

A Wilderness lockout ✓ See page 3

High Country News

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A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar

Tom Bangs



WOLVES

make a comeback in the West

✓ See page 10

WESTERN ROUNDUP



High Country News

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Colorado developers go after the DOW

Jim Ruch, director of Colorado's Division of Wildlife, says his agency is only doing its job when it counts up the multimillion dollar costs of development to wildlife. "I don't like being threatened," Ruch says.

On Feb. 3, Eastern Slope Democrat Robert Shoemaker introduced a bill that would restrict the DOW from making any recommendation for fish and wildlife mitigation unless specifically requested by the state Mined Land Reclamation Board or a federal agency.

The wildlife agency aroused the ire of the Denver water establishment this winter when the DOW estimated it would cost \$30 million to mitigate losses from the proposed Two Forks dam and reservoir. The dam would inundate a Blue Ribbon fishery on the South Platte.

At a meeting of wildlife professionals in Grand Junction Jan. 29, Ruch talked about pressure from suburban Denver water developers whose attorney, Marcia Hughes, later admitted to helping draft Shoemaker's bill. Ruch said in an interview that he hoped the "muzzling" attempt was an "aberration." If the bill passed, he added, Gov. Richard Lamm would veto it.

If Ruch was under the gun, several

other speakers at the Wildlife Society's 14th annual meeting probably felt similar sensations. On the hot seat were Ken Mitchell, Denver Water Board planner; Larry Lichliter, Vail Associates vice president; and John Korb, Forest Service group leader for ski areas.

Lichliter, whose resort wants to expand from 14,250 to 24,000 skiers at one time, told the 150, mostly bearded members of the audience, "I feel like the red meat here." But Lichliter made it clear that mitigation was far less important than jobs. He said 25 percent of the jobs in western Colorado were connected with skiing. Mitigation had to be reasonable, he continued. "Everyone believes I have deep pockets. I believe in wildlife... (but) I can't pay it all."

Lichliter and the Forest Service's Korb agreed that off-site impacts of any development were mostly out of their realm. Lichliter said the solution should come from a new tax passed by the state legislature, something eastern Colorado water developers also support to help pay for new dams.

Asked whether Colorado needed more or bigger ski resorts when the industry as a whole is flat, Korb said, "We're not qualified to answer that." Only if Vail closed would the economic

indicators be loud and clear, he said.

Another question to Korb concerned cumulative impacts and whether the Forest Service had looked at pressure on campgrounds and trails from ski areas, which are increasingly four-season resorts. Korb said the plans had tried to do that "although we're still learning." Part of that learning, he continued, has meant "feeding attorneys" as plans have come under legal attack. The Colorado wildlife agency and Colorado Wildlife Federation appealed the Forest Service decision last year (*HCN*, 12/23/85) to allow expansion of the Snowmass ski resort onto Burnt Mountain. The DOW said that expansion will block an elk and deer migration route.

Although the Denver Water Board's Mitchell said little, he heard the metro area's Two Forks dam proposal roundly attacked. Dan Luecke of the Environmental Defense Fund said the dam was an expensive, environmentally destructive "fix" that ignores conservation; that the \$30 million environmental impact statement overstates Denver-area growth, and that trans-basin diversion through the Continental Divide "is the worst thing you can do environmentally."

--Betsy Marston

Dear friends,

One of the characteristics of each staff of *High Country News* has been a vivid imagination. It is not -- whatever the federal agencies we cover may think -- an imagination which thinks up bogus stories and imagines sinister plots. It is rather an imagination which keeps in mind the importance of the distant places we are writing about and the people we are writing for.

Keeping those images in mind is easy in the summer, when we tend to travel more and when traveler-readers from far-off regions find their way to Paonia. But it is more difficult in the winter, even an open winter like this one.

So it was a pleasure to get two recent pieces of mail. One was a postcard from two readers who are working for a year in the Galapagos Islands. Jeannie Lloyd and Jerry Amory wrote that *HCN's* arrival is "a breath of fresh air in the sometimes stifling equatorial heat." The postcard, with its vivid pictures of Galapagoan birds and turtles, made us envy the former Berkeley pair their equatorial heat.

The same mail brought a longer letter from John Sledd of Window Rock, Arizona. Normally, we'd be shy of printing such a letter. But it is more a tribute to *HCN* as an institution than to any one staff, and we offer it in that spirit:

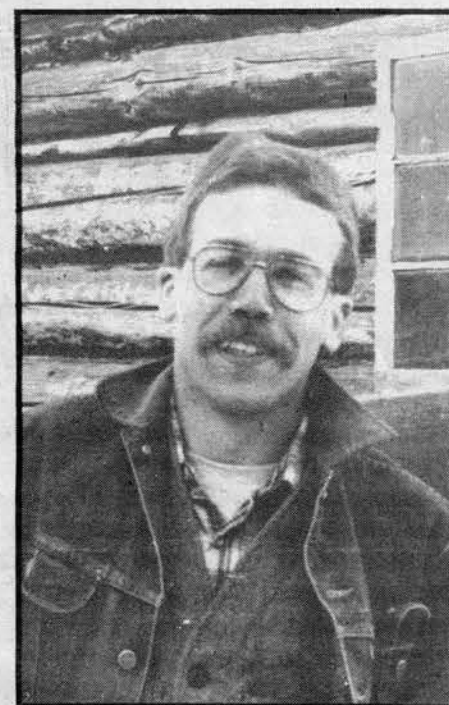
Dear *HCN*,

I think I'm entering my tenth year with *HCN*. Nothing else in my life is as constant -- not my address, not my occupation, not even my truck (except insofar as it is constantly breaking down). But if the day ever comes when I'd rather pay to fix my truck than renew my *HCN*, I'll know I've lost my moral compass.

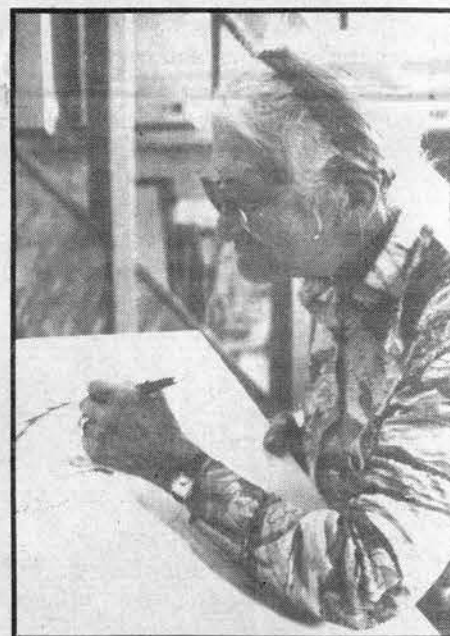
The other day I saw a copy of *HCN* in the home of a friend, and felt almost like he'd stolen a lover. I realized I've become jealous of *HCN*, and take a selfish pride in this gem of environmental, regional -- hell, American -- journalism.

We wouldn't suggest, although it may be true, that the High Country Foundation board of directors could bring anyone in off the street to produce this paper. But so strong is its tradition and its community of readers, that this is almost true. The paper's community shapes the staff far more than the staff shapes the paper. That shaping is not based on chains of command or authority but rather on a shared view of what the West is now, and what it can become.

It occurred to us, in the wake of last issue's essay on the nature of the environmental movement, that this



Bruce Farling



Mary Back

paper is blessed with a wonderful structure. There is the Paonia staff, but most of the paper is conceived and written by writers spread all over the region. And because the association is voluntary, it is also both productive and pleasant. *HCN* has three full-time employees. A fourth full-timer would be welcome, but the basic principle of a lean core staff working with writers throughout the region is sound.

What do you see when you look out your kitchen window? Could you take a different walk every day of the week and find worlds to explore? We know Wyoming artist Mary Back can, for she has written a fascinating book (see page 8) about what immediately surrounds her home, some 80 miles south of Yellowstone National Park.

With this issue we welcome our Montana correspondent, Bruce Farling, who some readers will recall as a former *HCN* intern. Bruce is busy doing the groundwork for a special issue on Glacier National Park.

--the staff

The BLM closes access to 75,000 acres of wilderness

The public has lost the only practicable, two-wheel-drive access to Western Colorado's 75,000-acre Dominguez Wilderness Study Area managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Although highway access to the land is unsigned, the area, located between Grand Junction and Delta along Colorado State Highway 50, is used by several thousand visitors each year, with the number growing steadily.

Visitors are attracted by the canyons; by the pools, waterfalls and riparian habitat along the Big and Little Dominguez creeks; by petroglyphs; by the desert wildlife; and by the cabins and other evidence of almost a century of ranching in the area.

Dominguez provides a well-documented example of an endemic Western problem: the lack of public access to vast areas of public lands. According to a Jan. 2, 1986, article in *The Wall Street Journal*, there are 404 million acres of public and state lands in the 11 continental Western states. Of that land, the National Wildlife Federation says, one-third has no legal overland access. And 40 to 60 percent has serious access problems.

In Montana alone, 60 percent of the 8 million acres of BLM land has access problems, according to state director Dean Stepanek. The result is that huge chunks of "public" land are public in name only.

In the face of increased demand from hunters, hikers and others for use of the public land, the situation is getting worse as landowners move to close off land they see becoming a nuisance due to use. According to the *Journal*, "chained gates and fences close roads formerly open to public use."

Dominguez is an example of continuing loss of access, and of the politics which surround the losses. The physical key is a rickety wooden suspension bridge across the Gunnison River which has provided public and ranch access for the last 50 years. It was closed to the public, but not to the rancher, on Jan. 31, 1986, by the BLM in an emergency action.

The BLM said that it had liability in case of an accident occurring on the bridge. The rancher, also fearing liability in case of an accident, wanted a closure for the same reason. But the closure did not come about automatically. It took months, and the involvement of high levels of government.

The case involves classic Western elements: a ranching family opposed to the increased use that wilderness status will bring to the neighboring public land they use for grazing; a Sierra Club chapter intent on keeping access; and direct involvement by politicians and political appointees. The latter include Rep. Mike Strang, R-Colo., BLM state director Kannon Richards in Denver, and BLM chief Robert Burford in Washington, D.C.

The Dominguez closure is emotional. Don Young, who manages the Bridgeport Ranch owned by the Mussers, has allegedly bothered hikers. The local Sierra Club head, Mark Pearson, has charged that the Mussers have long wanted to bar the public from the public land bordering their ranch, and that Strang exerted influence on the BLM to close the bridge to the public. Pearson also said that he told the BLM on numerous

occasions that he was interested in the area, but that he was never involved in the process which led to the closure.

Mike Strang's assistant in Grand Junction, Shirley Woodrow, arranged and attended meetings between the rancher and BLM which were closed to the public. On July 25, 1985, after an evening meeting between the Mussers and BLM, she wrote the following letter, reprinted here in full, to BLM area manager Frosty Littrell:

"You did an excellent job with the Musser meeting and we thank you. You distinguished yourself by having the patience to allow them an opportunity to air all past grievances. They are tough!

"Some of the problems are really the worry about growing infringement of government rules and regulations and how they apply to private land owners. We hear it every day and about every agency of government. It is a frustrating time for all parties.

Keep us posted where we can help. Mike (Strang) has offered to help us with this one with Burford, if we need higher help."

BLM chief Burford, who formerly ranched in the Grand Junction area, did get involved. State director Kannon Richards told *HCN* that Burford had called him about the bridge. Richards, based in Denver, kept himself up to date on events happening in the Grand Junction office.

Richards, Strang aides, the Mussers and Grand Junction BLM district manager Richard Freel emphatically state that no pressure was exerted to close the bridge. Richards said Burford called only to say that there had been inquiries about the bridge. Richards said the order to close the bridge "was the easiest I ever made. The bridge is dangerous and we couldn't accept the liability." Richards also said he is a strong proponent of public access. "My policy on public access is very strong. I've taken a lot of heat for it."

John Musser, the rancher, said the key is his unwillingness to accept liability for accidents that may occur on the bridge. "Would you accept liability for that bridge?" He said that even if he won a lawsuit, the attorney fees would cost him his ranch. The suspension bridge, with its rotting boards and dangling pieces of wood and metal, looks like a menace. The Mussers drive pickup trucks across the bridge, but it sways, sags and swings as the trucks cross.

Musser said Strang and Burford were involved because, under the law, the Dept. of Interior can accept responsibility for accidents occurring on private property sitting on public land. (The Mussers own the bridge, but the abutments rest on BLM land.) However, Musser said, the Interior Dept. refused to accept responsibility, leaving the family no choice but to seek closure of the bridge to public use.

Lowell Madsen, the Interior Solicitor who recommended closure to public use, also said the decision was easy. A one-page engineering report done in Oct. 1985 by the BLM said "this structure is not safe for traffic of any kind and should be abandoned."

Freel, the BLM District Manager in Grand Junction, said neither Richards nor Strang exerted any pressure on him. Freel said there was no reason to involve the public in the

emergency closure, and that he had no choice but to close the bridge once the engineering report came in. Freel was asked why he did not follow the engineering report to the letter and "abandon" the bridge or condemn and close it to all use. "He said, 'The Mussers have been using it for their ranch for years,' and no public liability is involved.

The bridge has been in poor shape for years. The BLM wanted to tear it down in the 1960s. But each time it was about to be torn down or fall down, it was reprieved. It has been repaired numerous times, both by its rancher-owners and by the BLM.

Its vague status and uncertain ownership seemed to be resolved by a 1984 agreement based on a 30-page report by a BLM engineer. The report said the bridge was usable for foot traffic and light vehicles. On that basis, the BLM negotiated the crucial right-of-way agreement with the Mussers. The agreement, which remains in effect, appears to do the following:

- 1) It allows the Mussers to use the bridge for vehicles, cattle, etc.
- 2) It allows the public to use the bridge on foot;
- 3) It places the burden on the Mussers to maintain the bridge;
- 4) It gives the BLM the power to close the bridge to all users -- apparently including the Mussers -- if a threat to the public welfare or the environment exists;
- 5) It allows the Mussers to erect a locked gate a mile from the bridge to keep traffic away from the entrance to the bridge.

According to the Sierra Club's Mark Pearson, the locked gate was a key part of the 1984 compromise. The gate forces rafters to carry their craft a mile to a put-in spot on the Gunnison River. But it provided relief for the Mussers, who were disturbed by parties near the bridge and vandalism to it. In fact, their foreman, Don Young, had illegally erected the locked gate in advance of the agreement.

The locked gate and foot access worked for about a year. Then in 1985, the BLM recommended 55,000 acres of the 75,000 acres Dominguez area for wilderness status, leaving 20,000 acres as a buffer between the ranch and wilderness. Musser, enlisting the support of the Delta County Commissioners, objected to any wilderness. But public comment convinced the BLM to recommend all 75,000 acres as wilderness.

Coincident with the wilderness process, the Mussers sought a solution to the liability problem they believed they had with the bridge. That led to the meetings brought about by Strang's office, and to the unsuccessful approach to the Interior Dept. to transfer liability.

According to BLM manager Freel, the Musser's concern about liability brought a team of BLM people from Denver in Oct. 1985. They were partly on an inspection visit and partly on a search for a site for a new foot or vehicle bridge to provide access to the wilderness.

In the long term, their estimate that a foot bridge could be built for about \$150,000 may prove important. In the short term, the key result of the visit was a one-page report from engineer Kim Roddy. It said the bridge was unsafe and should be

"abandoned." From the right-of-way agreement with the Mussers, it appears that the BLM could have:

1) Ordered the Mussers to bring the bridge up to snuff. ("Said owner of bridge is responsible for any and all costs associated with bridge repair and maintenance.")

2) Ordered the bridge closed to everyone. ("The authorized officer may temporarily suspend all activities under this right-of-way upon a determination that holder is in violation of the terms and conditions of this grant and that such suspension is necessary to protect the public health and safety of the environment.")

3) Maintained the status quo. (The BLM apparently considered keeping the status quo because it waited three months after the engineering report to impose the emergency closure.)

But then the BLM closed foot access to the bridge to the general public while allowing the Mussers to drive across it. State director Kannon Richards, solicitor Lowell Madsen, and area manager Richard Freel said the decision was not arbitrary, and that closure to the general public while leaving it open to the Mussers was their only option.

Freel was asked why the BLM ordered a new engineering report in Oct. 1985 when it had a 30-page report from 1984 saying the bridge was safe. Freel said high water had made a new report necessary. He also said that there had been no complaints about the safety of the bridge from the public. In response to a question, he said he had heard there had been complaints filed with the sheriff and the Montrose office of the BLM about harassment of the public by Musser's ranch manager, Don Young. But he said no complaints had been filed with his office.

Actually, a two-page written complaint had been filed with Freel's office on Jan. 2, 1986, by two Grand Junction residents. Alan Reed and Janet McVicker said Young used his truck to block their access to the bridge and then "stood in front of his truck wielding a shovel handle. He wore a security badge."

Young, who appears to have a free hand from the Mussers in administering the bridge, interprets the 1984 right-of-way agreement with the BLM to mean that "foot access" excludes people walking bicycles across the bridge. Young was trying to hold Reed and McVicker until a peace officer arrived to arrest them because they had taken mountain bicycles across the bridge. A Division of Wildlife officer eventually arrived, but did not arrest the pair. The right-of-way agreement reads:

"This Access Agreement allows public foot access across the Bridgeport Bridge to all citizens of the United States of America for all lawful and proper purposes subject to rules and regulations of the Secretary of the Interior." The question of whether this allows people to walk or carry bicycles is moot for the moment.

The emergency closure imposed by the BLM will remain in effect while it prepares an environmental assessment that considers several alternatives, including a finding that no public access is needed; a finding that a footbridge be built; a finding that a one-lane vehicle bridge be built; and re-evaluation of the existing bridge.

--Ed Marston

HOTLINE

A zoo idea



Tom Warren

A developer in West Yellowstone, Montana, wants to put problem grizzly bears into a two-acre zoo near Yellowstone National Park. Lewis Robinson, III, the developer, says the bear sanctuary would be part of a multi-million dollar complex including a mall, hotel, tourist train, and fast-food restaurants. At least one bear researcher, Charles Jonkel at the University of Montana, noted problems in building a roadside zoo. One difficulty was showing bears to tourists in an abnormal situation; another was overcrowding. "Grizzlies would need a very large enclosure -- 40 acres at a minimum," Jonkel says.

Freedom from copying fees

Two Oregon lawyers have won a court victory which will help citizen groups everywhere obtain free access to public information. The win by John Bonine and Michael Axline of the Western Natural Resources Law Clinic came Jan. 8, 1986, in D.C. District Appeals Court on cases filed for the National Wildlife Federation and the Better Government Association against the Dept. of Interior and the Dept. of State, respectively. The agencies had charged the citizen groups copying fees for requests made under the Freedom of Information Act. When they filed suit, the agencies withdrew the charges and argued before the court that the case was settled. But the court ruled that the underlying policy was still in effect, and it ordered a lower court to determine the legality of that policy. The judges also declared that Congress intended public interest groups, scholars and authors to get free copying, and it declared access to information the "lifeblood" of many citizen groups. Further information is available from Bonine or Axline at 503/686-3823. The attorneys have specialized in Freedom of Information Act cases.

A Montana river is pitted against 700 jobs

The debate has heated up in Montana over whether an industrial giant in wood products should be allowed to increase its pollution of the Clark Fork River.

The industrial giant is Champion International, which two years ago asked the Montana Water Quality Bureau for a permit to discharge treated wastewater year-round from its Frenchtown pulp mill into the Clark Fork. Before this request, discharge was only allowed during the spring when high runoff diluted the effluent. But the company said its holding ponds for wastewater had become plugged and unable to retain the wastes; Champion needed to dump wastes at all times.

After preparing a three-page analysis of the request, the state bureau granted Champion the permit, a decision that did not sit well with conservationists, some residents of Missoula or downstream communities such as Plains and Sandpoint, Idaho. They said the wastes discolored the river, produced foam, and contributed to nutrient-loading and lower dissolved oxygen levels -- both harmful to aquatic life.

After hundreds of people protested the new permit, the bureau backtracked, first holding public hearings and then granting Champion the permit only on a temporary basis. During the next 18 months the state was to study effects of the increased wastes, prepare an environmental impact statement based on the study, and then decide whether year-round dumping should be allowed.

The draft EIS was released in late December, and on January 28 a public hearing was held on its findings that year-round discharge was not harmful enough to deny a five-year permit. Three hundred people attended the hearing at which Peter Nielsen, spokesman for a conservation group called the Clark Fork Coalition, attacked the draft EIS. He said the document was technically inadequate, and that its three alternatives -- permit denial, permit approval, approval of

an unspecified modified permit -- left too few choices for the public.

Nielsen said denial was unrealistic because it would close the pulp mill; therefore his group did not advocate that. But he said because the modified permit alternative mentioned no specifics, the public was left with one choice: to approve the permit as requested. Nielsen said, "This is what the Water Quality Bureau and Champion wanted all along." He called for a new, more detailed draft EIS.

Hugh Zackheim, a research scientist with the Montana Legislature's Environmental Quality Council, agreed with Nielsen, and said the "abbreviated discussion of alternatives does not meet the intent of the law (the Montana Environmental Policy Act)."

But Richard Reid, spokesman for a timber industry lobbying group called the Inland Forest Resource Council, said, "A long array of alternatives are not needed. We have three reasonable alternatives at this point." Reid's group supports year-round discharge.

Other timber industry representatives at the hearing rattled off statistics to point up the mill's contribution to Montana's economy: 700 jobs and a \$28 million payroll. They said this was 6 percent of Montana's 1984 economic base, and not to approve a five-year permit at this time would jeopardize the existence of the mill.

Despite these concerns, no one has suggested publicly that anything less than year-round discharge for five years would close the mill. According to Champion spokesman Dan Potts, the mill's upcoming sale to the Chicago-based Stone Container Corporation is still on schedule. There is no indication from either company that the permit decision affects the sale.

Vicky Watson, a University of Montana biology professor, said 18 months has not been long enough to collect sufficient data. Citing last year's drought and Champion's less-than-allowed discharge during

the study period, she said the draft EIS does not include enough information on key water quality indicators such as fisheries, nutrient loading, toxics and dissolved oxygen and how they relate to higher effluent levels. Watson recommended a temporary two-year permit for year-round discharge, with a provision for more detailed study.

The Clark Fork has a long history as a dumping pool for heavy metals from mining, urban sewage and non-point source pollutants from agriculture, logging and ranching. Research by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks indicates that downstream from the mill the river produces only 10 percent of the trout found in streams of comparable size. Peter Nielsen adds that surface foam and river discoloration is increasing. As a commercial river outfitter, he said he is concerned that more degradation of the Clark Fork will hurt his industry.

Sandpoint resident Mike Demarco told the audience that increased impacts on the river from discharges such as Champion's will hurt his community's tourist economy. He said, "You in Montana have your problems, but we in Idaho have our problems and your problems."

Demarco chided the Water Quality Bureau for omitting from its study the river's contributions to the tourism and outfitting industries, while devoting 32 pages to Champion's contributions to the local economy.

Water Quality Bureau Chief Steve Pilcher reminded the audience that the draft and its recommendation are not final, adding that any permit will allow for adjustments based on future monitoring. He also extended the public comment period on the draft EIS until February 27, so that comments can still be sent to him at the Montana Water Quality Bureau, Cogswell Building, Helena, MT 59620.

--Bruce Farling

The East moves to clean up its dirty coal

As a tradeoff for the abolition of the \$88 billion Synthetic Fuels Corp. (HCN, 1/20/86), the Reagan administration agreed in December 1985 to the funding of a \$400 million Clean Coal Technology Program run by the Department of Energy. The program appears to have quickly gained momentum, with the DOE scheduled to release a request for proposals in mid-February, and a major conference on clean coal technology scheduled for Washington, D.C., Feb. 19.

The former "dig it out and burn it" industry is moving to clean up its act on several other fronts. The Electric Power Research Institute is spending \$582 million on new clean coal technology, and Ohio and Illinois, which have enormous quantities of high-sulfur coal, are spending money on cleanup research. In addition, the joint report from the U.S. acid rain emissary, Drew Lewis, and his Canadian counterpart, released Jan. 8, recommends a \$5 billion clean coal commercialization program.

It appears that utilities and dirty coal producers are working to solve the sulfur emissions/acid rain problem even as they deny a problem

exists. There are high stakes in the effort for the sagging Western coal industry. Western coal was boomed in the mid-1970s by Eastern and Southern utilities which elected to meet clean air standards by buying low-sulfur Western coal.

That boom has turned into a semi-bust as rising rail rates and a 1977 revision of the Clean Air Act discouraged use of Western coal. Some Western coal producers had

hoped that the cleanup pressure generated by the acid rain danger would again promote Western coal. The emphasis on developing ways to clean high-sulfur Eastern coal, however, indicates otherwise.

For information on the conference, call the National Coal Association at 202/463-2625.

--Ed Marston

Utah wilderness recommendations

The BLM in Utah recommended the designation of almost 1.9 million acres of wilderness in its draft environmental impact statement released Feb. 5.

The proposal calls for less than the 10.5, or 3.8 million acres recommended by various conservation groups, but "1.9 million acres more than we need," according to Cal Black, San Juan County Commissioner in Utah.

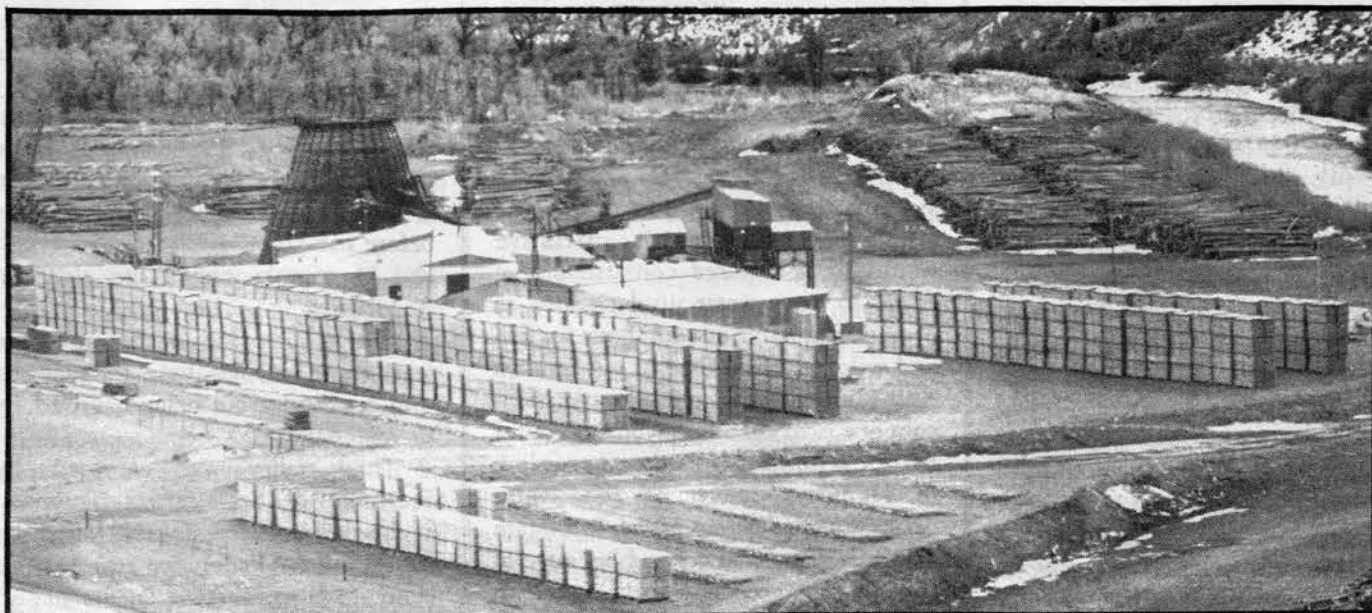
Gary Macfarlane of the Utah Wilderness Association says the Bureau of Land Management "treated wilderness inconsistently and some-

times as an afterthought" in its environmental analysis.

The BLM proposal of 1,892,402 acres in 58 wilderness study areas is available in six volumes weighing 19 pounds from the BLM, 324 S. State St., Salt Lake City, UT 84111. BLM information officer Jack Reed tells us volume one is a statewide overview. Call Reed at 801/524-3146 for information about 16 public hearings scheduled for March.

--Betsy Marston

Dubois wants a larger Bridger-Teton cut



Louisiana-Pacific Corp.'s 20-year-old timber mill

Many residents of timber-dependent Dubois, Wyoming, have challenged plans of the Bridger-Teton National Forest to reduce logging and want more time to change economic gears before the cuts are made.

About 75 area residents questioned a proposed 15-year forest management plan at a meeting in Dubois last month. The plan includes logging reductions so severe they would shut down Louisiana-Pacific's mill in Dubois, which means a 25 percent or greater loss to the town's economic base.

"Economic diversity doesn't happen in six months," said Jim Robinson, Dubois school superintendent and chairman of a new 400-member group called Citizens for Multiple Use. He called on the Forest Service for "room to extend the harvest" while the town plans its future.

The new forest plan, due out next month, signals hard times for the small community across Togwotee Pass from Jackson Hole. Bob Baker, L-P's forester in Dubois, has said the mill needs at least 16 million board feet of timber a year to continue operations. But a Bridger-Teton study issued late last year noted that the 3.4 million-acre forest just isn't large enough to satisfy both timber needs and recreation for the larger area that includes the resort town of Jackson. The problem is compounded because the national forest timber L-P needs is no longer close to the mill.

At the meeting, Baker asked Ernie Nunn, acting supervisor of the Bridger-Teton, whether the reduced level of timbering in the new plan would allow his mill to continue.

Nunn said flatly, no.

Nunn said, "We recognize there might be a higher value" for timber stands than clearcutting and commodity production. He said those values include scenery, recreation and a wildlife habitat beneficial to the Jackson Hole tourist industry.

"I'm not willing to continue to over-allocate timber in those drainages where it is inappropriate," Nunn said.

Jesse Hill, a five-year mill mechanic with Louisiana-Pacific in Dubois is disturbed by the Bridger-Teton plan. "I just bought this house," he said, pointing to his home overlooking the town of 1,067. If Forest predictions are accurate, "I'm going to have to move or go back to road construction," he said.

Although Bridger-Teton planner Carl Pence told Thursday's audience there is flexibility in the forest's plan, suggesting that higher timber-

ing levels might be prolonged past the plan's expected adoption in six months, Robinson later called the response "vague."

"We didn't learn any more than we had known," Robinson said of the meeting. Forest officials "still haven't made themselves believable to me," he added.

Danny Grubb, the mayor of Dubois, said the Bridger-Teton has not substantiated its premise that timbering continued at its present levels would hurt the Jackson Hole recreation industry. "We don't believe we have to have a win-lose scenario," he said.

Recently, the town of Dubois hired the Colorado consulting group FUND, which stands for Foundation for Urban and Neighborhood Development. FUND specializes in helping communities deal with economic changes. Recently, the Forest Service contributed \$15,000 to help pay for the six-month, \$50,000 study. Linda Bacigalupi, FUND's representative at the meeting, said a transition from a timber to a tourist-based economy would be less painful if the mill could be phased out, and not just shut down. That position is not shared by local environmentalists.

Robinson said if the Forest does "anything to unsettle us socially or economically they have to be accountable." He said he believes Nunn is "attempting to live up to the standard of NEPA" (National Environmental Policy Act), which requires that accountability.

"Any resource the Forest Service can lend us must... mitigate our loss both socially or economically," Robinson continued. "They could actually provide manpower to conduct additional research."

But seeking direct financial aid, "that might be kind of a radical request," Robinson said.

In a study of Dubois, the Bridger-Teton said some of the town's woes are attributable to unrealistic projections of available timber. The study also notes that the mill has twice been shut down temporarily because of bad market conditions. Hess, for example, said he was laid off for five months once.

But Robinson said, "I put the responsibility directly at the doorstep of the preservationists." He said, "national politics of environmental groups is forcing different utilization of the forest. Basically it adjusts us out of business."

Several people at the meeting criticized Bridger-Teton's economic study of Dubois, saying it did not take into account the taxes the logging

industry contributed to the government. "This is a life-and-death matter," said insurance salesman John Murdock. "To try and pawn it off with some flabby words is not going to cut it."

The study also said Dubois might want to expand its recreational-oriented industries if timber production drops as predicted. "Most of the people I know here are pretty dependent on the timber industry," said Louisiana-Pacific's Hess. "The people dependent on recreation -- they're pretty few."

Robinson said the Forest's timetable and Louisiana-Pacific's timber supply will give his town's residents "enough time to get in line for a U-Haul." He said it might be time to "move to Jackson and get in a tourist-based economy and out of a product-oriented one, to move to a destination-oriented (resort) as opposed to a drive-through one."

"If that's the way the Forest is going," Robinson said, "I guess we'll have to cross the mountain."

--Angus M. Thuermer, Jr.

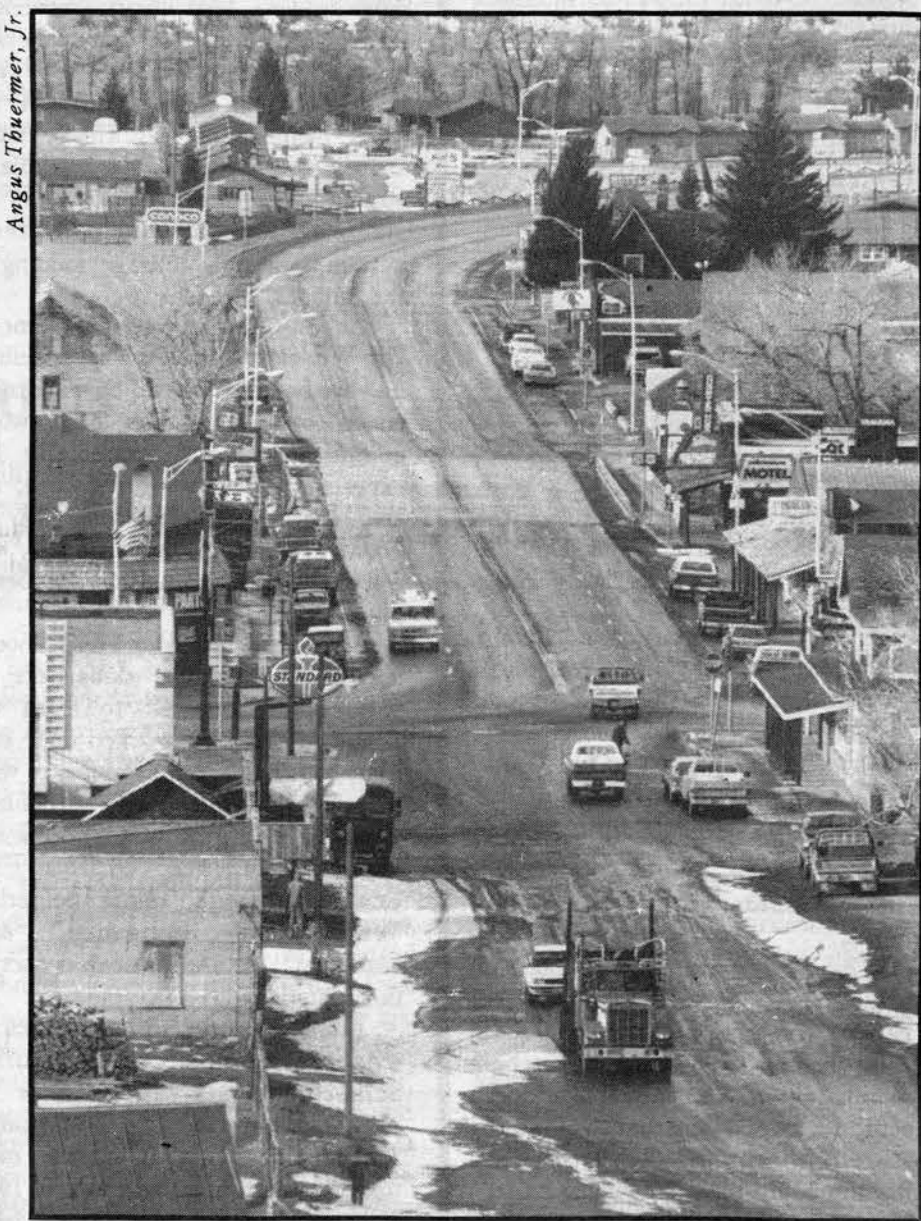
HOTLINE

Copper workers squeezed

If Kennecott Copper gets its way, the once highly paid copper workers will be reduced to earning a mediocre wage with mediocre benefits. In negotiations in Phoenix between the Sohio Oil subsidiary and union leaders, Kennecott asked for a one-third cut in wages and benefits. Average hourly pay would drop from \$13.76 to \$9.66. Total loss per employee would be \$16,000 per year. The reduction may be the price Kennecott expects to extract for reopening its huge Salt Lake City, Utah, Bingham pit and rehiring 2,100 people (HCN, 1/20/86). Kennecott says it needs the reduction to get competitive. The West has lost thousands of highly paid mining jobs, in everything from coal to uranium. Kennecott's attempt to reopen its mine by obtaining a total of \$50 million a year in labor concessions could be a sign of the future.

ARCO cuts back

The declining price of oil has prompted Atlantic Richfield's oil and gas division to lay off 2,000 of its 7,300 employees, close its Denver office and sell most of its producing properties in the Rocky Mountain West. ARCO spokesman Curt Burton told the *Casper Star-Tribune* that half of the layoffs will be in the Dallas area, though 100 of the 300 employees in Denver will be laid off. Another 150 of the Denver employees will be transferred, and a small crew will remain in Denver to sell off the Rocky Mountain properties, which account for 10 percent of ARCO's production total. "This (consolidation) is all based on the price of oil -- it's purely an economic decision," said ARCO's Burton. ARCO's income from oil production dipped from \$325 million in the fourth quarter of 1984 to \$306 million in the fourth quarter of 1985.



Main Street, Dubois, Wyoming

HOTLINE

Antelope vs coal



Dick Randall, Defenders of Wildlife

The Office of Surface Mining recently recommended allowing coal mining in the controversial Red Rim area of southwestern Wyoming. OSM studied the area after the National Wildlife Federation called for declaring the area unsuitable. The 19,000-acre area provides valuable winter range for up to 3,000 pronghorn and the wildlife group said mining would harm the herd. OSM rejected that claim, but did acknowledge that some antelope would be lost once their winter range was reduced. The OSM also said the area would be difficult to reclaim, requiring techniques not now in general use. The OSM report will be used by the Secretary of the Interior to determine whether federal coal in the area should be offered for lease. The Red Rim contains some 70 million tons of coal in a checkerboard of private and public land, with private sections owned by rancher Taylor Lawrence, who gained national attention when he erected a 28-mile fence across his property (HCN, 12/26/83). Union Pacific's subsidiary, Rocky Mountain Energy, owns the coal under Lawrence's sections and has consistently opposed unsuitability designation. The company, however, says it has no current plan to develop a mine in the area, although it wants the federal tract offered for leasing.

BARBS

PAC-Man this ain't.

Simulated war games above the Nevada desert have resulted in the deaths of 41 pilots in the last decade, reports *Associated Press*.

Another victory for the Sunbelt.

Gamblers at casinos in Atlantic City, N.J., lost \$2.14 billion in 1985. But casinos in and around Las Vegas took suckers for \$2.25 billion in the same period.

That's like a top-graded steer asking a restaurant for a share of the profits.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports on a lawsuit filed by a former cancer patient whose spleen tissue yielded a valuable cell line which researchers then patented. The patient is asking a court to award him damages and a share of the profits. Researchers say the suit could have a "chilling effect" on biomedical advances.

A bizarre incident ends a Wyoming fight

According to the Wyoming Farm Bureau, the final chapter in that group's attempt to put an instream flow initiative on the November 1986 state ballot was written by a thief, who allegedly stole several thousand signed petitions out of the organization's Laramie office.

The theft, which was reported by Farm Bureau director Larry Bourret to the police on Jan. 21, but kept secret otherwise, ends a tortuous and controversial effort by that group to place their instream flow initiative on the ballot.

The Farm Bureau said its initiative was an attempt to develop the state's water resources even as it protected streams. Opponents said it was an attempt to sabotage an instream flow initiative put on the 1986 ballot by the Wyoming Wildlife Federation.

If passed by the voters, the Wildlife Federation's initiative will declare water flowing in streams to be a beneficial use. That will allow the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to file on unappropriated water to keep it in streams for the benefit of fish and wildlife. It will also allow Game and Fish to accept donations of existing water rights or to purchase water rights for the purpose of leaving the water in streams. The initiative will not restore dewatered streams, but it will provide protection to streams which still have unappropriated water flowing in them.

Under present Wyoming law, "beneficial use" applies only to water which is removed from streams for such purposes as irrigation or

municipal use. Water flowing in streams, even when it supports fish and wildlife or provides esthetic values, is not a legal use. The logical outcome of existing Wyoming law is to remove all water from Wyoming's streams.

The Farm Bureau's initiative would have required construction of dams to store water until needed to provide minimum stream flows for fish and wildlife. Farm Bureau spokesman Ken Hamilton said the group's main concern is to keep in Wyoming water that now flows out of state. According to Hamilton, much of the water guaranteed to Wyoming by interstate compacts flows out unused because of lack of storage. "If we are going to have economic development in this state, we must have water, and the best way to do that is to tie it up."

Wyoming Wildlife Federation vice president Dan Cunningham says the Farm Bureau initiative is a water development bill disguised as instream flow. The Farm Bureau initiative would increase the cost of protecting stream flows because it would require the building of reservoirs, to be paid for by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Although the instream flow discussion is interesting, it has been overshadowed by the political struggle surrounding the issue. The Wildlife Federation's collection of the required 29,423 signatures to get on the Wyoming ballot was an historic first. Twelve previous efforts, on subjects ranging from coal severance tax to legalization of gambling, had failed

due to the need to collect signatures from over 5 percent of the state's 500,000 people.

In addition to the sheer numbers, the Wyoming Secretary of State required the petitions to be turned in to her office in December, 60 days before the state legislature convened, and 11 months before the election. According to the *Casper Star-Tribune's* Joan Barron, that gave the legislature enough time to pass its own law and avoid being usurped by the voters.

That policy was enforced by Secretary of State Thyra Thomson against an unsuccessful 1981 effort by the Wildlife Federation to get an instream flow initiative on the ballot. But in the face of the Farm Bureau's effort, the policy proved flexible. First, Thomson extended the deadline for a week, even though Wildlife Federation president Rodger McDaniel said his group had been told earlier it had to meet the deadline. Then, Wyoming Attorney General A.G. McClintock gave the Farm Bureau until the opening of the legislature, Feb. 17, to submit its petitions.

Controversy also surrounded the Farm Bureau's attempts to collect signatures. There were charges that the petition carriers told people that the initiative was backed by Wyoming Game and Fish. And the Farm Bureau, which at first paid some petition carriers 50 cents a signature, increased that to \$1 a signature toward the close of their drive.

--Ed Marston

John Seiberling to leave the Congress

One of the West's most influential advocates of wilderness and conservation will be leaving Congress. Rep. John Seiberling, D-Ohio, will retire at the end of the session for health and other reasons. Last spring Seiberling underwent surgery for prostate cancer, though aides say the 67-year-old is in good health now.

A member of the House since 1970, Seiberling played a key role in adding more than 200 areas in 34 states to the National Wilderness system, with new acreage totaling in the millions.

Chuck Clusen, vice president of The Wilderness Society, says Seiberling has been successful on wilderness issues because of his hard work, commitment, and especially his expertise. "He knows the land, the law, the issues, the Congress. He knows everything," says Clusen, who worked with Seiberling on a number of bills.

Sierra Club Lobbyist Tim Mahoney agrees. "Seiberling's skills were, in part, his willingness to learn the details of issues he worked on," says Mahoney. That, and his ability to work well with his colleagues, particularly the late Phil Burton of California and Interior Committee chairman Mo Udall of Arizona, made Seiberling "extraordinarily influential," says Mahoney. "He's a giant in conservation history."

More than 68 million acres of wilderness were created during Seiberling's six-year tenure as chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee. Of that amount, more than two-thirds are in Alaska. In 1979, Seiberling helped pass the Alaska

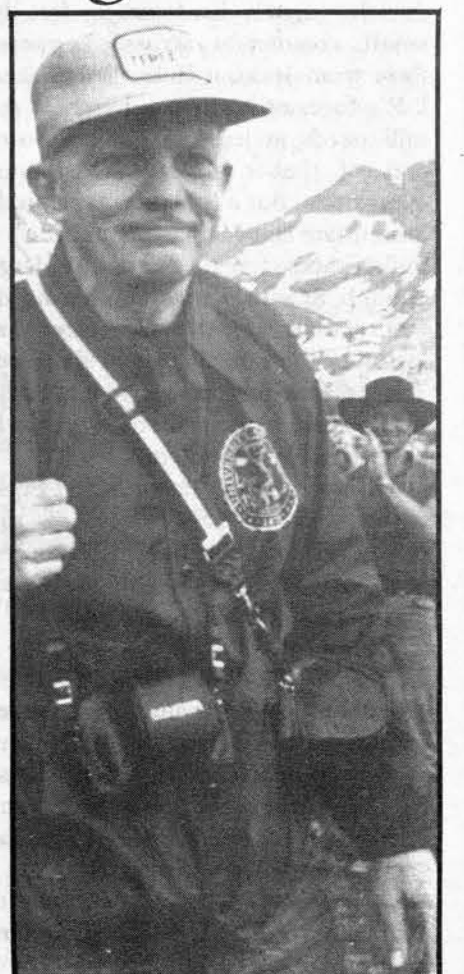
Lands Bill, which was no mean feat given the Alaska Delegation's opposition.

As in Alaska, Seiberling occasionally ran afoul of state delegations over wilderness proposals. "Local people and state delegations argue, 'Well, this is our state, why shouldn't we run it the way we want to,'" said Seiberling. "There's a very simple answer to that. 'Yes, it's your state, and you're entitled to every consideration, but the land belongs to all the American people.'"

Seiberling worked well with grass-roots organizations in wilderness battles, says Tom Dougherty, a Wildlife Federation lobbyist who worked with Seiberling on the Wyoming wilderness bill. He calls Seiberling a man of "flawless integrity" who dwells on the "people who live on the ground." The Wyoming bill, passed in 1984, created 880,000 acres of wilderness.

Seiberling and his staff have been successful in other Western states. Since 1979, almost 12 million acres of wilderness have been created in the lower 48, most of it in the West. California, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico have all seen wilderness bills pass during Seiberling's term as chairman of the Public Lands subcommittee.

Despite Seiberling's important role in conservation and wilderness, most environmentalists say his retirement will not have a major impact on the immediate future. The Sierra Club's Tim Mahoney says that individual wilderness bills seem to be working out their own resolutions within their



Representative John Seiberling

states. For example, Montana and Nevada's wilderness bills appear to be moving forward, while Idaho's has stalled, he says. Nevertheless, Mahoney says wilderness groups will miss Seiberling's "tremendous store of institutional memory," and his leadership abilities. "It's going to take us a while to develop that kind of leader again."

--Michael Kustudia

Idaho wrestles with a budget deficit

The second session of the 48th Idaho Legislature is a month old. Amid overwhelming focus on the budget, only two conservation issues are getting much attention -- hazardous materials waste regulation and strengthening Idaho's basic air and water quality law.

Idaho faces a \$27 million shortfall in its current fiscal year budget, the product of a rose-colored revenue projection last session and a continued poor economy. A tax increase, perhaps temporary and probably a one cent sales tax hike, is said to be inevitable this session, after which the Legislature must face a revenue projection for the next fiscal year that is below this year's actual revenues. It will require either making the probable sales tax hike permanent, or reducing state agency personnel and services.

Republicans, who dominate both houses (29-13 in the Senate, 67-17 in the House) are split on the budget-tax issue. A conservative core opposes any permanent tax increase and a roughly equal number see no alternative. The few Democrats may thus be the decisive group. So far they are cool to the sales tax hike, calling it a "patch-and-scratch" solution that hits the average wage-earner hardest. But they don't have the votes to enact any of their alternatives, such as increasing the corporate tax. Gov. John Evans, a Democrat, favors extending the sales tax to services but hasn't yet said whether he will sign a sales tax hike.

Six hazardous materials waste measures have been introduced and another two may be. Two nearly identical bills would regulate transportation of hazardous materials, dubbed hazmats, through a permit-fee system. The fees would be used to hire and train law enforcement personnel. Two other bills impose limits on the concentrations of hazardous wastes such as PCBs, arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and six others that could be disposed of in Idaho. They are sponsored by the Idaho Association of Counties and aimed at Idaho's only commercial waste disposal facility, Envirosafe, Inc. near Grandview. One of the two bills prohibits draining PCBs in concentrations greater than 50 parts per million from one container to another.

"That bill would shut us down," says Envirosafe President Ed Ashby. PCB disposal and pre-treatment is a large part of the company's business.

Some residents of Owyhee County where Envirosafe is located would like to shut the company down. At a January 30 hearing on the bills, some 50 ranchers and farmers turned out to urge passage of the tougher measure. "My property value is shot," said farmer Oscar Field. "I've given up on trying to sell, but I won't give up trying to keep those poisons out of the Snake River." The river is about two miles from the company.

Idaho Conservation League lobbyist Renee Quick said she sympathizes with the local residents but worries about the bill's effects elsewhere. Only 2 percent of ESI's waste volume (40 million pounds in 1985) comes from Idaho, but those in-state businesses have no other place to take their wastes. In addition, neither bill allows pre-treatment to reduce the toxicity of wastes.

Other bills would give the state authority to regulate PCB wastes and repeal an existing statute that prevents Idaho from passing regulations more stringent than federal regulations. This latter bill is sponsored by Senate Democrats, who cannot pass it, but would like to force a roll-call vote. A hazardous materials right-to-know bill, sponsored by Idaho Firefighters, ICL, Idaho Fair Share and other groups, should be introduced soon. A bill prohibiting backhauling of food in trucks that have carried hazardous materials may also be introduced.

The Conservation League's top priority this session is strengthening Idaho's Environmental Protection and Health Act, which regulates air and water quality. Last session an interim legislative committee was appointed at ICL's urging to study the act. Its chairman, Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho Falls, has developed a consensus package of amendments that both ICL and the Idaho Mining Association endorse.

"Senator Crapo's proposal is about 70 percent of what we wanted," says ICL organizer Lill Erickson. It streamlines an enforcement procedure that can now take up to 10 months, gives the state immediate court access to stop a violation posing "imminent

and substantial danger to the environment," allows penalties for first-time violations, and increases penalties to \$10,000 per violation or \$1000 per day, whichever is greater. The existing law allows violators one and sometimes two free violations before penalties can be imposed, and it allows immediate injunctive authority to stop a violation only where the public health (not the environment) is threatened. ICL's interest grew from several mine waste spills in central Idaho that damaged water quality and fisheries. The state, however, could neither stop the pollution immediately nor collect damages.

The bill seems certain to pass the Senate where it has support from Democrats and moderate Republicans. "I think it will pass the House, too, because it's consensus legislation," Erickson says. "The Mining Association's support is real, and we've done a lot of grass-roots lobbying." Passage would reward a two and a half year ICL campaign and mark the third straight year of improvements in Idaho mining law.

In addition, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is requesting increases for non-resident hunting and fishing licenses. Two state agencies, the department of parks and recreation, and water resources, are making their third attempt in eight years to create a state natural and recreational rivers system, with immediate inclusion of part of the Henrys Fork of the Snake River. But an informational meeting on the proposal with resources committee members from both houses revealed much opposition.

One further bill, giving Idaho's Air Quality Bureau authority to set emissions standards for new wood stoves sold in-state, also has little chance. Its supporters see their efforts this year as groundwork for a harder push next year.

Education shared the spotlight with budget issues the last three sessions, but the severe budget problems this year have left the education lobby merely trying to hold its ground. The drive for educational reform and greater education funding, so strong two years ago in Idaho, seems virtually gone.

--Pat Ford

HOTLINE

Colorado joins the ferret hunt



The Colorado Division of Wildlife has taken to the sky in an attempt to discover signs of America's rarest animal -- the black-footed ferret. In January, the division began weekly two-hour flights over prairie dog towns in northwestern Colorado in a search for indications that ferrets exist in the state. Aerial scans from about 175 feet above the ground would be the best way to discover the animals in winter, says John Ellenberger, a senior biologist for the DOW in Grand Junction. "When black-footed ferrets dig prairie dogs out of their burrows, they create distinctive, trench-like furrows on the surface. With the winter snow cover in the area, this trenching should be visible from the air," says Ellenberger. Although no sign of the elusive and endangered creature has been seen yet, the division is "guardedly optimistic" that ferrets are in the state, says DOW spokesman Tom Hohensee. Since 1981 there have been about a dozen unconfirmed sightings of ferrets in Colorado, with the most recent one about a month ago. The aerial survey is part of a three-year project, which is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species recovery money, and also by money from the Colorado taxpayer nongame income tax check-off program.

Arsenic permit

After a year of delays, a cease and desist order, and an appeal, Wyoming recently approved an air quality permit for WR Metals Co., which wanted permission to emit over 900 pounds of arsenic a year. The state allowed only 9.6 pounds a year and also ordered the company to raise its stack height. Mary Ann Anderson, co-founder of Albany County citizens group, praised the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality for insisting on tough arsenic emissions standards. Located two miles from Laramie, WR Metals makes wood preservatives.

Alar stays in use

The EPA decided Jan. 22 not to ban daminozide, an apple growth regulator sold as Alar. At a Washington press conference, Environmental Protection Agency officials said that tests of the chemical were too flawed to prove anything, much less that Alar caused cancer. But the agency did lower the application rate of daminozide from eight to three pounds per acre. The Natural Resources Defense Council said it planned to sue the agency to force a ban on daminozide.

A park reluctantly hosts a ski area

After bounding through a mogul field, a skier pulls into a lift line at the base of the slope. It could be anywhere -- Vail, Alta or Sun Valley -- but this skier is in the middle of Rocky Mountain National Park at Ski Estes, one of just a handful of ski areas found within the boundaries of a national park.

Colorado's Ski Estes, like its siblings in other national parks, is a small, family-oriented aging ski area that preceded most of the state's modern, high-powered resorts. With an average attendance of 37,000 skiers annually, Ski Estes scarcely dominates the state's skiing market. The lifts at Ski Estes (formerly Hidden Valley) are ground-based T-bars or pomas, built around 1955, and there are no chairlifts, or at least not yet.

Prompted by a steady decline in popularity, the recreation district responsible for Ski Estes' survival is proposing to change the character of

the area. Richard Castleberry, director of the tax-supported Estes Valley Recreation and Park District, says he hopes that one or two chairlifts may be in place by next season. Although the Park Service rejected the recreation district's original proposal last May to expand Ski Estes threefold, the two parties are now working cooperatively on a management plan to be finished before April 1986.

Don Brown, assistant superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park, says any changes made at Ski Estes must satisfy the park's master plan, which calls for a "safe, family-oriented ski area" to be operated until something comparable outside the park can serve as a replacement. With no new areas opening in the foreseeable future, Brown says improvements such as replacing T-bars with chairlifts can be permitted although expansion cannot.

Still, Brown sees a ski resort as a "non-conforming use in a national park" and says that no measures will be taken by the Park Service simply to insure the area's survival.

Some residents of the nearby town of Estes Park aren't sure they want a more modern resort. A poll taken by the *Estes Park Trail Gazette* showed that although most people supported Ski Estes, only 22 of 194 respondents were willing to pay increased taxes to keep the area alive.

Tim Asbury from the *Trail Gazette* says "without the ski area there'd be a pretty big dropout in winter economy." Asbury says the lean winter months in Estes Park are boosted by skiers coming from Front Range cities such as Fort Collins, Greeley and Loveland. The recreation district has funded a study to determine just what impact skiing has on Estes Park's economy.

--David Havlick

THE WORLD OF MARY BACK

by Betsy Marston

Mary Back is an artist, a naturalist, and judging from her recently published book, *Seven Half-Miles from Home*, a born story-teller. Now in her seventies, Back took her doctor's order to heart 23 years ago when he told her: Walk a mile every day before breakfast. Taking her home near Dubois, Wyoming, as the center of a circle one mile in diameter, she discovered there was a different walk possible every day of the week.

The walks were different because the land surrounding her home features a slough and stream, sagebrush desert, highway, fenced pastures, badlands, cottonwood forest and much more, complete with views of the 12,000-foot-high Absarokas; Whiskey Mountain, a foothill of the Wind River Range; Gannet Glacier and the Continental Divide. "This is an embarrassment of riches," she writes. "I can never get around to seeing it all."

Perhaps not, but what Mary Back does in this, her first book, is to take us with her on some of those 6:30 a.m. jaunts in all sorts of weather. One winter day she saw a dipper (upper right) in the Wind River and we learn that its only adaptation to water life "seems to be rather oily feathers --

when they walk under water they wear silver coats of air."

Thanks to a friend's phone call, she spies a snowy egret, "of all unlikely sights the most unlikely" (center); a high point of the 6,095 walks distilled into this book. Keeping a journal probably helped focus an already keen mind for detail, but Back tells us she had a motive in later sharing her observations and pithy anecdotes.

"I hope to get numbers of people like me into a state of frantic curiosity about the walkable country around their own homes. I hope to get them as excited as I am by the discovery that all life is one thing and that each of us is part of it."

Back adds that "we have a right to share the excitement of a birch tree when the new sap comes running up its stems, and a right to feel flattered when the bald eagle hovers low above us, looking us over with fierce yellow eyes considering us as one equal to another."

This is a fine book to dip into because you're bound to pick up some country wisdom. Did you know the best way to get to the other side of a barbed wire fence with your clothes still intact? Since stepping on the wire to lower it is absolutely forbidden, Back tells us we're left with the

soul-strengthening method of lying down beside the wire, then rolling under it face up. "That doesn't hurt the fence and it's a maturing thing to learn that you can willingly assume this humblest of all positions." She cautions scouting the ground first to avoid manured-hair or a cactus-behind.

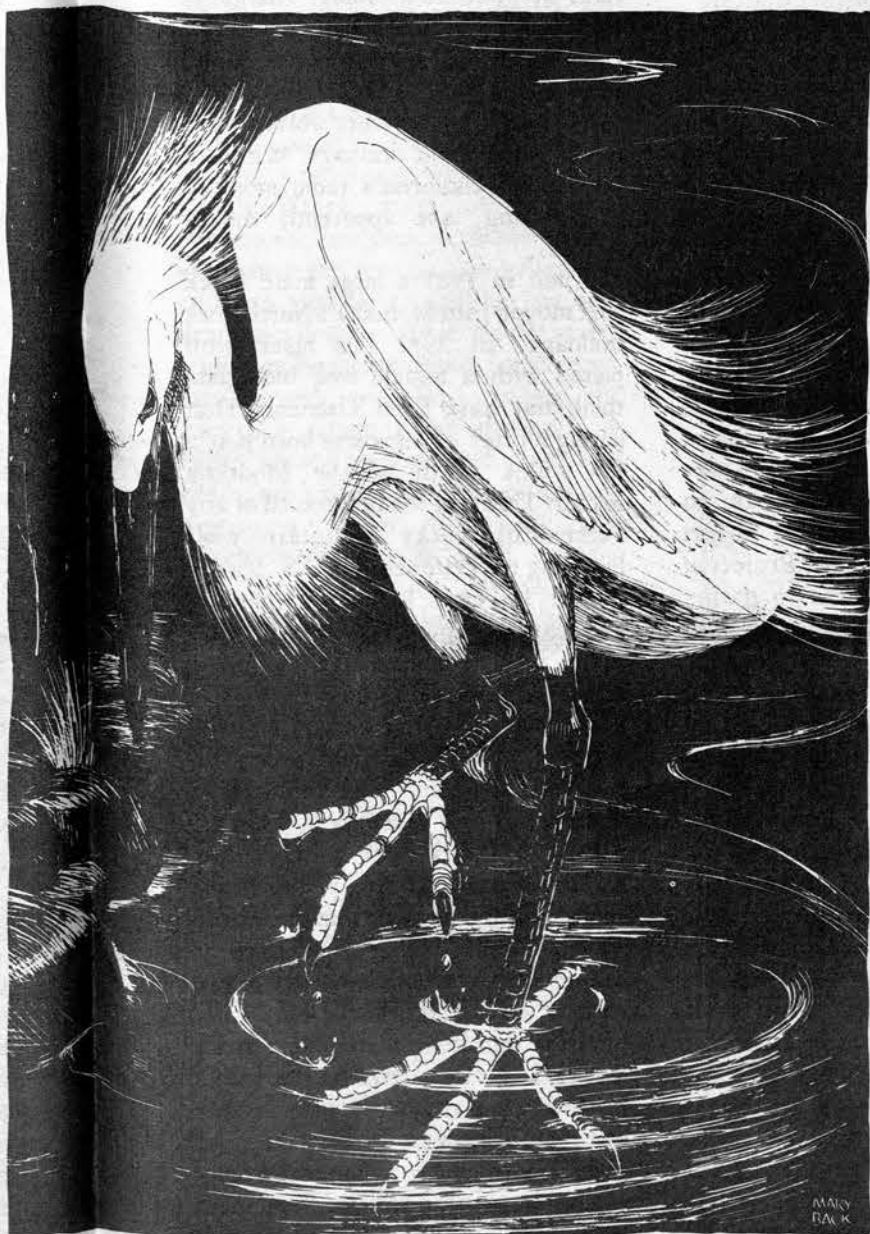
Back is wonderful on magpies, who remind her of mankind, particularly "smart-alec, urban types." Watching 15 or so magpies convene is a lot like eavesdropping on a cocktail party, she says.

Familiar scenes over the years inspired the book's pen and ink drawings, such as the family of nuthatches (lower left) that returned to the same nest for eight years. Back notes that the nuthatches were addicted to people-watching. "We are their zoo and their TV." Back's husband, Joe, an outfitter, says, "They are writing a book on people." Some times it was the unexpected (lower right), as when "an amorous flicker discovered that the birdhouse made a beautifully resounding drum for his mating call."

Seven Half-Miles from Home is published by Johnson Books, 1880 South 57 St., Boulder, CO 80301, \$9.95: paper, illustrated, 186 pages.



MARY BACK





Erwin and Peggy Bauer

Wolves return to Montana

by George Wuerthner

Mike Fairchild admits listening repeatedly to a tape of wolf howls narrated by Robert Redford. Fairchild wants to sound like a wolf. He practices while driving alone in his car or out in the woods when he thinks no one will hear him. He is a little self-conscious about howling in front of anyone else and reluctant to give a demonstration though we have been friends for 12 years.

Fairchild puts his talents to use as field biologist with the Wolf Ecology Project. It is his job to monitor the movements of wolves who have recently moved down from Canada to recolonize part of their former range in the Northern Rockies of Montana. One means of finding wolves is to howl. If wolves are in the area, they will sometimes respond. Mike relates a recent episode.

"I was following Sage, a young three-year-old wolf we have radio-collared. I have never been able to get Sage to answer me. He's a very secretive wolf. Almost no one sees

him; fewer hear him. But last week, while radio tracking him over in the Glacier Park, I had a strong signal which meant he was close. I decided to give howling a try, especially since he was travelling with a companion and I thought he might be more willing to answer with a second wolf present. I let loose my best wolf call and immediately Sage's companion answered. Then from the other side of me came Sage's cry. It was a neat moment being there between two howling wolves, but I was also nervous. I had to keep telling myself that there's never been a documented case of a wolf attack anywhere in North America. But it's hard to be so confident when you're alone and two full-grown wolves are on either side of you, unseen in the brush."

Wolves were once common in Montana. Early explorers noted the presence of wolves constantly, particularly on the plains. Some authorities estimate that there may have been between 30,000-40,000 wolves in Montana at the coming of the white man. The first trappers and adventurers took an occasional pot shot at passing wolves, but had no appreciable effect on their numbers. Then in the 1850s the fur trade shifted from beaver to buffalo and wolf hides. During the peak years between 1850-1880 an average of 5,000-10,000 wolf pelts were shipped out of Montana each year. But the "wolfers," as a trapper was known, never wanted to eliminate the wolf, for to do so would end his occupation. It took the coming of the rancher to spell the doom for Montana's wolves.

The first livestock were trailed into Montana in the 1860s. By the 1880s, huge cattle companies grazed thousands of animals on the still unfenced

open range. In 1883 Montana's first bounty was passed and during the first three years, more than 10,000 wolves were turned in for the reward. Between 1883 and 1918, a total of 80,730 wolves were bountied.

But still dissatisfied, livestock owners lobbied for federal action, and in 1915 the federal government set about exterminating all wolves on the public lands -- including national parks. By 1945 when the law was repealed, there were no reproducing wolves left in Montana; not even in Yellowstone or Glacier national parks. The few confirmed wolf reports were usually lone dispersing individuals who wandered south from Canada. For all intents and purposes, wolves were extinct in the Northern Rockies.

In 1973, when the Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf was listed as an endangered species, biologist Robert Ream set up a Wolf Ecology Project at the University of Montana to gather information on the status of the wolf in the northern Rockies. But it was not until 1978 that the first concentrated efforts were made to find evidence of wolves in the state. Ream and several students, including Ursula Mattson, questioned ranchers, loggers, outfitters and others who might know about wolf activity. They also investigated wolf sightings and track reports. Mattson's conclusion was that few if any wolves existed in the Northern Rockies. An occasional stray wolf wandering down out of Canada probably contributed to some of the reported wolf sightings, the rest were likely misidentified coyotes and dogs. No live wolf could be found in Montana.

In 1979 a biologist in the North Fork of the Flathead drainage just across the border in Canada caught a light-gray female

wolf; who was dubbed "Kishnena." A radio collar was fitted on her and Diane Boyd, another of Ream's students, kept tabs on Kishnena's movements for 16 months until the radio stopped functioning. Kishnena only once crossed the border into the U.S. During this entire time, Boyd never saw another wolf or even tracks to indicate that any other wolves were in the North Fork drainage. Within a year after Kishnena's radio stopped transmitting, she apparently disappeared.

Then in 1981 a large male black wolf moved into Montana's North Fork drainage. In 1982 this black wolf paired with a female wolf biologists think may have been Kishnena. That spring a litter of pups was born just a few miles north of the Montana border. This was the first record of any successful Rocky Mountain wolf breeding to occur near the U.S. border in over 50 years. In 1983 the parents and maturing pups traveled together as a unit, occasionally wandering across the Canadian side of the border and down into U.S. territory. At least some of the young from this litter survived, and their range ventured 25 miles south into Montana by 1984.

In 1984 a new male called Moose, because of his large size, paired with a young, white female that biologists named Phyllis. They produced a second litter of six pups, again just north of the border. Phyllis and Moose were the dominant wolves of a group that came to be known as the Magic Pack for their frequent disappearance and reappearances. In 1985 they had seven more pups. Three of these young were trapped in September 1985. One was a male that weighed 65 pounds; the others were females that weighed 62 and 48 pounds. These five-month-old wolves were extremely large compared to wolves from

Minnesota, where the average weight of a full-grown wolf is only 60 to 80 pounds. In November 1985, members of the Magic Pack wandered south of the border into Glacier National Park. Since early December those wolves have remained in Glacier, allowing Fairchild and other biologists to hope that the animals will breed and den in the park.

Fairchild speculates that a three-year-old male wolf named Sage is a survivor of the 1982 litter. Sage has been trapped twice by Wolf Ecology Project biologists; once in August 1984, and again in October 1985. He weighed 105 pounds in 1984 and 100 pounds this past fall. Because his movements were monitored through the winter, spring and summer of 1984-1985, biologists know his pattern. Sage spent most of last winter approximately 25 miles south of the border on a deer winter range in Glacier Park. In the spring he wandered widely, traveling up into British Columbia, over to Alberta and back down into Glacier. Most of the summer he remained in the upper reaches of the North Fork drainage in British Columbia. In November, Sage moved south into Glacier Park once more, this time accompanied by another wolf which Fairchild had hoped was a breeding-age female. But by January 1986, Sage was once again traveling alone and Fairchild jokes that perhaps Sage is not done with his rambling days.

In 1981 there was only one wolf in Montana's North Fork drainage; today there may be as many as 20 and probably no less than 14 or 15. Given three or four more years, natural wolf recovery of the Glacier-Bob Marshall ecosystem may be a success.

But the future of wolves is not entirely dependent upon wolf reproduction. In the North Fork drainage just north of the border, several projects threaten their recovery. A large open-pit coal mine at Cabin Creek may soon begin operations, bringing in hundreds of workers to this now remote valley. Oil and gas exploratory drilling has also dramatically increased in recent years, adding miles of new roads, exploration camps and associated traffic. In Alberta's Castle River drainage, a valley visited by Sage two times last year, oil companies are poised to begin a major oil and gas development. Finally, wolf hunting and trapping, which always pose threats to individual dispersing wolves such as Sage, is legal in Alberta.

Wolves are presently protected in the North Fork drainage of British Columbia, but wolf recovery biologists guess that at least one disgruntled hunter killed a wolf this past hunting season. Hunters are pressing for an open season because of their concern about wolves killing big game.

Hunters know what they're talking about. Fairchild estimates the Magic Pack kills a deer or other animal every three to four days. If wolves continue to increase, they could begin to make a major impact on ungulate populations in this drainage.

According to Fairchild, most hunters he's contacted on the U.S. side of the border are favorable to wolf recovery. Fairchild speculates that this may be the result of the wolf's relative uniqueness in the U.S. at this

*Gone from the West for almost 50 years,
wolves recently crossed the Canadian border
to colonize Montana's Northern Rockies.*

*Up to 20 wolves are spending this winter in Glacier
National Park; by spring, the pack could number 40.*

time. He fears that once wolves become numerous, hunter support may vanish.

But there is pressure on the wolves from development on the American side of the border. In the North Fork valley, the Flathead National Forest has proposed new timber sales which could increase run-ins between wolves and humans. Oil and gas leases cover much of the Forest Service lands and, if developed, could also create problems for wolf recovery. Scattered along the North Fork valley are also a number of ranches.

Once wolves become numerous, there are likely to be conflicts with ranchers over livestock losses. The Montana Livestock Growers Association has loudly protested proposed wolf re-introductions for Yellowstone

National Park, and in general the group supports no wolf recovery anywhere -- natural or otherwise. To try to placate them, the Wolf Recovery Plan proposes compensation to livestock owners for any losses documented to wolves, but no funds have been authorized as yet. In addition, the plan calls for control if wolves wander outside of designed wolf-recovery zones.

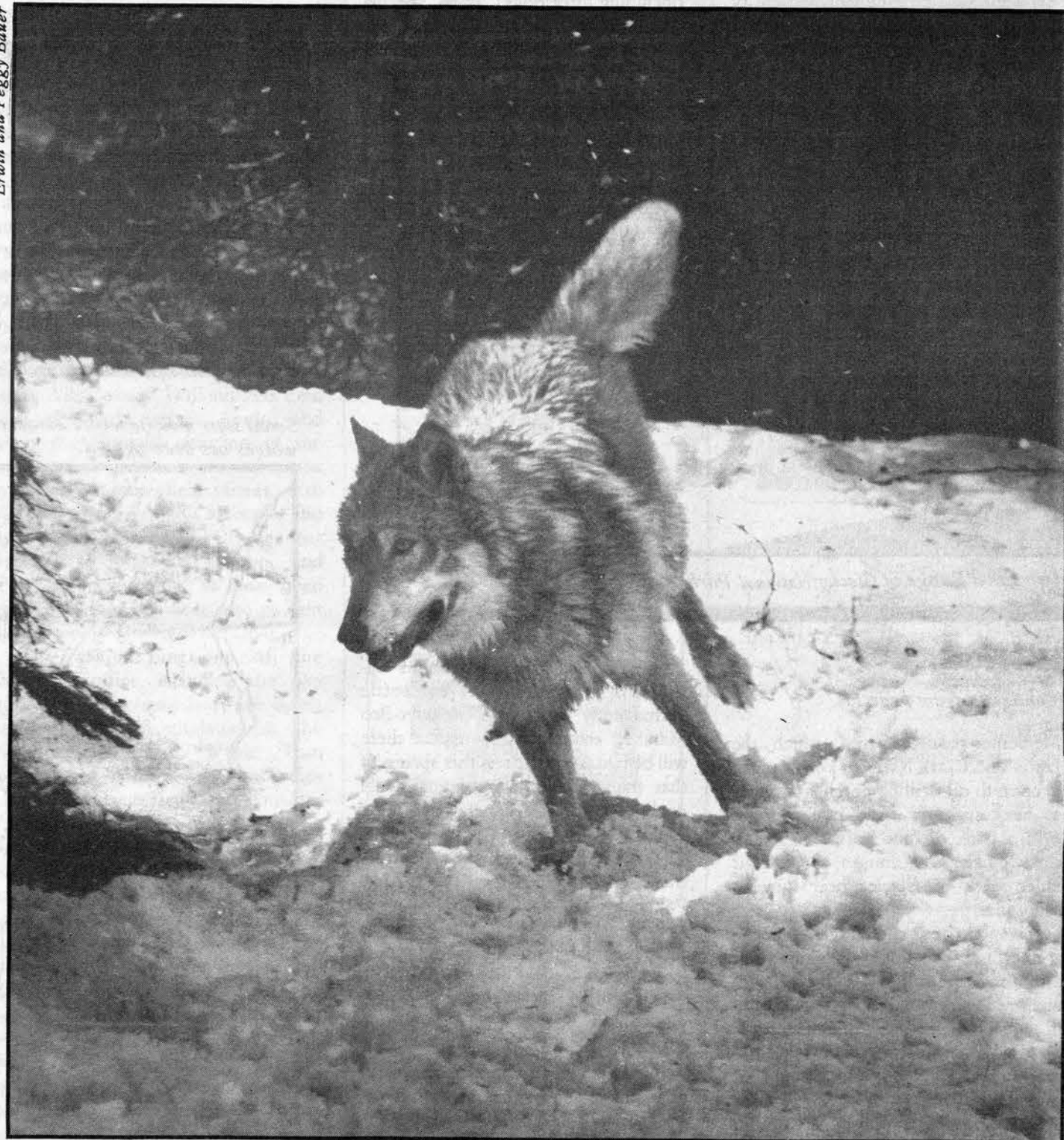
Over the long haul, even second home subdivisions in and around Glacier Park and surrounding wildlands pose a threat to full wolf recovery. In the North Fork valley there are only 17,000 acres of private land, and much of it is bottom land that becomes critical big game winter range during winters of heavy snowfall. If big game numbers

decline, so does the food base of the wolves.

Although the North Fork Valley is the only part of Montana with confirmed wolf activity, sightings of wolf tracks and scat continue to come in from the east side of Glacier Park near the Blackfoot Indian Reservation. Dr. Ream of the Wolf Ecology Project thinks there's likely to be a pack operating on this side of the park. Other wolf sightings and tracks are frequently reported from areas south of Glacier. This past fall, a group of Ream's students found wolf tracks in the Badger-Two

(Continued on page 12)

Erwin and Peggy Bauer



12-High Country News -- February 17, 1986

On location in Moose City with the Wolf Ecology Project

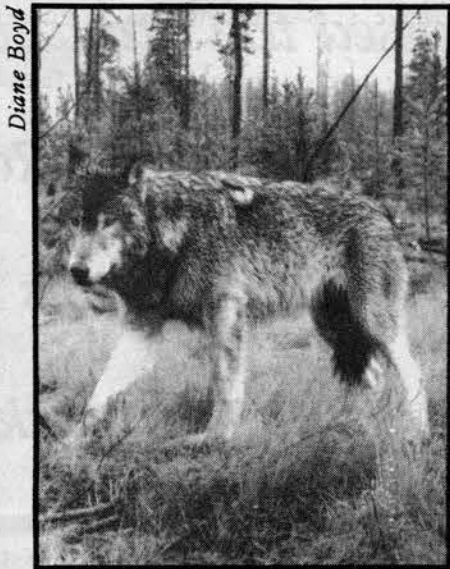
MOOSE CITY, MT. -- Excitement comes in unusual forms in this tiny community on the Canadian border. At 4 a.m. on a recent January morning -- a time when normal people are asleep -- half a dozen wolf researchers gather outside in subzero weather. Clad in little more than their shorts, the group breaks into 30 minutes of ear-splitting howling, sounding not unlike a bunch of fraternity winos in rut.

From inside a sleeping bag, I remember that some of my oddest friends are wildlife biologists, and so pass off the caterwauling as a strange ritual that wolf researchers no doubt do every morning. A newcomer to Moose City, I decide against flinging my boots at the lunatics, roll over and try to get back to sleep.

Then I hear it. After the biologists yowls trail off, there comes floating back from the distance something more primal, a cry once common but now rare in the Northern Rockies: the howl of the Rocky Mountain gray wolf.

Once there is daylight we discover that most of the wolf pack presently being studied by the Northern Rockies Wolf Ecology Project had visited the opposite bank of the Flathead River's North Fork, which is across from Moose City. On their way north to Canada, the wolves apparently decided to linger and join in for an early-morning group howl. The excited biologists merely acted in kind.

The pack's passing had Moose City buzzing for days, and to suggest to the researchers that it was anything less than a cosmic event was heresy.



Sage

Considering the wolf's plight in the West -- a tragic chronology of relentless and successful extirpation by stockmen, bounty hunters and the government -- such an appraisal may have merit.

Moose City is not a real town. It is a cluster of old cabins on a chunk of private land leased to the wolf project. Its population is normally two to four humans. There is no electricity, phone or running water, neighbors are few and far between. The nearest town is Columbia Falls, some 60-odd miles to the south by a gravel road. So when a Hollywood actress comes to visit, it is an event of major proportion.

On the day the actress arrived the population of Moose City, by accident, had swelled to a record high of 18 (including three dogs). Initial speculation on the actress's identity was interesting. An informal but scientific poll I took of three male residents

indicated Jane Fonda and Meryl Streep were the likely candidates. Bob Derek, the sentimental favorite, got one vote.

As it turned out, the woman wasn't any of the above, nor was she what movie fanatics would classify a "star." Her last big role was in part II (or was it III? IV?) of a multi-million dollar grossing teenybopper party-and-slash film. She was the heroine because she was the only person who didn't get stabbed. Her mission in Moose City was to get acquainted with wolf biologist Diane Boyd in preparation for a film role as a wildlife biologist who adopts a boy raised by wolves. The upcoming film, "Bobo the Dog Boy," will be a comedy, the actress said.

Boyd took her under her wing, showed the actress some wolves (from an airplane) and introduced her to the life of a wildlife biologist. In the end, the excitement of having a celluloid celebrity at Moose City never amounted to much. The actress fit right in with the research crews, though the male members of the team were somewhat rattled. Some noted with sharp biological observation that the actress was attractive, but no one volunteered to play the role of Bobo.

What makes the wolf project tick is its doggedness. The 12 years of commitment by project founder Bob Ream, coupled with field work by biologists Mike Fairchild, Diane Boyd and scores of student volunteers over the years, is finally paying off with solid information on wolves. Boyd, who has been on the North Fork since 1979, is unabashed about her exuberance for wolves. Asked what was the year's biggest event in science, she says: "Halley's Comet? Big deal. It's nothing to write home about... like wolves."

Mike Fairchild says the research is always rewarding. While following some tracks one afternoon he was perplexed that one animal's urinations didn't exhibit "typical" territorial marking patterns as described by Minnesota biologist L. David Mech, the grand shaman of wolf research. He

grins as he recalls thinking, "I don't know why we always have to regard everything these animals do as a significant ecological event. Hell, all this wolf probably wanted to do was just take a whiz like you or me."

After spending four days with the researchers it becomes apparent that much of the behavior of the North Fork wolves is not "typical." The main pack, according to Fairchild and Boyd, has no real defined territory yet. Sage, the lone male the project is tracking, has been a constant source of amazement because his activities buck traditional views about wolf behavior.

Sage is estimated to have covered 2,500 square miles, a range that is not apparently related to the availability of prey or territorial advances from other wolves. Because the animals are colonizers rather than an extension of an adjacent wolf population, the North Fork researchers are breaking new ground in wolf studies. And as the first documented pack activity in the American Rockies in several decades, the North Fork wolves are drawing media attention. The *Denver Post* and *Montana Magazine* recently ran stories on Diane Boyd and several national publications and conservation groups are also thinking of producing stories on the wolf study. The outside world may be closing in on Moose City.

Russ Beuch, a volunteer at Moose City for two years, says he worries that the publicity will center too much on the people with the project. He, like Boyd, Fairchild and Ream, believes the real stars on the North Fork are the wolves, which he hopes will have a better chance for survival the second time around.

□

Based in Missoula, Montana, Bruce Farling is Montana correspondent for *High Country News*. This article was made possible by the High Country News Research Fund.



Livingston Range of Glacier National Park

Wolves...

(Continued from page 11)

Medicine roadless area, which the Lewis and Clark National Forest plans to open to oil drilling perhaps as early as next summer. And in December 1985 a pack of four wolves was seen close to Lake Koocanuck, about 50 air miles west of Glacier near Eureka, Montana.

Despite these encouraging reports, a shortage of money has made it almost impossible to thoroughly investigate all wolf reports, even those in the Glacier-Bob Marshall ecosystem. During 1982 and 1983 the project had no funding at all and all work was done by volunteers. Since 1984, limited support has been provided by Endangered Species Act funds.

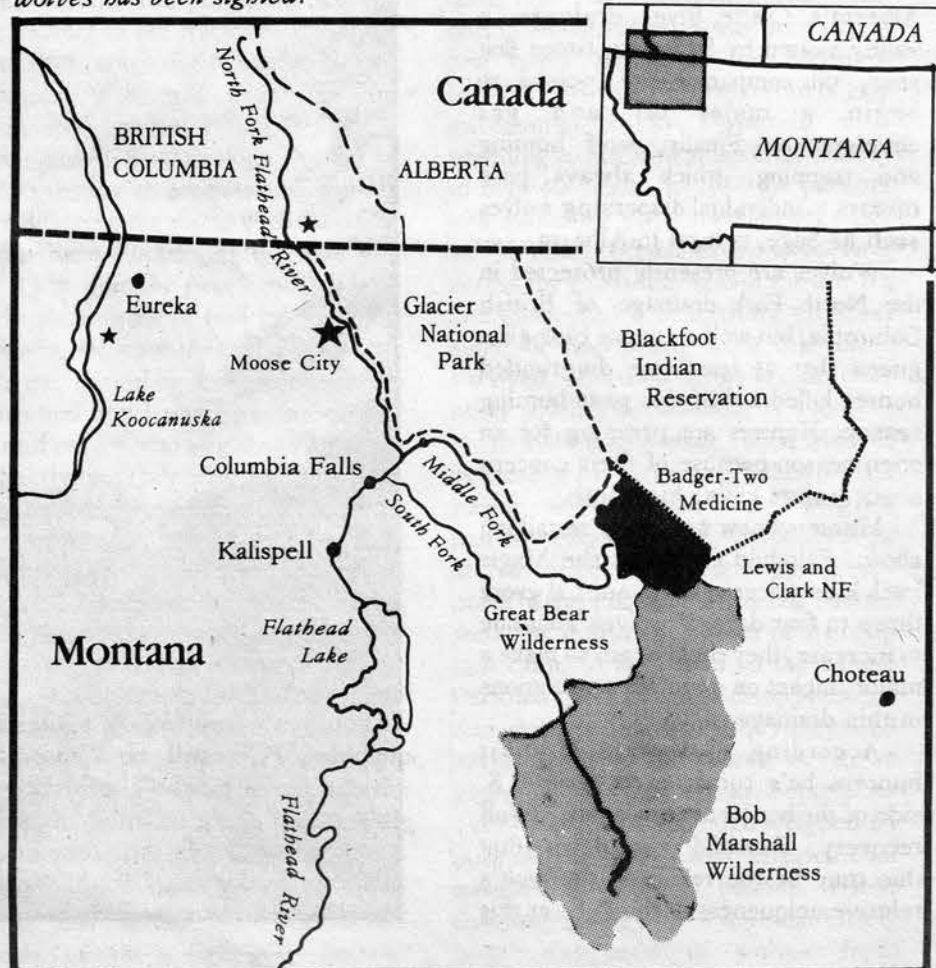
Nevertheless, Ream remains optimistic. "If the wolves settle permanently into the Glacier-Bob Marshall ecosystem, I suspect there will be two or three dens this spring. If that happens, the population could double." That means this spring there could be 40 wolves.

If Ream's predictions come true, then in the future, people like Mike Fairchild won't have to buy a tape to hear wolf howls. They will be able to hear the real thing in the Montana Rockies.

□

George Wuerthner is a naturalist and freelance writer in Missoula, Montana. This article was made possible by the High Country News Research Fund.

Small stars indicate where evidence of wolves has been sighted.



LETTERS

A CALL FOR FOE DEMOCRACY

Dear HCN,

While *High Country News* should be complimented for reviewing the continuing internal struggle for control of Friends of the Earth, your article misses several key points of the controversy. First of all, the majority directors have every intention of supporting Karl Wendelowski's program to permanently transform Friends of the Earth into a centralized Washington, D.C., lobbying group.

Wendelowski's recent appointment of the organization's current legislative director, an inexperienced 28-year-old political operative as the program director, is a clear indication of FOE's future direction. Furthermore, the recent pronouncement by this individual that our branch program, consisting of 21 branches nationwide, would be terminated, is further proof of their Washington, D.C., centralization plans.

Despite Wes Jackson's alleged "vengeance" for grassroots support, the other eight majority directors have consistently thwarted every pro-grassroots motion introduced by the seven minority directors during my term on the board, including implementing a program to restructure the field offices to work more closely with the local FOE branches, allowing those branches a rebate for recruiting new members, and polling the members on an annual basis to solicit their views. While the Wendelowski program contemplates opening new regional field offices, such offices, if ever established, would owe their primary allegiance to Washington, D.C., and not to local members. With the branch program terminated, FOE members would be denied any opportunity for meaningful involvement in the organization. In fact, Wendelowski once told me that he felt my success in the last board election (I placed third out of a field of nine candidates) was due to my personal popularity and not my campaign promise to "...propose that FOE's restructuring effort follow the model of a decentralized, grass-roots democracy in which members play a primary role in setting policies and funding priorities."

In my view, Wendelowski has brought to FOE not only a contemptuous attitude toward our membership, but order and discipline to the staff in the same spirit that Marcos did in the Philippines. The true nature of this dispute is not a battle of egos between David Brower and the majority board members, but rather between the different philosophies represented by the two factions on the board. Friends of the Earth was originally organized as a decentralized organization where our lobbyists, the founder and field representatives, in conjunction with local branches, members, and allied coalitions all decided which issues to work on and how to go about it.

Since the appointment in 1980 of former Washington, D.C., lobbyists as FOE's management team, and the establishment of a political action committee (FOE-PAC), FOE's administrators have become increasingly obsessed with the trappings of political power. This unfortunate trend has resulted in the centralization of the organization's power and authority in Washington, D.C., and the gradual removal of these staffers who were

unwilling to compromise on environmental principles for political expediency.

Contrary to Wes Jackson's claims that the majority directors do not oppose a special meeting of the membership in which FOE's members would be allowed to vote on their removal, and that these directors filed a lawsuit against David Brower to allow them "enough time to get our message out," the obvious purpose of this legal action was to seek a court order prohibiting the members from having any influence over major policy decisions within the organization, and to buy them enough time to implement their decision to shut down FOE's San Francisco national headquarters before the members could learn about it. Incidentally, this groundless lawsuit, withdrawn the day before its scheduled hearing, was unknowingly funded by our dues-paying members.

In fact, a significant component of the majority directors' vendetta against David Brower has been to keep their actions concealed from our members. Now, these same members will soon have their hard-won opportunity to put to an end the defiant maneuvering of these nine majority directors and to vote for their removal. I am confident that our members will recognize that only as a San Francisco-based democracy of environmental activists can Friends of the Earth survive.

Gordon Anderson
Moab, Utah

MORE ON FOE

Dear HCN,

HCN's article "David Brower battles for control of FOE" (1/20/85) was fairly balanced in terms of quoting various opinions within Friends of the Earth regarding the restructuring of the organization. However, there were a few incorrect facts and references on the current and future state of affairs. For example, it is cited that FOE's "field staff is gone." Although FOE has indeed lost some field staff over the past several years, primarily due to budget problems, I am currently the official Colorado representative (field staff). Additionally, FOE still has field staff in Seattle and St. Louis, and when the financial situation of the organization stabilizes there are plans to establish more field offices with high priority given to California and the Great Lakes area. FOE has not decided to forsake grassroots and regional organization, as has been implied by some of those who protest the closure of the California office.

The major functions of the California office, including the *Not Man Apart* newsmagazine, are being relocated and consolidated in the Washington office. While Tom Turner, the *NMA* editor, unfortunately is leaving rather than relocating to Washington, D.C., *Not Man Apart* will continue to be published under a new editor. Why *NMA* should be on its way to "house organ status" as cited in your article is quite unclear.

The conclusion of your article, which claims that regardless of the "faction" that wins in FOE's internal squabble, FOE will be "mortally wounded," is hopefully overstated. While many of us, including myself, cut our teeth in the environmental movement by following David Brower's brilliant leadership, and continue to have the utmost concern that a

compromise is worked out and David will stay with FOE, I think that FOE is not as atypical as it may appear. Many political organizations, some of them current major environmental groups, have survived internal problems and/or have spun off other new successful organizations; the Sierra-FOE battle being a case in point. Things are confusing to our members and supporters, but the organization needs help and support to continue to fight for the earth!

In spite of the internal problems at FOE, our staff has continued to play a leadership role on major environmental issues in recent months. As you briefly mentioned in your article, "The West's energy dominoes came crashing down," FOE has also led the charge against synfuels for several years. We certainly take some credit for keeping the issue alive and finally getting the Synthetic Fuels Corporation killed forever. We also are involved in numerous water issues -- organizing the Pacific Northwest rivers project, reforming federal hydropower license legislation, taking on the entrenched Colorado water development establishment, and protecting endangered species in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Much of this work is being carried out by both field and Washington D.C., staff.

If anyone has more questions about FOE please do contact us at: FOE, 530 7th St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. (202/543-4312) or FOE-Colorado, P.O. Box 728, Palisade, CO 81526, (303/464-5329).

Connie Albrecht
Colorado Representative
Friends of the Earth
Palisade, Colorado

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LEADVILLE IS SMART

Dear HCN,

I think Steve Voynick has misinterpreted the opposition by Leadville area residents to the Quail Mountain ski area scheme. Instead of revealing a backward miners' mentality, this attitude may well reflect a growing enlightenment and rethinking of values. Rather than submit to another boom-bust cycle fueled by ski area speculators, Leadville may be smart enough to improve the quality of life there for the long term.

Dick Scar
Buena Vista, Colorado

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14-High Country News -- February 17, 1986

BOOK NOTES

Food for thought

Gaining Ground: The Renewal of America's Small Farms

J. Tevere MacFadyen. Ballantine/Sociology, 201 E. 50 st., New York, NY 10022, 1984. 255 pages. \$3.50, paper.

—Review by Linda Hasselstrom

"The idea that a horse is low technology and a tractor is high ought to be turned around. The horse is many times more technically sophisticated than the machine." That's Wes Jackson, of a unique Kansas School called The Land Institute, quoted in *Gaining Ground*.

"Surely you jest when you report that the government has spent \$5 million to develop the Hexapod, an off-road vehicle that does 8 m.p.h. over hilly, rocky or swampy areas and can be guided forward, backward or to the side. Gadzooks, I have had one for years. It is called a horse, and it walks without the aid of 16 onboard computers." That's Anne Wokanovicz of Fairfield, Conn., writing a letter to the editors of *Time* magazine.

Neither of these people need to read *Gaining Ground*, but everyone else ought to. J. Tevere MacFadyen has done a survey of some of the many small family farms in the nation not run according to the latest government suggestions for agriculture, and he's made some startling discoveries.

"Agriculture," decided Wes Jackson,

"could only be understood in context, as one part of a large ecological whole." This seems a simple concept. But as it becomes a theme in *Gaining Ground*, it takes on new dimensions. For years, scientists have spent millions of dollars and hours studying how to improve corn. How many have studied the alternatives?

Rodale Press' Dick Harwood said, "The ultimate answer, I think, is going to have to be the elimination of corn and soybeans. If we could do that, we could solve a lot of our problem. Thirty years from now we really should be heavily into perennials. It's a far more efficient nutrient-cycling system."

What Harwood and others like him are after is a "sort of domesticated, super-productive wild meadow: a pasture that performs like a wheatfield. This is a concept without precedent in modern agricultural research."

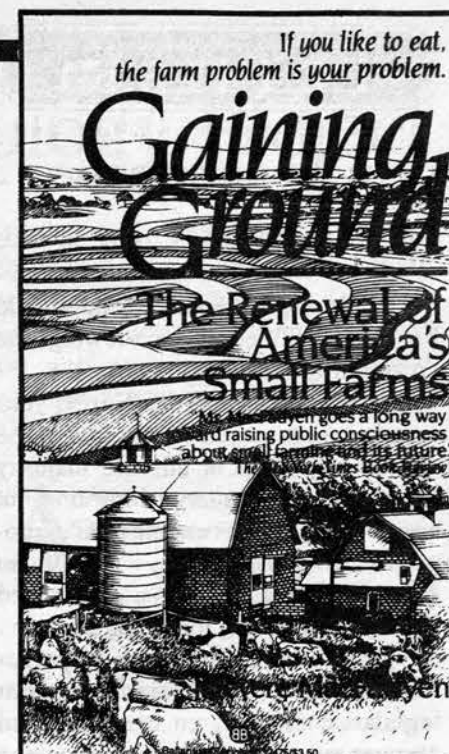
In other words, folks, if our fields grew crops perennially, we could eliminate a lot of cultivation and thus cut down on the need for machinery. In addition, we could eliminate a lot of fertilizing and those nasty chemicals the American farmer seems to believe are necessary to protect corn and soybeans from their natural predators.

That's just one of the ideas that's being tried by some far-seeing people in American farming today. Guess

who won't like the idea, and who, in fact, has worked hard to keep such ideas from happening? Why, all those people who make money by selling shiny new machinery to farmers, that's who. And since the New Deal, government policies have been biased toward helping large-scale agriculture, and consolidating small farms into very large ones.

Much of what MacFadyen discovered in his cross-country search is not encouraging. The big tractors, chemicals and the very mindset that calls farming "agribusiness" are destroying our soil, and our capacity for producing food. But he also found hopeful signs. Behind the abundance of quotable quotes are facts and figures, and the most forthright analysis I've seen of the mess Americans have made of our farms and our land.

Veteran farm writer Gene Logsdon says, "It may turn out that herbicides aren't so much of a problem ecologically. What's most wrong with herbicides is that they allow one man to farm 5,000 acres and force out five other men who might have made their livings on 500." Thomas Jefferson believed that small landholders were "the most precious part of a state... the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country, and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bonds." What was



true in 1785 could be true now, except that we have allowed big business and big government to systematically destroy the small landholder. *Gaining Ground* is an attempt to educate us to the dangers and the possibilities before it is too late.

This is a fine book, with a substantial list of further materials for reading. Ninety-seven percent of America's population no longer lives on the farm or has a clear idea of the work and sacrifices of the 3 percent that feeds us all. This ignorance might be fatal if we continue to believe in the Great Supermarket as the source of all food. Don't just read the book, pass it along to a friend in the city.

Linda Hasselstrom is a rancher and poet in Hermosa, South Dakota.

LETTERS

WELCOME TO UTAH

Dear HCN,

I would like to clarify an issue of possible interest to your readers. Last November Mr. Robert Weed wrote a somewhat impassioned letter to HCN concerning his feelings about conservation politics in Utah. The implication drawn by some has been that those remarks may have represented the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

That is an unfortunate error. Mr. Weed has not worked with SUWA since June of last year. His letter to your paper was written without prior knowledge or authorization from any member of SUWA's staff. We certainly cannot assume responsibility for the personal beliefs of any individual member. Nonetheless, immediately upon being informed of the letter a telephone call was made from our office to the Utah Wilderness Association (UWA) and our apologies extended to Mr. Carter for the inexcusably personal nature of the remarks.

That is not to say that there are not significant differences in philosophical and political perspectives between the organizations. Nor is it unfair to note that Messrs. Warnick, Poulson, and Spence have an unusually close association with UWA which might go a way toward explaining such a string of vitriol and indignation in their letters to HCN.

Mr. Spence's remarks in particular about the effigy hanging in Escalante are a very low blow. At their most innocent, they demonstrate an acute insensitivity to the emotional and physical toll suffered by those few

conservationists who make both the personal sacrifice of living near the land they cherish... and have the courage to stand for their convictions.

It is quite safe and comfortable for Mr. Spence to rail inanities from his college town 300 miles away. I would like to see him walking blithely down the main street in Escalante town the day after filing a timber sale appeal to save a virgin forest from destruction, or after speaking publicly in defense of the Burr Trail, as Robert has repeatedly done. Obviously there are more subtle, less passionate, and dishonest ways than Mr. Weed's to inject an element of 'character assassination' into conservation politics.

SUWA does maintain a working relationship with UWA and has routinely exchanged resource information. Not to do so would jeopardize the goals we all seek... the protection and preservation of Utah's unparalleled wild lands. The clear and rational exposition of our organizational differences can only make conservation efforts stronger. We are sad that there is not yet a more substantive discussion of those differences.

Welcome to Utah!

Clive Kincaid
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
P.O. Box 347
Springdale, Utah 84767

DIFFERS WITH JOHNSON

Dear HCN,

I appreciated the contents of HCN until I started to read Steve Johnson's "National Scandal" (HCN, 12/23/85). He isn't old enough to have seen the western range before BLM and Forest Service started the almost impossible

job of getting stockmen to consider conservation.

I lived with forestry and grazing "majors" at the University of Montana who spent their summers shooting sheep and cattle to reduce uncontrolled grazing during the "dirty thirties."

I have lived and observed grazing, mining, lumbering and farming from Anchorage to El Paso. I presently mine on both USFS and BLM lands and share both with cattlemen, and with lumbermen on the Forest Service operation. Hunters enjoy all of it in season -- a nearby alfalfa grower often has 200 elk and deer in his field every evening during the short summer (7000 foot elevation).

Steve Johnson doesn't know whereof he writes and apparently hasn't studied history. His type hurts all conservation activities.

Leland B. Taylor
Albuquerque, New Mexico

FATAL FLAW

Dear HCN,

Your story in the Dec. 9, 1985, issue describing your experiences as editor of a small rural news weekly was entertaining and well written, but succumbed to the same fatal flaw often attributed to more noteworthy publications -- that is, the choice of the sensational over the factual. You haughtily stated that, despite the local school's emphasis on athletic prowess ahead of scholastic achievement, that the town wasn't in as bad a shape as Helena, Montana, where parents are fighting a battle against a rule barring students from extracurricular activities unless they maintain at least a 2.00 grade average.

That rule is on the books in Helena, and the adults who fought its adoption by the school board represented a very small fraction of parents with school age kids. I know that I speak for the vast majority of Helena parents when I say that the city of Helena is extremely proud of its academic standards and the records of its high school students. We believe that these standards send a clear signal to students -- that there is no substitute for at least a moderate academic effort, and that without that effort, their participation in varsity athletics is not only not allowed, but undesired by their prospective teammates.

Just to set the record straight -- what academic standards are required for participation on varsity athletic squads at Paonia's high school?

Art Compton
Helena, Montana

Dear Art Compton,

Paonia High School counselor Bill Hamilton says that sports eligibility requirements were tightened three years ago. A student must check in each week with all seven teachers. If he or she has two "unsatisfactoriness" in either academic achievement or "citizenship," no sports the next week. If a student gets a U twice in two weeks in the same class, he or she is also ineligible for the following week. Hamilton says Paonia's rules are stricter than Colorado's Department of Education's, which declare a student ineligible only at the end of a semester. None of that changes the fact that my reference to Helena was a cheap shot. I apologize.

Ed Marston

OPINION

A feudal mentality holds back the West

by Ed Marston

A cartoon in the Feb. 10, 1986 *New Yorker* shows a middle-aged couple at a party, with the wife whispering to Hubby: "I think it's a bit late in the evening, Harold, to tell them about your watershed experience."

The joke is on Harold -- a mousy fellow who doesn't look as if he's ever had a watershed experience. At best, Harold resembles a Chekhov character -- one who suddenly realizes that, because he lacks a chin, he is forever locked off from adventure.

We had such an experience last weekend -- the kind of insight about your position in life that you are better off keeping to yourself. But *HCN* isn't a rich newspaper. We can't afford to invest three days and then throw away the story.

So an account of the closure of Big and Little Dominguez canyons in far western Colorado is on page 3. It describes how the Bureau of Land Management's Grand Junction office -- with the help of Colorado Congressman Mike Strang, BLM state director Kannon Richards and BLM head honcho Robert Burford -- helped decide that a rickety wooden bridge across the Gunnison River was too dangerous for people on foot, but could be driven across by a rancher in a two-ton four-wheel-drive pickup.

There are times when a decision that on the surface seems contrary to common sense becomes logical on closer examination. This is not such a case. The more you look at it, the more arbitrary and the more contrary to the public interest it becomes.

As the story explains, the BLM has a written right-of-way agreement with the rancher that appears to allow the agency to do almost anything it wants. It could close the bridge to everyone, it could force the rancher to repair it, it could maintain the status quo.

The only force pushing for change was the rancher. There have been no reported accidents or near-accidents on the bridge; the public was happy despite occasional harassment from a ranch employee; and use of the Wilderness Study Area behind the bridge, which was also part of a grazing allotment for the rancher, was a source of enjoyment to thousands of people. There is evidence that the on-the-ground BLM employees recognized the satisfactory situation and resisted change. It took, for example, three months for the BLM to act on a one-page engineering report which recommended that the bridge be abandoned.

But when it was finally moved to action, the BLM acted for the rancher and against the public. It imposed an emergency closure of foot traffic over the bridge while it allowed the rancher to continue to drive across it. A public process is now in motion, but the only conceivable outcome, given the BLM's prejudices, is permanent closure.

The danger issue is a red herring -- one the BLM hierarchy could manipulate as it wanted. Just beyond the rickety bridge, on the southern banks of the Gunnison, the BLM road passes under cliffs of rotten rock. The road itself is a sunbathing spot for rattlesnakes. The pools and waterfalls of the Dominguez creeks can be treacherous.

There is danger everywhere, as much danger as the bridge represents. There is even danger to the public in letting the Mussers drive across the bridge, because it could collapse onto rafters passing below. But the BLM, picking and choosing its dangers, chose to close the bridge to the public, but not to abandon it, as its engineer recommended.

We don't know if Strang-Burford-Richards exerted explicit pressure to close the bridge. But they participated in a closed, private process that led to the exclusion of the public. Congressman Strang, by letting his assistant call secret meetings between the rancher and the BLM, played an important role in locking out the public. The BLM staff, by never involving the public in the lengthy process, violated its public trust.

The process went forward despite some questionable acts by a representative of the ranching family -- a manager named Don Young. According to BLM records, Young illegally erected a locked gate 0.8 miles from the bridge. An agreement signed later between the rancher and the BLM legalized the locked gate in return for public foot traffic across the bridge. Now the BLM has given up access across the bridge while the gate stays locked.

The kinds of abuses the BLM allowed are illustrated by an incident in late January, before the emergency closure of the bridge. According to a report in BLM files -- a report which BLM District Manager Richard Freel claimed ignorance of and which *HCN* obtained for itself -- Young allegedly blocked the bridge with his truck and used a shovel handle to prevent two Grand Junction residents with mountain bikes from recrossing the bridge. The two had crossed the bridge with their bikes despite a sign put up by Young which said "no bikes."

Young, who sported a security badge of some sort, wanted the pair arrested for violating the sign. But the access agreement says that all foot traffic shall be allowed to use the bridge. It may be that a judge somewhere would rule that a person walking or carrying a bike is not "foot traffic," but our bet is that such judges are rare, even in the West.

This kind of behavior seems at odds with the Mussers' desire for freedom from the threat of lawsuits. But the main fault lies with the BLM for letting the family interpret the agreement any which way.

The BLM's malfeasance is everywhere. Dominguez is heavily used for hiking and for rafting. But the BLM has tried to keep it a secret, probably because the Mussers resented the growing use. The turn-off from Colorado State Highway 50 is totally unsigned. Unless you know that the cattleguard and opening in the fence (it's a quarter mile or so on the Mesa County side of the Delta County line) leads to the Dominguez canyons, you'd never think the turnoff led to an important piece of public land. Moreover, when you drive down to the river, you are met by No Trespassing signs rather than the welcome you'd expect at the entrance to the public's land.

As the page 3 story notes, one-third of the 404 million acres of public land in the West has no access. It is not happenstance. It is the result of thousands of individual situations like this one: a hapless, or politically hamstrung, or traitorous public agency or board of county commissioners which allows or even helps a landholder lock out the public.

The lockout is growing. As urban visitors and newcomers increase, landowners respond by putting more and more areas off limits to everything but helicopters. The struggle is between a landed group which wants to maintain or extend private use and the hunting-fishing-hiking public which would use the public's land as it was intended -- as a commons.

But more is at stake than hunting, fishing and hiking. If the land stays locked up, it will keep the West entombed in its present feudal, man-on-horseback situation. It will prevent the development of an economic base resting on recreation and tourist use of the public lands.

The Dominguez area, for example, is between Grand Junction and Delta. Both towns are hurting, and could use the mini-canyonlands represented by the beautiful canyons. But such an economy cannot develop now. Strang and the BLM have worked together to stop progress and economic development. The canyons will remain the preserve of one family, some cows, and a few rafters.

It was as if we were back in the 17th century arguing with Louis XIV about Divine Right. There was no common ground; no shared values. They were representing the old order and saw no legitimacy to the claims of the new order.

It is undeniable that the public land, with the exception of legislated wilderness which has access, is public in name only. Elected representatives such as Strang and the top management of the land agencies see the land as at the beck and call of private interests. The BLM and the Forest Service don't just put the public behind the grazers, the loggers, the miners. The public is less than last -- the public is a nuisance they would love to be rid of.

Challenging this status quo are people who are usually, but not always, newcomers to the West -- immigrants, greenhorns. We are outraged, but the only way most of us know to respond is in a genteel, urban style. We try to reason with the land managers. Then we file appeals. Then we go to lawyers or urban congressmen. While we go through this process, or while we try to find out how to even get into the process, the land agencies and the elected officials seal off the land.

We are culturally handicapped because we usually accept, at face value, the polite, neighborly western way -- the tipping of hats, the waving from vehicles, the toning down of differences. Usually we fail or refuse to recognize that the quiet, polite ways mask a toughness and determination that is exactly like Mayor Daly's Old Cook County machine.

When we lose, which we usually do, we comfort ourselves by saying that history is on our side. It is certainly clear that the old ways are no longer working. Improvement of the current wretched, deteriorating western economic and social situation depends on progressive use of the public land. Unless the trashing and privatization stops, the intermountain Rockies will never escape their feudal social and economic situation. We also know that those who now control the land and the land managers don't have a glimmer of how to lead the region out of its downward slide. Their failures are all around us -- economic, ecologic, social.

But such knowledge wins no battles. The people who control the land today are tough. They are rude when they have to be. They see the middle-level land managers as less than human. They treat them with contempt and run them around like so many sheep when they can.

Clearly, it is not good for one's humanity to act like that. So it is understandable that those who wish to create what the rural intermountain West now lacks -- a middle-class society which values initiative, education, the arts, entrepreneurial energy -- may not wish to bully land managers and use political influence in unseemly ways.

But it may also be that restraint and gentility must wait a generation. If there is to be progress, good education, a sound economy, there must first be toughness. Without that, we are not fit to take our place in this land.

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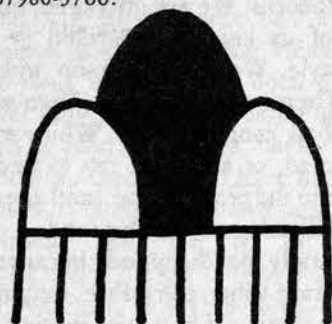
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BULLETIN BOARD

AN ENDANGERED PUBLICATION

A quarterly which keeps track of 350 natural resource lawsuits in the West will not publish again unless it is able to raise \$60,000. The four-year-old *Western Natural Resource Litigation Digest* goes to 250 subscribers who pay \$240 to \$350 per year. Subscription income, however, does not cover the publication's costs; it has depended since its founding on grants from one foundation -- the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. According to editor Tish Sprague, Lincoln recently cut off all funding. The cut followed the departure of staffer Matt Cullen, who had strongly supported the *Digest*, and who left to help found the Institute for the North American West. Sprague, citing recent growth in subscribers and influence, says the publication could be self-supporting, but that will take time. Before the spring 1986 issue of the *Digest* can be published, she said, \$60,000 must be raised. The offices are at 720 Sacramento St., San Francisco, CA 94108; 415/986-3760.



INDIAN LANDS CLAIMS

The Indian issue that claims most attention in the West is that of water rights (*HCN*, 11/25/85). But those claims to reserved water rights under the Winters Doctrine rest upon Indian ownership of land, and often ownership is very much an unsettled question. In *Irredeemable America: The Indians' Estate and Land Claims*, Editor Imre Sutton has collected papers by 15 scholars that bear on the question of the Indian Claims Commission of 1946 to 1978. The scholars looked at the claims process, speculated upon what will happen with the commission gone, and examined several conflicts as case studies. The book suffers from the handicap of all such collections: there is no single voice to lead the reader through the subject. Those interested in the subjects of the case studies -- the Havasupai tribe, Alaska and Hawaii natives and the Eastern Seaboard land claims -- will find the book most enjoyable. But the book will be helpful to all those interested in the moral and legal challenge the past treatment of Indians poses to the dominant society. The book has been generously typeset and is sturdy bound, but the maps are a disappointment.

The University of New Mexico Press, the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. 87131. Cloth: \$27.50. Publication date: 3/1/86.

FRAMEWORKS FOR THOUGHT

The environmental movement is long on pragmatism and short on ideology. Environmentalists know the law, know federal policies and know where the levers of influence are in our political system. They have also had a fair amount of success in using their knowledge to achieve environmental ends. As a result, the movement as a whole gives short shrift to theorizing and overviews. But not everyone believes that pragmatism can lead to a better future. *North Country Anvil* devotes its fall-winter issue to a wide-ranging examination of the "green" vision in America. The communally-produced magazine out of Minnesota discusses the German greens, but the various articles are mostly written from an American perspective. Subscriptions to the 13-year-old quarterly are \$8.50 to Box 37, Millville, MN 55957; 507/798-2366. Those interested in political theory may also wish to read Jonathan Schell's article on Poland in the Feb. 3, 1986 *New Yorker*. Schell describes how the Polish people, led by a handful of extraordinary intellectuals, are building a human society within an inhuman system. As in the *Anvil's* issue on Green politics, the emphasis is on the improvement of the individual, rather than on radical changes in the regime.

SILENT ART AUCTION

The Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning will hold its fourth annual silent art auction Saturday, Feb. 22, at Gallery of the West in Jackson, Wyoming. The art for sale -- all donated -- includes original oil and watercolors, limited edition prints, etchings, bronze sculpture, stained glass, pottery and photography. Proceeds benefit the alliance, a land use planning organization dedicated to preserve, protect and plan for the future of the Jackson Hole area. If you'd like to participate but can't go to the auction, bids can be submitted by mail. A catalogue is available from the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning, Box 2728, Jackson, WY 83001.

SHREWD AND CANNY

An exhibit at the Brooklyn Historical Society in New York City indicates that the Indians were not the hapless traders portrayed in the legend of the \$24 sale of Manhattan Island. According to a review of the exhibit in *The New York Times* for Jan. 26, 1986, the tribes were tenacious and shrewd, hanging onto their homeland until overwhelmed by a flood of immigrants from the Old World. According to the article, the Indians put little value on Manhattan because of its rocky soil and swamps, and so were willing to sell it for a song. But they only traded Brooklyn away piece by piece, and for relatively high prices. Far from being taken in by bits of colored glass and other trinkets, they held out for the high tech items of the day -- metal axes and other tools they couldn't manufacture. Moreover, they built into the land sales the continuing right to hunt and fish on the land. The exhibit, titled "New World Encounters, Jasper Danckaerts' View of Indian Life in 17th Century Brooklyn," is on view until May 31.

HIGH ON SKIING

While numerous segments of the economy struggle to stay afloat, the Colorado ski industry reports banner years. A 1985 economic impact study prepared by the Denver firm of Browne, Bortz and Coddington shows that the ski industry is one of the few sectors to consistently experience growth. Jobs have risen at a rate of 5 percent per year since the 1981-1982 season to its present level of 44,500, making the ski industry the largest single employer on Colorado's western slope. Tax receipts generated by the ski industry totaled \$132 million last year, an increase of \$27 million over 1981-1982. Skiers are also spending more, 5.7 percent over the previous year, generating over \$1.3 billion in retail sales. Of the record 9 million skier visits at the state's 32 ski resorts, 59 percent were by destination skiers who stayed an average of 4.5 days and spent an average of \$115.70 per day. Out-of-state skiers numbered 1.2 million last year, generated \$190 million for the airlines, rented 100,000 cars and left more than \$30 million in Denver in the process. Copies of the economic study can be obtained from Colorado Ski Country USA, 1410 Grant Street, Suite A-201, Denver, CO 80203.



BUSY AT BUFFALO BILL

The Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming opens for the 1986 season on March 1. Some of the upcoming special events include "The Rimrock Years," an exhibit of paintings by Frank Terry Larson; "Images of a Vanished Life," an exhibit of Indian pictograph ledger drawings from 1879; "Cowboy Songs and Range Ballads," a live music program performed by working cowboys; and "The Personal Computer and the Smaller Museum," a computer workshop. For more information on events throughout the year contact Sheila Andren, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Box 1000, Cody, WY 82414 (307/587-4771).



BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Barry R. Flamm, the chief forester for The Wilderness Society, has set out that group's argument for a limit to the kind and amount of roading and logging which takes place on the national forests. In a nine-page paper adapted from a talk, Flamm discusses biological diversity, island biogeography ("habitat islands" which support diverse species), and the effects of timber harvests. The paper, complete with references, is available from TWS, 1400 Eye St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202/842-3400).

COLORADO RIVERS

The Rivers of Colorado by Jeff Rennie comes as the first in the new Colorado Geographic Series of books intended to explore the land and people of the state. *Rivers* is filled with beautiful color photos of rivers, canyons, wildlife and people, and is guided by historical and informative text. There is also a biography of 25 Colorado rivers and coverage of the state's political struggle to hang on to water resources.

Falcon Press, P.O. Box 279, Billings, MT 59103. Softcover: \$14.95, hardcover: \$22.95. 112 pages, 11" x 8 1/2", 121 color photos.

COLORADO'S LITTLE SNAKE

The Bureau of Land Management has released a draft environmental impact statement and management plan for the Little Snake Resource Area in northwest Colorado. Six alternatives are presented for managing public lands in portions of Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt counties, with the preferred alternative -- described as an optimum multiple-use mix -- proposing to protect renewable resources from irreversible decline while accommodating production of minerals, livestock grazing, off-road vehicles, recreation and other uses. Public hearings, all at 7 p.m., will be held at the Foothills Ramada Inn, Denver, March 10; Moffat County Courthouse, Craig, March 12; and the BLM Vernal District Office, Vernal, Utah, March 13. Written comments can be sent to the BLM until May 9. For more information, or a copy of the draft, contact Duane Johnson, Program Manager, BLM, Craig District Office, 455 Emerson, Craig, CO 81625, or call 303/824-8261.

TEACHERS GO WILD

Colorado's Division of Wildlife and Department of Education are co-sponsors of the sixth annual Outdoor Adventure Workshop to be held at the Ponderosa Guest Ranch, west of Salida, June 15-21. Thirty teachers will be accepted for the workshop, designed to teach participants about fisheries and wildlife management concepts and techniques that can be applied to a classroom situation. The workshop will also provide information on outdoor cooking, shooting sports, compass use, wilderness survival and Project WILD activities. Total cost for the workshop is \$350, which includes three semester hours of graduate credit from Western State College at Gunnison. For more info, write or call Bud Smith, Colorado Division of Wildlife, 317 W. Prospect, Ft. Collins, CO 80526, 303/484-2836.

WESTERN ISLANDS

The Wall Street Journal's first issue of 1986 contained a front-page article on access to public lands in the West. The lengthy Jan. 2 article by Ken Slocum estimated that, of 404 million publicly-owned acres in 11 western states, one-third have no legal access and up to 60 percent have access problems due to surrounding private land. The article discussed Elk Mountain, Wyoming, where a group of encircling ranchers charge high fees to hunters wishing to reach public land. In October 1985, the Elk Mountain ranchers won an initial court victory against BLM efforts to open a logging road to public use. Also discussed was Tom Miner Basin, Montana, where a coalition of landowners control access to public lands just north of Yellowstone National Park. The Rim Alliance members say they are acting as good stewards, limiting access to numbers the land can bear.

NEW PHOTOGRAPHY

New American Photography by Kathleen McCarthy Gauss includes a variety of color and black and white photos, ranging from family portraits to the surreal. The Southwest and Western desert country are included. The text gives detailed analyses of the artistic construction of each photo, as well as some of the techniques used.

University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM 87131. Cloth: \$38.50. 128 pages, photographs.

ACCESS

NEAT STUFF

FOR SALE: COMPLETE 500 COLONY, honey, pollen, packing operation in western Colorado. Perfect family operation. 4 1/2 acres overlooking Colorado River. House, honeyhouse, shed, well, vehicles. Two acres tillable. Senior water rights. Expansion of packing business possible. \$140,000, cash. Serious inquiries only. Evenings after 6:00 p.m. 303/625-3382. (2x2)

NAVAJO TEXTILE RESTORATION. Meticulous restoration of damaged Navajo rugs and blankets. Restoration fibers hand-spun and hand-dyed to match original. Free estimates. Rita Murphy, 4142 O Rd., Paonia, CO 81428 (303/527-4613). (2x2)

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HCNT-SHIRTS are 100% cotton in white or red, sizes small, medium or large. Send \$8.50 to HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428.

CLASSIFIED ADS cost 20 cents per word, prepaid, \$5 minimum. Rates vary for display ads; write HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, Colorado 81428 or call 303/527-4898 for further information.

INTERN at *High Country News* wanted April 1 - June 30 to learn about natural resource issues in the West. The work includes everything from writing to layout and photography. No pay, but the living is easy; also very rural. Sense of humor helpful plus interest and concern about the issues. Send resume to Betsy Marston, HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428.

WORK

ORGANIZER WANTED to work in Wyoming on natural resource and agricultural issues. Applicants should be willing to travel, work long hours, have good verbal and written skills, enjoy working with people and be committed to empowering rural people to enable them to have a voice in decisions affecting their lives. Salary: \$9,000/year with automatic \$1,000 annual raises. Paid medical insurance and 30 days paid vacation per year. Send resume and writing sample to Powder River Basin Resource Council, 48 N. Main, Sheridan, WY 82801. (1x)

ORGANIZER JOB POSITION: The Western Colorado Congress is an organization of rural citizens and citizen groups working on utility, agriculture, clearcutting, air quality, and other consumer/natural resource issues. DUTIES: Organize and maintain local citizen organizations in Western Colorado, working with members in planning, implementing and evaluating programs, leadership development, grass-roots fundraising and research. REQUIREMENTS: Commitment to social change, justice and ecological integrity, desire and skill to work well with diverse types of people, ability to communicate clearly, willingness to work according to the needs of the organization. SALARY: \$800 per month, health insurance, one month vacation. TO APPLY: Send resume to the Western Colorado Congress, c/o Teresa Erickson, P.O. Box 472, Montrose, CO 81402. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: March 15, 1986.

PERSONALS

SINGLE? ENVIRONMENTALIST? PEACE-ORIENTED? Concerned Singles Newsletter links unattached like-minded men and women, all ages, all areas. Free sample. Box 7737-B, Berkeley, CA 94707. (4x1)