

High Country News

March 3, 1986

Vol. 18 No. 4

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar



*Utah rancher
Cecil Garland*

In defense of running cows on the public's land

by Cecil Garland

Many years ago, there was a soap opera on the radio about a beautiful young girl from the West who married a handsome and titled Englishman. The program always opened with a narrator asking whether she would be able to find happiness in the high society of London. Since I always turned the radio off at that point, I never learned how the young lady made out over there.

Having some time ago moved to Utah, my wife and I have switched the old radio soap around a bit. It now goes: can an out-front steadfast environmentalist find happiness married to a young lady from Utah while running cows on the public range of Utah's west desert? More important,

can reasonableness and environmental sanity become a part of the grazing of the western ranges?

When we bought our badly run-down place here, that second question was foremost in our minds. Could we use the range and derive some profit from it, while at the same time allowing the range to improve itself back to some semblance of what it had been before the overgrazing began.

Finding a method and manner in which this could be done has been exciting, and a source of considerable personal effort and expense. I hasten to say that "we" means not only my wife and I, but also a very courageous and honest Bureau of Land Management conservation officer who came to take an intense interest in what we were trying to do.

Any serious discussion of grazing on the public land should begin with

an acknowledgement that the introduction of domestic livestock by Europeans onto the prairie and desert grassland has had an often devastating effect upon the land and the living things here, including the native people. That these sad things occurred says that humans have reacted to the earthly panoply much as maggots react to a dead sheep carcass.

However, I'm not much given to self-flagellation or pitch-forking the dead. It seems better to remember and learn from the mistakes of the past, and to commit ourselves to correcting them.

Our place here is not big. We run about 100 head of mother cows. We wean the calves in October and try to have enough hay and feed on hand from our farm lands to grow out the calves to late winter or

spring, when they are sold at auction.

We get by in a variety of ways. My wife, Annette, has taught in the public schools here for 12 years. We also have a garden and an orchard, and raise a few turkeys, ducks and chickens, as the skunks and coyotes permit. We keep a milk cow for butter, cheese, yogurt and buttermilk, bees for honey, and get our wood here on the place or from the mountains.

We are frugal. We realized that whatever you can do for yourself, including the providing of entertainment, is worth a considerable amount.

Our land is a desert. It rains or snows about five inches per year. We live in the rain shadow of the Deep Creek Mountains, which rise above us to the west to about 12,000 feet. We get some irrigation from the mountains, and also have an irrigation well.

(Continued on page 10)

Dear friends,



High Country News

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We knew we were going to enjoy Cecil Garland's piece from the moment we picked up the 30 pages of yellow, lined paper on which he had written it. We were taken not just because it was written on the kitchen table of an isolated western Utah ranch house, but because he opened with a reference to a favorite old radio soap.

"Our Gal Sunday," as we remember it almost 40 years later, began each episode with the announcer asking: "Can a beautiful young girl from a silver mining town in western Colorado find happiness as the wife of wealthy and titled Lord Henry Brinthrope?" The way Cecil remembers it, the gal was from Utah, but that's a quibble.

Had Cecil stayed tuned, as we did, he would have found that Our Gal Sunday did indeed find happiness, although it was not always a smooth road. As we remember it, Ma Perkins also found happiness, although of a folksier sort, in the earlier time slot.

In his cover letter, Cecil wrote, "Cash ain't one of the things in great abundance hereabouts. But if words are worth anything, here's bunch of them." There were indeed a bunch of them -- 40 percent more than we could use. So we culled the less fertile ones, much as Cecil does each fall with his mama cows. But as you will see, there's still quite a herd left.

The board of the High Country Foundation held its first meeting of 1986 in Fort Collins on Sunday, Feb. 16, to set the budget, to say goodbye to outgoing board members, and to choose new board members.

Those going off the board are Geoff O'Gara-Marjane Ambler, and Lynn Dickey. We have hyphenated Geoff and Marjane, both of whom are past HCN staffers, because they shared a three-year term. Geoff is a freelancer and partner in the *Dubois Frontier* newspaper. Marjane is a freelancer with a year-around residence in Yellowstone National Park. They brought with them a knowledge of the paper's history and culture that was invaluable.

Lynn, who is partner in a bookstore and a member of that rare species -- a Democratic state legislator from Wyoming -- is past president of the High Country Foundation board. Everyone on the board has experience with non-profit organizations and lots of common sense. But Lynn, who once ran the Powder River Basin Resource Council, brought background, temperament and savvy that will be especially difficult to replace.

One reader asked to attend the board meeting, and was cordially invited. But when he heard it was to be about budgets, foundations, cash flow and salaries, rather than about the issues of the day, he decided there were better ways to spend a Sunday.

Board member Kate Missett, who was formerly an editor for Wyoming Fish and Game, did sneak in some editorial matters. She brought with her a breakdown of all HCN articles since the last board meeting. It was an analysis she started "because I felt that too much emphasis was being placed on Colorado."

Kate found that 27 articles were about the Rockies in general, 22 about Colorado, 21 about Wyoming, 20 about national issues, 18 about Utah, 11 about Montana, 9 about Idaho, 6

about Yellowstone, 4 about South Dakota, 2 about New Mexico, 2 about Arizona, and 1 about Vermont. If Yellowstone were split arbitrarily between Wyoming and Montana, Wyoming would top Colorado. But we're willing to concede that Yellowstone is not only a state, but a nation in its own right.

The board members who came furthest were Adam McLane and Herman Warsh from Montana. Patrick Sweeney, now a western Colorado resident who is about to move to Montana, came from Montrose. Lynn Dickey and Kate Missett dropped down from Wyoming. Marjane came from the sovereignty of Yellowstone, and board president Robert Wington, Mike Clark and Garrett Ray are Front Range residents. Marjane, by the way, had to abandon her snowmobile due to a road blocked by a snowslide and walk the last eight miles out of Yellowstone. Neverthe-



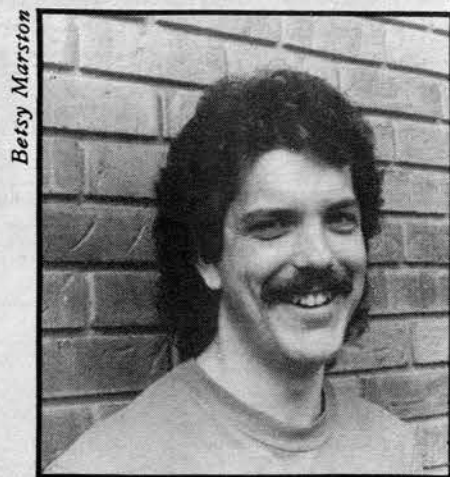
Keith Waller

less, she reached the meeting on time.

The meeting should have been held in a rapidly descending elevator because almost everyone felt queasy over the 1986 budget. In brief, HCN had a good year in 1985, and the budget was increased to do some things -- such as raise the freelance rate and staff salaries -- which the paper has been unable to do before. And which it may not be able to do beyond June 1986 without further good fortune.

The Sunday meeting was preceeded by a potluck Saturday night at Garrett and Nina Ray's Fort Collins home. It was attended by roughly 25 people, including two HCN freelancers: Tom (and Shelley) Wolf and George (and Barbara) Sibley. Others we had a chance to visit with were Scott Ellis, Marjorie Dunmire, Chuck and Marge Wanner, and Geoff Tischbein.

We should mention one other decision made at the budget meeting -- the mailing of approximately 100,000 pieces of direct mail or samples of the paper to various mailing lists. This month alone, 50,000



Mike Kustudia

letters will go out to lists begged, borrowed and traded from conservation organizations, magazines, and the like. Inevitably, some present readers will get letters. We hope you will pass them on to friends. We would love to cull our lists, but it is not practical. We ask your understanding.

Staff and board have vigorously resisted direct mail campaigns. But Development Director Judy Moffatt convinced us to do a 10,000-piece test last spring, followed by a 20,000-piece test in the fall. Direct mail, it turns out, works. Short of slowly letting the paper decline (even the most faithful subscribers eventually pass on), we must find new readers.

A key part of HCN is the intern program, and this quarter (interns stay for three months), we have been blessed with two: Keith Waller and Mike Kustudia. Keith is a Jackson, Wyoming, native who had been working for a coal company in Sheridan, Wyoming, before coming to Paonia in January. The Western coal industry, Keith observes, has not been booming of late, and his tour of duty with HCN, he hopes, will open new paths.

Mike comes to HCN from Missoula, Mt., where he was news editor of the university's *Montana Kaimin*. He was recently awarded a \$500 scholarship by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation for editorial writing. The award came for his sardonic look at the university's naming of its new Washington-Grizzly stadium after the contractor who is building it, and who got his name attached to it by making a \$1 million in-kind donation.

We hope the naming of the stadium isn't a bad omen for the grizzlies. We noticed in this Colorado valley that when the orchards began to come under pressure from developers, subdivisions started being named things like Apple Valley Estates. It is as if our consciences force us to memorialize that which we are destroying.

--the staff

BARBED WIRE

Yuppie Health Hazards.

The Food and Drug Administration recently warned that certain brands of Brie cheese contain a bacteria that can cause flu-like illnesses, and, in some cases, death.

President George Washington, Revolutionary, criticized King George III, Tory, in a meeting with Alexander Hamilton, Mercantilist.

The Texas State Board of Education has reversed itself, and will no longer require that people quoted in history texts be identified by their political affiliations, according to the Associated Press.

They used to do the same thing with mirrors.

Commissioner of Reclamation C. Dale Duvall announced that the estimated cost of the Animas-LaPlata water project in Colorado and New Mexico had dropped significantly. He said, and we quote: "The revised cost estimate of \$553.6 million, which is \$68.6 million less than the previous estimate of \$662.2 million, reflects an overall repricing of the original 1978 cost estimate to October 1985 price levels. The previous cost estimate for the project was based upon a 1982 repricing of project facilities indexed to October 1985 price levels."

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Volunteers in national parks and forests

Each year when funding for state and federal recreation programs goes to the block for a trim, campgrounds have closed, ranger staffed education programs have been cut and maintenance of trails reduced. Given the need to reduce a runaway federal deficit, the future promises to be even less generous. Symptoms of legislative neglect are easy for hikers to find: they include the steady disintegration of many backcountry trails.

Some outdoor recreation programs on public lands have held their own only because of volunteer help organized by groups such as the American Hiking Society, Sierra Club, Washington Trails Association and Appalachian Mountain Club. For prospective volunteers, it has become a buyer's market. With some advance planning volunteers can arrange to spend a week, month, or even a year in national parks or forests, and some choice positions pay expenses, provide lodging or transportation and also offer high school or college credit. Volunteers can also gain valuable field experience in zoology, geology or biology.

"Everyone is trying to get volunteers," says Nancy Mjelde, a manpower development specialist for Idaho's Panhandle National Forest. She says that increased competition for volunteers has meant that staffers work hard to keep non-salaried workers happy. Mjelde says over the last 10 years the number of volunteers has grown from 70 to more than 300. "We've had to show we can provide a quality experience," she says.

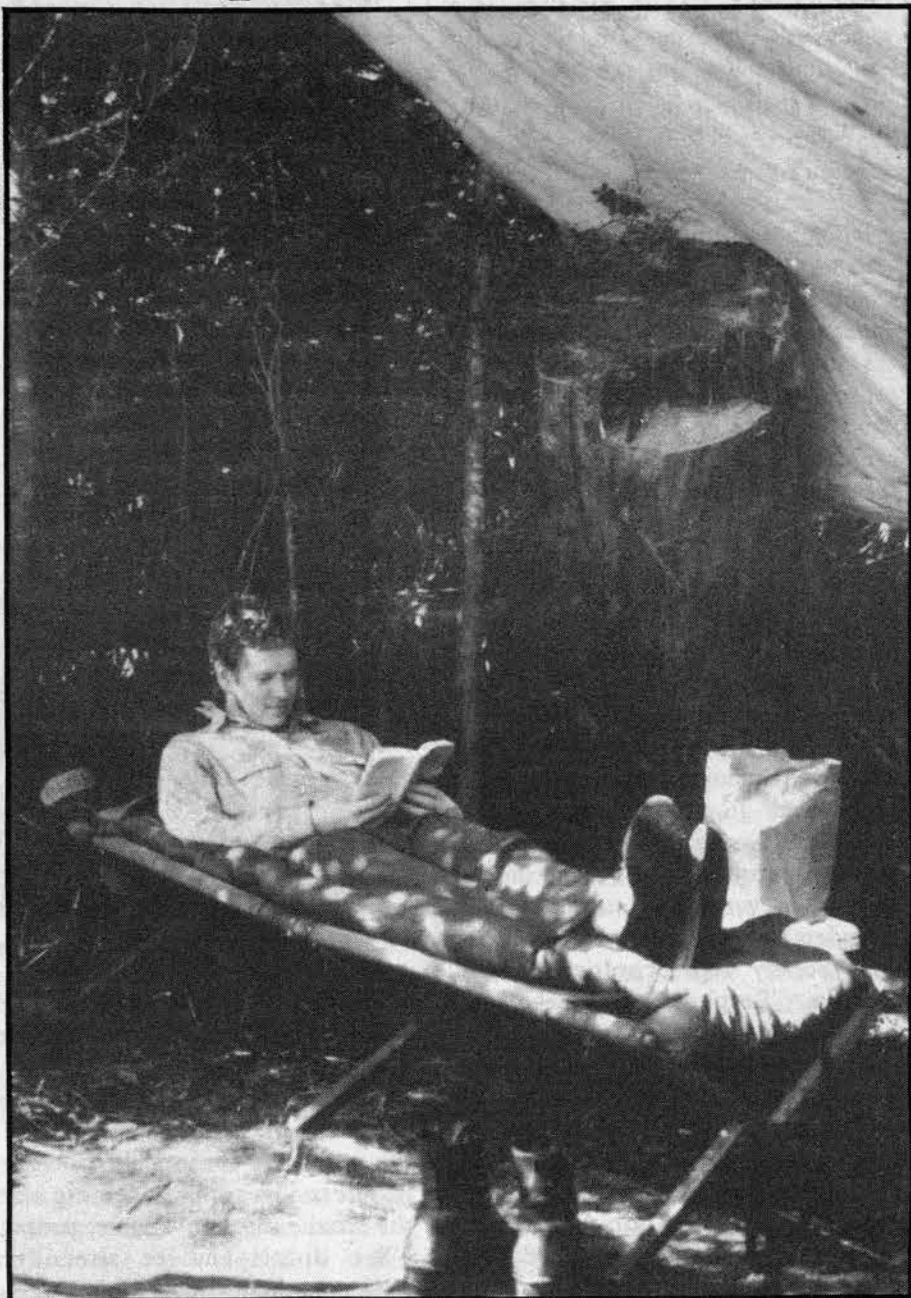
Eddie Owada is volunteer coordinator for the Boulder ranger district on Colorado's Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. He says volunteers "curb vandalism in many of our campgrounds and keep our trails open and hikeable." They also act as trailhead hosts to collect user fees and help with rescue and fire prevention. This year, adds Vicki Collins, the Boulder district's wilderness and backcountry recreation planner, volunteers will also be trained to work with four-wheel drivers, serving as "hosts." Up to 10 volunteers will try to cultivate a better land ethic among four-wheelers, she says.

To meet the increased demand for volunteers, some organizations act as brokers. The California-based Sierra Club mounts a full season of outdoor service trips that run up to 10 days and cost participants a modest fee. The American Hiking Society sends its teams of a dozen workers each into national parks and wilderness areas in 13 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Each year the Student Conservation Association places 1,500 high school and college level volunteers in its 12-week resource management assistant program. Here, volunteers help Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and National Park staffs in exchange for academic credit.

The American Hiking Society sponsors working trips for trail construction maintenance, and jobs are scheduled this year in Hawaii, Yellowstone National Park and the Virgin Islands. You pay your way there, AHS pays for your keep. For more information write American Hiking Society, Box 86, North Scituate, MA 02060.

U.S. Forest Service



Volunteer after a day of trails maintenance

Twice a year listings of volunteer opportunities are published by the non-profit Washington Trails Association. Its *Helping Out in the Outdoors* magazine contains over 1,000 available assignments in over 40 states. Listings are arranged by state, identifying key people and opportunities. A two-year subscription (four issues for \$12), can be ordered from

Helping Out, P.O. Box 2414-T,
Lynwood, WA 98036.

--David G. Gordon and staff

□

David G. Gordon is Programs Director for the Washington Trails Association.

HOTLINE

Brower loses lawsuit

Court seems to be the place where environmental groups resolve their in-house disputes these days -- at least when David Brower is involved. Brower, now embroiled in a court battle with Friends of the Earth, unsuccessfully took the Sierra Club to court last December over the club's election rules. Brower and four others -- Madge Strong, Steve Rauh, Daniel Moses and Dennis Willigan -- challenged a Sierra Club rule that prohibits candidates for the board of directors from signing ballot statements. Brower, Strong and Willigan, all candidates for the board, had signed a ballot statement that asked voters to immediately divert money from other club issues to fund the anti-nuclear war priority. Sierra Club President Michele Perrault says that although the prevention of nuclear war is a priority of the club, money for the issue should not be diverted from other causes. The lawsuit ended when the court denied the litigants' request for a restraining order delaying the election, and a settlement was reached in which the ballot statement was removed from the ballot.

The feds win a lake

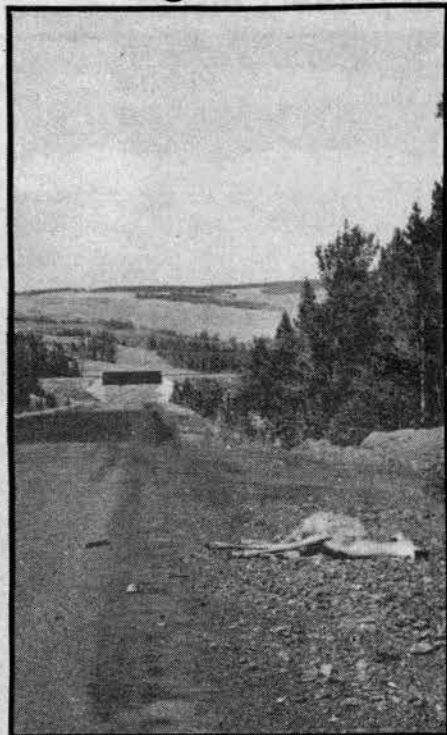
Sagebrush rebels in Utah were handed another gripe recently, when the Denver-based 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the bed of Utah Lake, located south of the Great Salt Lake, is owned by the federal government. The state of Utah had claimed ownership; both the state and federal government have been issuing oil and gas leases to the lake bottom. According to the *Utah Waterline*, four courts have ruled against the state thus far. An appeal is possible.

Grazing fee extended

By executive order last month, President Reagan extended the federal lands grazing fee through 1986. The fee, which was \$1.35 per animal unit month last year, has been attacked by national conservation groups as a political giveaway (*HCN*, 12/23/85). The groups charge that the fee, established by a formula passed by Congress in 1978, is a subsidy to the 27,000 ranchers in the West who have permits to graze livestock on public lands.

HOTLINE

Protecting deer



A Wyoming wildlife group is trying to raise \$50,000 to help finance a \$1 million project to reduce the number of road kills in southwestern Wyoming. Each year about 600 deer are killed on a heavily traveled, 13-mile stretch of highway near the town of Kemmerer. The Overthrust Wildlife Association, an affiliate of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, plans to erect a fence along the road that would funnel the migrating deer -- estimated to number 15,000 -- to overpasses and underpasses. A state senator, Boyd Eddins, R, has just sponsored a bill that would allocate \$200,000 for the project in Nugget Canyon. The Overthrust Wildlife Association is accepting donations for the effort at Box 242, Kemmerer, WY 83101.

Cutting budgets, not trees

David J. Spear



The Reagan administration's budget proposal for fiscal year 1987 calls for a 15 percent cut in timber harvests and a drop of \$308 million in revenue-sharing. The administration says the Forest Service should deduct expenses before sharing "income" from timber, recreation, mineral or other fees with local governments, which usually use the funds for schools or roads. The Forest Service currently distributes 25 percent of its gross receipts to counties, but the administration proposal calls for the 25 percent figure to be based on agency profits. Last year the Forest Service spent \$621 million more than it made from timber sales. "Current law distributes profits that don't exist," said the Reagan administration in documents accompanying the budget sent to Congress last month. This practice "makes neither economic nor business sense."

HOTLINE

Group seeks way to protect bison

As hunters continue to shoot Yellowstone's bison once the animals cross park boundaries, protectionists are devising new schemes to solve the problem. As of late February, 17 bison had been shot just north of the park's border. Noel Larrivee, a lawyer for Fund for Animals, a New York-based group, told AP that the fund is seeking Park Service permission to hire wranglers, who would feed bison in the park, and hopefully keep them there. The fund also proposes a birth control implantation program for cow bison in the northern herds to reduce the numbers competing for food. Another Fund for Animals proposal is an inoculation program for all bison that test brucellosis-free. The Montana hunt is an attempt to prevent the spread of brucellosis to cattle from bison, which are thought to be frequent carriers of the disease. (HCN, 2/3/86).

Wyoming's coal industry is under pressure

Terrence Moore

A recent study of Wyoming's coal industry predicts that the state could lose as much as 10 percent of its business to foreign coal producers by the year 2000. The study in *Coal Age* magazine says that many Midwest power plants now supplied by Wyoming mines will turn to foreign or Eastern coal when contracts with the Wyoming producers expire in the 1990s. The report says low import duties on foreign coal and increasing transportation costs in the West give an edge to producers in Columbia, South Africa, western Canada, Australia and Poland. The study suggests that if railroads cut their transportation costs by 10 percent, imports from foreign producers could be held off.

Utah: A heavy EIS but little wilderness

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah. While most Utah conservation leaders were busy writing letters to *High Country News* (11/11/85, 11/25/85, 12/9/85, 12/23/85, 12/15/85), a handful did manage to drop in on the Feb. 5 press conference in Salt Lake City announcing the release of the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Dick Carter, Clive Kincaid, Jim Catlin, and a half-dozen reporters watched impassively from the bleachers as Utah BLM wilderness team leader Dr. Gregory Thayne described the bewildering array of seven different wilderness designation alternatives outlined in the agency's massive draft.

The bottom line? After studying nearly 22 million acres of the most rugged, remote, and spectacular landscape in the nation, Bureau of Land Management found 1.9 million acres worth preserving as wilderness. (HCN, 2/14/85, 2/28/85).

Conservationists, whose proposals range from 16 million acres to 3.8 million acres, said they were appalled but not surprised. "It's a document that holds very few surprises and considerable mischief," said Wilderness Society representative Darrell Knuffke. "Despite legal appeals, we just didn't get very much more out of the BLM than they indicated many years ago that they were going to give us."

"BLM is looking at wilderness as an afterthought," observed Gary MacFarlane of the Utah Wilderness Association, noting that the BLM's entire statewide recommendation was smaller than Yellowstone National Park.

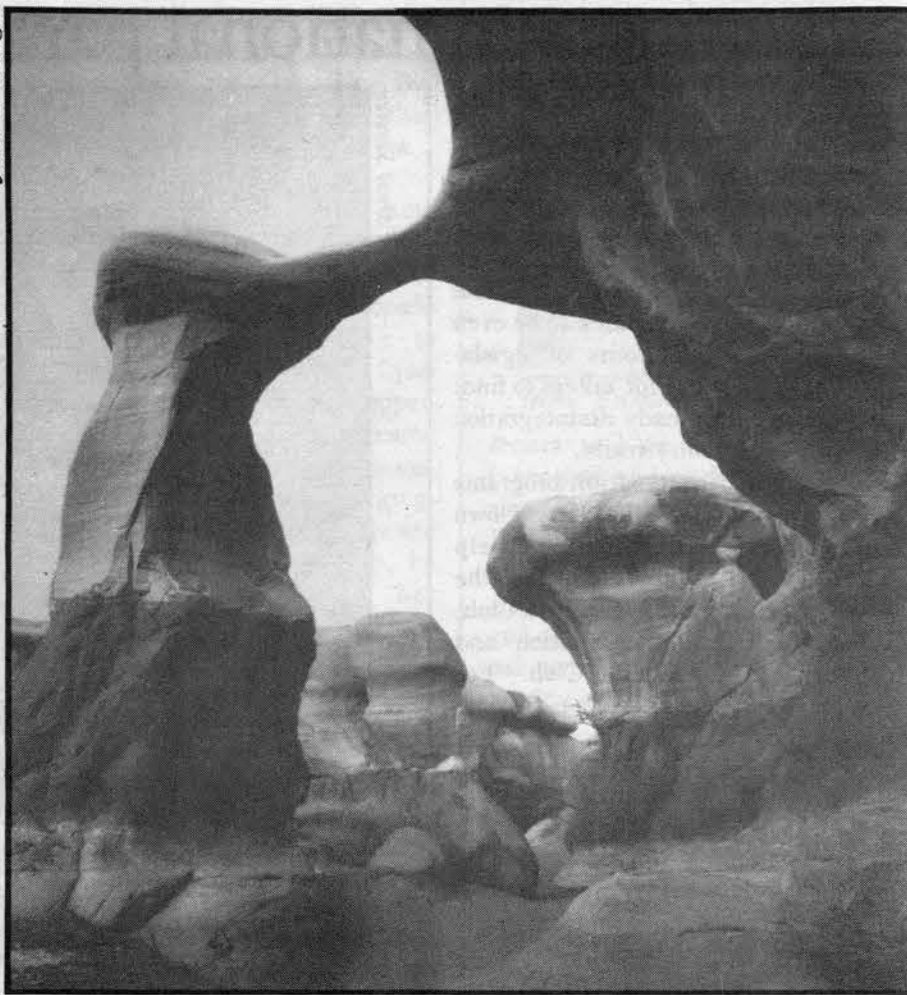
Utah conservationists have been battling the BLM since 1978, when the agency announced its first wilderness inventory decisions. They have spent those seven years firing a steady stream of comments, protests and appeals, ultimately forcing the BLM to add nearly a million acres to its wilderness inventory.

Utah conservationists have also taken their case to three congressional oversight hearings, charging that the BLM subverted the wilderness review process in Utah by prematurely eliminating lands with potential for economic development. As a result, Public Lands Subcommittee chairman John Seiberling, D-Ohio, wrote Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel in October, requesting that the BLM investigate 18 roadless areas, including spectacular Labyrinth Canyon and enormous roadless areas surrounding Factory Butte and Natural Bridges National Monument.

The BLM did conduct an investigation. Its findings, reported to Seiberling on Feb. 6, 1986 concluded: "We believe the inventory in Utah was as accurate and consistent as possible." Nowhere, according to Interior Department Assistant Secretary James E. Cason, had BLM made a single mistake.

Pointing to man-made intrusions around the periphery of each unit -- most of which could have been eliminated by minor boundary adjustments -- BLM argued in each case that the impacts obliterated the wilderness characteristics of units ranging up to 80,000 acres in size. In the San Juan Arm, for example, BLM concluded that 22,000 acres of rugged slickrock and canyon country in the shadow of Navajo Mountain had lost its

John P. George



Metate Arch in Carcass Canyon - Devils Garden Unit

wilderness character because of 5.7 miles of dirt road and an abandoned dirt landing strip.

BLM's wilderness DEIS included a "no-wilderness" alternative. But at the other end of the scale, not one of its alternatives approached the size of the smallest conservationist proposal. "We didn't analyze alternatives greater than what was in our wilderness study areas at this time," explained Dr. Thayne, "because we have some confidence in our inventory." The message to conservationists was clear. "If the Congress is going to get any sense of what Utah's wilderness lands are, and what they contain," says Knuffke, "Utah conservationists are going to have to tell them; the BLM is not."

While wilderness bills in other states have often been closely patterned on agency recommendations, it is probable that a Utah bill will not. Conservationists appear determined to continue their attacks on the credibility of the BLM's wilderness review in Utah -- a credibility which some agency employees privately concede has already been damaged. "I would imagine that with arguments put forth as to why the inventory should be overridden, and so on, you could get a congressional ear..." says Gregory Thayne. "We don't expect that Congress would buy off on BLM's recommendation in any comprehensive way."

As the week drew to a close, conservation leaders from around the state and nation converged on Utah to determine how best to take on the workload of an entire government agency. The size of the task was driven home by the BLM's DEIS -- a six-volume 2,700-page-long document weighing nearly 20 pounds.

Five conservation groups asked for a six-month period for public comment on the DEIS, but Utah BLM state director Roland Robison has limited it to four months. Time and resource constraints have led some Utah conservationists to question their ability to promote more than 100 separate wilderness areas simultaneously. Others are encouraged by what they believe to be a surge of new

public involvement and influx of new resources. There are signs that a national movement to protect the Colorado Plateau has been gaining momentum.

In October, environmental activist Fred Swanson, known for his grass-roots organizing in Oregon and Montana, materialized in Salt Lake City as the coordinator for the newly formed Utah Wilderness Coalition. In November, Earth First! announced a whopping 16 million-acre proposal for BLM wilderness in Utah, editorializing that "the battle for Utah should be as hard-fought as that for the Alaska Lands Act." In December, newly installed Wilderness Society President George Frampton, Jr., toured Utah BLM roadless areas with regional representative Darrell Knuffke.

A recent meeting of the Utah Wilderness Coalition steering committee drew nearly 50 people -- among them the entire Sierra Club chain of command, including Doug Scott, the Club's top conservation officer, Washington Representative Debbie Sease and Southwest Regional Representative Maggie Fox.

The visits by Sierra Club and Wilderness Society staffers may indicate the possibility of a major commitment of resources to the struggle in Utah. "There's a great deal that the national environmental movement is going to have to do in support of the tremendous work that's been done by the citizen groups in Utah," says Scott.

But it was also apparent that the real test for Utah's wilderness lands is whether they can attract grass-roots support from within Utah and from around the nation.

"The Utah Wilderness Coalition proposal is five million acres," says Darrell Knuffke. "Those acres were not just scraped together so that we would have a large number to point at. Our membership has flown over them, walked through them, photographed them, mapped them. We know what's in there. It's wilderness. And we're going to treat it like that throughout this entire process."

--Raymond Wheeler

An old mine threatens a new industry

One of Colorado's seven potential EPA Superfund sites is forcing the state to seek a federal-court showdown. Two days of intensive, court-ordered negotiations failed to produce an out-of-court settlement last month.

The talks were between the Colorado attorney general's office and two companies that used to operate a zinc mine at Gilman, a town eight miles south of Vail in western Colorado's Eagle County. Negotiations, which lasted two days from 7 a.m. until midnight, were ordered by a U.S. District Court arbitration judge.

Mike Hope, a member of the attorney general's staff, said afterward that his office is now preparing for an April trial in federal court. Colorado is suing the former operators of the Eagle Mine, Gulf and Western Corp. and New Jersey Zinc Co., for \$50 million to help clean up the remnants of the mine New Jersey Zinc operated from 1916 until 1983.

When the mine and company-owned town of Gilman were sold to a real estate development group in 1983, there were still three mill tailings ponds between Gilman and Minturn, a small town midway between Gilman and Vail. There were also "roaster piles" of mined rock just west of the mine. The piles are close enough to the Eagle River to allow metal traces and other minerals to wash into the river along with runoff from snow and rain.

The attorney general's office filed suit against the former owners in December 1983, three months after Gilman and the Eagle Mine were sold. The suit was filed on the final day before expiration of a provision of the Superfund Act that allows state suits against parties responsible for pollution.

Although the suit arbitrarily asked for \$50 million to clean up the area, studies later sponsored by the Colorado Department of Health estimated the cost could range from \$23 million to as much as \$185 million.

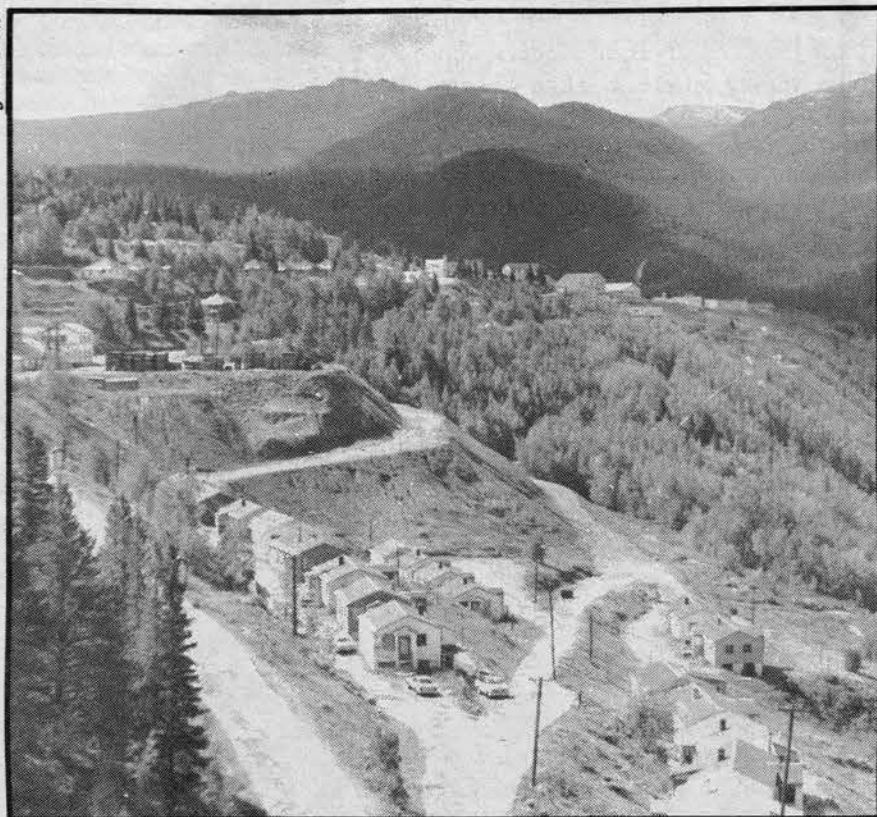
Consultants hired by Gulf and Western also completed a study to determine cleanup costs, but the company has refused to release the results. Attorney Hope told HCN there is still "a possible settlement" in the works before the April trial, but he would not discuss any aspect of the negotiations. Any agreement or a court award for the cleanup financing should have a direct bearing on future funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, because the Eagle Mine is still listed as a tentative project among Superfund sites.

As attorneys for both sides talk about cleanup costs, developers who had hoped to build a new mountain tourist town have abandoned their efforts. Not only are the mine site, ghost town and tailings piles easily visible from Highway 24, the southern link to Vail and Beaver Creek ski areas, but there is also a steadily increasing metal content in the Eagle River.

What's more, the mine is filling up with water since Public Service Co. of Colorado shut off power to the mine and its water pumps in 1984 -- the result of unpaid utility bills owed by the new owners. Water is expected to fill and flow out of the mine by this fall, local officials predict.

All the mine-related pollution problems spell trouble for Eagle County pocket books. "We need to be

Jim Dow



Gilman, Colorado

concerned with the environment, because here it becomes an economic issue," said Dick Gustafson, a county commissioner from Vail.

Besides the obvious drawbacks of the other-worldly looking tailings ponds within eyesight of the highway, growing pollution problems in the Eagle River are driving up water treatment costs. Mine operators used to help offset some effects from minerals seeping into the river by dumping tons of lime into mine water, but that practice stopped three years ago. The river is a secondary water source for the communities of Eagle-Vail, Avon, and Edwards, all located just west of Vail. The consolidated water district that serves all four of those towns has spent \$1 million on special ozone treatment

equipment specifically to combat the water's high metal content.

Permanent residents of the Vail Valley are being forced to foot the bill, prompting water board member Bill Williams to comment: "It's not so much the tourists that are affected by this. It's the people who live in trailer parks and work around here."

Local residents at a January hearing in Avon set up by the Health Department overwhelmingly expressed support for a long-range solution to the problem, with none of the costs being paid by the average citizen. "The citizens of this area should not and must not pay for the cleanup of someone else's mess," water board member Mike Blair told state officials.

--Jim Dow

National park fees to jump

Visitors at Yellowstone National Park and other parks across the nation may wind up paying more for less as the Park Service feels the bite of the Gramm-Rudman Act.

A 4.3 percent across-the-board cut went into effect March 1, which means Yellowstone will have to lop \$689,000 from this year's budget. Meanwhile, a Reagan administration proposal would increase entrance fees at 60 parks, including Yellowstone, and create new fees for more than 100 other parks. If approved by Congress, the fee increase would raise fees at Yellowstone from \$2 to \$10, of which 80 percent would go to the Park Service. The remaining 20 percent would go to the general fund to reduce the deficit.

To meet Gramm-Rudman cuts, Yellowstone officials say they will close the popular Madison Campground, and the Grant Village Visitor Center, reduce road maintenance and eliminate 95 staff jobs. Park spokesman Greg Kroll says streamlining services will enable the park to still "provide for human safety and resource protection."

Tighter budgets are something that Yellowstone and other parks may have to get used to. The Reagan administration's 1987 fiscal year budget for the park system proposes a 20 percent cut for this year. "We didn't institute Gramm-Rudman," says Kroll. "What we're trying to do is keep the park running."

--Michael Kustudia



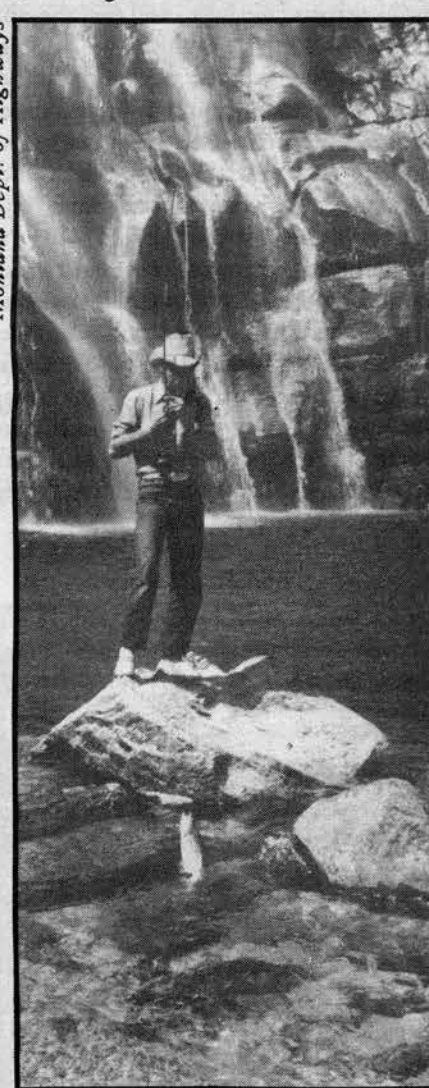
HOTLINE

A mini-swap

The Reagan administration will take another run at a swap of land management and mineral leasing responsibilities between the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The scaled-down proposal would transfer 14.8 million acres from the BLM to the FS, and 9.4 million acres from the FS to the BLM. After the swap, the BLM would manage the surface of 172 million acres and the FS 174 million acres. In addition, the FS would be given responsibility for managing the subsurface minerals on 204 million acres of mostly national forest land. That mineral estate is now managed by the BLM, which will be left with 216 million acres of mineral estate. The two agencies estimate annual savings of \$15 million. A bill to implement the swap has been introduced to Congress. A Dec. 1984 proposal to exchange 34 million acres encountered much opposition, and has been scaled back to the present proposal.

Wildlife values

Montana Dept. of Highways

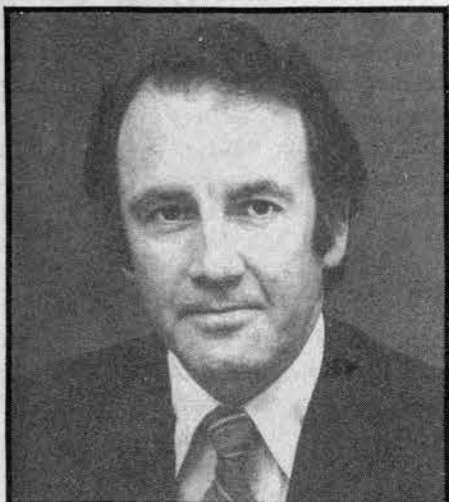


Fishing in Montana

Montana has begun a two-year survey to find out how much people are willing to spend to hunt and fish in the state. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks says it will use the information in planning sessions with federal agencies and special interest groups. Unlike timber, the state hasn't yet put an acceptable financial value on fishing a blue-ribbon trout stream or hunting a trophy elk. Montana officials say that estimates of the value of wildlife are now too low because they consider only what sportsmen actually spend during a hunting or fishing trip; and what is missing is a figure for what an individual is willing to pay for the experience. The survey will try to define what that "willingness factor" is in dollars, and the information will be used to establish wildlife values for specific areas in Montana.

HOTLINE

Terror, or counter-terror?



Representative Pat Williams

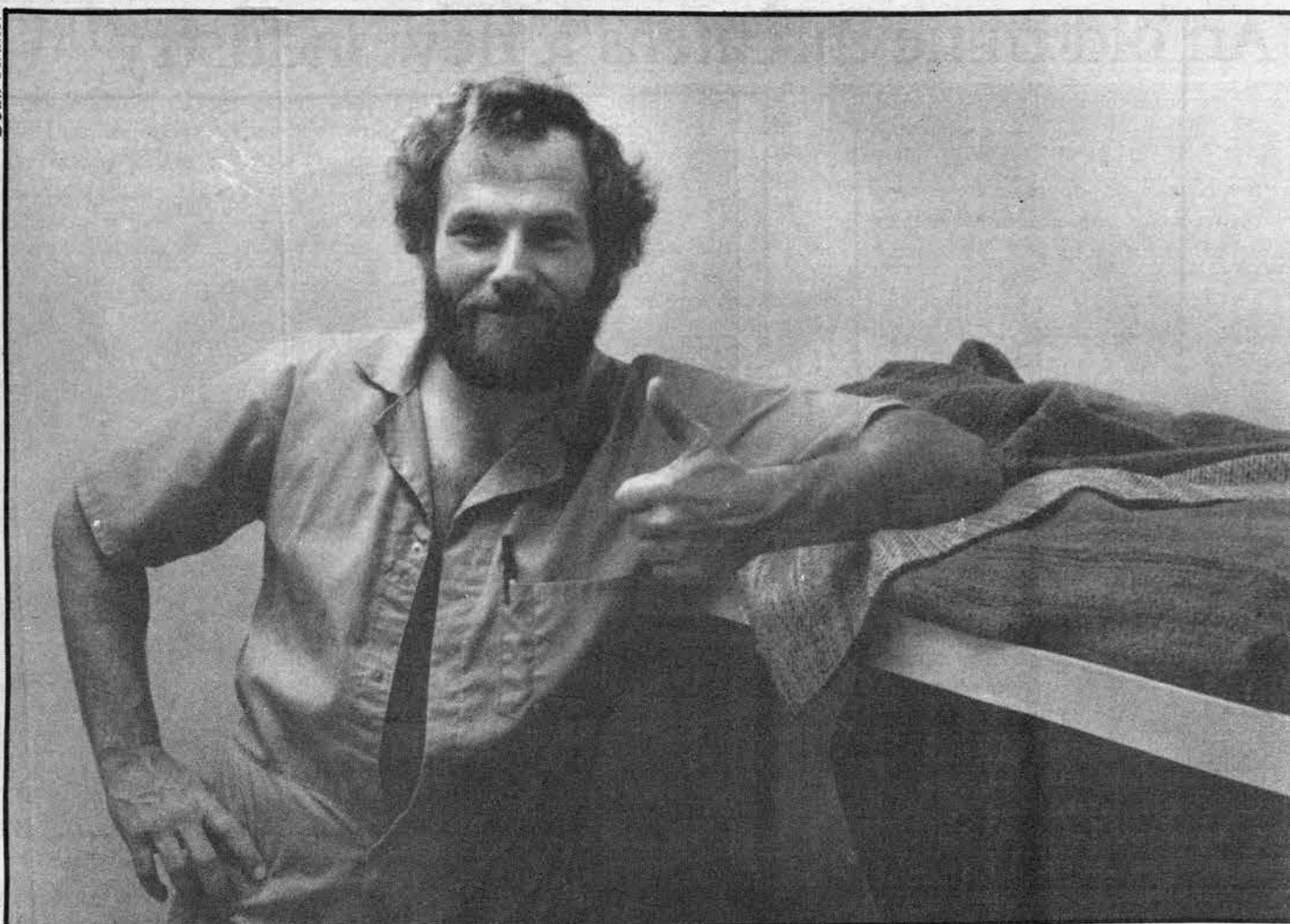
A Democratic Congressman from Montana recently called Earth First! members terrorists and vowed not to consider any of the group's wilderness proposals until the practice of tree-spiking is halted. Rep. Pat Williams said the group encourages its members to drive metal spikes into trees, which could injure loggers. Earth First! spokesman Roger Featherstone replied that the group considers logging in national forests to be a terrorist activity, and said the aim of tree-spiking is not to injure people, but to drive up the cost of a timber sale, thereby discouraging companies from bidding. Featherstone also added that Earth First! does not condone the practice. In 1984, two timber sales were "spiked" in the Willamette National Forest in Oregon, but all spikes were found before the trees were felled and no injuries occurred. Willamette Forest Supervisor Michael Kerrick said two groups claimed responsibility for the ecotage, the "Hardesty Mountain Avengers," and the "Bonnie Abzug Feminist Garden Club."

Paper chase



The federal government may be out over a quarter of a billion dollars in timber sales because of a corporate reshuffling of an Oregon lumber company. The *Associated Press* reports that Forest Service Chief R. Max Peterson told the House Interior oversight subcommittee that Roseburg Lumber Co. has shifted most of its assets to new subsidiaries, thus lowering the remaining assets of the parent company to a value less than the outstanding contracts. Both Peterson and BLM director Robert Burford said that a default might be imminent because of the uneconomical nature of the contracts, which amount to \$270 million. Negotiated in the late 1970s, the contracts reflected the inflation of the time and also a housing boom; in the years since, the market value of the timber has plummeted to about one-third the contracted price.

Dean Krakel



Howie Wolke in his jail cell

Earth First!'s Howie Wolke goes to jail

Howie Wolke, a Wyoming outfitter who helped found Earth First!, was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$750 Feb. 11.

Sublette County Justice of the Peace Bill Cramer said he imposed the maximum sentence and fine because Wolke's offense -- pulling up survey stakes for a Chevron oil well road -- was the act of a "coward." Cramer said he hoped others would get the message that "this kind of conduct is not acceptable."

Originally charged with a felony, Wolke had already pleaded guilty to

the reduced charge of misdemeanor and agreed to pay \$2,554 in damages. Before going before the judge, Wolke said in an interview that he hoped for a suspended sentence and probation.

His business, Wild Horizons Expeditions, will continue during the next six months under the direction of his friend Marilyn Olsen. Since Judge Cramer admitted that his stiff sentence was heavily influenced by people's comments, Olsen suggested that supporters of Wolke might want to send their opinions to the judge at the Sublette County Jail, Pinedale, WY 82941.

Wolke's arrest at ax-point June 23 was well publicized. The arresting officer was a citizen, David Spurlock, whose company was preparing a 4.5 mile road to an oil well in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Spurlock said he saw Wolke and a woman remove about a mile and a half of stakes -- the second removal that summer. Wolke, who said he never intended to be caught, told reporters, "Long live the wilderness," as he was taken to jail last month.

--Betsy Marston

Water developers seek a new flow of funds

Colorado environmentalists are enraged by a bill which would impose a .4 cent statewide sales tax to raise \$100 million a year. The funds would help build the Two Forks water project for suburban Denver as well as rural projects, including Animas-LaPlata in the south of the state, and the Narrows project in the east.

An opinion piece in the Feb. 17 bulletin of the Colorado Environmental Lobby by D. Robnett said: "The developers -- who never met a dam, a dollar or a subdivision they didn't like -- have achieved a new level of brazenness this session."

House Bill 1238, which has a wide range of sponsors, including liberal Republican gubernatorial candidate Martha Ezzard, is being altered as it goes through the committee system. But if it passes as introduced, it would limit the ability of the Division of Wildlife to estimate the damage water projects would do to the environment and fish and wildlife. The DOW estimated mitigation costs for Two Forks at about \$219 million.

H.B. 1238 would also weaken rural counties' control over land use. Counties now use a law called H.B. 1041 to force cities to get permits before they build rural water projects. The permitting process allows the counties to bargain for mitigation. Denver and Colorado Springs are challenging the process in court.

Nevertheless, Denver is not enthusiastic about H.B. 1238's sales tax. The city generates much of the state's sales, but has no need for additional water. The same goes for Fort Collins, Englewood, Boulder and Pueblo, according to Walter Jessel of the CEL. Yet those cities would be taxed to build projects for competing suburbs.

H.B. 1238 is one of several attempts to impose sales tax increases. Another would raise the gasoline tax by an initial six cents, or about \$100 million a year, to build roads. The water and gas bills are being pushed by the Alliance for Colorado's Future headed by former Gov. John Vanderhoof, with retired state water czar Felix Sparks working on water. Sparks says Colorado must either build reservoirs to collect water, or lose it to Arizona and California.

Environmentalists argue that Colorado already has much more water in reservoirs than it can use, and that the Colorado River Compact guarantees it perpetual ownership of water it can't now use. Environmentalists also say that the Denver suburbs' need for water can be better met through conservation than through Two Forks.

Another bill of concern to environmentalists, H.B. 1100, would free Public Service Company and Colorado-Ute Electric Association from the need to get permission from the Public Utilities Commission before

building new powerlines or power plants. Dan Luecke and Jim Martin of the Environmental Defense Fund in Boulder argue that could lead to unneeded facilities the consumer would then have to pay for.

Several public interest groups lobby at the Colorado Legislature, including the Denver-based CEL, the Western Colorado Congress based in Montrose, and the League of Women Voters.

--Ed Marston

BARBS

He is in the grand old senatorial tradition of: 'A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking about real money.'

Malcolm Wallop, the U.S. Senator from Wyoming, argues that raising the public lands grazing fees makes no sense. He says that even doubling the \$1.35 per Animal Unit Month fee would only bring in \$15 million more.

It erodes the integrity of the national forest because the Lakotas aren't planning to build a dam, or a ski resort, or cut down all the trees, or open a mine, or build a road.

Black Hills National Forest Supervisor James Mathers in South Dakota, says that a court decision awarding the Lakota Indians a special use permit to teach traditional spiritual practices "begins to erode the integrity of the national forest."

BULLETIN BOARD

TURN IN A POACHER

Wyoming's Stop Poaching program last year led to citations of 71 people and \$16,645 in fines, thanks to 196 calls from citizens. The program was started in 1980 and is administered by the Wyoming Wildlife Protector's Association, a group of private citizens concerned about poaching. Reward money comes from private individuals and organizations and in six years the group has paid more than \$66,000 in rewards. Special Enforcement Officer Steve Smith says a toll-free number, 1/800-442-4331, makes it easier for the public to report game violations. Membership in the WWPA is \$5, c/o Steve Smith, 5221 Bowie Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82009.

DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES

The Environmental Policy Institute has issued a clear, fact-packed study titled "The Trucking Industry's Dream, A Motorist's Nightmare," which lays out the threat posed by the trucking industry to the physical survival of both motorists and the national highway system. The focus of the very readable, very chilling study is the so-called Pinwheel Amendment to the 1986 highway bill. It would allow the 17 Western states to waive the current 80,000-pound limit on trucks using the interstate system. (Actually, higher weight limits are already in effect in many Western states, due to grandfather clauses). "Pinwheel" comes from the fact that the amendment, which has not yet been introduced to the Congress, would affect all states within 750 miles of Salt Lake City. According to the EPI study by Fred Millar and Peter Carlson, the higher weight limits would lead to longer, wider trucks because, unless the weight was spread out, the trucks would do even more damage to roads and bridges. The bill is being backed by Alan Simpson, the U.S. Senator from Wyoming. He sees it as a way to help his state's agriculture and mining industry by reducing shipping costs. Others say the change would hurt the railroads and bankrupt the Western highway systems. The Teamsters also oppose the increase. Colorado, which is almost alone among the Western states in now maintaining the 80,000-pound limit, estimates it needs billions over the next decade or so to bring its truck-damaged roads up to standards. While the EPI study was provoked by the Pinwheel Amendment, the writers have packed a huge amount of information, history and statistics into their brief work. For example, interstate trucks in 1984 were involved in 37,000 accidents, killing 2,786 people and injuring another 30,000. Passengers in an auto colliding with a truck are 29 times more likely to be killed than the trucker. The study cites predictions that one of every 12 tractor-trailers and 1 of every 3 two-trailer trucks will be in an accident in 1986. It cites numerous surveys which show that large trucks routinely violate safety standards. EPI can be reached at 218 D St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003 (202/544-2600).

WILDLIFE CONFERENCE SEEKS PAPERS

The Wildlife Management Institute is seeking papers from environmentalists and foresters for next year's 51st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. The dates are March 21-26, 1986, at the MGM Grand Hotel in Reno, Nevada. The theme of the international meeting is "Resource Management: First Line of National Defense." Write the Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14 St. NW, Suite 725, Washington, D.C. 20036.



DESERT CONFERENCE

The Oregon Natural Resource Council will host the eighth annual Desert Conference April 18-20 at Malheur Field Station near Burns, Oregon. There will be field trips, presentations by natural resource experts and conservationists, a conservation strategy session, slide shows and a banquet. For more information, write Desert Conference VIII, P.O. Box 848, Bend, OR 97709 (503/388-0089).

WILDERNESS GRANT PROPOSALS SOUGHT

The Wilderness Institute at the University of Montana is calling for grant proposals for the Matthew Hansen Endowment for Wilderness Studies. The \$1,000 grant, named after a 23-year-old UM graduate who died of cancer in 1984, is awarded for historical research, creative writing or wilderness studies concerning the relationship between Montana's land and its people. The proposal should be no longer than two pages. Eight copies of the proposal should be sent to Bob Ream, director, Wilderness Institute, School of Forestry, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. Deadline for submissions is March 15. For more information call Dave Louter at 406/243-5631.



BIRD BOOK

Anyone interested in Western birds will want to peruse *Birds of the Great Basin, A Natural History*. Author Fred Ryser, Jr., has studied birds and mammals in the Great Basin of Nevada and parts of neighboring states for 30 years. He discusses the life histories, physiology, behavior, ecology and distribution of nearly 400 species of Western birds -- those that live in, or migrate through, the Basin. Introductory chapters tell you how birds maintain heat and water balance in the desert extremes. For example, different birds have different methods of staying cool on hot days: many pant; some vultures and storks excrete on their legs; and while hawks soar on thermals to lose heat through convection, smaller birds stick it out in the shade because their metabolism rates and size are such that more heat would be gained from the effort of flying than would be lost. Text is interspersed lightly with color photographs and beautiful drawings by Jennifer Dewey.

University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 98557. Cloth: \$27.50. 604 pages, illustrated.

THE SANGRE DE CRISTOS

Enchantment and Exploitation, The Life and Hard Times of a New Mexico Mountain Range, is a concise history of the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Author William deBuys combines tales of early settlers in northern New Mexico with the environmental impact of long-term human dependence on the mountains. "In all of North America there is no place that better illustrates the destruction that can result from failure to adapt to the limitations of the environment," deBuys says. DeBuys describes the differing view of land ownership between the Pueblo people and the Hispanic immigrants, the stress of overgrazing over centuries and later Forest Service attempts to restore the range.

University of New Mexico Press. 1986, \$14.95, 394 pages.

A ZUNI ATLAS

A *Zuni Atlas* by T.J. Ferguson and E. Richard Hart was written to bolster the land claims of the Pueblo of Zuni. The Zuni, like most Pueblo tribes, but unlike most other Indian tribes, live in their original homeland. However, their New Mexico reservation just east of the Arizona border is a fraction of the area they once used for farming, hunting, grazing, plant collection and religious purposes. The Zunis have hired experts to document their land claims and this atlas is a summary of their findings. It consists of 44 maps, 6 charts, 41 pictures and 67 pages of text in a large format. The pictures give a wonderful view of all aspects of Zuni lives over the past 100 years. The maps and text are well done but rather dry for the general reader. This is Volume 172 in The Civilization of the American Indian Series.

The University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Ave., Norman, OK 73019: cloth, 162 pages, \$24.95.

COSC = CEL

The 20-year-old Colorado Open Space Council recently changed its name to the Colorado Environmental Coalition. The council is an umbrella organization for the state's conservation and environmental groups, and the name change was made to clearly reflect the nature of the group, says administrator Elizabeth Oho. Thirty member-groups belong to the coalition, which has more than 30,000 members. The coalition is concerned with a variety of issues, from wilderness to hazardous waste. For more information, write the Colorado Environmental Coalition, 2239 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80206-1390 (303/393-0466).

NEW NOMINEES FOR THE 'EARTH IS FLAT' SOCIETY

If a theory described in an article in the February 1986 *Atlantic* is correct, many of America's petroleum geologists could find themselves instant members of The Earth Is Flat Society. In "The Origin of Petroleum," David Osborne writes about a theory he says most geologists ridicule; in fact one told him: "It's on about the same level -- and I'm not being facetious -- as saying sugar-plum fairies will cure cancer." The theory belongs to Thomas Gold, an astrophysicist famous for predicting the existence of pulsars as well as dust on the moon, even as NASA was training astronauts for a hard surface. His oil and gas theory was prompted by the discovery that meteors and biologically dead planets contain hydrocarbons. That led Gold to speculate that hydrocarbons were part of the earth's original heritage, and that over billions of years oil and gas seeped or fractured their way from the center of the earth to geologic traps close to the surface. Most geologists believe fossil fuels are, well, fossil fuels -- the cooked remains of long-dead sea and land organisms. The geologists Osborne quotes sound apologetic about Gold, but more is at stake than scientific prestige. If Gold is correct, there are still huge reservoirs of methane within the earth. The trick to finding it, he says, is to drill in different places and to greater depths than conventional theories predict. The Soviet Union (many of its geologists agree with Gold), Sweden and the Gas Research Institute are at work on the question. Osborne's article goes into considerable scientific detail but is never dull.

THE UNTAPPED ALTERNATIVE

The latest *Worldwatch* paper describes the need for conservation of water in agriculture, industry and cities, and suggests a variety of steps that can be taken to save water. As a side benefit, writer Sandra Postel suggests, water conservation will also reduce energy consumption and environmental damage while conserving capital. *Conserving Water: The Untapped Alternative*, is *Worldwatch* Paper 67, and is available for \$4 from: *Worldwatch* Institute, 1776 Mass. Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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SKIING COLORADO'S BACKCOUNTRY

A valuable guide to the pleasures and dangers of backcountry skiing in Colorado's central Rockies is *Colorado High Routes* by Louis W. Dawson II. A resident of the Aspen area for 19 years, Dawson focuses on areas surrounding and connecting Crested Butte, Aspen and Vail. He describes the difficulty of routes, sights along the way, directions to get there, distance and time it takes to ski and most importantly, the avalanche danger for each particular route. His work is thorough and amply illustrated with maps and photographs.

The Mountaineers, 306 2nd Ave. West, Seattle, WA 98119. Softcover: 224 pages, \$9.95. Photographs, maps and bibliography.

NEW ENERGY NEWS

EIA Publications: *New Releases*, is a bimonthly report on the newest available publications and upcoming reports from the Energy Information Administration. It includes news about EIA, the independent statistical agency within the Department of Energy, and items of special interest for anyone interested in current energy data. To receive the free report and be on the EIA mailing list, write to the National Energy Information Center, EI-20, EIA, Room F-048, Forrestal Building, Washington, DC 20585.

CLASSES AT YELLOWSTONE

The Yellowstone Institute is offering 46 classes from 2-5 days in natural history and science this summer in Yellowstone National Park. Courses range from medicinal plants and large mammals to hydrothermal systems and birds and astronomy. Headquarters for the classes are in cabins overlooking the Lamar Valley, but some courses such as Lakes of Yellowstone by Canoe, Backcountry Photography, and Wilderness Horsepacking, will take students into remote areas of the park. Classes -- some for credit -- will be offered between June 9 and August 31. For details on dates, fees and a free course catalog, write to Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

A NATURAL RESOURCES PUBLISHER

The nonprofit publishing house, Island Press, announced recently receipt of major funding from five foundations, and a move from rural Covelo, California, to Washington, D.C. It will direct its attention exclusively to the publication and distribution of material in the natural resource management and environmental fields. Island Press will select and market publications produced by research and public policy organizations, as well as by commercial publishers, and commission its own books. The funding for the program comes from the Ford, Tides, Donner and Joyce foundations and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. For further information, contact Charles Savitt or Ann Janin at 202/232-7933.

THE FATE OF THE GRIZZLY

Conference
on
The Yellowstone Grizzly Bear

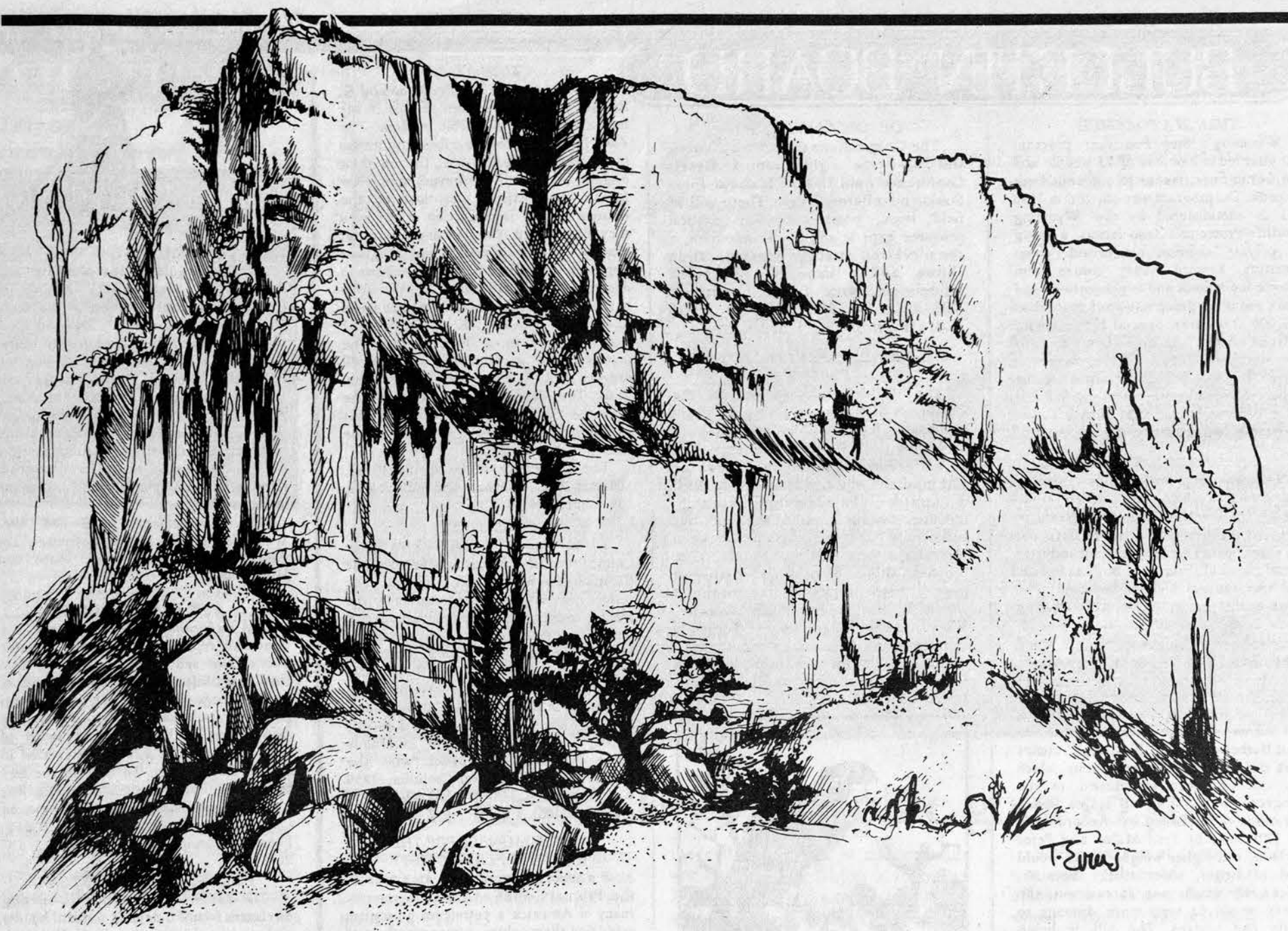
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Hanaupah Canyon

Pinons grip the canyon walls, shadows pooled
on hot red stone, roots
thrust deep in cracks
where the seed chanced in --
each twisted tree at home in its place,
the giant sharp-edged boulders
perfect where they've tumbled,
gardens of prickly-pear growing among them,
by the water that glistens down slick granite
to pool, and sink into sand.

I wasn't sure what I wanted, jarred
in the rush of stinking traffic,
loud with words, little jealousies and fears,

but this old clear truth
that sends and sends itself,
that sings in the mountain's cool open heart
is plenty -- billions of years
before anything learned how to see or hear,
the glistening slide, the sound
of drops in a pool.

Here, of all the ways of being,
the earth happens just this way --
there's a work ongoing that I can't know,
that fills me and flows through,
as clear and aching
as this water I hold streaming through my hands.

*John Daniel
Los Altos Hills, California*

Something for nothing

Under caps of lumpy, frozen snow
the sage along the road
has become cauliflower.
The land lies in soft wrinkles
and the sky is pulled tight
behind the mountains,
dim and waiting at the horizon.
It is snowing again.

Thirty miles ago sheep and ponies
stood together in a pen
with thick, white shawls
crusted to their backs.
and we passed something black
frozen to the shoulder of the freeway.
We consider turning on the radio
but I have Ian singing "Double Diamond"
in my head and don't want to give it up.

Seeing a particular rise in the land,
I take to it, remembering that feeling
I've had before in other places,
places unspectacular on the surface
that seem somehow holy anyway
and stay in me against all odds.
All of it -- the scrubby plants,
the huddled animals, the snow
and the road, the wind, the sky,
the frozen land -- strikes me
as precious, handsome in ways
I can't explain. I try.
But you can't be blamed that the color's
drained from your voice --

I've heard the same from others.
There's nothing here. And that is all.

*G. Barnes
Salt Lake City, Utah*

Cold Forks; Grand Canyon

At the El Tovar we were still young enough
to wonder at the chill offered us
buried in the cloth.

Next day I marvelled at the abandoned railroad,
saw the generations of brides
after rocking across the continent
gathering their skirts, rushing up the hill

To lie that night, after the awkwardness
still for the first time within
the huge logs arranged into an Austrian hunting lodge

Three stories tall, high on this vast plateau.
I remembered, much younger as a lookout
afternoons when the lightning forked and forked.

I was afraid, alone. And rushed
with the others to the edge, to peer
at that great river sleeping,
far, far below cutting its single way through stone.

*Peter Wild
Tucson, Arizona*

Coming Back to Town

Fog hangs low
like a cap on the winter town.
Grandmothers bake cherry pies
following a legend,
while old men count the gravestones.
In school
a handful of children
sit like orphans
waiting to go to the city
for a weekend.
In truth they have already left
and the years have run out.

Around the stove
in the general store
the men once chortled
over how they cornered
the market of life.
But stories
dampened
flickered
died.
Now they peer at shadows on the ceiling,
ceiling,
never having lacked
an answer.

Then a young couple,
as if in allegory,
drives into town in an old car
packed with new goods
looking for a place to live.
They touch
the flowing crystal river
and black soil,
smell the air
that seems to laugh
in golden silence at dusk.
They decide to stay
as spring comes
like a grand coincidence.

*Ray Greenblatt
Paoli, Pennsylvania*

December in the Oregon Desert

Lucky thing Peter Skene Ogden
had a man along to count the days
and remember Christmas when it came to pass --

Scripture words, the warmth in mind
of eastern hearths. A man could backslide
tramping these flats where only

the scabrocks haven't found cover,
the heathen storms haranguing,
digging nails into your faith. This space

could wear out eyes and ears
and leave you wandering wild as sage,
your pale skin cured red,

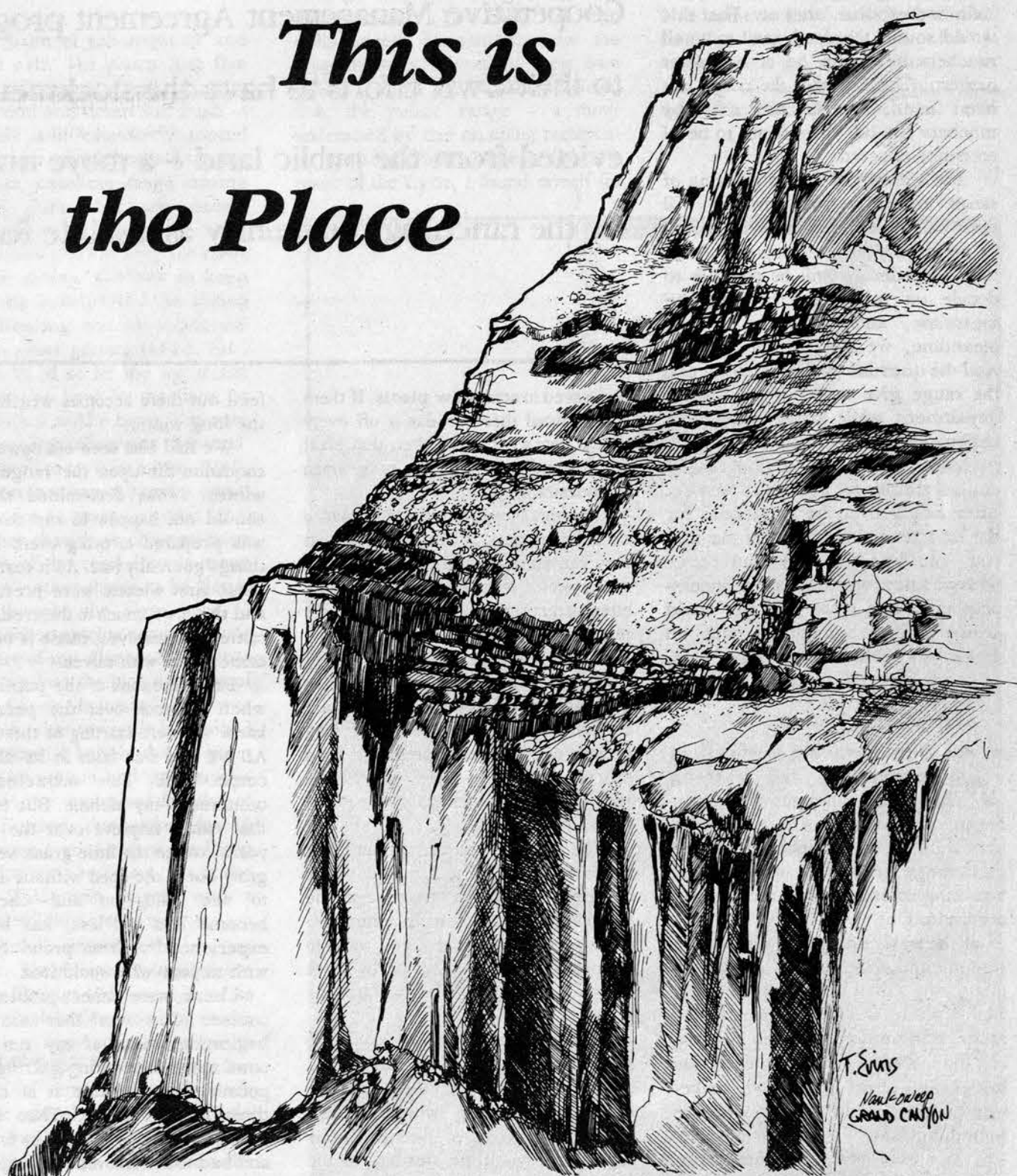
reading signs in antelope bones,
following a prophet tumbleweed
over snow and snow to some barefisted peak

where you shiver in the spell
of a scatter of stars one bright as the next
as coyotes howl in the continental dark --

then the great flood of quiet, stars, snow,
and that faint word of wind born over and over
in which everything here has a place but you.

*John Daniel
Los Altos Hills, California*

This is the Place



Utah rancher...

(Continued from page 1)

The climate is not what you'd call even. The winters are cold, often fog-bound, and stormy. Strong winds, sometimes to 80 miles per hour, come on sudden and last for days. In the summer, long hot south winds suck moisture from the earth and from anything that tries to grow.

There are four other cow outfits sharing this desert oasis, all bigger than us. We are held together by good water, some farm lands, a mixture of friendship and animosity and a desire to live far away from so-called civilization. We all have permits to use the public range with our livestock, and all of us do so at varying times and each with a somewhat different approach.

The nearest town is 100 miles away, mostly over dirt roads. We have no phones, TV, stores or gas stations. Nor do we feel we're missing a whole lot. One thing we're sure of is that ranching will continue here and that the public land will be a major part of it. But the question of how and when to use the range is open to debate.

The question of range rights versus range privileges continues to rage. The environmental community and often the land management agencies say that we stockmen have no tenure, and thus should have to bid for the privilege of using the range. That way, we'll pay what is termed 'fair market value,' they say. That this would sound the death knell to small ranchers seems to be of no major concern. The fact that the range has been used, bought and sold by ranchers for 100 years seems to be of no major concern.

The settlement of this question of range rights versus privilege will eventually come, either in the courts or preferably in the Congress. After that is settled, it will be possible to decide on a fair fee. But in the meantime, and it may be a long meantime, we have a range to run. And the question we face is: What can the range give to us without further impairment while at the same time healing and regenerating itself?

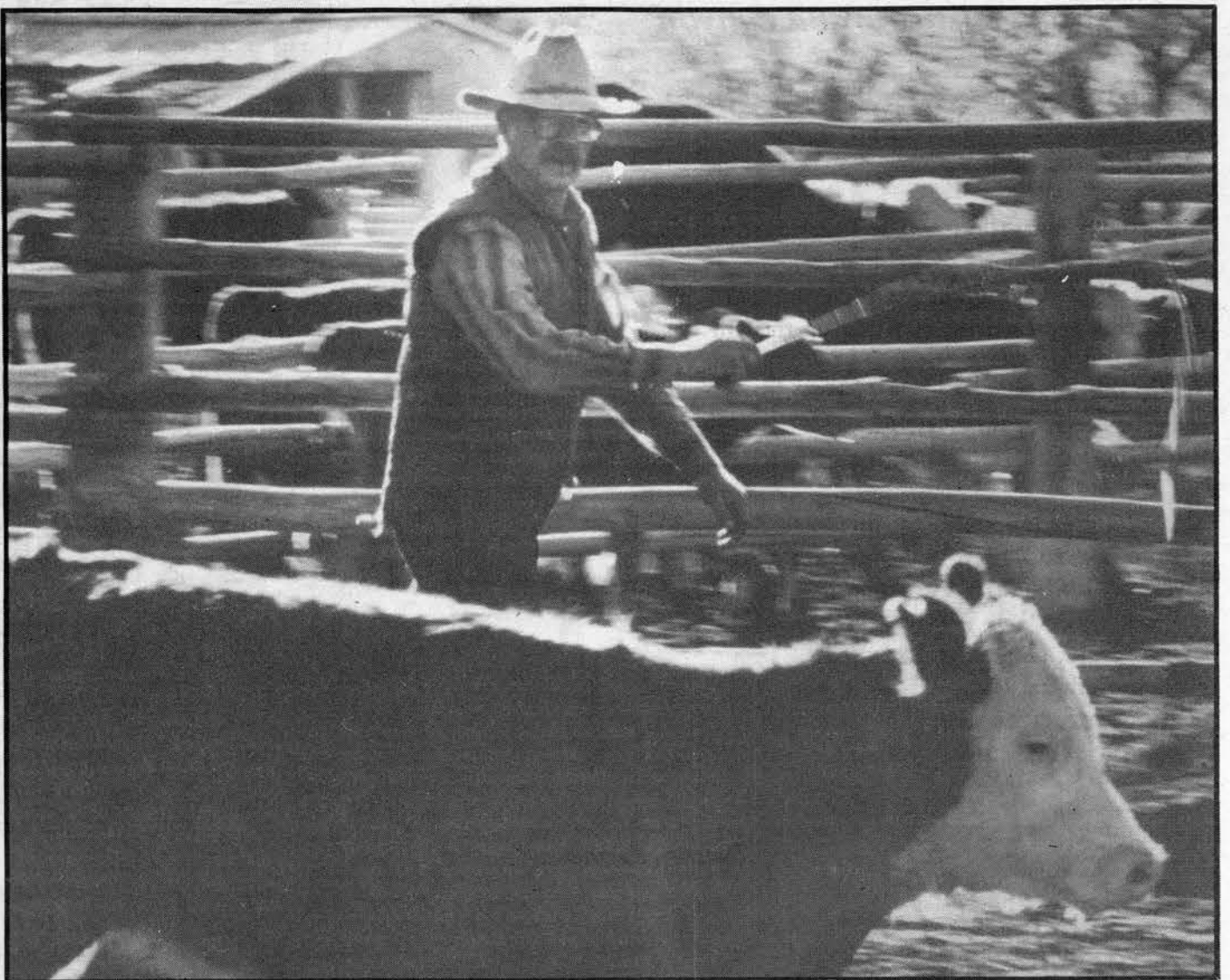
Many years ago in Montana I cruised timber for the Forest Service. After riding over the range here for the first time, it occurred to me that you couldn't properly run cows without knowing the different species of plants, any more than you could cruise timber without knowing an Engelman spruce from a yellow pine, or brush from tall timber.

After spending some time researching and learning about the vegetative cover, it became apparent that it was not all that difficult or complicated to tell good range from bad, or range that was improving from that being overgrazed.

If the native perennial grasses are reseeding themselves and are generally thrifty, then your range is doing well. If there is a beat-out look to the range, and you're getting an increase in the trashy annuals, such as halogeton, cheat grass and snake-weed, then you better change something fast.

It was also clear that grass has to have roots to make tops, and tops to make roots, and roots and tops to

Dan Miller



Some in the environmental community saw the Cooperative Management Agreement program as a threat to their own efforts to have the stockmen evicted from the public land -- a move understood by the ranching community as a subtle form of genocide.

make seed to start new plants. If there is an animal there to eat it off every time it gets a bit high, then that plant is going to die, leaving the range open to undesirable plants.

Further, these range plants have to be able to grow to maturity so that they can store carbohydrates in their root system; then in times of severe stress from grazing or drought the plants will be able to survive and regrow.

Now, if by fencing or herding or geographical boundaries, animals are confined to a given range for long periods of time, that range will soon produce little besides plants so springy or toxic animals can't use them.

The need for change on our BLM range was clear. The first thing that occurred to us was to change the season of use from spring-summer to fall-winter. If the range was to improve, we had to get the livestock off it during the plants' growing season.

It was a painful conclusion. We knew there would be no calves with the cows during winter use, so about a third of the grazing would be lost. Also, in the late winter some supplement would be needed for the cows because the range will become short on energy and vitamin A as the

feed out there becomes weathered by the long winter.

We had also seen old cows in thin condition die upon the range during winter. I was determined that this should not happen to my cows, and was prepared to bring them home if things got really bad. As it turned out, those first winters were pretty mild, and the cows, much to the credit of the critters themselves, made it okay and came home with calves.

From the look of the public range when we took over the permit, we knew we were starting at the bottom. All we had was faith in its ability to come back. Few miracles have occurred in my lifetime. But to watch that range improve over the last 10 years, to see the little grass seedlings grow out in the open without apology, to see halogeton and cheatgrass become less and less, has been an experience I've been proud to share with anyone who would look.

There were other problems, of course. One was that since the beginning, many of my neighbors' cows spent their spring grazing on my permit range because it is close to their home ranches. That had to change. Those cows were in trespass, and had to be removed from my part of the range if it were ever to improve.

Well, I had a big stout gelding I'd

brought down here, half thoroughbred and half cayuse. Old Brown Jug, we called him, and he never knew what it was to get tired. I also had a little wiry wooly, whiskered dog by the name of Sam who loved to bite the heels of cows. The three of us set out to remove the trespass cows from our range.

Things got a little chilly around here about then. I found myself as popular as a call girl with leprosy. Notwithstanding, the cows in trespass had to go, and we spent four years cowboying trespass cows back to their own ranges. Sometimes we'd take the cows home and they'd be back the next day. But we kept at it, and finally convinced the BLM that we needed a drift fence. I'm no great lover of range fencing, but there was no other way.

When the fence was completed, I was mighty glad, and it stands now for all to see what is growing on each side. No one who has looked at the fence has any doubt about which side they'd rather see their cows grazing. Incidentally, the fence is a long-strand suspension, three-wire fence, with the bottom wire barbless so that the deer and antelope may pass freely under it.

While we started out by looking at the grazing season and controlling trespass cows, it



Dan Miller

Annette, Allison, Bertha May and Cecil Garland

didn't take long to realize that the areas closest to the water were the most abused. Moreover, the cows weren't using most of the range because of the long distances to water. Obviously, we needed more uniform grazing; that meant we needed new sources of water.

We knew of one seep on the north end. It was dug out at my own expense and time, led into a trough, and fenced so the cows wouldn't make it a quagmire. This nearly doubled the usable grazing area, and raised our morale a couple of notches.

Later, while riding to move the cows to higher country, I found vegetation that meant water was close to the surface. That ground, too, yielded water. With those two "wet places" developed into springs, both the cows and wildlife could use the expanded range, and we began to flush chukars near the troughs.

All in all, in cooperation with the BLM, we either developed or improved six watering places with no more than the use of a backhoe for a day or two. I never filed for ownership of the water, allowing the BLM to do so. My feeling is that the water rights should stay with the owners of the land -- in this case the American public. Nevertheless, it seems to me that I should, after finding and developing the water, have some rights to them for stockwater.

We hoped and felt we had made all the right moves. But the proper raising of cows and calves is a 365-day a year job of finding something for them to stuff into that great cooking vat they carry around. So what were we going to do with the cows when they could not be out on the range during the growing season?

As it happens, about one-third of my range lies below the benches and next to the Great Salt Flats, just to the east of us. This area is a heavy silt-clay

soil, with a lot of sub-irrigation and alkali and salt. The plants that live there -- salt grass, alkali sacaton, Greasy Wood and desert salt bush -- are heavily and extensively rooted ones that can stand heavy grazing. They make excellent range during May and June, but are mostly worthless the rest of the year.

Here was a place to keep the cows during the spring. But how to keep them off the benches and the spring growth? Fencing was too expensive for such a short grazing period. So I asked the BLM to let me see if the cows could be kept on the flats by herding with a saddle horse. I'm sure the conservation officer was skeptical. But he agreed to try it for a year. Well, we've been herding our cows down there now for 11 years.

The fact that these changes have taken care of the cows doesn't mean there aren't other things to be done. When I bought the place here, I helped another rancher remove cattle from a part of my allotment land that extended up into the high canyons of the Deep Creek Mountains. That was the last year that my cattle have used the mountains. I believe that in most cases the mountain and its canyons should be the exclusive domain of wildlife. Further, I've worked for 10 years to have a good part of the Deep Creek Mountains become a part of the National Wilderness system, and a wonderful wildlife area it will be.

Two small streams exist on my allotment. They originate in what we call Rocky Springs and run a mile or so down the wash before vanishing in the sand. These riparian areas were in pretty bad shape 12 years ago. But since we've removed the livestock during the critical growing season, the stream banks are now almost completely sodded over, and the fringe of green creeps a little further down the wash each year. It's

interesting to contemplate just how far it might have extended before grazing.

Good management, then, is a careful and sensitive monitoring of a very limited and fragile resource. Prayers to some deity for rain are no substitute for good management. But all too often, people today and in history have offered their fervent prayers for rain only to have the drought continue. Then they and the animals go to their ignominious and painful deaths because the already weakened and stressed plants had preceded them.

Desert plants can withstand long period of drought, but they must go into the drought strong. If they have been weakened by overgrazing, they will succumb to the drought.

A dozen years after we began the work that led to the improvement of the range, I was selected as one of the six ranchers in Utah to be part of the Cooperative Management Agreement program. Having worked with our BLM conservation officer, Gary Kidd, it was a pleasure to enter into this program with him. It seemed a proper culmination to both our efforts, and it seemed to give us a chance to show even more initiative by handing over some management of the public land to us.

The CMA was intended to single out individual ranchers who were making an effort toward good resource management. Yet some in the environmental community saw the program as a threat to their own efforts to have the stockmen evicted from the public range -- a move understood by the ranching community as a subtle form of genocide. As a result of the fight, I found myself for

the first time in a major disagreement with part of the environmental community. The fact that the CMA agreements were recently struck down by a federal judge in Sacramento hasn't improved my view of their efforts.

While there is an ever increasing hue and cry to boot us off the public range, perhaps it might be time to ask just who is without environmental sin? Surely it is not those who rush around in giant airplanes like bees in a sweet clover patch delivering their words of wisdom to the unwashed. I could farm for the rest of my life, if I were a young man, on the energy needed to propel one jet from horizon to horizon.

Anyhow, I'll not ask for those faultless ones to cast the first stone for I've no desire to be buried under an avalanche.

Anyone who actually believes that the movement to "boot the stockman off the public lands" will succeed has obviously been smoking something they used to make rope out of. It's just not going to happen politically because the stockmen are too strong.

Regardless of the contempt shown towards cowboys by certain factions, and regardless of how many times it is said that the cowboy era was a fraud and a myth, there remains that intangible something that lives on in the hearts of a lot of people. That a concerned and aware public might come to affect and influence good range use is certainly achievable and desirable. But eviction is not.

Stockmen love the West for its vastness and its seeming emptiness. I've come to know and love a good healthy range, and look for it everywhere I go. I know that if the range is in good shape, then everything that lives there will be in

(Continued on page 12)



Ranching...

(Continued from page 11)

good shape: the cows, the wildlife, the plants and the people who live near it. Poor range is prelude to misery, poverty and squalor, and eventually to the loss of wildlife which we must have for survival and sanity.

And there is more to it for me than that. I also care for my cows. Yes, I've been kicked, butted, charged, stomped and rendered green by excretion. There have been times on a cold stormy night, lying face down in the straw and manure with my arm all the way in a first-calf heifer's reproductive organs -- trying desperately to turn around a calf who was determined to come into the world the wrong way, and with all the push his mother could give him opposing me -- when I wondered why I had not stayed in Las Vegas as a crap dealer, as I used to be years ago.

But when the calf was born, sometimes dead, sometimes alive, I forgot all about the bright lights because I love my life here with my cows. I like the cows because they will

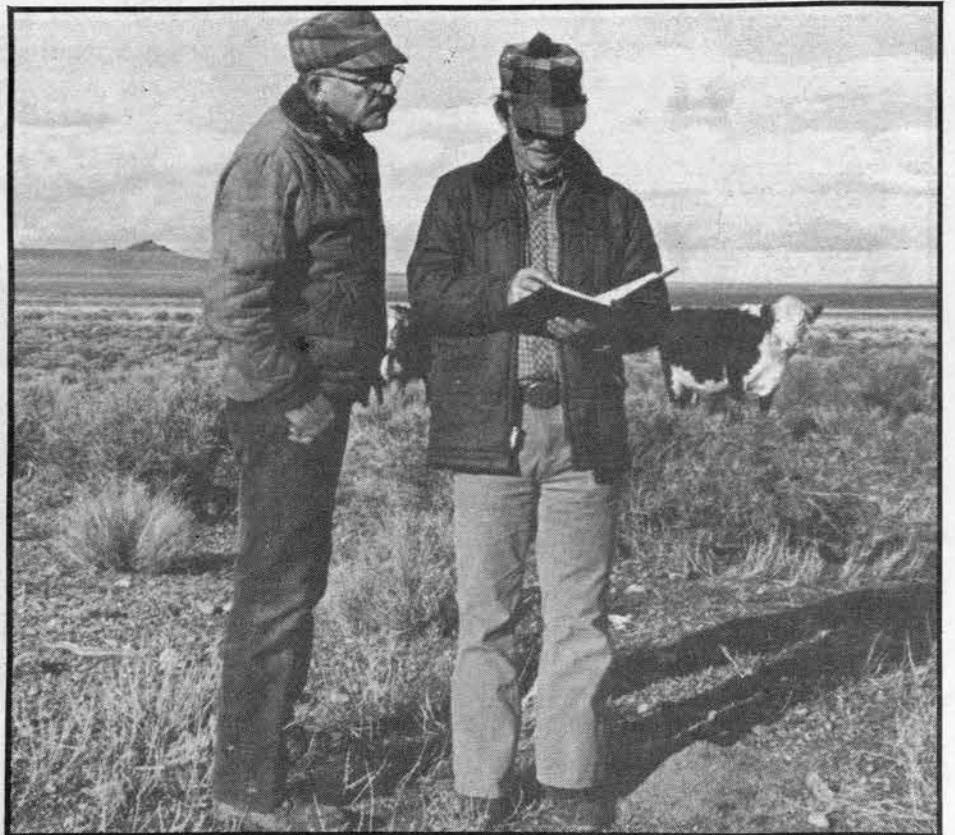
stand and fight for their territory and their calves, and they will babysit one another's calves while the other goes to water, and fight for her calf, too.

Like them old cows, I'll fight for my young 'uns and my territory. I know that some of my environmental friends view me first as a rancher and second as an environmentalist. And some of my neighbor ranchers view me as an environmentalist first and a rancher second.

While not disregarding the both of them, I have personal aspirations of being an Environmentalist Rancher, and of living in a world where the two will not be viewed by either side as mutually exclusive.

□

Cecil Garland has a long background in the environmental movement. He was a major force in the Montana Wilderness Association's fight to establish the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness areas; was active in the Ranchers for Peace movement and visited the Soviet Union as part of that effort; and he



Cecil Garland and Gary Kidd of the Salt Lake district of the BLM

fought the Racetrack MX system proposed for Utah. Those who enjoyed this first-person article may wish to

read his lengthy letter on logging in Montana which appeared in the *High Country News* on Nov. 26, 1984.

An internal audit indicts the BLM's grazing practices

Thomas Sheehan, then Acting Inspector General for the Interior Department, soundly criticized the BLM for mismanagement of its grazing programs at a congressional hearing late last year. Sheehan's office is an independent, investigative arm of the Interior Department, roughly comparable to the internal affairs department within a city police force.

According to Sheehan, investigators found in a draft audit that although the Bureau of Land Management has "adequate policies, regulations, and procedures for grazing management and range improvements," none of it amounts to much. "These policies and procedures have not been fully implemented or effective because: 1) field personnel are not familiar with the manual sections and handbooks; 2) some field personnel have the perception that they must acquiesce to grazing permittees in order to obtain their cooperation; 3) field personnel cite a lack of adequate staff resources."

To put that into plain English, the too few BLM staffers who manage grazing on the agency's land are poorly trained, and they too often do what the graziers say instead of what federal law requires.

To reach its conclusions, the Inspector General's office visited BLM offices in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon, as well as the Montana and Nevada State Offices plus the Denver Service Center in Colorado. In all, the investigators looked at nearly one-eighth of all Animal Unit Months leased during the grazing year from March 1984 through February 1985. Again and again the inspectors found that the BLM failed to stop trespass on public lands, to halt illegal subleasing of grazing permits, to collect on late payment of lease fees, or even to account properly for its range improvements projects.

Trespass: Sheehan said the BLM has not "made trespass identification and enforcement a high priority." Consequently the Bureau does not

diligently monitor its rangelands for unauthorized grazing. Worse, when the BLM does catch a grazer red-handed, the culprit usually walks away unpunished, investigators found.

The Inspector General's Office discovered in one file that a permittee had wilfully trespassed three years in a row, which resulted in "heavy to severe" damage to the pasture. In another instance, BLM personnel actually watched the grazer truck "over 100 livestock" onto a parcel where the animals clearly did not belong. Both cases were closed "without penalty in order to maintain a good working relationship" between the Bureau and the ranchers.

Subleasing: Under the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, grazing lessees pay for each AUM calculated from a formula which amounted to \$1.37 in 1984 -- a fraction of the fair market value for forage on comparable private lands. The temptation is obvious to sublease public rangelands for a profit. But the law forbids any subleasing of AUMs at a rate greater than the PRIA formula.

Nonetheless, the Inspector General's auditors caught the U.S. Bankruptcy Court subleasing one BLM permit in Montana for \$9 per AUM. They noted that at three Resource Area Offices, "BLM records contain direct or indirect evidence of subleasing from \$4.41 to \$8 per AUM." And at one BLM office, officials admitted that they are "often aware" of falsified documents signed by grazing lessees -- falsified to cover up subleasing. How much subleasing is going on out there? It is impossible to do more than guess, Sheehan said in his statement.

Non-payment of fees: For a number of reasons, local BLM offices apparently fail to collect on late payment of grazing lease fees, thereby violating agency policy and federal law. For example, the Inspector General's audit turned up nine cases amounting to over \$40,000 in delinquent payments from graziers.

According to Sheehan, "BLM issued no delinquent notices, assessed no interest or handling charges, and cancelled no billing privileges in any of these nine cases." The investigators estimated that upwards of 60 percent of grazing fees involve some form of delinquency.

No accounting for range improvements: In blunt terms, Inspector General Sheehan told the Congress: "BLM does not have an accurate inventory of range improvements on public lands." Moreover, the Bureau "does not account for the expenditure of range improvement funds by project." In other words, nobody knows what the agency has done to the land, and nobody knows whether or not BLM projects were legal, much less cost effective.

According to Sheehan's testimony, one important reason why the BLM fails to collect grazing fees or to account for its range projects is that field personnel "are dissatisfied" with the agency's automated bookkeeping systems. Instead of using the computers, the staffers are preparing bills and keeping accounts manually. Not surprisingly, the Interior Department auditors found a confusing snarl of inconsistent numbers on BLM's books.

As if all this did not constitute indictment enough of the BLM's grazing programs, the Inspector General also related a chilling story from the Carlsbad Resource Area in New Mexico. Based upon a survey and a year-long monitoring study of range conditions, the Bureau in 1980 and 1981 decided to reduce forage allocations on 104 permits, including a few grazing suspensions. When five out of the 104 lessees appealed to an administrative court in 1982, the New Mexico State Director "agreed at an unrecorded meeting to vacate the decisions for the five allottees although no evidence has been provided to show that there were errors in the Resource Area data or decisions."

The BLM now has the unenviable

situation, Sheehan continued in his testimony, of trying to justify its position to the other 99 lessees who did not appeal, and to the local agency staffers who made the original decisions, especially when "none of the five proposed grazing decisions would have impacted the ongoing operations of the five permittees." The five fought the decisions only because any reduced grazing allocations might have depressed the mortgage values of their ranches.

"Sheehan's testimony proves what conservationists have been saying for a long time," said Rose Strickland, chair of the Sierra Club's National Grazing Subcommittee. "Under this administration, the BLM is incapable of properly managing the public rangelands. Instead of protecting the resource, decisions protect the private interests of graziers, and not all the American people who really own the land."

Sheehan gave his testimony before the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations. Lending credence to the report, Subcommittee Chairman Mike Synar, D-Okla., remarked that he thought the Inspector General's Office "had done a thorough job." Sheehan said that a final audit report should be released this month.

For his part, Rep. Synar has written to the Reagan administration recommending that, based upon his subcommittee's findings, the grazing fee should be set much closer to fair market value than it is under the PRIA formula. According to an aide, a subcommittee report on BLM's grazing programs to the Interior and Appropriations Committees as well as the full House of Representatives "is a strong possibility."

--James Baker

□

James Baker lives in Seattle, Washington, where he works as a freelance writer.

LETTERS

A GRAZING BUYBACK

Dear HCN,

I was pleased to receive the 23 December 1985 issue which focused on federal grazing fees. However, I was disappointed that the authors did not clearly identify a major point in the controversy: should the interest on capital invested in a permit to graze livestock on public land be included in the total cost calculation for a rancher using public forage? Let me explain why this is very important. The federal grazing fee is the cost to a rancher for a quantity of forage, termed an animal unit month (AUM). The fee is calculated using a formula contained in the Public Rangeland Improvement Act, passed in 1978 by Congress. The objective of this formula is to set a price for federal forage which makes the cost of grazing livestock on federal land equal to that on private land.

The cost of grazing private land consists of two parts: 1) the price of the forage and 2) the cost of transporting the livestock to the private land, rounding up the livestock at the end of the season, etc. (referred to here as ancillary costs). The cost of grazing federal land, administered by the Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Forest Service, consists of three parts: 1) the price of the forage, 2) ancillary costs and 3) the cost of capital investment in the permit to graze on federal land.

Ancillary costs on public and private lands are probably not the same. Available evidence indicates these costs may be somewhat higher on public land than on private land. This would arise largely from the higher death loss of livestock on public land, higher livestock roundup and removal costs, cost of attending meetings and higher routine maintenance costs on public land.

No permit is required to graze livestock on private land. A rancher simply pays the consenting landowner a fee for the forage. However, a rancher cannot graze livestock on federal land without a permit, even if he or she would willingly pay the public grazing fee. The original permits issued by the BLM and Forest Service were awarded to permittees for free. About 15 percent of these remain with the original permittees; the rest have changed hands over the years. Because federal forage fees were originally set below market value, a grazing permit represented a capital gift to the original permittee, and the permits became valuable. Today, one cannot walk into a BLM or Forest Service office and obtain a grazing permit. All of the "freebies" have long since been given away. Rather, one must purchase a permit from a rancher who already has a permit and who is willing to sell it. Permission to transfer the grazing permit must also be granted by the BLM or Forest Service. Resale of permits is perfectly legal under federal regulations. Thus, a rancher who buys a federal grazing permit has to pay the previous permit holder for it, and this contributes to the total cost of federal forage. But proceeds from the sale of a grazing permit do not go to the federal government, they go to the previous permit holder.

Let's compare the estimated total cost of federal (BLM) and private forage to ranchers, using 1982 forage fee and ancillary cost data from



Harney and Lake Counties in Oregon (compiled by Obermiller and Lambert at Oregon State University). I calculated the permit cost using an interest rate of 8 percent and a capital investment of \$36/AUM in the grazing permit.

Public forage cost:

Forage fee -- \$1.85/AUM; Ancillary costs -- \$9.29/AUM; Permit cost -- \$2.88/AUM. Total cost -- \$14.02/AUM. Private forage cost: \$8.06/AUM; \$5.97/AUM. Total cost -- \$14.03/AUM.

In this example, the total costs of public and private forage are the same. So what's the fuss all about? The problem is that the interest on investment in a permit substantially contributes to the overall cost of federal forage. However, the BLM and Forest Service do not officially recognize that grazing permits have a capital value. Therefore, these agencies do not recognize interest on investment in the permit as part of the total cost of public forage. Possibly, this is because ranchers who were the original permittees or who inherited permits never paid cash for them. For these ranchers, the federal grazing permit value does not affect the overall cost of federal forage. Also, if the revenue from the sale of a permit went to the federal government rather than to the previous permit holder, the land management agencies might be more inclined to regard permit costs as real to the typical rancher.

Actually, calculations of ancillary and permit costs will not resolve the issue. The studies which generate the data used in the calculations are time-consuming, expensive, and subject to controversy themselves. Data can often be interpreted differently by different observers. Changing conditions could soon negate the applicability of yesterday's data. There can be large variations in ancillary costs even within a single state. Thus, devising a formula which would fairly set the price of forage seems to be a fantasy. A fundamentally different approach to solving the federal grazing fee problem is needed.

Here is a modest proposal which could resolve the present impasse equitably and efficiently. The federal government would buy back all of the federal grazing permits at their fair market value. At a rough guess, this might cost \$100 million. However, this outlay could be largely recouped by offering for sale to the highest bidder

forage rights on public land for 5-10 year periods. Prices for public forage would rise because there would be no capital investment costs for a grazing permit, and because ranchers would have secure forage for 5-10 years. Although permits are now commonly written for 10-year periods, they can be revoked in any year. This uncertainty would be replaced by the certainty of having grazing rights for 5-10 years. Because a rancher would have already paid for forage to be grown several years down the road, he or she would have an incentive to graze public lands in a responsible fashion.

Some people would object to the federal government buying back permits which it gave away in the first place. However, the alternative of canceling grazing permits is probably not politically feasible, given the influence of westerners in the U.S. Senate, even if it were found to be legal by the courts. This modest proposal has much to recommend it. Existing permits, for which most permittees paid cash, would not be confiscated. Thus, there would be no taking without compensation. Forage prices would not be set by that ponderous body, the U.S. Congress, or the federal agencies. The market, which is less susceptible to political manipulation and which is more sensitive to local economic conditions, would determine prices. Forage costs might not rise for ranchers, but the federal treasury would realize much greater revenues. Who knows, grazing revenues might even be sufficient to cover management costs incurred by the federal agencies. That alone would be a major accomplishment.

Alan T. Carpenter
Logan, Utah

A BLAST AT RANCHERS

Dear HCN,

Heather Smith Thomas says in her guest essay of 12/23/85: "Some misinformed people are actually working to get the livestock off public lands." I submit these people are not misinformed. They have a very firm grasp of reality and know exactly what they are doing. And what they are trying to do is to take two out-of-control public land management agencies and have them do their job in the public interest, rather than acting in a subservient role to a host of private economic interests.

She states, "The anti-rancher movement is frustrating to those of us involved in range ranching -- we who love our way of life..." Nowhere in her piece is the near total overgrazing of public lands mentioned, or the absence of payment of fair market value, or fairness to the majority of ranchers who have to pay six times more to pasture their livestock; or as Steve Johnson so eloquently states on the following page of the same issue, "ranchers subleasing their allotments to other ranchers at fair market value and pocketing the difference." Steve Johnson puts it well: "Over the years the political power of ranchers and their lenders has often resulted in the transfer, early retirement, or dismissal of many federal employees who tried to reduce cattle numbers for the protection of the land... it is a rare employee who will seek grazing reductions today."

What about the West's 330,000

ranchers who are not so fortunately subsidized by the U.S. government? What about the hundreds, even thousands, of BLM and Forest Service employees whose lives are shattered by political intrigue, because of rancher-induced pressure?

The public land Thomas controls might be a rare exception to the 83 percent, plus, of BLM land now being overgrazed or already turned into desert, and she surely makes it sound like wildlife heaven. But I take strong exception to the statement: "The aspect of the furor which bothers me the most is the accusation of so many 'conservationists' that livestock grazing has 'damaged' our wildlife. People who throw this accusation around haven't done their homework. They haven't looked at history and they haven't taken time to go out onto the land to see for themselves."

I have taken the time to go out over extensive areas of the West and see for myself, and what I have seen is anything but the wildlife paradise she describes in sight of her immediate area. When I first started traveling about the West 25 years ago, many species of wildlife were not overly abundant, but they could be seen on occasion. Now? What about these same species of wildlife today? Decimated, exterminated, obliterated, are words that apply. How about just plain gone -- poisoned, shot, trapped and otherwise extirpated, much at the instigation of BLM and Forest Service ranchers; and in other cases forced out because of permanent human activities, especially livestock grazing on a regular basis, spreading out ever wider and wider to every isolated patch. Cows everywhere, wandering into most every available nook and cranny of public land with something edible on it...

Without a doubt, livestock interests have a stranglehold on the Bureau of Land Management. With a public lands rancher bossing the BLM, with BLM advisory boards, which help decide local policy, consisting for all practical purposes only of ranchers, and with conscientious BLM employees muzzled and cowed by their superiors, it is no wonder cows -- and their owners -- are king on BLM (public?) lands.

Harris Heller
Boulder, Colorado

GRAND CANYON ROAR

Dear HCN,

I commend *High Country News* for the invaluable public service it does in highlighting serious and seemingly intractable environmental problems such as the escalating roar of aircraft in the Grand Canyon. I firmly believe that if there were general public knowledge in the United States about what helicopters and other commercial aircraft are doing to the serenity of one of our greatest national parks and one of the most awe-inspiring scenic wonders on earth, the National Park Service could put a stop to the desecration. And the politicians would have to uphold their action.

The problem is how to get the general public informed. We need articles like Dennis Brownridge's piece in every major newspaper in the country.

Charles H. Callison
Director, Public Lands Institute
Denver, Colorado

LETTERS

CORRECTIONS

Dear HCN,

Your follow-up article (HCN, 2/3/86), on the internal dispute of Friends of the Earth, while appreciated, needs some corrections. For example, your opening statement, "The stage is now set for David Brower... to take complete control of the organization," misrepresents his intentions.

What FOE's Board chairman, along with the other six (not four) minority directors want is to allow our members an opportunity to exercise their legal right to participate in major policy decisions of the organization.

In my view, the individual intent upon taking "complete control" of FOE is the current CEO, Karl Wendelowski, who within 24 hours after a meeting in which he assured our national headquarters staff that there would be no further cuts, introduced a radical program for FOE's complete reorganization. In presenting this program he called our non-lobbying programs "esoteric," fired virtually all of our dedicated staff, reduced "Not Man Apart" to a house organ and shut down our San Francisco national headquarters. He has since received total authority from a two-vote majority on the board to continue to restructure the organization as he sees fit.

It is also misleading to imply that "Brower wanted" to conduct a special meeting of the membership in which the members would vote to remove the nine majority directors. This membership meeting was jointly called by all seven minority directors as provided for in the organization's by-laws, in order to prevent FOE's transformation into a centralized, Washington, D.C., lobbying group.

It is equally erroneous to state, "If the recall is successful, Brower and his four board allies will control FOE." There are five petition candidates (including one incumbent) that the members have nominated to replace the nine majority directors. Should these candidates be elected, the FOE board would then consist of eleven individuals, four of them former FOE field representatives, and all of them experienced environmentalists. None of these committed individuals are under anyone's "complete control." Rather, they share a belief that FOE should function as a decentralized, grass-roots democracy of environmental activists, and not as a technical elite of political operatives.

I believe that these 11 individuals are very capable to lead FOE's renaissance and return to grass-roots activism.

In regard to the February 17th response by Connie Albrecht, FOE's current Colorado representative, her description of FOE as another "political organization" reflects an inherent bias for the proposed Washington, D.C., centralization plans. Actually, FOE has always been a "generalist" organization, not unlike the Sierra Club, with a wide variety of pursuits including publishing, research, and grass-roots branch organizing. The lobbying aspect of FOE has never been our dominant activity.

Albrecht's assertion that "FOE has indeed lost some field staff over the past several years, primarily due

to budget problems," understates what really happened. In the last five years, under the administration of FOE's former Washington, D.C., lobbyists, the branch program was virtually ignored and our regional field representative program was reduced from 10 funded offices to only three.

While "budget problems" were cited as the reason for these firings, FOE apparently was not so badly in debt that these administrators could not simultaneously award substantial salary increases to themselves, and their Political Action Committee (PAC) Director. Indeed, when three of these same individuals left FOE, they awarded themselves severance payments which cost our dues-paying members some \$35,000.00.

In addition, it is no coincidence that virtually all of these field staffers were outspoken critics of the Washington, D.C., centralization plan and, as a majority board director wrote in a recent court pleading in describing our New York representative's dismissal, were "fired for insubordination."

It is also worth noting that all of these former staffers, myself included, could list environmental issues and accomplishments equally as significant as those Albrecht claims for FOE's five remaining program staffers.

High Country News is quite correct in stating that FOE's news magazine *Not Man Apart* is "on its way to house organ status." At the September board meeting, Wendelowski appointed himself as publisher of the then independent newsmagazine, despite his lack of experience in journalism, and stated that from now on, NMA would concentrate principally on reporting of those few issues covered by the remaining staffers and eliminate those articles which may be construed to be "expanding the frontiers of environmentalism" which has been a hallmark of the widely-acclaimed publication.

Contrary to Albrecht's claim, Tom Turner, NMA's editor the last 17 years, was forced to resign, as were the other 18 experienced San Francisco staffers, for deep philosophical differences with Wendelowski's reorganization plans and not because they could not relocate to Washington, D.C.

Despite Albrecht's stated hope that a compromise could be worked out that would allow David Brower to stay with FOE, a majority director vowed "a fight to the death" at the February board meeting, to remove Brower from the organization he founded. While Albrecht appeals to FOE members for continued financial support, it should be noted that a significant portion of members' contributions have likely already been slated for the coming propaganda campaign to keep the nine majority directors in power, although our members ostensibly contributed these funds for environmental advocacy.

The majority directors have already recently spent an estimated \$25,000 of contributions on a groundless lawsuit designed to keep David Brower from expressing his views to our members, and it is expected that an additional \$25,000 will be spent on a separate continuing lawsuit which seeks to block Brower from utilizing the contributions received as a result of his recent membership appeal.

Members also need not bother to call FOE's offices, since they will

likely soon call them. We have good reason to believe that the majority directors will soon undertake a membership telephone solicitation campaign and follow-up mailing that we estimate will cost another \$50,000 of FOE's supporter's funds.

In contrast, the seven minority directors have been forced to pay for our sole membership alert with those limited funds specifically received from this appeal.

Despite the apparent intention of the majority directors to exhaust our remaining financial resources in their propaganda campaign, I remain confident that our members will recognize an unfriendly corporate takeover when they see one, and vote to remove these individuals from Friends of the Earth.

Gordon Anderson
Moab, Utah

(The writer is a member of the FOE board of directors and former FOE regional staffer.)

MORE CORRECTIONS

Dear HCN,

What's going on? Are you trying to do us in or are you just being used? The account of Friends of the Earth's (FOE) legal proceedings which appeared in the Feb. 3 edition of HCN is the worst reporting we've seen yet on the Brower conflict. Your readers have been completely misinformed by this fictitious account of events and you have hurt Friends of the Earth in the process.

1. You refer to a scheduled court hearing on Jan. 16 as one "the majority had sought on the legality of not holding a members meeting." This is incorrect. It was a hearing on David Brower's lawsuit against Friends of the Earth, in which he had originally sought to stop the move from occurring and force FOE to call a special members meeting. A short history of Brower's lawsuits might be enlightening. On Dec. 17, Brower went to court seeking a temporary restraining order (TRO) against FOE from moving. On the basis of evidence concerning FOE's financial situation, the cost savings associated with a move, and legally adopted decisions of the Board of Directors, the judge refused the TRO. Next, Brower sought a hearing on a temporary injunction against Friends of the Earth. A hearing was scheduled for Dec. 30. But before the hearing took place, Brower's attorneys called FOE's attorneys asking if FOE would be willing to postpone the injunction hearing. Since it was Brower's suit against us, Friends of the Earth readily agreed.

Several days later, we found out the reason: on the same day, in the same court, before the same judge, Brower was suing the Sierra Club. If he were suing us too, it would look pretty bad for him. The new hearing date with Friends of the Earth was scheduled for Jan. 16, but Brower informed FOE that following the TRO refusal, he was giving up his legal attempts to stop FOE from moving and consolidating its administrative operations in Washington. He would now only seek an order for an immediate membership meeting. Then, before the Jan. 16 hearing, Brower gave up his attempts to have a special members meeting called prior to the regularly scheduled annual



board director elections and recall at that time.

2. You state the following: "The majority agreed to drop their suit. The majority also dropped its legal efforts to stop Brower from using the FOE mailing list..." Both statements are patently false. Dave Brower had no legal right to take the FOE membership list from our offices and use it for his own purposes. Friends of the Earth has pursued legal avenues to protect its most valuable resource, our membership list, and at this date there is no final resolution.

3. You state that the board majority has said "a fight to the death against Brower was necessary..." Where did the board majority ever say that? None of us has ever heard that.

4. You state that a key part of the fight was the "majority's refusal to call the membership meeting Brower wanted" and that "Brower won his apparent victory in an out-of-court settlement reached prior to a court hearing scheduled for Jan. 16." These are quite misleading. Again, Brower did not want the recall issue on the ballot of the membership meeting planned for April, but rather to have another, separate (and expensive) meeting called right away. For several reasons, including the fact that the request did not meet the requirements of the by-laws, the board tabled the matter until its Feb. 15 board meeting. Prior to that meeting, Brower gave up his attempts to force an early vote.

5. As a result of your above statements, you conclude that the stage is now set for David Brower to "take complete control of the organization." As we have explained, all of the supporting evidence you cite for this is deeply flawed, and as a result that statement is not a fair one. In fact, since Brower lost his legal maneuvers to stop FOE from moving and hold a separate membership meeting, it's hard to see how you can say "Brower wins a round in the battle for FOE" in your first follow-up story.

6. Your statement that "Brower and his four board allies will control FOE" if the recall is successful is a bit too certain and a bit too premature. Five directors will be elected in April, separately from the recall election. We can do the math for you, but the numbers don't necessarily add up to your conclusion, even if the majority is recalled. We won't lay odds on any combination of events happening, but again you seem too quick to put Brower in control. Finally, four of us are field representatives for Friends of the Earth and were quite surprised to learn in your earlier story that the "field staff is gone." We work very hard on issues such as soil conservation, rivers protection, synthetic fuels development, off-shore oil leasing, estuary management, groundwater pollution, and a host of other issues. Much of this work is done in conjunction with our members and volunteers. The Wendelowski plan, adopted by the Board, calls for increased investment in our grass-roots field activity. This would reverse a trend of erosion when we were trying to support two major offices, one on each coast. If you have any legal questions, we suggest you call FOE's pro bono attorney, Kurt Koegler. If you have any program or management questions, we suggest you call Geoff

(Continued on page 15)

GUEST ESSAY

A frugal desert creature is in deep trouble

by Steve Johnson

It's easy to poke fun at the desert tortoise. A friend of mine calls them the pet rocks of the animal kingdom. One scientific survey of their life habits found them to be active for only 5 percent of their life. No matter. The fact that they don't wag their tails and pant when they're being petted didn't keep me from growing up in Tucson with a succession of desert tortoises.

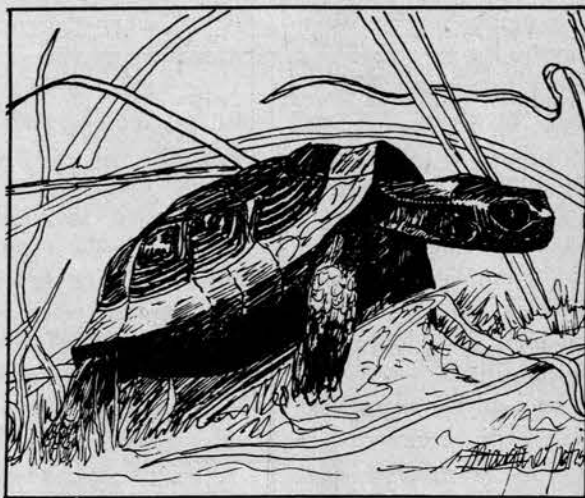
There was no need to really keep them in my backyard, since one always seemed to be dragging itself down a dirt road, or across the empty desert lots that were so common in the Tucson of the early 1950s. Their shells were sometimes painted or carved or had holes drilled in their edges. I remember finding them still dragging a frayed string, evidence that someone had leashed them, or perhaps taken them for a walk. Some of my contemporaries were more into control than I was, I guess.

Today, most of the undeveloped lots are long gone, and the Tucson population of desert tortoises now survives mostly in a vastly increased supply of backyards. The desert tortoise is the only species that is officially listed as threatened, yet can be found by the thousands as "pets" in their native California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona. Not surprisingly, there is a connection there.

I used to think that a captive tortoise could be easily taken back to the desert. Physically, that's true. But then they die, having forgotten the subtleties of survival. After only a short time in captivity, their mortality rate in their native desert is about 80 percent, according to the reintroduction efforts by the California Department of Fish and Game. Only after California developed an extensive rehabilitation plan was it possible to reintroduce the desert tortoise into its habitat. They were kept a total of two years at a "halfway house," with a minimum of human contact, before being released.

Even though captive tortoises are "biologically dead," as far as the beleaguered wild population is concerned, captive reintroduction is not the answer. For the great majority of the captive tortoises, there is no information about their original gene pool, which causes potential problems in the native population. For those bred in captivity, the gene pool problem is even worse. Disease is another potential problem with captive reintroduction, as is the interference with the social structure of any existing populations. Finally, until the problems that caused the wild population to decline are addressed, captive reintroduction can be an easy substitute for making the difficult decisions that are necessary if the desert tortoise is to survive in the wild.

There are no mysteries in the story of the demise of the desert tortoise. They are the same factors that have led to the demise of the Southwest itself. Habitat destruction through development leads the way, with agriculture, homebuilding, road construction, power line corridors all involved. With so many people around, collecting became a problem. Mining played its role also. In California, the insane growth of the ORV -- off-road vehicle -- has been one of the largest impacts. With the ORV access



into formerly remote areas has come, for the first time, instances of shooting of this gentle herbivore. With ORVs, as in everything else, California often leads the way, which means that Nevada, Arizona and Utah are experiencing similar problems, or soon will be.

Of all the human-related impacts on the desert tortoise, livestock grazing is the most widespread. In Arizona, for example, about 97 percent of the land either has been or is being grazed at some time during the year. To find areas for study of ungrazed plants, botanists must search diligently, and often must resort to corners of old fenced cemeteries, or lofty buttes and mountain tops too steep for even a starving cow.

In many areas that have experienced severe declines in desert tortoise numbers, grazing is the only possible source of problems. This is particularly true on much of the BLM lands of Arizona, Utah and Nevada. In the Piute Valley, south of Las Vegas, there was an excellent example of the potential for conflict between the desert tortoise and cattle. Between 1979 and 1983, one of Nevada's best tortoise populations lost about one-third of its numbers due to starvation. According to the results of a study funded by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the reasons were clear: "Due to a long-term habitat degradation from cattle grazing and a period of drought, a serious lack of forage for one or possibly two consecutive years resulted in an unusually high mortality rate in the tortoise population."

Despite frequent claims to the contrary, there are no droughts in a desert, only occasional mitigations of dryness. Heavy grazing by livestock can, however, simulate a drought for wildlife that must share their habitat. A cow and calf can eat about 10,000 pounds of plants per year, as compared to the desert tortoise's 23 pounds annually. The fact that such a small consumer of forage as the desert tortoise can actually starve is an astounding indictment of the conditions now found on so much of our supposedly multiple-use public lands.

The BLM, the agency that "controls" the grazing on the public lands of the Piute Valley of Nevada, has yet to take any steps to restrict actual grazing use on the allotment where the tortoise die-off occurred. The BLM's position is that evidence is lacking to prove that the desert tortoise is harmed by cattle grazing. At the same time, BLM has no plans to collect any such evidence.

Numerous studies have documented direct

food competition between the desert tortoise and livestock. More than a century of livestock grazing in our deserts have nearly destroyed the native perennial grasses, one of the main sources of food for the tortoise. This means that the tortoise must survive on the short-lived annual plants and flowers that are numerous after the infrequent wet springs in our Mohave and Sonoran deserts. The BLM calls these plants "ephemerals," and allows ranchers to turn their livestock into such areas, which means that the desert tortoise must again compete for food just when it is emerging from hibernation.

In addition to "ephemeral" grazing, nearly all BLM desert land has grazing pressure during the winter and early spring, every year. On many deserts, grazing is allowed all year. BLM also allows the use of feed supplements, which has the effect of allowing cattle to eat coarser food than otherwise possible. As a result, much of our desert habitat is no longer grazing land, but browsing land, where cattle must eat shrubs, bushes and twigs of desert trees to stay alive. Since the tortoise cannot reach such foods, even if they were palatable, this ancient reptile is left with a barren ground, and a bleak future.

In 1984, Defenders of Wildlife, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Environmental Defense Fund petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the desert tortoise as endangered in Arizona, California and Nevada. Since Utah's population was already listed as threatened, they were not included in the petition. One year later, at the end of the review period, FWS accepted the petition as "warranted but precluded," meaning that the data documented the decline of the species sufficiently to warrant listing, but that there are more urgent proposals ahead of the tortoise. This will require that the FWS state their reasons each year for not listing the tortoise, and that both Regions 1 and 2 will be directed to prepare a proposal for listing.

The desert tortoise, despite being a herbivore incapable of doing harm to any of man's interests, is in real trouble. As an indicator species, it is without equal as a sort of barometer of the health of our fragile desert lands. The tortoise is no delicate newcomer, but a tough and ancient species capable of adapting to change.

If an animal needing so little is in trouble on our public lands, what of the other wildlife species, many of which require so much more to survive?

□

Steve Johnson works for Defenders of Wildlife in Tucson, Arizona.



FOE...

(Continued from page 14)

Webb or Karl. If you have questions about our field program, call us. In any event, please check your facts. Gordon Anderson and David Brower are not reliable sources on this matter and you can get burned. Please try to appreciate that you are dealing with people's lives, that we work very hard to advance an environmental agenda and that journalistic carelessness, particularly at this time, could

endanger our very survival as an organization.

Dale Jones
David Ortman
Don Pierce
Connie Albrecht
David Conrad
Joanne Cowan
Mary Melchior
Jeanne Friedman
Geoff Webb

The writer replies:

The Feb. 3 story was based on an interview with minority FOE board

member Gordon Anderson, with the facts then checked with majority FOE board member and president Dan Luten. I thought he seconded what Anderson had said, but given the many lawsuits and actions, it is easy to see how we could have misunderstood each other. I don't blame Anderson or Luten. The responsibility is mine. But I thought I was checking facts with both sides. And, as a reading of my Jan. 20 story should show, there is no desire to destroy anyone.

The only objection I have to your letter is the suggestion that in the future I check facts with your head,

Karl Wendelowski. He, of course, is the natural person to go to, and I spent a week, while researching the first story, attempting to do that. I left messages for Wendelowski in Boston, Washington, and San Francisco. I succeeded in having an abbreviated conversation with him only when I finally told Geoff Webb that I would make his unavailability a prominent part of the story. Not having a week to spend on this story, I didn't even try to reach Wendelowski for the Feb. 3 story. However undependable Brower's information may or may not be, he is always available to the press.

16-High Country News -- March 3, 1986

BOOK NOTES

*The big boys take over the land**Who Owns the West*

Edited by David M. Diggs and Patrick Sweeney. Western Organization of Resource Councils, P.O. Box 1742, Montrose, CO 81402. \$5, paper.

Review by Ed Marston

The study, *Who Owns the West*, by the Western Organization of Resource Councils, is based on a sound thesis: that you must know who controls the region's land, water and minerals before you can understand the region.

With the financial help of the Ford Foundation and other foundations, WORC chose four rural counties each in the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota, and examined ownership patterns.

The study found that the largest single landowner in the 16 counties is the federal government, with 21 percent of the 25 million acres. But the largest single class of landowner, with 78 percent of the land, is individuals or families living in the same county as the land, or in an adjacent county.

It is implicit in WORC's study that local ownership of land and resources is a prerequisite for a healthy community. So, on the average, the West is in good -- i.e., local -- hands. But the study looks beyond averages to individual situations and trends. There it finds much that is disturbing.

Despite the healthy averages,

WORC concludes: "Ownership of resources is changing in the West. The region may be on the verge of a revolution in land ownership."

Since the Homestead Act and pick-and-shovel mining days, the trend has been toward ownership of larger farms, larger ranches, larger mines. Small communities have lost population and business to nearby larger communities. Small silos on branch railroad lines have lost out to larger silos on main lines.

This study sounds the alarm that the historic trends are accelerating. It cites examples to show that local family ownership of ranches and farms is unstable. In Meeker, Colorado, for example, speculators operating a corporation called Bar 70 easily bought up ranch after ranch for their water and for potential subdivisions. Now, with the oil shale boom in the region gone, the original owners of these ranches are having trouble collecting on their notes.

In Montana, sodbuster extraordinaire John Greytak bought and then converted tens of thousands of acres of land from grasslands to crops. In some cases, the conversion has already caused blowing dust and silted reservoirs. And there is a fear that a drying of the climate could bring worse.

A different kind of abuse is apparent in Colorado's mountainous Routt County, in the very north of the state. There, developers had platted

land for 80,000 people in the late 1970s, when the county's population was about 14,000.

In all these cases, land that once supported a stable agricultural economy was converted to other uses, all of them less stable and more speculative. In addition, more than half of the West's mineral wealth is owned by the federal government. And in places where energy or mineral development is active, corporations often own huge chunks of the surface land, as well as having control of the subsurface.

WORC and its member groups are Jeffersonian. They believe in an agrarian way of life, in which local people control the land and water, and thereby control their future. The member groups -- the Western Colorado Congress, the Dakota Resource Council, the Powder River Basin Resource Council in Wyoming, and the Northern Plains Resource Council in Montana -- are rarities in that they bring together traditional ranchers and farmers with environmentalists.

But the Jeffersonian-agrarian approach has its handicaps. For example, the study looks only at land parcels 20 acres or more. That catches farms and mines, but in the two Colorado recreation counties (Routt and LaPlata) it misses condominiums and other intensive development. A city block of condominiums in a ski town can be worth more than all the

WHO OWNS THE WEST



ranches in the county. Political power may not yet have gravitated into the urban enclaves, but it almost certainly will. Moreover, in the Colorado Rockies, at least, ski towns are powerful economic engines which convert even distant rural communities into sources of labor, handicrafts, bases for tradespeople who can't afford a shop in the ski town, and so on.

The ski industry is identified with mindless sprawl, destruction of wildlife and a plastic approach to the outdoors. But mature recreation towns such as Jackson, Wyoming, and Crested Butte and Aspen, Colorado, provide a different example. Because their permanent residents are concerned about the surrounding national forests and wilderness areas, those communities have become forces for good stewardship. In the mountain counties, at least, it is possible that the loss of the cattleman will lead to better, rather than worse, stewardship.

ACCESS

WORK

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.

POSITION AVAILABLE: The Environmental Defense Fund seeks a staff attorney to work in its Rocky Mountain office in Boulder, Co. The Rocky Mountain office focuses on the protection of human health and natural ecosystems in the mountain West. At least two years of relevant experience beyond the J.D. is required. Salary range: \$25,000 to \$40,000, depending on experience. Starting date: April 1986. Applicants should send a resume, a list of references, and a copy of applicant's most creative piece of legal writing by March 10, to Robert Yuhnke, Environmental Defense Fund, 1405 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder, CO 80302. (1x)

NEAT STUFF

LOG HOME -- Ready for Delivery -- 28'x36' with upstairs. Professional quality. Handpeeled, large diameter Western larch logs are scribe-fitted by hand for beauty, durability and weather-tightness. \$18,000 F.O.B. Delivery available. *Nordic Log Homes*. Box 909, Libby, Montana (406/293-7372). Distributors available. (3x4)

SOLAR ELECTRICITY: Power from the sun for your home, cabin, RV, or boat. Free catalog of solar products, gas refrigerators, wind generators. Yellow Jacket Solar, Box 253E, Yellow Jacket, Colorado 81335 (4x4EOWP)

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.

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

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). (2x)

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PACK GOATS are efficient, companionable pack animals for back country travel, carrying up to 80 lbs. For information on goat packing and equipment write: Bully Goat Pack Saddles, Rt. 62 Box 250, Lander, WY 82520. (1x)

RECYCLED PAPER. Send for FREE color catalog of environmental notecards and recycled office and printing paper. Earth Care Paper, 325-CY Beech, Harbor Springs, MI 49740. (7x23)



This spring sow a different kind of seed. Plant High Country News in the hands of a friend and watch a growing awareness take root.



A paper for people who care about the West

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Company _____ ☐ Two years, individual - \$35

Address _____ ☐ One year, institution - \$28

City, State, Zip _____ ☐ Two years, institution - \$50

☐ My check is enclosed, or, charge my credit card _____

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard: account number _____

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Please mail to: HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, Colorado 81428