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WESTERN

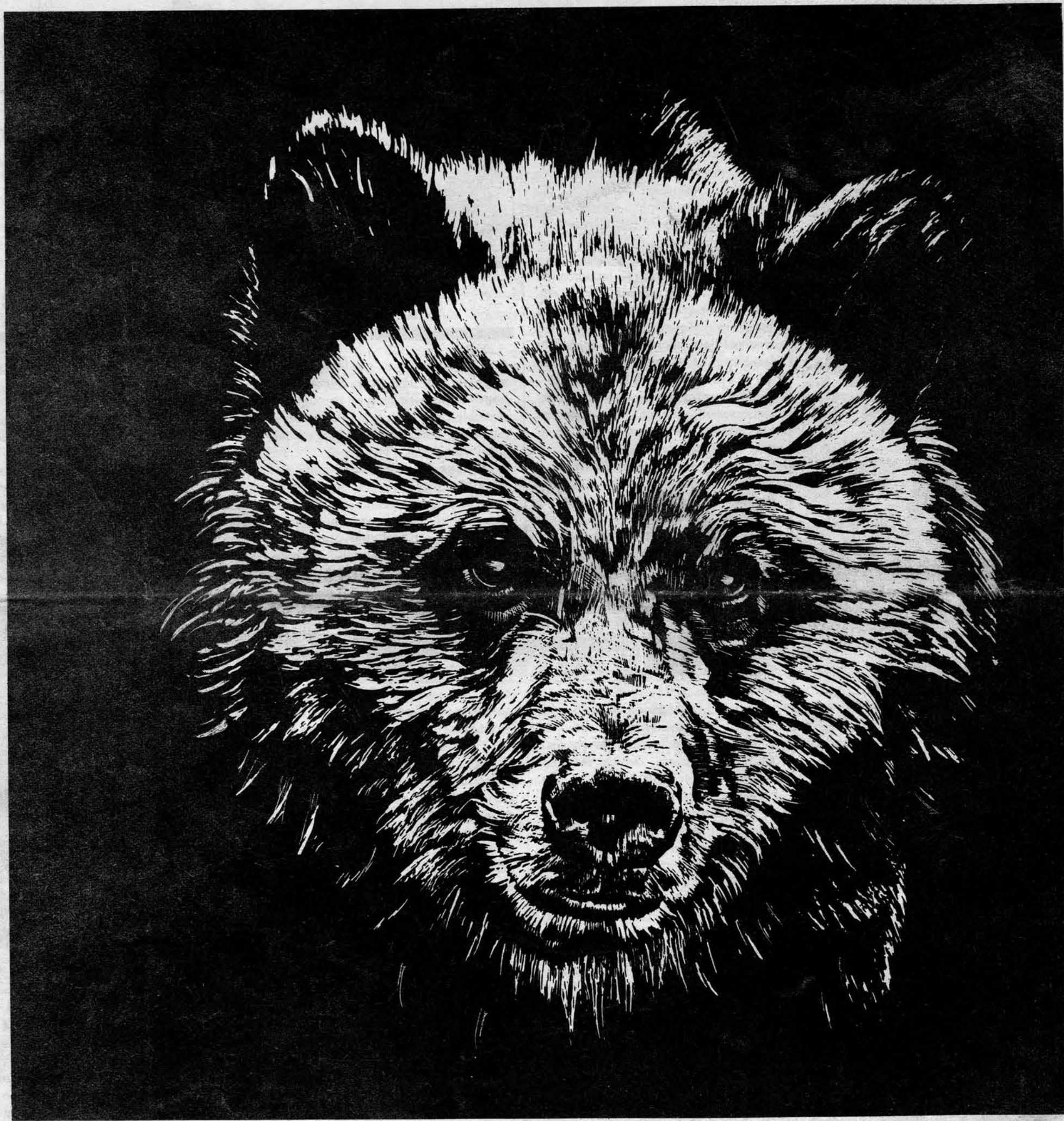
High Country News

May 26, 1986

Vol. 18 No. 10

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar



The fate of the grizzly

✓ Pages 7-13

WESTERN ROUNDUP



High Country News

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The West braces for a welcome onslaught

Pity would-be American travellers this summer. They appear to face a must-lose choice: either an anxiety-filled trip to Europe, or an urban experience in the allegedly empty West. As of now, telephone inquiries and reservations indicate travellers will choose 80-cent gasoline, odiferous privies, and jammed campsites and fishing streams over the spectre of exploding aircraft, kidnapping off quaint Paris streets, and high prices caused by the plummeting dollar.

If tourists do shun Europe and choose the West in the numbers being discussed -- 40 percent more visitors to Yellowstone and 52 percent more to Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado, for example -- the result will be anything but the restful retreat to nature Easterners may expect. Those who already live in the Rockies may find their restaurants, laundromats and favorite recreation places off-limits for the summer months. Remote northern Montana and Glacier National Park may have an especially large crop of visitors thanks to Expo '86 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The overcrowding has a serious conservation aspect. The national government, instead of gearing up to cope with increased visitation, has cut the budgets of the national parks and forests in response to Gramm-Rudman. The only faint ray of hope is held out by Secretary of Interior Donald Hodel, who hopes to see Congress this summer undo a decade-long freeze on National Park fees to provide funds for more staff. Hodel, for example, wants the per-car



rate at Yosemite to go from \$3 per week to \$10. The Park Service also hopes to jawbone its way through the possible crisis with a "Take Pride in America" campaign to reduce vandalism in the parks.

Despite the potential trampling of mountain meadows, the overfishing and littering of streams and the fist fights over campsites, most rural Westerners are probably praying for the onslaught. Traditionally, the rural Western economy is portrayed as a three-legged stool, resting solidly on mining and logging, agriculture, and

tourism. Today the economy teeters precariously on tourism, or on nothing at all.

Residents of small towns hit by the logging turndown, the closures of coal or hardrock mines, and by farm and ranch foreclosures hope that tourists will spend money on food, lodging and trinkets. But they also hope that some of the visitors will be so taken by the wide open spaces and incredible real estate bargains that they will buy their own chunk of the busted West.

--Ed Marston

Dear friends,

At times, publishing *High Country News* is like throwing a stone into water, without the splash or ripples. Not so last issue, which featured Christopher McLeod's opus on the Hopi-Navajo land dispute.

The phone rang and rang. Most callers were pleased with the article's depth and objectivity. But there were exceptions. A very angry man from Salt Lake City was furious at the treatment of the Hopi Tribal Council and its attorney, the late John Boyden. Another caller said the article romanticized traditional Indians of both tribes, and slighted the extent to which the Hopis have been victimized by Navajos. A third caller, this time from an Indian organization in Denver, just wanted to see the issue, that minute.

So much for oral communication. Letters will undoubtedly follow.

This HCN contains a two-page questionnaire adapted from a similar one in 1982. If this were a small-town paper, we would not need a questionnaire. We could gauge our work by whether or not you nodded to us in the coffee shop, or at last week's junior high track meet. But since this region is a medium-sized town spread over several hundred thousand square miles, we do ask that you fill out the questionnaire. It will be very helpful to the paper.

To accommodate McLeod's story last week, we eliminated the centerspread. This week it is back, with the generous help of wildlife biologist Doug Chadwick, who

particularly liked the idea of a mountain goat centerfold because it is the HCN logo.

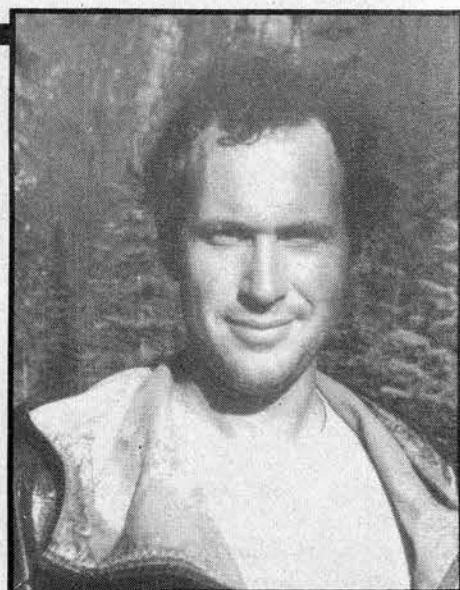
"But I had in mind a real centerfold -- a goat done up in lace and garters with a staple in its navel." But do what you like, he added -- make goats our national heroes.

Chadwick recently wrote about the grizzly for the *National Geographic* and has travelled since then to Kenya and Katmandu, Nepal, for the same magazine. He is also a correspondent for the organization, Defenders of Wildlife.

"I live on the edge of Glacier Park, and we hear wolves at night beneath northern lights," he says, and there are still "plenty of griz in the backyard." It is an ideal setting for his work, which is to use words and pictures to provide a better understanding of non-human cultures, he says.

We have a mistake to eat. It was fed to us by Paonia attorney Dave Johnston. A recent barb chided Utah Power and Light for attempting to keep its communications with a CPA firm secret. "We didn't know CPAs were like priests and shrinks," we chortled. Johnston sent us a statute indicating that CPAs are exactly like priests and shrinks.

Finally, a word on the great Paonia mudslide. It is one mile wide, extends about five miles up the mountain, and it is still attempting to bury Muddy Creek and State Highway 133 under millions of tons of debris. Supposedly, it is several times larger than the slide



Douglas Chadwick

which created Utah's Thistle Lake. At the suggestion of Norm Sunderland, publisher of the local *North Fork Times*, the area is trying to turn cactus spines into needles. The Paonia Chamber of Commerce has decided to contact geology schools all over the nation in the hope of attracting visitors.

--the staff

BARBS

How awful! No more mountain home subdivisions. No more speculative ski area developments. No more malls built on wetlands.

A real estate spokesman told *The New York Times* that his industry is enraged at the U.S. Senate's proposed tax bill: "This bill is a radical attack on real estate investment and will result in cataclysmic change."

Montana's fight with BN goes on, and on

Hit with rising unemployment and a potential \$60 million budget shortfall, Montana faces another economic setback from the state's only railroad.

Burlington Northern, which not only controls the railroad, but also giant tracts of timber and coal reserves, cut 360 jobs when it closed its Livingston locomotive-repair shop in late February. Last-minute moves by a coalition of railroad unions, the Montana Public Services Commission and Gov. Ted Schwinden, D, failed to convince BN to keep the shop open. Though the railroad said the closure was necessary to streamline management some Republican legislators blamed it on what they called "an anti-business climate in Montana." They said property taxes, unions and the Schwinden administration were at the root of the problem. Critics of BN said the closure was just another case of a wealthy corporation exploiting Montana.

On May 6, the railroad announced it would give the town of Livingston more than \$1 million "to promote the social and economic well-being of the community around Livingston." The town was founded 103 years ago by railroad interests.

During the closure flap, BN President Richard Bressler also criticized the state's business climate. After meeting with Bressler and other BN officials, Gov. Schwinden, in his agenda for a March special session of the state legislature, included a proposal to roll back BN's property taxes.

The tax rollback proposal was not designed to keep the company in Montana, for despite the Livingston closure, BN is committed to operate in other Montana communities. Instead, the tax proposal was a result of BN's threat to sue the state.

According to BN, the current property tax rate on railroads and airlines operating in Montana is illegal. The railroad cites the Federal Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976, which states that railroads are taxed at the same rate as



Burlington Northern train

the average of all other commercial and industrial property taxpayers. BN claims that because railroad and airline property is assessed for tax purposes annually, while other commercial properties are assessed every five years, tax rate formulas unfairly charge railroads more.

After BN's threat to sue, the Schwinden administration said it agreed with the railroad's contention, and pushed for a legislative remedy in March. Many state legislators did not agree with the governor, however, and Sen. Thomas Towe, D-Billings, claimed it would cost Montana up to \$39 million over the next six years. Schwinden's bill called for a tax cut from the current rate of 14 percent to 8.6 percent in 1986, resulting in \$10.6 million less in revenue for the state. Burlington Northern said if Schwinden's proposal were enacted, the company would not challenge any property taxes for at least six years. Despite the governor's belief that BN had a legitimate case, state legislators rejected the proposal. When the dust

settled on the special session, lawmakers went home hoping the state wouldn't have to give up future revenue to Burlington Northern in court.

Theresa Cohea, Gov. Schwinden's executive assistant, says litigation could be expensive. She says the state has already spent \$250 thousand during the past five years on railroad tax issues, resulting in \$30 million in protested taxes being tied up. She says Schwinden will not ask the legislature to reconsider the issue at the next special session in June.

While BN's revenue seems large to a strapped Montana, it pales in light of the railroad's financial portfolio. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, of the company's \$9.2 billion 1985 earnings, \$747 million was generated in Montana. Additionally, a recent article in the *Missoulian* reported that BN topped *Forbes Magazine's* 1985 list of corporate leaders in sales growth, as sales jumped 103 percent last year.

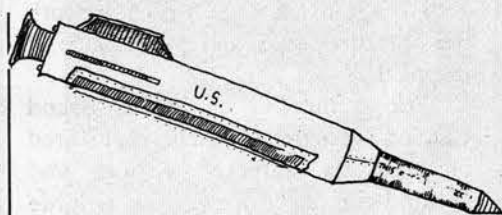
--Bruce Farling

Trench fights over militarizing BLM land

Rep. John Seiberling's, D-Ohio, Public Lands Subcommittee is the battleground for determining how the military should acquire Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and other public land. The issue is critical to many Western states, which have already lost millions of acres of land and large percentages of their airspace to military use (HCN, 3/4/85).

The land at stake in the subcommittee is a bombing range in Nevada, a state where 4 million acres and 40 percent of the airspace are already dedicated to military use. The outcome of the struggle could set a precedent for military land and airspace use in other states.

The struggle in Seiberling's subcommittee started with the Reagan administration, which was embarrassed over the disclosure by citizens' groups in Nevada that the Navy has been illegally using the Bravo-20 bombing range since 1945. The administration wants to regularize the use of that site and other sites where "withdrawal" -- or dedication of lands to military usage -- has expired. Nevada's Rep. Barbara Vucanovich,



R, introduced a bill to give the Bravo-20 site to the Navy for 25 years.

Seiberling, according to a spokesperson for the subcommittee, is open to new legislation to legalize Navy actions, but "not without accommodations he seeks." His proposed substitute bill would substantially broaden the scope of the legislation, addressing not just Bravo-20, but other sites where military withdrawal of land and airspace has expired. He also wants to limit Navy use of the 21,576-acre Bravo-20 site to three years and then require a statewide environmental impact statement to evaluate the effects on Nevada's lands and people of existing and proposed military land and airspace withdrawals. However, Republican members object to Seiberling's proposals, compromise efforts have failed, meetings have been adjourned for lack of a quorum, and the outcome of the

measure is uncertain. Seiberling, says the committee spokesperson, might just give up on making the Navy's actions in the Nevada desert legal.

But opposition to the land and airspace takeovers is not likely to disappear. Nevada residents, including Gov. Richard Bryan, D, have been working to halt piecemeal military withdrawal of public lands and airspace, and Nevada's Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, Rep. Harry Reid, D, has already made a major campaign issue of the military role in the state.

Although opposition to Navy land-use tactics began as a purely local issue, the Rural Coalition, an alliance of 120 national and local organizations with staff in Washington, D.C., has now become involved. Jodi Schwartz, a project director with the coalition, says the organization backs Seiberling's approach because "the bombing is an illegal use of public land and we also want to set a precedent for other states where the military has been 'piecemealing' land."

--Katharine Collins

HOTLINE



Feds hunt pot hunters

Federal agents raided 16 homes in three Western states May 8 in an effort to expose and halt looting of Anasazi Indian artifacts. Among those raided were two San Juan County, Utah, commissioners, Calvin Black and Jerry Holliday. Enraged, Black told reporters that the raids were "an act of terrorism." Teams of agents from the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management recovered some 300 artifacts during their visits, including baskets and pottery from locations in Blanding, Moab and Salt Lake City, Utah; Page and Phoenix, Arizona; and Cortez, Dove Creek and Boulder, Colorado. Brent Ward, U.S. Attorney for Utah, said the artifacts are believed to have been stolen from federal land in San Juan County. That is illegal under the 1979 Archaeological Resources Act and punishable by up to two years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.



Idaho SportPAC poll

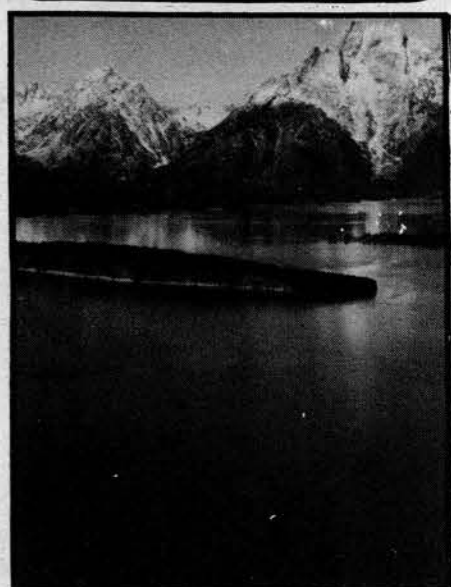
Idaho SportPAC chairman Jack Trueblood says his group's first rating of state legislators for the last two sessions focused on their voting record, not politics. Nonetheless, Democrats ranked higher on issues considered vital to environmentally-aware sportsmen. Highest ranked were seven Democrats while lowest ranked were nine Republicans. Legislation targeted for the polling concerned predator control, stiffer penalties for surface miners for failing to comply with reclamation requirements and restriction of motor vehicles on game habitat. The Sportsmen's Political Action Committee has 200 members.

BARBS

Do you wanta bet?

A spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission told *The New York Times* that at Chernobyl: "They have dumped the full inventory of volatile fission products from a large power reactor directly into the environment. You can't do any worse than that."

HOTLINE



Jackson Lake

Exposing history

Archaeologists will begin excavating 10 sites around Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park next month, according to the *Casper Star-Tribune*. The area was named for W.C. 'Slim' Lawrence, who in the 1920s found thousands of artifacts ranging from 9,000 down to 200 years old. The site was last surveyed almost 10 years ago, when the Idaho potato farmers who store irrigation water in the lake-reservoir drew it down to 28 feet below normal (HCN, 2/4/85). Now, the scheduled repair of the frail dam has caused the Bureau of Reclamation to take the water down to the levels prevailing when Jackson Lake was a natural body of water, again exposing the old sites. Park Service archaeologist Melissa Connor has nominated the site to the National Register of Historic Sites. Aided by six archaeologists and 30 volunteers, she hopes to construct a cultural history of Jackson Hole. Work on the dam is scheduled to end in 1988, at which point the lake will again become a reservoir. Conservationists had unsuccessfully opposed reconstruction of the dam, in large part because of the disruption it may cause over the next two years to the park.



Brian Stout

New head at Bridger-Teton

The Bridger-Teton National Forest will have a new supervisor beginning June 8. He is Brian Stout, a 26-year veteran of the Forest Service, who transfers from Missoula, Montana, where he has been director of information for the Forest Service's Region I since 1984. He has also been a district ranger on eastern forests and a Job Corps Center director. Ernie Nunn has been acting supervisor of the Bridger-Teton since the retirement of Reid Jackson in mid-January. Nunn will resume his former position of deputy supervisor of the Bridger-Teton.

Dog fight over Grand Canyon continues

The uproar over aircraft in Grand Canyon National Park is reaching a peak as the Park Service prepares for another round of public hearings this month (HCN, 1/20/86).

After 10 years of study, the Park Service released five alternative draft recommendations in April. The agency will take public comments at hearings in Las Vegas June 9, San Francisco June 10, Phoenix June 11, Flagstaff June 12, or in writing to the Superintendent, Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023.

At this writing, alternatives range from "no action" to voluntary "flight-free areas" for about 11 percent of the canyon (20 percent in the off-season), primarily in developed or heavily used areas, with unspecified exemptions for "quiet" aircraft. The Park Service estimates that more than 100,000 aircraft fly in and over the canyon each year.

Conservationists say the proposals are cosmetic and would do little or nothing to protect the backcountry from the cacophony of "flying chain-saws." They point to Park Service maps which show most of the small restricted areas as sandwiched between existing airtour routes or effective only in the off-season. They also express doubt that any non-binding restrictions would be honored. Even park officials don't claim that the current voluntary restrictions are being adhered to.

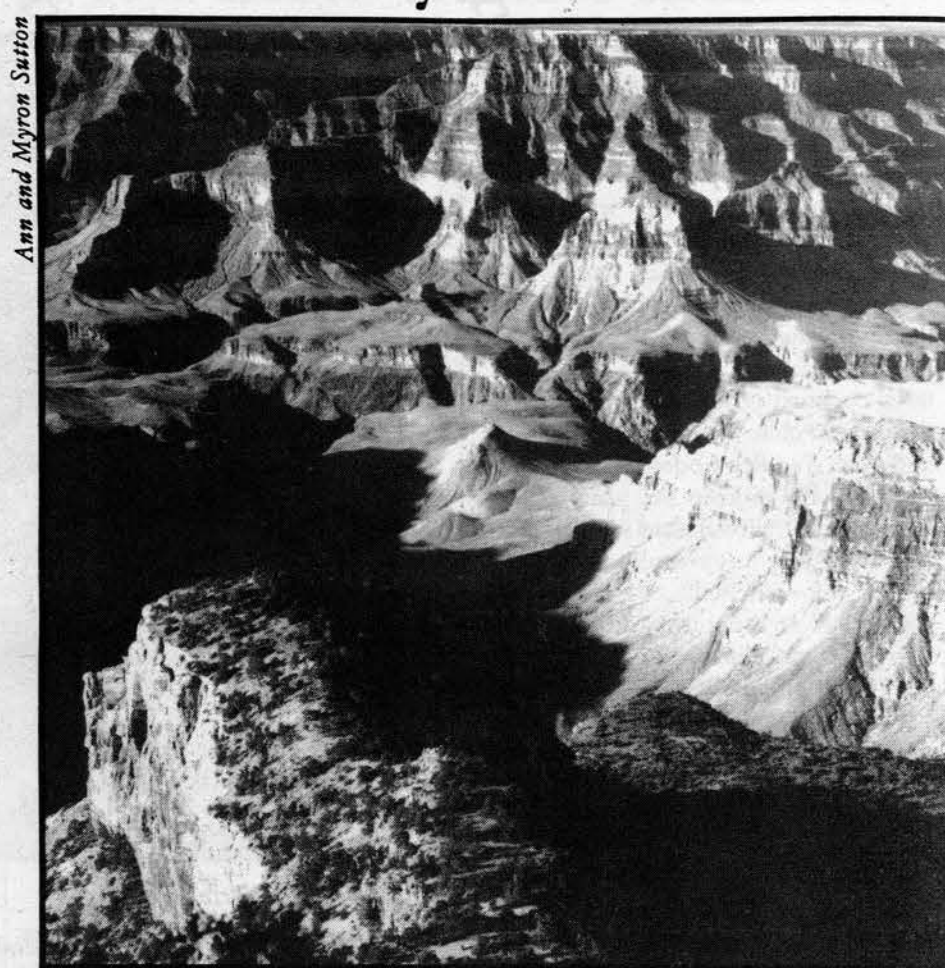
Several environmental groups say the only workable solution is to establish a mandatory. Special Use Airspace over the canyon, like that over the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Minnesota. The groups have prepared a more detailed proposal of their own, and recently the Wilderness Society and Sierra Club filed suit against the Park Service in hopes of prodding them to action against aircraft in the canyon.

"What good is it to have fought all these battles for so many years to save parks and wilderness if they're being degraded like this?" asks Rick Sutherland, Executive Director of the Sierra Club's Legal Defense Fund.

Meanwhile, concern is mounting for other natural areas. The National Parks and Conservation Association says that more than 50 park units are suffering "significant aircraft intrusions." Recent efforts to control aircraft have met with failure in Glacier, Grand Teton, Yosemite and Sequoia national parks as well as the deep Hells Canyon of the Snake River. People are also complaining about aircraft in Yellowstone and Bryce Canyon national parks and Death Valley National Monument, Mt. Rushmore National Memorial and Idaho's River of No Return Wilderness.

Hardest hit so far are the Grand Canyon and parklands in Hawaii, where visitors say there is no possibility of solitude. "The wilderness has been stolen from us," says Dave Boynton of Kauai. A helicopter is reported to have killed the last wild eagle on the island.

Few environmental problems have evoked such intense anger among park visitors. "I'm surprised no shots have been fired," says Rick Scudder, president of the Conservation Council of Hawaii. In the Grand Canyon, irate river tourers sometimes toss oars at low-flying aircraft, and have reportedly cracked the bubble on at least one



Grand Canyon from the North Rim

hovering helicopter. The writer Edward Abbey, who is a former Grand Canyon ranger, says lightheartedly, "I look forward to the day when all river-runners carry a lightweight, portable anti-aircraft weapon armed with heat-seeking missiles."

Aircraft flight is the only unregulated activity in national parks and wilderness areas. "It's ludicrous," says Jim Norton of the Wilderness Society. "Cars, bicycles, mules, dogs and even campfires are prohibited in 95 percent of Grand Canyon, but aircraft can do whatever they want."

The upper boundary of parks and wilderness areas has never been defined, and the powerful Federal Aviation Administration claims it has exclusive jurisdiction over airborne vehicles. The FAA vehemently opposes airspace reservations, except those requested by the military. The Park Service, however, has overriding authority to protect the parks, and at the Grand Canyon, at least, Congress has specifically required it to take action against aircraft which disturb the "natural quiet and experience of the park."

For a number of years, Grand Canyon researchers have monitored noise levels, surveyed visitors and studied the effect of noise on wildlife and Indian ruins, but the park will not

make the studies public. Two park staffers who worked on the reports say they are biased to favor the air-tour industry and won't be released because the public could "pick them apart." Personnel at several parks say administrators may be insensitive to natural quiet -- or the lack of it -- because they spend so little time in the backcountry.

In an hour-long interview in February, Grand Canyon Superintendent Richard Marks said that in four and a half years he had made 32 trips in the Grand Canyon by helicopter, but he did not discuss any on-the-ground trips. He was unfamiliar with several key park landmarks where aircraft problems are acute. Marks would not commit himself on the issue, but stressed that it was a matter of perception. "To a deaf person there is no noise, so therefore there is no impact."

"I still don't think my staff is ready for an issue of this complexity and magnitude," Marks concluded. "But I'm ready. I'm going to make the right decision."

In March, Reps. Tony Coelho and Richard Lehman, both California Democrats, and Cecil Hefel, D-Hawaii, introduced a bill to study the problem of aircraft in the parks.

--Dennis Brownridge

HOTLINE

The ever-rising Great Salt Lake

Utah residents are taking no pride in the elevation record of 4,211.65 feet set May 8 by the Great Salt Lake. The lake has risen over 20 feet and gone from 1,000 to 2,000 square miles since 1963. It has destroyed lakeside industries, recreation areas, causeways and invaluable wildlife refuges. In the face of another record-setting wet year and high snowpacks, it is an immediate threat to Interstate 80, Salt Lake International Airport, the Southern Pacific Railway causeway, sewage treatment plants, and hundreds of roads, facilities and homes.

Utah officials, faced with a variation on the Dutch boy and the dike theme, have reaffirmed their faith in an Almighty by calling on Utahns to pray for dry weather. Thus far, the period since Oct. 1985 has been extraordinarily wet. Gov. Norm Bangerter and a just-concluded special session of the Legislature decided to spend \$55 million to install three huge pumps by this December to move 2 million acre-feet of water a year into the West Desert and thus lower the lake by 9 inches a year. Protection from this summer's climbing lake, however, may depend on emergency diking and again raising I-80 and the railroad causeway. While the lake is impressive at 2,000 square miles, it is a long way from ancient Lake Bonneville's 20,000-mile extent.

The BLM is a very careless landlord

In a report this March to Interior Secretary Donald Hodel, the General Accounting Office concluded that thousands of hardrock mining claims were being routinely filed on wilderness or other protected lands.

The GAO, which is the investigative arm of Congress, said that in Nevada and Colorado, for example, almost 4,500 claims were staked on protected public lands. Although five of the 10 Western states where most mining claims were made did screen claims as they were recorded at BLM offices, the other five states -- Colorado, Nevada, California, Oregon and Wyoming -- did not. The result is that some copper, gold, and silver claim-holders have been working their claims as part of required annual assessments, even though they are on land declared off-limits to mining, the report said.

Called *Interior Should Ensure Against Abuses from Hardrock Mining*, the report concluded that the lack of screening also meant that BLM does not always know where claims on federal land are located.

"Furthermore," said the GAO, "despite legislative requirements for reclamation, some BLM lands are not being reclaimed, and BLM does not require most miners to post bonds covering the costs of reclamation."

On the most active mining districts in the West, GAO found that of 556 sites that began operations in 1981 -- the year operators were required to notify BLM -- more than half had never been inspected. BLM was not aware which mining operations were abandoned, the report said.



Sulfuric acid left behind

Of 246 sites that had been inspected, 39 percent had not been reclaimed at the time of the inspection. BLM officials in Colorado and Nevada were able to identify 30 unreclaimed sites that had been inactive for up to four years, including one in an area being considered for wilderness designation. All showed environmental damage.

There was abandoned and rusting mining equipment along the San Miguel and the San Juan rivers in Colorado. A roughly 10-acre mine site in Washoe County, Nevada, was littered with mining equipment, a destroyed mobile home and two 50-gallon barrels of sulfuric acid. And, at an abandoned open-pit private mine

in Winnemucca, Nevada, 25 acres of topsoil had been removed to expose a mineral deposit.

BLM officials told investigators that it was doubtful mine operators would return to reclaim any of the 30 sites. Because the BLM is not required to reclaim a site unless public health is endangered, the messes left behind will remain, said GAO investigators.

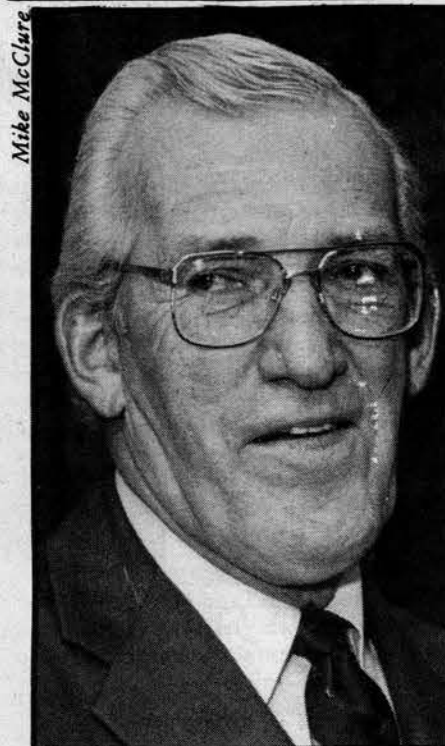
The 50-page report recommends that the Interior Secretary direct the BLM to screen mining-claim data at the time claims are recorded. That would invalidate any claim located on wilderness or other protected lands. A second recommendation is that the BLM require all mine operators to post a large enough bond to cover reclamation costs. The BLM now requires a bond only for operators covering more than five acres, and then only for operators with a history of "regulatory noncompliance."

The Interior Department disagreed with the GAO. The department said it was more efficient and cost-effective for the BLM to check claim locations when mine operators were about to begin operations -- not at initial filings. As for mandatory bonding, the department said it would be a "substantial cost that many small operators could not afford." Premiums could well run 10 to 20 percent or more of projected costs, the department said.

The report, document number GAO/RCED-86-48, is available from the Government Accounting Office, Washington, D.C. 20548.

--Betsy Marston

HOTLINE



Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler

Candidates galore

Seven announced Republican candidates are straining at the starting gate of Wyoming's Aug. 19 gubernatorial primary, hoping to succeed three-term Democrat Gov. Ed Herschler, who is retiring. A straw poll taken at the May 3 state convention showed Wyoming Mining Association executive Bill Budd of Cheyenne leading the pack with 32 percent. Pete Simpson of Cody, who has wide recognition as the brother of Wyoming's Sen. Al Simpson, R, placed second with 20 percent. He was followed closely by Douglas businessman and former GOP state chairman Fred Schroeder and Laramie attorney Dave Nicholas. Former Wyoming House Speaker Russ Donley trailed in the *Riverton Ranger* newspaper poll, along with Saratoga dentist John Johnson and Cheyenne teacher Jim Bace. At a recent forum, Donley was the only candidate who called for major cuts in the state's mineral severance tax as well as scrapping the Industrial Siting Council. Announced Democrats in the race include Casper attorney Mike Sullivan, Casper woodcutter Keith Brian Goodenough, and housepainter Al Hamburg of Torrington, a perennial candidate. Of the three, only Sullivan has publicly debated with his Republican contenders.

Timber tariff

Timber industry officials want a tariff imposed on Canadian lumber imports before broad trade liberalization talks between the U.S. and Canada begin in late May. A recent *New York Times* article says President Reagan is expected to support an early solution to a northwest timber industry problem -- the growth in the past decade of the Canadian share of the U.S. timber market from one-fifth to one-third. The U.S. industry says the lower cost of Canadian timber -- \$50-\$70 less per 1,000 board feet -- results from Canada's administrative setting of timber prices. Forest Service timber, by contrast, is sold at auction. Canadian officials attribute their lower prices to higher quality work in more productive mills, favorable railroad rates and the lower value of the Canadian dollar. Imposition of the tariff would be a boon for the American timber industry. However, it would put pressure on the Forest Service to increase timber sales projected in the 50-year forest management plans now being prepared.

Wyoming's glacial memory of smelter fallout

A low-cost approach to acid rain research appears to reinforce earlier findings that industrial pollutants from Arizona can travel the long distance to Wyoming's Wind River Mountains. Three researchers at Western Wyoming College at Rock Springs also showed that glaciers can provide a frozen history of atmospheric pollutants.

With shovels, chippers, tubes and other gear hauled in by a six-mule team, Charles Love, Craig Thompson and Mike Hensley dug out ice from 14-foot holes in Bull Lake and Knife Point Glaciers. Laboratory analysis later showed that the lead content of the ice layers followed the known decline and rise of sulfur emissions from copper smelters in the Southwest. Copper smelters emit lead, as well as oxides of sulfur. A 1981 copper strike there is reflected in lower lead levels in that year's ice layers, while a rise in the lead level of the ice coincided with the 1982 settlement of the strike.

Although the research does show the long-distance transportation of lead particles, Craig Thompson, who heads Western Wyoming College's water quality lab, says his lab's analysis of acidity levels is inconclusive. Despite precautions in handling tubes and samples, extraneous substances remaining on the tubes affected acidity readings.

The University of Wyoming Water Research Center at Laramie funded the pilot project at a total cost of just \$7,712. Another research expedition to the glaciers is planned for this summer.

--Katharine Collins



Craig Thompson, left, Mike Hensley and Charles Love

HOTLINE

Yellowstone institutes people controls

An interim plan to decrease human impacts on grizzly bear habitat at Yellowstone National Park's Fishing Bridge campgrounds calls for a 10 p.m. until dawn patrol of the area, the closing of several outer loops of the facility, and the banning of overnight camping in the Pelican Valley. But the *Jackson Hole News* reports complaints of outfitters who horse-pack tourists into the Pelican Valley. The outfitters

will air their grievances at a May 29 meeting with federal officials at the Wort Hotel in Jackson. Park Superintendent Robert Barbee said the new procedures will be in force until an environmental impact statement is completed sometime next year. Recently, the Park Service was sued by the National Wildlife Federation and its Wyoming affiliate for failing to close the 661 camping sites at Fishing Bridge (HCN, 4/28/86). Political pressure to keep the tourist facility open came from the Wyoming delegation and towns surrounding the park.

6-High Country News -- May 26, 1986

BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE CHOICES SYMPOSIUM

John Denver's Windstar Foundation will host a symposium, "Choices for the Future," June 13-15 at the Snowmass Village Conference Center near Aspen, Colorado. For \$395 (before May 20) you can hear speakers such as Colorado's Gov. Richard Lamm, marine biologist Jean-Michel Cousteau, wellness teacher Susan Smith Jones, energy consultants Amory and Hunter Lovins and media mogul Ted Turner talk about how we can chart a course to the future. John Denver will also present the first annual \$10,000 Windstar award to an individual "contributing to the creation of a sustainable future and advocating and promoting ways for all of us to participate." For more information write Windstar Foundation, P.O. Box 286, Snowmass, CO 81654 (303/923-2145).

PLAN FOR DOMINGUEZ CANYON

The Bureau of Land Management has released a draft interim management plan/environmental assessment for the Dominguez Canyon wilderness study area. The agency proposes protection of wilderness values until Congress acts on this WSA, and it also analyzes seven sub-alternatives for dealing with the issue of access into the canyon, cut off in January 1986 (HCN, 2/17/86) when the Bridgeport Bridge across the Gunnison River was declared unsafe. The agency's preferred action is to construct a new foot/horse bridge across the river. Public review and comments are sought on the draft document no later than June 7. Write BLM, 764 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81506 (303/243-6552).



WHITE WATER FESTIVAL

The Northwest Rivers Alliance will host its sixth annual Yampa River Festival in Steamboat Springs June 6-8, featuring a weekend of white water boating activities. Kayaks, canoes and rafts will negotiate rapids of Steamboat's new Whitewater Park to compete in both downriver and slalom races. There will also be a barbecue auction, documentary called "A River in the Desert" and awards ceremony. The alliance is a member group of the environmental coalition, Western Colorado Congress, and this is their main fundraiser of the year, says Charla Palmer. Call the alliance at 303/879-4239 for more information.

THE 1986 PRAIRIE FESTIVAL

The Land Institute of Salina, Kansas, will hold its Prairie Festival May 31 and June 1. The festival is subtitled, "A celebration of the Prairie Ecosystem and Prairie Folk," and has the theme, "Soil and Seeds: The Sources of Culture." The programs range from an examination of the culture of the prairie -- everything from music and art to a lecture on Willa Cather -- to discussions of soil, seeds and the agricultural possibilities of the region. The Land Institute is headed by Wes Jackson, who is best known for his experiments with perennial food plants to reduce the erosion caused by the need for annual plowing. For information, contact: The Land Institute, 2440 E. Water Well Road, Salina, KS 67401.

PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT AND WESTERN COMMUNITIES

The June (13-15) annual meeting of the Wyoming Outdoor Council will examine the question: Can any community determine its economic destiny when its resources lie on federal land? To help provide the answer, WOC has invited speakers from around the region. It also promises to provide a forum free of ax grinding and emphasizes direct conversation over "panelizing and speechifying." Those on the program include writers Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder, Yellowstone Park Superintendent Robert Barbee, Bridger-Teton deputy forest supervisor Ernie Nunn, grazing expert Alan Savory, free market advocate John Baden, and a host of officials from local communities. The meeting will be at Lake Lodge in Yellowstone. Advance registration is \$30 per person, or \$45 per couple. For information, contact: WOC, Box 1449, Lander, WY 82520.

WATT DROPS AREN'T YET

The BLM says it will take another look at nine areas in Idaho that were dropped from wilderness study by former Interior Secretary James Watt. In 1982, Watt ruled out wilderness consideration for any area less than 5,000 acres. Several of the nine areas are adjacent to national forest areas also under consideration for wilderness designation. Hydroelectric development is a contested issue in two areas and slab lava mining has been identified as an issue in another. Study of the areas will involve an environmental impact statement and the Bureau of Land Management is currently seeking public comment on issues and concerns. Write by June 6 to Gary Wyke, BLM, 3380 Americana Terrace, Boise, ID 83706 (208/334-1582).

STOP THE RAIN

"Who Will Stop the Rain?" is the title of a June 14 planning and strategy conference in Boulder, Colorado, designed to protect the Rockies from acid rain. Opening the conference will be Bob Yuhnke of the Environmental Defense Fund, one of the four sponsoring organizations. Other sponsors of the all-day session at Ramaley Hall, University of Colorado, are the Colorado Environmental Coalition, CU Environmental Center and the Denver Audubon Society. Participants may choose from workshops on national legislative issues, state regulatory and legislative issues, federal land management policy and EPA programs. For more information, write Colorado Environmental Coalition, 2239 E. Colfax, Denver, CO 80206 (303/393-0466).

GOLD AND GRIZZLIES

The supervisor of the Gallatin National Forest in Montana approved the Jardine gold mine and milling project on May 1. The proposed project, which is both within the forest and on private land, is located three miles north of Yellowstone National Park and will be visible from parts of the park. Forest Supervisor Robert Breazeale noted that the final environmental impact statement included measures needed to reduce impacts on wildlife, water quality, air quality and wildlife habitat. The Jardine area is in a high-density grizzly bear zone and the project will remove 67 acres of spring foraging habitat. Human/grizzly conflict, according to the EIS, would lead to management actions that could include relocation or destruction of some grizzlies. During the initial construction phase (1986 and 1987) the mine will employ 50 workers, and beginning in 1988, the mine and mill will provide jobs for 150. For a copy of the EIS, write Sherm Sollid, Gallatin National Forest, Federal Bldg., F.S. Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59715 (406/587-6701).

WELCOME, BIOLOGUE

The Teton Science School has published its first *Biologue*, a magazine and teaching aid for teachers and students of life sciences. The premier edition focuses on the wolf, with articles on wolf society, evolution of the family *Canidae* (the dogs) and adaptive behavior and physiology of the wolf. Published three times a year, each *Biologue* will focus on a specific component of the living systems in the Teton-Yellowstone region. The small, 16-page newsprint magazine is written and edited by Bruce Thompson; and subscriptions are \$9 per year. Write Teton Science School, P.O. Box 68, Kelly, WY 83011.

WHAT IS AN EAGLE WORTH?

Colorado's Division of Wildlife wants to know what value should be placed on wildlife and wildlife habitat lost through economic development. To find out, it will hold public meetings throughout the state for the remainder of the year. The most recent material produced by the DOW on its mitigation policy and a draft manual will be available two weeks before each meeting at the Denver central office and the office in the city where the meeting will take place. Meetings are scheduled in Grand Junction May 30 from 1-4 p.m. at the Division's Hunter Education Building, 711 Independent Ave.; in Denver on Aug. 29, and again on Nov. 28, from 1-4 p.m. at the division's office, 6060 Broadway; in Montrose on Sept. 26 from 1-4 p.m. at the division's office, 2300 Townsend Ave. Call 303/484-2335 for more information.

THE GLORIOUS TETONS

The Tetons: Interpretations of a Mountain Landscape, first published in 1938 and now in its sixth printing, is the story of how the Tetons came to be. The author, 86-year-old Fritiof Fryxell, professor emeritus of geology at Augustana College in Illinois, first explored the Tetons in 1924 as he began his doctoral dissertation in geology on the general subject of mountain glaciation. He chose the Tetons as one of the "most impressive known examples of the 'fault-block' type" and his book provides a geologist's analysis of landforms. But the author also reveals his reverence for beauty and his philosophy of the natural world, noting that "seeking permanence in a universe of change we turn to mountains such as these for a symbol of everlastingness." J. David Love of the U.S. Geological Survey wrote the foreword.

Grand Teton Natural History Association, Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012. Paper: \$5.95. 77 pages. Illustrated with map, excellent black and white photos.

Jim Olson



Mt. Teewinot

ACCESS

WORK

ORGANIZER AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR DENVER AUDUBON SOCIETY'S URBAN EDUCATION PROJECT. Major responsibilities: recruiting and organizing volunteers, performing secretarial tasks, managing instructional materials. 30 hours/week; \$11,500 to \$12,500. Minimum qualifications: BA in Education, Natural Science, or related field; previous experience teaching and working with volunteers. For detailed job description, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Denver Audubon Society, Education Project, 1720 Race, Denver, CO 80206. Application deadline: June 5. (2xwp)

FIELD CONSULTANT/TRAINER: Experienced person to consult with environmental and social change groups on organization building skills. Full time. Travel and car required. \$17,000 to \$20,000, depending on qualifications. Northern Rockies Action Group, 9 Placer, Helena, MT 59601. (2x9p)

COMMUNITY ORGANIZER WANTED: The Dakota Resource Council is a grass-roots organization of farmers and rural people active in energy development, family farm and toxics issues. Members are committed to social justice and advocacy. Organizer position open to work on Family Farm Preservation Project, responsible for membership recruitment, leadership development, fundraising, action research, campaign development. Starting salary is \$9,600 annually, benefits. Contact Theresa M. Keaveny, Dakota Resource Council, 29 7th Avenue West, Dickinson, ND 58601. (701/227-1851). (1xb)

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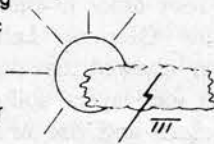
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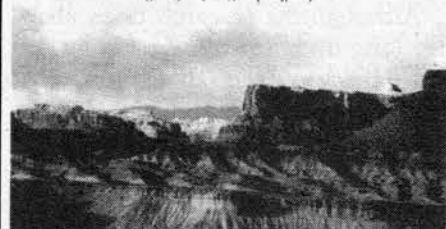
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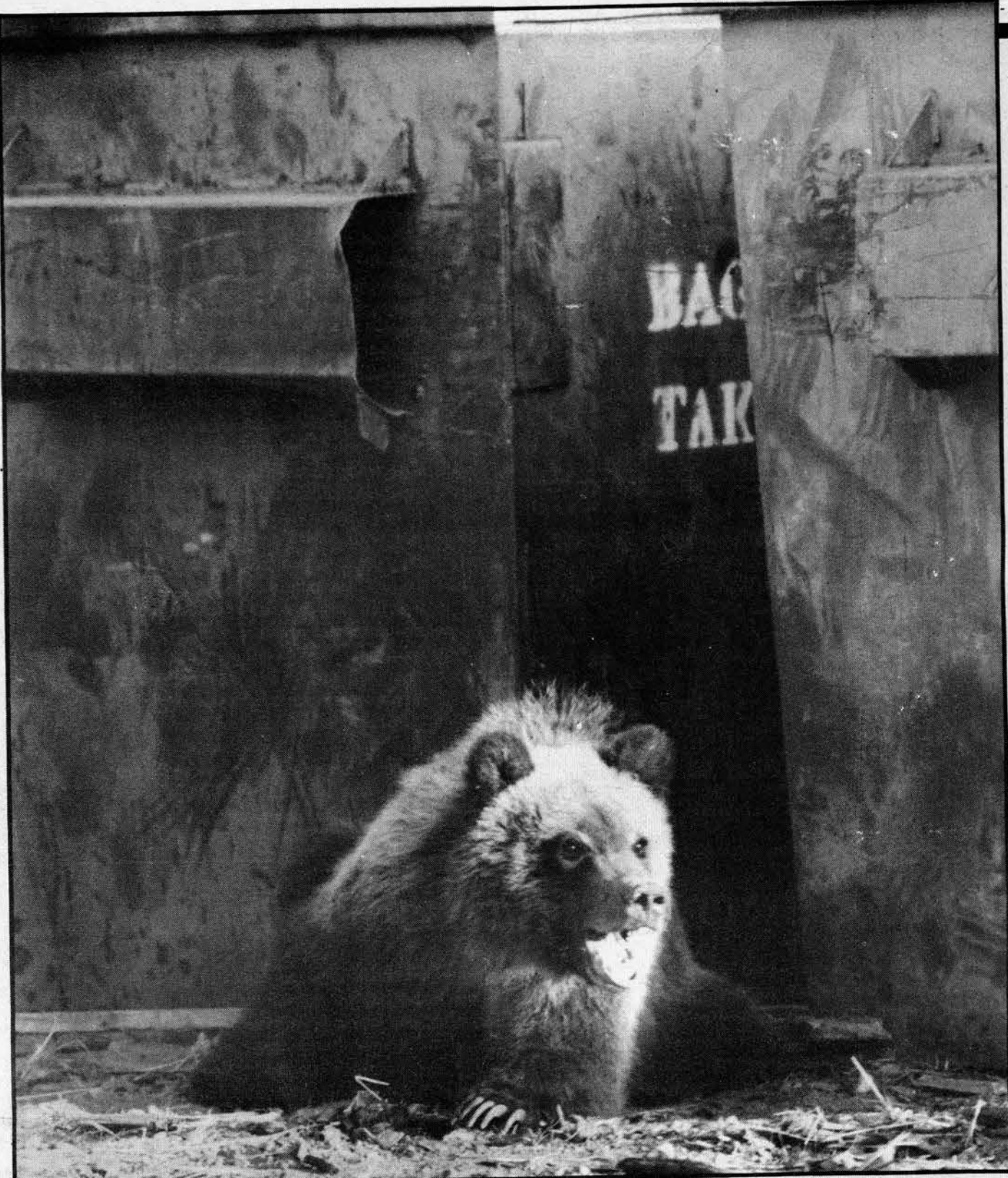
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UTAH CANYON COUNTRY



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Christopher Cauble



Trapped yearling grizzly cub, later released inside Yellowstone National Park, 1983

Grizzly bears:

Thriving or vanishing?

"In 1909, when I first saw the West, there were grizzlies in every major mountain mass, but you could travel for months without meeting a conservation officer. Today there is some kind of conservation officer 'behind every bush,' yet as wildlife bureaus grow, our most magnificent mammal retreats steadily toward the Canadian border..."

There seems to be a tacit assumption that if grizzlies survive in Canada and Alaska, that is good enough. That is not good enough for me....Relegating grizzlies to Alaska is about like relegating happiness to heaven; one may never get there."

--Aldo Leopold
A Sand County Almanac

by Betsy Marston

A spring conference called "The fate of the grizzly," sponsored primarily by the University of Colorado Environmental Center, brought together critics of the federal bureaucracy involved in Yellowstone National Park, plus a few of the bureaucrats themselves.

One official called it a "soul-searching exercise," but after a full

day of panels and questions from the audience of 300 mainly Boulder, Colorado, students, it felt more like a standoff. Public officials defended their decisions. Most expressed optimism that the grizzly bear will not become extinct in the 5.6 million-acre Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem that extends beyond Wyoming to Montana and Idaho.

Critics charged that politics and not biology was running the show and that the loser would be the bear, whose Yellowstone population is perhaps only 200.

Sometimes the audience in the standing-room-only hall was hostile. When Chris Servheen, a biologist in charge of the interagency grizzly recovery team, was asked how officials could determine when the bear population was endangered -- the more serious listing under the Endangered Species Act -- and not merely threatened, he began by saying that was "a pretty tough question." Some of the audience hissed.

One young man was seen wearing a t-shirt that read: "Save a bear, shoot a bureaucrat." Not present on a panel or apparently in the audience was anyone who found grizzlies less

significant than a healthy tourist economy. There was no one from the Cody, Wyoming, Chamber of Commerce, the Wyoming congressional delegation, a sheep ranch or the guide and outfitting business.

Nonetheless, by the end of the day a picture was painted not so much of the bear, as of the different assumptions and forces at work to determine the animal's fate.

If conference participants could be imagined as making up a spectrum ranging from radical left to conservative right, number one to the left would have to be:

•Dave Foreman, founder of the environmental group Earth First!, who said the grizzly must take precedence over any human activity in its territory. (See accompanying story.) Just as Martin Luther King was forced to take a stand, he said, so are we now called to put ourselves on the line to defend grizzlies.

•Equally radical, although more reformer than revolutionary, was Alston Chase, identified as an "independent scholar" in the program compiled by conference organizer Rosalind McClellan. Chase accused the Park Service of "managing" its biological data so that it is incomplete,

or in some cases fabricated. (See accompanying book review.)

•Dave Smith, a writer and student in Missoula, Montana, was most critical of the Park Service for its "resemblance to cancer -- its propensity for mindless growth that turns Yellowstone into a resort." He said agency officials caved in all too easily to political pressure.

•Tony Povilis, a biologist who heads the citizens' group called Campaign for Yellowstone Bears, urged federal officials to reclassify grizzlies as endangered and declare critical habitat instead of "zoned" situation areas with flexible regulations. Povilis lives in Boulder and campaign volunteers were very much in evidence at a booth outside the auditorium.

•John Craighead, the biologist who did the most complete research on Yellowstone's grizzly population before garbage dumps were finally closed in 1971, said recent research made him uneasy. He called the interagency recovery team "overly optimistic" about the chances of survival for the bear.

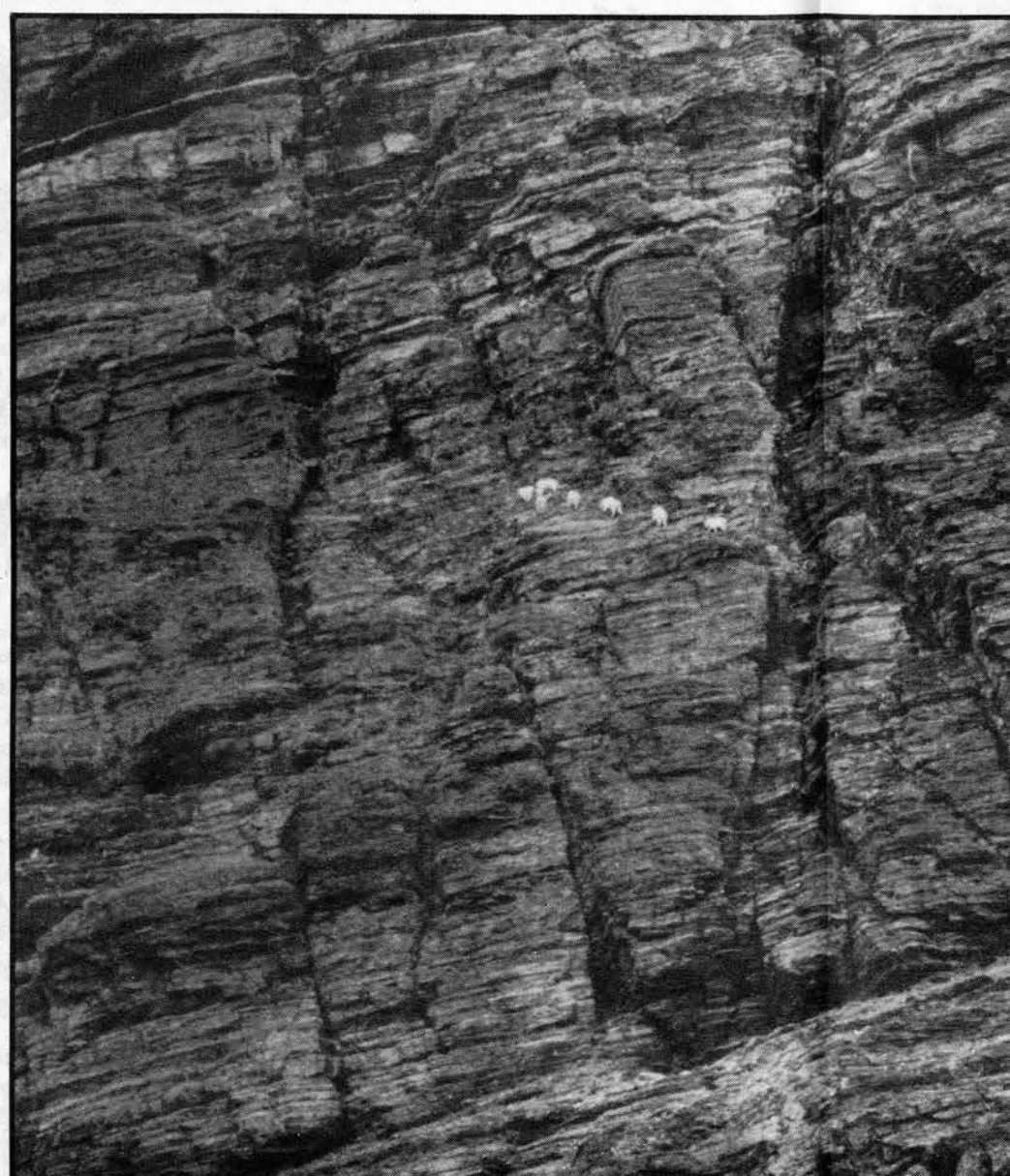
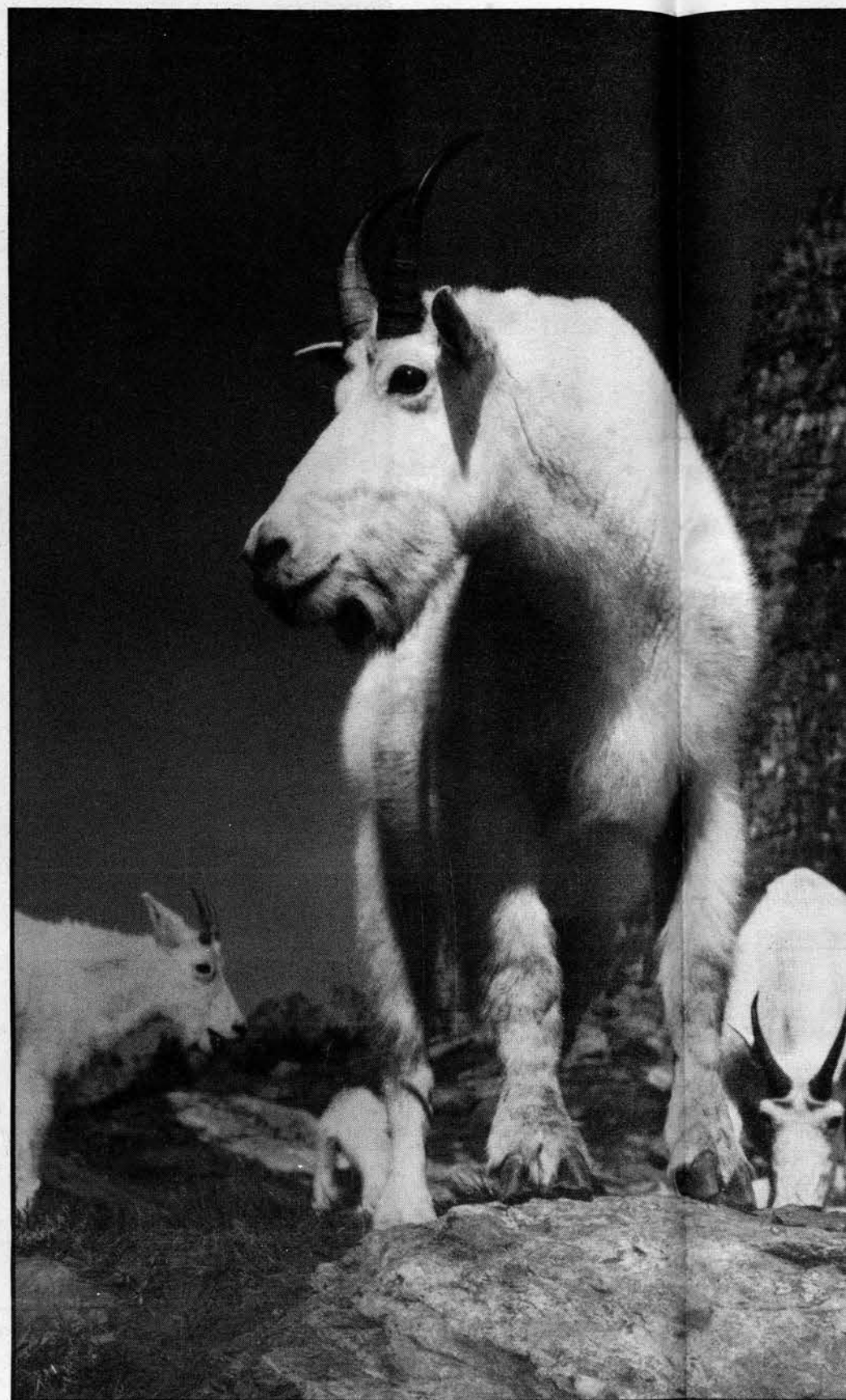
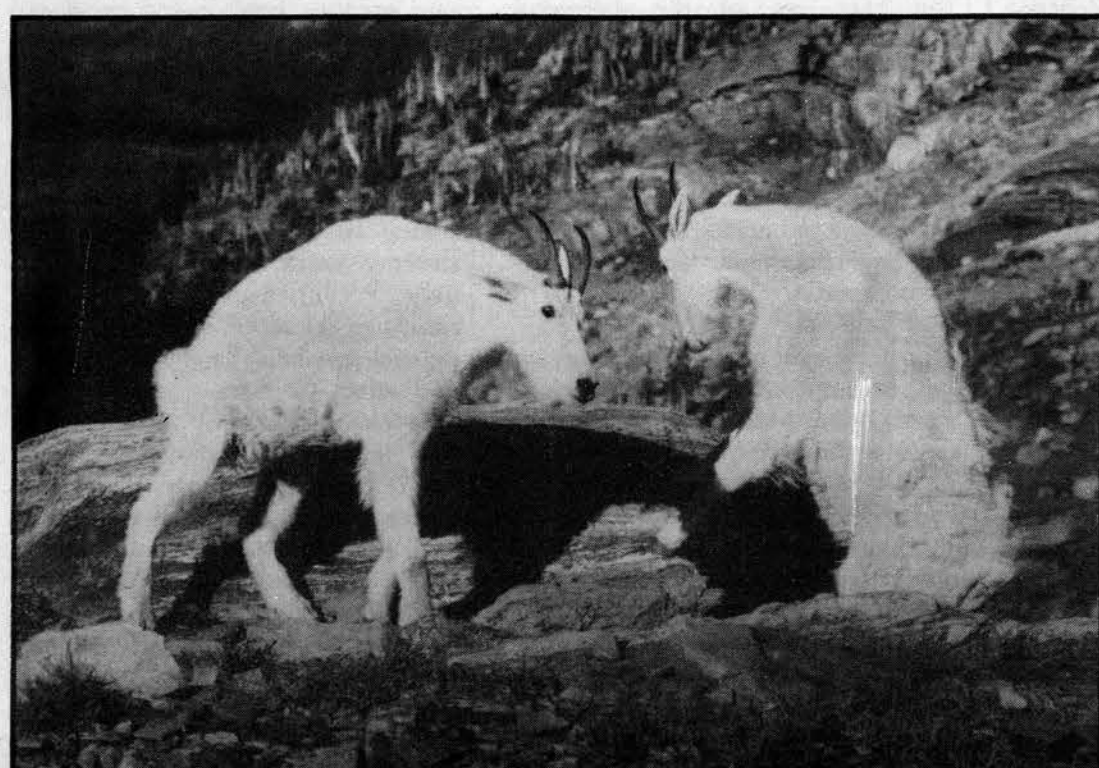
•Moving toward the middle, there was Matt Reid, representing the

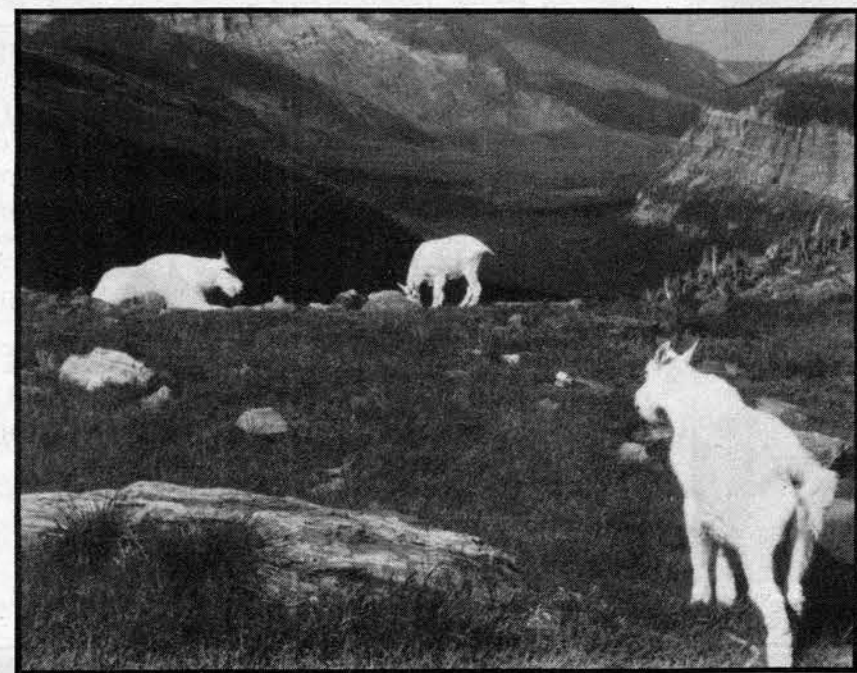
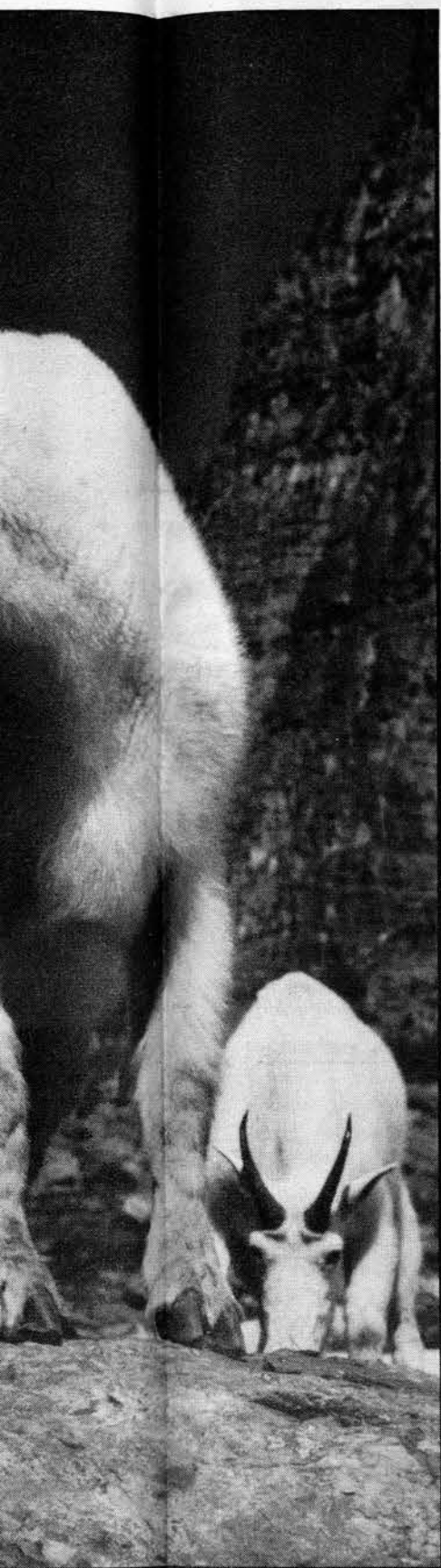
(Continued on page 10)

8-High Country News -- May 26, 1986

A beast the color of winter

Photos by Douglas Chadwick





"In North America there is one large animal that belongs almost entirely to the realm of towering rock and unmelting snow. Pressing hard against the upper limit of life's possibilities, it exists higher and steeper through the year than any other big beast on the continent."

--Douglas Chadwick

That one large animal, which Douglas Chadwick brings to vibrant life in his book, *A Beast the Color of Winter* (Sierra Club Books, 1983), is the mountain goat. Chadwick spent seven years tracking and even living with mountain goat herds in the Northern Rockies, and months would go by when he could count on one hand the number of times he walked on level ground. His research bound him so intimately to a herd, in fact, that he was once gored by a jealous billy who apparently considered him a rival.

Chadwick's field biology took him to 18 different areas in northwestern Montana and Canada, including the Swan Mountains, Flathead Lake, the Bob Marshall Wilderness and Glacier National Park. In some of those areas, energy exploration increased hunting pressure; the goats were killed or retreated.

But since the book was published, Chadwick says mountain goat management has "generally improved," thanks to the research of many scientists. People realize more fully how vulnerable the beasts are to hunting, especially as backcountry development suddenly makes them accessible, he says.

For Chadwick, who lives in the tiny town of Polebridge, Montana, on the edge of Glacier National Park, the goat is a splendid animal almost perfectly adapted to treacherous mountain ridges. Within five hours of being born, he says, a kid is not just hopping about beside its mother -- it is already scaling cliffs.

--Betsy Marston

Conference...

(Continued from page 7)

Wyoming Wildlife Federation. The group has sued the Park Service to force closure of the Fishing Bridge campgrounds in prime grizzly habitat. Reid talked about the many threats to the Yellowstone grizzly ecosystem, including the proposed four-season Ski Yellowstone resort and oil and gas exploration and drilling in adjacent national forests.

•More toward the middle was Tom McNamee of New York City, author of the highly praised book, *The Grizzly Bear*. On the one hand, he rapped Forest Service officials for not getting tough quickly against a guide who killed grizzlies. But he also praised federal officials for excellent grizzly research and suggested the grizzly population at Yellowstone could be augmented by importing bears.

•Perhaps squarely in the middle was Phil Hocker of Jackson, Wyoming, who won applause when he talked about the need to face political reality. Hocker quoted Gen. George Patton, who said, "The object of war is not to die for your country but to let the other guy die for his country. I

want to live alongside the bear (See accompanying story.)

•Moving to the right of the spectrum, there were public officials such as Larry Roop, a research biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Roop said the latest research done by Park Service biologist Richard Knight left us no choice but to conclude that "prudence demands pessimism." Roop said Knight, who was not at the conference, found that grizzlies in Yellowstone will decline in numbers if more than one breeding female is lost in a year. In 1985, 13 grizzlies died and four were female bears. Six deaths were "man-caused."

•Chris Servheen, head of the interagency grizzly recovery team, defended listing the Yellowstone grizzly as threatened. The only difference between that and endangered is "loss of management flexibility," Servheen said, because an endangered bear cannot be moved or destroyed unless permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Servheen argued that Yellowstone grizzlies are "not in danger of extinction... by any stretch of the imagination." Yellowstone Park officials wanted to close Fishing Bridge

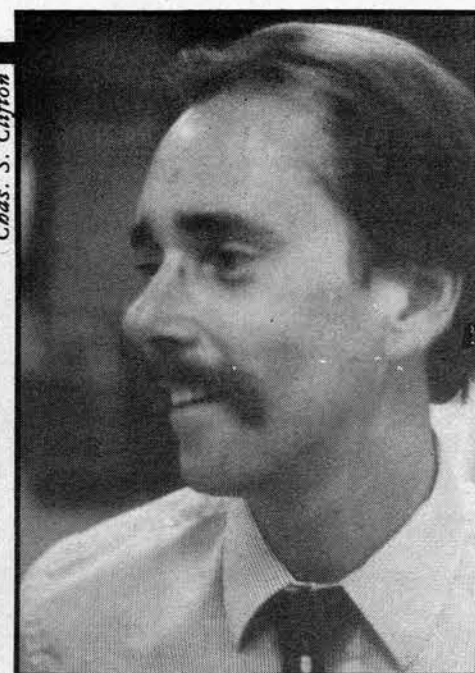
campsites, he added, but political pressure intervened.

•Gary Brown, a bear-management specialist for Yellowstone National Park, attacked "radical extremists," but did not name Dave Foreman, who was sitting to his right. Twenty-five years ago, he said, the Park Service knew it had to get out of Fishing Bridge. "It's an ecological gem... but the decision is not in our hands."

•Finally, there was Steve Mealey, a biologist who is supervisor of the Shoshone National Forest that borders Yellowstone. He and Servheen made a vigorous defense of management policies in the afternoon -- hours after critics had fired salvo after salvo.

Mealey said grizzly bears, now weaned from decades of eating garbage, had "gotten off their rumps" and become better predators. He said Yellowstone National Park is in better shape than in the last 100 years because it is virtually clean of garbage. He said the Endangered Species Act gives commitment to saving the bear from extinction; the fish population has doubled; and 70 percent of bear habitat in the ecosystem is dedicated to the bear, so if an activity competes, "It goes."

One of the major conservation



Chris Servheen

achievements of the 20th century will be the conservation of the Yellowstone grizzly, Mealey said. Even though the population has received its highest mortality rate, there are "no less than 200 bears and at least 38 breeding females." The hypothesis since park dumps were phased out, he added, is that the grizzly is a hunter, not a scavenger.

Mealey also said he didn't like the

(Continued on page 13)

Earth First!'s Foreman leaves an audience howling

If you didn't get to Duane Physics Hall early the night Dave Foreman, founder of Earth First!, was scheduled to speak, you stood on the stairs looking down enviously at 350 college-age people who had snagged chairs or floor space.

Before Foreman spoke there were films about the grizzly bear, including one that showed what an angry bear can do to a man's scalp (nearly rip it off) and 20 minutes of unedited, soundless film from Doug Peacock of grizzlies at play.

Dave Smith, who occasionally

writes for Earth First! under the pen name Arthur Dogmeat, served as narrator for Peacock, who has photographed grizzlies for more than a decade. Peacock's subjects didn't do anything in particular; they just were, and from that came the wonder and delight.

Fans of the writer Edward Abbey know that Peacock was the model for George Hayduke in *The Monkey Wrench Gang*. Peering down into a draw, Peacock's camera followed one bear who seemed to make up his world as he went along, sometimes leaping

into the air, graceful as a cat when he spotted something odd on the ground, sometimes sitting down just to look about. Another, who Smith said has been dubbed "Happy Bear" by Peacock, seemed determined to break up the ice on a pond. Finally, he ripped a piece free and then batted it around like a ball.

We saw cubs playing, leaping at each other or sliding on snow. We saw massive bears, brown, honey-gold and grizzled, fur riffling in the wind, who looked as if they owned the world.

"We think we're cock of the walk," began Dave Foreman to an appreciative audience. "Well, we need a little humility... We're no better than a stink bug."

What human arrogance has done to the mighty grizzly, he said, was reduce its numbers from 100,000 during the nineteenth century to less than 700 today in North America.

Foreman presented a recovery plan for the grizzly that is advocated by Earth First!, the environmental movement that also calls for direct action, such as the recent occupation of the office of Yellowstone Superintendent Robert Barbee.

The heart of Earth First!'s plan is that whatever the issue, the grizzly comes first. "It's not enough to save a few bears you can trot out like Reagan trots out a former Sandinista," he said. "They need a turf of their own." Bears must be declared endangered and not merely threatened, he added. "None of this chicken-shit threatened. Let's put some backbone in our bureaucrats."

Foreman said the recovery plan would close down the "Winnebago slums," prohibit motor vehicles but add non-polluting mass transit in grizzly country. No horses would be allowed in the backcountry, livestock grazing would be phased out, and

logging, motorboats, and oil and gas exploration and drilling would all be banned. "We don't need those dead dinosaurs under Yellowstone."

The plan would also restore the Rocky Mountain wolf, Foreman said to applause, as well as the mountain lion and beaver.

The result? "Anyone visiting an area with grizzlies would know that a 'visit at your own risk policy' was in effect. I'm willing to be eaten by bears," Foreman said. "That's a privilege and better than being buried in some sarcophagus. I won't go crying to big brother."

According to the plan, anyone killing a bear would be charged with a felony, and the only research allowed would be "by eyeball... No helicopters, no collars... no weird drug trips. Are we trying to turn them into a bunch of hippies?"

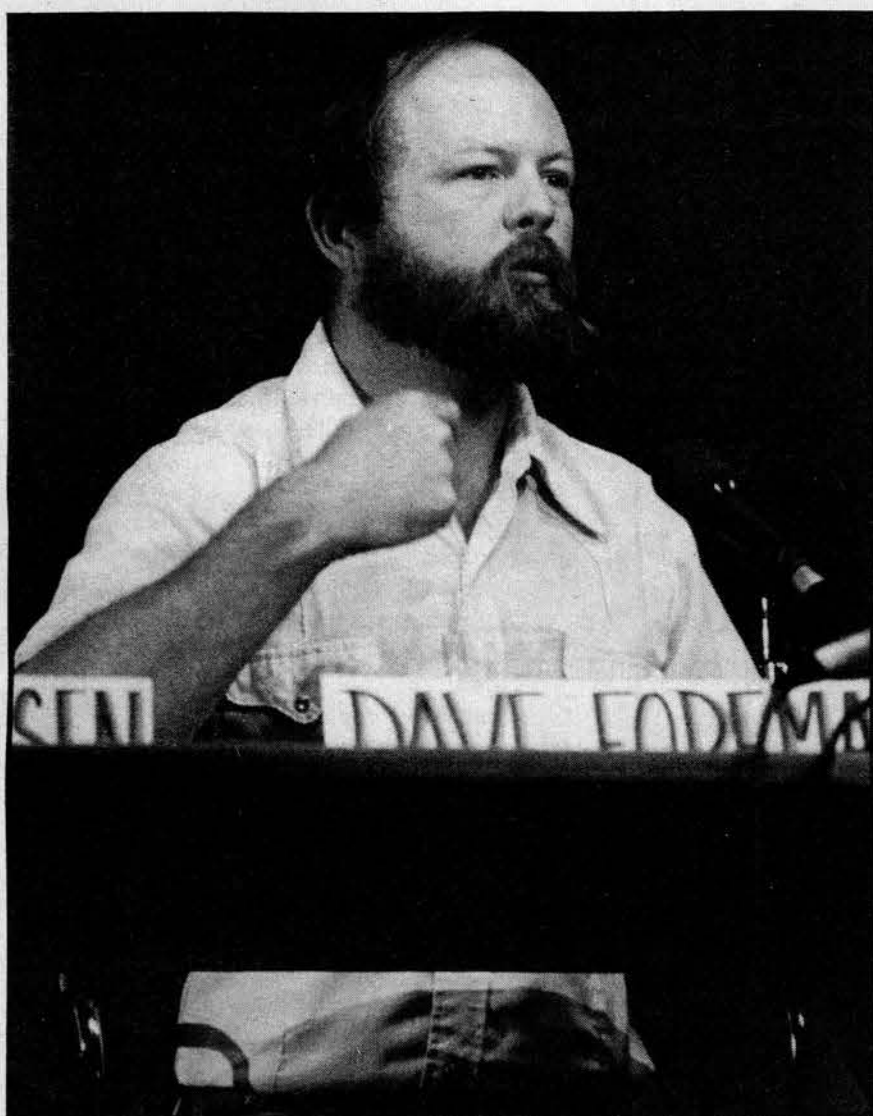
Foreman said humans had to create a world where we can coexist with bears, "whose only fault is that they don't like us." There must be room for wild women and wild men, room for wilderness and "not the best trophy because we've been on the computer too long. The Bear has walked the same three and a half billion-year path of evolution," Foreman said. "Her life is just as important to her as your life is to you. We don't set the standard."

"We're just some damn baboons who got out of control."

Foreman concluded by recalling the great conservationist Aldo Leopold, who wrote in *A Sand County Almanac* in 1949, about seeing a "fierce green fire" in the eyes of a dying wolf.

"Don't be a bunch of androids," Foreman roared at the audience. Howl like the wolf that you are a part of life, he urged, and the walls of Duane Physics Hall resounded with the long drawn-out howls of humans.

--Betsy Marston



Dave Foreman, Earth First!

Angus Thuermer

BOOK NOTES

The last honest man

Playing God in Yellowstone
The destruction of America's first
national park

Alston Chase, *The Atlantic Monthly*
Press, 420 Lexington Ave., Ste. 2304,
New York City, N.Y. 10170, 1986. 446
pages. Index. \$24.95, cloth.

Review by Ed Marston

Alston Chase should have titled his book *Yellowgate*. If his allegations are true, the National Park Service has been and continues to be a felonious federal agency, with the environmental movement a witting accomplice of the agency.

Chase uses what he calls the destruction of Yellowstone National Park as an example of the Park Service's perfidy. Within Yellowstone, he uses the grizzly bear as an instance of its behavior. But he is after bigger game than the management of one park or species. He has taken on how we look at and deal with nature.

The book is part investigative journalism and part nature writing. Chase, a former professor of philosophy with degrees from Harvard, Oxford, and Princeton, came to the northern Rockies in 1973 to buy a ranch and run outdoor education classes in Yellowstone. Out of that

experience, the jacket says, came this book.

In it, he charges that the Park Service has consistently falsified scientific data; has ordered its toady scientists to provide results administrators wanted; has forced independent researchers such as the Craighead brothers out of Yellowstone; has required investigators such as himself to use the Freedom of Information Act to obtain the agency's research papers; and has destroyed what natural balance and health existed when it took over the park 71 years ago.

Chase attributes this alleged behavior to various causes. He says the agency is made up of and run by "non-professionals" -- police and people-manager types -- with its few real professionals distrusted and kept far from the career ladder. The second cause is the agency's inability to withstand political pressure. In 1961, then Yellowstone superintendent Lemuel Garrison knew the elk herd was devastating Yellowstone's range and should be sharply reduced. So he took steps, including mass shootings, to cut the herd. But the Park Service could not take the political heat from hunters, who did not want an animal

(Continued on page 12)

PLAYING GOD
IN
YELLOWSTONE

*The Destruction of
America's First National Park*

Alston Chase

Phil Hocker gives away some trade secrets

"It's not often I get a chance to preach to the converted," said Phil Hocker, a nattily dressed architect who lives in Jackson, Wyoming. Hocker, who just stepped down as national treasurer for the Sierra Club, spoke for 25 minutes near the end of the conference. He talked rapidly, as if he had a lot to say and not enough time to say it.

"There's a mob spirit in this room today and that's a lot of fun. But it's not related to the real thing," he began.

The real thing, or what Hocker called "playing the game," was pushing and prodding the political system to protect grizzly bear habitat. Since the great bear can roam over 1,000 miles or so, habitat protection extends beyond Yellowstone National Park to the surrounding national forests.

Hocker said he wanted the mostly young people in the audience to learn about his trade secrets because, "it's easy to find brick walls and unbeatable fights. The trick is to build support and force the political system to be responsive." Since politicians and bureaucrats respond to what he called a "perceived majority," a core of activists must reach out to people -- most of whom are apathetic -- and "build acquiescence" among them. "That's really vital," he said. "Although the great majority won't ever do anything, we can allege their support."

What the committed core group must not do, he added, is stir up opposition, for "each opponent clearly disrupts."

Rule one, he said, is to pick the right fight. Defeat may build sympathy but nobody wants to join

you, he said. When a winnable fight is selected, he said, work with a local group and borrow their credibility. "Fear of foreigners is a powerful force that can turn people against your cause."

Rule two is to worry less about demagoguery than about facts. "A (oil and gas) lease is 12 pages long with funny things on the back." Scrutinize the back carefully, he said, because the Forest Service may have forgotten that it still has the right to say no. "Feel free to create new choices" for an agency, he urged.

As an example, Hocker talked about the fight Sierra Club and other groups fought in Jackson to block oil and gas leasing on the Mt. Leidy Highlands, a land bridge for the grizzly to the south of Yellowstone. One-third of the national forest was covered with proposed leases (HCN, 6/24/85) and going after them was like playing Russian roulette, Hocker said. "Just because you win one battle doesn't mean you're looking forward to your turn coming around again."

That led Hocker to his third rule, which is to force issues into the open. Since the Forest Service "hates public meetings," and will hold open houses, workshops "or some other way not to hold a public meeting," conservation groups should hold their own public meetings and invite the Forest Service to speak, he said.

"I'm giving away a lot of trade secrets," Hocker interjected, "but I'm glad some people aren't listening." The audience, however, seemed to be listening closely, and not a few took notes.

Once a public meeting is set, Hocker continued, make sure the room is too small. He said when the Sierra

Club held its second meeting to protest leasing the Mt. Leidy Highlands, 350 people showed up. Although the room wasn't "small enough," Hocker said, the Forest Service was persuaded to defer a decision on proposed leases until a forest plan was prepared.

"When we showed a map with lease areas marked in red, people groaned," Hocker recalled. It also didn't hurt that timber, and not oil and gas, is the "favorite game" for the Forest Service, he added.

The lesson learned from the Mt. Leidy meeting was: "Ask for what they can just barely give you," Hocker said. In this case it was delay and an analysis of leasing based on cumulative impacts to the grizzly.

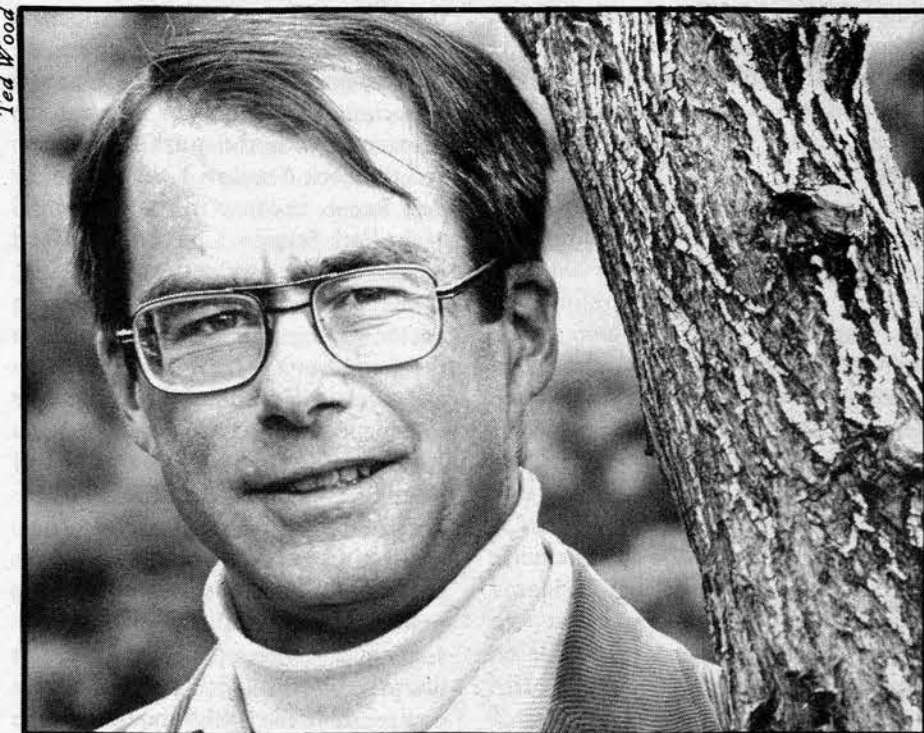
In contrast to Earth First!, Hocker

said no one should bother occupying the office of the Yellowstone superintendent, Robert Barbee. Real power is with Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson and the Cody Chamber of Commerce, he said, and "mobbing his (Barbee's) office doesn't build the perceived majority."

Hocker also recommended that people join a national conservation group, that they lobby to reform the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act, and that they oppose ecocenters for bears on the ground that a dump is still a dump. "We want to protect wild bears, not dump bears."

Finally, Hocker said, "Wilderness will not come at a call of a legislator... its defense will always depend on you."

--Betsy Marston



Phil Hocker

Chase...

(Continued from page 11)

to die without the "supreme unction" of their bullets, and animal rightists, who did not want the animals shot by anyone within the park.

Chase says the agency decided that its only path was to let nature take its course. So it put all research into the hands of its scientists and pushed out other researchers. Chase charges that these scientists manufactured theories and culled data to support policies which let the agency stand by while Yellowstone's trees, grass, soil, and wildlife were being destroyed.

This could occur, Chase says, because environmental groups had an incestuous relationship with an agency they should have watchdogged. He claims key individuals moved between environmental groups and the Park Service, leading to a rubberstamping of policies which are destroying the park.

Chase has attracted the most attention with charges that the closing of the Yellowstone dumps to the bears was a mistake and that there may not be enough natural food in Yellowstone to sustain the grizzlies. But his criticism goes deeper. The trouble at the top of the biological pyramid, he says, indicates trouble below. He opens the book by asking: Why has Yellowstone's beaver population plummeted over the last few decades? His answer: Overgrazing destroyed streamside habitat, lowered the water table, and prevented aspen from regenerating.

The overgrazing is due largely to elk. And the burgeoning elk population is due to the agency's failure to muster the political courage in the 1960s to control the elk. But he also says it is due to behavior in an earlier day, when the agency took over from the more tolerant cavalry, and went on an all-out predator extermination campaign.

Without predators, without Indians, without killing by agency hunters, elk multiplied until they had damaged their own habitat and that of other animals such as deer and beaver. The results, Chase says, are apparent each fall when elk cross the park boundary in search of winter range and are mowed down by a firing line of sportsmen from all over America.

The destruction of habitat, he writes, extends to the grass-roots level, where native species are being lost and sheet erosion is taking place. Yellowstone, he says, is literally dying.

The Park Service denies it. But Chase says the Agency wouldn't know, because it does not do science. He argues that no one understands the past biological history of the park. He suggests that the Yellowstone plateau is so high and harsh that it may never have been year-around home to larger animals. He quotes explorers who say that the game was scarce there in the early 1800s, and argues that big game has been forced into Yellowstone by hunters and development.

That, and the absence of both predators and Indians, makes any hope of natural balance a joke; man has no choice but to manage. For the elk and bison, that means killing the excess populations. For the grizzly, it means letting them eat human-supplied food at "ecocenters." More broadly, he implies that even in the West there is no "natural," self-regulating ecosystem out there, anywhere.

He challenges the view that Indians lived in harmony with nature, skimming its bounty off the top. Before the Europeans, he says, the Indians ruled the land with fire and flint, burning and hunting with great efficiency. Game, he says, was plentiful only in the no-man's-land between tribes, where the Indians couldn't safely hunt. Many tribes were

starving when the explorers came through the region. The Lewis and Clark expedition, for example, lived for long stretches by eating Indian livestock -- dogs.

Chase's book, then, is a plea for the Park Service and the public to abandon their quest for natural, self-regulating ecosystems and instead accept the need for competent management.

The first two-thirds of the book makes his case about the impossibility of a self-regulating ecosystem, even in vast Yellowstone. The last third is an attack on the national environmental movement and its northern Rockies branch. He is particularly angry at the Northern Rockies Action Group, which he describes as a sort of Comintern that helped set up and then dominated public interest groups in the Rockies.

As Chase sees it, the Park Service's alleged non-management and its know-nothing science is supported by the prevailing environmental consciousness. According to Chase, the movement has embraced gnosticism, which sees man as a sullied creature, only able to reunite with God through nature. Rather than management, Chase says environmentalists want to give nature free rein so nature can recover its own health and balance.

He charges that the Greater Yellowstone Coalition is seeking to expand the non-management philosophy of Yellowstone into the surrounding national forests even though that management has brought the park to its ecological knees.

Chase has taken on everyone in sight, and in nasty, jabbing ways. He talks of Primitive Chic, California Cosmologists and Hubris Commandos when discussing environmentalists. Throughout, he uses his book to get at various foundations and individuals. He gives lip service to "honest disagreements" with "decent

people," but when he gets specific, there are only white hats and black hats.

Although he pleads for careful science and rational approaches to problems, his book violates both canons. It is rife with inconsistencies, his ambiguous sentences often leave the reader confused, and he has a tendency to leave events undated.

But the real problem is the book's tone and assumptions. It is unrelentingly nasty and vituperative, using the most emotionally-laden phrases Chase can contrive. You come away with the impression that he and a few others are the last honest men in the northern Rockies.

Others are either sullen romantics who can't see his truth, or members of a giant conspiracy. His conspiracy theory not only links the Park Service and the environmentalists, but it also has the various environmental groups in the Rockies and in the Great Plains marching to a single drum beat. His picture of this lockstep movement is very different from the balkanized reality of grass-roots environmentalism in the Rockies.

Despite what are very serious failings, Chase's book is a contribution, for he has created a context within which we can look at Yellowstone. He has pulled together the elk firing lines on the edge of Yellowstone, the goofy exploits surrounding the bison that wander out of the park, the grizzly debates, the controversy surrounding the Craigheads and Fishing Bridge.

Second, although he lays all problems at the feet of a lying National Park Service and a romantic yet politically-astute environmental movement, his information suggests other interpretations.

If Chase is correct, under Lemuel Garrison, the Park Service in the 1960s tried to control the elk. Garrison, it

(Continued on page 14)

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition responds to Chase

Rick Reese and Bob Anderson are part of the National Park Service-environmentalist conspiracy alleged by Alston Chase in *Playing God in Yellowstone*. Until very recently, Anderson was executive director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and Reese is board president.

In Chase's view, the coalition has ignored the biological crisis within Yellowstone while working politically to bring the public lands outside the park under similar management. The reason, Chase implies in the book and elsewhere, is a willful ignoring of the facts, or worse. In the book, Chase opens a chapter by describing the organizational meeting of the coalition at park headquarters at Mammoth, implying that it is a creature of the agency. Elsewhere, he describes Reese as a former Park Service ranger. (Reese was a climbing ranger at Grand Teton National Park in the 1960s.)

Anderson agrees that the coalition is concentrating on the land outside the park. "We think the problems outside are more serious. But we recognize that there are problems inside." He wonders why the difference in approaches on all sorts of questions raised by Chase can't be

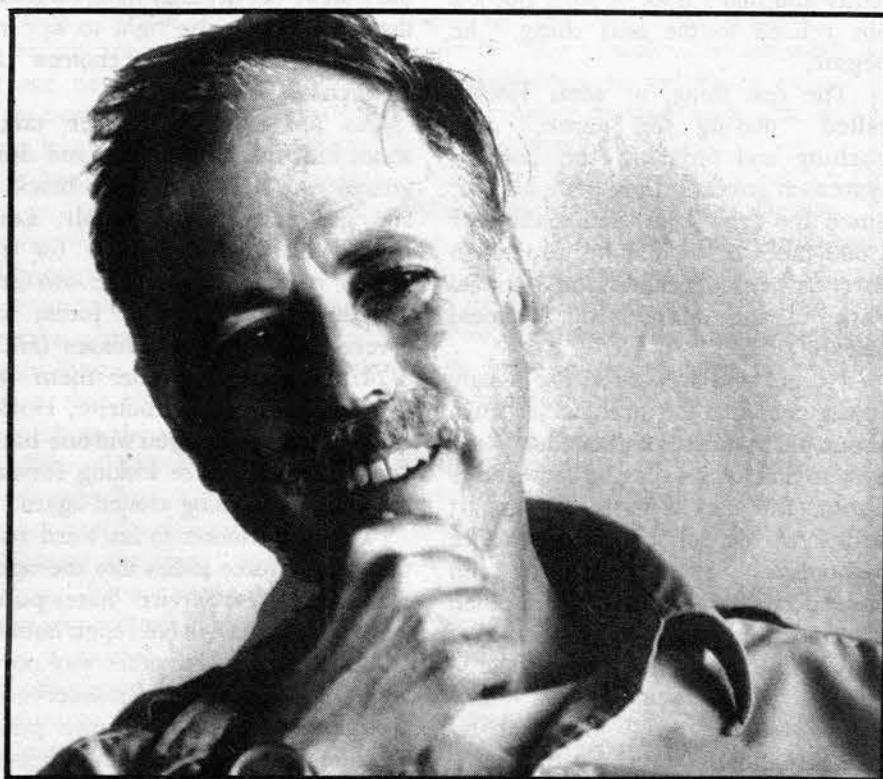
attributed to honest differences of opinion instead of a conspiracy.

Anderson says that by turning attention to Yellowstone, "the book will be constructive. But he's alleging conspiracies. He's attacked individuals. And he's weakened the book by its errors and inconsistencies."

Chase is very harsh on the Park Service for throttling research and the free flow of information. But Anderson says that three years ago, the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association, a volunteer organization associated with the park, refused to sell the book *Greater Yellowstone*, by Rick Reese, because it was too critical of the Park Service. Chase was a board member of the group then.

Reese says, "I wouldn't differ with Alston that resource management at the park has been highly controversial. I would agree that the Craigheads (independent bear researchers at Yellowstone) had a bad deal. But why should we dwell on that now, when the bear is slipping away."

Reese is most disturbed at Chase's implication that the coalition is a powerful organization. "We're a young group with a troubled history. It has to be one thing at a time, and right now we think the problems outside the park are the most pressing. Alston is



Alston Chase

asking too much of us. I could as well ask him: 'Why haven't you solved this or that problem?'"

Another reaction to Chase's book came from the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association. The educational group, which decides which books can be sold in the park,

passed a resolution indirectly chastising Chase for listing his chairmanship of the group on the book jacket, according to *Associated Press*. Chase responded by resigning his board position.

--Ed Marston

Conference...

(Continued from page 10)

"numbers business." His two guidelines were: fewer bear deaths are better and bear habitat must be saved.

Bear-management critics noted that research showed present-day bears are thinner and produce fewer cubs. Chris Servheen said this was not surprising. Garbage dumps in the park offered 80,000 pounds of food a day during July and August. "If you feed an animal, he'll get bigger."

Servheen said the recovery plan's goal is to "delist" the grizzly. "Everybody wants to know hard-to-get numbers," he said, but to get off the endangered species list the grizzly will have to number 300 bears or achieve a successful set of characteristics monitored over a six-year period.

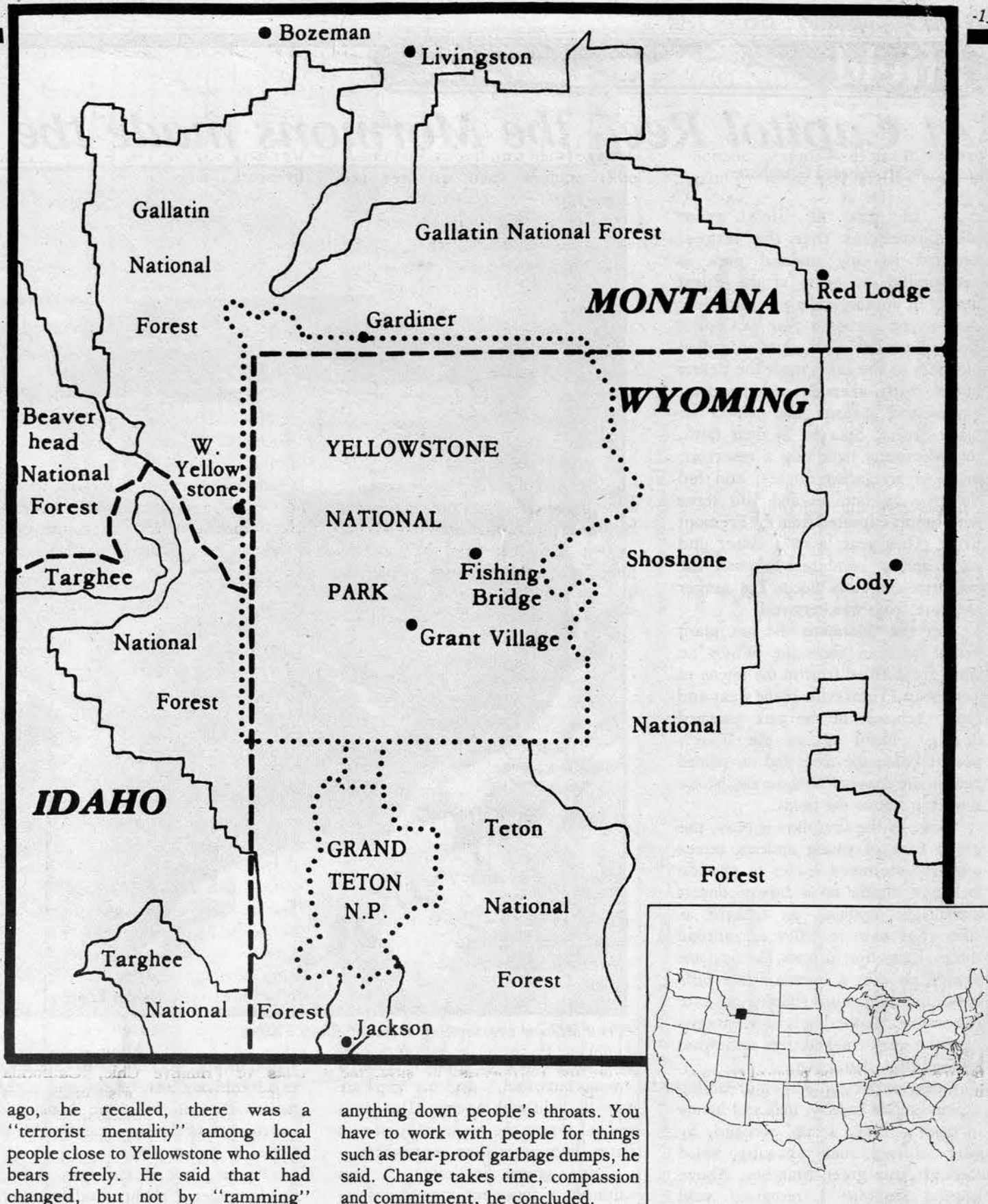
Servheen said managers must keep grizzlies away from human garbage because most people are killed by bears who learned that "people are a food source."

Except for Alston Chase, agency critics did not dispute bear-management goals. What they faulted was managers compromising with multiple uses that are incompatible with the grizzly. Chase, however, attacked the Park Service for plunging recklessly ahead in closing the garbage dumps. "Every bear is a garbage bear," he said, because dumps were probably present during Indian days.

He recommended that all bear research be conducted independently of the Park Service, that critical habitat be designated and that current research be reviewed to determine why so many bear deaths are man-caused.

Finally, Chase said no one could be optimistic about bear recovery because we cannot know when the balance is tipped one way or the other.

Summing up, Steve Mealey said the conference had not been about bears but about people. Ten years



ago, he recalled, there was a "terrorist mentality" among local people close to Yellowstone who killed bears freely. He said that had changed, but not by "ramming"

anything down people's throats. You have to work with people for things such as bear-proof garbage dumps, he said. Change takes time, compassion and commitment, he concluded.

LETTERS

ASPEN MUTILATION

Dear HCN,

I have just received my second issue and am mostly pleased at the contents.

However, I am fighting mad at the cover photo labeled "Aspen Art." "Aspen Mutilation" is the correct appellation -- the art of a living, elegant aspen tree was destroyed by the unknown sheepherders and other vandals. I think you give sanction to this by calling it "Art" -- please don't!

Irene Kendall
Redwood City, California

INDIAN LAND DISPUTE

Dear HCN,

We appreciate the in-depth coverage of the Navajo-Hopi relocation by Christopher McLeod in *High Country News* (HCN, 5/12/86). As the relocation deadline approaches, we can expect to see a great deal of shallow and distorted coverage of this issue by mainstream media, and it is essential to have papers like yours that present the whole picture clearly.

Although Arizona Reps. Morris Udall's and John McCain's "compre-Josephy, Jr.'s guest opinion, "Are

unacceptable for a number of reasons, including pressure on the Navajo tribe to accelerate coal mining, there is still hope of a fair legislative settlement. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, has agreed to introduce legislation to repeal PL 93-531 (the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act), probably in late May or early June. This bill will have major input from traditional leaders of both tribes, including those directly affected by relocation. Concerned persons should seek support of repeal from their congressional representatives. For more information, contact Big Mountain Legal Defense/Offense Committee, 2501 N. 4th St., Ste. 18, Flagstaff, AZ 86001 (602/774-5233).

Eric Holle
Big Mountain Support Group
Boulder, Colorado

DEFENDS ABBEY

Dear HCN,

I was outraged by Alvin M. Josephy, Jr.'s guest opinion "Are ranchers our defense against subdividers?" (HCN, April 14, 1986). Under the guise of this somewhat innocuous title lies a particularly irresponsible allegation that Edward Abbey "has finally revealed himself as a front man for the western real estate lobby." Finding this bold statement in the first paragraph, I felt compelled to read further and learn

just what evidence it was that Mr. Josephy was presenting in support of such a conclusion. Although approximately half the article deals with Abbey himself, I found nothing in the form of proof for such a libelous statement -- only unsubstantiated rhetoric.

Mr. Josephy apparently reached his conclusion after having read and discussed with a friend the content of an article written by Abbey for the Jan. 1986 issue of *Harpers*, in which Abbey expressed his strong dislike for cattle, the cattle industry, and the ranging practices of many western ranchers. Josephy has concluded, on the basis of that article, that since Abbey wishes to clear the West of ranching, then he must be "leading us for the realtors." The logical link between Abbey's statements and Josephy's indictments is dubious at best. While neither the logistics nor the practicality of returning the West to its wild state (as Abbey suggests) are clear, I feel that it is extremely short-sighted and imprudent for Mr. Josephy to conclude either that real estate speculators will take over the land or most especially that Edward Abbey is covertly fronting for such people. Nonsense!

If Josephy wishes to label someone as being pro-development, then most certainly Edward Abbey is the wrong choice! Anyone who has read much of Abbey's writing certainly recognizes

wild American West -- a fierce firebrand who does at times take a great amount of literary license in attempting to express his exhilaration in mere words. A romanticist, yes, but certainly no land speculator.

Michael V. Newberry
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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14-High Country News -- May 26, 1986

afield

At Capitol Reef, the Mormons made the desert fruitful

by R. Edward Grumbine

It is one of life's great inconsistencies that the largest orchard in any national park is surrounded by some of the driest desert in southern Utah. It rains less than seven inches a year at Capitol Reef National Park, yet Mormon pioneers in the 1880s made the desert bloom with cherries and peaches, apples and apricots, and named the place Fruita. Spurred by their faith, the Mormons hand-dug a reservoir, miles of irrigation ditches; and fed their young families and fruit trees with runoff captured from the Fremont River. This year, a mild winter and early spring combined to push the orchards into early bloom. The danger of a late frost was very real.

Yet the Mormons did not plant Fruita without foresight. When an April frost killed fruit in the towns of Torrey and Hanksville to the west and east, orchards in the park escaped damage. Hard against the Waterpocket Fold, the trees fed on stored heat in the mass of Wingate sandstone towering above the fields.

Now, in the first days of May, the green fuzz of young apricots mixes with red-stemmed leaves to provide welcome shade on a breezy desert afternoon. Walking an orchard is somewhat akin to following railroad tracks. Irrigation furrows, like ties, are spaced so that a human stride falls either too long or just short of this side of comfort. Gathering wild asparagus near the dark-trunked trees somewhat lessens this distraction.

Lying under apple trees, dreaming of September in May, milk and honey in the desert, I am shocked by rust-colored rock showing solid through knit green branches. Above pruned treetops I recognize wild truths with formal names: Moenkopi, Chinle, Wingate, Kayenta.

The wind has died and it is blisteringly hot. Ascending a steep trail I respect the logic of switchbacks. It is the heat of day, no shade, but my feet are sunk in earth,



Fruit orchard overlooking Fremont River Valley

this single flex of planet crust, a "monoclinical fold," and my steps are smooth, light with energy. The sun is so hot I expect the rocks to burst with flame, burning bushes everywhere.

Little grows in talus. I pass saltbush, a dominant member of the *Atriplex* tribe. The male plants are loaded with clustered flower buds, yet unopened. Even in this May heat, desert plants are patient.

In a waterpocket a yellow puccoon is going to seed, sign of an early spring. Its Latin name, *Lithosper-*

mum, means "rock seed" in reference to a hard bony coat. By the end of the month the sun will have consumed anything not baked to ceramic, able to move, or wed to water.

Topping out at cliff-line, I find shade under a slight sandstone lip. Hundreds of feet below lies Fruita: 2,500 fruit trees, a 50-unit campground, horsebarn, picnic area and government housing, all crammed onto the Fremont River's floodplain. The river glints molten silver in the afternoon heat.

From my perch I see it threading a delicate maze of impossibly green patchwork of orchard that loops the campground heading east through the fold. And all around, hiding this incongruous paradise so quick with life, the desert lies, serene in heat, rock, silence.

□

Ed Grumbine directs wilderness studies at the University of California Extension, Santa Cruz.

Chase...

(Continued from page 13)

seems, did everything right. He had his science in hand, and he made every effort to sell it to the people in the surrounding region. He failed, however. And although Chase ignores this possibility in favor of conspiracy, it appears he failed because of the nature of this region. The rural Rockies has always lacked the statesmen, the communications media and the leadership to help Garrison.

Then, when the Park Service undertook two decades of "natural regulation" as a magical substitute for shooting elk, the region did not have the institutions of research and education to keep the agency honest. Only a few lone wolves like the Craigheads were available to challenge it.

Such a lofty analysis is not meant to dismiss Chase. We need to measure his charges: Did the Park Service lock out independent scientific research? Did it cook its scientific books? Did it slaughter grizzlies? Must the grizzly be fed to survive? Is the elk herd five times too large? Did the agency first exterminate and then secretly try to

reintroduce wolves into Yellowstone? Has the environmental movement muted its criticisms out of political expedience?

However, even if the agency is found guilty, and its personnel and policies reformed, that won't solve a problem whose roots are in the weakness of Rocky Mountain society and institutions. Think about the problems a contemporary Lemuel Garrison would face if he wanted to, let's say, cut the elk herd by 80 percent on the basis of good research.

First, there is no authoritative regional newspaper, or even a television or radio station which blankets the region. Westerners complain bitterly about the way the Eastern media describes the West (See the April 23 and 24 *Wall Street Journal* articles on the BLM for the latest cartoon characterization of the West), but we rarely berate the region itself for failing to nurture its own media.

Second, there is no regionally-respected institution of learning and research whose imprimatur could be put on the decision.

Third, we lack regional statesmen. Colorado Sen. Gary Hart speaks to the Eastern seaboard rather than to the

region. Wyoming has the best national representatives, but they are too closely identified with the ranching aristocracy to really help the region.

What can be done? Not much about the lack of media or statesmen. But we can act on the lack of institutions of research and education. The rural Rockies cannot ape a Harvard or Berkeley. Those institutions grew out of the soil, culture, and economies of their respective regions. And Rocky Mountain institutions must grow out of our circumstances.

This region's future Harvard or Berkeley should be centered on the

West's greatest assets: its national parks and its more or less intact subregions -- such as the Colorado Plateau and the Glacier country. What we need is the University of Yellowstone at Livingston, the Colorado Plateau University at Moab, and the Colorado River Institute at Glenwood Springs.

If we can't create those institutions, as a step toward putting a social, cultural and intellectual foundation beneath this region, then we will remain a helpless hinterland, unable to protect even such a global treasure as Yellowstone.

Great Bear Foundation



more...



High Country News Evaluation

1. Which of the following statements most closely describes the way you usually read *High Country News*?
- Skim the paper in its entirety
 - Skim the paper in its entirety, then return to read items of interest
 - Skim the paper, reading shorter items of interest, then return to read longer features
 - Skim the paper, reading all items of interest along the way
 - Read the paper cover to cover
 - Other _____
2. How often do you read the following regular features of *High Country News*? Please circle your answer. (If you regularly read these items in a particular order, could you number them for us?)
- | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Front page feature | always | usually | sometimes | never |
| Western Roundup | always | usually | sometimes | never |
| Dear Friends | always | usually | sometimes | never |
| Barbed Wire | always | usually | sometimes | never |
| Hotlines | always | usually | sometimes | never |
| Afield | always | usually | sometimes | never |
| Centerspread | always | usually | sometimes | never |
| Books | always | usually | sometimes | never |
| Bulletin Board | always | usually | sometimes | never |
| Opinion | always | usually | sometimes | never |
| Letters | always | usually | sometimes | never |
| Reporter's Notebook | always | usually | sometimes | never |
3. Which of the issues we cover interest you most? Number 1, 2 and 3 the issues you are most interested in; check all others that interest you.
- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| — energy development | — ecology/biology |
| — people | — nuclear issues |
| — public lands | — politics |
| — toxics/pesticides | — timbering |
| — water | — urban issues |
| — wildlife | — wilderness |
| — agriculture | — other _____ |

4. Which of the following issues do you think *High Country News* covers the best? Please number your answers from one to three, starting with the best.

— agriculture
— ecology/biology
— nuclear issues
— politics
— timbering
— urban issues
— wilderness
— other _____

— energy development
— people
— public lands
— toxics/pesticides
— water
— wildlife

5. In which of the following areas does *HCN's* coverage need the most improvement? Please number your answers, starting with one for the area which needs the most work.

— agriculture
— ecology/biology
— nuclear issues
— politics
— timbering
— urban issues
— wilderness
— other _____

— energy development
— people
— public lands
— toxics/pesticides
— water
— wildlife

6. Please circle your answer. *High Country News* feature stories are:

Fair/balanced/objective	always	usually	sometimes	never
Lively/interesting	always	usually	sometimes	never
Thoughtful/perceptive	always	usually	sometimes	never
Boring/dry	always	usually	sometimes	never
Too technical	always	usually	sometimes	never
Unusual	always	usually	sometimes	never
Too short	always	usually	sometimes	never
Too long	always	usually	sometimes	never

7. How would you rate the layout of *High Country News* in the following areas? Please circle your answer.

Attractiveness	excellent	good	fair	poor
Readability	excellent	good	fair	poor
Quantity of illustrations	excellent	good	fair	poor
Quality of illustrations	excellent	good	fair	poor
Quantity of photographs	excellent	good	fair	poor
Quality of photographs	excellent	good	fair	poor

8. Why do you read *High Country News*? Please place check marks by all the reasons that apply; place two check marks by the primary reason you read the paper.

— news of environmental issues in my state and community
— news of environmental issues elsewhere in the Rocky Mountain region
— environmental news from Washington
— investigative reporting
— news analysis and perspective
— sense of regional identity
— sense of environmental community
— to find out what environmentalists are up to
— other _____

Looking ahead

1. In the future, do you think *High Country News* should:
- (a) continue to report exclusively on the environment
 - (b) branch out and cover other regional news of interest?
- If you checked (b), what other areas would you like to see us cover?
- _____

2. Please check all answers which apply. In the event of a financial crisis, would it be acceptable to you if we:

— reduced the number of pages of *HCN*
— reduced the frequency to once a month
— raised the subscription price

Which would you prefer?

3. Which of the following regular features would you be interested in seeing added to *High Country News*? Please number 1, 2 and 3 the ideas that interest you most; place check marks beside any other ideas that interest you.

— a column from Washington, D.C.
— a regional political column
— a column on natural history
— a column on outdoor equipment/recreation
— a regional travel column
— a regional gardening column
— a regional calendar of environmental events/outings
— a more general regional calendar of events
— regular news of environmental groups in the region
— a column on rule changes proposed in the *Federal Register*
— occasional pieces on non-environmental topics (specify) _____
— regular listings of EISs and major plans proposed for public lands in the region, including comment and hearing dates and deadlines
— other _____

4. What sort of ads would you like to see in *HCN*?

— appropriate technology
— art/crafts
— books
— conservation groups
— educational opportunities
— entertainment
— gardening
— hunting/fishing guides
— other _____

— mail order
— music
— organic foods
— outdoor equipment
— personals
— photography/optics
— restaurants
— travel

5. Finally, what else do you want to tell us? (This is your chance to suggest specific story ideas, tell us what you like and dislike about the paper, give your ideas on what *High Country News* should become or...it's up to you.)
- _____
- _____
- _____



Please mail your completed questionnaire to
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Thanks!