

Special Issue, Part II
on agriculture

File
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High Country News

June 23, 1986

Vol. 18 No. 12

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar

Katharine Collins



Grand Junction, Colorado

Where's the market?

✓ See page 10

Dear friends,



High Country News

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS (ISSN 0191/5657) is published biweekly, except for one issue during July and one issue during January, by the High Country News Foundation, 124 Grand Avenue, Paonia, Colorado 81428. Second-class postage paid at Paonia, Colorado.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428.

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Articles appearing in High Country News are indexed in *Environmental Periodicals Bibliography*, Environmental Studies Institute, 2074 Alameda Padre Serra, Santa Barbara, California 93103.

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Subscriptions are \$20 per year for individuals, \$28 per year for institutions. Single copies \$1.00 plus \$1.25 postage and handling.

When placid, unmoving snow blankets the high country, it provides a low-friction gliding surface for skiers, sledders, tubers and other energetic types. Now that the snow itself is in motion, draining out of the high country as water, it carries less energetic people downstream at fairly high rates of speed.

Twice in the last two weeks, HCN staffers have joined thousands of others on the West's cold rivers. The first outing was a three-day float down the placid lower Dolores River, from Slickrock to Bedrock, Colorado. The river outfitter for the staff, assorted friends and various children, was Steve Arrowsmith's Humpback Chub River Tours -- a new firm based in Dolores, Colorado.

The name, Arrowsmith says, is also a statement of purpose: a hope that the business can show residents of southwestern Colorado that free-flowing streams and the wilderness study areas along them have value. Right now, Dolores (the town) is bewitched by the tourism possibilities of flatwater recreation offered by the new McPhee Dam. But Humpback Chub and other river users hope the dam will also be used to extend the rafting and kayaking season on the Dolores.

A different call for river management was made Saturday, June 14, on Colorado's Arkansas River, between Nathrop, south of Buena Vista, and Hecla. The river during June and July is best compared to a queue of trunk-to-tail elephants. Rafts go through the class 2 to 4 rapids stem to stern. As far as the eye can see, upstream and down, there is an unbroken string of orange rafts, green rafts, yellow rafts, paddle rafts, oar rafts, high-tech self-bailers and low-tech leakers.

The river makes its way through attractive open country before boiling through Browns Canyon. But due to the number of people on the river, a float can only be described as an urban wilderness experience. The crowds, combined with the roller coaster rapids, put one in mind of a carnival ride rather than a backcountry experience.

If there were adequate facilities, and the country was not being damaged, that would not be a problem. But there are not enough facilities, and streamside land is being hurt by the armies swarming over it. The situation is also approaching gridlock. The takeout at Hecla reminded us of a major airport at 5

p.m. Boats eddied just offshore, waiting for a bit of sand on which to beach. Buses and vans squeezed toward the shoreline to load up with rafts and people. That the place worked at all was due to people's good nature rather than to the facilities.

Outfitters, private users, the BLM and others are concerned about the congestion, about the trespass on private land and the lack of sanitation. So Jerry Mallett, the director of the Western River Guides Association in Denver, with the help of some Arkansas River guides and outfitters (Dvorkak Expeditions, Four Corners Expeditions, Arkansas River Tours and Snowmass Whitewater) floated a group of sportsmen, bureaucrats, environmentalists and elected officials down the river to experience the congestion and think about solutions.

Among those on the several rafts were Tim Wirth, a Colorado congressman who will run against Republican Congressman Ken Kramer for the U.S. Senate seat Gary Hart is vacating; Bob Moore, acting head of the BLM in Colorado; Jim Ruch, head of the Colorado Division of Wildlife; Laurie Mathews of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources; Steve Blomeke of the Colorado Wildlife Federation and Martin Sorenson of the Sierra Club.

The public put-in, lunch and take-out points belong to the Bureau of Land Management, but that agency's recreation person, Don Bruns, said he has no resources to devote to the problem. Although 100,000 people rafted the Arkansas in 1985, many of whom paid about \$50 each to outfitters, none of the money came back to the BLM locally.

So although rafting on the Arkansas and other Western rivers is a significant economic engine, it is not coupled to the public land agencies. And because public land recreation generally does not provide support to the land agencies, the way grazing and logging do, it is a neglected stepchild. Rep. Wirth, in a brief talk at a barbecue following the float, urged conservationists and sportsmen to overcome their differences and cooperate on the issue of managing the public lands for recreation.

The barbecue was well attended by HCN readers in the Arkansas River Valley, and they turned out to be an active group. Moe and Betty Maass of the tiny settlement of Granite have spent the last several years trying to keep the Twin Lakes area east of Independence Pass free of the proposed Quail Mountain ski area. Another reader, Dennis Zadra of



Daids [Marston and Collins] on the Humpback Chub river trip

Leadville, recently appealed a timber cut in the national forest near his community. Jay Scar runs Trailhead Adventures in Buena Vista. HCN has frequently published illustrations by Toni Evins, an art teacher in Buena Vista.

On the other side of Independence Pass, an impromptu HCN reunion took place, this one at the Windstar Foundation's "Choices for the Future" conference hosted by John Denver in Snowmass Village. Stopping by were Janet and Craig Altobell, who told us they have been subscribers since 1975. They were visiting Grand Junction *Daily Sentinel* reporter Heather McGregor, who was HCN's first intern in Lander, Wyoming, in 1977. The Altobells will spend eight weeks in the Gothic Valley, near Crested Butte, Colorado, at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory.

The conference attracted 1,000 people from all over the country. It featured Wes Jackson of The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, soft energy paths consultants Hunter and Amory Lovins, Friends of the Earth founder David Brower, and media mogul Ted Turner. Betsy Marston's report will appear in July.

Keith Waller, who interned at HCN this winter, is now a reporter at the weekly *Jackson Hole Guide* in Jackson, Wyoming, his hometown. Before coming to HCN, Keith had been with Nerco Coal in Sheridan, Wyoming.

In the "we're still not perfect" department, the June 9 review of Jack Doyle's book, *Altered Harvest*, failed to mention that he is a long-time staffer at the Environmental Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. And in Pat Ford's story on Lill Erickson, the size of the Idaho Conservation League was given as 400. It is really 1,500.

--the staff

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Flawed dam threatens Wyoming town

Snow melt from the Wind River Mountains continues to push the Fontenelle Reservoir in Wyoming to dangerously high levels. But the Bureau of Reclamation's inability to control water releases from the dam is seen as both a threat and a benefit to the community of Green River, 62 river miles below.

The threat is that the 40-foot rise in the reservoir's level over a 10-day period could rupture the 21-year-old earthen structure. BuRec drew it down to nearly empty last May when monitoring indicated internal deterioration. Collapse of the dam

would cause catastrophic damage to the Green River's railroad yards, sewage treatment facility, roads, bridges and a water treatment system also serving nearby Rock Springs. The benefit to Green River is that minor flooding of low-lying residential sections and horse corrals has been averted.

Water has been held back because the dam's outflow channels are clogged by tons of debris flushed into the reservoir by the swollen Green River. Though BuRec denies that the town of Green River is in imminent danger, on June 10 it dispatched a trio of officials to discuss emergency

preparedness with the townspeople. Officials said if the dam collapsed, the town would have eight hours before released water reached it.

Green River Emergency Preparedness Director Glenn Hill said rumors of the dam's imminent collapse are widespread, but he is confident that BuRec officials have been straightforward in sharing information with the community. A recent environmental assessment prepared by BuRec on proposed repairs to the dam indicated the structure is "unsafe at any significant storage level."

Katharine Collins

Bisons versus lawns on Yellowstone's edge

Three out of every five Americans own a pet, but when 64-year-old Donna Spainhower of West Yellowstone, Montana, began feeding a wayward buffalo that wandered out of Yellowstone Park last October, she may have become the only American with a pet buffalo.

"I never loved an animal so much," says Mrs. Spainhower. "I had Duke so he'd come when I called him."

Mrs. Spainhower is postmaster of West Yellowstone, and one of 18 residents living in a sparsely settled area near Duck Creek, about eight miles north of town and one mile west of the park boundary. Wildlife is abundant.

"We've had bear, moose, elk, deer and buffalo in our yard," say Spainhower's neighbors, Buster and Esther Parmly. The Parmlys, Belle Koezler and other Duck Creek residents gave Mrs. Spainhower hay to feed Duke. The buffalo spent much of the winter in the Duck Creek area, bedding down near Spainhower's garage each night. She says it was comforting to see Duke in her headlights when she turned into her driveway at night.

"I'd always roll my window and talk with him," she says. "He recognized my voice."

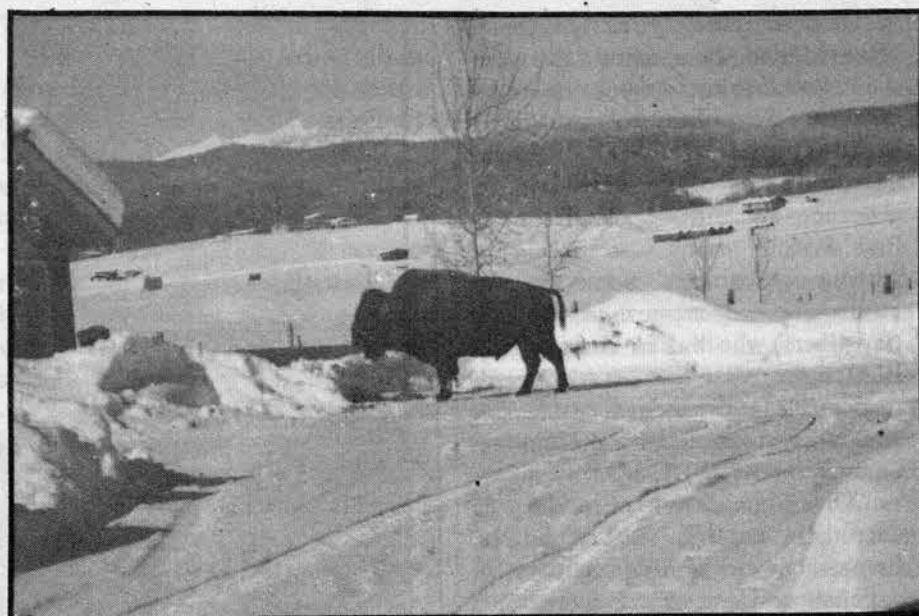
When Duke disappeared for a few days early in April, people assumed he had migrated back to the park. But he soon returned, accompanied by six more buffalo. Eventually, about 25 bison were gathered in the Duck Creek area. Coming home proved to be a fatal mistake, because one Duck Creek resident didn't like having buffalo in his backyard.

Two years ago, local businessman Gerry Schmier built a house across the creek from Donna Spainhower's home. Their houses are so close together, Spainhower says, that on warm summer evenings, she can hear insects being zapped by Schmier's electric bug-killer over the murmur of the creek and the gabbling of mallards.

Schmier says he loves the wildlife at Duck Creek, but became concerned about Duke when "this wild, awesome, unpredictable animal charged, chased and endangered the lives of our daughter-in-law as she tried to retrieve her two- and five-year-old boys from their play area."

Despite Schmier's problems, Assistant Yellowstone Park Superintendent Ben Clary says aggressive bison have not been a major problem in the park's residential areas. Clary says few injuries have been attributed to bison attacks, and the animals "don't tend to bother people." But according to Schmier, "Duke was a very mean one."

Schmier asked the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks to remove any buffalo in his yard. During the winter of 1984-85, state game wardens killed 88 bison that wandered out of the north end of the park near Gardiner, Montana. Those bison, however, were killed because they posed a potential threat to cattle. Bison carry the disease brucellosis, which causes cattle to spontaneously abort their calves. Although it has not been proven that bison transmit brucellosis to cattle, ranchers don't want bison mingling with their domestic livestock.



Duke, in Donna Spainhower's backyard near West Yellowstone, Montana

But sportsmen objected to having game wardens kill the wayward buffalo. If the animals were going to be shot, they wanted an opportunity to hunt buffalo, just as they hunt elk and deer that migrate from the park. In 1985, the Montana Legislature passed a bill listing bison as a game animal. When Schmier called for help, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks first gave him cracker-shells to frighten the buffalo. That ploy failed. Then a warden and two hunters were sent to kill the buffalo.

Schmier says he wasn't the only person concerned about the buffalo. He says a rancher with grazing rights near Duck Creek didn't want bison around when he brought his cattle to the range in June. Spainhower contends that Schmier's real concern was his yard, which she says is "manicured and landscaped to the hilt."

Schmier says he has to "protect his rights and his children." Spainhower questions why Schmier has fenced his property on three sides, but not by the creek where bison enter his yard. According to Schmier, fencing wouldn't work. "A buffalo standing flat-footed can leap an eight-foot-tall fence."

Whether it's fencing, hunting, or inoculation against brucellosis, state and federal officials are trying to find a solution to Yellowstone's buffalo problem. Park researchers believe the bison population has reached an equilibrium within Yellowstone, and bison cause problems when they leave the park to colonize new territory.

But hunting buffalo outside the park is controversial. Because park bison generally aren't afraid of people, some say killing the animals is more a slaughter than a hunt.

The Park Service is reluctant to manage Yellowstone's 2,000 bison by culling the herd or penning animals to inoculate them against brucellosis. "We don't want to get into a domestic cattle operation," says Assistant Superintendent Clary. "It's the last free-ranging herd of bison in the country."

For Duke and Donna Spainhower, Yellowstone's buffalo dilemma wasn't resolved quickly enough. Duke hasn't been seen since hunters killed two bison near Duck Creek on April 22. "I never shed so many tears," says Spainhower. "I never felt so close to an animal."

Initial accounts of the hunt said the bison were killed on Forest Service land. A day later, however, officials acknowledged that the bison had been killed in the Fir Ridge Cemetery. Deep snow covered the gravestones and the hunters weren't aware they were in a cemetery. Game warden Bud Hubbard, who was with the hunters, said if he had known the buffalo were in a cemetery, he would have tried to move them before shooting. Donna Spainhower's husband is buried in the Fir Ridge Cemetery.

The saga of Duke and Donna Spainhower generated considerable publicity in local newspapers. "One little old lady overreacted" to the death of Duke, says Schmier. "A front and back yard are no place for buffalo, just as they're no place for grizzlies," an official for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks told the *Bozeman Chronicle*. "I can't believe that Schmier would value a beautiful lawn more than a majestic animal," says Spainhower.

--David A. Smith

BARBS

Coming next: Guffy's Reader, Millan and Wife, and Cormick's Reaper.

McDonald's Corp. is attempting to stop the Roney Ice Cream Company from patenting its milkshake name: Quick Thaw McStraw. A McDonald's spokesman was especially concerned about the effect on young minds: "Children... have no way of knowing there is no association with McDonald's."

Home, home on the range, where the deer and the bison...

The National Park Service is considering building a fence around parts of Yellowstone National Park to keep its 2,000 bison from straying.

And not a single one was killed by a terrorist.

The National Climatic Data Center reports that four golfers died from lightning strikes in 1985.

Aren't all bears just stuffed animals?

A California couple that was attacked and mauled by a grizzly bear in Glacier National Park in 1984 has hired Melvin Belli to sue the Park Service. According to the *Casper Star-Tribune*, the suit charges that the Park Service failed to warn the couple that there were grizzlies in the park. And if the couple was told the bears were present, "the agency did not tell them grizzlies are dangerous and might attack."

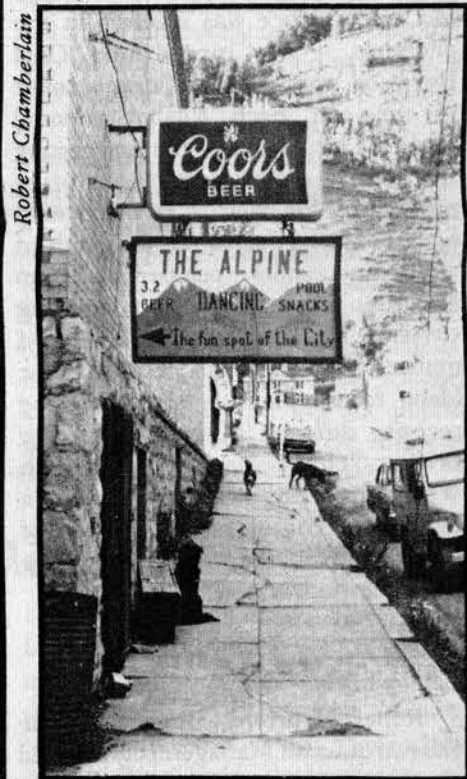
HOTLINE

Safe from bombers

The mountains of western Colorado are safe for the moment from low-flying B-1B bombers. The U.S. Air Force had proposed routing several training flights a day over the region (HCN, 4/15/85). This caused an uproar from ranchers fearful of the effects on their cattle and sheep, ski areas such as Telluride, and those who appreciate the quiet of the San Juan Mountain backcountry. Because of the reaction, the Air Force has tentatively shifted the route to a corridor starting southeast of Moab, Utah, and heading south to Arizona. The planes will fly as low as 400 feet above the ground and at speeds up to 600 miles per hour.

Navajo eviction delayed

An article in Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* predicts that the July 7 deadline for the eviction of Navajos living on Hopi land on the partitioned reservation will pass quietly (HCN, 5/12/86). According to writer Joan Lowy, the 1986 Interior Dept. appropriations bill forbids the government from moving Navajos until housing is available. And there is no money for housing. The article also says that a resolution of the dispute may be possible once Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Az., retires at the end of this year.



West fails to yoo-hoo loudly

If you have not yet been run over by a Winnebago, it may be because of the Olympic effect. In 1984, publicity about overcrowding at the Los Angeles Olympics scared away so many people there were empty seats and hotel rooms. Officials at Yellowstone National Park and other tourist centers in the West say the same thing may happen this summer. Low-spending by Western states on tourist advertising may also steer visitors elsewhere. According to the *Denver Post*, Western states spend little compared with the top spenders: Illinois, New York, Massachusetts and Alaska. They spend from \$9 million to \$14 million. Colorado leads the West, with a \$3.5 million ad budget that puts it 18th in the nation. Nevada, New Mexico and Utah are ranked 23, 24 and 25. Each spends about \$2.9 million. Wyoming, ranked 31, spends \$2 million, Arizona spends \$1.9 million and Montana, ranked 41, spends \$1.2 million.

HOTLINE



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Forest plans blocked

Sen. James McClure, R-Id., recently congratulated the Reagan administration for delaying release of six of Idaho's national forest management plans. The Forest Service will prepare an economic impact study of the effects of reduced availability of timber. "While I didn't ask the administration to take this action," McClure said, "I am pleased they have recognized the importance of ensuring that community stability is vitally important as we go through the planning process." Tom Robinson of the Wilderness Society in Boise, said McClure's office was involved in the decision. "McClure's aide Carl Haywood spent a significant amount of time in each (Idaho) national forest," he noted. "It's interesting that they're calling a halt to the plans right after his visit." Robinson said timber industry woes are the result of antiquated mills, competition from Canadian imports, and high operating costs -- not reduced availability of timber. The delay in releasing the Idaho forest plans is similar to the recent delay in releasing the Bridger-Teton National Forest plan in Wyoming, and could be part of a Reagan administration pattern of going above the forest level to influence timbering (HCN, 5/12/86).

BLM head guilty

Robert Burford, director of the Bureau of Land Management, pleaded no contest in an Arlington, Virginia, court to a reduced charge and was fined \$50 in a trial resulting from his drunk driving arrest nine months ago. He also pleaded guilty to refusing to take a Breathalyzer test, resulting in suspension of his driver's license for six months. Burford, rancher and native of Grand Junction, Colorado, did not speak during the trial and had no comment afterwards.

BARBS

Science in the public interest.

One of the first commercial fruits of gene splicing is likely to be a tobacco plant resistive to crown gall. The plant was developed by Agracetus, Inc., according to *The New York Times*.

No, no! It was much too horrible an experience to talk about.

A classified ad in Denver's *Westword* newspaper for June 4 reads: "If you've lived in an Arizona or New Mexico city of 100,000-plus population and want to talk about it, call 778-7584."

Watt ally, environmentalist win primary

On primary day, June 3, voters in New Mexico nominated two candidates who could not be more different. Republicans chose James Watt's former assistant, Garrey Carruthers, as their candidate for governor. He will oppose Democrat Ray Powell, who was nominated without opposition. Some in the environmental movement believe Carruthers, who was in charge of the BLM under Watt, was at least partly responsible for the federal coal leasing scandals investigated by the Linowes Commission (HCN, 3/5/84).

While Republicans were choosing Carruthers out of six candidates, Democrats were nominating a former national president of the Sierra Club for the post of State Land Commissioner. Brant Calkin, who headed the group from 1976 to 1977, and who fought Watt's coal leasing policies as a state official in Gov. Toney Anaya's cabinet, beat two candidates to win the nomination.

The New Mexico Land Commissioner administers 9 million acres of state land that generates about \$250 million in revenues from oil, gas and grazing leases. The position has traditionally been held by people friendly to the energy and ranching industries. Calkin, 52, said he is the first environmentalist to seek the post, and that his victory over two opponents, including former incumbent Alex Armijo, shows the continuing importance of the "green vote" in New Mexico. Environmentalists also helped elect Jeff Bingaman to the U.S. Senate in 1982.

Calkin will oppose the Republican nominee, William Humphries, in the November election. In New Mexico, state-wide office holders cannot succeed themselves. Jim Baca, the current Land Commissioner, cannot run again. Baca was himself a reformer, raising lease fees to grazing and oil and gas lease holders, tightening up royalty payment procedures and hiring Calkin as his special assistant.

If elected, Calkin is expected to continue those reforms, but to also try to adapt New Mexico's public lands to the new economic realities of the West. He told the Santa Fe *New Mexican* during the campaign:

"We have got to lessen the traditional heavy dependence upon oil and gas as a source of revenue for our schools and other beneficiaries of State Land Office income. I intend to do the first inventory of state lands for potential sites for tourism, recreational development and upgrade the state's commercial leasing activity to diversify the state's revenue."

New Mexico is a Democratic state, but one of its senators (Pete Domenici) and two of its three Congressmen (Manuel Lujan and Joe Skeen) are Republicans, so Calkin is not a sure thing against Humphries. New Mexico's role in the Sunbelt boom has been to attract less prosperous newcomers and Albuquerque, which has about one-third of the state's 1.4 million people, tends Democratic on the local and state level.

Democrats in general, and reformers like Calkin in particular, may have a tough time in November. Outgoing Democratic Gov. Anaya is perceived to have been a poor administrator, to have appointed corrupt or unqualified people to state posts and to have begun seeking national statue im-



Brant Calkin

mediately after his 1982 election, without bothering to first do a good job at home. He has lost out locally, and on the national level, has been eclipsed as the best known Hispanic by San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros.

It is expected that the aggressive Carruthers will attempt to tar all Democrats with the Anaya brush. Calkins may not have much trouble distancing himself from Anaya. He became Anaya's Secretary for Natural Resources in 1982. But when Anaya tried to appoint someone to a post in Natural Resources whom Calkins thought unqualified, he quit with a public blast at the governor. Baca then appointed Calkins to be his special assistant in the State Land Office.

Carruthers' opponent for governor, Democrat Ray Powell, is a former Sandia Labs employee. He is low-key and it remains to be seen if he can make Carruthers' role in Watt's coal leasing policies an issue.

--Ed Marston

Leases voided in Montana

A "perfect" wilderness study area in Montana has been granted a reprieve from oil and gas development. It is the 42,000-acre Deep Creek Area of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, which had the highest wilderness attributes of any area in the U.S., including Alaska, according to the Forest Service's 1979 Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II).

The reprieve came in a May 27 court ruling that appears to both build on and strengthen an earlier court decision that requires the Forest Service to do a better job of planning. In this case, the U.S. District Judge in Great Falls, Montana, voided 16 leases issued in the area in 1981 by then Interior Secretary James Watt. Judge Paul G. Hatfield said the Forest Service and Interior Department officials "have initiated a pattern of procrastination, not examination, of environmental concerns" by issuing leases for oil and gas development without consideration of the cumulative impacts on the land and wildlife.

Hatfield said specific analysis is required by (environmental law) before the "critical decision" is made. In the case of Deep Creek, he said, the critical decision is the decision to issue oil and gas leases in the first instance.

The judge also noted there are times when an EIS must address subsequent phases of development, citing a 1985 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling. In *Thomas vs. Peterson*, dealing with the Jersey-Jack timber access road in Idaho's Salmon River Breaks, the court said road-building was a connected action

and must be treated in a single EIS (HCN, 3/4/85).

The director of the Montana Wilderness Association, one of the groups bringing the suit, called the decision a major victory. John Gatchell said his group went to battle over Deep Creek because oil and gas exploration would threaten elk herds, bighorn sheep and habitat for falcons, eagles and grizzly bears. "Montanans are back in the driver's seat where they can protect the area," he said. "Now all we need is for the Montana congressional delegation to get serious about preserving the Rocky Mountain Front."

Larry Mehlhaff, Northern Rockies Sierra Club representative, said Hatfield's decision will have even greater impact than earlier decisions on the need for assessment of cumulative impacts. He said in the Deep Creek decision Hatfield also said it's not good enough to simply list a "no action" alternative and not analyze it.

Mehlhaff says the significant battle over forest planning will be fought in Congress, where a bill proposed by John Seiberling, D-Ohio, and George Miller, D-Calif., will be debated in July. The bill calls for stricter environmental planning on national forests and requires consideration of cumulative environmental impacts. Mehlhaff says Congressional action is needed because, in spite of recent legal decisions which invalidate Forest Service decisions, "they keep on planning the same way."

--Katharine Collins

Bald eagle protection extended

The U.S. Supreme Court has put the rights of endangered species above the treaty rights of Indians. The case involved Dwight Dion, a Sioux Indian from South Dakota who was convicted of killing four bald eagles flying over the Yankton Reservation. That conviction was later reversed by a higher court, but has not been reinstated by the Supreme Court.

All together, wildlife experts estimated 300 eagles a year were being

killed on the reservation. The Sioux treaty with the federal government gives tribal members rights to hunt on the reservation. But the Supreme Court ruled on June 11 that the Endangered Species Act is stronger than the treaty. Michael Bean, an attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund, said that the ruling could provide stronger protection to other threatened and endangered species.

It turns out that llamas are not perfect

Ray Mills was heading into Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness during a driving rainstorm last fall, leading eight heavily loaded mules up a steep mountain trail. As the lead horse he was riding rounded a bend, it came nose-to-nose with a llama.

Mills' horse immediately stiffened, jumped downhill and spun back into the string of mules. Mills was straining to hold the horse and quiet the mules when a large dog, a dalmation, appeared out of the rain and began nipping the lead mule's face. The mule pulled back violently, wrenching Mills' right shoulder. Mills managed to hang onto the mule, dismount and get the string tied to a nearby tree.

Then a second dalmation charged. The mules broke loose and scattered. "Get your dogs and llamas out of here!" Mills shouted as he remounted his horse and rode off in pursuit of his eight mules. He says he heard people shouting at the dogs but never saw anyone and no one stopped to see if he was injured or needed help. Mills is the lead wilderness ranger in the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Ranger District, headquartered in Choteau, Montana.

Shortly after the accident he fired off a letter to the supervisor of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. "As I have said before and will say again, llamas are an exotic pack animal and have no business being used in a heavily used horse and mule wilderness like the Bob Marshall. If something is not done, particularly on our trails around cliffs, we can certainly expect serious injury or even a fatality," Mills wrote.

Now that his shoulder has healed, Mills has softened his position. He says llamas do have a place in wilderness, but he wants them restricted from cliff-face trails. Mills says some problems can be alleviated by courtesy on the part of llama-users. He thinks llamas should be led at all times, rather than driven loose, and flagmen should be sent ahead on blind corners.

The Forest Service has not responded to Mills' proposals. Jim Dolan, wilderness specialist for the Forest Service's Region One, says policy-makers have discussed conflicts between llamas and horses and mules, but no action has been proposed because other issues are "more important."

Mills' concerns about llamas are shared by Smoke Elser, a Missoula, Montana, outfitter and packing instructor. Even though the use of llamas in backcountry has been getting a lot of publicity (*HCN*, 4/29/85), he is concerned that llama-users "think they are great 'wilderness users' when they aren't. Elser points out that llamas are not native to North America, can't carry much weight, don't lead in line, don't stay on trails, and "eat everything." They "leave a mark on the land like sheep," he says.

As llamas become increasingly popular and penetrate farther into backcountry, Elser fears more accidents. "And we already know we don't like them before we get them."

Elser pastured his horses and mules with llamas in order to accustom his animals to them. It didn't work because the horses and mules "just didn't get used to them." He says they react to the scent and

"over-curious" behavior of llamas.

Educating llama users about courteous behavior around traditional pack strings will help reduce conflicts, Elser says, but there will still be places where llamas, and horses and mules just aren't compatible.

Don Winston, a llama breeder from Arlee, Montana, disagrees. He thinks llamas have a definite place in backcountry. Winston says llamas cannot replace mules for moving heavy loads but he sees them filling an "intermediate level" between back-packing and horse-packing.

Llamas make ideal pack animals for older people and families with young children, Winston says, because llamas are "dependable, easy to use and gentle." He thinks llamas can allow older people and families to get into places that have been traditionally out of their reach.

Winston says another good thing

about llamas "is that they are pack animals but they have little impact." Because of their padded feet, llamas "don't tear up trails the way horses do."

Winston agrees with Mills that llamas are curious and can crowd around something that interests them, but he adds that they are easily controlled. He says he always pulls his llamas well off the trail when he encounters horses and mules and has never had a problem. He says llama magazines and books encourage llama-users to give horse parties a wide berth, and that the literature stresses that llamas are more "maneuverable" than horses and mules and can get off the trail more easily. As for their impact, Winston says llamas have about as much impact as a deer.

--Don Baty



Sara Hunter-Wiles

HOTLINE



Rep. Dick Cheney

Wyoming delegation blasts consies

Wyoming's three-person Republican congressional delegation blasted conservationists recently at the 114th annual meeting of stockgrowers in Cheyenne. The men agreed that people must take precedence over wildlife on public lands. Sen. Malcolm Wallop said 50,000 wolves in Canada and 2,000 in Minnesota prove that the species is not endangered and that a \$1.3 million program to place wolves in Yellowstone National Park is "unrealistic." Sen. Alan Simpson objected to efforts to protect habitat for 282 grizzly bears in Yellowstone, saying the bears already have enough habitat in Alaska, the Yukon and British Columbia. Finally, Rep. Dick Cheney warned that organizations such as the Sierra Club that oppose leasing for oil or grazing on public lands will aid in "limiting the fees the state of Wyoming now realizes."

--Ed Marston

Synfuel Corp's last act is challenged

The ghost of the abolished Synthetic Fuels Corporation is being hauled into court by five angry congressmen. The two senators and three representatives thought they abolished the SFC and its multi-billion-dollar plans in December 1985, and returned the agency's last \$7 billion to the U.S. Treasury.

However, even as Congress was hanging and quartering the agency, the SFC was committing to a \$500 million award to Unocal to rebuild its inoperative oil shale facility at Parachute, Colo. (*HCN*, 1/20/86).

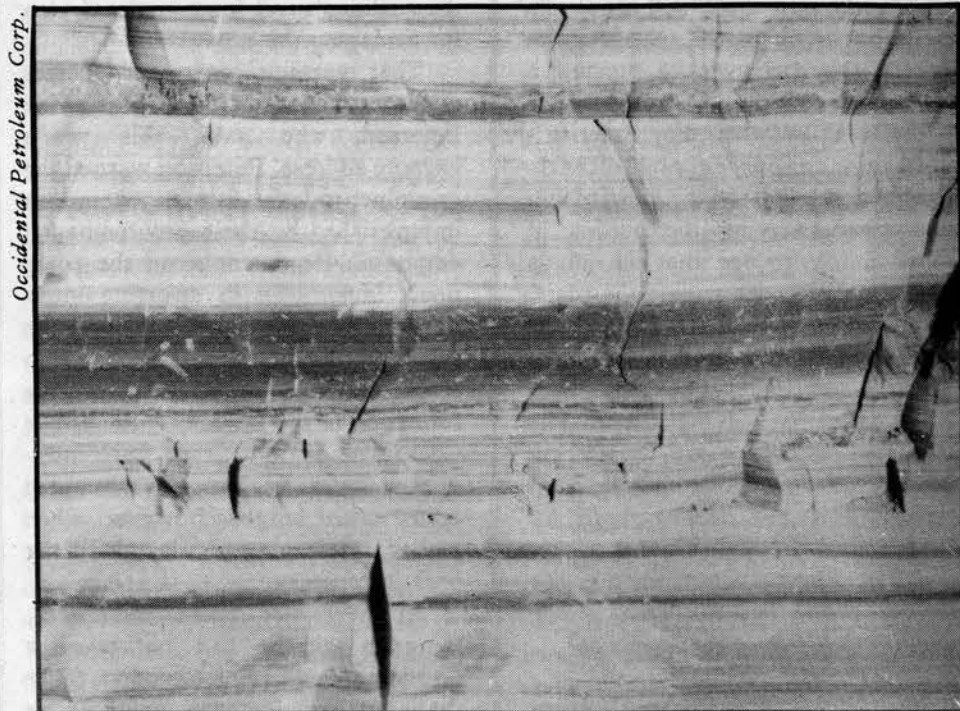
That \$850-million, 400-employee mine and retort was to have begun producing oil from shale in September 1983. Numerous attempts to start the facility, and then to modify it, have failed. Until this last survivor of the oil shale boom of the early 1980s produces oil, Unocal will be unable to collect \$400 million in price guarantees coming to it under an earlier arrangement with the government.

The \$500 million contract now being challenged in court would give Unocal loan guarantees to modify the project -- guarantees the government could not recover if the project failed to work. Those challenging the legitimacy of the December 1985 contract are Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, Sen. Gordon Humph-

ry, R-N.H., and Reps. Mike Synar, D-Okla., Thomas Tauke, R-Iowa, and Howard Wolpe, D-Mich. The National Taxpayers Union is handling the suit.

The suit may not have to succeed to stop the project. With the oil industry in trouble as a result of low oil prices, it is not known if Unocal can carry the project through a year or more of litigation. Northwest Colorado towns such as Parachute, Rifle and

Grand Junction, which have been battered by the collapse of the energy industry following a speculative binge during the late 1970s, are holding their breaths over Unocal. Interestingly, the well-publicized failure of Unocal over several years to get its project going helped lead to the abolition of the SFC.



Occidental Petroleum Corp.

Bands of oil shale

LETTERS

A JUSTIFIED CONFUSION

Dear HCN,

Thank you for bringing us Toby McLeod's articles on the Navajo-Hopi land dispute. I have been confused about this issue, and realize my confusion is justified after learning of the many sides to the controversy. McLeod's detailed history of the positions of all parties was sorely needed to enable clear thought on the issue. It is now evident to me that this superficially black-and-white controversy of Navajo encroachment on Hopi homeland is mostly varying shades of gray. The U.S. Government owes the people a more thoughtful and balanced settlement.

The eastward expansion of the Navajo Reservation into the coal-rich Paragon Ranch lands is a smart move for the Navajos. I spent a few years working on the geomorphology and quaternary geology of this area, from Ah-Shi-She-Pah to Bisti. It is mind-boggling to imagine such a quiet, subtle landscape of rolling, low hills and abrupt islands of black, white, red, and purple badlands to be the site of strip mines and a power plant. My hope is that the Navajos will truly benefit from this inevitable development, in contrast to those before that have suffered.

Larry N. Smith
Albuquerque, New Mexico



XEROXING VERSUS WILDLIFE

Dear HCN,

After reading John E. Bonine's letter on the right to free copies of documents from our land-managing agencies in the April 28 issue of *High Country News*, I found my blood pressure rising. I agree that the public has a right to the documents.

But unless Mr. Bonine and the Western Natural Resources Law Clinic have been on the moon during the last six years, they would know that these agencies are facing extremely tight budgetary constraints. Every minute and every dollar that must be diverted to filling "free" requests means less for resource management. While I agree that we need the information and have a right to know, I am totally unsympathetic with anyone who expects the taxpayer to provide a "free lunch."

Those of us who enjoy America's wildlands resources and directly benefit from effective stewardship must start carrying the burden of responsibility to see that the job is done. This includes paying the costs. If Mr. Bonine and the WNRLC want the information to use to work for better stewardship, perhaps they should consider paying for it. The budget items which are usually cut first to cover court-imposed free-service costs are usually those for resource and recreation management. Does Mr. Bonine really want to see more federal office workers... at the expense of resource management?

Jer Thornton
Mountain Home, Idaho

'Enclave thinking' afflicts Yellowstone

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK Wyo. -- "Is ecosystem management possible? It better be," Joseph Sax told participants at the Greater Yellowstone Coalition annual meeting May 30-June 1. A University of Michigan Law School professor and author of *Mountains Without Handrails*, Sax is now studying the ecosystem around Glacier National Park.

Speakers throughout the two-day meeting cited examples of progress that had been made toward more coordinated management of the 10 million-acre Yellowstone Ecosystem. Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Robert Barbee credited the coalition with some of that progress. At the same time, board member Hank Phibbs of Jackson and others gave examples showing that basic attitudes are unchanged and the coalition's own internal problems pointed dramatically to the difficulty of cohesive action on such a controversial and important area. (See accompanying story.)

Sax outlined several barriers to ecosystem management. "We cannot abolish the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service, erase all boundaries and start all over," he said. Forests, parks and Indian reservations were all given different mandates. Through the years their managers have developed "enclave thinking," he said.

Because environmentalists lack positive ways to induce land managers to work together, he said, they depend upon threats of lawsuits instead. The legal system can prod federal land managers toward ecosystem thinking, he said, and the National Environmental Policy Act, which is not boundary-oriented, has been used the most.

Yellowstone Superintendent Barbee said he agreed with Sax's statement that ecosystem thinking is not natural. "We all have our own missions, our own mandates." However, he says, the coalition has been a "catalyst" toward broader perspectives. "They're good at keeping the heat on." He said the cooperation agreement signed last November between the Park Service and the Forest Service was the "direct result" of the Congressional hearings that the coalition sparked.

Barbee told the gathering he supports reintroduction of the wolf into the Yellowstone ecosystem, echoing Park Service Director William Mott's endorsement at last year's coalition meeting. Mott also endorsed the coalition's call for a regional plan for managing the ecosystem.

That message contrasted sharply with Forest Service Chief Max Peterson, who gave this year's keynote address. Peterson warned the group not to leave future generations impoverished by their environmental emphasis. He downplayed the coalition's importance in spurring inter-agency cooperation in the Yellowstone region, saying it began years ago with smoke-jumping, and later with the formation of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, an inter-agency work group. He prompted embarrassed laughs, however, when he began by saying he was glad to be back in Montana.

At an earlier press conference, Peterson said he has not taken a position on wolf reintroduction. Since the ecosystem includes parts of six national forests, and two national

parks, any reintroduction effort would require cooperation from the Forest Service, Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Peterson was asked what he planned to do about inconsistencies in forest plans. For example, the Shoshone and the Bridger-Teton plans do not allow oil and gas leasing in situation one (critical) grizzly bear habitat, although other forest plans allow it.

Peterson said he did not plan to apply a "cookie cutter" approach from Washington. He said he prefers to leave those decisions to his forest supervisors.

Hank Phibbs, an attorney from Jackson and the board's new president, said the aggregation project is "very exciting" since land managers will be able to look at their

decisions in a larger geographic context. While pointing out that much work needs to be done, he lauded some other changes that seem to have resulted from coalition work.

Partially because of such progress, he suggested rescinding a resolution passed by the coalition in 1984 calling for federal legislation. He said he was mainly concerned about the negative public reactions, particularly in Wyoming, from people who fear park expansion or a new federal agency.

The new resolution passed by the board says the coalition "prefers to achieve its goal of preservation and protection through ecosystem management by existing agencies operating within the framework of existing jurisdictions."

--Marjane Ambler

Yellowstone Coalition is confronted by its ex-head

In a painful and public process over the weekend, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition board and members sought direction for the future of the organization.

Outgoing board president Rick Reese said although the members know where they are going, they need a "profound rethinking" of how to get there. The coalition suffers from schizophrenia over several questions, he said: Should it focus more on research or advocacy? Is it a membership organization or a coalition? Does it support legislative action to require more cohesive management of the ecosystem?

Although several people said the soul-searching was natural for any new organization, the board's recent firing of executive director Bob Anderson intensified and personalized the struggle. Anderson, who is well-liked by many members, was dismissed by the board last month amidst charges that he did not do enough fundraising. Reese said the coalition is nearly out of money. Anderson said, "There was more to it than that."

To the surprise of the 130 people present, Anderson made a surprise appearance, standing or sitting in the back of the room for all the proceedings. He made no public statement until the final evening when he thanked his staff and recounted the organization's history, sending only a few barbs toward the board.

Although the public airing of dirty linen embarrassed some members, most said it helped to clear the air. On the final day, the board agreed to keep the current staff on salary through June. The hope was that enough money could be raised to keep the Bozeman office open.

The coalition unveiled its 216-page new book describing challenges to the Greater Yellowstone at the meeting. But the greatest challenge to the organization may be finding more money and a new executive director.

Richard Parks, president of the Fishing and Floating Outfitters Association of Montana, said, "Even if it should die tomorrow, the coalition

has had an effect on the way many agencies see their mission. It has brought about a significant shifting of perception in the agencies." By the close of the meeting, and after a resolution passed praising Anderson for his work, members seemed confident the organization would survive.

Phil Hocker of the Sierra Club in Wyoming said if the coalition wants to get agencies to work together, its members should learn to work together themselves. But he said the coalition proved its value when the staff coordinated a joint appeal of the Shoshone National Forest Plan by several environmental groups.

Hank Fischer praised Bob Anderson for setting up several meetings on wolf reintroduction among livestock people and congressional delegations. Fischer is the Northern Rockies Regional Representative for Defenders of Wildlife.

For the coalition staff, Louisa Willcox reported accomplishments of the previous year. She said the coalition testified at the congressional fact-finding hearings in Washington, D.C., in October, coordinated wolf meetings and the forest plan comments, and led efforts to acquire dumpsters for the town of West Yellowstone, Montana. Anderson got state matching funds for donations to acquire bear-proof dumpsters for the town that borders Yellowstone National Park.

She said the coalition helped stop a resolution in the Wyoming Legislature condemning the ecosystem management concept and the coalition in particular. Although the resolution passed the House and was defeated only at the last minute in the Senate, she called it a "net plus" since it gave the organization an opportunity to explain its real objectives.

The coalition increased its board from 14 to 21 members at the meeting. The Bozeman, Montana, based group began in 1984 and now includes 34 group members and 700 individual members.

--Marjane Ambler

The Forest Service in Idaho is a loser

The Idaho Conservation League has released a 128-page study of below-cost timber sales on Idaho's 10 national forests. Below-cost sales occur frequently on every forest, but the study's principal finding is that for the period 1979-1984, the entire timber program on nine of the 10 forests took in less money than was spent on preparation and administration.

The study's author is Ed Javorka, a 26-year Forest Service veteran who retired in 1983 after seven years as forest planning officer on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, the state's biggest timber producer.

The period from 1974-1984 included good, bad and average years for the timber market. But only the Challis National Forest's timber program made money, returning \$1.02 for each dollar spent. The Challis also has the smallest timber program in the state, selling 4 million board feet annually.

Idaho's three northern forests, which are the biggest timber producers, averaged 81 cents return on each dollar for the six-year period. The Nez Perce Forest was the biggest absolute loser state-wide -- \$3,141,000. The Panhandle and Clearwater forests showed positive returns in two of the six years. Combined, the three forests lost \$7,818,000 on their timber programs.

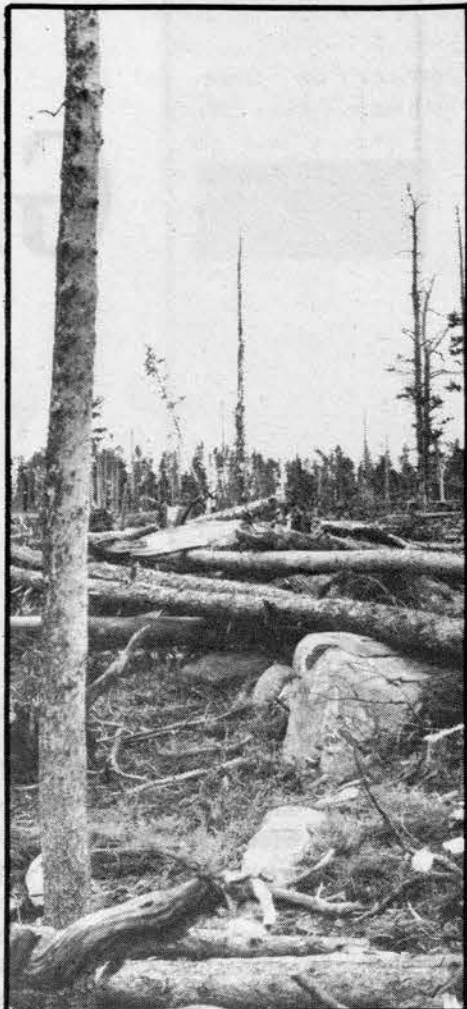
The seven southern Idaho forests averaged 59 cents return on each dollar. The Salmon and Sawtooth forests were the two worst, at 21 and 19 cents on each dollar respectively. Four forests -- the Payette, Salmon, Sawtooth and Targhee -- had no years with a positive receipt/cost ratio. The total loss for southern Idaho Forests was \$8,272,000.

Idaho's total National Forest timber program loss for the six years was \$16,090,000. In his study, Javorka included cash receipts and purchaser road credits -- in-kind payments of timber to operators who pay for their own timber access roads -- in total receipts. He included sale preparation and administration, reforestation, appropriated road funds, purchaser road credits and engineering support in total costs. He found the most uneconomic timber program by far was the Salmon National Forest's.

"After 26 years with the Forest Service, I was really surprised by what I found," Javorka said. "I had no idea the extent of the problem. There is little or no discussion of it internally, so people inside the agency have no real idea of it."

"There's all sorts of quibbling among researchers about what to include in timber receipts and costs, but even allowing for that, the report shows unequivocally that the problem is very widespread. Every Idaho forest is deeply affected. On many, the issue isn't below-cost timber sales; it's that the whole timber program is below-cost," Javorka said.

In their draft 10-year management plans, most Idaho forests project continued timber program losses. The study concludes that projected losses are a great deal underestimated, since every forest plan is riddled with faulty economic assumptions. For instance, every Idaho plan uses a 1979 Forest Service estimate that timber stumpage prices will rise 4.1 percent annually. But current agency research estimates are that a 1 percent annual rise is likely. Oregon and Washington forests are using that latter estimate, but not



Logging in Idaho's backcountry

Idaho. Hundreds of thousands of acres that would be economically unsuitable for harvest with a realistic price assumption become suitable with an inflated one.

The National Forest Management Act directs the forests to eliminate timber harvesting from lands not suited, considering "physical, economic and other pertinent factors." The study shows that Idaho forests received direction not to eliminate any lands on economic grounds. Two forests, the Boise and Targhee, did so anyway, but the other eight followed orders. "There is no explanation," the study says, "why two Idaho forests used economic criteria and the other eight did not."

Craig Gehrke, who is reviewing Idaho forest plans for The Wilderness Society, believes the study will help change some plans. "The law doesn't say the Forest Service can't lose money on its timber programs, but the state-wide failure Javorka documents

to even display what's economically suitable and what's not, makes the plans legally vulnerable. They have to justify their economic decisions, and they haven't done so."

Each forest also projects a budget increase over the next decade, ranging from 5 to 27 percent. But actual budget levels have dropped recently, and the Gramm-Rudman law will cause further large cuts. "In spite of the virtual certainty that budget levels are dropping 10-30 percent in the next several years," the study charges: "The forest planning process is proceeding without regard to budget limits. The obvious result will be forest plans fatally flawed and unrealistic from the start."

The study also analyzed the most-cited argument for below-cost sales, that maintaining relatively high even-flows of timber is necessary for community stability. Javorka cites a study in western Montana by two forest economists which concludes that providing a subsidized fixed-harvest level to local mills has a small and generally destabilizing impact. Javorka quotes Douglas MacCleery, the Reagan administration official in charge of the Forest Service, to make the same case: "...increased dependency on submarginal sales would seem to result in potentially greater community instability..."

Among the study's legislative recommendations are: mandate a straightforward Forest Service accounting system; ensure that commercial activities on the Forest are managed to return all costs (with small deviations allowed); require more flexible timber marketing that adjusts forest flows as markets change; and direct that all timberlands which cannot generate a positive present net value be removed from the timber base. The study's regulatory recommendation is to remove all riparian zones and most old-growth timber stands from the timber base.

For a copy of the report, called *Public Costs of Idaho Timber Sales*, send \$11 to Rick Johnson, Idaho Conservation League, Box 1512, Hailey, Idaho 83333 (208/788-4264).

--Pat Ford

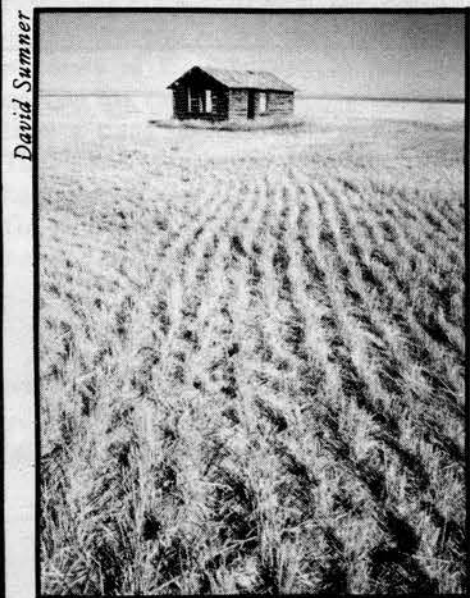
HOTLINE

Black canyon flows

The Nature Conservancy and Colorado Water Conservation Board will soon release a study of water flows through the Black Canyon of the Gunnison to help resolve water rights issues in Colorado Rep. Mike Strang's proposed "wild and scenic" river designation of a 29-mile stretch of the Gunnison River. Conservation groups and the Bureau of Reclamation are working with area cities, industries and electric cooperatives to determine whether their existing water rights can be protected if minimum stream flow is assured in the Black Canyon. Upon release of the study, Strang says he will call another meeting of his water rights advisory committee to discuss his bill creating a Black Canyon National Park.

Shoshone plan appealed

A national forest plan touted by U.S. Forest Service Chief Max Peterson as "state of the art" violates federal law and its own preferred alternative, according to Wyoming Wildlife Federation spokesman Matt Reid. Reid says the preferred alternative of the Shoshone National Forest Management Plan espouses non-commodity resources such as wildlife, roadless areas and recreation, "but when you read the plan all these resources are downgraded by oil and gas leasing, roading and timbering." The WWF and other national and local conservation groups have submitted an appeal, citing irretrievable harm to fisheries, winter ranges and critical grizzly habitat, and asking that the entire forest plan be rewritten and resubmitted for public approval.



On the brink

Idaho's Gov. John Evans released a survey recently showing that 17.4 percent of the state's 24,000 farmers and ranchers are on the brink of bankruptcy. Over 70 percent of their assets secure debt and 8 percent are already "technically" insolvent, he said. Conducted by the University of Idaho Agricultural Extension Service, the survey covered 2,500 producers. It found the average debt-to-asset ratio had risen from 34 percent to nearly 40 percent, the point where analysts say producers begin to feel the financial pinch. One of five Idaho farmers said he does not expect to survive for another year, and 37 percent think they will be out of agriculture in the next five years. That's an improvement over a survey last year that showed that 53 percent said they would not last on their farms another five years.

Ponds fail at Canadian mine

Two sets of settling ponds at a Canadian open pit coal mine failed due to rapid snowmelt in late May. The inability of the ponds to contain slurry or mill wastes has bearing on the proposed Cabin Creek coal mine in British Columbia, which is seven miles northwest of Glacier National Park in Montana. Opponents of the project say the open pit mine would threaten water and air quality throughout the Flathead River drainage. (HCN, 4/1/85).

The watershed provides some of the best habitat for wolves, grizzlies and eagles in the lower 48 states, and is also a prime area for spawning bull trout.

The settling ponds failure occurred at the Line Creek mine about 50 miles north of the U.S.-Canadian border. The mine has frequently been used as an example of state-of-the-art technology for prevention of spills and pollution to nearby streams and groundwater. The ponds act as backups for any waste that might wash from the mine's rock dumps, but they

overflowed when two tributaries of Line Creek, laden with snowmelt, caused a break in the lower dikes. Although the ponds were supposed to withstand a 200-year flood, mine officials say the failures are a result of at most a 25 or 50-year flood.

The spill has drawn the attention of the many review boards, committees and environmental groups studying the proposed Cabin Creek mine. The mine is also under official review by the International Joint Commission charged with upholding the U.S.-Canada Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. The treaty prohibits either nation from polluting waters flowing into the other.

Concerns in this country that the Cabin Creek mine would pollute the Flathead brought the issue before the IJC in 1985, which set up various committees to study the design of the mine and potential effects of pollution. These committees are using the Line Creek mine as a study model.

--John Holt



Green River

Impressi
by Elle

If your only stop in Green River, Utah, is at the new "traveler's oasis" off the interstate, whose sleek steel canopy obliterates the heat waves rising off tarmac still undesecrated by chewing gum or the yellow crust of smashed bugs, and where everything from diesel to Doritos is self-service, then you haven't seen Green River.

Beyond the main drag are the hit-and-miss layers of development typical of small Western towns whose booms and busts shift their centers around like new heads on a hydra. You will miss these layers if your only stop is for a jackalope postcard on the neon-lit strip that could just as well be in Tulsa or Tucumcari. Unless you get into its backstreets, you won't see Green River.

North of town, the Green River tumbles down a staircase of wild cataracts wedged deep in the redrock walls of Desolation and Gray Canyons. Spit out by the last rapids at Coal

Creek and Gunnison Butte, the river quietly traverses a broad basin before another wilderness walls it in through Labyrinth and Stillwater Canyons and on to its confluence with the Colorado River.

The basin -- Gunnison Valley -- is open country, a shimmering desert flat circumscribed to the north by the Roan and Book Cliffs, to the west by the San Rafael Reef rising like a half-submerged stegosaurus, and, to the south and east by the great walls of the Colorado River chasm. In the basin's center is Green River. You have been nowhere for miles before you reach it.

Green River has had some peculiar booms and busts. Each cycle has marked the town, spread it across one side of the river and back again, cultivated a boom in one place and abandoned others to rabbitbrush and rubble. The first boom started at the river. Get off the main drag, machete

your way through a few layers of motels, and find the river.

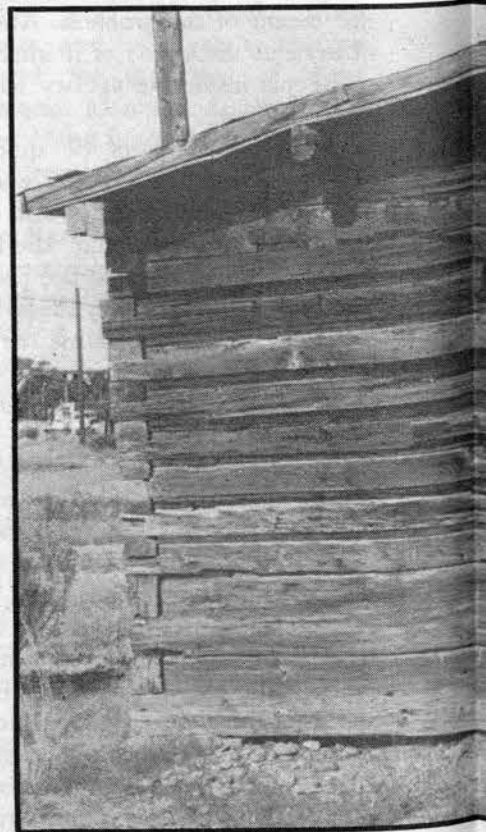
From the onset Green River was a crossing, one of only three along a thousand Green and Colorado river miles between Green River, Wyoming, and Grand Wash on the Arizona-Nevada border. Here, where the Green is broad and slow, its banks sweet with vegetation, was a natural encampment between great stretches of desert without feed or water.

Trappers, mule trains and cattle drivers used the crossing in the early 1800s along the Old Spanish Trail between Santa Fe and California. In 1853, Captain John W. Gunnison surveyed a route through the valley for the Pacific Railroad, and "Gunnison's Crossing" was recognized in 1869 by Major John Wesley Powell when he and his men emerged in crude boats from miles of sunless canyons and bludgeoning whitewater on the first geological survey of the Colorado

Plateau Province. Once along the quiet banks, sign of Indians reminded them that, years earlier, Gunnison and several companions were killed by Pahvant Indians further to the west. Powell continued downriver.

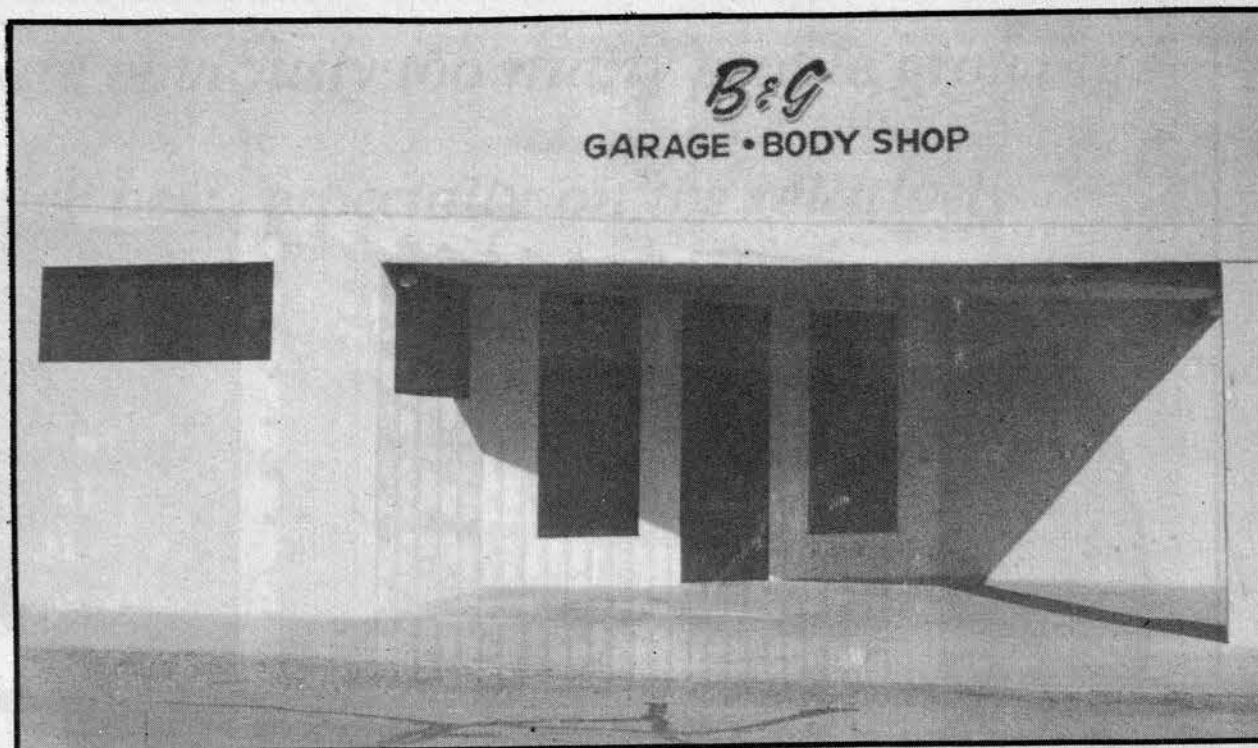
Unlike most pioneer Utah communities, Green River's settlement evolved outside the Mormon "call to settle" influence. It was the river that drew people -- first, to profit from the supply trains and cattle drives that crossed it there and later for the agricultural bounty brought by guiding the river behind wing dams, through water wheels and into ditches to irrigate the desert floor. Although most farms held out in the long run, crops were often flooded. The river was hard to handle. It still is.

Green River's first boom came in 1881-1883, when the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railway Company laid track across the Gunnison Valley, connecting Denver and Salt Lake City. Construction brought growth, wealth, saloons, fights, drunken brawls, fallen women and routine visits by the Robbers Roost boys from nearby canyon hideouts. Over a hundred miles from the nearest anywhere, especially the rest of Utah's staid Mormonism, and lacking a congregation of the faithful, Green River was inclined toward the wild and seedy. Legend says that the profile of Gunnison Butte, a distinctive promontory north of town, resembled Mormon leader Brigham Young only until a delegation of local notables,



er, Utah

sions and history
Ellen Ditzler-Meloy



their brain cells drowning in fermented substances, performed surgery on it with a few rounds of dynamite.

The next boom really sobered things up.

In 1906, a land developer convinced people that the town could make the thriving fruit industry in Colorado's Grand Valley to the east look like weekend horticulture. Acres of flats on the Green River side of the river and in Elgin, its sister community on the east bank, were planted in peaches, and folks readied themselves for business and respectability. However, the following spring runoff washed out a dam and made irrigation impossible. The desert sun burned the water-starved trees to a crisp before they could produce. The dam was rebuilt, the orchards replanted. All went well for nine years, when a severe winter killed the trees. Green River's peach dream was hacked up branch by branch and hauled off for firewood.

Melon farming kept things going for several decades as the "world famous" Green River winter melons gained a reputation. When high freight rates in the 1950s slowed shipment to profitable eastern markets, the melon boom busted.

Green River's favorite boom -- because most townsfolk remember it and await its return -- was the 1950s uranium boom. "Now there was a boom with substance," recalls a local whose father mined copper in Butte,

Montana, then moved on to uranium in the Southwest. The rush on "yellowcake" brought fat Eastern and European money, rendered rural Utah atomic and filled the desert with miners and prospectors from San Rafael Reef to Moab. Many want the uranium economy back, convinced that only communist plots and the Sierra Club stand in its way.

The U.S. Air Force sponsored Green River's last official boom and bust. In 1963 it built the Utah Launch Complex east of town and went to work on the Athena missile. Visiting generals shook hands with citizens, the city park was graced with an Athena, the Air Force fired a few real ones back and forth between Green River and White Sands, New Mexico, then packed it all up and left.

These booms haunt Green River's backstreets. Once lush in peach orchards, the flats of Elgin now sprout saltbush and mobile homes. The Air Force complex is weed-choked lizard pasture. The Athena missile shares the city park with a stone memorial to Bert Loper, who ran the Green and Colorado from Green River to Needles, California, in 1907. On a solo float in 1949, Loper disappeared in Marble Canyon on the Colorado Latter Day River Rat.

More than any other place, the old downtown is vintage backstreet Green River. Most of it is empty. The lobby of the Midland Hotel looks the same as it did when, years ago, everyone checked out forever. Swamp coolers

hang precariously from the backsides of buildings whose original use is lost in chipped paint and boarded windows. The vacant lots of blistering desert between each structure are so spacious, you'd think you would expire before you crossed them.

The inventory at Desert Edge Sundries seems to have frozen around 1951. In its rear is a wooden soda fountain dating back to railroad and peach boom days, with a marble counter, ceramic tiles depicting Western scenes and six stools with red plastic cushions. Generations drank sodas here, pumped since 1903 by a carbonation spigot that only went out of service in 1982, when a replacement washer could not be found.

While old Green River disintegrates, the interstate fluff proliferates, calling the traveler to taste their wares for at least the time it takes to fill their tanks or cool their horsepower. This, they seem to say, is all we can offer in a place dubbed for a century as "a profitless locality." "The region is, of course, altogether valueless," wrote explorer-trapper William Ashley in his 1824 diary. "After entering it, there is nothing to do but leave."

These days the town's most promising boom seems to be in the recreation traffic that descends seasonally on the canyon country, people who find profit in its very beauty. As always, it is the river that makes the town, funneling the masses through on whitewater or the asphalt ribbon that crosses it. Not much has

changed, in that respect, since the cattle drives and railroad days: What lets people live here is the profit made from those who don't.

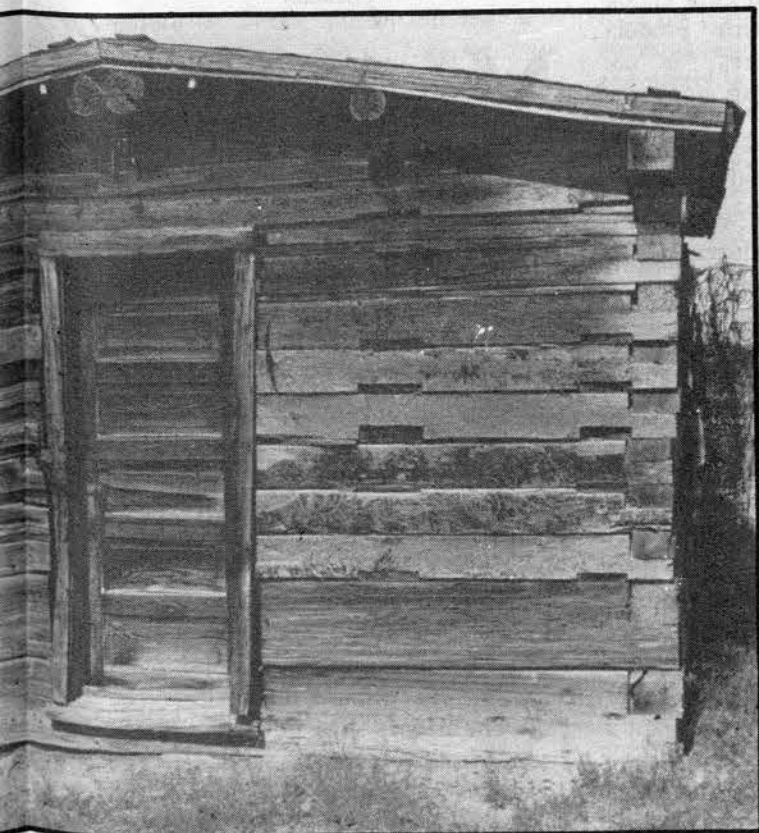
On annual float or hiking trips in southeastern Utah's canyon country, I stop in Green River to give my personal contribution to the economy of transience. After an 11-day float through Desolation Canyon, I yearn for the first bath in water that is not 98 percent sand. Dinner at Ray's Tavern, whose facade boasts "Welcome Boaters" in three-foot-high letters, a conversation with another ex-Butte miner who awaits the Second Coming of Uranium. The usual soda at Desert Edge Sundries is no longer possible. It's closed now. "For Sale," the sign in the window says, "1903 soda fountain included."

I like to sit awhile amidst the coral blossoms of globemallow that engulf the crumbling relics of the River Vu Drive-in east of town. Count the few remaining bands of neon on the eaves of the Uranium Motel, peer into the windows of the Midland to see if anyone has checked in. Buy a melon from a stand sardined between Taco Time and Trucker's Heaven. Its handpainted sign seems to capture Green River's bottomless entrepreneurial reserves:

"Melons. Fruit. Cider. Rocks."

□

Ellen Ditzler Meloy, a Helena, Montana, artist-writer, prowls southeastern Utah's backstreets and backcountry once a year.



Photos by Ellen Ditzler-Meloy, except cabin by Mark Meloy and travel center by Mary Moran.



Katharine Collins

Ranchers ask: Where's the market?

book caused health-conscious consumers to pause before they pounced.

The Natural Resources Defense Council sued former Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler, claiming that the kinds of abuses Schell documented were a threat to human health. Large doses of penicillin and tetracycline, NRDC said, were breeding drug-resistant bacteria that attack beef-eaters. NRDC pointed to salmonella poisoning cases occurring at the rate of 270,000 per year, resulting in an annual death rate of 300 persons.

Secretary Heckler sided with the National Cattlemen's Association in the case, which was "resolved" when the NCA said, "Something more effective has been substituted" for the offending drugs. They never said what this was.

Cases like this have added to the bad image besetting the beef industry in the West, where production-intensive strategies bring with them the use and abuse of growth hormones, appetite stimulants such as arsenic, antibiotics and agrichemical residues from improper use of herbicides and pesticides.

Take a look at any trade magazine such as the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association's *Cow Country*. The advertising tells the tale. The chemical industry has a major stake in keeping the beef business hooked.

Eat Beef!

If you grew up liking beef, you may feel like a wandering pilgrim in search of a respectable way to keep on doing what the Cowbells always urge us to do: "Eat Beef!"

Every year, fewer and fewer people take the Cowbells to heart. Chris Clothier is a marketing and information specialist with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. Clothier said, "The future is not rosy for the beef industry. Success will depend on competitive marketing. That's where we have failed in the past. We failed to realize trends toward less beef consumption. Instead, we continued to produce, and now we are in a hell of a mess."

From around 1970 through 1985, Clothier added, the beef industry put money and research into improving productivity instead of learning the marketing techniques that would have addressed America's changing eating habits and concern with product healthfulness. "Eat Beef!" is not exactly a subtle advertising slogan.

Farming the Tax Code

There is also the continuing problem of the industry's own internal disorganization and failure to say no to the many varieties of subsidy made available through government programs. Farming the tax code has become a big business. According to the Center for Rural Affairs in Nebraska, farm investors gain tax breaks on investments in cattle fed for them by commercial feedlots set up for that purpose.

Such tax schemes are the creatures of the beef industry, but they have returned to haunt their creator, prompting the populist small-farm-oriented CRA to ask, "Do we want a corporate farm economy where tax-subsidized investors feed cattle in lots employing Nebraskans at little more than minimum wage, with the profits drained out of the state? Or do

we want an efficient family farm economy where the people who do the work also enjoy the benefits of ownership, and support their communities?"

As these examples suggest, the beef industry is not one industry at all, but many industries in a long chain of production and distribution that reaches from the typical cow-calf operation in a state like Wyoming to a feedlot in Nebraska to a slaughterhouse in Colorado to your supermarket's meat counter. Along the way, everyone wants a piece of the action, and all the action is aimed toward production, not marketing.

Cattlean

Mike and Lisa Bay are cattle ranchers in the Helena, Montana, area. Concentrating on a product dubbed "Cattlean," they are among the many independent producers throughout the West who are developing creative alternatives to the existing beef industry.

Lisa Bay said, "Mike and I keep control of our meat until it reaches the retail destination. That returns more direct profit to us, the producers, and it eliminates the use of feedlot antibiotics and growth stimulants."

Cattlean, Inc., is a rancher-owned corporation marketing a product that is slowly appearing elsewhere in the Rockies. The Bays butcher their milk-and-grass-fed animals at a light 500-600 pounds. Except for immunizations against disease, their beef is free of chemicals and drugs. Extra tenderness comes because the animals are butchered while still on the gain. The result of their labors is an extremely lean, mild-flavored, light-colored product.

by Tom Wolf

Muckraking became big business in 1906, when Upton Sinclair published *The Jungle*, an expose of sanitary conditions in the Chicago stockyards. Sinclair's book prompted an investigation led by Theodore Roosevelt, who had himself been a Wyoming cattle rancher. Roosevelt's work culminated in much of the pure food legislation still in effect today.

Muckraking was still big business in 1984, when Orville Schell published *Modern Meat*, a stomach-churning account of the extra ingredients in that

The Bays wholesale their meats for somewhere between \$3.40 and \$3.80 per pound. As a comparison, lean supermarket cuts of beef now average about \$2.50 per pound. Veal ranges from \$4.50 to \$8.50 per pound. Gourmet direct mail order beef can cost as much as \$20.00 per pound. This is the kind you see advertised in *The New Yorker*, where Orville Schell's work first appeared.

Lisa said, "Our target markets are high-income, health-conscious professionals; and retired and/or dietarily restricted individuals. We market-tested Cattlean in Helena, and that's what the results told us."

Wyoming Lean

The Bays are genuine entrepreneurs, the kind you read about in free-market economics textbooks. More typical is the beef industry in the state of Wyoming, where the Legislature appropriated money to hire a nationally known product-testing firm to judge the market for "Wyoming Lean" beef. This study looked at Sunnyvale, California, consumer preferences.

Wyoming Lean comes from grass-fed steers, slaughtered at the 1,100 pound level and raised by rancher Rex Lewis near Laramie, Wyoming. Yet another study for Wyoming Lean tracked consumer beef purchases and correlated them with various levels of television advertising in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Both these studies came out positive for Wyoming Lean, and so the state has registered the trademark and set some standards for the product, including one which allows beef with a heavier fat cover.

The way it is

Whether for individuals like the Bays or for state programs like Wyoming's, significant obstacles stand between the lean beef producer and profitability. These problems range all the way from quality control to unions reluctant to see any change in the meatpacking industry to vested interests in the feeding link in the chain. Getting from the present, horizontal organization of thousands of fiercely independent producers to a vertically integrated industry will be a monumental achievement.

Cattleman Mel Potter, who ranches in Texas, thinks he has a solution. Potter said, "The cattle industry is sick with a disease called retailitis. The cause is the supermarkets' greed for excessive profits, complicated by the cattle industry's refusal to organize a national cooperative marketing system."

Potter points with pride to his role in the Ocean Spray Cranberry Cooperative, where 80 percent of the nation's growers are members. Not only have co-op members made money, he said, but they have radically increased the national per capita consumption of cranberry products. He doesn't see why lean beef producers cannot do the same. When he talks to cattlemen's associations around the country, Potter has the air of an evangelist who has found something good and good for you.

While Mel Potter talks tough and Lisa Bay talks tender, the feeding and slaughtering industries grind on with business as usual. And the big marketers seem oblivious to Orville

There are obviously too many people growing too much beef, especially on the relatively inefficient if picturesque cow-calf ranches so typical of the high country in the sparsely populated parts of the Rockies.

Schell's concerns. Ray Frechette is an area manager in Idaho for Ore-Ida, a subsidiary of the giant H.J. Heinz Company. He said, "I don't think people who buy Dinty Moore Stew worry too much about whether the beef is lean or not. Why not just trim the fat off?"

In addition to consumer and producer apathy, consider the production chain as it operates near Greeley, Colorado, in Weld County, which ranks fourth in the country for agricultural income, right after three counties in California's Central Valley.

The sources of Weld County's riches are feedcorn and feedlots. Michener describes the place in his novel *Centennial*, where he tells the story of New York newspaper editor Horace Greeley sending a scout to look for new townsites near the confluence of the Cache La Poudre and South Platte rivers. This site became the present town of Greeley, Colorado.

Horace Greeley told young men to go west for some very good reasons. An ardent abolitionist and muckraking journalist himself, he had helped push Lincoln into the Civil War. After the war, America had to deal with the thousands of displaced veterans from both sides, to say nothing of the former slaves. One solution, held out as an enticement to Union troops to fight on, was the Homestead Act of 1864. In the meantime, farmers who stayed behind during the war discovered that they could do without intensive labor practices.

Much of the character of the present-day beef industry derives from the forced relocation of returning veterans and government-stimulated speculative opportunities in the ranching business. This is the story well-told by Owen Wister, Roosevelt's friend, in his novel, *The Virginian*, which is set in Wyoming's cow country.

At least one theme of this story continues today, when there are obviously too many people growing too much beef, especially on the relatively inefficient if picturesque cow-calf ranches so typical of the high country in the sparsely populated parts of the Rockies. These are the people who supply their cattle to Weld County, which today is the site of the country's largest feedlot, Monfort Industries, just as from 1880 to 1920 it formed the largest cattle loading point for the Union Pacific Railroad's shipping line to the Chicago stockyards.

As cattlemen settled the Rockies, they quickly discovered that certain areas were good for certain things. Because of its mild, dry winters and

abundant supply of irrigation water, Weld County became the place to fatten calves from elsewhere on locally grown feedcorn.

Ranching in the area became a yearling steer operation. Weld County ranchers purchase calves born in February and weaned at 400-500 lbs. in the fall. They raise these calves to yearlings within a specific range of 700-900 lbs. The steers are fed on hay, dry grass and protein cakes until May 1, green-grass time in Weld County, and then they are turned out for maximum weight gain onto grass, with the quickest weight gainers sold off to the feedlots until all are gone by October. Then the new calves come in, and the process starts over again. At the nearby feedlots the steers are "finished" on corn and grain before slaughter.

Ken Monfort says he is adding 800 new jobs at his feedlot, increasing the total to 2,700 employees with an annual sales value of \$2 billion.

He and his brother Richard

slaughter 780,000 cattle per year right now, of which 400,000 come from their own feedlots. By 1987, they expect to reach 1,430,000. Cow-calf operators may be suffering, but the feedlot and slaughter business is booming. It is the small and inefficient producers whose numbers are too large. People who eat at McDonald's don't care about an expose called *Modern Meat*.

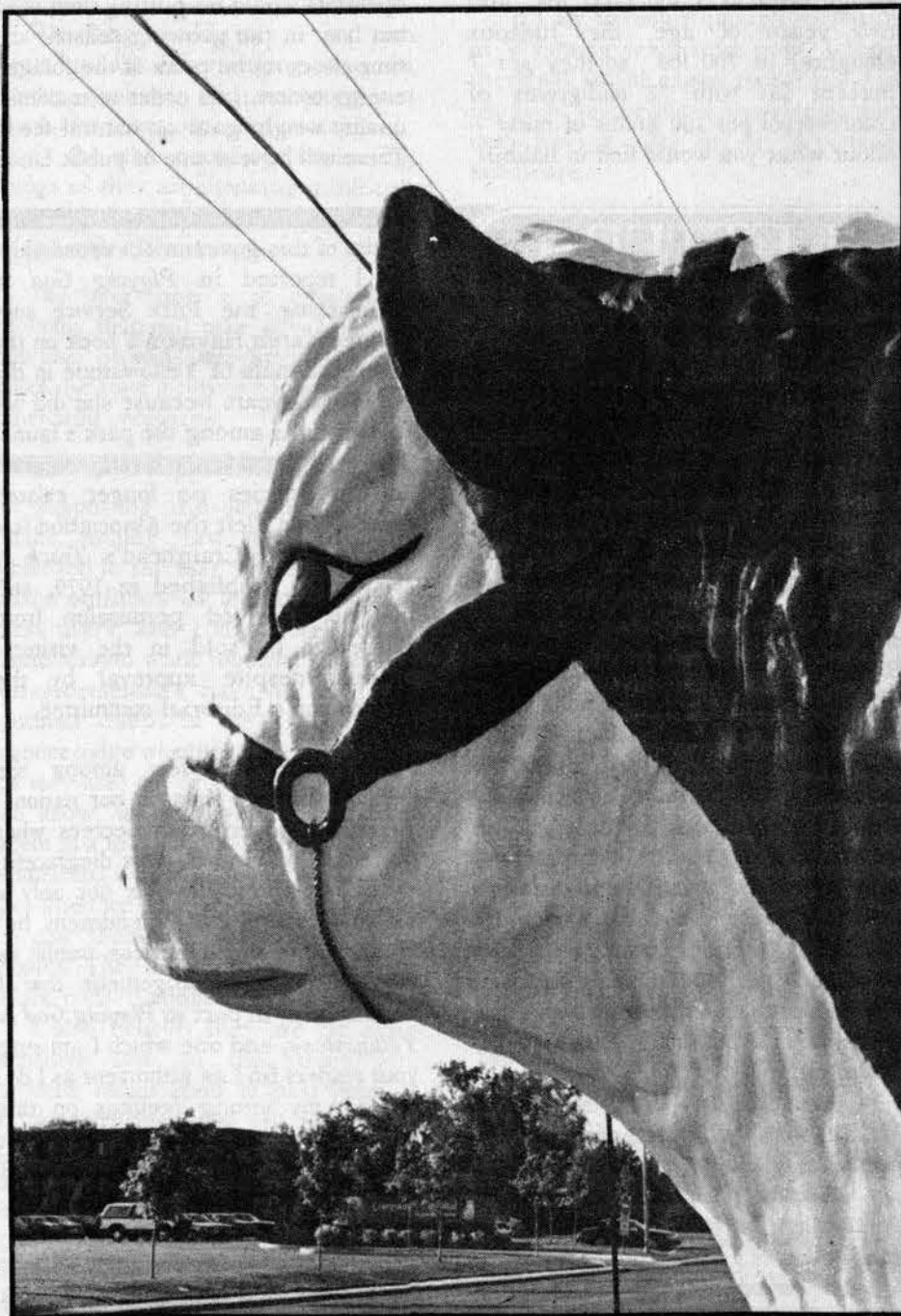
In this corner, the phantom

Arrayed against such formidable members of the status quo are the lean beef producers of the mountainous parts of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. They will have to find local and specialized markets for a locally appealing and specialized product, as Lisa Bay suggests.

That is just what Carl and Jean Judson have done on their Phantom Canyon Ranch northwest of Fort

(Continued on page 12)

Katharine Collins



Market...

(Continued from page 11)

Collins. The Judsons succeed because they market locally and keep a sense of perspective in their efforts to control quality, production and distribution.

Carl Judson has raised lean beef for six years. He said, "It is hard to provide the environment and other ingredients needed to get calves to grow fast. Fast growth is the key to raising beef that is both lean and tender."

Traditional mountain ranchers wean and ship out in the fall. These calves gain little weight over the winter. Then feeders like those in Weld County pour it on during the following summer. Things are done differently at Phantom Canyon, where Judson said, "We bring our calves to 700 lbs. in a year, counting on good genetics from bulls with superior growth characteristics. We use artificial insemination and ordinary cows."

Judson has given the subject of lean beef a lot of thought. He said, "Cattle store fat for the same reason any animal does -- survival. Until puberty at about 12 months they store fat outside the muscle tissue. Our cattle haven't yet developed the intra-muscular fat that makes marbled beef so unhealthy."

The Judsons have a relatively big operation, running about 2,000 cattle, some 1,000 of which are breeding cows. They run the calves with their mothers until the summer, when the calves are weaned and moved to high country pastures, where they grow very rapidly on the rich feed. In the fall they come back down and are fed chemical-free hay.

By February, these yearlings weigh around 700 lbs. In contrast to the conventional steer, which is slaughtered at 1,500-2,000 lbs. and two years of age, the Judsons slaughter at 700 lbs., so they get 7 percent fat with 72 milligrams of cholesterol per 100 grams of meat -- about what you would find in halibut.

Regular ground beef has 29 percent fat. Extra lean has 15 percent. But both still grad out at 89 mg. cholesterol per lb.

Needless to say, no hormones, antibiotics or stimulants ever enter the Judson cattle.

The same is true for Mel Coleman's cattle. Coleman's family has ranches for more than a century near Saguache in Colorado. Coleman's cattle graze on grass for 18-20 months, and then they are finished for tenderness on corn and alfalfa.

Working with other San Luis Valley ranchers he trusts, Coleman markets fresh meat in 13 states and frozen meat in many other outlets. His beef grades out at 8 percent fat.

None of the lean beef producers place much stock in federal regulation of their industry. They say that the consumer's key is to know your producer, which is why Mel Coleman can be seen and heard on TV and radio talk shows all over the country.

We're all in this together?

Any lean beef operation will have a great deal of consumer skepticism and apathy to overcome. Yet representatives of two of the organizations often at odds with the stockgrowing industry expressed a desire to see lean beef succeed.

The Forest Service's Glen Hetzel is Rocky Mountain Chief for range, wildlife, fisheries, and ecology. He said, "Lean beef operations could be positive for all parties involved. When grazing permittees convert from cow-calf to yearling operations, we will rewrite their allotment management plans to account for the fact that yearlings distribute themselves better over an allotment than cows with calves. That will mean less pressure on the riparian zones also in demand for fish, wildlife and recreation."

Hetzel guessed that lean beef operators would be putting their stock out later in the growing season, at a time closer to the peak of the forage's energy content, in order to maximize quality weight gain on natural feeds. There will be less use of public lands,

he surmised, for simply maintaining cattle until they can be fattened elsewhere. Spokesmen for BLM range management in Wyoming and Colorado cautiously echoed Hetzel's judgment.

Johanna Wald is an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council in San Francisco. NRDC has been the nemesis of the beef industry on health-related issues. She follows federal grazing policies with a sharp eye for the traditional collusion between regulator and regulated.

Wald said, "A federal judge recently agreed with NRDC's contention that BLM must follow a two-step process in regulating grazing: leases and allotment management plans. We would welcome the lean beef programs if they bring with them the revision of AMPs -- with the condition that the public be allowed to participate in the process of revision."

Butcher

When Fort Collins was still a cowtown in the 1950s, you could drive out on north College Avenue, on the way to Laramie and Cheyenne, and there you could find a butcher shop that sold beef the way God meant it to be sold -- in great red and white marbled quarters and halves, cut and wrapped by men as massively meaty as the carcasses they bearhugged against their bloody-white aprons.

You couldn't miss this place, since it was right next to the ranchwear store and advertised its wares in the simplest possible way: a huge, squat Hereford steer, made out of something unutterably strong and indubitably heavy, lorded it over all the passing traffic from its perch over the entrance.

Time went by, Fort Collins changed. The center of town moved south, toward the new computer and electronics industries, and a new, leaner breed of person appeared. The old meat shop shut down.

The other day, driving south on College Avenue, I saw a familiar but somehow different sight. A longer,

leaner, altogether more elegant steer graced the carefully manicured bluegrass lawn in front of an upscale-looking shop advertising Horton's Lean Beef.

I followed a slim, well-dressed woman into the shop, and watched in wonder as she bought a large amount of lean beef. What greater wonder than to peer behind the counter to find the reincarnation of the old butcher himself, leaner, but telling me how times had gotten tough for the industry, how the chicken and pork producers had spread lies about the healthfulness of beef, and how he had finally gone out of business.

Then he met Dr. Dallas Horton, a local veterinarian, who had done some experimental breeding and started an integrated lean beef business. And now the old boy himself was back in the saddle, nattily attired in an immaculate white shirt and red bow tie with a white cap perched on his head.

Still curious, I went to Columbine Market in Fort Collins, definitely an upscale place. There it was, right next to the tofu: Phantom Canyon Beef.

I continued my pilgrim's progress to Boulder, Colorado, where the crest of the cultural wave is always about to break. There the manager at Alfalfa's meat counter told me, "We use Coleman's Natural Beef because it grades out choice and tastes great. We checked out Mel Coleman's operation, and we found him 100 percent reliable, 100 percent natural."

Finally, desperate like Upton Sinclair or Orville Schell for some bad news about beef, I carried my pilgrimage to Montana for a float trip with some card-carrying environmentalists. Our river guides had advertised gourmet cooking. When the steaks came round that first night out on the river, there was Cattleman. It was great.

□

Tom Wolf is a freelance writer in Fort Collins, Colorado.

LETTERS

PARK CENSORSHIP

Dear HCN,

In your article entitled "The Greater Yellowstone Coalition responds to Chase" (HCN, 5/26/86), you report that, according to Bob Anderson, the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association, of which I was a member, refused to sell Rick Reese's book, *Greater Yellowstone*. This account is both false and seriously misleading. In fact, the YLMA, on whose Editorial Committee I served as chairman, unanimously approved this book for sale in the park. Superintendent Barbee, however, refused to grant us permission to sell it because the book specifically criticized Interior Secretary James Watt and the Reagan administration. These events were carefully explained to the book's publisher, Rick Graetz, at the time.

I personally supported the sale of Mr. Reese's book in the park because I firmly believe no one has the right to say what the public may read about Yellowstone, or any other place, for that matter. Yet unfortunately, *Greater Yellowstone* was not the only

victim of this government censorship. As I reported in *Playing God in Yellowstone*, the Park Service suppressed Karen Haynam's book on the large mammals of Yellowstone in the park for six years because she did not list wolves as among the park's fauna, even though evidence clearly suggested this species no longer existed there. When I left the Association last month, Frank Craighead's *Track of the Grizzly*, published in 1979, still had not received permission from Barbee to be sold in the visitors' centers, despite approval by the Association's Editorial committee.

Unfortunately, few among the public are aware that, in our national parks, the government decrees what the public may read. This disgraceful situation, in my view, is not only a violation of the First Amendment, but an affront to the American public as well. It is an arrangement that I documented, in part in *Playing God in Yellowstone*, and one which I am sure your readers find as abhorrent as I do. Indeed, my strong feelings on this matter were a factor in my recent resignation from the Board of Directors of the Association.

Alston Chase
Livingston, Montana

TOO MUCH ECONOMICS

Dear HCN,

I am concerned about the preoccupation of HCN with economics in the West. There is no good nor bad economics *per se*, only wise use of natural resources. Land-use/management is the tool for implementing economic outcomes, and sophisticated craftsmanship requires carefully wielded instruments in the hands of caring artisans.

These issues of artistic temperament cannot be resolved in public meetings in which everyone argues to defend a different opinion. The artisan must be appointed on the basis on credentials and allowed to proceed on his own in producing the finished product. In a democracy, we are allowed to select our craftsmen by mandate. So far, we have succeeded, by and large, in electing crackpots for environmental legislation. The wasteful cutting of the Tongas National Forest in Alaska, the use of 1080 compound for predator control, overcutting in the National Forests at financial loss to the public, persistent destruction of habitat essential to species existence are some of the many examples that can be cited in the

long list of hodge-podge attempts for a publicly benefitting environmental ethic.

The fate of the grizzly is in our hands. So far, his rescue from the brink of extinction in the Yellowstone ecosystem has been a dismal failure. While all of the infighting goes on, I read in HCN bulletin board that the Jardine area, a high density grizzly bear habitat, is removing 67 critical areas of vital territorial imperative for the bears' existence. Hard and fast rules need to be set and adhered to, making grizzly territory inviolate to human intrusion for any economically "justifiable" reason. This means ruling out gold, oil, gas, mineral, timber, water, or any other resource exploitation that robs the grizzly of his home.

The grizzly could very well be our gauge of success in coming to terms with nature in the West in keeping it wholesome and livable for future generations. As the canary can tell us, if the air is clean in the mine shaft (and safe), so can the grizzly remind us of a sustainable environment, far into the future, on these fragile lands replete with many natural advantages that cannot be gauged by economic criteria.

Van Shipp
Versailles, Kentucky

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

It is the golden eagle that makes Wyoming soar

by Andrew Melnykovich

I think I'll miss the eagles most of all.

Of course, I'll also miss the mountains, the summer sunsets, the uncrowded roads, friends and adversaries, and the special kind of intimacy you can develop with a state of much space and few people.

But, I'll miss the eagles the most when I've left Wyoming.

Firmly fixed in my mind is the day last winter when, driving from Casper to Laramie, I saw no fewer than a dozen golden eagles along or near the highway. Two were especially memorable.

The first was perched on a road-kill deer in the Shirley Basin. As I drove by, no more than 15 feet away, the eagle fixed me with the unyielding look that is possessed only by creatures fully aware of their position at the top of the food chain.

Later, at sundown and just past Rock River, another golden rose from feeding on a dead jackrabbit in the center of the road. It took off unhurriedly, with none of the panic that accompanies the flight from the pavement of horned larks or other lesser birds.

The eagle seemed to know that I would slow, even stop if necessary, to avoid hitting it. As the golden made its self-assured departure, the last bit of sunlight burnished the hackles at the back of its neck.

Although the eagles are indeed apt living metaphors for courage, freedom and honor, I believe they hold added meaning for Wyoming.

They symbolize how far its citizens have come in understanding what makes Wyoming a special place. And they also are a reminder of how easy it is to lose those things which set the state apart.

Magnificent and invulnerable as they appear, it would be easy to lose the eagles.

It was not so long ago that they were seen by many as little better than vermin. Accused of being inveterate sheep killers, hundreds of eagles fell victim to poisoning by ranchers or government agents.

Others were gunned down from airplanes and helicopters, either for

Dick Randall, Defenders of Wildlife



Golden eagle with jackrabbit prey

their imagined sins or simply for the sheer "sport" of it.

Without a public outcry that led to laws protecting the species, this nation might have lost the golden eagle just as we nearly lost our national symbol, the bald eagle.

In the process of nearly exterminating and then protecting the golden eagle, I think we learned much about ourselves and about the things we value.

I think we realized that we would all be poorer without the eagles. And I think many in Wyoming saw that it is because the eagle -- and the bighorn, the elk, the pronghorn -- can prosper here that this state is different.

Wyoming's citizens are the caretakers of something that has disappeared from most of the rest of this nation. Most don't have to go very far from their front doors to see what it is.

They may not all see the same things or view them with a common perspective, but they probably agree that there is something out there that we don't want to lose. They might best describe it as "quality of life."

What will be at issue in Wyoming, I think, will be how to go about defining and preserving that elusive quality.

Wyoming could try to get rich again quickly, mortgaging away its unique qualities and becoming too much like other, drearier places.

Or the state could opt for leaving things as they are, making it difficult for many of its children to afford to live in and enjoy Wyoming.

The best hope is to develop an economy that will take advantage of, but also protect, the attributes that make the state a haven for eagles and other wild creatures.

That does not mean no logging, no oil drilling or no strip mining. But it does mean, almost certainly, fewer large sawmills. It means that some places will become off-limits to the drilling rigs and remain havens for the moose and the grizzly bear. It means antelope will take precedence over coal in certain areas.

Although those decisions may be painful in the short term, they could insure Wyoming's future.

There are other, better places to grow and harvest trees. The nation can survive without the oil and gas in and around Jackson Hole. And there is ample coal -- much of it in Wyoming -- outside the Red Rim.

Sacrificing some opportunities to develop those resources is a small price to pay compared to what might be lost if Wyoming chooses to log, drill, or mine whenever and wherever possible.

Because, unlike trees, oil, or coal, there are some things that can neither be found anywhere else nor replaced once lost.

No other state in the lower 48 has Wyoming's wildlife, scenery, or recreational opportunities. As those resources grow more scarce elsewhere, Wyoming's special attributes will become ever more precious.

If they can be maintained and not sacrificed in a headlong rush toward economic development, those attributes will more than repay whatever it costs to preserve them.

Wyoming can choose to preserve the eagles. Or the state can forget the lessons of the past and again risk losing the eagles and all they represent.

If I am fortunate enough to return to Wyoming years from now, I hope there will still be eagles rising lazily in my path, secure in the knowledge that they have a place in the Wyoming landscape.

□

Andrew Melnykovich has just become the first full-time correspondent in Washington, D.C., for the *Casper Star-Tribune*. This article is reprinted courtesy of that newspaper.

LETTERS

ALLIES AND FRIENDS

Dear HCN,

I want to respond to Howard Spaletta's letter to HCN in the June 9 issue. He is upset that the Idaho Conservation League is staying out of the conflict over outfitters' commercial camps in the River of No Return Wilderness.

I cannot pass judgment on the issues under appeal. Mr. Spaletta may be right about the condition of outfitters' camps, and I suspect he is right when he says that we must reevaluate our attitudes regarding permanent structures in wilderness. But I think it's important for all wilderness users to have some historical perspective, and that's missing in what I've seen on this issue.

I worked for ICL during the years when the RNR Wilderness was

debated and then created. The Idaho Outfitter and Guides Association played a key role in passage of the legislation. They had doubts then about what might happen in the future to their operations once wilderness standards were applied, but they decided as a group that getting permanent protection of the land and waters was more important. They worked hard in the letter-writing and lobbying that we all did. If Sen. Church were still alive, I am sure he would acknowledge the major role they played.

The Outfitters Association and its individual members deserve the thanks of everyone who now uses that wilderness for their role in creating it. It is possible that without their support it would not exist. It is likely that without their support the boundaries would be smaller.

My own opinion is that the relationship between Idaho conservationists and outfitters is not tenuous. It is firm. Outfitters played a major role

in supporting the improvements in Idaho mining law that ICL has achieved in the last 3 years. I regard Idaho outfitters as legitimate wilderness users, and I think users of all kinds should work together to resolve disagreements. I have not seen any outfitter camps in the RNR, and so cannot judge whether they should stay as they are, go, or be modified. But I do know, as one who worked with them in a tough, long fight to achieve something we never thought we would get when we started, that I am willing to give them the benefit of several doubts. They are allies and friends of Idaho conservationists.

I also believe they are far more sensitive now to the issues Mr. Spaletta raises than in past years. I think their sensitivity will continue to grow if they are approached by other users as partners in wilderness management rather than obstacles. I'd encourage Mr. Spaletta and others who have concerns with their operations to seek time at their next

board meeting to air the matters. The important thing is that all parties keep a cooperative spirit. We owe it to each other.

Pat Ford
Boise, Idaho

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14-High Country News -- June 23, 1986

BULLETIN BOARD

COMMENT ON THE LAND EXCHANGE EIS

The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management released a legislative environmental impact statement in February that calls for the transfer of 14.8 million acres from the BLM to the Forest Service. In addition, the Forest Service would take over from the BLM the management of all minerals beneath Forest Service land. For its part, the BLM would gain 9.4 million acres from the Forest Service. The Forest Service would pick up 100 additional employees but the BLM would lose 450. The agencies say that the land interchange would cost \$21-\$24 million over a five-year period, but savings during that same period would exceed \$50 million. The draft legislation permits the Secretary of Agriculture to sell the newly established Forest Service lands. No hearings have been scheduled on the legislation for the current session in either the House or Senate. Comments may be sent to members of Congress or to R. Max Peterson, Chief, Forest Service, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013 (202/447-3760), or to Robert F. Burford, Director, BLM, 18th and C Sts. NW, Washington, D.C. 20240 (202/343-9435).

COURSES AT GLACIER

The Glacier Institute, which began holding classes in Glacier National Park June 21, offers courses in photography, botany, geology, sketching, wildlife, watercolor and fire ecology. All classes are held in the park, some venturing out on short day hikes, overnight hikes or rafting trips. Lower division college credit is available for the two to five-day courses through Flathead Valley Community College, and upper division credit is available for four of the classes through the University of Montana. The Institute has also begun to offer family classes for parents and children. For more info write Glacier Institute, Box 1457, Kalispell, Montana 59903 (406/752-5222).

SAVE COWS AND PEOPLE

Heifer Project International, a 40-year-old charity, hopes to buy a small fraction of the one million American dairy cows not slated for slaughter and airlift them to foreign nations, such as Haiti, Egypt and Bolivia, that are in need of food. The purpose is to provide these nations with a self-perpetuating food supply rather than a one-time gift of dry milk. For further information, contact: Heifer Project International, c/o Barbara Tarbox, 255 S. Park Circle, Golden, CO 80401; 303/526-9454.

ARCTIC DREAMS

Arctic Dreams, by the fine writer Barry Lopez, who wrote *Of Wolves and Men*, looks at the Arctic landscape through the eyes of explorers, Eskimos, archaeologists and those who love its stark beauty. As Lopez examines the land and its past, he also explores the relationship between human imagination and a vast, seemingly inhuman area.

Charles Scribner's Sons, 115 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003, hardcover, 415 pages, \$22.95.

GREATER YELLOWSTONE CHALLENGES

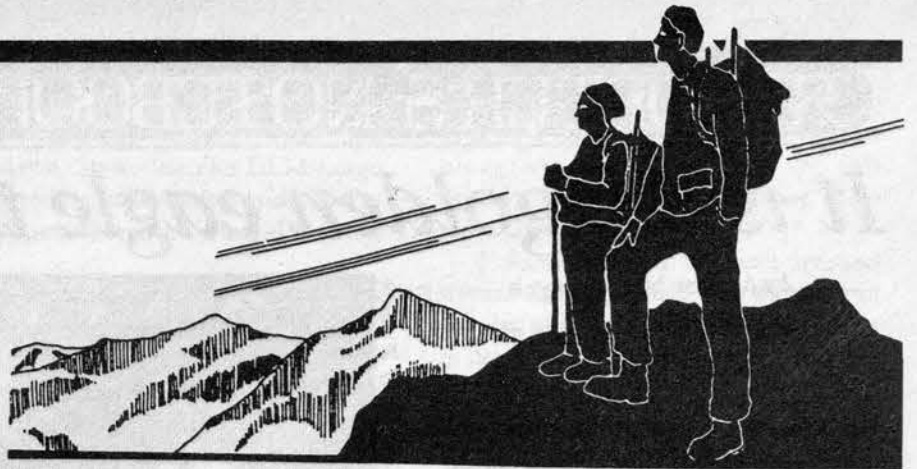
The Greater Yellowstone Coalition has published a 216-page book describing 198 "challenges" faced by those wanting to protect the 10-million-acre ecosystem. *Challenges to the Greater Yellowstone, 1986: An Inventory of Management Issues and Development Projects* describes mostly site-specific issues in 10 different categories, including wilderness, grazing, land-use planning and geothermal development. It also lists who will make the decisions and who, in the conservation community, is working on the issue. The coalition hopes to publish the catalog each year. Order by sending \$15 by July 1 to the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, P.O. Box 1874, Bozeman, Montana 59715 (406/586-1593). (Members pay \$10).

MORE GRIZZLIES FOR THE CABINETS

An Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee is developing a plan to beef up the grizzly population in the Cabinet Mountains of northwestern Montana. The estimate of grizzlies is fewer than 20 in the Cabinet-Yaak area, which threatens extinction in a matter of years. The committee's final plan must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act that requires a public review of the agency's proposals and an environmental assessment or impact statement. The committee tentatively plans to increase the number of grizzlies to 70-90 by either placing two to four bears selected for age, sex, and behavior into the Cabinets, or by cross-fostering grizzly bear cubs in captivity with black bears in the Cabinets. A recently held one-month comment period revealed that most letter-writers objected to the 70-bear goal, saying that 20 to 35 bears were "Exceedingly adequate." The committee will complete an analysis of the public comments by July 1. By the fall, the agency will write a summary of these public concerns, an environmental impact statement, and arrive at its final plan for increasing the number of grizzlies in the Cabinet Mountains. To be kept informed about the project by being put on the mailing list, write Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, P.O. Box 8898, Missoula, MT 59807.

A VANISHED PUBLICATION

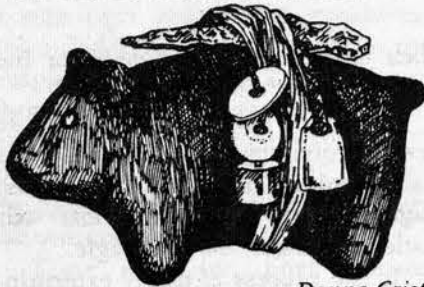
Lack of funds has sunk the *Western Natural Resource Litigation Digest* after five years of publishing. It lost its major supporter, a foundation, last year, which it was unable to replace. It followed over 300 cases at a time in the natural resource areas for state attorneys general and others across the nation. The publication, edited by Tish Sprague in San Francisco, went out in style. Its death announcement was accompanied by a "special edition" announcing that Fred Rogers of Mr. Roger's Neighborhood had been appointed Secretary of Interior. His new policy: "We're all neighbors in this very, very nice country, so please let's not bicker any more..." Indeed, the natural resource lions sat down with the lambs, leaving the *Digest* with no lawsuits to report, so it went out of business.



LANDS OF BRIGHTER DESTINY

In *Lands of Brighter Destiny: The Public Lands of the American West*, Elizabeth Darby Junkin describes, characterizes and philosophizes upon the 675 million acres of public land in the 11 continental western states, Alaska and Hawaii. Her 240-page illustrated book is divided into three main sections: an introduction, a survey of the various land management agencies, and verbatim interviews with 11 people concerned with public lands. The first two sections provide a statistical, historical and legal background to the public lands. The author tells us how much land each agency controls, the legal underpinnings for their control and management and the major issues they face. Her interview with well-known and unknown citizens shows the vast array of ideas we have about the public lands. Interviewees include Arizona Congressman Morris Udall, free market economist John Baden, wilderness writer Rod Nash, National Coal Association head Carl Bagge, and outdoorsman and Alaska railroad conductor Ward Redford. The publisher is a new house specializing in books about the environment, natural resources and nature.

Fulcrum, Inc., 350 Indiana St., #510, Golden, CO 80401, \$13.95, cloth.



Donna Crispin

AGENCY FAILS INDIANS

The General Accounting Office reports that the Bureau of Indian Affairs fails to ensure accurate payments to Indians from oil companies. The GAO, which is the investigative arm of Congress, says the bureau has not accounted for payments received, resulting in overpayment, nor has it fined oil companies for delayed payment to ensure that Indians get their money. The Department of Interior has installed a computer to improve the agency's accuracy, but the GAO doubts the computer will make the system work. The GAO report is called *Indian Royalties: Interior has not solved Indian oil and gas royalty payment problems*, Acc. No. 129706 (GAO/IMTEC-86-13). For a free copy write GAO, Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 (202/275-6241).

YOU CAN STILL COMMENT

A June 9, 1986 Bulletin Board item needs correction. Public comment on the Owl Creek wilderness study area, next to the Washakie Wilderness near Thermopolis, Wyoming, will be taken until July 31 and should be sent to BLM, Worland District Office, Box 119, Worland, WY 82401 (307/347-9871). Oral and written comments will be taken at a public hearing June 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Hot Springs County Museum, Thermopolis, Wyoming.

"BICKERING FOOLS"

The Idaho Conservation League publishes a monthly newsletter called the *ICL News*. The May issue covers the 1986 Idaho Legislature, which has been dubbed "the year of the bickering fools" by the press and the public, but ICL lobbyist Renee Quick says that in her 13 years of watching Idaho legislative sessions, she has seen worse. She notes a number of small steps made in important areas of regulating air and water quality, and hazardous waste disposal. Subscription price for the newsletter is \$1 per issue and is included in the League's annual membership dues. Write ICL, P.O. Box 844, Boise, ID 83701 (208/345-6933).

MONTANA WILDERNESS WALKS

The Montana Wilderness Association's Wilderness Walks Program offers free trips this summer into some of Montana's most spectacular and remote places. The walk to Crow Peak in the Elkhorns offers a panoramic view and unique wildlife; the hike up the Gallatin Range along Big Creek includes a scenic canyon and the climb along the Absaroka Bear Creek trail enters a flower-filled meadow that overlooks Yellowstone Plateau. These are just three of the 37 day-hikes that will be led by experienced members. Each participant is responsible for transportation, food, and equipment. For more information write Montana Wilderness Association, Box 635, Helena, MT 59624 (406/443-7350).

L-P CRITIC HONORED

The first National Grassroots Convention in Washington, D.C., presented Margaret Orjias of Olathe, Colorado, with a Leadership Achievement Award. The honor recognizes Orjias, a member of the coalition, Western Colorado Congress, as a fighter against air pollution caused by the Louisiana-Pacific waferboard plant in Olathe. Orjias, who lives less than a mile from the L-P plant, carefully recorded sightings of the company's air pollution and testified at several state air-pollution control hearings. Threatened with state permit revocations, L-P has been forced to add new pollution controls on their waferboard plants. The grassroots convention of June 1 was sponsored by the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes.

A NEW PUBLICATION

The Oregon University School of Law has begun publishing the *Western Environmental Law Update*. The six-page mimeographed publication covers lawsuits, pending lawsuits and negotiations on environmental issues in the Pacific Coast region. The first issue reports on a disease threat to the Port-Orford cedar, an alleged conflict of interest on citizen committees in Oregon that oversee forest slash burning, Alaskan oil leases, and a proposed expansion of Oregon's Willamette Pass Ski Area onto unroaded National Forest land. Subscriptions are \$6 for six issues. Write: Environmental Law Update, Western Natural Resources Law Clinic, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403.

COLORADO STATE BIOLOGISTS HONORED

The Wildlife Society, a professional organization of wildlife biologists working for the government, presented a Group Achievement Award to the research section of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The society said in the past five years Colorado biologists researched techniques for wildlife censusing, nutritional physiology, black-bear ecology and management, ptarmigan and sage-grouse population dynamics, blue-grouse feeding ecology and prairie-chicken relocation. The Colorado Division of Wildlife is the first public agency to receive the award, which was presented recently at the annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Reno, Nevada.

BE A HEALTH DETECTIVE

Of the 50,000 hazardous waste sites in the U.S., 90 percent may affect nearby communities. To assess the local risk, Johns Hopkins University Press has published a guide for citizen groups called *The Health Detective's Handbook: A Guide to the Investigation of Environmental Health Hazards by Nonprofessionals*. It tells how to diagnose a health problem without studying for an advanced degree and how to organize others, design a scientifically valid study, draw conclusions and also obtain help from federal and state agencies. The book is \$27.50 hardcover; \$12.95 paperback. Order from Johns Hopkins University Press, 701 W. 40th Street, Ste. 275, Baltimore, MD 21211.

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OPINION

The Park Service bites at Earth First!'s bait

A June 9 *Associated Press* article says Yellowstone National Park officials spent upwards of \$30,000 on riot control training, complete with mace, "baton-type" work, handcuffing and tear gas. The impetus was the threat the agency sees from Earth First! For *High Country News*, the event could provide a mother lode of barbs:

"What! No strategic nuclear weapons?"

"The Park Service may be willing to lose the grizzly, but it is not about to lose the next riot."

"Instead of ecosystem management, the Park Service is practising Gulag management."

The tendency to hurl spear-sized barbs at Yellowstone Superintendent Robert Barbee is inspired by more than his SWAT-team mentality and the way his name alliterates with barb. We were surprised to learn, from a letter to the editor by Alston Chase (see page 7), that Barbee passes on all books sold within the park. He hasn't assumed that power to keep grizzlies from reading *Playboy*. He bans books on biology and public policy that he disagrees with. Thanks to this policy, it is possible that Yellowstone and the

nation's other parks -- which we think are the highest expression of what's good about America -- are among the least democratic places in the nation.

Barbee's censorship and riot training are redolent of the 1960s. Back then, an agency, university, corporation or mayor -- bedeviled by serious problems in its own operation, and beset by critics it saw as radical -- turned to police work for salvation. Columbia University in the 1960s couldn't command the respect of its students, but it could bash their heads. Southern cities couldn't figure out how to grant their black citizens fundamental rights. But they could turn water hoses and tear gas on the protesters.

The contemplation of such tactics at Yellowstone may be a sign that Barbee is feeling frustrated and helpless, and is unconsciously begging for release from his job. On some level, he must know that the day he turns a SWAT team on a bunch of Earth First!ers dressed as grizzly bears is the day he will be on his way to counting paper clips in some obscure Park Service office.

We're surprised by this turn of events. Who

would have dreamed that, in the 1980s, one could still Mau-Mau the Flak Catchers. Who would have thought that censors of tomes on grizzly populations were abroad in the land? Who would have thought that the superintendent of America's most famous park would meet Earth First!'s admittedly provocative theatre with mace?

The events appear to confirm some of what Alston Chase charges in *Playing God in Yellowstone*. Chase said the National Park Service is controlled by cop types, rather than biologists or wildlife managers. Chase said Yellowstone has been hiding the truth about the park's biological health for years. Chase said the Park Service has been doing phoney science for years.

The fact that the superintendent of Yellowstone bans books he disagrees with and squeezes money out of a very tight budget in a critical year for riot training do not prove Chase's charges. But they are strong pieces of circumstantial evidence.

--Ed Marston

ACCESS

WORK

NEW POSITION AVAILABLE for someone who likes to travel, is a super-communicator, and has background (preferably a degree) in natural resource management. Work for CHEC, a non-profit forestry consultant firm in Eugene, Oregon, for \$750 per month. Send resume and writing sample by July 1 to CHEC, P.O. Box 3479, Eugene, OR 97403. (1x12p)

ORGANIZER JOB POSITION: The Northern Plains Resource Council is an organization of rural citizens and citizen groups working on agriculture, natural resource and utility issues in Montana. **DUTIES:** Organize and maintain local citizen organizations in Montana, working with members in planning, implementing and evaluating programs, leadership development, grassroots fundraising and research. **REQUIREMENTS:** Commitment to social change, justice and ecological integrity, desire and skill to work well with diverse types of people, ability to communicate clearly, willingness to work according to the needs of the organization. **SALARY:** \$700 per month, health and dental insurance, one month's vacation. **TO APPLY:** Send resume, writing sample and at least three references to Teresa Erickson, NPRC, 419 Stapleton Building, Billings, Montana 59101, (406/248-1154). Deadline for application: July 15. (2x11)

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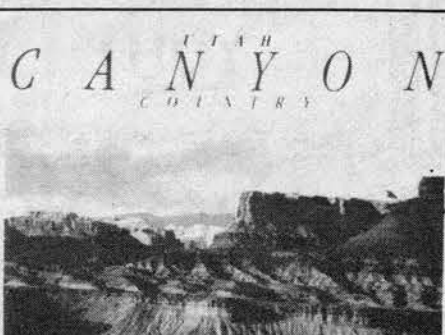
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DOES A CAREER working with land and water appeal to you? The Environmental Technology program at Colorado Mountain College in Leadville has continued since 1974 as the only two-year degree program of its kind west of the Mississippi. Job placement is excellent. Contact: Admissions, Box HC, Colorado Mountain College, Leadville, CO 80461. (303/486-2015). (1b12)

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SINCE 1975 the University of Montana has offered an interdisciplinary program focusing on the relationship between wilderness and civilization. Courses include wilderness and expression, conservation of human and natural resources, environmental ethics, and wilderness in American literature. The program begins with an 11-day wilderness trek in the Northern Rockies. For more information, contact the Wilderness Institute, School of Forestry, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. (406/243-5361).

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16-High Country News -- June 23, 1986

OFF THE WALL

Get the public off the public land

by Ray Ring

Back in 1986, as environmentalists rallied to push ranchers off public land, nobody could have predicted how the issue would finally be resolved. But as the ranchers were phased out, thinking changed. A new movement was born: the most powerful and sweeping ever seen in natural resource management. It was born with the battle cry: "Get the public off public lands."

Origins are hazy. Some historians point to ex-Snake River ranchers working as clerks in convenience stores along Interstate 84. Profoundly upset, loaded up on beer and wine coolers purchased at cost, they decided they were mad as heck and wouldn't take it any longer. If they couldn't use the land, no one could use it.

Other historians trace the movement to a splinter cadre of Earth First!, many of whom were also clerking in the same convenience stores to make ends meet between ecosabotage forays. They realized, perhaps at weekly id-rapping/poetry howling sessions, that if Mother Earth was to be protected from logging, mining and ranching, it should also be protected from hikers, campers and even Earth First! sappers. All were intruders from the late 20th century, stressing the natural ecosystem, tramping down the vegetation with Vibram soles, scaring and corrupting wildlife, fouling water and soil. How was any human presence on public lands justified? It wasn't. Oh, wow!

Whatever its origin, the "Get Off!" movement picked up support where all movements do: from the fringes of left and right. Anyone who had ever been locked out of public lands realized there was a chance to lock out everyone else. The oil, gas, timber and mineral industries were more than ready to retaliate against the backpackers and wilderness-calendar photographers. And arch armchair conservationists thought it time that the

public lands were totally preserved for future generations.

The movement was here to stay when t-shirts appeared emblazoned with the terse motto: "Get off!" Paradoxically, members of the "Get Off!" movement spent weekends wearing their t-shirts on public land, making other hikers and campers feel guilty.

After the t-shirts came an avalanche of less terse academic theses on the theoretical ramifications and philosophical ancestry of the Get Offs! The traditional environmental community was fractured as sides were taken for or against getting off. In one issue alone, *High Country News* ran 14 pages of letters on the subject, while the staff took the opportunity for a two-week backcountry retreat.

Ed Abbey delivered a talk at the University of Montana in favor of the movement. He called opponents pooh-pooh heads. The talk was excerpted and reprinted 147 times, in everything from the *Wall Street Journal* to *Vanity Fair*.

Professional gadfly Michael Frome organized and appeared as keynote speaker at 34 conferences and 19 seminars that dwelled, and dwelled, on the topic. Former Utah rancher-philosopher Cecil Garland, then working as a hot-apple-pie fryer at a new McDonald's in Cedar City, wrote a long, impassioned letter allowing as how many of the Get Offs! didn't have telephones either and weren't such bad guys after all.

Then came a congressional study showing that all the public land in the U.S. provided only 3 percent of the country's total recreation experience. Disneyland alone accounted for more recreation than Yellowstone, Yosemite and Alaska combined.

With that, neo-classical economics pounced, documenting the tremendous savings the Get Off! movement could create. Public lands management had always been "below cost," they stated.

But the biggest boost came when society saw that only a small minority was actually using the public's lands. Most Americans just wanted to know the land was out there, providing a home for grizzly bears and bald eagles and wild trout. The last thing they wanted to do was actually walk or sleep on it.

The groundswell could not be denied. Congress passed the enabling legislation and No Trespassing signs were posted on the boundaries of Forest Service, BLM and National Park Service land. The nation's experience in Indochina came into play, as infra-red scans by satellite and the largest fence-building program in history was launched. The public lands became sanctuaries for wildlife and a cost-free purification system for the air and water.

Even the Forest Service couldn't foresee all the longterm benefits. Inside of a few years, demand for quality outdoor experience was finding new outlets. Private land everywhere was being reverted to wild estates where hikers and campers and calendar photographers could buy a few days of communing and cashing in on nature.

City planners, even developers, began to emphasize natural areas and wildlife corridors. Door-to-door fund drives and philanthropists were tapped to establish local wild ground. In the most blighted, congested metro areas, in the plowed-up, herbicide-ridden farm belts, in mega-lawned suburbia, in small towns and mill towns, rivers were cleaned, litter collected, forests regrown, meadows reflowered and regressed.

The public, no longer able to rely on far-off, mythical public land for a sense of the natural world, had brought the wilderness home.

□

Ray Ring lives and writes in Tucson, Arizona.

