

High Country News

July 22, 1985

Vol. 17 No. 14

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar



Bucket brigade "empties" New Mexico's Cochiti Reservoir to protest high water levels in the reservoir



Bailing out a National Monument in New Mexico

✓ See page 10

A bitter hearing on development in southern Utah

✓ See page 12

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Speaker's death ends a forest road hearing

Retired biologist Bob Jackson rose last week at a meeting in Pinedale, Wyoming, to speak against a plan that would allow Louisiana-Pacific to improve a road in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, giving it easy access to controversial timber sales in the Upper Green River area. In mid-sentence, Jackson collapsed and died.

The failure of Jackson's heart, besides providing a rather painful metaphor for this emotionally charged issue, abruptly ended the Pinedale meeting, which was dominated by acrimonious opposition to the planned improvement of the Union Pass Road between Dubois and Pinedale. The Forest Service decided to continue the meeting July 12, but they slated the second session for Dubois, where a very different crowd is likely to assemble.

L-P's 60 employees at its mill in Dubois make it the town's largest employer, and L-P Forester Bob Baker has repeatedly warned locals that if Bridger-Teton didn't provide more board-feet, the big timber corporation might pull out. John Perry Barlow, a Cora rancher, hopes to find a few Dubois allies in his fight against the Union Pass Road, but he'll be hard-pressed to find many beyond the 24 members of the Dubois Wildlife Association.

Bridger-Teton supervisor Reid Jackson's handling of the road, which

cuts through beautiful alpine terrain in the northern Wind River Mountains, has been unusual enough to rouse suspicions among his critics. Wagon roads have marked the pass since the 1890s, and the Forest Service has had its eye on building a better scenic and timber route since 1977. In an environmental assessment published last February, the Forest Service decided to go ahead with an upgrade. Pinedale residents, who object to large timber sales in the Upper Green River, protested loudly, and the Wyoming congressional delegation questioned the decision. Within months, Reid Jackson announced that there would be no money for an upgrade this year, effectively defusing the controversy.

Then L-P offered to spend \$18,000 to fix the worst stretch of road, 3.8 miles too steep and muddy for timber trucks. If L-P's trucks could come through Union Pass, instead of going around the mountains, it would cut 100 miles of hauling costs and enable the Dubois mill to bid for upper Green River timber sales. Those sales, and some even further west, used to go to a timber mill in Afton, Wyoming, in the Star Valley, which is now shut down.

Angry outbursts by Lila Eastman, who lives on the Dubois side of Union Pass, and other opponents of the L-P proposal, set the hostile tone of the Pinedale meeting. The Forest Service

is calling L-P's \$18,000 investment a "minor upgrade," but Stewart Thompson, an Upper Green resident, charged Jackson with making "the beginning of a major change in the pattern of transportation," which would open the former jeep trail to heavy equipment and even "UPS trucks."

Reid Jackson insists the decision to upgrade the road is final -- the only question is whether L-P will be allowed to do it this year, or if it will have to wait for Forest Service funds. That decision, he said, will be made by the regional forester in Ogden, Utah. A formal appeal has been filed by the Wyoming Outdoor Council and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

Jackson said the comments at the Pinedale hearing will be forwarded to the regional forester. But the decision to hold a second meeting in Dubois, where, presumably, mill supporters will dominate, may mean the pro and con comments will cancel each other. Bob Jackson, who felt the timber sales in the Upper Green would irreparably damage habitat and wildlife, will not be there to finish his impassioned remarks.

--Geoff O'Gara



High Country News

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Dear friends,

We almost lost a staffer to summer camp, odd as that may sound. Betsy Marston went off to the Audubon Ecology Camp of the West near Dubois, Wyoming, and turned a five-day visit into 12 days. Her report follows:

First I was curious, then I became involved. Life in Torrey Valley was rich with nest building song birds, bighorn sheep, weasels devouring ground squirrels, and an occasional moose. Senses became alert: you never knew when you were going to see something wonderful. There were 58 campers from mostly urban areas all over the country, and we woke up to the ringing of a bell, sang around a camp fire, raced canoes and shared bathhouses. There the resemblance to real camp ends. Almost half the group were public school teachers, some of talented and gifted classes, and they took the Audubon mini-courses for credit.

Courses were varied, including pond ecology, Project Wild, local petroglyphs and the geology of the

badlands, and all used 7,000-foot Torrey Valley as an outdoor classroom. An exception was the two days it rained and then snowed. The research-oriented staff was typified by John Kelly, who works at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory in California. "I like talking about those things that don't have answers," he said, in discussing contradictory research about gene flow in birds.

The heart of the camp was its 29-year-old director Peg Abbott, a bird biologist who will start a Master's degree program this fall at Northern Arizona University. Torrey Valley was in her blood, and for the past four winters she served as caretaker of the remote camp 12 miles from a paved road. "I could sit on the front porch and watch bighorn rams butt heads." A master bird bander, she showed campers fledglings at some of the 60 nesting boxes she'd set up in the valley.

Like the animal-plant communities in Torrey Valley that continue to adapt to a semi-arid environment, Abbott

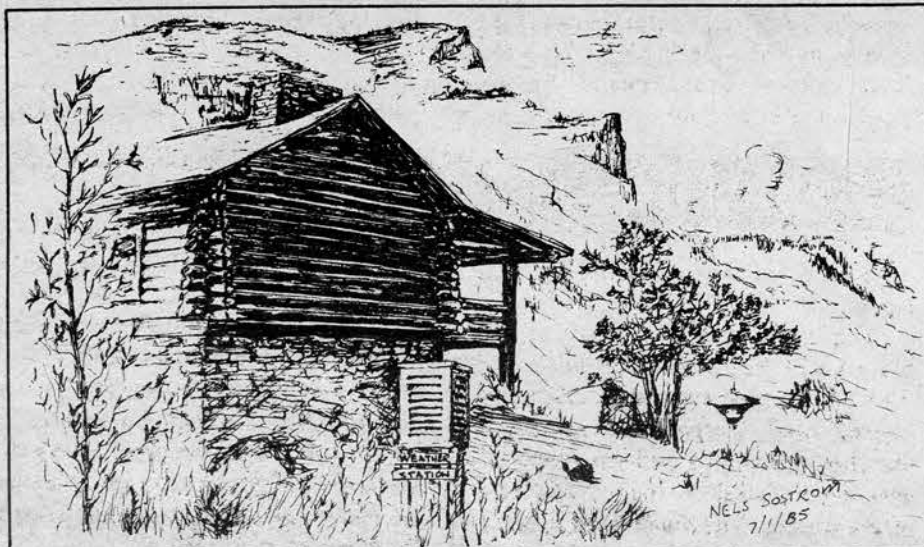


Peg Abbott

said the camp had evolved from her first summer there six years ago. The atmosphere is more relaxed, she said, as almost all classes are now held outdoors and on the move. What has stayed constant is a research orientation. "It keeps a fine staff coming back. They learn from each other."

Another constant is the wide age range of campers, spanning the twenties to the mid-sixties at my session. Because of the camp, "I've lost my fear of aging," Abbott said. "We had an 83-year-old try rock climbing." Many campers are also accomplished birders, she added, a phenomenon I could attest to. At 6 a.m. bird walks, they'd know a western tanager was singing -- and where -- before I'd untangled my binoculars. But few, I learned, thought of themselves as "environmentalists." What they wanted from this first of three sessions was a greater understanding of the West by becoming immersed in part of it. What they learned from the staff and in particular from Peg Abbott, who talked one evening about the grizzly in Yellowstone, is that ecological systems in the West are delicate and easily disturbed by human "management." Peg Abbott and the Audubon staffers made the issues come alive.

--the staff



Weather station at Audubon's Ecology Camp by camper Nels Sostrom

300 tree-huggers gather in an aspen forest

Earth First!, the radical environmental group, held its annual Round River Rendezvous in a remote aspen meadow on Colorado's Uncompahgre Plateau during the first week of July.

More than 300 tree-hugging avowed environmentalists gathered for a week of campfires, music, workshops, poetry and talks about where action should be directed next. It was Earth First! activists who recently drew national attention in Oregon's Cathedral Forest by hoisting themselves 60 feet into the air on platforms and camping out in threatened Douglas fir trees until arrested.

Founded five years ago on the principles of anarchy, no-compromise, humor and non-violent direct action, Earth First! now has some 3,000 members around the country. Its activists have blocked bulldozers, donned animal costumes to protest forest management plans, and held noisy demonstrations at Burger King outlets across the nation to bring media attention to the destruction of tropical rain forests. In the group's most famous caper, members unfurled a simulated plastic crack down the concrete face of Glen Canyon Dam.

"Earth First! is different from other environmental groups," said Dave Foreman, editor of the *Earth First!* journal and author of *Eco-defense: A Field Guide to Monkey-wrenching*. "It's not an organization, it's a movement. We're visionary. Instead of looking at what land should be kept roadless, we look at what should be made roadless. Instead of being satisfied with 30 million acres of wilderness, we want 200 million acres."

The gathering made some of the local Montrose County folks nervous, and graders and bulldozers near the Uncompahgre Forest site were closely watched. Helicopters and spotter planes prowled the clear blue skies through the week. But the local vigilance proved unnecessary.

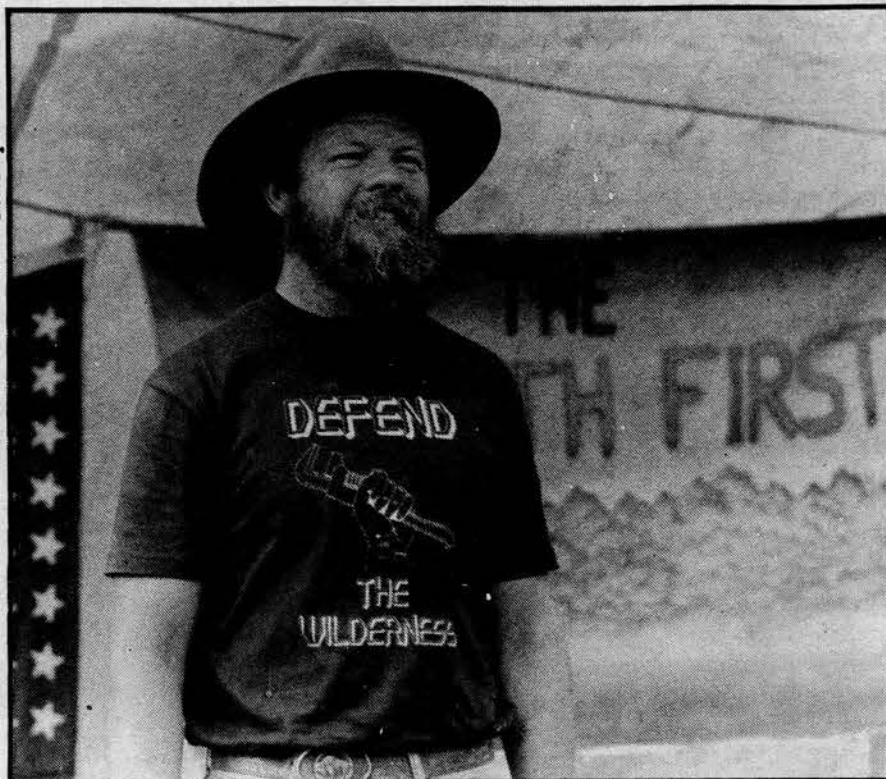
"Everything went pretty smooth," said Larry Roybal, Ouray District Ranger, who had granted the group a permit to hold its rally.

For six days activists attended a grab-bag of workshops on the destruction of tropical rainforests, grizzlies, acid rain, wilderness preserves, grazing, non-violent direct action and guerrilla theater. One of the best-attended gatherings centered on "deep ecology," a term first coined by Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess and the title of a new book by professors Bill Devall and George Sessions, who led the workshop along with Silverton author Dolores LaChapelle.

Deep ecology goes beyond reform environmentalism as practiced by the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, et al. Instead it proposes a world view in which all life is sacred, a paradigm shift where the snail darter is as valued as a human being and where a mountain is respected as having rights just as people do.

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gary Snyder was scheduled to be a featured speaker at the climactic Sagebrush Patriot Rally on July 6, but a missed plane prevented his coming. There were poets, troubadours and speakers aplenty for the enthusiastic crowd who lounged under aspens before an impromptu stage. Stephanie Mills,

Christopher McLeod



Dave Foreman at Round River Rendezvous

former editor of *Co-Evolution Quarterly*, praised the group for its humor and called for an army of lovers of the earth to turn around the environmental destruction threatening the planet. Wyoming Earth First! activist Howie Wolke gave a rousing indictment of the Forest Service and called for action to "stop the nature nazis."

Dick Wingerson and Don Bachman, both of the Montrose-based Western Colorado Congress, spoke of the Forest Service's aspen treatment program, noting its lack of back-up data and its rationalizations for supplying logs to local Louisiana-Pacific mills.

They were a diverse group. But they shared one thing in common: an overwhelming conviction that the earth is in danger of destruction, at least from our own prolific species, and that it's time to take immediate action to protect nature. Western Colorado's biggest newspaper, the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*, disagreed in an editorial July 9. Calling the group "eco-freaks," the *Sentinel* went on to lambast Dave Foreman for suggesting that Moab would be a better place "if you'd get rid of the brain-damaged uranium miners."

--Art Goodtimes

Three bears denied porridge

Three bears trying to order a trout dinner at the TW Services restaurant at Grant Village in Yellowstone National Park were arrested July 9.

The National Park Service said the three and six of their companions, all members of Earth First!, were fined \$50 each and charged with distributing information without a permit.

The guerrilla theater kicked off the radical environmental organization's new Yellowstone campaign, according to Michael Roselle of Jackson, Wyoming. He said the group objects to commercialism in national parks -- especially the overnight facilities at Fishing Bridge and Grant Village, which are considered critical grizzly bear habitat.

The Park Service said in 1981 before the Grant Village facilities were expanded that it hoped to remove camping facilities at Fishing Bridge by 1985 because of conflicts between humans and bears. But because of objections from the public, which led to a congressional demand for an environmental impact statement,

camping will continue there until 1986 or 1987, said Yellowstone Assistant Superintendent Ben Clary.

An article in the May Earth First! newsletter charges that the Park Service deliberately tried to arouse public opposition to the closure of the 661 Fishing Bridge sites by not building alternative campsites in the past four years. The article, called "Yellowstone Watergate," and written under the pseudonym Arthur Dogmeat, said the Park Service had made the issue too simplistic: "Parks for the people or parks for the bears."

Clary said the Park Service is now studying possible alternative sites after deciding only recently to replace sites within the park. The Park Service had considered using sites outside the park as replacements, but rejected the idea after concluding that the public wants to stay in the park. There would also be an adverse impact on outside camping areas, Clary said.

--Marjane Ambler

BARBS

It could be they understand all too well.

The three members of the Idaho State Land Board who approved the Priest Lake land swap with Diamond International Corporation complain that they are getting criticism over the decision because the public and the media do not understand what they're trying to do.

Plus, you can't ride my bike anymore.

Wyoming Sen. Malcolm Wallop told Sheridan radio station KWYO and the *Laramie Daily Boomerang* that if timber cutting in national forests is going to be judged on cost, other uses should be judged on cost. And if that happens, "We'll have to shut down the forest to every use."

HOTLINE

Nuclear waste challenge

Chem-Nuclear, Inc. seems determined to build a low-level nuclear waste dump in the southwestern and little-populated corner of South Dakota. On July 1, the company filed a legal challenge in the state's Supreme Court questioning the constitutionality of last year's successful citizen's initiative. By a wide margin South Dakotans approved the initiative, which requires a statewide vote before any radioactive waste site is approved. Chem-Nuclear opponents were not pleased earlier this month when state Attorney General Mark Meierhenry, who will confront Chem-Nuclear in court, was quoted as saying that the ballot question had been "poorly written."

New park proposed



The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument in Western Colorado would be the ideal center of a new national park, says Rep. Mike Strang, R-Co. In a surprise announcement, Strang proposed combining the Black Canyon, Curecanti Recreation Area and the Gunnison Gorge into a single park, including the designation of a 25-mile stretch of the Gunnison River as wild and scenic. Local chambers of commerce were supportive of the idea, saying it would boost tourism, but conservationists with Western Colorado Congress said the proposal had to be "substantive and not merely cosmetic." Jurisdiction of the last free-flowing stretch of the Gunnison River is now held by the Bureau of Land Management, which already supports wild and scenic designation. Strang said a citizens' committee would examine the proposal.

Grand Canyon boogeyman is revived

The Arizona Power Authority released a \$8,000 study in late June indicating that the "Hualapai Dam" proposal killed in the 1960s is still waiting in the wings. The Sierra Club successfully led the fight against the dam, which would have flooded the lower Grand Canyon's Bridge Canyon Rapids, and Congress finally voted a federal moratorium against the dam. The new study concludes that the \$800 million-plus project would be economically profitable for the Arizona Power Authority. The dam could bring in \$269 million a year through sales of electricity to customers in the Sunbelt.

HOTLINE

Grizzlies come back

Sen. John Chafee, R-R.I., took his Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on the road this month, and in Great Falls, Montana, heard that the grizzly in the Northern could be "recovered" in five to ten years. Glacier National Park now estimates it has 200 grizzly bears and the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department said there are from 387 to 549 grizzlies outside the park. The current recovery plan, which is under review this year (See Bulletin Board), estimated that 560 grizzlies were needed before the bear could be removed from threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. Chafee's subcommittee is considering reauthorization of the act.

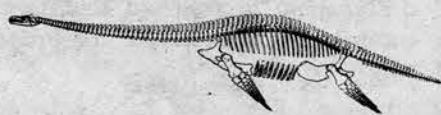
New Sierra Club head



Douglas Wheeler

Michael McCloskey has retired from his 16-year stint as executive director of the Sierra Club. The new director is Douglas Wheeler, a 43-year-old lawyer who founded and has been president of the American Farmland Trust since 1980. Wheeler served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks under presidents Nixon and Ford, and was executive vice president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation from 1977 to 1980. He's a native of New York and practiced law in North Carolina prior to his move to Washington, D.C. McCloskey is not out of the Sierra Club picture, however. He's taken over as chairman of the board.

Plesiosaur found



A rancher in Weston County, Wyoming, this June found the remains of an aquatic dinosaur that turned out to be 40 million years older than a similar reptile now in a museum at the South Dakota School of Mines. Rancher Floyd Stanton, who made the discovery on his ranch in the state's northeast corner, called the School of Mines after beginning to expose the bones with the help of a friend. The remains were identified as a long-necked plesiosaur which lived 110 million years ago. Its neck was 14 1/2 feet long and it had 52 vertebrae. When the excavation is completed, the plesiosaur will be taken to the museum in Rapid City for re-assembling and exhibition.

Montana lacks three things: rain, rain, rain

It's 100 degrees outside. George Rice, Jr., sits inside his truck... sweating. Overhead, a plane dusts his oat field for the second time this week with the pesticide Zygon 400. Grasshoppers have already devoured his 1200 acres of pasture, and he plans to sell his 140 head of cattle soon, for whatever price he can get.

Rice is a tall, big-boned man who has lived on the same ranch in Glendive near the Montana-North Dakota border since 1936. When he was eight, he remembers grasshoppers flying so thick you couldn't see the sun. He predicts that will happen again. This is the fourth year of dry weather on his farm, and he says it is the dry weather which brought the 'hoppers.'

In north-central Montana, in an area called the Golden Triangle because of the rich soil that grows winter wheat, the drought is not quite so severe. But even so, Lyle Pratt of the State Crop and Livestock Reporting Service says the wheat harvest forecast is the lowest in almost 30 years and pasture lands are only 46 percent of their normal condition. Some farmers have simply abandoned their crops. Others have let cattle graze on cropland instead of trying to squeeze out a grain harvest.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that the drought is much more severe here than in other Western states. Midwestern farmers forecast high production, which means low market prices. So Montana agricultural people face low prices and few bushels to sell.

The drought is also affecting rivers and streams, and the fishermen, floaters and guides who use them. Bob Singer normally would be busy taking tourists down the Missouri River on his 32-foot boat. But the Missouri is at the lowest levels in 37 years, and is too shallow for his big boat.

"It's a disaster for us," says Singer. "Farmers have disaster insurance, but we don't. Our liability insurance expense is just down the drain, or down the river, I guess."

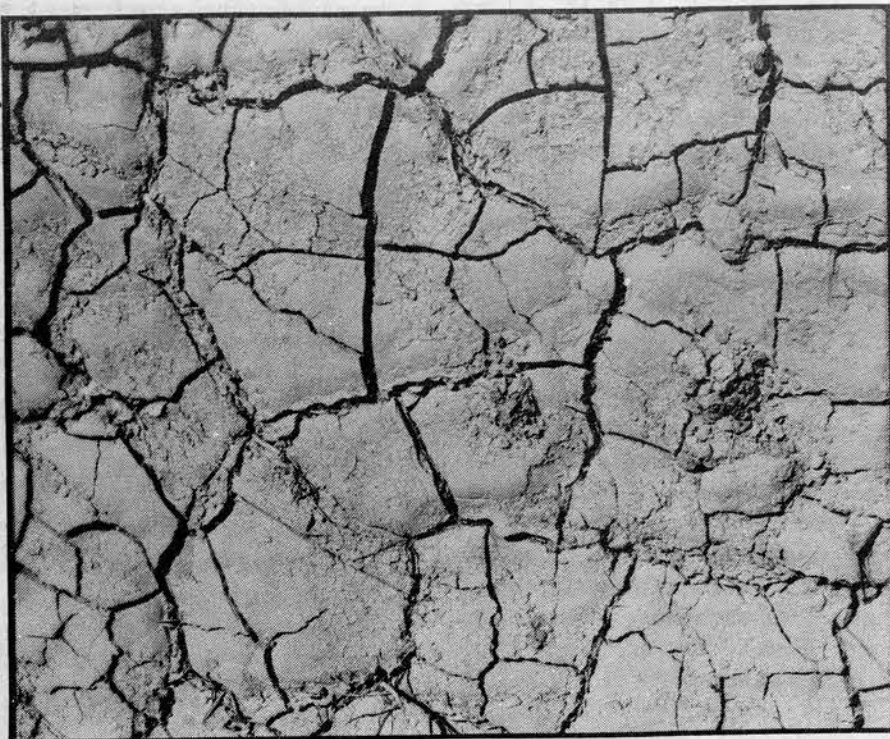
Singer, who operates out of Fort Benton, Montana, had to cancel \$15,000 worth of planned river trips this summer although he still rents canoes for river trips. Singer says he will hang on for one more year, but then doesn't know what will happen to his business.

About 200 miles south of Fort Benton, the Yellowstone River flows past Livingston. Once a big railroad center, it now serves tourists from Yellowstone National Park and people who fish the blue ribbon trout streams of southwestern Montana. However, rivers are so low that fishing activity is down, and the small businesses that serve these recreationists notice the downturn.

Just west of Livingston, three rivers join to form the headwaters of the Missouri. The Gallatin, Madison and Jefferson rivers provide some of the best fishing in the state. According to Al Elser, chief of the Fish Management Bureau at the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, all the rivers have extremely low flows this year.

As a result, there have been fish kills in some of the smaller tributary streams. Trout require cold water temperatures. When the streams and rivers become too low from dry weather and irrigation withdrawals,

Mary Moran



fish are stranded in small warm pools and some die.

Elser has another concern related to the drought. Whenever farmers spray their crops with pesticides, as they are now doing to fight grasshoppers, there's the chance that streams and rivers will be polluted. Any flow into the waterways is more serious this year because there is less water to dilute the poisons and carry them off.

Rain would help by swelling the rivers and by hurting the grasshoppers. Keith Kelly, who heads the state Department of Agriculture, says, "If only it would rain," future crops of grasshoppers would be cut drastically. "But Mother Nature dictates what you can do. The state can't make it rain."

Another approach to the problem comes from a University of Montana professor, who notes that the Japanese snack on grasshoppers that have been deep-fat fried and salted. But most ranchers and farmers aren't prepared to export grasshoppers as a delicacy. They are trying to find other ways to make ends meet.

Northwestern Montana is oil country. Thirty-one-year-old Jerry Sven looks up at an oil derrick that Croft Petroleum just put on his land. Sven is smiling because the company struck oil. Although he owns only a small portion of the mineral royalty, he will get free natural gas to heat his

home and shop from the oil and natural gas well. He will also get damage payments from loss of crops due to the roads to the well. But right now, Sven is facing worse losses from drought and grasshoppers. What will he do next? "Probably go to the bank and try and get one more loan."

The drought is not only affecting farmers and ranchers in the state, it has turned some national forests into tinderboxes. Already there have been hundreds of small, lightning-caused forest fires.

Thousands of acres had burned in the Sandpoint blaze in central Montana's Little Belt Mountains as of mid-July and the Gibbons Pass fire did similar damage in southwestern Montana's Bitterroot National Forest. Altogether, the Forest Service's Dick Guth estimated that 14,000 acres had been burned and \$4 to \$5 million spent fighting the blazes. Most of that has gone to smokejumpers, firefighters and equipment suppliers, who are working overtime and making money.

--Jill Hoyt

BARBED WIRE

Barb heaven.

An AP story in the June 13 *Great Falls Tribune* on grizzlies in Glacier National Park appears to have been written with our barb column in mind, as the following paragraphs show:

"George Ostrom of Kalispell suggested that Park officials would consider 'recovery' complete only 'when we start allowing them into the Many Glacier Hotel without a credit card.'"

"Don Hummel, retired operator of the park's concessions, said it isn't fair to the public to close areas because of grizzly bears, especially when tourists may have traveled hundreds of miles to visit a particular area."

"Ostrom suggested that when rangers must kill a bear, they should leave the carcass around 'to teach bears a lesson.'"

"Researcher Cliff Marinka agreed the idea might be worth a try, because

almost any experiment might show a way to better bear management."

A little sodden now, however.

Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson told the *Casper Star-Tribune* that nuclear power will be the "very crisp" option we come back to after finishing the debate on acid rain.

Translation: We don't know the costs, and aren't likely to anytime soon.

In a letter to Congress, Forest Service Chief Max Peterson explained why the agency was backing away from a plan to have receipts cover at least the costs of planning and administering timber sales: "It does not seem either prudent or efficient to adopt a revised minimum price policy without an agreed on accounting approach which would likely need to be changed before it could be put in place."

Oil firm drills near Utah prehistoric site

The closest oil well to a National Park Service site is now being drilled 580 feet from Hovenweep National Monument in southeastern Utah, close to Colorado. Transco Exploration Company began drilling in early July and expects to complete its 6,100-foot well by the end of the month or early August.

Thanks to intense negotiations between the Park Service, Transco and the state of Utah, the drilling proceeded with 17 stipulations to minimize impacts to the monument, which draws some 3,000 visitors in July. Hovenweep boasts Anasazi Indian ruins that were abandoned some 800 years ago.

So far, says Hovenweep Superintendent Robert Heyder, no one visiting the ruins has complained of flaring gas or the loud clanking of steel from the 100-foot rig that operates 24 hours a day. A campground for 31 visitors is a half-mile from the well.

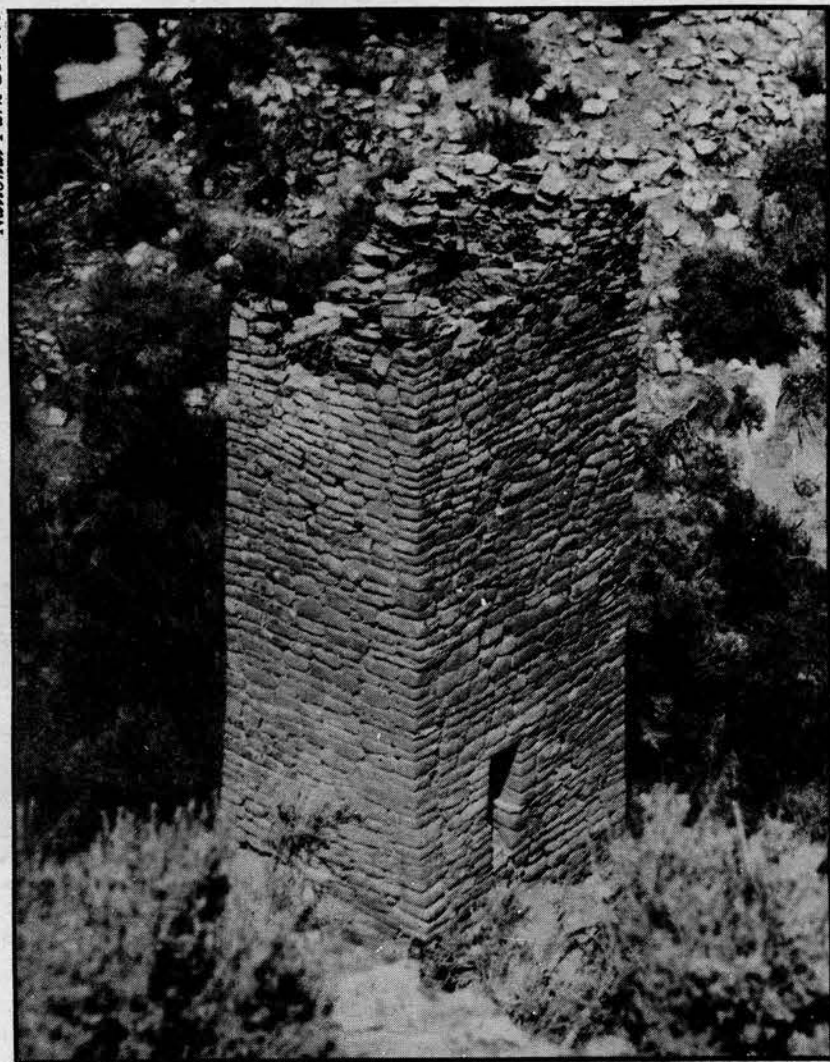
Heyder says he'd "rather not see drilling if I had my druthers," but adds that the Park Service got a "pretty fair deal" after bargaining with Transco, which is one of the largest independent oil companies in the country. The stipulations Transco agreed to included moving an access road farther away from Hovenweep's northern boundary, reducing gas flaring, protecting the monument's water supply and guaranteeing cleanup if the well spilled oil into Hovenweep.

It was chance, Heyder says, that the Park Service learned about the drilling at all. "We saw someone using seismic tape within our boundaries in the last week in April," he recalls. It turned out the Transco surveyor was using a 1962 USGS map that didn't reflect Hovenweep's latest boundaries.

"We started checking up then and kind of rocked the boat... If we hadn't found out, it would have been a fait accompli," Heyder says.

Transco needed to move fast to honor contractual obligations, says media representative Gretchen Weis, who is based in Houston. But the Park Service, joined by the National Parks and Conservation Association, urged delay until environmental and aesthetic impacts could be examined. Then the Utah Historic and Cultural Site Review Committee became

National Park Service



Square Tower Ruin, Hovenweep National Monument

involved, and the committee's concerns forced the state to extend its internal comment period, which was originally set for two weeks. Weis says she doesn't know why the Park Service wasn't informed about the drilling application. "That's a state responsibility," she points out.

On June 15, the Cultural Site Review Committee recommended unanimously that Transco find another location for its well -- one farther away from Hovenweep's Square Tower Ruin and campground. Speaking for Transco, former Utah Gov. Scott Matheson told Utah officials that the "rule of reason" should be heeded and the company allowed to drill where it thought best. On June 17, the state's Division of Oil, Gas and Mining approved Transco's application to drill in its preferred site, but with the 17 stipulations, nine of which were drafted by the Park Service.

Transco spokeswoman Weis says if oil is struck, the company has the right

to drill "as many wells as it takes" to extract oil from beneath state land. One issue not cleared up by the negotiations, however, is what happens if oil is found to extend beneath the monument.

Terri Martin of the National Parks and Conservation Association adds that what would have protected the monument from drilling nearby was the designation of a zone of "critical environmental concern" around the monument.

Colorado has already created such a zone around its portion of Hovenweep and the Bureau of Land Management has joined the effort in Colorado by denying drilling projects within a quarter of a mile of the monument. The Park Service is now working on a master plan for Hovenweep that would create the protective zone in both Utah and Colorado.

--Betsy Marston

Prescott stops a swap, but loses an office

PRESCOTT, Az. -- The people of Prescott have stopped the plan to turn the national forest in their area over to the Bureau of Land Management. It will not be part of the proposed 35-million-acre land swap between the Forest Service and BLM.

But there is no joy in Prescott. A citizens' group says a new plan proposed in May still would mean the loss of the Forest Service office in Prescott. And the Prescott National Forest would be eliminated, carved up and added to the Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto Forests.

"We're shocked," says Jeri Smith-Fornara, one of the leaders of Citizens for Protection of the Prescott Area. "After all our work, after all that was said at the public hearings, after we struggled to come up with an alternative that everyone could live with, we got nothing" (HCN, 4/1/85).

The citizens had even managed to get Gov. Bruce Babbitt on their side. He made a public statement opposing the land swap. But it didn't help with the issue of closing the Forest Service office, and Smith-Fornara says that is the crucial issue.

She says the loss of \$2.5 million annually in paychecks to workers at the Forest Service office will badly hurt the local economy. In addition, her group estimates a further loss of about \$2 million in annual purchases of goods and services.

The federal government has proposed exchanging a total of 35 million acres between the two federal agencies, in order to reduce duplication of services and to save money. But Smith-Fornara says the swap itself is going to cost money, and she refers to it as a "boondoggle."

Her group, which includes retired

executives, housewives and ranchers, last month proposed consolidation of Kaibab and Prescott National Forests, with headquarters for both to be in Prescott. But the new proposal, developed by regional officials after public hearings, leaves the Kaibab Forest Service office in Williams, which is 20 miles from another Forest Service office in Flagstaff.

The struggle has apparently become somewhat personal and bitter, especially where it pits the citizens' group against the Southwest regional director for the Forest Service, Milo Hassel. The group is now gearing up to raise a ruckus at the next public hearing, as it did at previous hearings on the originally proposed swap. But Smith-Fornara says members have concluded they will have to go to court to save the local office.

--Antoinette Martin

HOTLINE

Go East, asthmatic!

Colorado's high ranking in respiratory diseases -- third in the nation -- may be due to the Denver area's brown cloud, according to Michael Schonbrun, president of National Jewish Hospital. In the past, its high ranking was assumed due to people from the East moving to Denver for relief. But Schonbrun told the *Denver Post* that Easterners no longer move West in search of cures. The two top states in respiratory diseases, Nevada and New Mexico, are also in the West, and Albuquerque, New Mexico's largest city, also has a brown cloud. Denver Mayor Federico Pena has urged Gov. Richard Lamm to set up a metro-wide pollution planning agency. Pena's suggested control strategy includes limiting the use of existing wood stoves and fireplaces, prohibiting their sale or construction in new buildings, and banning the sale of light-duty diesel vehicles. At present, the area's control strategy emphasizes limiting auto travel.

A downhill resort

The Ski Yellowstone resort planned for west of Yellowstone National Park in Montana's Gallatin National Forest is still on track, according to a spokesman for the project's jailed developer, John P. Hall. The latter is serving four months in a Pennsylvania jail for taking \$2 million in securities from his father. Bozeman attorney Bob Planalp said Ski Yellowstone will submit financial information to the Forest Service before an August deadline. The project, 12 years in planning, faces a challenge under the Endangered Species Act due to its potential threat to grizzly habitat.

Silly beasts



Bison look placid, but it isn't wise to mess with them. A 62-year-old tourist from California was injured recently at Yellowstone National Park when a bison gored him in the leg. Earlier, the animal had been harassed by children. Another Californian, age nine, was hurt after her father urged her to pose near a bison for a photo. When she was some three feet away the bison shoved her with its head. Yellowstone Park makes a concerted effort to warn visitors about the unpredictability of wild animals in the park, but each summer encounters occur -- usually minor.

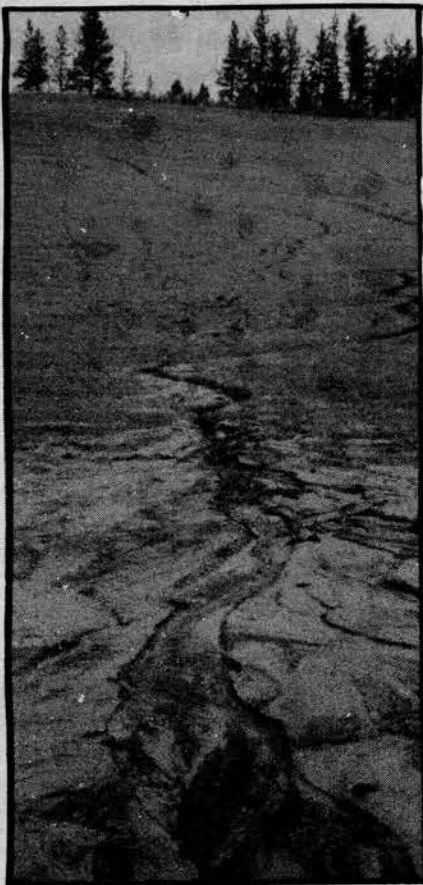
John P. George

HOTLINE

CUP runneth over

The sprawling, multi-billion-dollar Central Utah Project, which has been beset by long delays and large cost overruns, may be tested at the polls this fall. At issue is a \$335 million increase in costs the residents of 12 Utah counties, including Salt Lake, will be asked to bear through higher water rates. The increase comes in the Bonneville Unit of CUP, a trans-mountain diversion of water from the Uinta Mountain streams which feed the Colorado River to the Wasatch Front Communities above the Great Salt Lake basin. The CUP, an article of faith in Utah for decades, has recently been questioned by the Salt Lake County Commissioners. They want to know its ultimate cost and timing, whether CUP is treating different areas with fairness, and whether the CUP plan to hold the increase to \$335 million by using hydroelectric revenues to subsidize the Bonneville unit is legal. A public campaign is being waged against the project by the CUP Information Campaign and the Intermountain Water Alliance. A copy of their brochure is available from them at: Marmalade Hill Center, 168 W. 500 N., Salt Lake City, UT 81403 (801/485-6888).

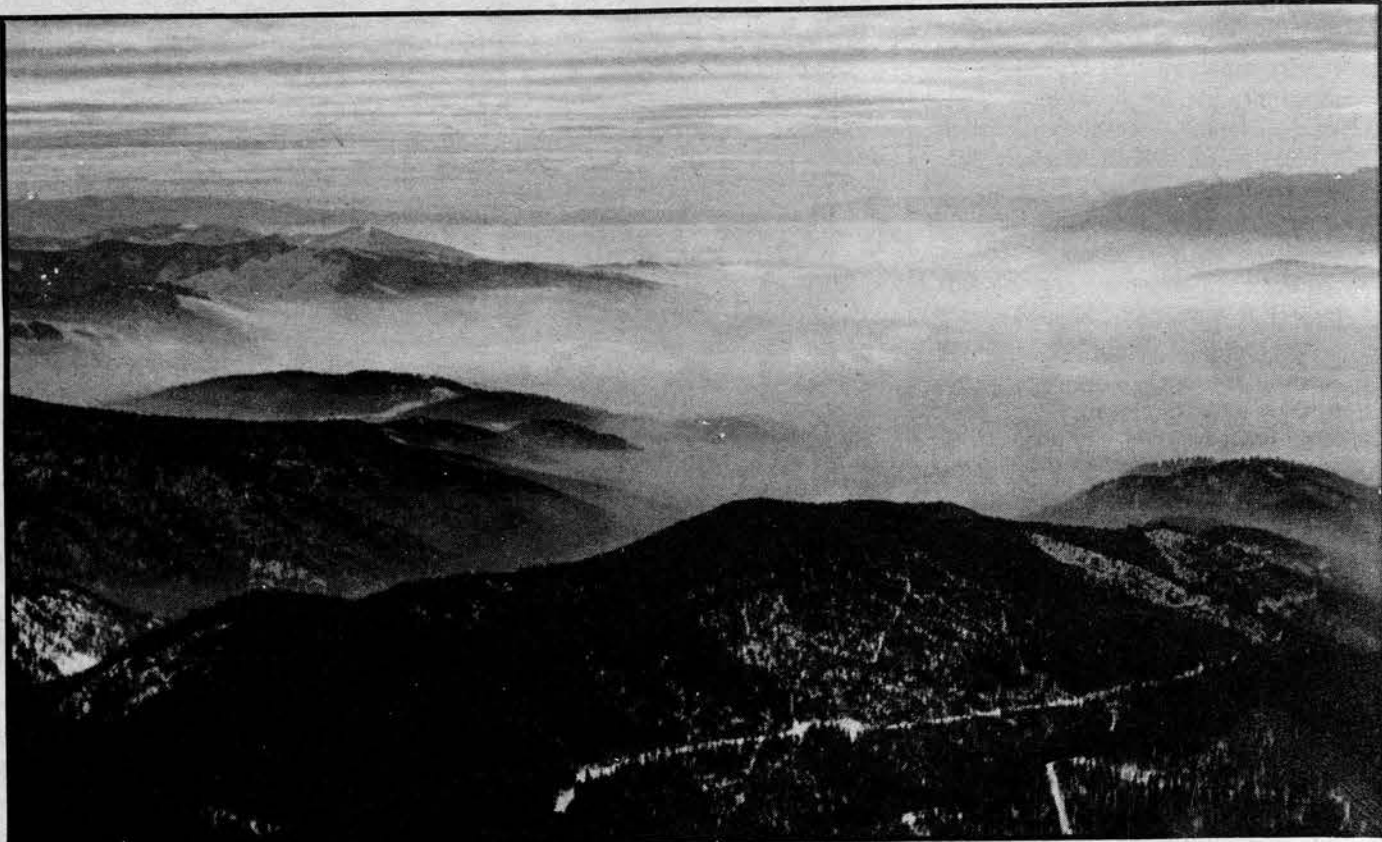
An Rx for damaged cropland



In an effort to stem the increasing rate at which topsoil is eroding in this country, the Reagan administration has proposed taking up to 20 million acres of the most damaged cropland out of production. Farmers would then be encouraged to plant grass or trees under 10-year contracts with the Department of Agriculture. The program would require a yearly outlay of more than \$1 billion. In asking Congress to include the program in the 1985 farm bill, Agriculture Secretary John Block said he continues to support sodbuster provisions to make farmers ineligible for federal aid if they produce crops on highly erodible land. Block added that some current programs are wrong-headed: "We have been compelled to work with farm programs which encourage production on land that should never have seen the blade of a plow."

The West learns to live with wood stoves

Dan Root, Missoulian



A December 1984 air inversion over the Missoula Valley

Only a few short years ago residents of Missoula, Montana, scoffed at the thought that wood-burning stoves and fireplaces -- not industry -- were the primary cause of the city's suffocating bouts of winter air pollution.

"People in Missoula were really upset that we would suggest wood stoves were the major source of pollution," recalls Hal Robbins, chief of Montana's Air Quality Bureau.

But by 1980, Robbins' agency had proof to back up its suspicions. Since that time, this "new" brand of air pollution has burgeoned into a problem threatening more and more mountain communities in the West.

In Montana alone, the towns of Missoula, Helena, Kalispell, Libby and Bozeman face varying degrees of significant winter air pollution from wood stoves. Other communities noted for winter wood smoke problems include Telluride, Vail and Aspen in Colorado; Sheridan, Lander and Jackson in Wyoming; Medford, Oregon; Juneau, Alaska; and Sandpoint, Idaho. Most of these towns are in valleys surrounded by mountains that trap pollution during winter air inversions.

Missoula has gained national attention for its local ban on residential wood burning during air-pollution alerts, but it is not alone among Western cities and states seeking legal remedies to this touchy health problem.

Medford and Juneau have local burning restrictions; Helena and Jackson have begun to explore possible programs, and earlier this year Telluride placed a moratorium on acquiring new wood stoves and fireplaces.

More significant, however, are laws passed recently in Oregon and Colorado regulating the sale of wood-burning stoves. Robbins says he expects Montana to follow the same course.

"It just seems the logical progression of things to do," he says. "It's basically the same way the Environmental Protection Agency handled cars. They went to GM (General Motors) and said, 'Build a better car.' That's the same thing we'll do to the wood-stove manufacturers."

Robbins' agency plans extensive testing this year in Kalispell to see if wood smoke is the major winter air pollutant. If, as Robbins suspects, wood smoke is the main culprit, then the Bureau may propose state-wide regulations as soon as next summer.

In 1983, Oregon became the first state to pass a law banning the sale of wood-burning stoves that failed to meet certain emission standards. Stoves must be certified by state-approved laboratories. The law goes into effect in July 1986, but "voluntary" compliance began July 1, 1984.

In Oregon, catalytic wood-burning stoves sold in the state may emit no more than six grams of particulates per hour -- a rate officials say will reduce emissions by 50 percent. Non-catalytic stoves can emit up to 15 grams per hour, and that level must be reduced to just nine as of 1988. Catalytic stoves cost \$200 to \$500 more than their non-catalytic counterparts.

A 1984 vote of the Colorado Legislature directed that state's Department of Health to draw up a wood-stove emissions program. Last month Colorado's Air Quality Control Commission gave the final OK to a program similar to Oregon's. Like Oregon's, the program is two-phased; phase one will go into effect on Jan. 1, 1987 and will limit all stoves sold in the state to emission levels of 30 grams of particulates per hour. And like Oregon officials, King said the new regulations -- in the first phase -- will reduce stove emissions by an average of 50 percent. The second phase, to go into effect on July 1, 1988, will reduce current emission levels by 75 percent. After that date, only wood stoves emitting less than 12 grams of particulates per hour can be sold in the state.

Jim King of the Health Department's Air Pollution Control Division said that the numbers are higher than Oregon's because stove-testing in Colorado will be corrected to a 5000-foot elevation level. Any stove will emit significantly fewer particulates at sea level than at 5000 feet.

Gaining a popular consensus for such laws has not been easy. The practice of using wood to heat one's home is as old as the West itself, and modern-day wood-burners enjoy a

populist, independent image of being free from the bonds of powerful utilities. Regulation is often labeled as a violation of civil rights, a bureaucratic boondoggle or even communism.

Missoula endured nearly two years of marginally successful "educational" and "voluntary" programs and numerous public hearings before its burning restrictions went into effect in November 1983. Even then, many citizens bitterly opposed the law. The city of Helena has just embarked on the same lengthy process -- but not before witnessing several winters of obviously bad wood-smoke pollution.

"If we had an industry doing to Helena what wood smoke is doing, people would be down our throats," Robbins says. "People would never go for us asking for a public-education program and voluntary compliance from industry."

A big help to air quality regulators, however, was the development in the late 1970s of "chemical mass balance." CMB is an extremely accurate technique of measuring whether wood smoke, dust, carbon monoxide or any other substance is a major air pollutant, and to what degree.

Developed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, CMB has enabled state air quality officials in the West to prove wood smoke is the primary air pollutant in many areas. Armed with that proof, officials say proposals for regulations are easier to press.

Will the ban on inefficient stoves solve the problem?

"It's too early to tell," says John Kowalczyk of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. "This is a long-term program. We don't expect any immediate impact."

Kowalczyk pointed out that people who buy cheap, inefficient wood-burning stoves before the regulations go into effect are not required to replace those old models.

Robbins says that without some type of regulation, the problem isn't going to go away. "Public education will stem the tide, but in the long run, I doubt it will be significant. There's no reason not to expect the problem to get worse before it gets better."

--Mike Dennison

Threatened Idaho rivers seek a safe harbor

HOTLINE

Idaho's new Congressman, Richard Stallings, D, introduced legislation in late May to study a 31-mile stretch of Henrys Fork of the Snake River for inclusion in the national wild and scenic river system. The study is an old idea among eastern Idaho conservationists, but it has become widely popular in response to six low-head hydroelectric projects proposed on Henrys Fork.

The 31-mile stretch from Island Park Dam to Warm River (west of Yellowstone Park) is heavily used. Below the dam, Henrys Fork cuts a 100-foot canyon through dry forest; this stretch, bristling with occasional pools, is popular for fishing and rafting. Then it sweeps out onto Island Park to wind quietly through pasture and meadow -- providing nationally renowned fly-fishing, slow boating and fine wildlife and waterfowl habitat year-round. It flows again through forest, and finally plunges into a steep canyon with waterfalls and whitewater before emptying onto the Snake River Plain.

Henrys Fork's primary attractions are wintering trumpeter swans, bald eagles, ospreys, moose, Idaho's Harriman State Park, Upper and Lower Mesa Falls and above all, trout. On summer weekends, it can seem that half the people in eastern Idaho are on or near the Henrys Fork. Its users, both regulars and tourists, support a growing local economy.

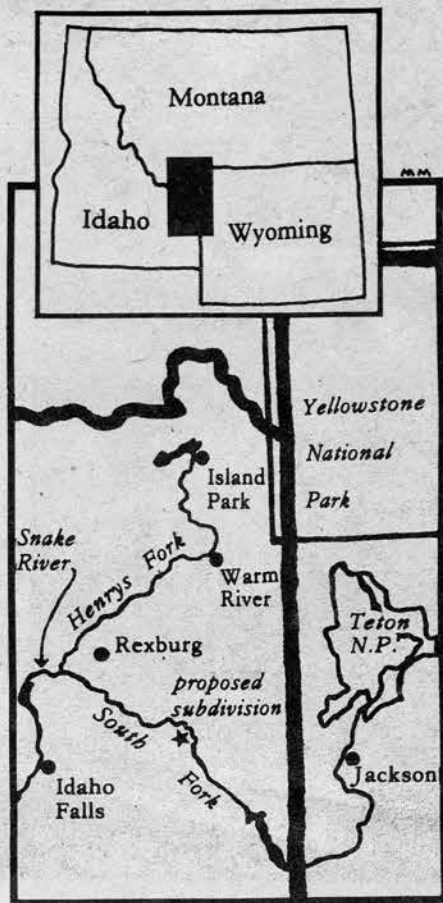
Preliminary permits, which are permission to conduct a study, have been granted in the last few years by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for six hydroelectric proposals on Henrys Fork. Two of the six developers have now filed applications with FERC for licenses to construct. Public opposition to the projects in eastern Idaho is solid.

The Targhee National Forest has proposed a wild and scenic river study for the same stretch of Henrys Fork addressed in Stallings' legislation. The Forest, which manages most of the land along this stretch, gets authority from its draft forestwide management plan. If that plan is approved on schedule, the study could begin late this year.

"The introduction of my legislation speeds up the process," Stallings says. "The Forest Service has other recommendations in their plan and limited resources. I felt the study was important enough to begin as soon as we could, to be fair both to the people in eastern Idaho and the hydro developers."

Flow in the stretch proposed for study is regulated by Island Park Dam, built in 1938 for irrigation storage and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. Island Park Reservoir is used by about 2,000 farmers to irrigate 135,000 acres downstream in Fremont, Madison, and Teton counties. The Idaho Fish and Game Department meets annually with the Bureau on the flow regime. "We often don't get all we want, but a good spirit of cooperation is well-established," says Fish and Game fisheries biologist Virgil Moore. In winter, for instance, the Bureau pulses water through at critical times to prevent ice-up of trumpeter swan wintering areas.

Stallings has forwarded his legislation to FERC. The Targhee Forest has formally requested FERC to take no action on the two pending applications for hydro licenses until a



wild and scenic study is completed. Idaho Fish and Game, the Targhee Forest and Stallings' staff all seem confident FERC will not take any immediate action.

Stallings' legislation has gone to the National Parks Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee, which has nine other wild and scenic river bills before it. All or most may be combined in a single bill, with hearings expected this summer.

While eastern Idaho sportsmen and conservationists were pleased with Stallings' action, they are paying more attention to the South Fork of the Snake River, which drains the Jackson, Wyoming, area before turning west into Idaho. Against the recommendation of its zoning commission, the Bonneville, Idaho, County Commission has approved a subdivision for the nearly undeveloped South Fork Canyon. It threatens the same fish and wildlife values that are at risk on Henrys Fork.

Opponents have come together in the South Fork Coalition, and have sued the County Commission, arguing their decision violates the county comprehensive plan. A hearing is expected this summer.

The Targhee Forest Plan also proposes a wild and scenic river study of the South Fork, and the Coalition asked Stallings to introduce similar study legislation for it, but he has not acted.

South Fork Coalition secretary Bryant Ford says although the Coalition favors wild and scenic river status for the South Fork, public opinion is less clear. "There are quite a few people who think we're trying to curtail the rights of private landowners of the river," says Ford. "But then a lot of those same people say it would be a shame to see the canyon developed. We don't want to take away anyone's rights, but the South Fork is a wonderful public resource."

Henrys Fork and the South Fork join a few miles west of Rexburg to form the Snake River.

--Pat Ford

Groups score state BLM

In what local environmentalists fear could become a nationwide precedent, the federal Bureau of Land Management in New Mexico wants to offer wilderness protection to only a quarter of the areas originally studied.

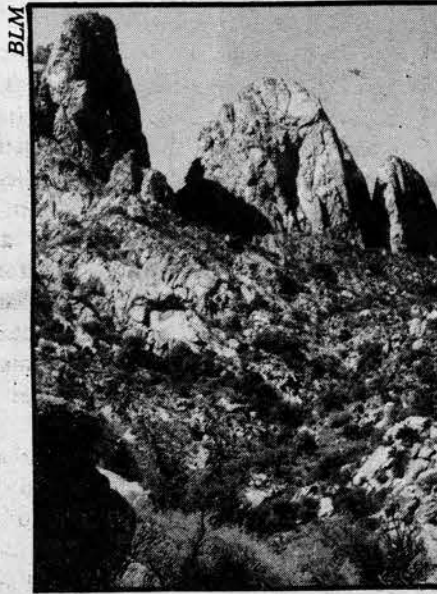
The BLM-backed package, unveiled in a series of public hearings in late June, asks Congress to set aside roughly 408,000 acres. Of the 37 areas examined for wilderness character, the agency proposes to protect 18.

Members of a special wilderness coalition -- including the Wilderness Society and Sierra Club -- blasted the plan as inadequate. The coalition wants 1.3 million acres of wilderness created from 51 areas. "Obviously, we're not satisfied with the BLM recommendations," said Jim Norton, the Wilderness Society's Southwest representative. "This is really our last opportunity to protect the roadless, pristine areas left."

Since the BLM in New Mexico will be among the first to finish its statewide wilderness review, the coalition warned that it could set a pattern for the BLM in other states.

The coalition criticized the agency's willingness to exclude areas where wilderness status might encounter opposition. Robert Howard of Albuquerque, the Sierra Club's national vice president, said the BLM dropped virtually any area if it had mineral potential without considering if the deposits could be mined economically.

Coalition coordinator Steve Marlatt added that prime grasslands that had been expected to be recommended for



Organ Mountains WSA

wilderness were excluded at the last moment -- the result, he said, of pressure from cattlemen.

Part of the difference between the BLM's and coalition's lists stems from the agency excluding the so-called "Watt drops." Those potential wilderness areas of less than 5,000 acres or containing private mineral leases were excluded nationwide by former Interior Secretary James Watt. Based on a recent federal court victory by the Sierra Club, New Mexico's BLM has pledged to re-examine those areas under a separate process.

Final comments on the BLM's draft recommendations will be accepted until July 29. Final recommendations are expected this winter.

--Nolan Hester

An explosive confrontation

Bedding down in the Nevada desert in an area full of unexploded bombs is, well, uncomfortable but worth the risk, say members of Citizen Alert. For the last month members of the group have camped out for days at a time at Bravo 20 near Fallon, Nevada, a bombing range used by the Navy since World War II. Three have been arrested (the charges were later dropped) and the Navy has had to halt its bombing runs. Citizen Alert director Bob Fulkerson charges that the Navy is illegally using Bureau of Land Management land at Bravo 20 and that no document exists proving the BLM gave up its jurisdiction. The military continues to appropriate air and land space without due process or regard for local residents and wildlife, Fulkerson says.

A conservation air force

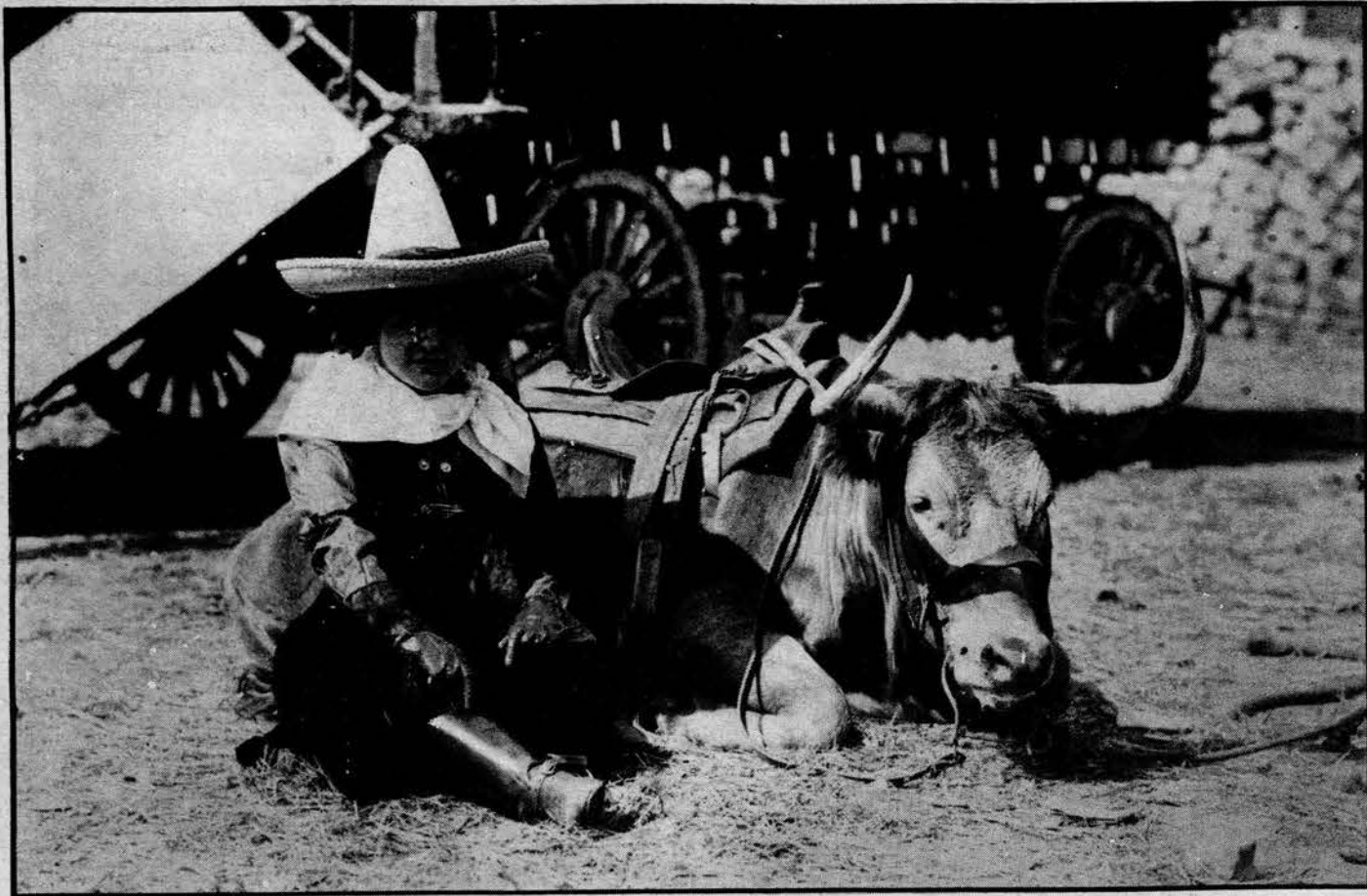
The conservation movement's air force has another set of wings. Project Lighthawk, based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is now a two-craft outfit thanks to the purchase of a 1978 Cessna Turbo 210. It will be based in Jefferson County, Colorado, and piloted by Bruce 'Flash' Gordon. Project Lighthawk was created five years ago by its present executive director, Michael Stewart, and performs various missions for the conservation community, including flying of media photographers and reporters over remote mine sites or forest clearcuts and ferrying witnesses to hearings. Conservation groups interested in its services can reach Project Lighthawk in Missoula, Montana, at 406/549-3828; in Santa Fe at 505/982-9656; and in Denver at 303/499-3526.

Pyramid of debt

Mesa County and Grand Junction, Colorado, whose energy bust was explored in the April 1985 *Atlantic* (HCN, 4/15/85) faces a public fiscal crisis. The County spent \$35 million in revenue bonds on public welfare projects, much of it after the oil and gas drilling and oil shale bust. That bond issue, now refinanced to \$46 million, requires annual repayments of \$4.8 million. But according to the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*, only \$3.9 million will be available this year due to declining sales tax revenues. The county is exploring reissuance of the bonds in today's lower interest rate market.

The Hall's Crossing to Bullfrog ferry

The Lake Powell ferry, long delayed due to a series of technical problems, began running over the July 4 weekend after gaining final Coast Guard certification. The 3.7 mile trip across the lake takes about 20 minutes and chops 137 miles of desert road off the route of tourists who want to go from Hall's Crossing in San Juan County, to Bullfrog, in Kane County. The state hopes the boat will boost tourism to southern Utah parks and wilderness areas. Coast Guard officials had refused to certify the ferry as safe because it listed to the right when the huge, 6400 gallon fuel tanks were near-empty.



Rose Wenger in her show costume with a saddled steer, c. 1926



Adele Von Ohl Parker leaning off her running horse to pick up a hat on the ground, c. 1919



A Moment of Suspense

Tinted postcard of Adele Von Ohl Parker, c. 1907. Raphael Tuck and Sons, London



Unidentified cowgirl on Wild West Show's backlot, c. 19



Postcard photo of Rene Hafley, Fox Hastings, Rose Sm



Wild West Show's backlot, c. 1908



Annie Schaefer in a divided skirt, blouse, bolero and a coin-trimmed sombrero, 1903

Wild Western Women



Hafley, Fox Hastings, Rose Smith, Ruth Roach, Mable Strickland, Prairie Rose and Dorothy Morell, c. 1920

"Let any normally healthy woman who is ordinarily strong screw up her courage and tackle a bucking bronco, and she will find the most fascinating pastime in the field of feminine athletic endeavor. There is nothing to compare, to increase the joy of living, and once accomplished, she'll have more real fun than any pink tea or theater party or ballroom ever yielded."

--May Lillie May, 1907

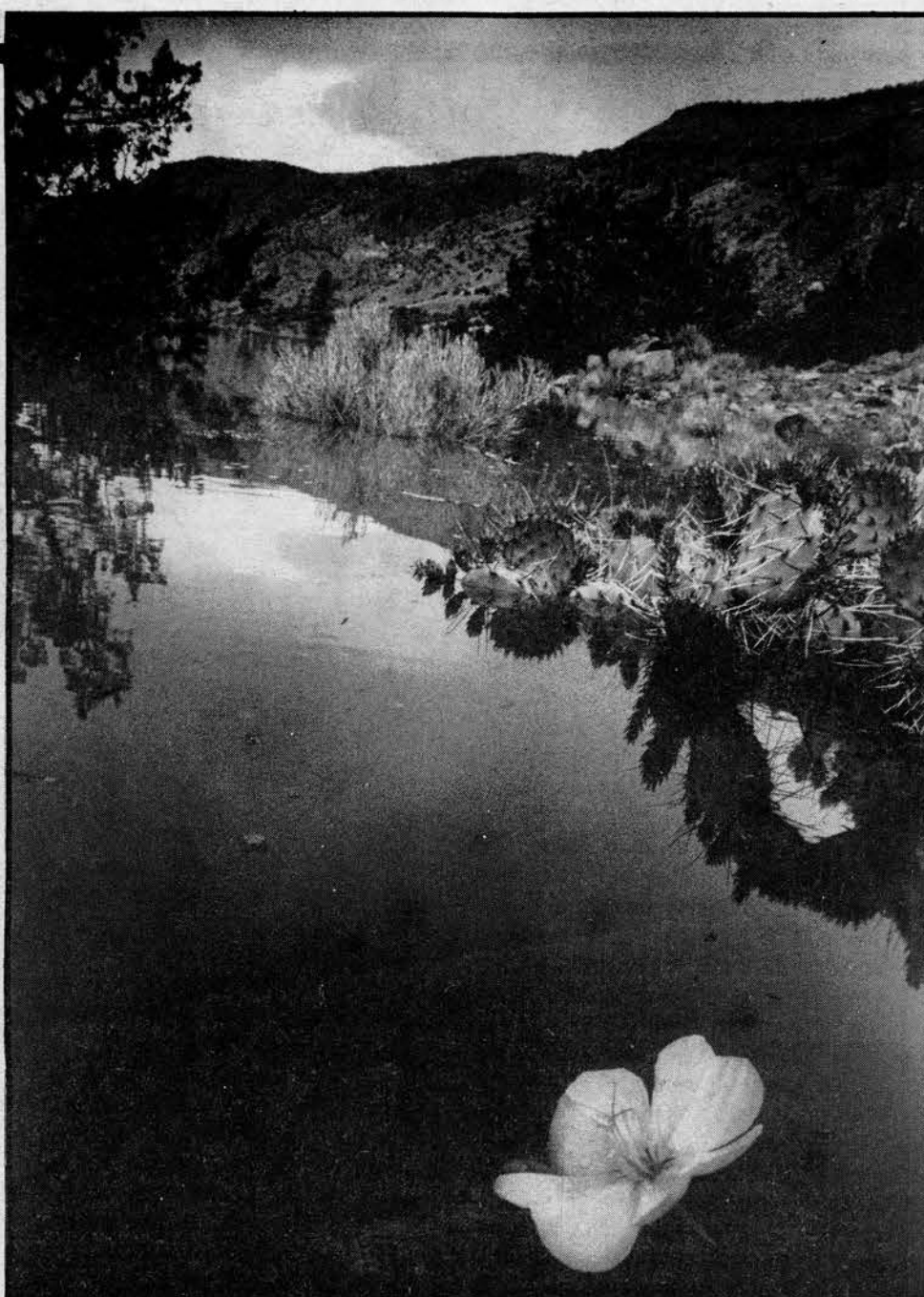
Women's involvement in rodeo and Wild West shows began in the 1880s with sharpshooters such as Annie Oakley and May Lillie. In the early years of the shows most anglo women involved depicted pioneer life or performed square dances on horseback. By the mid-1890s, though, the women were performing feats such as bronc and steer riding, trick riding and fancy roping.

The women were varied -- some were Westerners, born into the world of circuses and horses. Others were transplants from the East, and often well-educated.

By 1918 Wild West exhibitions had passed their heyday because of high costs and the advent of motion pictures. "Rodeo cowgirls" turned to movie roles and rodeo competition, which had long lists of cowgirl events. During the 1930s and 1940s the number of events for women declined, and rodeo cowgirls all but disappeared from the public eye.

These photos appeared recently in an exhibition at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, entitled: "Beautiful Daring Western Girls: Women of the Wild West Shows." Information in the above text was taken from a booklet prepared for the exhibition by Sarah Wood-Clark.

10-High Country News -- July 22, 1985



Mark Holm

Flooded mouth of Frijoles Canyon, Bandelier National Monument

National Monument invaded by man-made flood

While the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico turn rose and slate in the dusk, three dozen people hobble down the face of Cochiti Dam to fill buckets of water. Hand over hand the impromptu brigade passes buckets back up the dam's rubble face. Then its members scramble to the dam's top and with shouts of glee and anger dump the water over the dam's downstream side.

The gesture is futile, but the symbolic "emptying" of the reservoir in late June made clear the frustration of conservationists with what they believe is a man-made disaster.

The "disaster" consists of the swelling of Cochiti Reservoir, an Army Corps of Engineers flood control reservoir which straddles the Rio Grande River west of Santa Fe and north of Albuquerque.

As a result of 302 percent of normal runoff from a very heavy snowpack this spring, Cochiti has expanded into Bandelier National Monument, a 36,000-acre preserve run by the National Park Service. It attracts 275,000 visitors a year and is known for its cave dwellings and Anasazi ruins, its canyons and varieties of biological life.

The superintendent of the Monument, John Hunter, describes Bandelier as a "vertical park" with unique microclimates, made up of canyons cut by streams running off the 12,000-foot Jemez Mountains down into the Rio Grande. The canyons are home to archaeological artifacts, and to much of the biological life of the region. Although bloated Cochiti has expanded onto only a few hundred acres of the Monument, they are important acres.

For example, Hunter said the rising reservoir has flooded 80 vertical feet of the Rio Grande's White Rock Canyon, turned its Ancho Rapids into backwater, and left ponderosa pines under water.

Biologist Terrell Johnson, who has studied bald eagles within Bandelier for the last 10 winters, says the standing water will kill the pines lining the river -- pines that are winter roosts for about 25 bald eagles. Cochiti has also flooded the lower reaches of Frijoles Canyon, but the upper reaches, which accommodate almost all of the Monument's visitors, is 600 feet above the flat water.

If the rising water does destroy the eagles' habitat and food source, it will be a case of the Army Corps giving and the Army Corps taking. Superintendent Hunt said bald eagles didn't begin to winter in Bandelier until Cochiti Reservoir created a food source for them.

The flooding of the canyons had been anticipated, Hunter said, and was the subject of a 1977 agreement between the Park Service and the Corps. To lessen losses, the Park Service dug up and recorded the archaeological sites in the flood area. Most, he said, were buried again to preserve them against flooding.

Hunter said the high waters could cause unfortunate short and long-term damage. The reservoir now provides access to ruins by motorboat that before could be reached only by arduous backcountry hiking, exposing them to pot hunting and vandalism. The risen water also opens new terrain to the salt cedar or

tamarisk bush. This interloping plant, Hunter said, uses large amounts of water, can survive months of submersion, pushes out native plants and does little for wildlife.

Bandelier is not the only victim of the runoff. Farther north, yet another Army Corps reservoir, Abiquiu, sits fat with water. It has buried many of the whitewater rapids of the Rio Chama, designated by the state as a scenic and pastoral river.

The conservationists on the bucket brigade are angry because they see the destruction of habitat and archaeological ruins, the burying of free-flowing sections of the river, and the mess that will be left when the waters recede, as unnecessary.

Tom Callanan, spokesman for the brigade, said, "I don't belong to any organization, but I feel like somebody has to speak for the river. If we kill this river, we're going to hurt ourselves."

Biologist Johnson, who has been a consultant to the Park Service on the eagles, says he knows who is killing the river: the federal and state agencies that control Cochiti and five other major dams on the Rio Grande and its tributaries. He and other critics say Cochiti and Abiquiu should have been emptied as quickly as the Rio Grande could have carried the water down to Texas and Mexico without flooding. Instead, the critics say, the flood control reservoirs are storing irrigation water even though there is no need for it.

Phil Wallin, a Santa Fe attorney, charges the Army Corps, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Rio Grande Compact Commission with hoarding water. Moreover, Wallin argues that if water is not released now from the reservoirs on the system, there could

be a disaster next spring. Wallin claims the agencies are playing "Russian Roulette" with Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

T or C is a tourist town of 5,300 located several hundred miles downstream of the reservoirs on the Rio Grande. It is just below a large irrigation reservoir, Elephant Butte, run by the Bureau of Reclamation. If the runoff from the spring snowpack had not been held in Cochiti and Abiquiu, the Bureau says, it would have spilled out of Elephant Butte and flooded over the banks of the Rio Grande channel which runs through T or C.

Wallin says that could happen next spring unless the various agencies start releasing water from Cochiti and Abiquiu and pass it through Elephant Butte before March 31, 1986. Wallin says the law requires that this spring's flood waters be emptied by that date. He says that if the law is obeyed, it could lead to flooding, since Elephant Butte will be almost full going into the spring. (The Bureau says the 2.1 million acre-foot reservoir will have 1.8 million acre-feet of water in it this winter. Abiquiu and Cochiti each hold one million acre-feet and even now are only about one-third full.)

Bureau of Reclamation spokesman Roger Patterson of El Paso, Texas, says his calculations show there will be no flooding. He says a channel widening project through T or C this fall will let the Rio Grande safely pass 300,000 acre-feet per month starting in February 1986. In addition, the Rio Grande Compact Commission recently passed a resolu-

tion allowing the Army Corps to store flood waters in Cochiti and Abiquiu beyond March 1986, raising the spectre that those reservoirs are being converted permanently to irrigation reservoirs, and that parts of Bandelier may be permanently flooded. Patterson denies this will happen.

Wallin, however, compares the situation to the 1983 flooding along the Colorado River. Back then, the Bureau went into spring with nearly full reservoirs, and as a result almost disemboweled Glen Canyon Dam and flooded communities below it.

Farmer John Salopek, standing in the shade of his pecan grove 350 miles downstream of Bandelier, has a different view from Wallin. He is sorry to see Bandelier flooded, but figures the water is worth the price. "We're in good shape for four or five years," says Salopek, chairman of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District.

Salopek represents the constituency which runs the Rio Grande and every other river in the West. Water, this constituency says, is the West's most precious resource, and it is literally a sin to let it flow unused downstream. New Mexico State

Engineer Steve Reynolds puts a value of \$100 an acre-foot on the stored water, and says that to relieve Bandelier of flooding would be akin to sending \$30 million worth of water downstream to no one.

Reynolds is one of three members of the Rio Grande Commission -- the body set up by interstate compact and Congress in 1938 to divide and regulate the river. It is a coordinating body of several interests: the farmers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps and the states of New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas.

In fact, everyone is represented but the environmentalists. The Bureau's Patterson said that decision-making about the river is so diffuse, and subject to so many different interests, that there is no one to negotiate with critics of conventional water policy. The only time, he said, the environmentalists were talked to was when they threatened to sue.

That, of course, leads to bucket brigades and other attempts at public pressure through symbolic action. On July 9, it appeared that symbolic action may have had effect. The Compact Commission voted to let out

at least 40,000 acre-feet from Cochiti, and to consult on a weekly basis in the expectation that releases may rise to 70,000 acre-feet, lowering the reservoir substantially. Patterson said the Commission had decided that water

would never have been used. In its wake, however, it will leave salt cedar bushes and a "ring" around the canyons.

--Nolan Hester, Ed Marston



The public interest is hard to invoke in water decisions

There are several major forces which prevent environmental concerns from making themselves felt in Western water matters. They include the repugnance traditional users feel against "waste," such as water flowing in a stream, and the historical relationships among existing interests. These interests feud among themselves, but always band together to keep newcomers away from the table at which decisions are made. And environmentalists, with their desire to see streams filled with water, and flood control reservoirs used only for flood control, are competing users.

By themselves, environmentalists don't have enough political power to influence water decisions. They first must rally public opinion, and that is very difficult in water situations, which are always physically and legally complex.

The Rio Grande's flooding of Bandelier illustrates all of these factors, but especially that of complexity. By the time a speaker explains to an audience that the upstream reservoirs of Cochiti and Abiquiu are run for flood control by the Army Corps of Engineers, and the downstream reservoirs of Elephant Butte and Caballo are run for irrigation by the Bureau of Reclamation, eyes have begun to glaze over. Few people, however public spirited, stay with a speaker who delves into the Rio Grande Compact -- the Colorado-New Mexico-Texas Treaty which divided the river's waters in 1938.

That interstate agreement was necessary because the farmers in Colorado and New Mexico upstream of Elephant Butte (it was built in 1916) were taking increasing amounts of water, making it likely that Elephant

Butte would become unable to supply water to the 160,000 acres of farmland it irrigates in southern New Mexico and Texas.

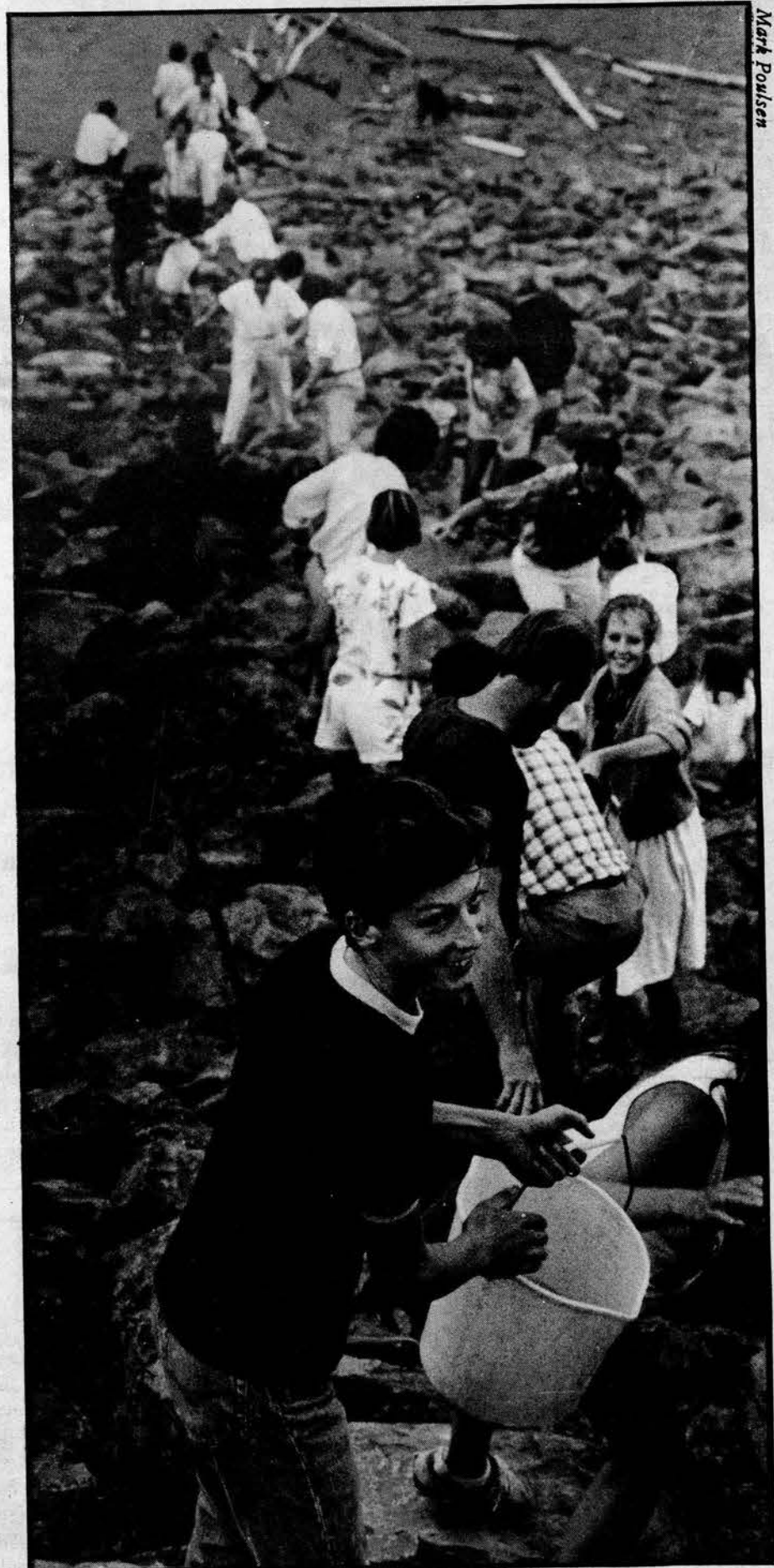
But an agreement isn't worth much more than the word of the people who signed it. And Colorado's irrigators violated the Compact consistently. By the 1960s, they owed farmers below Elephant Butte almost one million acre-feet, driving Texas to court. In the 1960s the U.S. Supreme Court ruled for Texas, and put Colorado on short rations to begin paying off the water debt.

Colorado had whittled the debt down to about 700,000 acre-feet when this spring's flood arrived. The Rio Grande usually puts 750,000 acre-feet into Elephant Butte. This year, it has already delivered one million acre-feet, even though several hundred thousand acre-feet are stored upstream in Cochiti and Abiquiu, according to the Bureau.

Had the Army Corps reservoirs not been there, Elephant Butte would have spilled. As it is, the Compact Commission decided that Elephant Butte had had a "paper spill." And this triggered a clause in the Compact which said that whenever Elephant Butte spills, all debts among the states are cancelled. So the upstream users no longer owe the downstream users 700,000 acre-feet of water. (No one we spoke to had an understandable explanation for the meaning of this clause.)

Bureau of Reclamation employee Roger Patterson says that almost everyone is relieved that the slate has been wiped clean. But he also says that Texas will be watching the upstream users closely, and will be quick to go to court if the same abuses creep back in again.

--Ed Marston



Bailing out Cochiti Dam

12-High Country News -- July 22, 1985

From slickrock into bitter Escalante

by Ed Grumbine

*"Let your life be a friction against
the machine."*

--Henry David Thoreau

The southern Utah Canyon country is a land of heat and light, cool dripping darkness, red rock, wild silence. Walk any canyon and you find infinite contrasts. Horsetails color the streamsides where 20 feet distant lies clean white sand. Cottonwoods explode into singing warblers; on the slickrock the wind rattles a bare branch. Spring seeps hang orchids off bare rock walls.

When you set your pack down echoes roll off ancient sand dunes. Then it becomes quiet again, with only a vast hum from the Jurassic, 180 million years ago. These are the canyons of time.

The land keeps pace with itself, one grain at a time. The evening sky goes dark by degrees and Gemini gleams in the north. The heat of day recedes. Deep in the earth these sharp contrasts, subtle rhythms, remain.

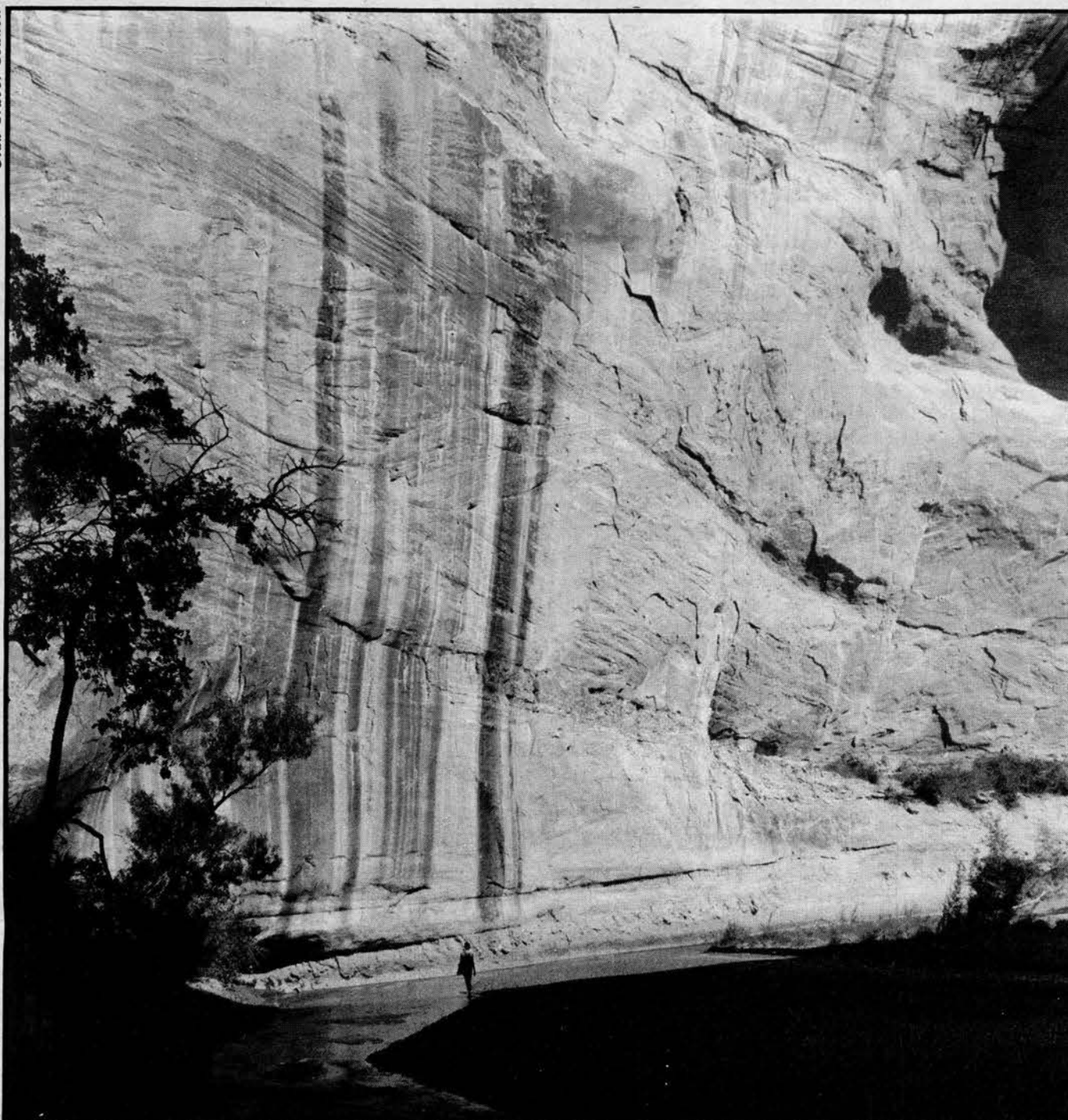
After 12 days in the Escalante canyons we agree to cease talking. The hike out in the morning will be a silent one. We sit in a dark alcove and say goodbye to the river, to each other, pack silently, and go to sleep. Stars rim the alcove high on the canyon wall.

Before dawn we rise, stuff sleeping bags, gather together, and walk up out of Fence Canyon onto the slickrock. We are headed for the town of Escalante where a public hearing on paving the Burr Trail will be held that night.

The sun climbs over the Circle Cliffs, the Purple Hills, and slants black pools behind each pinon pine. To the south, Navajo Mountain is a mysterious dome, a dark eye facing the morning light.

Among sand dunes and slickrock knobs we lose the route, then regroup with silent questions. Where are we on the map? Which way do we go? I am annoyed that the people going first moved too quickly, stringing out the group into several disparate strands. Take away talk and trails and a new set of skills is necessary. We must stay close together and read the language water has marked on the sandstone.

Utah Travel Council



Escalante Canyon

Finally we head south in full sun, climb up white humps of Navajo Sandstone and arrive at the van. The world of fossil fuel transportation remains intact. With bits of conversation and group song we break our silence and drive into town.

Escalante is a bitter town beneath the surface. Often-times the bitterness breaks through and your breakfast plate is set down in front of you with a sharp jar. When you pay for a full tank of gas your money is taken out of your hand with a slight twist of contempt. While buying groceries in the store, no one looks you in the face. Few people smile.

The area is depressed. Many of the storefronts stand empty collecting dust and signs for high school dances

and yard sales. Garfield County has an unemployment rate close to 11 percent. Personal income is 61 percent of the national average. There are too many For Sale signs in front yards. The brightest spots in town are the deep green elm and cottonwood trees planted during better times by Mormon settlers. They cast a cool shade in this desert country.

Today the local people are not interested in planting shade trees as a solution to the vagaries of desert living. They want to pave the Burr Trail in nearby Capitol Reef National Park. Everybody supposes that the increase in tourism will solve local economic problems. To this end they have prevailed upon the National Park Service, with the support of the governor, the Utah delegation, and every county commissioner within 100 miles, to issue an environmental

assessment outlining the impacts of such a project. Public testimony is being taken at a series of hearings throughout southern Utah. The third and final hearing is May 23 in Escalante.

Escalante deserves its reputation as an anti-wilderness redneck town. A group of belligerent locals stands outside waiting for something to happen. Inside are over 350 townsfolk, many dressed in pressed western shirts, newly washed levis, and cowboy boots.

None of us have had a bath in two weeks, although we did change into our 'town' clothes. There is some ranching talk going on, a little visiting, but many people sit up straight in their chairs and wait for the meeting to begin. Even with the doors open the gym is stifling. We haven't been inside a building for a long time.

Mary Moran



The main street of Escalante, Utah

It is a beautiful evening in the spring desert, cooling off from the hot 90 degree afternoon. The high school gym is packed, standing room only, and there is a line of people waiting to get in. Because Escalante is the center of both pro-paving and anti-wilderness sentiments, the Salt Lake media is out in force. Gov. Norman Bangerter is scheduled to offer the first testimony.

I park the van with California plates in front of the gym where (theoretically) there is too much activity (TV cameras, cops) for any reverse monkeywrenching.

Tom, my teaching partner, and I glance around. For five springs we have brought university students from all over the U.S. to the canyon country to study desert field ecology and wilderness issues, and to revel in the magical red rock, the burnt juniper, the windy silence. This is the first public hearing we have attended with students, 13 of them from all over the country. None of them have ever been to such an event. Only one, a native, has been in southern Utah before. Now, scattered about the gym, they are alert as deer, watching the hearing proceed.

For weeks we have walked through the canyons discussing human/nature interactions, the history and politics of wilderness preservation, desert plant taxonomy, geology, animal adaptations, and the myriad of cycles we label desert ecology. Each student has blossomed into an intimacy with the desert, a relationship that the poet Robinson Jeffers likened to "falling in love outwards." Each has become familiar with the particular development issues that act like dust devils stirring up the human parts of the desert community. They met with the Park Service weeks ago to learn about a particular whirlwind, this proposal to pave the now-dirt, sometimes impassable, Burr Trail for the "benefit" of the American driving public.

What they are least familiar with is from this place, to collect dust in a

pickup out looking for strays on BLM range your family overgrazed years back, to go home to a trailer and an unemployment check. They are unfamiliar with a different set of values, another way of life.

The meeting begins. Gov. Bangerter steps to the microphone accompanied by a whirl of video cameras and flash of lights. He is completely at ease here in the provinces and speaks expansively in support of the road. The television crews practically trip over each other to get the best camera angle. They care nothing for how they block the audience view, for theirs is a divine right to the front row. They wouldn't last 10 seconds at a baseball game. Bangerter calls the future paved road a "scenic and awe-inspiring drive in the country." I think of Sunday drives growing up in the rolling hills of Maryland. The Waterpocket Fold is not "country" in this sense.

The governor exits to full applause and a representative of Utah Sen. Jake Garn takes the stand. There are "economic benefits to be derived from the (surrounding) national parks," he says.

Later, Garn's aide offers the interesting proposition that paving the road will "protect the scenery along the road." The crowd does not notice the absurdity in such a statement.

The road should be paved "in order for more people to be able to experience the beautiful scenery," says Del Lefevre, Garfield county commissioner. At the conclusion of his testimony, Lefevre asks, "All those in favor of paving the Burr Trail raise your hand." Hundreds of hands are in the air hoisted by a roar of applause.

"All those opposed meet me on the courthouse steps after the meeting and we'll balance the budget," grins Lefevre and he steps down to a hero's welcome.

Throughout the hearing no one has mentioned wilderness. The increased

use and development that surely would follow paving is a non-issue to these pro-road people. In fact, development is exactly what the vast majority want. Development is fine with me as long as it is kept outside park boundaries. Let a hundred campgrounds, motor-home villages, laundromats, and cafes bloom in Escalante!

The Park Service, through the environmental assessment, gives lip service to this issue: "A clear understanding is needed of the relationship that a paved road would have to wilderness." But at no place in the document is this "clear understanding" developed. Since the Burr Trail only borders, but does not pass through, any potential wilderness, the Park Service finds little cause for alarm. "There are, however, cumulative effects of projected increased use of the road..." is as close as the Park Service lets itself get to the issue.

Of course "Paving the road may give impetus to the development of park facilities." Yosemite Valley, Yellowstone, Zion Canyon, all were roadless in the dim, dark past, some 70 years ago.

Stifled by the heat and testimony I seek fresh air. The unending array of pro-paving county commissioners, cowboys, and government lackeys makes me angry and frustrated. Outside the rednecks are still looking for trouble and the TV men are looking under stones for anti-road interviews.

"Excuse me, sir, are you against the proposal?" one asks.

"Sure am," I reply.

The camera angle is set, I identify myself (a Californian no less), and the show begins. Immediately we are surrounded by locals itching for a fight.

"Are you scheduled to testify tonight?" asks the interviewer.

"No, the sign-up list is too long. I wouldn't get to say a word until after midnight. I'll submit my comments in writing."

I go on answering questions, explaining that national parks are not

meant for the salvation of local economies. I choose my words carefully.

Someone yells out an insult. The TV man turns and asks the heckler to let him do his job. "This is a free country." The onlookers gather around into a crowd.

The interview is completed. I stand surrounded yet unperturbed. The angry statements begin.

"We need jobs!"

"Ain't nothing out there, we got a right to pave the road."

"Go back to California where you backpackers belong."

One man accuses me of setting up the interview, of reading a prepared statement. "Where is my paper?" I shoot back. I try to think of how to talk with people who fantasize papers in the fingers of opponents standing empty-handed before them.

"All you environmentalists do is take away our right to decent jobs whenever you get the chance." By "decent jobs" I take him to mean the Kaiparowits strip mine/power plant proposal, the Alton coal field proposal, the decline of uranium mining due to "government" regulation and the depressed cattle market, among other atrocities.

I try to speak with them by agreeing that the local economy is in sad shape. Maybe one person listens. With four students standing next to me we are outnumbered at least nine to one. I tell them, "If you folks want money from tourists, you had better start being friendly more often. I can't get anyone in this town to give me the time of day. Tourism is based on people helping each other out."

An elderly woman begins to yell about the place going to hell since backpackers started coming in. She spurs on the crowd and, sensing an escalation towards mayhem, I stop talking, move quickly through the crowd and escape inside.

Nothing has changed. There is only another county commissioner

(Continued on page 14)

Terri Martin



Burr Trail switchbacks, Capitol Reef National Park

Escalante...

(Continued from page 13)

asking that more people enjoy the "scenery" and spend money in the local economy. "The motorcoach bus is fast becoming a vital part of Utah's tourist economy. Studies show that each busload may spend up to \$4,000 a day..."

A word with a cop sends him outside to keep the peace and at intermission we all leave the gym, get in the vans, and drive out of town with but two quick passes from pickups full of rowdies. Rock shapes loom in the shadows.

The talk in the vans is tinged with adrenalin. There are preservationist purists who are almost scathing in their criticism of the locals' shortsighted self-interest. Others sympathize with the economic black hole that stares Garfield County down. "The people should be able to have jobs." They fail to see the years of work wrecking the rangelands, the fits of boom and bust get-rich scheming, the "land-as-resource-pit" philosophy behind it all.

The few who stood outside are amazed that nothing anti-paving was heard. "Those people have shut themselves off to any viewpoint other than their own."

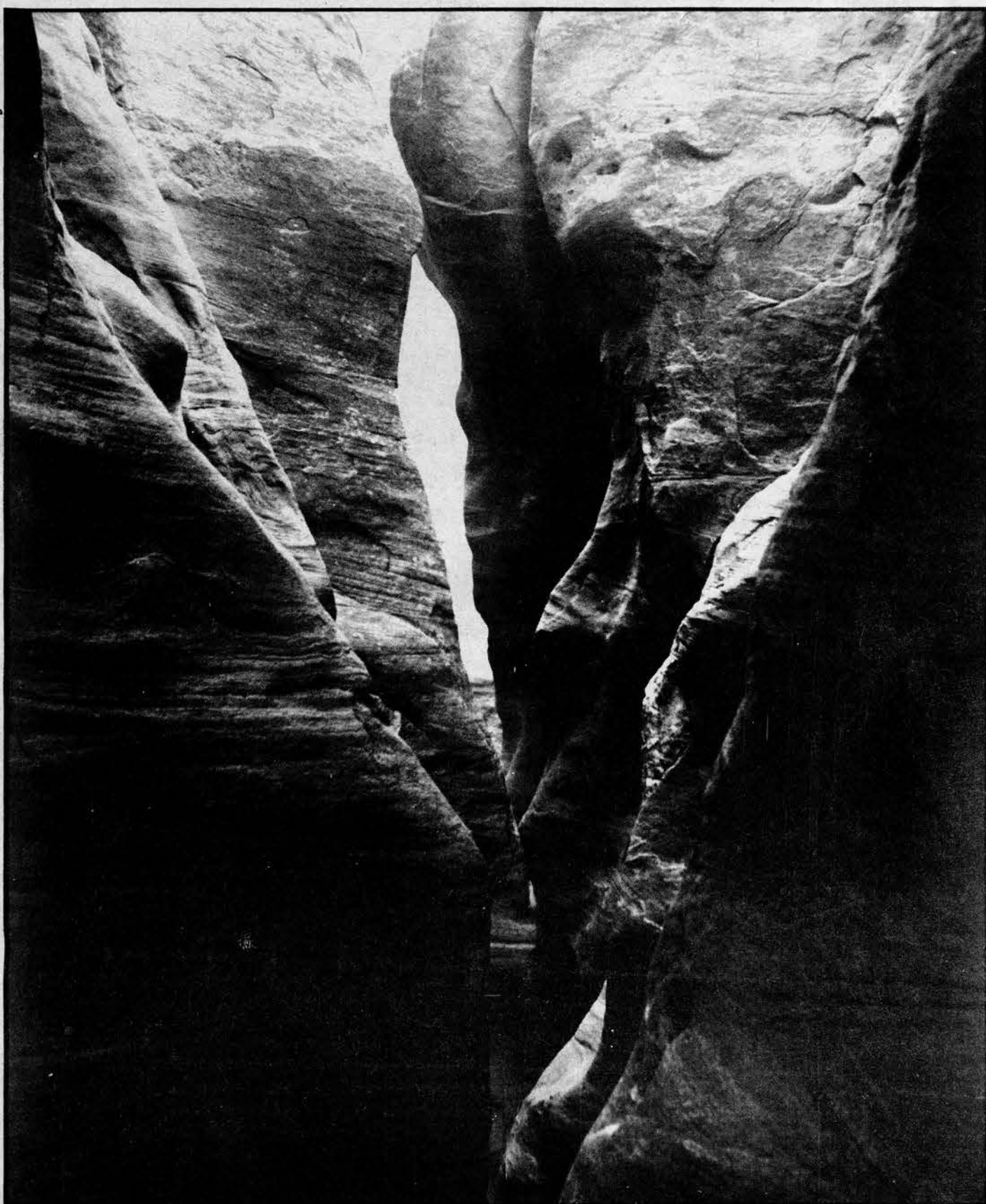
We drive out of the desert, up over the Markagunt Plateau. The air is chilly at 7,000 feet as we descend through Red Canyon and ponderosa pines. Get out of the car. There is wind in the pines. Throw a sleeping bag down on cold ground, take off your shoes, and slide in to sleep.

Chill night, downcanyon breeze, stars through tall trees. That morning, clear as a bell, as a cañon wren song, surrounded by still rocks and before the birds, we woke and walked out of the world.

□

Ed Grumbine is director of the Sierra Institute/Wilderness Studies Program, University of California Extension, Santa Cruz.

Jack McLellan



Escalante side canyon

Northern Utah seeks an alternative to paving

A very different public meeting on the Burr Trail was held in Salt Lake City June 3. Because of political pressure from the Utah congressional delegation, the National Park Service refused to schedule a public hearing in Salt Lake City. So citizen groups, including the Sierra Club and the National Parks and Conservation Association, organized their own and sent a transcript of the hearing, which was attended by 200 people, on to the Park Service (HCN, 5/27/82).

Among the 40 or so speakers at the 2½-hour meeting was Bill Lockhart, a law professor from the University of Utah. He said, "The problem is not the lack of roads, but lack of services. We in northern Utah need to offer our concern, extend help, address the problems of their economic well-being."

He continued, "Repeatedly, we steal their hope for some kind of economic development which would damage that which we value and which to a great extent southern

Utahns value also. I suggest, instead of dumping millions on the paving, money be spent in planning tourism development.

There was only one pro-paving speaker from southern Utah at the meeting -- Garfield County Commissioner Guy Thompson. When he ran over his allotted five minutes, the audience insisted the rule be waived and that he continue. He told them, "There is not one elected person south of Nephi opposed to paving. It is very hard to make a living. Our population is less than 60 percent of what it was at the end of World War II.

"We've tried to create an economic base for ourselves. And you've opposed everything we've suggested. We pay taxes too. We'd like some of the same services... If you're not willing to give us the road, give us something else."

Environmentalists do have an alternative to the straightening, bridging and paving. They would

install concrete dips in stream crossings and gravel clay sections to make it usable in all weather. But they wouldn't blast and widen the road by building paved switchbacks through sandstone cliffs, and so it would still be closed to tour buses and large motor homes.

According to Terri Martin, the Utah-area representative for the National Parks and Conservation Association, it appears that the Park Service agrees with the conservation alternative. She said in mid-July that the Rocky Mountain regional office of the Park Service has recommended to new NPS head William Mott (HCN, 6/24/85) that only this low-key upgrading be approved, and that paving be rejected. It is one of many tough decisions facing Mott over the next several months.

Martin also said that she talked with County Commissioner Thompson after the meeting and understands his view of northern Utah as an economic oppressor. She said that those who

appreciate the beauty of southern Utah had opposed the Kaiparowits power plant, other coal development, tar sands, nuclear waste storage near Canyonlands and now the Burr Trail paving.

She doesn't question that opposition, but adds, "What can we do to stabilize that economy? Tourism can do it, if it's done right. We really need a regional tourist plan. What does the area have to offer? What services does it lack? How can it be promoted? It should be a plan that doesn't promote one area at the price of another.

"We know things are tough there. But the congressional delegation is trying to sell the road as a panacea. We don't think it is."

□

This article is based in part on a story by Gretchen Belanger in the Utah Sierra Club's *Uinta News*. She is the editor of the *News* and editor and publisher of *Catalyst Magazine*.

LETTERS

CONCERNED ABOUT LAND SWAP

Dear HCN,

Very quietly, without consultation with the public, Congress or preparation of an environmental impact statement, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are pushing for a land and jurisdictional swap. The details of the exchange, which would place 14 million acres of national forest land from 29 forests in Western states under BLM management, are outrageous.

Having spent 14 years of my Forest Service career on the Bridger National Forest as ranger, staff officer and then forest supervisor, I am thoroughly acquainted with the Kemmerer and Big Piney Districts and know that intensive and high quality management of the natural resources they contain is of vital importance to the people of western Wyoming.

The reasons for my concern have nothing to do with the competency or dedication of BLM employees, whom I feel are no different from those of the Forest Service. My concern arises from the following:

1. The chief of the Forest Service has historically come up from the ranks whereas BLM's leadership is appointed by the administration and political party in power;
2. The BLM has historically been unable to resist pressure from political or special interest groups;
3. Funding of the BLM by Congress has historically been far less than that of the Forest Service even though the BLM has twice as much acreage to manage, and it takes funds to effect intensive management;
4. If the transfer is made, only 13 of the 50 laws that protect national forests will still apply; and
5. For the first time in 80 years, some of the West's most valuable resource lands could be sold, establishing a precedent so that in future years any national forest land, or other area designated by Congress, could be bartered or swapped.

Since their establishment, national forest lands have been and still are administered by the Forest Service, an agency that in study after study has been widely recognized as one of the best in government. Qualified and experienced staff are now in place. As the old saying goes, "If it ain't broke, why fix it?"

The inevitable result of the proposed exchange would be to make the BLM a parallel agency to the Forest Service, both managing the same types of resource areas and needing the same degree of specialist staffing. The nation would then have two agencies, in different governmental departments, managing the types of resource areas now being managed by one agency. Also, employees will have the choice of remaining in place or transferring to stay with the agency. Considering the past history, reputation and esprit de corps of the Forest Service, indications are that the majority of employees will stay with the Forest Service. Replacement of a mass exodus of trained and experienced specialists will be extremely costly and time consuming and has not been considered in the proposed plan. Does any of this make any sense?

Congress established national forests from those areas of the public domain which they considered most

valuable to the economy and health of the nation and established rules for their special protection and management. Now, by the stroke of a pen, agency bureaucrats plan to implement a poorly conceived plan, with the unsubstantiated estimate that this will save millions of dollars in annual management costs.

Entirely disregarded is the impact on local economies and forest users, the tremendously high cost of implementation, confusion to the public which would last for years, employee morale and most importantly, a highly probable reduced quality of resource management and the potential for future loss of some of these lands to use by the general public.

I think this is the most important resource management issue that has surfaced since I began work with the Forest Service in 1946. If executed, it cannot help but have long-lasting adverse effects on the valuable mountain resources of the West. In Nevada, the Nevada Wildlife Federation has passed a resolution which, in effect, requests Congress to stop administrative implementation of the Forest Service/BLM Interchange Program until there is more study and public involvement. The Nevada Legislature has prepared a similar resolution.

I urge that the Wyoming Wildlife Federation and other organizations, groups and individuals concerned with the management of Wyoming's natural resources take the initiative to request similar action through your governor and congressional delegation. Demand that the agencies comply with the 1969 Environmental Policy Act and with their own long established rules of requiring thorough study, wide-spread public involvement and the preparation of an environmental impact statement for any action which could have major impact on any of the natural resources and/or their environment as well as the local and national economies.

The time is short. Don't wait for "George" to do it. Apathy right now will sink the boat. If you feel as I do, that this wide-impacting program has been too hush-hush, too secretive and put together without benefit of any in-depth study, then spend 22 cents for a stamp, three bucks for a telegram or five bucks for a phone call and let your concerns be known!

I may now be an Idahoan by residence, but my heart still lies in that great Wyoming country and with you people who live there. Don't let the bureaucrats destroy a system that has worked superbly for 80 years or jeopardize those highly valuable national forest resources and your right to insure that they remain available to public use.

Fight! Now!

William O. Deshler
Boise, Idaho

NO KIDDING

Dear HCN,

Are you kidding? Tell us more about Kathleen Ferris, the new Arizona "water czar." Her photo looks like a modeling agency head shot! What does she know about water? Her youth makes me wonder.

Jack de Golia
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

PUH-LEASE

Dear HCN,

Puh-lease renew my subscription to the newspaper forthwith. I cannot let a fortnight go by without your words. We need you out here in the hinterlands, so we hope you endeavor to persevere.

R.H. Ring
Tucson, Arizona

HIDING OUT

Dear HCN,

We lived in Denver 25 years ago and watered a large bluegrass lawn with no restrictions on when to water and no shortage of water. We moved elsewhere and still do the same for our lawn. The problem in the Denver area is not bluegrass. The problem is too many people. Denver has water problems, air problems, transportation problems and other problems too numerous to list. We just hope all the people "bunching up" in the Denver area do not come where we are. If they do, we will have the same problems -- and not because of our bluegrass lawns.

Please do not print our address.

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16-High Country News -- July 22, 1985

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DUCK STAMP CONTEST

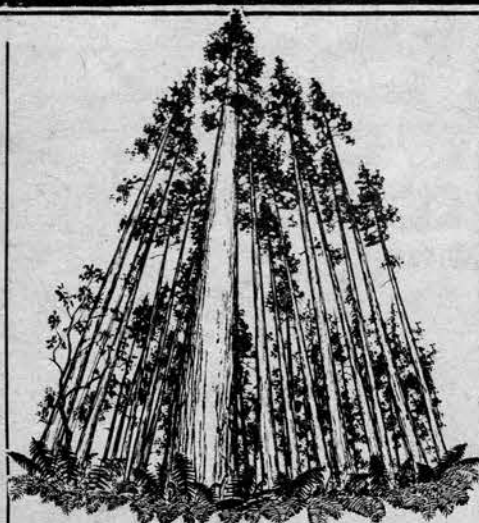
The 1985-86 Duck Stamps are now on sale, and the competition has begun for next year's duck stamp. The contest will select the winning design to be used on the 1986-87 Duck Stamp, and entries must be postmarked no later than Oct. 1. For a set of rules, all duck-depiction enthusiasts should write to Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Contest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 20240.

WRITERS, ARTISTS WANTED

The Willow Bee, a publishing house in Saratoga, Wyoming is looking for original poetry, prose and art for a new, semi-annual magazine devoted to the themes of peace, the human race, positive relationships and the human spirit. The projected size of the anthology is 48-60 pages, with publication dates set for December 1, 1985 and June 1, 1986 during the first year. Writers' and artists' guidelines may be requested by sending a SASE to The Willow Bee Publishing House, Box 9, Saratoga, WY 82331.

NEW GUNNISON MAP

A new interagency map of Colorado's Gunnison Basin and surrounding Gunnison National Forest uses color-coding to differentiate Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and state Division of Wildlife lands, and provides information on recreational areas such as campgrounds, lakes and streams. The map is available for \$1 at the various agency offices in the Gunnison Basin area.



YEAR OF THE FOREST

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has declared 1985 the "International Year of the Forest," to focus world attention on the need for conservation and threats facing forests worldwide. For more info, contact International Year of the Forest, Forestry Department, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy.

ON AGAIN

The cancelled annual meeting of the Western Governors Association, originally to be held in June, will now be held August 25-28 in Honolulu. The governors of 16 states and three Pacific territories will focus on international trade and relations in the Asia/Pacific region, the effects of banking and airline deregulations and Reagan tax reform proposals. For information, call 303/623-9378 in Denver.

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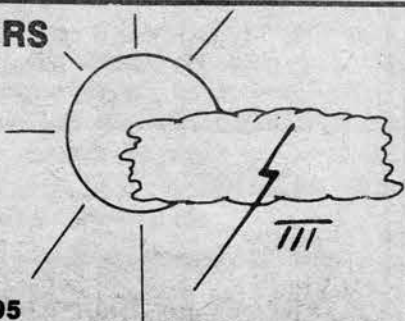
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MORMON CAMP EXPANSION

The Targhee National Forest in eastern Idaho wants comments on the proposed sale of six acres of forest land to the Mormon Church for expanding its Rock Creek Girls Camp. The camp has used portions of the land since 1950 under a special use permit granted by the Forest Service. However, the acreage is part of the summer, fall and winter range for big game species and is in Situation 1 grizzly bear habitat, defined as one in which the needs of the bear are paramount for management. Comments should be sent to Mark Orme, Supervisor's Office, Targhee National Forest, P.O. Box 208, St. Anthony, ID 83445 by August 8.

MONTANA GRIZZLY STATEMENT

Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has issued a first draft of its grizzly bear programmatic environmental impact statement. The draft provides for early comment until August 27 and public meetings. After another draft to be published in October, the final statement is due in January. For a copy of the draft and schedule of meetings, write Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 E. Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620.

BLM WILDLIFE CHIEF SOUGHT

The Bureau of Land Management is looking for a new chief of the agency's Division of Wildlife to replace John E. Crawford, who retired earlier this year. We're told applicants will be evaluated on their knowledge of wildlife management, BLM's wildlife program, related laws, regulations and directives and on their ability to communicate. Contact Assistant Director, Renewable Resources, BLM, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

CELEBRATE THE GRASSROOTS

The Environmental Task Force wants to recognize active environmental groups with a series of Outstanding Grassroots Conservation Effort Awards, to be presented this November. "We want to identify groups (large or small; state or local) that serve as an inspiration for the efforts of other communities," says the Task Force, which celebrates its 5th anniversary this year. Send nominations to ETF, 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW, #912, Washington, D.C. 20036 by Aug. 31, 1985.

PANHANDLE PLAN

The Forest Service has published a proposed forest plan and draft environmental impact statement for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (Coeur d'Alene, Kaniksu, St. Joe), and are holding hearings until September to gather public reaction. The plan includes wildlife and timber management alternatives and discusses the goals and philosophy of the foresters for the upcoming years. Copies of the plan or its overview, and a schedule of meeting dates, are available from Idaho Panhandle National Forests, 1201 Ironwood Dr., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 (208/765-7223). Send comments by Sept. 1.

HOME BUILDERS MEETING

A meeting for private home owner/builders to discuss methods of planning and ways of avoiding the pitfalls of construction will be held in Boulder, Colorado on July 30, sponsored by the Denver Solar Energy Association. Speakers include Maureen McIntyre, director of the Colorado Owner/Builder Center in Boulder. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 4595 Eliot Street at 46th and Federal (303/863-0909).

FOUR CORNERS RESOURCE GUIDE

The excellent 58-minute documentary, "The Four Corners: a National Sacrifice Area?" now has a 24-page *Resource Guide* detailing environmental issues and suggestions for study and action. The film was shown on public television stations nationwide in 1983 and was produced by Christopher McLeod, Randy Hayes and Glenn Switkes, who also wrote the guide. David Brower contributed its foreword, and issues covered include uranium mining and its legacy, water and air quality degradation, wilderness, coal and synfuels. One copy is \$3.50 but there are cost savings with bulk orders from Four Corners Films, Box C-151, La Honda, CA 94020 (415/747-0685).

FIRE PHONE

Fire is an increasingly dangerous possibility as the summer months continue, says the Forest Service, and this year should be especially bad because of the low level of rainfall during spring and consistently high temperatures during June and the early part of July. The Northern Region of the Forest Service has information available on fires in the national forests 24 hours a day and urges people to call for information or to report a fire. Call 406/329-4880 from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. and 406/543-5111 from 6 p.m. - 6 a.m.

TETON SCHOOL NEWS

The Teton Science School has a new executive director. In June, Colleen Cabot resigned and Greg Zeigler took over her job of fundraising, staffing and overseeing the northwestern Wyoming private, nonprofit institution. Zeigler was formerly a course leader for the National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander, Wyoming, director of the Western Door Wilderness School in Salt Lake City and, most recently, principal of a private school in Salt Lake City. The Teton Science School's summer seminar series isn't over yet; August and September will feature several two- to five-day seminars on plants, river forms and processes, astronomy and photography, and longer field ecology courses for junior high and high school students. Contact the Teton Science School at P.O. Box 68, Kelly, WY 83001 (307/733-4765).

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM COMMENTS SOUGHT

The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service have released their draft report on the six-year-old "experimental range stewardship program." The program developed grazing policies that provided incentives to permittees who improved public grazing lands. More than 12 million acres of federal, state, and private lands in nine Western states were developed under the program. For copies of the report (comments are due July 26), write the Experimental Range Stewardship Program, Director (221), Bureau of Land Management, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20240 (202/653-9210), or Forest Service-USDA, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013, attn: Range Management (703/235-8142).



NATIONAL RANGE CONFERENCE

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior are expecting 800 participants for their National Conference on Range from Nov. 6-8 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Some 60 private organizations will send range management professionals, agribusiness representatives and environmental spokespersons to talk about conserving and improving range and rethinking marketing strategies, among other topics. Range and forested range cover more than 800 million acres of the continental U.S. For more information, contact Doug Sellars, c/o National Rangeland Conference, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, D.C. 20013.