

High Country News

June 22, 1987

Vol. 19 No. 12

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar

UPDATE ON YELLOWSTONE

Jean Heller, Jackson Hole Guide photo



Park Service Director William Penn Mott talks to Earth First! members

in bear suits during an impromptu visit in a hotel parking lot at

Yellowstone National Park

Mott quietly locks horns with his boss

by Rocky Barker

LAKE LODGE, Wyo. -- U.S. Interior Department official William Horn won't go so far as to support Park Service Director William Penn Mott's call for reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park. But Horn, who as assistant secretary for parks, fish and wildlife, is Mott's boss, said that doesn't mean they're at odds.

"We don't disagree," Horn said. "Bill has a different role. He can be an advocate for the park. Institutionally I have a different role to play."

Horn is also in charge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, whose director, Frank Dunkle, has been reluctant to endorse reintroducing wolves into Yellowstone because of opposition from livestock producers.

Greater Yellowstone Coalition, which held its annual meeting at Lake Lodge.

Mott's call for the wolf's return to Yellowstone was applauded by coalition members. Park Service employees added their applause later when he spoke at a memorial service for Park Service co-founder Horace Albright, and he again called for the wolf's reintroduction. "Wouldn't it be great to hear a wolf howl again in Yellowstone?" Mott asked. Horn said a consensus must be reached before the Interior Department would support reintroduction.

"The grizzly bear program is the success it is now because a carefully built consensus was crafted," Horn said. "Forcing a decision on the wolf plan could even unravel this consensus."

But Mott said support was building. "People are talking about wolf reintroduction, and it seems to me that there already has been some shift in what was once a rigid public attitude against the wolf. That is a major and encouraging development."

Dunkle is expected to sign a wolf recovery plan within a month that recommends reintroduction, Mott said. Then an environmental impact

statement would have to be completed -- an 18-month process, he said.

The wolf issue is one of a number of policy differences between Mott and Horn that have led critics to accuse Horn of trying to usurp Mott's authority at the Park Service. Both men denied it.

Horn said there have been differences, as there are in any bureaucracy. "There are people out there that have been trying to sell a feud between us since before Bill was appointed and I was confirmed," he said. "Bill is no shrinking violet. He cares passionately about these issues. I am no shrinking violet and I also care passionately about these issues. I'm not his rubber stamp and he's not mine."

At the heart of the controversy has been whether park preservation will take precedence over recreational use. Horn argues that the parks can be accessible to more visitors without harming the resources. Mott says visitor use and preservation should be considered equally.

A paragraph of the 1916 act creating the Park Service required the agency to "conserve" the natural resources of these areas while providing for the public enjoyment in such a manner and by such means as

will leave them "unimpaired" for the enjoyment of future generations.

Horn has been working with the Park Service to rewrite its policy manual for carrying out the directives of the 1916 law. He said his staff and Mott's had been "going around" about how that paragraph should be interpreted until he and Mott sat down together and wrote the section of the manual together, about a month ago.

"He and I have jointly agreed to an articulation of what the goal and the mission of the Park Service is," Horn said.

Mott spoke Sunday to conservationists and Park Service staff during a meeting to assess the success of his 12-point plan for park preservation and improvement.

He said that the plan would not have moved forward without the support of Horn and U.S. Interior Secretary Donald Hodel. That plan focused on 32 specific actions that had to be completed to protect the parks and improve the efficiency of the Park Service.

"Some things take longer than others but there has been progress made on more than 90 percent of the action items," said Destry Jarvis,

(Continued on page 10)

Dear friends,



High Country News

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Coming together

Three times a year, the board of the High Country Foundation comes together to review the operation of High Country News. Depending on the meeting, the board sets the budget, evaluates the staff, evaluates its own performance, replaces board members whose terms have expired, or peers into the future. Each meeting is followed by a get-together with readers.

The most recent meeting took place outside Aspen, Colorado, on May 30 at the home of reader Ted Goudvis. Because it was the spring meeting, the subject was long-range planning. The board discussed the territory HCN should be covering by 1990; the potential circulation; the number of pages the paper should have; the staff it will need; the budget three years from now; changes in the mission statement; and the like.

The board also dealt with here-and-now matters, including this column. One board member stated that Dear Friends was too chatty and long, and that as HCN grows, readers come to care less about its inner workings. The rest of the board disagreed. They said the family feeling was both important and integral to the newspaper, and that the Dear Friends column was one way in which that feeling was expressed.

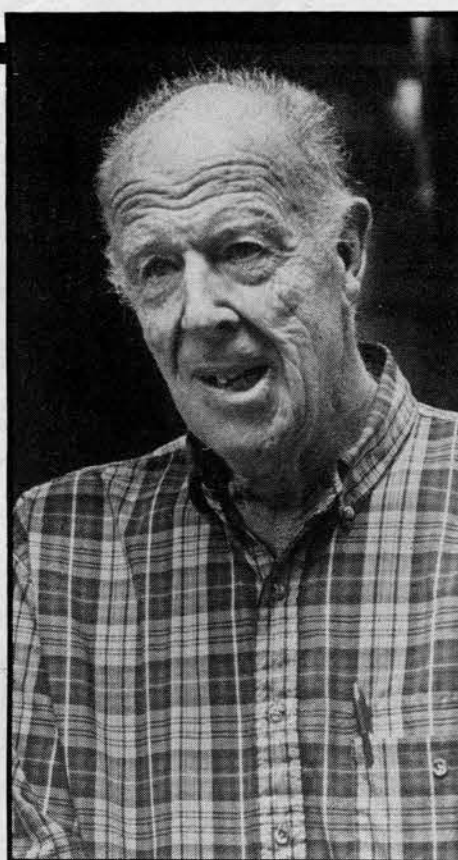
The board also said it would like to see more op-ed writing and overview essays. That opinion was reinforced by a letter to the staff that happened to arrive just before the meeting from Philip Fradkin, author of *A River No More*. He wrote in part: "Every once in a while, HCN lets loose with a regional overview, such as 'The West's Top Stories: Land, Land, Land.' More of that needs to be done. Knit the region together... No one else is doing that and you are in a unique position to observe and report from within the region."

Fradkin also had a complaint: "As an author, I hate to see book reviews kissed off as short notes for the Bulletin Board.... Not Fair. Bring back Peter Wild. The books that you select to be reviewed should be able to complement, and put in perspective, what you are covering in HCN on a more immediate basis."

The meeting was held in a perfect place, with a perfect host. Ted Goudvis' handsome oak house is a comfortable home, but it also functioned well for the HCN board. There was plenty of space for the 14 people at the meeting, whether we were huddled around the ping pong table debating HCN's future, eating or sleeping.

Normally, the post-meeting get-togethers are potlucks. But Ted was good enough to volunteer to feed the 65 or so people who showed up at a cookout. Many were familiar faces; all were familiar names. The only problem was finding our way after dinner from the streamside cookout location (it was either Castle or Conundrum Creek) back to the house in the pitch dark. Fortunately, the two tipis that serve for overflow lodging made landmarks in the dark night.

The staff is always grateful to board members and readers who come to the meetings and to the



Ted Goudvis

parties afterwards. The advice and oversight is of great help. But equally important is the emotional support. Publishing HCN can be frustrating. The fact that people are willing to come together every four months to pay attention to the paper demonstrates in the flesh the support that underlies the paper.

Attending this meeting were board president Adam McLane of Helena, Montana, Garrett Ray of Fort Collins, Colorado, Robert Wigginton of Boulder, Colorado, Bill Hedden of Moab, Utah, Sally Gordon of Kaycee, Wyoming, John Driscoll of Helena, Andy Wiessner of Denver, and Tom Bell of Lander, Wyoming.

'We care!'

Several readers have contributed subscriptions to High Country News to various schools in the region. We hadn't expected the payoff to come for many years, but a recent issue of the *Aspen Times* in western Colorado contained the following:

Dear Editor,

We, the Aspen Middle School's 5th and 6th grade talented and gifted class, would like to thank you (the

Photo by Judy Moffatt

anonymous donor) for your special donation. We just received our first issue of High Country News and are excited about what we have read so far. We appreciate your generosity and we are glad that you understand the project's purpose; we care about the West a lot!

Thank you for sharing this environmentally oriented paper with us. We look forward to educating ourselves as well as others with our knowledge.

Sincerely,
5th and 6th grade TAG Class
and Mary Owens

'Simple' is coming

We have received inquiries about the book form of the four special issues HCN published last fall on western water. It is due to be published in late August by Island Press. Those interested in ordering copies of *Western Water Made Simple* should contact Joanne Gibbs at Island Press, Star Rt. 1, Box 38, Covelo, CA 95428 (707/983-6432).

Visitors

The summer season brings a steady flow of visitors to the HCN office in Paonia. Paul Starrs, a fellow in the Bancroft Library at Berkeley, and a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Geography, stopped in on his route home after a swing through the West. Paul is working on the relationship of the federal government to ranching in the western United States.

Hot on his heels were Ted Gies and Diane Sontag of Eugene, Oregon. They are on a three-month investigation of the peace movement in rural, out-of-the-way places for the Peace Movement Assessment Project, or Peace MAP. They report that the peace movement is vibrant and growing in small town USA, with the most common activity the silent vigil. They will publish their findings in a three-part journal available for \$6 from Peace MAP, P.O. Box 11583, Eugene, OR 97440.

--the staff

HOTLINE

Geneva deal is in the works

After nearly four months of negotiation, Basic Manufacturing and Technologies of Utah has reached a tentative agreement with the USX Corporation (formerly U.S. Steel) to buy the Geneva Steel Works in Orem, Utah. The deal with USX was made May 29, but will not be complete until Basic Manufacturing secures a labor agreement with the United Steelworkers Union. However, the *Deseret News* reports those talks are moving at a snail's pace and haven't touched on the critical issue: whether the steelworkers will accept lower wages, possibly in return for a share of the re-opened plant's profits. Neither Basic Manufacturing nor USX have disclosed the sale price of the Geneva Works. Meanwhile, a U.S. District Court dismissed a class-action suit filed on behalf of 700 ex-Utah steel workers who were seeking \$1 billion from USX in punitive damages and loss of wages, benefits and pensions. Steel workers' attorney Allan Young said

he will re-file the suit immediately, but this time will change it from a class-action suit to one that lists each worker and the specific damages suffered. Young told the *Deseret News* the number of plaintiffs would drop to about 500 and damage claims to \$500 million.

A Wyoming disaster

Wyoming Gov. Mike Sullivan has asked President Reagan to declare two contaminated subdivisions north of Gillette, Wyo., a disaster area. The subdivisions have been plagued by methane and hydrogen sulfide gas that finally forced 650 people to evacuate their homes earlier this month. Sullivan said federal funds were needed because the state could not afford relocation costs for 170 families. The governor also asked the state's Department of Environmental Quality to probe any connection between gas seeping into the subdivisions and a nearby Amax coal mine. A recent study by Campbell County, however, turned up no linkage.

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Jaguar is slaughtered in southern Arizona

Although Arizona once supported a small population of jaguars, sightings of the animals have become so rare that the big cat is now thought extinct in that state. Still, reports of sightings are frequent enough to keep hope alive that *El Tigre* may return to the area its ancestors called home in the 1920s.

A sighting is reported about once every five years, according to Dave West, regional investigator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. But "about the only way we get a confirmed sighting is when the animal is killed," West said. Last December, a report came in to the state on its "silent witness" line, which protects people giving anonymous tips. The report said there was a jaguar in the state's remote Chiricahua Mountains, southeast of Tucson. The cat, however, was dead.

The killing of the latest jaguar to visit the Chiricahuas is a common topic of conversation in the nearby small town of Wilcox, Ariz., according to investigator West. "A number of people say they saw the dead animal... and they're willing to talk about it." But no one is willing to talk for the record and claim a \$4,000 reward, he added.

"I've had an awful lot of people from the community call and tell me what they know," said John Perry, law enforcement specialist for Arizona Game and Fish. "But before we can arrest someone, we need either the fruits of the crime, a witness or a confession. So far, we have none of these."

"In a small town like Wilcox, it's hard to get someone to come forward in a case like this," West said. "They know they're going to keep running into whoever they turned in."

"We're dealing with people who are afraid of retribution," added Bill Powers, who heads the state's Operation Game Thief Program.

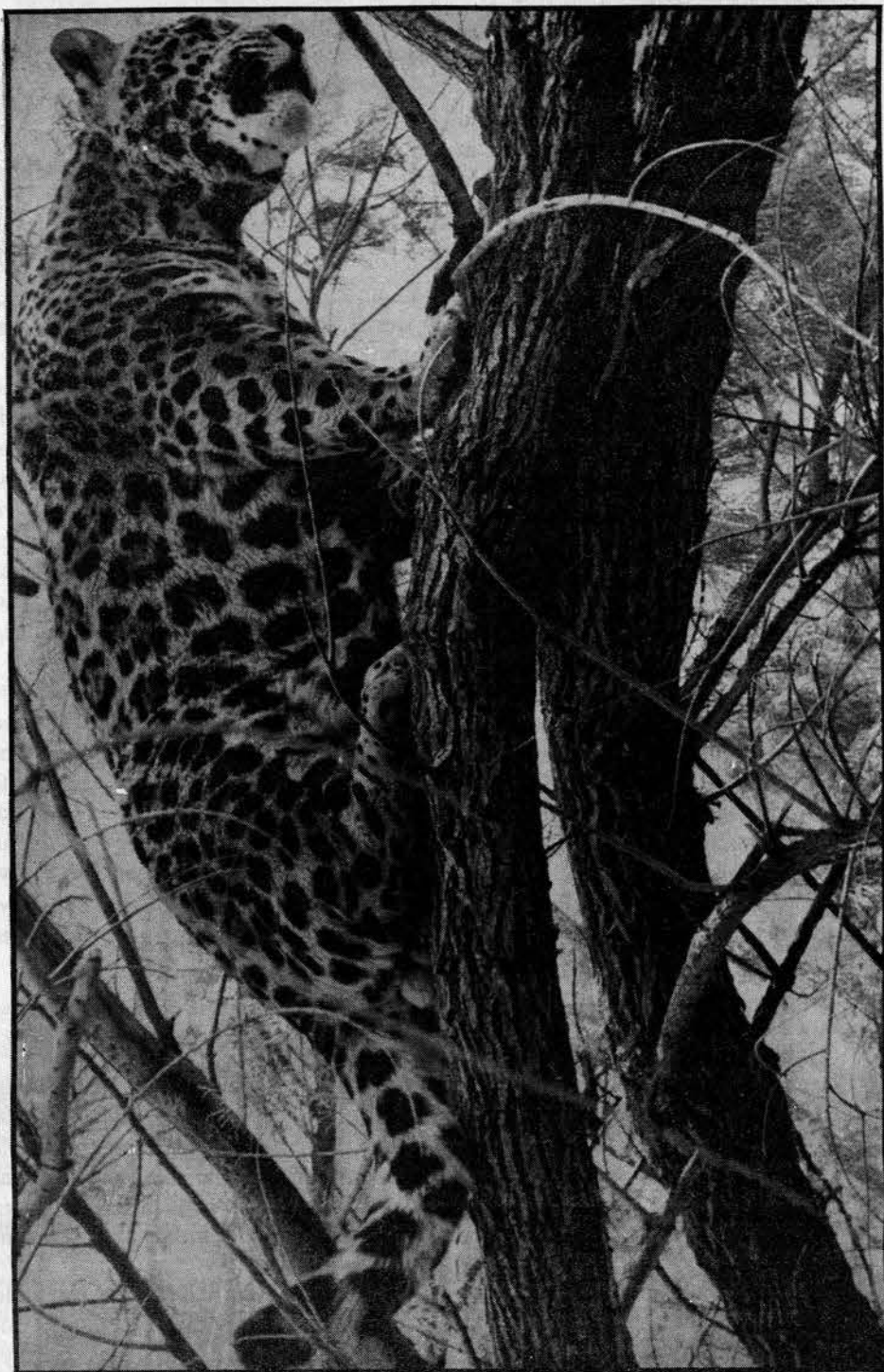
The result is a stand-off. "We can't be 100 percent sure, but we think we know who did it," West said. Game and Fish was confident enough about its information to approach a local rancher and tell him he was suspected of the crime. He rejected the chance to "come clean," West said. West added that the person suspected has a reputation for "being bad times" for those who cause him trouble.

"That family is old west, believe me," said Frances Werner, a member of the Arizona Fish and Game Commission. "The fear is real."

Steve Johnson, southwestern representative for Defenders of Wildlife, a conservation group, wonders why no one from the ranching community has stepped forward to tell what they know about the incident. "I have heard there are even photos of the animal," he said. "The fact that none of the ranchers has said anything indicates to me that they support this sort of thing -- that the only thing they want out there is cows."

Authorities are reluctant to talk about the details of the incident because the investigation is still underway. Reportedly, however, the jaguar was tracked for as many as 10 days by a hunter with hounds. As the chase neared its end, an

Arizona Game and Fish Dept.



accomplice brought in a fresh pack of dogs that was able to corner the animal until it could be shot.

Game and Fish officials speculate that the jaguar was a young male who strayed north from Mexico in search of a territory not already occupied. Mexico still has a viable population of the animals. Possibilities that the cat escaped from a "canned hunt," in which jaguars are imported illegally into the U.S. and then released to be hunted down by a rich client, were dismissed because no instances of that practice have been reported for several years.

In spite of the reluctance of witnesses to testify, Dave West thinks the person or persons responsible will be caught. "In the long run, five years down the road, I feel we'll end up prosecuting the guy," he said.

Although jaguars are listed by the federal government as an endangered species, the killer of the Chiricahua jaguar may not have been in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The act describes the jaguar as an animal that lives and is endangered "from Mexico southward," said Rick Leach, senior resident agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Tucson.

Arizona law lists the jaguar as a threatened species and prohibits killing them. A violation of the state ban is a class II misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$750 and up to three months in jail.

A conviction under Arizona law could put the guilty party back in trouble with the federal government

even though the Endangered Species Act may not apply. The federal Lacey Act forbids the possession of wildlife taken illegally, and if a violator is convicted under Arizona law, he or she could be subject to an additional federal fine of up to \$20,000 and a year in prison.

In spite of this web of laws, the record of convictions in the case of illegally taken jaguars is not good. The last confirmed sighting of a jaguar in Arizona took place in 1971. In that incident, another young male cat was killed by two teenage duck hunters near the Arizona-Mexico border town of Nogales. The two juveniles were acquitted on a plea of self-defense even though they shot the animal to death in a cave where it had taken refuge after they had blinded it with birdshot.

Meanwhile, another of the rare cats has reportedly been sighted in southern Arizona. "So far, that sighting hasn't been confirmed," Jerry Perry said.

--Dan Dagget

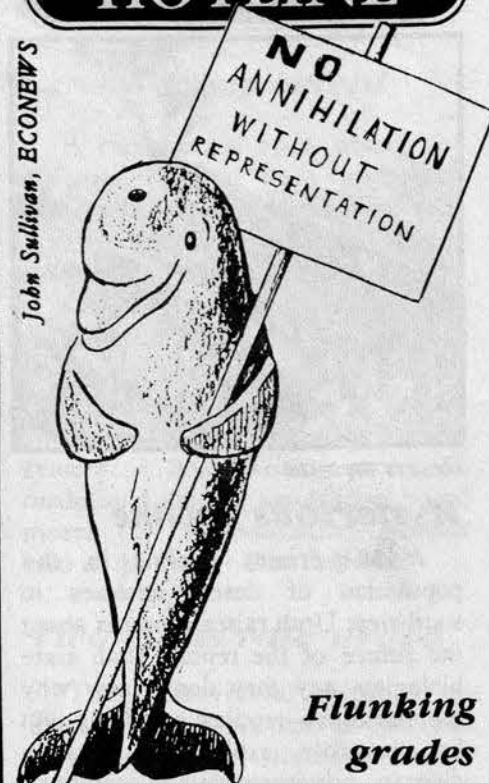
BARBS

A connection we hadn't thought of.

A spokesman for a forestry trade group said recently that roadless areas must be opened for development because "wilderness is like herpes. Once you get it, it's forever," said Joe Hinson at an annual convention of Montana loggers.

HOTLINE

John Sullivan, ECONEWS



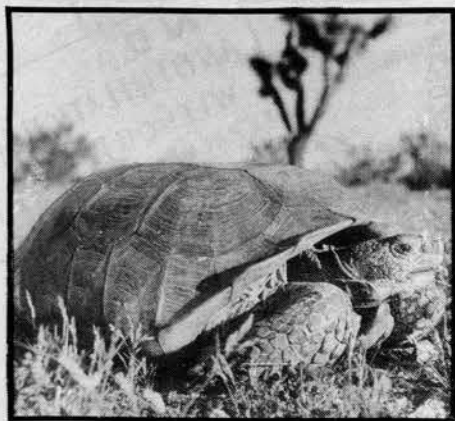
Flunking grades

Defenders of Wildlife recently issued a 28-page report on the status of the federal program to rescue endangered species from extinction. The group also issued a "report card" that awarded the Reagan administration an "F" in 1987 and 1988 for proposing funding of endangered species programs at half the level recommended by Defenders and a coalition of 28 other conservation organizations. The administration earned another "F" for trying to eliminate federal grants to states for cooperative work in saving endangered species. At the current listing rate, Defenders says it will take more than 20 years to list the 950 known qualified species. In addition, Defenders President Joyce Kelly, who worked for 10 years for the Department of Interior, was highly critical of the department for its proposed reorganization of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The reorganization would disperse listing and recovery functions to regional offices, she said, weakening the effort. Copies of the report *Saving Endangered Species*, are available for \$7 from Defenders of Wildlife, 1244 19th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Resort and grizzlies don't mix

A study just released by the Forest Service may block the proposed Ski Yellowstone resort three miles west of Yellowstone National Park. The agency's biological assessment concludes that cumulative impacts from building a year-round resort with skiing, golf, a marina and permanent village for up to 6,000 people would jeopardize grizzly bears and bald eagles. The resort at the southern tip of the Madison range near Hebgen Lake would be in prime spring, summer and fall grizzly habitat. It is also a preferred nesting area for bald eagles. The biological assessment reverses a 1977 study that concluded Ski Yellowstone would not harm grizzlies. Both local Yellowstone and national environmental groups protested that study, saying it was based on incomplete data. The Forest Service was then forced to re-write its assessment to look at cumulative impacts. Ski Yellowstone developer John Hall, who was granted a permit to build the resort in 1982, has not said whether he will proceed. Copies of the study are available from Bob Breazeale, Forest Supervisor, Gallatin National Forest, P.O. Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771.

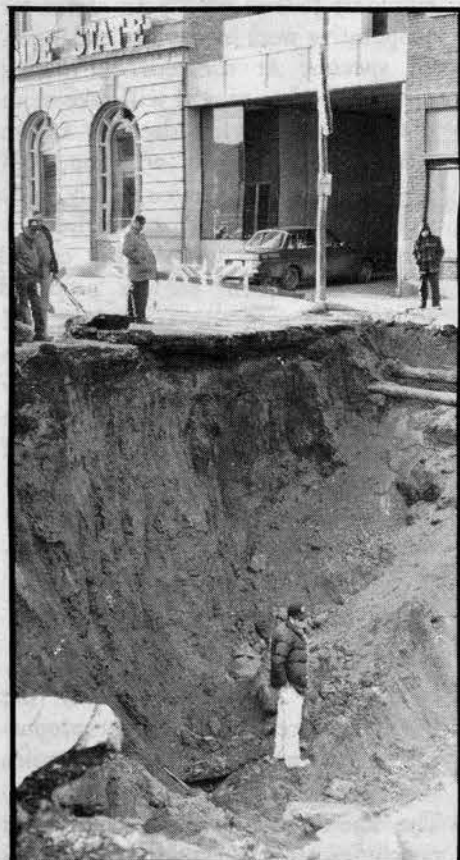
HOTLINE



Desert tortoise

Mysterious decline

A 50-percent decline in the population of desert tortoises in southwest Utah raises concerns about the future of the reptile. Utah state biologists say they don't know why the harmless reptiles are dying out but possible explanations include disease, adverse weather conditions and residual effects from radioactive fallout. The conservation group Defenders of Wildlife says the real culprit is cattle grazing, which fosters invasion of exotic plants that offer poor nutrition for the tortoise. The result is that the animals starve to death. Although more research is needed, funding often goes to high-visibility animals such as the grizzly bear and wolf, says Bob Ruesink of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Subsidence in downtown Rock Springs, Wyo., a few years ago

A subsiding problem

Wyoming property owners now have some help when the ground under their feet gives way. Thirty-nine homeowners in Rock Springs have already received payment from the state's mine subsidence insurance program for damage that occurred two years ago. Subsidence occurs over time but can appear suddenly on the surface as a small hole, cracks in walls or a large 10-foot-deep sunken area. In 1986, Wyoming received a federal grant of \$3 million to establish the insurance program, joining West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Colorado, which already offer subsidence insurance. Local insurance agents will write the coverage. For more information write Department of Environment Quality, Herschler Building, 4th West, Cheyenne, WY 82002.

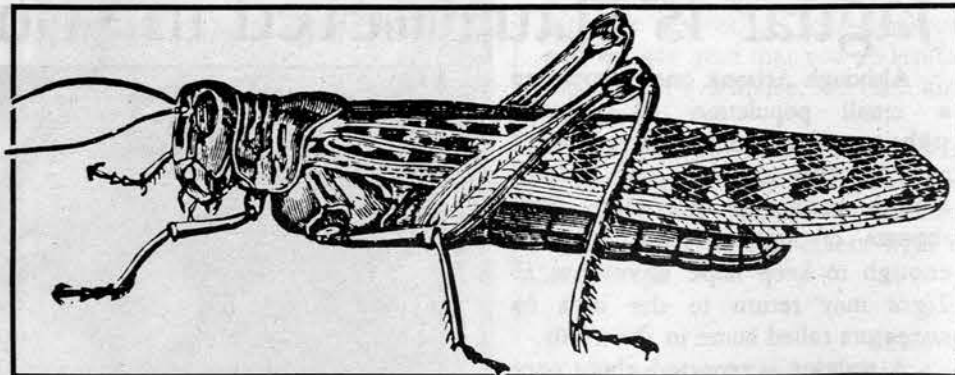
Nosema is a magic bullet against hoppers

Biological pest control works; *Nosema* kills grasshoppers. And now even the Department of Agriculture believes that *Nosema locustae*, a microbe that cause disease and death in most species of grasshoppers and crickets, is an effective weapon in the war against hoppers.

It was not always so. Before 1986, Agriculture Department officials labeled *Nosema* ineffective and refused to authorize its use in their annual cost-share control program. In 1985, for example, they doused almost 14 million acres in the 17 Western states with chemical pesticides despite pleas by individuals, environmental organizations and public agencies such as the Idaho Department of Agriculture to include this benign pest control.

It was protests against the massive 1985 spray program and the public comments received by the government to its grasshopper control environmental impact statement that made converts of the agency.

"We considered the public comments and made that change," says Agriculture Department staffer Charles Bare of the Hyattsville, Md., office. "The comments did bring in



new data or provide a different interpretation of published data."

"*Nosema* is now one of the strategies recommended to the landowner under the cost-share program," he continued. "We just printed the new EIS, and we're trying to move to an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) program for grasshoppers that includes biological and chemical controls, as well as changes in range management."

In 1986, the Agriculture Department tried *Nosema* for the first time on about 15,000 of the 7 million acres treated in total. The success of the tests and generally positive results of other trial uses -- by the BLM in Idaho and Colorado State University, for example -- convinced the government to accept *Nosema*. Now the

agency is beginning a five-year demonstration project designed to refine the IPM approach to grasshopper control.

This is all good news for Evans Bio-Control of Durango, Colo., presently the only grower and marketer of *Nosema*. In 1986, Evans sold their entire stock, enough *Nosema* to cover 100,000 acres, and Steve Heising, marketing director for the company, says they had to turn down more orders than they were able to fill. Now refinanced and renamed -- they were known previously as Colorado Insectaries -- Heising expects the company to raise enough *Nosema* this year to cover 1 to 1.5 million acres.

--Bill London

Congress hears an Indian cry for help

Depressed oil, gas and coal economies and federal budget cuts have hurt Indian tribes in the West, with essential services being cut back or eliminated.

To fund those services, some tribes are beginning to levy taxes that apply not only to Indians, but also to non-Indian businesses and residents on reservations. These new taxes are controversial, and have put the question of Indian self-rule and sovereignty in the spotlight.

The Blackfeet of northwestern Montana are among the 80 out of 287 federally recognized tribes that levy some form of tax on reservation businesses and residents. The Blackfeet reservation lies in the shadow of Glacier National Park's majestic mountains, but the Indian land is on flat, sometimes desolate plains below the peaks.

The main industries are tribal government and the Blackfeet Writing Company, which makes pens and pencils. But neither business nor government provides enough jobs to keep Indians working. "At times, unemployment here reaches 80 percent," says Earl Old Person, Blackfeet chief and tribal council chairman.

Because of a soft energy market, the Blackfeet Tribe now collects two-thirds less in oil and gas revenue than it did in 1980, according to Elouise Cobell, the tribal treasurer. Just as significant, she says, is the 60 percent cut in federal money to the tribe since 1980.

To compensate, in January 1987, the tribe levied a tax on utilities that pass through the reservation. This tax by Indians on non-Indians angered people on and off the reservations. Among their objections was the way the tax was imposed: The tribe did not hold public hearings until after it was in place.

Bill Chapman, general manager of Glacier Electric Co-op, says he was shocked in mid-January to read

in the newspaper that his co-op would face a \$100,000 annual tribal tax. Chapman says Glacier Electric Co-op believes the tax is discriminatory because it applies primarily to utilities that are within the reservation boundaries.

He also says it is double taxation because Glacier Electric Co-op already pays taxes to the county. Chapman says the co-op plans to raise electric rates, meaning everyone on the reservation and all customers in the five other counties the co-op serves will pay an extra \$10 a month.

The co-op plans to pay both the tribal tax and the county tax under protest, which means neither the tribe nor the county can use the money. James Nelson, Glacier County attorney, says that puts the county in a tough predicament. "The county's revenues will be seriously affected as will the county's ability to provide the legal mandated services."

It is a dilemma because the tribe has the legal right to levy such taxes. "The tribal power to impose a tax as a government activity has been sustained by the courts ever since the turn of the century," says Margery Brown, who teaches tribal law at the University of Montana. "It has been described by legal scholars as a right of tribal self-government."

The Reagan administration has said repeatedly that if tribes want to be treated like sovereign nations they must take care of themselves and their own financial affairs. Earl Old Person, Blackfeet tribal chairman, says levying taxes is one way Indians can exercise this sovereignty. "We're constantly told by the government, 'We want Indian people to start determining for themselves,'" says Old Person. "But when the tribe starts doing something in that line, they are told, 'You can't do that.'"

The Blackfeet are not alone. The

Crow Indians in southeastern Montana are proposing a tax on a range of non-Indian activities; Indians on the Fort Peck Reservation in northeastern Montana have levied a special use tax on businesses that use tribal land.

The backlash against the taxes has led Sen. John Melcher, D-Mont., and Rep. Ron Marlenee, R-Mont., to introduce bills to put a two year moratorium on new Indian taxes while a presidential commission studies the issue.

"It seems like it had to take something like this to make Congress take notice of the fact that the tribes need help," says Earl Old Person, who has been Blackfeet tribal chairman for 30 years.

But the help could come at a high cost. The U.S. government considers Indian tribes as separate and sovereign, but dependent, nations.

Some Indians, like Blackfeet attorney Joe McKay, worry about the result of congressional debates on tribal taxation. "Any time Congress has to tell us what to do, it is a limitation on our sovereignty."

But Glacier County Attorney James Nelson says, "If Congress wants tribes to be sovereign, Congress ought to be the appropriate agency to supply money. You can't just dump that on local government, but that's what Congress has done. And the tribes have dumped it on a few taxpayers, and that's not fair."

--Jyl Hoyt

BARBS

Beware the pencil with a vested interest.

Colorado Public Service, a front range utility company, has been handing out free pencils emblazoned with the message, "Dry your clothes the efficient way. Natural Gas -- your best energy choice. Wash lines are for the birds."

Williams pushes hard for a wilderness bill

A recent public hearing on a Montana wilderness bill revealed that although the state's conservationists are willing to cooperate with Democratic Rep. Pat Williams, development interests are not.

Conservationists who spoke at the early June hearing on Williams' newly minted wildlands bill, "The Montana Natural Resources Protection and Utilization Act," praised the congressman for his efforts and urged him to add additional acreage to the proposal. Mining and livestock industry spokesmen said they wanted no new wilderness designations, and timber industry representatives said they were reluctant to support the bill because it would close sawmills.

But all sides agreed that the stalemate over wilderness in Montana has gone on too long. Most other Western states have decided which of their Forest Service roadless areas should be wilderness and which should be released for other management. According to Williams, the Helena forum was the 10th hearing in Montana since 1979 on wildlands legislation.

In April, Williams unveiled his proposal to designate as wilderness 1.3 million of Montana's 6.1 million acres of Forest Service roadless lands. He also recommended national recreation area status for 353,000 acres, and temporary protection for 378,000 acres until watershed and land-swap studies are completed. After four years of trying to reach agreement on a unified bill with the other three members of the state's delegation -- a process that was stymied by Republican Rep. Ron Marlenee's veto -- Williams decided to strike out on his own.

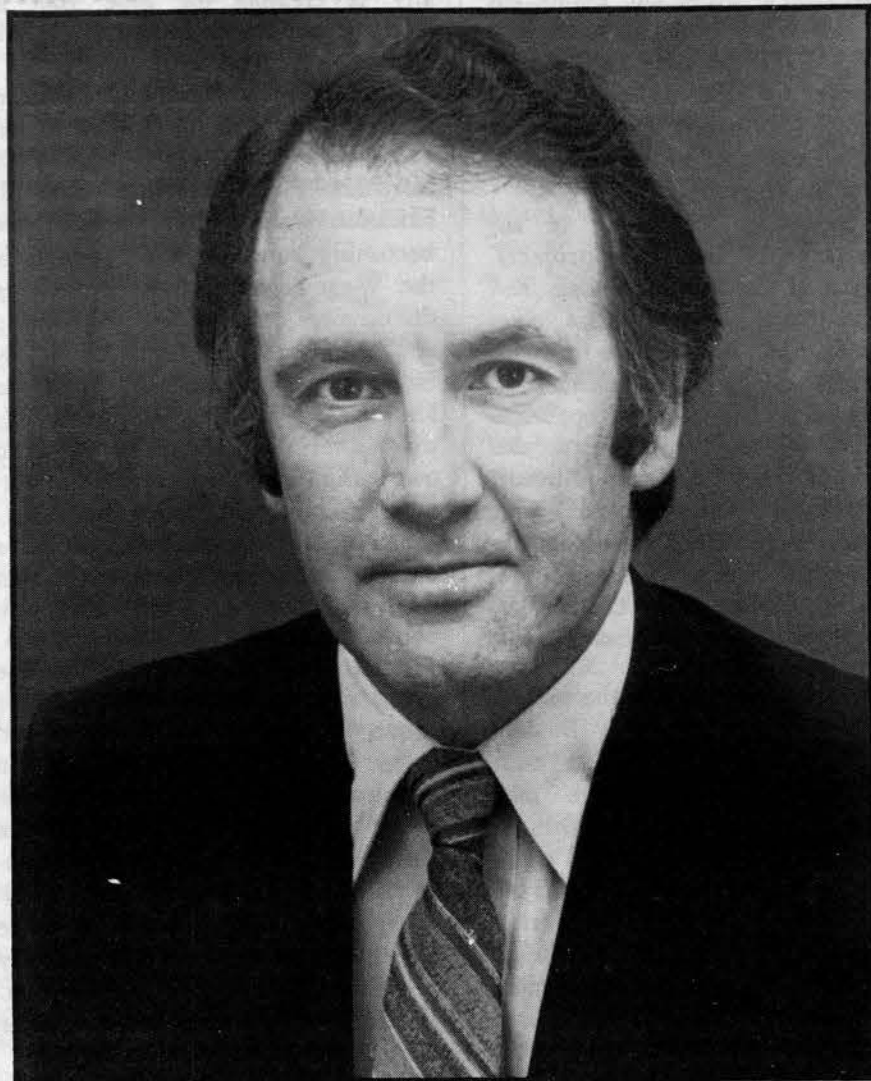
Expressing frustration with the consensus process, Williams told the hearing audience he was taking his bill to Congress without the blessing of the rest of the delegation.

"I'm changing the process. No more backrooms. No more deals.... Let's do it the old fashioned way. Let's vote," he said.

Most conservationists asked Williams to increase the wilderness acreage in his bill to 2.8 million acres, saying wilderness designation contributes greatly to Montana's thriving tourism industry. Robert Schapp, spokesman for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, said it would be "economic suicide" for southwest Montana if many of the roadless lands in the Gallatin National Forest were logged for the industry's "insatiable appetite for cheap subsidized timber."

Royce Satterlee, speaking for the Stotze-Conner Lumber and Land Company, which has three sawmills in Montana, disagreed. He said timber jobs were more important than tourism jobs and that "it is unethical of the preservation community to come back for more wilderness just because these lands are roadless." Satterlee also called for declassifying existing wilderness areas.

Development interests told Williams the bill should be modified to guarantee that roadless areas released for non-wilderness are never considered again for wilderness. Williams said devising such language has already proven to be politically difficult, and he asked for a more



Rep. Pat Williams

acceptable solution. Finally, after being badgered further on the release question, Williams said he would ask Congress to look at the issue again.

Williams continually stressed that his bill was a jobs bill because it could end the uncertainty over what roadless lands would eventually be developed. He castigated timbermen and mining representatives for not supporting him, but it was the off-road-vehicle groups that raised his temperature.

After Bob Bushnell, president of the Montana Snowmobile Association, complained that Williams was slighting snowmobilers in the bill, Williams lost patience. He rattled off a long list of areas he said he wasn't

recommending for wilderness because he was told they were important ORV areas, then asked Bushnell angrily: "How in the hell do we satisfy you?"

Williams, who is determined to get a Montana wilderness bill passed this year, said he would consider changes to his legislation as long as recommendations were backed with facts. He said Rep. Bruce Vento, D-Minn., chairman of the House National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee, will visit Montana this month to look at some of the areas in the bill, and that the House Interior Committee will hold a hearing on the legislation June 30.

--Bruce Farling

HOTLINE

Censors may relent

A controversial book about Yellowstone National Park apparently will go on sale this summer in park visitor centers after the author threatened a lawsuit over censorship. A subcommittee of the Yellowstone Association reversed an earlier stance and recommended that Alston Chase's book, *Playing God in Yellowstone*, be available in the visitor centers. A final decision won't be made until the full association board meets July 1, association officials said in the *Casper Star-Tribune*.

Two Forks vote urged

The controversial proposal to build the Two Forks dam in Colorado may face another formidable hurdle (*HCN*, 5/25/87). Because the dam would destroy a blue ribbon fishery the Colorado Chapter of Trout Unlimited says it is a state issue and should be subject to a vote in the 1988 general election. Trout Unlimited president Bruce Hoagland says the project might also cost as much as \$1 billion and burden state taxpayers. The dam's sponsors, the Denver Water Department and Metropolitan Water Providers, say the reservoir would cost only \$505 million -- including mitigation -- and would be financed primarily by the sale of bonds secured by water sales. Hoagland says taxpayers need the right to approve or disapprove the project and its financial risks.

Hostile in Montana

A hostile group of ranchers meeting in Helena, Mont., last month ridiculed a Park Service plan to re-introduce wolves into Yellowstone National Park. Delegates to the Montana Stockgrowers Association told park officials they are certain wolves will overrun park boundaries and kill their livestock. Park biologist John Varley said wolves would not leave the park since there is plenty to prey on within its boundaries.

Montana wilderness may host silver mine

ASARCO Inc. asked the state of Montana May 7 for a permit to develop one of the country's largest silver mines. The mine entrance would be a half-mile from the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, with a portion of the mine running under the wilderness in northwest Montana.

The company's application said researchers found 153 species of animals in the area during a study conducted from October 1984 through October 1985. Grizzly bears and bald eagles, both endangered species, were observed as well as bighorn sheep, black bears, deer, elk, goats, moose and mountain lions.

The mine is expected to produce approximately six million ounces of silver annually. The Rock Creek project would be five miles northeast of Noxon and 30 miles northwest of Thompson Falls in the Kootenai National Forest.

ASARCO said its mine would operate 24 hours a day and produce 3.6 million tons of ore a year over

the project's potential life of 40 years. ASARCO estimated that each ton of ore would contain 1.65 ounces of silver, coming from an ore zone more than two miles wide and 27 feet thick. The company would

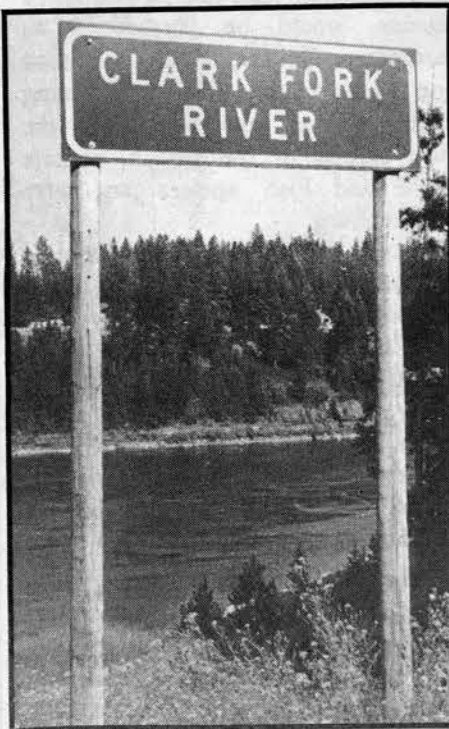
employ the "room-and-pillar" method of mining, which leaves large columns of rock standing in mined-out rooms.

The application said it would take 3½ years to develop the mine, with a peak employment of 564 during construction and an operating force of between 305 to 355.

Once the company's application is complete, state and federal officials have said they will coordinate an environmental impact analysis.

For more information about ASARCO's proposal, contact Ron Erickson, Forest Service project coordinator, at the Forest Service office in Libby, Mont., 59923, or the Clark Fork Coalition, a conservation group concerned about water quality in the Clark Fork River. ASARCO's tailings ponds are slated to be built less than a mile from the river; the company also plans to discharge its waste water into the Clark Fork. Judy Hutchins, president of the coalition, can be reached at 406/847-2717.

--John Holt



HOTLINE



Lions are the target

New Mexico's Game and Fish Commission is in hot water following what many say was an illegal picnic. Four of the five commissioners took an unpublicized horseback trip to the Guadalupe Mountains, where they met for a barbecue with ranchers who want the state to kill more mountain lions. The picnic was hosted by rancher Debbie Hughes, who petitioned Game and Fish last April to extend mountain lion control to the area surrounding her ranch. Soon after the horseback ride and picnic the commissioners approved new rules allowing "preventive" killings of mountain lions without requiring proof that a particular cat killed livestock. The regulations brought immediate criticism and charges of foul play from conservationists. Gov. Garrey Carruthers admitted the commissioners had erred, and state Rep. Max Coll, D-Santa Fe, asked the state's attorney general to block any lion killings because of possible violations of the Open Meetings Act. The attorney general declined, saying that violations of the law appeared inadvertent.

Oil shale dispute

Congress and the Reagan administration are still at odds over oil shale. Early this month the House overwhelmingly approved a bill sponsored by Colorado Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, D, which stopped the Interior Department from repeating last year's controversial sale of 82,000 acres of oil shale lands at the 1920 price of \$2.50 an acre. The Senate must still vote on the bill, but if it passes, President Reagan is expected to veto. Another bill, passed by the Senate 94-1 in May, bans Interior from further oil shale land transfers until March 31, 1988. That bill, co-sponsored by Sen. Tim Wirth, D-Colo., and Sen. John Melcher, D-Mont., won't block Interior from processing 10 land claims, covering some 14,000 acres in Colorado, that were pending when the bill passed. There are over 260,000 more acres of oil shale lands still at stake in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

BARBS

This governor may do for Arizona's Democratic Party what former Interior Secretary James Watt did for the Sierra Club, reports the Denver Post.

Republican Gov. Evan Mecham of Arizona says women should stay in the home, the income tax should be abolished, and most federal land should be under state control.

U.S. Senator sees green coalition forming

Colorado's freshman Democratic Sen. Tim Wirth brought some good news to 125 people gathered in Montrose for the seventh annual meeting of Western Colorado Congress, a coalition of environmental and consumer groups.

Pronouncing the death of any more large reclamation projects, Wirth said conservation had now become a byword for farmers, cities and industries. Although a recession continues to plague Colorado, he continued, it also opens up opportunities to expand businesses that depend on the state's natural beauty and resources. Hunting and fishing generate more than \$1 billion, he said, while skiing accounts for another \$1 billion; the recreation and tourism industry is Colorado's single largest employer.

The message is clear, the senator from the college town of Boulder said: Federal land managers must shift budget priorities from road building on the national forests to trail building and campground maintenance. As economic emphases shift, Wirth added, conservation coalitions such as Western Colorado Congress can work to join sportsmen, conservationists and small businesses in common cause. "Economic neces-

sity is creating the glue that is pulling groups together," Wirth said.

Speakers the next day included former WCC Director Teresa Erickson, who now heads Montana's Northern Plains Resource Council. Erickson warned that "people are becoming an endangered species in the West because of the increasing dominance of corporate ownership and the increasing flight of family farmers." She urged support of the Harkin-Gephardt Family Farm Act that limits concentration of farm ownership. Later, the coalition adopted a resolution supporting the bill.

Representatives of the coalition's eight member groups talked about their activities during the year, with one mentioning a broadened focus. The San Juan Citizens' Alliance, the group's newest member, said it chose health care as its principal issue. Tom Campion of Durango, in southwestern Colorado, said the group gathered 1,500 signatures on a petition urging the county to continue funding home-health care. Although a public vote on the issue failed, the county then found money in its budget to fund the program. WCC provided staff to help organize the petition drive.

Water politics took on new importance to the coalition this year with the applications by Aurora on Colorado's populous Front Range and the Natural Energy Resources Company to divert water over the Continental Divide. The coalition and its member group, High Country Citizens' Alliance of Crested Butte, filed formal objections and are now mired in the water courts along with dozens of other objectors.

Tom Easley, the coalition's lobbyist at the state Legislature, reported on successful efforts that defeated Mountain Bell's request for deregulation and reduced the phone company's 1986 rate increase. The coalition and member groups also worked for designation of the lower Gunnison, Elk and Yampa rivers as wild and scenic and pushed the state air quality commission to force a clean-up of air pollution emitted from Louisiana Pacific's waferboard mill in Olathe.

Resolutions adopted for the upcoming year included support for urging utility companies to spend less on energy promotion and more on developing conservation programs and opposition to a proposed cyanide heap-leach mine on Red Mountain.

--Gary Sprung, Betsy Marston

Black-footed ferrets born in captivity

Six black-footed ferrets, considered the most endangered mammal, were born last month at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's captive breeding facility near Laramie. Only 18 mature black-footed ferrets are alive, and are all in captivity at the Wyoming Sybille Wildlife research unit.

Relieved state biologists say the population of endangered ferrets could double quickly. Of the 11 females, nine bred this spring and seven may be pregnant. Game and Fish officials won't know for sure until July 4th, after the last of the seven pulls out of its gestation period, but they hope for another two litters within the next two weeks.

Game and Fish veterinarian Don Kwiatkowski is the only human yet to see the baby ferrets. He says they are healthy, growing and appear to be nursing. Because wild black-footed ferrets are thought to be poor parents, biologists worry that the mother, named Becky, might reject or refuse to nurse her young. In case that occurred, domestic ferrets, bred simultaneously with their endangered cousins, would be introduced as surrogates. So far, Becky is doing fine even though she is a young mother at one year old and is the most skittish of the bunch, reports Game and Fish spokesman Larry Kruckenburg.

The father of the litter, dubbed Scarface, lived alone in the Meeteetse, Wyo., colony for four months after other ferrets from the dying colony were captured. He is the only mature male of the remaining population and the only one biologists suspect has had "breeding experience." Scarface mated with four females after being captured.

The Meeteetse colony, which numbered over 120 when first discovered, was devastated in 1985 by a canine distemper outbreak and then plague, which infected the ferret's prey, prairie dogs. The 18



survivors were captured last fall in an attempt to rescue the ferrets through untied captive breeding (HCN, 9/29/86).

The state's draft ferret recovery plan lists two main steps for recovery of the animals. The agency says it wants to sustain a population of 200 breeding adults, targeted for 1991, before it begins re-introducing the ferrets into the wild. Then it hopes to return 50 ferrets a year to the wild and establish two viable populations in Wyoming with at least 20 breeding adults each by 1996.

The old Meeteetse colony will be the first site to receive the animals, but even in the best-case scenario, two more generations of ferrets would be raised in captivity before they are returned home. "The grand-kits of the ferrets born this week would be the first to be re-introduced into the wild," says Kruckenburg. These newly born kits are the key to all future ferret generations, he adds.

If two or three more litters are born this summer, Game and Fish may have enough breeding stock to establish a second captive breeding program in a separate, as yet undetermined, location. The success at captive breeding, while a major

event, does not guarantee the species will survive. Game and Fish biologists must carefully manage the breeding populations to maintain maximum genetic diversity. Previous studies show that ferret colonies reach an optimum size of about 500 animals, and then start to die off from inbreeding. To avoid inbreeding will require extensive monitoring, stud books and other records, says Kruckenburg.

For now, Game and Fish is trying to keep the ferrets' instincts sharp. The captive animals are fed dead prairie dogs, but the staff also tosses in live hamsters to keep hunting instincts alive. Training rooms for hunting and exercise are being added on at Sybille for the years before the animals can be returned to the wild.

--Steve Hinchman

HOTLINE

Judge takes a tour

The judge who has been hearing the case involving a county's attempt to rebuild the 66-mile Burr Trail in Utah travelled the dirt road June 8. Accompanied by attorneys for Garfield County and a coalition of conservation groups, Federal Judge Aldon Anderson drove from the town of Boulder to Bullfrog on Lake Powell, returning by paved road to Hanksville. Conservationists maintained in court that the road's primitive character is a large part of its beauty. The trail travels through two wilderness study areas and Capitol Reef National Park. The county argues that a better road will draw more tourists. In March, the judge issued a preliminary injunction halting any further road work on the Burr Trail; on July 9, the judge will take up requests from both sides for summary judgment on the matter.

LETTERS

A CONTINUING DEBATE

For readers who are late joining this long-running debate over the Dolores Project in southwestern Colorado, we provide the following update:

1. In the March 20, 1987, issue, freelancer Jeanne Englert reported on a lawsuit she said had been filed by dryland farmers in southwestern Colorado. The object of the lawsuit was to release them from the obligation to buy water from the Dolores Project.

2. In the April 27, 1987, issue, Frank E. (Sam) Maynes, Durango-based attorney for the Dolores Water Conservancy District and other entities in the area, said there is no lawsuit.

3. In the May 23, 1987, issue, Englert wrote that while there is no lawsuit, there has been filed a notice of intent to sue. She added that with a few exceptions, the dryland farmers' petitions to take Dolores water were invalid because of lapses by the directors of the Dolores Water Conservancy District.

Now comes Sara Duncan, an associate of Maynes, with this latest letter.

ENGLERT IS WRONG

Dear HCN,

Jeanne Englert continues to refer to a lawsuit that has NOT been filed against the Dolores Water Conservancy District. Her most recent misrepresentation was published in the May 25, 1987, letters to the editor column. Unless and until she gives you the case number of the action she alleged was filed in her previous article, I suggest you may wish in the interests of accuracy to silence her.

Additionally, she bloviates on "valid contracts" between the Dolores Water Conservancy District and the farmers. She states "and the truth" is that "none of the dryland farmers' petitions...are valid contracts to buy water..." We have already learned that Ms. Englert's view of the truth is based neither on fact nor fairness. Further, in this particular instance, Ms. Englert is giving a legal opinion although to our knowledge, she has never been admitted, attended, studied nor practiced law. She is also incorrect as to the waiting period before a lawsuit

may be filed. Surely there must come a point when the editorial board determines your space is more valuable than to continually publish opinions (disguised as fact) of which the writer is totally ignorant.

HCN has the opportunity to focus on legitimate and important issues of environmental concern. Why do you continue to obfuscate debate by publishing inaccurate and misleading drivel?

Sara Duncan
Durango, Colorado

The writer is an attorney with Frank E. (Sam) Maynes in Durango, Colorado.

NO ONE IS RIGHT

Dear Mr. Maynes, Ms. Englert and Ms. Duncan,

In an effort to call off this endless stream of letters, I called Boulder, Colo., water attorney John Musick. He is one of the two attorneys representing the dryland farmers who are attempting to get free of the Dolores Project water. Musick said:

"Jeanne Englert is mostly correct and Sammy Maynes is mostly incorrect. No lawsuit has been filed, but the process has been set in motion. Sammy's hanging on a technicality. We can't file a lawsuit without going through this process first."

The "process," Musick said, consists of filing a Notice of Claim for \$11.5 million on behalf of the farmers against the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation, et al. That notice was filed Nov. 29, 1986. On May 11, 1987, David Grayson, regional solicitor for the Department of Interior, sent a denial of claim. Musick said his clients now have six months to either file a request for reconsideration or to bring a lawsuit.

So, there is no lawsuit. On the other hand, a claim for \$11.5 million in damages has been made and the administrative steps toward a lawsuit have begun. Jeanne Englert should have been precise in her first story. But her letter was more or less correct.

Musick, by the way, said the proceedings toward a lawsuit may be moot because of a lapse on the part of the Dolores Water Conservancy

District back in 1977. According to Musick, the district did not properly accept the petitions the farmers submitted requesting water from the project. Now, Musick said, he understands the district is scrambling to fix that oversight.

In other words, Musick backs Englert's contention that most of the contracts are invalid. Musick may be wrong, but he is an attorney. Because we cannot find "bloviates" in our dictionary, we can not tell if Duncan is challenging Englert's allegation that the contracts are invalid. But, as we read Duncan's relevant paragraph, she is enraged that a non-lawyer is issuing opinions on contracts, yet she never comes out and says the opinion is wrong.

I should say that it is HCN's policy not to reply to letters to the editor except to apologize for mistakes. But, as long as I'm breaking that policy, let me break it wide open and bark back to Maynes' letter of April 27. He ended it with:

"In conclusion, let me state that underlying the First Amendment of the Constitution guaranteeing freedom of the press is the assumption that the press will attempt to print the truth in order to protect the peoples' right to know. Your readers deserve the truth."

That last paragraph reminded me of a tour I took of southwestern Colorado on July 21-26, 1985, with a group of journalists, educators and bureaucrats, almost all from the East. The tour was arranged by the Energy and Minerals Field Institute of the Colorado School of Mines.

I was surprised that while we saw a lot of Maynes and other proponents of the proposed Animas-LaPlata Water Project, we never met with the project's opponents. Those opponents were not shy or unknown. They had sued the conservancy district in federal court, had caused the Colorado Legislature to pass a law to shore up the project, and had gained much publicity.

How was it, I asked the tour's young organizers, that the opponents weren't there to give their side? Why did the tour only see, at several separate stops, people who favored the project?

Finally, after I'd asked the question about 20 times, and in a more and more public and harangu-

ing manner, the organizers confessed: "Mr. Maynes told us that if we had any of the TAR people (the group that opposed and opposes Animas-LaPlata) speak to the tour, he and his supporters wouldn't appear."

Clearly, Maynes succeeded in bluffing young, inexperienced students. That's legal. But people who go to great lengths to prevent both sides of a story from being told shouldn't write righteous, hectoring, lecturing letters about the "peoples' right to know."

Ed Marston, Publisher

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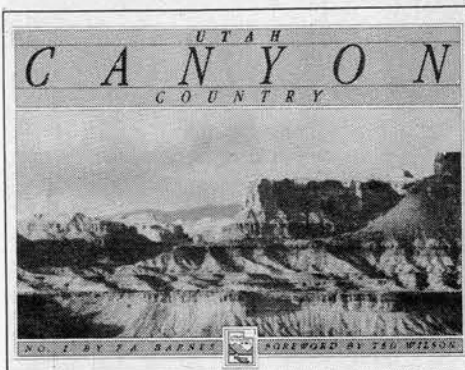


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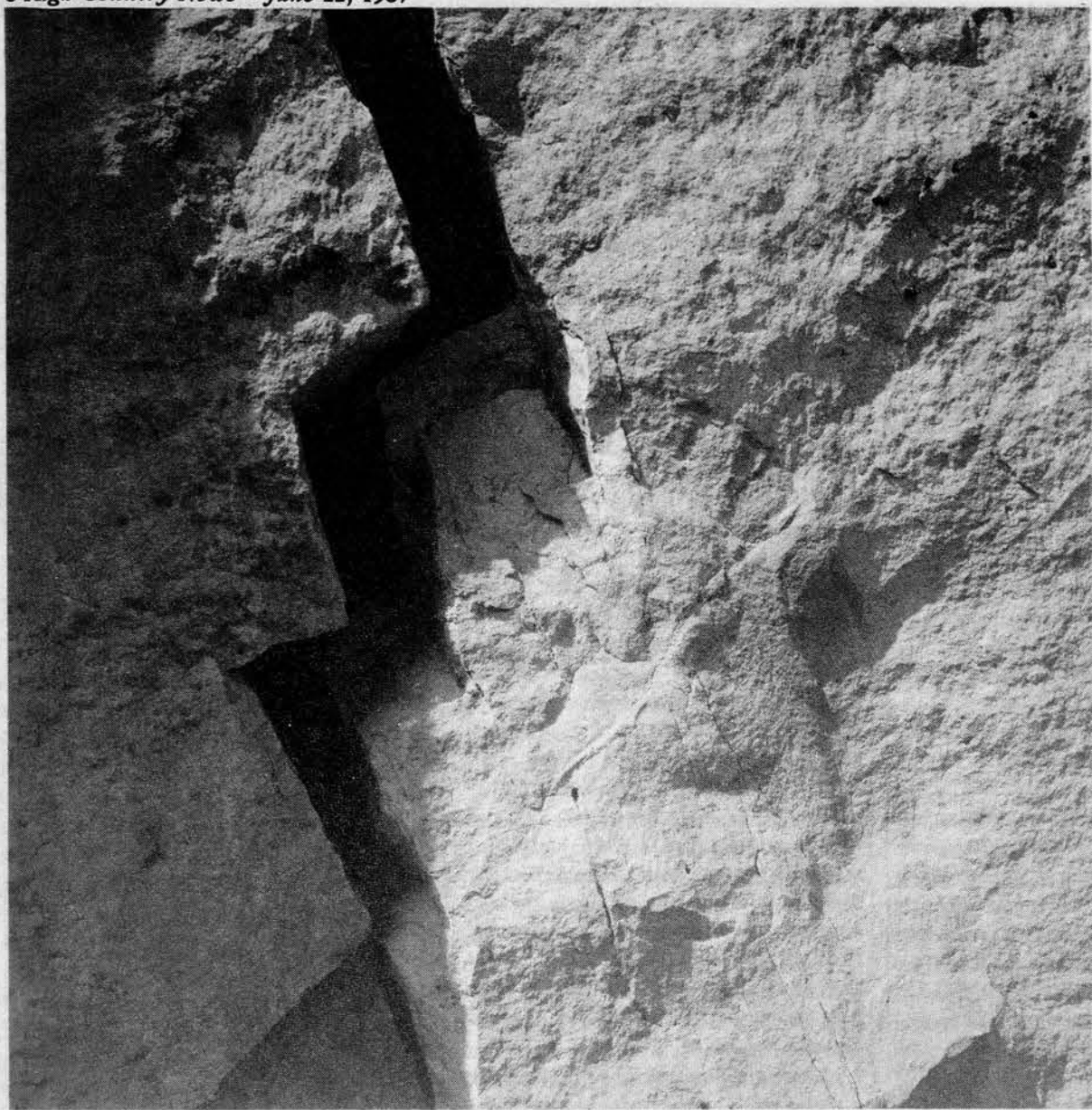
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If you are considering a bequest to HCN, consult your lawyer on the type of provision to best meet your needs. A bequest, however, can be simply stated, "I give and bequeath to High Country Foundation, presently at 124 Grand Avenue, Paonia, Colorado 81428, _____ dollars (or _____ shares of [corporation] stock, or _____ percent of my residuary estate)." A bequest can greatly reduce estate taxes, increase and perpetuate support for HCN, and still provide for one's family.

If you have questions about making a bequest or adding a codicil to your will, please write Ed Marston, Publisher, HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, P.O. Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428.

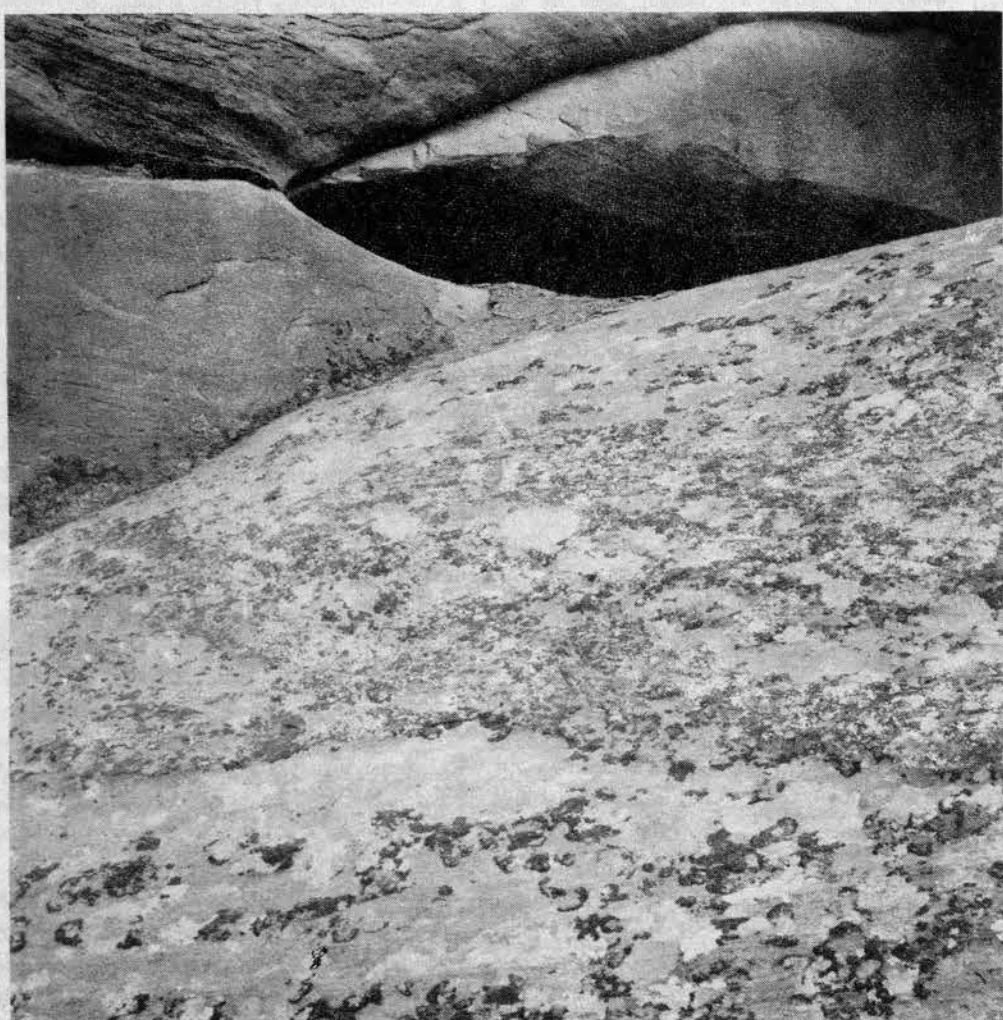
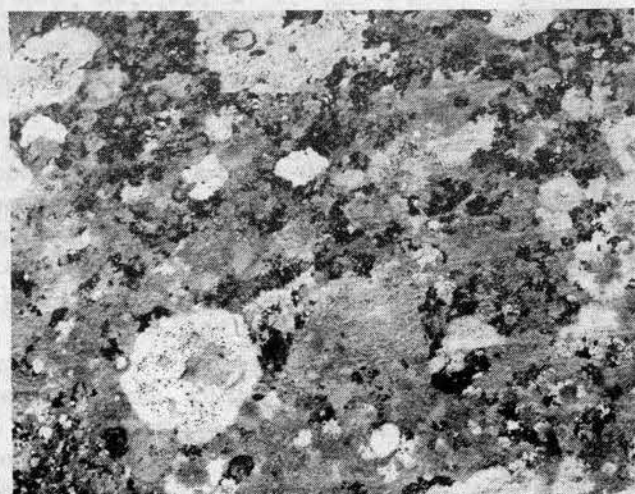
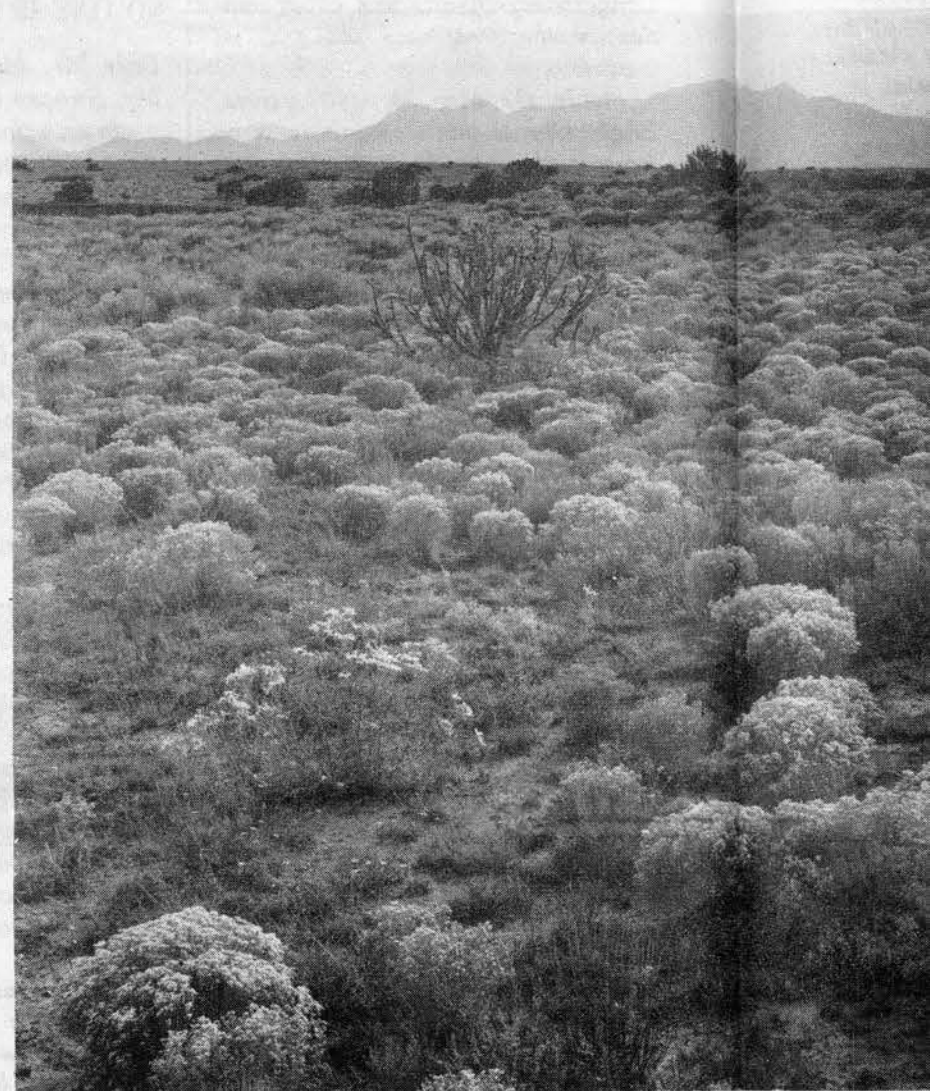
And, if you do decide to include HIGH COUNTRY NEWS in your will, won't you let us know?

8-High Country News -- June 22, 1987



ON SEEING NATURE

"...as any child knows, to see nature is an awful lot to learn, and it is always too soon to stop."

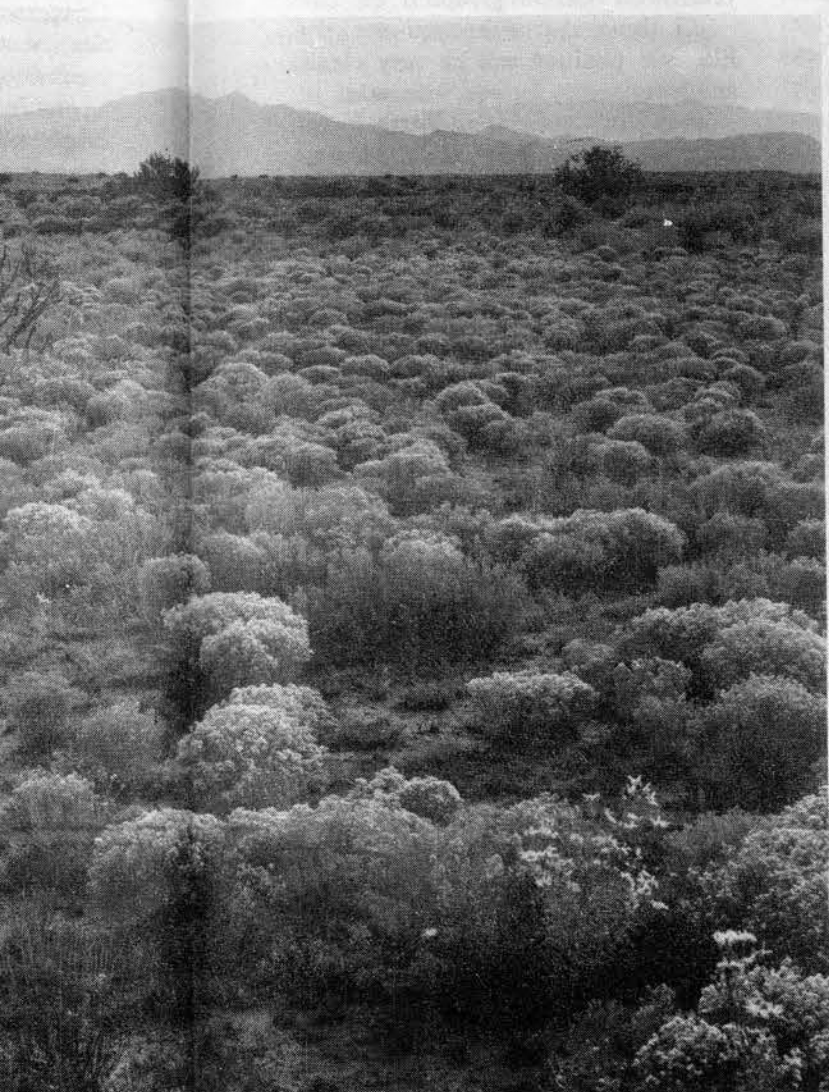


"In order to see nature we must hear her, smell her, taste her and feel her. We must begin to realize that the nature we wish to know, to see, is as much a part of us as we are of it. We must see with more than eyes."

ING NATURE:

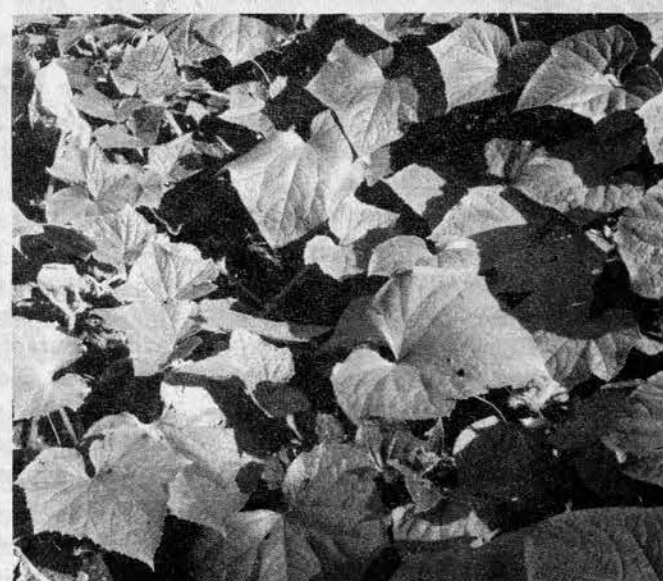
ld knows, there's
o learn, and it's
on to stop exploring."

- Steven Meyers

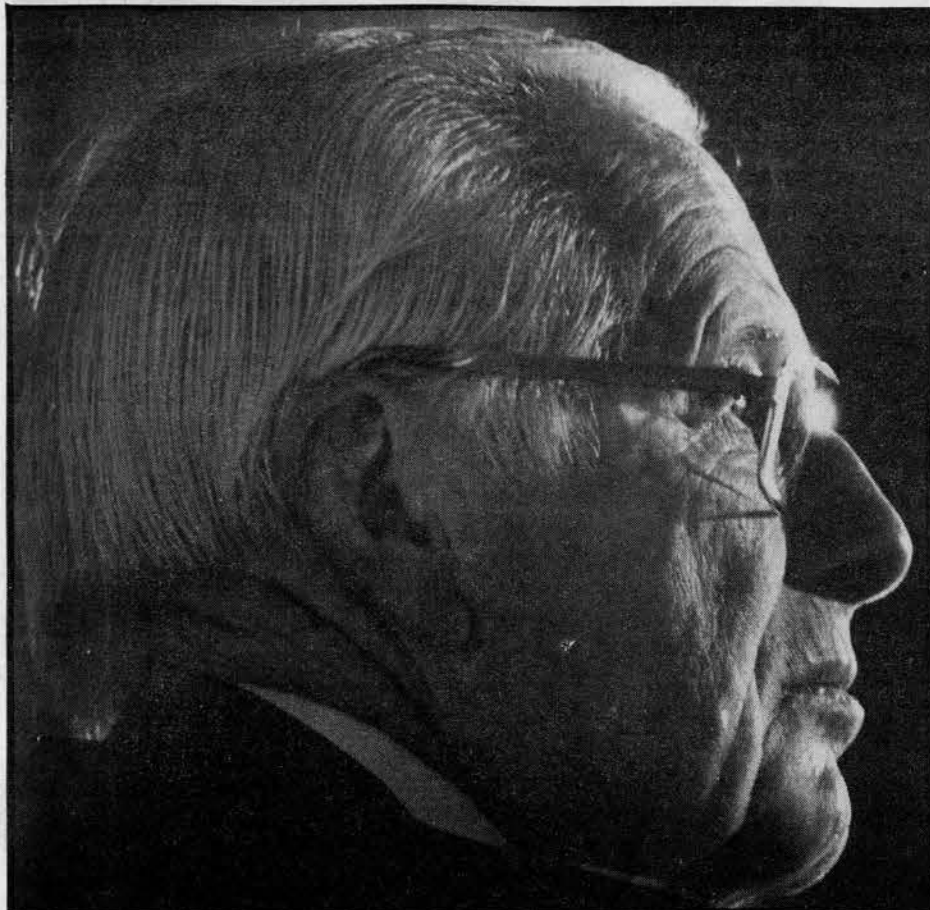


On Seeing Nature, by Colorado photographer Steven Meyers, explores seeing as an art, as an ability we lose as we limit our perceptions in attempts to categorize and analyze. Using 42 black and white photos as examples, Meyers shares his own journey as he tries to recapture seeing as a child again -- with clarity and wonder.

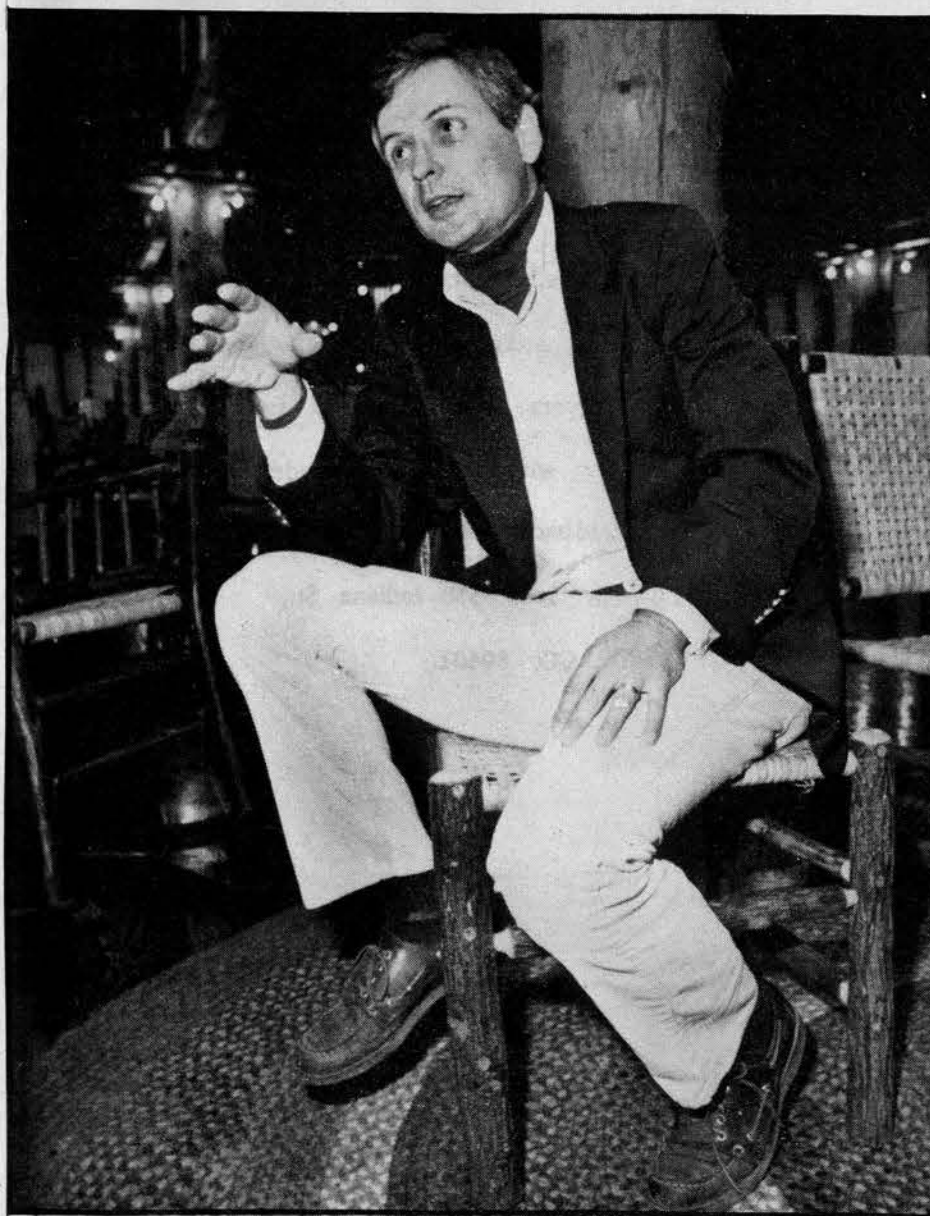
The hardback book is published by
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Mott urges Earth First!ers to don wolf costumes, too



William Penn Mott



William Horn

Mott...

(Continued from page 1)

National Parks and Conservation Association executive director.

Mott announced studies of park personnel needs, possible day-care needs for visitors and of its overall ecological management policy. The personnel study will be done in four parks, including Yellowstone. It will "look at whether we have the right number and the right mix," Mott said.

Day-care needs will be studied in some parks to decide whether it's feasible. Mott said single-parent

families have increased and the parks should meet their special needs.

"Single parents want to come to the national parks to have an experience by themselves," he said.

Overall, the agency must increase its education efforts so that the nation's urban population will enjoy and support the national parks. Many of these people come out of an environment of "noise and confusion," Mott said.

When they come to the national parks they find night sounds that are scary and a quiet environment that is unfamiliar, he said. "We have to educate people to enjoy this environment."

William Penn Mott, director of the National Park Service, held an impromptu meeting last weekend with members of the radical environmental group, Earth First!

When the 25-minute meeting in the asphalt parking lot of the Lake Hotel in Yellowstone National Park ended, nothing substantive had changed, but Mott told the group: "You just keep doing what you've been doing, and we'll get the job done together."

Members of Earth First! were in the Lake area to continue their quest for the closure of the Fishing Bridge camp just north of the hotel. They want campgrounds closed because they are in prime grizzly bear habitat.

The campground had about 30 of 60 available camping units filled following a federal judge's decision against a motion by the National Wildlife Federation and its Wyoming affiliate to close Fishing Bridge. The groups had asked for a temporary restraining order to close the campground until an environmental impact analysis is completed. Grizzlies like the area, and between 1966 and 1983, 31 bears were killed or moved from the area after run-ins with people.

Mott came out of the Lake Hotel after lunch on Saturday and walked over to where the demonstrators had put up anti-Fishing Bridge signs and donned bear costumes.

"How are you?" the director asked, and shook hands with Don Jackson, an Earth First!er from Big Sky, Mont., who was wearing one of the bear suits.

As the protesters gathered around Mott and Denny Galvin, deputy director of the National Park Service, the director encouraged

them to continue their efforts on behalf of the grizzly.

Mott then chided the protesters. "Why aren't you out here in wolf costumes helping us push for reintroduction of the wolf?" he asked.

"That's next week," one member of Earth First! promised.

A good deal of the meeting was consumed by debate over the future of Fishing Bridge. The draft environmental impact statement on the matter is due out in July to be followed by a 60-day comment period and a decision by the end of the year, Mott told the group.

"I think that when you see the EIS, our position will be very clear, and satisfactory for you," he said.

But Jim Coefield, an Earth First! member from Missoula, Mont., pointed out, "With appeals of your decision and maybe lawsuits that have to go through the courts, you could be taking three years or more until the decision is implemented."

"We have to work through the political and legal systems," Mott replied. "In that we have no choice. We can't just step outside the system and take arbitrary action."

"We do," one Earth First! member said.

When Mott finally excused himself, saying he had to finish a speech he was scheduled to give to the GYC that evening, one Earth First! member said, "I think I've just been subject to political rhetoric."

But others suggested that Mott's agreement with some of their goals and his encouragement to continue their activities actually gave the group new credibility.

"We've left the realm of the crazed hippie and entered the world of civil disobedience and legitimate protest."

--Jean Heller

Coalition gains momentum

A year ago the Greater Yellowstone Coalition concluded its annual meeting amid discord and strife, its checkbook in as big a shambles as its membership.

But at the end of this weekend's traditional spring gathering at Lake Lodge, coalition leaders say the organization is back on its feet.

Discontent grew last year over the firing of director Bob Anderson and the board's refusal to say why he was let go. Some said later the coalition needed a stronger fundraiser at its helm, and the man ultimately chosen was Phoenix attorney Ed Lewis.

Lewis, who moved to Bozeman Dec. 8 to begin work, said the coalition appears sound today. "Our membership has more than doubled from approximately 600 a year ago to more than 1,300. If you count couples, we've got more than 1,600 people."

Lewis said the organization's funding problems appear to be over and he has a budget of \$215,000 set for 1987. Fundraising through the first four months is 20 percent ahead of that program while expenses are running below budget.

John Winsor, one of the coalition members who was outspoken at last

year's annual meeting, found himself elected to the board and serving as secretary-treasurer after joining the Anderson protest. "I think over the year, there's been a great healing process," Winsor said.

Lewis said one of the aims of the coalition has been to share work with conservation groups around Yellowstone, an effort which has been successful.

One such effort was a review of the Bridger-Teton draft forest plan, which was done by West Coast economic consultants for the coalition and the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning. The review criticized the Bridger-Teton's computer modeling and the Forest has since admitted to deficiencies and will revise its document.

Lewis said the coalition is involved with planning on other forests, with wolf reintroduction and with the Montana and Idaho wilderness bills.

Outgoing board president Hank Phipps of Jackson said the four-year-old coalition is well on its way. "We have become a credible voice," he told the meeting. "We have changed the context of (federal) management."

--Angus Thuermer

Yellowstone under a microscope

Researcher M. Lynne Corn had never been to Yellowstone National Park until late May and had never seen a grizzly bear.

Yet her analysis of management in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem for the Congressional Research Service has made her and co-author Ross W. Gorte authorities on both. The analysis, prepared at the request of two congressional committees, is critical of federal land management of the 13-million-acre land mass that makes up the largest intact ecosystem in the temperate zones of the earth.

It is one of at least four reports focused on the ecosystem that have been completed or are near completion. The Corn-Gorte analysis and a Yellowstone Blueprint, being prepared by agencies that manage lands in the ecosystem, grew out of congressional hearings on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem conducted in 1985.

Two other studies, prepared for environmental groups, are critical of management in the 10 million acres of national forests that surround Yellowstone National Park. But it is the Corn-Gorte analysis that has raised the most controversy. The two researchers analyzed information provided during the hearings and in response to a long series of questions and data requests made of the various federal and state agencies with authority within the ecosystem.

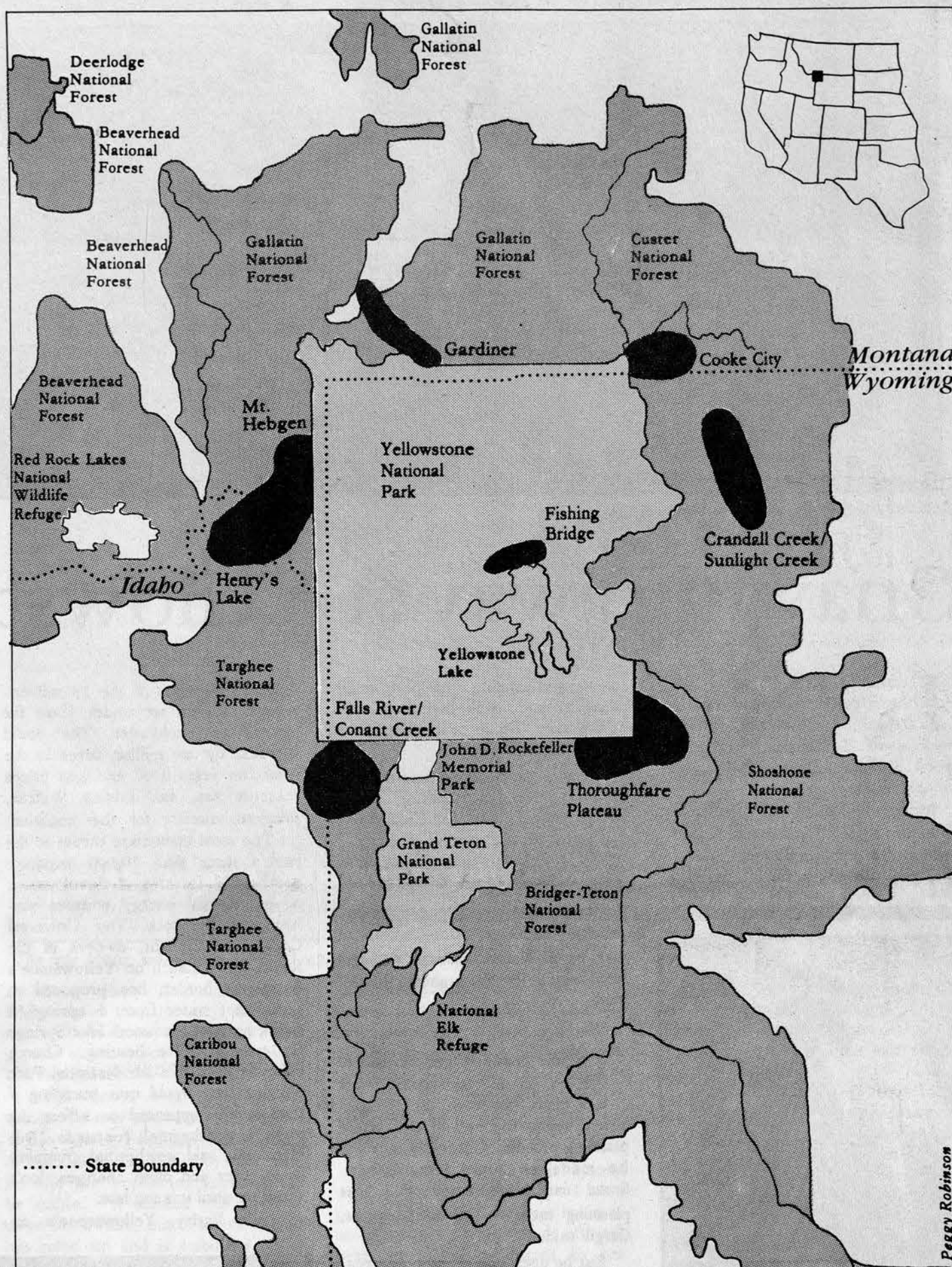
Their findings suggest:

- Managers do not have adequate information to make informed decisions.
- Existing boundaries hamper comprehensive, coordinated understanding and management.
- Existing coordinating committees focusing on single animal species fragment and duplicate planning efforts.
- Recreation is the most important economic activity, providing more money and jobs to the region than timbering, grazing, oil exploration or mining.
- Access and roads have the largest detrimental effects of any development, harming fish and wildlife habitat.
- Location and timing of human presence in the ecosystem are important in evaluating impacts of the activities on the ecosystem.

Perhaps the most controversial section of the Corn-Gorte analysis is its discussion of grizzly bears. It identifies seven areas where grizzly deaths have been concentrated in the last decade. These "mortality clusters" are called in the report "black holes" -- places where grizzlies have often run into conflicts with humans, and not emerged alive.

The seven areas include West Yellowstone, Mont., and the Idaho border area; the Falls River-Conant Creek area on the southwest corner of Yellowstone; Gardiner, Mont.; Fishing Bridge in Yellowstone; Cooke City, Mont.; the Sunlight Basin on the northeast corner of Yellowstone in Wyoming; and Thoroughfare Plateau in the Teton Wilderness on the southeast corner of the park.

The analysis also said the current "management situation" concept used for grizzly management misrepresents what is good grizzly habitat



GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM AND SEVEN "BLACK HOLES" FOR GRIZZLIES

and is not useful in protecting grizzlies from human-caused deaths.

Bob Barbee, Yellowstone National Park superintendent, said the authors drew inferences about management policies without ever talking directly to the managers themselves.

"It was a very biased effort," said Barbee. "They didn't do their homework. Not one single contact was made with anyone in Yellowstone." The report also criticizes agencies for their lack of quality data on grizzly mortality. It said the only two agencies that collected mortality data for the entire area had widely conflicting totals.

"That was just a bum rap," said John Varley, Yellowstone's research chief. "On the case of the grizzly mortality, we do have a single clearinghouse or a single set of numbers. They just didn't contact that person." Barbee said public agencies are fair game and while he disputed many of the report's conclusions, "I'm not saying all the report was off base."

The Yellowstone Blueprint, an aggregation of management plans written by the seven national forests, two national parks and other agencies in the ecosystem, is designed to show the state of the area today and forecast how it will look in 10 to 15 years.

"It's going to paint a picture that's going to surprise folks," said John Burns, Targhee National Forest supervisor. "It will bring to the forefront the factual situation instead of the emotional one that it's going to wrack and ruin." Burns notes that the draft blueprint shows differences in standards for collecting and recording data among the seven forests in three separate Forest Service regions. "But I think we find that the management is pretty well coordinated."

The Gallatin and Targhee national forests allow oil exploration in prime grizzly habitat with restrictions. But the Shoshone, Custer and Bridger-Teton do not allow any exploration in these areas. Forest managers use

various indicator species for assessing the quality of certain timber types and habitats. Cutthroat trout, for instance, are important to many species including grizzlies and bald eagles. They also indicate high water quality.

Yellowstone National Park does not have as much specific data as the national forests or even Grand Teton National Park, said Louisa Willcox of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. This lack of data is displayed best by a map showing critical elk summer range.

On the national forests each critical area is delineated carefully because it affects the amount of timber that can be harvested. But the map shows all of Yellowstone as critical summer habitat though many areas are neither critical nor good elk range.

"The great donut hole in this whole process is the Park Service," said Willcox. "They have informa-

(Continued on page 12)

Paul C. Peck



Midway Geyser Basin at Yellowstone National Park

Gnawing away at Yellowstone

LAKE LODGE, Wyo. -- Oil and gas development may be the most serious threat to the geysers of Yellowstone National Park, a U.S. Geological Society scientist says.

Irving Friedman, a geochemist who has studied Yellowstone's geothermal features for decades, said oil and gas development in national

forests surrounding the park could cause ground subsidence or even earthquakes. These could change the geysers forever.

He was one of more than a dozen speakers who evaluated the health and management of the Yellowstone ecosystem at the annual meeting of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition at Lake Lodge, May 29-31. More than

four million acres of the 13 million-acre ecosystem are under lease for oil and gas exploration. That could increase by one million acres in the next few years if oil and gas prices start to rise, said Louisa Willcox, program director for the coalition.

The most immediate threat to the park's more than 10,000 separate geothermal features is development of geothermal energy sources surrounding the park. The Universal Church Triumphant, owners of the Royal Teton Ranch on Yellowstone's northwest border, has proposed to pump hot water from a spring 10 miles north of Mammoth Hot Springs for use in home heating. Church officials have told the National Park Service they would quit pumping if the activity appeared to affect the park's geothermal features. But Friedman said geothermal pumping is complex and often changes don't show up until it is too late.

John Varley, Yellowstone's re-

search director, said Congress was looking at legislation to protect geothermal areas in all national parks. While there is a lot of interest in the grizzly and other issues, few have stepped forward as advocates for the park's geothermal features, he said.

Roads, timber cutting and private development remain the major threats on the surface of the ecosystem, said Ed Lewis, executive director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. The cumulative effects of development are fragmenting wildlife habitat, lowering water quality, and threatening the survival of grizzly bears, bald eagles and other species, he said.

"Greater Yellowstone is becoming a biogeographical island surrounded by a sea of development," Lewis said.

--Rocky Barker



Microscope...

(Continued from page 11)

tion, but the way research has been done, they don't have any park-wide programs to look at habitat and trends over time."

Barbee said the parks and the national forests speak different languages and collect different data, but as the aggregation will show, have coordinated management well together. Gary Cargill, Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region chief, who is heading the aggregation effort for the agency, admitted there are differences that will show up in the final draft. They will be the basis for a second, action phase of the aggregation process where changes

may be made to increase management similarity throughout the region.

Some changes will be able to be made in some forest plans, such as the Bridger-Teton, before the end of the current planning process. Other changes will be made as plan amendments. Some can wait until the next planning cycle in 10 to 15 years, Cargill said.

But he does not see the aggregation plan leading to the formation of a separate Forest Service region encompassing the Greater Yellowstone national forests, as some environmentalists have suggested.

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition commissioned forest economist, Randall O'Toole to do his own analysis of the national forests surrounding Yellowstone. He concluded recently that management of the seven forests is inefficient because timber, grazing and recreation programs all lose money. Timber harvest in particular is costly to the U.S. Treasury and the environment, his report said. "The economic efficiency level of timber harvests from the Yellowstone forests is near zero," O'Toole writes.

Grazing would have to be cut by 50 percent to be economically efficient and recreation funding should be increased to stimulate more recreation. This and increasing user fees for recreation would be the best way to improve forest efficiency, he said.

--Rocky Barker

The grizzly may be coming back

Yellowstone's grizzly population continues to show signs of improvement, National Park Service and national forest officials say. William Penn Mott told the Greater Yellowstone Coalition that twenty-five breeding females with 44 cubs were sighted in 1986. "In the years since we have been monitoring these things, those figures are absolutely unprecedented," he said. "We cannot say, of course, that this represents any sort of a trend. Time will tell."

Steven Mealey, Shoshone National Forest supervisor, said those sightings were significant when considered with lower human-caused mortalities. "The trends in female sightings are up and the trends in mortality are down," he said. Sows are having young at an earlier age and a larger percentage of those are female, he said. "That would indicate improved survivability and im-

proved nutrition," he said. Others took issue with this optimism.

Tony Povilitis, director of the Campaign for Yellowstone's Bears, said mortalities were still higher than what biologists consider acceptable. He also questioned Mealey's statistics. Thomas McNamee, author of *The Grizzly Bear* and a coalition board member, said the research was encouraging, but limited wild habitat keeps grizzlies in peril. "Forever and inevitably this population may always be endangered because of its size," he said.

Biologists have estimated the grizzly population at about 200 bears with increases in recent years. The number of females is estimated at around 45. McNamee said the population is threatened by catastrophe, disease or inbreeding. "Population crashes do happen in isolated populations," he warned.

--Rocky Barker

Yellowstone's former beggars now grub honest living

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. -- A young black bear sauntered through the shadows of an isolated stand of Douglas fir and lodgepole pine.

The unusually hot April sun made travel on the open range uncomfortable for an animal with a coat of fur still thick from winter. But even in the absence of heat, the bear is more at home in the forest than in the open. That wasn't the case 20 years ago in Yellowstone. Bears, especially black bears, were the top roadside attraction of the park. Visitors could expect to run the gauntlet of begging bears from the moment they entered the park.

But those days are gone. Closing Yellowstone's dumps, an aggressive effort to sanitize campgrounds, and control measures to keep humans and bears apart, have made bear sightings by park visitors a rare occurrence.

"It's a natural, free-ranging population instead of what it was 20 years ago when the black bears lined the roads as beggars," said Gary Brown, assistant chief ranger.

The population has dropped from the 1960s when Yellowstone biologist Glen Cole estimated 650 bears.

Today, the rough estimate stands at 350, said Amy Vanderbilt, a park spokesperson. But one Park Service critic doubts that black bear numbers are even that high.

Alston Chase, author of *Playing God in Yellowstone*, said solid information is scant. "The data we do have is from the grizzly researchers," said Chase, who lives in Montana's Paradise Valley north of Yellowstone. "The grizzly researchers are on the average finding one black bear for every grizzly. The biologists I have talked with seem to believe there are fewer black bears than grizzlies."

Grizzlies are radio-tracked in the park but black bears are not. Brown said the nature of the black bear makes it more difficult to find.

"The grizzly is more of a plains, edge-of-the-meadows species," he said. "The black bear is more of a forest species and harder to see."

That would account for the fewer black bear sightings from the air, but it would not account for the smaller number of black bears caught in baited traps than grizzlies. "Traps don't discriminate," Chase said.

Richard Knight, Interagency Griz-



The late 1950s, when black bears begged at Yellowstone National Park

zly Bear Study Committee team leader, said that he may have as much Yellowstone information as anyone about black bears but even that isn't much.

"We don't even compile it, though we may someday," he said.

He wouldn't estimate the number of black bears in the ecosystem, but he said the population appeared to be stable. "It seemed like it went down for awhile, but it seems like it has come up and is stabilized right now."

Chase said Yellowstone is relatively poor habitat for both grizzlies and black bears. When the dumps closed, dispersing the grizzlies, and the campgrounds were more closely guarded, the black bear lost its niche in the park, he said.

Research done in 1967 by Victor Barnes and Olin Bray of Colorado State University estimated the black bear population in the best habitat in the park to be 5.2 per square mile. It was that data that Cole used to extrapolate his estimate of 650 total black bears in the park.

Black bears have a social system which limits density to 1.5 to 2 bears per square mile in the best habitats, according to a 12-year study of black bears in Idaho conducted by the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

The amount of berry-producing shrubs in the habitat directly contributes to reproductive success of black bears. Partial removal of forest overstory, from limited timber harvest activities, encourages plant and shrub production that aids bears.

The smaller bear population is either fitting into a habitat with less carrying capacity, as park officials say, or is a remnant population doomed to eventually disappear, as Chase says.

A lack of information makes it hard to decide who is right. But black bears thrive throughout the mountains surrounding the park, even though hunted.

As the black bear in Yellowstone has changed, so have the expectations of visitors. Initially, people complained about the lack of bears along the park's roads.

But along with its control efforts, the Park Service conducted an extensive education program about its natural regulation program. The black bear was no longer billed as Yellowstone's star attraction.

"Things have changed; maybe it's a generational change," Brown said. "We've had few comments in the last five years about not seeing roadside bears."

Brown warns visitors that black bears, though not as aggressive as grizzlies, are dangerous and should not be approached when seen.

"Both species of bears are wild animals and unpredictable," he said. "If you analyze incidents between bears, black bear sows with cubs have been more tenacious than grizzlies about protecting their young."

The reduced population has resulted in fewer clashes between bears and humans. Between 1959 and 1965, black bears were involved in 298 cases of personal injury and 1,738 cases of property damage, according to a Park Service report written by biologists John and Frank Craighead.

Brown said black bear-human incidents today are limited to "maybe once a year. It might be twice every three years."

The Tower Junction bear caught the attention of passing visitors and quickly caused a classic "bear jam" in road traffic. The bear ignored the crowd that gathered 30 to 40 yards away.

He was more interested in the forbs that were emerging in the spring temperatures. As he grubbed through the ground, amateur photographers stayed close to their cars. Eventually, he wandered back into the forest, into the obscurity of the shadows.

--Rocky Barker



Idaho Post-Register

Black bear seen frequently in the park this summer

14-High Country News -- June 22, 1987

A top Park Service official goes out shooting

by Dennis Brownridge

The Western regional director of the Park Service resigned May 2, charging that administration policies are "politicizing" the parks and emphasizing development at the expense of protection.

The director, Howard Chapman, 61, began his career as a seasonal ranger in Yellowstone in 1947, later served as superintendent at Grand Teton National Park and for the last 15 years was in charge of some 44 park system units.

Chapman has been increasingly at odds with officials of the Interior Department, which oversees the Park Service. When he testified before Congress four years ago on the administration's controversial plan to privatize many park jobs, he was exceedingly frank. Chapman said the plan was expensive, it was destroying morale, and it would "strap our ability to respond to emergencies like fire and rescue."

Later, he was rebuked over a park land-protection plan that would have allowed the government to buy the small private inholdings that exist inside many parks. Chapman says many of those landowners "are getting on in years and want to sell their land to the park so it will be preserved after they're gone."

"But (Interior Secretary Donald Hodel's) policies are the same as Watt's -- to put off acquiring any lands for the public, which then become much more expensive... (Interior) told us we could control those inholdings by just going to the county board of supervisors and having them pass some zoning," Chapman says.

Hodel has been trying to force him out for some time, Chapman says. What brought the conflict to a head was the controversy over aircraft overflights in the parks, which has generated widespread media attention. Complying with a congressional mandate and following a decade of Park Service research and public hearings, Chapman's office produced an aircraft-management plan for the Grand Canyon last fall. It banned commercial air tours over the eastern half of the park while allowing flights to continue over the western half. The plan was praised as a reasonable compromise by environmentalists, who had sharply criticized a much weaker proposal submitted by the park's superintendent. Both plans were rejected by Interior Secretary Hodel.

In a recent interview, Chapman discussed his concerns for the future of the national parks.

HCN: What prompted you to quit now?

CHAPMAN: I think that if you haven't accomplished what you set out to do after 40 years, then another 40 won't help. But my timing was due to the way the Interior Department is really taking over the National Park Service and running it against the wishes of the current Director, (William P.) Mott.

HCN: What was your concern at Grand Canyon?

CHAPMAN: My concern was to keep our aircraft management proposal consistent with our wilderness management proposal on the ground. The parks have got to describe

wilderness in the vertical dimension. We've laid it out on the ground, where a motorized vehicle can't drive, yet a motorized plane or helicopter can fly 50 feet from any part of it. It violates the whole principle of wilderness. I would hope the park can find a way to be an advocate and a leader on this.

HCN: The House of Representatives has just unanimously passed a bill to control park overflights, but the Park Service director testified against it. Why was that?

CHAPMAN: Director Mott was early on a strong advocate (of aircraft restriction at the Grand Canyon). But at the hearings, the Interior Secretary forced him to make a statement that the legislation was not necessary, that the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) should have the responsibility. This shows how the Interior Department has become political, muzzling the professional park man. Hodel and (Assistant Interior Secretary for Parks and Wildlife William) Horn and the economic power of the air-tour industry has gotten to him (Mott).

HCN: How would you rate Mott's performance, overall?

CHAPMAN: Only time will tell... At least he has spoken out on certain issues, but he hasn't been able to do the things he proposed when he first came on board. The people over him (at Interior) put road blocks in every way and harass him on virtually every major decision he wants to make.

HCN: Do you think the administration is treating him as a figure-head, to smooth over the friction of the Watt years?

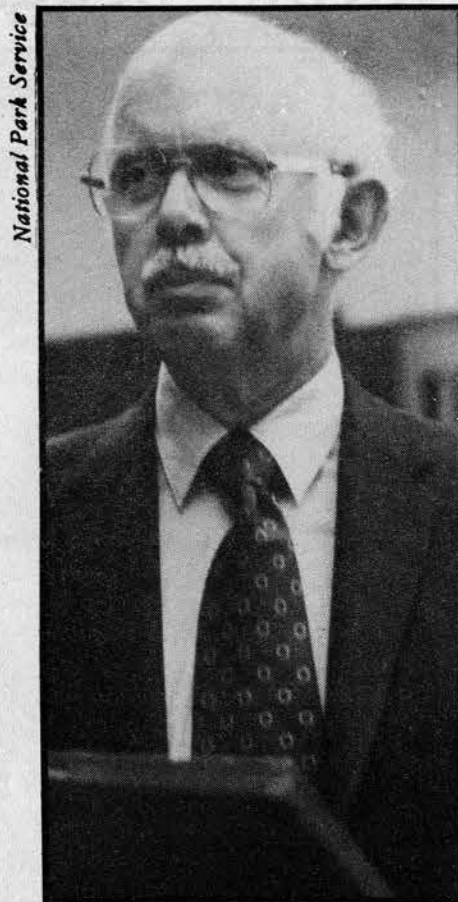
CHAPMAN: Yes. He would rankle at that. But they didn't bring him in because they thought he was the best person to lead the Park Service, but because he could keep the public off their back. They could point to him as a professional.

HCN: How would you deal with the age-old conflict between preservation and access, which seems to lie at the root of so many of our park problems?

CHAPMAN: You can't solve it overnight... Horn has made it clear ever since he took office that he comes down on the side of use. He doesn't recognize that first we have to look at the parks and ask what we have here; we need to protect them or there won't be anything for the public to enjoy later...

But one thing that has helped the service is an aroused and interested public. In my career, I've seen a tremendous growth in the public's concern and interest about their parks. The public has to be informed, to understand the values that the parks have, and understand that some uses some people might like have to be controlled so we can protect the basic values of the parks. This is extremely important. Even people who have never visited a park should understand it.

You need a professional organization that can present this. But the Park Service has got to be responsible to the public, and the public has to be involved in the planning process. In Yosemite, we prepared a master plan with just the concessionaires, and it was blown out of the water by the public. Later, when we involved the public we got a much



Howard Chapman

better plan. I think we can do the same on the aircraft issue. The organizational power of the Park Service has been eroded there, but that means they must depend on the public... At the Grand Canyon, the public support (for aircraft control) has been the saving factor.

HCN: You mean Congress will listen to the public and not necessarily to the Park Service or Interior Department?

CHAPMAN: Yes. And Hodel listens to the air-tour operators rather than all the public.

HCN: What are the most serious problems you see facing our parks now?

CHAPMAN: To bring the public to understand that we need to protect the values the parks were set aside for... Newton Drury (Park Service Director, 1940-51) put it best: "If we're going to succeed in preserving the greatness of our national parks, they must be held inviolate. If we're going to whittle away at them we must realize that it's cumulative and the end result will be mediocrity; greatness will be gone." That means every little change. If, for example, you allow aircraft to fly over the Grand Canyon, that's just one more element you've lost. I see Hodel's policies as being an accumulation of those whittlings.

HCN: Are his policies really that different from previous administrations?

CHAPMAN: They're Watt policies -- looking at costs as opposed to values that you can't put a dollar value on. As former Director (George) Hartzog (1964-73) says of this administration, "they seem to know the cost of everything but the value of nothing."

HCN: Do you think the parks could do a better job with more funding?

CHAPMAN: I'm not so sure. We've all said that a few more dollars will solve some problems, but dollars also make problems.

HCN: What kind of problems?

CHAPMAN: Well, There's a lot of interest in this new fee program (entrance fees at many parks doubled this year, and parks once free are

now charging). But it's got to the point that decisions are being made on the number of dollars we'll collect rather than on what service or value the park will be providing.

HCN: Should the parks be self-supporting?

CHAPMAN: They'll never be self supporting. The fees would be so high that very few people would be able to use them, and the parks' value to the public at large would be lost... I think the American people ought to look at the parks as one of the true benefits of this country, and that it shouldn't be "pay as you go." We're not arguing about a nominal charge (for specific services) necessary for your visit. But what's really concerning me is charging a fee at a national shrine like the Statue of Liberty.... (The parks) are places where you ought to be inspired to learn about our country, not pay a dollar at the turnstile.

HCN: How would you deal with the growing number of people visiting the parks?

CHAPMAN: There hasn't been a year gone by, except during the gasoline crunch, when visitation hasn't increased... The day will probably come when rationing of use or reservations will be instituted for certain areas... The public has accepted (such quotas) in wilderness areas for years. I think they can do the same in developed areas. It's going to take some education.

HCN: How has your philosophy, or the park service's philosophy, changed during your 40-year career?

CHAPMAN: It hasn't changed. If anything there's a stronger level of protection, and we've come to understand a great deal more about the parks. For example, we used to suppress fires but now understand that there's a need for fire in natural ecosystems... The wildlife issue is a very emotional one, which we haven't dealt with as well.

And the public has come to understand and appreciate parks better. When I came in, you only read about them in the travel section; now they're on the front page. The public has become much more enlightened about their environment and its value.

HCN: What advice would you give a young person just starting out in the Park Service today?

CHAPMAN: The biggest problem is just getting hired, because park jobs are so tremendously popular. A lot of people are coming in now with a drive and concern about the environment, and they carry a strong conviction of the philosophy and tradition of the service. They need to try to stand up as strongly as they can, professionally. Sometimes they have to be willing to put their jobs on the line. I think people do that today a lot more than in the past.

If it's done in the best interest of the park and other people become aware of it, then it enhances the public's understanding of the values of the parks. Of course, in my own case, it was easier for me to speak out because I'm eligible for retirement.

HCN: What are your plans for the future?

CHAPMAN: I'll keep active. I have no intention of turning my back on issues I've stood for throughout my career.

OPINION

The Forest Service kowtows while forests burn

In 1976, in response to well-publicized abuses of the land by the U.S. Forest Service, the Congress passed the National Forest Management Act. The law was a compromise. It called for intensive management and production of wood products and other goods. But it also called for public process, for clear statements of how the Forest Service was to manage the forests, and for the formulations of plans for the 191 million acres that make up the national forests.

There is much in the act to indicate that Congress wanted the Forest Service to protect water quality and fish habitat, to seek biological diversity, to limit clearcutting, to limit subsidies of the logging industry, to set aside land for wilderness, and to protect the environment from the effects of roading.

But there is just as much to indicate that trees were to be harvested, roads built, oil and gas wells drilled and pipelines laid. The act did not tell the Forest Service to become environmentalists or timber beasts. Instead, the Congress told the agency to involve the public in the planning and management of the forests and to lay out as clearly as possible what it is doing. The Congress ordered the agency to find reasonable middle ground through research, planning and improved public discourse.

Ten years later, the Forest Service is deep into the planning process. It has issued 42 draft and 65 final plans for 107 national forests. They and the plans to follow are laying out the future of the national forests for our lifetimes and the lifetimes of our children and grandchildren.

According to a 100-page report issued by The Wilderness Society, it will be a grim future. Loggers will find that Louisiana Pacific and its comrades will be allowed to cut through the nation's trees at an accelerating rate that will, sooner rather than later, leave them out of work.

Those who enjoy the forests for their naturalness will find them roaded and logged. Those who hunt or photograph wildlife will find a drastically reduced number of species. Those who fish will find the streams full of silt. Those who irrigate will find that their water comes off in a rush in the spring, and with a greater burden of mud, due to the denudement of the land.

The one winner will be those who like to drive through the outdoors; they will find more new roads than they can cover in a lifetime. If the Forest Service builds its planned 200,000 miles of new roads over the next 50 years, motorists will be able to drive up to almost any tree in the agency's domain.

The Wilderness Society is a conservation group with a large staff of lobbyists and experts in the nation's capital as well as a dozen or so field offices, half in the West. It has used this formidable staff to collect and analyze information on the forest planning process, and it has put that information in a very readable form in *Forests of the Future?*

Reading the booklet had the same effect as our viewing of the movie *Platoon* -- a sense of rage and disbelief. The agency's 50-year plans represent a scorched earth policy toward publicly-owned forested land. Old-growth trees and their dependent species will be destroyed. Logging will jump by 72 percent over recent harvest levels. The number of roads will increase drastically. And each of us will help pay for the \$2 billion deficit this activity will create over the next decade.

The overview of the forest planning process provided by *Forests of the Future?* is staggering, but, except in scale, it will not be new to those who have followed the planning on their own forests. Almost all the plans are being appealed by citizen and environmental groups because people on the ground understand that the plans represent the death of their share of the nation's forests.

Those sensitive to economic and social trends also understand that the forest plans are fighting today's trends. They know that the value of



old-growth trees, fish-filled streams, biological diversity and unroaded land are far greater, even when measured by dollars, than 2 x 4s.

At certain levels, the Forest Service understands this. But at the top, the agency has behaved like General Motors, with a blissful oblivion to the march of time. The best that can be said of former Forest Service Chief Max Peterson is that hearing him apply his Malthusian theories to the nation's forests had a certain musty, historic quaintness. A recent interview in *Forest Watch* with the new chief of the Forest Service, Dale Robertson, indicates that he too is firmly embedded in a bygone era.

There are excuses for the agency's behavior. Those excuses are on view in the Iran-Contra hearings. The hearings help us understand the pressures and intimidations the Forest Service is probably being subjected to by administrators who habitually function outside the law. Until we someday have forest-gate hearings, it is reasonable to assume that clones of Oliver North and Elliott Abrams are to be found overseeing the land management agencies.

If the foreign affairs cowboys can bend ambassadors to their will, it is not surprising that domestic cowboys can bend land managers to their will. There is little doubt that high officials of the Forest Service will someday explain the present excesses by the pressures they experienced. When asked why they didn't quit, they will tell about the good they did quietly, behind the scenes.

Such explanations will not sell, if only because a sister land management agency, the Park Service, is doing some of its fighting in public. Opposite this editorial is a lengthy interview with Howard Chapman, a high Park

Service official who resigned after several years of resisting his political bosses. Chapman did not leave quietly. He is telling the world what the administration is attempting to do to the nation's parks, and how that dirty job is being done.

Also in this issue is a photo of National Park Service head William Penn Mott with some Earth First! members in their bear suits. The message he is sending is clear: A government that obeys neither the nation's nor nature's laws creates radical reactions.

Someday, future leaders of the Park Service leadership will point with pride to the resistance their agency made to the present efforts to destroy the national parks. The resistance may or may not succeed, but the Park Service leaders have not dishonored themselves or their agency. Instead, they are strengthening an honorable tradition -- a tradition of protecting their mission even in dangerous and adverse times.

The Forest Service is different. From the top down, and with few exceptions, this quasi-military 'family' is compiling a record of obedience to political orders that runs counter to all concern for forests, wildlife and water. It is cooperating in the destruction of what it is charged with conserving and enhancing. It is proving itself incapable of calling forth the leadership and the concerted action to protect its mission and its honor.

Our belief is that America will recover itself by the end of this decade and stop the destruction of the forests. To do that, it will have to destroy the once-proud U.S. Forest Service. That will be easy, for the agency has deeply wounded itself.

--Ed Marston

16-High Country News -- June 22, 1987

BULLETIN BOARD

THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE

The National Congress of American Indians will hold its mid-year conference June 24-26 in Portland, Ore. Called "We, the Original People: A Bill of Treaty Rights and Indian Justice," the conference will explore Native American contributions to the founding concepts of the U.S. Constitution and American political thought. The meeting will also include strategy sessions for promoting Indian legislation, combating anti-Indian activities, and challenging several specific administration proposals as well as workshops on litigation, media, natural resources, job training and education. Senators Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, and Daniel Evans, R-Wash., chair and vice-chair of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, will address the gathering. The congress is the nation's oldest and largest inter-tribal organization, and the event, which is timed for the anniversary of the battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25, will be accompanied by a pow-wow, music, dancing, arts, crafts and an auction. Registration is \$60 at the door. The conference will be held at the Lloyd Center Red Lion Inn, 1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232 (503/281-6111). For more information about the conference, call Susan Harjo, NCAI executive director, 202/546-9404.

THE BELL TOLLS FOR U.S. FARMERS

Economist Lester C. Thurow says overseas markets for U.S. farm goods are not going to come back. As a result, the nation must either spend billions of dollars a year for many, many years to prop up domestic food prices, or it must use the money to get "surplus" farmers off the land. Thurow says that breaking open Japan's market for rice won't achieve anything because that market will be filled by Thailand, which produces rice more cheaply than the U.S. The fundamental problem, he writes in the May/June 1987 issue of *Technology Review*, is that the world has learned to grow enough food. It is no longer dependent on the U.S. He suggests that the federal government recognize this fact. The \$40 billion it spent in 1986 on price supports and farm programs would be better used, he writes, to provide training to farmers who must leave the land and transitional help to farm communities. In his article, he says that eastern Colorado is an inefficient area of wheat production. And in "north-central Montana, whole farms should be purchased and permanently retired from production." Thurow says the nation has gone through this before. Farms in the Midwest, he says, have forced New England farms out of business.



ONE SPECIAL EGG

For children, really, but also for adults, *Peeping in the Shell: A Whooping Crane is Hatched*, is about an extraordinary effort to bring a whooping crane into the world. Nature writer Faith McNulty tells the story of George Archibald, a dedicated ornithologist, and a female crane named Tex who was imprinted from birth on humans and refused to mate with her own kind. An elaborate courting ritual performed together produces one special egg that successfully hatches in captivity. The excellent drawings are by Irene Brady.

Harper and Row Publishers, 10 E. 53rd St., New York, NY 10022. Hardback, \$10.89. 60 pages. Illustrated.

FOLK LIFE FESTIVAL

Gary McMahan, a working rancher, cowboy poet and yodeller, will emcee the third annual High Country Folklife Festival, July 17-18, at Buena Vista, Colo. A barbecue, bluegrass music and dancing by the Southern Ute Indians are promised by sponsors Colorado Mountain College and the Colorado Council on the Arts and Humanities. For more information, call 303/395-8419 or 303/395-2383.

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BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP (Sept. 4-6): This introduction teaches the how's and why's of beekeeping and concludes with extracting honey from the frames using a centrifugal extractor.

CHEESEMAKING WORKSHOP (Sept. 18-20): Farm fresh milk will be used to make hard and soft cheeses, yogurt, sour cream and buttermilk while learn-

ing techniques of basic dairy chemistry. There will be plenty of time for sampling the finished products.

DRAFT HORSE WORKSHOP (Sept. 18-20): This introduction to "horse power" will focus on driving both single and team. Nutrition, health and training, as well as harness use and maintenance will be covered.

FARM FESTIVAL (October 10-11): A gathering to celebrate the farm harvest and provide a forum for discussion, learning and inspiration, with guest speakers, music and art. Camping and home-cooked meals available.

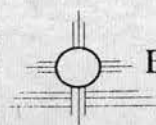
For more information on all of our programs, write or call: M.S.F.S., Box 21, Gardner, CO. 81040 (303/746-2389)

12TH COLORADO WORKSHOP

The 12th annual Colorado Water Workshop is set for July 27-29 at Western State College in Gunnison, Colo. The Subject is "Water and Colorado's Future: Currents of Change for Water Law and Policy." Speakers include Alexandra Smith, deputy administrator, EPA Region 8, Charles Wilkinson, law professor at the University of Colorado, Clyde Martz, director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Daniel Luecke, attorney with the Environmental Defense Fund, and Colorado Sen. Tim Wirth and Colorado Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, both Democrats. The conference fee of \$175 includes meals and materials, and dorm housing is available at Western State College. For more information, call Marlene Zanetell, director, 303/943-2082, or write her at Colorado Water Workshop, Western State College, Gunnison, CO 81230.

NEVADA TO CELEBRATE

Nevada will dedicate its new Great Basin National Park this August with street dances, a Western art festival and stagecoach rides. The Northern Railway Museum will also steam up its engines and offer free rides during the weekend's festivities, which begin Aug. 15 at 10 a.m. The park encompasses Lehman Caves, Wheeler Peak, Nevada's highest mountain, and stands of bristlecone pine. Motel and hotel accommodations are limited and reservations are recommended. To reserve a room, call 702/885-4322; for more information call 1-800/237-0774.



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