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Seeing the forests for the trees

...a landscape is not an area but our vision of that area; we ourselves, as the seeing eye, are included in the concept, and our reactions are an essential part of the combination...

--Nan Fairbrother,
The Nature of Landscape Design

by George Sibley

After two years now of spending more time than I can afford thinking about and reading about the Forest Service planning process for the National Forests -- two years of part-time efforts to bring my own limited intelligence and educational background to bear on a lot of obscure abstractions like "present net value," "discounting," or "constrained maximum level alternatives," I have finally realized that all of my problems and frustrations with the planning process can be summarized in one single question: how can we translate all this high-density verbiage into a picture? Or to put it another way: as these Plans are applied to the National Forests over the next fifty years, how are the forests going to look?

That is, I know, a question that has been only marginally acceptable in American culture. Just as we are told by the economic abstractionists that (in the words of J. M. Keynes) "avarice and usury and precaution must be our gods for a little longer... for only they can lead us out of the tunnel of economic necessity into daylight," the science-and-technology abstractionists have been telling us that we have to learn to live with a certain amount of construction-zone mess as we make the necessary switch-over from a natural to a managed environment.

My own past willingness to accept this "necessity," so far as the forests

were concerned, stemmed to a large degree from my personal ignorance of forests and their ecology, and my culturally-instilled respect for those whose specialized college degrees allege a mastery of such matters. But in spite of that, the degree and manner of devastation I've seen visited on parts of the forests in the name of scientific management has occasionally left me muttering a variation on the layman's reaction to a lot of critically-acclaimed abstract art: "I may not know much about forest management, but I know what I like..."

In this sense, the two-year self-education process forced on me and many like me by the jargons and obfuscations of the Forest Service planning process has probably backfired on the Service to an extent: I don't pretend to know enough about forest management to take over the job, but I now know enough to know that management practices that look awful very often are. Concern over how things will look is not at all superficial.

But it is also, I realized, a concern that cannot be dealt with in a general way. "How will things look?" is not even meaningful as a general question; for me, I saw, it was rather a hundred or so pretty specific questions -- and all related to a single National Forest: the Gunnison National Forest in Western Colorado, where I have walked, skied, camped, climbed, hunted, collected firewood, worked, fought fires, loafed and invited my soul for 17 of the past 18 years.

And what I want to know is, when all the multiple resources of that 1,662,804-acre spread of mountain, forest and grass have been evaluated and managed according to their "present net value" as determined by the Great Black Box FORPLAN -- what will the East River Valley look like from the top of Keystone Trail at the

Crested Butte Ski Area? Will the old road over Black Mesa still go through the same pastoral mix of cows, deer, spruce and aspen, or will necessity have decreed that it be all cows or all spruce or all deer? Will I still be able to see Mount Emmons from Mosely Ridge in the West Elk Wilderness or will it have been shipped to Japan in ore boats and returned in Toyotas? Will the road from Paonia over Kebler Pass still pass through aspens cloned by the Utes from the immanence of God, or will the stands have been turned into doghair successions by, for and of Louisiana-Pacific?

Yes: specific questions that are obviously not of primary interest to anyone living near, say, the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana or the Okanogan in Washington. But undoubtedly the layfolk trying to figure out how to "input" in the Forest Plans in those places could make up similar lists of specific questions. And perhaps they, like me, will judge the whole national planning process on the degree to which it does or doesn't recognize and address their very local concerns.

That might sound small-minded and short-sighted, but I don't believe it is. For ecological and economic reasons as well as aesthetics, the big picture for the National Forests has to be a mosaic of many "little pictures," in which the unique integrity of each is recognized and maintained. So the general question which can be synthesized out of the million specific questions has to focus not on the individual plans, but on the generic process whereby the plans are generated. Not "how will the forest look," but "does the process have eyes to see the forest?" What are the procedures, if any, for the recognition, evaluation and protection of the visual qualities of the individual forests?

In the case of my own Gunnison National Forest (with apologies to all the others who also claim it), neither the Forest Plan nor its Environmental Impact Statement were any help. There was a certain amount of verbiage about "visual resources" and a couple of pages in the "management activities" section about "visual resource management," but it was all couched in abstract and obscure jargon that seemed intolerably -- and insensitively -- vague and generic: it all had the sound of letter-of-the-law boilerplate, and was impossible to relate in any direct way to the unique qualities I treasure in the forest I know.

A degree of doubt seemed justified, and with that doubt and those questions I took me to Denver one day, to the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region headquarters.

Plan not in terms of meaningless pattern or cold form; plan, rather, a human experience.

--John O. Simonds,
Landscape Architecture

In the Regional Office in Denver, I was directed first to the office of Pete Wingle, Director of Recreation and Lands for Region II. I was encouraged to find that he not only acknowledged my concern about "generic forest plans," but shared it; and he told me in broad terms about a "landscape management program" the Forest Service was developing to try to deal with that concern; then he took me down to Herb Mittman, the Region II Landscape Architect, for a more detailed look at that program.

I suggested to Mittman -- an energetic and engaging German-American imbued with a strong sense of mission -- that the existence of a

(Continued on page 10)

WESTERN ROUNDUP



High Country News

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Chevron says SO2 is under control

Wyoming's top air quality official said large sulfur dioxide emissions from a Chevron U.S.A. natural gas "sweetening" plant in southwest Wyoming have been substantially reduced and will be within limits set by the state by June, 1985.

Randolph Wood, head of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Air Quality Division, countering critics who claimed his agency's enforcement of air quality laws was lax, nevertheless called the Chevron plant "a learning experience we wouldn't care to repeat."

Wood's agency has been under fire from the Wyoming Outdoor Council and other critics. They have warned that high sulfur emissions from various sources in southwest Wyoming may cause acid rain that could poison lakes in the Wind River Mountains. During a hearing in November before the Environmental Quality Commission, it was revealed that Chevron's Carter Creek plant emitted 27,700 tons of SO2 in 1983 despite a DEQ permit allowing only 158 tons per year.

Chevron's failure to meet air

quality standards raised questions about another, larger "sweetening" plant under construction, Exxon's \$500 million Shute Creek plant. Wood said he did not expect to have similar problems with Exxon.

"Chevron's process had never been used before in an installation of this size," said Wood. "Exxon's is completely different, and it's been demonstrated in large scale operations."

He added, however, "They'll be starting up an extremely large chemical plant, and equipment doesn't always work as it's supposed to... I have to expect there may be some problems during startup. I expect that with any new facility."

The Wyoming Outdoor Council, whose president, John Barlow, said last month that "political pressure" might have been behind lax air quality enforcement, this week tried to mend fences with an angry Governor Ed Herschler. Herschler responded to Barlow's comments in the Casper Star-Tribune by denying any political pressure and saying, "Ask him what

would it be like if I hadn't been here for the last ten years."

WOC executive director Debby Beck said the environmental group did not need to be "contentious and contrary" in its efforts to call attention to the threat of acid rain. She said Chevron is now making "a good faith effort" to clean up its Carter Creek operations. And while she called it unfortunate that compliance was not required sooner, she said she "didn't want to dwell on the past."

It was WOC's appeal of an air quality permit for Exxon's new plant that first drew public attention to Chevron's emission problems. Exxon's permit will allow emissions of 2230.8 tons of sulfur dioxide a year, and WOC's experts told the commission that emissions within and without Wyoming may already have placed the Wind River Mountains on the "threshold" of an acid rain problem. Exxon's experts disagreed and said that Exxon's plant would not be, in any case, a major source of pollution in the region.

--Geoff O'Gara

What else is buried at the tie plant?

A Laramie, Wyoming citizens' group concerned with the cleanup of toxic wastes at the closed railroad tie plant there says that former employees worked in unsafe conditions and that plant owners have failed to report all of the contaminants found there.

High levels of poisonous and cancer-causing chemicals were discovered last year in four waste ponds, soils and underlying bedrock at the plant site. Cleanup of the waste ponds is now underway, according to a plan negotiated early last summer between Union Pacific Railroad, owner of the plant, and the Environmental Protection Agency. A subsequent report on the extent of the contamination has been followed up with a risk analysis and proposed final cleanup plan (HCN, 10/1/84).

A letter from the Laramie River Cleanup Council to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality says that confidential sources tell of unreported dumping events in the sludge ponds and of two or three "leaky transformers" buried north of the sludge ponds. The letter includes a sketch map to the transformer burial site.

Wyoming assistant attorney general Larry Wolfe forwarded a copy of the letter to UP and asked for a response to the charges. UP replied that it doesn't know of any electrical transformers, which contain PCBs, being buried at the site, but would dig them up if they could be found. The railroad is checking its records and issued an appeal for anyone with any knowledge of any waste burials to step forward.

Mike Burns, co-chairman of the citizens' group who lives next to the toxic waste site in South Laramie, said that the group's information came from several confidential sources -- all former employees at the plant. He said that "just about everybody I know worked at the plant at some time. There was a high turnover rate -- it was a filthy job. Some workers talk about the conditions there. They talk about getting covered with creosote

and having their skin peel, and they refer to 'creosote poisoning', apparently something to do with their lungs." The buried wastes, according to Burns, were "just a matter of course -- there was one part of the grounds where they buried things that they didn't want anymore." Burns said his sources want to remain anonymous because "this is a small town and they don't want to lose any friends," but some of them are considering going public since UP's appeal.

Locating the transformers may be a problem, according to Burns. "It is the nature of a dump that dirt is moved around a lot so they may not be in their original burial spot."

Burns doesn't believe that UP knew about the newly alleged additional buried wastes. He points out that the tie plant is a wholly owned subsidiary of the railroad and was run by several different operators during its 97-year lifespan. But, he said, his opinion is that "if you don't look for it, you're not going to find it. I'm not saying UP lies, but they don't seem completely open and above-board. If you ask the right question they'll answer it." He cites early claims of UP's consultant, CH2M Hill, that they had tested all the registered wells

around the plant. Locals later learned that only two wells had been tested. The numerous other wells in the area were mostly private "backyard wells" and unregistered. But, Burns says, "We're not out to get the railroad or anything. I'm mainly concerned about my wife, my daughter and my own health."

Meanwhile, UP is drilling wells and collecting more data after the EPA said the report on which their proposed cleanup plan is based had "critical data gaps."

The cleanup plan, favoring a groundwater-impermeable slurry wall to be maintained around the 140-acre contaminated area, with no actual removal of the material, continues to be criticized by the Laramie River Cleanup Council, the Powder River Basin Resource Council, and most recently in a position paper from the Laramie Environmental Commission to Laramie's city council. Grumblings of disapproval for the plan have been heard from the state's Department of Environmental Quality, but official word from the state attorney general's office, along with the EPA, is on hold until the new data now being collected by CH2M Hill can be evaluated.

--Mary Moran

Dear friends,

This is the last issue of HCN for a month. By tradition, a tradition we would not change for anything, we skip the first issue in January, giving you -- the reader -- a well-deserved rest from vanishing grizzlies, wasteful water projects, toxic waste dumps and an occasional (usually inadvertent) bit of good news.

Before the staff vanishes to the western winds, we send you thanks for sustaining one of the nation's more unusual newspapers through yet another year. As in the preceding 14 years, that sustaining has taken the form of letters of praise and rebuke, story ideas, subscriptions and contributions. We appreciate your attention

and concern, and hope they have been transformed into a newspaper of value to you.

That transformation depends not only on the editorial staff, but on circulation manager Nancy Barbee; jack, and master, of all trades C.B. Elliott; our always cheery typesetter Judy Heideman; promotions person Judy Moffatt; and the printing crew at the Gunnison Country Times.

We thank them, and we send to our readers and to our invaluable network of freelance writers, photographers and artists our best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a bright, hopeful 1985.

--the staff

Limiting black bear kills angers guides

A Task Force report on hunting black bear in Colorado sidestepped some uncomfortable ethical considerations, such as the use of bait to entice the animals and dogs to tree them. But the group urged the establishment of a draw system, both to limit the number of hunters and to rebuild a declining female bear population.

With that recommendation, the Task Force angered one of its members, a hunting guide, who said he could not endorse the group's report. Fruita outfitter Jack Cassidy reported to members of the Colorado Guides and Outfitters that he had been betrayed.

Last August Cassidy proposed an open season on bear for all hunters in May with limited hunting only afterwards in problem areas. That had been the consensus among the 12 Task Force members, he said, but somehow the agreement was abandoned at later meetings he could not attend.

Frank Kimmel, secretary of the Colorado Guides, said the state's new combined outfitters group, which has 183 members, will submit its own proposal to the state based on Cassidy's views in January. A draw threatens the livelihood of the state's 585 outfitters, he said, because they will no longer be able to ensure customers will get a bear license.

"We're not asking for a handout like some fruitgrowers and ranchers" (who are reimbursed for game damage), Kimmel said. "We just want the chance to work." Kimmel added that some Task Force members were not sympathetic to any hunting of bear and "bordered on preservationism."

Reed Kelley, legislative assistant for the Colorado Wildlife Federation's 12,000 members, chaired the Task Force and last year urged that it be created. Kelley said Cassidy's participation was invaluable, but that his mixed, open-limited season proposal was just that -- a proposal.

"We discussed it at length, but didn't think it would work." He said the group decided it would force hunters into the open spring season just as the bears were vulnerable and coming out of the den with cubs. Spring is also mating season for bear. A month of open season would also not address the problem of declining female bear populations in hunting areas, he added.

Kelley also denied that the Task Force was anti-hunting. He and seven other members represented groups which promote the "consumptive use" of wildlife, he said. Members came from the Colorado Bowhunters, Great Bear Foundation, Colorado Cattlemen, United Sportsmen, Colorado Woolgrowers, Colorado Houndsmen, Guides and Outfitters, Colorado Wildlife Federation, American Wilderness Alliance, Colorado Audubon, and "a sportsman."

Their approach, Kelley said, was to try to devise ways to reverse the declining or marginal bear population before a crisis situation developed. "There is no bear season in Texas because there are no bear left," Kelley said.

Besides the issue of limiting hunting, outfitters also dispute the data which the Task Force relied on to make its recommendations. Kimmel said he believes what hunters in the field tell him, and that they report plenty of black bear.

"One of our guides took 55 hunters out this year and they got 52 bear," Kimmel said restricting hunts would "take us back to the 1970s when campers were molested and one man



Tranquilized black bear

died after a bear attacked him in his tent."

Kimmel said if the concern is fewer sow bears in some areas, then limiting hunting during the fall during the elk and deer season is the solution.

The data the Task Force used is imperfect, Kelley agreed, because black bear are elusive, hibernate, feed at night, and because only 65-70 percent of hunters in a "mandatory check" report their kills. In 1983, 546 bear kills were reported. In their report, Task Force members said they were "dismayed" by the lack of complete kill reports.

What the Division of Wildlife data reveals, however, is a trend that should be stopped, said Tom Beck, the state's only fulltime bear researcher. Beck, who has spent five years studying bear in Western Colorado, said that a 40 percent female bear kill is all that populations can tolerate and still remain stable.

Female kill now averages 41 percent, is as high as 50 percent in one area, and is over 40 percent in 11 of the state's 18 bear hunting areas, according to state Division of Wildlife reports.

Since the mid-1970s moreover, more successful kills have shifted from summer and fall to the spring. For the last five years up to 1983, 58 percent of the female bears were killed in May and June. To Beck and to most Task Force members, this statistic means that more bear cubs are being orphaned and there are fewer females left to reproduce.

Until a hunter downs a bear it is difficult to know whether you are killing a male or female, Beck added. "And when a sow feeds at a bait, the cubs stay back at first."

Although the data from the 18 hunting units is incomplete, Beck said, overhunting is probably worse than it appears. It is legal in Colorado for anyone to destroy a bear endangering livestock, and few ranchers or stockmen report their kills. Another unknown factor is deaths from poaching, Beck said.

Since black bear reproduce only every two and a half years with a 30 percent cub mortality rate, Beck said that depleting the female population will have obvious results. Bears don't breed until they are five to seven years old, and although they can live up to 25 years, "very few bears over ten years old are left in the heavily-hunted areas," Beck said.

Kimmel and other outfitters charge that the research cited by Beck and the Division of Wildlife is too sketchy to use. "They have the kill figures but they have no idea how many bear are out there," Kimmel said. If the Task Force recommendations are accepted, he added, "There will be a bear in every garbage can."

From a different perspective, garbage, or leftover baits from bear hunters, was addressed by the Task Force. Baits are piles of smelly and sweet foods enticing to bear, from grease, honey and Kentucky fried chicken to dead sheep or cows. Because they are predators, black bear and mountain lion are the only animals still legally hunted by baiting. Hunters stake out bait dumps in trees or behind cover, and shoot the bears as they feed or track them down later with hounds.

The Task Force studied the issue and found that dumps are often uncontained and left to rot, they stink and are unsightly in summer, and they are frequently placed near water, trails, roads and campgrounds. Although approval for a bait is required on public land, there is not enough money in current budgets to enforce the regulation, the report concluded.

The Task Force recommended allowing only two baits per hunter and posting of a clean-up bond of at least \$100. To avoid conflict over one hunter killing a bear at someone else's bait, the group also recommended a rule requiring written permission. And to ease conflicts between hunters with hounds and those who use bait only, the report recommended that packs be limited to eight dogs.

Other Task Force recommendations include: bettering bear kill reports by making Division of Wildlife personnel more accessible, expanding and financially supporting bear research, communicating better with landowners and stockmen, working on better public information, identifying and protecting bear habitat threatened by subdivisions and other development, and requiring outfitter reports on hunter success.

The agency that will soon decide on the Task Force and outfitter recommendations is the Wildlife Commission, whose members are appointed by Governor Richard Lamm.

--Betsy Marston

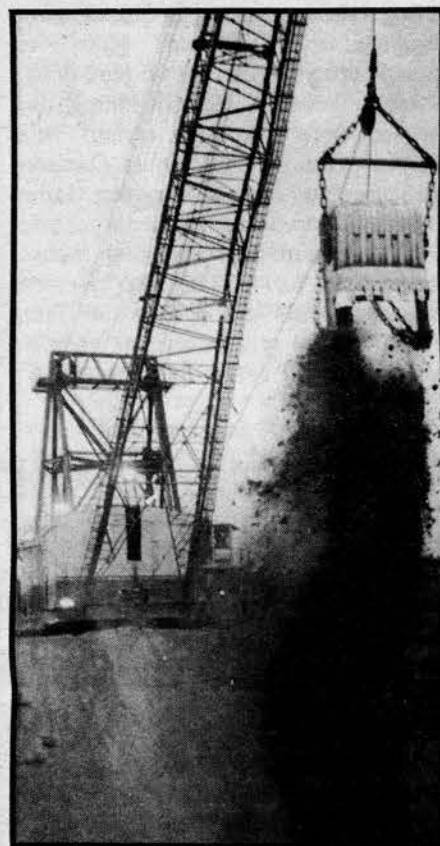
HOTLINE

Wyoming's silver lining

Wyoming has found a cloud in a silver lining. The silver lining is a decline in the unemployment rate from 8.2 percent in September 1983 to 5.6 percent today. But the state says the decline occurred because workers are leaving Wyoming or ceasing to job hunt. In fact, the number of people working dropped by 4 percent, or 9,500, over the same one-year period. Wyoming's mining industry has been hard hit in the period, with employment dropping by over 2,000. Construction jobs, however, have increased by over 5,000 in the past year.

Coal lobbyists protest

EPA proposal



Colstrip, Montana

Coal lobbyists and Wyoming's governor have attacked a proposed rule by EPA that would include strip mines as major air pollution sources. The EPA was ordered to include surface mining under the Clean Air Act by a U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. which ruled on a lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club. The suit charged that the Environmental Protection Agency should have originally listed surface mines as major sources of pollution. The effect of EPA's proposed rule means that surface mines would have to meet both national ambient air quality standards as well as tougher standards for PSD, prevention of significant deterioration. PSD standards are designed to prevent clean air in a region from becoming dirtier. At a recent EPA hearing in Denver, a representative for Wyoming Governor Ed Herschler said the new rule would block the opening of new mines, prevent old mines from expanding and hurt the state's economy. Industry lobbyists told *Coal Week* that strip mines won't be able to meet PSD standards even with the best available pollution control technology.

BARBS

Black pot department.

Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards reacted strongly to four articles in the *Wall Street Journal* on his state's environmental policies: "The ravings of an ignorant, editorializing reporter..." Edwards also said he had not read the articles.

HOTLINE

Uranium companies sue

Charging that government policies have ruined the uranium industry, three uranium companies filed a lawsuit this month against the Department of Energy. The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Denver says at least 16 mills have shut down and the remaining eight have cut or stopped production because the DOE has allowed increased uranium imports. The companies are Uranium Resources, Inc. of Texas and Western Nuclear, Inc. and Energy Fuels Nuclear, Inc., which are both based in Colorado.

More on the moose

Mike Dawson, the Cheyenne, Wyoming, bow-hunter arrested for killing a famous moose in Grand Teton National Park, pleaded guilty to transporting the carcass off park land. A second charge, that of killing the moose, was dropped earlier this month in U.S. District Court. Dawson was arrested after the Wyoming Game and Fish Department issued a picture of Dawson with the record-book moose rack (HCN, 9/17/84). That alerted Jackson locals and Game and Fish officials, who recognized the massive antlers from a Teton Park moose.

The secret is denial



Sara Hunter-Wiles

For a project sponsored by the Wyoming Council for the Humanities, researcher Debbie Koontz asked 20 long-time residents of two counties how their pioneer forebears stayed healthy. She learned there were folk remedies such as onion poultices for colds and hot oil for earaches, but the overwhelming response to her question was: "We were never sick." Western Americans were ashamed of being sick, Koontz reports, and she concludes that denial is itself strong medicine. Transcripts of the interviews will be placed in the Coe Library archives at the University of Wyoming and in the Albany and Platte County libraries.

BARBS

It's not my problem.

The ultra-conservative Heritage Foundation announced its solution this month to the expensive cleanup of hazardous waste sites scattered across the nation. They said EPA should turn over the Superfund program to the states because the dumps are a "local problem."

New Congressman hopes for Interior seat

After Republican Mike Strang defeated W Mitchell, his Democratic opponent for Colorado's third Congressional District, conservationists were not alone in wondering what Strang would be like in office.

Mitchell, the former mayor of Crested Butte, had led his town's fight against a massive molybdenum mine, and even though he supported subsidies for synfuels, he was a staunch ally of wilderness and other environmental causes. Strang, on the other hand, was a rancher turned stockbroker who backed the President's defense policies and expressed sympathy for mining interests which might lose access to minerals if more of the state is "locked" into wilderness. But he turned ornery elsewhere. A longtime supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, Strang also opposes a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion "because the federal government should stay out of our bodies."

The 55-year-old Strang grew up on a Colorado ranch. Taught by his parents at home, his first formal schooling began when he entered Princeton University. Quick with both words and smiles during a recent interview, Strang says he still calves out his own cows and enjoys his ranching neighborhood above Carbondale more than a stockbroker's office in Aspen. Strang is also an accomplished auctioneer and is called on to officiate at almost every non-profit group's benefit auction in the Roaring Fork Valley.

He has at least one local problem, however. His Carbondale neighbor, Sandra Smith, accuses Strang of convincing her to sell \$350,000 in blue chip stocks, only to invest the money in failing oil and gas stocks in which Strang had a financial interest he failed to disclose. The suit goes to trial January 14, 1985 in Denver District Court.

In Congress, Strang hopes to get a seat on the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, where a third congressional district congressman has sat for the past 40 years. The committee handles water projects and public land policies vital to the West. His new job in Washington, he says, feels a lot like his entering Princeton decades ago. "I feel like a freshman straight off the ranch."

Whether or not he gets an Interior Committee seat, Strang will be a



Michael Strang

major player in new Colorado wilderness legislation. Most of the state's remaining 3.5 million acres of roadless area lies in his vast district which covers all of Western Colorado and much of the southeastern part of the state. It includes 14 ski towns, oil shale country, farms, ranches and retirement areas, the San Luis Valley and the struggling industrial center of Pueblo.

Agreement on proposed wilderness legislation eluded the Colorado Congressional delegation last session when the state's Republican Senator William Armstrong insisted that reserved federal water rights be specifically denied in any bill. Armstrong's insistence was a reaction to a suit filed by the Sierra Club, which would have forced the federal government to lay claim to the water needed to maintain wilderness areas and streams within their boundaries in their present states.

Strang contends that the Wilderness Act of 1964 was deliberately neutral on the issue of reserved water rights and that wilderness legislation should stay that way. He also says he has serious reservations about many of the proposed wilderness areas in Colorado.

"Wilderness designation often acts like a lightning rod bringing in far more people than many of these fragile areas can support," he says. Maroon Bells near Aspen looks like "Central Park" in New York, he says, Snowmass Lake is a "sink" and Indian

Peaks on the eastern slope is "Grand Central Station."

There is a pressing need for more recreational areas in the state, he says, but thinks we should be talking about parks instead of wilderness. "Wilderness should protect fragile ecosystems and valuable genetic pools, and trampling by too many backpackers and hikers doesn't serve that purpose."

He says the demand for wilderness designation for many of Colorado's remaining roadless areas is a direct result of the Forest Service's aggressive roadbuilding policies. He is appalled, he says, at reports that federal timber sales lose money, and although he has talked briefly with Forest Service officials about timber and road policies, he is still confused by the bookkeeping.

"I think the numbers are funny, but I don't want to get specific about them until I really understand them."

Strang says that he will support reauthorization of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act -- all of which will come up in the 99th Congress. We have a responsibility to preserve other species, he says, but he suggests that the law works best when it is applied in the spirit of honest inquiry and concern and not when it is used to block a development whose impacts could be mitigated.

Strang is still not convinced that we understand acid rain and air movements well enough to legislate. Wherever and whenever a direct link can be made between emission sources and ecological damage, the source should be cleaned up, he says.

Growing up on a ranch, he says, has given him insight into the problems of ranchers, and he will fight to keep grazing fees low enough for ranchers to survive. But he admits that both maintaining low grazing fees and funding water projects will be uphill battles in a Congress that is primarily interested in bringing down huge federal deficits.

Strang says he is glad that both Congress and the President now seem to be harking to a more moderate brand of Republicanism and away from the Far Right. He also hopes that defense cuts will be possible over the next few years as a result of disarmament agreements he is sure Reagan will promote.

--Candi Harper

Coal firm wants a chunk of Chimney Rock

The expanding coal mine threatening southwestern Colorado's Chimney Rock Archaeological Area is creating some strange alliances. On one side is the Forest Service in league with a coalition of environmentalists and professional archaeologists, and on the other is a mining firm that has enlisted the support of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

The reason for the odd bedfellows is a last minute appeal filed by the Perma Mining Corporation last month, in an attempt to reverse Regional Forester James Torrence's September 10 decision (HCN, 10/15/84). That decision denied Perma permission to expand their coal mining operations into Chimney Rock. Torrence responded November 23, saying that the arguments stated in the appeal didn't merit any changes in his earlier decision. Backing him up as intervenors in the case are the

Sierra Club, Colorado Open Space Council, University of Colorado archaeology professor Dr. Frank Eddy and three professional archaeological organizations.

Perma's arguments center around differences with the Forest Service as to the intent behind the area's 1970 protective designation, potential economic losses and the effectiveness of mitigation proposals. On the mitigation issue, the mining company cites the Colorado Department of Natural Resources' reversal of its earlier stand in opposition to the project.

In an October 23 letter from Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director Hamlet Barry to Torrence, Barry said the department believes any of the adverse impacts produced by the project can be mitigated.

But according to Karin Sheldon of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund,

counsel for the intervenors, the Department of Natural Resources change of mind is not important to the case. Sheldon says the only state agency the Forest Service is mandated to consult with is the State Historic Preservation Office -- and they are extremely supportive of keeping mining out of the Chimney Rock area.

The ball is now back in Perma's court. Colorado Open Space Council representative Mark Welsh says the mining company will soon be filing a response to counter the position of Torrence and the intervenors. Forest Service Chief Max Peterson will review the record and probably make his decision sometime early in 1985. If Perma is again turned down, their next option is to see if Peterson's boss, the Secretary of Agriculture will hear the case. If not, the company can go to court.

--Bruce Farling

New Garrison Diversion plan is proposed

A federally appointed commission voted 11-1 on December 15 in favor of a compromise plan for North Dakota's Garrison Diversion Project (HCN, 9/17/84).

The biggest fan of the new approach is the National Audubon Society, which says it will benefit both North Dakota and wildlife. As Audubon sees it, the compromise turns a \$1.2 billion boondoggle which would destroy 13 wildlife refuges into a smaller and more useful project, doing less damage. The wildlife refuges are a national issue because they sustain waterfowl migrating between the United States and Canada.

But to North Dakota, the compromise betrays the federal government's promise to build a large irrigation project. The project is owed the state, North Dakota says, because it sacrificed a large amount of Missouri River bottom land to Sakakewa Reservoir. That Missouri River reservoir backed up behind Garrison Dam, provides water and flood control to lower Missouri River basin states.

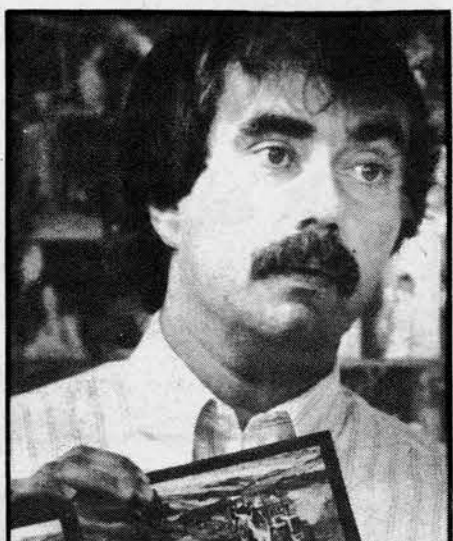
And to some North Dakota environmentalists, the commission decision endorsed by Audubon is a sell out. They say it avoids some of the worst features of the old project, but also adds new, damaging, features. The major points in the compromise set forth by the 12-person commission appointed by Secretary William Clark in summer 1984 are:

- 1) It reduces the land to be irrigated by the full Garrison project from 250,000 acres to 130,000 acres.
- 2) It allocates a large amount of water to municipal and industrial use. The compromise will provide water for 130 towns with 400,000 people, or two-thirds of all North Dakotans. It shifts the focus of the project from agriculture to urban use.
- 3) It makes the famous Kraft Slough prairie marsh a wildlife refuge. Originally, the slough was to be buried under Taayer Reservoir. The original project also threatened 13 wildlife refuges; the compromise will affect five.
- 4) It prevents the transfer of Missouri River water into Canada's Hudson Bay drainage. Canada feared the introduction of new species of fish and disease into its commercial and sports fisheries.

But the compromise did not resolve the most important issue: Lonetree Reservoir. The reservoir would have quarterbacked the original project. Water pumped into it from the Missouri River would have been handed off into three river systems, one of which, the Souris, empties into Hudson Bay. Environmentalists want Lonetree killed. North Dakota claims it is the heart of the project -- a site provided by providence or luck to make possible the transfer of water from the Missouri River to drought-prone areas of the state.

The commission voted to put the reservoir on hold, with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation managing the valley site as a wildlife refuge. Pressure for Lonetree may be reduced by the new canal proposed by the commission. The canal would act as both a water transport and storage facility for the land to be irrigated.

The key national environmental group on the Garrison Diversion project has been Audubon, which fought it for 14 years in Congress and court. As a result of its efforts, and the efforts of a tenacious group of North Dakota residents, the project has



Richard Madson

moved slowly. Less than one quarter of the \$1.2 billion project was completed when Congress voted last summer to authorize \$53 million and to create a commission to examine it.

According to Congress, the \$53 million was to be spent on the authorized project starting Jan. 1, 1985 unless the commission came up with an alternative plan by at least an 8 to 4 margin. If it did, Clark's Bu Rec would have to follow the recommendation and alter the authorized project.

Environmental critics of the commission idea and of the people Clark later appointed described it as a "Trojan Horse stuffed with bulldozers." They said the time was too short and the commission too pro-Garrison to be effective.

But Audubon, which helped create the commission, now supports its recommendations. Dr. Glenn Paulson, National Audubon's man in charge of Garrison, said his group would attempt to rally other environmental groups to support it. "I see it not so much as a victory for Audubon, as it is a victory for North Dakota and its residents. The state now has a very good chance to get from Congress a \$1 billion water project which will help two-thirds of its people and supply some irrigation."

North Dakota's political establishment was polemical while the commission was working, threatening lawsuits if the authorized project wasn't endorsed, and attacking Senator Mark Andrews (R-ND), who had joined with Audubon to get the commission approved by Congress last summer. As of two days after the commission decision, there had been no reaction from the state. But Andrews was backing away from a pledge to support the commission. He said he would work in the Congress to get Lonetree Reservoir reinstated in the project.

Richard Madson, a regional vice president for Audubon from 1975 to 1982, and the prime opponent of the project within North Dakota for more than a decade, expressed gratitude to Andrews for frankly disavowing the agreement, and thereby showing how Audubon had been "duped... compromise hell, we've been gutted."

Madson says the compromise was poor even without Andrews' insistence on Lonetree. He claims the irrigated acreage wasn't really reduced. The first phase of the project only called for 86,000 acres. Now, he says, the new first phase calls for 125,000 acres. Moreover, the compromise will give 300 to 400 farmers a subsidy he puts at \$1.6 million per farm; up substantially from the subsidy in the authorized project.

Even worse, says Madson, is the rearrangement of the irrigation system to put large amounts of water

into the James River. To accommodate the return flows, he says, the river will have to be channelized in places. He also says two vital migratory waterfowl refuges will be destroyed or made nearly useless: Arrowwood in North Dakota and Sand Lake in South Dakota. The saving of Kraft Slough is important, he continues. "But in the view of many grassroots folks, it doesn't make up for the destruction of Arrowwood and Sand Lake." And, he says, the banning of water from the Hudson Bay had already been accomplished when the U.S. State Department opposed any such introduction. "So we didn't gain there."

Madson believes the tide is running with those who oppose water projects in the Congress, which hasn't authorized a new project in many years. "My recommendation is to go all out against further appropriations. In fact, we should try to delete it. Fourteen years of trying to compromise is enough."

An in-state perspective comes from Mike Jacobs, editor of the *Grand Forks Herald*. He wrote in the September 17 HCN, "North Dakota is a state with a chip on its shoulder." The flat, cold, isolated state thinks someone is keeping something from it; that something is the Garrison Project and the wealth and stability the irrigated lands could bring to it. So the project, which was first proposed in the 1920s, has symbolic as well as practical meaning to the state.

Jacobs said last week that there is a need for the urban water the compromise would provide. "Two thirds or more of our cities' water is of poor quality. It has dissolved solids or is alkaline. My reaction is that North Dakota would be better served by having a good solid source of municipal and industrial water" than by having more irrigated land. He said that one route for economic development in North Dakota is to attract food processors, and food processors need pure water. So he sees the municipal and industrial water as buttressing agriculture more than new irrigated land producing more surplus crops would.

The vote by the commission, which had two North Dakota residents, was 11 to 1 in favor of the final plan. But before that vote, Garrison proponents had asked the commission to keep Lonetree in the project. That key vote failed 8 to 4. Jacobs said that the message may eventually sink in that the authorized project "can't be sold to reasonable people. But I don't know" how long it will take.

The one 'no' vote was John Paulson, a former editor of the *Fargo Forum* and long-time Garrison supporter. But Grand Forks mayor Bud Wessman, the other North Dakota member, supported the compromise despite pressure and vilification.

--Ed Marston

HOTLINE

Hikers may be armed

Tourists and backcountry hikers in the Yellowstone ecosystem may have to be equipped with repellents to ward off grizzly bears, says Dale Strickland, Wyoming's representative to the Interagency Bear Committee. Strickland, the state's assistant game warden, says the key to survival of the dwindling grizzly population is management and not protection. That means grizzlies must be taught "aversive conditioning" so that bear contact with man is "unpleasant," Strickland says. Conditioning could be accomplished by strictly controlled limited hunting, repellents or other methods along with preservation of critical habitat and making garbage and human food inaccessible. Aversive agents could be chemicals or guns that shoot rubber bullets, Strickland says, but which ones work best won't be known until testing in the field next year.

Strong in the Senate

Even without counting Kansas Senator Robert Dole as a Westerner, the West will play an impressive role in the next Senate. In addition to the election of Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson as Assistant Majority Leader, or Whip, of the Republican-controlled body, Western senators chair eight of the 16 committees:

Mark Hatfield (OR), Appropriations; Barry Goldwater (AZ), Armed Services; Jake Garn (UT), Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Pete Domenici (NM), Budget; James McClure (ID), Energy and Natural Resources; Robert Packwood (OR), Finance; Orrin Hatch (UT), Labor and Human Resources; Simpson, Veterans Affairs.

Artifact looter fined

One of two men arrested last year for looting Anasazi artifacts and skeletal remains in Colorado received the highest fine on record -- \$5000 for violating federal antiquities protection laws. He is Peter Schier, who was convicted this fall after trial in his home city of Reno, Nevada. Schier must also spend 500 hours in community service to make restitution to the San Juan National Forest. Also convicted was John Perkins of Durango, Colorado, who was fined \$500 and sentenced to one year's probation. An anonymous tip led to the arrest of the two men, who had been digging illegally on eight acres of the Chimney Rock Archaeological Area. Archaeologists estimate the recovered artifacts are worth \$2400. San Juan National Forest Supervisor John Kirkpatrick says that Schier's fine will be used to catalogue the recovered artifacts and to rehabilitate the site.

Minerals and Wyoming

According to the 1984 *Wyoming Minerals Yearbook*, the minerals industry continues to produce the largest income for the state. The industry generated over \$5.5 billion, roughly 70 percent of Wyoming's total valuation. Oil production tops the list, accounting for 54 percent of total mineral revenues, followed by gas (22 percent) and coal (20 percent). The report indicates that every county in the state has some mineral activity, including uranium, iron ore, bentonite, and trona. These figures place Wyoming among the top ten mineral producing states. The yearbook was recently released by the Wyoming Department of Economic Planning and Development.

BARBS

Every generation finds its own gut issue.

Colorado University students attempting to storm a dean's office found CU police chief John Towle blocking a stairwell and telling them: "at some time, you will be arrested. Maybe not today." The students were protesting the move onto campus of a McDonalds despite a student referendum vote against it.

A High Country News Profile

Morley Nelson on the sport of falconry

by Glenn Oakley

Unless you are from southern Idaho, you may not recognize Morley Nelson's name. But when you were younger you probably saw his birds -- his hawks and eagles and falcons -- in Walt Disney's nature films. More recently, you may have seen his inventions -- inverted V-shaped poles and angular platforms mounted on electrical transmission towers, to protect birds against electrocution.

Perhaps most important, when you see a golden eagle or a redtail hawk -- or, if you are lucky -- a peregrine falcon, you are also seeing a bit of Morley Nelson. He has spent much of his 68 years working with raptors and trying to get the rest of us to catch a sense of the inspiration he has derived from these birds.

He talks about hunting with the rulers of Kuwait and seeing in Persia, on the base of cliffs, ancient drawings depicting a man carrying a peregrine falcon. "Can you imagine a guy 5,000 years ago firing an arrow at a duck and -- bam! -- out comes a falcon and knocks a greenhead out of the air. So they robbed the falcon and then taught it to hunt for them. That's how it started."

For Nelson it started in the same way. When he was 12 years old, riding horseback on the family North Dakota ranch he still owns, a prairie falcon dropped from the sky and hammered a teal in mid-air. Young Nelson was almost as stunned as the duck -- and considerably more impressed. Within a week he rode out to a tree where a pair of redtails were nesting, climbed the tree and, dodging the attacks of the parent hawks, captured his first raptor. He would teach the baby redtail to hunt for him.

Nelson's work springs from this experience and his love of falconry, a sport he still considers "humbling" when "an animal of such tremendous strength and wild nature comes back to me with consideration and affection."

"The basis of my research," he states flatly, "was and is the sport of falconry," and it is when he is handling his birds that he is most in his element.

His uniform at these times is army surplus boots, tan trousers and a khaki hunting jacket. Around the jacket is a belt, and from it hang well-worn leather pouches and a sheath knife. When he steps out of his Boise home, his huge German shepherd Adak follows as he walks the stone steps which lead from the sycamore-shaded porch to the mews where the birds are kept.

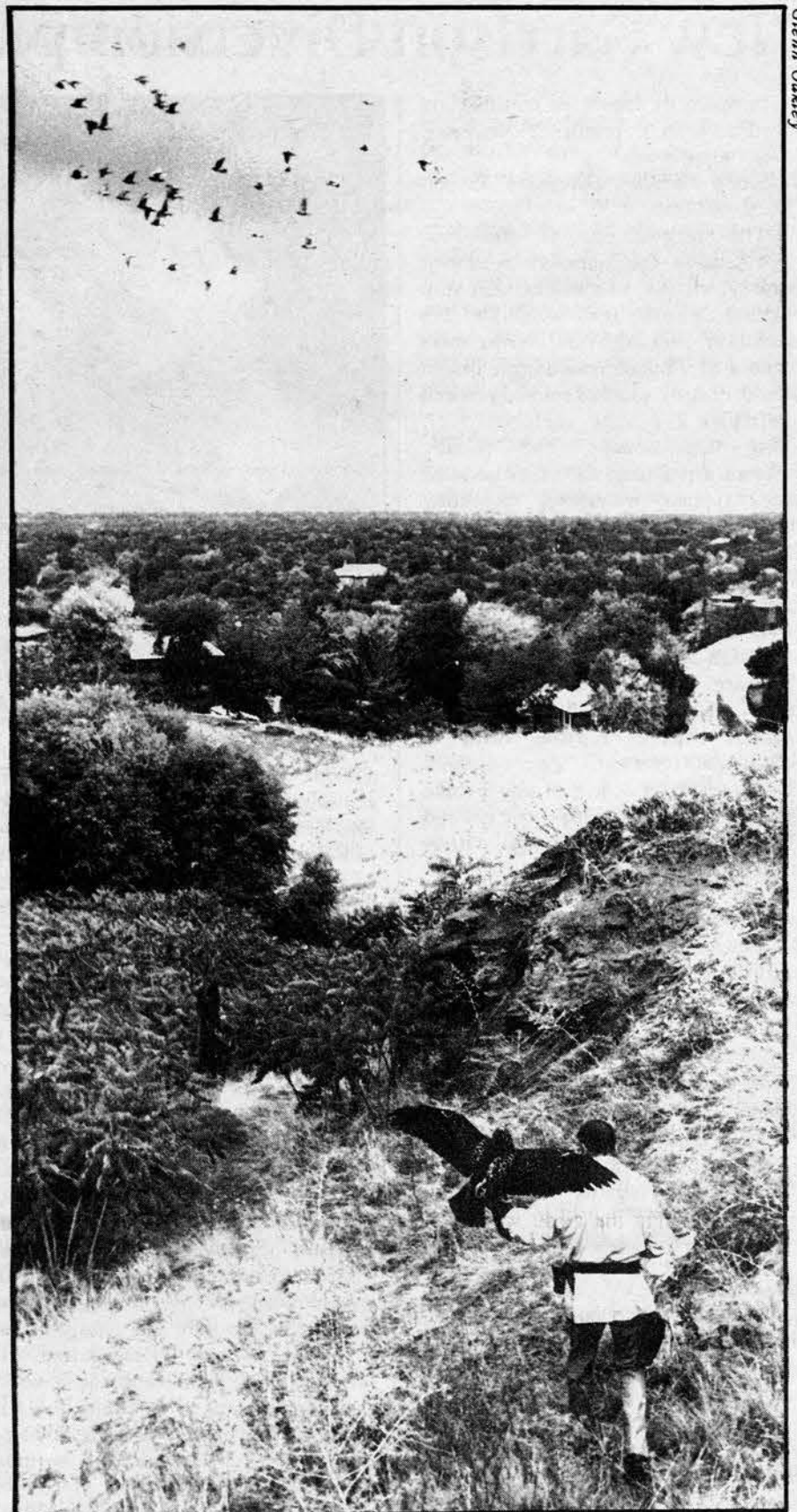
Runoff from the rain which has been falling heavily until now is dripping off the trees and weathered eaves of the sheds and lean-tos. In a shed open on the sides with heavy wire mesh, a blizzard-white arctic gyrfalcon perches, calling as Nelson approaches.

Nelson lifts the door latch to the shed and motions me inside. Ornate leather falconry hoods and jesses hang from the wall in the narrow entranceway. He opens the door to the gyrfalcon's room and we enter. This largest of falcons flies from its perch and lands near Nelson, who then coaxes the bird onto his gloved fist. "This is one tremendous hunter," he says, stroking the gyrfalcon's barred chest. The gyrfalcon and the peregrine are his two favorite birds: the fastest, most powerful hunters in the sky.

The room on the other side of the entranceway houses a bald eagle with a crippled wing. She has starred in television commercials and magazine ads for Express Mail, but is now playing the temperamental actress, glaring at us from the floor, white head feathers bristled. We decide against going inside.

Stepping out and across the walkway we enter a fence-enclosed compound ringed on three sides with low lean-tos. Staring at us from the lean-tos are two prairie falcons, a Swainson's hawk and a lammer (from the Middle East). Nelson unties the Swainson's hawk, a beautiful bird of red and russett and tan plumage, and carries it out the gate.

We climb up the path above his house, the city of Boise stretching out behind us and large, expensive houses on either side of us. Nelson's homing pigeons wheel overhead in unison, the whoosh of their wings coming in regular intervals. The Swainson's



Morley Nelson at home near Boise, Idaho

watches when the pigeons pass over, but he could never catch one, Nelson assures. The gyrfalcon caught one once though, he adds.

"Where do you want to take the picture?" he asks. "Here?" And then he lifts the hawk into a striking pose, the two of them watching as the pigeons pass over again.

Nelson is a pro before the camera. His publicly active life began with taking golden eagles around to groups whose members, as a matter of principle, shot all eagles on sight. "Everybody shot the golden eagle," he recalls. "They had clubs formed to shoot the golden eagle."

He took one eagle to a meeting of sheepmen and cattlemen in the tiny ranch town of Castleford, Idaho. The golden eagle, perched on a two-by-four length of pine before a gathering of its most ardent killers, flexed its talons and casually splintered the board at a weak section. While the stockmen watched, Nelson reached down and invited the eagle to step onto his hand.

Later, a crusty sheepherder came up to Nelson, spit out a wad of tobacco, and told him, "You wouldn't have had to say a word as long as you brought that eagle. I'll never shoot another one."

That reaction was almost universal, he says. "You'd go into a room

where almost every one of them had shot an eagle." They didn't know why they'd been shooting them. "The first time you go into a room with an eagle, 99 percent of them will say they'd never shoot another one." In part because of Nelson's efforts, Idaho passed one of the first laws in the country protecting all raptors from indiscriminate shooting.

The law hasn't ended the shootings. Nelson still receives shot eagles, which he nurses back to health in the mews and then returns to the wild. But the wanton killing of the raptors has dropped significantly from the 1950s when, Nelson recalls, "I had 14 bullet-holed eagles in here at one time. From one county!"

He credits the turn-around in attitudes toward raptors in large part to Walt Disney, for whom he worked training birds and filming them in flight. Nelson remembers Disney's *The Living Desert*. "When the red-tail came down and killed the rattlesnake, the name chicken-hawk almost stopped the world going round. It may be silly, but it saved a lot of hawks."

Nelson took frequent leaves of absence from the Soil Conservation Service, where he was snow survey supervisor for the Columbia Basin, to work with Disney and eventually other Hollywood studios. Emotion, not scientific accuracy, was the goal of the films, he acknowledges. In *The Pigeon That Worked a Miracle*, Nelson

Glenn Oakley

trained three different falcon species for one shot of a "peregrine" swooping down on a pigeon.

"Biologically it was hokey," he says, also recalling a scene in *The Living Desert* where scorpions pranced to square dance music. "But it was important in developing the appreciation for those wild animals."

While Nelson could overlook the Hollywoodish liberties with the biological accuracies of raptors, he balked at offers to portray the birds in a negative light. The producers of the sequel to *Rosemary's Baby* came to him requesting help in a dream scene where an eagle attacks a man. One can imagine the former pro hockey player's response. "We spent our lives trying to get some intelligence through," he says, recalling it now. "For thousands of years, we've been goofed up by this thinking."

Nelson's work in recent years has shifted to finding ways to help raptors adapt to an increasingly human-dominated environment. For much of this work he has teamed up with the industries responsible for encroachment on the birds of prey.

His most notable success has been in preventing electrocutions of eagles on high voltage power lines. Idaho Power Company asked Nelson 14 years ago to look into the problem. Engineers were skeptical that an eagle could touch two wires at once with its wings, Nelson says. And indeed not all dead eagles found below power lines had been electrocuted. Nelson notes that 33 golden eagles found dead beneath a power line near Twin Falls, Idaho, had actually been shot.

The utility erected a dummy power line behind Nelson's Boise home, and he began flying his eagles to the towers, filming the birds with a 400 frame per second movie camera. (An average movie camera films at a mere 64 frames per second.) His films showed the eagles could brush wings against two wires at various angles, and he says, "that really ended the argument."

The research culminated in a book detailing electrocution prevention practices, which have been adopted by utilities across the country.

Nelson saw an opportunity to not only prevent eagle deaths, but a way to use the power poles to the birds' advantage. Reasoning that the deserts and plains have ample critters for raptors to catch and eat, but few trees for perching and nesting, Nelson designed an angular metal nesting platform mounted on beams jutting out from high-voltage towers. The

success of the platforms has been incredible, Nelson says. A pair of eagles even abandoned a cliff nesting site to use the strange man-made nest. Unlike the south-facing cliff, Nelson explains, the nesting platform shaded the eagle chicks from the sun, preventing overheating which had killed the previous year's hatchlings.

With the same theory in mind, Nelson has been consulting with ACZ Inc., on the Sugarloaf coal mining reclamation project in western Colorado. In a pilot project that will save the mining company perhaps over \$100 million, the open pit coal mine is being refurbished as a cliffside, rather than being filled in to the original contour of the land. Nelson's part of the project includes designing nesting cavities in the cliff and even a concrete tree. He would also like to see construction of a visitor's room, to be dug into the cliff, allowing people to view the nesting raptors through one-way mirrors.

Concrete trees, coal mine cliffs and eagles nesting in metal boxes have struck a sour chord with some environmentalists, Nelson says. In a paper on the successful nesting platform project in "Raptor Research," Nelson responded to his critics. "To the staunch idealist this may not be good news; wild things must exist in pristine settings or not at all. To the perceptive realist, however, the ability of individuals of a species to adapt to an inevitably changing world is an exploitable trait. This trait may well ensure the survival of the species."

His philosophy in this vein is often at odds with conventional thinking in the environmental community. He is a staunch advocate of nuclear power, arguing

that its use could prevent the damming of rivers for hydroelectric energy.

He is sharply at odds with the "coal mine canary" school of thought which maintains that the demise of wild creatures presages the demise of humans. "We can kill almost every form of life and we have the intelligence to continue," he states. "We have to (save animals from extinction) on the basis of the quality of our life and the fact that we should not be the only thing to live on this planet."

But he takes a typically pragmatic, if not surprising, approach to the problem of extinction. In the Tellico Dam/snail darter debacle conservationists "lost credibility," he says. "It became downright silly... Somewhere down the line humanity has to say, 'how much can we afford to save?'"

This hard-edged pragmatism appeals to the corporations and industrialists which have sponsored much of his recent work. In addition to his work for utility companies and the coal mine project, Nelson persuaded Boise Cascade Corp. to sponsor a peregrine reintroduction program on the timber company's land. And he is frequently lobbying other companies for programs and funding, meeting in corporate offices with a fierce-eyed falcon on his hand, appealing to the company's civic responsibility and desire for good public relations.

"The biggest goddamn waste is getting down and shooting at each other," Nelson avers. "Instead of fighting with them, my position has been, let's see if there's an area we can agree on. That area is much wider than conservationists want to admit."

Curiously, it is the subject of climate changes which has drawn increasing attention to Nelson in recent years. As might be guessed, his

climatology theories sprung from his study of raptors, peregrine falcons to be precise.

Hiking across the remote regions of the West for the Soil Conservation Service in the 1930s, before the widespread use of DDT, Nelson began noticing a decline in the peregrine population. The blue-backed bullets with wings were abandoning nests to the less powerful prairie falcon.

When he returned to the West after World War II (recovering from over a hundred mortar fragment wounds), he saw that the peregrine exodus had been almost total. At a 1961 peregrine research meeting in Minneapolis, Nelson presented his theory. The climate, he suggested, was turning drier and warmer, and ponds, marshes and wetlands were shrinking and drying. The peregrine -- the duck hawk as it was widely known -- was simply losing its food supply. The peregrines, he said, moved north and, to a lesser degree, higher in elevation. The prairie falcon, which thrives on ground squirrels and other dryland animals, was favored by the climate change. The situation was aggravated when the pesticide DDT came into heavy use. After World War II the remaining peregrines, Nelson believes, were largely wiped out by the pesticide which caused thinning of their eggshells.

Now the climate swing has reversed, Nelson believes. Inter-mountain lakes like the Great Salt Lake are expanding in the wetter, cooler climate, and previously dry lake beds are filling again. "Now what I was talking about for birds is affecting people," he says. "And that's another matter. Now I get calls from all over the world."

But he demurs at making specific predictions. "I don't have the time nor the data," he says. There are falcons to fly, meetings to attend, research to be done.

Standing below the wire-mesh tented enclosure which houses his golden eagles, Nelson says that he has identified the meaning of 11 different eagle calls. "They talk to me in their own tongue: 'Bring me a stick, come mate with me, come build a nest with me.'" Anthropomorphism has been overplayed, he says. The giving of human characteristics to animals is an arrogant misconception. "I have a word I call animalpomorphism: Animals give animal characteristics to us."

He glances up at the eagle Fagan, the bird's unblinking dark eyes staring at us over hooked beak. "That eagle sees eagle characteristics in me," Nelson says.

□

Glenn Oakley is a freelance writer and photographer who lives in Boise, Idaho.



Morley Nelson and Swainson's hawk

Glenn Oakley

poetry by William Stafford

IN THE PRESENCE

-- MEDICINE BOW PASS --

Winter lives here. Cold waits. It leans
from sheer gray cliffs. When Lake Marie
melts, briefly, Winter stares its gray
promise. Its ice fist slowly clenches from shore.
Lake Marie's numb eye supplicates, and closes.

What do you want to have happen. Songs?
The wind will take care of that. You can
have days -- a slow yawn of sky and then
stars in their career of indifference. You can
have a shadow cross and recross the lake.
You can look for more. In this high
gray silence you can ask. In Winter's
home, nothing even says no.

(High Rock Review)

WHILE WAITING FOR IT TO HAPPEN

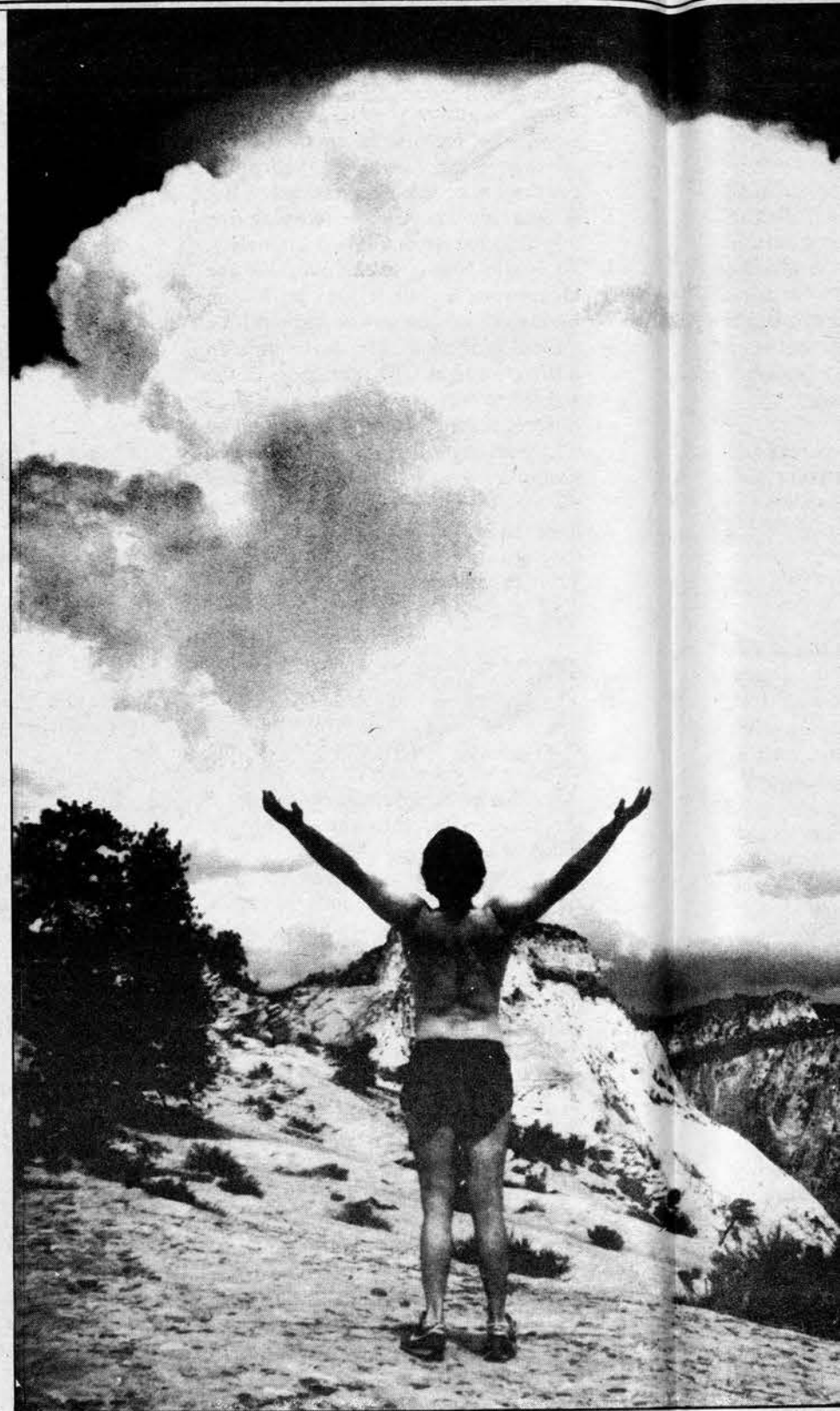
They say air can move but leave a cloud
anchored to a mountain peak; the storm
can scream, and all the voices of the world
command, but that soft scarf unmoved stay firm,

And many a time some shape will find
us, accompanied by no sound except a sigh
that means a strange, unknown-to-humankind
importance has decided to go by.

These entities that baffle thought and power
remind us; back of everything we know,
and held in awful silence till its hour
to speak will come, a Great Beyond can flow

Its course around us, disregard our fear
or threats -- nor even notice we are here.

(Corona)



Clouds in their b with zippers in t

WHY I AM HAPPY

Now has come, an easy time. I let it
roll. There is a lake somewhere
so blue and far nobody owns it.
A wind comes by, and a willow listens
gracefully.

I hear all this, every summer. I laugh
and cry for every turn of the world,
its terribly cold, innocent spin.
That lake stays blue and free: it goes
on and on.

And I know where it is.

(Plainsong)



Heather Green

their big suits
ers in the back

EVERYONE OUT HERE KNOWS

Flowers jump from the tracks of Big Foot
all over the uplands. In the swamp where
turtles carry their conservative houses
Big Foot waits disguised as a shadow.

The mountains are Big Foot's friends.
They shoulder around. They don't want
too much noise. They report any gunshot
into Big Foot's cave and mutter about it.

Where cliffs are broken, Big Foot was climbing
with its big hands. Rivers that swing wide
are going around mysterious places; you can
stand there and feel the tug of Big Foot's world.

("Poetry Now")

A GLANCE AT CLOUDS

Clouds in their big suits with zippers in the back
slide over the Coast Range in their slow way,
some of them stubborn, mean, immovable -- they play
rough in the mountains, and growl what they learn from bears..

Clouds hibernate, summers, but come out in storms,
which they like. They crowd around, muttering:
then they applaud. I heard one, one time,
at night, climbing near and then waiting.

In the morning, there it was, sitting on a mountain.
With dignity, it rose and slowly moved on, sometimes
listening above the power lines, then trailing off
with its long story, spelling it out for the hills.

(Mountain Writers Quarterly)

IN THE SAND

Deserts hold ghost rivers
that remember a real current;
evening animals print
flowers with their feet in each grave.

William Stafford was born in
Hutchinson, Kansas in 1914. A widely-published
and highly-regarded western poet, he has devoted
a large measure of energy to the encouragement of
poetry writing through his teaching at Lewis and
Clark College and through readings and
workshops nationwide. He has published several
books of poems, one of which -- *Traveling Through
the Dark* -- won a National Book Award. His essays
on the craft of poetry, *Writing the Australian
Crawl*, is a standard work for students of serious
poetry.

Trees...

(Continued from page 1)

landscape management program might be the Forest Service's best-kept secret.

He allowed that it does seem to be a light under a bushel to an extent, but reminded me that the program itself is not yet completely out and available, and that there are still many forest and district level people who need training sessions on what is available.

I would also suspect, however -- and the Forest Plans I've looked at justify the suspicion -- that "landscape management" is an idea that is going to have a hard time finding equal standing with other aspects of management in the Forest Service, and this is for reasons that go back so far in our history that they are hardly conscious any more.

Well before the Industrial Revolution in Europe there was a kind of split between considerations of "form" and "function" in the relationship between people and their environment. Maybe this split is as old as the species. But it took on increasingly political and economic configurations as Europe began to move into the Industrial Revolution: concern with the "form" of the environment -- its appearance and non-utilitarian qualities -- became a luxury reserved for the nobility and wealthier classes, while increasing pressure on important and accessible resources like wood -- especially wood -- led to a growing concern among the general population over the more functional and utilitarian aspects of what passed for environmental management.

As a result, "landscape design" developed as an expensive and exclusive art to be practiced for the wealthy, while "forestry" developed as a no-nonsense science dedicated to the increase and stabilization of wood production. To reduce it to essentials -- the landscaper worked with the spaces framed by trees while the forester worked with the trees themselves. And never did the twain meet in a consciously unified discipline.

The part of Europe that came to America was mostly that poorer part which was more concerned with the functional side of nature than its form; and along with monarchy and nobility, early Americans were quite willing to leave behind the tortuously formal and conscious landscapes created by and for monarchs and nobles.

I think it is accurate enough to label the lack of attention to or concern for the appearance of the land an ingrained trait of the "democratic American" who came to the New World in search of an alternative to the Old World. That's as opposed to the "European American" who just came here in order to get rich enough to ape Old World ostentation. As a character trait of the democratic American, however, this antipathy to the consciously created landscape was basically negative. We knew we didn't want to torture the landscape into extravagant playgrounds for the wealthy. But we didn't know what we did want. So what emerged as the quintessential democratic trait was a tendency to not think about it at all -- which, given the exploitive nature of American expansion -- made the raw, the ugly and the depleted the quintessential landscape of democratic free enterprise. Only when you got rich enough to no longer care whether your neighbors approved of

your democratic sensibilities or not -- only when you got rich enough to be able to afford to no longer have neighbors (the essence of the American dream, I sometimes think), only then did you begin to concern yourself with superficial and decadent things like beautiful surroundings.

In America, it wasn't until the increasingly urbanized and industrialized landscape of the eastern United States began to grow unignominously depressing that we began to give a little cultural attention (as opposed to the personal "cultivate your own garden" approach) to the physical environment. The first known use in the world of the term "landscape architect" was behind the signatures on the winning design for New York City's Central Park, submitted in 1858 by Calvert Vaux and the man who came to be known as the "Father of the American National Parks," Frederick Law Olmsted.

But the gradual growth of this aesthetic awareness -- or longing -- in an urbanizing America did not lead to the kind of aggressive formal landscape design that had evolved in England and Europe. Just the opposite, in fact. The design for Central Park submitted by Olmsted and Vaux perfectly identified what Americans wanted in their "designed landscape," and set a style that is still mainstream in America today: keep it looking (or make it look) as natural as possible. The more America began to look like the England and Europe of the Industrial Revolution, the more Americans tried to retain at least the appearance of a New World not yet worked over by the same Old World. If you wanted to write down a "basic law of American landscape design" as it developed after Olmsted, you could do no better than to paraphrase Thoreau on government: that landscape is best designed which appears to be least designed.

But meanwhile, forestry developed in America in ways that drove it even more toward a functional science devoid of aesthetic considerations than it had been in Europe. In Europe, forestry had evolved as much as a craft as a scientific profession. European foresters generally worked on a local level, for towns or other comparatively small administrative units. Management was intensive, but also intimate. In many cases, the job of town forester passed along from father to son, like other craft occupations.

So while there might have been no formal training in "landscape management," European foresters quite literally grew up with their trees (the rotation in most of humid Europe is around 80 years), and they lived all their lives with the consequences of their efforts. Some degree of aesthetic consideration is natural, if not necessarily conscious, under such circumstances. When Gifford Pinchot, the father of the American Forest Service who was trained as a forester in Europe, talked about "tree farming" in his writings, he wasn't imagining the monotonous pictures evoked (not always accurately) by the term today. He was undoubtedly thinking of the much more palatable European model of intensive management in which the forester was practically individually acquainted with each of the trees in his charge. It might be best called "tree gardening" rather than forestry.

But in America, entirely different conditions prevailed for the forest manager. For one thing, there was -- even after two centuries of indiscriminate exploitation -- too much forest, too few foresters, and too little



economic incentive (or necessity) for management that was both intensive and intimate. This situation has prevailed right down to the present: there are whole countries in Europe that don't have as much forest as a single district in some of the western National Forests.

The other important difference was the perceived need, back at the beginning of the century, to establish the National Forests as a national resource and not a local convenience. To do this, Pinchot and others deemed it necessary to set up checks that kept the forest ranger from getting too involved on the local level, lest he be led astray. This was done -- and still is -- through the "top-down" issuing of management directives and priorities, frequent inspections, and frequent changes of assignment for foresters.

Perhaps this has been beneficial in keeping Forest Service people from being "corrupted" by local interests -- although I think that from the thirties on that was a much diminished danger. But it has also created a management climate in which ambitious foresters have to be more concerned with how their efforts look on paper to their superiors than with how they actually look out on the ground to people who have to live with it. And the foresters don't have to live with it, so long as the abstract statistics and reports that go upstairs look good enough to keep the promotions -- to new forests -- coming along on schedule.

No matter how the mantle of science justifies this kind of objective detachment, it seems questionable to me under any circumstances. But when you compound it with the current situation, in which the heaviest pressure on the National Forests is coming not from a motley of local interests but from a few highly organized national industrial organizations headquartered in the same neighborhood as the Forest Service... well, I can't help but believe that the healthiest thing for the National Forests would be for the Forest Service to decentralize and build its bases a little closer to the ground: working toward the European model, with smaller districts manned by local forester-gardeners committed to spending their lives living with their own consequences, rather than converting their efforts into a dossier of statistics in an effort to gain admission to those ethereal realms of Washington where, so far as anyone has been able to ascertain, nothing, not even the money, perhaps especially the money, is remotely related to anything real.

But a lot of things will have to change a lot in America before the Forest Service starts to change that way, and meanwhile we have devolved into a situation that is about as extreme as could be imagined: forest management has become an aesthetically barren, abstract and clinical

science. At the same time, forest aesthetics have gone so far in the opposite direction as a reaction that, for many people, any sign of management activity is ugly by definition.

It was with this situation in mind that Forest Service Chief Ed Cliff convened a meeting in St. Louis in 1968, to initiate work on a "Landscape Management Program" for the National Forests, in an effort to begin bridging the widening gap between forest aesthetics and forest management. Better late than never.

87 percent of man's perception is based on sight.

--From *National Forest Landscape Management*, Vol. I

Herb Mittman was at that 1968 meeting; he had just been appointed landscape architect for the Rocky Mountain Region. Still in that position today, he has helped shape the landscape management program from the beginning.

Mittman himself grew up in the traditions of European forestry; his father was a forester in Bavaria. When he came to the United States in 1956 to study landscape architecture, there were a total of seven landscape architects in the Forest Service, who mostly designed campgrounds and picnic facilities. By the time of the St. Louis meeting that number had grown to 131 landscape architects; today there are almost 300. Most work at the regional and forest levels on the implementation of the still-emerging Landscape Management program.

The first volume of the program came out in 1973, five years after the St. Louis conference: this was a 76-page manual which attempted to condense in fairly simplified form the basic concepts and principles of landscape analysis, to provide out-on-the-ground guidelines "for designing the visual aspects of resource management."

Volume II of the Landscape Management program has been appearing chapter by chapter ever since. Volume II Chapter 1 came out in 1974: the "Visual Management System" for inventorying and evaluating "visual resources." The rest of the chapters are (or will be) on the incorporation of landscape awareness in designing management activities. Chapter 2 is on "Utilities," Chapter 3 on "Range," Chapter 4 on "Roads." Chapter 5 is a volume almost as large as the rest of the series put together: "Timber."

The day I visited Mittman in Denver, he was anticipating delivery of Volume II Chapter 6, a manual on designing the visual aspects of "Winter Sports" -- a chapter which he has written over the past four years. Further chapters planned but not yet written are "Fire Management," "Mining," "Wildlife," "Recreation," and "Watershed."

So far as forest planning goes, the most relevant part of the still-evolving Landscape Management program is the first chapter of Volume II: the Visual Management System (USDA Agriculture Handbook Number 462, issued April 1974, Superintendent of Documents Stock No. 001-001-0035-1.) Every community library and every environmentally-oriented organization involved in National Forest planning matters should have one or two copies of this manual -- not necessarily because "visual management" is the most important aspect of forest planning, but because it is the most accessible aspect for the lay

Ralph Maughan

person. You don't have to know a lot about forests and silviculture; you just have to know what you like, and you can quickly learn the language that will make you just as intelligently articulate as any lifelong professional land manager. I would also recommend the manual because it is uncommonly interesting reading, as manuals go, and it left me more aware of how I look at things and better equipped to talk about what I see.

The most encouraging thing about the "Visual Management System" is that it seems to be misnamed; it is not really a system for "managing visuals" -- a phrase that smacks of Disneyland -- but a system for listing and evaluating "the visual resource" prior to designing any management plans. The first steps in the "VMS" address the problem of determining what are the "characteristic landscapes" in the management area -- what views of what areas give the forest a distinct and unique character. This starts with a breaking-down of the region, first into major physiographic "character types" (mountain ranges, basins, and the like), then into the "subtypes" within each character type (steep mountain land, foothills, floodplains, canyons, etc.)

For the kind of person who would rather read a thermometer than feel a forehead, most of the work to that point can be done from maps. But from there on out, there is nothing for it but to get out in the field and rely on the old "limited sensory departments of the human mechanism."

What do we see when we look at a landscape? A jumbly concatenation of four things in all possible combinations and overlays: forms, lines, colors, and textures. In looking at one of your "characteristic landscapes," you will eventually find those four things in some combination that is common throughout the landscape; you will also find your eyes drawn to places where the four elements are combined in some distinctive or outstanding manner (a mountain, a rockform, a stand of old trees); and you will also probably be able to identify relatively uninteresting areas over which the eye passes quickly. These observations sort your characteristic landscape into three "variety classes": Class A, distinctive qualities in the landscape; Class B, qualities that are common throughout the landscape; and Class C, qualities that are of minimal interest. These variety class qualities might be found in rockforms, vegetation, landforms, and water forms: the manual lists some of the more quantitative aspects, such as size, slope and age, which are "acceptable" for each variety class.

To help the out-on-the-ground people translate what the eye is seeing into these "variety classes," the Landscape Management people have prepared booklets for each region with photographs of typical Class A, B, and C landscape features for each character subtype in the region. These booklets are not my favorite part of the system. The danger at this part of the process is getting a little too "generic" and broad in establishing the subtypes. For all of Western Colorado and southern Wyoming, for example, there are only 32 character subtypes, and that seems like a shortchanging of the variety found in that region. One thing that, so far as I was able to find, fell in the crack between categories, is the big-tree climax aspen region, either as a subtype or a Class A variety class within a subtype; given the situation in Western Colorado today, it would

be good to see that more definitively acknowledged as one of the region's most outstanding visual resources. "From a landscape viewpoint," Mittman says, "aspen is the most important species in the Rockies."

Probably this part of the Visual Management System should be regarded as not yet completely evolved. The Forest Service could kill a couple of birds with one gesture, by inviting some of their critics who know the individual forests well to help work out the variety class criteria and subtypes. And while they are at it -- maybe they ought to invite a poet in to try to come up with something more descriptive and less clinically sterile than, say, calling Crested Butte or Gothic Mountain a "SR-20 Class A Landform."

In addition to the variety classes, a landscape is also divided into three "distance zones" on the basis of distinguishable forms and textures. The foreground of a landscape extends from the viewer to the distance at which the individual limbs of trees can no longer be distinguished -- usually one-fourth to one-half a mile. The middleground stretches from there to the point at which individual trees in a stand can no longer be distinguished -- three to five miles. And the background extends from there as far as the eye can see. Sometimes, of course, a landscape has only a foreground -- as when you are down in the woods where you can't see the forest for the trees.

You can see how each step becomes a little more subjective. Distance zones, for example, cannot be mapped quite like even the variety classes, which themselves began to get pretty subjective; for the distance zones you have to map in an eyeball too, the point from which the viewer is looking at the landscape. And that brings us to the next step in the visual resource inventory: where are the viewers most likely to be in the management area? How many of them? How will they be there (moving through or still), and how long will they be there? And how well will they know what they are looking at; what will they be expecting to see -- and not want to see?

Those questions, answered to whatever degree is possible, determine sensitivity levels for the visual resource. Generally it is fair to assume that most of the people "exploiting the visual resource" (the most renewable and inexhaustible of resources: look all you want) will be doing so from established travel routes (roads and trails), use areas (campgrounds, ski areas, etc.), and water bodies. So our eyeball in charge of visual resource inventory has to travel the road, visit the campgrounds, and go boating on the lakes in order to map in the distance zones from all those visually "sensitive" places and corridors. Then each distance zone is assigned a sensitivity level (Level 1, 2 or 3), mostly on the basis of the number of people using the corridor or facility and how concerned they are likely to be about the quality of the landscape they see.

Obviously, this can get to be a complicated bit of mapping, since a "Level 1 Middleground" as viewed from a primary road through the management area might also be a "Level 2 Foreground" for a fisherman out on a lake in the landscape, and maybe a "Level 3 Background" from an often-climbed mountain nearby. In such cases, the more restrictive sensitivity level prevails in management plans.

With all of that information down

on the map, the forest-level eyeball is ready to make management recommendations for all of the many overlapping landscapes in the form of visual quality objectives -- VQOs. There are five of these:

- Preservation, which essentially precludes any management activity at all;
- Retention, which allows only management activities that are not visually evident, and thereby retain the character of the landscape;
- Partial Retention, which requires that all management activities be "visually subordinate" to the character of the landscape;
- Modification, which allows management activities that "visually dominate" the original character of the landscape, and so change its character; and
- Maximum Modification, which means about what you would expect -- essentially no visual resource worth setting up in the path of progress.

There are also a couple of special VQOs: Rehabilitation, which is sometimes required in areas where "maximum modification" got out of hand; and Enhancement, "a short-term management alternative aimed at increasing positive visual variety where little variety now exists." In essence, gardening.

When all of this is down on a visual management map, what you have is obviously not going to be a simple thing to interpret -- but then a forest, especially a mountain forest, is not a simple thing. Imagine, however, what happens to such a map when, say, even a short length of new trail is put in. A whole new set of distance zones is created; sensitivity levels change; and all the VQOs have to be reconsidered and maybe changed. We are clearly talking about a very dynamic and difficult kind of resource inventory. Counting trees and tree-rings is certainly much easier.

Judy Sumner



The other chapters in Volume II of the National Forest Landscape Management system are probably of less interest to the layman, at least so far as forest planning is concerned. They are basically manuals of practices and techniques designing landscape awareness into management activities -- timber cuts, powerline installations, range improvements, ski area trail layout, and the like. They are quite interesting to read through, however; and the manual for the design of timber activities is an excellent "short course" on silvicultural management and the different forest regions of America.

For forest managers -- and citizen groups too, for that matter -- concerned about what some particular management activity might look like



when it is done, there is now a sophisticated management tool that will "draw you a picture." This is the "Perspective Plot" computer program which will draw landscape elevations from topographic maps: you pick a point from which you want to view the management activity -- or from which you want to not see it, if that is the situation -- and you feed that and the elevation contours of the landforms, information about the vegetation cover, and information about the management activity itself into the computer; it prints out a rather attractive line drawing of what the post-management landscape would look like from your point of perspective.

In sum, I think that the landscape architects in the Forest Service are working up a pretty impressive array of tools for landscape inventory and management. If the Service can somehow refrain from its usual tendency to unveil such things as if they'd been brought down carved in stone from the same mountain as FORPLAN, and truly make the program an accessible foundation for dialogue with people who "don't know much about forest management, but know what they like," then I believe it could go a long way in bridging that gap between scientific forest management and forest aesthetics.

I suppose it is possible to overemphasize "mere appearance." But "mere appearance" is not the object or focus of honest landscape management. No matter what we do, consciously or unconsciously, we "create new landscapes;" it is in our nature; and the landscape architect today is simply one who believes that a good landscape is a sign of good land use -- land use consciously designed with full awareness of that "87 percent of man's perception" that is "based on sight." (Heaven knows how they arrived at so precise a figure.)

I am reminded of something my old sports editor and landlord, Botsie Spritzer, used to say when we were doing the newspaper together in Crested Butte. "Beauty is only skin deep, but ugly goes all the way to the bone." An important aspect of our situation here on earth is the fact that everything is only "skin deep" -- everything we need to live, at any rate. Tear the skin of the earth, peel away the beauty, and a wound is opened up where the wind and water will try to expose the bare bones of the earth for the rest of the geological age. If we make the conscious effort to keep the earth's skin as beautiful as possible, we will also be keeping it as healthy as possible.

□

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BOOK NOTES

*Economic arguments won the day**Dynamos and Virgins*

David Roe. Random House, 1984. 218 pages. \$18.95, hardcover.

Review by Jeff Pearson

Dynamos and Virgins is David Roe's artfully told story of how he and other Environmental Defense Fund professionals battled California's two largest electric utilities for five years.

Beginning in 1976, their struggle was to convince them that by continuing to build large central generating stations they were committing economic suicide. EDF's challenge was successful and the payoff for a half-decade of voluntary servitude in the California regulatory vineyards had to be sweet.

They'd gotten the Public Utilities Commission to penalize the state's largest utility, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) for not pursuing conservation avidly enough. They'd killed the massive Allen-Warner Valley project, a 2,000 megawatt coal-fired plant, even though it was on the Carter Administration's energy self-sufficiency priority list. And with the coal plant, they'd killed the Alton coal field strip mines. They'd also helped produce a political climate in the state such that Southern California Edison (SCE), just before the stillborn death of Allen-Warner Valley, saw the percentages in announcing publicly the largest "soft energy" investment program in American electric utility history.

Because of the epidemic of nuclear power plant cancellations in recent history, it is easy to forget how recently utility managers scorned the suggestion that their own overbuilding would some day ruin them financially. That was considered whiny metaphysical prophesy.

Roe starts back in the musty hearing rooms of the California PUC. During the course of a PG&E rate increase proceeding in 1976, an EDF economist, Zach Willy, serendipitously discovered that the utility had explicit (though not public) plans to finance a massive power plant construction program through equally massive annual retail rate increases. EDF decided not to mutter a word about the environmental impacts of such a major expansion.

Instead, the environmental group would try to demonstrate that capital investment in conservation, plus alternative energy production, would get PG&E where it needed to be without the rate increases. The soft energy menu included distribution system voltage reduction, subsidized home insulation programs and the development of cogeneration, hydro, wind and solar resources. Electric consumers would be able to eat just as much electricity as they felt they needed, but with the EDF diet they'd metabolize more and pay less for it. The incidental benefit would be fewer nukes and oil-fired central generating stations fouling the land, air and water.

Using a hand calculator, and PG&E's own demand and budgetary forecasts to the extent he could get them, EDF's Willy began to model two financial futures: the one PG&E planned, and the one EDF envisioned. Side by side, he compared the costs. He recruited a computer jockey to goose the model into higher levels of sophistication, and with more legal

discovery and more accurate inputs, the model acquired a life of its own. It soon was able to depict PG&E's corporate viscera better than any anatomy charts PG&E itself had access to.

Roe and others at EDF nicknamed their model the "greenie," because of the green cover they slapped on the hard copies distributed at PUC hearings. With the greenie, EDF seized the intellectual high ground. Information was power. Year by year, month by month, their "techie" computer wizards always keeping them a step ahead of everyone else, the EDF advocates began to interest, and then to persuade, PUC staffers and a few grudging utility operatives.

The problem with the EDF vision was that even if Willy was right, the vision would never have a chance to work unless they could shut off the tap at the PUC. As long as PG&E could make economically unjustifiable investments in big plants and not suffer for it, i.e., if PG&E kept getting business-as-usual rate relief from the PUC, Zach Willy's economic perception that less was more would fail.

Roe and Willy came up with an ingenious device to shut off the tap. They proposed to the PUC that for each PG&E failure to incorporate known cost-effective soft energy resources into its power supply plan, the utility should be penalized dollar for dollar in its allowed rate of return. (Whether the proposal had a symmetrical rate-of-return reward component for PG&E performance, as I have read elsewhere it did, Roe does not make clear.) Eventually, and that means after losing several rounds by decision, EDF got the California PUC to adopt the penalty concept. At one point in 1979, PG&E faced the possibility of a \$14 million revenue hit if it didn't soften up.

Roe, an attorney, is a graceful prose writer with affection for James Joyce, a sensitive eye for location and a sympathy for his fellow beings, even his judicial adversaries, that results in something close to what in novels is considered good character development. What could have ended up sounding like a political science master's essay instead lands somewhere between intellectual history and eyewitness drama. The book in this respect reminds me a little of James D. Watson's *The Double Helix*, though the underlying subject matter is less weighty, perhaps, and Roe is certainly less self-serving than the DNA explorer. Roe pauses often to explain scientific or legalistic terms, and his explanations are precise, informative and concretely illustrated.

He doesn't tell much about himself but throws in amusing snippets of genealogy about his own San Francisco family. (His great-grandfather actually started a company a hundred years ago that distributed electric current from a central location to disparate users, then a new idea, using a dynamo great-grandfather Roe held in hock for a bad debt. The company ended up merging with PG&E.)

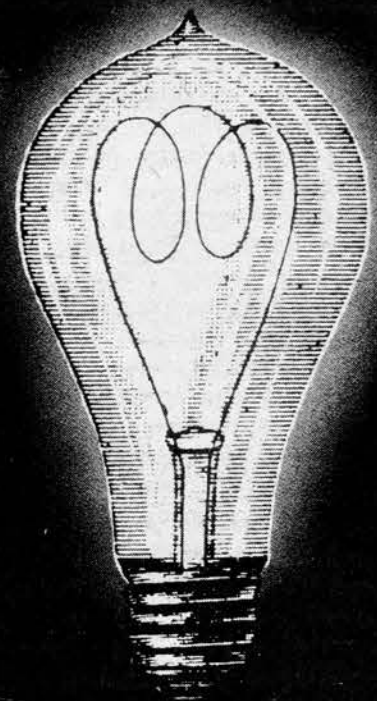
When Roe tries to remove the professional veneer of the lawyers, engineers and economists who populate the drama, character shines through. A younger PG&E lawyer gets the chance to express doubts about his client's stonewalling tendencies, as well as to display his wit and congeniality. The nervous energy of

one of Roe's fellow EDF attorneys becomes almost tangible. (It is energy that, to those of us who know the fellow, translates into effective cross-examination and handy briefs.) Which is not to say Roe avoids stereotypes completely. Advertently or not, he goes out of his way to show an EDF staffer driving the environmentalists' car of choice, a Volvo, and keeps reminding us of the Ivy League pedigrees in the organization. Utility lawyers and executives, by contrast, may be a little too uniformly kempt (yet slick), bald, stiff and stupid, while PUC staffers may suffer overmuch from coffee breaks and other forms of sluggishness.

I'm not complaining. Roe has done a deft job on what may be one of the most inherently boring subjects a writer could attack, for advocating new ideas in the regulatory arena is almost as inspiring as watching popsicles freeze. PUC regulators, even in (Roe shows us) what is reputed to be one of the better staffed and sophisticated regulatory agencies in the country, are by and large career opportunists. They lack the intellectual equipment and the political will to do much of anything new. As a result, regulation in general and utility regulation in particular is essentially dronish. The only thing worse than participating in it, one would think, would be reading about it. Roe proves otherwise, and I would far recommend reading his book to trying rate cases oneself.

For me, the book ends less conclusively and positively than it could. Roe tries to show how EDF's success in California, culminating with the cancellation of the Allen-Warner Valley project, was transported to other parts of the country. In Arkansas, Colorado and New York, the sad truth is, the EDF greenie didn't take hold.

In Colorado, much of the reason for this is that EDF never convinced other consumer advocates that it had the interests of the less well-to-do at heart. The greenie is a theoretical construct with grandiose real-world implications, but it never talks about cutting the absolute price level of electricity for those least able to afford it today, not to mention those who won't be able to afford it tomorrow. EDF got continuous opposition on this score in California and other places, but it is a subject Roe does not acknowledge other than as an ephemeral annoyance. But the success



An advocate's personal account of the struggle to force a new idea, and a new future, on the nation's power companies.

Dynamos and Virgins

of the greenie per se in other utility rate cases is really not, and should not be, the issue.

The real success story that Roe, et al, should take part of the credit for is the growing acceptability of the idea that, in economic terms, whether the issue is water, pesticides or electricity, less is more. A measure of that success is the willingness of American industry to buy into the notion.

Item. The Department of Energy recently released a future energy plan for the country calling for 438 new large power plants by the end of the century in order to avoid power shortages. In response, in an op ed column in the *Wall Street Journal* in September, who should come screaming out of the woodwork but the executive director of an organization of industrial power consumers, including the likes of GM and duPont. The DOE forecast, he says, is absurd. DOE has underestimated conservation. It's overestimated growth. It's failed to take new cogeneration into account.

With that kind of advocacy in the *Wall Street Journal*, EDF doesn't have to worry if no one ever looks at its greenie again. Everyone, however, should look at *Dynamos and Virgins*. Roe has done Henry Adams proud.

Jeff Pearson is a Denver attorney. His book, *No Time But Place*, is widely available at remainder houses throughout New Guinea and Greenland.

LETTERS

NORTH DAKOTA'S EXCESS POWER

Dear HCN,

Your November 26, 1984 issue contained information on surplus electrical generation throughout the West. Basin Electric Cooperative generates most of its power in North Dakota but supplies power to rural electric cooperatives in eight Western States. It continues to out-generate the market. Peak consumption of Basin Electric power was 900MW in 1983, down from a 1982 peak of 1000MW. Currently, Basin Electric is capable of generating 1800 MW and two coal burners are under construc-

tion to generate 800 MW more. Yet they still seek permits to build a third coal-fired plant!

The air quality permit required to build Antelope Valley Station III will soon be extended. Many North Dakota citizens argue that this "permit to pollute" could be best used elsewhere. Instead of allowing Basin Electric to indefinitely hold the increment on a project that makes no economic sense, residents want the state health department to release the permit to a more viable project.

Most sincerely,
Fred Unmack
Sentinel Butte, ND

BULLETIN BOARD

WINTER ECOLOGY COURSES

Winter ecology will be explored in both a two-week intensive scientific course and a weekend general interest course at the Teton Science School in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park. Dr. Jim Halfpenny, one of the first U.S. biological researchers in the field of winter ecology, and Roy Ozanne, M.D., an animal physiologist, will teach the courses. Topics will include winter natural history, the physics and ecological importance of snow, and animal and plant adaptations to winter stresses. The dates are December 29-January 13 for the more intensive course and January 18-20 for the weekend course. Write or call the Teton Science School, Box 68n, Kelly, WY 83011 (307/733-4765).

SOLAR RETROFIT PROGRAM

Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs is taking applications for an intensive one-year technical training course in solar energy systems. The accredited program includes classroom training in design and energy efficiency, laboratory workshops for practicing construction skills, and the opportunity for actual installations in the community. Emphasis is on adapting solar technology to existing buildings; systems examined include solar sunspaces/greenhouses, water heaters and air heaters. The next program will begin in mid-January. Contact the Solar Retrofit Staff, Colorado Mountain College, Spring Valley Campus, 3000 County Road 114, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 (303/945-7481, ext. 208).

OVERTHRUST BELT ACTIVITY

The Forest Service has completed an Environmental Assessment for a proposed oil and gas exploration well in western Wyoming's Lincoln County. Access to the wellsite, 25 miles northeast of Cokeville in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, would involve the construction of 1.25 miles of new road. Getty Oil Company hopes to start drilling this summer. See the EA at the Forest Service's Kemmerer District Ranger Office or the BLM's Division of Mineral Resources Office in Rock Springs, Wyoming.



WILD PLUM

WILD EDIBLES

Kim Williams' *Eating Wild Plants* is a practical and enjoyable guide to the wide spectrum of edible plants. Herbs, roots, fruits and berries are reviewed, and there are briefer sections on mushrooms, herb teas, and poisonous plants. Line drawings and identifying features and habitats of each plant are accompanied by tips on which part of the plant are edible, methods of preparation and a few suggested recipes, including Jerusalem artichoke coffee and thimbleberry fruit leather. The book's range includes such favorites as wild asparagus and raspberries, the more obscure cattails and elk thistles, and hardship foods such as the sego lily. Williams, author of the *Kim Williams' Cookbook and Commentary* and a regular contributor to National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, adds her commentary to this book as well, in the form of anecdotes and historical perspectives.

Mountain Press Publishing Company, P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806, 140 pages, illustrated. \$9.95, paper.

GRIZ '85

"Griz '85" is a symposium on the grizzly bear planned for May 3-5 in Casper, Wyoming. The meeting will focus on grizzly management programs, techniques, problems and species status. For more information, contact W.R. Merschat, Griz '85, 732 South Grant Ave., Casper, WY 82601 (307/265-6942 after 5 p.m.).

NEW COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY

There is a new group called the Colorado Environmental Lobby, and its Denver statehouse lobbyist is Toni Worcester, former president of the state League of Women Voters. The Environmental Lobby was created by the Denver Audubon Society, Colorado Mountain Club, Political Action for Conservation, Trout Unlimited, Colorado Wildlife Federation and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club. Newly elected officers are Denverites Kent Hanson, president, Gerry Rhoudes, secretary, and Marilyn Stokes, treasurer. Other board members are Susan Brater of Glenwood Springs, Charles Olmstead of Greeley, Polly Plaza and Steve Lundy of Denver, Walter Jessel of Boulder and Dickey Lee Hurlinghorst and Ron Stewart of Longmont. For more information on the non-profit, non-partisan group, call Kent Hanson, 303/294-0200.

HEAR ZWINGER, FRADKIN, OTHERS

The Utah Wilderness Association joins with the Utah Museum of Natural History this winter to sponsor a series of lectures on the Colorado Plateau. Speakers include Ann Zwinger, author of *Wind in the Rock*, on January 7; Sally Cole, who will talk about rock art, on February 25; and Philip Fradkin, author of *A River No More*, on March 18. For details about the lecture series write UWA, 325 Judge Bldg., Salt Lake City, UT 84111 or call 801/359-1337.

OIL AND WATER DON'T MIX

A series of articles exploring groundwater contamination by the oil and gas extraction industry says the industry produces more liquid wastes and disposes of those wastes in more surface ponds than any other industry in the nation. The contamination occurs when wastes seep into groundwater from small unlined pits adjacent to oil and gas wells or seep from large evaporation ponds -- many of which are also unlined -- at refining and upgrading plants. The articles are in the October-December issue of *Workbook*, a publication of the Southwest Research and Information Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Though New Mexico is emphasized in these case histories and explanations of how groundwater moves and contamination occurs, much of the information is relevant nationwide.

NEW MEXICO PARK GUIDE

New Mexico's state parks -- or the 44 of them existing as of early 1984 -- are described in a new guidebook authored and photographed by John V. Young of Los Alamos. The entry for each park includes a general description, as well as items of interest in the fields of both natural and human history. The history of government administration of the parks is not slighted. Favorite photographic subjects include park signs and dams.

The University of New Mexico Press, UNM, Albuquerque, NM 87131. Paper: \$9.95. 160 pages.

UTAH TAX CREDIT TIP

The Utah Energy Office says that the state's energy system tax credit expires at the end of June, 1985, not at the end of this year as some businesses are advising buyers of solar energy systems. Utah currently offers a ten percent income tax credit on solar, hydro, and wind energy systems installed on residential and commercial property, and over 2500 Utah residents have taken advantage of the state tax credit since 1980. The federal version of the law allows up to 40 percent in income tax credit for renewable energy systems and up to 15 percent for energy conservation measures. Federal energy conservation and renewable energy tax credits are not scheduled to expire until December, 1985. Legislation will be submitted in early 1985 at both the state and federal levels to continue and expand the tax credit. Any questions? Call the energy hotline at 800/662-3633.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers help ease the budget crunch in the Bureau of Land Management. The Colorado BLM reports that over 200 men and women of all ages contributed 19,037 hours of work during Fiscal Year 1984. From improving habitat for fish and wildlife to computer programming, their work at an estimated value of \$158,352 cost the government \$28,010 in volunteer stipends. Interested groups can assume responsibility for an "adopt-a-trail" or "adopt-a-stream" project. To learn more about the volunteer program, contact James Dunn, CSO Volunteer Program Coordinator, 2020 Arapahoe, Denver, CO 80205 (303/294-7529).

FOREST SERVICE SUMMER JOBS

January 15 is the application mailing deadline for temporary Forest Service jobs for the 1985 summer season. Positions available in the intermountain area include aides in forestry, range, engineering, and related sciences, and wages range from \$4.86 to \$6.66 per hour. The hiring system limits you to one application only -- to be mailed to the Regional Office in charge of your chosen National Forest or to your chosen Research Station. Application forms are available at all Forest Service offices.

BIRTH DEFECT PREVENTION NEWS

The National Network to Prevent Birth Defects, a Washington, D.C.-based group whose primary approach is legislative lobbying, now has its own publication. The first edition of the Birth Defect Prevention News rolled off the presses in November, and contains news on toxics and birth defects, prenatal care, government testing (or non-testing) of chemical effects on human health, and a copy of the National Birth Defect Prevention Policy Act which the group hopes to have introduced in the next session of Congress. The publication comes with a membership in the group. Dues are \$5 per year for individuals, state or local groups and \$15 for national groups. Contact the National Network to Prevent Birth Defects, Box 15309, Southeast Station, Washington, D.C. 20003 (202/543-5450).

THREATS TO GREATER YELLOWSTONE

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition has published an inventory of the major environmental threats facing the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. The group hopes this easy-to-read document will improve decision-making and policies affecting the area by making agencies, elected officials and the public aware of the number and nature of threats involved. The inventory catalogs 88 separate threats and provides a brief rundown on each. Several aspects are described, ranging from project description and agency involvement to project status and pertinent laws involved. Copies of the inventory are available from the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, 40 East Main, Bozeman, MT 59715 (406/586-1593).

IDAHO'S MT. NAOMI

There is still a chance to comment on the fate of the Mt. Naomi roadless area in Idaho's Caribou National Forest. The recent Utah Wilderness Act set aside Utah's portion of the Mt. Naomi roadless area as wilderness in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but did not protect the contiguous wild area in Idaho's Caribou National Forest. Caribou Forest Supervisor Paul Nordwall recently announced that because Idaho does not have a wilderness bill at this point, the forest will make recommendations to Congress through its planning process for the 28,800 acre border area. The Caribou will accept public input on Mt. Naomi until February 18, 1985. For more information, contact Larry Call at 208/236-6744. Written comments should be sent to the Caribou National Forest, Federal Building, Suite 282, 250 S. 4th, Pocatello, ID 83201.

AVALANCHE FORECASTS

The Bridger-Teton National Forest operates a phone service for backcountry avalanche forecasts and weather reports in and around the northwestern Wyoming forest. The information is available 24 hours a day at 307/733-2664.

OIL SHALE EIS

The BLM has released its final Environmental Impact Statement for Mobil and Pacific Shale Oil projects on Colorado's Western Slope. Both companies propose to develop 100,000 barrel per day operations at the southern edge of the Piceance Basin in Garfield County. The projects would involve underground mining, onsite surface retorting and upgrading, surface disposal of processed shale, and delivery of shale oil to a regional pipeline system. Mobil's site lies north of Parachute, and Pacific Shale, a joint venture of Sohio Shale Oil Company, Superior Oil Company, and Cliffs Oil Shale Corporation, plans to develop an area 10 miles northwest of Debeque. Public comments will be accepted through January 7, 1985, and should be mailed to BLM, 764 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

JACKSON LAKE DAM EIS

The National Park Service and Bureau of Reclamation have issued the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed Jackson Lake Safety of Dams Project. Located in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, Jackson Lake is one of the reservoirs in the Bureau of Reclamation's Minidoka Project which serves over one million acres of irrigated land in southern Idaho. Reclamation studies have shown that Jackson Lake Dam could fail during a moderate to severe earthquake in the vicinity. The EIS considers rebuilding the existing dam and maintaining its full capacity at 6769 feet, reducing the amount of dam construction and operating at lower capacity, constructing a new dam downstream, or continuing operation at a restricted level with no construction. Impacts of construction include restricted visitor access to some popular areas and temporary displacement of wildlife from the construction site and borrow areas. Anyone interested in reviewing the EIS may obtain a copy from a public library in the project area or from the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, NPS, Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225.

BLM FINAL PLAN FOR SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO

The BLM has released for public review the final Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the San Juan-San Miguel Planning Area, a 994,000-acre section of public land in southwestern Colorado. The plan recommends the 28,539 acre Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area for wilderness designation, but returns seven other areas under consideration to varying degrees of multiple use management. The statement also calls for wild horses to be removed from the Naturita Ridge and Spring Creek Basin herd areas to prevent harmful impacts on vegetation, grazing, and Environmental Concern. Protests -- and there are some already on the issues of only one wilderness designation and wild horse removal -- must be sent to the Director, Bureau of Land Management, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, before January 14, 1985. Questions should be directed to David J. Miller, Area Manager, or Bruce E. Flinn, RMP Team Leader, San Juan Resource Area, 701 Camino del Rio, Federal Bldg., Room 102, Durango, CO 81301 (303/247-4082).

AN ECOSYSTEM GUIDE

From Grassland to Glacier, The Natural History of Colorado is a guide to all the major Colorado ecosystems and the relationships between them. The authors, Cornelia Fleischer Mutel and John Emerick, have included an introduction to the concept of ecosystems and their distribution in the state, descriptions of each ecosystem with their animal and plant species, a key to common trees of the state, and a few self-guided auto tours.

Johnson Publishing Company, 1880 South 57th Court, Boulder, CO 80301. Paper: \$9.95. Illustrated with photos, drawings and maps.

Happy Holidays and thanks to all HCN Research Fund contributors

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Kent Stanton



ACCESS

NEAT STUFF

SING TO ME THE DREAM is a live recording of this year's national tour that collaborated the vocal talents of the charismatic feminist leader Holly Near with sounds of the New Chilean Song Movement from the exiled Chilean group Inti-Illimani. Inti-Illimani uses more than 16 wind, string and percussion instruments to combine Latin America's traditional folk music with jazz, folk and contemporary music. Look for the album at your nearest music store or send \$9.33 to Redwood Records, 476 West MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94609.

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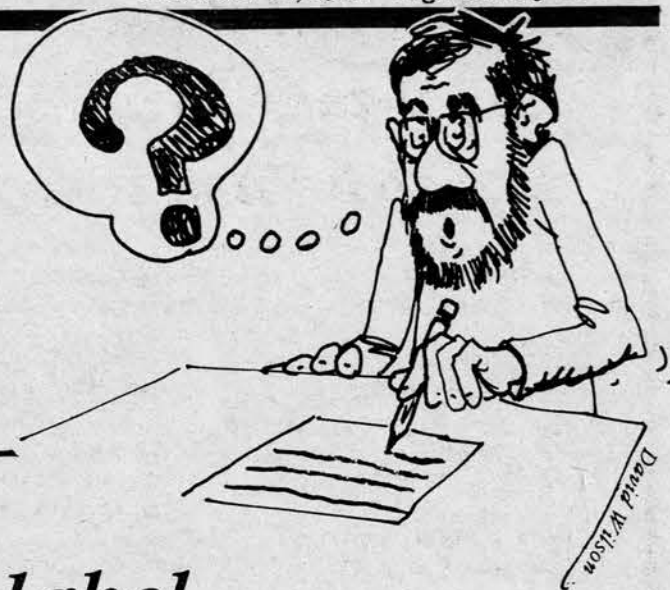
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WHAT DO ENVIRONMENTALISTS REALLY WANT?



To do away with an unhelpful label

by Lynn Dickey

What do environmentalists really want? Well, what this one wants is to live in a time when no one feels the need to use the word "environmentalist."

I don't know how the term was first coined, but it must have been when enough people noticed that a group of folks was trying to get us to pay attention to the effect mankind's industrialization was having on our environment. The word cannot be found in the Webster's Collegiate Dictionary I was given for High School graduation in 1967, but it appears in the most recent edition of that dictionary.

I guess the creation of the word, or some other like it, was inevitable. We have a compulsion to do battle with any attitude that questions the way we're approaching things, and to give names to the "us" and the "them" any time a battle is perceived. But however inevitable the word was, I don't believe it was ever helpful and now it is virtually meaningless.

Concern about the effects of our actions on the life-sustaining environment around us is critical if life is going to survive. Most everyone knows that by now and those who might not know it feel compelled to say they do. "Environmentalists" had something to do with this awareness, but basically we were told by the environment itself.

Dead and dying lakes, air that's

dangerous to breath and land that can no longer grow anything, all because of human activity, eventually made an impression on us. But once that awareness was achieved, the real battles have been and will continue to be about economic issues. If taking care of the environment were as cheap as ignoring it, then no environmental battle I can think of would have happened. Those battles have all been about balancing economic and environmental concerns.

Questions raised are: "What will the environmental consequences of this action really be? Can the consequences be mitigated enough to be acceptable? Are the costs of that mitigation too great?" They are questions we must learn and are still learning to answer.

But to place some participants in a camp called "environmentalists" and the rest in some other camp is no longer helpful -- if it ever was. Labeling and targeting scapegoats obscures the issue, particularly when that issue is energy development in the West.

My first encounter with the term environmentalist came in 1974 when I went to work for a group of ranchers in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming. The ranchers were worried about the effect proposed rapid development of coal would have on their way of making a living. Their concerns were much more related to economics and lifestyle than they were to the environment.

Yet the press and those who considered themselves our political enemies insisted on referring to us as environmentalists. At that point the term had somehow come to mean people who didn't want sheep ranchers to kill coyotes, or people who were opposed to capitalism.

I don't want to try to explain how either of those definitions had been arrived at, but they had, and to this day you will find some people who hold to them. In any case, the term had already become a negative epithet and was simply no help in opening up a dialogue or causing people to understand our concerns.

Since then the term has gone through a remarkable evolution: For now you will hear aspiring, current and ex-public officials in this state (who did fierce battle with all people they considered environmentalists when I worked for Powder River) referring to themselves as environmentalists. That switch indicates that we are dealing with a word we would have done ourselves a favor never to have invented.

The trouble with creating terms like "environmentalist" to categorize a group of people working for change, is that it allows those in power to ignore what those people are trying to say. The movement toward considering environmental concerns in this region, and in this country, has been evident over the past ten years. But I feel confident that movement would have been greater and much less

painful if people could have gradually begun grappling with the issues instead of finding a way to categorize those who were raising them.

There are those who argue convincingly that we are not moving fast enough to avoid destroying the systems that support life on our planet. Jacques Cousteau has been warning us for years that we're destroying the oceans, and that to call a halt will require world-wide cooperation. I don't see much sign of it yet.

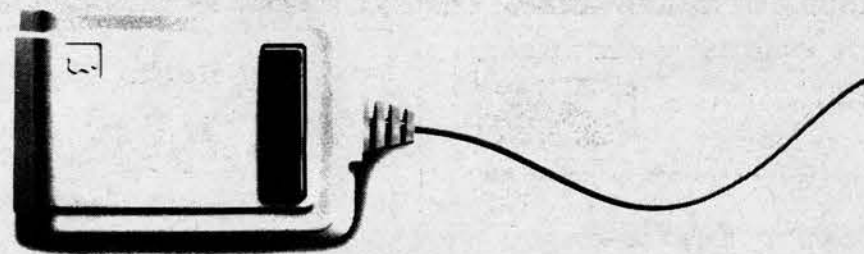
In this country we can't seem to find a politically acceptable way of dealing with acid rain, which becomes a worse problem every year. The United States and Soviet Union seem to be moving further away from serious talk of solutions to nuclear arms proliferation, which is, of course, the ultimate environmental threat. The people President Reagan chose in his first term to administer environmental agencies have made constructive dialogue on environmental issues much more difficult.

We really must stop categorizing each other and start talking to each other if we wish to leave our grandchildren a situation where they have a decent chance to undo the environmental time-bombs we've left ticking.

□

Lynn Dickey, who was recently reelected to the Wyoming state legislature, has been involved in environmental issues for a decade.

The mouse that roared.



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OFF THE WALL

David Stockman didn't laugh

Those who missed Off the Wall, and those who haven't, can blame or credit the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It is that agency which caused OTW to vanish.

The trouble started, although we weren't aware of it, in the late 1970s, when Norman Cousins published his *Anatomy of an Illness as Perceived by a Patient*. Cousins had caught a usually fatal disease from a Russian diesel bus garage, and was given up for dead by his doctors. So he did a logical thing: he checked into a hotel and began watching old *Candid Camera* shows. Within a fairly short time, he was cured.

Being a writer, Cousins naturally (we hold him no ill will) wrote a book about laughter as medicine. So well received was the book, that he parlayed it into healthy royalties and a teaching position at a medical school.

The fuss naturally drew the attention of the folks at the Food and Drug Administration. They read the book as best they could, it being written in plain English, and then hired a team of consultants to translate it into federalese. From that they extracted the idea that: Laughter is potentially a powerful medicine.

Given its Congressional mandate, FDA had no choice but to begin rule-making. They couldn't have a powerful medicine running around totally unregulated. But even bureaucrats can't function in a vacuum. They needed a test case.

Sitcoms were out. They didn't want to tangle with the networks. Instead, they chose OTW in *High Country News*.

They chose HCN because they saw it as manageable. With only 12,000 readers, epidemiological data would be easy to gather. The every-other-week rhythm of the paper would make it easy to monitor the ebb and flow of

readers' health. Did vital signs decline in off weeks? Were there more colds and flu cases when the paper took off and skipped an issue in January and August?

More positively, was OTW life-enhancing? Were there more procreations in on-weeks? Did hair grow back on bald readers? Did blood pressure rise and fall with a fortnightly rhythm? Perhaps most important, did OTW make readers immortal?

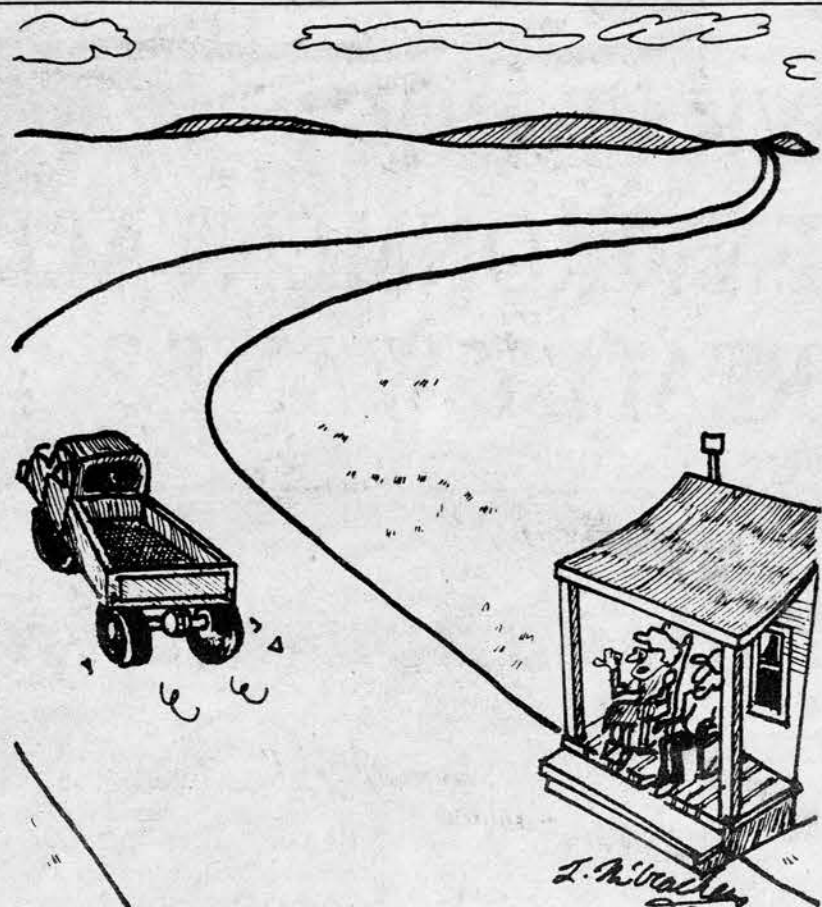
Those were big questions the agency was posing. But as one bureaucrat explained, "The War on Cancer is leaking like a sieve. We need a big one. And we think laughter may be it."

HCN, of course, was flattered by the attention. But it was troubled by the diversion from its true mission. The paper isn't in business to prolong its readers' lives through laughter. It is in the business of saving the birds and the fishes. According to its tax-exempt status, any human life enhancement has got to take place indirectly, through the creation of cleaner air or prevention of nuclear catastrophes.

So it was running the risk of being afoul of the IRS, even as it became the darling of the FDA. Moreover, the Colorado Medical Association, ever alert to the economic warp and woof of its profession, had put the entire HCN staff under the interdict: no medical care until we stopped laughter healing. As one doctor put it, "Let them heal their broken bones with giggles, or extract an appendix with guffaws."

So the thing had taken on a life of its own, and threatened to engulf a once proud and serious newspaper. But luckily, the burgeoning money requests for the project from the FDA caught David Stockman's eye over at the Office of Management and

Theresa McCracken



"THERE GOES THE RUSH HOUR."

Budget. Stockman, intrigued, read back issues of HCN and made his ruling: "Absolutely unfunny. No basis for rulemaking."

So FDA was forced to back off and we're free for the moment to once

again publish an occasional Off the Wall.

Meanwhile, our condolences to Garry Trudeau.

--Ed Marston

BARBED WIRE

Satisfaction.

After the town council of Pinedale, Wyoming defeated an ordinance banning guns in saloons, the *Casper Star Tribune* asked Casper bartenders if they needed a no-gun law. Most weren't keen on a legal prohibition like the one that aroused national attention in Pinedale, but barkeeps were dead set against mixing firearms and alcohol. Wonder Bar owner Guy Cooper, who called that combination "just plain stupid" also revealed himself to be a feisty feminist. "They

should outlaw guys who carry guns and let the girls carry them. If a guy attacks a woman he deserves to get shot and she should have the satisfaction of doing it."

Have they considered slaves?

In an attempt to reduce the cost of timbering, the U.S. Forest Service is considering the use of convict labor to reforest cut-over land. The suggestion is one of several cost-cutting steps the agency is considering, according to the *Casper Star-Tribune*.

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