



INSIDE:

Two Forks Dam blocked

✓ See pages 3, 14, 15

High Country News

April 10, 1989

Vol. 21 No. 7

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One dollar

Drought, fire and cold ravage Yellowstone's elk

by Bert Lindler

Yellowstone's summer of fire has been followed by a starvation winter. Up to one-third of the 21,000 elk in the park's northern herd may die this winter, either at the hands of hunters or from starvation.

Already, there are up to 29 elk carcasses per mile lying in the creek bottoms just north of the park. The carcasses have set the table for Yellowstone's grizzlies, which are just beginning to leave their dens.

"Horn hunters" are sawing antlers off the dead bull elk and cutting the ivory canine teeth out of their jaws. Some, illegally, harass weakened elk until they drop. Part of the elk winter range north of the park has been closed to the public until the end of April to prevent horn hunters, biologists or photographers from disturbing the survivors.

Yellowstone National Park and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks have steadfastly opposed feeding the elk. Feeding would artificially maintain the herd at a high level, they say, and contribute to the spread of disease.

However, residents of communities bordering the park aren't willing to sit by while elk starve nearby. Residents in Gardiner, West Yellowstone and Big Sky are keeping hundreds of elk alive by feeding hay and alfalfa pellets. They have received financial help from humane organizations and individual donors across the nation.

A Montana legislator tried to get the state's sportsmen and taxpayers to pay up to \$1 million a year to feed elk, but his bill, lacking support from the state Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department or state conservation groups, died.

Although most of the dead elk appear to have died during the harsh winter weather of mid- to late-February, many weakened elk are expected to die later this spring when they switch from dried to green grasses.

"It takes them a little while to adjust to that diet," said state wildlife biologist Tom Lemke of Livingston, Mont. "They're not as efficient digesting food."

Montana's late elk season in the Gardiner area north of Yellowstone Park was extended this year so hunters could kill 2,352 elk that otherwise might have starved. Montana hunters also killed

Steve Dowell, Bozeman Chronicle



Elk carcass in Yellowstone National Park

about 550 of the northern herd's 900 bison. The survivors have since returned to the safety of the park. About 1,800 bison in other areas of the park were not affected by the hunt.

The park's northern elk herd includes about two-thirds of the 32,000 elk using the park during the summer. Of the nine herds summering in the park, only two herds winter largely within the park: the northern herd which winters in the Lamar and upper Yellowstone valleys, and the much smaller Madison-Firehole herd.

During mild winters the northern herd stays largely within the park. During more severe winters, many elk leave the park for national forest and private and state lands to the north. This year, two-thirds of the herd left the park in search of food.

Last summer, drought parched the herd's winter range in the upper Yellowstone. Later, a third of its winter range burned.

Elk began moving to winter ranges a month earlier than normal last year due to the drought and fires. As they were doing so, Yellowstone Park convened a group of outside scientists to consider

feeding wildlife. The scientists recommended against feeding.

Although drought and fire contributed to the starvation of Yellowstone's elk, other elk herds in Montana also suffered from those problems. But with the exception of southwestern Montana's Big Hole Valley, elk elsewhere in Montana appear to have made it through the winter without feeding or massive die-offs. Outside of the park, hunters kill elk each fall to keep their numbers within limits the range will support and neighboring ranchers tolerate.

From the perspective of wildlife managers who control elk herds with hunting, nothing is more basic to Yellowstone's winter of starvation than the size of the northern herd. Protection within the park's boundaries allowed the northern herd to grow to about 12,000 animals from the park's establishment in 1872, until 1955. The growth occurred even though Montana hunters killed thousands of elk when tough winters forced animals out of the park. During the peak hunting year of 1943, for instance, hunters killed 6,539 elk.

(Continued on page 10)

Dear friends,



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

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

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

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Subscriptions are \$24 per year for individuals and public libraries, \$34 per year for institutions. Single copies \$1.00 plus postage and handling. Special Issues \$3 each.

Preserving a treasure

All through the 1970s and early 1980s, development here in the North Fork Valley meant coal, coal-fired power plants, and "paved parking lots" — that is, manufacturing. After the energy bust, Delta County turned to prisons, which the Colorado Legislature tried to use as a form of rural economic development. But for a variety of reasons, including opposition from a local businessman and former prison guard named Tom Huerkamp, the prison boomlet became a bustlet.

Now Huerkamp has become the leader of a push to put 844 acres of private land into the public domain. That effort is the current center of economic development activity in Delta County, uniting people from a variety of backgrounds, but also irritating others.

The 844 acres isn't very productive, in a conventional Western sense. At best, it could support a few cows. There is a messy, but small, mining operation on it. Some of the land is flat and grass-covered, but the majority is rocky and goes up and down. Although it doesn't look like big game country, there are elk and bighorn sheep in residence, as well as a rare plant known as the clay loving buckwheat. Elevation is about 5,000 feet, which means a little snow in the winter, beautiful springs and falls, but oven-like temperatures in the summer. You can see the mountains from this land, but it is definitely not in the mountains. Locally, the 844 acres is described as being out in the "dobies," in honor of its thick, clay-like soil.

But the tract has a great virtue: It borders several miles of the Gunnison and North Fork of the Gunnison rivers, including part of a gold medal trout stream — one of the most productive streams in the Rockies.

That stream was not always so productive. But construction of three dams upstream "reset" the river. The dams — Blue Mesa, Crystal and Morrow Point — became the Gunnison River's new headwaters, releasing cold, flowing mountain water. The trout moved out of their old home, now a reservoir, down into the dobies where the Gunnison has its confluence with the North Fork of the Gunnison.

In addition to a superb fishery, the land controls hiking access into the Black Canyon of the Gunnison — a spectacular canyon carved by the Gunnison River into Black Mesa.

Until 1988, the private land owned by William H. McCluskey at the rivers' confluence was open to public use, and fishermen and hikers used it in increasing numbers. But in spring 1988, negotiations between McCluskey and the Bureau of Land Management broke down, and McCluskey closed the property to the public and put it on the market. His closure, according to Colorado law, meant rafters could still float through his stretch, but could not anchor there. And fishermen and hikers were barred, closing that access into the Black Canyon.

Only \$224,000 to raise

The Delta County commissioners, fearing the land would be lost to the public, bought a six-month option for \$10,000. The option also opened the land to public use. It expired this winter, but was extended by McCluskey at no charge to June 9.

By then, the citizen group working with Delta County hopes to have the money needed to buy the land. The 844 acres were optioned at \$550/acre, for a

Leroy Jagodinski



Aerial view of the confluence: The Gunnison River, top, joins its North Fork, left.

total of \$464,000. But the owner has donated 200 acres, or \$110,000; the Bureau of Reclamation will chip in \$120,000, as mitigation for its upstream dams; and the county has already paid in \$10,000. That leaves Huerkamp and his Gunnison River Trust Fund with only \$224,000 to raise.

Some of that will be raised the last weekend in April, when fundraising events will be held at the confluence of the two rivers, with the help of Trout Unlimited chapters in Montrose and Grand Junction and the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce. The plans include a dinner and auction, along the lines of a Ducks Unlimited event, a dance by the Dorsey Brothers Band of Vern Byers, fly-tying demonstrations; archery demonstrations, and free spooling of new line onto spinning reels by two monofilament line manufacturers.

The effort has earned Delta County a large amount of publicity. The spring 1989 issue of *Colorado Trout Unlimited's Streamside* has a photo of Jimmy Carter with a trout, taken in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison last year. Inside is a story featuring the land-purchase effort. There have also been television and metro Denver newspaper stories.

High Country News hasn't written a

news story about the effort because of a conflict of interest — its publisher is on the six-person Gunnison River Trust Fund board. In addition to that, the land purchase drive still seems out of focus. Until recently, the several generations of Delta County commissioners we have known saw the county's hundreds of miles of rivers and streams as locations to be straightened, channelized and mined for gravel. To have the commissioners put themselves politically on the line to protect a natural resource violates everything we thought we knew.

Those interested in more information about the land purchase, or in making a tax-deductible contribution, can contact the Gunnison River Trust Fund, c/o Delta County Commissioners, Delta, CO 81416. Contributions are tax deductible, as are contributions of goods or services to the April 22 auction. Those interested in contributing to the auction can call the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce at 303/874-8616. Huerkamp can be reached at 303/874-8006.

Corrections

Photographer and freelancer writer Glenn Oakley wrote to ask us a question
(Continued on page 13)

ELEGY for Edward Abbey

I'd like to say that coyotes passed the word along,
that leafless willows dreamed it up the roots of cottonwood
and sage along each muddy stream. I'd like to say the Colorado
told the Green, the Escalante, the San Juan, that grief
rose up each tributary to the melting snow.

Or that he sat out on some overlook, apart,
the sunset flaring up behind a blue-dark roll of storm,
composed a final question as the gust-front tugged his sleeve
and caught a bolt — the years of pain condensed, a flash.
That thunder punched the windows out

In Bluff and Blanding, every door kicked open
with the blast, walls suddenly uncertain, fences hung and buried,
every shiny scrap discarded on the desert plucked and howling homeward
on that wind. That every moaning rimrock shuddered, wept
huge blocks of sandstone, pounding the tattoo.

I'd like to say the wished-for vultures carved
those long bones clean as limestone in the sight of sky.
If words are truth despite our eyes, then I'd say that. The father
of our grinning anger's gone; I never knew him better
than in song, the page turned in a thousand lights.

If empty beer cans all fill up with grace
then there's a heaven. Red sand drifts them full
beside the road, abolishes their names, buries them like books
with titles worn away by hands, a legacy mysterious
as strata, hidden and revealed: the holy land.

Pretty lies that please the heart are true
to that extent. The desert — no one's place — collects its patience,
love, indifference; we don't know. We know our loss, our desperation
when the burning space that hiked and pissed and laughed fills up
with air, when silence runs it through and through.

C.L. Rawlins

WESTERN ROUNDUP

EPA to Denver: Wake up and smell the coffee!

Denver, Colorado's giant Two Forks Dam received a crippling blow on March 24, when Environmental Protection Agency national administrator William Reilly ordered his Denver office to begin a veto of the project.

Reilly's decision — made against the recommendation of Denver regional administrator Jim Scherer — stunned environmentalists and water developers alike, and sent Denver politicians into an uproar.

Under the Clean Water Act's rules, the EPA veto process will take several months, and if confirmed will overturn the Army Corps of Engineers' permit approval and kill the \$500 million to \$1 billion dam.

In announcing the Two Forks decision at a Denver press conference, Scherer said Reilly's greatest concern was that less damaging alternatives, such as conservation, had not been fully developed, and that the Denver metropolitan area had not demonstrated a compelling need for the dam.

"The proposed project contemplates the destruction of an outstanding natural resource, Cheesman Canyon, to provide new water supplies for the Front Range of Colorado," Reilly said in a prepared statement. "I am not convinced that the project as proposed will avoid environmental harm to the extent practicable or that the proposed permit conditions will minimize or compensate for damage to fisheries, wildlife habitat and recreational areas... In sum, I do not believe this project meets the guidelines... of the Clean Water Act."

The EPA's decision came as a surprise, but the agency's concerns matched those of environmental and outdoor groups, which have argued for years that Two Forks is destructive, expensive and unnecessary. Those concerns were listed in a Jan. 30 letter to Reilly signed by leaders of the nation's nine largest environmental organizations. They asked Reilly, the former executive director of the Conservation Foundation, to intervene and reject the 615-foot-high dam.

Reilly was also under heavy pressure from project supporters, and, as one of his first acts in office, suspended the permit process until he could review the project. That kicked off an intensive lobbying effort by both sides, including a daily barrage of meetings, telephone interviews and political string-pulling that lasted right down to the day the final decision was announced.

"We think Reilly has shown an incredible amount of integrity and leadership... Everybody else in the decision-making process has passed the buck," says Carse Pustmueller, director of the National Audubon Society's Platte River Campaign. "The facts and the truth about Two Forks are finally outweighing the political muscle of the Denver Water Board."

"This is a message from the Bush administration," says Dan Luecke, a scientist with the Environmental Defense Fund's Boulder, Colo., office and one of the founders of the Environmental Caucus, a coalition of Colorado environmental groups that has fought Two Forks since its modern inception in 1981. "What this means from Bush is 'I really meant it when I said I was an environmentalist.'"

Colo. Sen. Bill Armstrong, R, has pressured Bush to change Reilly's decision; however, Bush said on March 31 that he would not intervene in the battle.

If the EPA veto is upheld (the agency has never dropped a veto once the process was started), it will mean a major victory for the Colorado and national environmental groups, as well as lovers of the South Platte River. "I can hear the funeral march from here," Luecke told the *Rocky Mountain News*. "We have at this point seen the end of the big dam era."

While seen as primarily a Denver battle, a Two Forks veto is also a big victory for downstream communities, rivers and wildlife in western Colorado and Nebraska.

"Hopefully it signals the end of the almost arrogant power of the Denver Water Board, that they don't have to consider anyone or anything but themselves," says Marv Ballantyne, former president of the Western Colorado Congress. "It's been a nasty situation on the Western Slope in the past. Whenever Denver wanted water they would just come and get it... Now it's a new era for Colorado."

Nebraskans also celebrated. The state has already lost 70 to 80 percent of the historic flow of the Platte River to upstream consumption, and the Two Forks dam would have dried up 116 miles of the Platte in drought years. Critics say the dam would have destroyed habitat for the endangered whooping crane, sandhill cranes and other migrating waterfowl, as well as the endangered least tern and threatened piping plover.

Sen. James Exon, D-Neb., who fought strenuously against Two Forks and last winter released internal EPA documents that said the dam would violate the Clean Water Act, says he was "especially pleased" by the EPA's action.

"I would hope the Denver water zealots and the Army Corps of Engineers would be more careful in the future before they rush into decisions where there is no environmental justification," Exon adds.

Two Forks backers, however, have refused to concede the battle. The day of the decision, Denver Water Board chairman Monte Pascoe and Denver Mayor Federico Peña held a joint press conference to denounce the EPA decision and encourage other public officials to join them in an effort to overturn it.

Pascoe told the *Rocky Mountain News* the decision should not have been made by a newly appointed federal official "who is not at all familiar with the record and the process that has gone on for these past eight years at a cost to local water entities in excess of \$40 million."

Colo. Gov. Roy Romer said he hoped the giant project could be salvaged and told the *News*, "I'm concerned about the consequences of this decision... I simply do not believe the federal government understands the conditions here."

Project backers and local politicians have little time to change the EPA's mind. Under the Clean Water Act, Two Forks proponents and the Corps of Engineers have 15 days — until April 7 — to consult with the EPA's Denver office and propose changes in the project or increase the mitigation.

Because Denver EPA administrator Scherer has said he would not be able to "in good conscience" reverse himself and recommend a veto, Reilly has brought in an outside arbitrator, Lee DeHihns, who is currently the agency's

deputy regional administrator in Atlanta, Ga.

If the negotiations don't satisfy DeHihns, he will publish a notice of intent to veto the dam in the *Federal Register*. He must then allow 30 to 60 days for public comment and may hold a public hearing. Then DeHihns will either withdraw the veto, or send the project record to Reilly at EPA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

There Reilly will meet with the assistant secretary of the Army in charge of the Corps of Engineers. Reilly then has 60 working days to affirm, deny or modify the veto.

Robert McWhinnie, executive director of the Metropolitan Water Providers — the coalition of 42 suburban governments that would have paid 80 percent of Two Forks' cost and used 80 percent of its water — says, "We think what happened to us was a purely political decision, not based on the facts and not based on EPA regulations. We think we're being denied due process," McWhinnie told the *Denver Post*.

McWhinnie also questioned the legitimacy of Reilly's intervention in the process, noting that according to EPA procedures, a veto begins at the regional level, not at the top. Denver Water Board lawyers have accused the EPA of changing the rules in midstream and are currently poring over the agency's documents to determine whether the agency has violated its regulations.

The Two Forks veto will toss a monkey wrench into some Denver leaders' and developers' plans for future growth, and they have predicted dire consequences as a result.

"Rejection of Two Forks will have a devastating impact on the Denver metropolitan area," Pascoe said at the press conference. "The effects from something like this aren't felt in a day or a month, but we are now in a terrible dilemma." Pascoe added that Denver may have to sacrifice its green image and resort to rate increases, tougher lawn watering restrictions and limits on water taps for new homes, reports AP. Pascoe also said the veto may start a new round of water wars in Colorado that could lead to smaller but more damaging projects on other rivers in the state, including the Gunnison, Arkansas, Cache La Poudre, St. Vrain and Rio Grande.

McWhinnie argues the veto will also destroy any opportunity for cooperation among local governments in the Denver metropolitan area. "Cooperation on water in the metro area is tied to Two Forks and continued cooperation in the metro area is tied to us having an adequate water supply."

He says the veto will start cutthroat competition among suburbs for growth, and public perceptions of the \$1 billion water project will soon change. "If we get a drought from this continued warm weather, there will be a water crisis. There will be such a shortage that there will be a public demand that we build Two Forks."

Colo. Sen. Bill Armstrong warns that the veto may start a rush on agricultural water, turning rural Colorado counties into deserts and causing the collapse of small communities and the state's agricultural economy.

"The portrait painted by the other side is not very flattering to them," Luecke told the *Post*. "They are the people they say will be doing all these horrible things."



More Two Forks Dam stories on pages 14, 15

Colorado Sen. Tim Wirth argues that the effects of the veto will be healthy for Colorado. "There are going to be some greater efficiencies in usage. It puts a premium on conservation and efficiency," he told the *Post*.

While the Denver Water Board says there is not enough water to share, environmentalists argue there is plenty of water, both in existing diversion projects and in aquifers, if it is shared and used efficiently.

However, they say that getting the Denver Water Department to cooperate may prove difficult. Rocky Smith, an organizer with the Colorado Environmental Coalition who put together much of the grass-roots opposition to the dam during last spring's public hearings, says, "The Denver Water Department, being the power mongering institution that it is, is likely to make good on their threats until everybody gets nervous again and there is a big clamoring for Two Forks."

So far the threat has moderated, from Pascoe's threat before the EPA decision that Denver wouldn't share a drop, to his recent statement that the agency would agree only to share on a year-by-year basis. Walter Jessel, chair of the Environmental Caucus, says the water board's water and water rights are too plentiful and valuable for the agency to hold out for ever.

Jessel says the water board's threats may be hurting it. The threats, he says, will force the suburbs to band together, and they won't need Denver anymore.

That may already be happening. The city of Aurora and Arapahoe County, which have been battling in court over rights to water in the upper Gunnison basin, have announced they may try to settle their differences out of court.

Jessel says Pascoe's anger is now damaging the image of Denver. "While Romer is trying everything he can to attract business to Denver, he is being undercut by this petulance." Jessel notes now that Two Forks won't be built, the Denver Water Department has an enormous kitty in its bank accounts that won't be spent on the dam and could be spent on education, mass transit or other public works. "The people of Denver will now have to re-assess what this water board's function should be," says Jessel.

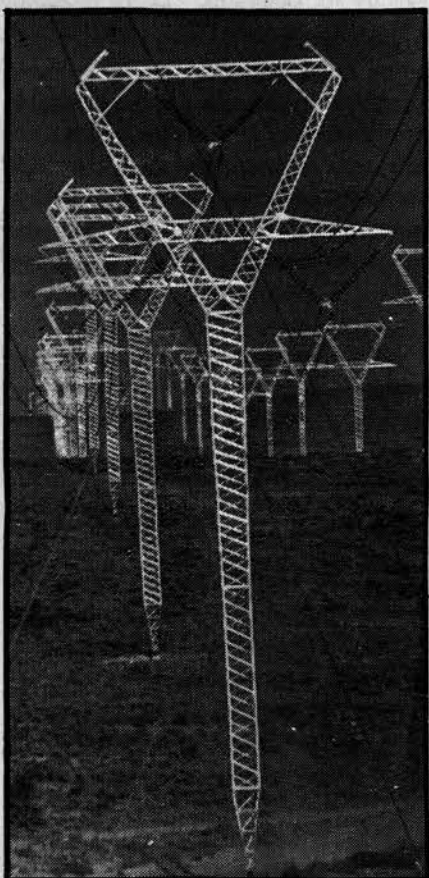
"With the defeat of Two Forks it's going to be an extremely complicated game," he adds. "It will change everything."

— Steve Hinchman

HOTLINE

MacDonald isn't out, yet

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — For 10 weeks, embattled Navajo Chairman Peter MacDonald has out-maneuvered the majority of the Navajo Tribal Council in its efforts to put him on paid leave. But the council may have finally hit MacDonald where it hurts — in the tribal checkbook. Control of the tribe has rested on who controls the money and tribal police. MacDonald retains control of the police, but the majority council recently seized control of the tribal bank account. When Citibank agreed to remove MacDonald's signature authority from the tribe's checking account and replace it with interim Chairman Leonard Haskie's, MacDonald countered by reporting stolen checks and calling in the FBI, which shut down a tribal administration building. The council continues to push MacDonald to vacate his office because of allegations raised in Senate testimony that he accepted bribes and kickbacks as chairman of the nation's largest Indian tribe.



Power to the Northwest

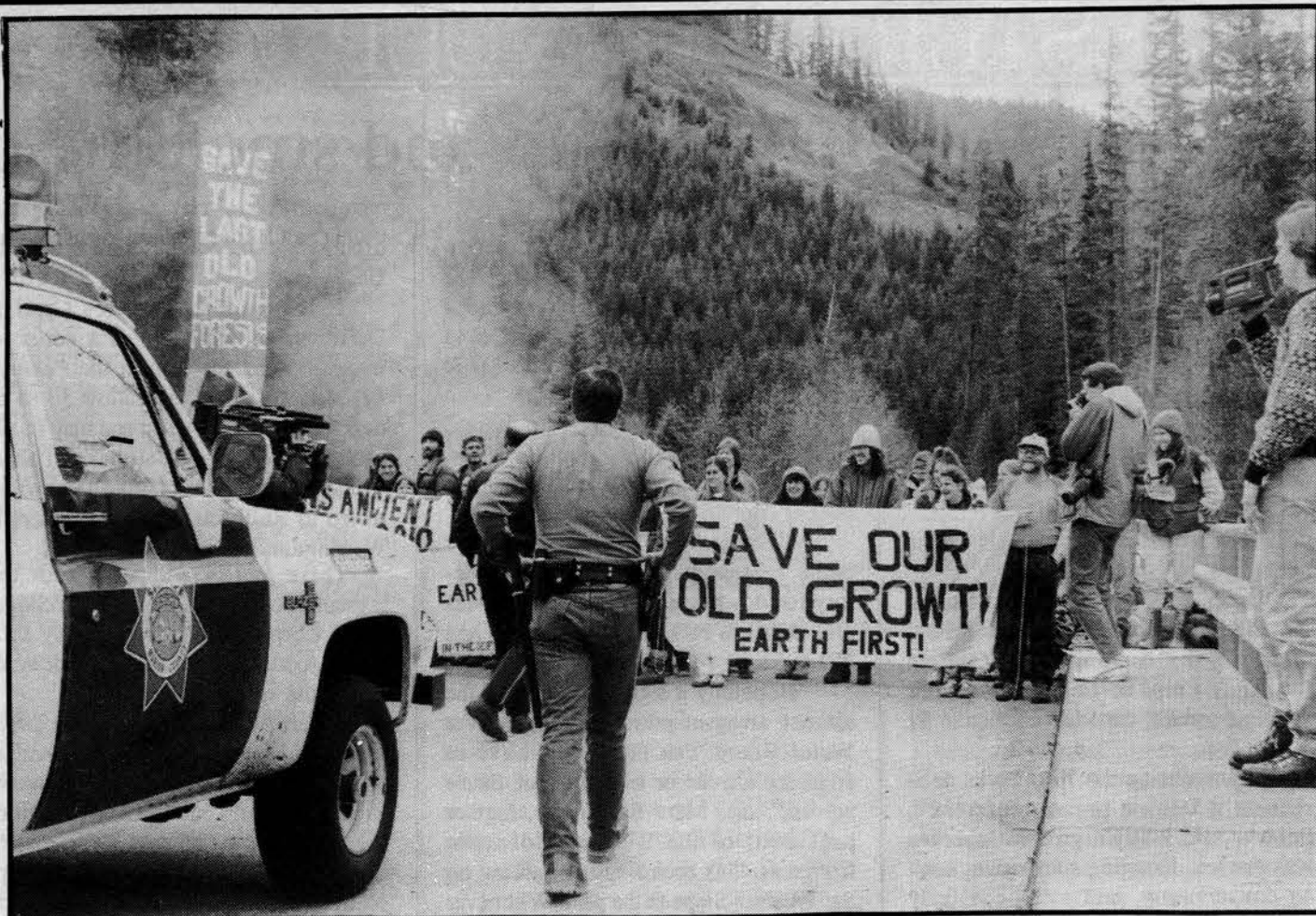
In the Pacific Northwest new power plants may be needed sooner than expected. The Northwest Power Planning Council, which plans energy needs for Washington, Oregon, Idaho and western Montana, is updating its 1986 plan to take into account five possible growth scenarios for the region. If population and industrial growth remain unchanged, conservation measures will preclude the need for new plants. But moderate growth, the more likely scenario, will create a need for new plants as early as 1992, and new plants will be needed before 1992, if growth is higher than expected, reports AP. In the 1986 power plan, new plants in this category were coal and nuclear, both considered environmentally troublesome. According to Wally Gibson of the Northwest Power Planning Council, the global warming issue is forcing the council to consider solutions such as wind turbines.

BARBS

To live and (not) learn.

The Idaho House of Representatives, by a 69-3 vote, supports the rebuilding of Teton Dam. The first Teton Dam collapsed in 1976 as it was being filled for the first time.

Phillip Renault



Police head toward old-growth protesters in Oregon

Despite protests, loggers win in Oregon

Loggers worked through a holiday weekend to beat protestors to a stand of ancient trees in the Oregon Cascades.

Despite a wild week of demonstrations, arrests and legal maneuvers, the old growth of the North Roaring Devil timber sale came down, in what conservationists dubbed "The Easter Massacre."

Set between the rustic hot springs retreat community of Breitenbush and the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, the grove of 200-foot-high Douglas firs, cedars and hemlocks has been a scene of dispute since October 1986, when Bugaboo Timber Company began logging the first of three timber sales there. Protests, court challenges and an early snow temporarily halted the logging, but in the summer of 1987, 28 acres were clearcut.

Then, two weeks ago, on March 23, the Forest Service notified residents of Breitenbush that logging on the other 33 acres would begin immediately. The following morning, snowmobiles shuttled loggers to the area, which was still buried under snow.

The move caught conservationists by surprise, much as a similar Easter logging in nearby Millenia Grove did in 1986. Just three months ago, says Wendell Wood of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, the Forest Service had reported that North Roaring Devil would not be logged until the "spring thaw permits." On Feb. 2, says Wood, the Oregon council had requested a court injunction to prevent the logging, but given the Forest Service's words, didn't request a quick decision. "In hindsight," he says, "we should have pressed."

On Good Friday and Saturday, loggers worked unimpeded, but by Easter Sunday morning, a few dozen protestors had built a bonfire on a bridge over the Breitenbush river, strewn boulders and logs along the road, and buried one of their members, Leo Hund, in a three-foot-high stone wall. After some amiable debate, the loggers returned home. Thirteen protestors were arrested, taken to Marion County jail in Salem, cited and released.

By Monday morning, the protestors had set up several barricades across the road, but the Forest Service was ready for them. A front-end loader plowed through the ramparts, leading a line of vehicles that carried loggers to the site,

where cutting resumed. Two chainsaws were damaged, one was stolen and nine more people were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

Tuesday, the protestors altered tactics, "parking cars every which way across the road, pulling a few innocent wires and getting some stuck in the ditch," according to one participant. A small pickup was overturned in the middle of the road, leading to the second arrest of Leo Hund, despite his protestations that the "accident" was caused by an icy boulder. Loggers were delayed while they righted the pickup, carried some cars out of the way and waited for tow trucks to remove a dozen vehicles to distant yards from which their owners later retrieved them for \$80 each.

Wednesday was quiet except for the sound of the chainsaws, but Thursday saw more rock barricades across the road, including one containing two people cabled together. Up the road at the cutting site, five people locked themselves together with cryptonite bike locks, and a locksmith had to be called from Salem, some 65 miles away. A road grader was found with a fire extinguisher emptied into its crankcase, necessitating an oil change, and two flat tires. Eight more arrests were made, but logging resumed by afternoon.

Meanwhile, attorneys for the Oregon Council had been seeking an immediate injunction against the logging, first in U.S. District Court in Portland, then in U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Both requests were denied, and by the end of the week most of the trees had been felled.

Spokesmen for the Forest Service denied there was anything peculiar about logging in the snow. But one admitted, it's "somewhat unusual" for crews to work over a holiday weekend.

The action, which attracted cameras and microphones from several national news shows, may be the last in the area for a little while. Two recent court injunctions have tied up sales of almost 30 percent of this year's planned timber harvest on public lands in western Oregon and Washington. The injunctions, which cover areas near northern spotted owl nests, will remain in place until cases against two federal agencies' forest management plans are heard in U.S. District Courts. A case against the BLM is scheduled to begin in Portland on April 24, and one against the Forest Service in Seattle on June 13.

— Jim Stiak

Bush selects new BLM head

It looks like the U.S. Bureau of Land Management may be headed by an aide to conservative Rep. Ron Marlenee, R-Mont.

Cy Jamison, 39, a former Billings city councilman who once held several low-ranking jobs in the local BLM office, is undergoing an FBI background check before his appointment is sent to the Senate for confirmation.

Marlenee, long a George Bush political ally, last month pushed Jamison onto the administration's "short list" of candidates to head the nation's largest land management agency. BLM has authority over 300 million acres of public land and issues permits for coal and mineral mining and on-shore oil leasing. It also oversees the wild horse and burro program.

The pick is not a popular one among all Westerners. "Jamison is far off on one end of the political spectrum, on the pro-

commodity, anti-wilderness point of view," said Michael Scott, director of the Wilderness Society Northern Rockies region.

Jamison is "a good choice," said Patty McDonald, public lands director for the National Cattleman's Association in Washington, D.C. "He is a Westerner and understands the importance of multiple land use. We have worked with Cy on a lot of things."

Jamison graduated from Eastern Montana College in Billings with a B.S. degree in 1971. He started his career with BLM in 1970 as a fire control technician, and before joining Marlenee was employed as a public information assistant in the Montana BLM state office.

If his appointment is confirmed, he would replace Colorado rancher Bob Burford, who resigned recently.

— Pat Dawson

A New Mexico town fears the nation will dump on it

The quiet town of Lordsburg in southwestern New Mexico bills itself as the "Gateway to the Old West." But Mayor Clark Smith is concerned that it may soon be known as the "Gateway to Garbage."

Lordsburg has been proposed as the site for what might be the nation's largest private garbage landfill — 23,800 acres. Mayor Smith and the residents of Lordsburg are hopping mad about the idea as the town's municipal well is adjacent to and down grade from the proposed dump.

"I've never seen the people of Lordsburg and Hidalgo County fired up like this before over any issue," says the mayor. "We had no idea this was coming; we found out about it by opening up the *El Paso Times* on January 21 and seeing a story printed there. It's an all-out declared war — the people versus a corporation out to make money."

Although dump proponents have been running full-page ads in all the local papers to win support, the mayor says he has asked city attorneys to begin looking into a lawsuit. Local residents recently formed a group called Citizens Against Lordsburg Landfills, and the Luna County Commission passed a resolution against the dump. "We're not just going to lie down and let this ride over us," the mayor says.

Lordsburg, a traditional Western community of 3,100, is primarily a ranching and farming center for the surrounding region. But there is also a new winery outside town, a pre-fab housing factory, and a geothermal rose gardening operation.

A new motel and restaurant cater to tourists whizzing along I-10, which passes directly through the landfill site as well as the town itself. Nearby is the Phelps Dodge smelter and the Tyrone copper mine. Lordsburg is hardly a hot bed of environmental activists; it is concerned about jobs, its youth and its image as a clean and attractive place to live. Mayor Smith says dump officials tout the jobs the new industry will create, "but our people are working — we're not economically distressed," he points out.

"This is not the answer to anyone's economic problems," he adds. "Garbage is not an industry we'll support. Things are starting to happen here economically and we don't want to ruin it. 'Don't dump on us!' has become our rallying cry."

The landfill proposal was hatched by the Driggs Corp. of Baltimore, one of the nation's largest earth-moving companies. They plan to use some 8,000 acres of the site for actual dumping and the rest as a "buffer" zone. The land is to be purchased from a Mexican cattle company and a local rancher — at three times its market value. The dump would be run by a New Mexico-based company, Innovative Environmental Systems.

Don Smith, a spokesman for dump proponents, says 20,000 tons of garbage would arrive daily at the site by railcar, coming mostly from eastern states.

Targeting Lordsburg as the nation's largest dump points to New Mexico's vulnerability to such projects. The state has no licensing procedure or regulations regarding landfills. The sole stipulation that must be met in the application process is that the dump site be at least 20 feet above the water table. Even this regulation has not been strictly enforced in New Mexico. If the state followed federal requirements for waste disposal, nearly 75 percent of roughly 230 registered landfills in the state would have to close.

The result is that New Mexico may be setting itself up for trouble:

- 1.5 million tons of waste is generated locally every year;
- 90 percent of its drinking water is drawn directly from local wells;
- Permit applications are pending for several other huge new landfills besides the Lordsburg dump.

Several bills were introduced in the last session of the Legislature to bring landfills under state and local controls

One bill would have banned importation of garbage until the state entered into interstate compacts with other states for solid waste disposal. Another would have slapped a moratorium on permits for any new dumps until the state came up with stringent regulations and a licensing process. Another bill carried the actual regulations and means of such a process. And yet another would have established a legal defense fund for small communities to oppose landfill proposals. The three latter bills had been introduced by Senator Roman Maes, D-Santa Fe.

Maes said before all the bills failed or were vetoed (see story below): "I'm

very concerned that New Mexico might become the trash can of the nation. Other states are eyeing New Mexico as a convenient and cheap place to dispose of their refuse. If this happens, kiss off any form of economic development based on tourism."

Not all his colleagues agree. Sen. Les Houston, R-Bernalillo, says that to close state borders to trash from other states is "unneighborly." New Mexico is blessed with many "outstanding" sites for dumps, he points out. "It's as if the man upstairs made it for that purpose." As for crippling the state's tourism with a plethora of dumps, Houston says that the sites are so isolated that "if a tourist is out there, we ought to have a search party looking for him."

The application for a Lordsburg dump permit was filed by Ike Smalley, an active lawyer and retired state senator who spent 38 years representing the county adjacent to Lordsburg. Two years ago, while still a senator, he supported a study of methods for reducing the state's solid waste generation. "Opening new landfills is not the solution," he said at the time.

Q: Won't this be an eyesore to the community?

A: No. To drive by the site, no one would know the area contained a landfill...

Innovative Environmental Systems of New Mexico Inc., P.O. Box 548, Lordsburg, NM 88045

Taken from a full page ad in local papers paid for by Innovative Environmental Systems of New Mexico, Lordsburg, N.M.

His change of heart may cost him dearly. Mayor Smith says New Mexicans "will never remember him now for all the good things he did for us over the years. When they think of Ike, they'll think of this dump."

In the meantime, the state, in its review of the Lordsburg site, found it was composed of alluvial fill, "not generally favorable for landfills," and that it is immediately "adjacent to and up-gradient from the city wells ... the sole source of the city's water."

— Daniel Gibson

A divided New Mexico buries landfill bill

Nobody involved in New Mexico's garbage issue has much good to say about the state's landfill regulations. State officials say they're among the weakest in the country. They don't even allow the state to reject a landfill application.

But after more than two months of debate, intense lobbying and political theatrics in the state Legislature, weak rules appear likely to remain for at least another year.

Gov. Garrey Carruthers' March 17 veto of what appeared to be a tough, popular bill makes it unclear how the state will deal with Driggs Corp., whose proposed landfill would take out-of-state garbage (see accompanying story).

The bill had passed both houses of the Democratic-controlled Legislature by bipartisan majorities. It had the support or at least non-opposition of virtually every affected interest group in the state.

Environmentalists cried foul when Carruthers vetoed the bill on what he said were constitutional and technical grounds. They were particularly upset that the governor's top environmental aides in the state's Environmental Improvement Division had quietly cooperated with the Legislature in drafting the bill, only to have a top lawyer for the division — Louis Rose — submit to the governor a memo criticizing the bill on the morning of the veto.

The squabble was only the latest in a long list of partisan fights between the governor and Legislature. It began last November when voters gave the Democrats five new state Senate seats and 26-16 control of the Senate, after the governor had campaigned hard to elect Republicans.

This year, the Senate refused to confirm Carruthers' controversial appointment of Carla Muth as secretary of the Health and Environment Department. Republicans accused Democrats of hiring too many new legislative staff members, Democrats accused Carruthers of giving too many state jobs to his 1986 Republican supporters, and Carruthers vetoed the state's budget after the Legislature passed it.

But everyone in both parties seemed

to want a garbage bill to combat the state's reputation as a dumping ground. Even without the Lordsburg landfill, New Mexico already had the sixth largest number of garbage dumps in the country, the environmental group Renew America found in a survey.

About 10 percent of the dumps have taken hazardous wastes, one has polluted groundwater, and the state classifies three others as potential or suspected polluters.

In early March, Senate Democratic leader, Manny Aragon, delighted colleagues by singing a ditty to the tune of Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York."

*"Start spreading the waste
It's coming your way
Do you want to be a part of it —
The waste, the waste?
We're going to wake up in a state
that always stinks
And find we're A-No. 1 king of the
dumps, top of the heap..."*

Maes' Senate bill, which Carruthers vetoed, would have given the state the right to impose a fee of up to \$50 per ton on garbage imported from out of state or across solid waste district lines within the state. That would have made it too expensive to haul East Coast garbage to New Mexico, said Driggs' attorney, Ike Smalley of Deming.

A companion set of regulations that the State Environmental Improvement Board had approved would require new landfills to prove they won't pollute groundwater. That, too, could have been a tough obstacle for Driggs. At least some of the landfill area lies atop highly porous sand deposits, and a neighbor's well hits water at only 125 feet deep, although the company plans to install a clay liner.

But the state constitution requires the government to provide money to cities and counties to carry out the state's new regulations. The money for those rules was in the bill Carruthers vetoed. Without the money, a court challenge to the regulations appears likely.

After his veto, the governor said he'll impose a one-year moratorium on

new landfills to give the Legislature time to draft a new law. But Don Sanchez, representing Driggs' subsidiary Innovative Environmental Systems Inc., said his company might challenge it in court.

The governor contended the \$50 fee could have discriminated against out-of-state companies, because in-state companies probably wouldn't ship across district lines and pay the fee. He said the requirement that all landfills get permits could have shut every existing dump in the state. No permit system exists now.

But attorney Doug Meiklejohn of the New Mexico Environmental Law Center replied it was ludicrous to think a judge would shut down a landfill and allow garbage to pile up on Albuquerque's streets.

"It was a real surprise to us to have the governor veto the bill. Things get so crazy toward the end of the session that any kind of delay made it impossible to get to all the bills," said Lynda Taylor, a veteran lobbyist for the New Mexico Conservation Voters Alliance.

A few hours after the veto, an override attempt failed on a party-line vote. Then, state legislative staffers and Democratic Rep. Gary King, of rural central New Mexico, stayed up all night drafting a compromise acceptable to Carruthers.

A new bill rolled off the copying machine at 11:30 a.m., a half hour before the session was to end March 18. But the Senate's Democratic leader, Aragon, refused to allow the bill on the floor as the clock ran out.

Perhaps the most dramatic partisan moment of the debate came a day earlier, when freshman Republican Sen. Bill Davis of Albuquerque explained his "no" vote on the override by saying "Remember Carla."

Later, he said the statement did not mean he was retaliating against the Democrats for refusing to confirm Muth. He said he was trying to remind them how anguished he and other Republicans felt earlier in the session when their pleas to the Democrats to confirm Muth went unheeded.

— Tony Davis

HOTLINE



Bison backlash bits Montana

"How the state can encourage idiot hunters at \$200 a head to murder the placid buffalo in search of food is incomprehensible to me," writes Pat Olmut of Tucson. Rita Scholl of New York writes, "Cross Montana off my list of places to visit. This is disgusting." These protests and hundreds more were received by agencies in Montana over the recent killing of 557 bison that strayed into Montana in search of food. A controlled hunt of bison leaving Yellowstone National Park was sanctioned by the state to prevent the spread of brucellosis to cattle. State officials say that the public perceives the hunt as genocide because they have only been given part of the story. Although more than half of Yellowstone's northern herd have been killed, approximately 1,800 remain in the park's southern herd. According to Rich Day, executive director of the Montana Wildlife Federation, the mild winters of the past five years and the fact that no hunting is allowed in Yellowstone have allowed the herds to expand. "People think Yellowstone has an invisible fence around it." The wandering bison, he says, "are looking for a new home. The animals are a symptom of the fact that there's not enough winter range." A long range solution, he says, would be for the state to buy up habitat around the park to accommodate the growing population.

BARBS

Maybe a signal wasn't really necessary.

A New Mexico high school resumed distributing birth-control pills after 12 girls became pregnant during a three-month hiatus. The halt was initiated by some parents who complained that giving out birth control "sent a signal to students that it was OK to have sex."

Group scores hit on Air Force proposal

Downwinders, a Salt Lake City-based watchdog group, has accused the Air Force of withholding information about the impact of a proposed electronic test range in the West Desert.

Steve Erickson of Downwinders says his criticism is based on an 84-page draft report written by the Air Force last April. He won't say how he acquired it in late February, but Air Force officials say the report is a draft, is now obsolete, and was never meant for public release.

The Air Force wants to expand the Utah Test and Training Range west of Salt Lake City to test fighter pilots in mock electronic warfare, simulating the heavy concentration of electromagnetic signals likely to be found during battle.

Several public scoping meetings about the \$3-billion Electronic Combat Test Capability project were held last fall, but Erickson says government officials were not frank in those hearings.

Impacts they did not discuss include: the use of live bombs in the tests, new supersonic flight corridors that would also increase the number of flights, miles of fiber optic cable that will be laid linking the electronic targets, and more night flights.

Downwinders, which fought against plans to base the MX in Utah several years ago, had been trying to get documents such as the draft report for months through the Freedom of Information Act. The *Deseret News* in Utah had also requested the report last November but never received it.

No Air Force official or employee leaked the report to him, Erickson says. "It was a guy I had never heard of before. I don't know how he got his hands on it. He told me over the phone that to his knowledge there were only two copies of it outside the Department of Defense. I didn't ask him how he got it."

There are no markings on the document indicating distribution or classification. "Had it been marked 'classified' of course I wouldn't have touched it," Erickson says.

The "Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives" was dated April 12, 1988. It was written by the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

"There is some hot stuff in there," Erickson says, "and that's what's making the Air Force sweat."

The report says the land needed to set up targets would be 15 miles by 70 miles. Each "threat site" is a concrete pad 100 by 100 feet. There will be 10 sites per cluster, each about a half-mile from its neighbor. Plans call for 10 such clusters. Airspace needed would be 40 by 130 miles, with altitudes from 100 to 58,000 feet in the restricted zone.

The Air Force signed a "memorandum of understanding" with Utah in 1979, agreeing to inform the state about activities that affect Utah. State government officials did not have the 86-page draft until Erickson told them it existed.

Exactly who knew what and when about the report is difficult to determine, however. Bud Scruggs, Utah Gov. Norm Bangerter's chief of staff, said while he and the governor were unaware of the April report, Air Force officials told him that Randy Moon, the state's science advisor, had seen it.

Since Moon was on a family vacation out of state at the time and not available for comment, Scruggs could not explain why Moon had not told the governor of the document.

Then Scruggs said on March 16 in a telephone interview that "the Air Force

has really put us in an awkward position because as it turns out, they have kept us updated on that draft study. But they won't allow us to release it or discuss it."

Scruggs says he told an Air Force official that the document now being widely circulated is not marked "for official use only" or otherwise restricted. "And he said, 'Well, that's unfortunate,'" Scruggs recounted.

"They called me and told me the document is totally out of date," he said. "In fact, they said, 'your science advisor has received four updated versions of it.' And I said, 'Great. Let's call a press conference and talk about the most current version.' And they said, 'That's against federal law.'"

On March 17, the *Salt Lake Tribune* reported that Gov. Bangerter had been briefed and remained supportive of the project. A joint press release from the governor's office and Air Force a week later said that negotiations between the two were going smoothly.

The release also quoted Bangerter: "However, our enthusiasm for this project does not in any way alter our commitment to protecting the health and safety of our people and our environment. We look forward to an open and thorough public hearing process where these and other concerns can be fully and fairly discussed."

Berry Webster, director of Air Space Management and Government Affairs for Hill Air Force Base, says Erickson's conclusions after reading the draft report were inaccurate.

- On increased night flights: "You're going to see that happen in the range, but it has nothing to do with the Electronic Combat Test Capability ... It has to do with F-16s getting a different piece of equipment."

- On the use of live ordnance: "We

drop live ordnance on DOD (Department of Defense) property frequently now," he says. "Even if Mr. Erickson is successful in stopping the ECTC, we will continue to do that."

- On new supersonic flight corridors: "At this point in time our position is that we will establish no new supersonic areas," he said. "We will fly subsonic through those three valleys, the one we want to use (Tule) and the two alternatives. We have no plans to make those supersonic. Period."

- On digging up the desert floor to lay fiber optics: "It came out in the scoping hearings that we were going to be laying fiber optic cables," he said. "That's no secret." Cables will be laid parallel to existing roads.

Webster said many reports have been written about the project, some very preliminary. "With anything the size of ECTC," he says, "there could have been 25 reports or pieces of documentation last April. A lot of effort goes into this thing. What comes out at the end is something very much different from those early reports."

In a telephone interview, Hill Air Force Base spokesman Dick Hector said the April 1988 draft reflected only a few people's opinions. "Each subsequent version tries to narrow in to that proposed action," he said. Eventually a final draft proposal will be "folded in" with an environmental impact statement, he says.

The draft EIS will be completed in the last week of June, after which the Air Force will schedule hearings.

—Ken Rand

The writer works for the *Millard County Chronicle Progress* in Delta, Utah, where part of the proposed electronic test range would be based.

DRAFT ELECTRONIC COMBAT TEST CAPABILITY AT THE UTAH TEST AND TRAINING RANGE



DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS
AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION CENTER
KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO

EDITION 1.0
12 APRIL 1988

DRAFT

Utah slams gates shut on hazardous waste

The Utah Legislature has just yanked back the welcome mat it had laid out in 1987 and 1988 for the hazardous waste industry.

Until this spring, the hazardous waste industry understood it was welcome in Utah. Fifteen incinerators were proposed for the state in 1987-1988, although the total amount of waste generated by Utah industry could only fill 54 percent of one of them (*HCN*, 1/2/89). The rest of the waste was to come to Utah from states such as California, which rigidly control disposal within their borders.

The five bills recently passed in this Legislature represent a complete change of direction in state policy. Before 1989, the Legislature treated the hazardous waste industry as an absolute good, with most laws limiting rather than strengthening regulations. For example, 1987 and 1988 laws hamstrung the state bureaucracy, forbidding it to use any but the narrowest technical criteria in judging hazardous waste incinerator and landfill applications. State officials were not authorized to perform background checks on applicants.

The five 1989 bills are various in their approach and method, but they have one thing in common: They should prevent industries from leaving liability for pollution of air, land and water with the public. Three are aimed directly at hazardous waste industry landfills and incinerators; two deal with the funding of environmental cleanup projects.

However desirable the five bills (SB124, HB243, HB339, HB37 and SB189) may be, they were not examples of democracy in action. Most were introduced without accurate public information beforehand, and all passed through the Legislature rapidly. Neither industry nor environmentalists could figure out where a bill was most of the time, much less testify at hearings for or against it. All were introduced and handled by the established Republican leadership, and not by the Legislature's new blood.

The roots of the legislative initiative lay in public controversy. Republican legislative leaders Rep. Joe Moody and Sen. Cary Peterson had been through a baptism of fire over the Rollins Inc., incinerator proposed for Millard County. Constituents heatedly told them about

holes in the state's hazardous waste regulations, and the difference between Rollins' sales pitch and its record of literally thousands of violations at facilities in other states.

Other incidents in the state reinforced the Rollins example. The referendum defeat of the incinerator planned for Grand County (Moab), Utah, with the accompanying defeat of two incumbent county commissioners who had supported it, added to the pressure. Public testimony on proposed new regulations and the difficulties in cleaning up existing environmental messes, such as an underground gasoline leak in Moab, kept the problem before the public and the Legislature.

The result of this pressure and the leadership's iron control of the Legislature was the five bills. Among other things, the bills increased dumping, or tippage, fees; allowed the state to deny

permits to applicants with a bad history elsewhere; allowed the refusal of a permit application if the secretary of the Committee on Solid and Hazardous Waste finds that the state does not have the staff to process the application; reserved to the state Legislature the right to reject any permit; created a state superfund; and created a compulsory state insurance pool funded by owner-operators of underground storage tanks.

These bills are reinforced by the hazardous waste facility siting criteria adopted on Dec. 16, 1988, by the Utah Committee on Solid and Hazardous Waste. They are the most stringent in the United States by a factor of five. In combination, the new laws and regulations appear to propel Utah to a leadership position on hazardous waste.

—Lance Christie

Burr Trail battle heads for court again

The battle over the Burr Trail in southern Utah is about to end up in court, again. After reviewing a recently released environmental assessment, BLM officials issued a "Finding of No Significant Impact" that approves a Garfield County proposal to widen and pave the first 14 miles of the controversial road. The agency's decision says environmental effects of improving the road are not serious enough to require an environmental impact statement. That decision won't go unchallenged, says a coalition of environmentalists fighting the project.

The fight over the Burr Trail has been in front of Utah's environmental news for several years. The battle is between Garfield County officials who hope that paving the road will boost the local tourist economy and conservationists who say the road will threaten archaeological sites, wildlife and wilderness values (*HCN*, 12/21/87).

The 66-mile Burr Trail twists through slickrock canyons and plateaus between the towns of Boulder and Bullfrog, passing through Capitol Reef National Park and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The section at issue is a 28-mile stretch between Boulder and the park.

Four conservation groups sued to halt the project in 1987, and at that time obtained an injunction prohibiting construction on the 28 miles. Last summer a 14-mile road segment was released by federal Judge Aldon Anderson in District Court. The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the BLM to prepare an environmental assessment for the remaining 14 miles to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. But environmentalists charge that the BLM's recent environmental assessment is inadequate and misleading, and that the agency's approval of the roadwork was illegal. Terri Martin, staffer for the National Parks and Conservation Association, says the Bureau of Land Management ignored a study commissioned by Garfield County that cited significant impacts from paving the road.

In addition, says Martin, the BLM's document was based on a 1985 National Park Service environmental assessment that was written for a different project than the one proposed by Garfield County. The BLM added its own 10-page supplement.

According to Martin, the Park Service document analyzed a proposal from Park Service Director William Mott to turn the road over to the Park Service and pave only limited, steep sections. In contrast, the county's proposal would widen and sometimes move sections of the road, pave a continuous 14-mile strip, and leave the road under the domain of the BLM.

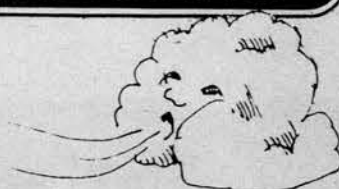
"The BLM's supplement does not adequately cover this project," Martin charges. "Instead, it is a contorted effort to circumvent the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and avoid an accurate assessment of eventually paving the road."

Dave Everett, a staffer in the Cedar City BLM office, says, "From our perspective the document and the supplement cover the general things they were supposed to." Everett added, "We are not in an environmental impact statement process, so rules about supplementing a document are much more liberal."

Everett said he received over 350 letters of comment on the draft environmental assessment, most stating that the road improvements were inappropriate. "We do consider public input and this has been a difficult process ... but there was no way that we could come to a conclusion that the county's proposal would cause enough impact to require an EIS."

Lawson Legate of the Utah Sierra Club says the issue will go back to court,

HOTLINE



Blowing in the wind

Montana suffered the worst wind erosion in nine years during January and February, reports the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Winds that reached speeds of 100 miles per hour scoured away snow and dry topsoil during nearly 300 hours of severe winds, closing highways and damaging almost 1.4 million acres. Glacier County in the northwest portion of the state reported the most damage, totaling 480,000 acres. Soil Conservation Service offices estimate that over 2.2 million additional acres are "in a condition to blow," meaning those acres also may be damaged if more high winds occur.

probably on the grounds that the BLM has violated the 1976 Federal Lands Policy and Management Act. It charges the agency to prevent any "undue and unnecessary degradation" of public lands under its domain. "The finding is almost begging to be appealed," says Legate. "We have had to compel the BLM to uphold NEPA along every step of the way; we are just continuing that process."

Garfield County officials, however, were exuberant at the BLM's finding. Commissioner Tom Hatch says, "It's been a long battle. This is the first time anyone has prevailed in a major battle with the environmentalists, and we're thrilled the way it has turned out." The county hopes a hearing will be held in early April to try to dissolve the injunction.

In another recent blow to conservationists, Judge Anderson ruled that the environmentalists must pay their own legal fees generated by the lawsuit. The groups sought \$143,000 in attorney fees and another \$30,000 for related costs from the government. That decision also may be appealed to the 10th Circuit Court, says Martin. Under federal law the judge can award legal costs "if you demonstrate that the government hasn't done what it is supposed to do," she adds, "and we believe it hasn't."

Ultimately, the scope of the prolonged conflict is more than just whether to pave 14 miles of road, say the environmentalists. "This isn't nit-picking environmentalism," says Martin. "It is an issue that goes beyond the Burr Trail. It's an issue of the BLM not obeying the law and not fully assessing and mitigating environmental impacts like they are supposed to." Mike Medberry from the Wilderness Society adds, "What is really at stake here is the millions of miles of wildlands around the Burr Trail that paving will open up. It's a battle against the incremental development of the Colorado Plateau."

—Gingy Anderson

BARBS

Learn new facts! Work in Washington, D.C., for the president.

"One isn't expected to know everything right away," said Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan about his belated discovery of federal mining rules: "We don't get any royalties? We don't get any money?"



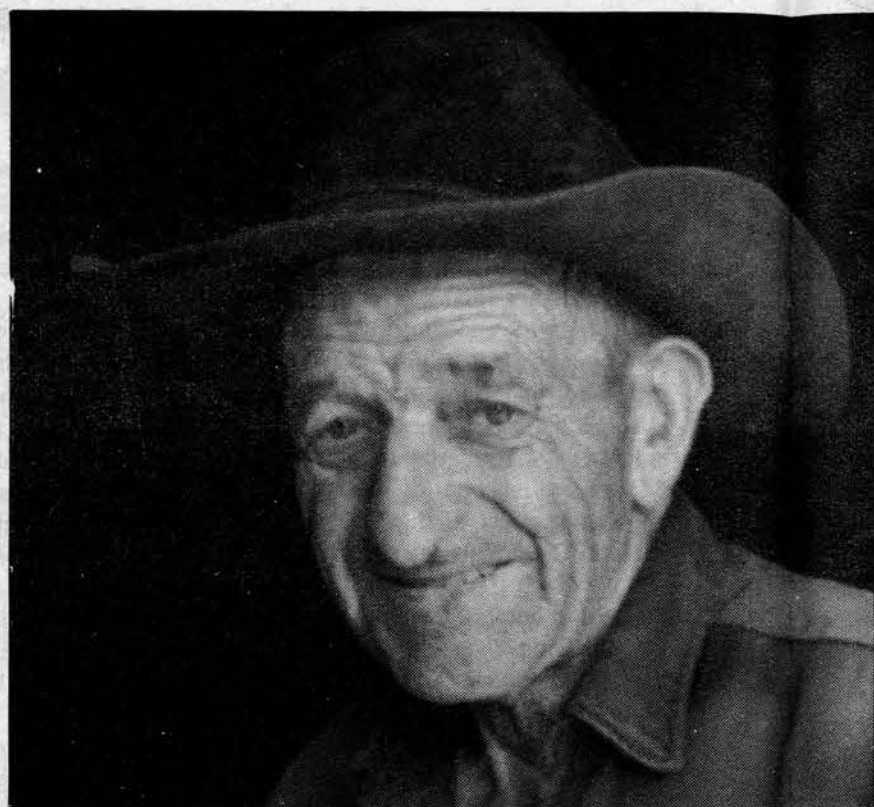
Poisoned arsenal is good for something

In the heart of the Denver metropolitan area, the 17,000-acre Rocky Mountain Arsenal has often been called one of the most toxic places in the nation. Federal officials estimate it will take \$5 billion and a decade to clean up the area, which has become home to wildlife such as bald eagles, deer, waterfowl and coyotes. Thanks to an agreement signed this month, the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service has agreed to assume responsibility for wildlife while the U.S. Army and Shell Oil Co. jointly clean up contamination from the production of chemical weapons and pesticides. John Spinks of USFWS told the *Denver Post* that the first thing his agency will do is burn weeds and reseed the area with natural vegetation.



Andrew Gulliford



Andrew Gulliford



Randall Teeuwen



Randall Teeuwen

In 1977, the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities sponsored an oral history project on the elderly who live in rural Colorado. Project directors Andrew Gulliford and Randall Teeuwen traveled hundreds of miles interviewing and photographing people, and called their documentary *The Years Ahead: Life for the Aging in Northwest Colorado*. Jim Farris was one of their subjects. To be 70 or 80 is to have no more illusions about yourself or about life, say the authors. "For the elderly there is time to reflect and time to contemplate. It's a time of reckoning with yourself, your values, and those dreams which started you off and running so many years ago."

GET A HORSE

I farmed a 110 acres and never had a tractor on the place, just five head of good workhorses.

Anybody that was farming, 30, 40 acres could farm it so damn much cheaper with stock. It'd take you three head of horses to do it. If that's all you had that's all you'd need around. Stack your hay instead of baling it. Get you an old buck-rake and you ain't out no money to speak of — just a man to stack it, you know.

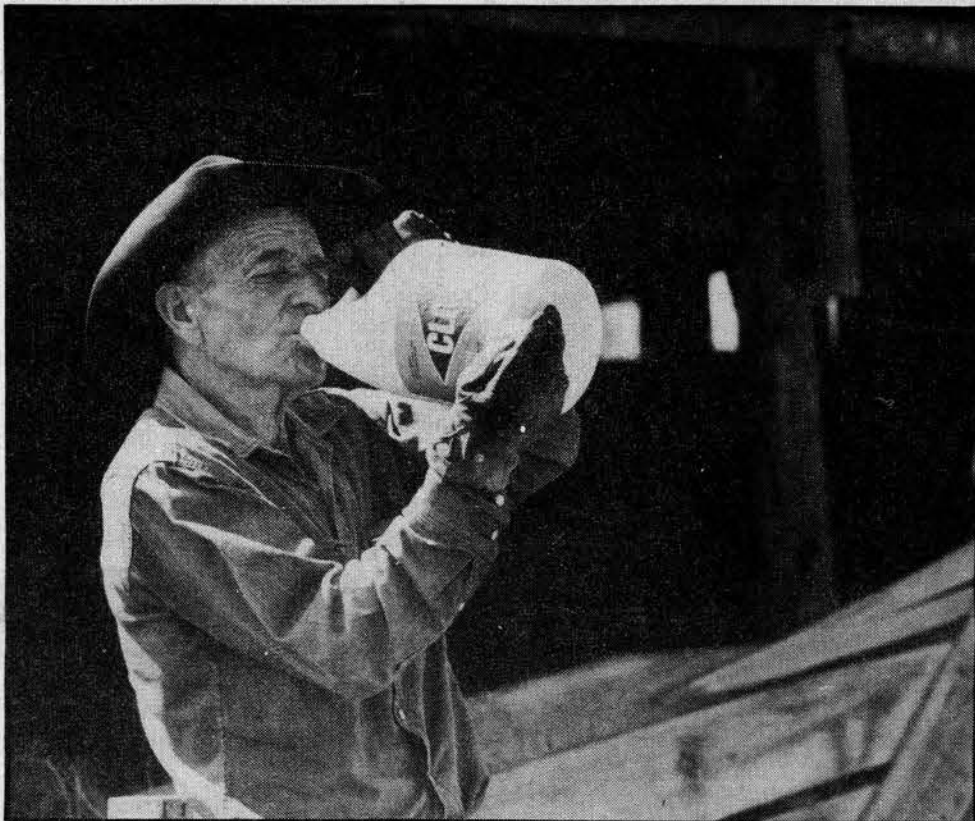
You go out here and you buy a tractor, and it would cost you a lot of money. Pretty quick when you do do it, but hell all you've got to do is do it yourself anyway so just take a little longer and it won't cost you nothin'.

Everybody used to laugh about it and talk about it up there on that creek. Those damn fellas that do it all with horses, they're the first ones through and going to help everyone else finish up!

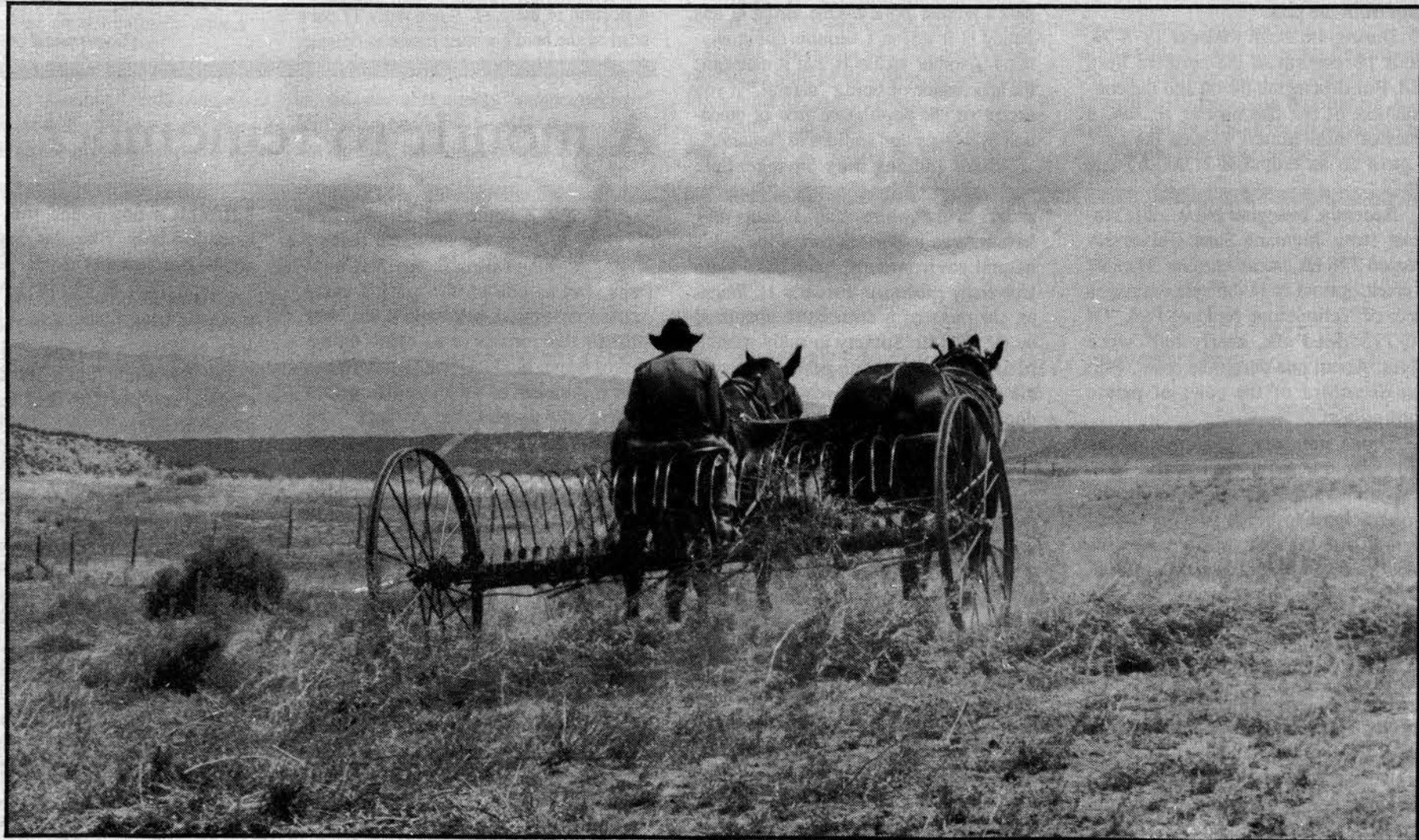
Anymore it's a good thing that they got machines because it's a lost art. If you can't do it right you just better not do it. It's a damn lost thing anymore, there's so many people if they went out to work these horses the damn horses wouldn't work for them because the horses know more than they do.

Jim Farris, 72, Silt, Colorado

Randall Teeuwen



Andrew Gulliford



*'You can let 'em starve,
but in the process
they ravage the rest of the biota.'*

Elk...

(Continued from page 1)

When the herd reached 12,000 in 1955, the Park Service decided there should be fewer elk so the herd's winter range could recover from heavy grazing. During 1956, hunters killed 3,900 elk outside the park, while the Park Service killed or trapped 2,635 inside. During 1962, when hunters killed only 125 elk, the Park Service killed or trapped 4,619.

The herd had been reduced to about 5,000 elk by 1968, fewer than at any time since 1930. Meanwhile, the park had been killing and trapping bison, cutting the park's bison population from 1,500 to 300. But the spectacle of park rangers slaughtering elk and bison within Yellowstone's borders was more than the public could bear, and the outcry stopped the killing.

Since 1969, Yellowstone has made no effort to trim elk or buffalo herds. Within six years, the elk herd had once again grown to 12,000. About 2,500 elk moved north of the park that winter of 1974, the first large-scale migration since 1962. The following year, Montana established a late hunting season for elk migrating north from the park.

During the tough winter of 1978-79, about 18 percent of the northern herd died. But despite the die-off and the continuation of the late hunting season, a series of mild winters allowed the herd to grow to an estimated 21,000 by last fall.

Recently, biologists and wildlife students from Montana State University counted 278 elk carcasses along 30 miles of creek bottom in 11 different drainages north of Yellowstone National Park. Of the 278 dead elk, nearly half were calves. About one-third were cows, with just one-third of the cows of prime breeding age.

Those numbers mean most of the herd's prime breeding age cows are likely to survive the die-off, enabling the northern herd to begin growing again. Even if one-third of the herd dies, as speculated, 14,000 elk would survive, more elk than have been reliably counted in the herd in all but a few years.

"With the numbers that we're dealing with, there will be abundant wildlife for people to view and enjoy," said Joan Anzelmo, spokeswoman for Yellowstone Park.

During this year's late hunt, all but a few hunters were required to shoot cows or calves. Only 48 bull elk were killed, while hunters killed 1,845 cows. By requiring hunters to kill cows or calves, the state of Montana hoped to bring the size of the herd more in line with its winter range, said state biologist Lemke.

"You can't continually let a herd increase with all these various problems that you're dealing with," he said. "Our harvest segment of adult cows will have a greater effect on reducing the population than winter kill."

Most of the elk carcasses found thus far outside the park were near the border, Lemke said. He suspects more elk were competing for less forage there than in areas farther north.

For instance, Bear Creek, Palmer Creek and Phelps Creek near the park boundary had from 23 to 29 elk carcasses per mile, Lemke said. By comparison, there was less than one carcass per mile in the Mol Heron drainage 15 miles north of the park.

The spectacle of up to 5,000 elk starving during the winter of 1989 hasn't proven any more appealing than the spectacle of nearly 5,000 elk killed in the park during 1962. But what are the options to massive die-offs? Those discussed so far include:

- Allowing the herd to continue to be regulated by starvation during severe winters or by lowered birth rates as range conditions deteriorate. That is the park's present policy. One virtue of this policy is it doesn't require doing anything. Another virtue is that it maintains the appearance of being "natural," if you accept an elk population free of predation by wolves and Indians as "natural."

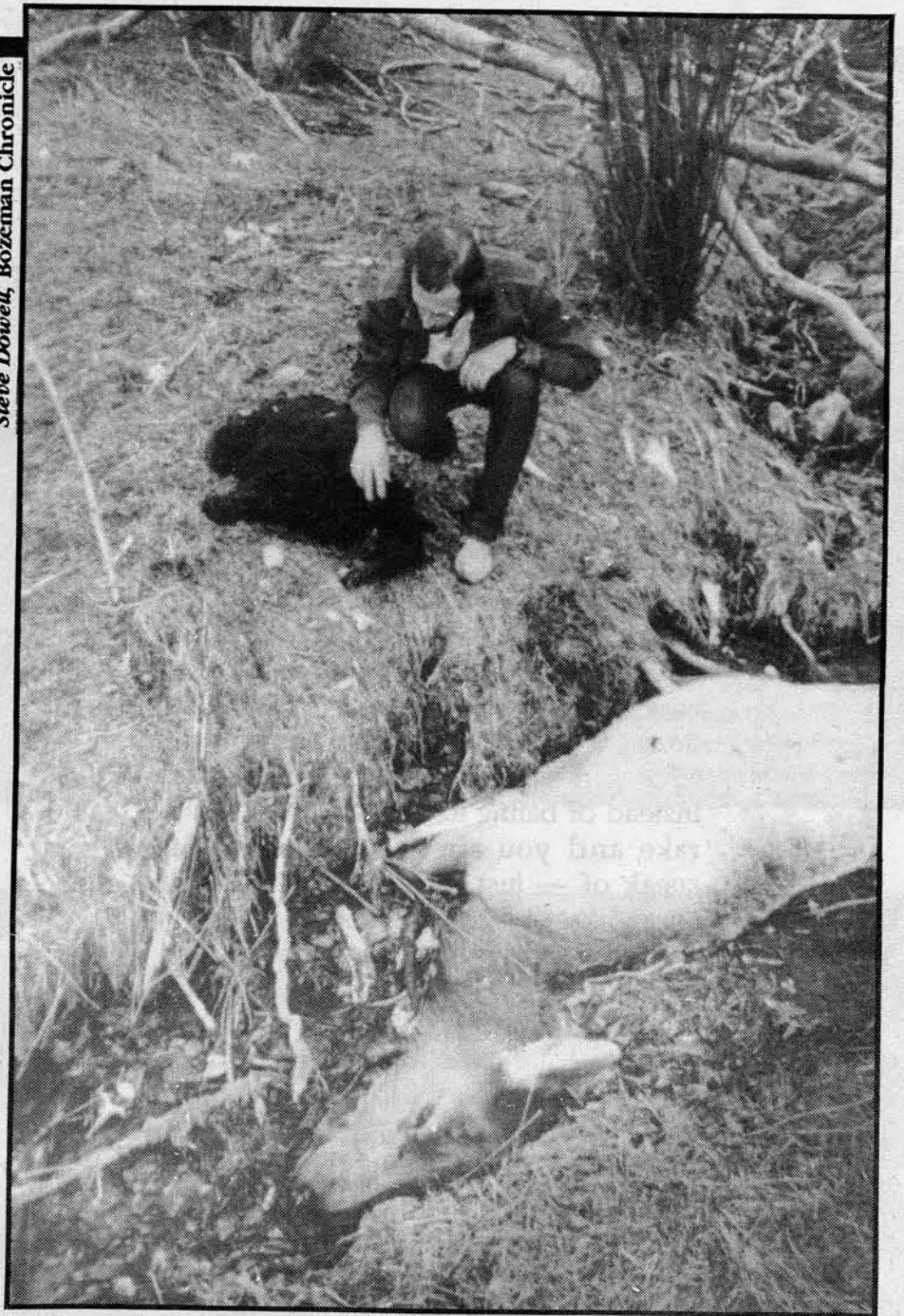
Since Indians may have kept elk populations at low levels before the arrival of the white man, Indians may have been an important part of the park's natural environment, said Utah State University professor Frederic H. Wagner, chairman of a committee appointed by the Wildlife Society to study wildlife policy in the national parks. Allowing elk populations to grow until they deplete their range may harm other plants and animals.

"You can let 'em starve," Wagner said of Yellowstone's elk, "but in the process they ravage the rest of the biota."

- Re-introducing the wolf, which historically preyed on elk in the northern herd, a move supported by Yellowstone National Park and a number of conservation organizations. Biologists say this would be at best a partial solution to high elk numbers. So far, proponents of wolf re-introduction have been waging an uphill political battle, primarily against ranchers and elected representatives in Wyoming.

- Purchasing private land on winter range outside the park, an option supported by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Yellowstone National Park, Gallatin National Forest

Steve Dowell, Bozeman Chronicle



A dead bear and elk in Yellowstone National Park

and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Elk and buffalo would not become "problems" the instant they cross the park boundary if additional winter range were set aside for them. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks spent more than \$1 million in 1986 to buy a 2,691-acre wildlife management area near Dailey Lake north of Gardiner. The state will try to encourage regular elk migrations to winter ranges outside the park in the hope hunters can control a portion of the herd. Since only 17 percent of the herd's winter range is outside

the park, it's likely that enough of the herd will leave the park regularly to allow hunters to keep the herd from growing.

- Feeding elk so they won't starve during tough winters, the option now being pursued by private individuals in Gardiner, Big Sky and West Yellowstone. Feeding is politically attractive, since no one enjoys seeing elk starve. But feeding is also expensive, contributes to overgrazing by keeping herds at artificially high levels and concen-

(Continued on page 11)

A month to remember

Wildlife may be abundant in the northern part of Yellowstone National Park, but as one of the park's early explorers learned, elk aren't the only animals that can starve to death on the winter range. In 1870, Truman C. Everts was a member of an expedition into what is now the park, but on Sept. 9, he became separated from the rest of the party south of Yellowstone Lake. The first night he was calm. But the following morning his horse bolted, leaving him with just an opera glass and a small knife.

Everts spent a week at the geyser basin near Heart Lake, surviving on thistle roots. While there, his feet became frostbitten.

When a search party returned without Everts on Oct. 2, a reward of \$600 was offered for his recovery. That galvanized George Pritchett and John Baronett, who left Helena to continue the search.

On Oct. 6, the men reached the cut between Blacktail Deer Creek Plateau and Crescent Hill near what is now the northern border of the park. There, John

Baronett's dog found the trail of a wounded bear. When his dog began to growl, Baronett told an interviewer:

"It never occurred to me that it was Everts. I went up close to the object; it was making a low, groaning noise, crawling along upon its knees and elbows, and trying to drag itself up the mountain. Then it suddenly occurred to me that it was the object of my search."

Everts was said to have weighed only 50 pounds at the time, with no shoes, and clothing in shreds. The balls of his frostbitten feet were worn to the bone.

Baronett took Everts to the cabin of some miners north of the park's present boundary. But he feared that Everts would not survive because his bowels had been plugged by the fibrous thistle roots. A pint of oil from a freshly killed bear nourished Everts and cleaned him out.

The thistle, *Cirsium scariosum*, is thought to be the one Everts survived on. Its common name is now Everts thistle.

—Bert Lindler



CAPITOL HILL

Diplomacy is not in Amory's arsenal

by Andrew Melnykovich

WASHINGTON — I am sure that Fund for Animals President Cleveland Amory won't mind me calling him a pompous old windbag.

After all, he describes those who disagree with him in far more unflattering terms.

Amory was in town last week to fulminate against the bison "hunt" along the northern border of Yellowstone National Park. The hunt — more of a semi-organized slaughter, really — is conducted by the state of Montana, with the acquiescence of the National Park Service.

The bison carry the disease brucellosis, which can cause devastating losses in domestic herds. Scientific opinion is mixed on whether bison can transmit brucellosis to cattle, but Montana officials say the bison pose a threat to area livestock.

For several years, state officials themselves killed any bison that strayed out of the park. More recently, as a way of appeasing hunters who didn't want anything big and hairy killed if they couldn't do the shooting, the Montana Legislature instituted a hunting season.

While animals rights activists have opposed any bison killing from the beginning, it wasn't until this winter that the buffalo chips really started flying. A combination of poor forage and deep snow inside the park prompted unprecedented numbers of bison to move to lower elevations outside the park boundary. At last count, nearly 600 had been gunned down, cutting the park's northern herd to about 300 head.

Park officials say they aren't worried. The bison herd has grown rapidly in the last decade, when a series of mild winters kept natural mortality at low levels. Furthermore, there were 2,800 bison in the park last fall, and the 600 animals shot this winter are a relatively minor loss, they say.

"We're not concerned, and it's not because we're uncaring," Yellowstone chief scientist John Varley told the House parks subcommittee recently.

Kathleen Marie Menke



Bison in front of Grand Geyser, Yellowstone

"The bison population in Yellowstone is not in danger and will bounce right back."

"As scientists, we view these animals as populations," he said. "The majority of the public sees these animals as individuals, they view these animals as they do the family dog."

Given Montana's insistence on not allowing bison to stray outside the park, shooting them is the most "expedient, economical and acceptable option," Varley said.

Not to Amory, it isn't. The Park Service would just as soon see the bison eradicated from Yellowstone. Amory charged, the NPS is a "contract killer" and Montana is the "hit man."

"The entire American public is outraged by the miserable, cruel slaughter of the buffalo," Amory hyperbolized. "Not one favorable thing has been said about it."

The NPS contention that the animals are dangerous is simply "another excuse for killing buffalo," he said. Amory did not mention that bison have been respon-

sible for more deaths and injuries in Yellowstone than the park's grizzly bears.

NPS officials are "about the most ignorant people I have ever worked with," and Varley specifically is "an idiot," Amory continued. Those doing the actual shooting, on the other hand, are "monstrous idiots."

The people who run Yellowstone "don't like animals," Amory charged. "I don't think I've ever seen a pet in the place."

In his nastiest comment of all, Amory said he would "like to ask (Varley) how many kids he has. Maybe we could lose three of them and see if (his family) bounces back."

Amory's personal, mean-spirited attacks on park officials are totally without justification, even if there were any factual basis for them, which there is not.

However, his indignation at the "hunt" itself is somewhat understandable. The bison kill has about as much relation to hunting as dropping dynamite into a pond has to fly fishing.

Amory did offer a few other solutions. The bison could be chased back

into the park by helicopters, he said. But that would work only in favorable flying conditions, which are by no means assured in northern Yellowstone in the winter.

He also suggested that if the NPS wants to control the size of the bison herd, it could administer birth control drugs to the cows. That idea is unacceptable to anyone who subscribes to the premise that the national parks should be managed, insofar as is possible, as natural ecosystems, not as vast zoos.

To his credit, Amory did have one good idea, though he got so carried away with himself that he forgot to mention it. In his written testimony to the subcommittee, Amory said that the only real long-term solution is to expand the amount of land available to the northern herd.

On that count, if on no other, Amory is in accord with conservation groups such as the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, whose president, Tom McNamee, also spoke at the hearing.

McNamee said that Yellowstone National Park and its big game herds must be managed as components of the larger ecosystem. The park boundary is an artificial barrier that bison never have and never will recognize.

"On one side of that invisible line, (bison are) the noble descendants of the last bison in North America ... and as such they are revered and protected," he said. "On the other side of the line, they're varmints ... and they're killed."

"That's what happens when you try to shoehorn wildlife into abstract boxes," McNamee said.

The solution to the bison problem is to institute natural population control by bringing wolves back to Yellowstone and to find ways, through the lease or purchase of winter range, to make more room for wildlife outside the park, he said.

But, in the short term, hunting bison is a "legitimate management tool," even if its application has been less than ideal, McNamee said.

While Amory and the Park Service coalition may share the same long-term goals, Amory has contributed little to the attainment of those common objectives. On the contrary, his rigid views of the natural world and his bombastic and indiscriminate attacks on all who do not share them only polarize the issues.

Elk...

(Continued from page 10)

trates elk, allowing rapid spread of disease.

- Killing or trapping elk in the park. The Park Service opposes killing wildlife within the park. The public couldn't tolerate killing inside the park boundaries during the 1960s and probably would find the prospect no more attractive in the 1980s or 1990s.

Trapping thousands of elk would be difficult and expensive. Trapping would have to continue year after year.

- Controlling the fertility of the elk. Some humane organizations have suggested this approach, since it would not involve killing elk. So far, there's no practical way to control fertility of large populations of free-ranging wild elk. Grizzly bears and other scavengers would not benefit from massive elk die-offs if elk numbers were controlled either through killing, trapping or fertility control.

- Re-drawing the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. This proposal was suggested by a visionary Montana

A biologist suggests redrawing Yellowstone National Park's boundaries based on present understanding of the ecosystem.

biologist who asked to remain anonymous. The park's boundaries should be re-drawn based on present understanding of the ecosystem, he says. The park could be enlarged in some areas and trimmed in others.

More of the ecosystem would be protected by the additions, while the deletions would allow hunters to keep the elk and buffalo herds in check. Ignore the political difficulties of enlarging the park's boundaries, but imagine, if

you will, the outcry that would arise following a proposal to trim the boundaries of the world's first national park.

Of the seven options, the only easy ones are feeding, which is likely to do more harm than good, and purchasing additional winter range. An agreement between Yellowstone Park, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Gallatin National Forest and the

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has established a fund for private contributions to buy winter range north of Yellowstone. To contribute, write: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, NYEH (Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd), P.O. Box 8249, Missoula, MT 59807.

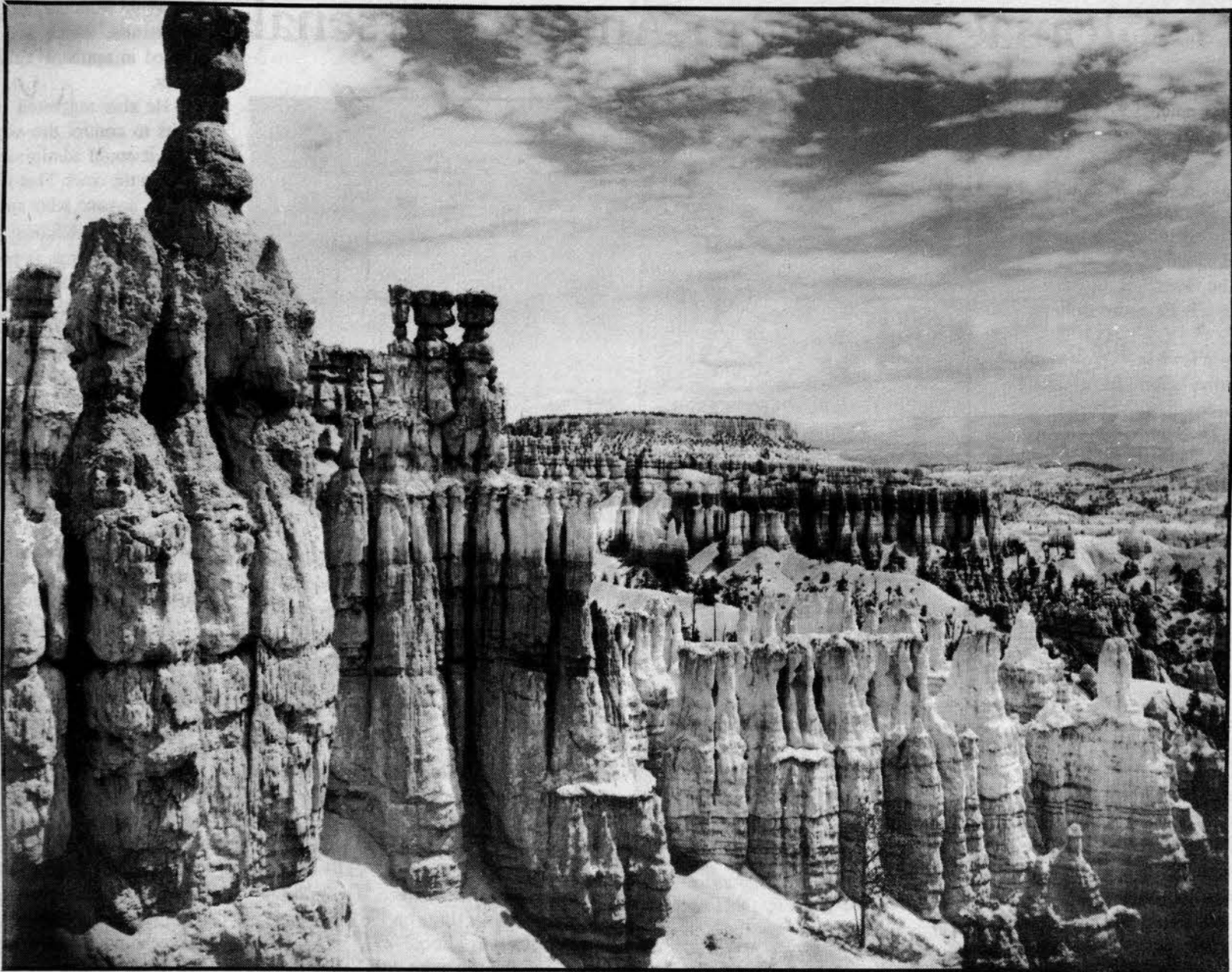
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Bert Lindler is a reporter for the *Great Falls Tribune* in Montana.

12-High Country News — April 10, 1989

OTHER VOICES

Utah Travel Commission



Bryce Canyon National Park

Mormons organize to protect the earth

by Karil Frohboese

A Utah conservation activist who also happens to be a Mormon is as rare as candor in a politician. But a steadily growing constituency within the Mormon Church believes a revelation to tend God's garden is long overdue.

The Mormon Church is usually seen as strongly conservative and very pro-development. But new ground was broken last August when Mormons founded their own Mormon Environmental Network.

The founding occurred at a session of the 1988 Symposium of *Sunstone* magazine — a publication supporters say is aimed at dedicated Mormons with inquiring minds, but which many mainstream Mormons believe is a threat to authority and obedience. The Symposium provided an open forum for 1,500 loyal members to discuss contemporary issues as well as Mormon history and theology.

At this year's inaugural environmental panel discussion, audience participants finally got a chance to address questions that had long been on their minds. What accounts for the environmental apathy among church members and leaders? What do the scriptures say about stewardship of the earth? What can we do about our concerns?

Panelist Nick Carling, a Delta Airlines employee, believes that environmental disregard can be traced, in part, to the story every young Mormon child hears about Moses wandering in a wilderness depicted as hostile.

The Boy Scouts have not helped either, according to Gibbs Smith, founder of the environmental network, current chair of the Sierra Club's Utah Chapter and owner of Peregrine Books. A church-controlled institution in Utah, the Scouts emphasize militaristic activities when they should stress the development of an environmentally sensitive young man, Smith says.

Smith acutely feels the need for increased environmental action in Utah. Environmental groups hope up to 5.1 million acres of Bureau of Land Management holdings will be designated as wilderness. Congress and the President are mandated

to act on the proposals by 1991. "We have our best chance to affect how things will be for the next hundred years," he explains.

The important, but unpopular, topic of the impact of large families on the environment was broached by panel moderator Mark Thomas. Although Utah's birth rate has decreased over the past several years, it is still well above the national average and the church continues to emphasize large families. Thomas, a church high priest, assistant vice president of Seattle First National Bank and an activist with Zero Population Growth, has, in other settings, referred to Utah's high taxes, overcrowded schools and increasing public service expenditures as the consequences of excessive population growth.

At the symposium, however, he chose to concentrate on one point. Mormons, he said, respect all forms of life. However, the current high rate of species extinction due to man's destruction of flora and fauna habitats is not an expression of that value. He believes an excessively growing population is an abuse of the earth. "I am proud to be a Mormon," he said. "I am sure Mormonism will face the reality of carrying capacity."

The network organizers believe a newsletter will educate Mormons about vital issues and plug those who want to participate into the established Utah environmental community. Other plans include speaking up at church meetings and approaching church authorities.

Will their message fall on sympathetic ears? The polls say "yes." A 1987 poll by the church-owned Brigham Young University found that a whopping 86 percent of Utah's public supports wilderness values. Arden Pope, associate professor of economics at Brigham Young University, says that his contingent evaluation study — what he calls a "glorified opinion poll" — attempted to estimate not only the intuitive value they put on wilderness, but the willingness and ability to pay for it. Utah's public is willing to pay or accept trade-offs for up to 7 million more acres.

Another poll, released in November, also reflects the public's high conservation values. University of

Utah researcher Ken Smith discovered that 61 percent of the people he questioned believe water for drinking is the most significant benefit of the canyons bordering Salt Lake City. Proposed master plans for the canyons have pitted recreation development against preservation. Of those polled, only 31 percent saw recreation as the greatest benefit; 6 percent favored other economic development.

Gibbs Smith believes there is a natural constituency in Utah for conservation. With a state population of 1.7 million, some 600,000 people are out in the mountains hunting each deer season. "You can't hunt in subdivisions," says Smith.

The network should not run into doctrinal roadblocks either, according to many pro-environmental Mormons. In church doctrine, the earth was created for man's benefit. But at the time of the millenium, it will have to be returned in its original condition, a clean one-owner. "So," says Joe Bennion, art instructor at BYU, "we'll have to take down Glen Canyon Dam, clean up the waste dumps, oceans and skies ... we'll have to be Seldom Seen Smith in *The Monkey Wrench Gang*."

Mormon writings admonish against materialism, state that animals have spirits and souls and promote wise use of the land. Hugh Nibley, professor emeritus of ancient scripture at BYU, has written about such doctrines, and talks about early church leaders who were conservationists. Nibley wrote:

"The history of America during the first hundred years of Mormonism was largely the history of the frontier, and most Americans still like to imagine themselves living in a land of inexhaustible resources in which everything is 'up for grabs.' Brigham Young exposed and denounced that myth from the beginning."

Young was an early promoter of recycling, land-use planning and careful grazing techniques. In 1852, he asked, "...is there not bitterness in your feelings the moment you find a canyon put in the possession of an individual, and power given unto him to control the timber, wood, rock, grass and, in short, all its facilities?"

(Continued on page 13)

Mormons...

(Continued from page 12)

So what accounts for the attitude that environmentalists in Utah are like anti-Christ at Vespers? Arden Pope believes one reason is the West's farm and ranch setting. Raised on a small ranch in eastern Idaho, he knows that people love the land but take the clean air and water for granted, until they move to urban areas and realize the scarcity of those amenities.

"As a budding economist," recalls Pope, "I thought the privatization of public land was neat stuff. My views changed when I became involved with economic impact-analysis for ranchers in Texas and Utah. Livestock values aren't the only ones ranchers should worry about."

For Pope, the Western water tradition of "first in use, first in right" accounts for some of the knee-jerk anti-environmental mentality. "I wouldn't pretend my strong pro-environmental views came directly from Mormon religious doctrine," he says. "As an academic, the more I study these issues, the more convinced I am that it is critical to preserve and protect the environment. As a devout Mormon, I don't find these views in conflict with church doctrine, but often supported by it."

A recent challenge to Utah's traditional anti-environmentalism was the re-election of Democratic Rep. Wayne Owens in November. For nearly two years, the congressman has worked with a coalition of sportsmen and conservationists to include wildlife and fisheries mitigation provisions in the Central Utah Project funding bill that he authored during the last session. This session, in addition to reintroducing the CUP legislation, he will introduce a 5-million acre Utah wilderness bill. Owens is a member of the Mormon Church, the state's only Democratic congressional delegate and Utah's best environmental champion.

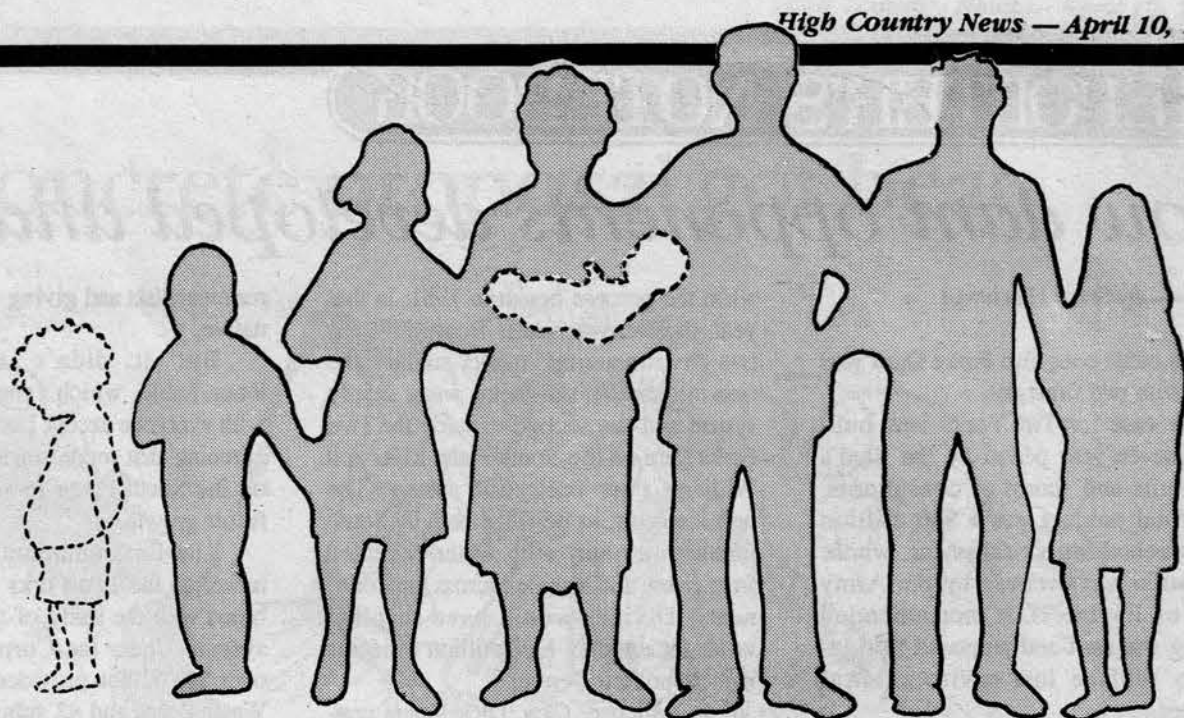
Clearly, the conservation movement has gained new ground in Utah. But how important is a separate Mormon environmental movement for getting the rest of the job done?

Over 70 percent of the population is Mormon. "To make a difference, we have to get the support of the majority of the people," says Gibbs Smith.

If the church were to take an interest in conservation issues, many believe today's environmental battles would turn into mere skirmishes.

□

Karil Frohboese is a freelance writer from Park City, Utah.



Nancy Horn

Utahns are having fewer kids

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — For the first time in the history of Utah, a state dominated in nearly every aspect by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the fertility rate is declining.

Economic reality is apparently winning out over Mormon ideology, which holds that a woman's place is in the home, rearing as many children as possible.

Since 1980, while the total fertility rate, or number of births per woman, has remained at about 1.87 nationwide, the rate in Utah has dropped from 3.2 to 2.5 births per woman.

Demographers say those numbers indicate an especially sharp decline among Mormons, who account for about 70 percent of Utah's population.

"It's a dramatic decline in fertility," said Brad Barber, Utah's director of data, resources and demographics. "Utah's always had the highest average number of births in the modern world."

Utah's economy, like that of other states in the Rocky Mountains, has been battered by declines in the oil, coal and metal industries. And Mormons have been hit hard since they bear special costs.

Most parents hope that when their children finish high school they will travel on a two-year mission, financed by their families, to proselytize in other parts of the world. Mormons are also expected to pay a tithe, 10 percent of their income, to the church.

Karen Shepard, a professor at the business school at the University of Utah who was once publisher and editor of *Network*, a feminist magazine in Salt Lake City, said of the Mormons: "When all things are

equal, and the church says stay home, they stay home. When economic imperatives say, 'You work,' you work."

An increasing number of women have taken jobs and delayed having their first child. Church leaders responded to declining family size last year when the Mormon President, Ezra Taft Benson, told young families: "With all my heart, I counsel you not to postpone having your children. Do not curtail the number of children for personal or selfish reasons. Material possessions, social convenience and so-called professional advantage are nothing compared to righteous posterity."

The church does not prohibit birth control. But a church spokesman, Jerry Cahill, while stressing that the decision to have children is up to the individual, said a fundamental Mormon belief is that "the purpose of life is to be married, and the purpose of marriage is a family."

Some women like Shepard, who is not a member of the church, see the current trend as leading to greater equality for them in Mormon life. Even the budget for the Relief Society, the women's auxiliary of the church, she noted, is controlled by men.

"They're waiting for this to pass like a bad case of the flu," Shepard said of the Mormon leadership's attitude toward the increasing number of working women. "But it's not passing."

— Jim Robbins

Dear friends,

(Continued from page 2)

and to gently note that this column several months ago had him observing bald eagles on the Snake River in Boise. The Snake flows 20 to 30 miles south of Boise. It is the Boise River, he said, that flows through Boise.

And the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance said that we had changed its name to the Southwest Wilderness Alliance in a March 13 article on the leasing of Antone Bench.

Visitors

High Country News has had about 30 visitors in the last few weeks. That's less than it seems because the majority were part of one group. Former *HCN* staffer Mary Moran and her fellow instructor, Caroline Byrd, brought a class of students from Earlham College in Indiana through the North Fork Valley. Starting in late December, the class had explored the Southwest, beginning at Great Bend National Park in Texas, travelling to California's Imperial Valley, the Grand Canyon and southeastern Utah, until they ended up here, on the border of the Colorado Plateau and the Rockies.

Smaller contingents of visitors included subscribers Tim and Susan

Brater, former North Fork Valley residents who now live in Denver, and Greg Durrett of Glenwood Springs and Bill Jochems of Marble, just across McClure Pass. Greg and Bill had a sad story about the Crystal River, which they said ran black part of this winter due to a discharge of coal fines by the Midcontinent mine upstream of Redstone.

Passing through on their way from Dallas to Bozeman were John Baden and Ramona Marotz-Baden. John's recent *HCN* op-ed piece on free market economics has attracted a fair amount of attention from readers.

Phil Hocker, who heads the Minerals Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., didn't stop by, but he did call to say that he thinks reform of the 1872 Mining Law is at last possible. He also said that prospectors are filing on an Arkansas national forest for quartz crystals. The crystals are attractive to new-age people because they aid in "channeling." Any EIS done on the claims will have to balance off the damage mining the crystals will do against the good channeling will do.

— Ed Marston for the staff

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14-High Country News — April 10, 1989

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

How dam opponents developed and refined a strategy

by Steve Hinchman

The battle over Two Forks Dam was fought with two strategies.

The case for Two Forks was built over a seven-year period by the dam's proponents and scores of consultants. Their final product was a \$40 million environmental impact statement, whose preparation was overseen by the Army Corps of Engineers. It recommended building the dam and proposed mitigation to replace lost environmental resources.

The case against the dam was built over the same period by a group of Colorado environmentalists, who came together as the Environmental Caucus. In part, the caucus worked within the EIS process, using EIS funds to do research and pushing on the Corps and its consultants when it believed unwarranted assumptions were being made or problems overlooked.

The caucus also worked outside the EIS process, coming up with an analysis the Corps wouldn't incorporate in its EIS. The caucus published its own alternative, which stressed that Two Forks was unnecessary, and that Denver could find an adequate supply of water for its future through conservation and increased efficiency.

Once the analysis stage was over both sides turned to winning support for their proposals. The Denver Water Board and the Metropolitan Water Providers — the two entities backing the dam — argued that all future growth and cooperation between Denver and the suburbs depended on Two Forks. They used their political strength to attempt to sway local politicians, Colo. Gov. Roy Romer, the Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Denver office of the EPA.

The Environmental Caucus concentrated on grass-roots organizing, local and national politics, and a series of well-timed media campaigns.

In the end, the public, Colorado politicians, the Corps and finally EPA administrator William Reilly had a choice of two clear alternatives. The Corps announced preliminary approval of the project, based on the EIS. But Reilly, the last decision maker in the chain, rejected the Corps' decision. Implicitly, he chose the caucus' alternative.

That decision was an uphill battle for environmentalists, who had seemed hopelessly outnumbered and outgunned

when the process began in 1981. In that year, the Denver Water Board initiated two environmental impact studies: the first to quantify the metro water supply system and the second to study the Two Forks Dam on the South Platte River and Williams Fork collection system. The new reservoir, to be filled both by South Platte water and with water collected from rivers and streams across the Continental Divide, would have supplied water for another half million residents in metropolitan Denver.

In response, Gov. Dick Lamm convened the Metropolitan Water Roundtable to seek consensus on future water development in Colorado. The group included Denver water interests, metro city officials, developers, Western Slope representatives, eastern Colorado farmers and two environmentalists — Dan Luecke of the Environmental Defense Fund and Bob Golten, then head of the National Wildlife Federation's Colorado office.

Luecke says he and Golten agreed to participate only after gathering representatives from the state's environmental community into an informal group that agreed to serve as a sounding board and provide guidance. It became the Environmental Caucus.

Luecke and Golten decided to operate technically rather than take the traditional approach of asking policy questions, such as, "Is growth desirable on the Front Range?"

While less confrontational, that tactic proved difficult. Luecke says, "We were trying to figure out how the Denver water system worked, but they kept giving us vague answers. Finally it became evident that they weren't going to tell us the way the system worked."

Debates over population forecasts, water demand forecasts and the value of water conservation turned into stalemates. In the summer of 1982, because of the fights over numbers, Luecke says he and Golten were labeled obstructionists and a move started to get them thrown off the Roundtable.

"To show our good faith, we agreed to build a computer model of the Denver system by September, and develop cost estimates and a conservation alternative by October 1982," says Luecke. They came up with a smaller project that would dam only the North Fork of the South Platte River instead of the 1.1 million acre-foot Two Forks project. That changed the ballgame, Luecke says, winning support from Western Slope envi-

ronmentalists and giving people an alternative.

But it didn't convince the Roundtable, which recessed in 1983 with everyone except Luecke and Golten agreeing that more storage was needed on the South Platte to supply Denver's future growth.

The Environmental Caucus then turned to the Two Forks EIS, now combined with the study of the metro water system. Under the Corps, which spent over \$40 million provided by the Denver Water Board and 42 suburban entities, it was to become a massive eight-volume document. The Army Corps of Engineers ordered the Denver Water Board and Metropolitan Water Providers to contribute \$200,000 to the caucus to hire water experts Lee Rozaklis and Bob Weaver to track the thousands of pages of the Two Forks study.

Thus armed, the caucus went after the Denver Water Board's population growth estimates, which Luecke says "exceeded anything ever seen in recorded history." The caucus also brought alternative water supplies to the light of day. "The Denver Water Board knew they existed, but they didn't show them to the Corps," says Luecke.

The caucus soon came up with figures that allowed them to do away with all dams on the South Platte and propose an alternative that could supply Denver's water needs solely by conservation, small scale projects and water transfers. It published that plan in 1983.

In the meantime, the Environmental Caucus expanded. The original group was chaired by Bob Weaver and included representatives from the National Wildlife Federation, Environmental Defense Fund, Colorado Mountain Club, League of Women Voters, Trout Unlimited, The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Friends of the Earth, Colorado Open Space Council, American Wilderness Alliance, University of Colorado Environmental Center and several individuals. In the mid-1980s it was joined by the National Audubon Society, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Western Colorado Congress and other Western Slope groups.

Armed with its new technical strategy the caucus branched out into public education and grass-roots organizing, including direct mail and a campaign to mobilize environmentalists, fishing enthusiasts, bird watchers and others against the dam.

The environmentalists' first annual "Save the South Platte" day in May 1986, drew 100 people and three TV stations, four or five radio stations and got front-page coverage in both Denver papers, says Rocky Smith of the Colorado Environmental Coalition. "It was the first time the anti-Two Forks grass-roots effort got good publicity in the media. I think it scared the water department."

After the Corps released the Draft EIS on Two Forks in 1987, the caucus organized a series of informational workshops and mailings targeting the document and the Corps' public hearings. The first round of hearings was low key, but during the second round, in May 1988, public opposition erupted.

Between 3,500 and 5,000 people turned out, with more than 90 percent testifying against the project, says Dr. Carse Pustmueller of National Audubon. National environmental groups flew their top officers in from the East Coast

and warned they would bankroll a major lawsuit to stop the dam if it was permitted.

"The hearings were important because they conveyed the image, especially on TV, that the majority were against the project," Robert SanGeorge, an Audubon spokesperson in New York told the *Denver Post*.

The environmentalists also took advantage of several gaffes by Two Forks backers. The caucus got a lot of airplay out of leaked documents that said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may have been pressured by the Denver Water Board into issuing a politically inspired "no jeopardy" opinion on endangered species.

"The enviros have done a tremendous job with the national press," Bob McWhinnie, executive director of the Metropolitan Water Providers, told the *Denver Post*. "The national media types just took the dribble that the enviros gave them. They outthrust us on that front."

The hearings were a turning point. When the Environmental Caucus went back to lobbying the Corps, the EPA and the Forest Service — the three agencies yet to decide on Two Forks' permits — they did so with more muscle and better contacts.

The environmentalists were soon joined by Sen. James Exon (D-Neb.), who jumped into the fray after the Corps announced its intention to approve Two Forks.

"The Corps has never met a dam they didn't like," Exon told the national press.

After the Corps decision, all attention turned to the EPA and its new director, William Reilly, former director of the World Wildlife Fund and the Conservation Foundation.

Exon used his Washington, D.C., contacts to obtain and publicize a memo written by EPA lawyers that questioned the legality of an EPA permit on Two Forks. Environmentalists and others, including Colo. Sen. Tim Wirth, also raised the Foothills Consent Decree, a 1979 agreement between the Denver Water Board and several environmental and citizen groups. In exchange for building the Strontia Springs Dam and Foothills treatment plant on the South Platte River upstream of Denver, the Denver Water Board agreed to implement major conservation measures over the next 15 years to reduce the per capita consumption of water in Denver. The EPA was named to monitor the reduction in use. The conservation measures, however, were not fully implemented and Denver is expected to fail to meet the standards.

In the end, Luecke says, "The technical groundwork we did made it possible for the [EPA's] political decision to go in our favor." Luecke says internal EPA documents written by the agency's Denver regional staff all question the project.

"There isn't anything on the other side of the ledger," says Luecke. "Not a single EPA memo that supports the project."

Based partly on those reports, EPA national administrator William Reilly concluded that there are too many unanswered questions about water conservation and alternative supplies to warrant the "very heavy, final and irremediable loss of an environmental treasure of national significance" involved in building Two Forks.

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OPINION

Why Denver's concrete proposal got beat

Col. Steven G. West of the Army Corps of Engineers provided a fitting epitaph to the Two Forks debate. He told the *Omaha World-Herald* that environmentalists had misled EPA administrator William K. Reilly, more or less tricking him into initiating a veto.

As an example of trickery, West cited environmentalist claims that recreation to be created by Two Forks would be hurt by fluctuations in the reservoir's level. West said recreation would be ensured because boat ramps "will be extremely long" to allow access to low water.

Col. West is undoubtedly a skilled and competent man. That he has been reduced to such arguments — akin to building a diving board without a swimming pool — indicates the weakness of the proposed Two Forks project. That weakness has three sources. First, as Colorado Gov. Roy Romer once pointed out and now Reilly points out, the project is very destructive. Second, as Romer then and Reilly now also realizes, Two Forks is not needed. Conservation and less damaging alternatives exist.

Neither of these two reasons, by themselves, could stop Two Forks. The project is on the verge of veto because the economic currents are flowing against it, and the political currents are following.

Two Forks as an idea was reborn in the late 1970s when the Denver metro area — buoyed by booming energy, minerals, recreation and agricultural activity in the Plains to its east and north and the mountains to its west — saw its already rapid growth accelerating. The Denver metro area had steadily expanded since the end of World War II and saw no reason for that expansion to end.

But end it did in the early 1980s. In reaction to the collapse of the surrounding rural economies, Denver's office vacancy rate zoomed to 30 percent, blocks of HUD homes were foreclosed on, and new construction slowed to a crawl. Those first shocks were followed by the after tremors, including the collapse of financial institutions, the outflow of people and drastic drops in real estate values.

In the normal course of events, changes in leadership follow failures of public policy. In the rural communities this paper reports on, it was not until several years after the energy collapse that political leaders were voted out. In the 1988 election, for example, Grand County (Moab), Utah, cast out two old-guard commissioners. In nearby Grand Junction, Colo., Mesa County commissioners associated with the oil shale boom days were replaced. The Grand County vote was especially significant, because the incumbent commissioners remained loyal to the old economy and hostile to the new. In other places, leadership either changed direction to acknowledge the new economic climate, or left.

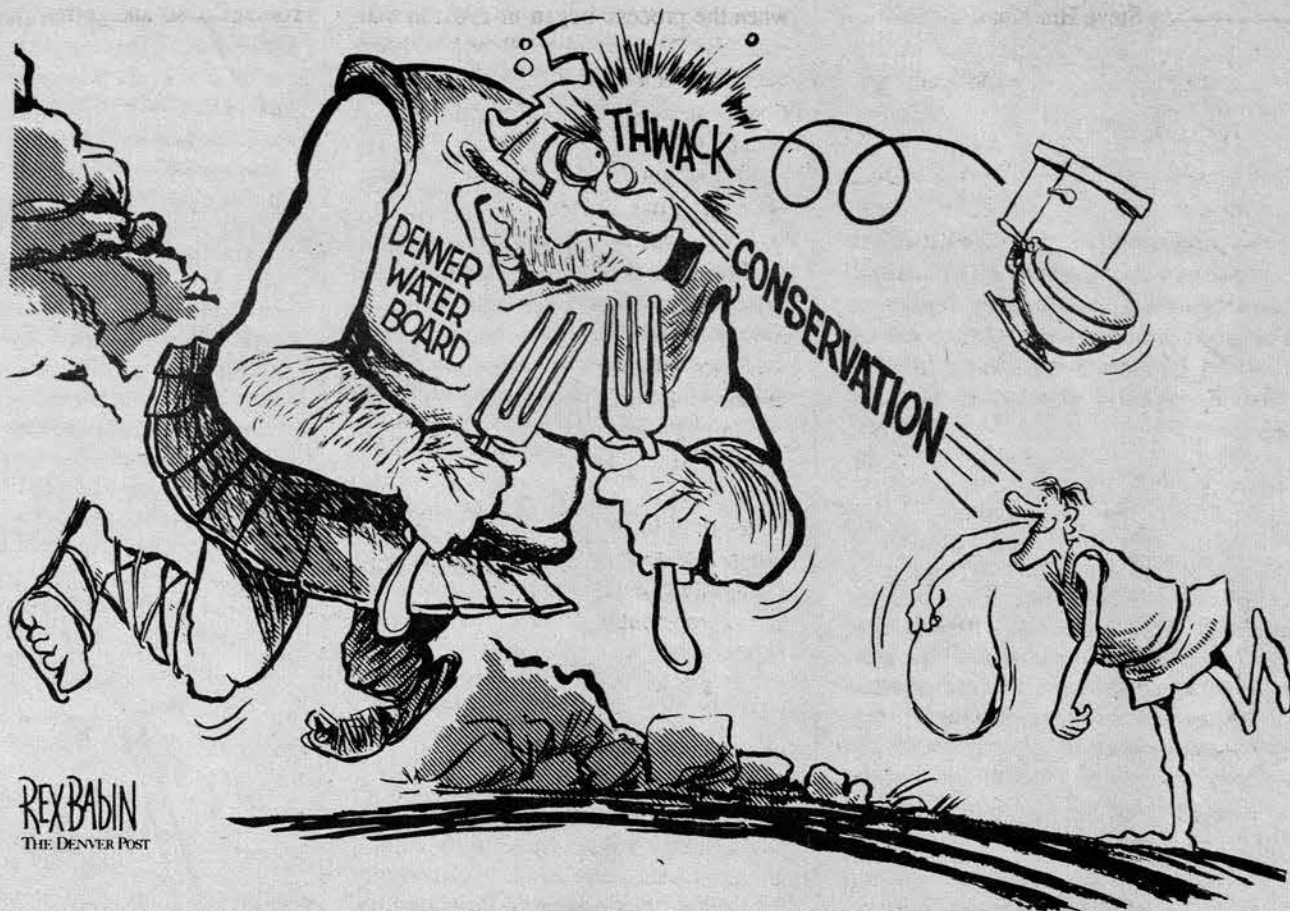
In Denver, when the economy collapsed, the leadership group — centered on the Denver Water Department and its board — decided to tough it through to the next period of real estate development. It decided to promote Two Forks as both a way to ensure future growth, and as a political tool to unite metro Denver. All current problems — air quality, mass transit, education, lack of planning — were put aside in favor of Two Forks.

The decision to put all of the metro area's eggs in the Two Forks basket was made even though the larger economic context had changed drastically. The Denver Water Department's only recognition of the disastrous economy was its request for an 18-year-long permit, so that it could wait a decade or so before beginning construction.

The decision to pursue Two Forks has been very, very expensive. In addition to the \$40 million spent on the environmental impact statement (that sum is a measure of how hard it was to justify the project; it is not a measure of the completeness of the document), the Denver leadership has spent enormous energy and political capital.

Despite that, they could not even keep Colorado in the Two Forks corner. Out of the eight-person Colorado delegation, Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell strongly opposed the project and Sen. Tim Wirth worked to get the Denver Water Department to adhere to the Foothills Agreement by practicing the conservation it had promised to implement.

In one of those coincidences that makes life interesting, the project's strong supporter, Sen.



William Armstrong, became a lame duck senator a few weeks before Reilly made his decision. In addition, the regional nature of the issue has been illustrated by the strong opposition of Nebraska Sen. J. James Exon, who fears Two Forks will damage the Platte River in his state.

The Colorado leaders were also unable to convince the public to support the project. Public hearings held last spring showed that Two Forks was almost unanimously opposed outside of the city, and very strongly opposed in the metro area. At times, opponents turned out in such strength that the few proponents who appeared never got to speak.

The project's supporters consisted of growth-minded suburban government officials and real estate developers, lending institutions, gravel pit operators, construction workers and their unions, contractors, mortgage companies and other members of the development community.

This economic group, whose roots in the West's cities are as deep and as old as extraction's roots in rural areas, was the Denver Water Department's army. The water department was simply the leader of an effort to preserve what has been for decades a vital part of the area's economy.

So powerful was the perceived need to preserve this part of the economy, and to lay the base for future growth, that the Denver Water Department was able to turn a reform-minded mayor, Federico Pena, into a staunch supporter of Two Forks.

It was also able to turn around Gov. Roy Romer. In June 1988, Romer analyzed Two Forks much as Reilly analyzed it last month. Despite that analysis, Romer was gradually converted into a Two Forks supporter. It can be guessed that he came to see Two Forks as a way to keep the Denver area's traditional economy alive.

What Romer could not see in late 1988, and what Pena missed seeing several years earlier, as a new mayor, is that it is too late to resurrect an economy based on development. The gargantuan political effort on behalf of Two Forks, the \$40 million spent attempting to manufacture a need for Two Forks and to cloak that project in acceptable environmental garb, Col. West's sad-funny statement about extending boat ramps into a depleted, mud-ringed pond, are all indications of a last-ditch attempt to turn an historic tide.

That the conservative Republican Bush administration appears ready to veto Two Forks says that the Denver Water Department is leading a diminishing army. With each passing month, more savings and loan institutions fall into receivership, homes are foreclosed on, land developers and speculators give up and relocate to Phoenix or San Diego, individuals and businesses change to activities that work in this new era, construction companies fold, and public attitudes change.

Some of this change is tragic in its human consequences. But the tragedies are not arguments for Two Forks. They are arguments for recognizing that the Denver metro area will not be rescued by the needless pouring of concrete and the destruction of an environmental treasure.

The current leadership of the Front Range gave it their best shot, based on a real estate development vision of the future. Now they appear to have lost, raising the question: What next? What new vision will replace the unworkable one?

Because environmentalists led the charge against Two Forks, it is our responsibility to help formulate an alternative to the vision represented by Two Forks. In the West, environmentalism is more than just another special interest. Environmentalism is the West's only strong citizen reform movement. The West's land, air, water and wildlife are so valuable and vulnerable that the environmental movement has attracted people who normally would be spread out into a variety of social, education and political reform groups.

That does not mean we should disband chapters of the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society and join the local school accountability committees and leagues of women voters. It does mean thinking in larger terms than blocking destructive projects. It also means environmentalists can no longer leave formulation of major economic strategies to the Denver Water Boards and real estate development companies of the West.

A natural first step is to merge environmental concerns with society's larger needs. For example, those who fought Two Forks could now campaign to turn the saved portion of the South Platte canyon into a destination classroom for all of the metro area's schoolchildren. The area's school districts should be asked to commit to regular visits by school children to the canyon.

As children return year after year, their grasp of the canyon would increase. The trips would be especially helpful if they were interleaved with visits to the reservoirs and treatment plants of the nearby Denver Water Department facilities.

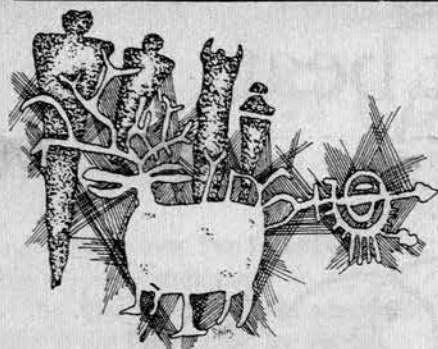
As a result of those trips, the future citizens of the Denver metro area could better understand the choices they will have to make on Two Forks and other development projects in the first part of the next century.

Through these trips, they would learn that the suburbs and the countryside are not separate entities, but are inextricably bound together. And, in bringing these issues into the schools, we environmentalists would learn how important it is to carry our insights about the land and nature into the other parts of society.

— Ed Marston

16-High Country News — April 10, 1989

BULLETIN BOARD



ZEPHYR WAFTS INTO MOAB

Grand County, Utah, has a new newspaper called the *Canyon Country Zephyr*, to challenge the *Stinking Desert Gazette* and the *Moab Times Independent*. The publisher is Jim Stiles, an illustrator and cartoonist whose work has enlivened HCN's "Off The Wall" column. Stiles' first issue contains a story by the late Edward Abbey about his early days in Santa Fe, N.M., and a column by Ken Sleight that will become a regular feature of the paper. The "Public Lands Watchdog," a column covering what federal agencies are doing on public lands, also will appear in each issue. Other stories in the first issue cover child abuse in Grand County, asbestos dumping and an interview with Grand County's commissioners. A subscription to the paper is \$10 until May 1; after that the rate goes up to \$12. Write the *Canyon Country Zephyr*, P.O. Box 327, Moab, UT 84532 (801/259-7773).

SAVE THE ELK

A group called the Colorado Elk Breeders Association is working to organize others interested in "adopting" surplus elk from Yellowstone National Park. The association's Steve Wolcott proposes a nonprofit group that would build holding and feeding pens close to the park. As a first step, Wolcott has sent letters to other elk breeders in the West. For more information, write Colorado Elk Breeders Assoc., c/o Steve Wolcott, Box 6, Paonia, CO 81428.

LAYERS OF TIME

A conference at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge April 21-23 will allow participants to discover the Great Basin of Oregon through field observation, lectures and creative expression. Called "Desert Conference XI: Layers of Time in the Great Basin," the event is sponsored by 14 conservation organizations and will be led by biologists, geologists, anthropologists, public land managers, artists and others. Field trips and lectures will cover the natural and human history of the Great Basin. Afternoon workshops will focus on varied topics such as the management of grazing and surface mining to capturing desert themes through photography, watercolor and writing. The conference will be based at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge; registration by April 10 is \$15 and \$25 after that date. For more information write Desert Conference XI, P.O. Box 1005, Bend, OR 97709 (503/389-4566 or 208/343-8153).

DRILLING IN ALASKA

The Department of Interior estimates there are 3.2 billion barrels of oil underlying the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the northeast corner of Alaska. But the agency says that developing the field will only slightly cushion the decline in oil production in the U.S. Those are findings of an Office of Technology Assessment report, *Oil Production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: The Technology and the Alaskan Oil Contest*. Producing oil from the refuge would mean building an extensive network of roads and pipelines, gravel pads, airfields and docks in otherwise pristine lands, opponents say. Backers say the coastal plain of the wildlife refuge is the most promising area for finding giant oil reserves and that environmental values need not be "significantly" compromised. The 121-page report is available for \$6 from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., 20402 (202/783-3238). Summaries of the report are free.

DENVER'S BROWN CLOUD

Wood-burning and motor-vehicle emissions are the culprits that cause the most visible air pollution in the Denver area, according to a \$1.5 million "Metro Denver Brown Cloud Study." Coal-fired power plants that produce sulfur dioxide are not a major cause of the cloud, the study concludes. Initiated by the Colorado Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency in 1987, the report was funded by the private sector under the direction of Democratic Gov. Roy Romer. Researchers concluded that "mobile sources" such as cars, buses and trains account for 22 percent of the cloud, with diesel engine particulates responsible for half of that total. Twenty-four percent of the brown cloud is particulate matter from wood burning, 13 percent is made up of dirt and dust and another 13 percent is ammonium nitrate, formed from a combination of urban smog and ammonia from agriculture and industry. Nitrogen dioxide from motor vehicle emissions, power plants and oil refineries makes up 12 percent of the cloud. Eight percent is haze that occurs naturally. The committee said reducing the brown cloud could "improve the perception of Denver's quality of life. Some people believe that, with a substantial reduction in the brown cloud, economic development efforts would be more successful in attracting new businesses to the Denver area and in retaining existing ones." The technical part of the study identified major pollution sources and compares the burning of coal vs. natural gas in power plants. The socio-economic part of the study evaluated costs of different strategies for controlling pollution. Copies of the three-volume set including all technical data cost \$75; the project summary is \$10. Both are available from Ben Bryan at the Greater Denver Area Chamber of Commerce, 1600 Sherman, Denver, CO 80203 (303/894-8500).

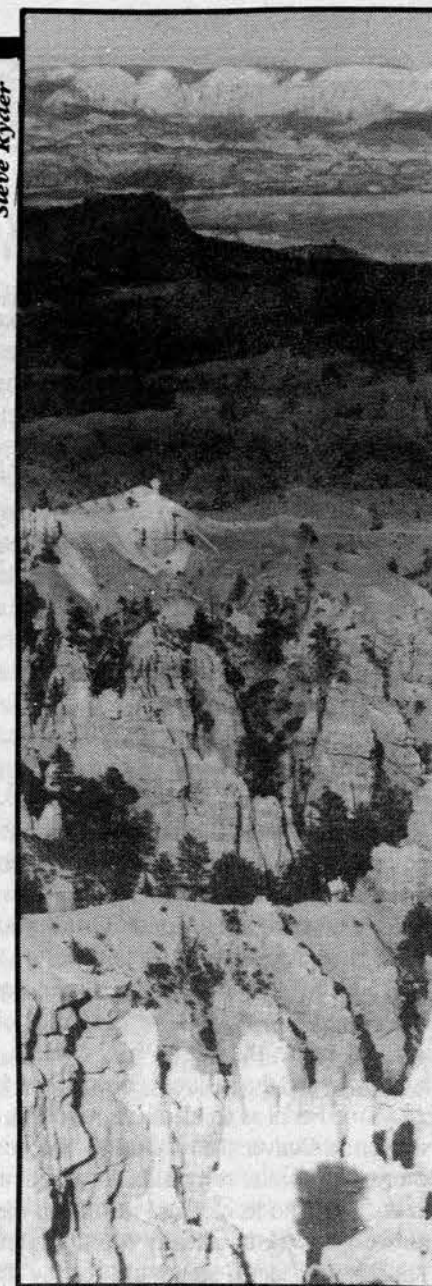
ROOTED IN THE PAST

The U.S. Forest Service is still rooted in its "timber production" past and needs to better reflect the values of the public, says *Our National Forests: Will the Future Be Different?*, a collaborative effort of the National Wildlife Federation and Neil Sampson of the American Forestry Association. The 12-page pamphlet describes the birth and adolescence of the U.S. Forest Service, its turmoil during the 1950s and 1960s, and the agency's efforts at forest planning into the 1980s. The pamphlet calls for the agency to define new goals. The report says new public values are greater protection of non-commodity values, equal treatment of environmental quality when compared to economic returns, and better clarification of "national interest" versus local voices. The report says the concept of multiple use in the nation's forests was doomed from the beginning because timber remained the major revenue producer. That meant the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 was used as a way of explaining how "maximum timber cuts could be produced without undue effect on other values and users." For a copy of the report, write to the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036 (202/797-6800).



NO WINNEBAGOS

A newly formed group called Yellowstone Earth First! says its modest proposal for the Yellowstone Park area includes tripling the amount of designated wilderness to over 11 million acres. Based in Bozeman, Mont., the group says that current management of the 14-million-acre ecosystem is destructive and commodity-oriented. The Yellowstone Earth First! proposal would add over 7 million acres of surrounding wilderness, remove most man-made developments in the park and dismantle Hebgen and Jackson Lake dams. It would also eliminate private traffic in Yellowstone Park, remove trucking from Gallatin Canyon and ban off-road use, including snowmobiles, from the entire ecosystem. Visitors would be encouraged to walk, ski, cycle or ride in horse-drawn wagons through the park. All aircraft would be limited to airspace above 35,000 feet. "Acceptable" forest practices would include horse-logging, local mill operations, and selective, sustained-yield, uneven-aged cuts, with no clearcuts allowed. The proposal also includes buying out all inholdings, removing livestock grazing and reintroducing all extirpated species. Visitors would be able to hunt any cows and sheep in the area. For more information, contact Philip Knight, Yellowstone Earth First!, P.O. Box 6151, Bozeman, MT 59715.



Bryce Canyon National Park

GONZO TOUR OF THE COLORADO PLATEAU

A six-day bicycle tour across the Colorado Plateau in early June will give riders an up-close view of southern Utah's magnificent public lands. The "Southern Utah Wheel-Around" will travel 343 miles of paved roads through Cedar Breaks National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, The San Rafael Swell and Capitol Reef National Park, ending in Moab near Arches and Canyonlands national parks. The ride is sponsored by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, which says it is definitely not a trip for the faint-hearted. The \$250 cost includes camping facilities, breakfast and dinner each day. For more information, contact Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, P.O. Box 518, Cedar City, UT 84720 (801/586-8242 or 801/532-5959).

CELEBRATE THE COLORADO PLATEAU

The spotlight will be on the Colorado Plateau's archaeology, geology, rivers and history when the Canyonlands Natural History Association holds its 14th annual "Canyon Country Weekend Workshop" April 28-30. Speakers include Hellmut Doelling, senior geologist with the Utah Geological and Mineral Survey, Don Hatch, past president of Western River Guides Association and Terry Tempest Williams, author of *Coyote's Canyon*. Workshops are free at the Moab Community Center, 450 East 100 North, Moab. For more information, contact Eleanor Inskip, Canyonlands Natural History Association, 125 West 200 South, Moab, UT 84532 (801/259-6003).

NEXT TO A WILDERNESS

The Wasatch National Forest in Utah is preparing an environmental analysis to determine what activities should be allowed in Utah's 18,000-acre Stillwater-Boundary Creek area. Located next to the High Uintas Wilderness, its timber stands, riparian areas and streams form critical habitat for elk, moose, black bear, pine marten and trout. The Utah Wilderness Association calls it "integral to the integrity of the High Uintas Wilderness." Chevron, however, would like to drill for oil in the Stillwater region. Oil exploration as well as timber harvesting, grazing and vehicular recreation are potential uses of the area. For more information and to send comments for the environmental analysis, write to Clyde Thompson, Evanston District Ranger, 1565 Hwy 150, Suite A, Evanston, WY 82931 (307/789-3194).

