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A Paper for People who Care about

One dollar

Manuel Lujan

Lighter touch coming to Interior



by Tony Davis

In 1980, then New Mexican Rep. Lujan was on President-elect Ronald Reagan's short list of Interior secretary candidates. Lujan said his first priority would be to "straighten out the maze of regulations that hamper energy production."

On Dec. 23, 1988, the day after President-elect George Bush named Lujan Interior secretary, he said, "We must be stewards of the land, and leave it in as good shape as possible from one generation to another."

Which is the real Manuel Lujan? On the issues that could shape his life for at least four years, it is not clear there is one. He has bounced around like a runaway drilling rig on environment, voting and talking on both sides in his 20 years in Congress.

And what kind of Interior secretary will Lujan make, if confirmed?

Environmentalists, business interests and congressional sources all agreed that Lujan almost certainly won't have the aggressive hostility to conservation interests of a James Watt, whom Lujan both supported and fought at times. Beyond that, virtually no one can say.

"He's in a different spot now than when he was a member of the House," said a former staff member for the House Interior Committee who asked not to be quoted by name. "He doesn't have to run for election anymore, and this will be a new test. I don't think that what he did in the past will define what he'll do in the future."

All that seemed clear as his late-January U.S. Senate confirmation hearings approached is that only a last-minute disclosure of a scandal could stop him. Congressional leaders were making few or no critical noises, industry lobbyists were thrilled and environmental groups were split.

A few groups, such as Friends of the Earth, planned to speak against him on Capitol Hill. Some environmentalists, while privately dismayed, were reluctant to speak publicly because they saw little chance of stopping him and wanted to be able to work with him. Others, while not thrilled about Lujan, saw him as a pleasant, accessible politician, and felt they could work with him.

Although environmentalists were pleased at Bush's appointment of Conservation Foundation head William Reilly to run the Environmental Protection

Agency, Lujan's appointment prompted Mason Frichette of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance to say, "There will be bulldozers in the wilderness, but at least they'll have catalytic converters."

In Congress, Lujan built a reputation as an unyielding, if pragmatic, conservative Republican. He regularly got a Golden Bulldog award from the National Federation of Independent Businessmen for fighting what the group considered excessive government spending. In his first term, he drew criticism for taking a miniature ax-handle from Georgia Gov. Lester Maddox, although he strongly denied having racist feelings. He once spoke against a bill stiffening penalties for the killing of eagles because, he said, he didn't think people should go to jail for shooting animals.

He also introduced a bill outlawing the issuance of food stamps to "hippies" who fail to register for the draft. Asked in 1970 how to identify a hippie, a Lujan aide replied: "Just look at one."

In New Mexico, Lujan built his career on his ability to deliver day-to-day services such as Social Security checks and passport applications to his

constituents. Only in his last few years in Congress did he get involved in more cosmic matters, chief among them his repeated attacks on NASA's handling of the Space Shuttle after the 1986 Challenger disaster.

While some critics sneered at Lujan and accused him of being uninterested in bigger issues, voters generally didn't mind. Except for two close races in the early 1980s, he usually won hefty victories. His district until 1982 included all of heavily Hispanic, heavily Democratic northern New Mexico, as well as Albuquerque, a quintessentially Sunbelt city split almost 50-50 between liberals and conservatives.

"The old saying in Congress is that if you help constituents get their Social Security check, they'll vote for you for the rest of your life," observed Steve Goldstein, Lujan's press secretary from 1983 to 1988. "Do most people sit around their dinner tables and talk about legislative issues? No, they talk about their paychecks."

On the environment, he was an early supporter of anti-pollution laws as a freshman congressman and once

(Continued on page 12)

Dear friends,



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Welcome, moisture

The West gets most of its moisture in the winter, in the form of mountain snowpacks. The past few winters have been thin, especially in the northern Rockies. In part, the Yellowstone area fires were due to last winter's light snowpack. It is still too early this year to make definitive statements, but thus far things are looking much better.

Helena, Montana's winter is totally different from the last four years, says Ed Madej, a graphic artist and writer. Montana's capital city, which sits at a little over 4,000 feet of elevation, received a foot-and-a-half of snow in mid-January, and there are four feet of snow or more in the high country.

The Plains may also be emerging from the dry cycle. Micro-bureau chief Pete Carrels in Aberdeen, S.D., says this is the most beautiful winter he can remember — two feet of snow stretch as far as he can see.

Pete also tells us he got a lot of reaction to his recent photo-story on one of the few hills in South Dakota, including a request from a doctor in Charlottesville, Va., (not surprisingly, we couldn't read his signature) who asked for a copy of the photo and wrote: "I laughed for 15 minutes."

Christmas letters

When it comes to Christmas letters, the world can be divided into two camps: those who see them as a warm, intimate way to stay in touch with friends, and those who see them as impersonal and braggy, and would rather receive a Hallmark card with a printed "signature."

Until recently, we belonged to the second group, but a few letters this year have changed our attitude. The first came from a New England college professor and *HCN* subscriber who is also a friend. The names have been changed, but here is the heart of the letter:

"It has been three years since we cranked up our Christmas letter machine. The last three years have been silent because I have found it hard to control my melodramatic tendencies as draft after draft of the Christmas letter hit the waste-can. Remember not getting them?"

"In 1985 I came down with what is now recognized as multiple sclerosis, a chronic neurological illness that wrecks your coordination and strength. The long silence is largely due to our vacillating adjustment to this new reality. For both Joan and me it has been a test of our marriage, our capability to deal with adversity, and ultimately, our creativity. For the children, it has been a shock. For me, it has been a test of will in life like no other I have experienced. In this context it has just recently become possible to write about the adventure, to tell the story with a degree of assurance.

"I still recall the words of my family physician last Christmas: 'Well, we can do something about 25 percent of illnesses; the rest we just accept.' Acceptance in this case was realizing that I was one of the 75 percent. I think of myself as a scientist, so I should be able to handle percentages. Yet when I found myself in the wrong cohort, I didn't want to know."

At first he tried to deal with the disease by teaching at home and by taking steroids for relief of the symptoms. The teaching at home worked well for a small number of students, but discomfited him because it was so expensive for his university. And the steroids led to insomnia and then addiction to sleeping

pills. Out of this came a different approach:

"I've decided not to avoid the challenges of my job by cutting back. Thus, I have again taught two courses this past fall, and am about as busy as always with four or five graduate students. In the bargain, I have to tolerate occasionally falling down in front of a class, staggering, and so forth. I also have to prepare lectures on viewgraphs because I can't write on the blackboard."

He also had to learn to cope with advice. "Along with efforts to find reason and cause in my own observations, I have received detailed advice from good friends who see the problem of causality in a fundamentally different way. Thus, I have been urged to see a medium, a faith-healer, a guru, to take up Eastern style meditation, to quit my job and move to Mexico, to change my diet, and to find a doctor of holistic medicine.

"My initial response to this multiplicity of advice was to listen. But then it became clear that much of the advice was contradictory. Lately I have been more and more convinced that I had best follow my own sense about myself. For better or for worse (in sickness and in health?), this is based on a fairly rational view of life. At the same time, however, I'm eager to learn more about the physiology, behavioral aspects, epidemiology and mindsets that may or may not contribute to MS."

The other letters were not nearly as dramatic, but neither did they fit the stereotype that Ann Landers (or is it Dear Abby?) has so much fun with. One was from a young couple whose work in medical research had kept them separated for almost three years. Only now are they together and able to contemplate beginning their life. The last line of their letter read, "We wanted to let you know that we're back among the living."

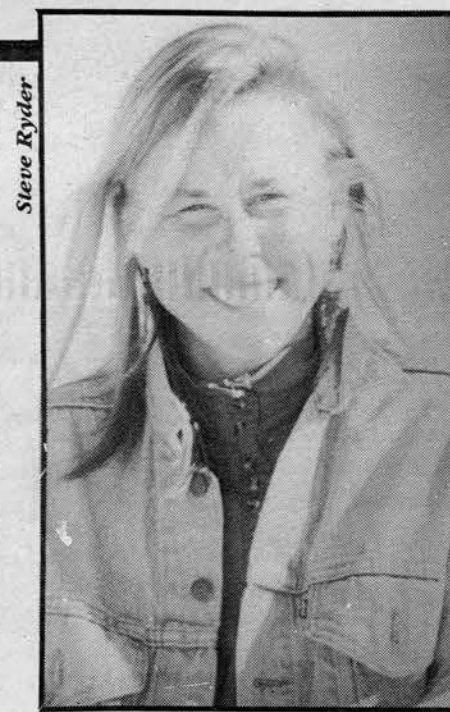
The third letter came from a building contractor in the rural West who, due to a reverse or two in the aftermath of the bust, has found himself playing a double role as home-bound telemarketer and house-husband to three young children. He relates that his epiphany came when his wife, who has a challenging job as a night-shift nurse, awoke late one morning and asked him to "cuddle." He had just said — "Cuddle! With everything I have to do." — when the doorbell rang:

"I charged the door, fighting off the kids who were trying to get there first and opened it with one hand still clutching a large wet pan. It was one of my Cub Scout den mothers. (I'm the local Cub Master.) I thanked her for the message and said goodbye while noting her peculiar smile. After I closed the door, I took track of myself in the mirror: frazzled look on my face, wet pan in one hand, and wearing an apron I had given Sally years ago and that had printed across it: 'And for this I spent four years in college.'"

Tools of the trade

The paper also received a Seasons Greeting card from Randal O'Toole's CHEC, the Eugene, Ore., environmental forestry group. It had a photo of the seven-person staff: Randal, Vickie, Anae, David, Dieter, Ken and "Mac," an Apple SE computer. Randal was kneeling in front of the computer; other staff members were hefting axes, chainsaws and cameras. The message read: "We're using all the tools at our disposal to cut the Forest Service deficit."

A reader writes about mountain lions. "A hint on saving a mountain lion, it works anywhere licenses are limited.



Gingy Anderson

Take out a hunting license, get your friends to take licenses, and then, of course, don't use them. This works best if it is kept quiet. Don't let the hunters and outfitters know what you are doing. In an area where there are 30 or so licenses, you can make a dent in the number of 'legal' kills.

Interns

Intern Steve Ryder, whose credit disappeared from a photo we printed of his saguaro Santa, is again featured anonymously, this time on the cover of *Sierra*, the magazine of the Sierra Club. Steve is dwarfed by the snow-covered Grand Tetons in a photo taken by Carr Clifton during a winter ascent.

New/old intern Gingy Anderson is a nomad who calls home Taos, N.M., where her family has lived for 14 years. She earned a degree in geology from the University of Colorado, but realized soon after graduation that life as a petroleum geologist did not appeal to her.

She laments the fact that her internship here takes place during an excellent ski season, but has decided that this year she would forgo physical thrills for intellectual thrills. During other seasons she is an instructor for the Colorado Outward Bound School in the canyons and rivers of Utah. Readers may remember that a year ago Gingy tested the *HCN* waters as a micro-intern for two weeks. We welcome her back for the full three months.

New emergency

Our emergency request for missing back issues was answered by Patricia Tummons of St. Louis, Mo., Bruce Farling of Missoula, Mont., Nancy Banks of Logan, Utah., H. Jillson of Absarokee, Mont., and Wildseed Inc., of Moab, Utah. Thank you.

Even as we solved one back issue problem, we created another. For a variety of reasons, including our policy of printing no more papers than we need and a burst of December subscribers, we did not have enough copies of our Jan. 2 *High Country News*. The subscribers we shorted have been contacted, had their subscriptions extended by a month, told the contents of the paper, and offered a Xerox copy of the entire issue or of any stories they are particularly interested in. Requests are coming in, and it would be very helpful if readers who are finished with the Jan. 2 issue would mail it to us. This is, of course, embarrassing, but we couldn't bring ourselves to spend several hundred dollars to print the 200 copies we were short.

—Ed Marston for the staff

WESTERN ROUNDUP

HOTLINE

Nebraska is first

A county official in Webster County, in south-central Nebraska, found a dead cat in his mailbox. It was apparently the work of someone who opposed the county's attempts to attract a low-level radioactive waste facility. Several counties and towns within the state are competing for the project while others say it would be better placed elsewhere. As "host state" of a five-state regional compact, Nebraska will be the first to build a waste dump to bury low-level radioactive wastes from hospitals, power plants and universities. The facility is expected to accept wastes from the five states for 30 years; at the end of 30 years, one of the other compact states — Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas or Louisiana — is expected to have a waste dump built. U.S. Ecology, which will manage the facility, says it will announce three potential sites this month. All license applications will be studied by federal, state and local officials who are expected to take a year before approving construction of the \$40 million project. Brian McManus, public information officer for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control, says that his state is the major waste-generator of the five states, and that the facility will be "extremely highly regulated." In November, voters rejected by a 64-36 margin a referendum that would have killed the dump by withdrawing Nebraska from the five-state compact.

The administration's last gasp

In the last days of the lame duck Reagan Administration, the Department of Interior took a number of steps to accelerate or simplify the transfer of public lands and public energy sources to private hands. Those moves included resumption of sales of thousands of acres of oil shale lands in Colorado and Utah for the patent-licensing fee of \$2.50 an acre; proposing rules that could open up as many as 4 million acres of national park and other protected federal lands to coal mining; proposing to significantly reduce royalties paid to the government for coal mined on federal lands; and blocking new rules issued by the Forest Service that would have slightly restricted oil and gas leasing on national forests. The actions drew bitter comments from Democratic leaders in Congress. Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., a member of the House Interior Committee, said, "These actions are outrageous and represent a direct assault on the concept of good stewardship of our public resources," according to the *Scripps-Howard News Service*. Brooks Yeager, a lobbyist for the Sierra Club, called the moves "Christmas presents" for the oil and mining industries. James Cason, deputy assistant secretary of Interior, responded, "We are meeting our obligations under the statutes," reports the *New York Times*.

Wheat harvest plummets

An indication of how severely the 1988 drought impacted the northern plains is evidenced by the depressed wheat harvest in the region. South Dakota's harvest of 107 million bushels in 1987 dropped to 38 million bushels in 1988. North Dakota's wheat harvest was down from 269 million bushels in 1987 to 110 million bushels in 1988. Nationwide, the wheat harvest slipped from 2.1 billion bushels in 1987 to 1.8 billion bushels in 1988.



Cyrus H. McChinnon

Tony Prutch of Denver, Colo., heads down to the Two Forks area of the South Platte River

Two Forks Dam is closer to a permit

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Jan. 10 that it intends to permit the controversial Two Forks Dam on the South Platte River upstream of Denver, Colo.

Col. Steven West, the Corps' District Engineer, told a standing-room-only crowd at the Colorado state Capitol that after seven years of study and a \$40 million environmental impact statement, he believes the 615-foot-high Two Forks Dam is "the most practical and reasonable alternative considered."

"After review of all aspects of the Two Forks project, I find that the project is not contrary to the public interest. It will provide the greatest benefits to the majority of the population of the greater Denver metro area," West told the crowd of project supporters and opponents, according to the *Denver Post*.

Colorado's top politicians and project proponents hailed the announcement as the biggest hurdle cleared yet in the fight to build the mammoth dam. Many more remain. The Corps' permit also includes 38 pages of conditions and environmental mitigation measures. It will remain valid for 18 years.

Environmentalists and other opponents of the dam said the decision runs counter to public opinion, which has been strongly against Two Forks since public hearings were held last spring. But they also said it was no surprise.

"The Corps is in the business of issuing permits," said Dan Luecke, a scientist with the Environmental Defense Fund in Boulder. "It's pretty clear from the number of conditions, even though they don't mitigate the project, that (the Corps) had a lot of trouble going from point A, no permit, to point B, permit."

Luecke said other environmental leaders noted that the project is far from final approval and vowed that if other federal agencies don't stop it first, they will kill it later in federal court.

Before the Corps issues a final permit, Col. West's tentative approval must pass a review by his superior, Brig. Gen. Robert Ryan. It must also undergo scrutiny from the Environmental Protection

Agency, which has the power to veto or significantly alter the Corps' decision. The EPA has closely monitored the Two Forks environmental impact process from the start and previously flunked the Corps' draft impact study. It also sharply criticized the final document.

EPA regional administrator Jim Scherer, who met with Brig. Gen. Ryan on Jan. 17 says he still has major concerns about the Corps' decision. The two agencies will negotiate for the next two or three weeks, says Scherer, after which he promised a decision.

Historically, the EPA doesn't veto U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water permits, but several internal EPA memos recently leaked to the press indicate that a debate is raging within the agency's Denver office. According to the memos, both the senior technical staff and legal office believe a Two Forks permit would violate the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

But EPA administrator Scherer says, "I won't necessarily follow their recommendations. There are a number of other recommendations that need to be a part of it, such as mitigation, public need and interest, and the political climate. Those memos did a lot of judgement-making and those judgements are for me to make, not for the staff to make."

The Corps' tentative permit contains extensive, detailed conditions, some of which appear to have upset the Denver Water Board and the Metropolitan Water Providers, the two entities proposing to build the \$500 million to \$1 billion dam (HCN 5/9/88).

Although dam proponents agreed to spend \$49 million to mitigate environmental damages by relocating flooded trails, campgrounds and picnic areas, and by improving access for fishing on unflooded parts of the South Platte River, the permit goes one step further. It requires the Denver Water Board to buy and protect an additional 1,000 acres of streambank upstream of the Two Forks reservoir. That could double mitigation costs, dam supporters say.

Some other conditions include development of a water conservation

plan to be approved by the Corps' district engineer before dam construction can begin; implementation of major conservation measures to save 42,000 acre-feet of water per year within two years of final permit approval; metering of all metro Denver water users by 1997; maintaining the reservoir at steady levels for recreation except in the case of a drought; a \$10,000 fine for every bighorn sheep that dies during construction of the project; and mitigation to replace the loss of rafting on the Blue River on Colorado's Western Slope.

As an added "insurance policy," West required that the Denver Water Board issue an annual report on the progress being made in the mitigation requirements and submit that report to public review.

West held that with the exception of rafting on the Blue River, the dam would not harm economic growth on Colorado's Western Slope and would not damage junior water rights west of the Continental Divide. West also said Two Forks would not create a significant impact in Nebraska or to threatened and endangered species in Colorado and Nebraska.

— Steve Hinchman

BARBS

Please don't ask Mayor Shamley any more questions.

When a reporter asked Casper Mayor Richard Shamley what he meant when he said the *Casper Star-Tribune* "dictates" policy to city government, Shamley replied: "There wasn't any thought process that I went through that I was trying to define the word 'dictate.' It's like words you use every day in your vocabulary and that's one I personally had a meaning for."

We knew fish had the soft life.

"Fish can take care of themselves; they'll swim upstream. But developers have to compete for approval and funding," said Boise, Idaho, small-hydro developer Vernon Ravenscroft.

HOTLINE



Texas poachers caught in the act

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has cracked down on Texas outfitters and guides who kill waterfowl illegally. In a three-year undercover investigation, federal agents booked hunts with suspected outfitters, who charged hunters \$65 to \$500 per day for the privilege of poaching. From 1985 to 1988, officials identified guides and owners who killed ducks, geese, migratory birds and raptors, and encouraged their clients to do the same. The investigation led to the arrest of 22 guides and outfitters last December, and officials charged almost 200 others with violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Violations included shooting more than the legal limit, using a motorboat to drive birds toward hunters, taking birds with bait and during closed seasons and killing protected raptors.



No wildlife without habitat

Protecting and improving Idaho's wildlife habitat is the critical issue facing the future of wildlife management in the state. That was the conclusion of some 1,000 people at the first Idaho Wildlife Congress, held last month in Boise, Idaho. Gov. Cecil Andrus warned those present that, "perhaps it is the very abundance of things to do in Idaho that explains why so few sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts are actively involved in seeing that our quality of life is maintained." Idaho Fish and Game Department officials proposed forming six regional wildlife councils and a statewide wildlife council made up of representatives of organized interest groups and federal and state agencies. The regional councils would serve as advisory and advocacy umbrella groups for the estimated 12,000 members of wildlife organizations in the state. There was some dissension, however. The Idaho Hunter's Association complained that the congress was timed to eliminate hunter and landowner participation, and the Idaho Cattle Association said the state attorney general should investigate the legality of the Fish and Game Department using public funds to establish a private lobbying organization, reports the Idaho Falls Post-Register.

Are domestic sheep killing bighorn sheep?

SALMON, Idaho — A recent outbreak of a deadly disease in Idaho's Salmon River bighorn sheep herd has raised the old issue of whether domestic sheep are to blame.

The outbreak of *pasteurella hemolytica*, an infection that causes bighorns to catch pneumonia and die, has killed only seven bighorns so far, although others may be buried in snow. A herd of about 200 domestic sheep was pastured in the area for the first time in years after the Girl Scouts leased their property inside the Challis National Forest to a rancher.

At risk are as many as 800 of the 3,300 bighorns in the state.

Exhaustive tests of 29 bighorn sheep and two domestic sheep have yet to convince Idaho scientists that domestic sheep transmitted the virus to the bighorns. However, Bill Foreyt, an associate professor of veterinary medicine, microbiology and pathology for Washington State University, has no doubts.

"The results show the (strain) of *pasteurella hemolytica* is definitely of domestic sheep origin," Foreyt said. But Idaho Agriculture Department Director Dick Rush disagreed, saying the strains could not be traced to domestic sheep.

A similar virus killed between 125 and 200 bighorn sheep in Hells Canyon in 1983, and two-thirds of a 100-animal herd in northeast Oregon succumbed to an outbreak of *pasteurella* in 1985. Domestic sheep were believed to be at least partially responsible in both cases, according to wildlife scientists, including Foreyt, who have researched the conflict issue.

"Our philosophy, based on two years of research, is that when you mix domestic sheep and bighorn sheep, bighorns will develop *pasteurella hemolytica* and die of pneumonia," he said. Domestic sheep carry the bacteria but are not affected by it.

Foreyt says both state fish and game departments and public lands agencies have been reluctant to face the reality that if America wants bighorn sheep to flourish, domestic sheep must be kept away from their range. In terms of value, trophy bighorns are bringing more than \$60,000 at auctions, while domestic sheep are worth \$200 or less.



Bighorn sheep

Dr. Marie Bulgin, a University of Idaho veterinary scientist, charged that Foreyt's research has technical flaws. "Every case I've read about — and I've read about every one I could get my hands on — involved other factors" in addition to the mixing of wild and tame sheep, Bulgin said. Nevertheless, most experts agree that the two should be kept separate on public range. "You're better off keeping them apart," said Dr. Robert Digrazia, a Boise dentist and board member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. "It's almost as if they look at each other and get sick."

Infections are transmitted from bighorn to bighorn or from domestic sheep to bighorns through touching noses. And because domestic sheep were derived from wild sheep in Europe and then imported to the United States, the two still co-mingle when given a chance. Young bighorn males have even been known to mate with female domestic sheep.

Given the ferocious feuds that sheep ranches had with cattle ranchers to carve out territory on the public range a century ago, veterinarian Bulgin said it is

understandable that sheep ranchers are feeling threatened.

"In the beginning, nobody thought much about the disease-transmission issue," she said. "They just dumped the domestic sheep on the range. But now, because of the disease question, (agencies and environmentalists) are trying to take the range away from domestic sheep ... and every sheepman in the country is saying, 'Oh my God, they're going to take it all away.'"

"And the cattlemen see that, too, and they're all running scared. It's definitely a subject with a lot of emotion." Both Digrazia and Bulgin think the rival sheep interests should work together to settle the disease issue. "What we would like to do is conduct more research in this area, and once and for all, show whether it's the same strain (as that carried by domestic sheep) or something different," Bulgin said.

"We're going to find some answers," Digrazia said. "It's just a matter of time and money. But we've got to work together."

— Steve Stuebner

HOTLINE

Wyoming-Exxon treaty

Wyoming and Exxon USA have tentatively settled a tax dispute over gas production at Exxon's LaBarge project in southwestern Wyoming. The agreement will defuse a long and bitter fight. Since beginning production at LaBarge in 1986, Exxon has not paid its host counties or the state any royalties, severance or ad valorem taxes, because, the company said, the project is not profitable enough. Exxon pumps over 500 million cubic feet of mixed gases per day at LaBarge, but rates the value of the gas for tax purposes as negative because of the current low price of natural gas and high processing costs (HCN, 3/28/88). Exxon's announcement last spring that it owed no taxes upset Wyoming officials and enraged Sublette and several other counties, which had gone deeply into debt to build new roads and schools to service the LaBarge construction boom. Exxon later offered to pay \$5 million, and then \$10 million, in total back taxes, but the offer was rejected by the state Legislature, which wanted at least \$15 million. When negotiations failed, the Legislature passed two

laws which would have increased taxes in the future. Exxon challenged the laws in court. In the recent out-of-court settlement, announced by Wyoming Gov. Mike Sullivan, Exxon will pay the state and Sublette County \$12 million in back taxes on all past production at LaBarge, and the state will drop the two new tax laws as unconstitutional. The agreement also includes a formula for calculating taxes on future LaBarge production, which should net the state and counties \$5 million a year, reports the *Casper Star-Tribune*. In the meantime, the fiasco has prompted the state to consider reform of its mineral tax laws.

Law Clinic wins a big one

A blue-ribbon committee of lawyers has ruled that the University of Oregon's environmental law clinic is "innocent." Attacks on the clinic's lawyers were stepped up during its successful case against the Forest Service involving the old-growth-timber habitat of the spotted owl (HCN, 12/19/88). Timber industry spokesmen accused the clinic of using

taxpayers' monies to support a fixed ideology, saying it was anti-growth and anti-timber (HCN, 10/10/88). Responding to pressure, University of Oregon President Paul Olum appointed a six-member committee to look into charges against the clinic. Now that committee has concluded that the clinic fulfills its educational function extremely well and that environmental advocacy does not violate any principle of institutional neutrality. "The quality of the environmental law clinic was never in doubt," President Olum said. "Its professors thoroughly deserve the international acclaim they and their students' work has earned for the excellent training programs in effective advocacy on behalf of their clients." Clinic co-director John E. Bonine said the controversy is probably not over. He says two conservative legal foundations are considering bringing a lawsuit against the university on grounds a clinic supported with student tuition money or tax dollars is an unconstitutional restraint on the free speech of students who disagree with the position of the clinic's clients.

Boulder's deer enjoy suburban lifestyle

At dusk each day as many as 400 deer leave the Front Range foothills to dine on lawns and gardens in the city of Boulder, Colo., home to 85,000 people.

Some deer remain permanently and bear their young in backyards, preferring irrigated lawns and succulent gardens to natural vegetation.

Angry residents charge that deer are dangerous. At least 130 deer are involved in car accidents each year, and three dogs were gored by bucks during the rutting season in 1987. Residents demand that the city act, saying that deer have become brazen and unresponsive to ordinary hazing.

One resident was recently charged with hunting out of season by the Colorado Division of Wildlife after she accidentally shot a deer she was trying to drive from her yard.

"We sympathized with her," says state wildlife officer Kristi Coughlon, who says she saw several deer chomping shrubs and peering into the residents' windows. Although intent doesn't normally enter into shooting cases, the woman, under a plea agreement, received a six-month deferred sentence without admitting hunting; the fine was waived. The plea bargain left unresolved the extent to which one can defend his or her property.

Responsibility for city deer is fuzzy. The people of Colorado own the deer, and the Division of Wildlife manages and protects them. Hunting, the traditional means of controlling population, is prohibited by city ordinances within Boulder and its surrounding greenbelt.

That means the state is not liable for deer damage to private property within the city, and a Colorado statute prevents the state from being sued if a deer causes an automobile accident. The division, with one officer responsible for wildlife in most of the county and beyond to the Continental Divide, lacks resources and is reluctant to impose deer management on the city.

"There most likely will never be any lawsuits against the city involving deer damage," says City Attorney Walter Fricke. "There is no legal basis for holding the city liable. An ancient but viable principle of law states 'a wild animal is not subject to law.'"

In response to complaints, the city passed an ordinance prohibiting residents from putting out food and salt licks, and legalized electric fences. In 1987, Boulder provided a brochure encouraging residents to landscape with plants unpalatable to deer, build fences and apply repellents.

Deer-car collisions appear to have been reduced as a result of the city installing rows of headlight reflectors along streets in high-risk areas. The reflectors create a "light fence" that deer are reluctant to cross. Car-deer collisions, however, are the most significant factor in population control within the city.

In 1982, the City Council funded an ongoing deer study to determine whether there is a population boom on open space that is driving deer into the city. Since then, deer counts reported in the local press indicating the population was increasing 10 percent per year fueled the arguments of deer opponents.

"The statistics were incorrectly interpreted," says Boulder ranger Brian Peck. The latest studies show an estimated deer population of 1,116 on 17 square miles of greenbelt, an increase of only 4 percent during the past two years.

Deer opponents claim that, because the concentration of deer on Boulder's



Backyard deer in Boulder, Colo.

western greenbelt is 2-to-3 times that normally occurring on the Front Range, the population is too high. City staffers disagree.

Officials suggest that residents enjoy the presence of the deer and what that presence says about Boulder's quality of life. The city has been very aggressive in preserving and acquiring open space around it.

"We're not seeing extensive damage to shrubs due to browsing on open-space land," says Delani Wheeler, assistant director of the Parks and Open Space Department. "The deer haven't run out of food. They're healthy. We're not recommending the city do anything."

If the City Council decides that there is a deer problem, city staffers have proposed methods of population control. Selective killing of city deer was called the most practical. To render the killings

more acceptable, the meat could be used to feed the hungry. Relocation and birth control are less controversial, but are expensive. Hunting on open space, a popular recreational area, would be dangerous and might drive more deer into town, staffers say.

A 1987 survey indicated that residents favor the city taking no action by a 2-to-1 margin. A deer-car collision resulting in a human fatality or the spread of Lyme disease by deer ticks could alter public opinion.

Kathi Demarest of the Division of Wildlife is critical of the city for not recognizing that it does have a deer problem. "Wherever there has been an urban deer problem, sooner or later the city ends up killing some deer."

— Barbara Taylor

HOTLINE

Jimmie Walker bounces back

Jimmie Walker, Grand County commissioner in southeastern Utah, may have been defeated in the last election, but he is not out of a job (*HCN*, 1/2/89). After the election the outgoing commission created a Special Service Roads District, and on the board overseeing the district is John "Dutch" Zimmerman, another recently defeated commissioner, Robert Shumway, and Ollie Knutson, father of Grand County Commissioner David Knutson. The new board then appointed Walker as the district's director, reports the Moab *Times-Independent*. Walker will make \$1,250 a month, a \$50 raise from his commission chairmanship. Under a new state law, some mineral lease revenues go to counties for roads and related capital improvements, and Walker says he will make sure his county gets its fair share.

Shell faces a big bill

After years of legal battle, Shell Oil Company faces a pesticide-pollution cleanup that could cost the company at least \$500 million. A San Mateo County, Calif., superior court ruled in December that Shell must pay to clean up land at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver, Colo. The company operated a pesticide production plant from 1959-1982 on a site at the arsenal that was leased from the U.S. Army. Decades of leaking pipes and ponds contaminated soil and water sources, and in 1982 the Army and Shell went to court to determine which would pay to clean up the pollution. A settlement held the company partially responsible but its 250 insurance carriers refused to pay, saying Shell knew about the contamination and was not entitled to reimbursement. Eleven of 12 jury members in California ruled in favor of the insurance companies and against Shell, which told the *New York Times* it will appeal the decision.

Reagan's do-it-yourself recreation plan

"America's communities will be strengthened by an outdoor recreation policy that is grounded in the principles of limited government, respect for private property rights and encouragement of cooperative voluntary initiative."

Thus concludes *Outdoor Recreation in a Nation of Communities*, a 169-page "action plan" developed from recommendations of the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. The commission's 1987 study was the first federal report since 1962, and it called for a federal trust fund of \$1 billion a year to build and maintain resource areas and recreation opportunities (*HCN*, 4/13/87).

While the President's Commission was composed of a diverse group ranging from concessionaires to conservationists, the action plan was developed by a task force composed of White House staff and representatives of Cabinet-level departments.

Gone in the plan are the detailed and sometimes inspirational recommendations of the commission. Instead, the action plan is written in terms of supply and demand for recreation and devotes an entire chapter to the Reagan administration's "recreation initiatives and accomplishments."

The action plan proposes that government become "partners" in joint ventures with entrepreneurs. It also encourages private concessionaires to develop or take over existing campgrounds and other recreation activities in national forests. In addition, the report says private sector development on federal lands would be complemented by development on adjacent private land. What some call a tourist trap "gauntlet" at the entrance to many of our national parks does not worry the task force; in fact, the action plan asks for more of it.

Another strategy is to "seek natural resource and environmental quality improvements." Achieving this goal is never spelled out; it would come "through planned annual progress on targeted priorities."

The action plan calls for local control of planning, management and even funding. "There is no national vision superior to the local vision and there is no clearer perception of need than the local demand." On federal lands, the report calls for higher user fees due to the growing demand for services and facilities. It cites surveys proving that there is public support for these fees, especially if they are recycled to the areas where they were collected. Fees

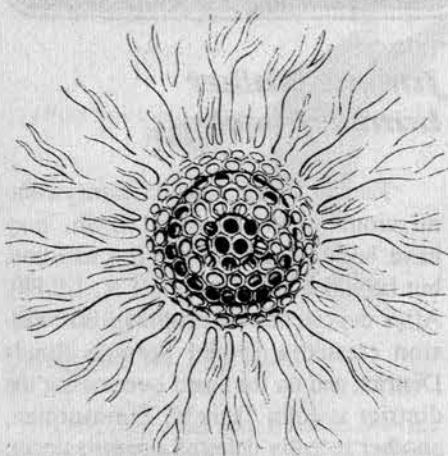
should reflect what consumers are willing to pay, but "public fee levels ought not be so low as to be unduly competitive or discouraging to private venture on either public or private lands."

This often vague plan makes it clear that the private sector is welcome on public lands and that it should be allowed a greater role in profiting from public recreation. The task force says the federal government considers recreation a local or private matter and that those who pay for it will be either local, county or state government, or the private sector. The federal government absolves itself of responsibility for initiatives regarding recreation on public land, saying it will become a broker or "partner" with the private sector.

Outdoor Recreation in a Nation of Communities: Action Plan for Americans Outdoors. A Report of the Task Force on Outdoor Recreation Resources and Opportunities to the Domestic Policy Council is available for \$12 from the U.S. Government Bookstore, 1961 Stout St., Denver, CO 80294, or the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

— Steve Ryder

HOTLINE



Hogans go solar

The Navajo home of the future may be the home of the past, with a few modern adaptations. At the University of Colorado at Boulder, six Navajo students will soon move into three solar hogans to test the design. Like traditional hogans, these homes are octagonal and have only one door, which faces east. But they are insulated, have solar panels that produce heat and electricity, and cost just under \$60,000, according to the *Navajo Times*. The idea for the Colorado project came from Charlie Cambridge, a Navajo from Shiprock, Ariz., who says many reservation Navajo currently live in ranch-style "matchbox" housing that lacks the traditional and spiritual significance of the hogan. At Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff, Indian engineering students have installed solar panels on 150 existing hogans on the remote areas of the Navajo reservation. Both projects hope to one day see solar hogans across the reservation.



Whooping crane killed in Texas

Early this year, a hunter shot and killed a whooping crane flying near its winter home at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge near Corpus Christi, Texas. The hunter was after ducks and geese when he shot the bird, which was flying through heavy fog with her mate. Refuge biologist Tom Stehn said authorities knew of the crane's disappearance almost immediately, and the hunter turned himself in after the shooting. A federal investigation will decide whether the man violated the Endangered Species Act intentionally or unintentionally, and determine the penalty, Stehn said. The last reported killing of an endangered crane occurred 21 years ago, when a hunter shot a whooping crane near the Aransas refuge under similar weather conditions.

BARBS

Sometimes we yearn for the good old days, when environmentalism was an elitist preserve.

Time magazine named earth "Endangered Planet of the Year for 1988" and *U.S. News and World Report* ran a cover headline that read: "How to keep the world from destroying itself."

Refuge lacks water but has lots of poisons

Seventy-five miles east of Reno, Nev., the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge is a haven for 160 bird species, such as the tundra swan, avocet and the bald eagle. But since 1985 this haven has become dangerous to birds.

Just this October, 16,000 ducks and other waterfowl in the Stillwater area died from avian botulism, caused by decreasing water levels and quality.

According to The Wilderness Society, the unnatural deaths were probably caused by contaminants in the water supply. The Washington, D.C.-based group says the poisons came from the Bureau of Reclamation's Newlands Project, which drains water from agricultural projects into the refuge. With no water rights, Stillwater relies on runoff, and as the water level drops, toxins concentrate. Tests show the refuge suffers from arsenic and selenium contamination.

As if this were not enough, the refuge is visited by people driving airboats and off-road vehicles, and Naval aircraft roar out of nearby Fallon Naval Air Station to conduct dogfighting and bombing exercises in the air over the 24,203-acre refuge.

But the greatest problem in the refuge is its water.

Dams and upstream water projects and irrigation lands divert water from ever reaching the marsh of the refuge, which was once as large as 80,000 acres. By the 1960s it had dropped to 45,000 acres. It may decrease even more because it faces competition for water from Pyramid Lake, the home of two endangered fish, the Lahonton cutthroat trout and the cui-ui.

To revive the dying refuge, The Wilderness Society recommends that the Interior Department increase water flow without diverting it from Pyramid Lake. The Fish and Wildlife Service agrees, and it has received \$1.2 million from Interior to purchase water rights for the Stillwater refuge. But more help is needed.

Ron Anglin, fish and wildlife manager of the refuge, says the \$1.2 million allotted will only buy 2,000 to 4,000 acre-feet of clean water — water used before agricultural and/or municipal use. An additional 50,000 to 60,000 acre-feet of clean water is necessary to maintain the refuge, he says.

The amount of clean water still needed has caused environmental groups, such as the Nature Conservancy and the La Hontan Valley Wetlands Coalition in Nevada, to begin raising money on their own to buy water rights for the refuge. Their target is farmers who might want to sell marginal lands with irrigation rights. A farmer's marginal lands are irrigated less than more productive lands, and because of this they have accumulated toxins that flow into the Stillwater refuge. They are thought to be a major source of contamination in the Stillwater refuge.

The environmental strategy is to buy out marginal lands and then block their water from the refuge by insulating it from the canals that feed the refuge. According to Rose Strickland of the Sierra Club in Nevada, the less dirty water that enters the refuge the more clean water will be available to benefit it.

The Wilderness Society also recommends giving sole authority to manage the refuge to the Fish and Wildlife Service, which now has no control over water decisions. The society also recommends tightening the Clean Water Act and reducing the Navy's bombing runs.

The Wilderness Society's list of



most endangered refuges also includes National Key Deer and Loxahatchee (Fla.), Kesterson (Calif.), Stillwater (Nev.), Yazoo (Miss.), Arctic (Alaska), Upper Mississippi (Wis., Minn., Ill., Iowa), Chincoteague (Va.), Great Swamp (New Jersey) and Lower Rio Grande (Texas). The Arctic refuge is threatened by oil development, and the Chincoteague refuge is mainly harassed

by off-road-vehicle drivers. All others suffer from deteriorating water quality. Other problems in refuges include clear cutting, management, toxic dumps and dogs killing deer.

The report is available from The Wilderness Society, 1400 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005 (202/842-3400).

—Kevin Lee Lopez



Stock show parade heads down Denver's 17th Street

Earth First! hangs a sign

If cows are sacred anywhere, you'd think it would be at the 83rd annual National Western Livestock Show and Rodeo at Denver, Colo. Instead, Earth-First! members Eric Doub and David Lucas used their bodies to hang a 40-by-15-foot banner above the street that read, "Livestock destroy our public lands: Stop welfare ranching" and "How the West was trashed."

The two men were charged with trespass and reckless endangerment and the banner was confiscated, says Eric Holle of EarthFirst! in Boulder, Colo. But Holle says the action was a great success. "We confronted ranchers on their own turf." He also says he has gotten a lot of calls from interested people all over the country.

—B.M.

Thirsty Montana seeks to balance fish against crops, cattle

After the worst drought year in more than 100 years, state agencies and conservationists in Montana are scrambling for ways to prevent further drying-up of the state's depleted streams.

But measures they propose to aid fish, wildlife and recreationists are colliding with agricultural interests and producing skirmishes over a proposed state water plan.

Below-normal rainfall and small snowpacks in recent years have shrunk Montana's groundwater supplies, producing the driest streambeds on record last summer. Drought shriveled many streams, severely damaging fisheries and prompting state officials to restrict or prohibit fishing. Record-low flows harmed fish production so severely in some streams that population recovery may take at least five years even if rainfall returns to normal levels.

Fabled trout havens in southwest Montana were hit the hardest. Fishing was shut down on the Big Hole River in September because its lower end, depleted by irrigators, had been transformed into a series of ponds connected by small rivulets of moving water. Most of the Jefferson River dried up, as did a large portion of the Red Rock River. According to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, flow on the Beaverhead was reduced to less than 50 cubic feet per second, far below the flow necessary to maintain a healthy fishery.

To help solve future water crunches, a governor-appointed advisory council and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation are developing a state water plan. The plan, mandated by the Legislature, proposes protecting in-stream flows for fish and wildlife, increasing the efficiency of irrigation, and settling conflicts between federal hydropower licenses and state water rights. Agricultural interests have

so far vociferously opposed protection of in-stream flows.

During December public hearings on the plan in Missoula, Helena and Billings, ranchers and farmers criticized the plan's proposal that allows the sale or lease of water rights to the state to keep some water flowing in streams instead of irrigation pipes. They repeated a litany heard often in the last year, that water is better spent on crops than fish.

According to the proposal, during dry years the state would pay farmers and ranchers for crops normally produced with irrigated water, as long as water was left in streams. Although such exchanges would be voluntary, irrigators are afraid the transfers could muddle the state's already complex water-rights system, which is based on the doctrine of prior appropriation — first in time, first in right.

Still, conservationists say there is enough wiggle room in the amount of water now used for irrigation to save some for fish. According to the state, 15 million acre-feet of water is diverted from Montana's streams in an average year, a figure Trout Unlimited says is more than the total annual flow of all streams in Colorado. Of the more than 3.5 million acre-feet consumed, 97 percent is used by irrigators.

While recognizing the state's irrigation needs, anglers testifying at the water plan hearings said fish can be just as important as agriculture. "Montana grows some pretty nice cows, but it also grows some nice trout," said Bob Whalen, a member of Trout Unlimited. He endorsed the sale and lease of water rights at the Missoula meeting.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has also applied to the state Board of Natural Resources and Conservation to reserve water for in-stream flows in the main stem and 17

tributaries of the upper stretch of the Clark Fork of the Columbia, the state's largest stream in terms of discharge. If granted, the reservations would help ensure that summer flows in the already severely depleted stream would not get worse. The department says in-stream flows are necessary for fish and wildlife and for dilution of toxic metals that wash into the river from the upper basin's extensive streamside mining-wastes.

The only other river in the state with in-stream reservations is the Yellowstone, and it has avoided serious damage from the drought. A draft environmental impact statement was released in December on the department's Clark Fork proposal, and it will be under scrutiny this winter.

The Montana Legislature will examine this winter a number of bills dealing with dishing out water in the parched state. Several conservation groups and the Float Fishing Outfitters of Montana are pushing initiatives that allow holders of water rights to sell or lease water for in-stream uses. The groups also want to refine the law to let water commissioners settle disputes over water rights where they haven't been decreed by a water court (such as on the Big Hole), a move that could produce more downstream movement of water during the irrigation season. Another priority is developing a coordinated statewide response to drought.

Drought action is an especially sticky issue because Gov. Ted Schwinden, who left office this January, has been accused by some conservationists and the chairperson of the state's drought task force of doing little to help parched farmlands and streams.

Stan Bradshaw, lobbyist for the Montana Council of Trout Unlimited, said, "We got way into the summer before there was any movement by the state to

address the drought." He claimed that by then little could have been done. Trout Unlimited says better planning and coordinated efforts to more efficiently use water in irrigation and municipal purposes could have softened the effects of drought.

Bradshaw said the Legislature will probably hear many proposals to dam streams to store water for late-summer irrigation and in-stream flows for fish. "A lot of people think storage is going to be a panacea, but in reality nothing is a panacea." He predicted high costs and a lack of suitable sites will dampen dam-building fervor.

Coincident with the state initiatives and the legislative agenda is statewide adjudication of water rights — a painstaking examination of water claims to determine a pecking order for water rights on the state's streams. It is a lengthy, complex process, but one that the thirsty state is watching closely.

— Bruce Farling

HOTLINE

Yes. Look how poorly He did with the dinosaurs.

Wyoming rancher Bill Taliaferro objects to creation of wilderness in the Rock Springs area because wilderness "limits all your options ... where you have wilderness areas, you have no wildlife management concepts either. Everything's left on a natural basis. Quite frankly, God is a very poor provider for most wildlife." Taliaferro spoke at a BLM hearing, according to the Jan. 6 *Casper Star-Tribune*.

And we all know bears don't vote.

"Wilderness does not help tourism. We save wilderness for the bears and bugs," said Idaho Sen. Steve Symms, R.

Colorado dump challenged by Utah environmentalists

The Colorado Department of Health and Montrose County recently approved a controversial low-level radioactive waste dump at Uravan, along a tributary of the Colorado River.

Uravan is an abandoned company town owned by Umetco Minerals, a subsidiary of Union Carbide, and has been a center of uranium milling since 1915. Many of the town's houses, underlain by radioactive soil, were sold five years ago after a depressed market closed the mill (*HCN*, 2/4/85). A mammoth tailings mountain remains above the San Miguel River.

Despite a petition signed by over 5,000 people in western Colorado, and concerns addressed to Colorado's governor from Utah Gov. Norman Bangert and the leaders of the Utah Legislature, the state and county gave final license approval for disposal of up to 200,000 cubic yards of radium wastes near Uravan.

The wastes are contaminated soils from radium-processing plants in the Denver area. The radium ore came from the Uravan area over 60 years ago, and processed radium was used for a variety of medical purposes as well as for illuminating clock and watch dials and cockpit instruments for aircraft during World War II, according to Edd Kray, health physicist for the Colorado Department of Health.

The radium wastes generate 100 to 120 picocuries per gram, about 20 percent the radioactivity of uranium tail-

ings, says Kray. Normal background radioactivity in soils is 1 to 2 picocuries per gram.

Montrose County's decision to approve the dump angered members of the Uncompahgre Valley Association, a local citizens group. President Kay Gerke said the county commission is "rolling over and playing dead on this issue," and her group has threatened commissioners with recall.

State approval came with conditions. Seventeen stipulations are attached to the license, all of which the applicant, Umetco Minerals, said were acceptable to the firm.

The Montrose County Commission voted 2-1 to approve a certificate of designation for the project. The dissenter, Bill McNeil, said the radioactive wastes are Denver's problem, and he questioned whether there would be any direct benefits to the area. Outgoing Commissioner Ken Neesham said, "The economic benefits will greatly outweigh any negative aspects of the project. We have tailings now along with a thriving tourism industry."

Officials in Utah see the issue differently. Weeks before the decision was made, Utah's governor wrote to Colorado Gov. Romer asking for answers to questions he and other Utah officials had about the project. This was followed by a letter to Gov. Romer from the leadership of the Utah Legislature pointing out that southeastern Utah and western Colorado are "building a new economy

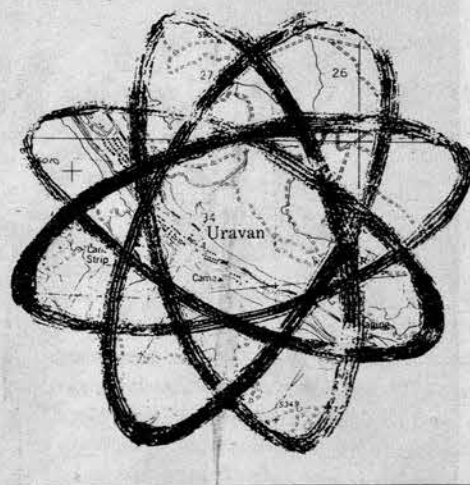
based on the beauty of our scenery and relative cleanliness of our environment. The stigma associated with a radioactive waste dump can only damage our local economies."

Larry Anderson, director of the Utah Bureau of Radiation Control, said, "We're still awaiting the information on which (Colorado officials) based their decision. They may have reason to have reached the decision, but we haven't seen any of it."

The decision sparked an editorial in the Salt Lake City *Deseret News* charging that Colorado "is certainly being a poor neighbor in blatantly ignoring Utah concerns about the dump site. Utah should be prepared to appeal to the Environmental Protection Agency or even the courts to put the project on hold."

This is the second recent conflict between Colorado and Utah over pollution. A toxic waste incinerator proposed for the town of Cisco, Utah, near the Colorado border, drew opposition from Grand Junction, Colo. A referendum in Grand County, Utah, killed that proposal (*HCN*, 11/21/88).

Opposition groups, led by Western Colorado Congress, a coalition of environmental and consumer groups, said the permit approval violated state law. Licensing an inferior site after only a partial survey of potential sites violates state statutes, said WCC attorney David Hiller. At the licensing hearing, both Ken Weaver of the state's radiation control division and Jeff Hynes of the Col-



orado Geological Survey testified that more suitable sites exist elsewhere in the state.

Western Colorado Congress is considering legal action. Art Goodtimes of the group's toxics committee said the Colorado Health Department had become an aggressive advocate of the radioactive dump site, even though its proper role was to be the impartial hearing agency.

"No matter what Gov. Romer tells us, it's clear that the state is pushing this proposal, and has bent its own rules to make it happen," Goodtimes said. "You can bet your picocuries we're going to court on this one."

— Steve Ryder

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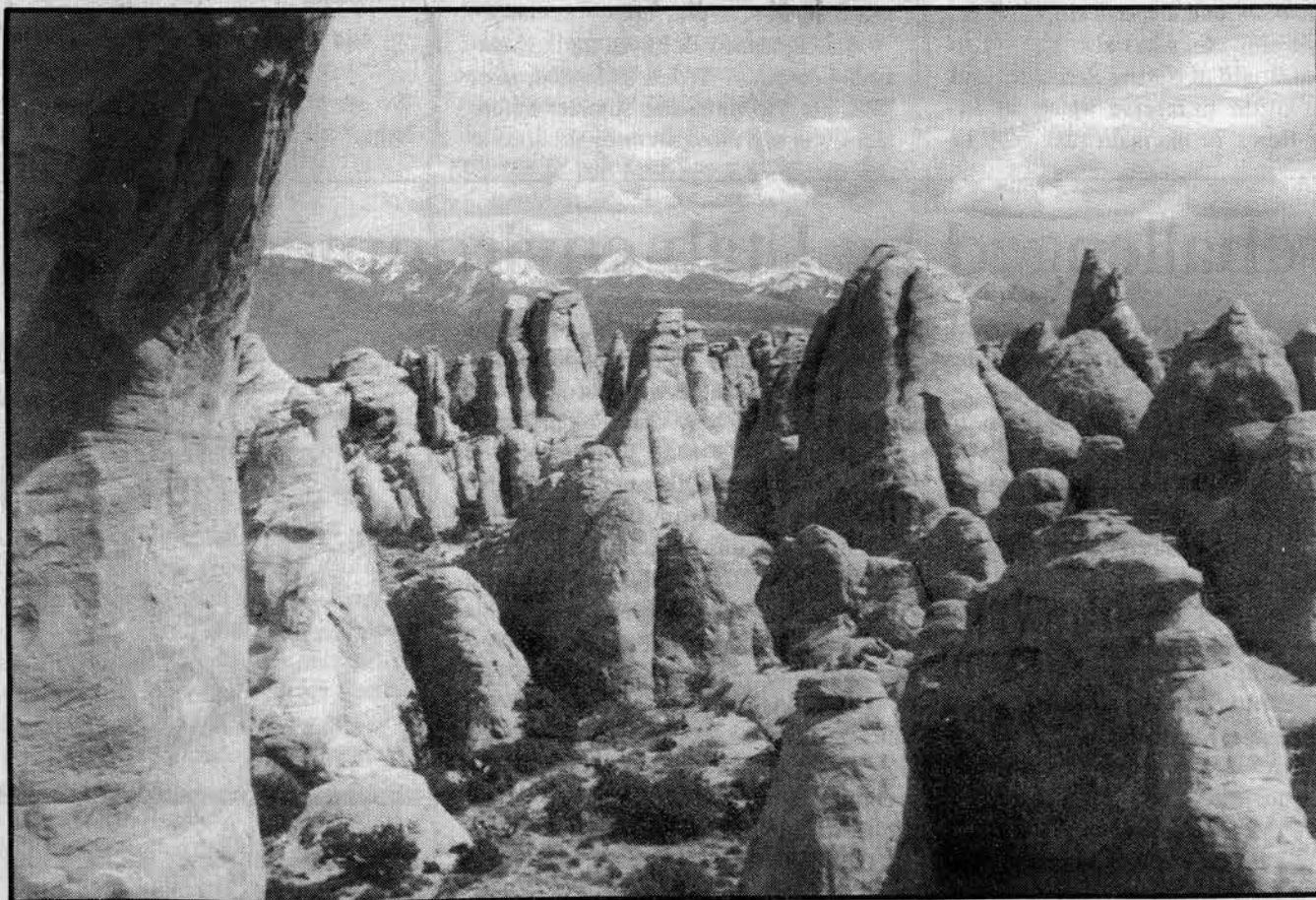
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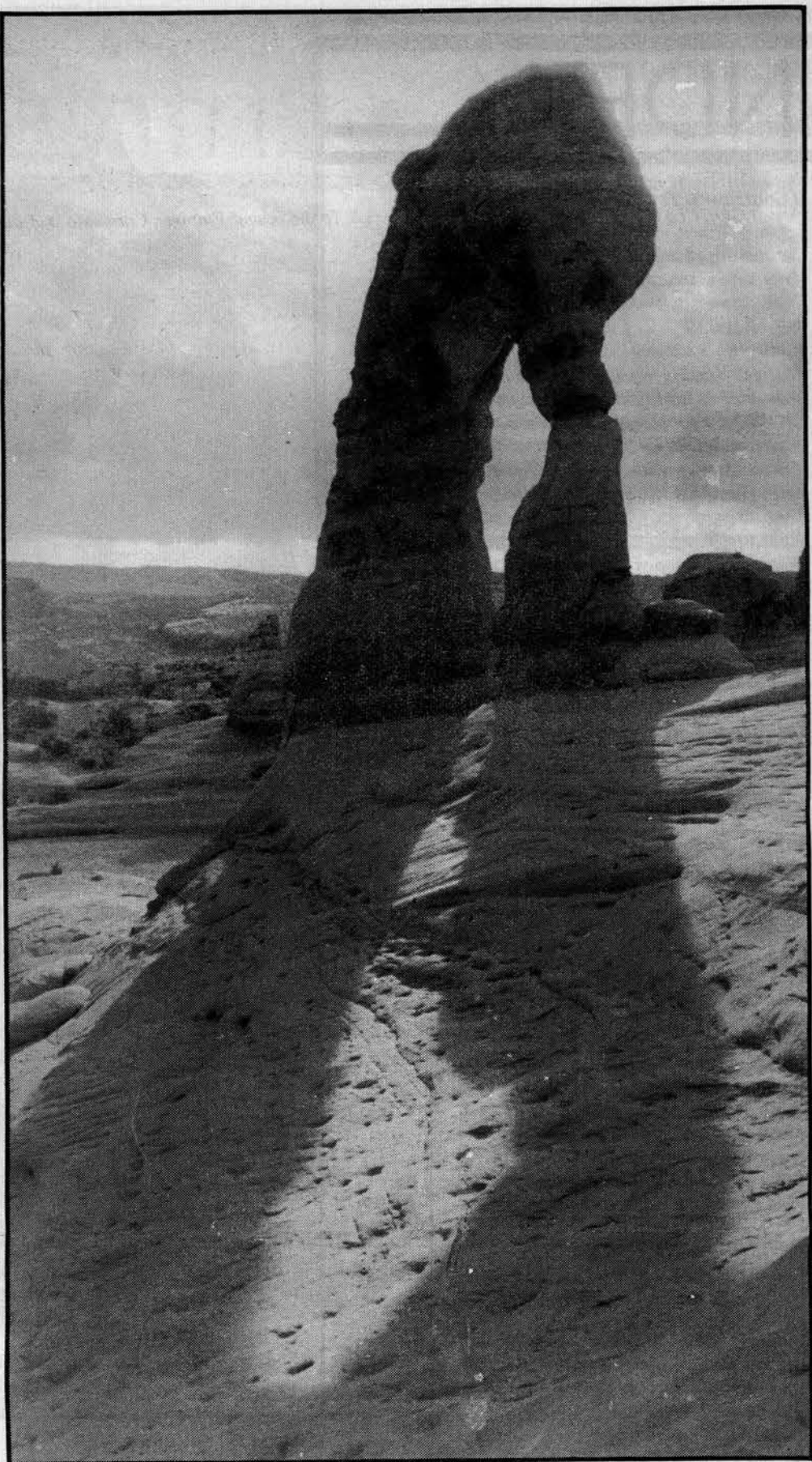
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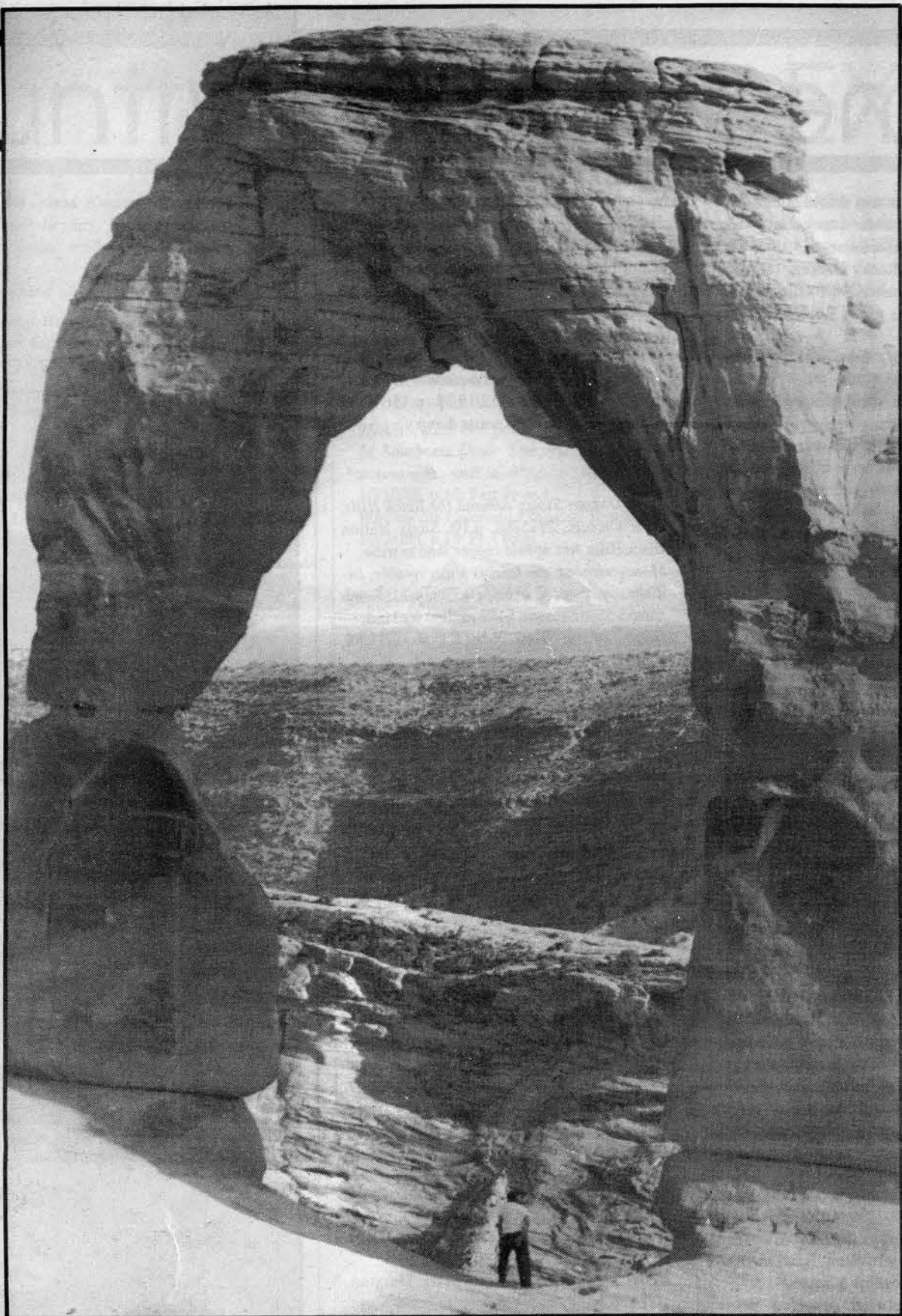
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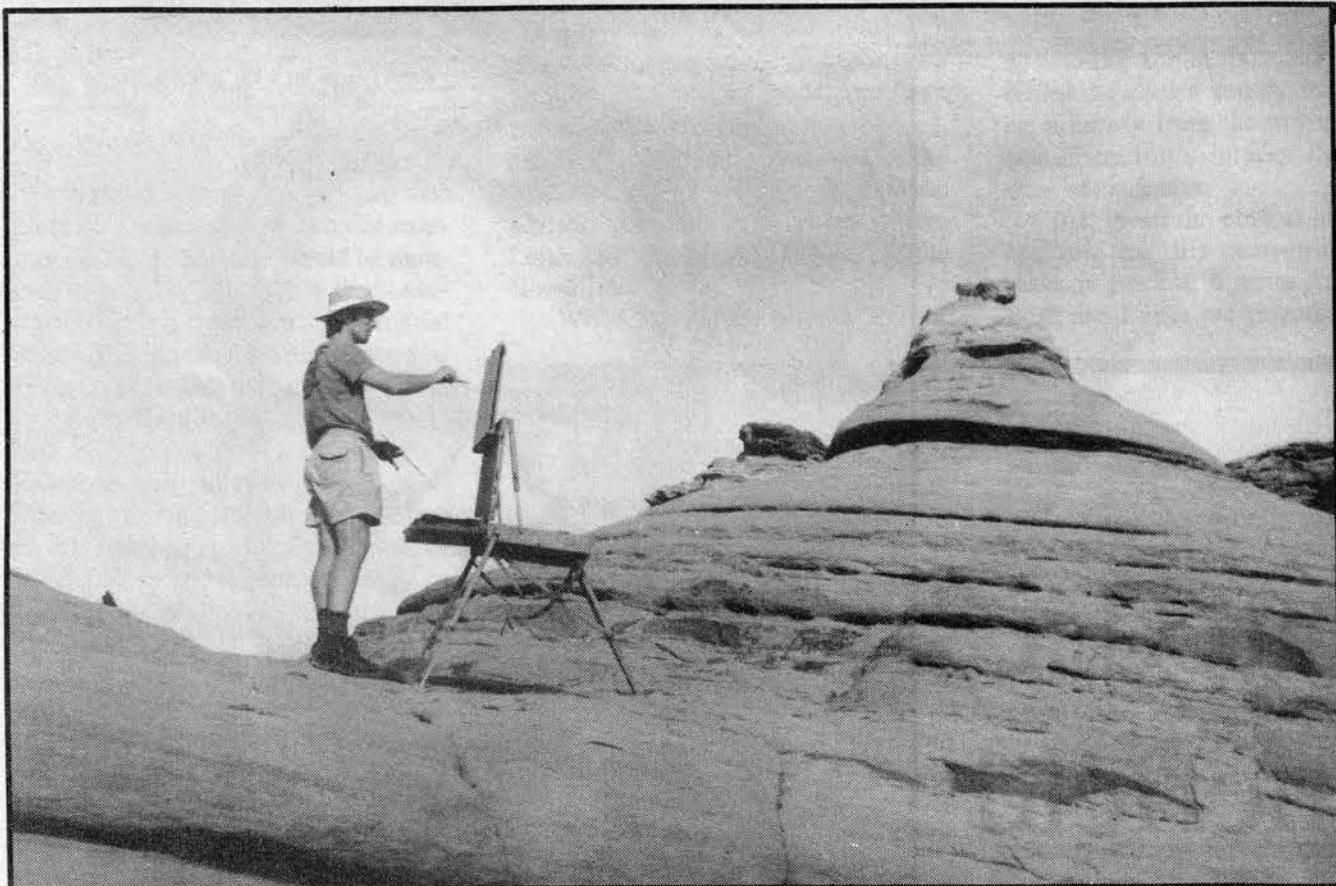
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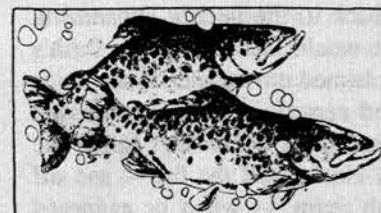


Illustration by Robert Spanning

Bush negotiated a Western minefield to reach Lujan

—by Andrew Melnykovich

WASHINGTON, D.C. — For Manuel Lujan, the third time proved the charm.

After twice being mentioned — and passed over — as a possible nominee for Interior secretary in the Reagan administration, the Republican congressman from New Mexico was named the first holder of the post under President George Bush.

As on the occasions that followed the resignations of James Watt and William Clark, Lujan this time showed no overt interest in the job. Having retired after 20 years in the House, Lujan was planning to sell his Washington, D.C., condominium and head back to Albuquerque.

Lujan's nomination came as a surprise even to many people familiar with the selection process. How and why he came to be chosen remains something of a mystery.

As is customary for presidential appointees awaiting Senate confirmation hearings, Lujan is keeping a low profile — something he seems to do anyway — and is not granting interviews. And Bush went to great lengths to keep his Cabinet selection process hidden from public view.

But Bush's choice of Lujan can be understood in the context of the preliminary maneuverings leading up to the final selection.

The jockeying for position began almost as soon as Bush wrapped up the GOP nomination. Initial speculation focused on Nat Reed, who was assistant interior secretary for fish, wildlife and parks in the Nixon-Ford administration and later a member of the board at the National Audubon Society.

Bush named Reed as one of his advisers on environmental issues, leading to speculation that Reed might be headed back to the Interior Department, where he would lend credence to Bush's self-proclaimed environmentalism.

Reed remained on the surmised "short list" until a few days before the election. He fell off the list — and off the Bush team — when he endorsed Democrat Buddy MacKay over Republican Connie Mack in the Senate race in Florida.

Another early contender, and one who stayed in the running far longer than Reed, was Republican Sen. Dan Evans of Washington. Evans, a former governor, was leaving the Senate after serving only a single term.

Like Reed, Evans enjoyed strong ties to the conservation community. He also was one of the first Capitol Hill Republicans to endorse Bush for his party's presidential nomination. But Evans had gained a reputation as something of a maverick who would not hesitate to oppose the party leadership or the president.

And he faced formidable opposition from a group Bush could not afford to alienate — conservative Western Republicans who would form the core of his support in a Senate dominated by Democrats. Leading the opposition to Evans was Sen. James McClure of Idaho, who was another of Bush's early backers. McClure is the senior Republican and former chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Evans, a member of the committee, often clashed with McClure over issues such as water resources and energy development on public lands. Sen. Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo., another member

of the committee and a McClure ally, described Evans as not "having much of a multiple-use concept" of public lands management.

In addition to his conflicts with the powerful Western conservatives, Evans did not help his cause with a valedictory speech he delivered to the Senate. In it, he described the Senate as inefficient, uninspired and paralyzed by partisan politics and parochial interests.

With McClure and his compatriots making it clear that Evans was unacceptable, his chances appeared to have all but vanished by Thanksgiving.

Early in December, the Western conservatives met to propose their own nominee. Unable to agree on a single candidate, the Westerners — McClure, Wallop, Orrin Hatch of Utah, Peter Domenici of New Mexico, Mark Hatfield of Oregon, Ted Stevens of Alaska, and John McCain of Arizona — came up with a list of four "acceptable" prospects.

Lujan's name was prominent by its absence, leading most observers to conclude that he had indicated no interest in the job. The other possible contender from New Mexico, Gov. Garrey Carruthers, had already taken himself out of the running.

Lujan will manage an empire

The Department of Interior is the most important federal agency to the West, and the job of Secretary of the Interior is the one cabinet position Westerners care most about.

If confirmed by the Senate, new Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan will oversee the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Mines and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. He will also oversee Native Americans, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In all, the Interior Department manages over 500 million acres of federal public lands, the vast majority of which are in the West and Alaska. On that land

is most of the nation's wealth of minerals, coal, oil and gas, rangeland, and some timber, as well as most of the country's recreational and park lands, wildlife habitat, and pristine ecology.

The Bureau of Land Management, for example, controls about 320 million acres, or over 50 percent of all federally owned land, all in the West or Alaska. The BLM's responsibilities range from the coal reserves under Wyoming's Powder River Basin to the wilderness study areas in southern Utah.

The Interior secretary sets and implements policies on such critical Western issues as coal, oil and gas leasing, national park and wildlife refuge land acquisition, wilderness designation, threatened and endangered species, dam projects and irrigation networks and tribal budgets.



Manuel Lujan

Carruthers would have faced a bruising confirmation battle. He had served as an assistant secretary under Watt and had been involved in some of Watt's more controversial actions, such as promoting mineral development in wilderness areas.

The most prominent name on the list was John Rhodes Sr., former governor of Arizona and former House Republican leader. Rhodes was the only one of the four with Democratic backing, having gained the support of Sen. Dennis DeConcini of Arizona, and House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee Chairman Morris Udall.

Dick Richards of Utah, a former Republican national chairman, was included on the list, probably at Hatch's behest. He did not appear to make any effort to win the nomination.

Rep. Barbara Vucanovich, R-Nev., made the list and made no secret of wanting the job. She was quickly disappointed. Two days after the list became public, Bush announced he would name no sitting members of Congress to his cabinet.

Also campaigning hard for the job, and winning the strong backing of the Wyoming congressional delegation, was Casper oilman Warren Morton. A former speaker of the Wyoming House, Morton had waged an unsuccessful campaign to unseat Democratic Gov. Ed Herschler in 1982.

Morton received an unexpected, and very short-lived, boost when environmental leader Tina Hobson of Renew America — a group promoting renewable energy — said he "may well be an acceptable candidate from the environmentalist point of view." Hobson obviously knew little about Morton, and certainly was unaware that Wyoming conservationists had opposed him when he ran for governor.

Hobson committed her gaffe at a press conference held by leaders of major environmental groups and attended by most major news organizations. No sooner had the meeting ended than spokesmen for other organizations moved to correct Hobson's remarks. Morton's star fell as quickly as it had risen.

(Continued on page 13)

Minefield...

(Continued from page 12)

Morton epitomized the problem Bush faced in selecting an Interior secretary. The ideal candidate would be someone with the backing of both the conservation community and influential Republican lawmakers from the public lands states of the West.

Bush faced the nearly impossible task of trying to satisfy groups which have opposing philosophies of how to manage the federal lands administered by the Interior Department. A candidate acceptable to one side would likely be viewed as inimical to the interests of the other.

Having promised a change from the Reagan years of environmental philistinism, Bush could not afford to alienate conservationists. Facing a Democratic majority in the Senate, he could not risk angering the conservatives in his own party.

Although Morton apparently remained in contention until the end, the Bush team began casting about for other candidates.

Former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, who had been mentioned in the early going, resurfaced. But Alexander, who had chaired the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors, was out of favor with the Westerners.

The commission's report — which was rejected by the Reagan administration — backed expanded recreation on public lands and acquisition of parklands. Commission members Wallop and Vucanovich had issued a strong dissent from the majority report, criticizing it as a blueprint for blocking development of public lands.

While conservationists would have been delighted with Alexander, McClure reportedly made it clear he would find the choice unacceptable.

Two other former Republican governors, William Janklow of South Dakota and David Treen of Louisiana, were rumored to be contenders in the late going. Treen reportedly was the personal choice of Bush transition co-director Craig Fuller. At one point, Fuller himself was said to be interested in becoming Interior secretary.

And, in the week before Christmas, the name of Manuel Lujan resurfaced. Even so, no decision was expected before the holiday.

Bush left Washington to go quail shooting in Texas and fishing along the Gulf Coast. On Dec. 22, a transition spokesman told the *Casper Star-Tribune* that no announcement of an Interior secretary nominee would be made until the following week. Lujan was named the next day.

Western conservatives pronounced themselves satisfied with the choice. Conservationists said they were disappointed, given Lujan's record of opposing them on most issues.

But the objections of the conservation community were relatively subdued, a sharp contrast to the reaction to Watt's nomination and subsequent relations with the Reagan administration. Lujan may not be on our side, but at least he is approachable, conservationists said.

There also appeared to be a reluctance to blast Bush when, on the same day he named Lujan, he had nominated William Reilly, head of the Conservation Foundation, to administer the Environmental Protection Agency. If that was a calculated move on the part of the Bush team, it was a successful one.

It seems clear that Bush did not want to name as Interior secretary anyone who would generate a strong reaction from either of the two groups with

the most interest in the choice. Lujan also fits in with the new Republican strategy of courting minority groups, especially Hispanics. And he fits the Bush pattern of selecting as his top advisers people from his political past. Lujan and Bush served together in the House from 1969 to 1971.

Whatever Bush's motivation for

nominating Lujan, both the reasoning behind the choice and the reaction to it are a far cry from the way the Reagan administration's Interior Department went into business.

But, given the obvious influence of McClure and his compatriots on the selection process, it seems doubtful that Bush and Lujan are prepared to move

away from the public land policies of the past eight years. If that is the case, rest assured that the conservationists will yet make life difficult for the new Interior secretary and his boss.

□

Lighter...

(Continued from page 1)

expressed hope that "We'll make it possible to put a man in the middle of Lake Erie and bring him back alive." But as ranking Republican on the House Interior Committee in the early 1980s, he was James Watt's point man, generally supporting the secretary's efforts to open public lands for development.

He fought Watt publicly only once, after the Interior Department was accused in late 1981 of trying to sneak through some oil lease applications for southern New Mexico's Capitan Wilderness area. That's where Smokey the Bear was discovered in the 1940s.

But here, too, he bounced back and forth. He first introduced a bill barring any mineral leases in wilderness, then introduced a bill that would allow oil and gas leasing in wilderness after the year 2000, and then co-sponsored amendments permanently removing all mining from wilderness areas, both before and after 2000.

In 1980, he made at least three caustic comments against the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, N.M., once promising that New Mexico will not be a "dumping ground for nuclear and hazardous wastes." But by 1988, he had become a steady supporter of the pioneering nuclear dump and rarely criticized the U.S. Department of Energy, even in recent months, as its DOE's house of cards began to tumble (*HCN*, 12/19/88).

Since 1979, his League of Conservation Voters rating only once topped 40 and generally hung in the low to mid-20s. In 1988, it was 13. He has generally voted for big water projects, against increased grazing fees for cattle ranchers and for opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil development.

"What's said about Manny Lujan is that he's a very nice guy, you can talk to him, but he'll never go with you," said Friends of the Earth's Geoff Webb in Washington, D.C.

But he also has voted for renewing the Clean Water Act and against extending federal Clean Air Act deadlines for polluted cities such as Albuquerque, Phoenix and Denver. He also has voted for the Superfund law, even while accepting thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from chemical industry political action committees.

"His role as ranking Republican member on the Interior Committee was to work for the administration," said Goldstein. "I'm sure you'll see that Lujan's imprint as Interior secretary will be guided by President Bush."

But Melinda Kassen of the Environmental Defense Fund in Boulder, Colo., noted that some Senate Republicans such as Rhode Island's John Chafee and Vermont's Robert Stafford freely criticized Reagan and Watt. "Bush doesn't have any ideology so there isn't going to be any leadership from the White House," she said. "If the people who get in the door at Interior first are those with the biggest base of money, we'll be in trouble."

'We'll make it possible to put a man in the middle of Lake Erie and bring him back alive.'

Community activists in Albuquerque's Hispanic South Valley generally are pleased at his recent prodding of Kirtland Air Force Base to study its contribution to the valley's 20-year groundwater pollution problem.

And other activists remembered Lujan's working to set aside as wilderness the Sandia Mountains just outside Albuquerque and northern New Mexico's Wheeler Peak, the state's highest at over 13,000 feet.

"He's genuinely nice, genuinely personable," said Deborah Sease, a Sierra Club activist in Washington. "Even when he's an enemy, it makes him a palatable enemy."

Sease recalls watching Lujan will-

ingly sinking hip-deep in mud to study the effects of the Army Corps of Engineers flood control policies on northern New Mexico's Chama River.

"The Corps had been backing up floodwater on Abiquiu Dam farther back than they were supposed to," she recalled. "He was outraged. He said this was not something we are supposed to do with a wild river."

"But then he didn't rush right out and get the Corps to change its policy, either."

□

Tony Davis reports for the *Albuquerque Tribune*. This story was paid for by the High Country News Research Fund.

LETTERS

THE GRAZING ISSUE

Dear HCN:

Like Lynn Jacobs (*HCN*, 1/2/89), I have heard the hollow promise that, "As a rancher I care more about the environment than anybody else," too many times. But ironically, in 15 years of environmental work in Utah I've generally heard it from various agriculture interest-group leaders, a bunch of politicians and unfortunately, once in a while, a BLM or Forest Service range manager far more often than I've heard it from the hundreds of small ranchers.

We all know public land grazing and the policies adopted for decade after decade by the public land range managers have left the public's land inexcusably and seriously impacted in many areas. These areas are often a land devoid of considerable natural flora and faunal diversity. The literature and common sense is replete with factual examples.

But it has not just been ranchers that have contributed to this mess. Loggers, miners, city folk, sportsmen, car drivers, airplane users... We've all done a "nice" job of destroying what was a remarkable place and far too often we are still all contributing to messing the rest of it up. I've noticed, however, that it is always "them" and they are always "over there."

It's not just an "us versus them" problem. After all, most of us in the West have in our lineage maybe a ranching background, a mining background or maybe we were so lucky as to have our forefathers be the rich industrialists who routinely smashed miners in the head when they asked for simple decency. Again, they are us and we are them.

The answer isn't to eliminate public land grazing. The answer may not even lie in raising public land grazing fees to an equivalent private market level. It is doubtful corporate grazing is any better. The answer is sustainability, low input/impact grazing. Grazing that eliminates impacts in riparian areas, recognizes wolves and grizzly bears as legitimate land users throughout their native range, stays out of bighorn sheep habitat and the like. I believe it is achievable and will likely take more work than the absurd rhetoric of many grazing associations or the call for an end to public land grazing.

Also, there isn't much difference in the cowboy persona that implies "folksiness" is more real than the rest of us (I'm using a lot of phraseology from recent letters appearing in *HCN* concerning this issue) versus Jacobs' argument that he lives a more "earthy" existence than most cowboys and that public land ranchers, "cowboys," simply shouldn't be allowed to use the public lands for grazing.

Frankly, I like the plurality of the West. We all live here and have chosen to do so. There is an issue of environmental and social justice. We need far more focus on the issues and the interests they represent and the real consequences of particular paths that we take, and less focus on our positions. There is no doubt the former is far harder to achieve than the latter, but it is the only goal that can actually be reached and sustained.

Dick Carter
Salt Lake City, Utah

The writer is coordinator of the Utah Wilderness Association.

14-High Country News — January 30, 1989

GUEST ESSAY

An eroded Wyoming gully bears its last crop

by John D. Nesbitt

Immediately west of the parcel of ground where I live close to Torrington, Wyo., there is a gully that cuts a crooked diagonal through a hilly 20 acres, a ragged patch of land surrounded on three sides by row crops and on the fourth side by my horse pasture.

In the three years I've lived here, I've seen cows turned in there for one winter. Otherwise, from a farmer's point of view, it's not good for anything except irrigation drainage and a dumping ground. I call it the "Garbage Gulch," and it stands as a continual reminder of how unconsciously we litter and ruin our world.

On my way down the gully I pass a decrepit livestock loading chute, the frame and wheels of a lawn mower, an abandoned disc slowly giving up its green paint, and a twisted heap of bed springs, fence posts, planks, stumps, tires, wire and bottles.

Off to my right sits the rusted hulk of an old tractor -- just the rear axle, fenders and the frame. Earlier in its career it sustained a few bullet holes, as did the hay baler beyond it. The baler, a New Holland, still has a faint and faded reminder of the original paint.

Where the gully widens before turning southward, someone found a nice, flat spot to dump off a truckload of old school desks. The metal frames, some grey but most of them beige, have rusted slowly as the plywood seats and desktops curled and peeled with weather.

My glance travels back up the gully to pick out the main features -- a refrigerator peppered with holes of varying calibers; a small scattering of car tires; a dented yellow fuel tank, no longer on wheels, with a cockeyed fill pipe sticking up; a metal bed frame protruding from a heap of dirt and weeds; two more refrigerators, less favored by sharpshooters; a Loomix feed trough, red with white lettering; and then a 50-yard stretch of genuine household garbage, all in plastic bags shining in the afternoon sun. At the upper end of the gulley, from beneath a layer of garbage, a couch protrudes.

It has been a good year for the sunflowers. It has also been a good year for

rye grass and thistles, tumbleweed, ragweed and pigweed. But all these weeds together can't hide the junk that has been tossed throughout the draw.

Like corpses not well buried, the bigger items seem to rise up just as they do in winter snows.

A five-minute walk through this wasteland reveals smaller items: oil filters, light bulbs, boxes of cat litter, crumbled sheetrock, a twisted grey bicycle (Huffy Sportsman, girl's model, made in England), bricks, more car tires, loops and lengths of cable up to an inch thick, a skeletal electric stove, corrugated sheet metal, varying lengths and thicknesses of rusting pipe, jumbles of fence wire, metal cabinets, stray drawers, unidentifiable chunks and strips of rusty metal, twisted barrels and buckets, and bottles and cans galore. A little rocking horse has a bullet hole in its head. More pardonable cast-offs include a dead calf, rotting hay cardboard scraps, junk lumber, rotted fence posts, and endless heaps of branches, logs, and stumps, which are returning slowly but more surely than oil filters and aerosol cans to the earth.

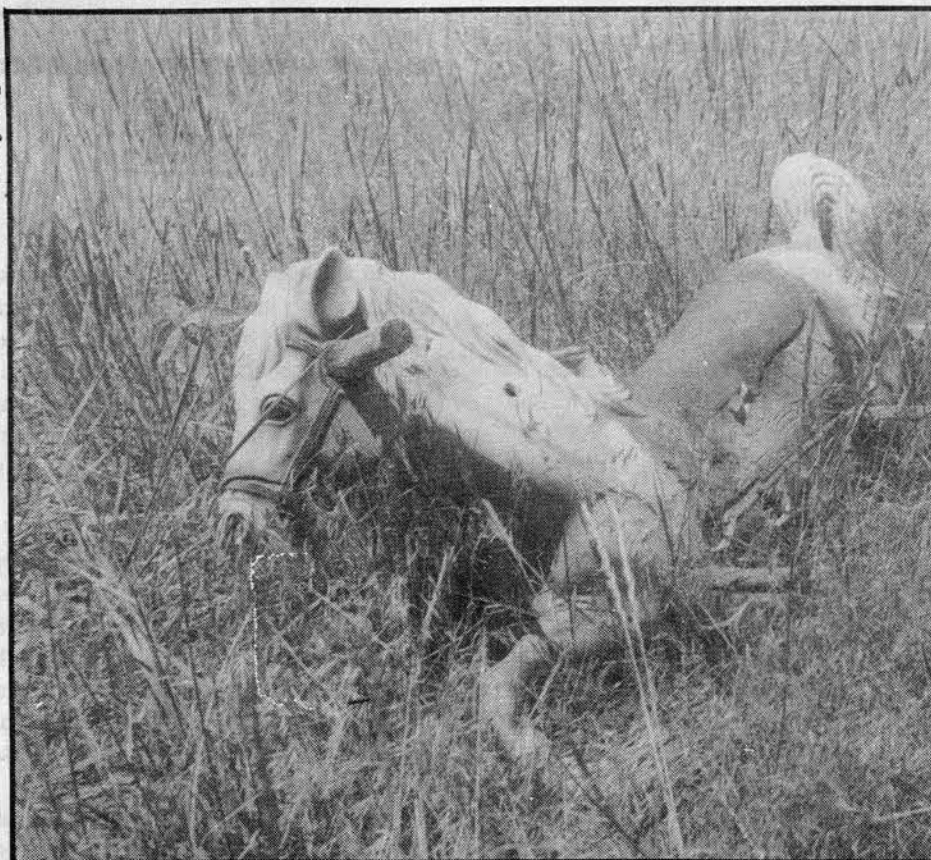
If I look to the other end of the gully, and then beyond the cornfield, I can see the landfill site for the town of Torrington. That's the dump where most of this could have been taken. But I know why my neighbors have chosen to dump here.

It is closer by two miles, it is cheaper (the city dump charges \$4 for a pickup load), and this dump is open on weekends. Those who haul their trash here probably do not think the gully has any value or natural beauty, and it is not part of their daily view, as it is mine.

It also probably does not occur to them that their thoughtless dumping is unecological as well as un-neighborly. Although the land is not good for much, I have seen it used -- even by some tenants I don't much care for such as magpies and jackrabbits and snakes. Meadowlarks, doves, and pheasants live here, and I've seen skunks, a coyote, and a fox sunbathing in late fall and early spring. On a few occasions whitetail deer have drifted through this cemetery of farm implements and refrigerators.

It is probably inevitable that the area will be affected by residues of fertilizer,

Andy Espinoza



herbicide, pesticide and fuel, all of which drain into this gully. But it is not necessary or excusable for humans to poison this gully with styrofoam, plastic, petroleum, detergent, and whatever else is slowly oozing out of those plastic bags.

Many of us have heard that in the settlement and development of America, the environment was abused by the people who loved it the most -- trappers, hunters, miners, loggers, ranchers and farmers.

My neighbors who dump their garbage next door are good country people, farmers and otherwise, who live close to the earth. They are not city peo-

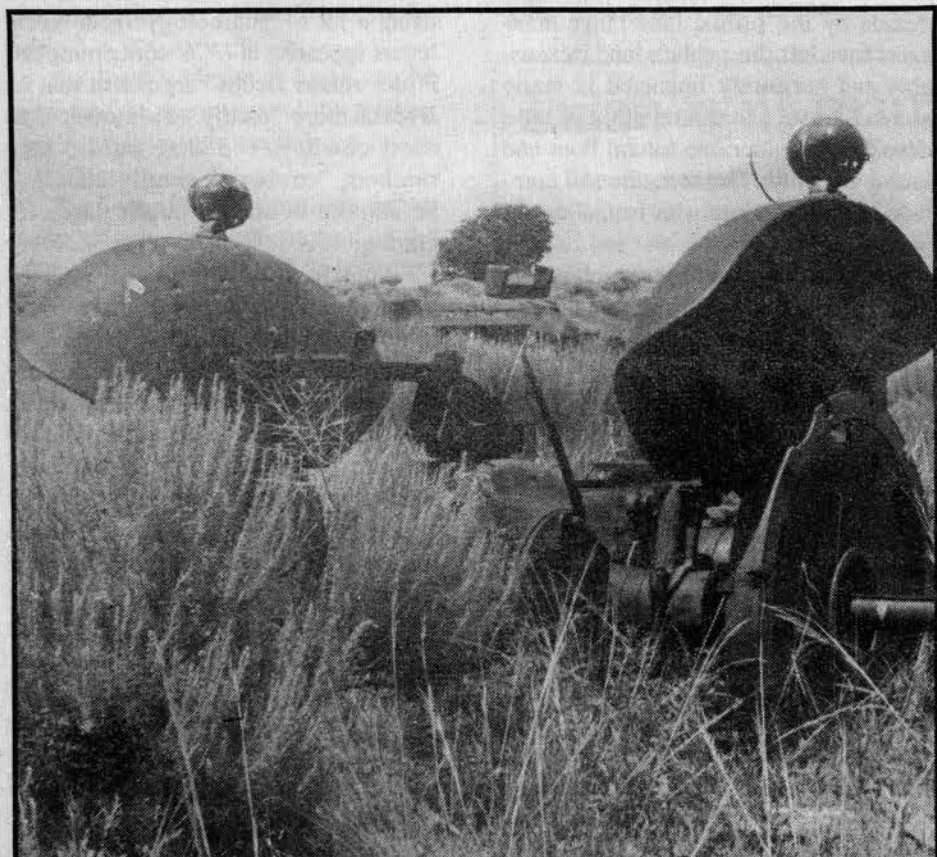
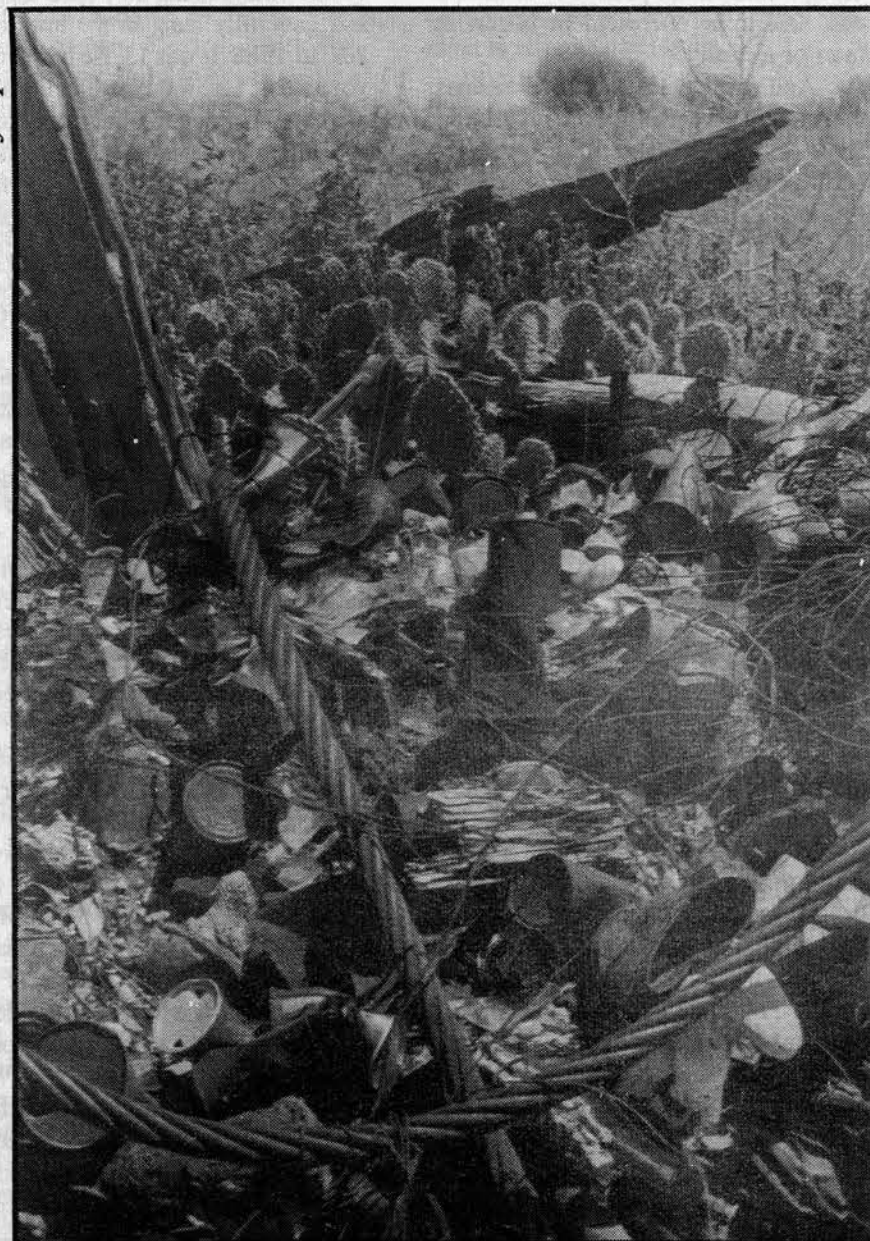
ple, flocking uphill with distinctive green license plates. Like the people who first started dumping here, my neighbors are all well-meaning people who appreciate the freedom and beauty of the Wyoming countryside, but they also don't much like regulations, such as the ones that say "No dumping."

This gully is a reminder that individual freedom can help destroy beauty that is shared by all creatures.

□

John Nesbitt is an English instructor at Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington, Wyoming.

Andy Espinoza

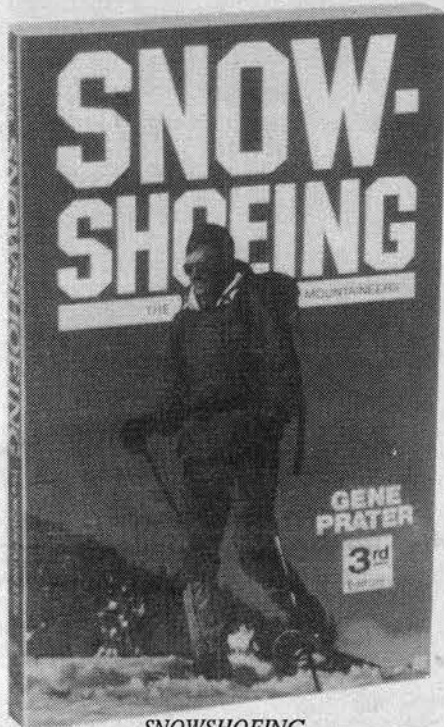


Andy Espinoza

BULLETIN BOARD

A GREATER "TOMORROW" FOR YELLOWSTONE

A \$150,000 grant from the Northwest Area Foundation will help fund "Greater Yellowstone Tomorrow," an ambitious four-to-five-year \$500,000 project designed to ensure better public lands management around Yellowstone National Park, says Ed Lewis, executive director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition that will oversee the studies. According to Lewis, the project will produce a blueprint for preserving and protecting the area's natural resources. Barbara Henrie of the Northwest Area Foundation says one reason for supporting Greater Yellowstone Tomorrow was its emphasis on continuing a dialogue among various groups involved in the future of the area, including timber and mining interests. The Greater Yellowstone ecosystem encompasses 14 million acres of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, with Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks at its heart. Surrounding the parks are seven national forests and three national wildlife refuges. For more information, contact Todd Wilkinson, Communication Director, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, P.O. Box 1874, Bozeman, MT 59771 (406/586-1593).



SNOWSHOEING

"Don't be deluded into thinking it's the fashionable clothing you wear or the speed of your oversnow travel device that provides the pleasure, it's the backcountry and the good companions who accompany you," says author Gene Prater. If skiing isn't your bag but you still enjoy being outdoors in the winter, then snowshoeing may be for you. Prater has been snowshoeing for over 40 years and has led seminars in New England, the Rockies and the Pacific Northwest. In the new third edition of *Snowshoeing*, he discusses equipment and techniques and contrasts this mode of travel in the East and Northwest, where the snow is icy and crusty, to the Rockies, where you find the softer powdery stuff. Prater admits that "few people enjoy snowshoeing for itself" but that it is a way to enjoy the winter outdoors.

The Mountaineers, 306 2nd Ave. W., Seattle, WA 98119. Paper: \$9.95. 174 pages. Illustrated with drawings and black-and-white photographs.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS CONFERENCE

Colorado environmental educators will be dreaming and scheming at a conference in Colorado Springs Feb. 3. A recently formed task force called the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education is the sponsor. The alliance includes representatives from the state Forest Service, Division of Wildlife, and education department, as well as the Denver Museum of Natural History and Colorado Environmental Coalition. The alliance wants to improve environmental literacy in the state by creating a resource network and establishing environmental education centers. The conference, "Dreams and Directions," will include morning talks and afternoon working sessions. The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education can be reached c/o Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, 15200 W. 6th Ave., Golden, CO 80401, or call Marti Norberg: 303/973-2531.

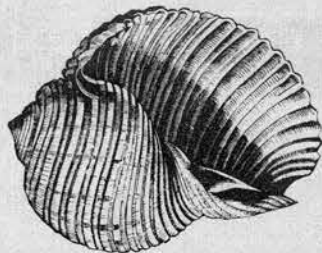
DOWNWIND/DOWNSTREAM

Christopher "Toby" McLeod's latest film, *Downwind/Downstream*, which focuses on threats to water quality in the Rocky Mountain West from mining, acid rain and urbanization, has won 12 awards since its release last March. The film was seen by 4,000 people during a tour of Colorado last spring and 3,000 people in northern California in November. Negotiations are underway with the PBS series NOVA and the Discovery Channel for national broadcast later this year. The film was also produced by Robert Lewis and the Environmental Research Group of Aspen. McLeod says his next film, *Sacred Land*, will explore the meaning of sacred places to indigenous cultures and the overall health of the earth. Meanwhile, McLeod has agreed to be environmental affairs reporter for a new half-hour radio show, "Market Place," on National Public Radio. He can be reached c/o Earth Image Films, P.O. Box C-151, La Honda, CA 94020. Film rental information is available from Bullfrog Films, Oley, PA 19547 (800/543-3764).

A MUIR SAMPLER

South of Yosemite: Selected Writings of John Muir is a reprint of a 1968 out-of-print collection of 30 journal entries, letters, newspaper and magazine articles Muir wrote about the region which is now Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks. Edited by Frederic Gunsby, this sample bears some of Muir's more efflorescent praise for the mountains, as well as a share of tart commentary. Observing the felling of an old growth tree for display at a fair, Muir writes, "Many a poor defrauded town dweller will pay his dollar and peep, and gain some dead arithmetical notion of the bigness of our Big Trees; but a true and living knowledge of these gods is not to be had at so cheap a rate." Included is Muir's original and once-controversial theory of the glacial origin of the Sierras and how glaciers influenced Sierra vegetation. Some of the pieces will be familiar from other volumes, but the whole will be relished by Muir aficionados.

Wilderness Press, 2440 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. Paper: \$9.95. 220 pages. Illustrated with photos and diagrams.



FOR ASPIRING POETS

The Utah Wilderness Association invites poets to submit unpublished poems on the theme of wilderness to its annual poetry competition. Poems should address the values, spirituality or preservation of wilderness and must be no longer than 40 lines. The contest and its winners will be announced throughout the region, with a \$100 prize given for the winning poem. This poem and five honorable mentions will be reprinted in the spring 1989 *Utah Wilderness Review*. Last year's winning poem, "The River," was written by HCN poetry editor C.L. Rawlins. Contestants should submit two copies of each poem, with the writer's name, address and phone in the upper right corner of one copy only. No more than three poems by a poet will be considered. Include a \$3 entry fee and a self-addressed stamped envelope for notification of winners, and send entries to: POETRY/Utah Wilderness Association, 455 East 400 South, #306, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

The Greater Yellowstone Tomorrow
Coalition
seeks a
PROJECT COORDINATOR
Contact: Ed Lewis, Executive Director
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
P.O. Box 1874
Bozeman, MT 59771
406/586-1593
Apply immediately



ROUTE 66

Susan Croce Kelly started researching her book about the 2,200-mile road once dubbed "The Main Street of America" in libraries along the way. She soon found that the real history of U.S. Highway 66 lay in the people who lived nearby. After eight years and 200 interviews, the result is an oral history of land and people from Chicago, Ill., to Santa Monica, Calif. Designed and built in the early 1900s, the highway played a major part in the westward migration of "Okies" from the dust bowl, the explosion of highway trucking during World War II and the tourist boom of the postwar '50s. Its demise came with the completion of the federal interstate highway system, but it lives in American culture. John Steinbeck wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about the migration of the destitute Joad family traveling on Route 66 in *The Grapes of Wrath*. It spawned a popular song, "Get Your Kicks on Route 66," and a television show called "Route 66." Photographer Quinta Scott captures the feeling of Route 66 in 93 duotone prints of people and places along the way.

University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, OK 73019. Hardcover: \$24.95. 224 pages.

BORN IN IDAHO?

The Redneck Review is seeking poetry, essays and fiction written by native Idahoans for a "Born in Idaho" issue to be published in the spring of 1990. The *Review* is a bi-annual collection of contemporary writing by contributors from throughout the West. Funded by a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council, the "Born in Idaho" issue will include critical essays on several native Idaho writers, among them poet Ezra Pound. Writers whose work is chosen will receive two free copies of the magazine upon publication. Subscription rates for the 80-page journal are \$14 for one year. Send subscription requests or manuscripts with a self-addressed stamped envelope to *The Redneck Review*, P.O. Box 730, Twin Falls, ID 83301.

ADOPT-A-LAND

The Colorado Environmental Coalition is looking for volunteers to adopt Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands in the state. Volunteers would select an area and then keep tabs on it by visiting local offices of public lands managers. The group hopes the new program will give the environmental community more say in decisions made at the district and resource-area level. For more information, contact the Colorado Environmental Coalition, 777 Grant St., Suite 606, Denver, CO 80203 (303/837-8701).



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THE GRAND CANYON**
(or other rivers)

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FRIENDS OF THE RIVER,**
in its effort to protect the Colorado,
from "peaking power" and other
energy development. **602-774-0130**

EARTH DAY 1990

The organizers of Earth Day 1990 hope it will be the largest demonstration in human history. Denis Hayes, coordinator of the first Earth Day in 1970, is back again as chairman, and he says this celebration should involve over 100 million people around the world. Most of the major environmental groups in the U.S. are already involved in planning Earth Day 1990. Special efforts include activities in grade schools, high schools and colleges to enlist a new generation of activists to save the world's environment, says Jay Hair, president of the National Wildlife Federation. It will be an international event, since "no nation acting alone can solve such problems as global warming, the destruction of the ozone layer, acid rain, plutonium proliferation, or ocean pollution," adds John Adams, executive director of the Natural Resources Defense Council. Organizers hope to rekindle the spirit that launched the original Earth Day, which is credited with beginning the modern environmental movement. Earth Day 1990 will be headquartered in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Its interim address is: Box AA, Stanford University, CA 94305.

ACCESS

NEAT STUFF

"WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL JOB-LETTER" lists environmental jobs available throughout western North America. For information and a back issue, send a twenty-five-cent stamp to: WEJ, P.O. Box 800H, La Porte, CO 80535, Attn: Jill. (2x2p)

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY — Let the sun work for you. Solar electricity for your home or RV. Free information. Photocomm, 2555 N. Hwy. 89, Chino Valley, AZ 86323, 602/636-2201 or 602/778-1616. (4x2p)

BOOKS ABOUT archaeology, geology, ecology, Native American and Hispanic cultures, and exploration of the West. Please write to request catalog. Quaternary Books By Mail, PO Box 4, Beulah, CO 81023. (1x2p)

WORLD COUNTRY CARDS — featuring unique photographic scenes of the West. Packages of 12, four different photographs, in color or black-white or sepia-tone. \$12.00/pkg. Postage: one package, \$1.00; each additional package, \$.50. Original photography of Jack McLellan, IMAGES UNLIMITED, 3457 South 100 East, Bountiful, UT 84010, 801/295-9741. Display photographs also available. (1xp)

RECYCLE Worthwhile Books: Read the Modern-Library Collector. #15 & #16: \$4.25 ppd., Oestreich, 340 Warren Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220-1135. (1xp)

PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS: Composting toilets; designs and devices for high quality, low impact living. Natural Resource Co., 208/787-2495. (th Jy p)

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS: Would you like to live on the edge of Glacier National Park, Montana, for a season and help run an outdoor education program? The Glacier Institute offers outdoor classes for all ages and a variety of interests. We need four interns this spring, summer, and fall. Write: Glacier Institute, P.O. Box 1457, Kalispell, MT 59903. (3x2p)

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.

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. Send your ad with payment to: HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428 or call 303/527-4898 for more information.

16-High Country News — January 30, 1989

afield

Hide 'n seek in the lava beds

by Jim Stiak

The setting sun streaks the southwestern sky. A lone coyote patrols the sagebrush, and mule deer munch on roadside trees.

One hundred and fifteen years ago, this spot was making headlines around the world as Army troops spent seven months chasing a handful of Modoc Indians through the rocks. Today it's only the animals and a visitor in the lengthening shadows of Captain Jack's Stronghold in the Lava Beds National Monument.

One of the less-celebrated jewels of the national park system, the Lava Beds encompass 73 square miles of arid plateau south of Klamath Falls, Ore. It's a volcanic treasure trove of cones, fissures, tubes and ropy, smooth pahoehoe (pronounced pa-hoy-hoy) lava. It's part of the largest bald eagle roosting area in the lower 48 states, the longest continually occupied site in North America and a spelunker's dream.

More than 200 lava caves, counted in the winter when telltale wisps of warm air rise from their mouths, lie hidden among the boulders. Twenty have been outfitted with ladders and stairs, and one with lights, projector and seats, has been transformed into a subterranean movie theater. Today's feature is a colorful short on the fiery formation of the area.

On one of the frequent tours of the other caverns, a park ranger talks about the area's geology while pointing out an occasional bat. The first lesson ranger Yvonne McMillan teaches, as she leads a group into the hollow arteries of the earth, is that the long dark shafts are not really caves. Rather, they are lava tubes formed by flows of magma that hardened quickly on the outside while continuing to ooze through the inside, like a stream whose surface was frozen. After the eruption ceased, only the shell remained. Repeated flows piled the tubes atop one another, creating multi-storied caverns descending more than 100 feet into the earth.

Where the roofs of these tubes collapsed are found the entranceways for plants, spiders, birds, woodrats, visitors and, to the dismay of the park staff, vandals. Directing the group into a grotto splashed with waves of colors left by mineral waters, McMillan points to a spray-painted heart and set of initials. It's hard to erase them, she explains, without damaging the walls.

Walking into another large cavern, she pauses to listen for the faint squeak-

ing of flying mammals. She says this is where a family of dead bats, crushed by vandals, was found. "It made me just want to cry," she says. Most of the tubes, fortunately, have not fallen prey to vandals. Sulfurs and lichens paint the rocks, and lava stalactites dangle from roofs. Patches of ice last all year. In the inky innards reigns the silence of the deep, a stillness that can be unsettling to people used to the din of civilization. Some people speak of these caverns as sites of enlightenment; others regard them as dank dungeons.

Aboveground the sun illuminates pines and junipers on a score of cinder cones, rising hundreds of feet like mini-volcanoes. To the north lies Tule Lake, named for the reeds from which the Modocs fashioned boats. A wildlife refuge there attracts migrating birds in the spring and fall, as pelicans, herons, cormorants, coots and fowl from as far as Siberia descend upon the wetlands in sky-darkening numbers. The surrounding Klamath Basin attracts a variety of raptors, including bald eagles.

Unlike more popular units of the national park system, the Lava Beds receive only 100,000 visitors a year. It's a well-kept secret," says McMillan, "and that's okay."

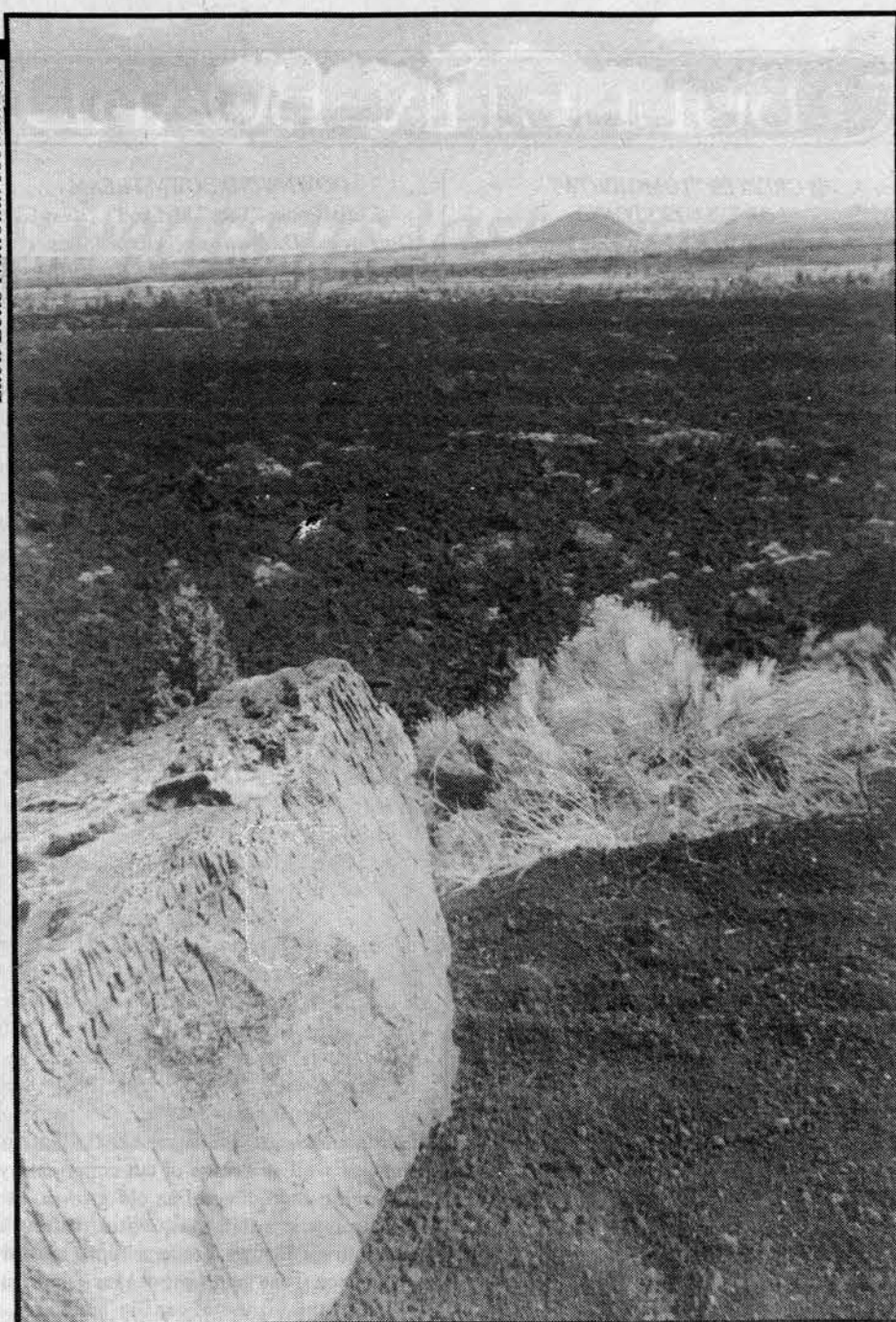
Today, a few dozen of us have arrived, in Fords and Toyotas, to a land where humans have made their home for almost 15,000 years. The Modocs, who arrived about 18 centuries after the last lava flowed like syrup from the incontinent earth, sought shelter in the cooled rock, living on seeds, bulbs, and an abundance of waterfowl, until white settlers discovered that the land was good for livestock.

After relationships between the natives and the ranchers grew violent, the U.S. government forced the Modocs to the north to share a reservation with the Klamath Tribe. But, unwelcomed by their new hosts, a group led by Kientpoos, known to the whites as Captain Jack, made it back to their ancestral lands only to do battle with the U.S. Army.

Newspapers of the day from London and New York hang on the walls of the park's visitor center. They chronicle what turned out to be one of the last Indian wars, which included demonstrations in Eastern cities in support of the Indians.

After some 60 Modoc warriors held off 600 troops from November to June 1873, the war ended with the Indians' surrender. Captain Jack and three others were hanged for murder (necrophiliac

Lava Beds National Monument



The sky above, lava caves below

entrepreneurs sold strands of their hair each for \$5), and the tribe was moved to Oklahoma.

At the scene of the siege, called Captain Jack's Stronghold, walking trails reveal how the Modocs were able to persist so long. With chunks of basalt creating countless caverns and crannies — all concealed by branchy brush — it may be

the world's best place to play hide-and-seek.

It's one secret the coyote and bobcat have long known.

□

Jim Stiak is a freelance writer in Eugene, Oregon.

LETTERS

A DISTORTION

Dear HCN:

The front page headline of your January 2 issue was a mistake. Grand County voters did not reject an industrial future, they rejected a hazardous waste incinerator. Incinerator opponents succeeded at least in part because they were able to make it clear that they were not opposed to appropriate industry; of the 45 permitted uses in the County I-2 zone, only one was being opposed.

The election here was no big revolution, but rather it was simply evolution. The referendum and commission elections were carried not by some fringe element (as the incumbent commissioners often tried to portray), but by reasonable people from all segments of the community who have adapted to the new (post-mining) realities and are eager, or at least willing, to grow in new directions. The incinerator was seen as a threat to our emerging opportunities, which many hope will include some appropriate industrial development near Cisco. Since this is basically what Craig Bigler's article said, I can't imagine why you gave it such a headline.

I have always enjoyed your paper greatly, and appreciate its pro-environment tack, but I wish to make essentially the same point as John Moore (Letters, HCN 12/5/88). You (we) will not accomplish much if you allow your credibility to be undermined by distortions resulting from wishful thinking. Your January 2

front page headline was a distortion of your writer's article, and certainly of the truth of the situation here in Grand County.

John Groo
Castle Valley, Utah

INDOOR SPORT

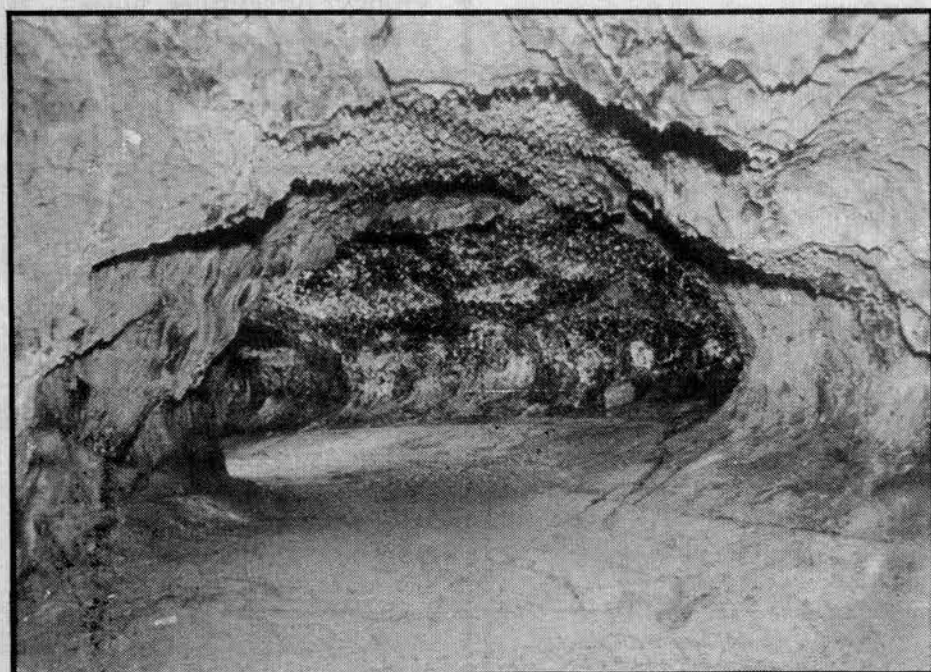
Dear HCN,

Responding to Edward Abbey's salvos is a fun Western indoor sport. This time I take issue with Abbey's Oct. 24 letter to HCN where he refers to public-lands livestock ranchers as *both* "the most powerful, reactionary, and destructive little group in the Western states" and as boys who look after cows. There's the rub. The pointed finger of patriarchal wrath and the tiny giggle of subdued complicity sit oddly here together. Likewise, when he calls writers Ehrlich and McGuane "gifted but innocent," one pauses to see where the finger really points. And just what is the obvious for if not for sentimentalizing? Finally, for those of us who neither fail nor refuse to "perceive the significant," has that improved our odds as activists?

Throngs of unwanted cows are slated to descend on my family's northern Arizona land next spring. Our only and costly option is to fence them out. Still, I could name a number of local functionaries more pestilential than the cattle ranchers.

But I won't.

Joleen Vorkoeper
Flagstaff, Arizona



Entrance to a cave

Lava Beds National Monument