize acid pollution. According to Al Galbraith, air quality specialist for the Bridger-Teton National Forest, "The Wind River Mountains may be the most sensitive to acid rain in the lower 48."

Exxon scientists calculate that their plant, which will 'sweeten' natural gas by removing sulfur dioxide, will contribute only 2.3 percent of the sulfur pollution in southwest Wyoming. Cheyenne lawyer Brent Kunz, representing Exxon, argued before the Council that even if experts could agree on what level of acid endangers wilderness, reducing Exxon's relatively small contribution would not help. He also said it would be unfair to stop Exxon while other polluters continue.

Opponents of the Exxon permit

said they realized it might seem unfair to single out one company. But they noted that Forest Service scientists, hurriedly gathering base line data from lakes in Colorado and Wyoming, have made some troubling discoveries.

Though pH readings in Wind River lakes are presently within normal range, rainfall samples have proven surprisingly acid. Bob Yuhnke, a lawyer with the Environmental Defense Fund in Boulder, claims the pH of the rain is very close to the "threshold" for acidifying lakes established by studies in Scandinavia. But other scientists argue that the European conclusions are speculative.

The Forest Service studies are turning up more than just high pH readings in rainfall. Dr. Mason Hale, a lichen expert from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., took samples in the Wind River Mountains last year and found high concentrations of lead at high altitudes. Officials say the heavy metals may be carried by the wind from the copper smelters in Utah, Idaho, and Arizona; they don't rule out the possibility that auto pollution from the Los Angeles area is reaching Wyoming.

The problem now, according to Forest Service air quality specialist Dennis Haddow in Denver, will be to anticipate the effects of acid rain before the lakes are harmed. Once acidification starts, it is difficult to undo.

"These mountains may be very close to some sort of stress point, but it's not easy to prove there's a problem," said Haddow. "Not when we've got to catch it before we have any acidification (in the lakes)."

--Geoff O'Gara

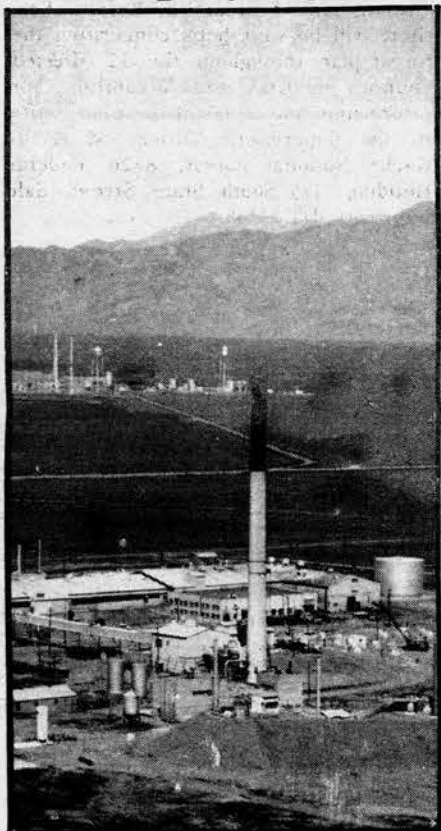
HOTLINE

Wilderness group
regroups

Conservation director Bill Cunningham has left the Montana Wilderness Association as a result of a reorganization which abolished his position. MWA president Ed Madej of Helena said the group will instead hire an executive secretary. The change means MWA will apparently emphasize grassroots organizing and deemphasize lobbying at the national level. The shift may be a reaction to the failure of a Montana wilderness bill to pass the 98th Congress. Madej said: "The prospects for significant wilderness additions depend increasingly on an active membership."

Cunningham has a long record in Montana conservation work. He was with the Wilderness Society before joining MWA two years ago, and was active in work leading to the creation of Montana's present wilderness areas. He is also a wilderness guide and outfitter.

INEL inquiry urged



Chemical Processing Plant, INEL

Idaho State Senator John Peavey (D-Carey) has asked Health and Welfare Director Rose Bowman to investigate a recent incident at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, a Department of Energy-operated nuclear research site. On October 24, six workers inhaled radioactive air while removing a small valve from a steam sample line. An air monitor set off an alarm and the reactor building was evacuated. A spokesman for INEL said the exposure levels were not enough to pose health effects. Senator Peavey urged Bowman to investigate the accident and report the findings in understandable, layman's terms.

Fishing Bridge EIS

The Director of the National Park Service has decided an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared on alternatives to removing facilities at Fishing Bridge in Yellowstone National Park. Russell E. Dickenson wrote a letter announcing the decision to Wyoming's three-man Congressional delegation, who had requested the EIS (HCN, 11/12/84). Park officials believe the closure of Fishing Bridge is necessary to restore grizzly habitat, but the Congressional delegation and Cody Chamber of Commerce are worried about the adverse socioeconomic impacts the action might cause.

Montana fears Wyoming's 'water shovel'

Wyoming and Montana are apparently approaching gridlock as they try to work out the details of apportioning water from the Yellowstone River Basin under the Yellowstone Compact. Larry Wolf, an assistant attorney general for Wyoming, said, "In the past, the Yellowstone has been blessed with an excess of water. We are only now developing mathematical procedures for the allocation of those waters."

Wolf and Gary Fritz of the Montana attorney general's office spoke at the Powder River Basin Resource Council's annual meeting in Sheridan, Wyoming on November 3. The two have been engaged in extensive negotiations over the water appropriations of the Yellowstone, which is a tributary to the Missouri River. The negotiations have been triggered by a number of facts, including Wyoming's aggressive water development program, the plans of the Northern Cheyenne tribe for water project development on their reservation and private plans to develop the Little Big Horn River in Wyoming.

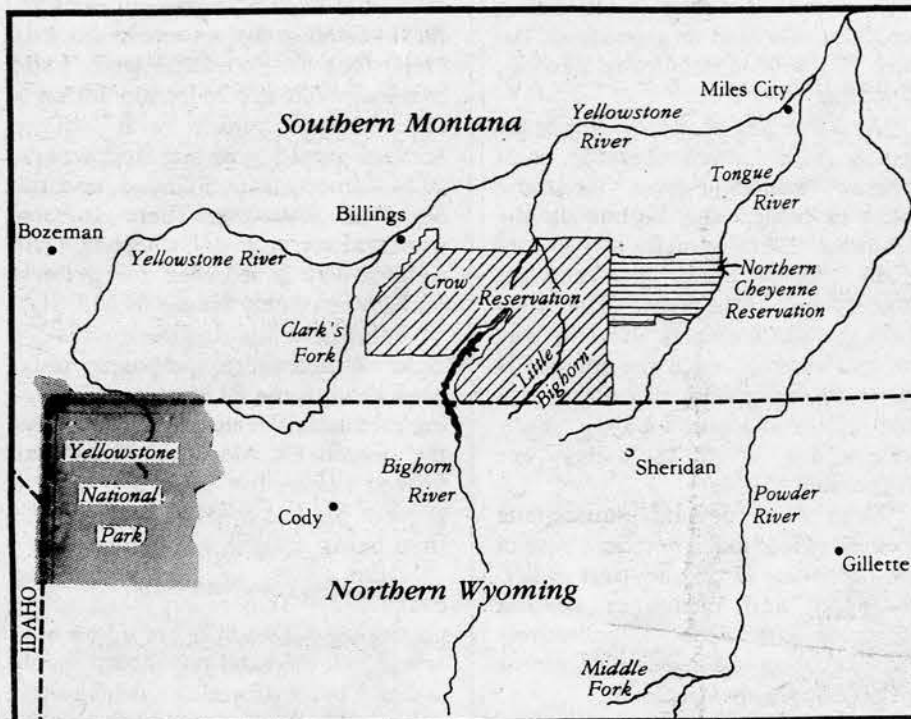
There is much talk about the complexity of water law and water rights, but Fritz put the issue neatly into perspective when he said, "Wyoming is the upstream state. It is better to have a shovel upstream than a water right downstream." Wyoming's shovel is its ambitious water development program which is studying \$1.2 billion worth of water projects around the state, including some on virtually every stream that feeds the Yellowstone River.

The discussion between Fritz and Wolf was cordial enough, but it seems clear that there will be a lot of litigation between the two states before the disagreements are settled. Four river basins that Montana and Wyoming share feed the Yellowstone: the Clark's Fork Basin, the Big Horn Basin, the Tongue River Basin and the Powder River Basin. Of these, only the Clark's Fork seems to be relatively free from controversy. The others are riddled with claims and cross-claims from the states, irrigators and Indian tribes.

The Clark's Fork won't be controversial only because it seems unlikely that anyone on either side of the border can make use of the water economically. Fritz said: "People in the area seem to be satisfied with the current situation, and there is little potential for other development in the near future."

In the Big Horn Basin, water development has been proposed on the Little Big Horn, which begins in Wyoming but runs only a short distance in that state before it enters the Crow Reservation in Montana. The state of Wyoming wants to negotiate about only the Little Big Horn, but the Crow won't begin to discuss the matter unless all of the water flowing into the reservation, including the Big Horn and other rivers, are included in the negotiations. Montana wants to protect the rights of a number of non-Indians living on the reservation, and the federal government has an interest because of water stored in Yellowstone Reservoir. The Little Big Horn is also being studied for inclusion in the wild and scenic river system.

In the Tongue River Basin, Wyoming has identified a number of its own projects while Montana has said that it wants to enlarge the Tongue River Dam. Fritz said, however, "I suspect we will not be



building increased storage soon. There isn't much demand for the water and the cost would be very high." The Tongue River also flows through the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. The tribe has indicated that it wants to build some storage on the river and has asked Montana and Wyoming to quantify their water rights.

Perhaps the most controversial area is the Powder River. There is no Indian issue, but that's more than made up for by other issues. Fritz said, the "Powder River is of tremendous importance to Montana. It is heavily used for irrigation and the quality is on the edge. There is a question of whether water quality is covered by the compact. Montana says it is."

One of Wyoming's most ambitious water development projects is on the Middle Fork of the Powder River. It would decrease flows into Montana and Montana fears that the decrease would hurt water quality.

About the only thing that Wyoming and Montana seemed in agreement on is that Article 10 of the compact should be maintained. Article 10 provides that no water can be

removed from the basin without the approval of the signatory states. Intake Water, a subsidiary of Tenneco, has challenged this provision in court, claiming it was an unconstitutional barrier to interstate commerce. So far, the state's interpretation has been upheld in the courts.

However, there is still time to work out the differences. Fritz said, "Montana should not be in a position to dictate the use of Wyoming water." However, Montana has taken a different approach to the development of its water. Wyoming is looking at large storage projects. Montana has concentrated on small and intermediate water projects. "But," said Fritz, "We want to be sure that Montana gets its full share of Yellowstone water."

Wolf also agreed that cordial settlements could be reached. "We don't want to initiate disputes with Montana unless it is over very fundamental issues. Most of the problems will be resolvable."

PRBRC, for its part, went on record at the meeting as opposing the Middle Fork Project.

--Dan Whipple

EPA proposes short stacks

The Reagan Administration took a first step toward reducing sulfur dioxide emissions into the atmosphere this month. But the environmental groups which forced the rule-making by the Environmental Protection Agency say the effort doesn't go far enough, and have indicated they may go back to court.

The proposed EPA rule chops utility smokestacks from as much as 1,200 feet high down to 200 feet. The shortened stacks mean more pollution in the vicinity of the plants and therefore require that the utilities, most of which are in the Midwest, either switch to lower sulfur coal or install scrubbers. The tall stacks had let the 150 or so affected plants meet Clean Air Act standards in the area around the plants by dispersing the pollution, a dispersion which some say has led to acid rain in New England and Canada.

The EPA is not actually requiring the utilities to chop their stacks down to 200 feet. But it is using computer models that assume the stacks are only 200 feet high. Based on the assumed height of 200 feet, the model

then requires emissions low enough to protect the surrounding area. That led a utility representative to say that the new rules will protect people against pollution that exists only inside a computer.

From the other side, attorney Howard Fox of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund said the proposed rules "do not go far enough in meeting the court order." The Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council had successfully challenged rules which let the stacks be given credit for reducing sulfur dioxide emissions.

--the staff

BARBS

Taking nothing for granted.

A headline in the *Casper Star-Tribune* (11/12/84) stated: "University of Wyoming scientist challenges wisdom of forming Colorado Plateau." That raises the related question of whether it was smart to dig the Grand Canyon.

BULLETIN BOARD

CALL FOR BIGHORN SIGHTINGS

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is asking hikers and climbers in southern Colorado's Mt. Blanca Wilderness to report any sightings of bighorn sheep in the area. The rugged area of the Sangre de Cristo Range is known to have hosted bighorn sheep at one time, but whether a band still remains is uncertain. The Division of Wildlife plans to transplant 20-25 bighorn sheep into the Mt. Blanca area this January. Report sightings to Lonnie Brown at the DOW's La Veta office, 303/742-3230.



ILLUSIONARY BEAR ENCOUNTERS

Although there have been more grizzly bear sightings in Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park this year, the number of human-grizzly encounters has not been unusual, according to a news release from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The statement says intensified media interest in grizzlies has created an illusion of more frequent physical encounters between bears and humans. Grizzly sightings in the Yellowstone ecosystem this year have totaled 1,236, with a population of less than 250 bears. The next highest count of reported sightings was 592 in 1977.

FLATHEAD COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

The public comment period for the draft supplement to the Flathead Wild and Scenic River Management Plan will be extended to January 31, 1985. Originally scheduled to end November 1, the comment period has been extended to accommodate hunters and outfitters who are gone during the fall. For a copy of the supplement write the Hungry Horse Ranger District, Hungry Horse, MT 59919 (406/387-5243).

NORTH FORK WELLS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Marathon Oil Company's well between Cody, Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park is available for public review. It is the second statement to be released after the first version was opposed by environmentalists for inadequately analyzing threats to wildlife, recreation activity, and groundwater (HCN, 4/16/84). Prepared by the Bureau of Land Management's Worland District, the EIS concerns Marathon's request to drill an exploratory oil well on a ridge west of Pagoda Creek in the Shoshone National Forest. In the exploratory phase covered by the EIS, equipment would be shuttled to the site by helicopter. Support facilities would include a helicopter staging area east of the drill site on Clockwater Creek, a temporary water line to the site, mud tanks and living facilities. Copies of the DEIS are available in Cody at the BLM's Cody Resource Area Office, 1714 Stampede Avenue, and at the U.S. Forest Service Supervisor's Office, 225 W. Yellowstone Avenue. Copies may also be obtained at the BLM's Worland District Office, 1700 Robertson Avenue, Worland. A public comment period on the DEIS will end December 17. Written comments should be sent to the North Fork Well EIS Team Leader, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 119, Worland, WY 82401.

NUCLEAR MISHAPS UP

There were 5,060 mishaps at nuclear plants in 1983, 11 percent more than in 1982, according to a study released this month by Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project, a research organization founded by Ralph Nader. Two hundred and forty-seven of the total mishaps were considered particularly significant by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the report says. In 1983, U.S. reactors generated electricity only 56 percent of the time. Part of this was due to a high number of "scrams" (533), which automatically shut down a reactor when anything out of the ordinary occurs. The report provides many more statistics and a scorecard on every reactor in the U.S. Public Citizen's "1984 Nuclear Power Safety Report" is available for \$5 (\$15 for industry). The 1983 report is included for an extra dollar (\$5 extra for industry). Write to Public Citizen, 215 Pennsylvania Avenue S.E., Washington D.C. 20003.

FARMERS WITH MISSILES IN THEIR SILOS

The Silence One Silo Campaign is looking for farmers and ranchers interested in forming a peace group and/or landowners association. They especially are interested in citizens who have missile silos on their land or who deal with the Air Force. If you want corn in your silos instead, write SOS, Box 9203, Missoula, MT 59807.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION DECREASES

The energy intensity of the U.S. economy declined significantly between 1970 and 1983, according to a new Energy Information Administration study. In 1983, total energy consumption per constant dollar of GNP was 25 percent below its 1970 level. The report also says that between 1973 and 1983 industry accounted for a larger percentage decrease in energy consumption than any other sector of the economy (residential, commercial, transportation). Copies of *Energy Conservation Indicators, 1983 Annual Report* are available from the U.S. Government Printing Office for \$5 a copy, or through EIA's National Energy Information Center, Room 1F-048, Forrestal Building, Washington D.C. 20585, 202/252-5575.

GRAND CANYON BACKCOUNTRY PLAN

Grand Canyon National Park is seeking public review and comment on the park's Backcountry Management Plan. The plan outlines guidelines for maintenance, protection, and preservation of the park's backcountry and physical and cultural resources. Copies of the plan are available for review at Grand Canyon National Park, Backcountry Reservation Office, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. Comments should be submitted by December 15.

FARMERS UNION CONVENTIONS

Economic issues affecting the survival of family farmers and ranchers in the West are expected to dominate the 76th annual Rocky Mountain Farmers Union convention, scheduled for November 29 through December 1 at the Holiday Inn Denver East, I-70 and Chamber Road. For information write to the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, P.O. Box 39628, Denver, CO 80239 (303/371-9090). The North Dakota Farmers Union is also holding an annual convention, its 58th, November 29 - December 1, at the Bismarck Civic Center in Bismarck. Entitled "Family farms and cooperatives; our heritage, our future," the convention will feature five state Farmers Union presidents in a panel discussion and question-answer period. To find out more, write to the Farmers Education and Cooperative Union of America, North Dakota Division, 1415 12th Avenue S.E., Jamestown, ND 58401. (701/251-2144).

MONTANA LOOKS UP

Montana has a bright economic outlook for 1985 and 1986, according to new projections from the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana. The revised forecasts for 1985 and 1986 all show improvements over earlier projections. Despite the upward revisions, economic growth in 1985 and 1986 will be less than in 1984. Montana has been rapidly recovering from a deep recession, and employment growth this year is expected to reach 13,000. Montana is expected to regain its pre-recession peak in 1985. Non-farm labor and total personal income are expected to increase in 1985 and 1986 at a slower rate than is now occurring.

HOTLINE

Galloway plan opposed

Colorado and Utah have joined Arizona and California in opposing a plan which would sell water allocated to the upper Colorado River basin states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming to San Diego in California (HCN, 10/29/84). The water policy boards of Colorado and Utah voted their opposition earlier this month. Wyoming has not yet taken a position on the so-called Galloway proposal.

Peace in Montana

After a bitter several months, there are signs of peace between Montana Power Company (MPC) and the Public Service Commission (PSC). The olive branch came from MPC president Paul Schmechel, who said he now recognizes that MPC's \$96 million rate request to pay for Colstrip 3 power plant "simply was not politically doable." (HCN, 10/1/84). So the firm will now ask for a phased rate increase starting with \$35 million. He said he hoped for better relations with the Commission and "will ask the PSC to work with us," indicating that the \$35 million was not offered on a take it or leave it basis. MPC is asking the Montana Supreme Court to order the \$96 million rate increase be imposed over the PSC's objection. Schmechel's statement may indicate he has little hope the court will act on that request.

Ski promoter arrested

The arrest of a promoter hasn't slowed planning of Montana's proposed Ski Yellowstone project on Lake Hegben and Mt. Hegben. The promoter, John P. Hall, was arrested in Pennsylvania November 7 on a charge of stealing \$2 million from his father. The ski area and resort could be endangered if Hall turns out to lack the money to meet financial requirements specified in his Forest Service permits.

Crowell, Arnett, Carruthers quit

John B. Crowell, Jr. has resigned his position as assistant secretary for the Department of Agriculture in charge of National Forests. Before joining the administration, Crowell was the general counsel to Louisiana-Pacific and has been accused of masterminding National Forest road-building and logging policies which conservationists oppose. Also resigning in the wake of the election is G. Ray Arnett, assistant secretary of the Interior Department with responsibility for National Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Arnett has also been the subject of attacks from conservationists. A third leave-taker is Garey Carruthers, an Interior Assistant Secretary in charge of the BLM. Carruthers has been criticized for his involvement in coal leasing.

THE ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT NEWSLETTER



THOU SHALT NOT SELL TIMBER BELOW COST

We now have another commandment, thanks to the Eleventh Commandment Fellowship: "The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; thou shalt not despoil the earth nor destroy the life thereon." The group publishes a new newsletter which addresses the Christian approach to the environment, and refutes the idea that our environmental problems stem from the Judeo-Christian tradition. To receive the newsletter, write: The Eleventh Commandment Fellowship, P.O. Box 14727, San Francisco, CA 94114.

WASATCH-CACHE FOREST PLAN

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest has released its Proposed Land Management Plan and accompanying Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for public review. The plan will guide future multiple-use management of the forest for the next fifty years in a general sense, and for the next ten to fifteen years in a more specific sense. The plan will be revised every ten to fifteen years or as conditions require for special updates. The public comment period extends until February 2. Before then, there will be workshops concerning the forest plan throughout the 12 affected counties in Utah and Wyoming. For information and copies of the plan, write to the Supervisor's Office, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, 8226 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84138.

OIL AND CO2, COAL AND WATER

Carbon dioxide from Exxon's Riley Ridge project in Wyoming and from fields in southwest Colorado may be used to rejuvenate dying oil fields in Colorado and New Mexico. A conference on this relatively new industry will be held December 6-7 in Houston, Texas. For information, contact John Ekberg, Pasha Publications, 1401 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209, or call 703/528-1244. The same organization will also sponsor a conference on coal-water mixes February 7 and 8, 1985, in Tampa, Florida.

A wild horse campaign

The Bureau of Land Management hopes to reduce the number of wild horses and burros on the public lands from 60,000 to 36,000 with the help of \$17 million appropriated by the 98th Congress. To help the job along, the BLM has cut the adoption fee to \$125 for horses and \$75 for burros, and eliminated the transportation fee. If that doesn't empty the BLM's corrals, it will give new importance to Senator Malcolm Wallop's (R-WY) attempts to allow the BLM to sell the animals. His bill is being blocked by Congressman John Seiberling (D-OH). Presumably, the animals would mainly go for dog food. Wallop says the wild animals are destroying public grazing land.

Sportsmen slaughter elk

In an incident known as "flock shooting," about 25 hunters fired almost 60 rounds into a herd of some 100 cow and calf elk near Silt, Colorado early this month. Instead of aiming, the hunters apparently fired indiscriminately into the herd for 20 minutes. Twenty elk died. Colorado Division of Wildlife officer Perry Will says most of the hunters left before he reached the scene, and no one has yet been convicted for the illegal shooting. "How do you prove who shot what?" Will says. Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to call the division at 1/800-332-4155.

A special issue

In the Rocky Mountain West, only Montana withstood the Republican riptide



This Special Issue of *High Country News* attempts to flesh out the vote totals produced by the November 6 election. The first six stories describe what happened on the state level in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. To sum up the results for those who don't like wading through blood and gore: the conservative tide gained everywhere but in Montana, and the overtly good news for environmentalists can be put in a thimble, a small thimble.

The second half of the issue goes national, where the news is substantially better for conservationists. The lengthy story, illustrated by a "map" of the issues, is actually a collection of small stories which

explore the possible fates of grazing, wilderness, logging, endangered species, clean air and water, toxic substances, and other legislation. It is an attempt to define and outline the environmental issues the Congress will be tackling over the next two years and which *HCN* will be covering.

The environmental groups we spoke with in Washington, D.C. and around the region were nearly unanimous in saying that the election changed almost nothing on the national level, since the Congressional lineup is almost unchanged and the Reagan Administration remains the same.

But John McComb, conservation director for the Sierra Club in Washington, D.C. sees reason for

optimism. The House, he said, had been friendly to the conservation movement in the 98th session, and the loss of a dozen Democratic representatives isn't likely to change that.

But McComb thinks the 100-person Senate, which had been hostile to many environmental initiatives, could be affected by three new Democratic senators: Albert Gore from Tennessee; Paul Simon, who beat incumbent Charles Percy, from Illinois; and Tom Harkin, who beat Roger Jepsen, from Iowa. "All three new Senators," says McComb, "had good environmental records in the House, and we expect them to continue in the Senate."

Within a week of the election, it had become apparent that there will

be new faces occupying key environmental positions in the Reagan Administration. As described inside, three environmental "hardliners" have resigned: John Crowell of the Department of Agriculture and Ray Arnett and Garrey Caruthers of Interior.

It is too early to tell if their departures are a coincidence or if they indicate a coming change. The pessimistic view is that they will be replaced by people who have the same policies but softer touches with the press and public. But the optimist sees significant differences between Anne Burford and the person who replaced her at the EPA, William Ruckelshaus, and between William Clark and his predecessor, James Watt, at Interior, and hopes for more of the same.

'We're not retrenching, we're trenched,' says a Utahn

In the 1960s, California was pointed to as the state of the future. But the state that today points to the future may well be Utah despite T-shirts that read: "Welcome to Utah; turn your clock back 20 years."

Utah in 1980 gave President Reagan a record-breaking 73 percent majority in the election, and it did so again November 6, giving him 75 percent of the popular vote. The state also replaced a Democratic governor with a Republican, again sent three Republican Congressmen to Washington to join two Republican Senators, and made the state legislature even more overwhelmingly Republican than it had been.

Ruth Frear, head of the Sierra Club's political action group in Utah, said, "It's more depressing than ever."

It was especially depressing to conservationists who had supported two attractive candidates: Frances Farley (D) in the second C.D. covering Salt Lake City, and Wayne Owens (D), who ran for governor. Farley ran against David Monson, who is linked to a company involved in securities fraud, and lost her race by a few hundred votes. Owens ran way ahead of Mondale, but still lost to Norm Bangerter, 56 percent to 44 percent. Bangerter will now succeed Scott Matheson (D), who chose not to run. Matheson may run for the U.S. Senate in 1986 against Jake Garn or in 1988 against Orrin Hatch.

The most interesting conservation issue in the election was the nuclear waste dump proposed for a site near Canyonlands National Park. Owens opposed it; Bangerter straddled the

fence. Dick Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association says polls show 70 to 74 percent of Utah residents oppose the dump. But the election, Carter continues, didn't turn on the dump or any other issue. "Utah voted on moral, conservative, cultural feelings."

Bangerter is close to San Juan County Commissioner Cal Black, who supports the dump, coal mining on the Kaiparowits Plateau, and the paving of Burr Trail. It is suggested that the governor-elect may appoint Black as Utah's next Department of Natural Resources head, succeeding Temple Reynolds.

But Carter doesn't expect even that to make Utah pro-dump. Having passed up Owens, Carter predicts Utah residents will now impose their anti-dump feelings on Bangerter, just as the state rallied to keep out the MX.

But Carter tempers that view by suggesting that Utah is different from resource-oriented states like Wyoming or Idaho, which are familiar with logging, drilling, and mining, and can therefore also occasionally relate to the economic value of outdoor recreation based on undeveloped lands. Because Utah is almost 90 percent urban, he suggests, and because its economy is based on services and manufacturing, its residents do not have a gut understanding of the value of the Colorado Plateau, the High Uintas, Canyonlands, and other areas.

As for the election, "We've seen it so many times in Utah. It's sort of a norm. We're not retrenching; we're trenched."

Looking backward and forward, he

suggests that environmentalists put a great deal of effort "into two great campaigns by two very decent people." But he says that environmentalists may have put too much emphasis on higher offices, and that the same effort may have paid larger

dividends if it had been expended on state legislature races. In the days of Lee Metcalf, he says, environmental issues flowed from the top down. But today, the tone is set at the bottom, and flows up.

--the staff

Will Utah's Project Bold survive?

The big Utah question in the 99th Congress will be: will Project Bold survive the departure of Governor Scott Matheson (D)? The Project Bold bill introduced by the Utah delegation in the 98th Congress, and to be reintroduced this January, would swap 2.5 million acres of state land scattered over 5,000 tracts for 2.5 million acres of federal land in 40 to 50 tracts.

In theory, the proposal would help both Utah and the federal government. The feds could better manage their land because there would be no state enclaves to work around or provide access to. And the state would have large tracts it could develop.

But there are complications. Some environmental groups fear the swap; they say Utah lacks land use laws, such as a multiple use and sustained yield act, needed for balanced development. The Reagan administration fears a loss of valuable minerals in the swap.

Rob Smith of the Sierra Club in Salt Lake City says environmentalists' suspicions are strengthened by the

mineral-rich federal land Utah has chosen to pursue. There is also opposition from pro-development people like San Juan County Commissioner Cal Black. Some say Black fears that the swap will reduce Utah's ability to prevent the formation of National Parks and wilderness areas in southern Utah through the presence of scattered parcels of state land.

Dick Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association is positive on Project Bold. He says a consensus is emerging on a state commission that will lead to the passage of land use laws mandating multiple use, some preservation and public participation. In addition, "If Project Bold goes through, there is a chance for large Bookcliffs and Kaiparowits wilderness areas, as well as for" mining on state land.

No one appears to be deeply dug in against Project Bold, but it has been most strongly pushed in the past by Matheson. If the new governor and the Utah congressional delegation don't keep pushing the land swap, it will die.

--the staff

Convicted Idaho felon loses a squeaker

Early in the campaign, Idaho Congressman George Hansen (R) was considered all but dead in the water. The ultra-conservative maverick was convicted in April of four felonies for failure to report \$334,000 in personal income to the House under the 1978 Ethics in Government Act. In June he was sentenced to 15 months in prison and ordered to pay a \$40,000 fine, although he has appealed that sentence.

But one week after the Tuesday election, his opponent's win was still in jeopardy. Democratic challenger Richard Stallings unofficially beat the embattled Hansen by a mere 66 votes.

That is an indication of the conservative landslide which occurred in Idaho on Nov. 6.

Senator James McClure and Congressman Larry Craig, both Republican, easily won reelection. And for the first time in 14 years, Republicans gained a veto-proof majority in both houses of the state legislature. In a state where environmental issues are frequently drawn along partisan lines, the Republican sweep in Idaho is viewed with dismay by state conservation leaders.

Conservationists supported Stallings, but generally do not expect him to carry their agenda to Washington, D.C. Stallings spent much of his campaign disassociating himself from anything that could be construed as liberal. The Mormon history professor from Ricks College opposed the ERA, abortion, tax increases and even said he would not necessarily vote for the Mondale/Ferraro ticket. Hansen's main tactic in the race was to tie Stallings to House Speaker Tip O'Neill and other liberal forces, including the Sierra Club.

But for the first time since Frank Church's defeat in 1980, conservationists hope to have someone who will at least listen to them in the Idaho delegation.

Sen. James McClure handily beat Democratic challenger Pete Busch and Libertarian candidate Don Billings. Busch, a Lewiston realtor and former Marine Corps officer with over 400 combat missions over Vietnam to his credit, campaigned hard on the wilderness issue, charging McClure with serving the out-of-state timber interests with his 526,000 acre wilderness proposal. Busch favored the conservationists' 3.4 million acre wilderness proposal.

Billings, who took only a fraction of the votes, supported "privatization" of the public lands.

McClure is one of five Republican senators vying for the Senate Majority

Leader's seat, vacated by Howard Baker. Many environmental leaders would welcome McClure's promotion, since it would remove him as chairman of the Senate Natural Resources and Conservation Committee. Ironically, McClure may have hurt his chances at the majority leader position during his failed efforts to pass his 526,000 acre Idaho wilderness bill. McClure alienated fellow Republicans by trying to tie his unpopular wilderness bill to wilderness bills for Washington, Arizona and California.

It has been years since conservationists had a friendly state legislative body, but the next two years may prove to be worse than ever for environmentalists with Democratic Governor John Evans' veto stamp virtually removed. Republicans, who have long held over a two-thirds majority in the House, gained the extra seats in the Senate to override the governor's frequently used veto.

Ken Robison, a former state legislator who keeps tabs on state issues with his *Idaho Citizen* newspaper, said the new legislature will be "easily the most anti-environmental in 20 years."

"It seems almost impossible, but, yes, it's going to be worse," said Robison. "Basically, IACI (the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry) has been running the Republican majority for 10 years. So the larger the Republican majority, the more control IACI has."

Idaho Conservation League lobbyist Renee Quick said she fears a repeal of the state planning act which requires counties to adopt land-use planning (a Republican-led repeal has been attempted every year since the act's passage). Other vulnerable legislation includes the Sunshine Law, which requires financial disclosures by legislators, and the initiative process, which allows citizens to petition for legislation (a limitation on the initiative process was blocked last session by the governor's veto). Quick also voiced concerns about the level of funding for environmentally oriented programs and agencies. Gov. Evans had used his veto or threat to use it to increase funding for various state departments.

But Robison sardonically noted that "there's not a lot of positive environmental legislation for this legislature to tear up because it's never been passed." And the existing environmental legislation is ineffectively enforced. For example, despite the land use planning act, he said several counties still lack land use plans.

The few conservation-minded legislators elected -- including Sen. John Peavey, who won a hotly contested reelection, and Mary Lou Reed, a former Idaho Conservation League Board member -- "are going to be snowed under," predicts Robison.

This leads Robison to criticize conservationists' tactics in Idaho. "The way to play the legislative ballgame is to play the election ballgame," he said. By the time the legislature is in session, he said, the battles are essentially over. Conservationists in Idaho are considered politically weak by the politicians, Robison said, because they provide very little of the three things needed

by politicians: money, volunteers and campaign organizers.

Robison himself suffered defeat two years ago in a race for the Senate against Bill Ringert, a Boise attorney who has specialized in Desert Land Entry development. Robison said he spent a total of \$4,500, refusing political action committee funds, while his opponent spent \$28,000.

Conservationists will get their next chance at influencing the electoral process in 1986. Big ticket items for that election include a governor's race most likely pitting former Governor and Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus against Republican Attorney General Dave Leroy. Republican Senator Steve Symms, who defeated Frank Church in 1980, is expected to face Gov. Evans or perhaps Church's politically savvy widow, Bethine Church.

--Glenn Oakley

A plus for Idaho

It may be unlikely, but it is not impossible for an active, well-known conservationist to win an election in Idaho. Mary Lou Reed, of Coeur d'Alene, proved that November 6 by winning an Idaho Senate seat for Kootenai County in Idaho's Panhandle.

Over the past 20 years, Reed has been effectively active on many local and state conservation issues -- the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, Idaho Wilderness, north Idaho's lakes, Washington Water Power plants and rate increases, and others.

In 1973, she helped found the Idaho Conservation League (ICL), and served on its board for six years, including a stint as chairwoman. In 1969 she, her husband Scott and Art Manley founded the Kootenai Environmental Alliance in their home county. KEA, now a chapter of ICL, has inspired many similar local groups and is still going strong. And Reed's compelling personal presence -- zest, intelligence, and great caring all in large measures -- has inspired and taught many Idaho conservationists.

Reed ran for the Idaho House in 1982, losing by some 400 votes. This year, she defeated Republican grass-seed grower Dennis Carlson by 611 votes. She was the only Democrat to win in Kootenai County.

She ran a vigorous and professional campaign -- computerized, well-financed, a large and efficient volunteer corps, and her own great energy applied fulltime for four or more months. The biggest campaign issue belonged to her -- Washington Water Power's efforts to have their customers pay for the company's disastrous investments in two cancell-



Mary Lou Reed

ed nuclear projects -- Skagit and WPPSS 3. She urged legislation requiring utilities themselves to pay the costs of dry hole investments.

Much of her opponent's predominantly negative campaign targeted her conservation record.

"He tried to paint me as a single issue candidate," said Reed, "and I think it backfired. Utility rates were the major issue, and that's pocket-book, not environmental." Reed also campaigned on education, day-care licensing, and economic development. She did not hide her conservation work (her tabloid noted her selection with Scott as Idaho Conservationists of 1984 by *Idaho Wildlife*, the state Fish and Game Department's magazine), but her campaign did not emphasize it.

She now takes her seat as one of 31 Democrats in the 126-seat Idaho Legislature.

--Pat Ford

W Mitchell, Nancy Dick lose in Colorado

The only thing Democrats had to be thankful for in Colorado was that only one Senate seat was up and that it wasn't a gubernatorial year, as incumbent Republican Senator Bill Armstrong beat Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dick with 65 percent of the vote and Republican Mike Strang beat Democrat W Mitchell with 57 percent of the vote. In the races in "safe" congressional seats, incumbent Republicans Hank Brown, Ken Kramer, and Dan Schaefer and incumbent Democrats Pat Schroeder and Tim Wirth easily turned back their challengers.

The defeat of Mitchell probably hit

the Colorado conservation movement hardest. The Western Slope and Pueblo district is nominally Democratic, and had been held, barely, for three terms by Congressman Ray Kogovsek (D), who chose not to run again. Mitchell holds strong environmental credentials. He gained a national reputation by fighting AMAX's attempt to build a large molybdenum mine near Crested Butte when he was mayor, and he serves on the board of several national environmental groups. Finally, he is an independently wealthy businessman who ran a well-financed, tough campaign.

On state-wide ballot issues, the 80 percent of the voters who turned out rejected legalized gambling in Pueblo and, by a narrow majority, banned the spending of tax funds for abortion.

The most meaningful Republican gains came in the legislature, where they can now override vetoes by Democratic Governor Richard Lamm. The legislature faces several environmental questions, including how to deal with the auto and wood pollution which now fouls the air on the Front Range; whether to put up matching money so that Colorado can participate in the federal Superfund effort against toxic waste dumps; and

whether to adopt some sort of land use planning to keep Front Range urban areas from sprawling into each other, obliterating open space and a sense of separate communities.

Ron Stewart, a Democratic state senator who chose this year to run, successfully, for county commissioner from Boulder County, said, "The question is: Will we move backward? We have had attempts to cut mined land reclamation, county planning, and so on in the past." Those attempts, he said, were turned back only with the veto. But environmental questions, he continued, are not subject to party line discipline, and Republicans can vote as they please on those bills. That's helpful, because "there are moderate Republicans on the environment."

--the staff

8-High Country News -- November 26, 1984



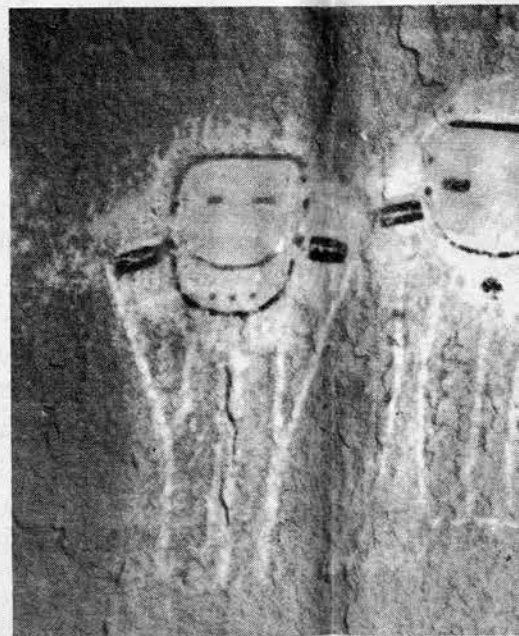
The All American Man, a red, white and blue shield figure, is the best known rock art panel in Canyonlands.

Although in a cave, it was threatened recently by fire from a backpacker's stove.



This large Basketmaker culture petroglyph panel at Indian Creek has been used as a target by

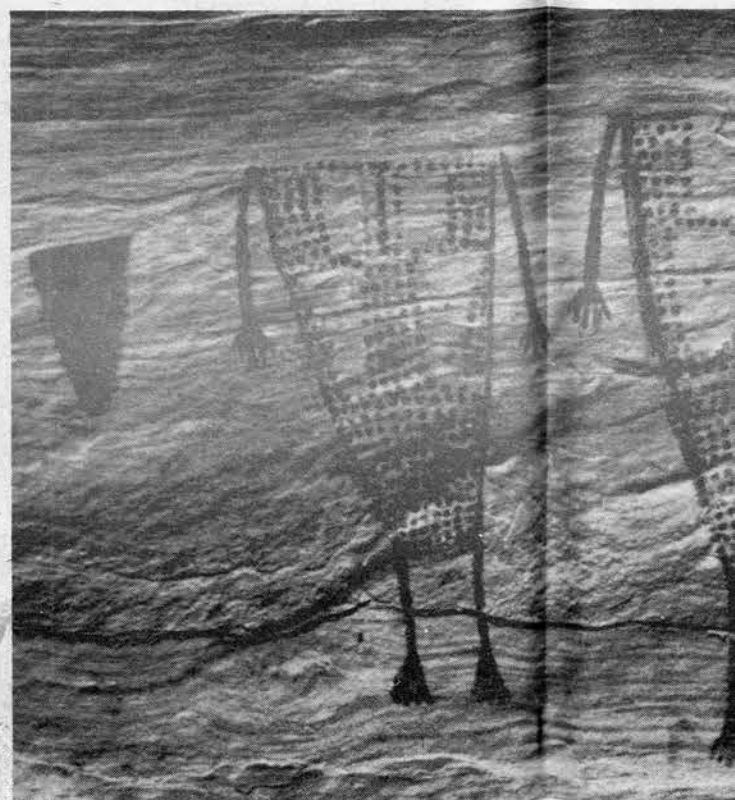
ROCK ART AT RISK



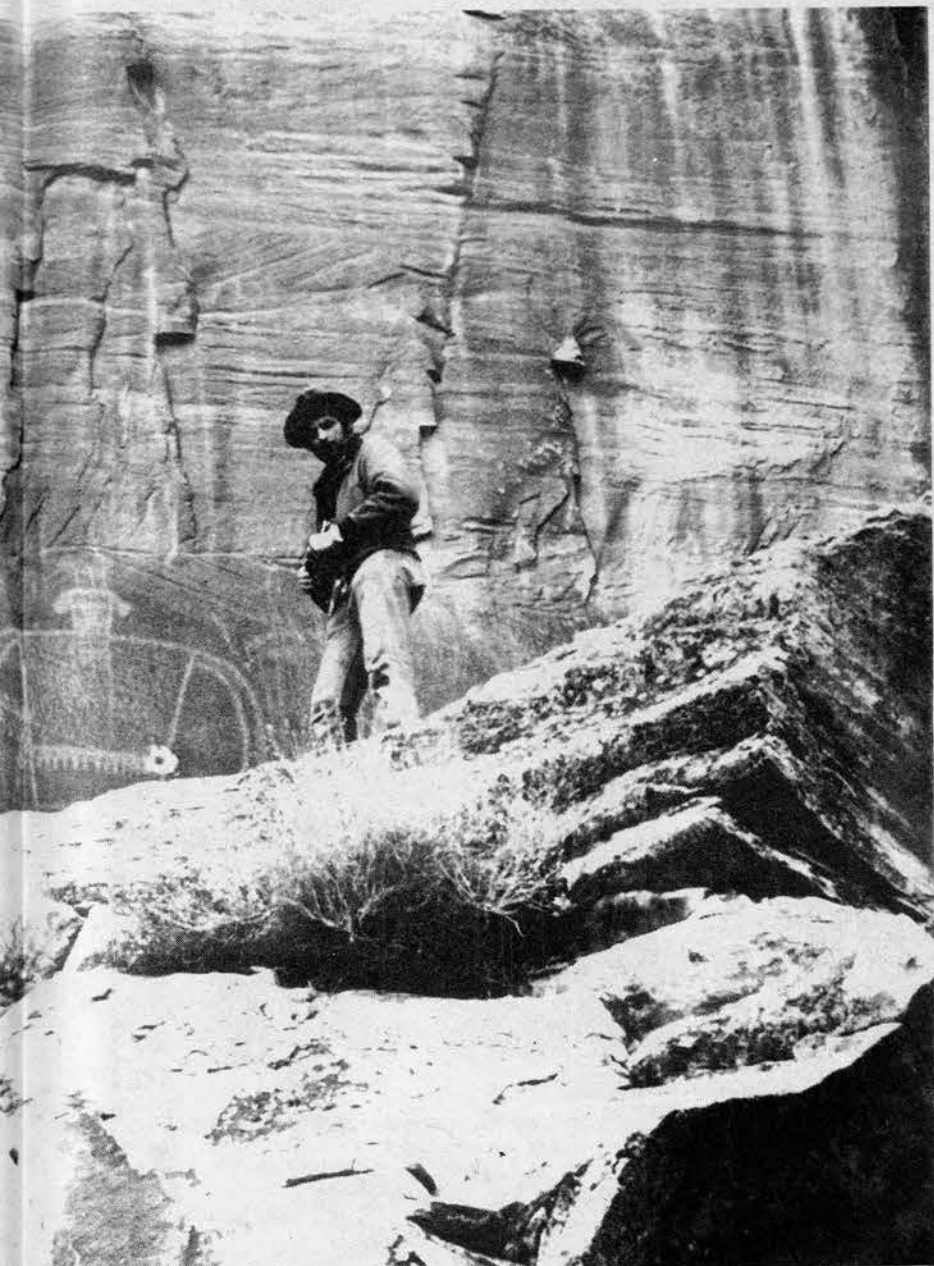
Rock art at Davis Canyon just a few miles from



This Fremont panel is close to an interstate and coal mine access road.



Grand Gulch



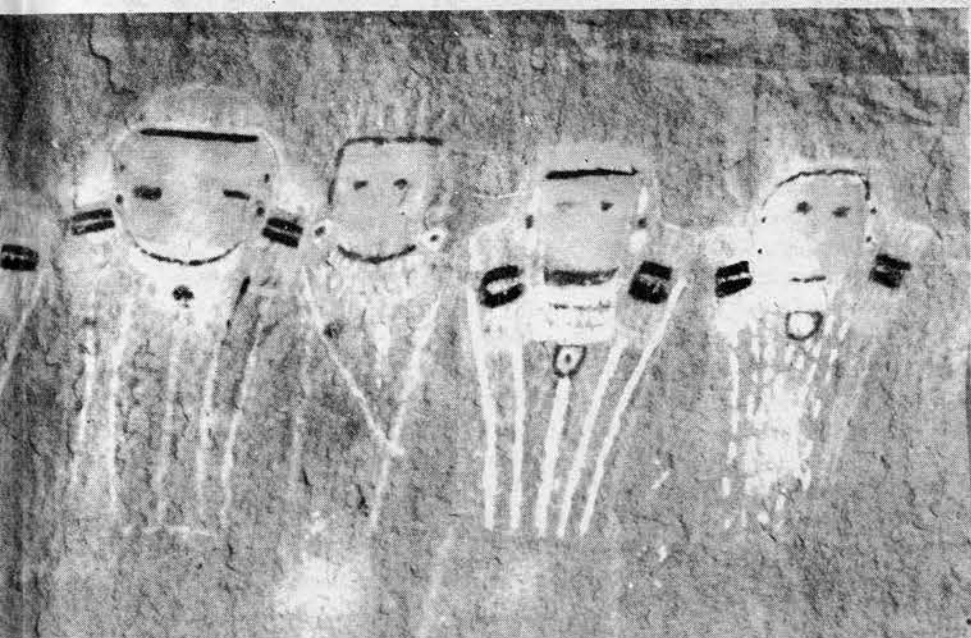
used as a target by hunters.



Newspaper Rock is protected by a fence next to the major access road to Canyonlands National Park.

**photos
and text
by
Layne Miller**

Once hidden from view in the arid Southwest, prehistoric rock art of the Anasazi and Fremont cultures is now at risk. Motorcycles, four-wheelers and backpacks have made the canyon country's rock art more accessible, and one result has been vandalism. Cultural expressions as old as 1,500 years are now marred by bullet holes, chalk marks and idiotic initials. Not much is known about the rock art panels, but those who have studied the works think they were sign posts to indicate directions, legends or myths used to enhance religious ceremonies. Although vandalism defaces the rock art, a more serious threat is progress, as twentieth century man plans dams, highways, subdivisions and perhaps a nuclear waste dump in the canyon country. Development has already brought impacts to rock art in Canyonlands and Capital Reef National Parks, Nine-Mile Canyon, Horseshoe Canyon and Lake Powell.



just a few miles from the site of a proposed nuclear waste dump.



Bullet holes in a panel at Hot Springs.

10-High Country News -- November 26, 1984

Republicans romp in Wyoming, gain in the State House

Led by President Ronald Reagan, Senator Alan Simpson and Congressman Dick Cheney, Republicans succeeded in putting Wyoming even further into their camp. The three-person Congressional delegation remains Republican, they gained seven members in the State House to give a 46-18 majority, and they held on to their 19-11 advantage in the State Senate.

Democratic Governor Ed Herschler, whose third term ends in 1986, can now be overridden on vetoes by Republicans in the House. The Democrats can sustain vetoes by one vote in the Senate.

Herschler uses his veto liberally. Because of Wyoming's 40-day legislative session, the legislators are often back home, unable to attempt an override, by the time Herschler vetoes bills. But 1985 will be different. The Republicans have decided that the Legislature will adjourn after 38 days, and return later to attempt veto overrides.

The only bright note for the Democrats is that the popular Herschler, after announcing that he wouldn't run for a fourth term in 1986, recently said he is reconsidering that decision.

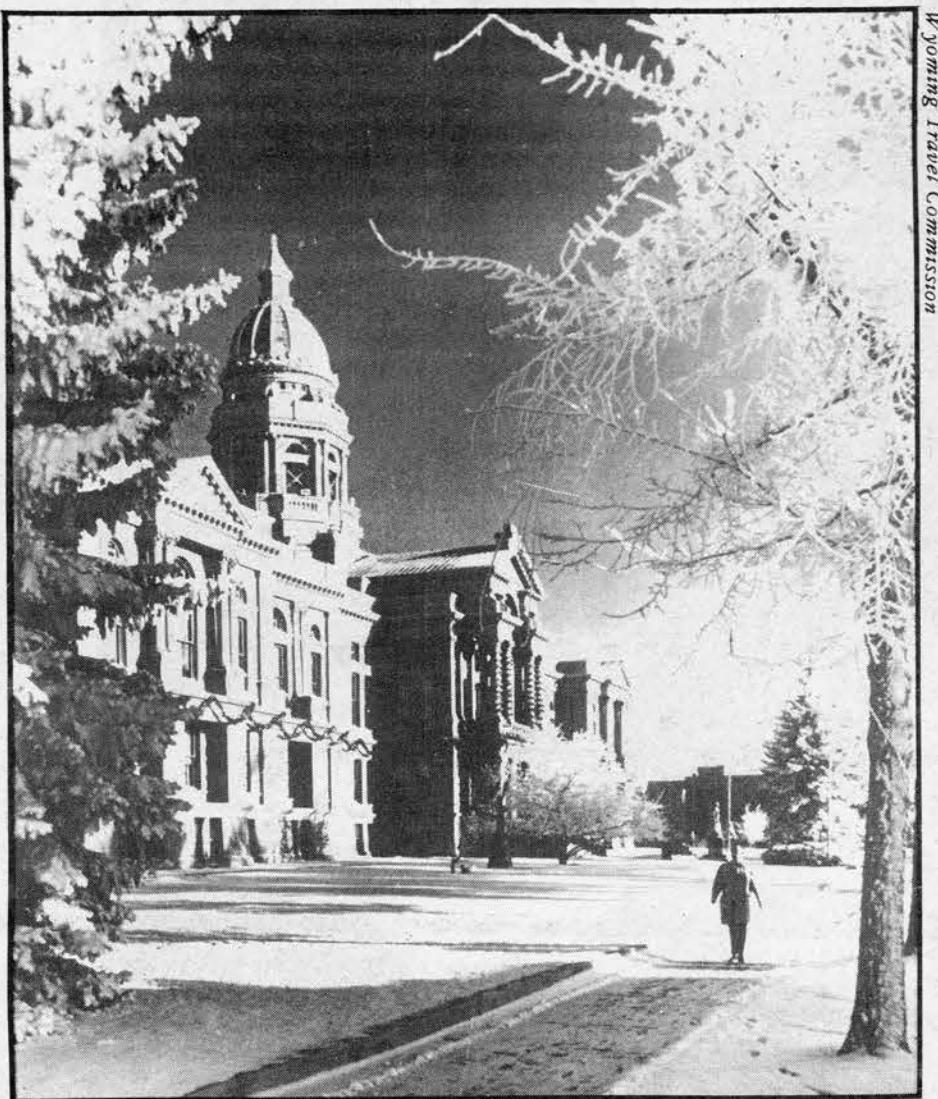
Among the issues the 1985 legislative session will deal with are in-stream flow, severance taxes and economic development. The Wyoming Wildlife Federation has just made

history by putting an in-stream flow initiative on the 1986 ballot. Since 1969, there have been thirteen attempts to put different initiatives on the ballot, but all failed until now. It is possible that the legislature will attempt to head off the initiative by passing an in-stream flow law in 1985.

The Republican's new strength in the legislature may lead to an attempt to encourage more oil and gas production by reducing the state severance tax. The legislature may also try again to weaken the Industrial Siting Act which governs the permitting of large industrial facilities. In the last session, the Republicans defeated Herschler's proposed economic development program, and they will attempt to pass their own program in this session.

Lynn Dickey of Sheridan, who was re-elected to the House, said the strength of the Republican sweep is illustrated by the election of a Republican from Sweetwater County, where Rock Springs has always been a Democratic bastion. Among the factors which led to the Democratic setbacks in the House, she said, was the decision by several strong vote getters to retire or to run for the State Senate. Among the losers were Bill Edwards, a strong conservationist from Cheyenne who had served in the House for eight years.

--the staff



Wyoming State Capitol

Wyoming Travel Commission

Reagan and friends do well in Democratic New Mexico

Although registered Democrats outnumber Republicans almost two to one, New Mexicans gave Reagan 60 percent of their vote and reelected Republican Senator Pete Domenici by the widest margin ever in a statewide race (72 to 28 percent).

In the U.S. House of Representatives, all three incumbents were reelected by substantial margins -- Republicans Manuel Lujan and Joe Skeen, as well as Democrat Bill Richardson.

Domenici, a popular and powerful senior senator, defeated a grassroots campaign effort by Judy Pratt, formerly a progressive Democratic state legislator. Cisco McSorley, a Democrat newly elected to Pratt's seat in the New Mexico state house, says "Domenici's personal magnetism and perceived power in the Republican-

controlled U.S. Senate" contributed to the magnitude of his win. But Domenici's huge spending margin was also instrumental. The Republican incumbent's campaign was the most expensive in New Mexico's history. McSorley says Domenici was helped by large amounts of out-of-state funds while Pratt's campaign had problems raising money.

Election-day power shifts in the New Mexico state legislature could put environmental groups on the defensive in next year's legislative session. Republican gains resulted in a Senate makeup of 21 Republicans and 21 Democrats. In the House, there is a possibility of an even split between "loyalist" Democrats and a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats. The numbers split in the House is difficult to estimate, McSorley says, because of many

newly elected Democrats of unsure standing and because of the possibility that some incumbent Democrats who joined the conservative coalition in 1982 will remain "loyal" this year.

The split has been estimated at 35-35 or 36-34, with the "loyal" Democrats out in front.

In last spring's legislative session the senate also had defections, when several Democratic senators crossed party lines to form the Senate's first conservative coalition. The coalition came in response to Governor Toney Anaya's budget proposal, which included raising taxes to pull the state out of a budget crunch.

In the new Senate, McSorley says, "At least three Democrats are currently jockeying for power and may bolt to join the Republicans in a conservative coalition" this year, giving that group a clear majority. But who will gain control of the all-important Senate committees is unclear; the rules for picking committee chairpersons are based on majority and minority parties. This is the first time in New Mexico's history that the Senate seats are evenly split between the two parties.

In the state House of Representatives, the Speaker chooses committee heads. The spot is currently occupied by progressive Democrat Ray Sanchez (D-Bernalillo Co.), but it is likely that he will be replaced, either by a candidate from the conservative coalition or by a more moderate candidate from the "loyalist" Democrats in an effort to placate the conservatives.

Diane Snyder, legislative lobbyist for the New Mexico Conservation Voters Alliance in the 1983 and 1984 state legislative sessions, says that she doubts a formal coalition will form

except for votes on economic issues. And she says that though the conservatives are usually weak on environmental issues, cross-over votes in both directions are common on all issues.

Snyder and McSorley agree that Republican gains in the election were not large in terms of numbers of seats won (two in the Senate and five in the House), but that they were significant because of the close balance of powers in the state.

McSorley attributes the gains to several factors, including a New Mexican trend away from its Democratic roots; this year's focusing of national PAC money on New Mexico campaigns; the general national mood; and some backlash against Governor Anaya, a strong environmentalist.

Snyder says the elections may put environmentalists on the defense, "fighting unfavorable bills, but we still plan to introduce some positive legislation." A few key environmental issues that Snyder says will surface in the annual 90-day legislative session starting in January are:

An in-stream flow bill to allow water flowing in streams to count as a beneficial use; a lands endowment bill to allow the state to purchase land for preservation; a right-to-know bill concerning toxics and the workplace; and funding for the proposed coal-hauling railroad in the northwestern part of the state.

But the budget will probably dominate the 1985 New Mexico legislative session. The state faces a record deficit of \$40 million unless the statehouse can find a way to increase revenues or reduce spending.

--Mary Moran



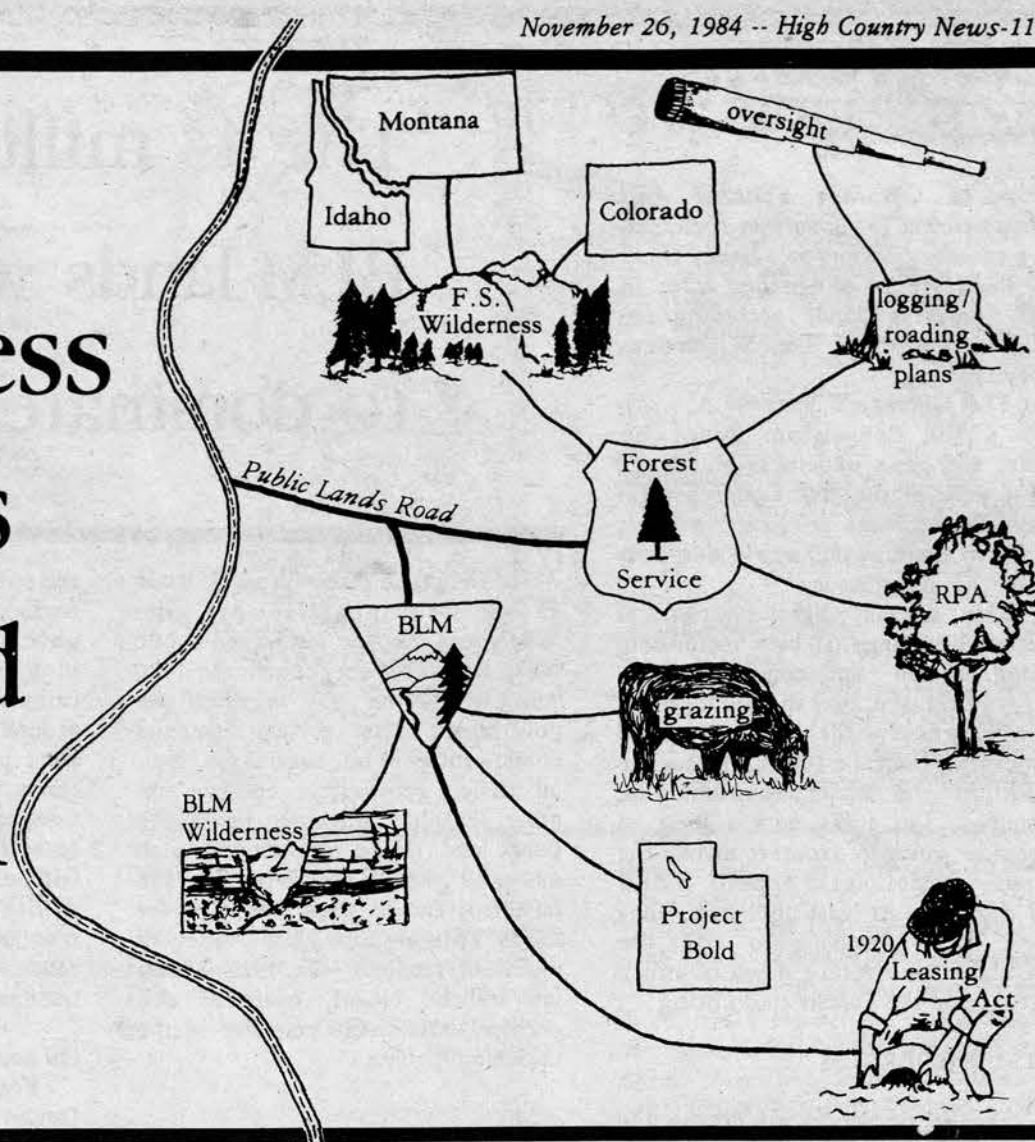
New Mexico State Capitol.

New Mexico Tourism Dept.

November 26, 1984 -- High Country News-11

A special issue

The 99th Congress will face scores of resource and environmental questions



by Ed Marston

THE FOREST SERVICE

It would be easy for the 99th Session of Congress to spend all its time on Forest Service issues. It won't do that, but the recent attention paid to the Forest Service by national, regional and local media guarantees that the agency will receive more than its usual quota of attention. Among the issues to be considered are:

RPA

Every five years, the Forest Service must submit a five-year plan for the forests with a 50-year broad brush overview. This requirement of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act sets the national context for the fifty year plans now being prepared on each National Forest.

The Reagan Administration has held off sending its RPA to the

Congress until after the election. Moreover, its draft did not choose a preferred alternative. Congressional hearings will undoubtedly be held on the RPA recommendations. The reaction of Congress could influence the fifty year plans for the National Forests.

Roading and Logging

Much of the national press scrutiny -- from the *New York Times* and *L.A. Times* to CBS News -- has focused on whether the Forest Service is plotting against the remaining roadless lands. Environmentalists say there is an agency plot to put a de facto end to the wilderness question. Forest Chief R. Max Peterson angrily rejects the allegation, saying the only plot is that hatched by environmentalists to make the Forest Service look bad.

An authoritative answer to the question is unlikely. But Peter Kirby of the Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C. says, "Committees in the Senate and House have expressed interest in holding hearings on the question."

A related approach to the roading question will come through the Senate and House appropriations committees. In the last Congress, Representative Sid Yates (D-IL) of the House Appropriations Committee succeeded in cutting some road building money from the Forest Service budget. But it was restored by Senator James McClure (R-ID).

Also thanks to McClure, the Forest Service has some major budget advantages in the roading struggle. Kirby says, in getting Timber Purchaser Credits taken out of the Forest Service budget so that Congress no longer controls those expenditures.

Timber Purchaser Credits refer to the agency's power to swap logs for roads, letting companies build roads through the forests instead of paying cash for the timber they cut. As of now, use of the credits is restricted to the timber sale which generates them. But McClure in the last session of Congress attempted to make the credits transferable. That means credits earned but not needed on a Forest where timber cutting is

economic could be transferred to Forests where even a logs-for-roads swap won't allow logging.

Kirby hopes a new coalition will form around the roading issue, as it has around water projects. "We see this as an issue that should appeal to fiscal conservatives as well as environmentalists. The biggest single item in the Forest Service budget is road building."

Wilderness

The 98th Congress passed 21 state wilderness laws, but didn't act on three important western states: Colorado, Montana and Idaho. Due to the election, Colorado may have the smallest chance of passing a bill in the 99th Congress. Western Slope Congressman Ray Kogovsek (D) has been replaced by Mike Strang (R), who is unenthusiastic about wilderness legislation.

In addition, the bill is entangled in the issue of federal reserved water rights in wilderness areas. Water interests held the wilderness bill

[Continued on page 12]

Montana wasn't buried by the Republican blitz

Old Doc Melcher's talking cows came out of retirement, an alleged wimp won a U.S. Senate seat and the state House of Representatives ended in a dead heat. But, all in all, Montana wasn't buried by the Republican landslide and, according to Gail Stoltz of MontCel, a coalition political action committee, "Considering the national wake, progressive causes did fine in Montana."

All of the incumbents for national and statewide office were reelected. Gov. Ted Schwinden, a Democrat, was reelected handily, as were fellow Democrats Sen. Max Baucus and Rep. Pat Williams and Republican Rep. Ron Marlenee.

Last year, Baucus had been thought vulnerable to a strong Republican challenge. And with the popularity of President Reagan, many national observers believed Montana's junior senator might fall. However, in a race notable mostly for

name-calling, Republican Chuck Cozzens couldn't mount a convincing campaign.

Cozzens' most successful salvo was calling Baucus a "wimp" in his radio ads. Wimphood, a station not much aspired to by the politically inclined, was never explained to the voters' satisfaction, so Cozzens tried to clarify matters by saying that Baucus was a liar and an egotist who couldn't stand pressure. This was about as close to the issues as the campaign ever got.

Sen. John Melcher's talking cows, Rosie and Eleanor, who helped Melcher get national attention when they appeared in his campaign ads two years ago, were resurrected to counteract the negative Republican campaign. Melcher's original commercials ridiculed attacks on him by the National Conservative Political Action Committee. This year's

pun-filled revival accused the Republicans of "bull."

Still, Cozzens' accusations were part of a hallowed tradition of American politics. 1852 presidential candidate Franklin Pierce was called "a hero of many a well-fought bottle" and Ulysses S. Grant was called a drunkard. One U.S. Senator reminded audiences, speaking of William Jennings Bryan, the "boy orator of the Platte," that the Platte River in Nebraska was six inches deep and six miles wide at the mouth.

In state legislative races, the Democrats lost four House seats so the House of Representatives is now split smack down the middle with 50 Democrats and 50 Republicans. Democrats retain control of the committees because the governor is a Democrat. As a result, little positive action is expected on issues important to conservationists. Stoltz said that, "Hopefully, some coalitions can be

built for some offensive postures." Republicans want to reduce the state's 30 percent coal severance tax, but it is unlikely to pass this session and, if it did, Schwinden would almost certainly veto it.

The Democrats took control of the Senate, with 27 Democrats and 23 Republicans. In the last session, there were 26 Republicans and 24 Democrats.

In both Houses, the leadership will be dramatically changed. House Speaker Dan Kemmis, a darling of conservationists, ran for the state Supreme Court and lost. His opponent in that race, Sen. Jean Turnage, had been a moderate Republican leader in the Senate. The probable House speaker is Rep. John Vincent of Bozeman, who has a reputation of working well with many different groups.

--Dan Whipple

Congress...

[Continued from page 11]

help of Colorado Senator Bill Armonstrong (R), who was reelected in a smashing victory over Nancy Dick. At stake are 3.5 to 4 million acres of still roadless land, according to Michael Scott of the Wilderness Society.

The Montana Wilderness Association's Bill Cunningham thinks his state will get a wilderness bill in the first year of the 99th Congress. He says the Montana delegation will not want to again go into an election year with that as an issue.

The squeaky tight election of Richard Stallings (D) over incumbent Congressman and convicted felon George Hansen, may slightly increase the chances of an Idaho wilderness bill emerging from the 99th Congress. In addition the major environmental groups seem a bit more willing to consider going into court to invoke the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' RARE III decision. At least until now, they have been unwilling to risk the backlash the shutting down of much activity on the Forests could bring.

BLM WILDERNESS

The Forest Service wilderness and roadless issues will remain alive for many years, but they will gradually be dwarfed by the BLM wilderness issue (HCN, 7/9/84). Scott of the Wilderness Society says that 24 million acres of BLM wilderness study areas are at stake in eleven western states. There are also another estimated 20 million acres not being studied for wilderness.

Scott predicts the Congressional struggle over BLM wilderness will resemble the RARE II fights because BLM director Bob Burford has announced that BLM wilderness recommendations will go to the Congress in state-wide packages. Scott also predicts that the BLM bills will be much more contentious than the Forest Service bills because BLM land has more oil and gas wells, mines and stock grazing ponds.

BLM GRAZING

Attorney Johanna Wald of the Natural Resources Defense Council in San Francisco says three major grazing questions will face the 99th Congress:

1) The law setting the cattle and sheep grazing fee formula expires next year and must be renewed. The present formula keeps grazing fees well under market price. As a result, grazing permits are very valuable, and are a major part of many ranchers' net worth. Attempts to remove or reduce the subsidy by raising the fees would have severe repercussions on both ranchers and their bankers.

2) The Experimental Stewardship Program expires next year. This program attempts to bring together federal, state and local interests to manage the public lands. The Program is strongly supported by some western governors, who say it is an excellent example of state-federal cooperation.

3) BLM Grazing Boards. The authority for these boards will expire next year. They are now manned only by grazing permittees. Ms. Wald says they are anachronisms, since they are oriented only toward livestock grazing, and therefore downgrade the multiple use aspects of BLM land.

THE 1920 MINERAL LANDS LEASING ACT

The 1920 Mineral Lands Leasing

Act has as much effect on public lands as the Multiple Use Act, the Wilderness Act or any other public lands law. This is because the 1920 Act governs the way in which the government lets private interests obtain control of oil, natural gas, coal, oil shale, geothermal energy, and other leasable minerals underlying public land. (Hard rock minerals such as gold and molybdenum are patented, rather than leased, under the 1872 Mining Law.) For a variety of unrelated reasons, the 1920 leasing law will be closely examined and perhaps extensively amended in the upcoming Congress.

Coal

The leasing of coal has been a hardy perennial with the Congress since the energy crisis and clean air concerns of the early 1970s focused attention on the West's billions of tons of low-sulfur coal. For the first few months of the 99th Congress, the coal leasing initiative will lie with the U.S. Department of Interior under Secretary William Clark.

Because of the mess former Secretary James Watt made of the leasing program, and because of the light shined on that mess by the U.S. Congress, the Linowes Commission, the Office of Technology Assessment and other investigators, Clark has pledged to revise coal leasing yet again -- the third major revision in ten years. Most leasing will halt until the new program is completed. Congress will undoubtedly express itself once Clark's leasing program is completed. But in the meantime, it may be asked to deal with two other coal leasing issues.

First, the 1976 coal amendments to the 1920 Act call for "due diligence" on the part of holders of federal coal leases. Due diligence means lease holders who do not mine the coal must either give up the lease within a certain number of years, or become ineligible for any other mineral leases.

The due diligence bell will begin tolling in 1986 for billions of tons of undeveloped coal. Some in the coal industry want the law changed, while environmental groups want to keep due diligence in effect. The Sierra Club's Brooks Yeager and Neil Gordon did a study in June 1984 showing that relaxation of due diligence would most benefit seven major oil companies holding 3.2 billion tons of coal leases. Gulf and Conoco hold 1.5 billion tons of the 7.5 billion tons to be affected in 1986.

There are environmental and fiscal issues. The leased coal that may be turned back to the federal government underlies 300,000 acres of land, and at least some of it would be ineligible for leasing by today's environmental standards. Economically, much of the coal was leased at low rates, and if the coal were to be returned and then leased again, the federal treasury and the states would be likely to earn more money.

The second leasing issue involves

the railroads. Land and mineral grants to the railroads in the last century gave them vast western coal holdings in a checkerboard pattern. But the railroads are barred from leasing federal coal, and thus unable to fill in their holdings to assemble mineable tracts. The railroads would like Congress to give them the right to lease federal coal. Such an initiative will be fought by the coal and electric utility industries, which see a monopolistic danger were the railroads to add large coal mines to their transportation network.

Oil and Gas

Pressure is building on the Department of Interior to change the way it leases Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land for oil and gas exploration. According to the Sierra Club's Yeager, even land in promising areas like the Overthrust Belt is often leased without competitive bidding, either over-the-counter on a first-come, first-served basis or through the much criticized lottery.

In the recent Fort Chaffee case (*Arkla v. Texas Oil Corp.*), the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals found that Interior had no reliable method for assessing the oil and gas value of the land it was leasing, and it ordered Interior to develop such a method. The case arose when Interior leased 33,000 acres to Texas Oil without bidding. The lease was challenged successfully by Arkla in the courts.

The effect of the decision, according to Texas Oil, which is

appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court, "is to indefinitely delay leasing of federal lands" until a new leasing system is put into place, and "to cloud the title to" existing leases. Assuming the Supreme Court does not overturn the decision, there will be pressure on the Congress to change the leasing law.

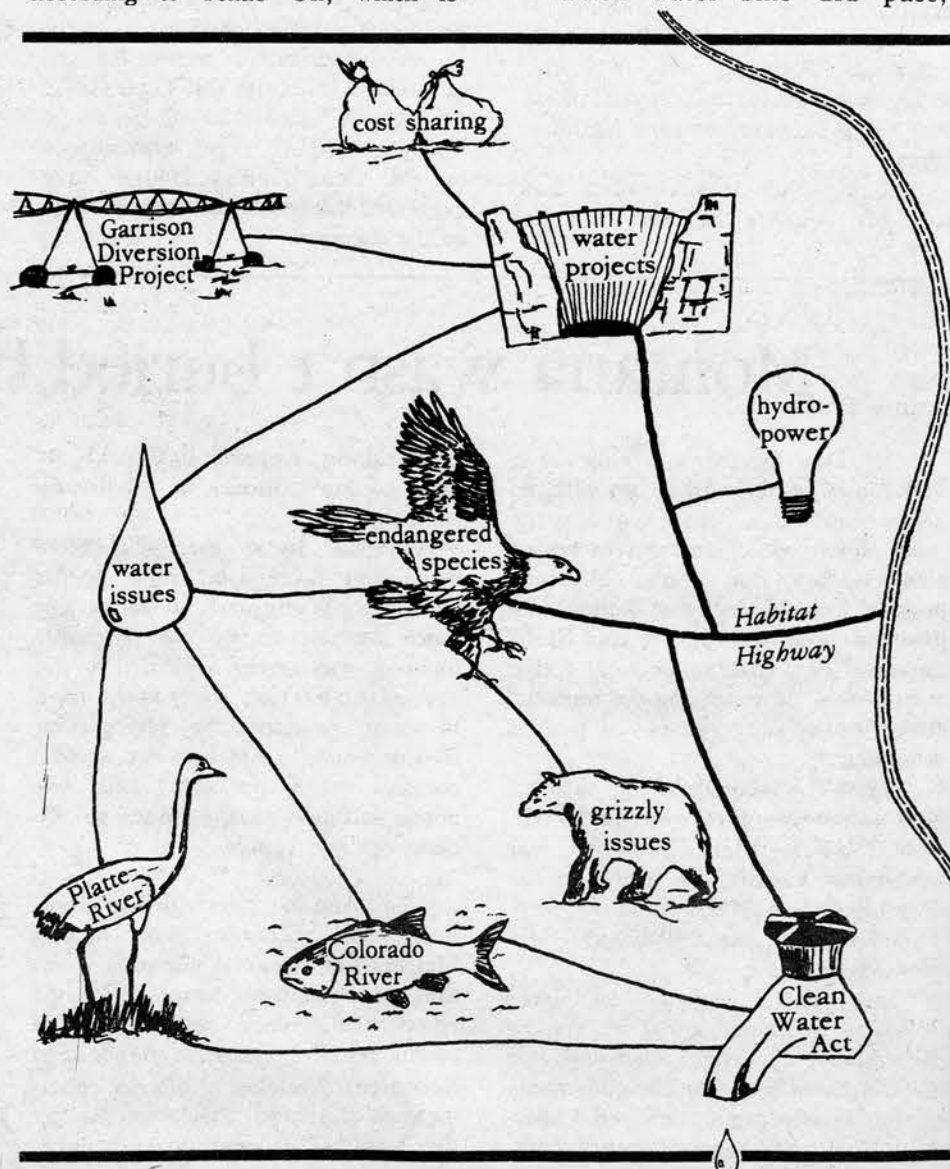
Yeager hopes Congress will frame any changes to look at the total impacts of leasing on federal land. Present piecemeal leasing on National Forest and BLM land, he says, discourages an examination of overall impacts. If the land were leased in big blocks, as is done now with offshore oil and gas tracts, "It might improve the way the federal government analyzes total impacts."

WATER PROJECTS

Environmentalists and their fiscal conservative allies batted close to 1000 last year against water projects. They look for similar success in the 99th Congress.

Brent Blackwelder, a staffer for the Environmental Policy Center in Washington, D.C., said the key issue will again be whether states and other water developers are willing to share the cost of water projects. "They were unwilling to do so last year," he said, and as a result no new starts were funded by the Congress. In the case of the Army Corps of Engineers, he said, \$20 billion in new projects were blocked by Reagan Administration opposition.

When water bills did pass,



Blackwelder said, they usually required cost sharing. That included a bill to reduce salt in the Colorado River, a bill to repair unsafe dams, and the installation of new generators and turbines in Hoover Dam. But the Hoover bill also handed environmentalists a major loss (HCN, 6/11/84); their attempt to sell Hoover Dam power to the highest bidders was stopped by the water and electric power interests, who insisted it be allocated at rates well below the market. The bill also provides revenue to subsidize construction of the Central Arizona Project. A similar bill to use power revenues from Upper Colorado River dams such as Glen Canyon and to reallocate hydropower at below market rates may confront the 99th Congress.

Blackwelder believes the coalition between environmentalists, fiscal conservatives and the Reagan Administration will hold in the next session of Congress due to continuing pressure from the federal deficit and Reagan's pledge to "dam the river of federal spending."

A few optimists believe 1985 could even bring a new approach to water projects. The test case is North Dakota's Garrison Diversion Project (HCN, 9/17/84). A review commission set up by Interior Secretary William Clark is holding hearings now, and is to come up with a report by the end of this year.

The major issue appears to be whether North Dakota's political establishment will be flexible and skilled enough to abandon the presently authorized but very expensive, unwieldy and destructive Garrison project. The present approach emphasizes irrigation at a very high cost per farm. Critics urge a shift to a project emphasizing the municipal and industrial water which North Dakota seems more in need of.

Larry Mehlhoff, the Sierra Club's representative for North Dakota, says there are signs of compromise. "There seems to be more public statements from Garrison proponents about meeting municipal and industrial needs. If they're sincere, there may be a good chance of redesigning the project in a positive way."

Chances for compromise may have been heightened by the surprise defeat of North Dakota Governor Allen I. Olson (R) by Democratic challenger George Sinner. Olson's defeat had nothing to do with Garrison; he lost because he failed to file tax returns and accepted a pay raise he said he wouldn't take. But there may be an effect on Garrison. Olson was strongly committed to the authorized irrigation project while Sinner may have more room to maneuver.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

As the snail darter controversy showed, there is more to water projects than appropriations bills. The presence of four endangered fish species in the Colorado River and the existence of a sanctuary for whooping cranes on the Platte River in Nebraska has hampered plans for construction of several water projects. Water interests may therefore attempt to amend the Endangered Species Act to exclude the Colorado and Platte rivers in the 99th Congress.

The act, which will be up for reauthorization in 1985, will also be under pressure on land. The grizzly is putting roadblocks in the way of various development efforts in parts of Wyoming and Montana. Its threatened status has hindered oil and gas drilling, ski areas, logging, and road building projects. In the last session of

Congress, Senator James McClure (R-ID) succeeded in having legislation passed which will limit the augmentation of grizzly populations. In addition, the Wyoming Congressional delegation appears increasingly hostile toward the grizzly issue, especially as it affects Fishing Bridge in Yellowstone Park. That attitude could spill over onto the Endangered Species Act.

However, Amos Eno of the Audubon Society in Washington, D.C. does not see a threat to the act. Eno recalled that former Interior Secretary James Watt "opposed reauthorization. Despite that, the act was reauthorized and strengthened in 1982," and Eno does not expect serious opposition to the 1985 reauthorization. In fact, Eno said, Audubon hopes to see the act strengthened by withdrawing certain exemptions that falconers now have.

CLEAN WATER ACT

The 98th Congress failed to reauthorize three major environmental laws: the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the law establishing the Superfund. (They were kept in force through the appropriations bills.)

Of the three, the Clean Water Act should be the easiest to resolve since most of its trickier problems were worked out in the closing days of the 98th Congress. The bill would have passed except for attempts by Alaska's senators to exempt two Alaskan pulp mills and for opposition from the Reagan administration to what it saw as too expensive a sewage treatment section. Those are relatively small problems, and in theory the bill should pass. However, reauthorization of the Clean Air Act and of the Superfund will be much more difficult matters.

CLEAN AIR ACT

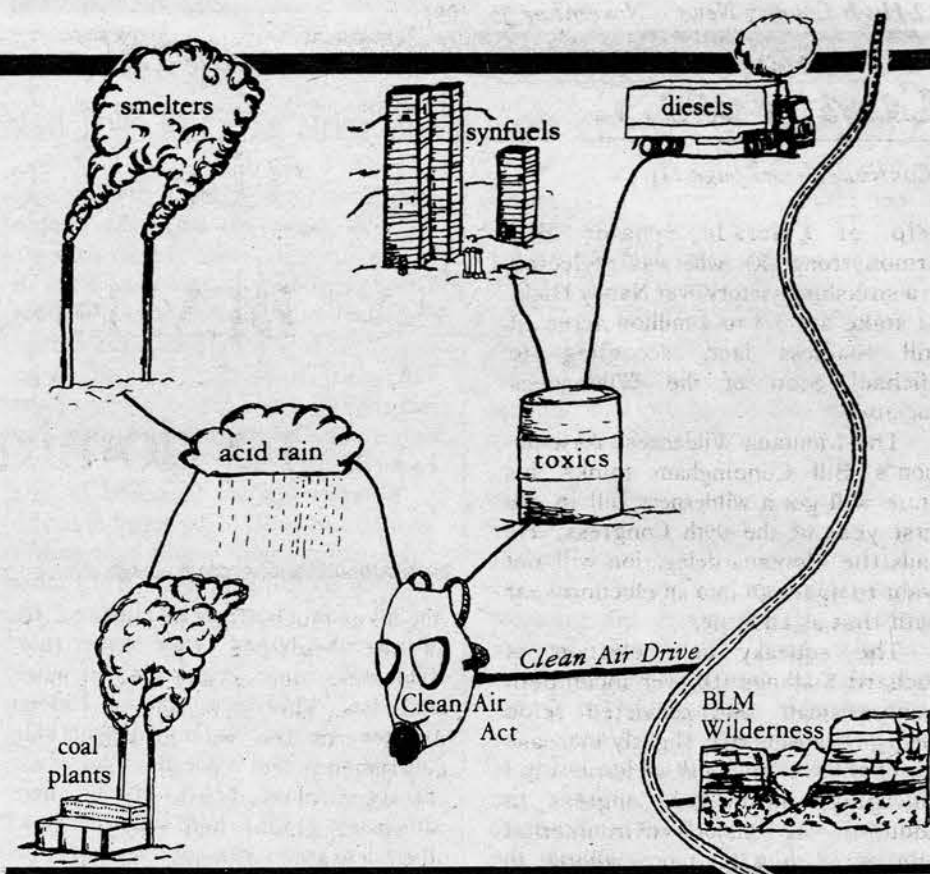
The 98th Congress never got past the acid rain issue in its attempt to reauthorize the Clean Air Act. When his own committee defeated his acid rain proposal, Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) shut down work on the bill.

The election didn't change the major Congressional players or committees, so the outlook should be for more stalemate. But Bob Yuhnke of the Environmental Defense Fund in Boulder, Colorado, says there is hope for movement in the 99th Session. He thinks the Congressional leaders on the issue are willing to rethink their positions.

The acid rain section turns on how much of the nation's sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions will be removed, and how they will be removed. Electric utilities and the coal industry are tangled over the choice between scrubbers and switching to clean coal. The auto industry is desperately trying to keep its nitrogen oxide emissions out of the acid rain equation.

If Congress can get by acid rain, it will then run into Congressman Tim Wirth's (D-CO) concerns about toxic emissions to the atmosphere. Wirth wants to ban lead in gasoline, impose the emission standards on truck and auto diesel emissions that the EPA has postponed, and control toxic emissions from stationary sources such as the Colorado oil shale projects that the Clean Air Act does not now specifically address.

In the last session, a complicating factor was Congressman John D. Dingell's (D-Michigan) desire to liberalize the carbon monoxide standards automakers had to meet.



But Yuhnke says the industry has now succeeded in meeting those standards, and so the CO issue may fade. Dingell, who is chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, will undoubtedly fight diesel emission controls. Such emissions are a major factor in Denver's Brown Cloud.

In the West, where electric utilities burn low-sulfur coal and often also scrub, the acid rain question centers on copper smelters in the Southwest. In the past, Arizona politicians have fought attempts to force those smelters to meet a 1987 deadline on cleaning up sulfur emissions. But Yuhnke says, "We think we've changed the political picture in Arizona." He believes that opposition to cleanup has moderated in the state. If the U.S. shows a commitment to cleaning up its smelters, that, he says, will make it possible for the U.S. to approach Mexico about sulfur emissions coming from smelters just south of the border.

SUPERFUND

Reauthorization of the Superfund will probably be the first major piece of environmental legislation the 99th Congress will consider. There is pressure to act quickly because the tax on chemical feedstocks (oil and gas used to make plastics, drugs, Saran Wrap, et al) which funds Superfund expires in October, 1985.

Moreover, there is heavy grassroots pressure to deal with waste sites. The EPA has identified over 700 sites which must be cleaned up, and another 20,000 which bear investigating. The Office of Technology

Assessment thinks there are 40,000 worth looking into.

Many of the sites have neighborhood action groups organized around them, and Blake Early of the Sierra Club in Washington, D.C. says Congress is aware of this pressure for action. But, he continues, "It's a highly disorganized constituency. The community groups are organized around a specific dump and often don't look beyond it."

The issues Congress must confront are highly specific: How big should the fund be? Where should the money come from? What rights should victims have to seek compensation? Who should pay compensation?

The House last year authorized a \$10.2 billion fund, but a Senate bill of \$7.5 billion didn't get out of committee. A large fund means a higher tax on chemical feedstocks, and that could affect the industry's ability to compete with imports. Atlantic Richfield Corporation has suggested a tax on all corporations, but the Sierra Club's Early said such an attempt could expand the opposition to the Superfund.

The election may have affected the way the House will look at the Superfund. Early said the key House Public Works Committee lost seven members, including Elliott Levitas, a Georgia Democrat and five-term Congressman from Atlanta who had been a leader in the fight for victim compensation. The victim issue includes allowing plaintiffs to sue in federal court, setting up an administrative procedure to award compensation out of the Superfund, and altering some of the legal requirements in such suits.

The West went really Republican

The western states of Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Nevada are among the nine states that gave Ronald Reagan more than two-thirds of their popular vote in the November 6 election. Alaska, the Great Plains states of Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, and New Hampshire were also in that group. By comparison, the states of the Deep South all gave Reagan between 60 and 65 percent of their votes.

Voting percentages were as follows in the Rocky Mountain West: Arizona, 66 percent; New Mexico, 60 percent; Colorado, 63 percent; Wyoming, 70 percent; Montana, 60 percent; Idaho, 73 percent; and Utah, 75 percent. In

terms of percentages, Utah was the biggest Reagan win in the nation, but Walter Mondale set the record in the District of Columbia, where slightly more voters turned out than in the state of Wyoming, and Mondale received 86 percent of the vote.

All the contested U.S. Senate races in the West were won by incumbents. Republican winners and their vote percentages were: William Armstrong, 64 percent, Colorado; James McClure, 72 percent, Idaho; Pete Domenici, 72 percent, New Mexico; and Alan Simpson, 78 percent, Wyoming. The sole western Democratic senator up for reelection was Montana's Max Baucus, who received 57 percent of that state's vote.

16-High Country News -- November 26, 1984

OFF THE WALL

200 words follow

The most difficult part of producing a newspaper is the concise summing up required in headline writing. The story itself is a pillow; it can be puffed up, compressed, or even twisted into a new shape as need requires. But headlines are immutable: a set number of characters that must

both sum up and entice. It is a rule of thumb that headlines can take more time to write than the stories themselves. It is another rule of thumb that the more quickly a story was banged out, the longer it takes to come up with a head.

It was therefore good news for all headline writers to see in the *Rocky Mountain News* for November 13, 1984, the following headline: "Sniper in fatigues kills 1, self at Oregon stadium."

With the *News* setting the pace, *HCN* will soon be running the following headlines: "Reagan vetoes bill while clad in loafers," and "Toxic waste pollutes water near brown house." The next time Anne Burford is appointed to a post, we will announce, "Mrs. Burford, clad in dress, accepts appointment." When the commission ends its work on the Garrison Diversion, we will say, "A hatless Bill Clark releases report."

--Ed Marston

LETTERS

ABOUT OUR TREES

Dear *HCN*,

Your article on the Bridger-Teton National Forest's timbering controversy was generally excellent, as was your editorial entitled "Can the Forest Service Survive?" (*HCN*, 11/12/84).

Reid Jackson's letter to Mr. Baker of Louisiana-Pacific certainly comes as no surprise to those of us who have, over the last decade, worked to protect the unequaled ecological, wildlife, recreational, and scientific values of the Bridger-Teton. The incestuous relationship between the Forest Service and Louisiana-Pacific has been ongoing for many years.

However, there is a particularly

insidious aspect of this controversy which I fear may escape many of your readers. In order to create the illusion that the public is more concerned with how timber is being cut than with where it is being cut, the Forest Service is attempting to perpetuate the gross misconception that the major controversy on the B.T. concerns the use of clearcutting as a silvicultural technique. This simply is not true.

Certainly, the use of clearcutting as opposed to shelterwood or selective cutting is an important issue pertaining to the already roaded parts of the forest. But the predominant issue on the B.T. -- the burning issue which continues to consume the time, energy, and financial resources of local conservationists, outfitters, elected officials, etc., is the fight to keep our remaining roadless areas roadless and wild. The Forest Service

has, carefully and subtly, attempted to shift the controversy to one of logging technique. Statements by the B.T.'s Fred Kingwill lamenting the frustration of "resource managers who have spent their lives managing forests and who know that clearcutting (of lodgepole pine) is better than shelterwood cutting. It has the best benefit for the public..." graphically illustrate this point.

In fact, the people of western Wyoming have been telling the Forest Service, loud and clear and for many years, to leave the roadless areas alone! For example, nearly 500 people in the Jackson area recently signed a petition opposing timbering and roadbuilding in all remaining roadless areas on the Forest. The petition was handed, in person, to Reid Jackson last spring. If Mr. Jackson, Mr. Kingwill, and others in the agency

think they can continue to ignore this sentiment, they are sorrowfully mistaken. At the very least, the public should be able to expect the Forest Service to acknowledge their input in an honest and straightforward manner.

Howie Wolke
National Forest Specialist
Earth First!
Jackson, Wyoming

LEAVE THE TREES

Dear *HCN*:

I admire your reporting on the Forest Service, its friends and our trees in the Oct. 15th issue. Keep up the good work.

Ron Thompson
Aspen, CO

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