

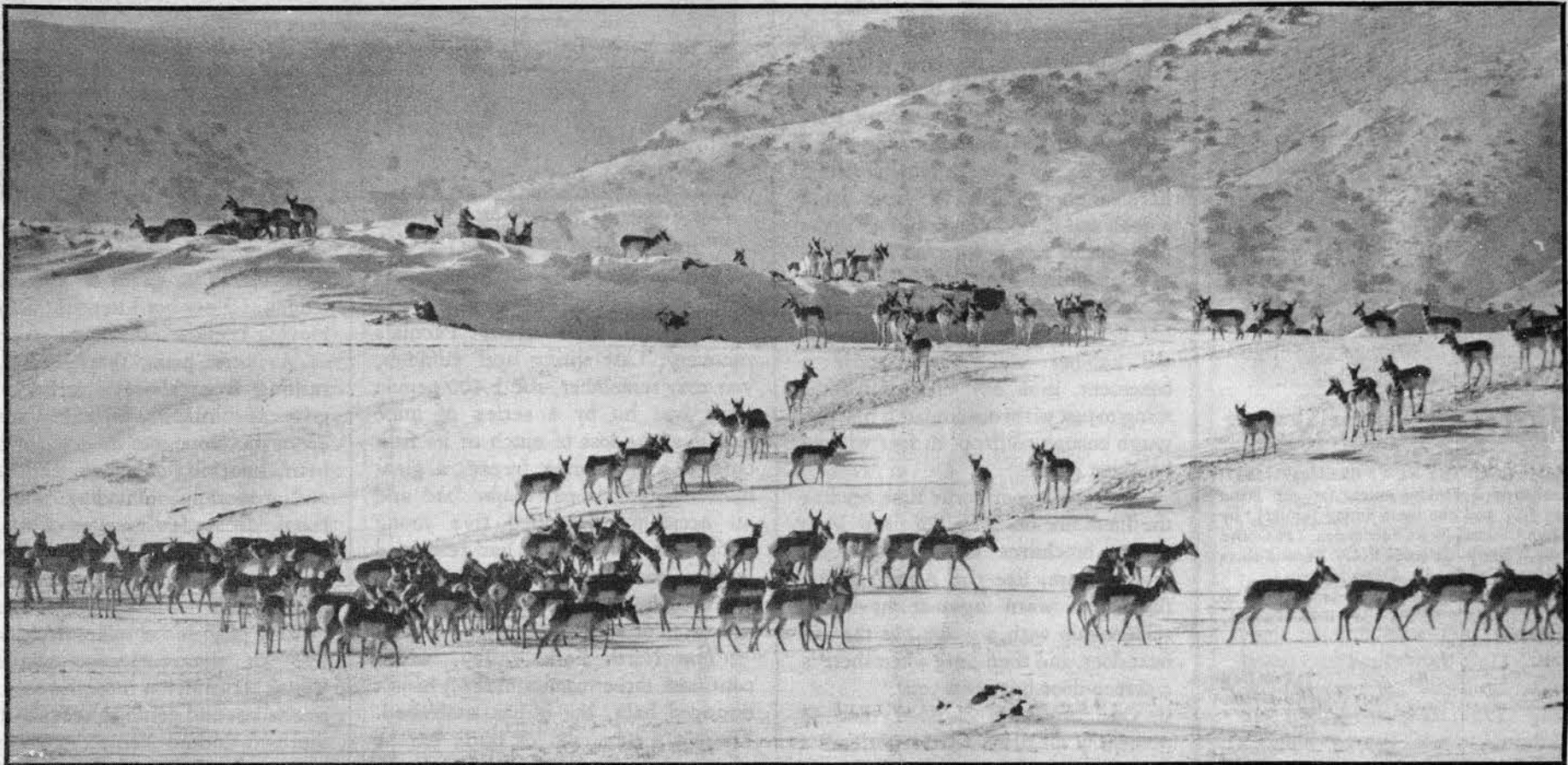
High Country News

Feb. 16, 1987

Vol. 19, No. 3

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar



Deb Holbert

Antelope near Rock Springs, Wyoming

A game ranching bill in Wyoming pits landowners against hunters

by Katharine Collins

In the 19th century, exploitation of wild game nearly destroyed the free-ranging herds of the West. The restoration of antelope, elk and deer populations to impressive levels was achieved at the expense of the freedom to hunt anything at any time. That freedom was replaced by a system of allocating licenses by species, districts, seasons and drawings to determine who gets to hunt, and where.

Wildlife officials consider the resulting system a major success story. Consumptive (hunting) and non-consumptive (viewing, photographing) uses of wildlife provide sport and recreation to millions and generate the flow of billions into state and private coffers.

But the approach is a jerry-built mix of state-owned wildlife, federal and private lands, and an allocation system that favors one class of hunter over another. Today, the system is under pressure from private landowners. Private land provides 50 to 75 percent of the region's wildlife

habitat, and hard-pressed farmers and ranchers are asking if there is a way to get a larger return on the wildlife they are providing with food and shelter.

The first step taken by some landowners has been to post their lands and to run advertisements in local papers warning that the lands are no longer open to hunters. But keeping people out does not earn income for a landowner, and many ranchers and landowners are seeking ways to tap the money generated by the elk, deer and antelope that belong to the state but that move freely between public and private lands.

Seen broadly, the tinkering with game management systems is part of the game of economic chess going on in the rural West as agriculture and extractive industries decline. The tourist industry is often portrayed as the creator of busboy and short-order-cook jobs. Game ranching is part of the tourist industry, but it is a far cry from the minimum-wage economy.

"Ranching for wildlife" programs in Colorado and Utah have attracted the attention of landowners in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. They have also drawn fire from local hunters, who fear further denial of access to game and increasing costs when they can get access.

They argue that wildlife ranching is the first step in turning a public resource into a province of the wealthy

and privileged. Current systems in most Western states favor the local guy, who generally has time and flexibility, since licenses are given out on a first come - first served system or through the luck of the draw.

Game ranching would change that. The landowner would make money by selling licenses, access, and guide and outfitting services to clients who wanted to hunt on his land. The landowner could guarantee a client a license to hunt where and when the person wanted to hunt, instead of telling him he'd have to first get lucky by drawing a license for the rancher's area. Under game ranching, then, the person with money and not much time would have an advantage over the person with time but not much money.

Colorado and Utah have quietly moved toward such an approach, but game ranching is most visible in Wyoming, where Wyoming rancher and legislator Jim Hageman (R-Goshen) said he only recently began to realize the real value of wildlife on his land.

"I've gotten calls from 18 people from one town in Missouri asking if they can hunt on my land next fall." So in October, Hageman will post his land and begin to charge hunters \$100 each to hunt deer on his eastern Wyoming ranch.

Hageman had also filed a bill in the 1987 Wyoming legislative session to allow ranchers to have their lands designated as "wildlife management areas." The reaction was immediate (see accompanying story) and hostile -- so hostile that Hageman withdrew his bill in early February.

The bill's opponents painted it as an attack on the working people of Wyoming by the state's landed gentry. Freshman Rep. Chris Plant compared it to "the enclosure movement in England during the 15th through 18th centuries, when common lands were taken from the people and consolidated in private lands." Plant, a historian at Western Wyoming College in Rock Springs, said Hageman's bill would have disinherited "the guy who carries the lunch bucket or the person who sits behind the typewriter all day."

The bill and the general issue it raised were discussed, several weeks before Hageman withdrew the bill, at a symposium sponsored by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and by a wildlife and sportsmen's group, the Wyoming Wildlife Federation. Hunters dominated the audience, but the programs were balanced. The meeting tried to build a common base by defining "privatization," a term not yet found in Webster's dictionary.

(Continued on page 10)

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Dear friends,



High Country News

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To most readers, High Country News is a newspaper; to 16 graduate students at Colorado University in Boulder, it is a textbook. The 16 are enrolled in Professor Spense Havlick's Environmental Design seminar, and they will be spending the semester critiquing environmental impact statements. An interesting companion seminar would be to have a group of psychology students monitor the mental health of the students as a result of their immersion in EISs.

The mention here last issue of our need for a more modern telephone system -- one with hold buttons and an intercom -- brought a response from reader Peter Robinson, who happened to have such a system left over from his solar energy firm. We have struck a deal, and the office should be in the push-button age before too long.

Our search for a fireproof file cabinet to protect HCN's photographs has been more complicated. Because the cabinet will stand above a basement, it is not enough for the thing to just withstand heat; it must be tough enough to drop 10 feet without breaking apart.

So we've spent some time reading the literature on fireproof files. Most of the brochures have a hysterical tone to them, like the Army training films that warn against having a relationship with anyone but the girl next door, and then only when there is a screen door between you.

One brochure claimed that 43 percent of all firms that experience a fire go out of business within six months. In the current economic climate in the Rockies, our guess is that without the fires, 60 percent of the firms would have failed.

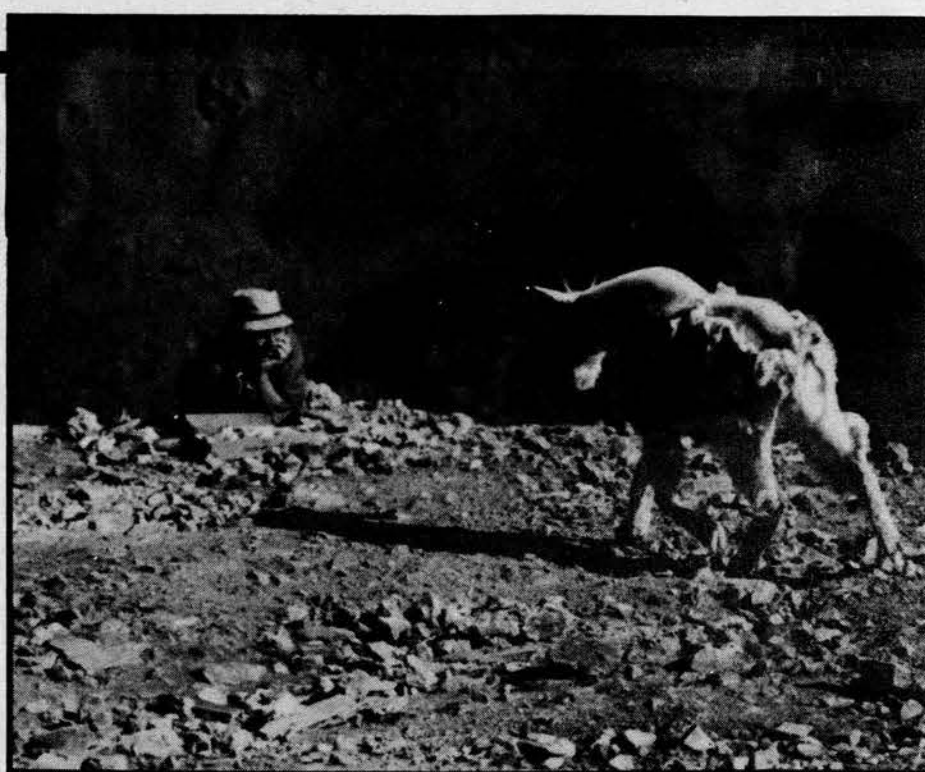
The last issue had several errors in it. We promoted the wrong man to be Chief of the Forest Service; we gave a deadline for the submission of abstracts to a North Dakota energy conference as the deadline for the submission of papers; and in this column we misspelled the name of a new board member. There were also, no doubt, several errors we haven't been informed of yet. The first two errors are corrected in their respective departments. Here we only have to say that our new board member spells his name Andy Weissner rather than Andy Weissner.

We hear that Tamara Wiggans of Durango, Colorado, lost most of her possessions recently when her apartment house burned to the ground. Tamara was the head of the Colorado Open Space Council for awhile, and is a HCN freelancer; her most recent contribution was the front page story on the proposed Wolf Creek ski area in the Sept. 1, 1986, issue. Dennis Neill of the San Juan National Forest tells us that the Tamara Wiggans fund has been set up for her at the United Bank of Durango, 1603 Main, Durango, CO 81301.

One of our rare winter visitors came through two weeks ago -- Jim Carrier, the Denver Post writer known as the Rocky Mountain Ranger. Jim had the misfortune last summer to get that paper's Yellowstone National Park beat. He had to spend week after week in the park, climbing mountains, exploring remote areas, chasing after grizzlies and bison and visiting geysers at all hours of the day and night, all the while living in a cabin.

That, however, was several months ago, and he now appears to be fully recovered. Two years ago, Jim did a feature story on HCN that was

Violet Ranstrom



Ray Ranstrom perches on the edge until a mountain goat nanny

decides to let him visit.

picked up by 100 or so newspapers around the nation. This time, he was in town to write about Paonia's recovery. Last spring and summer, you may remember, the 1,400-person town was hit by a series of mine closings, the loss of much of its fruit crop to a late spring freeze, a giant mudslide that closed a major road and an accident that killed five young people, several of whom had remained in the community to finish school when their parents moved elsewhere in search of work.

The North Fork Valley, which contains three communities, hasn't bounced back, but it has stabilized. There's a new crop of buds on the cherry and fruit trees, new people are moving into the vacant homes, and for every main street business that closes, a new one seems to open. Colorado Westmoreland, whose underground coal mine was closed by a fire this spring, chose to use its insurance money to reopen the mine, much to the surprise of many observers of the industry. Jim visited the mine, which opened a new portal a few weeks ago and is still producing more rock than coal.

That gives the valley about 200 coal-mining jobs instead of the 1,000 it had several years ago. Many people have left the area, but in place of the mining jobs, a number of small tourist businesses have started up. The small ranching town of Crawford has been especially active: Sand has been hauled in to turn a section of an irrigation reservoir into a beach; in the winter, that same reservoir is partially cleared for ice skating; there are glider rides available; and several of the ranches now accommodate guests.

The picture on this page of a suspicious Rocky Mountain goat staring down a human is one of 24 taken by the parents of graphics/accounting person Jen Brunner. The couple was looking for mineral samples at 12,000 feet "somewhere" in the mountains of Colorado when pebbles began falling from a cliff above. The couple climbed up to take a look and at 14,000 feet met a herd of shedding mountain goats. To their surprise, the goats came closer, first inspecting Ray Ranstrom, who hung from the edge of the cliff while a nanny kept him under scrutiny. Once she accepted him, writes Violet Ranstrom, the goats came so close the couple was able to delicately remove some tattered wool that had clumped near the animals' mouths. As the couple quietly watched or groomed the animals during their three-hour visit, Violet says the first herd of 20 was joined by three more herds until there

were up to 90 goats on the narrow ledges. "Very hard to count so many moving bodies," she says.

At one point there was more rattling from above: "A huge billy goat came running full-speed straight down the slope into the middle of the herd, knocking shoulders and rumps and generally reminding who was boss. After a few minutes of slapping the others around he went up the path and stood on a pinnacle proudly showing off."

One of the other billys decided this was an opportunity to challenge, Violet Ranstrom continues. "He circled around getting closer, and then the two locked horns. Around and around they went, faster and faster, and finally both went over the side of the ledge scrambling for a foothold, horns still locked. The big billy got a foothold first and flipped the challenger 10 feet down the side of the cliff. The billy then resumed his king-of-the-mountain stance." Violet says the losing billy came back, bowed a few times, then took his place back in the herd. "He still has a lot to learn before he becomes leader."

By now it was late afternoon and some of the herd began to bed down for the night. "They would go down on their front legs and then their rear. With their front feet they scraped rocks out from underneath to make a smoother place to lie first on one side, then the other." When a goat throws rocks around the mountainside, the rocks go by like cannonballs, she says.

Once their film was developed, Violet writes, the couple showed it to state officials, who were disbelieving at first. One said his mother-in-law had spent a weekend painstakingly collecting goat wool from bushes, filling one small plastic bag. Violet concludes: "It was a once-in-a-lifetime afternoon -- even if we didn't get any minerals that day."

--the staff

BARBS

There's nothing like that good old Western hospitality.

Wyoming state Sen. Boyd Eddins, R, recently proposed a bill to roll back state air, land and water quality standards to entice industry. Eddins told a senate committee: "We need to do something to raise the hospitality of the state." The measure, which would have cost over \$1 million and caused some 100 review meetings of the state Department of Environmental Quality, was defeated on the Senate floor 18-10.

WESTERN ROUNDUP

At 3.4 million acres, the B-T is too small

The fight over the Bridger-Teton National Forest is best compared to the story about King Solomon and a baby. But instead of two mothers, the B-T is being fought over by a host of community interests, each of which wants the forest managed its way. And the Forest Service, cast here in the unwilling role of King Solomon, doesn't even have the option of cutting the forest into parts.

The most prominent player is the Louisiana-Pacific Corp., which operates the largest timber mill in the region. L-P says reduced timber harvest levels as spelled out in the draft B-T management plan would put them out of business, and they have mounted an expensive media campaign to garner public support for increased timber sales (HCN, 2/2/87).

But if new Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson is correct, L-P will not get its way. Robertson, who replaced retiring Chief Max Peterson this month, says an economic reevaluation of the nation's forest plans will not result in increased timber harvests in Wyoming.

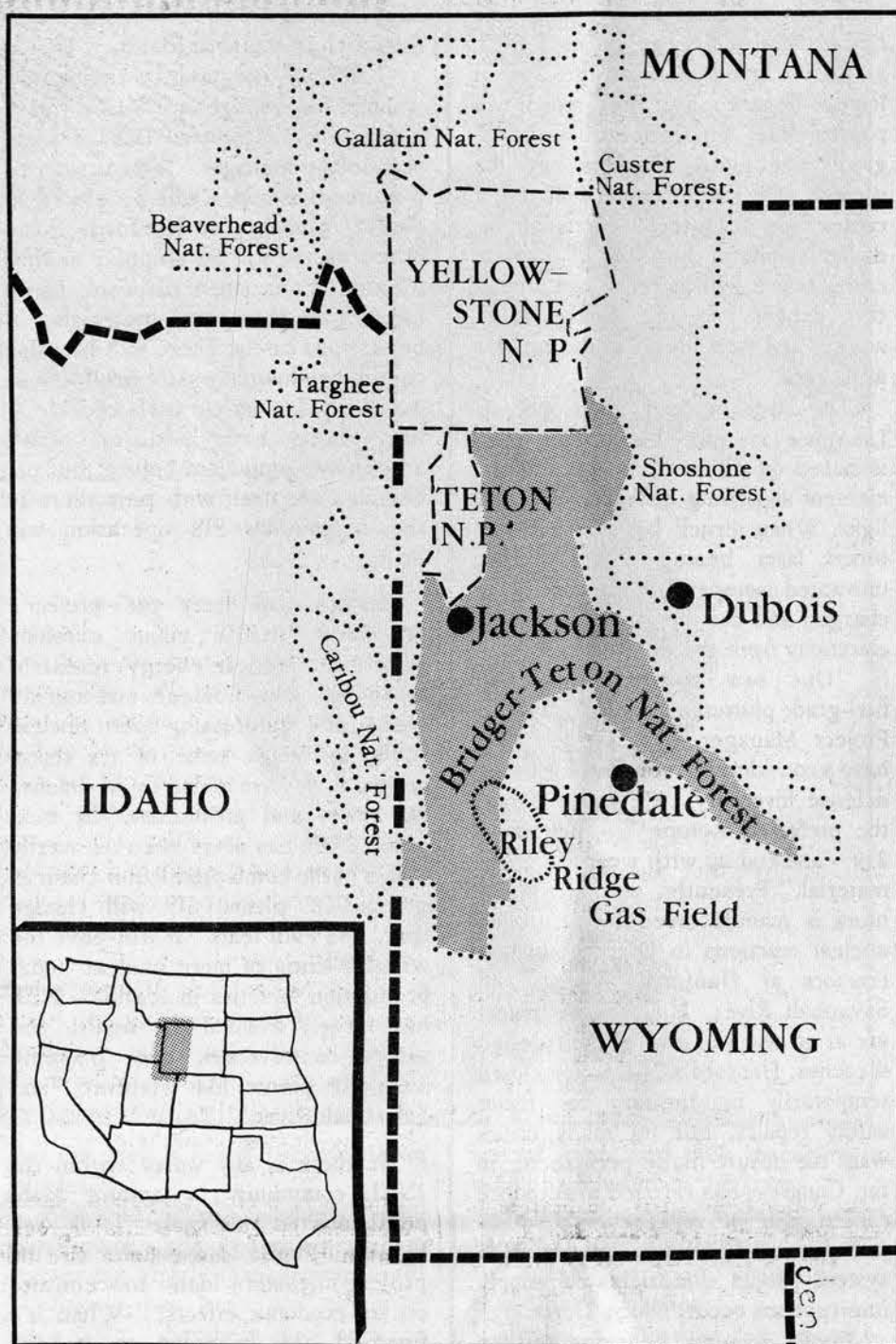
Robertson ordered the forest study because of concerns that reduced timber harvests in the Pacific Northwest would cause the U.S. lumber supply to fall short of national demand. But in an exclusive interview with the *Jackson Hole Guide*, Robertson said, "I don't see decisions we're making out there creating a wave that will wash over the Bridger-Teton."

The logging industry is not the only one with an interest in the B-T. At 3.4 million acres, the B-T is the largest National Forest outside Alaska, and with over two million visitor-days a year, one of the most used forests for recreation in the nation. The forest also has some of the largest grazing allotments on public land, and in the southern portion is the Riley Ridge natural gas field, the largest and richest gas field in the U.S.

Each side sees its needs from the forest as incompatible with the other's, leading both sides to severely criticize the Forest Service's plans for future management of the Bridger-Teton as laid out in the draft management plan released last fall. The Forest Service has twice extended the public comment period on the draft plan, and so far over 700 written comments have been submitted. Forest officials expect many more before the comment period ends Feb. 28.

Four reports have come out on the plan recently. Ranchers have joined L-P in attacking the plan as favoring wildlife and recreation values at the expense of traditional industries. In a six-page document criticizing the draft, the Green River Valley Cattlemen's Association said: "Clearly this is a major shift in the forest allocations, one that livestock interests cannot tolerate."

The ranchers say the plan places too great an emphasis on protection of riparian areas and wildlife habitat and shunts cattle into a much smaller portion of the forest. The cattlemen also say that dispersed recreation may be the greatest threat to livestock grazing in the future: "Livestock tend to avoid concentrations of people when possible, but this increased motorized use will decrease the amount of



The Bridger-Teton National Forest, in the midst of six other national forests and two national parks, includes five mountain ranges and three wilderness

areas. Threatened grizzly bears and endangered bald eagles share the land with grazing cattle, timber stands and natural gas and oil fields.

undisturbed cattle refuges in the only prescription areas favorable to cattle."

The B-T draft has also come under fire from groups that say the plan doesn't make enough changes in forest policy. The Sublette County Forest Plan Review committee calls for a reduction of both scheduled and unscheduled timber sales to 12 million board feet and a limit of 26 acres per clearcut. Committee members made an aerial tour of the forest and say they were horrified by the devastation wrought by previous clearcuts in their county. Their report, which will go to the county commissioners in Pinedale, the county seat, for approval before being submitted to the Forest Service, states that "Sublette County citizens resent the current unreasonably high rate of timber harvest."

The committee also recommended that the Union Pass Road remain open, except for the section at the top of the pass, which should be returned to its original alignment prior to last year's controversial upgrade. Such a change would effectively prevent L-P's logging trucks from using the road.

A report from the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition found that timber management in the

B-T has cost taxpayers over \$1 million per year since 1980. The report by timber economist Randall O'Toole said that by the B-T's own estimate of timber-related costs, which includes road construction but not reforestation, the B-T timber program would continue to lose over \$1 million a year and cost taxpayers \$10,600 per timber job, per year.

A fourth report, this one from The Wilderness Society, accuses the Forest Service of mismanaging the B-T and six other National Forests in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem in favor of commodity interests and to the extreme detriment of wildlife. The report uses the draft B-T plan to support its point. The B-T plans to spend 60 percent of its budget over the next 50 years on timber, grazing and minerals, the report says, while recreation, wildlife and wilderness produce 75 percent of the resource benefits.

The Society recommends barring all logging, roadbuilding and energy exploration in the B-T's section of the Wind River Range between Togwotee Pass and Pinedale and also proposes a 10-year moratorium on commodity development within two miles of occupied grizzly habitat.

--Steve Hinchman

HOTLINE



Southmoor Park, Denver

A view is preserved

The Colorado Supreme Court recently ruled that a view of the mountains from a public park is worth preserving. In its landmark decision, the court said Denver had the right to pass an ordinance that protects the beauty of Southmoor Park, and that includes a view that would have been obscured by a skyscraper. The City Council passed its mountain vista ordinance in 1982 after Landmark Land Co. announced plans to build an office complex with a 21-story building. The building would have blocked the view of 14,000-foot Mt. Evans and Longs Peak. Landmark and other developers argued in their appeal that the city's limiting of building heights near the park was a taking of property rights without compensation. The city, bolstered by an active citizens' group called the Southmoor Park East Homeowners Association, said the court decision will help Denver reach a balance between development and aesthetics. The homeowners' group said the decision puts Colorado in the lead among states willing to establish legal guidelines to protect the quality of life. One of the developers, however, is considering an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

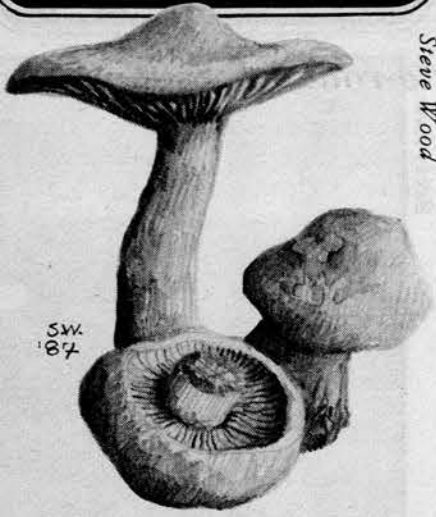
Walking for their lives

Two hundred people marched 11 miles from downtown Boulder, Colo., to the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant on Sunday, Feb. 1. The march's organizers, veterans of the recently completed Great Peace March, plan to repeat the protest on the first Sunday of every month. The turnout was good considering that only flyers publicized the march, say organizers, but one marcher, Amy Lesperance, told the *Rocky Mountain News*, "It's just a bunch of people walking for their lives."

Correction

Dale Robertson became Forest Service Chief Feb. 2, replacing Max Peterson, who retired after 37 years with the federal agency. George Leonard, former associate deputy chief for forest systems, will take Robertson's job as associate chief of the Forest Service. The last issue of *High Country News* promoted Leonard, not Robertson.

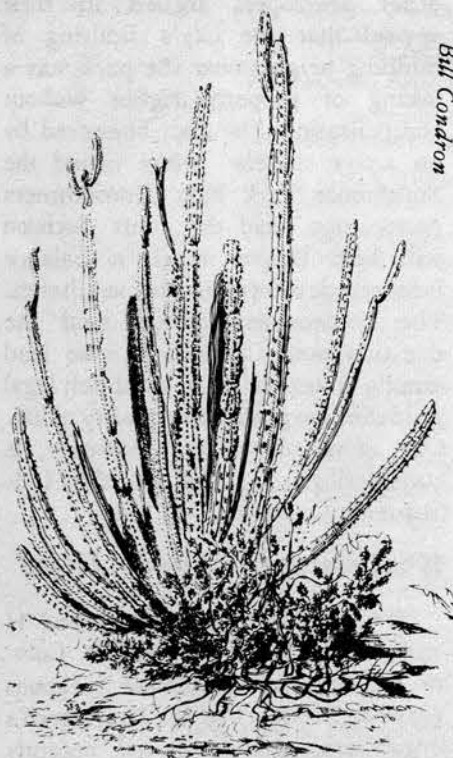
HOTLINE



Steve Wood

Mushrooming battle

Confrontations over a new extractive industry in the Pacific Northwest are leading to another battle over public land -- this one over who gets to pick mushrooms. European mushroom shortages have increased the demand in this country since 1980 and turned the forest floors of Washington state into contested commercial terrain. But commercial pickers are moving in to turf that has long been the realm of amateur mycologists, passionate mushroom pickers who say that commercial interests are vacuuming the ground of mushrooms in a systematic rape of the forests. The conflict pits often affluent pickers against commercial harvesters who are generally poor and hurting for work because of the increasing scarcity of logging and fishing jobs in the Northwest. The result has been angry encounters. Washington officials say the state may be forced to license mushroom picking to solve the problem, and that legislation could come about before harvest time next fall.



Bill Condon

Organ pipe cactus, Arizona

The \$500 cactus

A new federal-state program in Arizona may discourage an increasing amount of cactus theft from public lands. To identify legal removals of cactus, orange circles will be painted on plants to be removed for road or pipeline construction. State law in Arizona is tougher than federal law on cactus-nappers: A first offense is punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and/or 30 days in jail. Federal penalties are up to three times the value of the damages. The paint is not harmful and has been used successfully in the Northwest for timber sales, the BLM says. It also contains a non-removable tracer element.

Idaho enters nuclear weapons business

The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory near Idaho Falls is preparing for its first major nuclear weapons project. In August, the Department of Energy selected INEL as its preferred site for the Special Isotope Separation project, which will pioneer laser separation of weapons-grade plutonium. Backers say the project will make eastern Idaho a center for high-tech chemical industry, while a handful of in-state critics fear it will increase contamination dangers to the Snake River aquifer and wed Idaho to the nuclear arms race.

The laser process, developed at Lawrence Livermore Lab in California, is based on different isotopes of an element absorbing different colors of light. When struck by a specifically tuned laser beam, atoms of the unwanted isotopes become positively charged and can be pulled by static electricity from the desired isotope.

"Our raw material will be fuel-grade plutonium oxide," says SIS Project Manager Carl Gertz. "We have a considerable volume of it in our defense inventory. We will separate the preferred isotope" -- plutonium 239 -- and end up with weapons-grade material." Presently, weapons plutonium is manufactured by controlled nuclear reactions in DOE production reactors at Hanford, Wash., and Savannah River, N.C. Those plants are at or near the end of their design lifetimes. Hanford's N-Reactor closed temporarily in January for major safety repairs, but its many critics want the closure made permanent. So far, Congress has refused to authorize construction of replacements. "SIS will provide flexibility in the DOE system should unanticipated supply interruptions occur," says Gertz.

Public scoping hearings on the project's environmental impact statement will be held in Idaho Falls and Boise in early March. The draft EIS is scheduled for release in the fall, with final approval in April 1988. Construction would begin a few months later, and operation in 1994. The SIS will bring 750 jobs and \$500 million to INEL.

Because of that economic impact, every state-wide political leader in both parties supports the project. DOE's decision to build it at INEL had clear political roots. Although Idaho Sen. Jim McClure, R, was primarily responsible for delivering the project, much of the public credit was orchestrated for his junior colleague, Steve Symms, R, who had a tough re-election race last year with Idaho Gov. John Evans. The August announcement was timed for maximum political effect, and Evans, who supported the project, was denied any public credit. The strategy apparently worked; half of Symms' state-wide victory margin came from Bonneville County, where most INEL employees live.

So far, opposition to the SIS has only come from southern Idaho's two small anti-nuclear groups, the Groundwater and Snake River alliances. "Large quantities of plutonium will be moving in and out of Idaho, posing the danger of accidental release," says Liz Paul of the Snake River Alliance. "There is danger of the accumulation of too much plutonium in one place spontaneously exploding. And highly radioactive waste products will be stored at INEL for an indefinite period. The Snake

River aquifer's presence beneath the site makes it unsuitable for storage of any radioactive material." The aquifer supplies irrigation and domestic water for much of southern Idaho.

"SIS will not produce major new wastes for storage at INEL," says Gertz, who was formerly INEL's waste technology manager. "The unwanted plutonium isotopes will be stored in vaults, probably at Hanford. Some other wastes will be shipped to New Mexico for permanent disposal. As we have in the past, these materials will be shipped safely. There will be some common industrial wastes produced as well." INEL's nuclear fuels reprocessing plants have handled small amounts of plutonium before, but the site has not dealt with plutonium in the magnitudes SIS operation will bring.

Critics also decry the project's precedent. INEL's major missions have been nuclear energy research, training navy nuclear submarine crews, and reprocessing spent nuclear fuels. Although some of its reprocessed fuels have ended up in defense stockpiles and presumably in weapons, INEL has never been as overtly a part of the bomb production chain as other DOE plants. SIS will change that, and Paul fears "it will pave the way for siting of more nuclear bomb production facilities in Idaho." INEL has largely avoided the health and safety controversies now plaguing weapons plants like Hanford and Savannah River.

If there is any worry within the INEL community or among Idaho politicians on this score, it is well hidden. Public discussion of the project in eastern Idaho concentrates on its economic effects. "When it's finished, this is going to be the highest-tech chemical plant in the U.S.," DOE scientist John Emmett told Idaho Falls businessmen in December. Emmett, who helped develop the laser technology, said it will launch a new field in chemical

processing, with medical, electronic and chemical applications.

"The SIS will really be two plants," Gertz explains. "One will produce the laser light and the other will separate the plutonium. Once the laser light is produced, it can be tuned to separate other isotopes for defense or non-defense purposes. And we can transport it to other plants in a beam tube." Gertz mentioned the mercury gas in fluorescent lights as an example of possible spinoffs: "If we could separate the mercury isotope needed to produce light from the rest of the element, 5 to 10 percent of the energy used in fluorescent lighting could be saved. We are just at the beginning of isotope separation technology." Emmett told his receptive audience that new businesses were sure to spring up to both service SIS and apply its technology.

National critics of the U.S. nuclear weapons program have two further concerns. Since the plant will be able to separate weapons plutonium from fuel grades, it will make possible production of weapons material from the huge amounts of spent fuel produced by civilian power reactors. Presently, a law written by Sen. Alan Simpson of Wyoming and former Colorado Sen. Gary Hart prohibits using civilian fuels in weapons production. But the SIS will provide on-the-shelf capability to do it.

Finally, Tom Cochran of the Natural Resources Defense Council says the existing national plutonium stockpile is large enough for any realistic future needs. The stockpile's size is classified, but Cochran estimates it at 100 metric tons, including plutonium in bombs. This "need" argument, combined with the ongoing federal budget squeeze, poses the one possible threat to the SIS. If a person with a very different view of U.S. nuclear requirements is elected president in 1988, the SIS could be delayed or cancelled.

--Pat Ford

Canyon lovers organize

Environmental groups met last month to develop a strategy for protecting the Grand Canyon from uranium mining just outside park borders. Participants included the Grand Canyon Trust, Sierra Club, Friends of the River, Earth First! and local groups such as the Southwest Resource Council from southern Utah and Canyon Under Siege from Flagstaff, Ariz.

The meetings were described by a number of participants as a first step since no single policy for opposing the mines was agreed upon. The meeting that drew the largest number of participants from the broadest constituency was held Jan. 16 at the Phoenix law firm that now includes former Ariz. Gov. Bruce Babbitt. At that gathering, Brant Calkin, former president of the Sierra Club and past secretary of natural resources for the state of New Mexico, drew up a proposal that outlined a system of mineral withdrawals and mining moratoriums for lands adjacent to Grand Canyon.

The aim of that proposal would be to halt the rapidly expanding developments until an area-wide EIS could be completed. The initiative was adopted as a framework for a more

detailed proposal to be worked out and reviewed as soon as possible.

Also discussed at that meeting was the possibility of a campaign to reform the General Mining Act of 1872. Under that archaic law, mining companies have free access to unprotected public lands throughout the West including those that border the Grand Canyon. John Leshy of the Arizona State University College of Law, who recently published a book about mining law, agreed that the time was right to start a campaign to change the law.

Two days later, the Southwest Regional Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club voted to make the fight against Grand Canyon mines a regional priority for the coming year.

--Dan Dagget

BARBS

Two nations, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

President Ronald Reagan sent an inscribed bible to Iranian leaders to demonstrate a shared religious heritage.

Montana says grizzlies are out of danger

Several key wildlife managers are saying it might be time to remove federal protection for some grizzlies -- a position environmentalists say is not supported by scientific evidence.

The bears in question are those of Montana's northern Continental Divide ecosystem. Encompassing 2,500 square miles in and around Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the ecosystem contains the largest grizzly population in the lower 48 states.

Some wildlife managers suggest the population may be large enough to warrant dropping special protection the bears receive from the Endangered Species Act. Called delisting, this action would turn grizzly management over to the state -- meaning more bears could be hunted and protection of their habitat would no longer be guaranteed by federal law.

According to the federal plan that spells out the conditions for delisting, grizzly numbers must be between 440 and 880 before the animal's protective status can be dropped.

Arnold Dood, endangered species biologist for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, says the population is now at least 560.

"I am extremely confident that we now have the number of bears necessary" to consider delisting the population, Dood said.

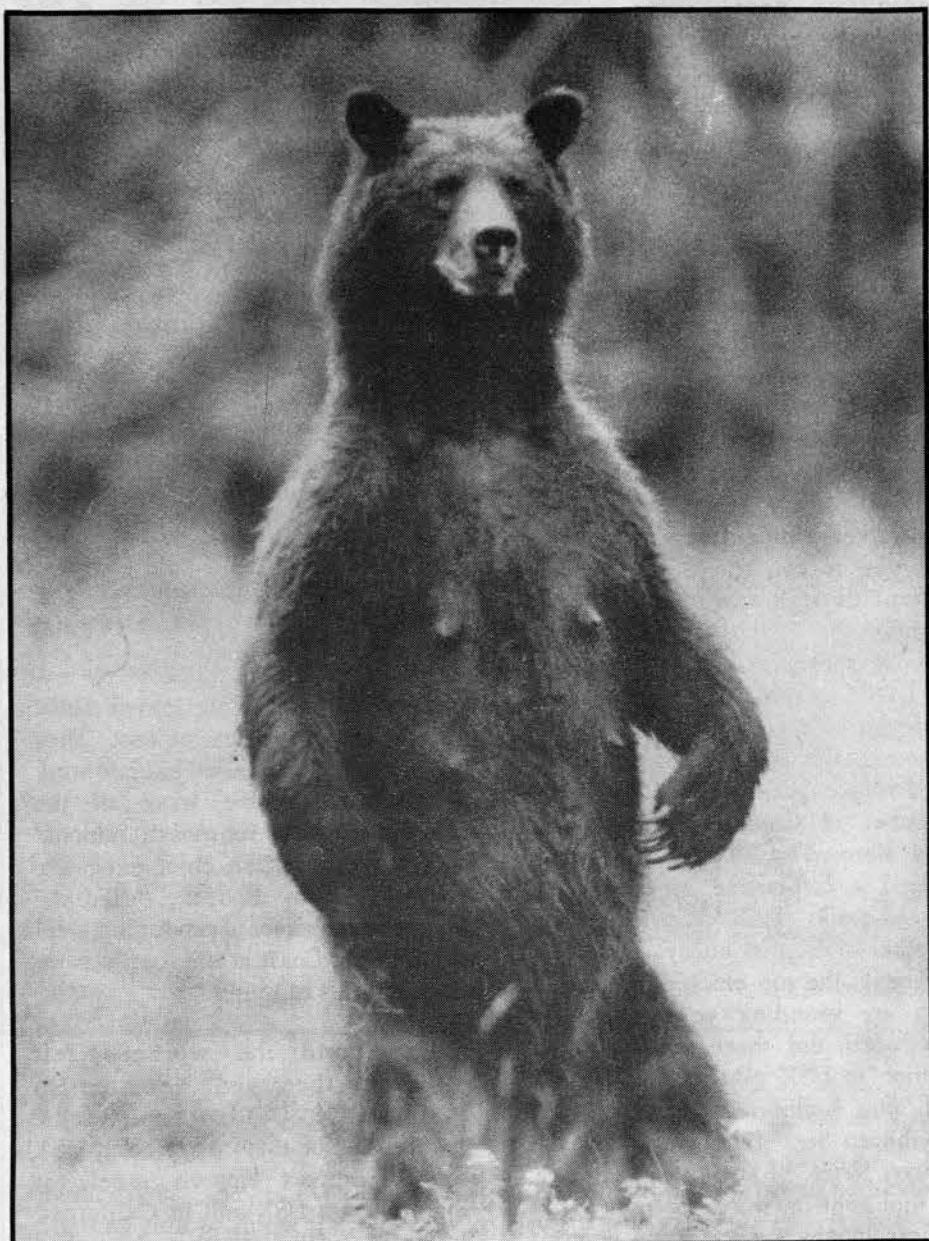
Hank Fischer, the Northern Rockies representative of Defenders of Wildlife, disagrees. "Any change in the bears' current protective status will be awfully premature." He said although the population appears healthy, biologists still can't say for sure how many bears are in the area, nor are there enough data available on how many reproductive-age females are present -- an item Fischer called crucial to the population's survival.

Fischer said state biologists have inflated population figures by extrapolating research data from the ecosystem's productive bear country, such as the Rocky Mountain Front, to the area's marginal grizzly habitat.

Another environmentalist, a former Park Service employee who has challenged federal agencies over grizzly management, also disagrees with Dood's assessment. David Smith, who has sued the Park Service over bear management in Yellowstone and campaigned against a grizzly research project in Glacier National Park, noted that federal law states that before an endangered species is delisted, the animal must be guaranteed adequate protected habitat. Because most of the northern ecosystem's grizzlies live within national forests, decisions to delist the bears should not be considered until the area's forest plans are completed, he said. At this time, the plans for the area's two key forests -- the Flathead and the Lewis and Clark -- are tied up in administrative appeals.

Dood said unresolved forest plans need not be an obstacle to delisting, pointing out that a "written guarantee" from the Forest Service stating that habitat will be protected might be all that is necessary. He added if there are problems with the agency's management, delisting will not occur.

Dood said it is important to remember that there is no official proposal now to delist the bears and



Steve Johnson

that the idea is being discussed only informally.

Biologist Chris Servheen, who coordinates the federal program overseeing grizzly management, said "Delisting has been our objective since 1975." Servheen said because changing the status of an endangered species is a major environmental decision, it will be done only after everyone, including the public, has an opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Servheen said he doesn't think there is enough evidence to delist the bear now, adding that he is unaware of any official action to change the bear's protected status.

Fischer and Smith aren't so sure there isn't a hidden agenda to delist the grizzlies now. They point to recent news reports in which Frank Dunkle, the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, openly advocated delisting the bears.

In a mid-December speech, Dunkle reportedly told an audience at a conference sponsored by the Montana Overthrust Energy Foundation, which is an oil and gas industry association, that he wants the grizzly in the northern Continental Divide ecosystem delisted.

After environmentalists condemned the statements, Dunkle told reporters a week later that his comments were taken out of context. He said he merely proposed studying the possibility of delisting the bear.

The bears' federal "threatened" listing dictates that development decisions in grizzly habitat, such as logging or natural gas drilling, can occur only if it is documented that the activities will not irreparably harm the bears. It also guarantees a limit on grizzly hunting, now halted each year once 14 animals, of which only six can be female, die from a combination of hunting, poaching and accidents. If delisted, the bears would lose this

special status and their management would be handed to the state.

Grizzly biologist Charles Jonkel objects to state management and thus he doesn't support delisting the ecosystem's grizzlies.

Jonkel, a long-time bear researcher and head of the Border Grizzly Project, said in a recent interview that until the state shows him it will commit money and manpower to grizzly research and management, he will not support delisting.

He said the bear is now under federal protection because the state didn't provide adequate bear management in the past. He cited state reluctance to fund research on the effects of hunting as a management problem.

Jonkel also criticized those who use specific bear numbers as the primary measure of grizzly population growth. He said "people misuse numbers" and the health of wildlife populations should instead be gauged by combining documented population numbers with adequate habitat protection and proper agency management.

Jonkel said the grizzly population could be delisted, provided the state commits itself to aggressive, well-funded research to back its hunting management.

Fischer also complained about the possibility of state grizzly management. He said the bears have "become a states' rights issue," and that the state "resents U.S. Fish and Wildlife oversight."

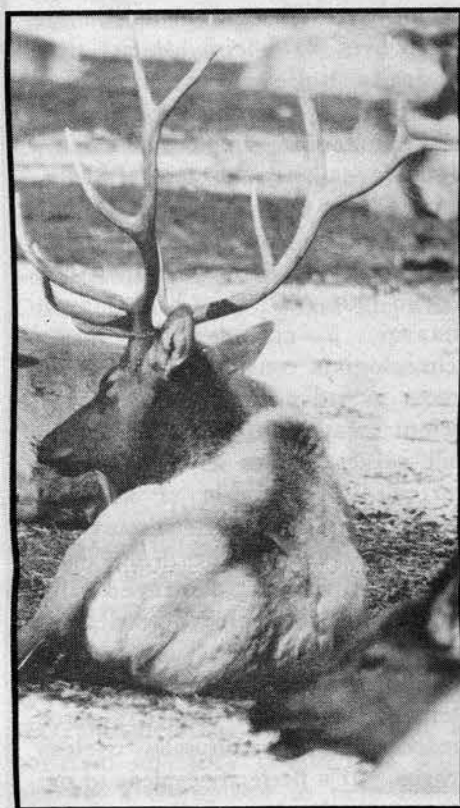
The state is pushing for delisting because it wants full management control of the bears, said Fischer. David Smith agreed with Fischer and added that Dunkle, as a former head of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, might have a personal stake in the matter.

--Bruce Farling

HOTLINE

Re-roading Yellowstone

Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Robert Barbee has announced that the Park Service will conduct a 12- to 15-year reconstruction project of all major park roads, starting in the summer of 1988. The \$203 million program will widen roads wherever possible and add more scenic vistas for motorists, beginning with the 16-mile stretch of road between West Thumb Junction and Old Faithful. Park officials have not yet decided whether to close the stretch of road entirely during construction, allowing it to be rebuilt in one summer, or keep it open, delaying completion for two or three years. Barbee says the Park Service leans towards the quicker plan. He estimates a closure would add an hour's traveling time between Old Faithful and the two Wyoming gates to the park.



Wyoming elk study

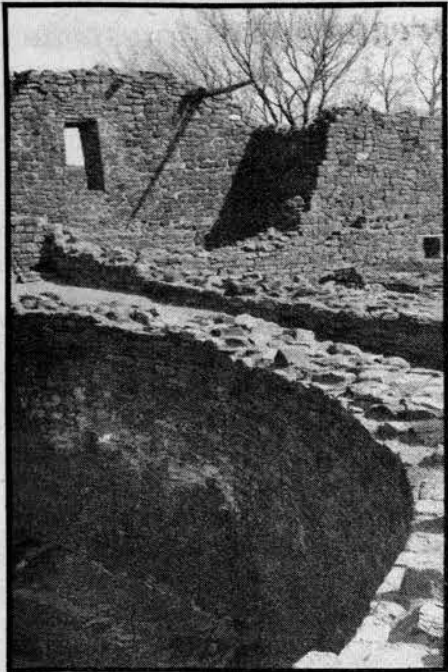
The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has begun to study elk use patterns in the Bighorn National Forest in anticipation of projected timber, oil and gas development in the Sheridan area. Game and Fish officials say they want to know more about the forest's seasonal use by approximately 800 elk before any development occurs. The department will fit 10 elk with radio collars and tag another 20 to 30 others with neck bands.

Reality at the BLM

Bureau of Land Management chief Robert Burford has axed a recent proposal that would have officially turned the agency into an advocate for mineral development. Drafted by BLM's mineral resources staff, the plan would have given mineral development priority over other uses of federal lands. Burford dropped the idea after a management review of the plan. He said present BLM policy, which is to direct mineral development and reclamation in an economically and environmentally sound manner, adequately meets the agency's multiple-use mission. David Alberswerth, spokesman for the National Wildlife Federation, told the Casper *Star-Tribune* the proposed policy, whether it was adopted or not, amounted to a "very cogent statement of reality."

6-High Country News -- February 16, 1987

HOTLINE



Destructive Anasazi

Recent discoveries in Chaco Canyon, N.M., provide new evidence that early Americans were much more destructive to their habitat than generally believed. According to University of Arizona archaeologist Julio Betancourt, samples of crystalized rat feces show abrupt deforestation of Chaco Canyon occurring at the height of the Anasazi culture that flourished in the Southwest from 1000 A.D. to 1200 A.D. The Chaco Canyon Anasazi, a culture that many archaeologists consider to have been almost as advanced as that of the ancient Maya in Central America, built stone pueblos as high as five stories and capable of housing hundreds of families. Betancourt told *The New York Times* that Chaco Canyon builders destroyed the canyon's pinon-juniper woodlands, using the wood for fuel and in building, and that topsoil erosion from intensive agriculture turned surface streams into agriculturally useless arroyos. "It's perfectly evident to me that people beat the hell out of the environment there, and then they moved," Betancourt says. These days, he adds, we damage the Southwest with trucks and chainsaws to cut down trees for fuel. The New York Museum of Natural History will feature relics of the Chaco Canyon culture in an exhibit scheduled to open March 6.

Missile boom

The Air Force has begun work on an environmental impact statement to determine the effect the Reagan administration's proposed Midgetman nuclear missiles would have on communities in north-central Montana. Under the proposed scenario, missile command would be based at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, and the missiles themselves would be housed throughout the north-central portion of the state alongside the existing silos of 200 Minuteman ICBMs. If nuclear war appears imminent, the Air Force says Midgetman missiles would move into Montana's rural areas on mobile launchers. Air Force spokesmen say most of the work would take place at Malmstrom, and outlying communities would be mainly affected by road construction. Because the combined weight of the missiles and launchers would exceed 100 tons, area roads must be upgraded and Air Force officials say the work will keep private contractors busy for years.

Utah officials charge USX with betrayal

In November 1984, a professor of management at Utah's Brigham Young University accused United States Steel Corp. (now USX) of plotting to close its giant Geneva steel mill in Provo, Utah. Professor Warner Woodworth's charges came in a 150-page study titled: *De-steeling: the fall of U.S. Steel and implications for Utah* (HCN, 3/18/85).

Woodworth characterized USX management as one that wrongly invested capital, lied to employees and dependent communities, and was wringing production and huge profits out of decrepit, neglected physical facilities. He begged Utah and the steelworkers to read the writing on the wall and to counter USX's actions, perhaps through a worker buyout of the mill.

USX spokesman Jack Bollow in Salt Lake City said at the time that the professor's study was beneath comment. But the steel firm did stir itself to put pressure on the Provo Chamber of Commerce when that body, alarmed by Woodworth's study, created a committee to study the Geneva mill. USX convinced the chamber to drop its study.

Today, the top elected officials in Utah are sounding very much like Woodworth did three years ago. In reaction to USX placing the Geneva mill on "indefinite idle" status, Republican Sen. Jake Garn told the *Deseret News*, "I am angry that USX has not kept its word to Utah," and "The company's word is no good at all."

Rep. Howard Nielson, who represents Provo, called the USX

action a "shoddy deal" and "a sad day for the Geneva works." Nielson is especially angry that USX is saying that it will reopen the mill if the market bounds back. Few observers expect the mill to reopen, and they see the "indefinite idle" status as holding out false hope to the workers, even as it stops them from collecting certain benefits and allows USX to avoid paying severance pay.

Steelworker Local 2701 president George Gardner said, "If indefinite idle status means final closure at Geneva, then USX in collaboration with the Japanese have finally won the Second World War, with their new ally, Korea. The West Coast is now overrun with semi-finished foreign steel. The Western United States has become an Asian colony."

The indefinite idling leaves 1,400 of 1,500 steelworkers jobless. They had expected to be called back to work momentarily, in the wake of the settlement of the six-month national steel strike. But USX chief executive officer David M. Roderick idled the Geneva mill in favor of producing steel for the West Coast at the firm's more efficient mills in the East.

Utah and the workers felt especially betrayed because in December 1985 USX had announced a closure date of 1989. After that, USX was to import Korean steel for finishing at a USX mill in California. But until 1989, Utah thought it had USX's word that Geneva would continue to provide steel for the California mill.

The decline of Geneva has been precipitous, and its fall has been felt throughout the region. The mill was built in 1942 as part of the war effort; as recently as 1980, it employed 5,000 people. That gradually fell to the 1,900 it employed before the 170-day strike that just ended. According to the *Deseret News*, 400 retired during the strike, leaving 1,500 waiting to go back to work.

Until the early 1980s, Geneva fed on iron ore and coking coal from mines in Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. In 1984, USX closed its iron ore mine outside of Lander, Wyo., and idled 550 people (HCN, 3/18/85). In late 1985, it closed a coal mine near Paonia, Colo., idling another 300 people.

The latest closure will affect the Mid-Continent Resources mine near Carbondale, Colo. Half of that mine's output, or 500,000 tons a year, had been going to the Geneva mill. The loss will keep roughly 150 miners from being recalled and could close the entire mine.

Overall, USX seems to have the Midas touch in reverse. It no sooner invested heavily in the oil industry than crude oil prices plunged. It precipitated the recent 170-day strike in an attempt to get a better labor contract than the other steel firms signed. But analysts interviewed by *The New York Times* reported that the firms that settled without a strike gained better contracts than did USX. According to the *Times*, the union outlasted USX and forced the once mighty firm to settle on union terms.

--Ed Marston

Proposed IRS rules threaten non-profits

Proposed Internal Revenue Service regulations present a threat to almost every public interest organization in the nation, according to Montana's Northern Rockies Action Group. Under the new rules, organizations as different as a mental health group, a group formed to promote athletics in local schools and the Sierra Club might lose their non-profit status. According to NRAG, there are many problems with the regulations. But the major one is the expansion of "lobbying" beyond the usual defini-

tion of efforts to influence the passage or defeat of pending legislation.

Under the new regulations, it will include any activities that "pertain to" or are "in connection with" or "reflect a view on the desirability of" pending legislation. Grass-roots lobbying is also broadly defined. If a group campaigns against drunk driving, and incidentally works to raise the drinking age limit, it might be counted as lobbying. The new regulations are dangerous to charities because they threaten them with loss

of their non-profit status for engaging in normal activities, retroactive to 1977.

NRAG urges people to ask the IRS to withdraw the proposed regulations by writing to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Att: CC:LR:T:EE-154-78, Washington, D.C. 20224. People may also write to their representative, Washington, D.C. 20515 and senator, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, NRAG can be reached at 9 Placer, Helena, MT 59601, or 406/422-6615.

BLM land is a paradise for toxic dumpers

The Bureau of Land Management does not know precisely where or how many hazardous waste sites it has allowed on its public lands, and the agency's ignorance may have left the federal government liable for expensive cleanups.

That was the conclusion reached at a Dec. 15 hearing organized by Oklahoma Rep. Mike Synar, D, in Washington, D.C. Testimony from representatives of the General Accounting Office, the state of New Mexico, the Environmental Protection Agency and BLM revealed that in the case of 450 operating landfills on BLM lands, the agency has not enforced EPA requirements.

In many instances:

•The BLM has not made certain that leases and dump operators keep records.

•The BLM has not checked for pollution problems at operating dump sites -- spending only \$775,000 at this effort in the past two years,

rather than an estimated \$22 million to cover all 450 sites.

•The BLM has not investigated closed dumps on its land unless a problem is suspected or reported. There may be over 1,000 of these dumps -- no one knows for sure.

An aide to Rep. Synar added that the BLM makes it easy for illegal dumping of toxic substances because fences and blocking gates are not required. A critic of grazing subsidies to ranchers, Synar estimates that the

\$22 million required for checking active sites is about what the agency currently loses each year by issuing below-market grazing leases.

The committee expects to release a transcript of the hearing soon. Write to the Subcommittee on Environment, Energy and Natural Resources, B371B Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 (202/225-6427).

--Becky Rumsey

BARBED WIRE

Thank heaven he didn't say, "The soft drink industry."

The *New York Times* reports that *New Yorker* editor William Shawn once said "Coca Cola" to writer E.J. Kahn Jr. as they passed in the hall. The result was a six-part series on the company.

They're sexy as hell to other buses.

The Aspen area may spend up to \$40 million on an aerial tramway to link three ski areas. The tramway would replace the present ground transportation system because, an official said, "Buses are mundane. Buses just aren't sexy."



Montana Department of Commerce

Montana's stream access war may be over

After more than five years of tug-of-war in the courts and the Montana Legislature, the battle over recreational access to rivers and streams appears to be settled.

The occasionally bitter dispute has pitted people who fish, floaters and other river-users against landowners, some of whom have strenuously objected to recreational use of water that flows through their property.

In its 5-2 decision Jan. 15, the Montana Supreme Court struck down portions of the state's controversial stream-access law, ruling that it went too far in sanctioning certain types of recreation on rivers that flow through private property. But the court reaffirmed the public's right to use rivers and streams within high water marks for recreational purposes.

Although the decision excised parts of the law, it seems to have satisfied both sides in the long-running dispute. Disgruntled landowners, led by state Sen. Jack Galt of Martinsdale, had what they considered the most bothersome portions of law erased: They will no longer have to put up with overnight camping, boat moorings, duck blinds or big-game hunting in riverbeds adjoining their property, nor are they required to bear the cost of portage routes around barriers on the river. Instead, the state will pay for portages around obstacles such as low bridges or in-stream fences.

River-users, along with the state, survived with the bulk of the stream-access law intact. "Now that the Supreme Court has ruled on it, we hope that we can just put the whole thing behind us," said Jim Flynn, head of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. "Since the law was passed, we've really had very few conflicts."

Passed in 1985, the law was spawned by two landmark state Supreme Court decisions in 1984 that came down on the side of

recreationists. The court said the public has title to rivers and streams up to their high-water marks, and should be able to use those waters and streambeds for recreation. The Legislature then spelled out in the law exactly what sporting activities are allowed on rivers and streams.

Almost immediately, the law was challenged in court by a coalition of landowners who said it was the equivalent of taking private property without just compensation. The Jan. 15 decision dealt with that lawsuit.

The law also allows anyone to petition the state Fish and Game Commission to close to public access portions of streams or rivers that flow through their property. Closures have been granted primarily for public safety or environmental reasons. For example, portions of Nelson Spring Creek south of Livingston were closed after state game officials determined it was a critical spawning ground for cutthroat trout. Even the landowner who petitioned for the closure was barred from wading the stream during spawning season.

Yet if the commission suspects self-interest masked by environmental concern, it tends to reject the petition.

A number of sportsmen petitioned last year to close to float fishers a popular stretch of the Beaverhead River in southwestern Montana. They claimed over-fishing of the river was depleting it of trophy-size trout.

Most of the stretch referred to in the petitions ran along property owned by Lowell Hildreth, whose action blocking off the river under a bridge led to a lawsuit that resulted in one of the 1984 landmark decisions. Some of the petitioners were acquainted with Hildreth, who allowed them access to the river.

After state game officials said the trout population in the upper Beaverhead was fine, the Fish and Game Commission decided that the river should remain open.

Although the stream-access issue appears settled in Montana for now, some loose ends may still exist for those who wish to tug on them. In a dissent from the Jan. 15 decision, Supreme Court Justice John Sheehy said the ruling still left the issue of landowner and recreational water-user rights "adrift in a sea of confusion."

--Mike Dennison

\$34/barrel shale oil subsidy

The U.S. Treasury will pay \$427,000 to the Unocal Corp. as a subsidy for the first 12,570 barrels of oil produced from rock at the firm's Parachute plant in western Colorado. The firm is entitled to \$400 million in subsidies for oil produced by the present plant. Unocal's request for the subsidy payments means the firm judges the plant to be operating at a commercial rate, although it is producing at only 40 percent of its 10,000 barrel per day capacity. Aside from tax credits, this will be the first subsidy Unocal has obtained for a

project that has thus far cost it about \$800 million, run over three years late, and whose failure helped encourage the U.S. Congress to kill the federal Synfuels Corp. in late 1985. On the other hand, Unocal, under chairman Fred Hartley, has stuck with oil shale while fending off a takeover attempt by raider T. Boone Pickens and despite the abandonment of the field by every other oil company. The \$34 per barrel subsidy is the difference between the market price of the oil and the government's guarantee to Unocal.

HOTLINE

Oregon swap

A land exchange that was seemingly made in heaven is coming under fire from a small ranching community that wants to be left alone. The exchange would swap 170 to 200 scattered tracts of BLM land in west-central Oregon for a single 50,000-acre tract of private land on and around Sutton Mountain. It would create a contiguous block of 60,000 acres of public land, eight miles of public frontage on the John Day River, solve trespass problems that have plagued the area because of isolated blocks of public land, and surround the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument with public land. The proposal was put together by the Prineville District of the BLM and has been endorsed by the Ochoco chapter and the state board of the Oregon Hunter's Association. The town of Mitchell, fearing a slight loss of school revenues due to the loss of private land, and fearing an influx of outsiders, opposes the plan. It says the access and trespass problems can be solved by putting up gates at Cascade mountain passes to keep out people from populous western Oregon. The public comment period runs through March 18. Comments can be sent to the BLM, Prineville District Office, P.O. Box 550, Prineville, OR. 97754.



Selling Wyoming

A newly released report from the Wyoming Task Force on Tourism recommended that the state create a tourism advisory committee and appoint a coordinator to help boost Wyoming's fragmented tourism industry. The task force, part of the Wyoming Futures Project, said that tourism, now the second largest industry in the state, could be much larger and provide stability and diversification to Wyoming's economy. Gov. Mike Sullivan was quick to support the measure and has recommended the Legislature approve funds for the creation of a state tourism director. The task force also recommended "bold actions" to improve the state's appeal to visitors, including distinctive bus and plane service within the state, a state museum to be the "Smithsonian of the West," an Indian heritage center, non-profit gambling, wildlife preserves and a centennial train to celebrate Wyoming's railroad heritage.

BARBS

Perhaps the editors told Pena, Romer, et al, how Los Angeles worked its own air quality magic, and how it has prevented urban sprawl.

The *Denver Post* reports that Denver Mayor Federico Pena, Colorado Gov. Roy Romer and various state business leaders flew in a private jet to see the Superbowl in California. While there, the officials met with the editors of the *Los Angeles Times* to tell them that Colorado has a positive attitude toward growth and that Denver is cleaning up its Brown Cloud.

8-High Country News -- February 16, 1987

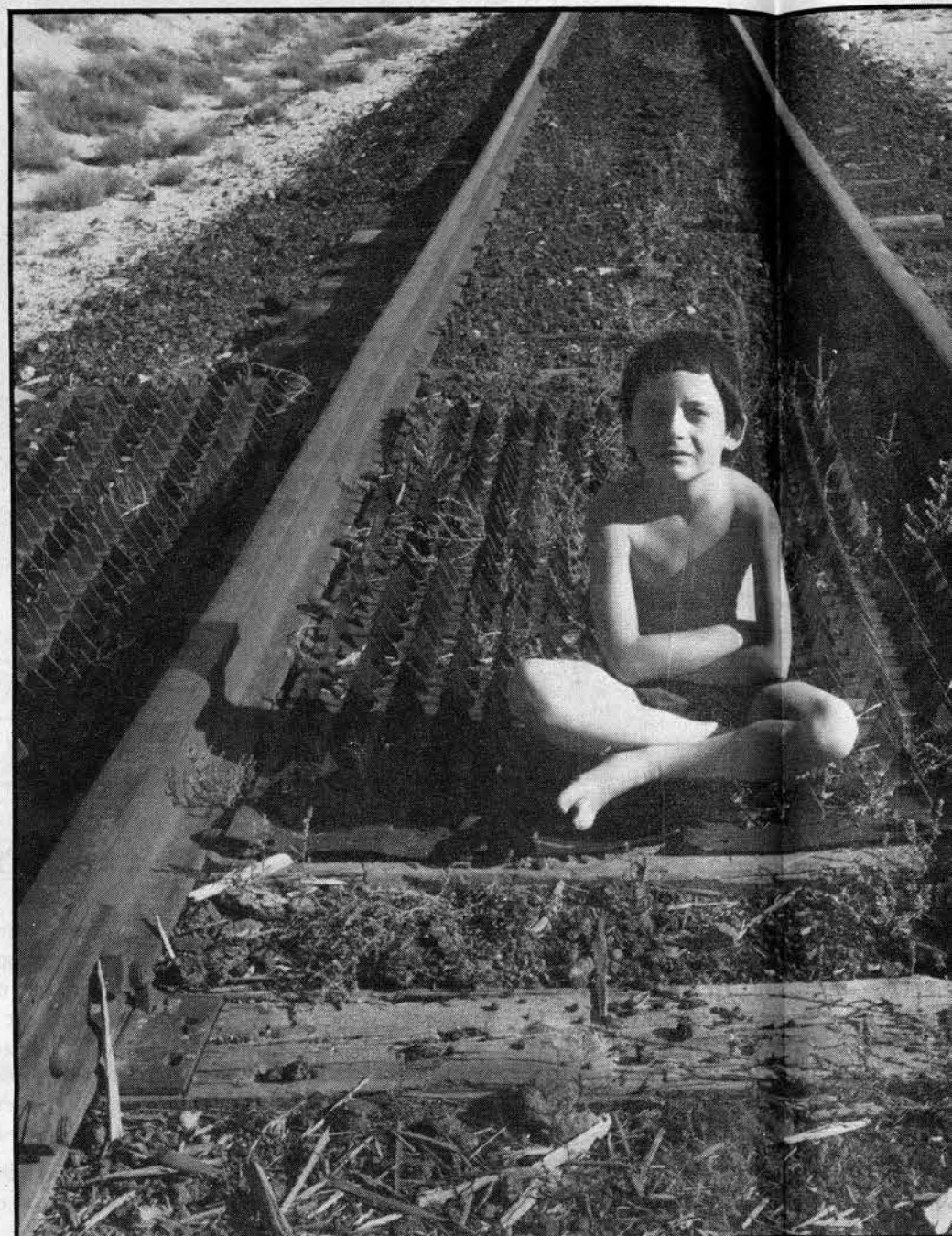
Beany-Weenie Litany

Let me hear the can-opener's ring,
the suck of the emptying can.
For I shall not know peace
until the can is empty
and the saucepan bubbles
a muck of tan and pink.

Let me hear the hum
of a Winnebago then
the generator's whine,
and let me witness
the red strobe of a
Revolve-O-Log Fireplace.
For I shall not know peace
until my headlights shine
on the KOA billboard
and the saucepan bubbles
a muck of tan and pink.

And you may have your
nut-chunk grain-yeast trailmix.
And you may take your
foil-packed stroganoff
straight to hell.
For I have seen the glint
of an Airstream
and would have my fill of wandering
and will not know peace
until the can is empty
and the saucepan bubbles
a muck of tan and pink.

Greg Keeler
Bozeman, Montana

Natural history for**In the Natural History Museum, Thinking About the End of the World**

The huge black flying skeletons
hanging from the ceiling could crash down
at any moment.

Inside these glass cases, time has stopped,
as if the world could be preserved
in its last moment.

But already the decay has started:
patches of the Steller sea lion's fur
clawed out

as if by radiation. "Press red button
for explanation of the diorama."
Skirting the issue.

And here's the human skeleton, bleached white,
the skull held shut by a little silver hook
(Top Secret).

Jeffrey Harrison
Cincinnati, Ohio

Yellowcake: San Rafael Swell

I've been walking through a land of uranium dreams
and now it grows dark.
Melancholy wind is in the high sandstone,
smoothing, tugging,
breathing an eerie lullaby to the ages:
It's all right, everything will be all right.

Abandoned mines are here, tunnels staring with black,
empty eyes out over vast erosion.
Step inside. A bit further, 'til vision dies.
Cool, yes, but the air is bad.
There has been a harvest, and somewhere it smoulders
barely contained:
All of creation twisted tight by that fearsome intelligence
riding in your skull.

John Wahl
Duncan, Oklahoma

ry for the '80s



Bob Greger

Ode to the Road

As if there isn't enough of you already,
you take the mountains and rivers
in your big dark arms
and sprout fingers
and your fingers sprout fingers.
What a hug. What a grasp.
What a way to make a living.
Who said you can't get there from here?

We can all get there -- hurtle there
with a can of Coors splashing the dash
and "Take Me Home Country Roads"
blaring on the stereo.
You make what's left
of the first-growth firs, the last-gasp air,
and the Middle Fork of the Middle Fork
into a pleasant blur;
our arms out the windows,
a light dust on the seat around us,
until, yes, we are there
for the real work at last.

So let us hear the plink of gravel
under our fenders;
and let us slap our pants
and ruffle our winded hair;
and let the brown nimbus
rise and settle around us;
for we would feel your embrace
and would call you our stepfather
and would be willing to ignore
what those long, dark fingers do to Mother
while we sleep.

Greg Keeler
Bozeman, Montana

Lost Bird

Wesly's friend Ray is a survivalist
at night he juggles cans of exotic beans
in Sugar Sauce

He laughs and recites rock and roll lyrics
he has a "nook" he says on his dad's land
in eastern Washington, Canyon Country

He envisions airbound particles of the vaporized
migrating north from Portland and San Francisco
He sees himself huddled in "natural insulation"

He has quick motorcycle for "lane-splitting"
he has extra toilet paper and waterproof matches
and he studies the road east through Wenatchee

Wesly sees the particles as lost birds
the wind, he tells Ray, is predominantly north
"To you," says Ray, "everything is a lost bird"

Hart Schulz
Oxnard, California

--From *Wesly*, Anacapa Press, Ventura, California.

Purifying the Language of the Tribe

Walking away means
"Goodby."

Pointing a knife at your stomach means
"Please don't say that again."

Leaning toward you means
"I love you."

Raising a finger means
"I enthusiastically agree."

"Maybe" means
"No."

"Yes" means
"Maybe."

Looking like this at you means
"You had your chance."

William Stafford
Lake Oswego, Oregon

--From a limited edition printing by the
M. Kimberly Press, Seattle. Reprinted
by permission.



Wyoming Travel Commission

Game ranching...

(Continued from page 1)

Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Larry Kruckenberg defined it as "any intrusion into the current system of control, propagation, management, protection and regulation of all Wyoming wildlife and associated recreation." He also said, "If one takes a public resource that is managed by a public agency for the public good and transfers some or all management responsibility to the private sector, it is 'privatization' pure and simple."

Hageman said Kruckenberg "got that definition out of the air." He said privatization means ownership of the game and use of fences to control the game. His bill does neither. The legislator said the Game and Fish Department sells more licenses than they have game and "expect guys like

me to be mean enough to tell 'em (the hunters) they can't hunt on my land." He said that his proposed bill will provide much-needed and improved habitat for the game. In return, he said, landowners will be able to decide who gets the permits to hunt on their land.

Hageman also chastised Game and Fish officials for using money from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses to "go to the Casper symposium and propagandize." He said the bill gives the Game and Fish Department and the governor-appointed Game and Fish Commission members a large say in the creation of wildlife management areas, plus the right to revoke a landowner's license to operate the unit at any time. "I'm shocked they were so venomous," he said of the bill's critics.

Emotional reactions to the spectre of privatization increased the "noise level" at the Casper meeting, according to Del Benson, an extension wildlife specialist from Colorado State

University at Ft. Collins. He praised efforts in Colorado to involve landowners in habitat management and urged Wyoming participants to "sit down; make a plan before landowners make access even more difficult."

The meeting produced no plan, but officials from Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming got to compare data on big game populations, and existing and proposed plans to compensate landowners for their contribution to big game habitat.

Wyoming Game and Fish planning coordinator Walt Gasson gave a "report to the stockholders" on the status of big game in Wyoming. He called the comeback of game herds in the state a major success. "Many species were snatched from the jaws of extinction," he said. "We can credit the comeback of our populations to a philosophy, a shared set of values.

We like our wildlife wild, with unobstructed movement to and from seasonal ranges." An example of success, Gasson said, was Wyoming's antelope herd, which has mushroomed from its 1923 count of 11,000 to its current level of 372,000.

Wyoming also reported the region's highest hunter success rates. Resident hunters post an 80 percent success rate for antelope, 60 percent for deer and 30 percent for elk. Non-resident hunters do even better, thanks to guiding and outfitting services. They bag antelope 88 percent of the time, deer 74 percent and elk 38 percent.

Colorado, Idaho and Montana boast larger deer and elk populations than Wyoming, according to officials from those states. Colorado estimates over a half-million deer and close to 160,000 elk.

Utah's herds are miniscule by comparison, but there were gains to report. The Utah Division of Wildlife's Steve Welch said the elk count had

A Wyoming lawmaker says ranchers sustain big game

Wyoming state Rep. Jim Hageman, R-Goshen, is taking a lot of heat this session. He is pushing a local-option gambling bill as a way for hard-hit towns to cope with falling energy prices. And, until he withdrew it under intense pressure, he sponsored a wildlife bill to give ranchers and farmers additional income to survive the agricultural crunch.

In a guest column for the Casper *Star-Tribune*, Rep. Jim Hageman explained his proposed bill this way:

"For many years state Game and Fish personnel have misled themselves into believing that their wise policies have created and maintained our wildlife herds. They get really white-knuckled when anyone suggests that better and better habitat created and preserved by private landowners has anything to do with the great wildlife resource within the state. Perhaps they are now afraid to get into the habitat improvement aspect of game management. Certainly, on most private land, other than overselling licenses to generate revenue, they have very little to do with game management.

"To a deer or antelope, or other wild creature in much of Wyoming, the rancher is life. The rancher

attempts to prevent overgrazing and provide forage. The rancher raises the winter wheat, the alfalfa, the corn, and other feed. The rancher supplies water where there is none. The rancher provides salt and minerals. The rancher attempts to prevent overkill during hunting seasons. The rancher fights away the poachers and others who serve only to take away from the essential resources.

"To a wild animal, the rancher means life; the Game and Fish sells the license to kill."

Hageman named his game ranching proposal the "Wildlife Enhancement Bill," but hunter groups called it the "wildlife privatization bill." Before he dropped it in early February, the debate it provoked and the passions it aroused revealed much about the politics of wildlife and about class divisions in Wyoming between those who own large tracts of land and those who do not.

In January, the bill was hotly debated at a three-hour public hearing before the House Agricultural Committee. Under the bill, landowners would control access to newly created 'wildlife management areas,' which could include public land.

Wheatland rancher Joe Johnson, who testified at the committee in favor

of the bill, correctly predicted: "I doubt it will come out of committee because of the animosity it has created. The sportsmen -- no, they weren't sportsmen -- were rude and unruly to the committee and I was ashamed of them."

Johnson supported the bill because "as game producers we need more control over the distribution, timing and numbers of hunting licenses." Johnson said his 20,000-acre ranch is host to thousands of geese and hundreds of deer and antelope. "It's a fine habitat. Most of the land here in southeastern Wyoming is private. We provide drinking water and winter forage, and now we're considered adversaries, not partners, as we are."

Johnson said much damage had been done by the confrontation at the hearing; he predicted a "backlash" by landowners who would further deny access to their lands for hunting. "If they're just going to hunt on public land, it will be slum hunting, not the quality hunting we're used to in Wyoming."

But spokesmen for hunters said turning Wyoming's wildlife into a 'cash crop' would damage Wyoming. Royal Laybourn of the Southeast Wyoming Wildlife Federation said hunters are the "working class people



Jim Hageman

of Wyoming." He said that if ranchers were to allocate licenses and charge hefty trespass fees, the ordinary man would be excluded from the equal chance at game provided by the current lottery system.

Much of the antagonism on display at the three-hour committee meeting was a result of the domination by ranchers of the powerful House Agricultural Committee. A speaker from the Laramie Plains Wildlife Association charged that the rancher members had a conflict of interest and should be prevented from voting on the bill.

--Katharine Collins

grown from 20 at the turn of the century to 1,000 today. Welch also thanked Wyoming for donating a herd of antelope that escaped across Interstate 80 between Wyoming and Utah during the 1983-84 blizzard. The state counts 120 moose (compared with nearly 9,000 in Wyoming) and perhaps 30,000 deer.

Welch said that wildlife had traditionally been viewed as a burden on Utah landowners, whose land provides habitat for 75 percent of the state's wildlife. But promotion of wildlife commercialization and successes of wildlife ranching operations in the state have begun to change ranchers' attitudes, he said.

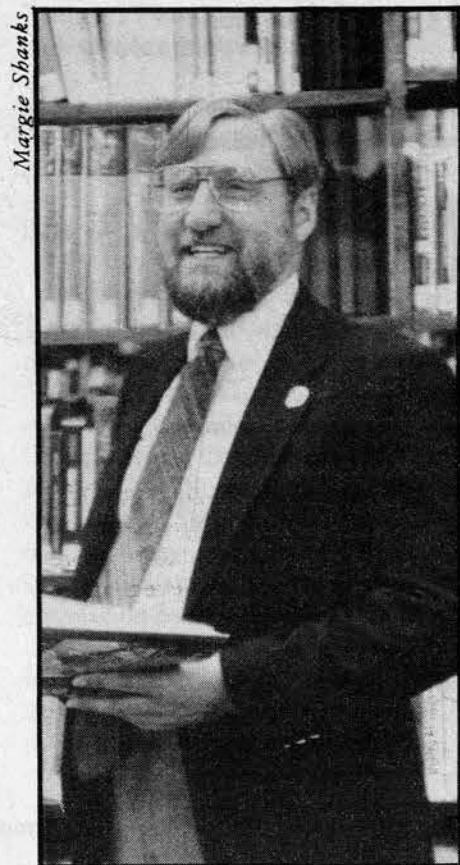
A description of the state's major wildlife ranching operation was available at the conference. Located 110 miles northeast of Salt Lake City, the mountainous 200,000-acre Deseret Ranch was primarily a livestock operation. But in 1977 a wildlife program, with trophy game emphasis, was adopted. The state of Utah allocates a certain number of hunting licenses to the ranch each year, and the ranch provides these to its clients. High hunter success rates -- 78 percent for deer and 100 percent for elk -- assure a steady flow of customers. They pay as little as \$100 a day for non-guided deer hunting, and as much as \$5,000 for a two-week fully catered elk hunt. Wildlife ranching at Deseret employs three full-time persons and earns about \$250,000 a year.

Colorado recently began to promote habitat management on private land, according to a Colorado Division of Wildlife spokesman. Todd Malmsbury said an experimental program allows ranchers to make money off the wildlife on their land by selling hunting permits under Division regulation. The landowner can decide who is to receive some of the permits with the rest distributed to the general public through a special drawing. Malmsbury said the program provides hunting access to land that was not previously available to the public.

Issues of game farms and public access are "swirling around Montana," according to Ron Marcoux of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department. He told conference participants that landowners generally offer access, but that fees paid to hunt on private land are increasing. Marcoux also said that outfitters are clamoring for greater protection of their wildlife-related income. That

group is lobbying the current legislature for more non-resident licenses earmarked for return clients.

Idaho's Tom Reinecker said "privatization is not well-understood" there. The Fish and Game Department official said Idahoans "won't hunt where trespass fees are charged." Most hunters hunt on the 70 percent of the state that is public land.



Chris Plant

Wyoming's Doug Crowe scoffed at models presented by other states to enhance landowner income from wildlife. "We cannot pick up someone else's system and superimpose it on ourselves. Wyoming is unique, some might say weird," said the assistant director of the Game and Fish Department. Crowe said, "There's no doubt about the need to cooperate with all groups in managing wild resources." But Wyoming, he said, "leads the Rocky Mountain West in providing equitable and direct compensation to landowners."

Earlier comparisons of compensation programs had demonstrated that Wyoming landowners derive income from wildlife in several ways under current statutes. "Trespass fees" ranging from \$10 to several hundred dollars are charged by some landowners for hunting on or simply crossing their land. Seasonal leases and guided, outfitted hunting trips on private land are available throughout the state.

The Elk Mountain Safari Company is a prominent and controversial example of luxury hunting provided for mainly out-of-state hunters. It is a particularly galling case for resident hunters because its private land surrounds and blocks access to public land atop Elk Mountain. The Safari Company's right to block that access was recently upheld in a Cheyenne federal district court.

In addition to these private income sources, Wyoming landowners are eligible for a Game and Fish compensation package unequalled in surrounding states: 1) coupon redemptions for every deer and antelope harvested on private land, which bring landowners about \$750,000 a year, and 2) reimbursement for damage to forage or crops, a distribution of about \$250,000 a year.

Although Colorado has far more agricultural land, the state pays only about \$180,000 a year for game depredation. Larry Kruckenberg said, "I honestly feel we ought to look at

increasing revenues under existing statutes without further increasing animosities between agriculture and other interests in the state."

Animosities already exist. The University of Wyoming's range-science department head, whose constituency is the ranching community, angrily charged that the symposium was "biased -- a stacked deck," and did not include adequate representation of landowners. Bill Laycock said if some economic relief were not found for the agricultural community, corporate buyouts of farm land would accelerate. Laycock said "privatization" is widely and deliberately used as a "scare word" by those who oppose any changes in the system.

Wyoming Wildlife Federation members, who formed the bulk of conference participants, were vociferous in support of keeping Wyoming's wild resource under Game and Fish control. This group, with over 9,000 members, is the state's largest citizens' group. Boyd Frye of Burns, Wyo., warned of importation of exotic game breeds into the state, saying they are already settled into southern states. Another participant said living in Wyoming means sacrifice in some ways, but this is compensated for by excellent hunting. To tamper with the wildlife resource would drive Wyoming residents elsewhere.

Doug Crowe spoke for many listeners when he said, "Most Wyoming people do not spend a hell of a lot of time at the opera, but one-third hunt big game. Nowhere does as large a percentage of the population hunt."

LETTERS

DIVERSIFY TO SURVIVE

Dear HCN,

I read with interest your opinion article in the January 19 edition of the *High Country News*. One of the main themes is that we in the West should reorient ourselves toward a non-consumptive, non-destructive, non-extractive use of the land. This overlooks one important fact -- our entire economy is based on the raw products produced from within or upon the land. What product that you know of is not made from ore, wood or agriculture crops?

I submit the future of rural communities is based on diversifying their interests, not cutting out consumptive jobs with a meat-ax mentality. For if the meat ax is applied on a broad scale, our economy will soon collapse upon itself, taking those opposed to extractive activities with it as well as the extractors. Rural communities need a blend of consumptive and non-consumptive jobs, otherwise known as a diversified economy. Such an economy is better adapted to deal with the boom or bust nature of our nation.

Jim Gerber
Cortez, Colorado

THE WORST

Dear HCN,

The original intent of the Sustained Yield Forest Management Act may have been to encourage forest industries to practice good forestry, as George Sibley suggests in his article of Dec. 22, 1986. However, the only effect I saw as a contract treeplanter



Larry Kruckenberg

A Canadian speaker at the symposium sounded the direst warning. Dr. Valerius Geist said that under private control the "ferocity of the market" would destroy wildlife. The faculty member from the University of Alberta in Calgary noted that "conservative businessmen" in the early part of this century had fought against trafficking in wildlife and wildlife parts. They saw to it that wildlife was allocated by law, "not by marketplace, not by pocketbook, not by land ownership, not by special privilege." He paraphrased Winston Churchill's "never surrender" speech, and told the group, "You are the envy of the world. Don't give up your system."

on the Shelton Ranger District was the use of cut-and-get-out practices on the national forest.

Because Simpson lands with immature timber were included in the Forest Service land base, cutting on the national forest was accelerated. That is, more timber was cut than would ordinarily have been allowed under sustained yield principles. Also through the Simpson agreement, normal Forest Service requirements were waived; for example, successful regeneration of one clearcut was not required before the adjoining timber was cut. I have seen entire drainages that have been clearcut, and on steep and rocky Forest Service land regeneration is difficult to impossible. I've planted many a gravel slide under planting rules explained by: "We know it won't grow if we don't plant it so we may as well try."

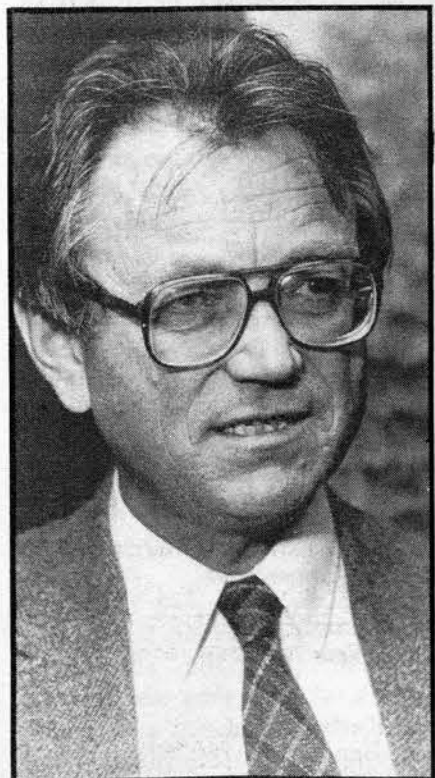
Simpson mined timber off public land at non-competitive prices, and now that the taking is not so good and their own timber is grown up they thumb their noses at sustained yield. Sibley's article is informative and well-written but I wish he'd been more explicit about the rip-off in Shelton. I've planted on national forests all over the Northwest and the cutting in Shelton is the most irresponsible I've ever seen.

Kitty Tattersall
Missoula, Montana

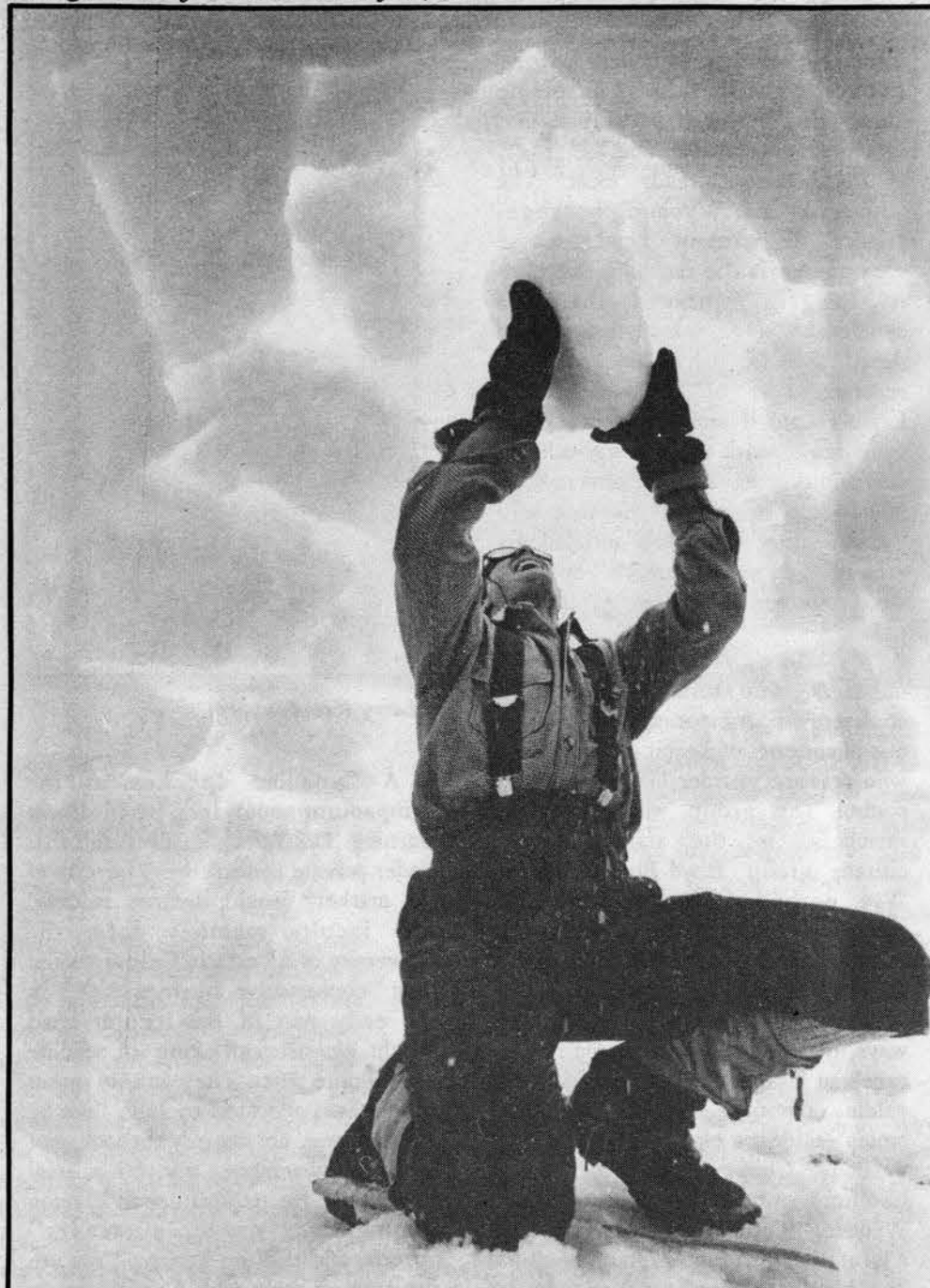
BARBS

Now this is a really dangerous Russian leader.

Premier Mikhail Gorbachev is pushing the Communist party to democratize the means by which members are chosen for leadership positions.



Valerius Geist



From Ski Camping, published by Mountain Press

Thank you,

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Hershey, Ephraim, Tehachapi, Heber...

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LETTERS

BENEFICIAL POLLUTION

Dear HCN,

Just what was *High Country News* high on when you published that map showing SO₂ from smelters in Douglas, Cananea and Nacozari plunging deep into the heart of the Wind River Range in Wyoming? I am aware that HCN has seldom let facts get in the way of an entertaining argument, but you don't even have to be a scientist to note the normal direction of the prevailing wind in that area. Except for occasional aberrations, the crud from those smelters gets blown from southwest to northeast. That takes it into New Mexico, west Texas and maybe Oklahoma -- not anywhere near Wyoming.

The crud from Douglas has, for all these years, been plunging deep into the heart of, not the Wind River Range, but the Chiricahuas, which are far more interesting than anything in Wyoming anyway. The Chiricahuas, home of many rare species of flora and fauna, are directly northeast of that now defunct smelter. To my knowledge, no one has ever alleged, much less discovered, any effect of the smelter smoke whatever on the Chiricahuas.

In fact, a little acidification would normally be considered beneficial in that area, which is highly alkaline. In the agricultural area north of the old smelter, you will find (if you are ever interested in facts) cotton farmers adding sulphuric acid to their irrigation water to acidify the pH.

In fact, the Forest Service says there may be some evidence that SO₂ emissions in the Four Corners area have caused local flora to grow better.

In the Northeast, they add lime to soils that are too acid. In the Southwest, we add acid to soils that are too alkaline. It does seem somebody at HCN would have noticed that.

I also enjoyed your hysterical piece on the nuclear tailings spill at Churchrock. As a stringer for an Eastern newspaper, I was apparently the only journalist to mosey out and ask for the actual measurements of radioactive isotopes in the stream over a period of time. I found, surprisingly, that the concentration of such materials had gone down after the spill. That wasn't too hard to figure out. This "river" your alleged journalist writes about is in fact normally a dry wash. Navajo sheep have so badly overgrazed the area that it is eroded and desertified. The only water in the stream, except for a rare rain, was coming from dewatering of uranium mines. That water had a measurable amount of radioactive isotopes. When the spill launched a great deal more water into the streambed, the concentration was diluted.

Just to compound insanity, the New Mexico environmental people ordered signs put up in Navajo warning Indians not to use the water. I asked them to find me an Indian literate in Navajo. So far they have not found one.

By the way, has anybody at HCN ever asked the Hopis how they feel about the pillaging, murdering Navajos who stole their land and sat on it for a hundred years until the courts finally ordered it given back? It is an interesting fact of history

that the Hopis probably would be extinct if it were not for European intervention to protect them from the Navajos. They barely survived as it is.

The name Navajo comes from an earlier name "Los Apaches de Navaju," the latter being a place name referring to farms. In other words, Navajos are Apaches who have learned farming from the Pueblos. But the word "Apache" still means "enemy," and any Pueblo Indian will be happy to tell you why.

Mark Acuff
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Mark Acuff,

Your quarrel is with the editors of *Science*, a publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Their Aug. 30, 1985, issue contains a refereed article by Michael Oppenheimer, Charles B. Epstein and Robert E. Yuhnke titled, "Acid Deposition, Smelter Emissions, and the Linearity Issue in the Western United States." That paper found a correlation between smelter emissions in the Southwest and acid deposition in the Wind River Range of Wyoming. The paper was referred to in the HCN story you find objectionable.

--the staff

A LESSON FOR WYOMING

Dear HCN,

Belatedly, thanks for publishing another fine piece by George Sibley ("An America that did not happen," 12/22/87). I read it with great interest, since in northwestern Wyoming we are now all caught up in the controversy of forest planning and

economic destabilization of timber-dependent communities like Dubois.

About midway through the article, I began looking at the pictures and wondering what it must have felt like to live at Camp Grisdale. Would residents have been perpetually satisfied? Would they have wanted their children to take similar jobs and remain in the company town? Putting aside the Jeffersonian notions of planning (which were dreamt during a time when enormous numbers of newly enfranchised Americans were migrating into unpopulated regions), do Americans in this era find the dynamics of a "steady state" economy fulfilling?

Sibley's thoughtful piece anticipated these questions and raised them in all their complexity at the end. I only wish forest planners and forest-dependent industries were considering them too. Questions having to do with cultural preferences (even when the issues are economic) are easier to ask than answer. If we accept the notion that economic growth is desirable, and maybe even necessary to keep the culture healthy in other ways, we then have to ask whether public lands commodities like timber should be manipulated to insure constant growth, even to the point of long-term depletion of national forest timber to satisfy short-term demand. A better approach might be to take the "steady state" approach to forest management (without excluding other public uses besides timber harvest) and allow economic growth to be generated by our technological advances and labor-saving innovations. Americans may not have the stomach for the social planning that Public Law 273 embodied, but that doesn't mean we can't abide by its ecological wisdom.

Geoff O'Gara
Lander, Wyoming

RECOLLECTIONS

Dear HCN,

Your story on New Mexico nuclear waste sent me to the map to look up Church Point. I couldn't find it, but I did find Mariano Lake, where I spent several weeks in the summer of '64 visiting friends who taught there for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Those weeks were my introduction to the glories of the Southwest desert. I sat and sketched pinon and mesas and watched the sheep meander around the school grounds.

The community of each area of Navajos is so dispersed and independent, and so many adults and small children spoke no English, that to communicate their danger from radioactive materials would be very difficult. Now my heart feels sick that I didn't see the danger then either.

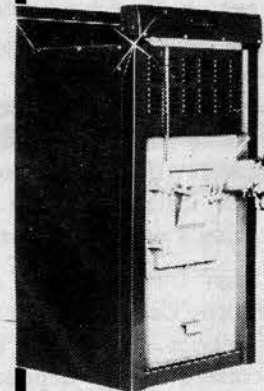
Fortunately, nuclear power is on the decline, and has been so since the mid-70s or it would be even harder for EPA to use what little clout it has left to clean up the messes.

I have a mental image of Flora, but many of your readers might not have such a clear picture of what her life was like before she stepped into the stream that morning. What a great job on the story.

Judy Anderson
Chair, California Desert Protection
League
Glendale, California

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14-High Country News -- February 16, 1987

GUEST OPINION

Let's set Dubois free

by John Perry Barlow

"Endangered species," yelled the full-page ads in the *Star-Tribune*, Jan. 20 and Jan. 27. The "species" that stared forlornly out over the headline... and an empty shopping cart... was an all-American family in big trouble. Their little boy looked to be just short of tears.

And their sole protector, according to the text, was Louisiana-Pacific Corporation.

The sentimentality of this appeal would be startling even if it didn't come from a company with an employee relations record that some in business regard as one of the worst in America.

The question of L-P's continued presence in Dubois, Wyo., has been debated economically and environmentally. It's been alleged that the scale and style of their operations threaten an ecosystem. There has been little discussion of their effect on the most important "ecosystem" of all, the human one of the community. The real issue may be moral.

It's not my town. But I'm beginning to wonder if Dubois wouldn't actually be a better place to live without L-P in its midst.

I don't dispute that real people will be looking for jobs if L-P closes its mills. They don't want to leave Wyoming to find them. I know the feeling. Economics are forcing me off the ranch I was born on and out of my job of 16 years. I don't want to leave home either. And I won't. I'm not sure what I will do, but I have a native Wyoming faith that I'll get by. The fact that a lot of people in Dubois seem to have lost that faith is enough in itself to make one question the health of their relationship with L-P.

They ought to know better. They have made do without L-P for more than two of the last six years.

Between 1980 and 1983, L-P's operating margin dictated a cyclic pattern of openings and closings -- a few months here, a few weeks here. The shut-downs were never of sufficient length or certainty to let a man go out and find alternate or even temporary work. They guaranteed community and workforce instability while maximizing impact on Wyoming's unemployment funds.

It appears that L-P has been milking the Employment Security Commission as artfully as it has the Forest Service. Far worse, this style of operation has created a deep dependency in its workers.

Only since extracting considerable wage concessions in 1983 has L-P kept its mills more

often open than closed. In the last quarter, the company netted \$48 million on sales of \$1.1 billion, while its stock rockets toward an all-time high. The wage concessions stand, however.

What has this wrought in Dubois? It seems to be turning a decent town mean. When I was growing up, Dubois was an easy-going place. Now it seems less and less a community and increasingly a grim collection of angry and confused people.

I would rather someone from Dubois were writing this, because all these points were suggested to me by Dubois residents. When I ask why they don't speak up, they mutter of economic and even physical reprisals. Wyoming's greatest virtue is its freedom. If public dissent is no longer safe in Dubois, those folks have given up too much.

We have all given up too much. Fifteen years of continuous fighting have turned three old neighbors, Pinedale, Dubois and Jackson, hard against one another.

They are fighting because L-P is right about one thing: Jobs are at stake. But they are at risk on both sides of the divide. The reason the overwhelming majority of Sublette County citizens support a reduced timber harvest on the Bridger-Teton is not because they are environmentalists. Call them that and they'll clean your plow for you.

They genuinely believe that L-P's style of timbering competes directly with their ranches, recreation-based small business, hunting camps and diverse-product timber mills. (Mills that employ, by the way, more than 18 times as many workers per million board feet cut than does L-P). They too want local jobs not only for themselves but for their kids. They want a future designed on their own humble terms... not on whims from a board room in Portland.

The time has come to separate the corporate interests of Louisiana-Pacific from the human interests of Fremont County. Let's get behind the people of Dubois and Riverton. Let's get L-P out of Wyoming. Let's set Dubois free. Louisiana-Pacific is, and has been, using the ordinary folks of Dubois, just as too many corporations have used Wyoming for too long. They are holding Dubois hostage.

And why? Surely not to sustain this marginal operation. It is rather the precedent that implementation of the Bridger-Teton draft plan would set for developing plans of the big-timber forests of Idaho and the Pacific Northwest.

Bill Conradt



John Barlow

The Forest Service is currently subsidizing L-P's jobs at a rate of about \$13,000 apiece. Having lured an oversize mill here in the late '60s, they should bear responsibility for this mess and should use those subsidies to help clean it up. But the feds can do little without local cooperation. Wyoming's new governor seems committed to locally based economic diversification. But diversification must be acceptable before the state can assist in creating it.

As long as Louisiana-Pacific remains, it will block constructive change. When the FUND economic study called for diversification, it disappeared from view. L-P will always oppose solutions, because more than any other factor in this troubled area, Louisiana-Pacific is the problem.

Write to the Bridger-Teton National Forest at Box 1888, Jackson, WY 83001. Write Gov. Mike Sullivan. Support a reduced cut. More importantly, support new long-term and immediate alternatives for Dubois. Those folks deserve to get their town back.

□

John Perry Barlow is the president of the Wyoming Outdoor Council. This guest column appeared in the *Casper Star-Tribune* Jan. 30.

LETTERS

NOT TOO BAD

Dear HCN,

Your Feb. 2 front page story on closure of the Douglas smelter wasn't too bad, especially when compared with some I have seen. Your quotes from PAY DIRT and comments about them were accurate and fair.

However, there are some rather serious errors and misconceptions that were fed to you by those who eventually were successful in forcing closure of the smelter.

A very glaring error is the claim you report that environmentalists claim they saved the domestic copper industry by forcing it to modernize, that if it hadn't done so, it would have been forced out of business by foreign competition.

That's a downright lie, a complete perversion of the truth. The fact is the extremely expensive pollution regulations forced on the industry's smelters have made it far tougher to compete

with foreign producers, for two primary reasons:

1) The necessity of spending hundreds of millions of dollars to meet air quality standards just before and during hard times in the copper industry. The smelter owners had to go deeply into debt to finance the new plants at the very time their ability to repay was sharply decreasing. The cost of servicing this debt added greatly to the cost of each pound of copper that was processed. Naturally, that made it more difficult to compete.

2) The new plants are more, sometimes much more, expensive to operate, as well as build. As a rule of thumb, the pollution-control facilities are about equal in cost to the smelting facilities themselves, thereby doubling capital costs and debt service -- all tacked onto the cost of each pound of copper. In addition, it takes about as much energy -- sometimes more -- to operate the pollution control equipment as it does the smelting process and everything else.

Without pollution control cutbacks in production, the old Douglas plant, we understand, was one of the lowest

cost copper smelters in the U.S., if not the world.

With rare exceptions, the foreign smelters are old carbon copies of the Douglas plant -- reverberatory furnaces, converters and casting furnaces, all vented to the atmosphere with no pollution controls whatever. Their edge on domestic plants is simply that they can run wide open without any air pollution considerations whatever. In some countries, such as Japan, there are controls -- but the governments, through tax incentives and other means, offset those increased costs so as to help them, directly opposite the way it is done in this country.

Don't jump to the conclusion that I'm advocating there be no controls in the U.S., but let's recognize the imbalance. And, especially, let's not claim just the opposite, as that's pure baloney.

Attorney Yuhnke's claim that the steelworkers union "saw the importance of forcing the copper industry to modernize" is pure hogwash. They acted purely out of revenge because they lost a misguided strike against

Phelps Dodge's Arizona operations in 1983. It was part of a "corporate campaign" to drive Phelps Dodge into bankruptcy. It was not motivated by any social concern.

Also spurious was that report in *Science* magazine that claimed smelter emissions from southern Arizona were causing acid rain damage in the Wind River Mountains in western Wyoming. The report was discredited by a number of scientists familiar with the situation. Some even said it was obviously prepared so that the contents supposedly achieved a preconceived conclusion.

Blatantly false is its premise that huge quantities of emissions move virtually due north all the way to Wyoming in sufficient quantities to cause acid rain. One has but to watch the weather reports on television to realize the weather patterns and prevailing winds in the U.S. move from west to east. To a very large extent, smelter emissions from southern Arizona move mostly in an arc from the northeast to the

(Continued on page 15)

OPINION

Marriage of convenience

High Country News does not pretend to science or even to systematic analysis. Our activity is best compared to that of a spider, hanging motionless at the center of a web, awaiting a twitch to send us scurrying in search of a fly.

Our web is spun of mail and telephone. Each day brings pounds of mail and from a few up to 40 telephone calls. Once alerted, we contact a member of HCN's network of free-lance writers to do a story or to tell us there is no story worth doing.

Our web has big gaps in it. The president of Utah Power and Light is unlikely to let us know that planning has begun for a new power plant in southern Utah. Bob Burford, the head of the BLM, doesn't leak documents to us. We never received a telephone call from just retired Forest Service Chief Max Peterson. More worrisome, we have poor contact with the Indian tribes in the region, with the traditional livestock industry and with small miners.

On the other hand, we hear from an increasing number of middle-level public land managers, and since for every action there is a reaction, we tend to hear about utilities, miners and graziers, if not from them.

In addition to news of events, we get theories and rules of thumb. One piece of advice was: Don't write about Jackson Hole and its environs: That's not the real Wyoming. Gretel Ehrlich makes the same point in *The Solace of Open Spaces*.

Since this paper is based near Aspen, Colo., we understand that rule even as we've chosen to violate it. We are giving more space to the Bridger-Teton National Forest plan than to any other forest plan. This HCN, for example, has yet another story on the pros and cons of the plan (page 3) as well as an opinion piece by John Barlow (page 14) on the subject.

We don't provide this coverage because western Wyoming is more important or beautiful

than, let's say, the country around Sheridan, but because the struggle over the Bridger-Teton illustrates the West-wide struggle between declining extractive industries and the still not fully visible future. The mill at Dubois is dead in its present incarnation. The fight is over whether L-P will be allowed to remove so much timber in its death throes that it pulls down other economies with it.

The lead story in the last issue of HCN had much the same theme. The Phelps Dodge smelter at Douglas, Ariz., had to cease gasping out sulfurous fumes so that new activities may be able to take root.

HCN didn't plan to become a *Kiplinger's* newsletter of the Rockies. But spiders don't plan their menus in advance either; they eat what happens to fly by. In the same way, the lead story in this issue is about a bitter fight over game ranching between Wyoming hunters and landowners. The high rhetoric employed by both sides should not hide a central fact: The Wyoming livestock community is campaigning for a piece of the tourist dollar. A major Wyoming constituency is committing itself to a recreation future, and therefore to an economic stake in the health and welfare of Wyoming's outdoors.

Increased economic dependence on clean air and plentiful wildlife comes just when some observers are declaring the environmental movement in the Rockies to be dead. Newly re-elected Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus, who was an environmentalist governor in the 1970s, appears to have no environmental agenda in his new term. Outgoing Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm, in a farewell interview, says the environmental movement is moribund in Colorado. Critics of the traditional part of the movement say it is worse than moribund; they accuse mainline environmentalists of having sold out and become part of the problem.

As Lamm points out in his interview in the *Vail Trail* newspaper, it is natural for movements to flag. Even Chairman Mao couldn't keep China in revolutionary ferment. The question is: What remains after the excitement and turmoil? The environmental movement can be pleased on that score. It institutionalized its concerns back when it had the nation's attention. In addition, committed individuals and organizations have remained active and continue to grope ahead, encouraged by periodic sightings of light at the end of various tunnels.

Now that the impersonal economic worm has turned, that tenacity and vision will be especially useful. We can play our role by warning against those who would destroy the West's natural resource base by continuing to highgrade its forests, gully its arid lands and foul its air. L-P and Phelps Dodge are simply the most visible of the extraction dragons to be brought into the community of responsible players, or destroyed.

This period will be exciting because of the power of the economic trends and because of the alliances and coalitions that will be formed. Those who fear that the purity of the environmental movement will be lost need not fear. The core of the environmental movement is based on a love of the land and of natural forces. The marriages that have been made and will be made through the early 1990s will be ones of convenience.

In this struggle of economic succession, we are simply aligning with those who will be least destructive, and against those who will be most destructive. We are playing the role Great Britain played in Europe for so many centuries, when it moved from side to side in an attempt to maintain a large number of equal states and prevent the creation of any one strong state.

Even as we make our alliances, there is no doubt that the environmental movement's next great effort will be to contain and civilize the "recreation" industry, the "retirement" industry, and whatever else moves into the economic vacuum in the rural Rockies.

--Ed Marston

(Continued from page 14)

southeast, toward New Mexico, Texas and northern Mexico.

And besides that, what emissions? Studies have shown that SO₂ emissions from copper smelters in the western U.S. have been reduced by 70 percent in the last 10 to 15 years, through both installed controls and reduced production, which includes a number of smelter closures. Even if the acid deposition claims were true, how could it still be a threat?

This also leads to a look at the emission figures bandied about for the Douglas, Nacozari and Cananea smelters. They sound impressive and have been touted as posing a great new threat. Not noted is the fact that over the past few years half of Arizona's eight copper smelters have been closed, including the Phelps Dodge plants at Ajo and Morenci, the Kennecott plant at Hayden, and Magma's smelter at Superior. Now, with the recent closure of Douglas, there are only three smelters still operating in the state -- Magma at San Manuel, Asarco at Hayden and Inspiration at Globe-Miami. Where's the threat?

If the SO₂ emissions cause so much acid rain and pose such a great threat to lakes in the Wyoming and Colorado Rockies, why have recent scientific surveys by EPA and other unbiased parties found none? It would seem that if there was even some validity to the wild charges, there would have been at least a few lakes with acid problems. Yet a study by EPA of 719 Western lakes found only

one lake that could be considered acidified -- and that was one in Yellowstone National Park fed by a natural hot spring! (Quick, boys and girls, you better jump on that one and demand EPA make an environmental impact statement and correct the problem before the whole world goes to hell!)

With the general pattern of air movement from west to east, why isn't there, if the environmentalists' claims are valid, a mass of acid rain damage in the Rocky Mountain lakes from a number of smelters that operated in Utah and Nevada for more than 75 years? There has long been a big one serving Bingham Canyon. (It will be firing up again shortly after being closed more than a year due to copper market problems.) Although they are all closed now, there were several other smelters that operated for many years near Salt Lake City and McGill, Nevada, all without pollution controls or considerations whatever.

The truth is that there is a mass of hot air involved -- the kind that doesn't come from smelter stacks. Eventually, the causes and effects of acid rain will all be sorted out. And when they are, I'll wager that the Southwest's copper smelters have not been the villains they have been depicted to be.

Your story painted the environmentalists who shut down the Douglas smelter as knights in shining armor, the industry as a dragon that must be slain. The point of this letter is to show there is another side of the coin.

William C. Epler
PAY DIRT magazine
Bisbee, Arizona

ACCESS

WORK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST: Responsible for administering all Trust activities, including land protection projects, fund-raising, public information and financial management. Must have strong commitment to land conservation; administrative experience, preferably with non-profit organization; excellent speaking and writing skills; problem-solving ability; excellent people skills; ability to work independently while also working effectively with Board of Directors; land conservation and/or real estate experience strongly preferred. Submit application by March 1 to: Search Committee, Jackson Hole Land Trust, Box 2897, Jackson, WY 83001. Include resume; name, address, phone number of at least 3 references (2 with professional working relationship to applicant); statement not exceeding 2 pages describing how experience and accomplishments qualify applicant for position; statement of salary expectations. (1xp)

WANTED: Organic gardener-teacher. Must have experience with short-season, large-scale food production and be able to instruct beginning and intermediate level students. March 1 - Nov. 1 at Malachite Small Farm School, A.S.R. Box 21, Gardner, CO 81040. Call 303/746-2389. (1x3)

YOUTH CREW LEADERS to supervise volunteer high school students in outdoor conservation work for a 4-5 week period. Program areas throughout the country in national parks, and forests. Previous experience teaching/supervising teenagers; outdoor work skills (i.e. trail maintenance), backpacking, first aid. Minimum age 21. Send or call for an application to Student Conservation Association, P.O. Box 550, Charlestown, NH 03603 (603/826-5206). Closing date Feb. 1. (3x24p)

NEAT STUFF

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

CLASSIFIED ADS cost 20 cents per word, pre-paid, \$5 minimum. General rates for display are \$6/column inch camera-ready; \$8/column inch if we make up. For ad rate brochure, write HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428 or call 303/527-4898.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS t-shirts are white with black mountain goat design or red with white mountain goat. 100 percent cotton, small and medium only, both colors. Send your check for \$8.50 to HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428.

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BULLETIN BOARD

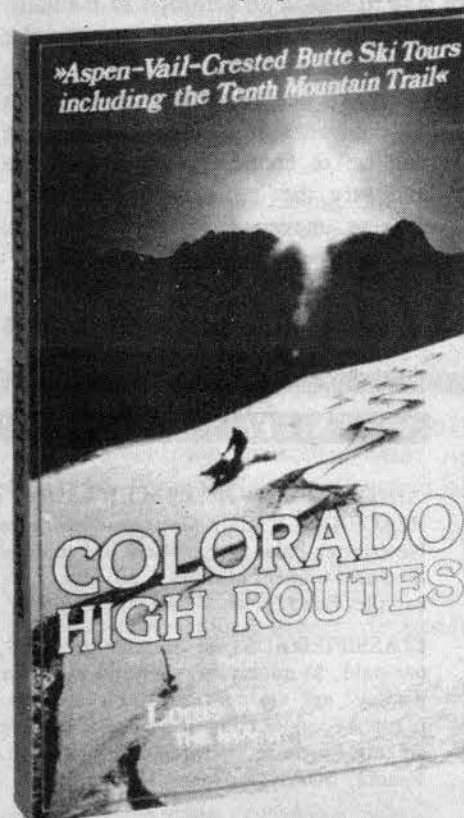
FOR WESTERN WATER WALLLOWERS

A Western water rights symposium will take place at the Snow King Resort in Jackson Hole, Wyo., Feb. 27-28. Sponsored by the University of Wyoming College of Law and the Wyoming Water Research Center, the gathering will focus on changes unfolding in Western water law including reserve rights, prior appropriation and their effects on Indian claims, marketing and allocation. Speakers include water-law authorities from several law schools, private firms and the deputy attorney general of California. Registration after Feb. 16 is \$175. To register send a check to the Natural Resources Law Forum, P.O. Box 3035, Laramie, WY 82071. (800/288-3278).

A BACKCOUNTRY SKI GUIDE

Recently published *Colorado High Routes* is a telemarketers' directory for the backcountry around the Aspen-Vail-Crested Butte triangle. Author Lou Dawson describes more than 95 ski-mountaineering routes, which quickly leave the area's ski resorts and towns behind to head up the mountain passes and isolated ridges in wilderness. Each route lists mileage, estimated ski time, elevation gain, skill levels and avalanche hazards, and all are accompanied by topographical maps with route overlays. Dawson, a long-time resident with 19 years ski-mountaineering experience, also presents a complete description of the 10th Mountain Trail route and hut system between Vail and Aspen.

The Mountaineers Books, 306 2nd Ave. W, Seattle, WA 98119. Paper, \$9.95, 224 pages. Maps, photos.



A POWDER SKIER'S PICTURE BOOK

Utah Ski Country, second in the Utah Geographic Series, is a powder skier's guide to the magnificent deep snow country of Utah. Written and photographed by Salt Lakers Brooke Williams and Chris Noble, this new book documents ski conditions at each Utah resort and at numerous backcountry sites in Utah's Wasatch Range. There are also first-hand accounts, 162 stunning color photographs, and tips on finding powder, avoiding avalanche danger, and skiing safely.

Utah Geographic Series, Box 8325, Salt Lake City, UT 84108. Hardcover: \$24.95. Paper: \$15.95. 128 pages.

SMALL PRESS EXPO

Small Press Expo '87, an annual conference for independent book and magazine publishers, will take place in New York City at the Marriott Marquis March 2-4. Interest in small press publishing is expanding as new technologies make production and management more efficient. Conference topics will cover publishing law and business management, distribution, circulation, marketing, design and computer systems. The cost is \$45 per session if attending one to five, and \$30 per session if attending more than 10. For information, write Small Press Expo '87 Registration, 11 Ferry Lane West, Westport, CT 06880.

TWO FORKS DRAFT EIS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released a draft environmental impact statement on the Denver Water Board's proposed Two Forks Dam and Reservoir on Colorado's Front Range. The two-volume draft includes the results from all studies made on the project, including proposed changes to Forest Service land and resource management plans; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommendations; impacts to threatened and endangered species; cumulative and water quality impacts; and analyses of the Denver metropolitan area's existing water supply and future water needs. The draft also evaluates seven ways to supply water to the Denver metro area through the year 2035. The draft EIS does not list a preferred alternative. The Corps of Engineers will accept written comment on the draft until April 23, 1987, and will hold a series of public hearings preceded by open house sessions throughout the state. Unless otherwise listed, open house sessions are at 1 p.m. and formal hearings are at 7 p.m. Meetings are set for Feb. 23 in Frisco: open house at Lake Dillon Lodge and hearing at Summit County High School; Feb. 24 in Conifer: open house at the Aspen Community Center and hearing at West Jefferson Elementary; Feb. 25 in Silver Creek: open house and hearing at Silver Creek Resort; Feb. 26 in Denver: 1 p.m. open house and 2 p.m. hearing followed by a 6 p.m. open house and 7 p.m. hearing at the Sheraton in the Denver Tech Center; Feb. 27 in Grand Junction: open house and hearing at the Rodeway Inn; Feb. 28 in Denver: 1 p.m. open house and 2 p.m. hearing at the Regency Hotel on Elati Street. Copies of the draft EIS are available from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1612 U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Omaha, NE 68102, Attn. MROPD-M (Draft EIS). Written comments go to Richard Gorton, Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch, Planning Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1612 U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Omaha, NE 68102.

RALLY FOR MONTANA WILDERNESS

The singer and songwriter Walkin' Jim Stoltz says there will be a public march for wilderness in Missoula, Mont., March 2. All those who want to preserve the state's remaining roadless lands should assemble on University of Montana campus at noon. For more information call Mike at 406/549-0263.

HELP FINISH THE COLORADO TRAIL

The Colorado Trail is only 40 miles short of its full 480-mile length, and if enough volunteers pitch in this summer it will be finished from Denver to Durango by September 1987. Since 1973, week-long crews of 15-30 outdoor devotees have donned hard hats and shouldered Pulaskis to build the trail. Gudy Gaskill of the Colorado Mountain Club (HCN, 8/4/86) spearheads the effort, which included over 450 volunteers from all over the country last year. 1987 crews will be working outside Leadville and in the San Juan Mountains near Durango. Volunteers pay a one-time, tax-deductible registration fee of \$25; the Colorado Trail Foundation and Colorado Mountain Club provide food, hats, tools and a base camp with equipped kitchen. To become a volunteer or to join in the ongoing maintenance and support of the trail write to Friends of the Colorado Trail, c/o Colorado Mountain Club, 2530 West Alameda, Denver, CO 80219.

AVALANCHE

The Avalanche Book by Betsy Armstrong and Knox Williams, is both a popular history of North America's avalanches and a scientific account of the physics of snow. This readable guide also reviews travel through avalanche terrain, survival and rescue techniques and avalanche control. Using examples from past disasters, Armstrong and Williams discuss decision-making and risk-taking for mountain travelers and conclude with a review of avalanche research. Included are a detailed bibliography, a list of avalanche hotlines and avalanche education centers in the U.S. and Canada.

Fulcrum, Inc., 350 Indiana St., Golden, CO 80401, hardcover, illustrated, 231 pages, \$14.95.

WANTED: LARGE CORRALS

The Bureau of Land Management in Colorado is seeking proposals from people interested in providing huge corrals for wild horses and burros west of the Mississippi. As many as three contracts will be awarded to maintain 3,000-8,000 animals. Bidders must supply corrals, personnel, supplies, loading and unloading facilities, veterinary care and farrier service. Proposal documents become available Feb. 18; contracts will operate from Aug. 1, 1987 through Sept. 1, 1988, without the option of renewal. Currently the BLM maintains over 10,000 horses and burros in holding facilities whose contracts expire in September. For more information, write BLM, Building 50, Denver, CO 80225. Reference contract number YA-551-RFP7-340011.



FOR NATIVE PLANT AFFICIONADOS

A native plant society is forming in Missoula, Mont., and interested students and appreciators of the state's native plants may want to join the founders, who are botanists associated with the University of Montana Herbarium. They say the society will be a vehicle for the exchange of ideas and knowledge and will promote intelligent land use and protection. For information, write Herbarium, Department of Botany, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812.

MAP OF THE WINDS

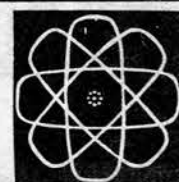
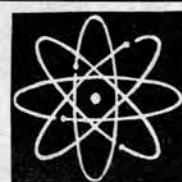
"Circumnavigate the Winds" is an illustrated map of Wyoming's Wind River Range by former HCN graphics chief Hannah Hinchman. The map is a guide to entrances and features of the Winds, with prominent lakes, peaks and drainages illustrated from a bird's eye view, and there are listings for outfitters, travelers' services, supplies and campgrounds. "Circumnavigate the Winds" is available for \$3.50 plus \$1 postage from Adventure Publications at 273 Amoretti St., Lander, WY 82520.

OUTINGS IN UTAH

Canyonlands Field Institute, an educational, non-profit group will sponsor several winter outings, including a float down the Colorado River to count Bald and Golden eagles. The third annual eagle float will wend its way through Ruby-Horsethief canyons on Feb. 28 as guest naturalists and ornithologists lend their expertise, with \$48 covering transportation and lunch. Three hikes are also on the agenda: a four-mile hike to "The Gap" between Professor and Castle valleys along an historic cattle and freighter trail on Jan. 25, a five-mile jaunt through the Upper Salt Wash section of Arches National Park on Feb. 14, and a five-mile hike up the Porcupine Rim of Castle Valley on March 7. For information contact the Canyonlands Field Institute, P.O. Box 68, Moab, UT 84532 (801/259-7750).

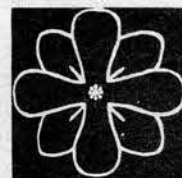
MORE ON THE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY CONFERENCE

The deadline for submitting abstracts of papers to the second international conference on *The Development of Alternative Energy Sources and the Lessons Learned Since the Oil Embargo* has been extended to Feb. 28. (HCN reported Feb. 15 as the deadline for papers, not abstracts.) The conference will be held at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks Sept. 16-18. For further information, call Sundar S. Saluja at 701/777-2584. Abstracts should be sent to Saluja at the Dept. of Geology, Univ. of North Dakota, Box 8068, University Station, Grand Forks, ND 58202.



SIS MEETINGS IN IDAHO

The Snake River Alliance in Boise, Idaho, has created a task force to investigate the Special Isotope Separation plutonium facility the Department of Energy hopes to build at the Idaho National Engineering Lab. Using lasers, the plant would enrich plutonium sent from DOE's Hanford, Wash., facility. The material would then be made into bomb triggers at DOE's nuclear weapons plant at Rocky Flats, Colo. Alliance members say the Idaho facility poses unacceptable risks to people and the environment, including higher cancer rates and long- and short-term contamination of water and soil. The DOE will hold public meetings on the SIS environmental impact statement Feb. 24 in Idaho Falls at the University Place Building, 1776 Science Center Dr., and in Boise at the Red Lion-Riverside Inn. Both meetings begin at 7 p.m. The public comment period is until March 2, and comments can be addressed to Carl Gertz, Project Manager, SIS Project Office, U.S. Department of Energy, 785 DOE Plaza, Idaho Falls, ID 83402 (208/526-0306). To contact the Snake River Alliance, write to Box 1731, Boise, ID 83701 (208/344-9161) or call Liz Paul in Ketchum at 208/726-7728.



A GRAIN OF SAND

In a Grain of Sand is a book of photographs illustrating the interplay of form, function and purpose in natural objects. On adjacent pages are a feather and a feather-like leaf, the skeleton of a sea cucumber and a cholla cactus, a cross-bedded sandstone and an oyster shell. Renowned photographer Andreas Feininger culled the more than 130 striking black-and-white photos from his life's work "to show that common objects of nature on close examination can reveal unexpected qualities that can fill the mind with awe and respect."

Sierra Club Books, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Cloth: \$35. 176 pages.

A CHAPTER 12 PRIMER

A new guidebook to Chapter 12 bankruptcy (HCN, 1/19/86) provides basic information on legislation passed in 1986 that gives farmers and ranchers more control in restructuring debts. The guide is for farmers who want to stay in business but may also be useful to creditors. *Rebuilding Family Farms Through Bankruptcy* contains straightforward explanations and contrasts Chapter 12 with other bankruptcy laws and rebuilding strategies, covering eligibility, costs, reorganization plans and tax effects. It includes three case studies plus a state list of farm-debt phone hotlines. The Center for Rural Affairs, a Nebraska non-profit organization, published the 36-page booklet. The guidebook is \$5 and can be ordered from Center for Rural Affairs, Box 405, Walthill, NE 68067.

KEYSTONE COURSES

The Keystone Science School, headquartered in Old Keystone Village, Colo., has planned several courses this year, including one March 6-8 on the winter ecology of the Colorado Rockies. The workshop is aimed at, but not limited to, educators and will examine mountain ecosystems through classroom sessions and cross-country field studies. Evolutionary ecologist Charles Chase III will instruct a workshop on the ecology and evolution of Rocky Mountain animal communities April 3-5, and the ecology of Rocky Mountain life zones is the subject of another weekend workshop May 15-17. The school is located in a group of cabins built in the 1800s at an elevation of 9,300 feet. For course costs and other information contact Leslie Cancilla at the Keystone Science School, Box 606, Keystone, CO 80435 (303/468-5824).