

One Dollar



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High Country News -- April 14, 1986

Dear friends,



High Country News

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This was a fortnight of chaos at High Country News. There was the expected chaos of yet another change of the guard. Our two interns, Keith Waller and Mike Kustudia, their three months of learning and writing over, headed home to Wyoming and Montana. Because their replacement (sometimes we have one intern, sometimes two) had not yet arrived, a Paonia subscriber, welder and outdoors person, Bill Brunner, volunteered to fill in for a week. He did so with great efficiency and energy.

With Bill in the office, HCN had its second husband-wife team in place. Jen Brunner recently took Dianne Weaver's place as graphics person. Dianne joined HCN in January but soon realized that her heart would always be in Eugene, Oregon. We realized, yet again, that small, remote Western communities may seem romantic from afar, but are definitely not for everyone.

In our search for a replacement, we looked close to home. Jen, who had been doing our books each month, has a background in art and is a long-time Paonia resident. She agreed to try the job, and we discovered that she goes through its many details like the proverbial hot knife through butter. As a result, HCN has one of the very few Graphics/Bookkeeping positions in publishing.

The people changes were more or less expected. Unexpected was editor Betsy Marston's late-night encounter with three drunks standing around an unlighted pickup truck, spun out in the middle of the road, on a curve on the Grand Junction to Delta road.

Fortunately, she was able to scrape by the truck, crunching only a door

and fender on the passenger side of the 1977 Pinto stationwagon. One of the drunks complained that she'd almost killed him; an off-duty cop who happened on the scene told her: "To bad you didn't..."

Publisher Ed Marston also had a transportation problem. He went to Denver for a day of interviews and meetings on Wed., April 2, and got stuck there as Frontier (aka Peoples Express) cancelled its 8:30 p.m. flight after keeping him and others bound for Grand Junction waiting until 10 p.m.

He got out to the airport early Thursday morning to learn that a half-foot or so of wet snow had cancelled everything. Because of the hospitality of two readers/friends in Denver -- Jeff and Jessica Pearson -- he didn't get to experience a night in Hotel Stapleton, thereby missing out on network television appearances. He escaped Denver Friday.

To return to the news part of this operation, Betsy spent a long, long day in Boulder in early April at the Colorado University Environmental Center's grizzly bear conference. Her report will appear in a coming issue. As an appetizer, we should tell you about Earth First!er Dave Foreman's warm-up of the audience. Betsy says, "He howled like a wolf and then asked people to howl back. There were some real good yippers out there and the room rang with their howls." The conference attracted 300 people, many of them CU students, and it made, she said, for a hot and crowded, informative and entertaining day.

Speaking of crowded, thanks to advertising here and elsewhere, HCN now has interns lined up through 1986. We think almost every intern who has spent three months at HCN profited from the experience. Like



Polly Hammer

living in Paonia, it is not an easy or romantic experience. Writing is one of the harder, lonelier, more depressing activities one can engage in. Even writing Bulletin Board items and Hotlines can be tough. Barbs can seem impossible. If, despite that warning, you think an internship might be of help to you, we would welcome your application. We're set as of this moment. As the opening paragraphs show, however, one never knows what might happen next week.

For the first time in its history HCN is running what might be called dirty pictures. These photos of shepherds' aspen carvings are in the centerfold, thanks to Forest Service archaeologist Polly Hammer.

--the staff

HOTLINE

Sober as a lawyer

A judge in Arlington, Va., dismissed a public intoxication charge against Anne Burford after her lawyer argued that although her behavior was "obstreperous," it didn't mean she was drunk. Burford, the former head of the Environmental Protection Agency, became agitated when officers arrested her husband, Bureau of Land Management Director Robert Burford, on drunk driving charges. Officers said her bellicose attitude, along with the smell of alcohol on her breath, prompted them to arrest Mrs. Burford on the intoxication charge. Her attorney, Lou Koutoulakos, told Associated Press that her actions came out of concern for her husband, who had recently undergone heart surgery, and from her natural reflexes as a lawyer. Koutoulakos said there was no evidence his client was drunk.

New Wildlife head

The new head of the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service has an impressive background in western wildlife issues and policies. Frank Dunkle is the former head of the State Fish and Game Dept. in Montana and was an unsuccessful Republican candidate for governor of that state. Before being nominated as agency head, he ran the Denver office of the Fish and Wildlife Service. In that position, Dunkle, 61, worked for a compromise between water developers and conservationists over the

endangered Colorado River squawfish and other species. While the fighting isn't over, Dunkle helped create a calm negotiating climate, and compromise is possible. Environmental groups will not oppose Dunkle's nomination for the position, which has been vacant since September. According to Denver Post writer Gary Schmitz, the agency has a budget of \$651 million this year. About 6,200 employees operate 434 wildlife refuges and 73 hatcheries. In addition to the endangered species issue on the Colorado and Platte rivers, Dunkle must deal with the issue of lead poison from shotgun pellets, oil and gas development on Alaska wildlife refuges, and a proposed \$70 million cut in his 1987 budget.

Unswayed judge

Earth First!er Howie Wolke continues to cool his heels in Wyoming's Sublette County Jail. Judge Bill Cramer told the weekly Pinedale Roundup March 27: "I will not be swayed by public opinion. The issue is Howie Wolke's guilt... He expressed no remorse for his act, and in fact volunteered that he would do it again. I know that for six months he won't." Wolke was found guilty of removing survey stakes for a Chevron oil-well road (HCN, 3/3/86). As of late March, the judge had received 34 letters, almost all from Wolke supporters who criticized the judge's maximum sentence and said that his act of vandalism was an act of conscience.

A little less gritty

All but three of Wyoming's cities improved their particulate air quality by about 10 percent in 1985. And even Lander, Laramie and Sheridan showed improvement over 1984. According to the state Department of Environmental Quality, Lander showed the most improvement. It violated standards 7 out of 57 readings, instead of the 22 out of 71 in 1984. Laramie and Sheridan showed lesser improvement. The Lander and Sheridan improvements were attributed by DEQ to increased public awareness of the problems of wood smoke. No-interest and low-interest loans were also available in Lander to purchase catalytic units. Sheridan cut down on particulates by switching from shale to sand for the sanding of icy streets.

Avian flight school

A cooperative effort between the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the Salt Lake County Fish and Game Association and other organizations will help injured wild birds "regain their wings" before being released into the wild. The groups are erecting a 40 by 50 foot flight cage along the Jordan River as an exercise area for recovering wild birds. The flight cage is intended to take some of the burden off 15 trained rehabilitators throughout Utah who volunteer their time and money to care for injured birds, for whom rehabilitation may take as long as six months. Part of the money for buying the flight cage came from the Nongame Tax Checkoff, a fund that Utahns can contribute to on their state tax forms.

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Utah's wilderness coyotes are safe, for now

Coyotes in Utah's Mount Naomi Wilderness may be safe from helicopter-hunting this year, thanks to a joint appeal filed by the Utah chapter of the Sierra Club and the Utah Wilderness Association.

The appeal asked Forest Service Chief Max Peterson to overturn a Regional Forester ruling this February authorizing three helicopter-hunting trips to reduce the coyote population in the wilderness. Ranchers requested the aerial hunt to control what they said were significant increases in sheep kills by coyotes during the summer of 1985.

The UWA and the Sierra Club have 45 days to submit a Statement of Reasons for the appeal, and Barry Wirth, public information officer for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, said Peterson won't rule on the case until all the information is in. Meanwhile, the hunts are on hold.

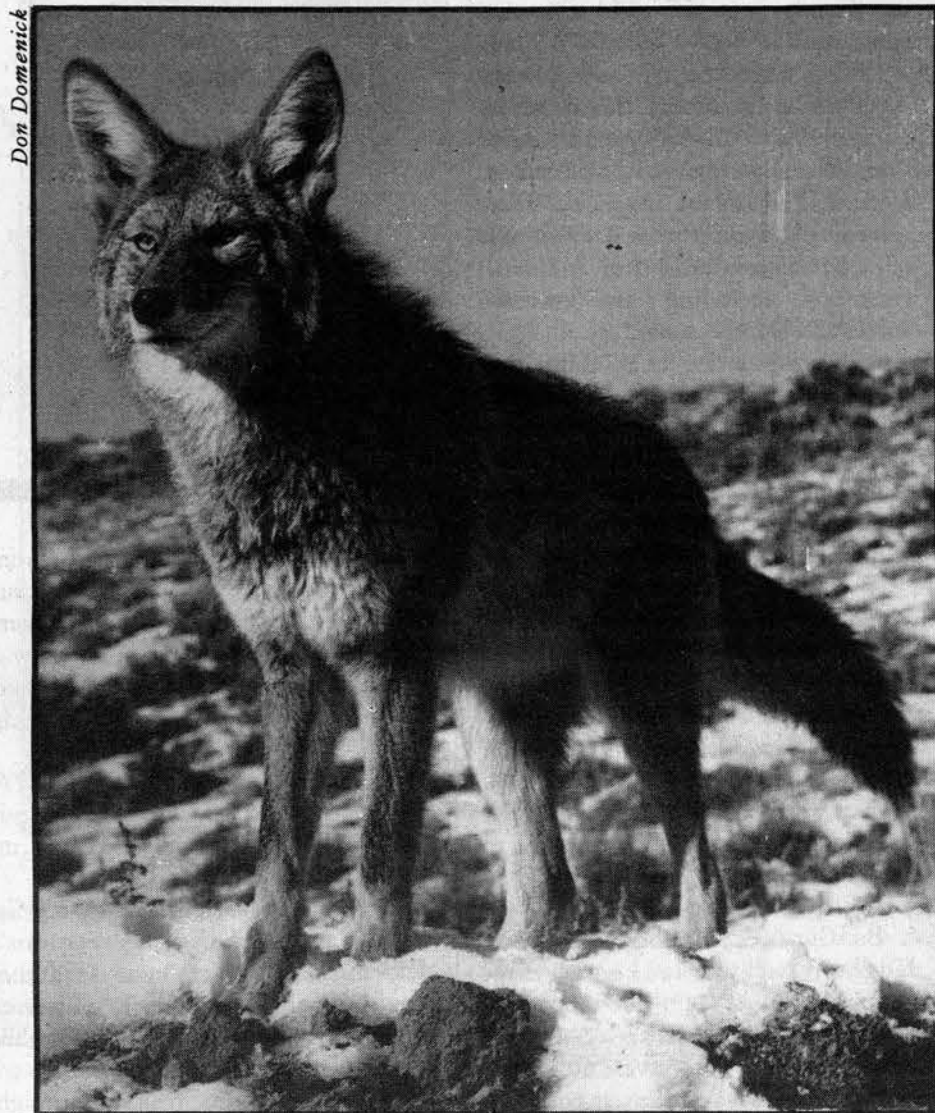
UWA coordinator Dick Carter said the appeal argues that the Forest Service is violating predator control guidelines in its own Wasatch-Cache Forest Management Plan. The guidelines say coyotes may be hunted by helicopter for up to three flights annually, but the hunters may target only coyotes that have killed sheep -- the "offending animal" (HCN, 12/28/85). According to the guidelines, the permittee must also show "special and serious losses" to domestic livestock. According to the UWA and the Sierra Club, the Forest Service is not following either guideline.

The forest plan also says that the Regional Forester (Stan Tixier) must approve the use of helicopters. Tixier said he had reviewed the standards and guidelines in both the Utah Wilderness Act and the forest management plan before making the decision, and he felt the request was legitimate. He also said rumors were false that the Utah congressional delegation applied pressure to approve the flights. He did receive a phone call from Utah Rep. James Hansen's administrative assistant asking the status of the situation, he said, but no pressure was applied and he never changed his decision.

Tixier said he approved helicopter-hunting coyotes because the request from the Wasatch-Cache forest supervisor included sheep-loss figures for 1985. They showed 63 sheep were killed by coyotes last year and only 29 in 1984 and four in 1974.

The UWA's Carter said he disputes the accuracy of the sheep-loss figures. "We don't buy their figures; I don't think anyone in their agency believes them -- they even put it on paper that the 1985 figure seems abnormally high," Carter said. Logan District Ranger Dave Baumgartner sent the figures to the forest supervisor with a notation that he felt the 1974-1984 counts were accurate, but the 1985 reported losses seemed high. "The Forest Service itself has expressed skepticism on paper, and we're flatly rejecting the figure," Carter said.

"We're not opposing grazing in the wilderness," he added. "We are saying they are violating the intent of their own guidelines. They cannot prove special and serious losses; they cannot target the offending animal,



and helicopter gunning will denigrate the wilderness values in the area."

Tixier said he had no reason to doubt the validity of the reported sheep-loss figures, and he doesn't understand why the Logan District Ranger doubted them either.

Rudy Luke, Cache Valley representative for the Sierra Club in Utah, said whatever decision the Forest Service makes will have national importance. "If it is allowed here, it could be used as a precedent in other wilderness areas in the country," he said.

Carter said the UWA contacted each of the 18 forests in Region IV and asked for a summary of coyote-control efforts in the wilderness areas each managed. Carter said almost all forest managers prohibited predator control in wilderness. Not one targeted coyotes.

"But absolutely none allowed helicopter gunning in the wilderness," he said. "They seemed incredulous that I would even ask the question."

Clair Acord, executive director of the Utah Woolgrowers Association, said he was "rather bewildered" by the appeal from the conservation groups, since the groups did not oppose grazing in wilderness areas before the Utah Wilderness Act was passed in 1984. "They are turning tables on their own ideas.

"We need the predator control to run sheep," he said. "Helicopter hunting is one of the good tools we have."

That style of predator control, plus hunting from fixed-wing aircraft, has been common throughout Utah for years, he said. Helicopter hunting "is consistent with wilderness," since grazing and predator control are both allowed in wilderness.

But the Sierra Club and the UWA both said the issue is not grazing in wilderness. Jim Catlin, conservation chair for the Sierra Club, said neither

group opposes grazing, and "it would be malicious for opponents to claim that. We believe, in this case, the Forest Service has made some gross assumptions in order to justify conflicting activities that could jeopardize wilderness management all across the state."

Carter said although he does not like coyote hunting in wilderness areas, "we'll turn our heads to legitimate predator control efforts."

The Forest Service recognizes the issue as a controversial one, and Tixier has directed the forest supervisor to look for acceptable alternatives aside from aerial-gunning to deal with the problem of coyote predation in the future.

His authorization statement said approval was for 1986 only and could not be considered as a precedent.

--Tim Vitale

Tim Vitale is an environmental writer and news editor of the *Herald Journal* in Logan, Utah.

Listed below are reported sheep losses to predators in the Cottonwood allotment in the Mount Naomi Wilderness Area of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. From Logan, Utah, Ranger District records.

YEAR	LOSSES
1985	63
1984	29
1983	26
1982	26
1981	51
1980	34
1979	10
1978	12
1977	10
1076	7
1975	5
1974	4

HOTLINE

Guilty as charged

Utah's state parks director fired two high-ranking managers and disciplined five other employees recently for their involvement in killing a bear out of season. The men fired, Robert Anderson, northern regional manager, and Dennis Weaver, central regional manager, appealed their dismissals to Utah's Department of Natural Resources, which turned them down. Also upheld were two-to-five-day suspensions without pay for five other state parks employees. State Parks Director Henry Miller said the failure to report the bear killing was "open, willful defiance of the law the officers were sworn to uphold," and that their involvement "failed to display the righteous leadership their positions as regional managers demands..."

The shooting's over

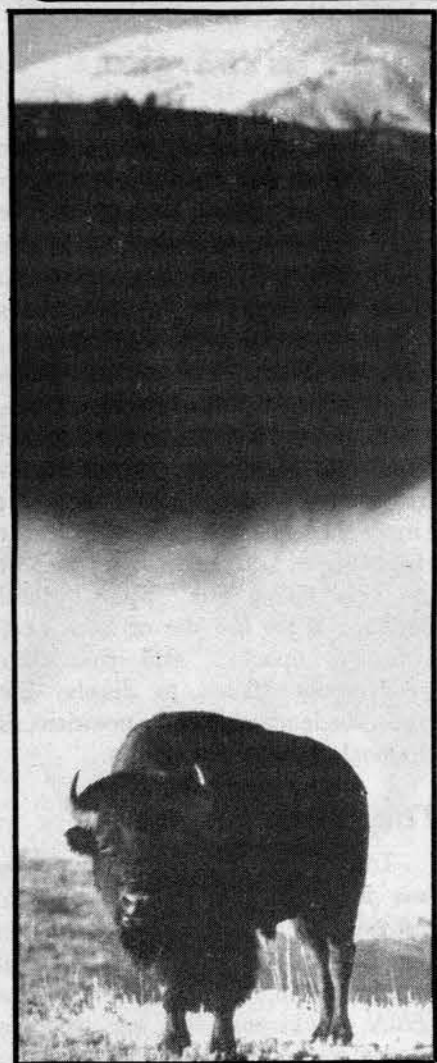
Los Alamos National Laboratory has abandoned plans to build an outdoor police firing-range within one-half mile of Bandelier National Monument in northern New Mexico (HCN, 11/11/86). The lab gave no reason for its decision Feb. 14, but opposition from Park Service Director William Penn Mott during a visit to Bandelier in December may have played a part. The Los Alamos lab's director Syg Hecker also promised Bandelier a "good neighbor policy" after his appointment in January. The lab's announcement ends a period of tension between Bandelier and the lab that began when the lab announced plans to construct a firing range and an artillery testing facility called the Overblast Project near Bandelier's boundary. The Overblast Project was scrubbed by Interior Secretary Donald Hodel in late December.



Unleashing the leases

The Interior Department has announced it will lift the ban on leasing federal coal sometime in late 1987. Congress suspended the federal leasing program in 1983 after critics charged and a later congressional commission established that coal was being sold too cheaply to private companies. Interior Secretary Donald Hodel said the program will require market studies to ensure there is a market for the federal coal and that the government will receive a fair price for it. Hodel said decision-making on leases will be decentralized, giving agencies, state government and the public a greater say. Coal lease royalties brought in about \$104 million to the Treasury last year. Copies of the new coal leasing program are available from the Bureau of Land Management, Public Affairs, Room 5600, 18 and C Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

HOTLINE



Glen Oakley

Unwelcome in Montana

The Montana Fish and Game Commission recently gave a tentative go-ahead to another year of bison hunting, and rejected requests to put limits on the hunt. Commission chairman Spencer Hegstad told the *Associated Press* that "the bottom line is the buffalo are not really welcome in our state." Noel Larrivee, an attorney for the Fund for Animals, asked the commission to shorten the year-round season, limit where the hunt can take place or put sex and number restrictions on the hunt, though he was denied on all counts. The 1985 Legislature authorized the hunt as an attempt to prevent the brucellosis-carrying bison from spreading the disease to cattle (*HCN*, 2/3/86). About 40 bison were killed during this season's hunt.

A monkey's paw project

For decades, the people around Dolores and Cortez in southwest Colorado told the Federal Government that their area desperately needed a dam and irrigation project on the Dolores River. Such a project, they said, would allow them to switch from dryland farming to higher-value irrigated crops and thereby preserve farming in the region. So the government, through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, built the \$400 million McPhee Reservoir and associated irrigation ditches (*HCN*, 3/5/84). McPhee Reservoir has been filling since last spring. But now, according to the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*, the farmers see the subsidized irrigation water as curse rather than blessing. They want delivery of water put off for five years or so. That would delay their payments for the \$30 an acre-foot water and the expense of installing sprinkler systems to use the water efficiently. The farmers say that the best irrigated crops would lose them \$17 an acre per year. About 160 dryland farmers signed up for the water in 1977 and committed themselves to sprinklers but prices were appreciably higher in 1977, and costs were lower.

The Army pollutes an urban water system

Mary Gonzales, a resident of Commerce City, north of Denver, Colorado, has been paying \$20 a month for bottled water and, more importantly, peace of mind, since last summer.

That's when she and some 30,000 other customers of the South Adams County Water District were alerted through news reports that Environmental Protection Agency tests showed the district's well water was tainted by low levels of industrial chemicals, including the common solvent TCE.

Since then, the U.S. Army has supplied schools in the district with bottled water and acknowledged that its adjacent Rocky Mountain Arsenal, contaminated from years of nerve gas and pesticide production, contributed to the TCE problem.

The Army recently signed an agreement with the EPA to provide \$1 million in Army money for a temporary method to handle the contamination. And the water district's mostly working-class customers may be able to turn on their taps without worry in about a month. EPA investigators, meanwhile, continue to search for contamination sources from the 27-square-mile arsenal.

But Gonzales' main concern is her daughter Nicky's leukemia, first diagnosed in 1981 and now in remission after three years of chemotherapy. "I have a strong feeling," she says, "that it could be related" to the tainted water.

State health officials say studies to show a cause-effect relationship between chemical levels in drinking water and particular illnesses are next to impossible. In any case, says the state Health Department, it doesn't have the money to hire an environmental epidemiologist to study the South Adams water problem or other environmental mysteries.

Those mysteries include a high incidence in Colorado mountain communities of craniosynostosis, a rare birth defect that causes head deformities in infants. For that problem, health officials tally cases but have no idea of the cause. In the South Adams water district, the department measures contamination, but the health effects are unknown.

Health officials in February advised people in the district -- particularly private well-owners -- to boil their tap water to drive off the volatile chemicals, or buy bottled water to minimize health risks. But what those risks are remain as difficult to pin down as the ultimate sources of the contamination.

In large doses, TCE, or trichloroethylene, causes cancer in lab mice, and the EPA lists the chemical as a probable human carcinogen. But no scientific evidence has linked TCE to cancer in humans, much less to leukemia.

Gonzales' and other residents' fears recently were heightened by a CBS 60 Minutes segment that focused on Woburn, Mass., a Boston suburb where TCE levels presumably higher than those in South Adams were found in two now-closed drinking water wells. The Harvard School of Public Health found an association between contaminated water and elevated childhood leukemia in a Woburn neighborhood.

Since issuing their advisory in South Adams, Colorado health officials have sought to calm fears by



stressing that the risk from ingesting TCE is not an immediate threat but, rather, one over many years. Some state and EPA officials familiar with the water contamination have said, however, that they wouldn't drink the water.

One EPA official flatly told *The Denver Post* in December: "I would not drink it, nor would I want my family to drink it."

Still others, including Rick Karlin, the state Health Department's drinking water chief, have said they would drink it only for a matter of months, and would boil it while awaiting a treatment system.

Another reason residents might want to avoid their well is the unknown nature of the chemical soup possibly simmering in the shallow aquifer. Although its levels are the highest, TCE is only one of the following known or suspected carcinogens that have turned up in trace amounts in the water: tetrachloroethylene; 1,2 dichloroethane, chloroform, bromoform, n-nitrosodiphenylamine; 1,1 dichloroethylene; toluene, and finally, benzene, which has been linked to leukemia.

Tests also have shown sodium in

the water at levels exceeding those recommended for people on low sodium diets as a result of hypertension. But it's the TCE that gets the most attention.

By keeping five of its most contaminated wells shut, the water district has managed to keep TCE levels at the taps to between 5 and 10 parts per billion. The EPA has proposed allowing 5 ppb of TCE in drinking water, but still recommends that no TCE be allowed because it's a probable human carcinogen.

The complexities of risk assessment, however, are not what the residents want to hear. They say they want the responsible parties to clean it up -- immediately.

To handle the contamination, the water district will use the \$1 million in Army money either to connect to the Denver Water Department or for carbon filters hooked to the most contaminated wells. Some of the money will be used to design a permanent, district-wide treatment system to be completed in about a year.

By then, the EPA expects to have located the sources of the contamination from the arsenal and the Army has pledged to find where TCE originates on its property.

But some of the residents are distrustful of the EPA. They say they're suspicious because it took the EPA months to point a finger at the Army and its arsenal, which was the subject of a massive environmental damage suit filed by the state several years ago.

For now, Gonzales goes on buying bottled water and wonders about her daughter's illness.

--Daniel P. Jones

□

Daniel P. Jones is natural resources writer for the *Denver Post*.

HOTLINE

Winners and sinners

The Colorado Environmental Coalition recently announced four awards to start an annual tradition. J. Rathbone Falck was picked as the individual who made the greatest environmental contribution to the state in 1985. Falck donated 4,000 acres of his ranch between Denver and Colorado Springs, valued at \$15 million, to be used as open space. Boulder County was named as the community which made the greatest environmental contribution. The county rezoned much of its land from developmental to agricultural, despite controversy and recall attempts against some commissioners. An individual thumbs down recognition went to Sen. Bill Armstrong, R-Colo., for insisting that any Colorado wilderness bill contain language barring federal reserved water rights -- a position that blocked any wilderness bill last year. A community thumbs down recognition went to the cities of Aurora and Colorado Springs for moving ahead to build a 20,000-acre-foot reservoir in the Holy Cross Wilderness. CEL is a coalition of over 35 organizations and some 1200 individuals throughout the state.

**Seeding a canyon**

Twenty Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep were captured early in March and transplanted to western Colorado's Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument. State officials said the canyon is historic bighorn habitat, but that disease and poaching caused sheep numbers to dwindle to nothing by the late 1960s. The volunteer-assisted transplant was the first of four that the Division of Wildlife hopes will eventually bring 200 to 300 bighorn to the canyon.

Permanent wilderness camps challenged

"There is only one class of wilderness users," says Howard Spaletta, a metallurgical engineer for an Idaho Falls consulting firm. "Some of us have our own packing and camping equipment and others rent it by going with commercial outfitters. But commercial outfitters can stay in there for four months and the rest of us can't."

Spaletta was outraged last May by an editorial in the *Idaho Falls Post Register* that outlined the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association's appeal of a management plan for the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Spaletta says someone needed to speak out for public wilderness users, so he intervened against the outfitters' appeal.

The outfitters claimed they could not live with proposed regulations limiting them to five reserved campsites per outfitter and requiring removal of permanent structures, caches and permanent corrals. The outfitters also balked at limitations on the length of time they could exclusively reserve campsites. The proposed Forest Service plan would allow outfitters to reserve sites 15 days before and 10 days after any use.

"Individuals can't reserve campsites at all," says Spaletta, "while outfitters always reserve the best spots for the whole season. If they have storage facilities they essentially own the campsite." With his children grown and his employer generous about vacation time after Spaletta's 25 years on the job, Spaletta says he took seven trips last year into the River of No Return Wilderness. He travels with a saddle horse and a pack horse in summer; during winter he takes two more horses in order to carry feed and a wall tent.

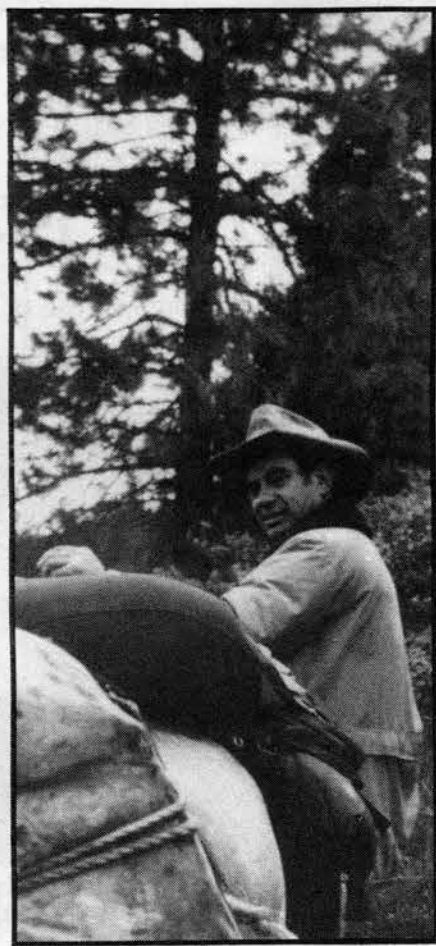
"When you're planning a trip, you look at a map and find what looks like a flat spot, but when you get there it's reserved. So you move on. Late at night that gets a little old."

Spaletta says he's been told he'd be more effective if he weren't a maverick. "I've never run in a pack before," he insists; "why should I start now?" However, he does have allies.

Bill Worf, a former director of recreation for the Forest Service in Region I and an outspoken defender of wilderness, has also intervened against the outfitters' appeal, and Spaletta cites 50 letters to the Forest Service from people he says are a lot like himself. "It seems everybody has been closed out by outfitters back there."

Wilderness Society staffer Tom Robinson says he does not agree with the outfitters' appeal, but recognizes that many non-conforming uses were grandfathered into the law which created the Frank Church Wilderness. "At least there ought to be uniformity in the management of wilderness by different Forest Service regions," he says. Robinson offers the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana and Idaho's Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness as examples of public involvement leading to acceptable outfitting policies and little conflict.

In the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness north of the Frank Church Wilderness, no permanent camps or caches are allowed. Nonetheless, says Forest Service resource specialist George Weldon, commercial outfitters have had little difficulty operating



Howard Spaletta

temporary camps. Permanent camps were phased out over a five to 10 year period when the wilderness was created. Reserved campsites are allowed, but conflicts with the public have been few. Weldon says there is no limit on the number of campsites an outfitter can set up in the Selway-Bitterroot, but each camp must be justified in an operating plan. To minimize conflicts, the public is informed about the location of commercial outfitter camps by signs at each trailhead.

During negotiating sessions the Outfitters Association has refused to

budge from its initial demands of a years ago. Harold Thomas, Guides and Outfitters president, says restrictions in the proposed management plan "will put some outfitters completely out of business by prohibiting their historical uses of the wilderness and increasing their costs beyond what the outfitting public will bear."

The appeal review is now in the hands of Forest Service Chief Max Peterson and may be resolved within 90 days.

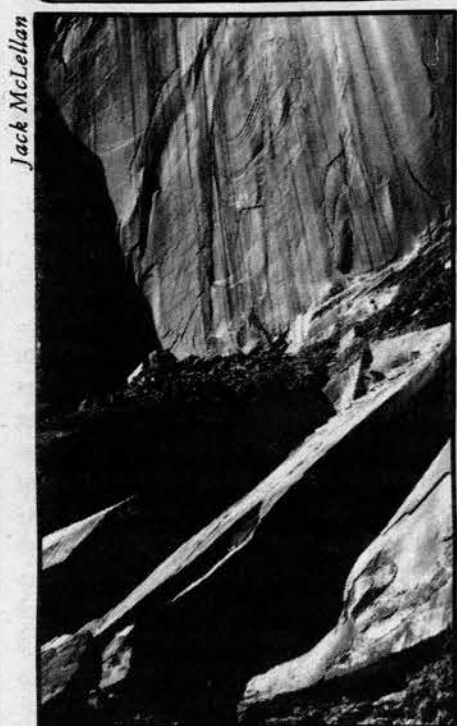
Rick Johnson, public lands coordinator for the Idaho Conservation League, says his organization has no formal opinion on the appeal and would prefer to look at problems on a case by case basis.

"Our concern depends on the level of permanence of camps and whether they detract from wilderness values," Johnson says the group isn't so concerned about a picnic table or corral, but "when there are garbage dumps and (piped) running water so that a site is more like a homestead than a camp -- then we have a problem."

Mary Kelly, executive director of ICL, adds that the group now has a "tenuous relationship" with outfitters and guides and won't fight them on an issue unless it's a high priority to ICL. Before 1984, she adds, the guides saw conservationists as radicals and were reluctant to align themselves with any cause they supported. The common goal of protecting roadless areas has drawn the groups into common cause, she says. Kelly says the outfitters group was recently very helpful in getting major mining law reforms from an extremely conservative Idaho state Legislature.

--Mike Medberry

HOTLINE



New deadline

People will have more time to study and comment on the BLM's seven-book set of wilderness proposals for Utah. The new deadline for written comments is Aug. 15. The BLM proposes designation of approximately 1.8 million acres of wilderness in 58 study areas spread out through 13 Utah counties. Conservation groups say many millions more acres should be wilderness. Comments should be sent to the Utah BLM State Office, 324 S. State St., Salt Lake City, UT 84111. The dates for public hearings are unchanged, however, and are set for: Vernal, Provo, Escalante and Monticello on May 7; Tooele, Kanab and Moab on May 8; Ogden, Cedar City, Loa and Price on May 13; Logan, St. George, Delta and Castle Dale on May 14; and Salt Lake City May 15. All meetings are at 7 p.m. with an additional 2 p.m. meeting in Salt Lake City.

FOE takes the 'water boys' to court

Friends of the Earth in Colorado has fired another shot in the war between environmental groups and that array of conservancy districts, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Colorado Water Congress and water attorneys known as the water establishment.

The groups often charge that tax-supported conservancy districts skirt Colorado's open records law. Now FOE has taken that charge to court. In an April 1 suit, it attacks the Colorado River Water Conservation District, based in Glenwood Springs, for not allowing it access to its files on endangered species.

In a prepared statement, FOE Colorado field representative Connie Albrecht said, "Although the River District is a public agency supported by western Colorado taxpayers, (River District Secretary-Engineer Roland) Fischer apparently feels the District does not have to account to the public or comply with state law. This attitude is relatively typical of the water institutions in Colorado, so we decided it was time to send a message to the 'water boys' that we aren't going to take it any more!"

The River District counterattacked briskly, charging that the lawsuit is "vexatious and without cause." River District attorney Don Hamburg said Albrecht just wanted to go fishing through the District's files. "What we object to was them just going into the files and going through them, just

rifling the files. In the files are some things that under the open records law she has no right to look at," he told the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*.

The suit says the District demanded that Albrecht specify precisely which files she wanted to examine, and submit the request through an attorney. The lawsuit claims that since FOE does not know "the District's file classification system, the requirement that FOE name specific documents for inspection was tantamount to a blanket denial of inspection." FOE says that since July 1985, it has been denied access to records eight times.

Fischer, through a spokesman, told the *Sentinel*, "The River District in general enjoys a very good rapport with the environmental community." Hamburg said Albrecht had been granted reasonable requests to examine files.

The District does have a good working relationship with the Front Range Environmental Caucus on the issue of Denver's proposed Two Forks Reservoir, which environmentalists and the District oppose.

However, the root of this dispute is the federal Endangered Species Act. Albrecht's examination of the District's Endangered Species Act files in Jan. 1985 resulted in an article in the *Washington Post* on the water establishment's efforts to amend the act. The article embarrassed the water

developers and is said to have enraged the River District at Albrecht.

The District and other Colorado water developers wanted to change the act, which now hinders some development because of the presence of fish such as the humpbacked chub in the Colorado River and the whooping crane along the Platte River.

In addition to asking for free and immediate access to the files, FOE wants Fischer to personally pay FOE's court costs. "These tax-supported water barons are not elected and their arrogance is beyond belief," said Albrecht.

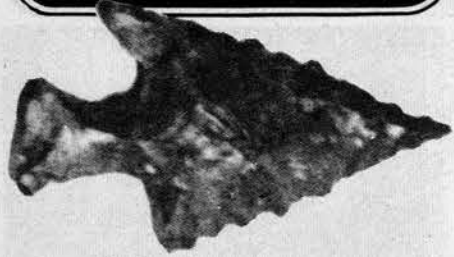
--Ed Marston

BARBS

Other "illegitimate" issues include Exxon's "temporary" shutdown of the Colony synthetic fuels project in May 1982, and the huge penalty it had to pay recently because it overcharged consumers about \$2 billion.

Exxon Corp. refuses to talk to the press about a demand by 800 of its LaBarge Project employees in southwest Wyoming for a bonus they think Exxon promised to pay them. An Exxon spokesman told the *Casper Star-Tribune* that the bonus dispute is an "illegitimate" issue.

HOTLINE



6,800 years ago

Evidence of an Indian settlement that dates back 6800 years was found in southwest Wyoming during construction of Exxon's \$750 million Shute Creek gas processing plant (HCN, 2/18/85). Archeologists uncovered 500 fire pit and food storage areas, as well as two female skeletons carbon-dated to be 1500 years old says Dave Vleck, Bureau of Land Management archeologist. Vleck says the site may have been a semi-permanent camp for nomadic hunter-gatherers. The skeletons found will be reburied with the help of the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribal Councils and a representative sample of the artifacts will be displayed in the County museum in Kemmerer, Wyoming, and the Museum of Mountainmen in Pinedale, Wyoming. Consulting archeologists will choose between Western Wyoming College and the University of Wyoming in Rock Springs for a permanent display of the artifacts.

The Candidate State

Colorado may have to change its state motto to the Presidential State, or at least to the Presidential Candidate State. As of now, its two U.S. Senators, Gary Hart, D, and William Armstrong, R, have declared an interest in being president. Hart, of course, has decided not to run for re-election to the Senate in 1986 in order to run for the presidency. Armstrong is being a bit more coy, but has made his interest clear. Retiring Gov. Richard Lamm, D, has also had his name mentioned in connection with the 1988 presidential race. Now Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, a liberal Democrat from Denver, is glancing at the White House. But with the field already containing three Coloradoans, Schroeder says that she wouldn't think of competing for the office before 1992.



Dawson confirmed

Despite strong opposition from national conservation groups and even some Reagan administration officials, the Senate recently confirmed Robert Dawson to the Army's top civilian construction job by a 60-34 vote. Dawson will now direct the Army Corps of Engineer and manage many of the nation's wetlands, a position he has held on a temporary or deputy basis for the past five years. The National Wildlife Federation considered Dawson's record so poor that they opposed his presidential nomination -- the first such stance in the group's 49-year history. National Audubon Society called Dawson a "serious threat to wetlands protection," and several members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee opposed Dawson's nomination because he said the Clean Water Act was not intended to be a "wetlands protection mechanism."

Campaigning begins in the FOE contest

For the moment at least, the environmental movement has another newspaper -- the *Earth Island Journal*. The tabloid looks remarkably like Friends of the Earth's *Not Man Apart*, and for good reason -- it was produced by several people who until recently published *NMA*.

The *Journal*, which went to FOE members, is a pre-election "get out the vote" issue. While it contains news about endangered condors and dangerous bioengineering experiments, it concentrates on the schism within FOE between founder David Brower's group and a majority of the FOE directors (HCN, 7/23/84). That schism centers on the decision by a majority of the FOE board to move the group to Washington, D.C., from San Francisco.

The tone for the issue is set by a page one photo of Brower standing in an empty, littered room. The caption reads: "David Brower surveys the shattered remains of FOE's West Coast headquarters." A caption on the cover reads: "DeFOEstation -- The Story Behind the Shutdown of FOE's San Francisco Headquarters."

Page 6 features the photos of 15 former FOE staffers under the headline: "Friends Out Of Work." A headline over a story describing the Brower group's court joust with the board majority reads: "Friends of the Potomac Wash Out in Court."

Page 8 is devoted to 10 reasons for recalling the eight majority directors in the coming election (ballots are to go out at the end of April). The lower half of the page reproduces a Feb. 24, 1986, fundraising letter signed by board member Daniel B. Luten to FOE members. Handwritten comments such as "You have got to be kidding! This event took place in 1984, two years ago," and "This is preposterous. Luten is not chairman of the board -- and never has been," point up problems the Brower group has with the letter.

Page 9 introduces the pro-Brower slate. It also has a photo of several FOE majority directors and the

Grand Canyon is pitted against uranium

Kaibab National Forest in Arizona has issued its draft environmental impact statement for a uranium mine proposed by Energy Fuels Nuclear, Inc. of Denver, Colorado, near the south rim of the Grand Canyon National Park. The mine would be 13 miles from Grand Canyon in a drainage that enters the Colorado River through Cataract Canyon, home of the Havasupai Indians.

The draft addresses concerns that were brought up last year during the Forest Service's public sessions. Those issues included social and economic impacts and potential damage to wildlife and air and water quality of the Tusayan area and park.

The draft also considers several routes for the 10 trucks per day that would each haul 20 tons of radioactive ore to Energy Fuels' refining mill in Blanding, Utah.

Mary Sojourner of Earth First! expressed dismay that the broader implications of producing raw material for nuclear power were not considered in the draft. Kaibab National Forest Supervisor Leonard Linquist said that broader concerns were too far removed for meaningful analysis.

Sojourner said that in view of the

Special Pre-election Newsletter

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1 MARCH 1986

Earth Island Journal

The Newsmagazine of Earth Island Institute

Photo by Chuck Barry

DeFOEstation

The Story Behind the Shutdown of FOE's San Francisco Headquarters

David R. Brower
Chairman, Friends of the Earth
c/o Earth Island Institute
15 Columbus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94111

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PERMIT NO. 1414

caption: "FOE president Dan Luten and FOE directors Alan Gussow and Wes Jackson ponder the age-old question: 'Who will be top banana?'"

A page 10 story decries the supposed loss of a grass-roots FOE presence under the headline: "Saving FOE, Root & Branch." Page 12 describes the Nov. 1985 "resignation" of FOE head Karl Wendelowski under: "Karl Resigns: Confusion Reigns," while page 13 is a history of

FOE's founding by Brower after he left the Sierra Club. The issue finishes with two pages of letters to Brower, FOE and Wendelowski. All express support for Brower and the old FOE, or hostility to the move, to Wendelowski, or to the new FOE.

The Earth Island Institute is located at: 15 Columbus Ave., San Francisco, CA 94111.

--Ed Marston

"laxness of the federal mining law and the intense level of exploration on both rims, this opens the door to a real mess all around the Grand Canyon." Energy Fuels is also working to open another mine on the north rim three miles from the park boundary. Called the Pinenut Mine, it is in the environmental assessment stage.

Bob Lippman, southwest representative for Friends of the River, said the draft for the Canyon Mine doesn't address the real value of the resources involved. "When you

compare the irreplaceable resources the Canyon Mine will destroy with the limited value of the ore it will produce, it becomes clear that the site does not contain a valuable deposit of minerals as required by the 1872 mining law," he said.

Comments will be accepted on the draft EIS until May 1. Copies may be obtained by writing the Kaibab National Forest, 800 South 6th Street, Williams, A' 86046, or by calling 602/635-2861.

--Dan Daggot

BARBS

We didn't know CPAs were like priests and shrinks.

The national accounting firm of Peat, Marwick and Mitchell has ignored a request from the Utah Public Service Commission to hand over information about one of Peat, Marwick's clients -- Utah Power and Light. The utility has been accused of various misdeeds in connection with the coal mines it owns and operates, and the Public Service Commission is seeking financial information about the firm.

Maybe the public's attention span isn't that long.

The *Denver Post* reports that the Colorado Lottery is in trouble because the public is losing interest in instant winner games.

Oh, my goodness. There will be nothing left for the below-cost timber sales.

The U.S. Forest Service reports that more than one million aspen trees a year are being stolen off national forests for sale to nurseries and for landscaping around homes and businesses.

The West seesaws on slowing growth

It is almost impossible to find a major Western city that does not have a Democratic mayor. Likewise it is difficult to find a Western city where the fight between developers and controlled growth advocates is not a central issue in local politics. It is also more and more common to find cities where politicians who have run on a controlled growth platform have ultimately embraced the developers' agenda.

Two recent newspaper studies of Western cities are instructive. A *Denver Post* Newscenter 4 survey of 412 registered voters in Colorado found that more than half would be less likely to vote for a gubernatorial candidate if his or her job were real estate development. A *Sacramento Bee* series on ties between developers and public officials found that "developers and their allies supplied almost half of the \$3.2 million in campaign funds raised in the last 10 years by the elected Sacramento city and county officials who control local growth."

Phoenix is a good example of the intricacies of the relationships between developers and politicians. For years Phoenix was the developers' Mecca. Then along came a bunch of young mavericks led by Terry Goddard. It was like a handful of Christians trying to seize the Kabah in Mohammed's holy city. The idea of controlled growth in Phoenix was just too laughable to be taken seriously. But Goddard and his cohorts had gauged popular sentiment correctly. Phoenixians were fed up with 325 square miles of random highrises, vacant lots, tangled freeways, and smog often worse than Los Angeles and Denver.

Goddard was elected mayor in November, 1983, and his followers took over the city council. Goddard and the council put together what they called the Village Plan, an urban masterplan that forced developers to consult with the neighborhoods about their development schemes.

Goddard's most important test of strength came in January 1985, when he marshalled his supporters on the city council and forced a developer to scale down by half a huge shopping mall designed for an area north of downtown. The hearings on the project were broadcast on public television, and as one of the commentators put it, "The ratings were better than *Dynasty*."

Now, only a year later, the balance of forces has been reversed completely, and Goddard finds himself on the defensive. The issue this time is another huge development -- virtually a small town with a projected population of 15,000. American Continental wants to build the project ten miles north -- that's right, ten miles north of the Phoenix boundary! Charles Keating, the head of American Continental, wants Phoenix to annex the land and provide his project with services.

Goddard opposed the idea. Neighboring Scottsdale opposed it because it is adjacent to some of its planned open space. Even Carefree, a small town not known for its controlled growth advocates, came out against it.

But Vice Mayor Howard Adams and Goddard's would-be allies on the city council first pushed for an early hearing and then supported the project. Keating, not surprisingly, is known as the largest contributor to



city council races in the history of Phoenix.

Then there is Denver, where Democrat Federico Pena was elected with the support of neighborhood activists. Pena staked his reputation on support for a new convention center on land owned in part by oil millionaire and developer Marvin Davis. Last fall the voters turned it down.

Now Pena is supporting a new shopping mall that is adjacent to an upscale renovated neighborhood. Pena can count some of the most powerful members of Denver's elite among his opponents since a number of them live in the neighborhood and object to the increase in traffic that they say the mall will bring.

In Salt Lake City, Palmer De Paulis, with neighborhood support, defeated a developer in November 1985, to become mayor for his first full term. De Paulis refused to come to the aid of the plans of one developer who made a major contribution to his campaign, but he is supporting a controversial central city project that has more support in the business community. The developer, Williams Realty of Tulsa, Oklahoma, is talking about building a 50-story building, which will be the tallest in the city,

and will add immeasurably to the already booming vacancy rate.

It would be easy to interpret Democratic control of most large Western cities as a forerunner to the long-awaited resurgence of Western Democrats. Controlled growth, however, is one of those idiosyncratic issues, like tax limitation, that pulls together a broad coalition of supporters around an issue that people feel in a very personal way. It is not an issue that can be easily projected into state and national politics and could thus become the basis for a new Democratic politics, particularly given the way politicians backslide on the issue once in office.

For both politicians and the developers, the present situation has its conveniences. Democrats can continue to straddle the fence between their base of support and the developers. That is, they can appear to be both populist and pro-business, an old Democratic trick. The Republicans, with their more exclusively pro-business proclivities, can avoid the crossfire between angry urban dwellers and the developers. And the developers, well, they just want to keep building.

--Robert Gottlieb

If you can't beat them...

Louisiana-Pacific has apparently done an about-face in its criticism of Canadian softwood imports. Though it once called for trade sanctions, L-P is now setting up its own shop north of the border.

According to Gerard Griffin, L-P's director of corporate communications, the Portland-based company hopes to finish construction of a large waferboard plant near Dawson Creek, British Columbia, in late 1986. Griffin said the plant will produce 260 million square feet of waferboard annually and provide 130 direct jobs. He added that support jobs in logging and shipping could bring that total to 400. The main market for the waferboard will be the U.S.

Griffin said that "the Canadian government has been more aggressive than the states" in encouraging his company to invest in a local plant. He cites "better tax advantages, long-

term cutting contracts and employment incentives" as reasons to locate in British Columbia.

In the early 1980s, Louisiana-Pacific was part of a coalition of U.S. softwood lumber producers that protested Canada's timber industry subsidies. The group petitioned the U.S. government to help domestic producers by placing tariffs on Canadian imports.

In an interview, Griffin said that "five or six years ago, I think we did encourage a tariff," but now the company "basically supports President Reagan's free market policies." Griffin said the British Columbia plant project spurred the state of Michigan to offer L-P economic incentives for locating a plant there. As a result, he said, L-P is currently building a waferboard plant near Sagola, Michigan.

--Bruce Farling

HOTLINE

Population losses

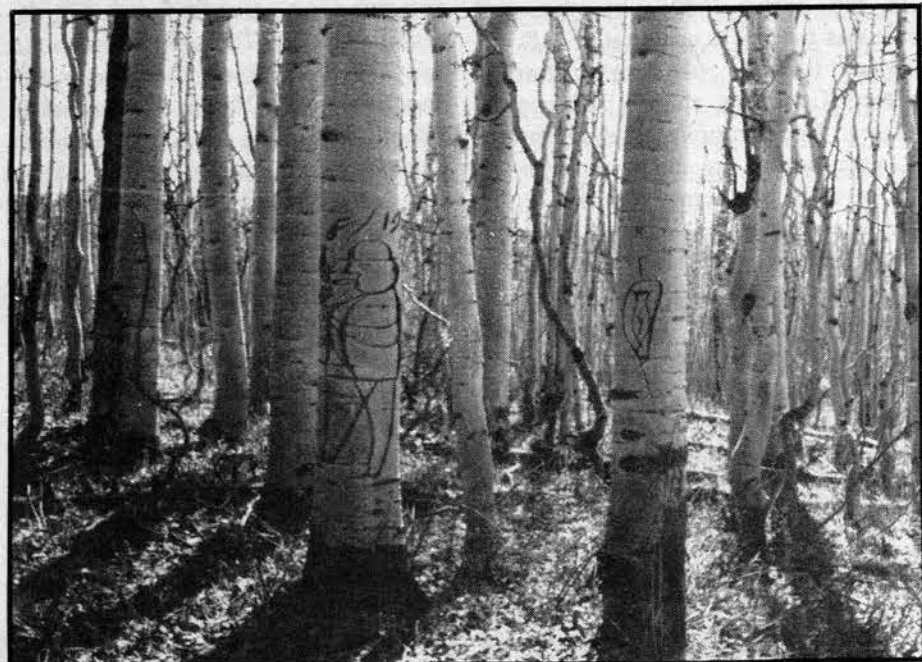
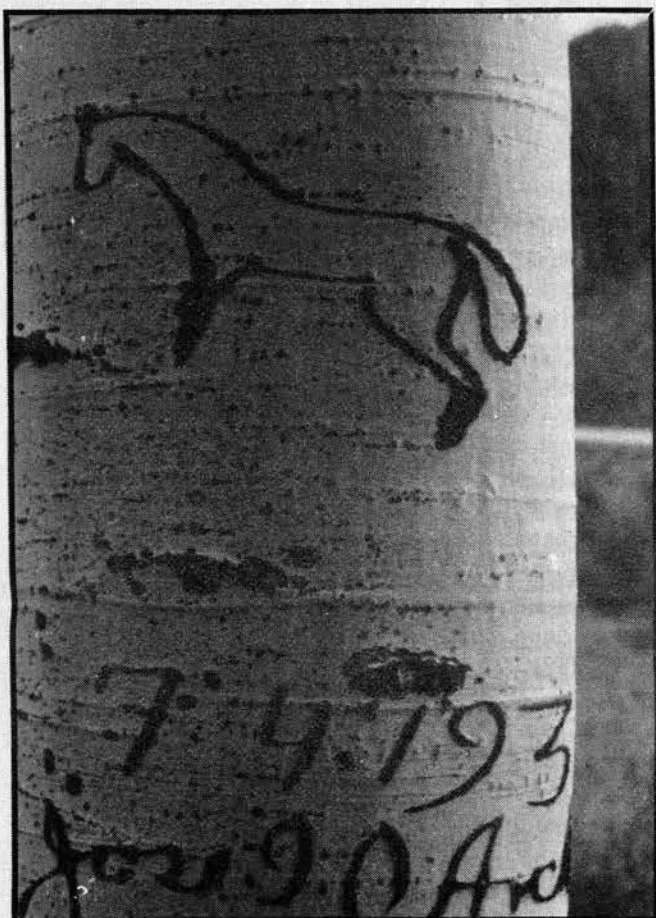
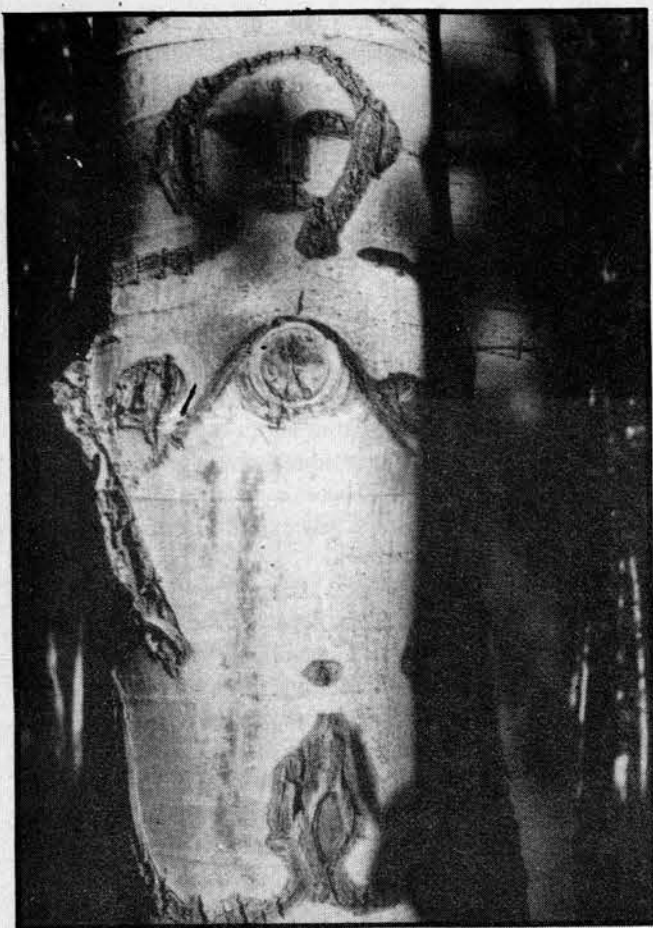
In the wake of Exxon's indefinite delay of phase II of its LaBarge gas project (*HCN*, 3/31/86), the town of Green River in southwest Wyoming is counting its potential losses. According to the *Green River Star*, a survey showed that about 2,000 of the city's 15,000 residents are planning to move when Exxon's phase I ends. In addition, the county could lose an additional 2,000 persons, when Exxon's LaBarge workforce drops from 5,500 construction workers to 200 operating workers. As part of the fallout, the city will not receive up to \$1 million in sales and use tax revenues and \$716,000 in impact funds to help the school district cope with additional students. Among the effects are cancellation of park development, improvements to city hall, and cancellation of several teaching contracts.

The bear statistics

Despite a near-record high number of bear sightings in Montana's Glacier National Park, there were no bear-related deaths or injuries in 1985, report Park Service officials. The last time such trouble-free bear/human relations occurred was in 1973. More recently, there have been 10 injuries and three deaths caused by bears in the park since 1980. A total of 1,781 black or grizzly bears were seen in 1985, a year surpassed only by 1983 in total number of bear sightings. Officials report that the bears exhibited such all-around good behavior that there was only one incident of property damage, even though the number of trail or campgrounds temporarily closed was the third lowest in the last decade. Gary Gregory, Glacier's resource specialist, attributes the absence of bear attacks to cleaner campsites on the part of Glacier's visitors. "We have fewer bears conditioned to associate people with food or garbage... and it is the conditioned bear which causes the most problems." Although he is convinced that Glacier is safer today than it was 15 years ago, Gregory adds that it's a tenuous situation because of garbage problems in the communities surrounding Glacier.

A recovering herd

An antelope herd nearly destroyed by years of uncontrolled hunting may be rebuilt on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. Thirty-seven antelope were recently captured near Riverton and released on the reservation -- the first of 400 to 600 antelope to be transplanted during the next few years. The operation was a cooperative effort between the Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe tribes, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Although the reservation has some of the best antelope habitat in the state, the herd is nearly hunted out. At the request of the Shoshones two years ago, the BIA imposed a game code on the reservation; and compliance by both tribes since then was a major factor in approval of the transplant operation, BIA officials said. Wyoming Game and Fish said if the antelope herd builds up again, hunting may be resumed and there may also be transplants of bighorn sheep and moose.



April 14, 1986 -- High Country News



Sheepherders

by Betsy Marston

Walk around the seemingly endless aspen groves on the Uncompahgre Plateau or San Juan Mountains in western Colorado, and you might find yourself in a sheepherder's art gallery.

There on one aspen tree is the figure of a woman; on another, the carver's name, the date and his hometown; while on another there's a message, as if the tree were a community bulletin board.

There are as many as 10,000 carvings on aspen trees at altitudes of 7,000 feet or more, and most were made between 1910 and 1940, says Polly Hammer. Based in Delta, Colorado, she is the archaeologist for the combined Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison national forests.

Hammer says few people paid any attention to the trees or other modern

remains such as cabins until about 1975. "Until that time archaeologists tended to concentrate on prehistory -- nothing later than 1800. But we began to catch on."

In 1980, Hammer and a three-person summer crew came to an area so rich in aspen carvings that "they finally impinged on our consciousness," she says. Photographs are a major tool in documenting the cultural resources, but she has also done some investigative work as well. One of the more artistic sheepherder-carvers, Pacomio Chacon, 80, is still carving. He lives in the town of Meeker in northwestern Colorado.

Hammer has found that the carvers were mostly Hispanics from southern Colorado or northern New Mexico. There were some Basque shepherds, she says, but most became sheep owners within three years and hired others to replace themselves.



rders' Art Gallery

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Many of the carvings, which
archaeologists have dubbed "dendro-
glyphs" for tree-incising, were done
on trees near open meadows where
the shepherds camped. Before moving
the flock of 500 to 1500 sheep,
shepherds whiled away some of their
free hours carving. There is no doubt
that a shepherd's life was lonely; he
could go for weeks or even months
without seeing another human being.

Using her four summers of work in
the Uncompahgre National Forest as a
guide, Hammer estimates that 50
percent of the carvings are nothing but
names and/or dates, the announce-
ment that 'I was here.' Less than 25
percent are representational drawings
and perhaps 1 percent are porno-
graphic, she says.

"Although the carvings range
from the sacred to the profane, you
won't find crosses overlapping with
naked ladies." One message she
recorded reads: "I was trying to plow

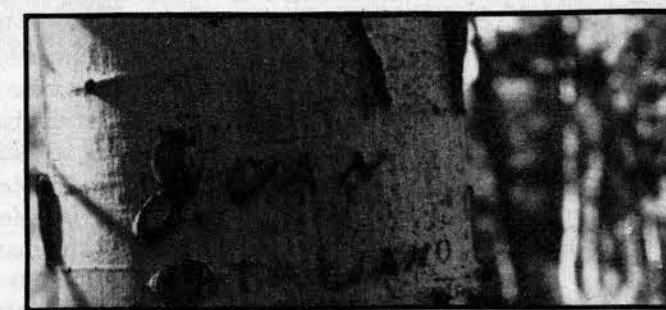
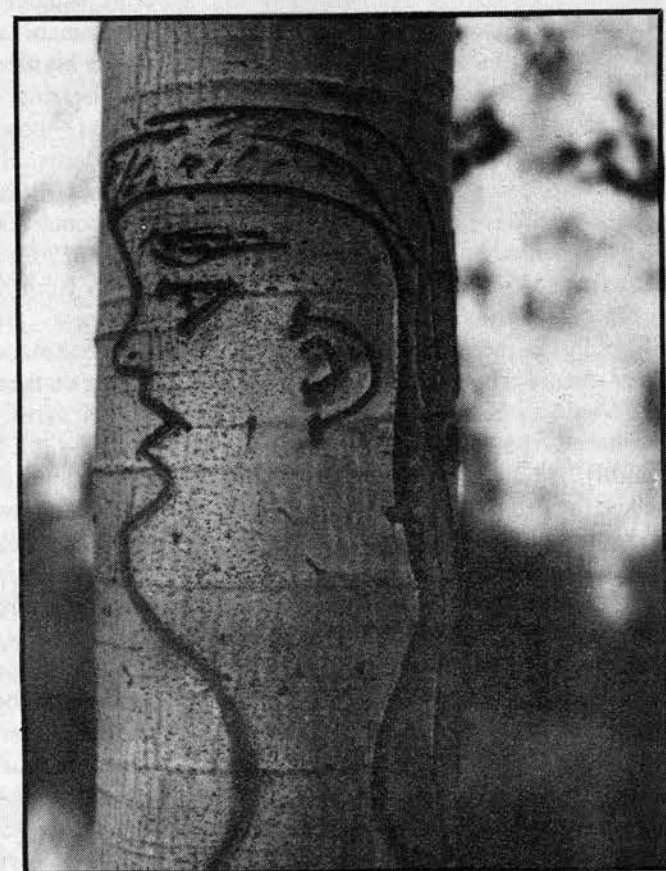
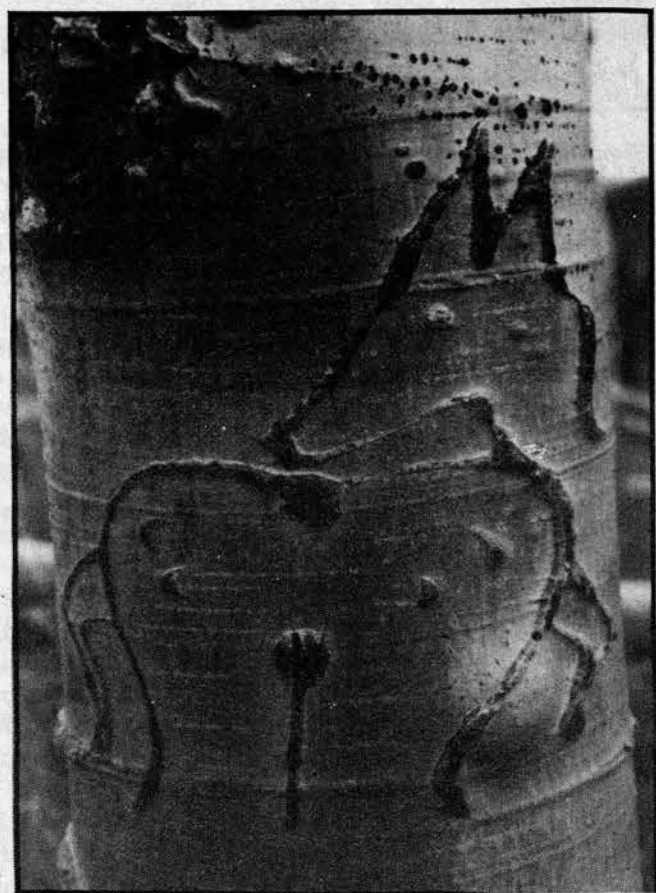
out this road and it's snowing like
heck."

Carving production fell off during
the war years of 1941-46, when most
shepherds became soldiers, Hammer
says, and in any case owners stopped
raising sheep when the price of wool
fell drastically. She says a final
drop-off in carvings occurred in the
late 1950s. One theory to explain the
disappearance is that portable radios
became inexpensive enough for
shepherds to buy.

Will any tree carvings be
preserved? Hammer says no, a tree's
fate is to be cut down or die a natural
death at age 100 or 120. "Now, at
least, we're preserving the informa-
tion."

□

All photos were taken by Polly
Hammer or other Forest Service
employees.



Nevada...

(Continued from page 1)

buy for 82.5 acres of BLM land adjacent to I-15 in Mesquite. Seven months later, on Apr. 1, 1979 a Forest Service realty specialist concluded that both properties were worth \$500 per acre and that an even swap would be equitable.

But on May 18, 1979, when the BLM formally received the exchange application, the chief BLM appraiser in Nevada, Charles Hancock, disqualified the Forest Service appraisal for its lack of integrity.

Several appraisers have since estimated that at that time, the 80 acres of BLM land in Mesquite should have been worth between \$4.8 and \$8 million. Over the next several years, BLM appraisers continued to find fault with land values proposed by Kitchin and Hughes.

Final proposal by Kitchin and Hughes for an equal value swap of their 80 acres of land for a reduced number of acres -- 14.04 -- of BLM land was also quashed by BLM appraisers. Both private and federal appraisers agreed that the 80 acres of private inholding should be valued at \$56,000, but the federal appraisers valued the 14.04 acres of BLM land in Mesquite at \$.5 million. After considering additional comparative sales information, they re-estimated the Mesquite property at roughly \$1.2 million. When BLM balked at the even swap, political pressures came into play.

After several meetings with BLM personnel, during which Ace Robinson, administrative assistant to Nevada Sen. Paul Laxalt, R, spoke on their behalf, Hughes and Kitchin asked for and received a hearing before the U.S. Interior Board of Land Appeals in Arlington, Virginia. Although political inquiries on the behalf of constituents are common, BLM staffers say the involvement of Sen. Laxalt's office in the case was much more intense than normal.

The IBLA hearing took place in February of 1985, and its decision was to remand the case to Administrative Law Judge L.K. Luoma of Sacramento, California, for the purpose of "inquiring into the disparity of values and into the credibility of appraisal techniques" used by a private appraiser, Daniel Leck, who was hired by Kitchin and Hughes.

What was hard to reconcile was Leck's final appraisal of the BLM property. On March 30, 1984, Leck assigned a value of approximately \$4,000 per acre for a total of just \$57,000 for the 14.04 acres of BLM land.

Two months later, Clifton Brownell, a supervisory appraiser with BLM conducted his own appraisal of the BLM property, and he found the same 14.04 acres worth \$.5 million or approximately \$35,600 per acre.

Before appearing before the administrative law judge, Brownell met with BLM regional solicitor Burton Stanley and BLM's chief appraiser for Nevada Charles Hancock, in Reno on April 16, 1985.

According to Brownell, "When we got to Mesquite, we found new sales information which indicated to us that neither my appraisal nor Mr. Leck's even remotely reflected the fair market value of similar properties in Mesquite. We concluded that a new appraisal must be made to comply

with the fair market value portion of the law."

A hearing on the disparities in the appraisals was scheduled for July 18, 1985, in Sacramento, California, before Judge Luoma. Stanley, Hancock and Brownell were sure they could convince Judge Luoma that Leck's appraisal was totally out of line, and that a new appraisal must be made before any sale or exchange of federal land could possibly meet the requirements of the law. But they were wrong.

Stanley made a motion to dismiss the hearing on the ground that the exchange was not in the public interest. Judge Luoma disallowed the motion. Judge Luoma also denied Stanley's motion for a new appraisal.

As testimony was being presented, Luoma was advised that Hughes had to leave for Hawaii the following day. Although BLM personnel had a great deal more information for the record, Luoma ended the hearing that day. And without taking the case under advisement as is the norm, Luoma made his decision immediately after the hearing was completed. Judge Luoma, now retired, favored the appellants, Hughes and Kitchin.

Dick Boland, a developer from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, owns 13 acres in Mesquite along I-15 directly across from the BLM property. In an interview, Boland said: "I figure someone made a million and some odd dollars on that deal -- just that quick. If it's 14 acres, I'll tell you what it's worth -- \$1,200,000. That's exactly what it's worth. And it's a decent buy at a million two.

"We purchased our piece (of land) about 14 years ago when the freeway was going through. We paid \$138,000 then and it was a very good deal for us," Boland said. "We have turned down \$918,000 for our 13 acres. We feel the property is worth \$100,000 per acre -- it must be, for other parcels that are not nearly as well situated as ours have sold for that figure.

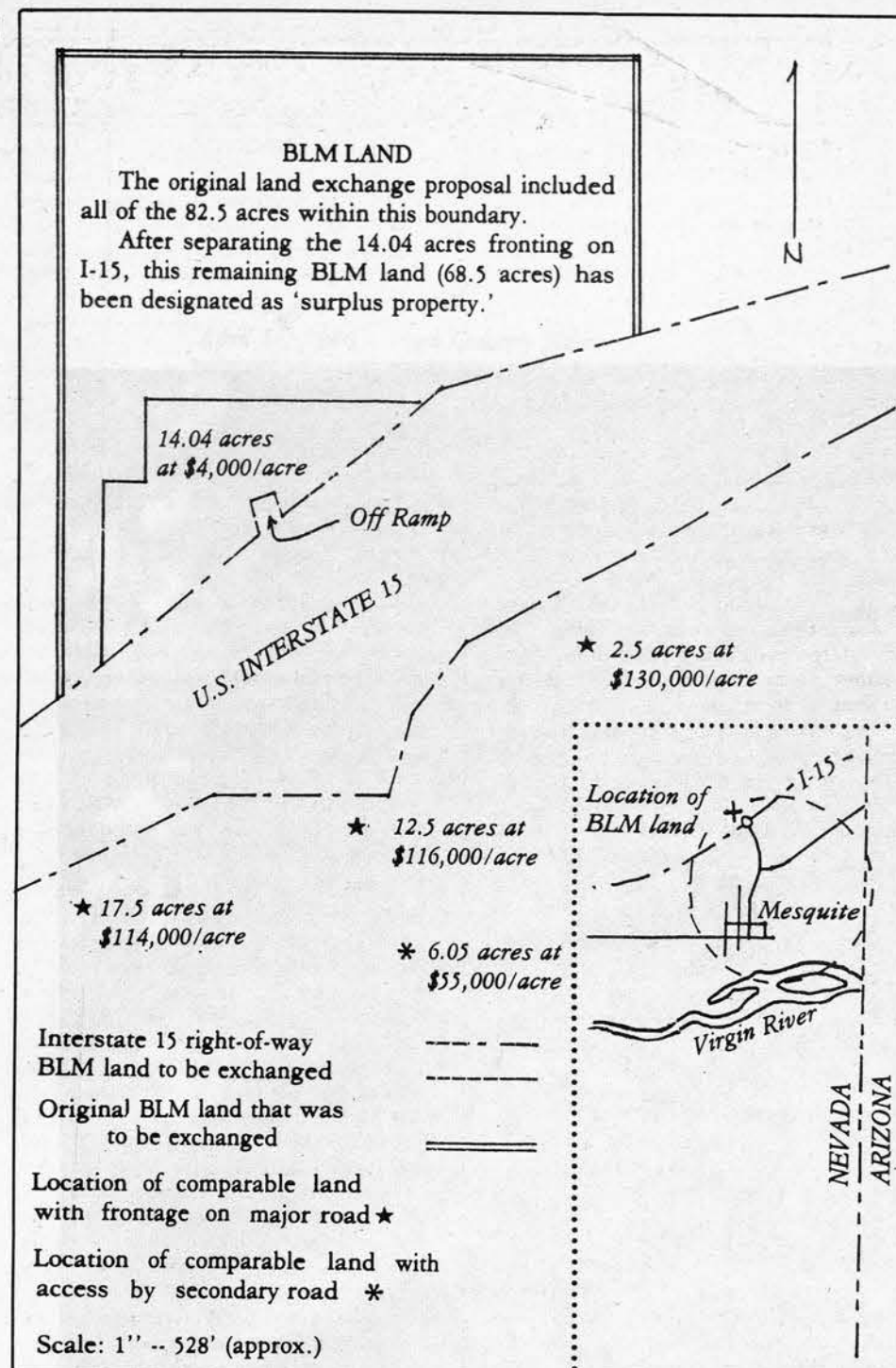
"It is a sweetheart deal, no ifs, ands or buts about it -- not that I'm surprised. We've been in the development business a long time and we know these kinds of things happen. It's just too bad that something like this has to transpire."

Joe Bowler, another property-owner in Mesquite, said, "At a minimum, that piece of property is worth \$50,000 to \$60,000 per acre. If that 14.04 acres is selling for \$56,000, it's a steal. They are getting a heck of a deal. I can show you comparable sales all the way through town that are more than \$50,000 per acre."

"I own 17.2 acres next to Dick Boland's," he added. "A number of years ago, U.S. Homes wanted to purchase it for \$500,000 and we feel fortunate now that the sale wasn't completed. If that's the price they (the BLM) arrived at, it's scandalous."

Burton J. Stanley, the regional solicitor for BLM, agreed. "Only Congress can stop this thing now. The property is worth a great deal more than the value assigned by the appellants."

Brownell, the BLM's appraisal specialist, was clearly shocked by the course of events, and in particular, by the final decision of Judge Luoma to "...allow the transaction to go through without assigning the fair market value and by not addressing the most important issue, the best interest of the public..." Brownell said this in a



lengthy memo to his superiors in Washington, D.C., with copies to the Nevada BLM offices.

Six pages of the 10-page memo, dated July 30, 1985, included pertinent facts which Judge Luoma had never allowed into the record. In his memo, Brownell described the abrupt ending of the hearing without giving the solicitor adequate time to cross-examine Leck, the appellant's private appraiser.

Brownell listed 10 examples of real estate sales and offerings in Mesquite that pointed out values as high as \$116,000 per acre for comparable land. He factually discredited the Leck appraisal and recommended an appeal of the decision or cancellation of the land exchange on the basis that the transaction "...would certainly not comply with the FLPMA requirement to obtain fair market value for public lands and resources. The exchange is not in the public interest."

Brownell concluded his memo by warning that the consummation of the land exchange "...would also lay BLM open to audit by GAO (the Government Accounting Office) and other review boards." As a final warning he added, "I would hope that there are still people around in these offices who remember the Moss hearings regarding (questionable practices and abuses of) land exchanges in Arizona in the early 1960s and how BLM's authority to approve land exchanges was withdrawn and held in the Department of Interior for a period of about 15 years."

D.C.), failed to return numerous phone queries about the BLM land exchange. A call to the BLM Chief of Lands, Vincent Hecker, met with the same result.

Robert Stewart, information officer for the Nevada BLM office, was repeatedly asked if it were Spang's position that the BLM land transaction in Mesquite was in the best interest of the public. Each time Stewart responded by saying, "The decision has been made not to appeal the administrative law judge decision."

According to sources within the BLM, the agency has already spent an estimated \$150,000 on the land exchange. If the exchange is completed, the federal government stands to lose substantially more. The problem, as federal appraisers explained, is one of access. The sale of 14.04 acres to Kitchin and Hughes severs 68.46 acres from access and as a result, the property will have little value to anyone other than Kitchin and Hughes.

Kitchin and Hughes have recently submitted their deeds and all that stands in the way of completing the transaction is patent processing. But four involved BLM employees agree that a congressional investigation should be conducted into the exchange -- that Congress should take steps to assure that the taxpayers' best interest is being served and that the U.S. Treasury is receiving fair market value for the resources disposed of by federal agencies.

Nevada State BLM Director Edward Spang and Chief Appraiser Dave Cavanaugh (Brownell's superior in Washington,

Phil Taylor is a freelance writer who lives in Hamilton, Montana. This article was paid for by the High Country News Research Fund.

BULLETIN BOARD

"THIS IS THE CANYON WHERE THE OLD ONES LEFT THEIR BONES"

--Klamath Canyon

The city of Klamath Falls, Oregon, wants to build a third hydroelectric dam on the Klamath River. The proposed Salt Caves would threaten the Klamath's status as one of the top trout-producing streams in the country and tame the last wild stretch of the river, which winds from its headwaters near Crater Lake to the northern California coast. The dam's powerhouse would also cover over 40 archaeological sites dating back as far as 8,500 years. Elliott Gehr, anthropologist in charge of testing the site, says the area was once a great fishing village with "probably thousands" of Shasta and Klamath Indians there when the abundant salmon were running. To stimulate opposition to the dam, Lane County Commissioner Jerry Rust has written a poem about his experiences while working on Gehr's dig last August. It's been published as a small book called *Klamath Canyon*, and it is available for \$3 from Hulogo'i, Inc., 454 Willamette, Eugene, OR 97401 (503/343-0606).



MARVIN WOOD

WILD IDAHO CONFERENCE

The Idaho Conservation League will hold a three-day conference on "Wild Idaho" May 16-18, focusing on the state's threatened wildlands and wildlife at Red Fish Lake Lodge, adjacent to the Sawtooth Wilderness. Workshops will look at the current status of preservation within 9 million wild acres under Forest Service jurisdiction, at BLM wilderness preservation efforts, gray wolves, woodland caribou, grizzly bears, chinook salmon and rare plants. Conservation writer Michael Frome will be the keynote speaker. The cost is \$35 for ICL members, \$50 for non-members, and that includes food, lodging, workshops and entertainment. For reservations, write the Wood River Chapter of the Idaho Conservation League, Box 2671, Ketchum, ID 83340.

YELLOWSTONE YOUTH

Recruiting for Yellowstone National Park's 1986 Youth Conservation Corps Program began March 17. The corps is looking for 15 to 18-year-olds to work, learn and earn money while helping the park. The eight-week session runs from June 22 through August 16 and participants will live inside Yellowstone. Applications must be received no later than April 30, and all participants will be selected from Montana or Wyoming. There are also adult positions open for camp director, recreation director and crew leaders. Applicants must be 19 or older. For more information and applications contact the Visitor Services Office, Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, or call 307/344-7381.

WILD HORSES

The debate over wild horses in the West's high deserts and mountains has been ongoing for decades. A valuable book for background on the issue is Heather Smith Thomas' *The Wild Horse Controversy*, published in 1979. Thomas' book provides an authoritative history of the animal from its first appearance in the West in the 16th century to some of the controversies during the 1970s. Thomas examines in detail some of the problems associated with wild horses and burros -- competition with native species and livestock, range destruction through overgrazing, and starvation that comes from overpopulation -- as well as some of the court battles and federal legislation concerning the wild horse.

A.S. Barnes and Company, Cranbury, NJ 08512. Hardcover: \$19.95. 284 pages. Illustrated with maps and photos.

HAULING HOT WASTES

Utah's High-Level Nuclear Waste Office has prepared a 13-page review called *The Transportation of Spent Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste*. The document is part of information being gathered by the state in response to Department of Energy plans to ship spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to a repository for permanent disposal, beginning in 1998. DOE has identified two potential sites in Utah, Davis and Lavender Canyons near Canyonlands National Park, as well as in five other states, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Nevada and Washington. The report covers six main categories, including potential impacts on the state, background information on transportation of spent fuel, the proposed transportation system, federal regulations, insurance coverage and state and local involvement in regulating transportation. For a copy of the document or more detailed information on any of the six categories, contact the High-Level Nuclear Waste Office, 355 West North Temple, 3 Triad Center, Suite 330, Salt Lake City, UT 84180, or call 801/538-5545.

WHOSE OX?

To those interested in conservation, the first issue of 1986 of *Canada Today* may seem to discuss only on which side of the U.S.-Canada boundary destructive logging will take place. But the glossy 16-page publication contains a great deal of interesting information despite single-minded pursuit of its mission: to prove that there is no need for a tariff on Canadian lumber. U.S. producers have been arguing for a tariff. They say that steep rises in Canadian lumber exports to the U.S. (about 30 percent in 1984) are due to government subsidies -- cheap stumpage fees the Canadian government charges logging companies. *Canada Today* disagrees. It says Canadian lumber is making inroads into the U.S. because: it is often of a higher quality; Canadian mill workers produce substantially more lumber per hour worked because Canadian firms have invested heavily in modernization; and the U.S. has forced up rail rates through the Merchant Marine, or Jones Act of 1920, which requires use of U.S. ships between U.S. ports. The result, the article says, is that lumber firms can't afford to ship by water, and so the railroads have no competition. Some Canadian lumber goes by sea, however, and that keeps the railroads honest. A copy of Volume 17, Number 1, or a subscription to *Canada Today* is available free in the U.S. by writing: *Canada Today*, Canadian Embassy, Room 300, 1771 N St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

HOW APPEALING

How to Appeal a Forest Plan is a new handbook from The Wilderness Society "for activists involved in the forest planning process." To obtain a free copy, write Denise Hayman at The Wilderness Society, 1400 Eye St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202/842-3400).



Flammulated Owls

CLOUD RIDGE NATURALISTS

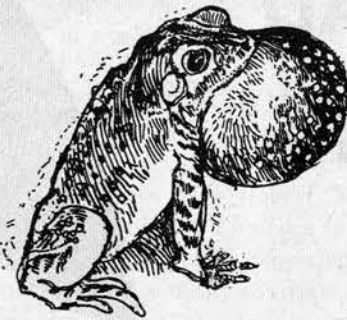
The 1986 field seminar brochure from Cloud Ridge Naturalists is now available. It details a wide variety of courses available in the natural sciences, including Stars Over Canyonlands, which is held at Dead Horse Point State Park in Utah, Life at the Edge of the Sea, held in Trinidad, California, and Rocky Mountain Butterflies, based at Rocky Mountain National Park and Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. Most seminars are two days to a week, but longer sessions are available if you can travel to Alaska, Hawaii and Christmas Island. For a free brochure, write Cloud Ridge Naturalists, Overland Star Route, Ward, CO 80481.

WILDERNESS MEDICINE

The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) of Lander, Wyoming, will hold a three-day Wilderness Medicine Symposium in Jackson on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 13-15. The first two days will deal with soft tissue injuries, fractures and vertebral injuries, head injuries, heart and lung disorders, etc. There will also be discussions of safety issues in outdoor programs, helicopter rescues, litters and carries. The third day will cover animal bites, substance abuse, psychological reactions to wilderness, water disinfection, gastrointestinal disorders, stomachaches, burns, altitude physiology. Speakers include prominent physicians and mountaineers such as Yvon Chouinard, Peter Hackett, Jim Wilderson, who wrote *Medicine for Mountaineering*, and Tod Schimelpfenig, safety director for NOLS. The registration fee before May 15 is \$135 (\$120 for those who work for non-profit organizations). After May 15, it jumps to \$175. Contact NOLS, Box AA-WMS, Lander, WY 82520 (307/332-6973).

THREE CONSERVATIONISTS HONORED

Bob Marshall, Anna Comstock and Olaus Murie were honored posthumously by the National Wildlife Federation as portraits of the three were recently hung in the organization's Conservation Hall of Fame. The ceremony helped commemorate NWF's 50th anniversary. Bob Marshall, for whom the wilderness in Montana is named, was director of forestry for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., before serving as head of the Forest Service's Division of Recreation. He was instrumental in establishing the Wilderness Society in 1935. Anna Comstock became an assistant professor of nature study at Cornell in 1898 and was the first woman appointed to the faculty. She published a *Handbook of Nature Study* in 1911 and is considered the founder of environmental education. Olaus Murie was a conservation officer with the Oregon State Game Commission in 1912 and became field naturalist and curator of mammals in 1912 for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh two years later. Murie conducted field research in Alaska during the 1920s, and his later studies of elk in North America led to understanding the predator-prey relationship.



\$2 GUIDE TO WILDLIFE

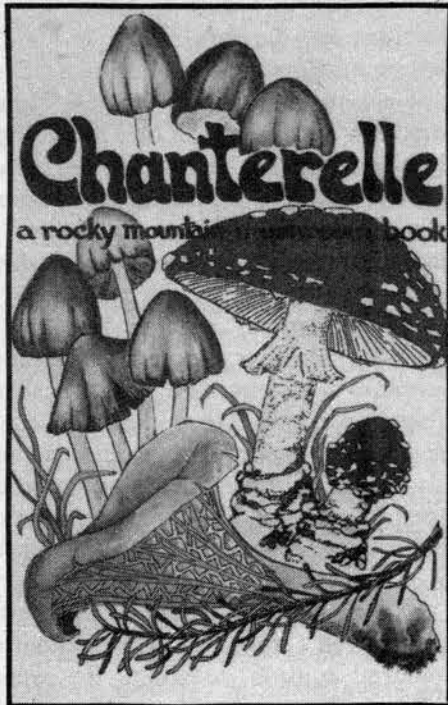
The fourth edition of a *Guide to Colorado's State Wildlife Areas*, containing maps and lists of property managed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, is available from the Division for \$2 postpaid. Just send a check payable to *Colorado Outdoors*, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216. People are advised to write "Guide to State Wildlife Areas" on the memo line of their checks and to include their name and address on the outside of the envelope as well as on a separate piece of paper inside the envelope. Copies of the publication are also available at Division of Wildlife offices in Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Durango, Montrose, Grand Junction and Denver.

MYTHBUSTERS

A new booklet, *Mythbusters #1: Demand/Forecasting* takes aim at electric utility forecasting and such myths as the belief that the only way to meet an increasing need for electricity is to invest in more coal and nuclear power plants. This is the first in a series of quarterly mythbusters the Safe Energy Communication Council says it has created to respond to the multi-million-dollar advertising campaigns of industry advocates, such as the U.S. Committee for Energy Awareness. To receive a free copy of each quarterly mythbusters analysis, write *The Safe Energy Communication Council*, 1609 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20009 (202/483-8491).

ALL ABOUT RAPTORS

Managing the Southwest's raptors will be the topic of a symposium and workshop for land and wildlife managers, held at the University of Arizona in Tucson May 21-24. The symposium is the first of five on regional raptor management, and is cosponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and the Arizona chapter of the Wildlife Society. Pre-registration is \$45, and there will be an additional \$10 for registration after April 1. For more information write William Mannan, School of Renewable Natural Resources, 214 Biological Sciences East Building, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.



...WITH AN EYE FOR MUSHROOMS

Chanterelle, a Rocky Mountain Mushroom Book, by Millie Miller and Cyndi Nelson is a handy, four by six inch guide for the hiker with an eye for the most common and easily identified mushrooms. More specifically, it is for the hiker who wants to keep a stomach steady by eating edible mushrooms only. The drawings are colorful and detailed.

Johnson Books, 1880 South 57th St., Boulder, CO 80301, \$4.95, paper, no page numbers.

TRAVELLING PESTICIDES

The Interior Department reported recently that 19 areas in the West will be investigated further for irrigation drainage-related water quality problems. Potential contaminants in irrigation drainage that cause the most concern are pesticides and elevated levels of naturally occurring trace elements. Last December, when Interior reviewed 23 sites with high levels of selenium, one area at Kesterston National Wildlife Refuge in California showed toxic effects to fish and wildlife from selenium. For copies of the report, call the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at 202/343-4457.

GRIZZLY HUNTING

A recently released environmental impact statement by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department puts a limit of 21 human-caused grizzly bear deaths per year. State biologists, working with the assumption that seven grizzly killings go unreported each year, have set a ceiling of 14 reported deaths, including those during the state's grizzly season. Even with 21 grizzly killings a year, wildlife officials expect an increase in the bear's population, which is now estimated to be between 356 and 549 bears. The EIS also recommends that no more than eight females be killed in a year, and that females with cubs and young bears be excluded from the hunting season. For a copy of the EIS write to the Montana FWP Department, Wildlife Division, 1420 East Sixth Ave., Helena MT 59620.

WCC GET TOGETHER

The Western Colorado Congress will host Colorado Rep. Mike Strang, R, State Sen. Martha Ezzard, R, and State Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, D, all candidates for office, in a discussion about how to reverse the decline of agriculture. WCC will also elect officers, adopt resolutions and soak in the Ouray hot pool for half-price May 17 at the town's Community Center. Helen Walter, National Chair of Save the Family Farm Coalition, will keynote the event. The public is invited. For more information, contact Lynda Alfred at WCC, P.O. Box 472, Montrose, CO 81402 (303/249-1978).

OFF THE WALL**Reserve your condo now at Stapleton Airport**

by Ed Marston

An enterprising reporter has uncovered the secret of low air fares out of Stapleton Airport. United, Peoples, Continental, et al, are indeed losing money on each ticket sold. But they are simultaneously raking in enormous commissions from parking lots, news stands, food dispensers (there are no restaurants, as the word is generally understood, at airports), and bars.

The air fares are loss leaders: they get customers into the terminal, at the mercy of concessionaires. Whenever the airlines choose, they can hype the cash flow by arranging delays. In a few hours, the trapped, desperate travelers have fed a fortune into pay telephones, ice cream stands, nearby hotels, and cabs. Once their income targets have been reached, the airlines set the planes flying.

The terminal success led the airlines to question whether they had to continue as mere conduits to and from ski areas, beaches and cruise ships. Airports, they figured, could become destination resorts. An airline executive who is also a ski enthusiast said he got the idea after spending \$26 at Vail for his transportation (a lift ticket) and several hundred dollars for lodging, food and liquor.

"We shouted Eureka! when it hit us." Developers have already committed several hundred million dollars to the construction of condominiums at Stapleton using air rights above the parking lots. Similar plans are underway for each major airport.

A marketing survey backs the idea. Few people, the experts discovered, want to go somewhere or do something. They vacation only because they're supposed to. It's part of their benefit package. Plus, they have to be able to tell their friends: I spent Christmas in Maui.

What's the most exciting part of the average person's vacation? The survey found it is the trip to and from the resort. Battling traffic to the airport, finding the terminal, getting jostled by crowds, getting bumped from a flight, arranging an alternative flight, jockeying seven huge carry-ons aboard the plane, being surrounded by screaming babies in the air -- that's where the excitement and joy is. That's where people feel alive.

"Packing the terminals and planes isn't a drawback -- it creates stress and excitement that people love," said the airline spokesman. "It's like Vegas with the ringing bells and revolving lights."

Airport operators are also noticing that a relic of the 1940s and 1950s is making a comeback; non-travelers are coming to the airports. But they couldn't care less about watching a 747 take off. They want to participate in the life of the terminals. Some get a sadistic kick out of watching people miss flights and stand in line for hours trying to get new ones. Others just love the action.

That told the experts there is a market for airport vacations. The "airporters," as they were dubbed, could argue with the Hari Krishnas one minute and kid the Larouchians the next. They could ride the rental car buses to their heart's

content. They could buy "Wow I'm Great" coffee cups at the gift stand and send them to friends all over the country.

The survey turned up one problem, but the airlines turned it into opportunity. Airporters crave action. They need motion. They love packing and unpacking, departing and arriving. As a result, the emphasis will be on time-share condos. The timesharing won't come in two week chunks. To an airporter, two weeks is an eternity. They will timeshare for a day or so, then jet off to their next airport condo.

How will this vacation of the future work? A family from Sacramento might fly directly to a Newark Airport condo, and then work its way back West, spending a couple of days at the Cleveland Airport, a day or so at Minot (North Dakota) International Airport for a rural flavor, and end up with a weekend at McCarren Airport (Las Vegas) before jetting home. Others will prefer a southern vacation, starting at Miami Airport before jetting on to New Orleans, Dallas-Fort Worth, and L.A.

Cultural vacationers will visit airports in Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Boston. "Under no circumstances," the airlines say, "will airporters leave the airport. We'll have neat little photo exhibits in the terminals of what people would see if they went downtown."

The spokesmen said it would be several years before Airport Destination Resorts are in place. But they also said they are inevitable. "We've rediscovered McLuhan's thesis: 'The medium is the message.'"

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BOOKS

State of the World 1986

State of the World 1986

Lester R. Brown, and William U. Chandler, Christopher Flavin, Cynthia Pollock, Sandra Postel, Linda Starke, Edward C. Wolf. *A Worldwatch Institute Report on Progress Toward a Sustainable Society*, W.W. Norton, 500 5th Ave., New York, 1986. 250 pages. \$8.95, paper.

Review by Ed Marston

Attempts to provide a global overview of the world's challenges and opportunities almost always fail. *State of the World 1986* by the Washington, D.C., based Worldwatch Institute is a shining exception to that rule.

This 11 chapter book is solidly based on research done by the Institute and issued periodically in the form of Worldwatch Papers. In *State of the World*, the work done by the Institute's staff becomes grist for the integrative mill of Lester R. Brown, who is Worldwatch's president.

Eight of the 11 chapters in the book deal with specific issues -- tobacco (the world's major addictive drug and a prolific killer), the (fuddy-duddy) electric power industry, the world's wasted rangelands, the successful global effort to decrease dependence

on oil, the plight of the world's children, reversing Africa's decline, and so on.

If you missed the Worldwatch Papers, those chapters will interest you. But the real jewels in the book are the three overview chapters Brown has written or co-written. The first two draw up parallel balance sheets: one economic, one ecological. The third deals with national security.

The bottom lines of the balance sheets are that the mounting economic red ink of the U.S. and other debtor nations are accompanied by mounting ecological debt. While economic debt can have serious consequences, it does not have the harrowing implications of desertification, deforestation, silted streams, polluted water and exhausted soils. As Brown points out, if a farm goes bankrupt, the land is still there for someone to work. But if the soil is exhausted or eroded, then the farm is no good to anyone.

Brown also treats the U.S. and U.S.S.R. quest for national security through the building of weapons. Both nations, he writes, are bankrupting themselves -- economically and ecologically -- in their search for bigger and better weapons. But at least the Big Two are presently only

choosing stagnation over progress when they spend billions on defense. The smaller nations which ape them are often choosing between weapons and the mass starvation that results from ecological neglect.

Not all nations are choosing guns over a sound economy. Japan is the shining example of a nation that has kept its defense expenditures tiny while its merchants and engineers conquer the world. The U.S. says Japan is getting a free ride on U.S. armaments, but the same cannot be said of China. That nation shares a tense 1,900-mile border with the U.S.S.R. Yet, over the past decade, it has cut its defense spending by half, as a percentage of GNP. The Chinese people have responded with great increases in agricultural productivity, reclamation of environmentally damaged areas and modernization of the economy.

Some readers stay away from global overviews for fear of being further depressed. The Worldwatch study has its depressing moments, but it is notable for a can-do, optimistic approach. That attitude probably flows naturally out of the book's attention to the activities of people, rather than to institutions or legislatures. It talks of the need for

State of the World

A Worldwatch Institute Report on Progress Toward a Sustainable Society

people to stop smoking, of the importance of grass-roots forestry efforts, of the importance of birth control and literacy, and so on. It is Worldwatch's implicit thesis that global health starts with on-the-ground action, rather than with edicts from on high.

The book points no political or social fingers. But its message is clear. Those who seek to conserve the earth's resources, to cleanse its air and water, to renew its soil and to stop the arms buildup are the true warriors -- the true defenders of national security. Those who rend at the earth, who squander resources on bombs and unneeded power plants, and who promote the poisoning of people by subsidizing tobacco are the real threats to our national security.

The origin of the West's wilderness areas

Forever Wild

Philip G. Terrie. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1985. 209 pages. \$24.95, cloth.

Review by Peter Wild

We rugged Westerners aren't likely to give much credit to English philosopher Edmund Burke for our view of the great outdoors. We aren't likely, either, to think of far-off New York's Adirondack State Park as the first child of the wilderness ethic.

We, after all, have our Aldo Leopold and our John Muir, our Yosemite and Yellowstone, and in New Mexico's Gila Wilderness, the first designation of its kind in the world. Yet we may need to give credit where credit is due.

Philip G. Terrie argues that the long and complex history of the Adirondack Park in upstate New York is the best place to capture the evolution of the wilderness idea that has spread across the nation. Origins of cultural changes are slippery things, but Terrie notes an 18th century essay by Burke in which he defined the sublime as having qualities of vastness and ruggedness that produce awe in the beholder.

That view of landscape is precisely what the first travelers, many of them steeped in Burke, brought to the Adirondacks. They described the wild area of shaggy peaks and melancholy swamps in Burkean terms as "awful," "gloomy," "terrifying."

The remote Adirondacks retained these qualities well into the 19th century. It was such a terra incognita that early Dutch settlers to the south thought that unicorns frolicked there. In other words, the Adirondacks were a good place for our Eastern ancestors to visit and be piqued by the thrill of the sublime. But that didn't make

conservationists of them. The Adirondacks were more a passing oddity than a place of intrinsic value. When, about the time of the Civil War, loggers started hacking away at it, well, the nation had more than enough wilderness to go around.

Or so it was thought. The slow realization that, like everything else, wilderness was finite, that if left unprotected it would disappear, forms the focus of the book.

Documenting the shift could make for dull reading. Terrie combats that by bringing in local characters, such as a popular outdoor writer of the last century, George Washington Sears. Wielding his pen under the pseudonym "Nessmuk," he railed against rampant logging. One of his

passages tells of trees lifting their "broken arms toward heaven in ghastly protest against the arboreal murderers." In the 1840s there was the Rev. Joel T. Headley, driven from civilization by "an attack on the brain" -- we can only guess what that meant -- to seek the blessings of the mountains.

They and their tribe are Easterners all. But there's a Western connection, too. Foremost among the Adirondacks' protectors was Robert Marshall. New York born, a founder of the Wilderness Society, he nevertheless reminds us of his many contributions beyond the Mississippi by giving his name to the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana.

Forever Wild

Environmental Aesthetics
and the
Adirondack Forest Preserve
Philip G. Terrie

OPINION



"O.K. WHERE DO YOU WANT IT MAC?"

14-High Country News -- April 14, 1986

LETTERS

BLASTS BABBITT

Dear HCN,

Regarding your 3/17/86 issue, giving us the contents of a *New York Times* article: Enough! If Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt ever makes it to presidential candidate, people who care about the West should know what an environmental phony he is. He talks real good, but keep your eye on the bouncing ball of what he actually does. During the Sagebrush Rebellion, Gov. Babbitt was quoted many times as saying, "When you rip the mask off the Sagebrush Rebellion, those behind it are the ranchers, mining companies and timber folks who have been grabbing Western land since the old days." Here at home in Arizona, if you'd ripped the covers off the governor, he was working hard to get a bill passed releasing urban state land for private development. He got it passed.

I guess we can say our governor proved what he was saying about the Sagebrush Rebellion: "Don't give the lands to me; I'll sell them." In the last few months, *High Country News* has reported on several environmental problems facing us here in Arizona and in all cases Gov. Babbitt is sitting on the opposite side. Let me tell you some of his eight-year record.

Endangered species? Gov. Babbitt did one better when he was pushing construction of the Orme Dam, which not only would have wiped out bald eagles, our national symbol, but an entire culture, the diminished Yavapai tribe of Fort McDowell, who had been moved in the past for six existing dams. Today, Gov. Babbitt is fighting hard for construction of the Cliff Dam which will give him another swipe at the bald eagles and rare remaining riparian habitat.

Forests? I wish our great hiker would show some action against the U.S. Forest Service's plans to increase timber-cutting. Arizona's forests have been cut and managed for timber production more intensively than any others in the West.

Over-grazing? Remember the political hatchet job done on Gary McVickers, BLM area manager, who tried to do his job and ran afoul of some Arizona ranchers? Where was Gov. Babbitt? Not seen. Today, even though farming and ranching contribute less than 2 percent of Arizona's personal income, our governor is invisible on the issues of over-grazing and the low price of grazing fees while the cows go about their destructive ways.

Scenic rivers? The normally dry Salt River, close to the governor's office, is full of garbage dumps being used every day. No law against dumping in river channels in Arizona. Air quality? Phoenix, capital of Arizona, has some of the nation's most polluted air and higher levels of carbon monoxide than any other metro area except one. The Phelps-Dodge smelter in southern Arizona is the largest single source of sulfur dioxide emissions in the West. Water quality? Last December a *Phoenix Gazette* columnist described him aptly: Gov. Babbitt heard but not seen on water quality legislation; lots of talk and little action.

Hazardous wastes? Only one inspector for the whole state to check

for illegal dumps. Think we're keeping up? Pesticide control? Arizona farms use four times more pesticide per acre than the national average. Ask the Arizona Farm Workers Union or Gila Bend school children who got sprayed about loopholes in our state pesticide laws. Central Arizona Project? Only special interest politicians like Gov. Babbitt would push continued funding from Washington for an energy-consuming design making water run backwards uphill for 370 miles across the Arizona desert to grow surplus cotton.

Carolina Butler
Scottsdale, Arizona

NO ON LOGGING

Dear HCN,

In reading Mollie Matteson's fine article on the Rocky Mountain Front, I was surprised and dismayed to discover that my good friend, John Gatchell, believes that post and pole cutting could be permitted in a Badger-Two Medicine wilderness. Congress, obviously, can write anything it wants into wilderness legislation, but there are better ways of protecting Blackfeet treaty rights than allowing logging in wilderness. Frankly, the logging option is not one that I can support.

One possible solution would be purchasing the development rights from the tribe. Another, perhaps better, would be securing from the tribe a conservation easement for fair compensation. That way, wilderness values would not be diluted, unfortunate precedents would not be established, yet valid treaty rights would be recognized and given their due.

I urge my conservationist colleagues to withdraw their support for the post and pole-cutting scheme. It is not compatible with wilderness, and it is not necessary.

James R. Conner
Chairman, Flathead Group,
Sierra Club
Kalispell, Montana

BACKCOUNTRY WORKERS

Dear HCN,

The Backcountry Workers Association would like to respond to the article on volunteers in national parks and forests that appeared in *HCN* on March 3, 1986.

The Backcountry Workers Association was formed two years ago to promote the wise and consistent management of the wildlands resource. We are seasonal wilderness rangers and trail crew foremen. One of our primary goals is to foster professionalism and continuity in wildland management. Our main assumption is that quality management depends on a core of skilled, committed backcountry workers that return from year to year.

We're not succeeding with this goal. The Forest Service has reduced the number of seasonal workers every year for the last several years. Forest Service plans call for the total elimination of the seasonal work force if Gramm-Rudman goes into full effect.

The article on volunteers suggests that the problem is one of "legislative

neglect." The problem isn't the budget cuts, from our point of view, but rather how much of the budget reaches the ground. Less than 15 percent of wilderness-recreation funds go to on-the-ground management in some areas of the Northern Region of the Forest Service. The greatest share of the budget goes to administrative salaries.

There's definitely a place for the volunteer program, but it should be one that augments a professional, seasonal work force. Administrators have sought to save money in recent years by replacing paid seasonal workers with volunteers. This usually means replacing skilled backcountry workers with several years of experience, with unskilled labor. It doesn't work, as we know from somewhat bitter experience. It neither saves money nor gets the job done.

So be careful, volunteers. We know you mean well, but make sure before you volunteer that you will be working with skilled, seasonal employees, not displacing them.

Don Baty
Missoula, Montana

The writer is chairman of the Backcountry Workers Association.

TO CALM TROUBLED WATERS

Dear HCN,

I was struck by Tom Wolf's letter in the March 17 issue, regarding intramural warfare within the environmental movement. As I read Tom's letter he finds some connection between the environmental movement's "religiosity" or self-righteousness, and the volume of intra-organizational strife (typified currently by the FOE turbulence) and inter-organizational contests (noted, e.g., in *HCN*'s coverage of recent battles in Utah over wilderness protection strategies).

My observations, and personal experience, lead me to conclude that an enormous -- certainly inordinate -- amount of energy within the environmental movement is dissipated in internal jousting. Environmentalists here on the Front Range have attempted to deal with that issue, in part, by creating an "Environmental Caucus" which meets on a regular monthly basis to address water-related issues. It serves to keep people in a variety of organizations -- some 17 -- in reasonably close communication with one another. Over the last four years the Caucus has managed to generate a fair amount of good will, one group towards another, and at the least has served to ameliorate, from time to time, festering bad feelings.

That same recipe (i.e., better lines of communication) would do much, I think, to avoid the kinds of intra-organizational battles that are now taking place at FOE -- and indeed in other environmental organizations which have headquarters in one place (often Washington, D.C.) and field offices in another. In addition, for maintaining good inter-organizational relationships, and avoiding territorial and personality battles, it is my view that more forums like the "Environmental Caucus" might serve the environmental community well. The availability of some environmental mediation service might also be useful in resolving the internecine conflicts which seem to regularly plague the environmental community.

That leaves open one other major issue, not unrelated to Tom Wolf's identification of the parochialism and/or "piety" of the environmental community, which has also in my view contributed to moral and political frailty. And that is its reluctance to meld "environmental" concerns to complimentary concerns about social equity -- particularly "quality of life" issues in the urban, workplace and rural/agricultural environments. One day, hopefully before it's too late, environmental groups will begin to join forces with those whose agenda is focused on the inadequate environment in the central city, on the production line and in rural America where, e.g., farmers facing foreclosure are not only losing their land ("open space") but a way of life and survival, and migrant farm workers are too often subjected to unacceptable conditions.

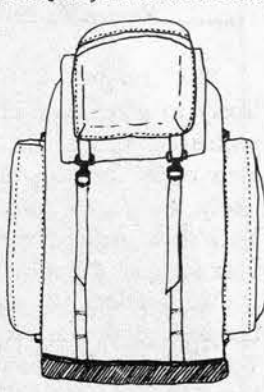
As I recall, *that* issue -- of reaching out for, and supporting, other "progressive" values -- received enthusiastic attention at the celebration of the "Environmental Decade" (the 1970s) at a national environmental conference in Estes Park in 1980. However, as far as I can tell, nothing much has been done to implement the rhetoric.

Maybe we've simply been too busy fighting with ourselves.

Robert J. Golten
Boulder, Colorado

Bob Golten formerly ran the National Wildlife Federation law clinic in Boulder, and has been involved with numerous environmental issues over the years.

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GUEST OPINION

Are ranchers our defense against subdividers?

by Alvin M. Josephy, Jr.

Well, look what's happened. The old curmudgeon, Ed Abbey, has finally revealed himself as a front man for the western real estate lobby. I mean, who would have believed it? Glowering old Ed, who blew up all those dams, cut down billboards, and pushed bulldozers over cliffs.

In a way, we can blame ourselves for playing into Big Ed's hands. Innocently, we raised the issues. We took on a set of scoundrels -- ranchers who don't pay enough for the use of public lands and then overgraze, despoil, and even (illegally) sublease those lands at a profit. We went after their abettors, the BLM and the Forest Service, who collude with such rogues and close their eyes at what's going on. We lifted the decibels, got attention, and gave growling old Ed his opportunity. He hijacked our righteous parade, wheeled it by the right flank, and led it off against what -- *all the cows in the West!*

I always knew that Ed had a delicate strain and hated to step in fresh cowpies, but is that adequate reason to take us on a crusade against fellow creatures who have to defecate just like you and me, but don't possess outhouses? Obviously, there's another motive, dark and hidden.

In case this is new to you, wily old Ed is pulling the wool over our eyes. "The whole American West stinks of cattle," he stormed in a recent issue of *Harpers*. (He forgot a few other smells, but no matter). Get rid of all the range cattle, he thundered. "Open a hunting season" on them and shoot them all down. Powerful stuff, especially from a guru like persuasive old Ed. (*Harpers*, Jan. 1986, "Even the bad guys wear hats.")

Get rid of all the Western range cattle? But that, you react, would mean the disappearance of all Western ranchers. Precisely. It's exactly what terrible-tempered old Ed has in mind. There are "a few honorable exceptions" among Western ranchers, he admits, but all the rest have no social usefulness. They supplant the native grasses "with tumbleweed, snakeweed, povertyweed, cowshit, anthills, mud, dust, and flies," he bombilates. Garbage collectors, and almost everyone else in our society, do "harder work, more difficult work, more dangerous work, and far more valuable work than any cowboy or rancher." To us conservationists and the audiences of college students cheering Big Ed's rolling barrage, his message is dramatic. Total war. Get rid of every range cow and cowman, even the "few honorable exceptions." Clear the West of the range cattle industry!

I showed one of Ed's blasts to a rancher friend of mine in northeastern Oregon. I will call him Mac (I don't want him to come looking for me). Mac's family has run a lot of cows for generations in the rugged Hells Canyon country. He must be one of the "honorable exceptions," because the land he uses is still beautiful and lush, unspoiled, and full of elk, bear, gamebirds, fish, and other wildlife.

"What's this?" he asked.

I told him the nature of old Ed's complaint.

"It's a hell of a time to be kicking a man -- when he's down," said Mac.

Even Mac has been having troubles with cash flow.

He started to read and turned purple. "The man's bonkers," he said.

"No," I told him. "He's got a sound mind. He's one of our best writers."

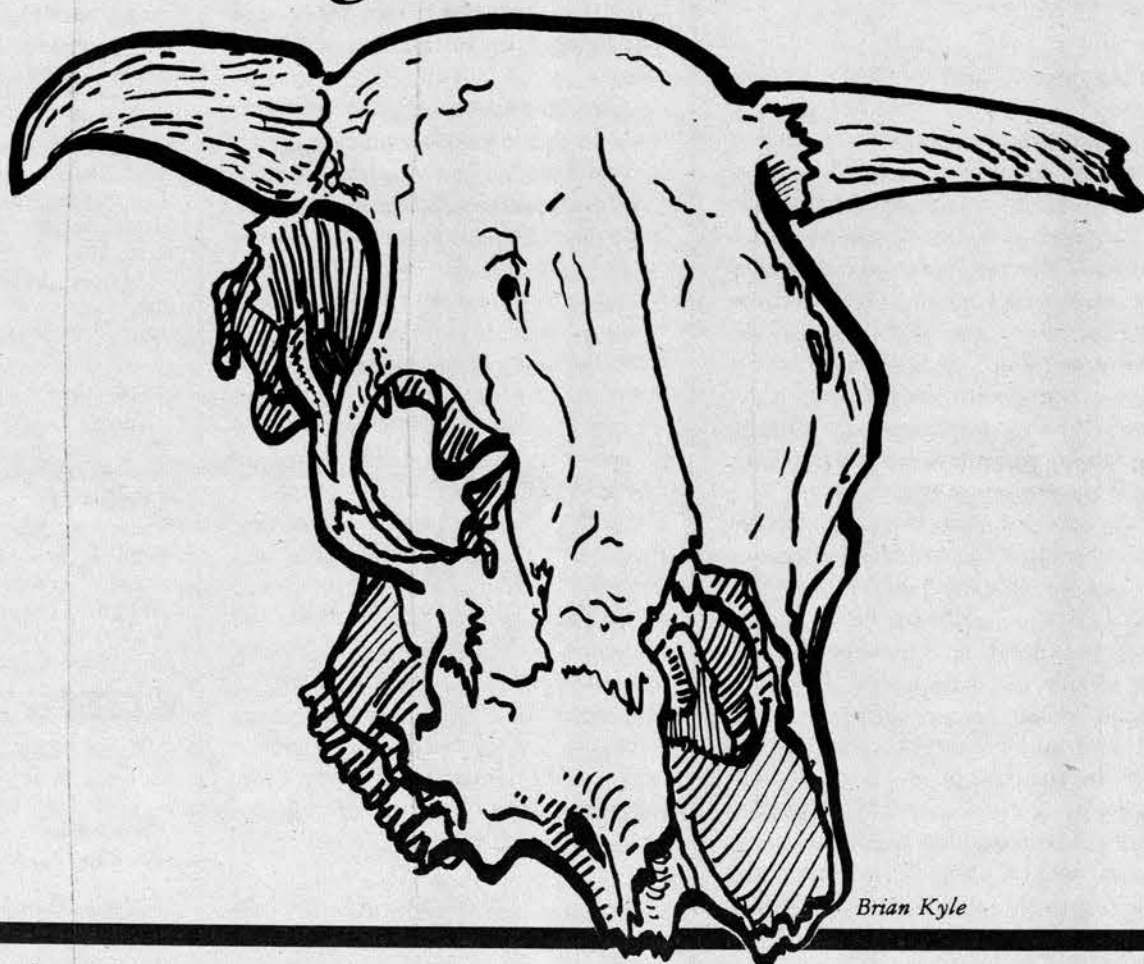
"I knew a writer once who tried every which way to kite his expenses on his income tax return," Mac said.

"Read on," I urged.

He read some more and began smiling. His normal color returned. "Look," he said, "there's a few rotten apples in every barrel. But to most of us ranchers, does it make sense to wreck our pastures that we have to use every year? The man's bonkers."

"No, he isn't," I insisted. "Old Ed always knows what he's doing. We follow him to the death."

"Well, something's wrong. Do I condemn



Brian Kyle

every writer? There's ways to get after the rotten apples, you know. Surly bastard, isn't he?"

"What do you mean, something's wrong?" I asked.

Mac studied Ed's piece and then looked at me accusingly. "Have you thought who'll take over the land after we're gone? This man says, wild animals. Bullshit. It's the ranchers and farmers who have had a lot to do with keeping the West like this guy wants it -- open, unwrecked, cared for, loved. We're the best allies the conservationists have. Take us away, and who comes in? The developers. Hell, they're all around us, squeezing us already. Here in this county, ranchers are the main line holding off a strip mine and a power plant..."

Ranchers versus power plants? An electric light bulb glimmered in my head. I began to remember the many ranchers like Boyd Charter in the Bull Mountains and Wally McCrae and Ellen Cotton on Tongue River and John Peavey in central Idaho, and the heaps of others from Washington state to New Mexico, who have fought to keep the land and water -- their own and the public's -- from being overrun, defiled, and polluted by energy companies, toxic waste dumps, MX sites, and the like.

"And how about subdividers?" Mac growled. "Maybe this fellow's shilling for the real estate lobby. Have you thought of that?"

I hadn't, I granted him. But the electric light bulb lit up full. I suddenly recalled places like Montana's Bitterroot Valley and the South Fork of the Shoshone outside of Cody, Wyoming, where subdividers flooded in as ranchers went out. I thought of Pocatello and dozens of urban centers

in the West sending their wretched sprawl across what had recently been ranches. I even remembered assaults on the public lands by resorts, homebuilders, and ugly, defacing developments. "Mountain lots with majestic, untouched vistas," the Sunday real estate ads had trumpeted in boldface about views that lasted till the first access roads etched their scars. What would snappy old Ed say to that, I wondered. Kick out the ranchers, and get what?

"Where did you say this fellow lives?" Mac asked.

"Tucson," I said.

"Uh-huh. Like I thought. A city kid. Must be in the real estate business. Everybody down there is."

I snatched back Ed's piece and left Mac. But the more I thought of it, the more I could see that his suspicion had to be right. Tucson is spreading all over the place, eliminating cows and covering up like fury the desert floor and foothills of tumbleweed, snakeweed, povertyweed, cowshit, anthills, mud, dust, and flies with houses, condos, gas stations, banks, Mexican restaurants, VCR rental stores, and real estate offices. No wonder loveable old Ed's leading us for the realtors. It all adds up. Better development than cowshit.

□

Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., is an historian and the author of numerous articles and books, including *Red Power: The American Indians' fight for freedom*; *Now that the Buffalo's Gone: A Study of Today's American Indian*; and *The Nez Perce Indian and the Opening of the Northwest*.

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LETTERS

A LETTER TO CECIL

Dear HCN,

I enjoyed Cecil Garland's impassioned description of his worthy efforts to graze livestock on the public lands in an environmentally sound manner. Certainly, if all ranchers were as astute and farsighted as Cecil Garland, the public rangelands would not be as depleted and overgrazed as they currently are. Unfortunately, he seems to share with other ranchers one common misperception that serves only to polarize even further the relationship between the ranching and environmental communities.

Contrary to his reference to the environmental community's "efforts to have the stockmen evicted from the public range," elimination of public rangeland grazing is not the goal of the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, or other national environmental groups; nor was it the purpose of the court challenge to the Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) program. Rather, NRDC, the Sierra Club, and other groups challenged the CMA program because it abdicated to private individuals the government's legal responsibility to prevent overgrazing and otherwise to manage the public rangelands in an environmentally responsible way.

The goal of the CMA program was to allow certain ranchers to manage public rangelands *without any opportunity for comment or review by other interested members of the public.* While there undoubtedly are certain ranchers, like Cecil Garland, who might be trusted with major stewardship responsibility for the public lands, history demonstrates all too clearly that most ranchers cannot be so trusted.

For this reason, Congress ordered the BLM, not private ranchers, to

manage the public lands. Because the CMA program violated this basic requirement (and because the program was implemented in flagrant violation of procedural requirements imposed by law) it was, not surprisingly, invalidated by a federal judge.

Having expressed my disagreement on this important point, I hasten to add that I agree with much of Cecil's argument. As Cecil notes, the key resource question is "what can the range give to us without further impairment while at the same time healing and regenerating itself?" Unfortunately, the question more often asked seems to be, "what can we take from the range without regard to further impairment or to its capacity to heal and regenerate itself?" Similarly, I join with Cecil in believing that it is "certainly achievable and desirable" that "a concerned and aware public might come to affect and influence good range use." Indeed, that is the primary objective of NRDC, the Sierra Club and other environmental groups in working on public range issues. Unfortunately, the CMA program that he touts was designed to have precisely the opposite effect.

David B. Edelson
Staff Attorney
NRDC
San Francisco, CA

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WORK

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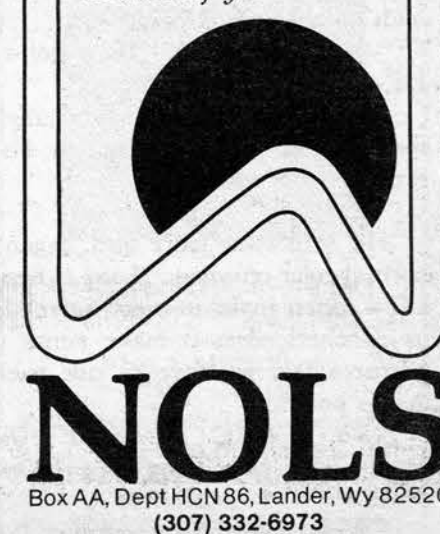
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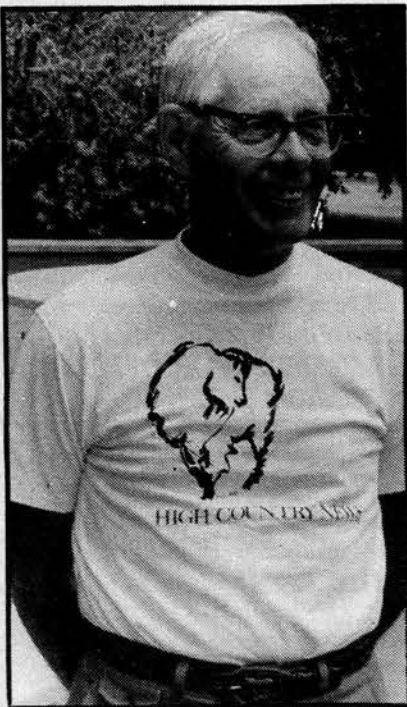
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