

High Country News

April 11, 1988

Vol. 20 No. 7

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One Dollar

Stephen Mallow, Livingston Enterprise



Elizabeth Clare Prophet/Guru Ma

On Yellowstone's border

God's country is being developed

by Patrick Dawson

GARDINER, Mont. -- Mixing real estate and religion next door to the world's oldest national park is generating more heat than the geothermal cauldrons that fire Yellowstone's geysers into the mountain sky.

Several hundred people packed a school meeting hall here March 21 to attend a comment session by the state of Montana on a draft environmental impact statement. At issue is not a dam, stripmine, superhighway or nuclear powerplant. It is a church led by a woman who takes dictation from Jesus, Buddha, King Arthur and other souls.

The Church Universal and Triumphant has stirred up long-time residents and conservation groups here on the north edge of Yellowstone National Park. The so-called "New Age" group relocated its headquarters from southern California to its ranch on the park's border in 1986, and began moving in staff, followers and modular buildings bought from the defunct Oregon commune of deported Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. The church bought the ranch itself in 1981 from publisher Malcolm Forbes. A lot of people around here are not happy with Forbes (HCN, 3/16/87).

Many of the people at the hearing criticized what they see

as the state's glossing over of potential hazards of the church's developments in its impact statement. Prominent among the critics were Yellowstone Park officials. They say it is too close to the park, and that church vegetable gardens and slaughter houses will cause grizzly bear problems.

"Why build a new city of 500 to 1,000 people next to the park border?" asked Park Superintendent Robert Barbee. "Why plant attractive forage near the park? The draft environmental impact statement does not address the cumulative impact on biological and aesthetic resources. We do not want massive development threats on the edge of Yellow-

stone National Park, and the people of the United States will not stand for it."

Barbee's statement brought cheers and applause from the standing-room audience. Church Vice President Ed Francis, one of but a handful of CUT defenders to speak, said he felt like Daniel coming into the lion's den. The opposition, he said, was organized just to use "stalling tactics" to delay further building of his group's headquarters and residential subdivisions on 33,000 acres of their

(Continued on page 10)

Dear friends,



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

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

Tom Bell
Editor Emeritus

Ed Marston
Publisher

Betsy Marston
Editor

Rocky Barker
Craig Bigler
Peter Carrels
Bruce Farling
Pat Ford
Patricia Guthrie
Jim Stiak
Regional Bureau

C.L. Rawlins
Poetry Editor

Steve Hinchman
Editorial Research

Judy Moffatt
Development

Michael Crawford
Tara Lumpkin
Linda McCauley
Gus Wilmerding
Interns

Ron Sunderland
Darkroom

C.B. Elliott
Circulation/Production

Peggy Robinson
Graphics/Typesetting

Claire Moore-Murrill
Becky Rumsey
Production

Donna Gregory
Business

Tom Bell, Lander WY
Michael Clark, Washington D.C.
Lynn Dickey, Sheridan WY
John Driscoll, Helena MT
Michael Ehlers, Boulder CO
Jeff Fereday, Boise ID
Tom France, Missoula MT
Sally Gordon, Kaycee WY
Bill Hedden, Moab UT
Dan Luecke, Boulder CO
Adam McLane, Helena MT
Herman Warsh, Emigrant MT
Andy Wiessner, Denver CO
Robert Wigginton, Boulder CO
Board of Directors

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

All rights to publication of articles in this issue are reserved. Write for permission to print any articles or illustrations. Contributions (manuscripts, photos, artwork) will be welcomed with the understanding that the editors cannot be held responsible for loss or damage. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with all unsolicited submissions to ensure return. Articles and letters will be published and edited at the discretion of the editors.

Advertising information is available upon request. To have a sample copy sent to a friend, send us his or her address. Write to Box 1090, Paonia, Colorado 81428. Call *High Country News* in Colorado at 303/527-4898.

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

Mangoes

Subscriber Robert Turner writes from Denver to ask:

"What kind of vegetable, herb or fruit grows in the La Junta (Colorado) vicinity that might be confused with mangoes? I was reading a commentary in the March 7, 1988, edition of the *New Yorker* regarding the recent crash of an Air Force B-1 bomber. About halfway through the article, the writer stated: 'Startled local farmers, who were harvesting mangoes, watched the plane go down.'"

Mr. Turner said, "After a brief roll on the floor with laughter, I immediately wrote to the editor" of the *New Yorker*, informing him that even southern Colorado was not hot enough or wet enough for mangoes. That brought a reply from the *New Yorker* writer quoting a signed deposition: "We was harvesting mangoes and watched the plane go down."

We told Mr. Turner that, given the stature and authority of the *New Yorker*, if it said people were harvesting mangoes in southern Colorado, then they were harvesting mangoes. The only conceivable alternative is that the sentence should have read: "Local farmers were startled to find themselves harvesting mangoes." That would have happened if the tropical fruit had suddenly blossomed in the high, arid land near La Junta due to the effect of the crash, much as atomic testing in the 1950s was said to change climate.

According to Mr. Turner, columnist Bill Gallo of the *Rocky Mountain News* guessed that the La Juntas might have been harvesting mangel-wurzel, a reddish beet used as cattle feed.

Quantum leap

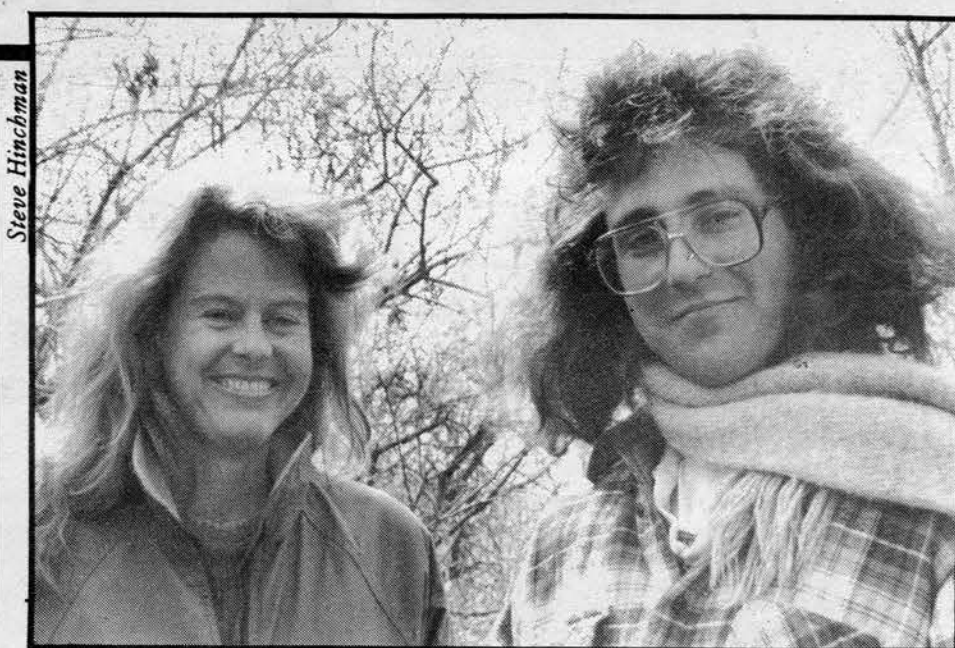
In movies, important changes are heralded by portentous, or creepy, or loud music. At *HCN*, large changes come on quietly, as was made clear at a going-away luncheon a few days ago for Gus Wilmerding, an intern from Long Island, New York, now on his way to a try-out with the weekly *Aspen Times*.

The departure of Gus reduces our intern force to four: Michael Crawford (the senior intern, and himself about to depart), Linda McCauley (the Native American intern) and two new interns profiled elsewhere in this column.

The luncheon for Gus drew about a dozen people -- all staff or interns. Not long ago, *HCN* consisted of three or four people in Paonia, including the lone intern.

We don't intend to stay at five interns -- the jokes about, "How many interns can you squeeze into a telephone booth?" make us wince. And we were embarrassed to tell one new intern that if she couldn't bring a word processor with her, she might as well not come.

But we were amazed at how well it worked out. We had thought anything more than two interns would overwhelm the staff. But the "older" interns helped the "younger" interns through the learning stages: getting and opening mail, scanning the newspapers, writing Bulletin Boards, and Hotlines, figuring out who to call for a quote, and so on.



New interns Tara Lumpkin and Michael J. Robinson

It also evens out the work. In the old days, a few months ago, the paper was hit by trauma each quarter when one intern left and the new one arrived. In some organizations, interns are superfluous -- acolytes allowed to observe important work being done. Here they are a key part of the operation. Which meant that, during the first few weeks of each cycle, Bulletin Boards and Hotlines were often rougher than we would like. Having several interns creates an overlap that cushions the shock of frequent change.

There is another aspect to the numbers: At a dozen or so people, *HCN* is now a community. There are evening potlucks, visits to the local bar, and regular expeditions into the surrounding countryside: a canoe trip this weekend near the Colorado-Utah border; the Arches-Canyonlands area in southern Utah next weekend; and soon, if the warm weather holds, hikes into the mountains.

In theory, the intern program is a service *HCN* provides to the region. People can learn, in a few months, whether they wish to be journalists. Some leave determined to avoid newsrooms. Others, such as Katharine Collins, presently with the *Casper Star-Tribune*, and now Gus Wilmerding, decide that journalism is for them.

But the service interns collectively provide is far greater than anything *HCN* does for them. It is not just the tasks they perform and the items and stories they write. More important is the spirit and atmosphere they bring to Paonia. The present staff will have been doing *HCN* for five years come this August. Without the flow, presently a flood, of interns to prod and stimulate us, life in the office, and probably the paper itself, would be dull indeed.

In the old days, interns came and went on a three-month schedule, commencing in January, April, July and October. Now that our numbers are larger, we are more flexible. If

you know a potential intern interested in spending this summer or fall in a small mining and fruit-growing town in western Colorado, please have him or her contact us. With the exception of Native American interns, who get a modest stipend, interns are paid only in experience and thanks. But the living here is very reasonable, with some rents under \$100 a month.

New interns

New intern Tara Lumpkin passed through Paonia five years ago and spent the night with friends-of-friends Ed and Betsy Marston, but at the time they weren't involved with *HCN*. Back again, Tara says she spent the interim years in New Mexico, Ecuador, London, Chicago, and New York City. She just finished a master of fine arts in creative writing and tells us it prepared her for only one aspect of journalism -- rewriting. "I have the same lack of patience for rewriting articles as I have for rewriting stories," she explains. Her goal this internship is to learn to be patient or else to learn to write so well that patience becomes unnecessary. "That may take a while," she adds. "Someone here mentioned that I have an 'nonlinear mind,' and though I haven't figured out exactly what that means, I've sworn to turn it to my advantage."

Intern Michael Robinson grew up in different places, ranging from Tel Aviv to Toronto to Texas, where he also went to college. After spending one summer in the Gila Wilderness of New Mexico, he became, in his own words, "an irrational wilderness freak, inaccessible to reason." He also got involved with Earth First!, and worked to save roadless areas in East Texas from logging. After graduation he moved to California, where he worked first with an environmental group and then as a counselor. He's living now in a rustic cabin outside of Paonia, with his dog, Mitzy.

--the staff

HOTLINE

Missing predator

Although Interior Secretary Hodel recently said that wolf reintroduction in Yellowstone National Park is doubtful given local and congressional opposition, the park's Norman Bishop wants to bring wolves back as soon as possible. Bishop, a research interpreter for the park, has talked to environmental and professional groups throughout the West to try to educate the public about the positive role the wolf plays in a natural ecosystem. The lack of

wolves in the park, Bishop says, is similar to "driving a Mercedes without one of the spark plugs." Agreeing with Bishop is Yellowstone Park superintendent Robert Barbee, who told the local press that the Park Service "would love to see wolves in Yellowstone. The wolf is missing biologically and aesthetically." The controversial issue was shelved last fall because of pressure from the livestock industry and Wyoming's formidable three-man congressional delegation. Bishop says an environmental impact statement is the only way to address the concerns of park neighbors, but an EIS is not likely any time soon, he adds.

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Colorado's Gunnison River is again at risk

On Colorado's Western Slope a battle is looming over the future of the Gunnison River, its canyons and gorges. Like many such conflicts in the West, the fight is over water.

Last month, the major obstacle to protecting the river -- water rights -- was solved by a gift of 300 cubic feet per second of water from the Pittsburg and Midway Coal Co. to The Nature Conservancy. Three and a half years in the making, and worth \$7.2 million, river fans thought the deal would set the stage for federal designation of 26 miles of the Gunnison corridor as a wild and scenic river and a wilderness area.

But a week later the Bureau of Reclamation caught celebrating environmentalists by surprise when it released a preliminary study of a hydroelectric project that would divert Gunnison River water to the Uncompahgre River near Montrose. The trans-basin project has senior water rights, but sponsors say they will voluntarily leave a minimum flow of 300 cfs in the Gunnison.

But the 300 cfs had been seen as a minimum flow insurance. Now, suddenly, it's the maximum. That may scuttle wild and scenic designation, but more important, it could also devastate fish and wildlife habitat and leave the region's growing rafting and fishing industry high and dry, says Hank Hotze, founder of the Gunnison River Coalition and owner of a whitewater and fishing raft company.

The section of the Gunnison that could be affected runs for 13 miles through the Black Canyon National Monument, which, at 2,000 feet, is the deepest abyss in the West. There the river is unnavigable and isolated, but has one of the premier fisheries in the nation, as well as healthy populations of federally endangered river otters, peregrine falcons and bald eagles. Below the monument, another 13-mile stretch runs through the Gunnison Gorge, which shares the same fish and endangered species, plus navigable rapids and more wildlife.

The river corridor is a major foundation of western Colorado's hefty tourism trade. But the Gunnison is also the site of one of the first Bureau of Reclamation water projects. It is a seasonal 1,135 cfs diversion of water, via a tunnel, from the Gunnison River into a system of canals that irrigate land in the Uncompahgre River basin.

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association now wants to increase its diversions out of the Gunnison to both continue farming and generate 50 megawatts of power. The income would help pay off debts the irrigation company owes to the Bureau of Reclamation and maintain the aging system. That means summer withdrawals would be increased to the maximum of 1,135 cfs, and maintained year-round.

If built, says Hotze, the project would cause low flows in the Gunnison about 77 percent of the time. He says 300 cfs is an acceptable minimum water level but not an acceptable norm. The BuRec

environmental assessment of the project concludes that the diversion could enhance trout habitat in the Gunnison except for low flows during extreme weather in summer and winter.

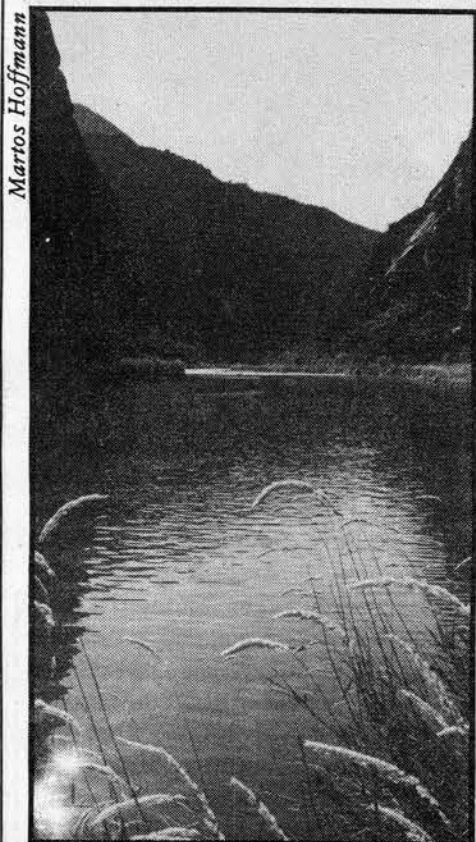
Tests conducted last winter found that reduced water levels lead to ice forming on the lower half of the river. In a severe winter, that will hurt the trout and could drive out the river otters, which need open water to survive, the report says. Meanwhile, in the summer, reduced flows could warm the water to as much as 68 degrees. "To a gold medal, world class trout fishery," says Hotze, "that would be devastating."

The second problem, he adds, is boating. The Gunnison is used by both private and commercial rafters from early spring to late fall. Hotze, who has operated on the Gunnison for nearly a decade, says 800 cfs is the optimum for safe boating on the river, and below 600 cfs the river is not navigable by rafts over 14 feet. The hydroelectric proposal would lower the river below 800 cfs all but two months of the summer, and take it well below 600 cfs throughout the fall.

The project may also cause erosion in the Uncompahgre River valley and force farmers to irrigate with water from the Ridgway Dam, which has high concentrations of heavy metals (HCN, 8/3/87).

The Bureau of Reclamation says it will accept written public comment on its environmental assessment of the Uncompahgre hydro project until April 15, after which it will either issue a finding of no significant impact or require project sponsors to write a full-scale environmental impact statement. Copies of the bureau's environmental assessment are available from Steve McCall at the bureau's Grand Junction office at 303/242-8621. Comments can be sent to Project Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 1889, Grand Junction, CO 81502.

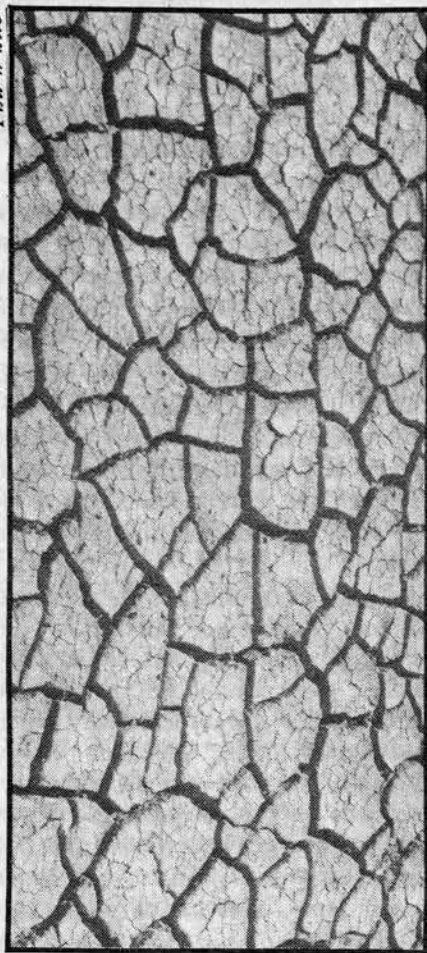
--Steve Hinchman



Black Canyon of the Gunnison River

HOTLINE

Phil White



How dry we are

Unless heavy spring rains come to the rescue, portions of the West from Wyoming to northern California will be in for a drought. Western states depend on snowmelt for about 75 percent of their water supply, but by late March snowpacks in the Columbia River Basin, the Missouri River Basin and the northern part of the Great Basin were well below average, reports the Soil Conservation Service. The lack of precipitation has reduced an already low water supply for the second year in a row. "We were hoping that precipitation levels would increase in February and help ease the drought in sections of California, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming," said Wilson Scaling of the Soil Conservation Service. "Instead the situation has worsened." Areas with normal precipitation include central Arizona, New Mexico and the southern part of Colorado.

Singer Carole King wins her locked road case in Idaho

The Idaho Supreme Court has upheld a lower court ruling that the road leading to Carole King Sorensen's Robinson Bar Ranch near Stanley, Idaho, is private (HCN, 12/21/87.)

The court decision ends a seven-year legal fray between Sorensen, two neighbors and Custer County. But it may be years before the Sorensen residents can overcome the sentiment among some county residents who say that King, a wealthy and successful singer-songwriter from the Bronx and Los Angeles, moved into the Idaho backcountry and decided to lock out the rest of the world.

King's attorney says the court decision shows that the Sorensens were right about the road being private all along. The couple spent months researching the road's ownership prior to moving in, says McCall attorney Steve Millemann. They never would have bought the ranch if there was even the slightest doubt that it was not private, he said.

"They didn't just waltz in and lock a gate without knowing the road was private," Millemann said. Because the ranch's living room is 100 yards from the road, the Sorensens felt the road had to be private to avoid scores of unwanted visitors who might ruin their privacy and solitude.

Neighbors Thorlo and Dorothy French and David and Helen Schoon-



Carole King

en, who live farther down the road, had fought for a declaration that the road was public, because it had been the historic access to their homes. A precarious jeep trail leads to their homes from the other direction, but it is not passable in the winter. Neither neighbor has been willing to comment on the case's outcome.

Millemann noted the Sorensens gave the combination of the lock on the gate to the neighbors after setting up the gate, and the neighbors used it for a couple months. But then the neighbors appealed to Custer County to declare the road public, which it did in September 1981, launching the legal battle.

The Sorensens say they don't know why the neighbors didn't talk to them first if they had trouble with the previous arrangement.

Millemann said the key to the Sorensen's success in court was that Custer County had ceased to maintain the Robinson Bar Road in 1939, and the U.S. Forest Service had not ever maintained the road with any

consistency. Therefore, under Idaho law, there was no way Custer County or the neighbors could prove the road was public without a consistent string of maintenance. In addition, previous landowners who used the Robinson Bar Ranch as a restaurant and backcountry lodge, also had placed a locked gate on the road from time to time.

The ranch was originally owned by Gov. Chase A. Clark, and later by the late Sen. Frank Church, a long-time friend of conservationists after whom the 2.4-million-acre Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness was named.

Idaho Attorney General Jim Jones, in responding to the case, said other Idaho counties may be reluctant to press the public access issue on roads where the record of maintenance and public use is sketchy. Idaho has more than 50 cases where ownership of dirt roads passing through private property into national forest land is in question.

--Stephen Stuebner

4-High Country News -- April 11, 1988

Gas stations 'fill up' four Moab, Utah, homes with fumes

A plume of underground gasoline has forced four families to abandon their homes in Moab, Utah. Frustrated by federal and state inaction, and gasoline station owners who decline responsibility, they are suing the "potentially responsible parties" for damages.

In front of one of their homes a large sign notifies the public that four homes sit over the "Moab gas plume" (HCN, 6/8/87). Decorated with skull and crossbones, it proclaims, WARNING: GASOLINE PLUME, CONTAMINATED HOMES. Beneath it a plastic pipe sticks out of the ground, inviting passersby to pull the cork and take a whiff. It's a lot like sticking your nose into a gasoline tank.

Moab is a small town in southeastern Utah made smaller by the near-collapse of the uranium industry earlier this decade. One of the homeowners who left his home because of gas fumes is Robin Guymon, who lost his job with Atlas Minerals at the end of 1981. For a couple of years many similarly displaced workers pinned their hopes on a revival of uranium mining. When that failed to happen and their severance pay and extended unemployment benefits ran out, most moved away.

Not Robin Guymon. Once a project manager for the Youth Conservation Corps, he says he would rather change with the times than be forced out of his community. In 1983, he and his wife Rainie bought a small travel trailer to live in while he studied small engines at Utah Technical College. Now he works in the only growth sector of southeastern Utah's economy -- outdoor recreation. As the outboard motor-mechanic and jet boat supervisor for Tag-A-Long Tours, he works about eight months a year and owns a small house in Moab. But, "to protect our children we had to move out," says Rainie, who is a Moab native and former forester.

The underground gas plume, which sits on top of the water table, originates in the vicinity of three service stations on Main and 300 South streets. Studies show it moved northwest to Pack Creek, just short of its confluence with Mill Creek and a productive marsh near the Colorado River.

Up to 50,000 gallons of leaded gasoline lie under 10-12 acres of land.

Gas fumes were first confirmed in 1985, when employees at Walker Drug suffered nausea and headaches. OSHA, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, forced the store to install an expensive system to capture vapors in the soil before they entered the building. The Environmental Protection Agency and insurance companies for two of the service stations split the cost. At the end of 1986, a series of bore holes traced the path of the moving plume.

It was a full year later before air in the four homes above the plume was tested. When it was, benzene, a cancer-causing chemical found in gasoline, was found in concentrations as much as eight times the maximum allowed in the work place for an eight-hour shift. Homeowners were not pleased that it took a year to find this out.

"They kept telling us there was no danger," recalls Rainie Guymon.

Craig Bigler



"Quite frankly," says Mark Ellis, manager of Utah's Underground Storage Tank Program, "We don't know how dangerous it is because we don't have standards for homes. All standards are for eight-hour work exposure ... But in Moab, we're looking at 24-hour possible exposure."

Rainie Guymon recalls that when she asked officials why homes weren't being cleaned up, she was told they were victims of the bureaucracy. "That meant waiting or moving out." She says she and her husband decided to hire a lawyer who agreed to work on contingency. A toxicology expert hired by their lawyer advised the couple to move -- to remove the children -- because of the risk. The couple are now in a small house "that needed a handyman," Mrs. Guymon says.

When will the families be able to return to their homes? No one will predict because of a bureaucratic tangle: the EPA says it cannot deal with the problem except through the state; Utah says it is setting up its leaking underground storage program now.

According to tests, the two Potentially Responsible Parties are Gordon's Sinclair, owned by La Sal Oil Co., and the Moab U-Serve (now called Star) owned by Rio Vista Oil. They will not respond to the state's "orders to abate," perhaps because that would be tantamount to admitting guilt, Ellis says. The third station, Midtown Service, passed leakage tests. But Ellis says there is so much gas involved, "I'm not convinced there are only two PRPs."

In a letter to the Moab *Times-Independent*, La Sal Oil owner Ray Klepzig claims that 18 test holes he

had bored in March of 1986 prove that if the gas had leaked from his tanks it, "would have had to move uphill from the station to get where it is now." According to the *Times-Independent* "Klepzig has stressed that his company is willing to participate in any cleanup efforts which are instigated, but that he is not willing to be blamed for and forced to assume total liability."

Estimates of liability range up to \$2-3 million to intercept the gas flow, ventilate homes and cleanse the soil. For now, \$41,000 will be spent to intercept the flow, ventilate the homes, and help the families with relocation. That will be paid from an \$83,000 administration grant from EPA. The state is asking for more EPA money and says it may sue the Potentially Responsible Parties. In 1984, however, amendments to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act prompted insurance companies

to drop coverage for environmental damages.

The PRPs claim the leakage occurred before their coverage was dropped. The insurance companies are not sure. "They don't want to do anything more until they have sufficient evidence on shares of culpability among the stations," according to Ellis. "The PRPs have told us they don't have the money to initiate a cleanup. They have to sue their own insurance companies."

EPA is shifting responsibility to states under an Underground Storage Trust Fund created in 1986 by amendments to the Superfund Act. That means states must prepare plans and make an agreement with the federal government. "We're one of the few states ready to sign on," Ellis says. But because the Moab cleanup will be the first in the nation under the new law it has taken a lot of time to get everything in order, he says.

"We don't have the staff. I've got folks scurrying around trying to cover far more than we can handle. In order to do justice to the problems of underground storage we'd have to have seven state staff and 17 people working in the field. Instead the legislature creates a committee of 17 to study the problem."

But now everything is in order and the contractor, Sargent Sales and Service Company of Bountiful, Utah, is ready to begin the cleanup.

Rainie and Robin are not happy with the low-cost method of cleanup that has been chosen. Instead of cleaning contaminated soil, the contractor will dig wells to intercept the gasoline flow and pump it out. Air pumps will suck air and gasoline fumes from crawl spaces of three of the homes. A positive-pressure furnace will be placed in the fourth home; by running constantly it will maintain internal air pressure high enough to keep fumes from entering.

This will be a slow process, according to Ellis. "It will not remove vapors from the ground, and liquids and solids adhering to soil particles will be left behind." But people will be protected. "We'll have a state official in Moab two days a week to monitor the houses. He'll be assisted by the local sanitarian the rest of the time."

"I guess we'll get back into our house someday, but the soil will still be hazardous," says Rainie Guymon. "Will I ever be able to grow food in my garden again? Will my fruit trees bear edible fruit?"

--Craig Bigler

HOTLINE

Water suits filed

Six weeks after Eagle County, Colo., commissioners unanimously denied county permits for the controversial Homestake II water diversion project, two Front Range cities challenged the decision in court (HCN, 2/29/88). Filed in Eagle County District Court by Aurora and Colorado Springs, the lawsuit claims the county has no authority under state law to deny permits that effectively halt a federally-approved project on public land. Homestake II would divert 21,000 acre-feet of water yearly from four streams in the Holy Cross Wilderness to the cities.

County commissioners said they denied the permits Feb. 4 because the cities failed to prove that the diversion would not irreparably damage wilderness marshes and wetlands.

Sentences eased

Two Yakima Indians serving five-year terms for fishing illegally in the Columbia River have won reduced sentences. David Sohapp Sr. and his son David will be eligible for parole as early as May 17, announced Sens. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Daniel Evans of Washington. Both supported earlier paroles.

Group cries foul over wilderness hearing

Controversy erupted anew over wilderness designation for the Rocky Mountain Front of Montana with charges that an environmentalist was prevented from testifying at a Senate subcommittee hearing.

The hearings were held to iron out differences between the wilderness bills of Montana Sen. Max Baucus, D, and Rep. Pat Williams, D, both of which would designate as wilderness approximately 1.3 million acres, though with significant differences in locale.

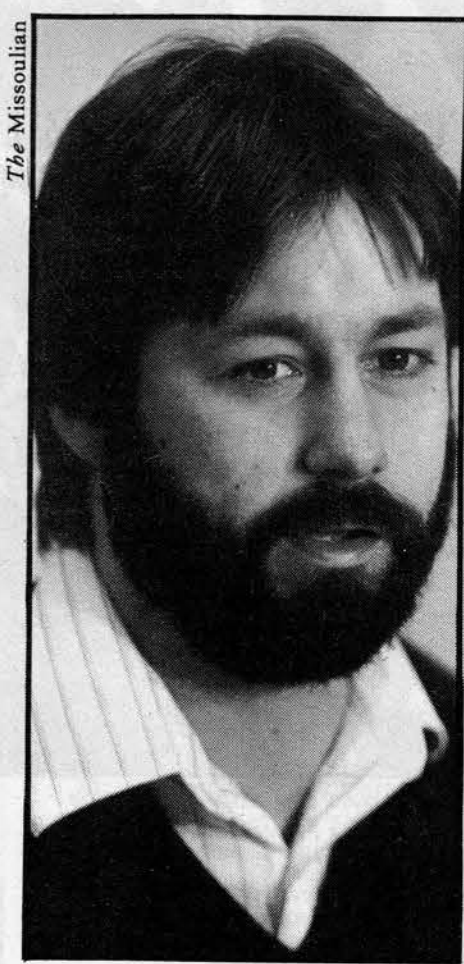
Mike Bader, president of the Badger Chapter of the Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance, says Montana's senior Sen. John Melcher abruptly removed him from the list of persons scheduled to testify March 22 before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands. According to Bader, "Melcher's upset (that) I brought attention to his extensive contributions from the oil and gas industry, particularly companies which hold leases on the Rocky Mountain Front roadless areas." According to the *Great Falls Tribune*, oil and gas political action committees contributed \$28,000 to Melcher's re-election campaign last year.

Bader claimed that before flying to Washington, D.C., he spoke twice with a subcommittee staff member confirming that he was scheduled to testify. But 10 minutes before his testimony was due to begin, the staff member told him, "Melcher ordered me to take your name off the list." In an interview, Melcher said, "The committee staff sets the agenda, (and) I never saw a list with his (Bader's) name on it." A copy of the Congressional Monitor tentative list, however, confirms that Bader was scheduled to testify, and a source close to the committee said that it was Melcher's decision to drop Bader.

Bader's role at the hearing was downplayed to answering questions and assisting the testimony of Woody Kipp, representing Blackfeet Indian traditionalists. Kipp also met privately with Melcher in an appointment that Bader said he had scheduled. The Blackfeet traditionalists want the Badger-Two Medicine preserved as a wilderness study area for religious purposes.

Conflict over what the Blackfeet Indians want for the Badger-Two Medicine area, adjacent to their reservation, have complicated the debate. Melcher says the tribe is represented by the Tribal Business Council, which opposes wilderness study as well as oil and gas leasing for the Badger-Two Medicine. The council claims that the 1895 treaty under which they ceded the Badger-Two Medicine grants them revenues from any drilling, a claim not recognized by the Interior Department. Melcher, concurring with the council, says opposing traditionalists are a small minority of under 100, and that he wants to protect the Blackfeet's "property rights." Says Melcher, "It's very presumptuous (for) non-tribal members to make a decision that would interfere with the tribe's rights."

But Bader says there are thousands of traditionalists on the 6500-member reservation, and that in any event, non-Indians should also have a say on how the land is managed. "If he's so worried about hearing from tribal members, why were the



Mike Bader

oil and gas representatives allowed to testify? None of them were Blackfeet, and most were from out of state. This hearing was ... a sham."

Melcher said he did not think oil and gas drilling was the main issue on the Rocky Mountain Front, but "oil and gas would be the highest and best use (of the land) if it's there," although there is "no fixed formula." He said timber and mining jobs and snowmobilers' access had to be considered, and that snowmobilers did no damage to the environment or to wildlife. "If you can move a boundary a little bit and not

disturb a lot of acreage, that's the thing to do."

Montana has 6.5 million roadless acres, which include around 350,000 acres of the wildlife-rich Rocky Mountain Front, of which around 130,000 acres comprise the contested Badger-Two Medicine, the largest roadless area on the Rocky Mountain Front. Under Baucus' bill, most of the Badger-Two Medicine would be designated as a wilderness study area to give time to resolve the conflicting claims, but under Williams' bill, which has already passed the House of Representatives, it would be opened to development. Melcher says that after studying the testimony received, he plans to introduce his own wilderness bill, which he hopes could reach the Senate floor for a vote by June.

Meanwhile, the Americans for Wilderness Coalition has proposed wilderness designation for all the remaining federal roadless areas in Montana. The group urges a joint wilderness bill with Idaho to also protect all of Idaho's 9 million roadless acres. "The Wild Rockies Bioregion should be recognized as an integral ecological system that should be protected in its whole ... not piecemeal," says a coalition document.

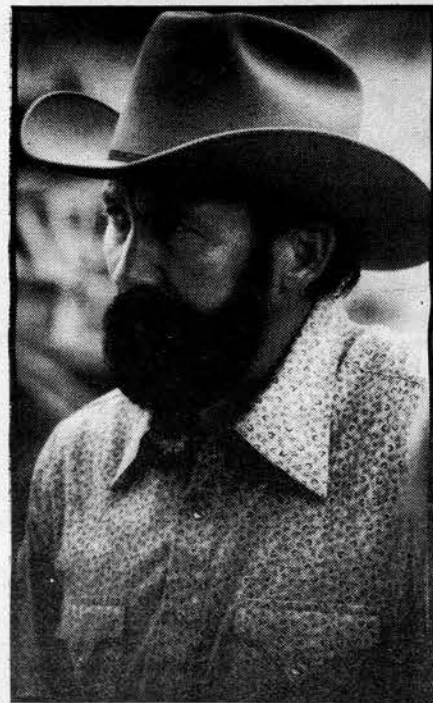
The chances of that occurring are slim, and would almost certainly be opposed by the other Montana congressman, Republican Ron Marlenee, and by the U.S. Forest Service. Marlenee, who opposes any more wilderness designation, and the Forest Service, which wants less than 800,000 acres, have both said they might ask President Reagan to veto a bill with too much wilderness.

--Michael J. Robinson

HOTLINE

Fading super collider

Congressional support for the \$4.4 billion Superconducting Super Collider is fading rapidly because of budget constraints and questions about the site selection process. Some members of the House have even suggested scraping the collider proposal. The House Budget Committee refused President Reagan's request of \$363 million to fund the collider in fiscal year 1989, instead appropriating only \$100 million. Lawmakers say it is unlikely the project will ever get money for construction during this administration. Meanwhile, states that failed to make the Department of Energy's list of finalists for hosting the atom-smasher are questioning the agency's credibility in the site selection process. Harlan Watson, staffer for New Mexico Rep. Manuel Lujan, R, says the agency's reasons for his state's elimination -- such as inadequate access in and out of Albuquerque International Airport -- made no sense. He adds that the feeling in New Mexico and other states is that the DOE was more concerned with cultural amenities than technical criteria, and was slanted against rural areas.



Bob Edgar

Private initiative

Cody, Wyo., resident Bob Edgar has organized a group of landowners and sportsmen who want to reverse the decline of buck deer and bull elk in the Big Horn Basin. Edgar, game manager for the Pitchfork Ranch, and a group of 75 Big Horn Basin ranchers recently presented a petition to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department threatening the closure of at least a million acres of private land to hunting unless the agency limits hunting in the Basin. Edgar also presented petitions from merchants, outfitters and other sportsmen who say hunting pressure threatens wildlife populations. Edgar suggested to the Game and Fish Commission that a four-point or over limit on deer and a five-point or over limit on elk would allow relief until a better system can be developed. Game and Fish district supervisor Terry Killough says the commission is considering the requests but adds that Edgar "only represents a segment of the sportsmen." The commission plans to hold public meetings throughout northwestern Wyoming before taking final action on May 2.

\$5,000 REWARD

FOR PHOTOGRAPH OR INFORMATION WHICH RESULTS IN VERIFICATION OF ONE OR MORE LIVE BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS



DO NOT
KILL
OR
TRAP

Upper two black-footed ferrets by Dean Biggins. Ferret with prairie dog kill by Tim Clark. Ferret digging by Louise Forrest.

WANTED ALIVE
Black-footed ferrets and their locations

If you find or photograph an endangered black-footed ferret, you can win \$5,000! No, it's not a sweepstakes offer, it's a life and death search with a real payoff. The \$5,000 is offered by the New York Zoological Society and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which have distributed 10,000 "ferret wanted" posters to federal buildings in Montana, Wyoming, Utah, South Dakota and Colorado. Lou Hanebury, ferret

search coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Colorado, says with only 24 ferrets alive in captivity and none known in the wild, more animals are needed to decrease inbreeding. The reward is offered through Sept. 30, 1988, and will not be paid to anyone who was on private land illegally or who harassed, trapped or killed the found ferret. For more information call Lou Hanebury at 303/226-9460.

6-High Country News -- April 11, 1988

HOTLINE

Center of infection

Utah's Dugway Proving Ground has been the site of at least 60 open-air tests of biological warfare since 1949, reports the *Deseret News*. Army records show that at least 33 tests involved highly toxic agents or organisms that the Army admits cause disease. But Dugway's public affairs officer, Kathleen Whitaker, says the last test involving a dangerous pathogen took place in 1968, and that none of the pathogens escaped the area. Another 27 tests however, used what the Army describes as "harmless stimulants," with the most recent occurring in 1986. Rep. Wayne Ownes, D-Utah, recently wrote Army Secretary John O. Marsh demanding a comprehensive report on all open-air testing at Dugway.



A Wyoming well site

A dry lease

A federal court has, for the moment, barred an oil and gas drilling rig from a wilderness area near Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver ruled on March 14 that Texaco could not drill in Little Granite Creek in the Gros Ventre Wilderness Area near Yellowstone. Texaco's drilling plans had been challenged by the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning and the Sierra Club. "This is an important victory by the people of this community who've fought so hard to preserve that area," said Jackson attorney Hank Phibbs. The case, while important to the Jackson area, was unique and will not affect the more general court struggle over leasing and drilling on public land (*HCN*, 2/29/88). Little Granite Creek's lease differed from most leases in its inclusion of a "no-action" clause, which gave the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management the chance to deny any drilling. When the agencies' environmental impact statement left out that "no-action" option, the appeals court ruled against Texaco. Phil Hocker, a former Sierra Club official, says, "It now goes back to the agencies. They've been told twice they have a right to deny the right to drill." According to Phibbs, this is the first time the Forest Service and BLM have been told they do not have to automatically honor leases that have already been issued. Now conservationists and Texaco are waiting to see what the agencies will decide.

The SIS project: Both sides appeal to fear

Controversy over new projects proposed for the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory near Idaho Falls has been rare. The Special Isotope Separation project, however, has evoked a unique response.

Because its product is weapons-grade plutonium used only in nuclear warheads, national peace and disarmament groups have joined the small cadre of Idaho's INEL critics.

While the INEL has always enjoyed wide support in eastern Idaho, the growing profile of opposition forced supporters out into the open. Led by the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce, a coalition has formed as the antithesis to nuclear weapon foes.

Calling themselves "Yes, Yes, SIS," pro-INEL forces demonstrated their strength with a parade that attracted more than 2,000 people and outnumbered opponents at recent hearings in Idaho Falls. But overall, opponents made up the majority of the nearly 800 people who testified at six hearings in Idaho Falls, Boise and Twin Falls.

With the Department of Energy under heavy criticism nationally, and with the success of opponents in getting the N Reactor at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation closed, local supporters decided they needed to organize.

"We feel we need to promote the positive aspects of the INEL," said Lane Allgood, who coordinates Yes, Yes, SIS.

"That might have been the mistake Hanford people made."

The Snake River Alliance, a Boise-based peace organization, has focused local and national opposition to the SIS. It turned out more than 300 people statewide at the SIS environmental impact hearings held at the end of March.

The Snake River Alliance has actively opposed other INEL projects, especially the New Production Reactor proposed for the INEL in 1983. But the SIS has given the group an issue of national significance, said alliance staffer Liz Paul.

The most visible portion of the anti-SIS campaign has been television and radio advertising featuring Mariel Hemingway and Scott Glenn, actors who live in the Wood River Valley.

A pregnant Ms. Hemingway standing with the Boulder Mountains in the background tells viewers that the government wants to build a plutonium plant in Idaho for nuclear bombs.

"In response, Yes, Yes, SIS has produced advertisements featuring the mayors of Idaho Falls, Blackfoot and Pocatello speaking in support of the project. Other ads feature former Idaho Falls newsman Bill Powell and Jan Landon, an Idaho Falls housewife, expressing trust in the INEL's safety record. "I worry about jobs for my friends and family and I worry about the economic future of our towns and cities," said Mrs. Landon in her ad.

Ads from both sides appeal to fears. Opponents appeal to the fear of a nuclear accident while proponents appeal to the fear of unemployment.

DOE will make its decision by July on where or if to build the \$1 billion plutonium refining plant based on environmental, economic and safety considerations, not on



Supporters of the Special Isotope Separation Project demonstrate

at an Idaho Falls hearing March 25

national nuclear policy issues, said Clay Nichols, DOE-Idaho SIS manager.

"I believe that the Department of Energy has made up their minds that they would like to build the project at INEL," said Liz Paul. "However the final decision is not up to them but up to Congress."

DOE officials really don't dispute who has the final say in the SIS. But they say Congress has made its decision, providing \$96 million for the project in 1988, a \$40 million increase over President Reagan's own request.

An amendment that would have killed funding for construction of the SIS was defeated March 30 in the House Arms Services Committee.

Weapons-grade plutonium is used in the fission "trigger" that produces the heat to begin the fusion reaction in thermonuclear weapons. Since it is literally eternal by human timeframes, it can be recycled and used over and over. Some plutonium, however, is lost in the manufacturing and recycling process.

The SIS will use tuned lasers to remove plutonium 240 and other isotopic impurities out of fuel-grade plutonium. The lower quality plutonium was produced in the N Reactor at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation

during the years it was operated only as a power-producing reactor. That will leave plutonium 239, which will be shipped to the Rocky Flats Plant in Colorado for manufacture of nuclear warheads.

The feed material, plutonium oxide, will be shipped from Hanford to Idaho Falls. The waste is scheduled to be sent to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico, which has been troubled by water leakage.

The EIS says transportation risk is low but slightly higher if the SIS is built at the INEL instead of Hanford. That's because the plutonium oxide, which ignites when in contact with air, would be kept on site.

Opponents argue that the EIS is inadequate.

"The primary safety issue is going to be the transport and processing of plutonium," said Liz Paul. "I've heard a lot of people that are worried about the transportation of plutonium oxide on Idaho's highways."

But DOE officials said nuclear shipments cross the state regularly now and the SIS shipments won't be a noticeable increase.

Gov. Cecil Andrus said he supports building the SIS at the INEL. But he and several state agency heads said the state has several concerns about health and safety. He urged DOE to work with a "state-established permanent oversight commission" that would make the state a "full partner in managing the potential health and environmental consequences of the project."

Andrus also expressed concern over waste storage at the INEL from the project.

"The state of Idaho needs assurances that the SIS project will not transform the INEL into a de-facto nuclear waste dump," said Andrus. "Permanent waste storage at that site is unacceptable to me, and I am convinced it is unacceptable to most Idahoans."

Paul said the changing role of the INEL from an energy research lab to a weapons production facility is the main issue.

"If this plant was as safe as a bakery we'd oppose it," she said.



Liz Paul

--Rocky Barker

New monument in New Mexico angers tribe

The nation's newest national monument -- New Mexico's El Malpais -- was signed into being by President Reagan Dec. 31, 1987. The 20-year battle to preserve the state's lavaland was lauded by New Mexico politicians and wilderness groups. But the neighboring Acoma Tribe was quiet. For two years it has objected to some of the land chosen for inclusion in the monument bill (HCN, 11/9/87).

The blueprint for El Malpais describes it as 114,000 acres of national monument administered by the National Park Service; surrounding it are 262,690 acres of National Conservation Area under the aegis of the Bureau of Land Management. Within the conservation area are two designated wilderness areas.

Up close, El Malpais, which means badlands, is jumbled lava, twisted pinon trees, ice caves, cinder cones and subway-size lava tubes. Four major volcanic eruptions and flows created the badlands, the oldest estimated to have occurred 1 million years ago and the most recent top-blowing only 500 to 1,000 years ago.

Centuries ago, El Malpais was also home to the Anasazi. Today, their ancient footpaths wind across the lava sinkholes where intact pots and other artifacts have disappeared, looted by pothunters. Archaeologists believe the Anasazi used the fertile ash of El Malpais from 1,200 to 1,400 A.D. for maize, squash and bean farming.

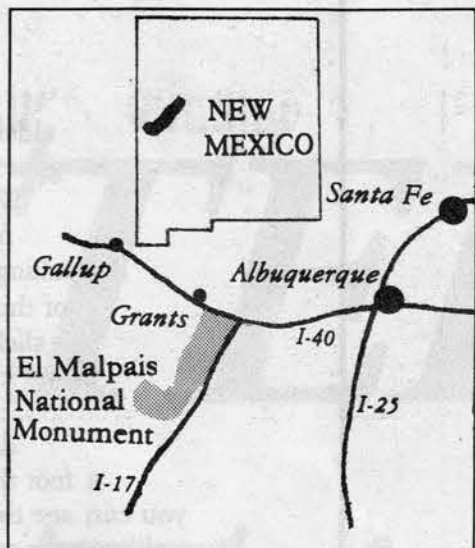
Peering down on their ancestors' homeland are the Acoma, a tiny Indian pueblo that fought national monument designation. The Acoma Tribe objected to the inclusion of 13,000 acres in northern El Malpais known as the Cebolla Wilderness tract. The tribe wanted the land transferred to Indian ownership or left as a BLM wilderness study area, instead of including it in the monument legislation. Last October, Acoma Gov. Stanley Paytiamo led a protest against the monument bill, claiming it was another example of land-grabbing and a slap in the face to Native American religious rights.

New Mexico's congressional delegation listened to the tribe's objections, but seemed to agree the issue had been settled in 1972. At that time, the Acoma tribe was paid \$6.2 million by the federal government to relinquish its claim to the El Malpais tract.

However tribal officials have said the land was erroneously surveyed by the federal government in the late 1800s, and that the government refused to remap the area, choosing instead to pay off the tribe. Since 1979, the tribe has leased the land and had its eye on buying it back. But, with the passage of the national monument bill, that option is removed. One possible route remaining for the tribe is taking the federal government to court.

Supporters of the bill, including environmental groups, point out the legislation recognizes the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and mandates appropriate Indian tribes be consulted by the federal management agencies about its El Malpais plans.

Still, these assurances were not enough for the Acomas. Although the tribe was disappointed over the bill's passage, it did not return the



symbolic cane to the feds. A new governor, Ray Hiestia, was appointed by the people to replace Paytiamo in January. Hiestia has not revealed plans on pursuing the land claims.

An estimated 100,000 visitors are expected to take in the sights of El Malpais National Monument in its first year, the state predicts. The nearby slumbering town of Grants, once the uranium mining capital of the country, is hoping to get a tourism boost.

With the law's passage, New Mexico is now home to one of the nation's largest national monuments and conservation areas. The bill also establishes the Masau Trail, a road linking El Malpais with other southwestern historical sites in Arizona and New Mexico.

A full-time superintendent, temporary information center and operational offices are expected to be in place by the summer. Under the bill, the NPS and BLM agencies must hold public meetings and devise a long-term management plan within three years.

In a January 29 letter to the editor of *The Gallup Independent*, Acoma tribal land coordinator Gilbert Ortiz lashed out at Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., and other politicians he says "always must win when it comes to the perennial problem of Indian land rights."

"Indians never wanted dollars for land," Ortiz wrote. "We were compensated for lands the federal government stole ... We still proclaim rightful ownership to the land. This system of American laws is wrong when it enforces 'might makes

right' and when Senator Domenici says the public good is superior to Indian rights."

The battle over El Malpais strained relations not only between the federal government and the tribe, but also between Indians and environmentalists.

"Acoma people feel very angry about the insults from these righteous conservationists and wilderness societies who want to dictate to the Acoma people on how land should be taken care of," said Acoma secretary Daniel Sanchez in a December press release.

Sanchez also accused the Sierra Club, The BLM Wilderness Coalition and the National Parks and Conservation Association of practicing "manifest destiny."

Chuck Wiggins, an Albuquerque member of the Sierra Club and Wilderness Society, and a spokesman for the BLM Wilderness Coalition, said it was troubling to hear the tribe's attack on wilderness groups.

"We feel we have the same goals in mind as the Acoma Tribe," he said. "The Acoma Tribe does have ancestral homeland in the northern part of El Malpais. And until 1972, they had a good legal case to challenge the federal government."

But, Wiggins said, when the tribe accepted payment for the land, it relinquished all legal claims to it. He also pointed out that increased federal protection might mean a decrease in pothunting and pilaging.

"We have not ignored the Acoma. We have been supportive," Wiggins said. "We feel the National Monument and National Conservation Area offer a nice mix to everyone."

Added Russ Butcher of the National Parks and Conservation Association: "The NPCA is not insensitive to Native American claims. We have supported the legislation which addressed Acoma's requests and concerns. Nine provisions were made that the Acoma's requested ... The lands that they have been asking back are lands which all people of the United States paid for through federal taxes."

"It's unfortunate that the tribe is accusing the New Mexico delegation and the rest of us, in effect, of not caring."

--Patricia Guthrie

HOTLINE

Oregon appeals

The Oregon Natural Resource Council has filed appeals on 228 Forest Service timber contracts in Oregon and Washington. The blanket appeals were made on contracts given back to the Forest Service by timber companies bailing out of the high bids they'd made in the late 1970s, before the housing recession hit. Oregon's congressional delegation denounced the action, which will affect 40 percent of this year's planned timber harvest of 4.5 billion board feet in the two states. Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., said it would result in 6,000 lost jobs, and the usually pro-environmental Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., termed it "irresponsible." The Oregon council's Wendell Wood said the appeals were necessary because of an early Forest Service deadline that gave them no time to assess each contract individually. Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson said the agency's operations in the Northwest will come to a virtual halt while officials, who have already begun rejecting some of the appeals, sort through them all.

Two for the slopes

Two ski area proposals for the San Juan National Forest in southwestern Colorado continue to remain in the public eye. The Wolf Creek Valley ski area proposed by the now bankrupt Westfork Investments still awaits a financial saviour while the proposal for nearby East Fork works its way through the appeal process (HCN, 10/26/87). It appeared that Westfork might yet resurrect itself in February when a California bankruptcy judge ruled that the Forest Service should not have shelved its original pro-development Record of Decision. The technicalities of the agency's action will be argued in court, but according to forest spokesman Dennis Neill, "Westfork is no longer a viable proponent in the eyes of the Forest Service."



M. Rupert Cutler

New head

Wildlife biologist M. Rupert Cutler took over the helm of the 80,000-member group Defenders of Wildlife Feb. 1 in Washington, D.C. Cutler was assistant secretary of agriculture from 1977-80, supervising the Forest Service and several other federal agencies. During the 1970s he taught environmental policy courses at Michigan State University and is a former managing editor of *National Wildlife*.

HOTLINE

Controversial imports

A plan to import grizzly bears to Montana's Cabinet Mountains is raising hackles of local people in the state's northwest corner. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says the current grizzly bear population of 25 will vanish without new blood. Testifying at local hearings held in towns, many residents have protested the plan, saying the Cabinet -- Yaak area is too small at 2,600 square miles and has too many conflicting interests to support more bears. Chris Servheen, director of the federal agency's grizzly recovery plan, said an immediate goal is to make small increases in the number of female grizzlies in the area. To do that, at most eight bears from British Columbia or the Bob Marshall Wilderness would be relocated to the Cabinet Mountains. Placing four

grizzly cubs with black bear mothers is also a possibility, he says. Jerry Shively, a member of the Montana Taxpayers Association, warned that "any confrontation between humans and bears will result in humans losing. Any place the grizzly wanders becomes sacred and closed off to the public." Shively also says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has dumped problem bears into the Cabinets in the past. He warns that increasing amounts of silver mining and logging will only result in more grizzly-human confrontations. Servheen says the plan is "only a very limited test that will not mean additional closures or affect resource development in the area." For a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment, write to Chris Servheen, Grizzly Bear Coordinator, U.S. Fish U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, HS 105, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812.

JESSICA

Soon as the mud hardened
in the spring,
we hiked the desert camelbacks.
On the steep upward trail
you slowed to explain how your breath
was getting lost inside
and you would wait to find it.

When we reached the highest slope
you didn't pause
to sift through the purple and blue
settled on the skyline,
instead you broke into a run
unable to stop
until the trail curved out.

When I caught up
we rested on a sandstone ledge
where you climbed the shelved strata
to lie on your side and touch the faded petroglyph
of a warrior climbing a rope
suspended from sky.

From the rocks below
I squinted into the sun
to follow your shadow. You returned
stroking the soft underside of a bluebelly
and we made our way home
around the cacti, past the mounds of antdust.
You found a name that fit his markings,
bent down
and let him slip from your open palm.

Katie Kingston
Price, Utah

VACQUERO

Down the drywash mouth of Tajo Canyon,
three days hiking, the desert flushed
and fragrant with afternoon rain--
a corral of cactus logs, one horse,
a board and sheetmetal shanty
patched against a palo verde tree.

His name is Alberto Gomez, he spends
much time here herding four hundred cows.
Oildrum stove, a stack of mesquite;
his hat and three beef flaps
hang from the limb that holds up the roof.
He sees me look, heats a black skillet.

Down in the sand with cigarettes,
thick coffee, he leads me,
in English as bad as my Spanish,
through the next canyon south
and the next and the next, as a woman
sings cracked and faint on the radio

and the sheetmetal roof sings rain.

John Daniel
Los Altos Hills, California

CHECKING THE NETS

for Joe Bavilla

On river edge
alder and cottonwood
gone white with rime.
We travel cold ice,
feeling in our feet
the rolling boom and crack
of thin water freezing,
so slick, when the wind
blows it makes us stoop.
We find the net
drawn beneath ice
a foot thick and so clear,
you can see the yellow shine of
gill-caught and wavering fish.
They swing, tails downstream,
blowing in some water breeze
we can't feel or hear,
but know is there.
We haul and clean
the net, hands wet and
thick with cold,
in the last ache of day.

Jeff Hardesty
Kuskokwim River, Alaska

BURIAL IN AIR

In town on a cedar shelf
his last commands
are folded lengthwise.

Already in the night
he knows himself as ash
Beyond the furnace door
the shadows of his bones

are broken,
shaken out to a copper urn
and from the slipstream
launched into the wind--

dry rain
across his land:
the ironbark
cattle camps on ridges,
the sodden shining gullies

The river at night
holds a single note
and curves into the sky.

G
Curtin, New South



B. Bernstein

BURIAL IN AIR

In town on a cedar shelf
his last commands
are folded lengthwise.

Already in the night
he knows himself as ashes.
Beyond the furnace door
the shadows of his bones

are broken,
shaken out to a copper urn
and from the slipstream of a plane
launched into the wind--

dry rain
across his land:
the ironbark
cattle camps on ridges,
the sodden shining gullies.

The river at night
holds a single note
and curves into the sky.

Geoff Page
Curtin, New South Wales
Australia

TELLING TALES

BATHING

*for Enesium Jacob, his
grandson George and Gary.*

For hours
in and out of hot steam,
loose and light-headed.
Between sweats we cool out;
in Yup'ik and cracked English
you tell stories of 70 years,
this flat river land of tundra
where we are.

I tell of a mountain home
and of bathing in hot streams
coming from the earth.
Here and naked,
we are more the same;
white skin and brown
turns red in steam and
all skin sweats.

When done and **finally** too hot,
you crack a window.
Great clouds of steam
(our differences)
pour out and gone,
blown over village
and slough ice
too dark to see in the night.

Jeff Hardesty
Napaskiak, Alaska

BLACK BEAR WOMAN

Long ago in the dark rain
she was a black bear,
snuffing among old stumps,
that great, broad rump
rolling behind her.

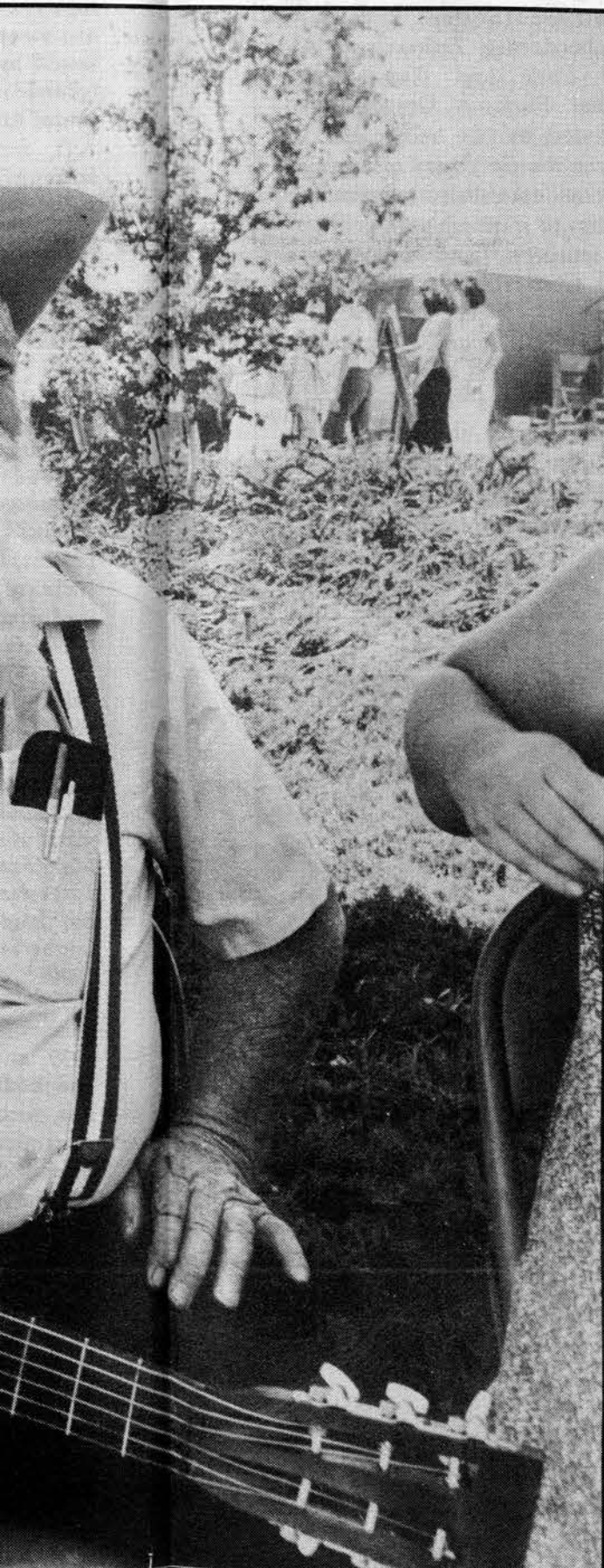
Her eyes were dim,
she stood up on rear legs,
sniffing wet autumn wind
sweet with berries.

Now in the laundromat,
her heavy legs and feet
shuffle to the dryer,
the fringe jiggling
on her new rawhide coat.

Earlier,
squinting her soft, cave brown eyes
over the paper,
inwardly groaning to comprehend,
she was again a black bear,
now struggling with her humanness,
her laundry,
the crossword puzzle,
wrinkling her thick brows,
trying to see some dark
hairy bear-sense
in it all.

Chris Antelope
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Acknowledgements: "Burial in air" is from the book *Cassandra Paddocks*, published by Angus & Robertson, Australia. "Vacquero" will appear in *The Shape of Enough*, to be published by Confluence Press.



God's...

(Continued from page 1)

land in this valley of Park County.

"I believe we have a right to do what we are doing," Francis said. "I would like to see an end to this extremist rhetoric, this Chicken Little attitude." He went on to say that the church has had no bear problems, poses no threats to water quality and praised the environmental impact statement as complete, comprehensive and "fair."

Francis, 38, a Dallas native, is married to the church's central personality, President Elizabeth Clare Prophet, 49, known to her followers as Guru Ma. Mrs. Prophet says she was directed to come here by a message from her late husband, church founder Mark Prophet. An account of that summons is included in the state's environmental impact statement. She was divinely directed to get church members to buy the Forbes ranch where they could congregate for summer celebrations and conferences. She said she sees the former Forbes ranch as "a special place for the New Age. It is an ideal spiritual retreat. I envision it as a place for seekers of truth."

Local critics charge that Church Universal and Triumphant is really operating a business by marketing the charisma of Guru Ma and subdivided ranch properties to its members who seem to be flocking in from all over the country. Ed Francis hesitates to estimate how many followers might ultimately move to the valley.

"We're not telling people to exodus and come up here and expect to find an economic future for themselves here, unless they can bring their own economy with them. And that has happened in some cases, retired people, people who aren't dependent on finding a job. It's really an individual decision on the part of those people whether they wish to come here or not."

Only approved members can buy lots in Glastonbury, the church's subdivision of two former cattle ranches, and strict covenants require that the occupant build a fallout shelter. To many local observers, CUT's emphasis on America-Russia relations as a great evil-versus-good global struggle is hindering more basic issues, like land planning. Some see the project colored by an apocalyptic real estate pitch.

"If you believe in the holocaust, you're not likely to be a good environmentalist," says neighboring rancher and surveyor Hank Rate. "This isn't an issue of redneck cowboys versus New Age religion. If they wanted to get away from public scrutiny, they sure screwed up. Our greatest fear is that we don't know what's going on -- there is no communication. We just want

to know how many people are coming and how much dirt is going to be moved."

Francis counters that his group has cooperated with the state's study of environmental impacts, and will comply with all measures suggested by the draft report. "I think that people know a lot more about us than they do about some of their neighbors," he said. "We have been expected to fulfill a much higher standard of knowledge about what we're doing and why we're doing it and what we plan for the future than most of the landowners who live here. We realize that it would be to our benefit as well as our people's benefit for us to go along with that. We still value our privacy."

Rate, Yellowstone officials and others at the meeting charged that the state water quality bureau, which prepared the impact statement, merely echoed church sentiments and did not fully assess the development's potential harm to the area's delicate ecology.

"It would be hard to find another private property as ecologically critical to Yellowstone Park and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem," said Louisa Wilcox, program director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. "The U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service, which have sought to purchase the property since the 1920s, have clearly recognized the importance of this unique property. As written, however, the EIS entirely fails to recognize the value of this area as habitat for (Yellowstone's wildlife and endangered) species, or as important to the aesthetic experience of the millions of tourists who pass into Yellowstone Park from the north each year."

'If you believe in the holocaust, you're not likely to be a good environmentalist,' says neighboring rancher and surveyor Hank Rate

Incoming church members living on the subdivisions have also created a crunch on the area's rural schools, and it threatens to get worse, said resident Kathy Grizzard Schmook, onetime Atlanta debutante, ex-wife of

Southern humorist Lewis Grizzard, and not one to mince words herself. (Her book: *My Life With a Bore*.)

Mrs. Schmook took the podium and slammed the state for
(Continued on page 11)

Bill would keep Yellowstone boiling

Geysers, springs and hot mud pools in Yellowstone National Park will be protected from geothermal development outside the park, if a bill unanimously passed by the Senate is signed into law.

The bill, co-sponsored by Sens. John Melcher, D-Mont., and Chic Hecht, R-Nev., calls for a moratorium on geothermal development on public and private lands around national parks until a study is completed by the U.S. Geological Survey. A House bill still in committee is close to the Senate version, says Interior Affairs Committee staffer Jim Zoia.

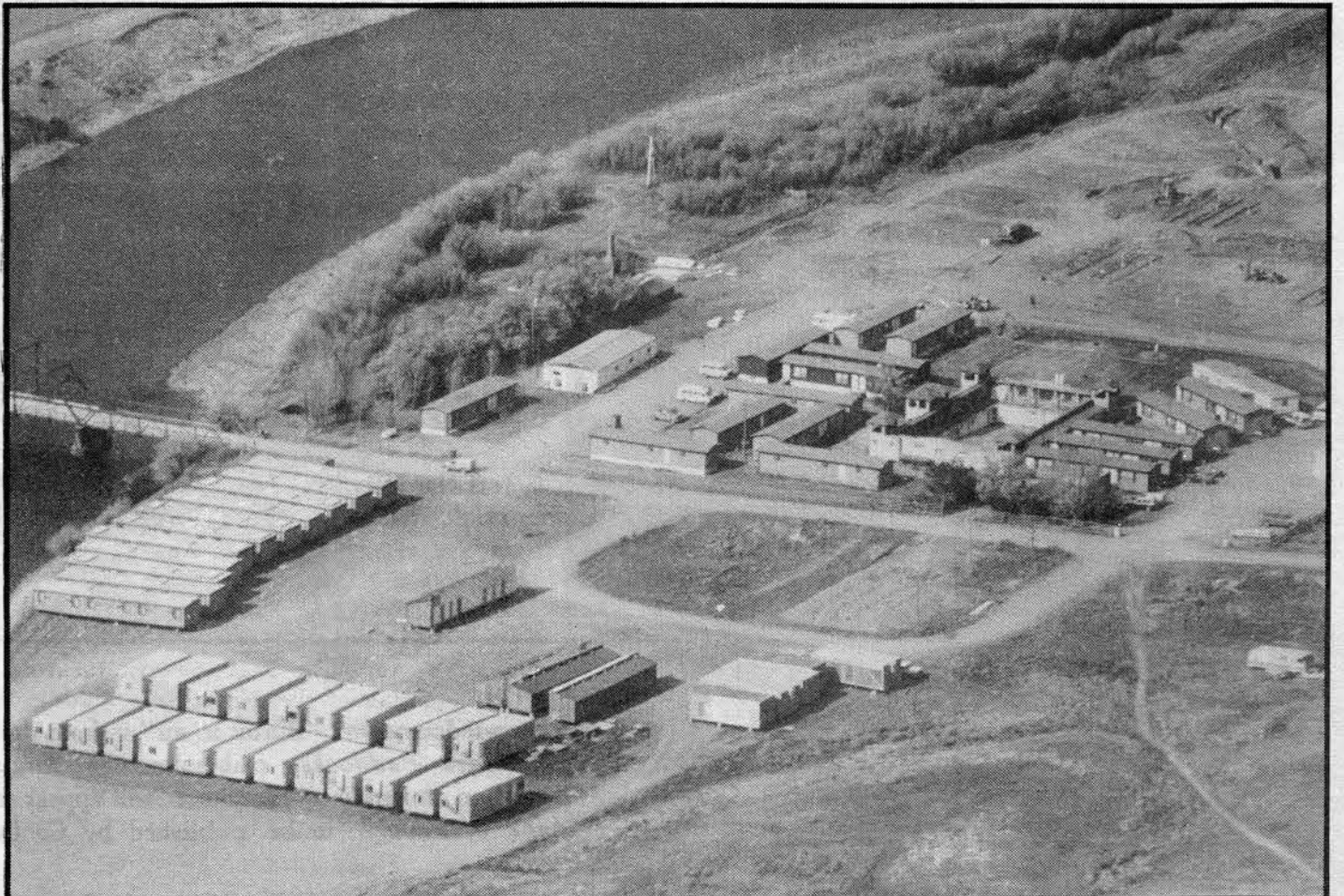
If the bill becomes law, it would delay the development of a geothermal well drilled recently by the Gardiner, Mont.-based Church Universal and Triumphant until the results of the study are known. If development

would affect the thermal resources, Congress would then have to acquire the property from the church.

The House bill mentions 18 geothermal areas by name, including the Corwin Springs Known Geothermal Resources Area bordering Yellowstone National Park and Crater Lake National Park in Oregon, also mentioned by the Senate bill. It requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a research program to monitor park geothermal features, and requests a report from the U.S. Geological Survey by Dec. 1, 1990, to determine if nearby geothermal development will have significant adverse effects on geothermal features within the parks. Congress then has 180 days to act on allowing or forbidding geothermal leasing and development.

--Michael Crawford

Tom Shands, Livingston Enterprise



Aerial photo of the church's main headquarters. The dozens of modular units came from Antelope, Oregon

LETTERS

DISAGREES

Dear HCN,

I disagree with several statements made about land use planning for the public lands in your article in the October 12, 1987, edition of *High Country News*, entitled "Watt and Hodel succeeded in turning back the clock at Interior."

For the past seven years, I have been the Chief of Planning and Environmental Coordination for the Bureau of Land Management. I chaired the group which re-wrote the Bureau's planning regulations in 1981-83, so I know them well.

Here's what I disagree with:

1. You quote Mark Welsh, "a western Colorado environmental consultant heavily involved in the initial negotiations over BLM and Forest Service regulations (who) says key provisions that environmentalists were able to put into law were removed when the regulations were redone."

That is impossible. No regulation can remove a provision of law.

2. Welsh goes on: "Examples are criteria that resource management plans (RMP) and environmental impact statements (EIS) must meet, and standards for public participation."

In fact, the criteria for plans/EISs were strengthened, and the standards for public participation are stronger now than earlier.

3. You quote Audubon Society Vice-president Brock Evans who says Hodel rewrote the regulations with no public hearings and no public comment.

That is ridiculous. Under law, regulations cannot be rewritten without public comment. And I will show below that clearly no changes were made in the planning process without public comment.

4. Brock ends: "They trashed the intent of the law." ... Many changes were challenged in court, but the victories didn't undo the damage, he adds.

There has been NO legal challenge of any part of BLM's Planning process: NO lawsuits on the Regulations, the Manual nor the Supplemental Program Guidance. BLM State Directors have approved 46 Resource Management Plans: NO lawsuits on any RMP.

What happened can be summarized this way: BLM's draft planning regulations went out in November 1981 without the public participation procedures, because we intended to move them to the BLM Planning Manual (and use the CEQ regulations) - but based on public comment, the Director put them back in, and added some.

More details: Director Bob Burford appointed me chair of an internal group to rewrite these regulations in June 1981 (I was then BLM Chief of Special Projects). He told us to remove "burdensome and cumbersome" sections, and thus to shorten the regs -- the same direction given all agencies by the new administration. We had NO direction from either Burford or Interior Secretary Watt on any change in content. It was my group that proposed to move procedural steps on public participation to the Planning Manual, partly to meet the goal of shortening the regulations and partly to make them consistent with the longstanding Bureau policy of putting procedures in the manual rather than regs.

There was never any change in the legal criteria that RMPs and EISs must meet the FLPMA (Federal Land Policy and Management Act) and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) requirements for public participation. In fact, it was a BLM decision that *every* RMP is a major Federal action requiring an EIS. Because we fully integrate the EIS with the RMP, we proposed that planning regulations rely on the public participation provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations which implement (NEPA).

There were extensive public meetings and plenty of public comment on the proposed Planning Regulations. We sent copies to each of the Western Governors, and to over 600 persons and organizations. During the 60-day comment period we received some 315 comments, 250 on public participation alone. All but one were negative -- almost all opposed deleting the public participation segment. When we presented these comments to Director Burford, he insisted all the procedural steps be re-inserted in the regulations. The result is that the key elements of public participation for each RMP remain the same:

(1) Notice of Intent published in Federal Register, indicating initial

issues and inviting the public to participate in scoping;

(2) Participation in scoping the issues to be addressed in the RMP;

(3) Planning criteria available for public review;

(4) Review and comment on the Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft EIS;

(5) Comment on the Proposed RMP/Final EIS;

Further, anyone who participated in the planning process could "protest" the proposed plan decisions of the State Director to the Director.

We even added a provision for review by the appropriate Governor for the required consistency with plans, policies and programs of state and local governments; and specific provisions for public notice and participation on areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC).

The Planning Manual adopted in 1984 was reviewed by all the Western Governors. Our Supplemental Program Guidance for each resource considered in an RMP had a Federal Register notice and extensive public comment in two rounds in 1985 and 1986. Pending changes in guidance on ACECs have been announced in the Federal Register, getting public review at the same time as BLM field review.

Please call on me at 202/653-8824 if you have any questions about this letter or BLM planning in general.

David C. Williams
Chief, Division of Planning
and Environmental Coordination
Bureau of Land Management
Washington, D.C.

Editor's note: This letter was received March 27, 1988.

HOTLINE

Academe held hostage

A flap over a water study by two professors at the University of Wyoming has left the school's faculty alleging a breakdown of academic freedom. Last month, two professors of agricultural economics at the university's Laramie campus were sharply and publicly criticized by university president Terry Roark for releasing a study critical of Wyoming's water policy. The report, which investigated the actual costs of state water projects and argued benefits should equal those costs, was distributed to the state legislature during its budget session in early March. Apparently, the report angered some legislators, who complained to Roark, reports the *Casper Star-Tribune*. Roark denied any official university association with the study, and then blasted the two professors for acting in an "irresponsible" and "politically motivated" fashion, and for using the school letterhead without permission. Roark's rebuke sparked a backlash. Michael Day, president of the university's faculty association, told the press this was not the first such incident, and he complained of an erosion of academic freedom which has left UW with a "very quiet and restrained faculty." Editorials in the *Star-Tribune*, the state's only daily, accused Roark of a "bush-league blunder." A guest editorial said bluntly: "Agriculturalists in the

legislature have historically held the state's residents, and the university, hostage to their great gods: agriculture, subsidy and water storage."

No drums, no whistles

Hunters, trappers and fishermen need protection from militant anti-hunting activists, says the National Rifle Association. So the association supported a bill making it illegal to harass sportsmen. That bill has now passed the Colorado House and gained initial approval from the state Senate, which must vote again on the bill. If it becomes law, Colorado -- one of eight states considering such a bill this year -- will join 27 states with similar laws on their books including Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Oklahoma and Kansas. The bill makes harassing hunters, fishermen or trappers on public lands during hunting season an offense meriting up to a \$500 fine. Hunting advocates say that people have taken to the woods in recent years with trumpets, drums, whistles and loudspeakers to scare game and call hunters names, reports the *Rocky Mountain News*. The Senate passed an amendment to the bill introduced by state Sen. Regis Groff, D-Denver, giving anyone in the backcountry the same protection from harassment, but rejected Groff's other amendment, which would have made it illegal to shoot someone jumping between a hunter and his quarry.

God's...

(Continued from page 10)

not probing the church's plans deeper. She accused state bureaucrats of being afraid to challenge the development for fear of being sued on religious discrimination grounds.

Elizabeth Clare Prophet is used to controversy. She and her organization were regularly savaged by the Los Angeles area news media and denounced, harassed and sued by disgruntled ex-members.

The group moved to Montana hoping to avoid such conflicts. But instead of getting a big Montana "Howdy," they found themselves embroiled in still more controversy. This time it

includes environmental groups and federal land managers.

"We don't intend to take over the government or incorporate a town," she told a Rotary Club meeting last year. "I am here in Montana today because I believe in what I am doing. I have a tremendous love for America. I feel the burden's upon her. We believe we were called here for a very special reason. And we want to preserve that land. It is sacred to us, it is our international headquarters."

Guru Ma's dogma has been termed a theological stew, and indeed, it draws words, phrases and concepts from such diverse religions as Buddhism and Gnosticism, as

well as Christianity. Her preaching of reincarnation in conjunction with the teachings of Jesus has provoked angry letters to the editor from mainstream and fundamentalist Christians. She often speaks of "karma" and "mantras," and her name is on three books that purport to expose the "lost years" of Jesus when he was studying Buddhism in India. The Christian churches, she charges, suppressed this information.

As local residents and conservationists rage against the coming of the New Age to Yellowstone, and more Church Universal and Triumphant members make the pilgrimage to Montana, there may be one person who gets the last laugh.

Prophet's group did not buy every acre of the Forbes ranch.

High on a mountain above ranch headquarters, at the end of a steep road, sits a cabin among the pine trees. It commands a vast view of the Yellowstone wilderness, as well as of the unfolding drama below. The cabin belongs to Malcolm Forbes.

The period for written comment on the draft EIS has been extended to April 21 by the water quality bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. Their address is Cogswell Building, Capitol Station, Helena, MT 59620 (406/444-2544).

□

Pat Dawson is a freelance writer in Billings, Montana.

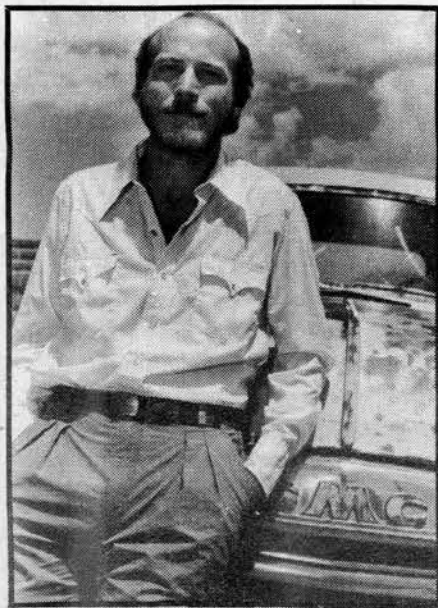
12-High Country News -- April 11, 1988

BULLETIN BOARD

INTEREST GROUP POLITICS

Overviews of the West are rare; good overviews are more rare. As a result, *Interest Group Politics in the American West*, edited by Ronald J. Hrebenar and Clive S. Thomas, is doubly welcome. The book consists of 15 chapters, 13 of them essays by scholars surveying the impact of special interest groups on each Western state. The essays are of uneven quality, but the overall effect is a very useful picture of the politics, economics and history of each state. Most of the essays contain tables showing who contributes how much to whom, how many lobbyists each state has, what legislators think of different lobbyists, and how campaign contributions have been changing. The book is also qualitative. Each essay attempts to link its state's politics to the economic base, and to show the role environmentalists and other "minorities" play. The various writers also analyze how the state's legislative structure influences legislation. The consensus is that determinedly populist states, with citizen legislatures lacking adequate pay and staff and a weak executive branch, are most susceptible to special interest pressure. Montana, for example, is cited as relatively helpless in the face of special interests, and that state's current adventure with Burlington Northern Railroad appears to bear out that judgment. The book defines its West differently than *High Country News*. It includes Alaska, Hawaii, the Northwest and the nation of California, and excludes the Dakotas. Overall, the book is of a high quality (the essay on Washington is an exception), and invaluable to all who try to see the West as a region.

University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112. Paper; \$30. 155 pgs.



Ray Ring

TELLURIDE SNARL

Arizona journalist and one-time HCN contributor Ray Ring, having won just about every journalistic award available to him, has set out to conquer new worlds. His sword, or perhaps one should say his bludgeon, is still the typewriter. But now he is using it to produce Dashiell Hammett-like detective stories starring a somewhat the worse-for-wear character named Henry Dyer. Ring's first novel, titled *Telluride Smile*, is set in Telluride, Colo. It is safe to say that the ski town's resort association will not be setting the book out next to the Gideon Bibles in the condos. Nor will it be running ads that read: "Come see the town dramatized in *Telluride Smile*," unless it is aiming the ads at drunks, drug addicts, crazed youngsters with mountain man delusions, sexual perverts, hoodlums, assorted other sleaze, and those who like to be near such folks. Decency, Ring makes it clear, is as rare as folks over 40 in Telluride. Even more than Edward Abbey, Ring hates what Telluride has become, and those who brought it there. Among his more ambiguous targets are New Age gurus -- those who would use the twinned wonders of high tech and organic granola to set the old world onto a new course. Chambers of commerce everywhere should write to Ring immediately, begging him to use some other town for his next novel.

Dodd Mead, 71 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C., N.Y. 10003. Cloth: \$15.95. 247 pages.



TRIBES AS SOVEREIGN NATIONS

The American Indian Resource Institute will hold a seminar April 27-29 at the Sundance Resort in Utah on "Indian Tribes as Sovereign Governments, Setting the Framework for Modern Tribal Policymaking." The gathering will address tribal powers and the place of tribes in the constitutional system, rights to natural resources, judicial systems and building Indian reservation economies. Presenters include Charles Wilkinson, a law professor at the University of Colorado, Susan M. Williams, an Albuquerque, N.M., attorney who is a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux tribe in South Dakota, and David Getches, founding director of the Native American Rights Fund who is currently a law professor at the University of Colorado. The registration fee is \$225 for tribal participants and \$275 for others. A limited number of scholarships are available. Register by April 20 with the American Indian Resources Institute, 319 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland, CA 94610 (415/834-9333).

SENIORS FOR WILDERNESS

As the Montana wilderness issue heats up in Washington, a new group, Seniors for Wilderness, has formed in the state. According to Jim Curtis of Missoula, a member of the organizing committee, the group met at Sen. John Melcher's field office to "let the world, and especially the U.S. Congress, know that large numbers of our age group support ... protect(ing) a substantial portion of Montana's remaining wild lands." Curtis said that pro wilderness senior citizens "must become more visible and vocal" to avoid being misrepresented as opposing wilderness. The group has a mailing list of over 200 seniors across the state. For more information write Box 9454, Missoula, MT 59807 (406/543-3644).

BEARS OVER HUMANS

Current management of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem emphasizes preservation over use and bears over humans, says George Reynolds in *Promise or Threat: A study of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem*. A researcher and co-founder of the timber advocacy-group, Wind River Multiple Use Advocates, based in Riverton, Wyo., Reynolds says the Yellowstone area was never prime grizzly habitat historically, so "reintroduction" of the species makes human-bear conflicts inevitable. Reynolds, a journalism professor at Central Wyoming College in Riverton, advocates timber-cutting as the way to both improve bear habitat and eliminate over-mature and disease-prone forests that make up the ecosystem. In sometimes awkward prose, *Promise or Threat* presents the lumberman's view. WeCARE (Westerners Concerned About Resources and Environment), 1210 Mary Anne Drive, Riverton, WY 82501. \$10.00 173 pages. No illustrations.

GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE BACKCOUNTRY!

- Challenging and rewarding 5-12 day public service volunteer projects.
- Parks and Forests in Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, New Hampshire, Maine and elsewhere.
- Leaders, tools, training, food, some equipment provided. Expenses incurred are tax deductible.
- Great people, incredible scenery. Come join us!

Details: Appalachian Mountain Club, Trails Program, Box 298-HN, Gorham, NH 03581 (603/466-2721).

"Over 100 Years of Public Service"

LESS OIL AND GAS

The U.S. Geological Survey says our oil and gas resources are considerably less than was thought. USGS has reduced by 40 percent its estimates of how much conventional oil and gas remains to be discovered in the United States, reports the *Washington Post*. According to an analysis not yet released, the nation has about 33.4 billion barrels of undiscovered crude oil beneath the land and in state-controlled areas offshore -- enough to last about 11 years at current production levels. The figure is at least 40 percent below a 1981 survey. The figures could hurt the oil and gas industry because they have marketed natural gas as an inexpensive and abundant alternative to oil, while the oil industry fears the statistics will enhance the environmentalists' efforts to limit drilling on the grounds that the resource potential is low.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FIRST

A conference called "Fabric for the Future, a New Agenda for Economic Development in South Dakota" is set for April 15-16 at the Sioux Falls Coliseum. The concept that economic development means, first, human development, is the theme of the gathering sponsored by American Indian Services, Catholic Family Services, Community Networking Center, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, among others. Keynote speakers are Pat Funk, a project leader at the Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Neb., Theresa Funicello, a former welfare mother who is now co-director of Social Agenda, an organization that attempts to bring poor people into public-policy debates about poverty, and Gary Prince, program manager for the Corporation for Enterprise Development and co-director of the Economic Climate Research Project. Registration is \$12 at the door and \$10 by advance payment. Inquire about a waiver for payment if finances are a problem. Free child daycare and overnight accommodations are available. Contact South Dakota Peace & Justice Center, Box 405, Watertown, S.D. 57201.

Malachite Small Farm School

- HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE ON OUR 260-ACRE WORKING FARM
- WEEKEND WORKSHOPS AND WEEK-LONG CLASSES IN
- ORGANIC GARDENING, BEEKEEPING, FARMING WITH HORSES, FARM REPAIR, AND GREEN WORLD PHILOSOPHY
- ALSO FIELD TRIPS AND OVERNIGHTS FOR CLASSES AND GROUPS

a unique living/learning experience



OPEN HOUSE (May 14th, 1-5:00 p.m.) Join us for an afternoon of hayrides, tours, program presentations and refreshments. No admission charge. **SPECIAL:** 10% discount on all program and workshop registrations that day.

VOLUNTEER WORK WEEK (May 10-17th) Get a taste of country life while helping to ready the school for the summer session. Have fun while you work!

SPRING WORKSHOPS (May 21-22) Treat yourself to a country weekend of fresh air, good food and 12 hours intensive hands-on instruction in ORGANIC GARDENING, BEEKEEPING or FARMING WITH HORSES.

FARMWARD BOUND (May 30-June 24) A unique opportunity to fully experience farm life. Four weeks of classes, daily chores, and work in the garden, fields and barnyard.

For more information on all programs, write or call:
MSFS, Box 21, Gardner, CO 81040
(719)746-2412

ACCESS

LAND

FOR SALE IN UTAH CANYON COUNTRY: 12-acre mini-ranch with Green River frontage. Two bedroom house nestled in large cottonwood grove. Owner financing. 801/564-3369. (4x7p)

CONSERVATION-MINDED BUYERS WANTED for Large Mountain Valley Parcels in Prime Four-Season Recreation Area. Tax Incentives Available. Contact Mary Jensen, Broker, ALPINE VIEW REALTY, Route 2, Box 6, Twisp, Washington 98856 (509/997-6562). (6x6p)

NEAT STUFF

WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL JOB-LETTER is a monthly publication listing job openings throughout Western North America, including Canada. For a back issue, send a 25 cent stamp; for subscription information write: WEJ, P.O. Box 800H, LaPorte, CO 80535. (3x7p)

SMITH'S NATURAL NEWS: Health and nature for people, plants and pets. Free sample copy: Box 9038, Denver, CO 80209-0038. (4x5p)

CLASSIFIED ADS cost 30 cents per word, pre-paid, \$5 minimum. General rates for display are \$8/column inch if camera-ready; \$10/column inch if we make up. For ad rate brochure, write HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428 or call 303/527-4898.

WESTERN WATER MADE SIMPLE, by the editors of *High Country News*; \$15.95 plus \$2.75 shipping (\$1.25 each additional book) from Island Press, Box 7, Covelo, CA 95428; 800/628-2828, ext. 416.

HCN T-SHIRTS make great gifts! Royal blue, kelly green, fuchsia, burgundy or turquoise; small, medium, large, extra large. \$10. 100 percent cotton. Send your checks to HCN t-shirts, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428.

SCA WORK SKILLS

4TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SERIES



Trail Survey & Design
Timber & Rock Constructions
Revegetation
Cross Cut Saw Sharpening
Knots, Splices & Rigging
Group Supervision Techniques
Traditional Resource Management

1988 PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Ouachita Nat'l Forest, AR--April
Mt. Tamalpais State Park, CA--April
Sandia Ranger District, NM--May
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF, WA--June, Sept.
Dillon Ranger District, CO--Aug.
North Cascades Nat'l Park, WA--Aug.
Mt. Rogers Nat'l Rec. Area, VA--Sept.

TO REGISTER, CONTACT:

Student Conservation
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 31989
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 547-7380

"SHARE THE LEGACY"



Toni Evans

CARING ABOUT OWLS IN UTAH

Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources is trying to increase public interest in its programs that protect nongame animals. To do that, the state recently published its first four-page, twice-a-year *Nongame Bulletin*. It contains articles about the status of endangered Colorado squawfish and rare razorback sucker-fish in the San Juan River, Utah's growing bald eagle and peregrine falcon populations, and programs that built 20 nesting burrows for owls in Tooele and Juab counties. For more information about the free publication, contact Randy Radant, Chief of the Nongame Management Section, Division of Wildlife Resources, 1596 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 (801/530-1228).

CONTROVERSIAL HOVENWEEP PLAN

Hovenweep National Monument on the border of southeast Utah and southwest Colorado is known for its well preserved Anasazi ruins and desert landscape. In 1986, The National Park Service's advisory board recommended expanding the monument to protect the archaeological resources of the entire region. But if a new Park Service draft plan goes into effect, oil and gas drilling, mineral development, grazing, and the construction of new roads could all occur immediately outside the national monument. The Park Service proposes to approve an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management that would leave most of the land surrounding Hovenweep under BLM multiple use management. "The plan's a bad deal," says Darrell Knuffke of The Wilderness Society. "You can't have cattle grazing on ancient Anasazi ruins, trampling pots." Until April 19, comments may be sent to Lorraine Mintzmyer, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Director, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225. Colorado Sen. Tim Wirth would like a copy of comments sent to him at 237 Dirksen, Washington, D.C. 20510.

FINAL TWO FORKS EIS

After several years of delay and \$37 million, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its final environmental impact statement for the proposed Two Forks Dam on the South Platte River near Denver, Colo. The big change in the study is the addition of a scaled-down Two Forks. The smaller dam is cheaper, the report says, but would have the same environmental impacts as the larger dam; it would inundate the same area and still be built to allow a future addition to increase capacity. Critics of the agency's previous draft EIS said that high population growth figures had inflated potential water demand, and that possible water savings through conservation were ignored. The report says even with extensive water conservation and lowered population growth estimates, there will still be a water shortage in the Denver area by 2003. Of five alternatives examined by the study, Two Forks is the most cost effective but also the most environmentally damaging. The corps estimates the cost of the dam and mitigation at \$640 million. Conservationists put the cost closer to \$1 billion. For a copy of the 41-page executive summary, write the District Engineer, Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 14, Omaha, NE 68101-0014, attention CEMRO-PD-M (Denver FEIS). The full EIS -- five volumes plus seven additional volumes of addenda and appendices -- is at most Colorado public libraries. For times and locations of public hearings, held throughout April, call the Corps at 402/221-4598. The deadline for written comments on the FEIS is May 5, 1988.

RAFT FOR A CAUSE

Western Colorado Congress offers four fundraising river trips this spring run by Gunnison River Expeditions based in Hotchkiss, Colo. A May 22-24 Upper Dolores raft trip includes Snaggletooth Rapids and archaeological sites, while the May 23-25 Lower Dolores trip flows through desert canyons. Each costs \$225, although river addicts can go on both trips for \$390. One day of trout fishing and whitewater rafting through the Gunnison River Gorge is set for June 5 and costs \$70; a June 12 trip on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison includes trout fishing and Class IV rapids for \$60. Proceeds from the trips support the coalition's work on environmental and consumer issues. Call Ann Longworth at WCC, Box 472, Montrose, CO 81402 (303/249-1978).

FERRET-FINDING

How do you find an endangered black footed Ferret? It isn't easy, but the Wyoming Cooperative Research Unit and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will give pointers at a survey techniques workshop May 3 on the University of Wyoming campus in Laramie. The workshop features tips for designing a search, sessions on the Endangered Species Act and ferret and prairie dog ecology. Registration is \$30 and the place is the Medicine Bow Conference Room at the university. For more information, contact the Black-footed Ferret Workshop, Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Box 3166, University Station, Laramie, WY 82071 (307/766-5414).

AN APHID INVASION

Since the invasion of Colorado by the Russian wheat aphid in 1986, the pest has destroyed almost 3 percent of each year's wheat crop and caused estimated losses of \$38.7 million. Combined losses and spraying expenses for 1988 could total \$100 million, says a report by the Colorado Emergency Russian Wheat Aphid Task Force. Called *Russian Wheat Aphid Control: A Proposal*, the 30-page report emphasizes pesticide-spraying and controlling stray plants that provide the aphid winter cover while increasing long-term funding for research on resistant-wheat varieties and biological pest controls. Though chemical controls remain central to Colorado's short-term strategy, Sec. Tim Wirth, D-Colo., asked U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng for additional funding for Colorado State University's biological pest control program. Wirth says the aphid predators are safer than pesticides that poison wildlife and the environment, and to which aphids could develop resistance. Raising yearly predator production levels from the current 5,000 to 20,000 would put a sizeable dent in identified aphid populations, says Wirth. As of March 16, Wirth's office says Lyng had agreed to develop a research and action program to be completed in 2-3 weeks. For a copy of the task force report, write Commissioner Peter Decker, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Public Information Office, 1525 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203 (303/866-2811).

FRONT RANGE WATER

A legal-education seminar on water supply alternatives for Colorado's Front Range is set for April 16, in Boulder. Co-sponsored by the Natural Resources Law Center and University of Colorado School of Law, the seminar will concentrate on the proposed Two Forks Dam project (HCN, 5/25/87), on existing water facilities and water rights, and on underground water as a possible long-term alternative to damming. Speakers include Jeris A. Danielson, Colorado state engineer; D. Monte Pascoe, a lawyer and member of the Denver Water Board; Professor David H. Getches of the University of Colorado Law School; Lee Rozaklis, water consultant; and Clyde Martz, water attorney and authority on water law. For more information, phone Kathy Taylor, Coordinator, at 303/492-1288.

SKIMPY BATHING SUIT

An article in the March 14 issue of *Sports Illustrated* portrays the U.S. Forest Service in what might be called a skimpy bathing suit. Writer John Skow analyzes how the agency subsidizes private logging companies in Alaska by paying them \$40 million a year to harvest trees. Last year, the Forest Service gave away \$62 million in "aid" to the companies and lost 99 cents on every dollar it invested, Skow says. The Forest Service has currently scheduled a timber cut of 26 million board feet of 400-year-old Sitka spruce in southeast Alaska's Lisianski Inlet, which is part of the Tongass National Forest. Almost all of that timber is destined for the chipper at Alaska Pulp Co. in Sitka, which is owned by the Industrial Bank of Japan. The Forest Service leases parts of the Tongass to both Alaska Pulp and Louisiana-Pacific so they can turn cellulose into rayon and cellophane; not high quality sawlogs. Skow says the only hope for the area is legislation introduced by Rep. Bob Mrazek, D-N.Y. It would repeal the companies' 50-year-leases and require yearly congressional reviews.



SAFETY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

For anyone who works in an outdoor, adventure, recreational or camp setting, this workshop is an intensive two day training on sound safety management methods and tools.

WHERE: **KEYSTONE SCIENCE SCHOOL**, Keystone, Colorado

DATES: April 23-24, 1988

REGISTRATION FEE: \$115
Graduate credit also available

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
(303) 468-5824



This spring sow a different kind of seed. Plant High Country News in the hands of a friend and watch a growing awareness take root.

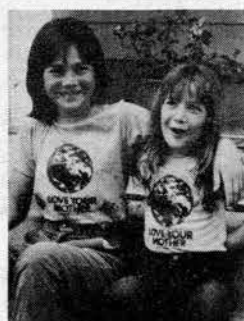


High Country News

A paper for people who care about the West

Name _____ ☐ One year, individual - \$20
Company _____ ☐ Two years, individual - \$35
Address _____ ☐ One year, institution - \$28
City, State, Zip _____ ☐ Two years, institution - \$50

☐ My check is enclosed, or, charge my credit card _____
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard: account no. _____
expiration date _____ signature _____
☐ Please bill me Please mail to: HCN, Box 1090,



"LOVE YOUR MOTHER" T-SHIRTS

for all sized earthlings in full 4-color art on sky blue or rich ivory high quality shirts

Adults - 100% cotton - \$9
S (32-34), M (36-38), L (40-42), XL (44-46)
Kids - durable 50/50 - \$7
S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16)
Babies - Yellow or Sky Blue - \$6
12 or 24 month, lap shouldered

Please enclose \$1 for 1st shirt, and 50¢ for each additional shirt.

Environmental Gifts
P.O. Box 222-HCN, Helena, MT 59624
Send for Free Catalog!



Alternative energy Technology & Equipment

- ARCO photovoltaic power systems
- Kalwall solar glazing
- Solar - wood - demand water heaters
- Watersaving toilets
- Plans & technical assistance for do-it-yourselfers

NATURAL RESOURCE CO.
Box 91 Victor, Idaho 83455
208-787-2495



SOLAR ELECTRICITY

the rational alternative

Affordable power for remote applications

Photocomm, Inc.
(303) 988-8208

14-High Country News -- April 11, 1988

OTHER VOICES

Public land: The best idea America ever had

by George Wuerthner

The bill sponsored by Senator Bill Bradley, D-NJ, proposing to transfer ownership of the Black Hills to the Sioux Indians, is laudable in spirit, but bad in principle. The public lands concept is the best idea this country has ever had. Transferring public, and thus democratic, decision-making to any group, whether private corporation or Indian people, should be strongly opposed (HCN, 2/15/88).

The theory of public lands is that no one has ownership of the land. This idea, more than any other in our culture, probably comes closest to the Indian philosophical concept of proprietary rights.

Many conservationists support proposals to give Indians control of public lands because they feel Indian people will husband the land with greater care than government agencies. This is based partly on a romantic notion that Indians have bonds to the land that other people do not. If Indian people ever had greater bonds than other people, they have been severely eroded in modern times.

Examples of this erosion abound. In 1971, in southeast Alaska, title to portions of the Tongass National Forest were transferred to Indian groups as part of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Since then, native groups have exploited their holdings in a way that makes the depredations of the Forest Service seem mild. Although conservationists loudly protest the excessive timber harvest now occurring on the Tongass National Forest, no one mentions that Indian corporations are clearcutting twice as much timber on the lands they control. And though the Forest Service must meet some federally-mandated environmental constraints, none apply to lands owned by the native corporations.

Closer to home in Montana, the Blackfeet Tribal Council is currently attempting to persuade Congress to grant control of mineral rights in the Badger-Two Medicine Area to the tribe. The tribes want to lease the area for oil and gas development. To be sure, there are some Blackfeet Indians who oppose any development of the area, but they are in the minority.

Examples of environmental degradation of land under Indian control are numerous. It is doubtful that, on the whole, Indian people exhibit any greater concern or care for the land than any other group of citizens.

While anyone can oppose clearcutting on the Tongass National Forest, outsiders do not have a say in the policies on lands now controlled by Indian corporations. These lands, like the Black Hills, were once national forest, and they are being raped.

Peggy Robinson



Beyond the idea that Indian peoples are somehow more in touch with the American landscape than other people, Bradley's bill is based on faulty historical assumptions. Bradley implies, and the Sioux leaders emphasize, that Sioux ties to the Black Hills give them greater moral right to the area than the European peoples that followed. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Prior to 1870, the Sioux lived east of the Missouri River in present-day Minnesota. They only moved westward after introduction of the horse made hunting of the Great Plains game herds possible. Before the horse, most plains Indians were semi-permanent farmers, not nomadic hunters. Nearly all the tribes we associate with the Great Plains hunting culture were recent immigrants to the region. No Northern Plains Indian tribe, with the possible exception of the Cheyenne and the Crow, can trace their roots in the region back more than 100 years or so before Europeans arrived. The Sioux, Blackfoot, Shoshone and other tribes trace their plains residency to recent invasions, often within the historic record.

Only 20-30 years before the Army and gold miners routed the Sioux from the Black Hills they had ousted the Cheyenne tribe occupying the region. If Bradley really wants to correct past

injustices, maybe he should designate the Cheyenne as legal owners of the Black Hills, since they lived there before the Sioux and the U.S. Cavalry.

But I believe such questions are moot. One should view the occupation of North America by European peoples as no more than the latest movement of the human species to new areas of the globe. If those who came from Europe are considered outsiders, are Indians and Eskimos who came from Asia also outsiders? Or perhaps only the Indians are the real natives; perhaps Eskimo people arriving on North American shores thousands of years after the original occupation by the Indians are outsiders like the Europeans.

Our view of Indian territory and homeland often ignores the fact that all Indian people were constantly involved with war and migration. Their home territories and cultural resource exploitation methods changed accordingly. This movement was no doubt exacerbated by the arrival of Europeans on the continent, but it would be incorrect to assume that no conflicts occurred prior to that event. The Navaho and Apache tribes, for example, invaded the Southwest, taking over lands occupied by Pueblo Indians. Alaska's Tlingit Indians invaded southeast Alaska and forcefully evicted the tribes occupying the area. The Tlingit also moved north and west, pushing Eskimo groups westward.

Our mistake is that we tend to think of a peoples' homeland as static, the way we view wildlife ranges as static. But animal range boundaries change constantly in response to such external factors as disease, availability of food resources and the ability to exploit them, or competition for food from other species or groups. Just as no wolf-pack territory remains stable for generations, no human political territory is permanent -- and for many of the same reasons.

There is no denying that Indians were and continue to be unfairly treated in this country. The list of tragic episodes is long. But it will be even more tragic if one of the truly great ideas of our time -- public lands -- is dismantled. If the Sioux have some natural right to the Black Hills, then the same argument could easily be applied to other public lands. If the Sioux deserve compensation (and I am not taking a stand one way or another on that issue) for past abuses, it should not be at the expense of our public lands -- lands that belong to all people, and thus to no one.

□

The writer is a naturalist and freelance journalist in Livingston, Montana.

LETTERS

A CORRECTION

Dear HCN,

In a recent article on Logan Canyon, Utah, by *Salt Lake Tribune* reporter Chris Jorgensen (HCN, 3/14/88), I am reported to have said that CH2M Hill asked me to represent the environmental community on the Logan Canyon Highway Project by submitting a proposal two years ago. This is incorrect. Lynn Zollinger, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Northern District Engineer, not CH2M Hill, asked me to serve on the ID team to represent environmental concerns in the spring of 1986. No proposal was then requested nor submitted.

I served on the ID team for more than two years (as did three other

members of the Logan environmental community), attending most of the meetings and attempting to influence the proposal that was being developed along less destructive lines than the engineers preferred. In the summer of 1987, the meetings were suddenly halted without explanation, and all environmental representatives have since been totally excluded from the process.

At the beginning of the ID team meetings, we were assured no technical memoranda (the responsibility of the ID team) would be accepted without approval of the ID team, and that the ID team would be able to make recommendations with respect to the preferred alternative for UDOT. This has not occurred, and clearly will not occur.

My "damn lie" comment refers to a statement attributed to Sheldon Barker, PR man for CH2M Hill, by

Jorgensen in a telephone interview with me, that "the environmental groups had never been asked to participate on the ID team." Where the idea concerning a "final plan" to be delivered by us came from is a complete mystery to me.

The environmental representative submitted a "Conservationists' Proposal" to UDOT in late summer 1987 in response to a UDOT poll of the ID team in June regarding acceptable improvements in the Canyon. This proposal was relegated to the appendix of the "Preliminary DEIS", copies of which were furnished only to FHWA and the Forest Service. Only at the insistence of the Forest Service was this document made public, and then only at the expense of those who wanted it (including all other ID team members).

The record is indeed one of bad faith and duplicity on the part of

UDOT and CH2M Hill, but it is quite different than reported in the article.

Jack T. Spence
Logan, Utah

IT'S WELDON JOHNSON

The caption for the Blythe Intaglios in the last issue of HCN incorrectly identified Weldon Johnson, who is assistant director and cultural resources director of the Colorado River Tribal Museum.

BARBS

We hear he's also starting a new magazine -- Repenthouse.

Tele-evangelist Jimmy Swaggart has indicated he will defy his church, and return to preaching before the end of his six-month ban.



CAPITOL HILL

In the West, subsidy begets subsidy begets subsidy

by Andrew Melnykovich

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Knowing that the history of water development in the West is marked by waste, fraud and assorted other abuses does not make it easier to accept new reminders that the government is pouring our money down some drain.

A recent report from the Bureau of Reclamation spells out in meticulous detail -- down to the last acre of irrigated land -- the dimensions of the leakage from the U.S. Treasury.

According to BuRec's figures, in 1986 Western farmers received an irrigation subsidy of \$534.3 million from the federal government, an average of \$54 per acre of irrigated land. Nearly 40 percent of that cheap federal water was used to grow crops that the government deems surplus, including cotton, rice, wheat, corn, oats, barley, sorghum, and soybeans.

According to the Department of Agriculture, farmers who used BuRec water to irrigate their surplus crops in 1986 also received about \$730 million from Uncle Sam in the form of price support payments, marketing loans, and other direct subsidies.

In other words, the federal taxpayer is subsidizing the irrigation of crops which are then eligible for federal subsidies, all to the tune of more than \$900 million a year.

The BuRec report which spells out the details of the double subsidy came in response to a series of questions posed by Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., chairman of the House subcommittee on water and power. Miller has long been a critic of federal water policy. BuRec's numbers show what that policy has accomplished. A few figures from the report:

- "The total value of the irrigation subsidy from 1902 through 1986 is estimated to be \$9.8 billion."

- "The average annual subsidy through 1986 is an estimated \$117.3 million. The subsidy for 1986 is estimated to be \$534.3 million."

- "The estimated annual irrigation subsidy for 1986 is \$54 per acre. The estimated total irrigation subsidy through 1986 is approximately \$995 per acre."

- "Over the 10-year period 1976 to 1985, the average amount of irrigated land used in the production of surplus crops was 3.7 million acres."

- From 1983 to 1985, BuRec projects generated \$934 million in revenue, mostly from sales of hydroelectric power. Only \$58 million was from sales of irrigation water.

The numbers give the scale of the federal investment in subsidized irrigation. But it takes a close-up look to make the problem comprehensible.

Unlike many agricultural programs, the irrigation subsidy is indirect; it comes not as something the federal government pays the farmer, but rather as what the farmer doesn't pay the federal government. With the exception of the Central Valley Project in California, irrigators generally pay a price for water that reflects the cost of running and maintaining the irrigation project. But they don't pay much of the cost of the project itself.

In a few cases, the federal government is getting a fairly good return on its investment. Irrigators in the Frenchtown Project in Montana pay \$1.40 per acre per year for water that costs BuRec \$1.83 per acre. That is about a 76 cents-on-the-dollar return. But irrigators in the Crow Creek Pump Unit pay less -- 78 cents an acre per year -- for water that the federal government produces at \$53.31 per acre.

Farmers in the giant North Platte Project in Nebraska and Wyoming annually pay 22 cents per acre for water that would carry an unsubsidized price tag of \$8.18 per acre. They use the water to irrigate more than 141,000 acres of corn.

Although irrigators in the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project contribute \$17.84 per

Bureau of Reclamation



acre per year toward repayment, the federal government's burden is \$306.40 per acre. In the nearby Vernal Unit, irrigators pay \$3.68 per acre for water that costs \$204.60.

Other projects with whopping irrigation subsidies include Rathdrum Prairie in Idaho (\$98.05 per acre), Weber Basin in Utah (\$59.33 per acre), Fryingspan-Arkansas in Colorado (\$104.49 per acre), Angostura in South Dakota (\$103.03 per acre), Riverton in Wyoming (\$73.40 per acre), Helena Valley in Montana (\$89.01 per acre), Kansas-Bostwick in Kansas (\$71.50 per acre), Frenchman-Cambridge in Nebraska (\$89.47 per acre), and Hanover Bluff in North Dakota (\$88.32 per acre).

In the best pork barrel tradition, nearly every western state has a project among the loss leaders. As might be expected, the biggest is in California. Although the per-acre subsidy for the Central Valley Project is a paltry \$60, the sheer size of the endeavour brought the total annual cost in 1986 to \$135.4 million, about one-fourth of the national total.

In 1985, CVP farmers grew more than half a million acres of cotton, 192,000 acres of rice, 128,000 acres of barley, 162,000 acres of wheat, 99,000 acres of corn, and about 27,000 acres of other surplus commodities. Most of them paid irrigation rates that did not even cover the cost of operating and maintaining the facilities used to deliver their water, let alone the cost of building the facilities.

As bad as taxpayer losses for existing projects are, the projections for projects uncompleted or yet unbuilt are worse. Irrigation water from the Animas-LaPlata Project in southwest Colorado will sell for \$40.60 per acre per year, with \$8.20 of that going to defray the capital costs. The real annual cost per acre is estimated at \$673.47.

Irrigators using water from the scaled-down Garrison Diversion in North Dakota will pay \$39.78 per acre per year for water costing an incredible \$758.90 per acre. The water will grow surplus grains.

Farmers in the Central Arizona Project will pay a whopping \$213.50 per acre per year, but only \$7 of that will be capital cost repayment. The real cost of the water will be \$542 per acre per year. Yet, as the BuRec readily admits in its report to Miller, most of the CAP farmers could do without the irrigation water. Most farmers could get by on groundwater alone, the agency says.

While conceding that some "farm operations make enough margin to pay the full-cost price of water" and that others could switch to

alternative water sources, BuRec insists that removal of the irrigation subsidy would harm many farmers, as well as the rural West.

In a letter accompanying the report, Deputy Assistant Interior Secretary Wayne Marchant tells Miller that the effect on farmers could be devastating:

"It may lower the amount of income they receive ... below survival levels, and may cause more to abandon irrigated farming altogether," Marchant says. Marchant insists that the irrigation subsidy benefits more than just farmers and is "responsible for much of the current character of the western United States."

Irrigation needs led to construction of projects which have, as a byproduct, provided hydroelectric power for industry and recreation opportunities for the public, he says. "It would not be unfair to say they (the projects) have supported and continue to support the development of the majority of major metropolitan areas in the West," Marchant says.

Marchant also points out, correctly, that Congress approved every one of the projects that now provides subsidized irrigation water. Therein, of course, lies the explanation for the strikingly even geographical distribution of the most expensive projects.

But BuRec has announced it is getting out of the dam-building business. Once the current batch of federal boondoggles is completed, it will fall to state and local governments to put up the money for new water projects.

Given that the impetus for water development has always come from a coalition of agricultural, development, and bureaucratic interests which can function as effectively at the state and local level as they have in Washington, there is little reason to expect that the pursuit of water development will become any less single-minded.

The route our money takes may change in the future, but it's likely to be going down the drain just the same.

A copy of the 35-page report on irrigation subsidies compiled by Wayne Marchant, Assistant Secretary of Interior, is available from Calif. Rep. George Miller, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

□

Andrew Melnykovich writes a monthly column for *High Country News*. He is Washington, D.C., reporter for the *Casper Star-Tribune*.

ASSOCIATE

T.H. Wiancko
Teton Village, Wyoming

SPONSOR

Paul Douglas
Paonia, Colorado

Elizabeth H. Hinchman
New York, New York

Nathaniel Reed
Hobe Sound, Florida

Ted Goudvis
Aspen, Colorado

Minx Fuller
Boulder, Colorado

Joe Thorn, Jr.
San Francisco, California

Maryanne Mott and
Herman Warsh
Santa Barbara, California

Carrie Shaw and
Marc Hoshovsky
Davis, California

PATRON

Lynn A. Greenwalt
Rockville, Maryland

Jerry Greene
Telluride, Colorado

Mary Louise Higgins
Arlington, Virginia

Dorothy Dodge Duncan
Sheridan, Wyoming

Randall K. Rutsch
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Bob and Sanna Kiesling
Helena, Montana

Roger B. Smith
Kodiak, Alaska

Environmental Defense Fund
Boulder, Colorado

Patricia Espander
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Doug Gerhart
Bozeman, Montana

John T. Gless
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Roy Young
Nederland, Colorado

William R. Freudenburg
Middleton, Wisconsin

Katherine Bucho
Pinedale, Wyoming

Carol Patterson
Winslow, Washington

Del Owens
New York, New York

Hal and Mary Shelton
Golden, Colorado

Patrick M. Ingleby
San Jose, California

S. C. McLaughlin
Berkeley, California

J. Barnes
Washington, D.C.

Heather Noble
Barrow, Alaska

F. Cary Rey
Washington, D.C.

Anonymous donors

Leo Eisel and
Nina Churchman
Denver, Colorado

Frances B. McAllister
Flagstaff, Arizona

Donald T. Hammer
Washington, D.C.

Naseem Rakha
Eugene, Oregon

Allen Sindelar
Old Snowmass, Colorado

Bob Herz
Denver, Colorado

Dale Johnson
Boulder, Colorado

Keith Schoepflin
Ft. Collins, Colorado

Bob Poling
Nederland, Colorado

Charles Norton
Denver, Colorado

J. Tyler
Westminster, Colorado

Richard L. Cifelli
Norman, Oklahoma

Kathy Herbst
Denver, Colorado

J.W. Hall
Abiquiu, New Mexico

Brian E. Gray
San Francisco, California

Marilu Anderson
Montrose, Colorado

Morgan Smith
Denver, Colorado

Steven J. Zwick
Durango, Colorado

Carolyn S. Dejanikus
Jackson, Wyoming

George W. Kelly
Cortez, Colorado

FRIEND

Mark Ohrenscholl
Evergreen, Colorado

Aldrich Bowler
Hagerman, Idaho

Tom and Mary Rees
Moab, Utah

Harriet Roberts
San Rafael, California

Richard P. Higgins
Detroit, Michigan

Dennis Ghiglietti
Reno, Nevada

Philip Friedman
Fort Collins, Colorado

Joe E. Stewart
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Ted Reichelt
Phoenix, Arizona

Ken F. Kirkpatrick
Denver, Colorado

J. Calvin Giddings
Salt Lake City, Utah

Peter Murphy
Riverton, Utah

Jeffrey A. Gilman
San Francisco, California

Eric Dittert
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Jay and Pat Reed
Louisville, Colorado

John R. Peterson
Bussigny, Switzerland

Joe Sands
Dillon, Colorado

L. McCool
Durango, Colorado

T.S. McRae
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Paula J. Lehr
Gunnison, Colorado

M.K. Ribe
Seattle, Washington

L. Damon
Butte, Montana

S. Sloss
Washington, D.C.

Sharon Williams
Montrose, Colorado

Sarah and David Doll
Lander, Wyoming

R. Benson
Missoula, Montana

Ted Chu
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Nicholas Brown
Santa Fe, New Mexico

B. Cabot
Casper, Wyoming

M. Diekhans
Santa Cruz, California

Carolyn S. Landes
Death Valley, California

Polly and Gene Reetz
Denver, Colorado

Frank Nickell
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

J. Johns
Somers, Montana

M. Ward
Death Valley, California

S. Frank
Pullman, Washington

S.L. Fremont
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. and Mrs. C. Rickart
Golden, Colorado

J. and L. Frederick
Prescott, Arizona

Bill Hunger
Hamilton, Montana

Mrs. W.G. Ruesch
Denver, Colorado

Mr. and Mrs. George Coen
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Janet Robertson
Boulder, Colorado

Lucia Vorys
Paonia, Colorado

Elna Gaddy
Grand Junction, Colorado

Steve Burstein
Aspen, Colorado

Bill and Mary Graham
Grand Junction, Colorado

Edward and Carol Defrancia
Dolores, Colorado

Patricia A. Wermeling
Ft. Collins, Colorado

Edward Duerr
Wheat Ridge, Colorado

Donald Bailey
Salt Lake City, Utah

William E. Gambill, Jr.
Boulder, Colorado

Nonny Dyer
Salida, Colorado

Dan Heide



Pincushion cactus near Salmon, Idaho

*Thank you,
Research Fund contributors,
for keeping the Research Fund
in bloom*