

High Country News

October 12, 1987

Vol. 19 No. 19

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar

In southern Utah

The fight over Box-Death Hollow Wilderness

by Craig Bigler

A new battleground has emerged in the dispute between environmentalists and energy companies in Utah. This time the focus is on the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness, a spectacular chunk of land that Congress designated as wilderness in 1984.

The wilderness was not preserved intact. A compromise left open four fingers of land on ridges between the canyons to develop reserves of carbon dioxide. This August the Forest Service issued a draft environmental impact statement recommending the maximum amount of leasing for CO₂ exploration within those ridges. The draft also recommended exploration for oil, gas and CO₂ on land surrounding the Wilderness and for develop-

ment of existing oil and gas leases within the wilderness and around it.

The result, environmentalists say, will be enormous development in a fragile area some believe is America's finest slick-rock canyon landscape.

Its beauty is pitted against the wealth the energy industry believes lies beneath the land. CO₂ is used to enhance recovery from aging oil fields, and according to the Mid-Continent Oil Company, there are "possibly four trillion cubic feet of carbon dioxide gas valued at \$8 billion, based on current prices."

The Sierra Club says this amount of CO₂ would help recover only enough oil to last the nation for a few weeks. The San Francisco-based group questions not only the existence of a substantial reserve but also its

Rodney Greeno, SUWA



Death Hollow from Antone Ridge.
A road, pipeline and powerline
would be built in the foreground

under the Forest Service's leasing
and development program.

recovery potential because of low well-head pressures and long distance to a market.

Suspensions that Mid-Continent and others are fabricating claims of an extensive reserve to bolster stock values was reflected in a Sept. 9 report by Joe Bauman in the *Deseret News*: "A lawsuit filed in Dallas claims that the value of carbon dioxide reserves near Escalante were grossly exaggerated, and that promotions about the deposits were part of a hoax."

"The suit, filed by Harry B. Brown and H.B. Brown Oil Co. against John D. Slawter of Mid-Continent Oil and Gas and others, claims that the CO₂ is part of a fraud, also involving placer gold claims and coal leases."

However much CO₂ there is, the key to obtaining it is Antone Bench, a narrow slit of land separating The Box, a deep narrow canyon, from Death Hollow. Clive Kincaid of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance says, "Anyone who goes out on that narrow slit of land and looks 1,500 feet straight down into The Box on one side and 1,200 feet

down into Death Hollow on the other, would have to say, 'This place is glorious. We should turn it into a national park, not an industrial park.'"

If Rep. John Seiberling, D-Ohio, had prevailed in 1984, Antone Bench would not be at risk today. Seiberling, then chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee, wanted to include it in the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act, along with an extra 20,000 acres in the High Uintas Wilderness of Northeastern Utah. But the Utah congressional delegation was convinced that CO₂ development in The Box-Death Hollow and timber harvest in the High Uintas were both feasible and good ideas. The delegation decided that 740,000 acres of forest land were enough forest wilderness in Utah.

In the end, eight moderate Utah conservation groups agreed to accept the exclusions in exchange for the addition of 10,000 acres to the High Uintas Wilderness. The Utah Wilderness

(Continued on page 10)



Interior Secretary Donald Hodel

*How Watt
and Hodel
changed
the West*

✓ See pages
12-14

Dear friends,



High Country News

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS (ISSN/0191/5637) is published biweekly, except for one issue during July and one issue during January, by the High Country News Foundation, 124 Grand Avenue, Paonia, Colorado 81428. Second-class postage paid at Paonia, Colorado.

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

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

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

Not in Helena

Former intern Kate McIvor tells us after toiling at a restaurant making chocolate cheesecake "with my eyes closed," she is happy working for Montana's Environmental Quality Council. She will produce two publications, she says, one on the final status of 1987 environmental legislation, the other a directory of environmental permits. Kate helped the lobbying effort of the Montana Environmental Information Center after leaving us here in Paonia. She also suggests we write 10 times: "Jim Robbins lives and freelances from Helena, Montana." We usually move him around to Missoula.

HCN invades Boise

The fall meeting of the board of the High Country Foundation was held in Boise, Idaho, on Sept. 26, and board members and staff converged on that city from around the region.

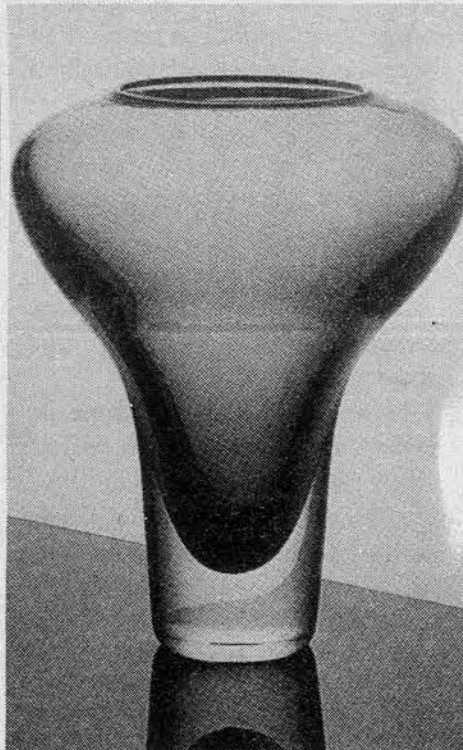
Had we been thinking in terms of an environmental takeover of the homebase of Simplot Industries, Morrison-Knudson construction and Boise Cascade timber, the timing would have been poor, since the Idaho Conservation League had scheduled its annual meeting for the same weekend, but up in northern Idaho.

However, since all we had in mind was to review the paper's status, take a preliminary run at the 1988 budget, and discuss an upcoming series on economic development, the coincidence wasn't important. The only impact was felt at the Saturday evening potluck, which was relatively small due to the competing meeting.

Despite the flow of Boiseites to the north, we did get a chance to meet with people we had published or written about but never seen. Among those we now know in the flesh are two HCN writers: Glenn Oakley and Pat Ford. Glenn is both a writer and photographer, but for the moment is concentrating on photography. It pays better, he says.

Pat Ford has been working for the Idaho Conservation League on wilderness, but says he will soon return to what has become his first love: freelance writing. He will also return to being HCN's microbureau,

Edward Riddell



Hand blown glassware by Laurie Thal

with Rocky Barker manning a second microbureau in eastern Idaho.

We also had a chance to breakfast with Perry Swisher, a former journalist and long-time member of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. It is in large part due to the PUC and Swisher that Idaho avoided the power plant overbuilding that hit the neighboring states of Montana, Washington and Oregon.

Tom Robinson, who runs The Wilderness Society office in Boise, and has been quoted in numerous HCN stories, attended the part of the board meeting that dealt with the economic development issues.

Staff had a free Sunday in Boise following the meeting and spent it seeing the area. Some went to the Birds of Prey area on the Snake River, while others toured the town's delightful greenbelt, which follows the Boise River. For its size of 100,000, Boise is well appointed with cultural facilities and other amenities. It was a pleasant surprise to discover that Boise has a real downtown -- one with brick buildings, good restaurants, several places to dance and enough pedestrians to make it hum on Saturday night. Through luck or planning, Boise has escaped the malling and dispersal that has been the fate of so many other Western cities.

The host for this meeting was board member Jeff Fereday, a Boise native and attorney, and his wife, Kay Hummel. Between them, they took care of the many details connected with the meeting and potluck. The meeting was well attended, with 10 of the paper's 14 board members finding their way to Boise. At the meeting, in addition to Fereday, were HCN founder Tom Bell of Lander, Wyo., Herman Warsh of Emigrant, Mont., Patrick Sweeney of Billings, Mont., Sally Gordon of Kaycee, Wyo., John Driscoll and Board President Adam McLane of Helena, Mont., Andy Wiessner of Denver, Robert Wigington of Boulder, Colo., and Bill Hedden of Castle Valley, Utah.

The staff is especially grateful to Project Lighthawk, the environmentalist air force (HCN, 8/4/86), for flying us from Colorado to Boise. After that bit of transportation, Lighthawk pilot Bruce Gordon spent Saturday and Sunday flying for the ICL, which wanted to photograph and observe areas which may be included in the upcoming Idaho wilderness bill. His spy-in-the-sky mission concluded, Gordon flew us back on Sunday afternoon, just beating sundown.

Project Lighthawk has two planes. Gordon and his craft are based in Aspen, and Lighthawk founder Michael Stewart and his plane alternate between Missoula, Mont., and Santa Fe, N.M.

HCN also thanks Gary Richardson and Diane Ronayne for their company and for providing us with housing.

The next HCN board meeting will be held in Salt Lake City on Jan. 30. Arrangements there will be difficult because we lack a board member in that city. If any Salt Lake City reader is interested in giving us some advice or help on the meeting, please contact CarolBeth Elliott at the HCN office in Paonia.

By this time, all subscribers should have received the 1987 Research Fund letter. The letter mentions several gifts HCN offers to



Bruce Gordon

donors, and one of the glassworks, donated at wholesale cost by Jackson, Wyo., glassblower Laurie Thal, is pictured here.

Other gifts include a colorful Canyonlands calendar given to HCN by Thomas Burke of Pomegranate Publications in Corte Madera, Calif. Stewart and Isabel Mace of Toklat Gallery in Aspen have been good enough to supply us at cost with attractive wooden letter-openers.

The centerpiece of this year's tokens of appreciation is a black and white poster of a photograph by Glenwood Springs, Colo., photographer George DeWolfe. The photo of a snowstorm on the rim of the Grand Canyon was printed in a limited, signed and numbered edition of 200. The delicacy and depth of the photo defies newsprint reproduction, so you will have to take our word that this is a fine piece of work.

Circulatory milestone

In the arena of milestones, HCN just passed an historic one: Its circulation is now just shy of 6,000, thanks to early returns from the fall direct mail search for subscribers.

Hello?

The HCN phone rang time after time one day last week, but each time we answered it, we were greeted by a high-pitched computer whine. Eventually the computer tired of dialing our number without finding an intelligent machine to talk with and the calls stopped. It occurred to us later that there may have been a Forest Service computer on the other end, desperately trying to alert us to a damaging timber sale.

Destructive bear

Two Paonia residents told us a bear story that at first, we confess, sounded hard to believe. Marilyn Mundy and Patty Lewis, however, insist it all happened last month.

On a hike to the top of Mt. Lamborn, the peak that hovers over town, the two women turned to look back over a switchback only to see a black bear ambling up the trail. Assuming it would eventually wander off, they kept climbing until Marilyn noticed at the next switchback that the bear had begun to lope, fast. Marilyn decided to run farther up the trail, Patty said she chose to climb 15 feet straight up the hillside. Then she grabbed a rock and waited.

Suddenly the bear was below her on the trail, dark brown and 6 feet tall after it had reared up. "I talked

(Continued on page 11)

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Nevada-Florida land swap attracts lots of public scrutiny

To the Nevada Congressional delegation and the Interior Department, a proposed land exchange between the federal government and a defense contractor is a great deal.

The federal government would gain additional acres of wildlife refuge in Florida, and Aerojet General Corp. would gain over 66 square miles of public land in Nevada. Aerojet wants the land to build a rocket fuel and testing facility. Because the exchange would create additional private land in a state that is 87 percent publicly owned -- plus bring in a projected 1000 jobs -- the Nevada delegation backs the trade.

Nevertheless, opposition is strong. It includes local chapters of the Audubon Society and Sierra Club, national organizations such as The Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Desert Tortoise Council, and numerous public interest groups such as Citizen Alert and the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association. All testified in early August before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands.

The groups said the proposal undervalues the Nevada land, avoids an environmental impact statement and public involvement and could result in the industrialization of prime habitat for the desert tortoise, a candidate for endangered species status (*HCN*, 3/3/86).

Recreationists said they would lose access to land where hunting, biking and hiking are popular. Although the state has vast public lands, much is closed to the public because it has been taken over by the military or by mining interests. Some of the groups also said that Aerojet has a poor environmental track record, with its Sacramento, Calif., plant designated a superfund cleanup site.

The exchange proposal came about after the California-based defense corporation decided that two southeastern Nevada land parcels, one in Coyote Springs Valley and the other in Garfield Flats, best suited its needs.

In exchange for the Nevada land, the company proposes trading 4,650 acres of saline glades in Florida it no longer uses. Located next to Everglades National Park, the land is attractive to the Department of the Interior, which wishes to acquire new lands without appropriating funds. Interior would sell the Florida land to the South Water Conservancy District, to be managed for controlling water flow in and out of the national park. Interior will then use the money from the sale to buy additions to existing habitat refuges in the Florida keys.

Critics of the proposal say the public land in Nevada was inaccurately appraised by independent firms hired by Aerojet, which came up with \$45 an acre for Coyote Springs and \$55 an acre for Garfield Flats.

"We think the land appraisal is a public rip-off," says Bill Vincent of Nevada's Citizen Alert. An ad hoc committee issued a long statement that cites similar land just across the state highway from Coyote Springs

that was recently sold for just over \$400 an acre.

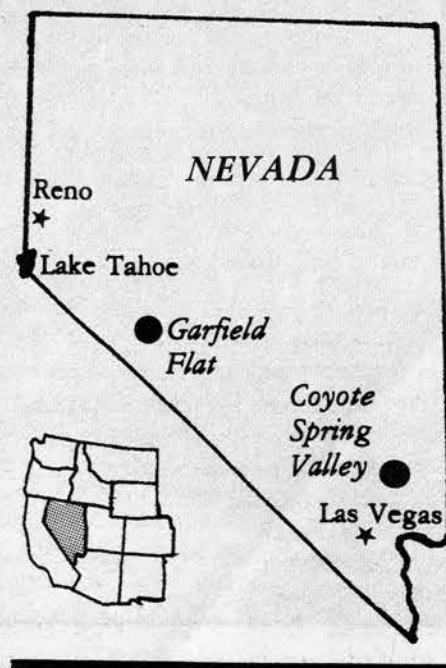
Steve Whitney, in charge of the national parks program of The Wilderness Society, says the Coyote Springs appraisal was based on grazing value. "The appraisers ignored the fact that Aerojet has no intention of using the land for grazing...it is, of course, not a cattle company." He says that as the agreement stands now, Aerojet has the best of both worlds. "Either they should pay a higher 'manufacturing' rate, or pay for range land and use it as range land." Nevada realtor Gail Harris testified before the House subcommittee that the appraisal is false and insupportable.

Another problem with the proposal, critics say, is its lack of adequate environmental planning. Although land exchanges are made routinely within the same state through administrative action, exchanges involving two states must be submitted to Congress as stipulated under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The act also says that if the exchange originates in Congress, and not in the Interior Department, the National Environmental Policy Act requirement for an environmental impact statement is unnecessary. Enter the Nevada delegation.

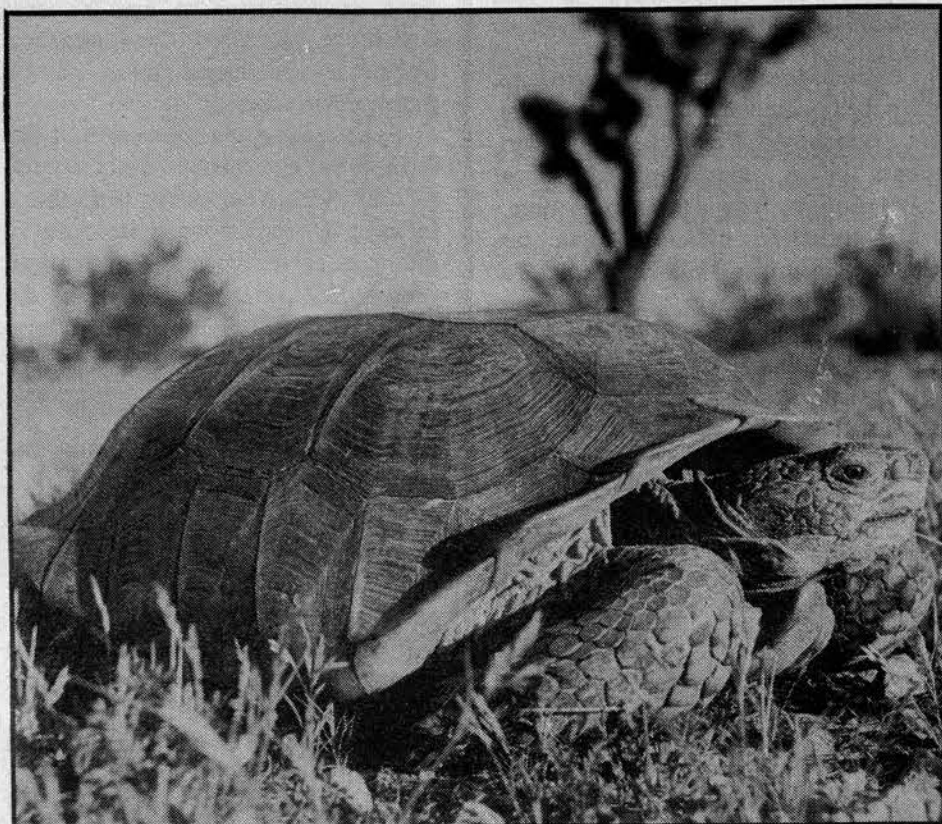
The land exchange bill was co-sponsored by every member of the delegation. But critics suspect the proposal actually originated with the Department of Interior, and should therefore not be exempt from the NEPA process.

"These guys have been playing through the back door," says Butch Padilla in the habitat division of the Nevada Department of Wildlife. "I would have felt more comfortable if they'd gone through the EIS process." He says that his department did not have much input during the planning stages of the proposal, and that "all the decisions were made in the political arena at the Washington level."

Jim Webb, a lawyer with The Wilderness Society, believes if the proposal goes through Congress without a proper environmental review it "should attract a suit under NEPA. If all you have to do to avoid NEPA is to go into shadow play, then the act is under considerable stress. That would be the important precedent."



Al Hartmann



Desert tortoise

Although Aerojet hired a private firm to write an environmental report on the needs of the area, biologists say it is far from adequate. Betty Burge, a member of the Desert Tortoise Council and an expert on the tortoise, says Aerojet's proposed location is "biologically unsound, foolish and inhumane." She has been monitoring the tortoise, a candidate for the endangered list, for over 10 years, and speaks of "alarming drops in numbers. The areas in Nevada are the few good areas left." She urges that the critical status of the species be acknowledged by federal agencies, which are burdened with a long "waiting list" of species to be designated with official status, known as candidate species, she says.

The exchange also threatens endangered fish, says Hermi Hiatt, a biologist with the University of Nevada and spokeswoman for the local Audubon Society. Aerojet wants to pump water from a 10,000-year-old, non-renewable aquifer. The pumping could harm an area known as Moapa Springs, home of the endangered Moapa dace fish, she said. The springs also support three

candidate fish species, a candidate beetle and three candidate snail species, according to a report issued by the Ad-hoc Committee on Aerojet Nevada.

Aerojet responds that it will enhance the environment, and especially the desert tortoise, by eliminating off-road vehicle use on the land it would acquire. In cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the company has designed a security buffer-zone of 17,000 acres that will also protect the species, it says.

"We honestly, sincerely believe we've looked at everything. It will be good for Nevada, good for Florida and good for the environment. We've followed all the legal procedures," says Tom Sprague, Aerojet's vice president of public affairs. He adds that a formal EIS at this time would just delay the process.

The bill is now under review by both the House and Senate national parks subcommittees before recommendations are made to the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in the House and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the Senate.

--Florence Williams

HOTLINE

Inadvertently a dump

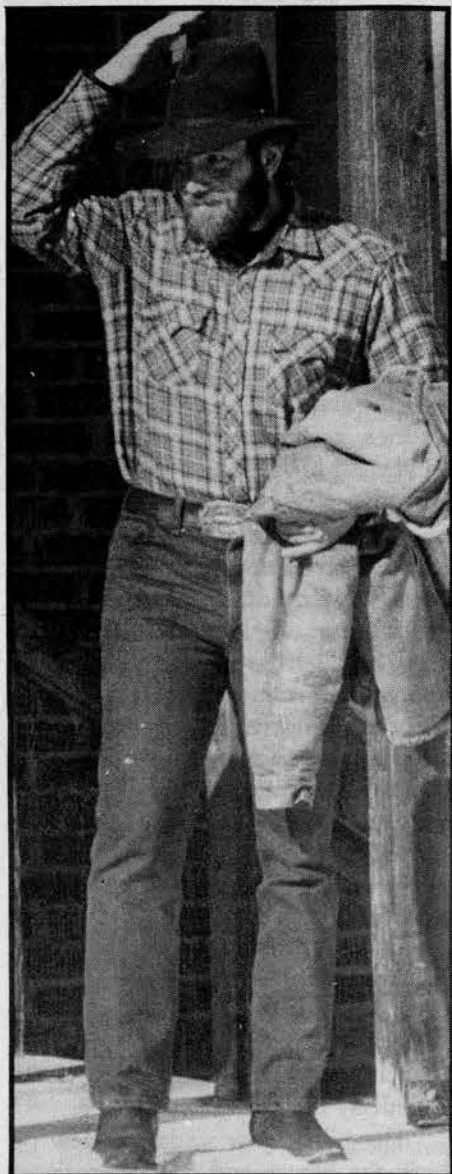
Science magazine says the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state, which is under consideration as a site for a national nuclear waste dump, has so many problems that it may already be a permanent waste dump. Over the years radioactive materials have spread across the Hanford Reservation both above and below ground. Problems include radioactive tumbleweeds that once had 20-foot tap roots reaching into strontium-90 waste dumps; rabbits that lick radioactive salts and leave cesium-137 and strontium-90 contaminated pellets strewn about the landscape; an aquifer tainted with plutonium up to

60 feet thick, 2,500 feet long and 1,000 feet wide; and buried and above-ground waste tanks that are corroding and leaking. Now, high levels of non-radioactive hazardous chemical contamination, dumped at various locations on the reservation in the past 30 years, threaten groundwater and the Columbia River, according to a report released by the Department of Energy. Hanford officials also recently announced that radioactive iodine-129 in Hanford's upper aquifers is moving at much greater speeds and distances than previously thought. Ben Rusche, director of DOE's radioactive waste office, says the findings could disqualify Hanford as the site for the nation's first high-level nuclear waste repository.



Deadly sweet tooth

A bee does not have to sting to kill a bear. Under Montana law bees are considered livestock, and when there is a complaint about a honey-hungry bear destroying a hive, state wildlife officials have no alternative but to kill the bear. To help save the bears, the Montana Chapter of Safari Club International has donated \$1000 to the state's wildlife agency for the purchase of electric fencing. It will go toward protecting 10-15 beeyards identified as being particularly inviting to bears.



Howie Wolke outside county jail in Wyoming last year.

Wolfing!

Earth First! co-founder Howie Wolke says private individuals will bring wolves back into Yellowstone National Park if the federal government does not. A long-debated wolf recovery plan was put on hold last month. "It is arrogant for humans to oppose native species (existing) in their natural environment," Wolke said. A Darby, Mont., outfitter who spent six months in jail in 1986 for pulling up survey stakes at a Chevron oil-well road, Wolke said environmental groups share blame for the blocked recovery plan. He said they bent over backwards to accommodate ranchers whose minds are closed on the wolf issue.

BARBS

The good news.

American doctors working with victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster found that modern techniques now enable humans to withstand more radiation than was thought possible, reports AP.

Cacophony of voices at wilderness congress

Environmentalists representing more than 60 nations met at the Fourth World Wilderness Congress in Colorado Sept. 11-18. They called for a new initiative to counter what organizers identified as "alarming trends in the degradation of the global environment."

Participating nations sent 1,200 delegates to attend discussions, forums, debates, and workshops focusing on topics from acid rain to the role of wilderness in personal growth. But the main theme was the necessity of recognizing and accepting a complex relationship between economic needs and a vulnerable environment.

Agreeing on how to achieve the balance was not as easy. Horror stories of environmental disaster accelerated or caused by development abounded, and some participants spoke in dark tones, forecasting doomsday unless "sustainable growth" -- a catch phrase for that elusive balance -- could be achieved.

A centerpiece of the congress was a recently released report by the United Nations' World Commission on Environment and Development, called *Our Common Future*, a summary of the 400-page report named several goals. Poverty must be alleviated, said the report, because hungry people cannot afford the "luxury" of conservation and must feed themselves, even at the expense of the environment. And all nations must enforce environmental regulations, promote new, cleaner technologies, and consider environmental impacts when plans for development are on the drawing board -- not after environmental damage has been done.

Although the report was praised by media and scientists alike after its publication, some congress members

were doubtful it would have the desired impact.

"*Our Common Future* isn't realistic," said Lloyd Timberlake of the International Institute for Environment and Development. The prerequisites for meeting its goals are international democracy and economic surplus, he said.

But no one disagreed with the report's list of environmental concerns: world-wide deforestation, desertification, water and air pollution, and the thinning of the protective ozone layer of the atmosphere. One solution supported by the congress was addressed by Treasury Secretary James Baker -- writing off outstanding loans of Third World countries in exchange for the implementation of environmental programs.

Such a "debt-for-nature swap" as some participants called the deal would be handled by a World Conservation Bank. But Baker did not approve, saying that the debt would merely be shifted to the creditor nations. "We need to rely on measures to allow countries to develop," he said. "That's the answer, not putting the solution on the backs of the taxpayers."

The link between economy and environment was discussed most directly by former Environmental Protection Agency director William Ruckelshaus and banker David Rockefeller.

"We must make profound changes in the way we do business," said Ruckelshaus, commenting on the UN report. "Nations that remain poor will not protect their environments. Nations that don't protect their environments will get poorer. It's growth, not poverty, that will save the environment."

Rockefeller told the audience that the preservationists' demands to lock

up all wilderness were futile. "We can't resist man-made change," he said. But a "sensible compromise" might bring about the "economic good of people at large."

American environmentalists were almost wholly congratulatory of the groups they represented. The leaders of five national conservation groups praised local and regional efforts and called for more activism and more money.

F. William Burley, a senior associate of the World Resources Institute, struck a different note that was also reflected by other speakers. "There's been a failure of conservation in the '80s," he said, because there is no national or international consensus on priorities. "Each group goes its own way," and no one has been able to demonstrate to the public that development can proceed without environmental damage. Sustainable development "is more rhetoric than action," Burley said.

The social bonds forged among participants may be the greatest success of the Fourth World Wilderness Congress. Political instability, policy disagreements, cultural differences, short finances, and apathy, all topics of discussion at the congress, make it unlikely that the environmental movement can become united internationally.

"No particular conference makes me hopeful," said Garrett Hardin, author of the classic essay, *Tragedy of the Commons*, and a speaker at the congress. But looking backwards 20 years and seeing all the progress we've made, I realize that those changes were a matter of accretion, one little thing on top of another."

--Staci Wertz Hobbes

Biologist Garrett Hardin says we

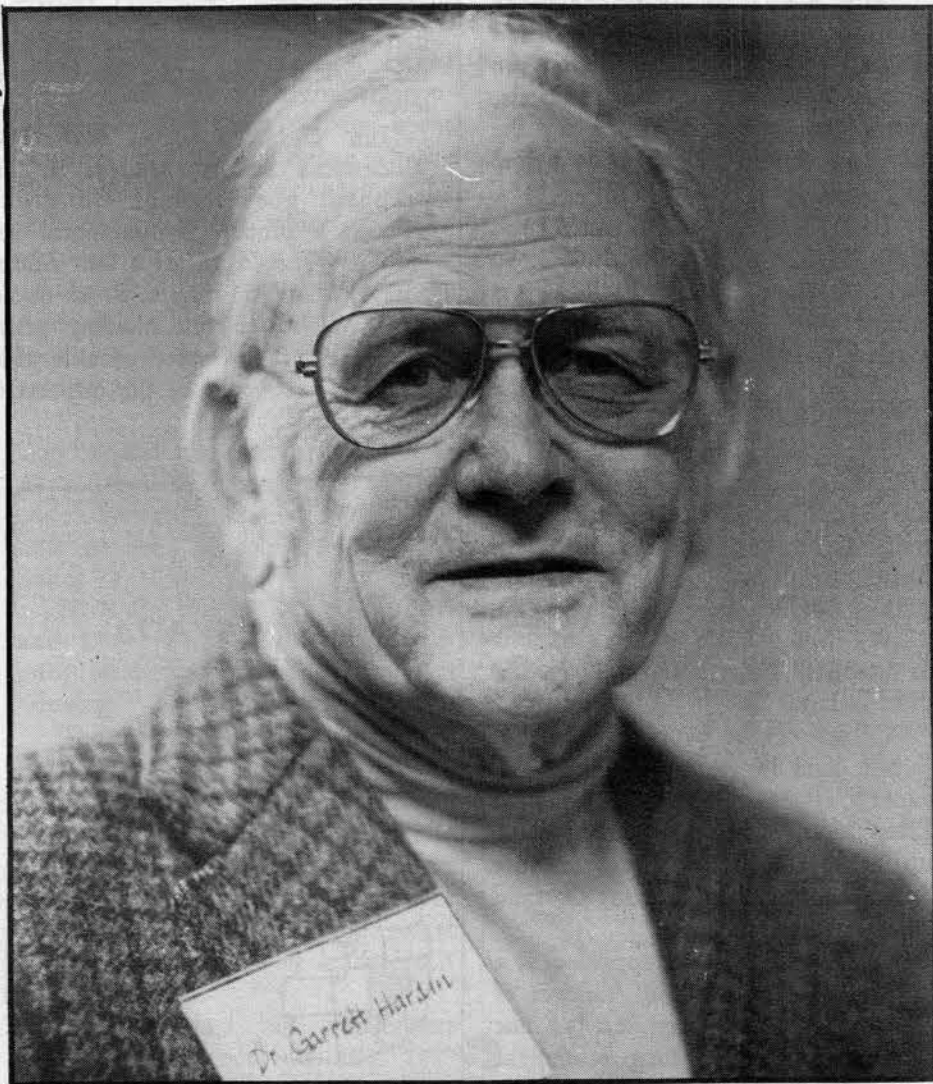
On a June evening almost 20 years ago, a group of California scientists listened to a 90-minute farewell address given by the retiring president of their professional organization. "It was an awful thing to do to them," says that speaker today. "I told them at the beginning that if they wanted to leave, leave. They stuck with it, but it was an awful heavy dose."

Garrett Hardin titled his address, "The Tragedy of the Commons," and published it in *Science* magazine on Dec. 13, 1968. Two decades later it is considered a classic in ecology, population theory, economics and political science and has been reprinted eight times in five languages.

Hardin, who attended the international meeting of scientists at the Fourth World Wilderness Congress in Estes Park, Colo., two weeks ago, said his essay was the hardest paper he ever wrote. "I write fairly easily. Usually the second draft is pretty good. This took seven drafts, each strikingly different. The reason, I realized later, was that I didn't like my own conclusion. I was trying to escape it."

He had been teaching a class in human ecology with an emphasis on

David J. Gross



HOTLINE

Trail spikes found

A second trail-spiking incident has occurred on Idaho's Salmon National Forest. An embedded piece of iron welded to sharpened nails was discovered on a trail by members of the Idaho Falls Trail Machine Association. The trail is in an area of the Lemhi Mountains recommended for wilderness designation by environmental groups; it is heavily used, however, by motorcyclists. After the first trail-spiking incident this summer (HCN, 8/3/87), Forest Service officials checked the area with metal detectors. The second spikes were found within a mile of the first and must have been buried after the inspection, says District Ranger Lou Woltering. The Idaho Conservation League offered a \$500 reward for any information leading to the conviction of the earlier spikers, but so far there are no leads, Woltering says. "Ecotage" incidents resulting in the injury of a sawmill worker prompted Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, to introduce a bill this summer that makes forest sabotage a felony. Under current law, spiking is a misdemeanor with a possible sentence of one year and/or a \$1000 fine. McClure's bill includes a \$20,000 fine and/or five years in jail if spiking causes injury or property damage over \$500.

Black Canyon protected

Colorado's spectacular Black Canyon of the Gunnison is safe from development, and the federal government is a little poorer. As a result of a settlement reached between western Colorado rancher Richard Mott and the federal government, the latter will buy 4,200 acres of Mott's land on the north rim of the Black

Canyon adjacent to the Black Canyon National Monument. The dispute dates back to 1984, when Mott began to bulldoze roads and utilities into his land on the north rim. His work, which was stopped shortly, was in full view of the heavily visited south rim, which attracts about 280,000 visitors a year. According to a story in the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel* by reporter Nancy Lofholm, Mott had intended to develop the land into homesites. Mott had brought in the bulldozers, he said, in frustration over lagging negotiations with the government. In the wake of his bulldozing, Congress offered him \$1.2 million, or \$200 an acre, in a 1984 bill. Mott refused and went to court demanding \$600 an acre, or \$2.5 million. The settlement this month gives him \$2.1 million, or \$500 an acre, although the total includes attorney fees and interest. He also retains grazing privileges for the next 20 years. The addition of the 4,200-acre viewshed to the 14,000-acre monument clears the way for its possible upgrading to a national park.

In search of converts

The white supremacist group called Aryan Nations plans to branch out from Idaho to Salt Lake City, Utah. The Rev. Richard Butler, leader of the organization at Hayden Lake in northern Idaho, told the *Deseret News* that a regional office would help spread the group's message. Aryan Nations members believe that white Anglo-Saxons are superior to blacks, who are viewed as subhuman, and to Jews, who are portrayed as the "seed of Satan." Richard Hirschaut, spokesman for the Anti-Defamation League, said Butler was indicted this spring on charges of helping to foment a 1983 plot to overthrow the government.



EPA adds 99

The Environmental Protection Agency added 99 hazardous waste sites to its national Superfund cleanup priorities list this summer, including for the first time contaminated sites at federal facilities. Thirty-two federal sites, mostly Defense Department installations, were added to the list of the country's worst toxic and hazardous dumps. Three were in the West. DOD's Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Denver, Colo., was rated among the 100 most polluted sites in the nation. The other two sites were in Utah: Hill Air Force Base in the Great Salt Desert, and the Defense Depot in Ogden. While Defense Department and other federal facilities have long been known to contain hazardous waste sites, Congress only last year voted to include federal facilities in the Superfund law. Sixty-seven privately owned sites made the Superfund list,

including two in the West: the Hassayampa landfill in Arizona and the Montana Pole and Treating Co. in Butte, Mont. That raises the total number of sites on the Superfund priority cleanup list to 951, which is just a fraction of the nation's thousands of hazardous waste sites. Currently Congress has authorized the EPA to spend \$9.5 billion through 1991 to clean up the civilian sector. The Defense Department runs its own cleanup operations and will have to seek its own funding through Congress.

Blowdown to stay put

Forest Service officials will uphold the 1964 Wilderness Act by not harvesting the blowdown in Wyoming's Teton Wilderness (HCN, 8/17/87). After a tornado leveled 15,000 acres July 21, the Forest Service was pressed by timber interests and politicians to harvest the 25-30 million board feet of timber. They argued that the trees were a fire hazard, potential beetle infestation problem and valuable resource that could keep the Louisiana-Pacific mill in Dubois going for five years. A Forest Service study, however, answered two objections. It found that leaving the area in its natural state would not increase the hazards of fire or beetle infestation since timber-cutting also leaves a lot of debris. On the issue of building roads to bring the timber out, Forest Service spokesman Fred Kingwill said not violating the Wilderness Act was the chief concern. Leaving the area alone also protected Situation 1 prime habitat for grizzly bears, he added. In the meantime, the tornado's effects illustrate the power of nature much like Mount St. Helens or Gros Ventre Slide. "Many people have already come to see it," Kingwill said. "It's a tourist attraction."

remain trapped in his 'tragedy of the commons'

population. What he found was that, as populations expand, the common environmental resources they share are inevitably destroyed. "I realized that we could not possibly control the human population on a purely voluntaristic basis for this reason. I didn't like that, but I said, 'That's the way it is.' It's a case of reluctant admission of the conclusions."

The conclusion was difficult for Hardin and many readers to accept because it said that man's desire to share and be charitable can ultimately mire everyone in poverty and disease. That holds whether man's Christian-Marxist impulse leads an individual to help one less fortunate, or a rich nation to help a poor nation. But the "tragedy" does not just apply to rich helping poor; it also applies to the rich getting richer.

"The Tragedy of the Commons" generated much debate. "But that doesn't mean that people like it. And it doesn't mean they use it," he said.

To "use" the lesson of his essay, Hardin said, "both economists and ecologists have to be honest in their accounting so that we know the real costs (of development)." It is widely understood, he said, "that any

enterpriser will try to commonize his cost while he privatizes the profit. It's a game every enterpriser plays. And if he can win it, he makes money. Think of all the lumbermen getting trees out of the national forests. They commonize the cost of raising the replacement trees. They don't pay for that. But they privatize the profits by the sale of the trees."

Hardin said that putting a price on resources used in common -- land, water, air -- is difficult, but economists have developed methods. "Different technicians may come up with different answers, but at least you're coming up with some answers. If you don't even try -- if you just let those costs be commonized silently -- then you're in trouble."

The idea of game ranching, for instance, "is fundamentally sound. If you have a game ranch that's run properly, then the costs are not commonized. They're written into the whole thing and you charge the entry and shooting fees to pay the costs of replacing the animals that you shoot."

If Hardin sounds more like an economist than the microbiologist he is, it's because he says ecology and economics are intimately related. Economics "sets the rules," he said.

"So many people in environmentalism are turned off by economics, and if they're turned off they don't pay attention. I say they should keep at it. Economics properly pursued is absolutely essential to solving all our problems."

In his speech to the World Wilderness Congress, Hardin tied the two sciences together. "We tend to believe that one country's need is a demand that can be legitimately made on another." The acceptance of such a Christian-Marxist principle, he said, would be analogous to the economic law that bad money drives out good. Rich cultural standards, he said, would be driven down by the demands placed on the nations having those standards. Hardin's answer to the problem is to have each nation accept responsibility for its affairs, including control of their populations.

Hardin does not expect individuals to control their own populations. It must be done, he said, at the community level.

Although he supports the idea of individualism among nations, he said it is at the community level where population control should take place. "Here I have a standing disagreement with libertarian economists,"

he said. Libertarians support individual, voluntary action. "We lived that way, to a large extent, up to about 200 years ago. And there were a lot of children who died because they were poor. But we'll no longer do that. We won't let them die. If we are going to allow people to commonize the costs of having children, then we, as a community, have to have something to say about how many they have."

"That's the thing we're fighting toward, anyway," Hardin said. "We're not willing to go back to the old system of sink or swim, and we're not quite willing to go completely the other way, where the decision to have a child is basically a community decision rather than an individual decision."

Monetary incentives, Hardin said, would be a powerful method of inducing population control. "The first thing we should do is to remove the income-tax deduction for, say, children under two." And giving welfare to parents with dependent children isn't something Hardin likes, either. But the political obstacles to achieving a stable population vary. "I believe there are inventive ways to make control acceptable."

--Staci Wertz Hobbes

6-October 12, 1987 -- High Country News

HOTLINE



Sen. Bill Armstrong

A welcome ally

Sen. Bill Armstrong of Colorado is beginning to sound like an environmentalist. The conservative Republican has organized a clean air caucus among Western senators, sponsored a clean air "summit" in his home state, and started a push for oxygenated fuels, year-round daylight savings time, mass transit and even the purchase of a street sweeper fleet for the polluted city of Denver. Colorado environmentalists were happily surprised by Armstrong's "born-again clean air activist stance," says Elizabeth Otto, a staffer with the Colorado Environmental Coalition. Casey Padgett of Colorado's Public Interest Research Group says Armstrong could play a pivotal role in the upcoming debate over reauthorization of the Clean Air Act. Armstrong could galvanize "traditional opponents of clean air legislation into the realization that something has to be done," Padgett says. The senator's air-quality specialist, Dick Wadhams, says Armstrong now considers air pollution to be the single most important issue Colorado faces. "Businesses will be reluctant to expand or relocate to Colorado if they think the quality of life is harmed by air pollution," says Wadhams.

Heavy visitation

More than 16 million people visited the national parks of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, North Dakota and South Dakota this year. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Utah and Arizona was the busiest, with 1.7 million people coming to 186-mile-long Lake Powell. Runners-up were Yellowstone, Rocky Mountain and Grand Teton national parks and South Dakota's Mount Rushmore National Memorial. The National Park Service says its figures show tourism is increasing in the West.

Bear is ignited

Mistaken for a rock, a California black bear was accidentally set ablaze when firefighters set a back-fire in the Stanislaus National Forest recently. Jolted from sleep, the bear chased two firefighters but gave up the pursuit quickly. Observers said he must have been tired from fleeing fires, AP reports. The smoldering bear was not seriously injured.

Utah's Great Salt Lake takes a dive

If the Great Salt Lake of Utah has a sense of humor, it is laughing at the moment.

Last year, the Utah Legislature, at the urging of Gov. Norm Bangerter, decided to pump water out of the Great Salt Lake into the West Desert. This April and May, three giant pumps, built for \$60 million, went into action. Their function was to lower the lake's level enough to protect Interstate-80, the Salt Lake International Airport, a railroad, and other lakeside facilities that have not yet been drowned by the rising lake (HCN, 4/13/87).

However, the water year that ended Sept. 30 has been the sixth driest on record, and the lake dropped, precipitously, of itself. In September alone, the U.S. Geological Survey reported, the lake's southern arm declined six inches.

Altogether, according to AP, the lake has declined 27 inches since it peaked this spring at an historic

4,211.85 feet. Six of the 27 inches have been due to pumping. In volume, the pumps removed 750,000 acre-feet; evaporation removed 2.5 million acre-feet.

As a result of the decline, the lake's northern arm is now at 4,208.8 feet elevation. A drop of 10 more inches, to 4,208 feet, will require deepening of the intake channel to the pumps, which shows how much faster the lake has dropped than planners expected. In January 1988, the state legislature will have to decide whether to appropriate the \$3 million it will take to keep the pumps operating another year.

Although the 4,208 foot level is still far above the 4,198 feet it was in 1980, it is a comfortable level. The lake did an enormous amount of damage on its rise (HCN, 1/23/84), but a drop back to the old levels won't automatically repair the destruction.

The pumping has created a

companion lake to the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake. In fact the West Desert Lake, although shallow, is already twice as large as Utah Lake, according to Brigham Young University engineering professor Woodruff Miller.

The pumping plan had been criticized for its lack of science. Some said Utah had been lax over the years in failing to gather meteorological and other data about the lake, and that its implementation of the pumping plan was a technological shot in the dark. It was suggested, for example, that evaporation from the newly-created West Desert Lake might suppress natural evaporation from the Great Salt Lake, reducing the overall effectiveness of the pumping. The giant surge in natural evaporation due to the very dry year that ended Sept. 30 is likely to lead to additional controversy.

--Ed Marston

Wyoming Outdoor Council returns to its roots

The Wyoming Outdoor Council celebrated its 20th anniversary Sept. 12 and 13 by listening to calls that it return to its roots. WOC was founded as the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, and environmental groups from around the state gathered at the anniversary meeting to ask it to resume that original role.

Among the groups represented at the meeting near Sinks Canyon, outside Lander, were the Powder River Basin Resource Council, the Jackson Hole Alliance, the Society for Range Management, the Defenders of Wildlife, the Northern Rockies Action Group and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation.

State Rep. Chris Plant, D-Sweetwater, and a former WOC board member, also called for the forma-

tion of a conservation PAC in Wyoming. But WOC President John Perry Barlow, a Cora rancher, said, "This was attempted several years ago, and right away it turned into an attempt to push through a liberal Democratic agenda along with conservation issues."

The Lander-based group, whose executive director is Donn Kesselheim, also discussed a possible environmental bill of rights. Barlow said the timing is right "because the short-timers have left and I think the only people who are in the state are the people who love it enough to stay even if it means being poor."

The group heard a celebration of past accomplishments. State Sen. John Turner, R-Teton-Sublette, told the 75 people at the meeting that

legislation passed in the 1970s had given Wyoming strong reclamation, siting and water quality laws. His main legislative regret, he said, was the loss of the Wildlife Trust Fund.

Guest speaker Robert Yuhnke, an attorney with the Environmental Defense Fund in Boulder, Colo., and a key person in the acid rain fight WOC has been immersed in, discussed litigation and conservation.

"Litigation should be used sparingly, and only where a community has reached a resolve as to what the outcome should be. WOC should be investing its resources in legislative involvement rather than litigation."

--Katharine Collins,
Ed Marston

Group to fill Colorado environmental vacuum

Colorado environmentalists once again have a state-wide coalition now that the Colorado Environmental Coalition has emerged from the ashes of the old Colorado Open Space Council.

The coalition is quickly filling the large shoes of its predecessor. At an annual retreat in Crested Butte, Colo., Oct. 3 and 4, the group outlined its new direction. Along with its 30-plus member groups, CEC will sponsor a first-ever Colorado Environmental Summit, called "Colorado on the Edge," in February at the University of Colorado. Other projects in the works are a state-wide wilderness leaders' meeting in Montrose, Nov. 14-15, and a Colorado environmental directory.

At the retreat, leaders from many state organizations discussed strategy for Colorado's major environmental issues. They include a Colorado wilderness bill, wild and scenic rivers designation, the proposed Two Forks dam project and oversight of the Forest Service's management and timbering of public lands.

CEC participants include leaders from the Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter, the Colorado Mountain Club, The Wilderness Society, Trout Unlimited, Colorado Outward Bound School, the National Audubon Society

and its many state chapters, the Colorado University Environmental Center and several smaller state groups.

When the Colorado Open Space Council was formed in 1964, it was the first state environmental coordinating and networking group in the West. Its many battles included the 1964 Wilderness Act, anti-billboard legislation, dam fighting and many other Colorado conservation issues.

According to Roger Fuehrer, council founder and present CEC president, COSC reached its peak of activity in 1979 and the early 1980s. It fought for the 1980 Colorado wilderness bill and against the

Reagan administration's attack on Western public lands.

Fuehrer says the council's mistake was over-extending itself in a major fundraising campaign to the state's business community in 1983. At the same time, the Reagan administration cut off grants to many non-profit groups. Faced with a \$34,000 debt and loss of its normal revenue, the group nearly disbanded.

Fuehrer says an upswell of contributions from its members saved the organization, paid its debts and set the new organization on its present course.

--Steve Hinchman

BARBED WIRE

Arizona's Gov. Evan Mecham is a good neighbor.

Thanks to its controversial governor, Arizona has lost \$25 million in convention business to surrounding states.

All the king's horses, and all the king's men, couldn't...

According to Idaho Sen. James McClure, as reported in the Idaho Post-Dispatch the Iran-Contra hearings have done so much damage to the presidency, it will be years healing.

And here we thought the problem was the First World's desperate will to consume.

David Rockefeller, the former head of Chase Manhattan Bank, told the recent Fourth Wilderness Congress in Boulder, Colo., that industrialization and large corporations cannot be blamed for environmental damage. The real culprits are poor people and "ignorance and the desperate will to survive."

BULLETIN BOARD



Kelly Kindscher

SPIDERWORT SALAD

In his book, *Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie: An Ethnobotanical Guide*, Kelly Kindscher tells of a time before fast-food restaurants when dinner meant bastard toadflax, spiderwort salad or perhaps purple-poppy mallow root. A graduate student in ecology, Kindscher spent 80 days in 1983 walking 690 miles across the prairie from Kansas City to the Rocky Mountain foothills. When water was scarce, he says, he chewed the leaves of calamagrostis, a medicinal herb that makes a person salivate to relieve thirst. The walk led to this book, which profiles 82 plants and wild grasses, including a brief history and use by native peoples.

University Press of Kansas, 329 Carruth, Lawrence, KS 66045. Paper: \$9.95 plus \$1.50 postage. 276 pages. Illustrated with maps and drawings by Carol Kuhn.

RECOGNIZE A CONSERVATIONIST

The National Wildlife Federation is accepting nominations for the 1987 National Conservation Awards. The award recognizes individuals and corporations for achievements in the following fields: communications, corporate leadership, education, government, international, legislative/legal, organization, science and special achievement. Past winners include Roger Tory Peterson, Walter Cronkite and Ansel Adams. To make a nomination, contact Charles Miller by Nov. 1 at National Wildlife Federation, Public Affairs Dept., 1412 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-2266 (202/797-6800).

CONSERVATION AND ACID RAIN

Congress, industry and even some environmentalists overlook conservation as a way to reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants, says Public Citizen, the advocacy group, in *Electricity Conservation: A Legislative Solution to Acid Rain*. This 11-page report outlines ways to conserve electricity as a cost-effective method of reducing acid rain. Public Citizen, a non-profit research group, advocates statewide emissions ceilings, thus encouraging states to conserve electricity. David Efken's report is available from Public Citizen Critical Mass Energy Project for \$2 prepaid. For more information contact Public Citizen, 215 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003 (202/546-4996).

WILDLIFE IN PERIL

Will Colorado again be the home of the grizzly bear or black-footed ferret? John A. Murray, author of an Indian Peaks Wilderness guide and instructor at the University of Denver, looks at the prospects for six endangered mammals in the state: the river otter, wolverine, black-footed ferret, lynx, gray wolf and grizzly bear. His book, *Wildlife in Peril*, focuses on their loss of habitat, chances of survival and varying reintroduction programs.

Roberts Rinehart, Inc. Publishers, P.O. Box 3161, Boulder, CO 80303. Cloth: \$22.50. Paper: \$10.95. 226 pages. Illustrated with black and white photographs.

HIGH IN OREGON

Oregon Mountain Ranges, by Montana writer and naturalist George Wuerthner, is the first volume of the Oregon Geographic Series. Dominated by fine color photographs, this book goes beyond the popular coast range and the Cascades to explore the Siskiyous, Basin and Range, Blue and Wallowa Mountains. Wuerthner's is a comprehensive and concise account of Oregon's high country, including information on the geology, weather, wildlife and vegetation.

American Geographic Publishing, P.O. Box 5630, Helena, MT 59604. Paper: \$14.95. 104 pages. Illustrated with color photographs.

CHEMICALS IN THE WATER

The Freshwater Foundation is sponsoring a national conference on *Agricultural Chemicals and Groundwater Protection: Emerging Management and Policy*, in St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 22-23. The escalating use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture is increasingly evident in groundwater, the drinking water for 97 percent of rural America. The conference will bring together government agencies, policy makers, farmers, agribusiness, researchers, the agricultural industry and public interest groups. Advanced registration is \$135 before Oct. 14; \$160 at the door. Contact Linda Schroeder, Freshwater Foundation, 2500 Shadywood Rd., Box 90, Navarre, MN 55392 (612/471-8407 or 612/471-7467).

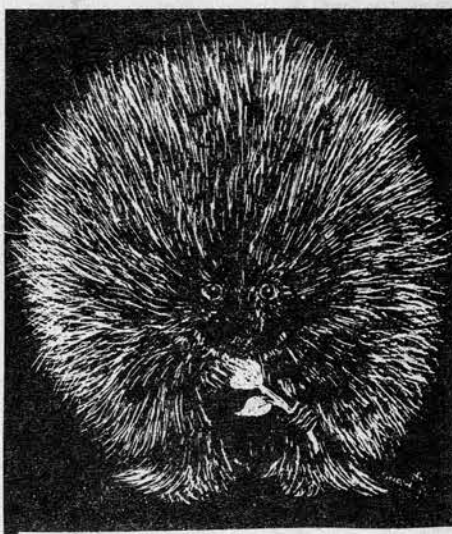
LITERATURE TO LICHENS

The WPA Guide to 1930s Colorado was originally published in 1941 as part of the New Deal's Federal Writers Project. Researchers, writers, photographers and editors combed Colorado compiling information for travelers. Besides the state's history, the arts, cities and more, there are suggested car tours of the rural areas. The book covers what are now backroads, "where Colorado's real treasures lie... Here the Old West lingers, and Colorado rustics may still be found," says Noel Thomas, a history professor at the University of Denver, who introduces the reprint.

University Press of Kansas, 329 Carruth, Lawrence, KS 66045. Paper: \$12.95. 576 pages. Illustrated with maps, sketches and photographs.

WALKS AGAINST CONTAMINATION

Colorado environmentalists and anti-nuclear groups are continuing protests against the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant near Denver, Colo., with peace walks to the plant gates on the first Sunday of every month. Walkers will converge on the plant from both Boulder to the north and Golden to the south. Walkers can meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Boulder Court House lawn and at 9:30 a.m., at Golden's Parfat Park at 10th and Washington. There will also be a peace march and rally at the plant's north side along Highway 128 on Oct. 24, sponsored by the Shut Down Rocky Flats Committee. For more information, contact Sue at 303/526-1649, Laura at 303/477-1456 or Doug at 303/233-4317.



CAMPGROUND CRITTERS

Children of all ages may enjoy the guide, *Common Campground Critters of the Mountain West*. Well illustrated with photographs, the booklet offers easily identifiable portraits of favorite forest animals such as the golden-mantled squirrel, yellowbelly marmot and the mountain chickadee. Authors Robert and Jean Pollock, both biologists, explain a critter's food preferences, burrowing habits and choice of winter accommodations.

Roberts Rinehart, Inc., P.O. Box 3161, Boulder, CO 80303. Paper: \$3.95. 20 pages. Illustrated with photos, sketches, location map.

A BISON IN THE CLASSROOM

Yellowstone National Park is the classroom for *Expedition: Yellowstone!* designed for teachers who want 4th, 5th and 6th graders to learn more about the outdoors. Teacher materials consist of a workbook and a storybook that integrate lessons relating to mathematics, science, social studies and language arts to stories about the park. Teachers may bring an expedition to the park and stay in the cabins of the Lamar Buffalo Ranch; a ranger will help develop plans, hikes and trips. *Expedition: Yellowstone!*, a National Park Service project, was written by Park Service ranger-naturalists Jack de Golia and Joe Zarki. With assistance from the World Wildlife Fund and the National Park Foundation, the materials will be published by Roberts Rinehart, Inc. of Boulder, Colo., by Oct. 1987. For more information contact the National Park Service, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190 (307/344-7381 ext. 2339).



Victorian house in Aspen, Colorado



Elizabeth Garsonnin, OBP

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

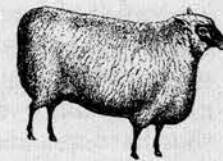
Founded in Bozeman, Mont., less than a year ago, the travel consulting service called Off the Beaten Path has already sent 280 clients into the Northern Rockies states of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. Comments filtering back from individuals and groups, many of whom came from the East, indicate that founders Bill and Pam Bryan are doing something right. Marketing director Julie Davies says people are entranced by the mountains and like the fact that the service takes no commissions. "We spend a lot of time checking out places," she says. For information on a trip featuring skiing yurt to yurt, for example, or fly fishing excursions by horse, write Off the Beaten Path, 109 E. Main St., Bozeman, MT 59715 (406/586-1311).



FLORA

Colorado Flora, Western Slope, by William Weber, the curator of the University of Colorado Museum Herbarium, is an illustrated taxonomic guide for the moment you arrive at a 14,000-foot peak or a deep valley in Colorado. Weber says he also hopes this hefty book "may be responsible for influencing intelligent decisions in future land use."

Colorado Associated University Press, 1338 Grandview Ave., Box 480 University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309. Hardback: \$19.50. 530 pages. Illustrated with maps, photos and sketches.



NEW DIRECTIONS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

The National Center for Appropriate Technology is sponsoring a conference this fall on *New Directions for Rural Communities*. It will be held at two locations: Bozeman, Mont., Oct. 20-22; and Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 19-21. The meetings will focus on a diversified agriculture as an alternative to looking for new industry and foreign investors to boost the economy. Speakers include Garth Youngberg of the Institute for Alternative Agriculture, Robert Gray of Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas, Nancy Matheson of Alternative Energy Resources Organization, Fred Kirschenman of the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society, and Karl Ohs of Montana Agriculture Production, Inc.. The conference will also include workshops on new techniques to conserve soil and water, control pests and grow new crops for new markets. Contact Steve Thomas at NCAT, 815 15th St. NW, #938, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202/347-9193).

8-October 12, 1987 -- High Country News

Grit: a doxology

I praise the country women
of my mother's generation
who bred, brought up and boasted
six Australians each--
the nearest doctor fifty miles
on a road cut off by flood;
the women who by wordless men
were courted away from typewriters
and taught themselves to drive--
I praise their style
in the gravel corners.
I praise the snakes they broke in two
and the switch of wire they kept in a cupboard.
I praise what they keep and what they lose--
the long road in to the abattoirs,
the start which cures
a stockman of shooting swans.

I praise the prints, the wide straw brims
they wore out to the clothes line;
I praise each oily crow that watched them.
I praise the tilting weather--
the dry creeks and the steady floods
and the few good weeks between.
I praise each column in the ledger
they kept up late by mosquito and lamp-light;
the temerity of the banker
reining them in at last--or trying;
the machinations for chequered paddocks
swung on the children's names;
the companies just one step ahead;
the tax clerk, in his way, also.

I praise each one of their six children
discovering in turn
the river in its tempers
the rapids and the river trees;
the children who grew up to horse sweat
and those who made it to the city.
I praise the stringy maxims
that served instead of prayers;
also the day that each child found
a slogan not enough,
surprising themselves in a camera flash
and bringing no extra paddocks.

I praise the boast of country women:
that they could have been a wife
to any of a dozen men
and damn well made it work.
I praise what I have seen
to be much more than this.
I praise their politics of leather;
their ideologies in a line of cattle;
the minds that would not
stoop to whiskey.

I praise their scorn
for the city of options, the scholars
in their turning chairs and air-conditioned theories.
I praise also that moment
when they headed off in tears--
the car in a toolshed failing to start,
a bootfull of fencing wire.
I praise the forty years
when they did not. I praise
each day and evening of their lives--
that hard abundance year by year
mapped in a single word.

Geoff Page
Curtin, New South Wales
Australia

Effigy mounds

When the fires at the altar
are put out and it isn't time for sleeping,
it isn't time for Sarah, thirteen,
to find her bed with the Reverend
because she's felt the sky
pulling her into the fallen leaves.

If the settlements end here
and the prairie
seems to her unimagined,
the distance surrounded by wolves,
you'll have to understand
her reluctance, tightening the girth

of her saddle, the kind of afternoon
when everything stops
and even the flies slow down.
Something hurries across the burnt sky
into the blue she holds in her hand.
It enters like the sudden gray

in a rainstorm, the hail of an evening
set in place by the careful
pull of dark from light, the single
cloud passing quickly from the west.
So she builds a fire in the kitchen.
The sermon her husband is writing

tells of a God without mercy.
She'll bare herself to His touch
and her husband will begin looking
over the new families for a new bride,
one younger, with no liking to wonder
or want what she can't have.

Jan Minich
Wellington, Utah

She's felt

Roughing it

Carl was the one
who told me about her
told me what she said

They were roughing it, she said
across the bay at Fruitdale
splitting cedar to cook
lake water for drinking
light from kerosene lamps
a rock and gravel garden patch
with a clump of ancient apple trees.
No neighbors not even radio
trying to make a go of it
and she'd hiked over four miles
no more like five miles
to borrow some rolling tobacco.

And she stayed Carl said
six no, by God seven days
ate about thirty gigantic meals
drank forty-seven gallons of tea
smoked two tins of Export Fine Cut
gulped down three green apples
that doubled her up right quick
and never the whole damn time
not even once stopped talking

They were roughing it, she said
that's what made her so lonely.

Jim Green
Fort Smith, Northwest Territories
Canada

Acknowledgements: "Grit: A Doxology" c Geoff Page and Angus & Robertson, Publishers, by permission. "Roughing It" from the book *Beyond Here*, published by Thistle-down Press, Canada. "Here's to High Heels" from *Here's to High Heels*, published by Seven Buffaloes Press. "Milk" appeared in *The Montana Review* 9.

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Milk

On time, the cows call her
down from the pasture.
And now it's been ten years
she's worried
that good hay gets made,
milkjars are scalded,
cream isn't wasted.
The heifers she said
she wouldn't keep
keep getting themselves named.

Already August and rising
with the insects, the change
in seasons is in her arms:
the magenta bloom of ironweed,
a kitten who crawled out
of the trailerbed too young,
light shining smooth
on the pond where ducks
never think it's too cold.

Tonight she listens to the crickets
because by now the cows are bred and silent,
heads resting on the barn door
under the reddening maple,
tinged locust trees.
There is more to the moon
than a face a mystery,
there is something to touch,
to empty. She can see
that moon as when she found
the cows last winter
like lonely girls on the frozen pond.
One by one, she skated them in.

Nancy Takacs
Wellington, Utah

Here's to high heels

Here's to the high heels I'm wearing
and here's to all the high heels I've worn--
clean out my closets
from here to Saskatchewan,
enough spiked heels
to provide harrows
for every tired old farm
that failed and tried,
and failed again
in the kingdom of russian thistle
and burnt-out wives.

Here's to all the others
who dance in high-heeled shoes
(not many of us left)
Betty Grable died today,
she of the most beautiful legs
that continued on up
where her hips should be,
pillars of black lace,
frilled roofing--
startled moons where her eyebrows
sang.

Rent us a dance hall
with strenuous floor
over the garage
with red wire gas pumps--
we'll sweat up January for you,
we'll smear on lipstick
six times before intermission,
pat on powder through fences
of conversation;
we'll hold the music wide and blowzy
to spill out the years,
sideswipe all bondage
wilder than youth
to catch,
reconstruct dreams
in fly-specked corners.

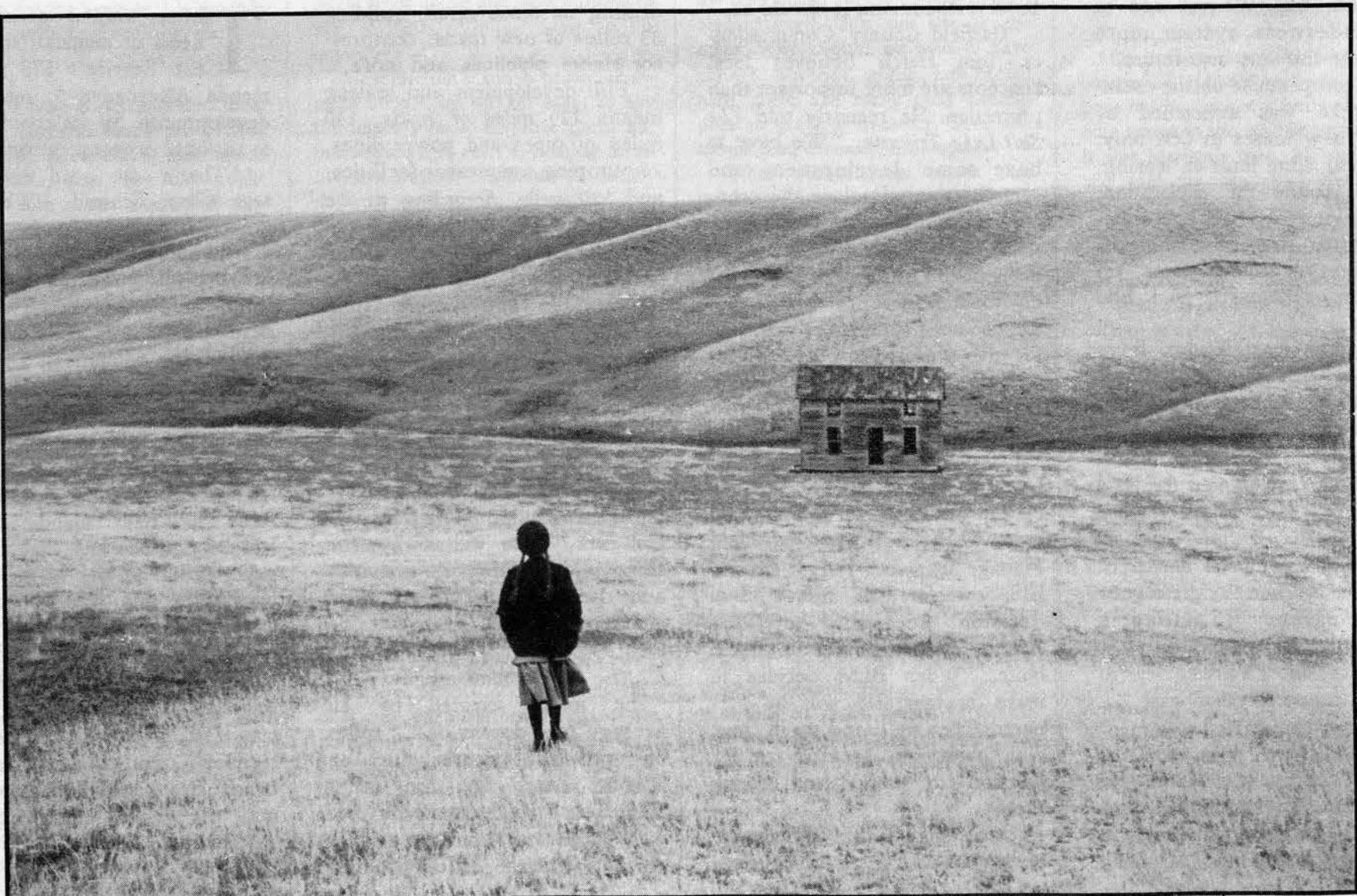
Oh bury us soggy at five a.m.,
heaped up high
on a hobble of memory,
legacies of fatty hearts,

sideroads
to heaven, and Gary Cooper.

Patricia Elliot
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Canada

Felt the sky

Photo from the movie Heartland, a Filmhaus Production



10-October 12, 1987 -- High Country News



Raymond Wheeler

Thousand-foot-deep gorge of Death Hollow in the headwaters of the Escalante River, Utah

Box...

(Continued from page 1)

Association explained this compromise by reporting, "Time is important in the race between wilderness and resource extraction. Whatever we can get this year will be removed from the bargaining tables of future years. If Box-Death Hollow is not resolved, wilderness across the state will be in jeopardy. With one last push we may accomplish our first, not last, Forest Service wilderness bill. We will add to this wilderness system more acreage in the very near future."

The compromise on the exclusion areas was sweetened by limiting new leases to CO₂ only; a five-year time limit on leasing; no new roads for exploration; camouflaging of roads and structures built for development; protection of ground water; reclamation of damaged land; and more.

But the restrictions have proven a double-edged sword. Gary Macfarlane of the Utah Wilderness Association says, "Now, some people argue that it means Congress wanted the land developed."

Dixie National Forest Supervisor Hugh Thompson illustrates that point: "When Congress goes to the extent of putting a stringent set of stipulations on a wilderness bill, it's pretty clear to me they intend for us to lease."

The Box-Death Hollow controversy illustrates differences of strategy and policy within the environmental community, and the fight between it and the energy industry. In 1984, Dick

Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association was able to argue that it was necessary to compromise in order to get some wilderness. Today, Utah environmentalists take a harder line.

At the same time, energy companies and residents of the development-hungry small towns in southern Utah say the issue proves that environmentalists don't respect a compromise. To them, the words of Sam Taylor, publisher of the *Moab Times-Independent*, ring true, "It was left out of the wilderness so it could be developed. And it should be."

Garfield County Commissioner Tom Hatch believes local concerns are more important than protection. He recently told *The Salt Lake Tribune*, "We have to have some development and something to stimulate the economy rather than just designating wilderness. There needs to be designated wilderness for the environmentalists to enjoy, but we also need some sites set aside for the preservation of civilization. We need jobs, we need a tax base."

While The Box-Death Hollow Wilderness is part of the national forest system, authority to issue oil and gas leases on federal land rests with the Bureau of Land Management. The Forest Service EIS, therefore, is not a final decision. According to Doug Austin, district ranger in Escalante, "When BLM decides to lease, another EIS will be prepared. Then we'll end up in court with opponents seeking an injunction to stop the leasing process."

Accordingly, the differences among the five levels of develop-

ment examined by the EIS are largely irrelevant to conservationists. The alternatives range from "No Action" -- CO₂ development on the exclusion areas along with development of all existing leases -- to full scale development and leasing of all unprotected lands within the "known geologic structure."

No Action in this case means living up to what has been perceived as congressional intent -- development of CO₂ in the exclusion areas and of oil and gas on existing leases. It could mean drilling on 8,000 acres, building 33 miles of new roads, compressor plants, pipelines, and more.

Full development and leasing means 129 miles of roads, 130 miles of pipes and power lines, 16 pumping compressor facilities, and 120 wells. According to the EIS, page IV-65: "Drilling and construction activities associated with the development of CO₂ will be audible and visible from various locations within the wilderness. ... (M)itigating measures will reduce, but not totally eliminate the visual and auditory impacts. ... Removal of facilities and reclamation during final abandonment will reduce the visual intrusion significantly. However, there will always be some evidence of man's activities and the primeval, untrammelled character of the area will be lost."

The EIS admits, page IV-64: "The impact created by an average road density of 4.2 miles of road per square mile on Antone Bench and the other Exclusion Areas cannot be avoided. However, limiting vehicle access to that needed to produce

CO₂ will reduce the effects on wildlife in these areas."

Ranger Austin points out that it is not the Forest Service's responsibility to assess demand. Its job is to respond to a "need" expressed by industry and to balance this against other resource values. The draft EIS attempts to predict the impacts of development and to determine how and what mitigation measures would be required.

Thus, without questioning need or demand, the Forest Service's EIS recommends Alternative 5, maximum development, for its contribution to national economic growth.

"That's not good enough," says Clive Kincaid. "What we are talking about is the actual destruction of a designated wilderness. Existing oil and gas leases on Antone Bench can be developed only if roads are built through the wilderness. That is a right that can't be withheld. The only authority is Congress, so we're going to have to go back to Congress to fix it."

Kincaid says the Forest Service was not "mandated" to lease for CO₂, and that the agency failed to look at the value of wildlife and visual resources along Antone Bench.

"It really is one of the most rugged and visual places in southern Utah. What's being proposed, if it were carried to fruition, would turn Antone Bench into a gas field. It would turn the whole center of the wilderness into an industrial park."

Forest Supervisor Thompson doesn't see it that way. "With the best of our expertise, we think we can do it and leave the wilderness intact. Those fingers of excluded land slide out into the wilderness. But they're out on top. The real wilderness is deep down in the riparian areas. From ridges you can look down into it. But, to really experience the particular uniqueness of natural wilderness, you've got to be down in the canyons."

Speaking for The Wilderness Society, Mike Medberry finds "the ridge itself a wilderness experience, because of its incredible views. A maze of roads, cut through the sandstone and displacing old-growth ponderosa pines, would destroy its integrity; 4.2 miles of road per square mile is as intense as clear cutting a forest."

Thompson understands this concern, he says, but he adds: "There's been a vast improvement in our cognizance of environmental degradation. We know that we're living in a glass house. Every environmental or-

ganization in the country and the state is watching us."

Thompson says leasing will test whether the CO2 deposits are as vast as claimed. "If additional wells don't prove it out, it won't be developed. We tried to take full development scenarios to see if we could deal with it," he says.

Kincaid remains unconvinced. "Where," he asks, "was the last place you went to where a billion dollars were spent altering the face of the earth and you couldn't tell it happened? Five hundred people working for four years making compressors four stories high, roads, power lines, wells. We could probably obliterate the effects if we paid enough to do it. Would we?"

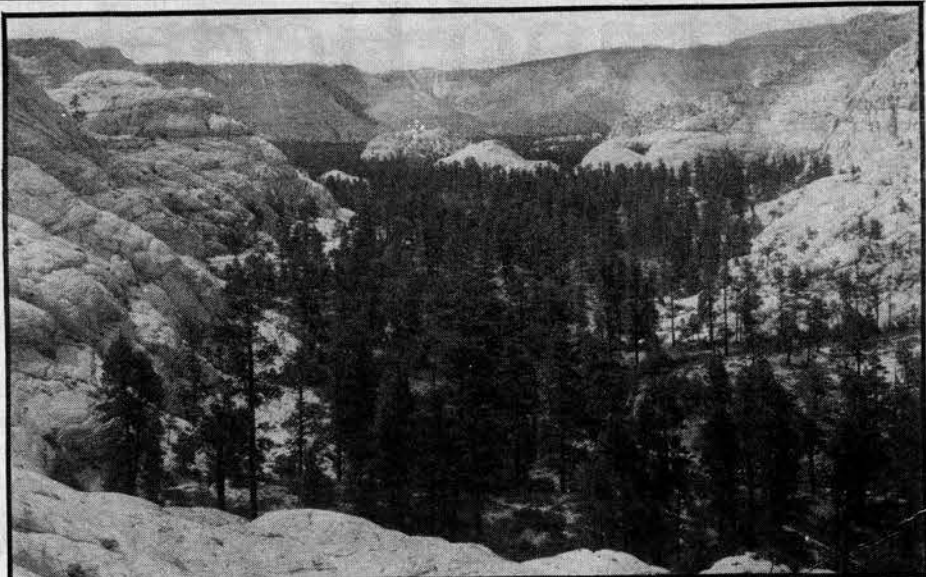
Comments may be sent to Hugh C. Thompson, Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest, Box 580, Cedar City, UT 84720. The deadline is Oct. 20.

□

Craig Bigler reports from Moab, Utah, for *High Country News*.

"Where was the last place you went to where a billion dollars were spent altering the face of the earth and you couldn't tell it happened?"

Rodney Greene, SUWA



Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area from the side of Antone Bench

LETTERS

NO BMW

Dear HCN,

As requested by Linda Hasselstrom in her letter (HCN, 8/31/87), here is my list of "less destructive ways to produce cattle":

1. Raise them in the eastern United States, where the terrain is level, precipitation adequate, and grass abundant -- not on fragile Western public lands -- not on the public's land (or at least on private land, if in the West). Since only 2 percent of this country's livestock are produced on public lands, it would be easy to make up the difference; or we could raise other kinds of food to make up for the average 1 1/2 pounds of public lands beef each person eats annually.

That's it.

Now, I have a question for Linda. If public-lands ranchers have done such a great job of taking care of our public lands, then why are public lands in such rotten shape? If they do love the land so much, they sure have a funny way of showing it. If Linda Hasselstrom is as close to the land as she claims, surely she must see the ever-present overgrazing which is common all over the West?

I don't know about her, but it makes me angry (and sad) to see my land trashed for a profit (or even a loss) by people who are also heavily subsidized by my tax money. I feel the public has every right to ask them to do the job right or get their livestock off. Considering they've had 100 years to do the job right and haven't yet come close, maybe we should all begin to see that livestock don't belong on public lands.

Hasselstrom seems to miss the whole point: If ranchers can't graze their livestock on the public's land without degrading the environment or spending lots of tax money doing it, then what right have they to be on public lands? The idea isn't to save the small-time Western rancher at any cost; it is to protect our public



Lynn Jacobs and his two children on his Arizona farm

lands from abuse and save billions of tax dollars. Whose land is it anyway??

Hasselstrom's subtle personal attacks on me are way off base, to say the least. I could disprove them all, but suffice it to say I'm nothing at all like the citified, consumptive, BMW-driving ego-environmentalist she tries to paint.

Her argument that small-time ranchers are basically harmless to the environment compared to major corporations is also way off the mark. A bunch of little overgrazers can ruin the land just as thoroughly as a few big ones. Just look around a little to see ample evidence of this. The little guys often do even more damage because they are trying to squeeze a certain amount of profit from the land, while big corporations are often grazing livestock mainly for tax write-off purposes, or can afford not to heavily overgraze.

As many public lands ranchers do, Hasselstrom offers us only two choices -- let ranchers continue to dominate public lands, or the big eastern corporations will come marching in and "make the West another slave colony." Well, excuse me, but this is pretty absurd. Getting livestock off the public's land doesn't mean anything except that livestock would be off the public's land -- and

the land would finally be able to start healing itself. It's not one or the other. Why should we have to have either? Without going into detail here, there are many good alternatives to grazing livestock. Diversion tactics (and threats), once again.

When Hasselstrom states that ranchers "are tired of always being seen as the bad guys," it makes me wonder what country she's been living in all these years. Cowboys are the national hero. Our society loves ranching and anything even remotely "Western." I can't think of any other group (except maybe farmers) that gets as much sympathetic support. But then, soliciting pity from the general public is one of the main things that keeps the public lands grazing industry in business.

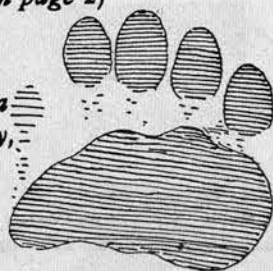
It's easy to feel sorry for some of the "small-time" ranchers who are (for good reason) having a hard time making a profit off of our public lands. With an open heart, it's just as easy to feel sorry for any one of a hundred groups of business and working people. But if we all had even half as much sympathy for the land itself as we do for ranchers, our public lands would be in much better shape.

Lynn Jacobs
Tucson, Arizona

Dear friends...

(Continued from page 2)

Front track of a
yearling grizzly,
4 in. x 4 in.



to it like it was a dog," she said. "I told it, 'Go on, get out of here!'" After sniffing the air, the bear turned and walked back down the trail.

Once reunited, the friends discussed turning back but Marilyn said she argued, "If he's waiting we might as well get to the peak first." The view was wonderful, she recalled.

On the way down the saw a hiker coming up. He said he hadn't seen a bear but he did see a banged-up dirt bike smack in the middle of the trail. It was Marilyn's bike, all right, and she said the bear had pushed or thrown it onto the trail, raked the padded seat with its claws and bent the gas tank. "What did we do to get him so mad?" she wondered.

Marilyn said a state wildlife officer told her the \$400 damage inflicted by the bear will be reimbursed by the state. He also said that dry weather has made food scarce this fall, and that tends to make bears very irritable.

--the staff

BARBS

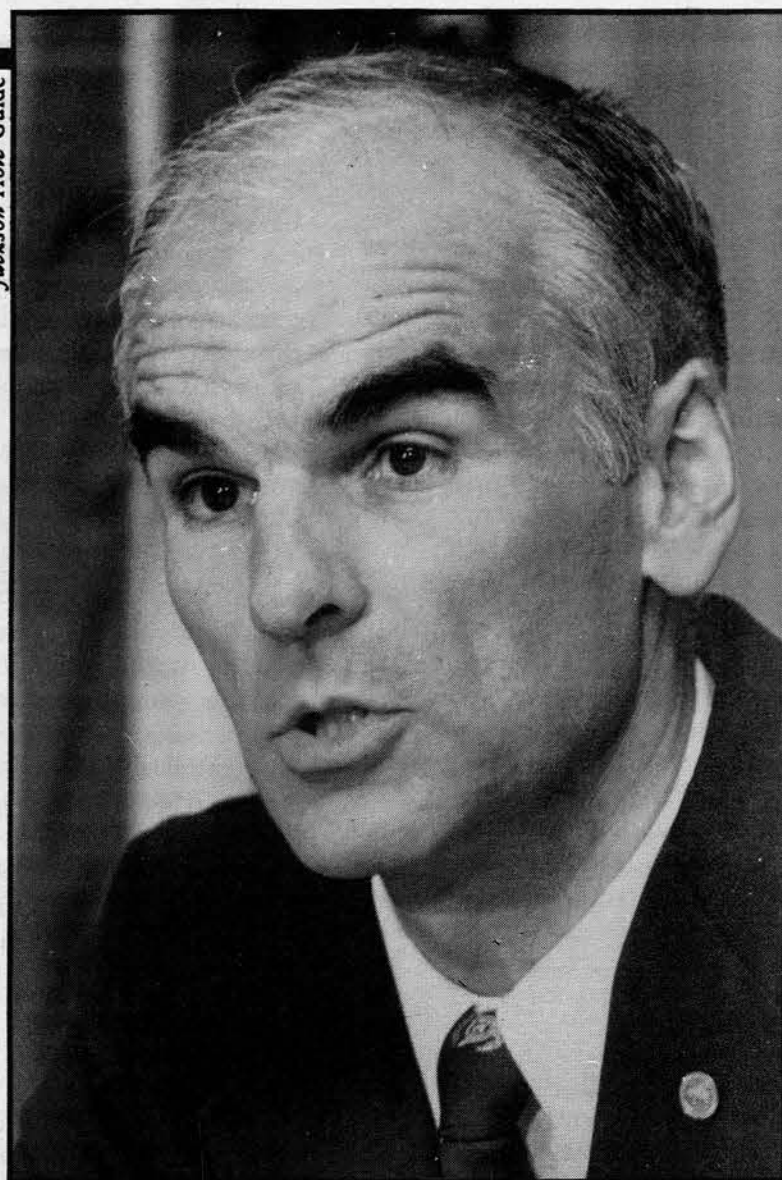
California developers need a round-the-clock dress code for their employees.

Orange County, California, is experiencing a burst of slow-growth sentiment, leading one pro-growther to tell *The New York Times*, "The fear is that even the employees of development firms and their consultants and suppliers turn into environmentalists when they get home and change clothes."

12-October 12, 1987 -- High Country News

Watt and Hodel succeeded in turning back the clock at Interior

Jackson Hole Guide



Interior Secretary Donald Hodel

by Steve Hinchman

The war fought by the Reagan administration for the Department of Interior and the 500 million acres of public land it manages occurred in two great battles.

The first battle was fought under Interior Secretary James Watt from 1981 to 1983. It was a public battle, in which Watt frankly stated his intent to lease all the coal, oil and gas he could; to develop national parks and wilderness refuges to the fullest extent; to block wilderness creation wherever possible; to cut as many trees as he could; and to generally reverse the environmentalist policies adopted by President Carter's Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus. The battle ended with the forced resignation of Watt.

The second battle has been less visible. Under Watt's second successor, Secretary Donald Hodel, the Reagan Administration has attempted to carry out the same policies in a quiet, non-confrontational way. Hodel, who insists he is an environmentalist, has continued Watt's work of building the Reagan revolution into the bone and muscle of the Department of Interior. To a large extent he has succeeded.

The success has two parts: the replacement of more modern land managers in the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service with those who favor mining, logging and selling public land; and the rewriting of the regulations that govern the 500 million acres of land and the trillions of dollars of resources controlled by Interior.

Interior houses agencies with a

variety of missions: the BLM, with its mainly low-altitude lands and its grazing-mining clientele; the National Park Service, with its tourist constituency; the Fish and Wildlife Service, with its responsibility for endangered species, migratory species such as ducks, and regulation of dams and other projects that may damage habitat; the Bureau of Reclamation, with its dam-building; the Bureau of Indian Affairs, with its duties to Native Americans; and the Office of Surface Mining, which regulates strip mines.

Each agency has been affected by Watt and Hodel to a different degree, but all have been affected.

There is no question that the Watt-Hodel effort has radically changed Interior. The question is: Has the administration achieved a temporary success that will vanish when it leaves office? Or has it so changed the personnel, regulations and outlook of the agencies that the Department of Interior will remain on this new track regardless of who takes it over in 1989?

A definitive answer is not possible now. It will be answered by time and historic analysis. But there is a consensus among environmentalists that the changes have been thorough:

"It's a legacy of even more lands ruined and disrupted, of public property and natural resource treasures given away to commercial interests at bargain prices," says National Audubon Vice-President Brock Evans.

But Evans says the worst impact of the Watt and Hodel years is the "near destruction of a great institution." Evans says that Interior is now morally shattered, and most of its employees who cared about stewardship have been let go or hounded out of office.

Brooks Yeager of the Sierra Club echoes that sentiment: "They have fundamentally altered and weakened the ability of the Interior Department to act as a real steward of our natural resources."

In disrupting the federal government's ability to preserve and protect the public lands, the administration may have achieved its ultimate goal. Watt and Hodel, who were both born and raised in the West, are part of the conservative wave that entered office with President Reagan in 1980.

In the West, that revolution took the form of the Sagebrush Rebellion. It was a reaction against changes initiated by the Carter administration that eventually would have taken control of the West from ranchers and miners.

As Evans describes it, "Carter wanted to change the ancient pattern in the West, get the stockmen off the land, get the timber industry out, get the Bureau of Reclamation out. It started a counter reaction."

The Reagan administration's agenda ran the gamut of Western resource issues. Watt increased coal, oil and gas leasing, timber harvesting, grazing and minerals extraction, while cutting or eliminating programs for recreation and wildlife and resisting further designation of park lands and wilderness.

Watt revealed his long-term intentions and methods in his first speech to Interior personnel, which was later leaked to the press. Destry Jarvis, Vice President for Policy for the National Parks and Conservation Association, says in that speech Watt pledged to always err on the side of use rather than preservation, to use the budget axe as his main policy tool, to remove personnel that stood in the way of his agenda, and to wherever possible change policy by changing regulations.

Evans adds that in 1981 another leak from Interior revealed that the department had attempted to get copies of the Sierra Club and Audubon membership lists in order to purge employees who belonged to the groups.

The leaks and repeated public gaffes cost Watt his job in 1983. Watt was first replaced by William Clark. But it is Clark's successor, Hodel, who is said by his opponents

to have carried Watt's policies with a smile and charm and consequently, much more successfully.

"Hodel gives lip service to conservation and renewable resources in a way that Mr. Watt never did, but in fact his policy is the same," says Yeager. "It's one of accelerating to the degree that it is politically possible the development of the federal lands energy base."

But just as Carter's attempts to change Interior led to the Sagebrush Rebellion, so has the Reagan administration's actions led to a reaction.

A former high level BLM staffer who served under both the Carter and Reagan administrations says the BLM's bias put the agency at odds with much of the public. "The classic exploitive programs, such as timber and mining, were greatly increased, while on the other side the programs that would have put the BLM in touch with the new land users and more of the public -- wildlife and recreation -- were cut down," says the staffer, who asked to remain anonymous.

Steve Richardson, Senior Counsel for The Wilderness Society, says, "Across the country, environmental organizations have experienced tremendous growth during the time Watt and Hodel have been in office. One reason is people don't share this administration's view of the future of America."

Yeager adds that Interior's conduct has "brought the department's minerals leasing program into extreme disrepute. They have taken such a hard ideological position in attempting to transfer public wealth into private hands that they have engendered a severe political backlash in Congress."

By the time Hodel took office, Congress had stopped most of the administration's major land policies. Then the administration switched tactics.

Evans says, "The major assaults were mounted in 1981 and 1982. When they failed, Watt and Hodel went back to the regulations, person-

nel shifts, purges and things like that. They won very little of their agenda in the public arena."

Critical changes were made by Watt and Hodel in the regulations Interior administers and in the department's personnel. Most of the regulations for the major environmental laws passed in the 1970s, such as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, were written in the last years of the Carter Administration. The regulations implementing the laws were written by consensus, worked out between teams of environmentalists, industry and federal officials and included public hearings and lengthy comment periods.

Under Watt and Hodel, many of those regulations were re-written, including those for coal leasing and mining, and for land management plans. In the neighboring Department of Agriculture, regulations for the Forest Management Act were re-written.

Mark Welsh, a western Colorado environmental consultant heavily involved in the initial negotiations over BLM and Forest Service regulations, says key provisions that environmentalists were able to put into law were removed when the regulations were redone. Examples are criteria that resource management plans and environmental impact statements must meet and standards for public participation.

Evans says Hodel rewrote the regulations with no public hearings and no public comment. "They trashed the intent of the law," he says. Many changes were challenged in court, but the victories didn't undo the damage, he says.

Watt and Hodel also made extensive cuts in department personnel and slashed agency budgets. The impact varied by agency, with the BLM probably the hardest hit.

There, budget cuts and staff reductions resulted in the laying off of an entire generation of new employees, says the BLM ex-staffer quoted earlier. The effect was to peel off a rising class of land managers broadly trained in natural resource issues and hand the agency back to the old guard, he says.

The staffer says the focus within the BLM became extremely political: "Even many of the old timers that were effective field managers found that the administration's appointees were meddling in field level decisions, because apparently they'd been telephoned by somebody with political influence. ...That led to early resignations and people going to other agencies. ...Field officers became afraid to promote people whose careers were in programs that the administration did not like, such as the wilderness and recreation programs."

In some cases people that resisted administration policies were hounded out of office. Joyce Kelly was director of the BLM's Wilderness Recreation and Cultural Resource Programs under both Watt and Hodel. She says her program was targeted for sabotage: "I was asked by one political appointee to tell state BLM directors not to submit any recommendations for wilderness designation." She refused to do so without written authorization. The authorization never came, but somehow her request, which was

written, got into the hands of Rep. John Siberling, who raised hell about it.

Kelly says from then on she was harassed considerably. "Finally it was too stressful and I decided to seek employment elsewhere," she says. Kelly received the Steven Mather award from the National Parks and Conservation Association for risking her career to properly manage the BLM's wilderness program.

According to Kelly and others, morale is low in the BLM and other agencies. "People are hunkering down and having to be very careful in what they do," says Kelly. "You are not finding the kind of creative risk-taking needed because you are going to risk your career if you do."

"I think it will take 20 years to repair the damage," says the ex-BLM staffer, "partly because they lost so many people who were just starting their careers. They had the talents needed in modern resource management."

Similar personnel changes occurred in the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Jarvis of the Parks and Conservation Association says the administration filled the upper levels of both

services with their own people wherever possible. "They've taken the authority to approve Park Superintendents away from (Park Service Director) William Mott and given it to Assistant Secretary William Horn. There are people at the regional and Washington offices who would never have achieved those positions in another administration."

Under Watt and Hodel, Interior has spent \$1 billion on upgrading and maintaining park facilities which were in disrepair. That has resulted in a higher quality park experience for the public, says Hodel's press secretary, David Prosperi.

But Jarvis charges that while the Park Service concentrated on roads and buildings, developments outside park boundaries and increased activities inside boundaries caused the decline of park animal and plant species, deterioration of views due to air pollution and a loss of primitive settings from which to experience nature.

Perhaps the worst result of Watt and Hodel's tenure is lost opportunities, says Jarvis. "Lands that could have been acquired for \$1 million undeveloped in 1982 may now be \$10 million and developed."

At Fish and Wildlife, the admin-

istration has repeatedly tried to cut all funding for research and habitat projects connected with the Endangered Species Act. At the same time, Interior has tried to increase revenue by opening up national wildlife refuges to grazing and oil and gas exploration, says Scott Feierabend, director of the National Wildlife Association's fisheries and wildlife program.

Interior's most recent target for more revenue is the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. Says Feierabend, "They clearly see it as an oilfield instead of a national wildlife refuge."

The consensus among those who watch the National Park and Fish and Wildlife Services is that there are many frustrated and disgruntled employees biding their time until the next elections. But even if the next administration is sympathetic to environmental concerns, it will take a very large effort to change direction. Says Evans, "It will take time to re-build the human institution. We may never reclaim the lands."

□

Steve Hinchman is a staff reporter for *High Country News*.

A judge upholds a 1982 Watt coal lease

BILLINGS, Mont. -- The controversial 1982 sale of federal coal leases that helped push former Interior Secretary James Watt out of office has been upheld in court here. Pending a possible appeal, Watt's lease of an estimated 1.6 billion tons of coal underlying 21,000 acres of land in the Powder River Basin of eastern Montana and Wyoming was upheld on Sept. 23 by U.S. District Court Judge James Battin.

The judge ruled against a suit brought by the National Wildlife Federation, the Powder River Basin Resource Council and the Northern Plains Resource Council. The wildlife and rancher groups had asked the court to cancel BLM's Apr. 28, 1982, sale of the coal leases.

Battin dismissed arguments that the high bids on the 13 tracts fell far short of fair market value, and that a land use assessment of the area affected by the sale was inadequate.

But Battin's decision may be taken to the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, according to Bill Gillin, rancher and spokesman for Northern Plains Resource Council.

"James Watt practically gave away public resources to the coal companies. We said before the sale, in the lawsuit, and several times since, that there was no need for that much coal leasing in this area. With or without the 1982 leases, there continues to be tremendous excess capacity in the Powder River Basin," Gillen said. "Our lawsuit succeeded in focusing national attention on a disastrous coal leasing program, and getting action by Congress. The judge, however, did not reach the same conclusion as Congress, the Linowes Commission and the public."

Former Interior Secretary James Watt's approval of the sale was criticized in a 1983 report by the House Appropriations Committee,

which called the deal a giveaway of national resources at "fire sale" prices. The House report concluded that the \$66 million sale was \$60 million less than its worth, and that "such large-scale leasing under poor economic conditions distorts the market by flooding it with leased coal."

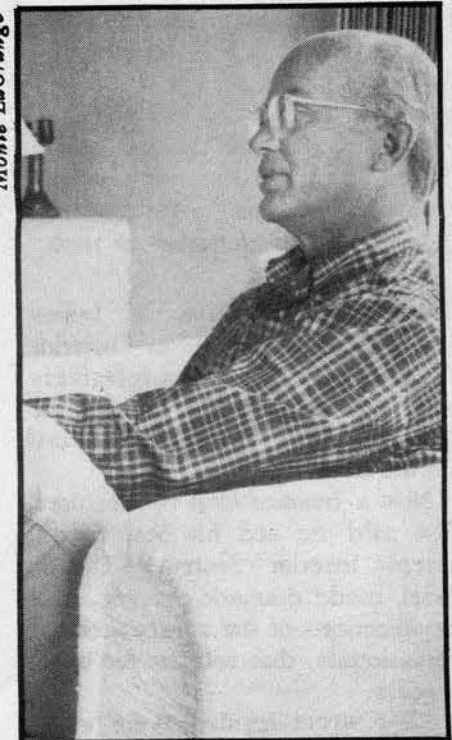
In his opinion upholding the sale, Battin ruled that Watt "provided a reasonable basis for the fair market value determinations on the leases in question...The competitive bidding process coupled with the evaluation procedures sufficiently assured that fair market value was received."

At the urging of Congress, Watt appointed the Linowes Commission to examine the sale. That commission concluded that Interior "probably did not receive fair market value... At the very least, the Interior Department made serious errors in judgment in its procedures for conducting the 1982 Powder River lease sale and failed to provide a sound rationale for many of its actions."

The judge also rejected the plaintiffs' charge that the government's secret minimum acceptable bid prices, which were leaked to coal industry representatives, compromised the sale. Experts in the regional office of Interior's Mineral Management Service (MMS) in Casper, Wyo., spent 4,000 man-hours trying to determine the fair market value for each tract.

However, department officials in Washington rejected the minimum bid figures. In addition, the figures were leaked. Barely one month before the sale, Interior came up with its own "entry level" bids, some of which were as much as half of the MMS recommendation. Interior officials said the leaks did not affect the sale because the MMS prices had been scrapped anyway.

Battin also ruled against the lawsuit's claim that potential future



James Watt

agriculture uses of the leased lands were not considered. "Plaintiffs' all-out attack on the April 1982 Powder River coal lease sale is not well-founded," Battin concluded. "Their vehement disagreement with the policy decisions and the ultimate conclusion of the Secretary (Watt) to hold the largest competitive federal coal lease sale in history does not provide a sufficient basis for the court to invalidate the sale."

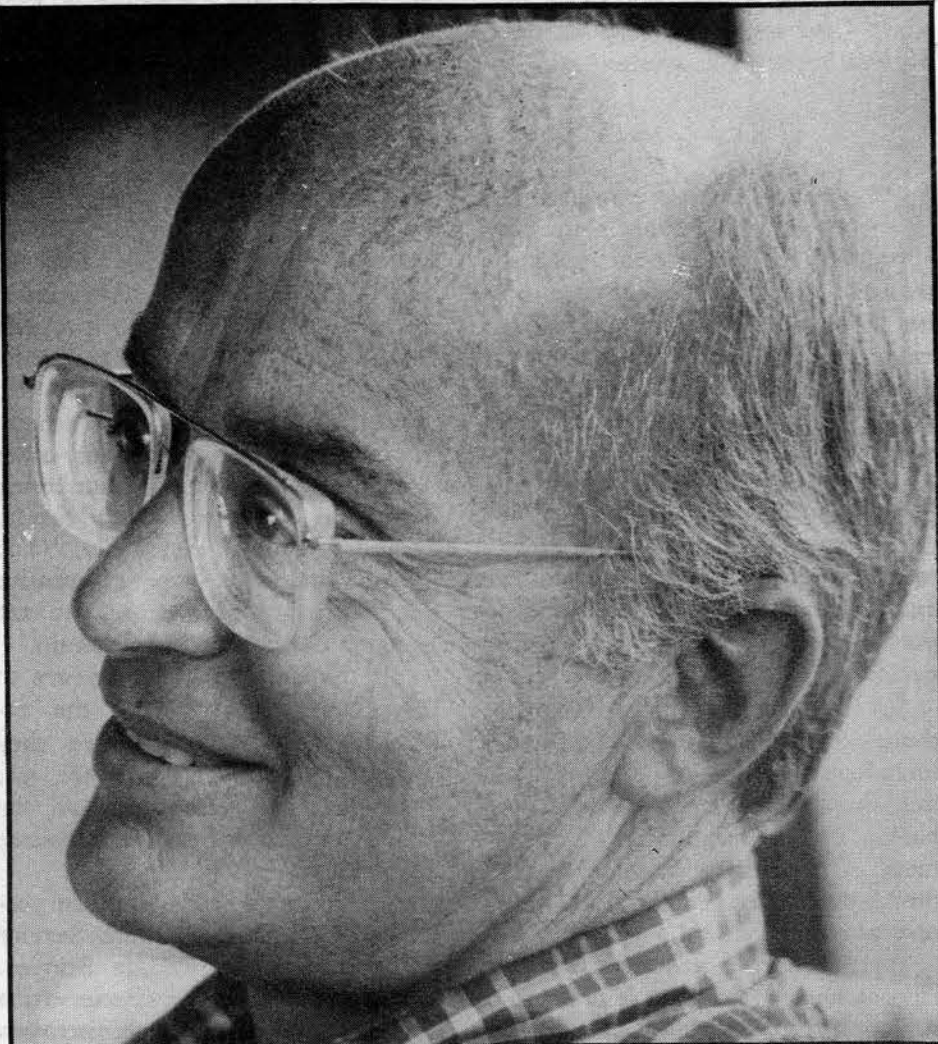
The latest market analysis for the Powder River Basin projects sufficient supply through the 1990s without leasing more federal coal. At a meeting October 29 in Sheridan, Wyo., the Powder River Regional Coal Team will decide whether to begin planning a new coal lease sale. According to Gillin, NPRC members will be there to "assure that the BLM follows the new, more rational program instituted since we first challenged the 1982 sale."

--Patrick Dawson

14-October 12, 1987 -- High Country News

James Watt recounts, and savors, some old battles

Monte LaOrange



James Watt

by Rocky Barker

JACKSON, Wyo. -- James Watt's tenure as Interior secretary was relatively short, but he says the changes he made in federal land policies will last into the next century.

Now a businessman and lecturer, Watt said he and his best friend, current Interior Secretary Donald Hodel, made dramatic changes, over the objections of the agency's career professionals, that will last for up to 50 years.

"We wrote regulations for every field office," Watt said. We spent tons of hours not writing news releases but writing manuals. We made massive changes that way and were expecting intense private hostility because the professionals knew what we were doing. But they couldn't get their hands on it. That's why they went to focusing on my religion -- You can't criticize someone who is cleaning up the parks."

Some changes, such as quadrupling the Park Service budget, were not controversial. But efforts to make oil and gas leasing easier, to allow development of wilderness lands, attempts to sell huge portions of federal lands and the sale of coal reserves at low prices sparked a massive environmental backlash to his policies.

"The discretion that gave Jim Watt the authority to do those things will give more reasonable people, who surely will follow, the chance to put things back in a more balanced perspective," said Steven Richardson, Wilderness Society senior counsel.

But Watt's actions will have effects on "areas that were entitled

to protection but not protected," Richardson added. Examples include the Powder River Basin in Wyoming, where huge coal reserves were sold at a loss, and in BLM wilderness study areas, where degradation was allowed to occur. "Those effects will last for many generations," Richardson said.

Watt said environmentalists were mostly opposed to his conservative philosophy. His efforts to decentralize power back to states and local government also weakened their power base, he said. In his book, *Courage of a Conservative*, Watt criticized special interest groups for putting liberal causes above the issues they were formed to lobby about. In many Western land issues, such as wilderness and water issues, conservation groups are using economic arguments to hide their true intentions, Watt said.

"The activists are not concerned about the quality of the environment, but they are interested in the form of government and they'll use whatever tool they can to achieve that objective."

Watt finds interest in environmental issues waning on the college campuses where he lectures. That gives him a chance to talk about the subject that he enjoys the most: change in America. "Today's liberal wants to keep the status quo," said Watt. "We conservatives are the outsiders who want to get in."

Conservatives have battled the liberal establishment in seeking changes in education, welfare, defense and entertainment. As their sword, they use moral values, which Watt said is what liberals did in the 1960s to fight racial segregation.

But while Watt has taken some of his lessons from liberal politicians, he continues to express disdain for their philosophy. "Unfortunately liberals have set the moral standards and that's why you have wife beating, child abuse, high divorce rates and high suicide rates."

Watt said he is not strongly partisan, instead drawing the line between liberals and conservatives. He calls Wyoming Democratic Gov.

Michael Sullivan one of his closest personal friends.

"I can be more at ease with a Sam Nunn or a Scott Matheson than I would with a Lowell Weicker," he said, "because philosophy and commitment to a value system is more important than your party." Nunn is a Democratic senator from Georgia, Matheson a former Democratic governor of Utah and Weicker a Republican senator from Connecticut.

While unpopular in the East and among conservationists, Watt still has support in the West. But he says he has no plans to turn that support into a campaign for a state office. "The nice thing about living in Wyoming is we have excellent representation in Washington."

But Watt said he is interested in running for the Teton County, Wyo., school board. "I think that's where the real action is," he said. "That's where the important things are discussed."

Watt is chairman of two companies: Environmental Diagnostics, headquartered in North Carolina, and Disease Detection International of California. He also has several private business interests and is on the lecture circuit.

Watt is as popular among environmentalists as a grizzly bear in a sheep camp. But the devoutly conservative Watt and his wife, Leilani, have found themselves at home in Wyoming's bastion of environmentalism, Jackson Hole.

"My wife and I are born and raised and educated in Wyoming so this is home," said Watt. "My business interests dictated a lot of travel and a lot of telephone work, so I could live anywhere I wanted as long as there was an airport," he said. "If you could live anywhere you want in the world, Jackson Hole is the number one candidate, so we came home."

Watt keeps in touch with members of his former staff, such as Assistant Secretary Steven Griles, who called during our interview. But he does not offer advice. In fact, he said he did not plan to offer his views to a future Interior secretary.

"There's nothing I resented more than the old stags coming back telling me, 'Jim, I'll tell you where the bodies were buried,'" Watt said. "They didn't understand the circumstances. They didn't understand the times."

"You shouldn't be second guessing somebody who has his hands on the throttle."

Watt's most recent return to the national spotlight came in his one-month stint as a board member of the beleaguered PTL Club. He quit with a letter to the Rev. Jerry Falwell stating it was a matter of conscience, personal integrity and philosophy of management. While he indicated there was more to the story than he or others have yet revealed, he refused to elaborate.

"I was complimented to be asked by Jerry to be on the board and relieved to get off."

Watt said he has happily left the public arena with his pride and conscience intact. "Values last," he said. "All this hype passes with time."

Watt's Wyoming roots go back to a ranch in Sheridan County homesteaded 100 years ago next month by his grandfather, James Watt, a Scotsman who came to the West via Canada. Watt's views of conservation were shaped by his heritage.

"With a team of horses and slip (he) built irrigation ditches, changed the course of the river, and brought about environmental practices by utilizing the water to sustain life," said Watt. "Today the deer population is multiples of what it was years ago. Pheasant were unknown. Sage chickens are much more plentiful. Fox, coyote, all the small animals are there," Watt said.

"The whole ecological arena is much advanced because of grandparents and hundreds of thousands of others who came in here to take care of the land."

□

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

32 autumns later, the Dodgers win another big one

I received my early training as an environmentalist by rooting for the Brooklyn Dodgers, aka the Bums, back in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The Dodgers were the perfect team for an environmentalist-in-training because they always put up a spirited fight before losing to a wealthier, mightier foe -- the pinstriped (ah, the symbolism) New York Yankees.

My passionate affair with the Dodgers ended in the late 1950s, when Walter O'Malley moved the beloved Brooks to Los Angeles revealing that the Dodger organization shared the same corporate values (Is 'corporate values' an oxymoron?) as the Yanks.

But before O'Malley moved the team to L.A. he left me a gift -- the day of pure joy when the Dodgers beat the Yankees in the 1955 World Series.

I don't know why a much younger me chose to root for the Dodgers rather than the easier Yankees. I didn't live in Brooklyn, so there was no geographic compulsion. Nor do I know why, as an adult, I choose to root for preservation over devastation.

But thanks to my experience back in 1955, I can recognize the rare victory when it comes along -- especially when it occurs on another crisp October day. To have made things perfect, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation could have timed its announcement to coincide with the World Series. But the change was so welcome, it would be small of me to quibble over timing.

For those who missed the news, the bureau officially ran up the white flag: no more big dams, no more flooded valleys, no more spending billions to raise thousands of dollars worth of hay, no more deformed ducks, and no more Washington, D.C. The bureau is moving from within the Washington Beltway to Denver, pulling up its roots in order to make a clean start in a new town. Moreover, instead of reclamation, it is going to concentrate on re-reclamation -- the cleaning up of some of the messes it made in its singleminded, narrow pursuit of what it saw as a holy calling to turn the desert green.

Warning of this event came earlier from Interior Secretary Donald Hodel, who had suggested in September that California's Hetch Hetchy Valley be drained and restored to life, so that it could take its place as a scenic wonder alongside neighboring Yosemite Valley.

At the time, some thought Hodel was being mischievous, provoking the many environmentalists who live in San Francisco and drink water out of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Others guessed the suggestion was a diversion for some dastardly scheme he was plotting.

It now appears that Hodel, who must have helped deliver the coup de grace to the bureau, was perhaps cushioning the blow -- showing the agency there are other worlds to conquer, if it has mettle and imagination. We hope environmentalists will follow Hodel's lead, and besiege bureau officials, as they disembark at Stapleton Airport, with

a raft of proposals for dams to demolish, reservoirs to drain and poisoned lakes to clean.

At the least, environmentalists should be encouraged, with this autumn victory under our belts, to believe again that voices trumpeting in the wilderness will be heard, and that a vision of an intact, beautiful, non-destructive world is consistent with where the U.S. is being dragged by world events.

By coincidence, on the evening of the bureau's announcement, I attended a debate over Two Forks Dam in Boulder, Colo. Two Forks is not a bureau project. It is being shepherded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. If the giant dam is permitted, it will be built by a coalition of Denver and 42 surrounding towns, counties and water districts organized as the Metropolitan Water Providers. The \$500 million project will flood an extremely productive and irreplaceable trout stream within fly casting distance of the Denver metro area. The flooding will create a 1 million-acre-foot reservoir to supply projected growth on the Front Range.

A coalition of Front Range environmental groups known as the Environmental Caucus chose several years ago to become part of the planning and EIS process, rather than to confine its activities to political opposition and lawsuits. The process it signed on for has been lengthy and expensive, costing Denver and the water providers about \$37 million. A tiny fraction of this money went to fund research by the environmentalists.

The debate in the Colorado University Law School featured, on one side, two of the Environmental Caucus's specialists: Denver consultant Bob Weaver and Environmental Defense Fund hydrologist Dan Luecke. They debated the water providers' attorney, Marcia Hughes, and its executive director, Bob McWhinney.

At one point in the debate, Luecke said to the audience: "Did you notice that they never laid a

glove on us?" Luecke was being kind. Hughes and McWhinney had actually slugged themselves in the face over and over again in the course of the debate.

Almost without exception, the water providers used their time to attack environmentalists as a subversive class and occasionally to attack Weaver and Luecke as individuals. McWhinney made it clear that he thought the Environmental Caucus had taken the providers' money under false pretenses. Evidently, he had not expected the caucus to do real research with the funds. In response to Luecke's confession that he was a Boston Red Sox fan, McWhinney said the Denver area needs the dam to provide jobs for its children because not everyone wants to move to Boston.

Hughes, however, was the most interesting. She blamed the \$37 million cost of the EIS on the environmentalists and their many questions, and said that the money should have gone to care for the homeless. It was as if the growth-minded water districts and city councils, and the real estate developers who guide those bodies' interest in Two Forks, would have put \$37 million into shelters if only the Environmental Caucus had shut up.

Hughes also hammered away at the environmentalists for allegedly going over the heads of locally-elected government to appeal to Washington for help. It was obviously irrelevant to her that some of the bodies she represents are appointed rather than elected and that most of the laws governing the permitting of Two Forks are federal. It was as if this lawyer had no acquaintance with the division of powers inherent in our system of government.

Environmentalists have a reputation for hugging trees and impugning the morals and values of those they oppose. But Luecke and Weaver did none of that. Despite provocation, they simply laid out their factual case: Two Forks will be both expensive and destructive of environ-

mental values society as a whole has embraced, and there are much cheaper, more flexible alternatives available.

Being right, of course, does not ensure victory. But the environmentalists, with a tiny fraction of the \$37 million the providers spent to build the case for Two Forks, have emasculated that case and created an alternative. Their success in destroying the arguments for Two Forks left the water providers beside themselves with anger and unable to do anything more than lecture on how the system ought to work. Their anger and failure to provide factual arguments were proof that Two Forks rests on a very shaky foundation.

The revealing fury of the providers was a fitting way to end a day that began with the Bureau of Reclamation's announcement that you don't have to be a weatherman to know which way the wind is blowing.

The Denver Water Board and the 42 providers have not yet achieved the bureau's ability to read the winds. And they may, tragically, have enough residual power, despite the economic and environmental mess they have made of the once-beautiful Front Range, to build Two Forks.

But it will be a last hurrah. Ten or 20 years from now, on another crisp autumn day, Denver and its cohorts will call a press conference and announce that they are changing their ways.

--Ed Marston

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16-October 12, 1987 -- High Country News

LETTERS

LETTER FROM SAVORY

Dear HCN,

The August 1987 issue of *Rangelands*, published by the Society for Range Management, carried an article, "Holistic Resource Management," by Jon Scovlin. Resistance to new ideas in science has produced such attacks throughout our history, and as there is nothing new or valid in the article, I was intending to ignore it in public while using it as a teaching example in the courses. However, I have had several requests from members for a response as they are being asked for an

explanation. In addition, the article has been used as evidence in the issue being pressed by some to remove all livestock from the public lands.

The center has always undertaken to publish or otherwise let all members know of any genuine criticism of HRM which we sincerely seek. But this article is merely a rehash of old antagonisms from government officials in Rhodesia and South Africa. I indicated so in the extensive comments I sent to the editor of *Rangelands* prior to the article's publication. Had those comments been printed, the validity of the criticism would have been fairly obvious to any reader. Not only were my comments not published, there was a boxed paragraph at the end

which gave one the impression that I either did not or could not refute the criticisms: "Allan Savory saw a copy of the above paper before it was printed and had an opportunity to comment."

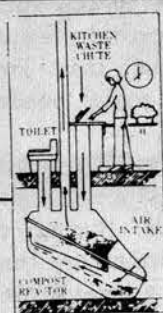
In my comments I made the point that all of the alleged criticisms were years out of date, bore no connection whatsoever to HRM, etc. To make the point that he did not need to rely on my word for this, versus John Scovlin's, I noted the fact that the government of Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) had all of the information that Scovlin had dragged up and more as most of it came from their own officials. With this information in hand, the government still sent a team of six people to the center last year for six months of intensive training in HRM. The Zimbabwean team is now home and providing HRM training to others in the government. And the government has since requested that the center

provide intensive training in HRM for an additional group of even more senior people in order to strengthen the original team.

The editor still chose to publish and to imply publicly that I had no response. I believe this action to be unethical and I have protested. Although I had been a member of the Society for Range Management for a great many years, I resigned last year because of the repeated attacks made on me personally on behalf of the society. I do not believe any professional society should engage in such behavior.

As a matter of record, Jon Scovlin made no attempt whatsoever to verify any of his information with me, the center, or the government of Zimbabwe. Had he done so we would have given him assistance as we do anyone sincerely trying to find shortcomings in the HRM model.

Allan Savory
Albuquerque, New Mexico



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HOTLINE

The West gets burned

Started mostly by lightning, fires have blackened more than 800,000 acres in eight Western states since Aug. 30. Over 22,000 firefighters from all over the country finally contained the fires, although one on Oregon's Siskiyou National Forest remains only 70 percent contained. The battle against the blazes, most of which were in northern California, cost \$100 million and is not over yet. "What we're really concerned about is new fires," said Forest Service spokesman Jay Humphreys. "Dry conditions are continuing and the wind has picked up." The agency estimates the loss at 2.7 billion board feet worth more than \$400 million. That is enough wood to build 270,000 homes.

Allen Messick



Fire in Wyoming this fall

ACCESS

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