

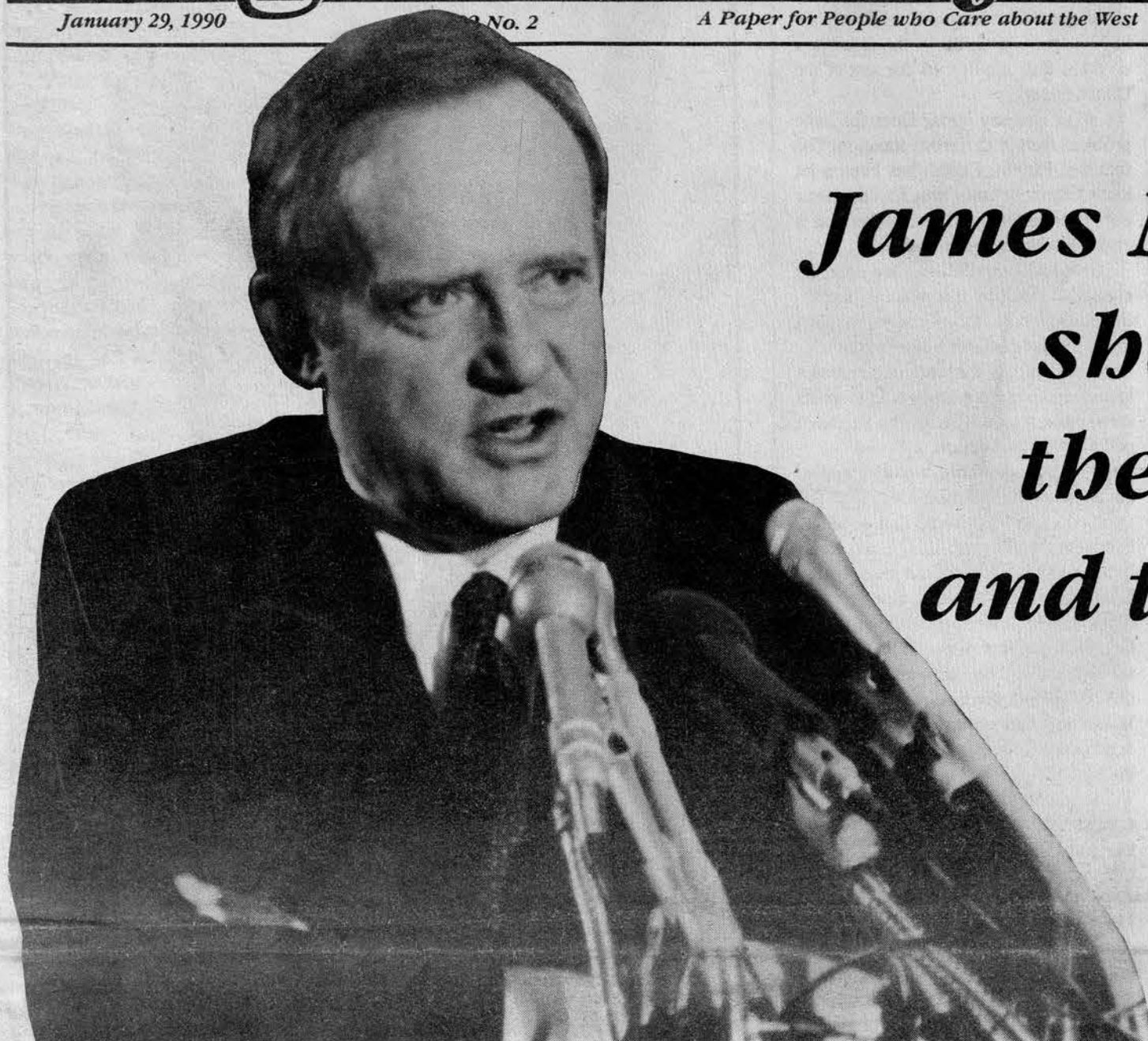
High Country News

January 29, 1990

No. 2

A Paper for People who Care about the West

One dollar



James McClure shakes up the Senate, and the West

by Andrew Melnykovich

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The surprise announcement by Sen. James McClure that he will not seek a fourth term had an earthquake-like effect on the relatively stable structure of Idaho's congressional politics.

It also sent major shocks waves through the nation's capitol, where it will take a long time to sort through the rubble created by the coming departure of the senior Republican.

McClure's GOP colleagues are preparing to reshuffle two powerful committee posts. Conservationists and coal companies alike are wondering what they may gain when one of their most consistent opponents leaves Capitol Hill. And Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan may be hearing footsteps.

The soft-spoken and courtly McClure is the senior Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Senate appropriations subcommittee for the Interior Department and Forest Service. He chaired both panels when the GOP controlled the Senate during the first half of the 1980s.

In those posts, McClure has exercised enormous power over both the policy and the purse strings attached to federal natural resources. It appears unlikely that any of McClure's possible successors will establish a similar hegemo-

ny, or that the two positions McClure now holds will again be in the hands of one person.

The filling of the vacuum left by McClure offers an opportunity to examine just how large a role a single lawmaker can play in determining the fate of Western public lands and resources. McClure's influence rests on the positions he holds. But his energy and talent have transformed those positions into extensive power over the West.

Who's in line for energy?

Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon is in line to succeed McClure as top Republican on the energy committee. But Hatfield is already the ranking GOP member of the far-more-powerful appropriations committee, and would never relinquish that post to take over the energy chairmanship.

Behind Hatfield are Sens. Pete Domenici of New Mexico and Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming. Domenici is the ranking Republican on the Senate budget committee and it is possible that Domenici would swap the budget post to become ranking Republican on energy. If he does not, Wallop, who has no ranking status on any other committee, would almost certainly step up into McClure's shoes.

Neither Domenici nor Wallop would represent much of a shift away from McClure's staunchly pro-development brand of Western politics. All three

men have been strong backers of the uranium industry, more petroleum development on federal lands, and continuation of federal grazing and water policies. Domenici has been somewhat more moderate on issues such as pollution and wilderness, and is less ideological than Wallop.

Next up for appropriations

The situation on the interior appropriations committee is more complex. Ted Stevens of Alaska is second-ranking Republican on the interior subcommittee. He is also the ranking GOP member on the defense panel, where his work has earned him high praise from his colleagues. But the interior panel is far more relevant to Alaska, and Stevens may see a switch as a political necessity.

Should Stevens stay put at defense, the interior subcommittee post would then go to another senator with a major stake in management of public lands, Jake Garn of Utah. Garn would have to give up his ranking status on the subcommittee with jurisdiction over the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Whether Garn could let loose of the the budget for his beloved space program is problematic.

Neither of the next two GOP members is likely to show much interest in assuming McClure's post. Sen. Thad Cochran of Mississippi can do much more for his constituents as the ranking member of the agriculture appropri-

tions panel. Sen. Warren Rudman of New Hampshire has shown more interest in the departments of Commerce, State and Justice, and will probably choose to remain the senior GOP member of the subcommittee that sets their spending.

A pass by each of the four senators ahead of him would be a windfall for Sen. Don Nickles of Oklahoma. Not only would Nickles get a major voice in budget decisions important to his state, but he could also jettison his chairmanship of the legislative appropriations subcommittee, a job that entails telling his fellow members how much they can spend on mail, staff, and paper clips. It is a post reserved for junior members, and they get out of it as soon as they can.

Of McClure's five possible replacements, only Rudman is considered to have any conservationist leanings. But Stevens has done surprisingly well in recent League of Conservation Voters ratings, especially in comparison to other western Republicans. On the other hand, only Stevens could be expected to go to bat for timber interests with the same tenacity displayed by McClure.

Garn is a strident right-wing ideologue who early last year marked his arrival on the Senate energy committee by calling for renewal of the Sagebrush Rebellion. Cochran has not been active in public lands issues, showing little interest when the Senate Agriculture

(Continued on page 12)

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.

Tom Bell
Editor Emeritus

Ed Marston
Publisher

Betsy Marston
Editor

Linda Bacigalupi
Development

Steve Hinchman
Special Issues

Florence Williams
Research/Reporting

Steve Ryder
Editorial Assistant

Peter Carrels
Pat Ford
Jim Stiak
Regional Bureaus

C.L. Rawlins
Poetry Editor

C.B. Elliott
Circulation/Production

Claire Moore-Murrill
Business

Ann Ulrich
Typesetting

Jane McGarry
Proofreading/Production

Rob Bleiberg
Brian Collins
Mara Rabin
Interns

Tom Bell, Lander WY
Lynn Dickey, Sheridan WY
John Driscoll, Helena MT
Michael Ehlers, Boulder CO
Jeff Fereday, Boise ID
Tom France, Missoula MT
Karl Frohboese, Park City UT
Sally Gordon, Kaycee WY
Bill Hedden, Moab UT
Dan Luecke, Boulder CO
Adam McLane, Helena MT
Lynda S. Taylor, Albuquerque NM
Herman Warsh, Emigrant MT
Andy Wiessner, Denver CO
Robert Wigginton, Boulder CO
Susan A. Williams, Phoenix AZ
Board of Directors

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

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

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

Subscriptions are \$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.

How's the weather?

Newsweek, *Time* and *Harper's* face the challenge of covering the nation from New York City. Their editors must be on guard against thinking that what they see in New York, or even in the Bos-Wash corridor, also applies to the rest of the United States.

High Country News faces the same problem from a different location. The fact that Paonia, Colo., has been a lot like southern Arizona thus far this winter does not mean that the rest of the West is also suffering from dry conditions.

But local conditions are extreme enough to make us ask what is happening elsewhere. It is especially unsettling to see the buds on this valley's fruit trees begin to swell, as if spring (rather than a killing freeze) were only a few weeks away, and to see the bulbs in moist places spring into action.

The unseasonable weather is also visible along the 30-mile-long, high-elevation Kebler Pass road that connects Paonia to the ski town of Crested Butte. In most years, it is closed by snow by Thanksgiving, at the latest. But this year, it has been open through mid-January. In fact, *HCN* staffers drove it in search of ski-able snow. The snow they found at the 10,000-foot level near the West Elk Wilderness had no base and was more appropriate for wading through than skiing on.

In response to these local conditions and press reports from elsewhere, we put the paper's three interns — Brian Collins, Mara Rabin and Rob Bleiberg — to work scouring the region. "Have you seen any weather this winter?" they asked our freelance network of reporters, Soil Conservation Service and National Weather Service officials, and anyone else whose name came up in conversation.

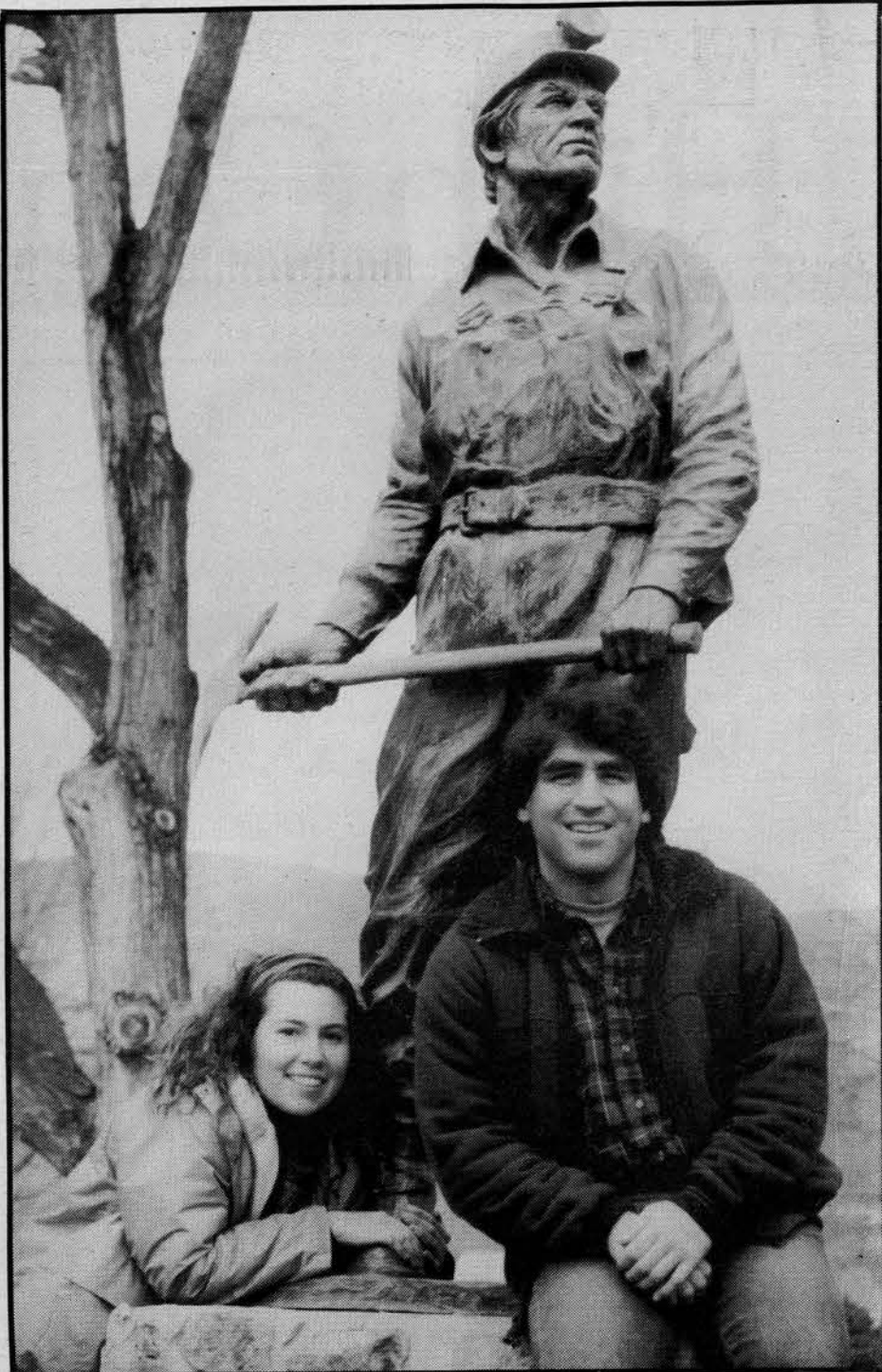
The results were mixed, but not comforting. It appears that up until Jan. 20 or so, Paonia was a lot like the rest of the West when it came to precipitation. Brant Calkin of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance had this assessment: The West, he said, is simply turning normal again. After years of unseasonably wet weather, the region is reverting to type. And a reader from northern New Mexico, Imiah Lujano of Chama, called on a Saturday afternoon to report that he could see geese flying — north. He speculated that the harsh early winter weather in the southern part of the United States and in northern Mexico was sending them north.

It is a cliché that everyone talks about the weather but no one does anything. That isn't true at *HCN*. Based on their many telephone calls, the three interns have written a weather Roundup which appears on page 3. Readers who also wish to do something about the weather can help us keep up with the winter as it unfolds or fails to unfold by calling the intern bullpen at 303/527-4898 with news. Such calls will help because precipitation this winter has been extremely irregular. Westerners used to say that if you didn't like the weather, just wait a few minutes and it will change. Now the saying is: If you don't like the weather where you are, move to the next town.

Big boost

Northwest Area Foundation gave *High Country News* a welcome boost in the closing days of 1989 by granting it

Steve Ryder



New interns Mara Rabin and Rob Bleiberg. The statue is part of the North Fork Miners Memorial in Paonia's park, which is dedicated to 62 miners killed in local coal mines since 1906.

\$45,000 for a one-year effort to expand coverage into the Northwest region. Although *HCN* makes occasional forays into the wet part of the West in pursuit of salmon fisheries, hydroelectric development and the old-growth controversy, those are more guerrilla raids than a planned invasion.

With this grant, *HCN* intends to solidify its Northwest coverage. We will spend 1990 recruiting freelance writers in the Northwest and educating ourselves and our readers about that area's issues. The paper will also work hard to find subscribers in the Northwest.

A key part of the expansion is Pat Ford, who is an Idaho native, a former head of the Idaho Conservation League and a long-time freelancer and microbureau head for *HCN*. He has been hired as regional editor. By the end of the year, Pat, working out of Boise, will have found the freelance writers *HCN* needs and produced two special issues on different aspects of the Northwest. By 1991, both we and the Northwest Area Foundation expect, the Northwest will be integrated into *HCN*'s existing regional family.

The foundation is based in St. Paul, but its region of interest extends from Iowa and Minnesota westward along the northern tier of the United States into Washington and Oregon.

Welcome, interns

New intern Mara Rabin arrived recently from the nation's capital where she worked for Concern Inc., a nonprofit environmental organization that develops and publishes community-action guides. Mara researched and wrote a sec-

tion of an upcoming guide that discusses what can be done about global warming.

Although she spent four years at Barnard College in New York City, Paonia is not the first small town Mara has lived in. Two summers ago Mara lived in Chinle, Ariz., where she worked for the Student Conservation Association as an interpretive ranger at Canyon de Chelly. The immense sky, vast expanses of space and proximity to Native American cultures draw her back to the Southwest, she says.

Mara joined *HCN*'s intern crew in order to learn more about the Southwest's environmental issues while saving some time to play in the canyons and mountains. After her stint in Paonia, Mara is off to El Paso, Texas, to begin a semester-long Outward Bound course.

At this time last year new intern Rob Bleiberg was in the rainforests of Cameroon volunteering for the World Wildlife Fund in the Korup National Park. He spent three months in the West African nation before returning to the less exotic environs of Colorado for a third season of work in the White River National Forest's Eagle's Nest Wilderness Area. There he supervised a back-country trail crew for the Forest Service.

Originally from Fairfax, Va., Rob went to Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., where he earned a degree in American studies with a concentration on wilderness and American culture. For much of the past four years, Rob has lived in Summit County, Colo. Following his stay in Paonia, he hopes to work for an environmental nonprofit organization somewhere in the Rocky Mountain region.

—Ed Marston for the staff

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Is it an early spring or late-starting winter in the West?

Jan. 20: As floods ravage western Washington, Moab, Utah, has been dry for 11 months. Skiers in Telluride, Colo., contend with artificial snow, exposed rocks and closed runs while their counterparts in Steamboat Springs enjoy deep powder.

Thus far this winter, weather conditions vary radically throughout the West, and the only thing anyone can be sure of is that whatever it is like at home, it is probably different one state or maybe even one county away.

Although erratic weather seems to be the norm, very dry conditions prevail through most of the 12-state region. Southern Idaho, the state's principal agricultural region, may be the hardest hit. Snowpack in the Boise River basin is 25 percent of normal, the second lowest accumulation in 30 years, and reservoirs are very low following two exceptionally dry years, reports the Soil Conservation Service.

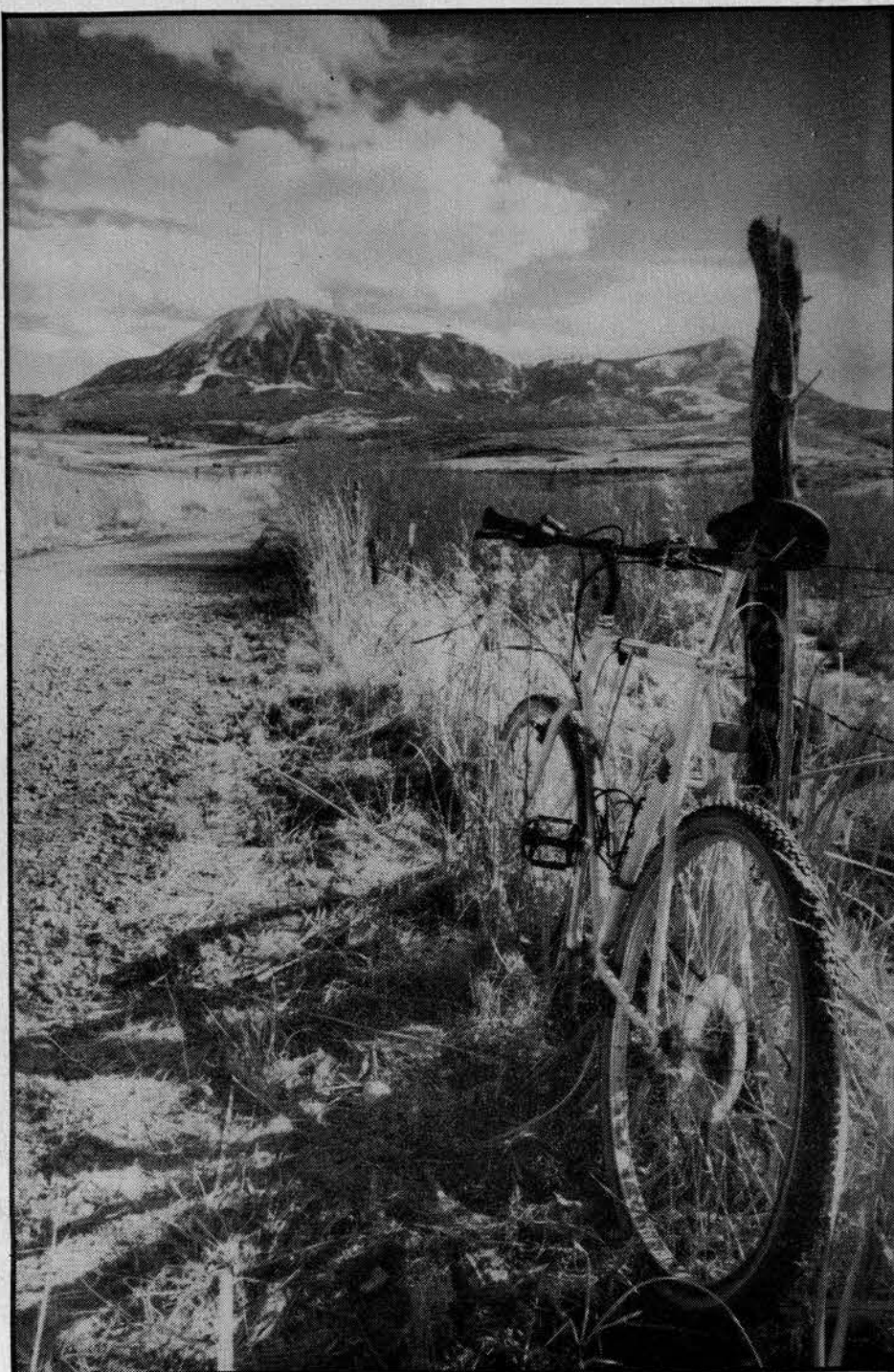
"The extremely low snowpack and below-normal storage could lead to disastrous conditions next summer, especially for agriculture," said snow-survey specialist Phil Palmer of the SCS office in Boise.

Nevada has experienced very dry conditions since 1987 and precipitation totals since Oct. 1 are "miserable," said Mike Ekern of the National Weather Service in Reno. Snowpacks 20 to 50 percent of normal plague ski resorts in the Lake Tahoe area and the slow business is hurting everyone from waitresses to "chain monkeys," people who install chains, for \$15 a car, along roads leading over Sierra Nevada mountain passes, reports *The Reno Gazette-Journal*.

Conditions in the eastern part of the state are slightly better, and despite dry conditions, officials are not panicking: "We are not into alert stage for drought yet," said Roy Kaiser of the SCS office in Reno.

In Utah, conditions range from grim to grimmer. Precipitation since Oct. 1 has been half of normal and although high reservoirs should prevent widespread summer shortages, some local areas are in trouble. In Park City, near Salt Lake City, a snow shortage at the World Cup Opening in November prompted officials to haul snow in garbage trucks to the site from nearby Alta.

Moab's problem isn't bad ski conditions but dessicated range. The area hasn't seen significant rain since



Steve Ryder

Most winters, these mountains close to Paonia are snow-covered

February, 1989, and cattle have eaten the dried annuals and are ripping perennial bushes out by the roots or chewing them down to stumps.

Word around the area is that this may be "the year that the range gets destroyed," said Bill Hedden, a Castle Valley resident. It will "look like a parking lot or nuclear holocaust by the time they're done this winter." There is nothing on the range now but "stumps of bushes, cow turds and dirt," he reported.

Conditions in western and southwestern Montana and southern Wyoming are not critical but could

become so if winter snow and spring rain don't come. Low early winter snowpack and low reservoirs left the area vulnerable.

In Jackson, Wyo., ski conditions were so bad in December that stories circulated saying the resort had closed. But Jackson was better off than many of the 32 ski areas in Colorado, where snowpacks were 10 percent of normal. In the San Juan range of southern Colorado, snowpacks were 10 percent of normal before a big snowfall Jan. 20.

"In southwestern Colorado, it's drier than a tinder box," said Len Bollis of the

SCS in Denver. Rivers are low and soils exceptionally dry. Researchers expect problems for municipal water supplies and the public range. March and April, usually the heaviest precipitation months, hold the key for spring run off.

"Southwestern Colorado will be in pretty damn tough shape if things don't start picking up," said Bollis.

Two extremely dry years have left North Dakota boat ramps high and dry around Missouri River reservoirs. The low water levels threaten municipal water supplies and the recreation industry. Parched soils jeopardize state agriculture and dry-land farmers can only look towards the sky and hope. South Dakota's problems aren't as severe, but normal spring rains are needed to replenish subsoil moisture.

Dry soils also plague eastern Colorado, where 65,000 tilled acres have blown and an estimated 1.8 million acres are vulnerable to wind erosion. Dust storms in the Denver area have already led to one traffic fatality.

In Arizona, it was so dry in late January that two feet of snow in the mountains and one inch of rain in the desert did little to help, reports the *Arizona Republic*. But the state's water storage capacity is so enormous that shortages won't be a problem until 2010 to 2015, reports Arizona's Water Resources Department.

In New Mexico, near to above-average levels in major reservoirs should prevent widespread shortages next summer despite drought conditions. But irrigators dependent on more vulnerable smaller storage reservoirs will face inadequate water supplies.

While much of the West craves wet weather, the Pacific Northwest has had more than its fill. Heavy rains in Western Washington caused mudslides and floated cars away.

Despite the destructive floods, precipitation since Oct. 1 has only been 50 percent of average. Snowpack was 30 percent of normal before heavy rain fell that reduced it further. Nevertheless, "water users should be able to get through the upcoming (summer) season," said John Lee a hydrologist with the SCS in Portland, Ore. Oliver McGatha, a Washington resident whose house flooded, summed up the Western weather experience: "It's been pretty wild!", he told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

—Rob Bleiberg, Brian Collins, Mara Rabin

HOTLINE

Talks are on

Formal negotiations have begun over proposed timber clearcuts in Montana's Bitterroot National Forest. Two days a week during January and February, members of the environmental groups Friends of the Bitterroot, Trout Unlimited and Wild Allan Mountain will meet with representatives from Stoltze-Conner Lumber, Darby Lumber, Intermountain Roundwood Association and Montana Women in Lumber. The negotiations spring from a 1989 appeal made by Friends of the Bitterroot to prevent the lumber companies from logging in the Allan Mountain Roadless Area. Proposed cuts there covered roughly 18,000 acres that included riparian land, elk and cutthroat trout habitat and a pristine watershed.

A messy case in Nevada

Nevada's Board of Wildlife Commissioners refused to penalize a former commissioner convicted of two hunting violations. Bruce Kent, a commissioner from July 1984 to May 1989, avoided suspension of his hunting, fishing and trapping privileges after the state board rejected a move to bring Kent before the group for possible license revocation, reports the *Reno Gazette-Journal*. The board's action angered a state hunting organization, which charged that the decision smacked of favoritism. "If they don't bring Bruce Kent up before this commission for possible revocation, then how can you bring anybody else up?" asked Nevada Hunters Association President Gerald Lent. But board members felt Kent had suffered enough.

"The acts he did were appalling and shameful but ... he's already been embarrassed beyond belief," said Commissioner Dan Papez. Kent and two other former commissioners were convicted of hunting in the Stillwater Wildlife Management Area. All three paid fines and resigned. But Kent was convicted later for guiding without the proper permit. Though not required by Nevada state law, a second violation usually results in a board hearing. Commissioner Don Cain's move to bring Kent before the board received no support from the eight other board members. The controversy focused additional unwanted attention on the wildlife department, which recently underwent a state ordered audit to investigate charges of mismanagement, negligence and waste.

The chief gets the word

In memos prepared in November but only made public this month, supervisors from all 10 Forest Service regions protested their agency's emphasis on timber programs. Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson received the protests just before he met with 123 forest supervisors. One memo from supervisors of every region objected to priorities that over the last 20 years have allocated 35 percent of the agency's budget to timber sales. During the same time only 2-3 percent went to recreation, wildlife and environmental protection. In another memo, "The current emphasis on national forest programs does not reflect the land stewardship values" of the forest plans, said supervisors from Montana, North Dakota, northern Idaho and northwestern South Dakota.

4-High Country News — January 29, 1990

HOTLINE

Governor opposes leasing ban

Wyoming Gov. Mike Sullivan joined the state's two senators and one congressman in opposing a legislative ban on oil and gas leases on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. A new management plan for the Bridger-Teton Forest opens virtually all non-wilderness land to potential energy development (HCN, 12/18/89). Strong support for banning leasing came from Teton County Commissioners and 2,690 people who signed a petition circulated by the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning. They said energy development threatened the local economy, which is based on tourism and recreation on public land. The alliance expects to appeal the plan's leasing guidelines.



©John P. George

Poaching didn't pay

Two Montana men drew stiff sentences for illegally killing moose on the Gallatin National Forest near Yellowstone National Park. A West Yellowstone justice of the peace fined John R. Haug \$6,070, sentenced him to two years in jail and revoked his hunting license for 10 years after Haug pleaded guilty to hunting moose without a license, taking moose out of season and two counts of selling big game. Edward D. Jordan received fines totaling \$2,552 and an 18-month jail sentence and lost his hunting license privileges for seven and a half years for unlawful possession of moose and transporting an illegally killed moose. The two arrests culminated a three-week undercover operation led by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and involving the West Yellowstone Police Department, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department, Yellowstone National Park and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The investigation began after an anonymous caller notified Montana's toll-free poaching hotline that Haug was selling moose meat in the West Yellowstone area. The stiff sentences "are not unusual for a deliberate, repeated violation," said federal game warden Bud Hubbard. "Killing to sell meat is one of our more serious violations," he said.

BARBS

Don't other oil companies already know how to pollute the environment?

Exxon Corporation is asking that all evidence resulting from the Exxon Valdez oil spill be kept secret until its trial starts. Exxon fears the release of its trade secrets to competitors, according to *The New York Times*.

National parks face a very hazy future

The most famous vistas in America are steadily disappearing behind a veil of haze. From the Grand Canyon to Sequoia and Yosemite, the parks are often so clogged with air pollution that views are obscured and human health is sometimes threatened.

The biological diversity the parks protect is also at risk in the aerial assault. Vital as storehouses for plant and animal life that is vanishing elsewhere, scientists have begun to see ill effects to the flora and fauna within the parks, primarily from ozone and acid rain.

"Every place we've monitored we've seen degradation of visibility from man-made sources," said Christine L. Shaver, who is chief of the Policy, Planning and Permit Review Branch of the National Park Service's Air Quality Division in Denver. "No place is immune."

The Park Service says that more than 90 percent of the time, scenic vistas in the parks are affected by man-made pollution.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks, next to each other in the mountains of eastern California, suffer one of the most serious air pollution problems of any park. Tiny airborne particles emitted by automobiles, farming, trucking, oil refining and other development by the 2.5 million people who reside in California's booming San Joaquin Valley create what officials call regional haze, and the air shed is the country's second dirtiest after Los Angeles.

"The San Joaquin is like a big bathtub and we form the west wall of the bathtub," said Tom Nichols, an air pollution specialist with Sequoia National Park. "Every day the haze fills up the valley and the canyons and we look into the gray, murky soup."

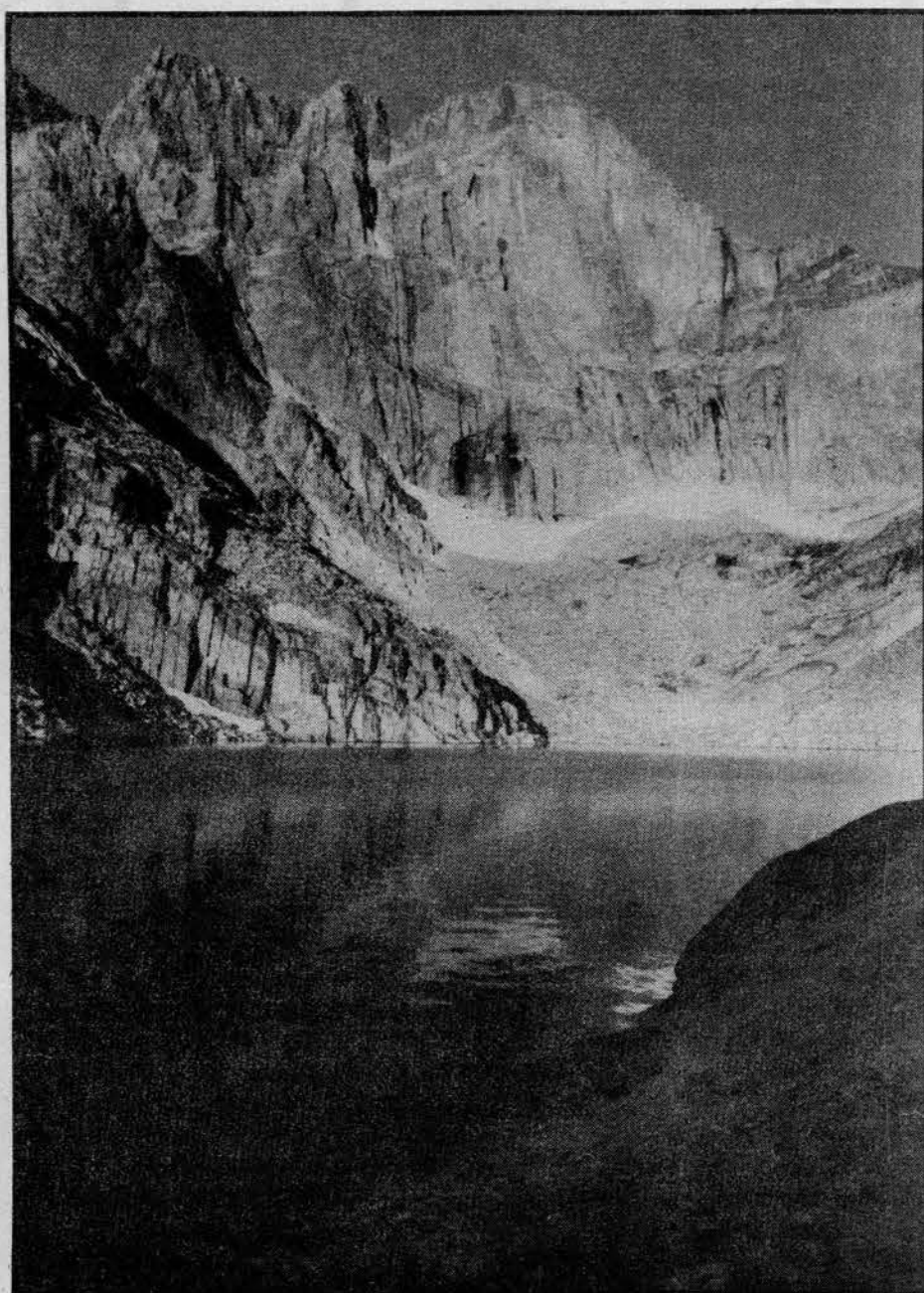
Regional haze is a serious problem throughout the national park system. Since 1948, observers at airports in the eastern United States have measured visibility, and in the past 40 years the average distance that people can see has dropped by half — from 18 to 30 miles in 1948 to nine to 15 miles today.

But the soiling of the formerly crystalline skies of the West has drawn most of the attention. Haze from the infamous Los Angeles air plume, as well as from coal-fired power plants, settles into the Grand Canyon, one of the world's most famous views, especially in the winter.

The lingering haze washes out the striking reds, purples, browns and grays, and obscures the canyon's varied textures. An average of one day out of 10 visitors can't see the other side of the roughly 10-mile-wide canyon.

"It's the destruction of the heritage that the parks were set aside to protect," said Bob Yuhnke, an attorney with the Environmental Defense Fund in Boulder, Colo. "If you go to the Grand Canyon and can't see 50 miles you can't see the Grand Canyon. It's 160 miles long. Part of the majesty is being able to take in this work of creation at one time."

In 1982 the Environmental Defense Fund sued the Environmental Protection Agency to force them to uphold a portion of the 1977 Clean Air Act, which protected visibility in the parks. EDF won and as part of the court order, the EPA studied air pollution at the Grand Canyon. Last August the EPA determined that a primary cause of pollution was the Navajo Generating Station, a mammoth coal-fired power plant 80 miles from the center of the Grand Canyon, which is owned by a consortium that includes the City of Los Angeles and the federal Bureau of Reclamation. (The Park Service has no enforce-



Glenn Randall

Chasm Lake and Longs Peak, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

ment authority over pollution that originates outside of park boundaries.)

By February, the EPA is scheduled to decide how much the plant must reduce its emissions, which is also believed to be affecting Canyonlands and Bryce national parks.

While the EPA is beginning to enforce one portion of the 1977 Clean Air Act, the agency hasn't even written regulations to deal with regional haze, which is a far more widespread problem. Some legislators are hoping to add a new regional haze section to the Clean Air Act amendments now before Congress.

Those whose job it is to protect the parks worry that air pollution in some major U.S. cities is so bad that, however poor things are in the parks, the air seems good by comparison. People simply don't notice the deteriorating air quality.

"We get a lot of people from L.A.," said Dawn Vernon, a Park Service interpreter who has established a program at Sequoia to explain air pollution there to visitors. "They get here and think the air is wonderful. When we tell them it's not, they're shocked."

In much of the West, air quality is expected to worsen. The EPA estimates sulfur and nitrogen oxides from coal-fired power plants may double by the year 2010.

"There are projected increases in sulfur dioxide of less than 10 percent in California, 40 to 50 percent in the Rocky Mountains and 70 percent in Texas," said the Park Service's Shaver. Based on these figures, Shaver said, air quality at some parks will go downhill.

"At a place like Big Bend (National Park) in Texas, an average day will become a good day and a bad day will become the average."

Sulfur dioxide also causes biological impacts on the parks in the form of acid

precipitation. So does ozone, which is caused by a chemical breakdown in automobile exhaust. (While ozone in the upper atmosphere, whose depletion is of concern because of global warming, is necessary to filter out harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun, it is poisonous at ground level.)

Both ozone and acid precipitation show up in high levels in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Ozone has contributed to the death of Jeffrey pine trees in Sequoia and caused visible damage to Ponderosa pine. How ozone will affect the giant Sequoias is not yet known. Studies in which branches of the Sequoia trees are encased in plastic and fumigated with high levels of ozone are just getting under way, but preliminary studies show that ozone does adversely affect the root and shoot growth of sequoia seedlings. In some parks, including the Santa Monica Recreation Area and Indiana Dunes National Monument, high levels of ozone have wiped out a number of lichen species.

The human health effects from ozone and from respirable particles that pollute the air in the parks are the same as they would be elsewhere.

However, people who visit the parks often exert themselves by running or hiking, which exacerbates the problem. In 1988 in Acadia National Park officials were forced to warn visitors not to exert themselves when ozone levels shot up well above the federal air quality standard, and stayed that way for several days.

"If those levels had been in a factory it would have violated Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards and been illegal," said Elizabeth Fayad, park threats coordinator for the National Parks and Conservation Associ-

Continued on page 5

Northwest's old-growth battles continue

Two months after Congress passed legislation on the Northwest's old-growth forests, its implementation is proceeding amidst lawsuits, protests and record-high timber prices.

Forest Service and BLM employees have been working overtime to prepare the 9.6 billion board-feet of timber sales called for in the bill by next Sept. 30. Despite rumors of private doubting over whether the goal could be reached, Forest Service spokesmen remained guardedly optimistic.

"It'll be a close call," said Ron DeHart, public affairs officer for Washington's Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. "But barring any unforeseen circumstances, like a large fire season, we'll probably achieve the goal."

In mid-December, the first timber sale auctions in five months brought protests from Earth First! and prices that knocked many mills out of the bidding.

About 30 protestors greeted the sealed bid auction on the Detroit ranger district of Oregon's Willamette National Forest. Two protestors were carried out of the auction room — one had fallen down crying, "You're killing us!" according to one observer — but no one was arrested. At subsequent auctions, the protestors were kept out of the bidding room.

Inside the room, mill owners were offering what one called "preservationist-induced prices." Douglas fir was selling for up to four times the Forest Service-appraised values. One sale fetched more than \$1500 per thousand board-feet. "It's got to be a record," said Willamette timber officer Bob Leonard.

These prices may soon be reflected in lumber and housing costs, although the still low prices for other species, (\$53 per thousand for hemlock, for example), may offset some of the jump in Douglas fir values.

Meanwhile, environmental groups pressed federal courts in Seattle and Portland — the same courts whose injunction led to congressional action in October — to declare the legislation

Air quality . . .

(Continued from page 4)

ation, an environmental group that focuses on the parks.

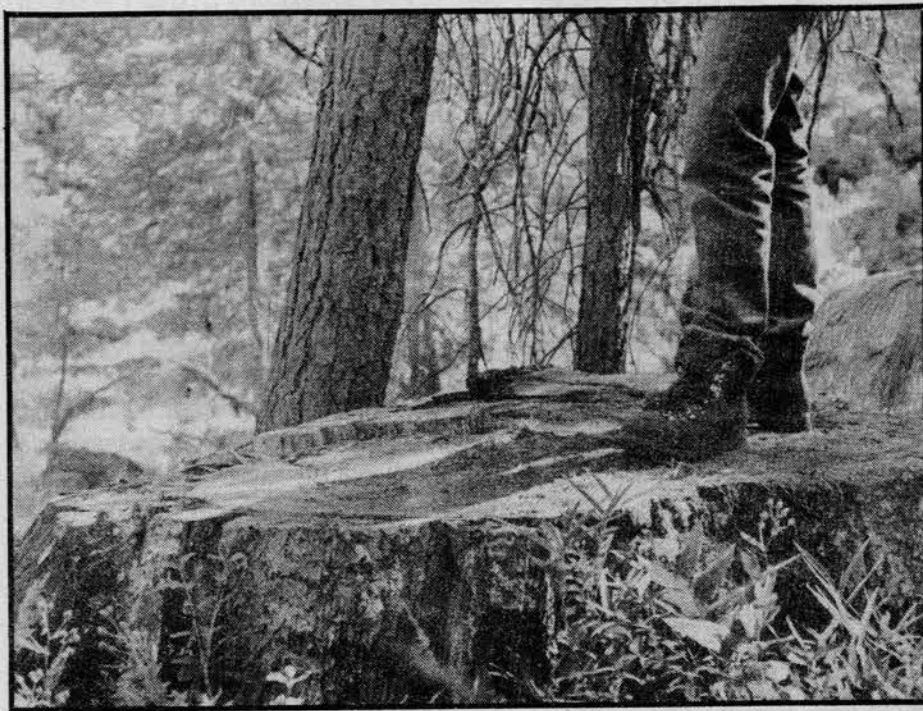
The Air Quality Division of the Park Service is presently working out a method to warn visitors of health threats in parks with air pollution problems, as air quality in the parks worsens.

Environmentalists hope that revisions to the Clean Air Act now under consideration in Congress will address some of these problems. Several legislators have introduced or plan to introduce amendments that would require the EPA to tackle the problem of regional haze.

"Ninety percent of the pollution in the parks is from regional haze and that's what the EPA has abandoned," said Bob Yuhnke, senior attorney with the Environmental Defense Fund in Boulder, which filed the lawsuit that required study of air pollution at the Grand Canyon. "Unless the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to do something, nothing will happen. What we're seeing is a graying of the West."

—Jim Robbins

Jim Robbins writes for the *Boston Globe* and other newspapers from Helena, Montana.



Stump of an old-growth tree

unconstitutional. The groups claim that the spotted owl management plans of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are inadequate, and that Congress has directed the agencies to violate other laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act.

The judges have so far ruled against them, but the groups may next take their cases to Appeals Court in San Francisco, where they've traditionally found more sympathetic magistrates.

These legal moves, however, have been widely chastised. One timber spokesman called it a "spit in the face," and Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield, one of the chief architects of the bill, charged the groups with attempting to "tear down rather than build consensus."

Criticism also came from other environmental groups which helped negotiate the legislation.

"We disagree with the decision to obstruct the compromise rather than implement it," said Wilderness Society president George Frampton, Jr.

In a related move, a dozen environmental groups have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review an earlier congressional action, also sponsored by Sen. Hatfield, that limited judicial review of BLM's plans for the spotted owl.

In other actions:

- A northern spotted owl, with two broken wings, a missing eye and no claws, was found hanging in a noose at an information kiosk in the Willamette National Forest in late October. It was the second reported instance of an apparently intentional killing of a spotted owl. The first was in southern Oregon's Siskiyou National Forest in August.

- Timber industry groups immediately offered a \$1,000 reward for the arrest of those responsible. Other groups, both industry and environmental, added money to the reward fund, which quickly grew to \$2,900.

- Four people spent six hours chained by their necks to cranes on a ship in Longview, Wash., preventing longshoremen from loading logs bound for China.

- "Every time a log gets exported," said one protestor, "a job gets exported." On the 48th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, sheriffs had to climb the cranes and negotiate until the four agreed to come down. Only one had a key; the other three had to be cut loose. The Longview port exported 425 million board-feet of raw logs and 67 million board-feet of lumber in 1988.

- The Northwest Forestry Association, a timber industry group, released a report saying that there are 2,000 more spotted owls in Northwest forests than previously reported. The report is expected to be used in the timber industry's attempt to convince the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service not to list the owl as endangered.

- The new director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, John Turner, apologized to former Pacific Region assistant director Larry DeBates for his politically motivated involuntary reassignment. DeBates, Rolf Wallenstrom and David Riley were reassigned by former USFWS director Frank Dunkle in July, 1988, after the three had disagreed with the USFWS initial decision not to declare the spotted owl as threatened.

- In a letter to DeBates, Turner wrote that it was "unfortunate" that the reassignments "left the impression" that they were "part of a planned retaliation." Turner also said he would address concerns among USFWS employees "regarding their ability to make sound biological recommendations ... without jeopardizing their own future careers."

- Two central Oregon loggers pleaded guilty on Oct. 20 to a "massive conspiracy" to steal trees from national forests. James W. Layton and Frank W. Bartlett of Bend, Ore., were accused of expanding timber sales boundaries, chipping orange paint off trees that were supposed to be left uncut and spreading blue paint around their stumps, intentionally damaging trees with logging equipment to justify cutting, and otherwise defrauding the government of between \$300,000 and \$3.2 million in five timber sales.

- Jeff DeBonis, the Forest Service timber sales planner who founded the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, was given The Wilderness Society's Olaus and Margaret Murie Award. The award, which comes with \$1,000, is given annually to an outstanding employee of a federal land management agency.

- The Wilderness Society also announced it will conduct an 18-month, \$450,000 study of how rural Northwest communities can adjust to shrinking timber supplies. The study will focus on how three counties — Grays Harbor in Washington, Linn in Oregon, and Del Norte in California — might ensure both a "high-quality environment and a healthy economy."

—Jim Stiak

HOTLINE

Navajos reform their government

In the most sweeping reform effort in the tribal government's 57-year history, the Navajo Tribal Council recently approved a major political reorganization that went into effect Jan. 1. The reorganization limits the power of the tribal chairperson (now to be called president) by creating a multi-branch government that loosely mirrors U.S. federal and state governments. The president, who will be limited to two terms, will have veto power over the council, but the council can override a veto with a two-thirds vote. A newly created position of council speaker will handle the day-to-day running of the legislative branch. In addition, the tribe is drafting a written constitution to replace an unwritten code dating from its treaty with the federal government in 1866. The council approved the reorganization in the wake of allegations that four-time chairman Peter MacDonald abused the power of his office to receive more than \$500,000 in bribes and illegal kickbacks.



Female bears get some protection

Despite strong public opposition from 9,000 people who signed petitions, the Colorado Wildlife Commission voted 4-3 Nov. 16 to continue a spring black-bear hunt that allows hunters to bait the animals. Opponents said hunting in spring placed lactating female bears and their cubs at risk. Some also questioned the ethics of bait-hunting at all (*HCN*, 9/25/89). In a compromise vote, the commission cut two weeks from the end of the current, two-month spring season. This will reduce the number of females and cubs killed, says the Sierra Club's Michael Smith, because male bears typically leave their dens earlier than females. However, the commission also voted to add a new, four-week bear hunting season in September and to continue a three-week season between Oct. 13 and Nov. 11. At its most recent meeting Jan. 11, the commission moved to discourage poaching by banning the sale or trade of bear gall bladders and some other wildlife parts.

Timber cut reduced

After 10 years of preparation, Washington state's Okanogan National Forest has released a plan that calls for a timber cut level only slightly higher than what conservationists had recommended. The plan reduces the cut on the north-central forest by 11 million board-feet, or almost 27 million board-feet less than what the timber industry had wanted. Nonetheless, the plan opens to logging some 252,000 acres of the forest's 454,000 acres of roadless area.

6-High Country News — January 29, 1990

Coyote stops begging and starts biting

Yellowstone National Park made news early in 1990 with this headline: "Coyote attacks skier." While the report may come as a surprise to some people, biologists have known for some time that such an incident was inevitable.

Over the course of several years, Yellowstone coyotes have replaced bears as the most persistent park moochers. The dog-like, bushy-tailed predators began showing up at campgrounds and along the roadways throughout the 1980s.

Last summer, it was not uncommon to spot visitors dishing out scraps of bread and lunch meat to the well-trained Yellowstone canines. Like the situation with hungry bears — which gave Yellowstone its "Jellystone" reputation — coyotes will shirk natural food if supplied with an easier source of nutrition.

Despite the good intentions of visitors, feeding park wildlife leads directly to animal destruction, according to park research interpreter Norm Bishop.

"What you're doing with a bear or coyote is you're signing its death warrant when you feed it," he said. "Eventually, that animal will get itself into trouble and end up killed. Any animal purposely drawn close to humans is a dead one."

As a result, park officials have often cited the dangers of humans coming in contact with wildlife. Perhaps the best example is found in the blazing yellow

flyers currently distributed at each park entrance. In bold letters is the word, "Warning." Underneath, the leaflet discusses the consequences of approaching bison (buffalo). The flyer says:

"Many visitors were gored by buffalo last summer. Buffalo can weigh 2,000 pounds and can sprint at 30 mph, three times faster than you can run. These animals may appear tame but are wild, unpredictable and dangerous. Do Not Approach Buffalo."

The bottom of the page, appropriately, depicts a tourist and camera being catapulted through the air by one of the irascible ungulates. Since the number of bison gorings has decreased, the flyers clearly have served as a deterrent.

But no warnings could have prepared park concession employee Brian Dean for his encounter with a park coyote Jan. 3 near Old Faithful. The 27-year-old Dean, from the Chicago suburb of Oak Lawn, Ill., was skiing alone when he met a coyote on the Mystic Falls trail.

"The coyote attacked Dean repeatedly while Dean continued to fight him off," said a park news release. "Dean grabbed one of his skis and hit the animal several times, stunning it."

Fortunately for Dean, the wounds on his head, face, neck and arms were minor. He was treated and released at a Bozeman, Mont., hospital after undergoing painful shots for rabies. Four park

rangers who came in contact with Dean also received the shots as a precaution.

After the attack, park rangers killed three coyotes in the Old Faithful area that had become habituated to people and human food. Bob Crabtree, who recently began a study of park coyotes — the first in 50 years since the work of famed naturalist Adolph Murie — said one of the dead coyotes probably came from the same group believed responsible for the attack on Dean.

Necropsies performed on the coyotes showed that all three tested negative for rabies. Investigators also removed hair samples from the site of the attack and sent them to a laboratory in Bozeman where they are being compared to the coyote carcasses. So far, the examination has proved nothing conclusive.

Two weeks after the attack, the park suspended its special "coyote patrol" which, among other things, would warn visitors to stay away from coyotes that appear too friendly. The unit also assisted Crabtree in combing the Old Faithful area for aggressive animals.

Yellowstone is a park and not a zoo, which means that tourists accept a certain amount of risk. Wildlife photographers like to say if an animal is forced to change its behavior on account of your presence, "you're already too close."

The coyote attack is likely to have negative repercussions for efforts to rein-



Todd Wilkinson

One of the "begging" park coyotes on the road this fall

roduce wolves into the park. Opponents of wolves may incorrectly generalize that wolves and coyotes are ferocious varmints.

That will miss the point about why the attack on a skier occurred, park staffers say. The point is that when people feed park animals, they lose their fear of humans.

—Todd Wilkinson

Hopi election reflects a complex blend of new and old

KYKOTSMOVI, Ariz. — The 10,000-member Hopi Tribe has elected a new chairman in a close race that followed a bitter, month-long campaign between the tribe's two top leaders.

With 1,810 Hopis voting Nov. 29, Vernon Masayesva, vice chairman for the past 18 months, defeated two-term chairman Ivan Sidney by 66 votes.

The election was observed closely by the Hopis' nearest neighbors, the Navajos. In fact, interim Navajo Chairman Leonard Haskie, who has renewed his high school friendship with Sidney, attended the counting of Hopi ballots and stayed until 1 a.m.

For years, the two tribes fought a bitter land dispute resulting in the division of 1.8 million acres of formerly joint use land. Hard feelings remain even today. After 11 years, the relocation of thousands of Navajos continues through a federal Indian relocation program. Because of numerous executive orders expanding the Navajo Reservation over the years, the Hopi Reservation is now located within the larger reservation in northeastern Arizona.

In recent months, Haskie has attempted to improve relations with the Hopis. In September, he became the second Navajo chairman to ever address the Hopi Tribal Council. And on the day of Masayesva's inauguration Dec. 18, former Hopi Chairman Sidney returned to Window Rock with Haskie to address the Navajo Tribal Council.

Unlike the Navajo-Hopi land dispute, which dominated both tribes' elections in past years, one of this year's more important issues to the Hopis was the use of Black Mesa water to transport coal through a 272-mile-long pipeline to the Mojave Generating Station at Bullhead City, Ariz.

Masayesva promised that if elected he would work to stop the water use and find an alternative way to transport the coal.

"We are determined to stop the needless waste of water from a desert

region," Masayesva said in his inaugural address. "The federal government no longer can close its ears to our plea for help. Our life blood depends on protecting our water resources."

Sidney, by contrast, supported a seven-year-long water study, to be paid for by the Hopis, Navajos and Peabody Coal, to see what effects mining has on Hopi water sources. While the study is part of Peabody's 1987 renegotiated agreement, it has not yet been started.

Hopis have protested for years that water use for the pipeline was drying up their springs and seeps to across their desert reservation in northeastern Arizona. World-renowned as dry-land farmers, they say they are the region's ancient hydrologists and know best what threatens their wells. Without future supplies of water, Hopis say, their ancient civilization will perish.

Tribal and federal officials acknowledge that many wells have been lowered between 75 and 200 feet, depending on their distance from the mine on the northern edge of the 10,000-square-mile Black Mesa.

When the tribes renegotiated their leases with Peabody in 1987, the company was given the right to use the groundwater to slurry coal. Peabody today pays a joint royalty to the tribes of \$300 per acre-foot of water, up to an annual 4,000 acre-feet. The royalty doubles beyond that amount of water. In past years, the royalty was as low as \$5 an acre-foot in the 1970s and \$1.65 an acre-foot in the 1960s.

Every month, the 48-inch pipeline uses 83 million gallons of water from the huge, 1,200-foot-deep "N" aquifer beneath Black Mesa, according to the federal Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement.

OSM, which in June issued a draft environmental impact statement on the huge mining operation, says neither mining nor groundwater use is affecting Hopi springs. Instead, OSM says, Arizona's drought is responsible for local

water loss.

The election was also characterized by Masayesva running the most elaborate and well-organized campaign seen in any Hopi election. In contrast, Sidney's campaign was almost non-existent.

Sidney granted interviews but spent no money, bought no advertising and attended no public candidate forums. He said he chose to remain "humble" and not actively campaign because the Hopi people already knew him and his accomplishments.

Masayesva, a former educator with a master's degree from Central Michigan University, criticized Sidney for failing to relieve the reservation's 45 percent unemployment rate, failing to report more frequently to the Hopi people, and ignoring local problems to frequently travel to Washington, D.C.

But the greatest damage to Sidney, Hopis said, came early in the race when newspapers reported that as tribal police chief in 1981, he learned of the investigation of convicted child molester John Boone, a Bureau of Indian Affairs teacher, but did nothing. Sidney also took no action throughout his tenure as tribal chairman to remove Boone as a teacher. Boone, who was alleged to have molested 94 Hopi boys over an 11-year period, was sentenced to life in prison in 1987.

Masayesva said if elected he planned to launch a tribal investigation into which tribal officials knew what, and when, regarding the Boone case. Sidney responded by saying candidates — whom he didn't name — were using molested children for their own political advantage.

With 140 reported cases of sexual child abuse occurring on the Hopi and Navajo reservations — and with the Boone case on Hopi being the country's most notorious — Congress last year passed the Indian Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, making it illegal not to report suspected cases of

child abuse.

Meanwhile, Hopis showed the same reserve they display in most tribal elections. Considered by anthropologists to be one of the country's oldest and most traditional tribes, Hopis and their leaders say their 53-year-old "white man's government" of a tribal council, chairman and vice chairman is still new to them.

Many, adhering to the ancient practice of turning one's back on what is not approved of, continue today to shun tribal elections. Many traditional Hopis continue to defer to the rule and guidance of their religious clan leaders and village chiefs, or kilmongwis.

Of the tribe's 12 villages, the four most staunchly traditional — Lower Moencopi, Hotevilla, Old Oraibi and Shungopavi — continue to disregard the authority of the elected tribal council, and refuse to send either elected or appointed representatives.

Archaeologists note that Oraibi and Shungopavi, ancient villages of brown, flat-roofed stone houses, narrow, uneven alleys and large ceremonial plazas, and perched on the edge of the Hopis' thousand-foot-high mesas, have been continually occupied since at least 1150 A.D.

Masayesva and his vice chairman, Patrick Dallas, say they hope to include Hopis from even these traditional villages in their administration.

As the final votes were being counted, Sidney said he would not challenge the results, but instead respect the choice of the Hopi people. Dispelling rumors that he planned to take a job in Washington, D.C., Sidney, a Republican, last week said he intends to stay on the reservation even though job prospects for an ex-chairman are scarce.

"Although I may be viewed as an obstacle, I don't intend to run away from the people," Sidney said. "I want to stay here and I want to watch."

—George Hardeen

8-High Country News — January 29, 1990

High Country News

INDEX

Volume 21, 1989



Colorado Division of Wildlife

Pheasant tracks in snow

AGRICULTURE

'Breathers' fight 'burners' in Oregon, Jim Stiak, 1/2/89, p. 4: Grass burning is a major source of Oregon's air pollution.
Cow-lamb bonding wards off coyotes, Judith E. Strom, 5/8/89, p. 4: Mixed grazing may help protect stock.

AIR QUALITY

Must the West's air become an opaque shroud? Robert Yuhnke, 10/9/89, p. 12: President Bush's response to haze problems in Western states.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Looters dig for treasure but steal history, Todd Guenther, 7/3/89, p. 16.

BOOK REVIEWS

The hero of Abbey's new novel is a man, not a 'guy,' Ed Marston, 2/13/89, p. 16: Review of *The Fool's Progress: an honest novel*.
Rangeland Through Time, by Kendall L. Johnson, reviewed by Bruce Pendery, 5/8/89, p. 7.
Fallout: An American Nuclear Tragedy, by Philip L. Fradkin, reviewed by Ray Ring, 5/8/89, p. 12.
John McPhee's latest book: moral but not righteous, Ed Marston, 7/3/89, p. 13: Review of *The Control of Nature*.
1988's fires in photos, words, Bert Lindler, 7/31/89, p. 16: (about the books *Yellowstone on Fire*, *Summer of Fire*, *Yellowstone and the Fires of Change*, *The Fires of '88*.)
Tony Hillerman's books have more than one mystery, Ray Ring, 8/28/89, p. 8.
An eloquent reformer takes on the West's supreme law of the land, Ed Marston, 8/28/89, p. 9: Review of *Aldo Leopold and Western Water Law: Thinking Perpendicular to the Prior Appropriation Doctrine*, by Charles Wilkinson.
New Mexico acequia absorbs a newcomer, George Sibley, 10/9/89, p. 13: Review of

Mayordomo: Chronicle of an Acequia in Northern New Mexico by Stanley Crawford.
Reinventing an ancient art, Bert Lindler, 11/6/89, p. 16: Review of *How to Shit in the Woods* by Kathleen Meyer.

ECONOMICS

Voters reject an industrial future, Craig Bigler, 1/2/89, p. 1: In Moab, Utah.
Free markets can protect the earth, John Baden, 2/27/89, p. 13: 3/13/89, p. 13.
Free markets can destroy the earth, Thomas Michael Power, 5/8/89, p. 14.
Free marketeers gather to analyze the "Forest Soviet," Bruce Farling, 7/3/89, p. 7: In Big Sky, Mont.
The San Luis Valley shows a few signs of renewal, Florence Williams, 11/6/89, p. 12: San Luis Valley towns struggle to survive.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

Wilderness group to try again, Ron Selden, 1/2/89, p. 2: The 30th annual Montana Wilderness Association Convention in Kalispell.
Earth First! hangs a sign, Betsy Marston, 1/30/89, p. 6.
FBI charges four with attack on power line, Jim Robbins, 6/19/89, p. 1.
Wild Idaho looked backward, and forward, Pat Ford, 7/3/89, p. 5: Wild Idaho conference, put on by Idaho Conservation League, celebrates 25th anniversary of Wilderness Act.
Earth First!: A group that isn't a group, Barry Noreen, 7/31/89, p. 7.
How an FBI mole tunneled into Earth First!, Sandy Tolan, 8/14/89, p. 5: FBI probe of Earth First! and founder Dave Foreman.
'Weird Science' and Earth First! attacked, Jon Klusmire, 10/23/89, p. 3: The Mountain States Legal Foundation urges conservative Westerners to go on the offensive against environmentalists.

ESSAYS

What happens when trespassing mink meet

retreating geese?, Joseph L. Sax, 8/14/89, p. 14: The legal implications of private property.
How glaciers iron the wrinkles out, Peter Carrels, 1/2/89, p. 16: Glaciation in South Dakota.
An eroded Wyoming gully bears its last crop, John D. Nesbitt, 1/30/89, p. 14: Of junk.
If everything else fails, we may behave wisely, Amory Lovins, 3/15/89, p. 15: Energy efficiency helped save West and may help developing countries.
When you say "Western history," stranger, frown! Patricia Nelson Limerick, 3/27/89, p. 14: Western history has its own myths.
As tough and unyielding as the land itself, David Brown, 3/27/89, p. 14.
Lawn and order, Jim Stiak, 5/22/89, p. 16.
We should turn wilderness into a search for consensus, Dick Carter, 9/11/89, p. 15.
Let's share the wolf risk with ranchers, Hank Fischer, 9/11/89, p. 16.

FIRES

Diatribes of fires may yield to facts this spring, Andrew Melnykovich, 2/27/89, p. 7: Montana Rep. Ron Marlenee's hearings on fire policy.

FORESTS

Grass-roots group may be astroturf, Richard Manning, 3/27/89, p. 1: In Montana.
Putting the victim on display, Greg Mills, 3/27/89, p. 4: Forest activists take Douglas fir on tour of country.
Logging versus an ecosystem in Northwest rainforests, Michael J. Robinson, 3/27/89, p. 6.
Reagan tries to break logjam, Jim Stiak, 2/13/89, p. 3: Reagan's proposal to lift ban on selling abroad logs cut on federal lands.
'Hey, it's our forest, too', Greg Mills, 5/22/89, p. 7: Audubon Society Adopt-a-Forest groups meet in Washington, Oregon, California.
Forester challenges his agency to a discussion, Jim Stiak, 6/5/89, p. 1: U.S. Forest Service agent Jeff DeBonis challenges Forest Service on timber industry's exploitation of ancient forests.
From a man on the ground to the man at the top: Let's rethink how we manage the forests, 6/5/89, p. 10: Jeff DeBonis' letter to U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson.
Is resistance futile? Jim Stiak, 6/5/89, p. 12: Three men take environmental stands.
The old growth fight and logging go on, Jim Stiak, 7/31/89, p. 6.
Despite protests, loggers win in Oregon, Jim Stiak, 4/10/89, p. 4: Old growth fight in the Oregon Cascades.
Lots of talk settles Montana forest fight, Sean Sheehan, 7/3/89, p. 6: Negotiations over the Deerlodge National Forest are successful.
Groups challenge 'back-door' timber laws, Jim Stiak, 8/28/89, p. 5: Environmental groups challenge Oregon plan that would allow logging of some old-growth timber.
Pockets of old growth survive in the northern Rockies, Richard D. Manning, 9/11/89, p. 1.
New Mexico forest takes long-term view, Bryan Welch, 9/11/89, p. 3: Carson National Forest sponsors innovative conference.
National forest plans in Idaho, Montana get low grades, Richard Manning, 9/11/89, p. 11.
A flagship forest in Wyoming shifts away from

timber, Dan Whipple, 10/9/89, p. 6: The Bridger-Teton National Forest's new plan emphasizes recreation and wildlife protection.
Ranchers go to bat for an Idaho mountain, Steve Stuebner, 11/6/89, p. 3: Local ranchers and sportsmen oppose clearcutting on Cuddy Mountain in western Idaho.
Some Montanans say peaceniks lurk in wilderness, Richard Manning, 10/9/89, p. 7: Montana wilderness bill falls prey to political games.
Momentary middle ground found in old-growth fight, Jim Stiak, 10/23/89, p. 4.
Sleuths hunt tree-spikers at university, Kate Gunness, 11/20/89, p. 3: University of Montana professor subpoenaed in tree-spiking incident.

HAZARDOUS WASTES

Don't waste us, say Nevada and Utah, Steve Hinchman 1/2/89, p. 11: States face major decisions on toxic waste disposal.
Colorado dump challenged by Utah environmentalists, Steve Ryder, 1/30/89, p. 7: A controversial radioactive waste dump proposed for Uravan, Colo.
WIPP is still a long way from opening, Tony Davis, 2/13/89, p. 3.
Jobs face off against safety in Colorado, Steve Hinchman, 2/13/89, p. 7: A forum on Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant.
Feds raid Rocky Flats plant, Becky Rumsey, 6/19/89, p. 1.
Rocky Flats is a fortress, Barry Noreen, 6/19/89, p. 1.
New Mexicans disenchanted with WIPP, Daniel Gibson, 7/3/89, p. 3: The proposed waste isolation pilot plant.
A New Mexico town fears the nation will dump on it, Daniel Gibson, 4/10/89, p. 5: Lordsburg fights a private garbage landfill. *A divided New Mexico buries landfill bill*, Tony Davis, 4/10/89, p. 5: Governmental intrigue in a landfill battle.
Utah slams gates shut on hazardous waste, Lance Christie, 4/10/89, p. 7: Utah yanks back the toxic-waste welcome mat.
Nevada fights its second nuclear war, Jim Robbins, 5/8/89, p. 1: At the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste site.
Nevada trivialized the nuclear danger, Jim Robbins, 5/8/89, p. 10: Nuclear testing inspired everything from atomic haircuts to dances.
Nevadans testify for and against nuclear waste dump, Jon Klusmire, 5/8/89, p. 11: Plans for a federal repository are attacked.
"Deserts as Dumps" takes a cool look at a hot subject, Tony Davis, 6/5/89, p. 6: Symposium examines hazardous waste disposal in deserts.
Nuclear plant's cover is blown, Ron Baird, 7/31/89, p. 1: A special grand jury is called to investigate Rocky Flats.
Rocky Flats: fusemaker for bombs, Ron Baird, 7/31/89, p. 10.
Peace group looking for a few (20,000) good people, Ron Baird, 7/31/89, p. 11: To encircle Rocky Flats.
Hotline for hot information, Betsy Marston, 7/31/89, p. 11: For nuclear whistle-blowers.
WIPP is dazed, but not dead, Tony Davis, 10/9/89, p. 1.
DOE changes Rocky Flats management, Devin Odell, 10/9/89, p. 10.

MILITARY

Group scores hit on Air Force proposal, Ken Rand, 4/10/89, p. 6: Utah group accuses military of coverup in electronic test range battle.

Southwest Idaho faces a military invasion, Pat Ford, 9/25/89, p. 3: U.S.A.F. plans to take 1.5 million acres of Idaho desert for bombing range.

Grass-eating tanks are fought by ranchers in Montana, Bert Lindler, 10/23/89, p. 6: Ranchers oppose National Guard training area.

After seven years, radiation victims get some justice, Tony Davis, 12/4/89, p. 3: New VA regulations will make it easier for atomic veterans to get federal help.

MINING

Invisible gold fuels Elko's boom, Jim Robbins, 2/13/89, p. 12: In Nevada.

Group says coal tax cut hurts Montana, Bruce Farling, 5/22/89, p. 4.

Montana's north country gets good news from Canada, Bruce Farling, 8/14/89, p. 4: Controversial coal mine near Glacier National Park is put on hold.

Telluride, Colorado: Ski town's legacy includes toxic mining waste, Jon Kovash, 8/14/89, p. 10.

Mining has left Telluride with several open sores, Jon Kovash, 8/14/89, p. 11.

bottle deposit legislation in Montana.

The path to cactus destruction is paved with good intentions, Barbara Tellman, 2/13/89, p. 14.

Mormons organize to protect the earth, Karil Frohboese, 4/10/89, p. 12.

Utahans are having fewer kids, Jim Robbins, 4/10/89, p. 13.

Stapleton II is approved, Ed Marston, 6/5/89, p. 6: New airport promoted for Denver, Colo.

Sifting through remnants of another busted boom town, Kathy McKay, 6/5/89, p. 16: A walk through a firefighter camp.

Tumbleweeds Triumphant, Ray Ring, 7/3/89, p. 1: How the roving plant conquered the West.

Yellowstone cult says: The end is near! Patrick Dawson, 7/31/89, p. 5: Church Universal and Triumphant.

A tough weed takes root in the West, Ed Marston, 9/25/89, p. 6: A history of *High Country News*.

Insurance rates and Medicaid drive MDs from towns, Matt Klinge, 10/9/89, p. 4: In the rural West.

CUT leaders plead guilty to conspiracy, Pat Dawson, 10/23/89, p. 5: Church Universal and Triumphant is involved in illegal weapons stockpiling.

Oldtime cowboy ballads, Roberta Donovan, 10/23/89, p. 8.

Wyoming isn't California or Detroit, and thank heaven, Kim Cannon, 11/6/89, p. 15.

Forging the links of community at 110 miles

Saguaro forest, Steve Ryder, 5/8/89, p. 5.

Yellowstone and its creatures discussed, Geoff O'Gara, 5/8/89, p. 6: Conference on the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

NATIVE AMERICANS
(formerly INDIANS)

Congress puts controls on Indian gambling, Kevin Lee Lopez, 1/2/89, p. 5.

Tribal council shows MacDonald the door, George Hardeen, 2/27/89, p. 3.

Navajo Nation is in governmental gridlock, George Hardeen, 3/13/89, p. 3.

U.S. Supreme Court will re-examine Indian water rights, Steve Ryder, 3/13/89, p. 4.

Chairman MacDonald tries to tough it out, George Hardeen, 4/24/89, p. 3: Political turmoil on the Navajo Reservation.

Navajo Tribe swamped by MacDonald's wake, George Hardeen, 5/22/89, p. 3: Financial trouble on the Navajo Reservation.

MacDonald's allies keep pressing his cause, George Hardeen, 6/19/89, p. 3.

Protest turns bloody on Navajo Reservation, George Hardeen, 7/31/89, p. 3: Description and analysis of a July 20 seige by 250 MacDonald supporters.

Is Wyoming's Medicine Wheel sacred or a curiosity? Dennis Davis, 7/31/89, p. 4.

Indian land dispute opens old wounds, Peter Carrels, 9/11/89, p. 5.

Activist Russell Means enters Navajo fray,

The fate of oil shale, part I, 2/27/89, p. 8: Several related stories about oil shale.

Oil shale land claimants say they are being cheated, Jon Klusmire, 2/27/89, p. 9.

Oil shale oozes legal decisions and congressional debate, Steve Hinchman, 2/27/89, p. 10.

Oil shale (subsidies) may flow again, Jon Klusmire, 8/28/89, p. 3.

PEOPLE

Utahn Calvin Black is in another uranium-related fight, Jim Wolf, 3/13/89, p. 7: Uranium booster faces cancer.

The West mourns Abbey's death, Steve Hinchman, 3/27/89, p. 16.

Edward Abbey, druid of the arches, Bruce Hamilton, 3/27/89, p. 12: A profile of the writer.

Abbey's clan gathers to rededicate itself, Richard Manning, 6/5/89, p. 3: A memorial to the author.

Keen eyes and an honest soul, Annette Richards Parent, 6/5/89, p. 5: Texas teenager is honored for finding Indian artifacts and not looting them.

Paper's conflict of interest hits reporter, Richard Manning, 9/11/89, p. 10: Manning quits the *Missoulian*; the issue is his environmental reporting.

Tom Bell: The Quiet Revolutionary, Marjane Ambler, 9/25/89, p. 9: *High Country News* founder made many waves.

Saga of a High Country Newsmen, Geoffrey O'Gara, 9/25/89, p. 12: History of Tom Bell and *High Country News*.

Tom Bell's successors forge a regional institution out of a passionate journal, Joan Nice Hamilton, 9/25/89, p. 14: Joan Nice and Bruce Hamilton take over *High Country News* in Lander, Wyo.

A cultivated foreigner on a rough frontier, Marjane Ambler, 9/25/89, p. 17: Justas Bavarskis, *High Country News* editor, who died in a car accident.

The root of every good fortune, Hannah Hinchman, 9/25/89, p. 18: Hinchman tells her tale of *High Country News* in Lander.

The fatal accident: a coyote and readers come to the rescue, Dan Whipple, 9/25/89, p. 20: An account of the accident that killed Justas Bavarskis.

The High Country News lathe reshapes another editor, Geoffrey O'Gara, 9/25/89, p. 22: O'Gara describes his experiences as an HCN editor.

Will Cason become the Forest Service's James Watt?, Andrew Melnykovich, 10/23/89, p. 16: President Bush's environmental appointments are questionable — particularly James Cason.

PHOTO FEATURES

On the road with Renny Sumner, Renny Russell Sumner, 1/2/89, p. 80: Photo essay of his Southwest inspired art.

Whatcha' takin' a pitcher of?, Doug C. Rinehart, 3/13/89, p. 8.

And you thought we only had fires here last summer!: A private peek at a seasonal herd, Ted Wood, 3/27/89, p. 8: Tourists as seen by a jaded local photographer.

Get a horse, photos by Andrew Gulliford, Randall Teeunen, text by Jim Farris, 4/10/89, p. 8: Oral history of rural Colorado.

A wonderful wildlife display, photos and text by Kent Dannen, 5/8/89, p. 8: Sandhill cranes on the South Platte River.

Dust Bowl descendants, 6/5/89, p. 8: Photographed by Bill Ganzel.

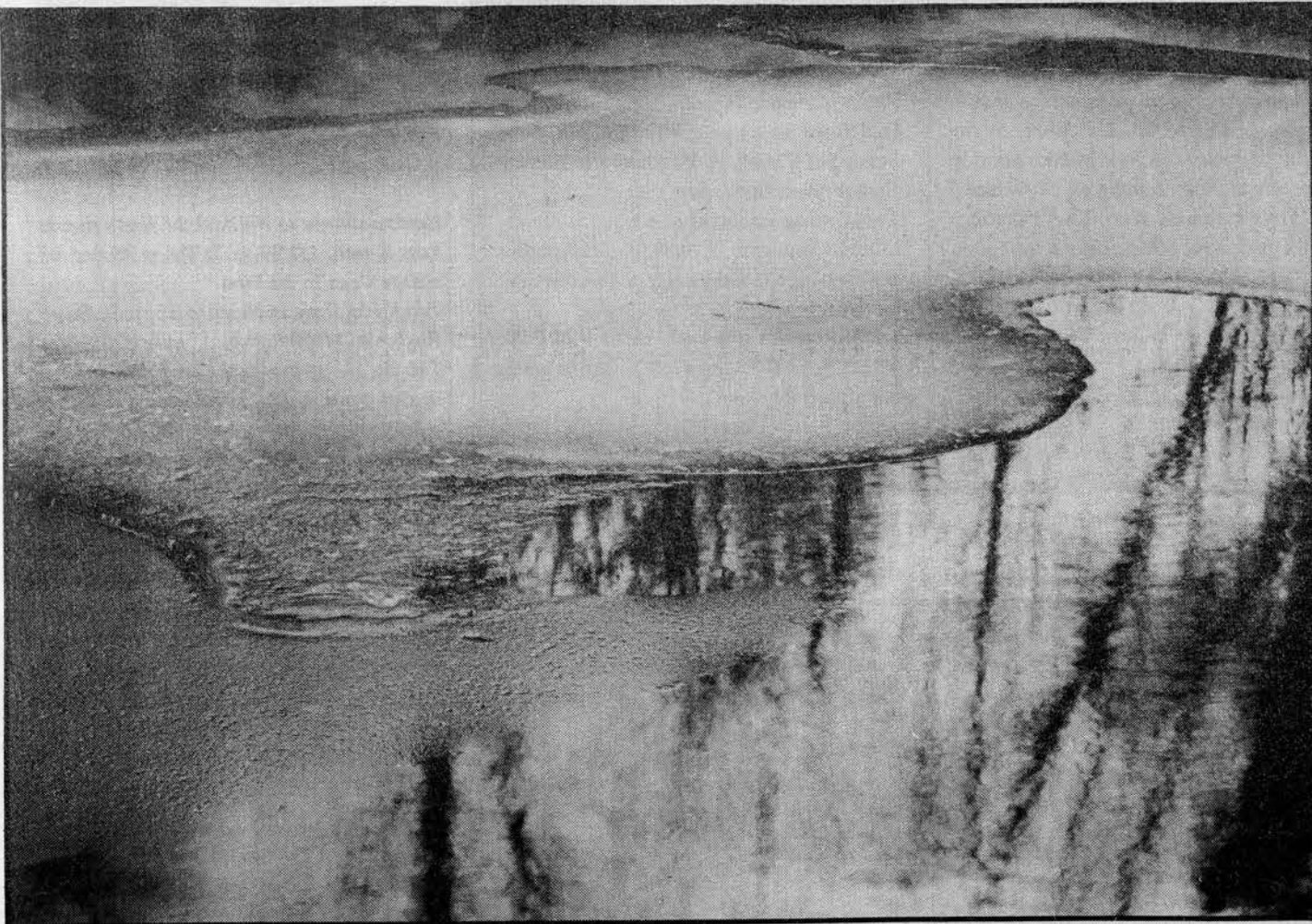
The Sky will be blue, Dale Schicketanz, 6/19/89, p. 9: Photos of the Southwest.

Mr. Bubble Pink, fabric softener blue ..., 7/3/89, p. 8: Photos of Gene Hoffman's sculpture featuring what Americans casually discard.

Coyote's Canyon, John Telford, photos; Terry Tempest Williams, text; 7/31/89, p. 8: From their new book.

Troubled Waters, Robert Dawson, 11/20/89, p. 14-15: Photos in the West.

(Continued on page 11)



Icy pond near Crestone, Colorado

Utah's Bryce Canyon gets a (coal) lease on life, Patricia R. Van Wagoner, 8/14/89, p. 15: Ambitious mining plans are halted.

New Mexico mine leads to a bitter fight, Bryan Welch, 10/9/89, p. 3: Fight over a new tailings site.

MISCELLANEOUS

Colleges face a quality-access dilemma, Joan Barron, 1/2/89, p. 5.

Crazed tourists track park ranger to his tin lair, Jim Stiles, 1/2/89, p. 14: Park ranger in Utah finds the public never knows where the bathrooms are.

Wyoming writer tries for big time, a la Salman Rushdie, Tim Sandlin, 3/13/89, p. 16: Not for fans of the Iranian Ayatollah.

Town gets telescopes, but loses mountains, David E. Brown, 3/27/89, p. 4: In Safford, Arizona.

Law isn't always arid, Jim Stiak, 3/27/89, p. 5: Western Public Interest-Law Conference in Eugene, Ore.

Bottlers bury deposit bill under avalanche of cash, Tara Gallagher, 2/13/89, p. 5: Defeat of

per hour, Peter Shelton, 11/6/89, p. 16: Non-verbal "hi" from behind a steering wheel.

NATIONAL PARKS

Few sparks fly at hearing on forest fires, Bruce Farling, 2/27/89, p. 4: Aftermath of the Yellowstone fires.

Report scorches the National Park Service, Bruce Farling, 2/27/89, p. 4.

Hide 'n seek in the lava beds, Jim Stiak, 1/30/89, p. 16: Volcanic legacy at Lava Beds National Monument.

Alston Chase gets an A in philosophy and C in listening, Geoff O'Gara, 5/22/89, p. 7.

The message is: 'Nature is a good thing.' Rocky Barker, 6/19/89, p. 5: Fire is part of a natural system.

A burned park is not beautiful, Rocky Barker, 6/19/89, p. 5.

Logging becomes Yellowstone Park issue, Don Mitchell and Matt Klinge, 7/31/89, p. 7.

Glen Canyon Dam takes aim at the Grand Canyon, Lew Steiger, 8/14/89, p. 7: Peaking power plays havoc with water levels.

For unknown reasons, Tucson is losing its

George Hardeen, 9/11/89.

Crow tribal leaders indicted in Montana, Pat Dawson, 10/23/89, p. 3: Crow tribal leaders are charged with offenses from embezzlement to vote-buying.

The Navajo Nation faces a critical test, Florence Williams, 12/18/89, p. 3: How will the tribe handle the trial of Peter MacDonald?

Tribe undertakes huge reclamation job, Marjane Ambler, 12/18/89, p. 6: Laguna Pueblo starts mine reclamation project.

Lagunas are a "modern" tribe, Marjane Ambler, 12/18/89, p. 6.

OIL AND GAS

Federal oil and gas leasing remains tied in knots, Andrew Melnykovich, 5/22/89, p. 13.

Rural Coloradoans upset by rush to drill for methane gas, Amy Malick, 12/4/89, p. 4.

OIL SHALE

An oil shale project hangs on, but barely, Jon Klusmire, 2/27/89, p. 8: Unocal's oil shale project in Parachute Creek, Colo.

1989 INDEX . . .

(Continued from page 9)

OPINION

The West is crippled by its resources, Ed Marston, 2/27/89, p. 15.

Forest fire-fighting is just another form of (roast) pork, Bruce Farling, 2/27/89, p. 16.

How to turn an inquiry into a Western, Laverne Sheppard, 3/27/89, p. 15: Navajo chairman's Peter MacDonald made an easy federal target.

Diplomacy is not in Amory's arsenal, Andrew Melnykovich, 4/10/89, p. 11: Cleveland Amory fights the Yellowstone bison hunt.

Why Denver's concrete proposal got beat, Ed Marston, 4/10/89, p. 15: How Denver lost Two Forks Dam.

Add fair compensation to the outdoor education vision, Frank Borwell, 4/24/89, p. 17.

Outdoor educators must stop playing it safe, Michael Frome, 4/24/89, p. 19.

Logging our way to economic poverty, Peter DeFazio, 5/8/89, p. 15: Timber exports should cease.

Biff! Pow! Bang! Three initiatives lose to big money, Peter Carrels, 5/22/89, p. 15.

Earth First!: spiritual heir to Tarzan, Eric Holle, 6/19/89, p. 14.

Ecotage isn't a solution, it's part of the problem, Ed Marston, 6/19/89, p. 15.

POLITICS

Manuel Lujan: Lighter touch coming to interior, Tony Davis, 1/30/89, p. 1.

Bush negotiated a Western minefield to reach Lujan, Andrew Melnykovich, 1/30/89, p. 12.

Idaho legislators fail to bag their trophy, Steve Stuebner, 5/8/89, p. 3.

Cong. Symms: a lawmaker who incites lawbreaking, Larry Swisher, 8/28/89, p. 15.

400 Idahoans say no to building bombs, Kevin Richert, 12/4/89, p. 5: Demonstrators protest plan to build nuclear bombs at Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

James Cason pulled himself down by his bootstraps, Andrew Melnykovich, 12/18/89, p. 7: The Bush nomination is withdrawn.

PUBLIC LANDS

A river runs through and splits a valley, Don Downey, 3/27/89, p. 5: Wild and scenic proposal for Colorado's Crystal River is controversial.

Public lands policy is an intellectual wilderness, Frank Popper, 8/28/89, p. 14: American public no longer knows its public lands.

Public takes charge of public's land, Nancy Harbert, 10/9/89, p. 5: By volunteering to do work agencies have no money to do.

Bush selects new BLM head, Pat Dawson, 4/10/89, p. 4.

Burr Trail battle heads for court again, Gingy Anderson, 4/10/89, p. 7.

Wyoming land for 'sale': only \$2.68/acre, Andrew Melnykovich, 5/8/89, p. 4: Federal land sold at bargain rates.

Report says BLM kowtows to cows, Andrew Melnykovich, 5/8/89, p. 6.

Quick and dirty privatization in Colorado, Jon Klusmire, 5/22/89, p. 5: A road access battle begins.

Idaho public land issues get hot, Stephen Stuebner, 5/22/89, p. 6.

The Gray Ranch: an ecological survivor, Tom Arrandale, 6/5/89, p. 4: New Mexico conservationists ask federal government to buy ranch as ecological preserve.

Idaho court is merciful to stockgrower, Pat Ford, 6/5/89, p. 5: Opening the Egin-Hamer Road in Idaho is an environmental battle.

Agency calls for a revised 1872 mining law, Bruce Farling, 6/19/89, p. 7: General Accounting Office says our mining law needs reform.

Did the BLM give too much for too little? Jill Morrison and John Dougherty, 6/19/89, p. 12: In Arizona.

Grazing permits are valuable; you can bank on it, James A. Lees, 7/3/89, p. 14.

Utah's Land Board threatens to kill its hostages, Terri Martin, 7/31/89, p. 14: Draft marketing plan in Utah threatens to divide up land in four of Utah's national park units.

Ted Turner says: no deal on public access, Pat Dawson, 8/14/89, p. 3: In Montana.

Canyonlands National Park, Klaire Dustin, 8/28/89, p. 1: A still-wild park celebrates its 25th birthday.

Wilderness inholding leads to struggle, Don Mitchell, 8/20/89, p. 5: Dispute over access in western Colorado.

Hell's Canyon's problems: timber cutting, jet boats and general neglect, Deborah Richie, 10/23/89, p. 1.

NRA's are whatever agencies choose to say they are, Deborah Richie, 10/23/89, p. 11: National Recreation Areas are not managed consistently.

A land-poor sheep co-op trespasses in search of grass, Kent Patterson, 11/6/89, p. 5: An Hispanic cooperative in New Mexico hopes it will be able to graze its sheep on public land.

Land fights are an old story, Kent Patterson, 11/6/89, p. 5: New Mexico has a history of land struggle.

RECREATION

Reagan's do-it-yourself recreation plan, Steve Ryder, 1/30/89, p. 5.

Are wildlife unbranded cattle? Patrick Dawson, 2/13/89, p. 1: Debate over fee-based hunting.

Proposed resort sets off fight in a rural Idaho valley, Don Mitchell, 9/11/89, p. 4.

They came to ski, stayed to build, Don Mitchell, 9/11/89, p. 4: Profile of Grand Targhee ski resort developers.

Utah is using dummies to catch poachers, John Maynard, 11/6/89, p. 4: Decoy deer nail thieves.

There's education to be had in them there hills, Betsy Marston, 4/24/89, p. 5: Introduction to HCN's special outdoor education issue.

Teaching kids to hear the desert speak, Janet Ross, 4/24/89, p. 5.

Outward Bound's roots are in compassion and strength, Gingy Anderson, 4/24/89, p. 6.

Earlham College students learned about the West, and each other, Caroline Byrd, 4/24/89, p. 7.

A letter of thanks to Mary Back, Coleen Walter, 4/24/89, p. 7: Tribute to a Wyoming educator and artist.

How to starve and freeze your way to a wonderful time, Bob Neustadt, 4/24/89, p. 8: At the Boulder Outdoor School of Survival.

'Sure looked like turds to me,' Leigh Robertson, 4/24/89, p. 9: Reflections of a park interpreter.

C.W. Hog works for respect rather than pity, Gingy Anderson, 4/24/89, p. 15: An outdoor education program for the disabled.

NOLS pauses for reassessment, Steve Ryder, 4/24/89, p. 15: National Outdoor Leadership School seeks to control its growth.

Stooping for education, Helen Beach Cannon, 4/24/89, p. 16: Teton Science School profile.

Cold fences and warm milk, Hal Langfor, 4/24/89, p. 17: Education at the Colorado Rocky Mountain School.

SCA links young people to the land, John Schubert, 4/24/89, p. 18: About the Student Conservation Association.

Reclaiming Grand Gulch's past, Nancy Cottrell Shanaman, 4/24/89, p. 18: Amateur archaeologists help preserve an ancient heritage.

Jet boats clash with rafts, Deborah Richie, 10/23/89, p. 10: Rafters and jet skiers are at odds on Hell's Canyon.

SOLID WASTE RECYCLING

Wyoming acts to keep out garbage, Will Robinson, 5/22/89, p. 3: Wyoming strengthens solid waste laws.



Piñon pine

SYNTHETIC FUELS

Synthetic fuels revisited, part 2, 3/13/89, p. 1: Several related stories about coal gasification on the Great Plains.

Syngas plant survives the '80s, Peter Carrels, 3/13/89, p. 1: Coal gasification plant in Beulah, N.D.

The charring of Wyoming, Bill Lazarus, 5/22/89, p. 1: The rise and fall of Char-fuels of Wyoming.

UW: A 'good news' university, Bill Lazarus, 5/22/89, p. 10: University of Wyoming suppressed critiques of a char-fuel feasibility study.

WATER

Here's a chance to win back the West's rivers, Peter Kirsch, 1/2/89, p. 7: The protection of surface water in the West.

Two Forks Dam is closer to a permit, Steve Hinchman, 1/30/89, p. 3.

Thirsty Montana seeks to balance fish against crops, cattle, Bruce Farling, 1/30/89, p. 7.

Wyoming and two tribes reach a water settlement, Steve Ryder, 3/13/89, p. 5.

Instream flow proposal is diverted in New Mexico, Tom Arrandale, 2/13/89, p. 6.

Fighting over the Missouri's big buckets,



White-tailed ptarmigan

©Crystal Images

Stouffer Productions, Ltd.

Peter Carrels, 6/5/89, p.7: Conflicts between upper and lower basin states follow drought of 1987-88.

EPA to Denver: Wake up and smell the coffee, Steve Hinchman, 4/10/89, p. 3: EPA kills Two Forks Dam project.

How dam opponents developed and refined a strategy, Steve Hinchman, 4/10/89, p. 14: Two Forks Dam opponents find a way to win.

Legislature acts to protect Idaho's water, Steve Stuebner, 5/8/89, p. 3.

Sometimes the feds do pinch pennies, Judith Jacobsen, 8/28/89, p. 6: The Navajo Indian Irrigation Project.

EPA reaffirms its veto intent, Steve Hinchman, 9/11/89, p. 1: Of Two Forks Dam. *Two cities in search of a little water and a lot of debt*, William Pfeiffer, 10/23/89, p. 15: Controversy over a transmountain water project for Colorado Springs and Aurora.

Money comes calling in a remote poor valley, Rick Boychuk, 11/6/89, p. 1: Extensive water-pumping plan proposed for the San Luis Valley.

The West's right to pollute shall never be denied, Ed Marston, 11/20/89, p. 6: The West treats water as if it were in infinite supply and without intrinsic worth.

Getting off on the wrong foot, Tom Harris, 11/20/89, p. 8: Irrigation runoff contaminates the Stillwater Wildlife Management Area.

Fed's toxic coverup is foiled by newspaper, Tom Harris, 11/20/89, p. 9: 1985 series in the *Sacramento Bee* outlined selenium contamination in 15 Western states and three Canadian provinces.

Bleeding from a million wounds, David Fanning, 11/20/89, p. 11: Mine wastes pollute the Arkansas River in Colorado.

Pollution, pollution everywhere and not ..., David Fanning, 11/20/89, p. 13: Nonpoint source pollution is having a major effect on the West's streams.

Drained rivers rouse Montana, Bruce Farling, 11/20/89, p. 16: Dry streams could lead to change in state water management.

In 1988, dry rivers ran through it, Dan Carter, 11/20/89, p. 17: 1988 drought damaged fisheries.

Wyoming's golden goose lays toxic eggs, Geoffrey O'Gara, 11/20/89, p. 18: Wyoming groundwater is contaminated by refineries.

Arizona digs deep for water, Douglas Towne, 11/20/89, p. 20: Arizona's urban areas vie for underground water.

Subterranean toxics threaten city, Tony Davis, 11/20/89, p. 23: Albuquerque aquifer is polluted by industrial solvents and oil.

River users in a pickle, Steve Hinchman, 11/20/89, p. 26: The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program attempts to control nonpoint pollution.

Should the West dry up?, Steve Hinchman, 11/20/89, p. 28: One solution to salty soils is to cease farming on marginal land.

Water enters its age of reform, Ed Marston, 12/4/89, p. 6: The decline of the West's natural resource economy and the failings of conventional water development have created a climate for change.

Recalled to Life, Susie Waddoups Jones, Steve Hinchman, 12/4/89, p. 8: Maverick engineer hopes to restore a gravel quarry to a living stream.

Bringing back the range, Jim Stiak, 12/4/89, p. 10: In Oregon.

Piping in a better life, Peter Carrels, 12/4/89, p. 11: The Dakotas forego their dreams of vast irrigation projects in favor of systems that deliver high-quality drinking water.

The last big project, Peter Carrels, 12/4/89, p. 12: The Garrison project of North Dakota.

Making a difference on the Clark Fork, Dean Miller, 12/4/89, p. 13: The Clark Fork Coalition galvanizes people to clean up a river.

Clark Fork drains a damaged land, Dean Miller, 12/4/89, p. 14.

Idaho points the way to stream quality, Pat Ford, 12/4/89, p. 15.

How Idaho became a river pioneer, Pat Ford, 12/4/89, p. 16.



Icicles along Chalk Creek, Collegiate Range, Colorado

The Grand Canyon is just another turbine, Dennis Brownridge, Steve Hinchman, 12/4/89, p. 14: Erratic demand for hydro-power comes first on the Colorado River.

A peaking problem, Dennis Brownridge, 12/4/89, p. 19: How hydropower is used and marketed at Glen Canyon Dam.

Enviros get to court barely on time, Joseph Bauman, 12/4/89, p. 20: A narrow victory over the Western Area Power Administration.

Trying to keep that old-time faith, Florence Williams, 12/4/89, p. 21: The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District plans to build a third major water project.

Water development turns a corner, Dyan Zaslow, 12/4/89, p. 25: The doctrine of prior appropriation remains a cornerstone of Western water law, but it is no longer the only cornerstone.

Colorado water venture loses its founder, Rick Boychuk, 12/18/89, p. 5: Maurice Strong quits water development company in San Luis Valley.

WILDERNESS

Cougars get friendly attention, for a change, Dan Dagget, 1/2/89, p. 3: Mountain lions are the focus of a Prescott, Ariz., conference.

Wildlife habitat threatened by FM antenna, Susan Kroupa, 1/2/89, p. 6: A radio antenna threatens wildlife in Arizona.

Are domestic sheep killing bighorn sheep? Steve Stuebner, 1/30/89, p. 4.

Boulder's deer enjoy suburban lifestyle, Barbara Taylor, 1/30/89, p. 5.

Refuge lacks water but has lots of poisons, Kevin Lee Lopez, 1/30/89, p. 6: In Nevada's Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge.

Forest imperils grizzlies, ex-employee says,

Joseph Piccoli, 2/13/89, p. 5.

Grizzly habitat is being nibbled to death, George Wuertner, 2/13/89, p. 4.

Arizona rancher slaughters bears, lions, David Brown, 2/27/89, p. 5.

A small herd of bighorn sheep is at risk, Steve Ryder, 2/27/89, p. 5: In Utah, a proposed grazing allotment for domestic sheep threatens wild sheep with disease.

Wildlife refuges have room for everything but ... wildlife, David E. Brown, 2/27/89, p. 6.

Did agency plot against owls?, Gingy Anderson, 3/13/89, p. 4: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service keeps spotted owls off of endangered species list.

Feds let endangered species wither and die, Gingy Anderson, 3/13/89, p. 5.

Leases sold in a Utah wilderness enclave, Gingy Anderson, 3/13/89, p. 4: Oil and gas leases are sold in area excluded from Box-Death Hollow Wilderness.

Montana tries to hold back the bison, Pat Dawson, 3/13/89, p. 6: Bison are shot as they leave Yellowstone.

Nation's duck factories are drained away, Steve Ryder, 3/27/89, p. 3.

Drought, fire and cold ravage Yellowstone's elk, Bert Lindler, 4/10/89, p. 1.

Feds, Arizona ranchers keep killing lions, David E. Brown, 5/8/89, p. 7.

Spotted owls win lawsuit but still face tough fight, Jim Stiak, 5/8/89, p. 3.

An army of birders seeks nests and songs, Hugh Kingery, 5/22/89, p. 6: Volunteers survey Colorado's birdlife.

Endangered fish threatened by oil spill, Steve Hinchman, 6/19/89, p. 4: In Colorado.

Faithful and Predictable, John M. Bancroft, 6/19/89, p. 6: Life of the Mexican gray wolf.

Will the Mexican gray wolf repopulate its

former range? John M. Bancroft, 6/19/89, p. 6.

Corridor divides McClure, Andrus, Pat Ford, 7/3/89, p. 4.

Idaho wilderness issue is tied in knots, Pat Ford, 7/3/89, p. 4.

No room for ducks on the prairie, Peter Carrels, 8/14/89, p. 4.

Wolves are now a bit closer to Yellowstone's door, Andrew Melnykovich, 8/14/89, p. 6.

A tough band tries to survive in Idaho, Julie Titone, 8/28/89, p. 4: The fate of Canadian caribou transplanted to northern Idaho.

Biologists give up on foster parenting of whoopers, Chas. S. Clifton, 9/11/89, p. 7.

Federal agents killed about 250,000 predators in 1987, Steve Johnson, 9/11/89.

The Gila turns 65, Becky Rumsey, 9/11/89, p. 8: Anniversary of the nation's first wilderness area.

Intense water fight may drown Colorado wilderness bills, Ron Baird, 9/11/89, p. 6.

No wolves edict may change, Barry Noreen, 9/11/89, p. 7: In Colorado.

Colorado debates the ethics of hunting bear in spring, Chas. S. Clifton, 9/25/89, p. 4: Biologists concerned.

The deck is stacked against privately owned wild lands, Joanna Sampson, 10/9/89, p. 14: No tax breaks in Colorado for undeveloped land.

The story of America is its wilderness, Michael Frome, 10/9/89, p. 8: Celebration of the Wilderness Act's 25th anniversary.

Yellowstone wildlife thrive on growing numbers of trout, Todd Wilkinson, 10/23/89, p. 4: Cutthroat trout increase in Yellowstone National Park.

Eagles catch an updraft toward survival, Todd Wilkinson, 11/6/89, p. 3: Bald eagles may be "downlisted" from endangered to threatened in the next 18 months.

Columbia basin 'solutions' may speed extinctions, Florence Williams, 11/20/89, p. 25.

Critics say McClure's bill would gut Wilderness Act, Pat Ford, 11/20/89, p. 4.

Idaho wildlands bill would set off a lengthy process, Pat Ford, 11/20/89, p. 4: Wilderness areas designated by McClure-Andrus bill would have flexible boundaries and a lengthy review process.

Will the West stamp out the real natives?, Steve Hinchman, 11/20/89, p. 23: Four fish species face extinction as a result of dams and diversion on the Colorado River.

Birds and fishes gain some legal standing, Peter Kirsch, 12/4/89, p. 25: Administrators and courts begin to include ecological values when making their water decisions.

Oil exploration foes hope to lock up the Bridger-Teton, Devin Odell, 12/18/89, p. 4.

Poachers: driving wild things to extinction, Todd Wilkinson, 12/18/89, p. 1.

PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW

Dear HCN:

I just finished reading your December 18, 1989 issue and the article on *Poachers: Driving wild things to extinction*. I want to thank you for an excellent article. While Mr. Wilkinson emphasized the federal end, we, as state officers, share many of the same concerns.

Colorado has 114 district wildlife managers to cover the state. We can't be everywhere at once and we greatly appreciate the assistance provided by people who call to report suspicious or known illegal activities. Your article will go a long way toward educating people as to the values of different species in the market.

David A. Croonquist
Denver, Colorado

The writer is assistant chief of operations for wildlife law enforcement in Colorado.

McClure...

(Continued from page 1)

Committee, on which he also sits, considered the controversial nomination of James Cason to oversee the national forests.

Should the line of succession reach all the way down to Nickles, expect a celebration on the part of the oil and gas industry. Nickles has been one of the Senate's hardest workers on behalf of petroleum interests, pushing for gas price decontrol and lifting of the 55 miles-per-hour speed limit.

Timber industry will lose an ally

McClure's retirement will change the legislative landscape in several key areas of federal natural resource management. Conservationists are likely to find much to welcome in that.

The most immediate effect may come in Forest Service timber policy. McClure has been a staunch supporter of logging and related road construction in the national forests. But controversies over money-losing timber sales and excessive roading have complicated his task.

In recent years, McClure has found it increasingly difficult to fend off attempts to slash spending on logging and roads. His successor on the Interior appropriations subcommittee is unlikely to have the motivation or power to forestall, as McClure has been able to do, the restructuring of the Forest Service budget to place a greater emphasis on wildlife and recreation.

While some backers of bringing the wolf back to Yellowstone may be mourning the loss of an ally, the reality is that McClure's departure could help wolf reintroduction. McClure has insisted that reintroduction be handled legislatively, and has blocked the National Park Service from moving ahead with an environmental impact statement. His departure could make it easier for the Park Service to implement the process mandated by the Endangered Species Act.

The long-stalled Idaho Wilderness Act may also move forward as a result of McClure's announcement. The question is: in what form? The bill introduced by McClure and backed by Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus is totally unacceptable to conservationists and their congressional allies.

Congress might override those objections as a tribute to their departing colleague. But it is just as likely that

opponents of McClure's approach, which limits wilderness while mandating logging, will stall action until he is safely out of the picture.

Coal industry will push

A similar tactic is likely to be followed by proponents of changes in the federal coal leasing laws. The coal industry long has sought easing of regulations that limit how long a company can keep a federal coal lease without mining the coal.

McClure backs extending the deadlines. But he insists that the changes desired by the coal companies be accompanied by the lifting of the current ban on the leasing of federal coal by railroads and their subsidiaries. The ban is designed to prevent coal-hauling railroads from granting themselves favorable transportation rates to undercut other producers of federal coal.

During his term as chairman of the Senate energy committee, McClure refused to bring to the Senate floor any coal leasing bill that did not include a repeal of the ban on leasing by railroads. His insistence on the repeal has stymied attempts to change the leasing laws.

Although both Domenici and Wallop are on the same side of the issue as McClure, they are unlikely to be as intransigent. Look to 1991 for a major push by the coal industry to win more favorable lease terms for itself.

Secretary McClure?

Look also to 1991 as the year Jim McClure might decide to stay in Washington. A persistent rumor has him moving down Independence Avenue to succeed the low-profile and largely ineffectual Interior Secretary Lujan.

Such speculation should not be dismissed. McClure is close to President George Bush, and Lujan has been seen as a short-timer ever since a series of gaffes and public relations fiascos during his first few months in office.

McClure would be unlikely to replace Lujan until next year. Leaving the Senate before the election would allow Gov. Cecil Andrus, a Democrat, to name a replacement, giving an advantage to his party's candidate in the race for McClure's seat.

Waiting until next year would also allow Lujan to make a dignified exit, avoiding the appearance of shoving him out the door to make room for a lame-duck senator.

Conservationists who might wel-

come McClure's departure from the Senate won't cheer his arrival at Interior. In philosophy, he shares much with the last James to hold that post.

But unlike McClure, James Watt was never known as "Gentleman Jim."

The writer is Washington correspondent for the *Casper Star-Tribune*, where much of this article appeared.

In Idaho, McClure will be a tough act to follow

Idaho Sen. Jim McClure's announcement Jan. 5 that he will not seek re-election sets off a scramble for two of Idaho's four seats in Congress. And it poses a question that the November election will only begin to answer: What will Idaho politics — especially its natural resource politics — be like without Jim McClure?

McClure is an Idaho native and product of its schools. He began public life as a city attorney and then as a state legislator. He broke a long Democratic hold on Idaho's First Congressional District seat in 1966, and Republicans have held it since. In 1972, he moved up to the U.S. Senate.

Though there have been rumors he may end up as George Bush's Secretary of Interior, he says he plans to return to Idaho with his wife, Louise, and "do something that is more than nothing but less than full-time."

McClure, now 65, said it was a tough decision which took him 18 months to make. "If the Senate were a two-year term, I'd be running again," he said, "but I'm not ready to make a six-year commitment."

Politically, McClure came into his own in 1980. Frank Church's defeat made him Idaho's senior senator, and the national Republican landslide made him chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Until Democrats recaptured the Senate in 1986, he was the single most powerful man in Congress on land, water, energy and public lands policy and budgets. He exercised that power largely on behalf of traditional timber, mining, agricultural, oil and gas and nuclear interests. But he was far more flexible and effective than the James Watt brigades working inside the Reagan Administration.

His will be a tough act to follow, but several are eager to give it a try. Idaho's First District Republican congressman, Larry Craig, was first to announce for McClure's seat. Republican Attorney General Jim Jones followed a few days later. Craig has the advantage, with a better organization and a smoother style. Among Democrats, Second District congressman Richard Stallings will decide soon whether to seek the seat (the betting is he won't), and former Gov. John Evans is very interested. Another Democratic possibility is Idaho Agriculture Director Dick Rush.

Craig's try for the Senate opens up his First District House seat that includes northern and southwestern Idaho. No one from either party has yet announced, but there are eight or so people seriously thinking about it. McClure's relatively late decision, only four months before the primary election, imparts a breathless air to both the choosing and surrounding gossip.

It matters who replaces McClure. But whoever does will not replace his power, in Idaho or Congress. McClure has seniority, experience and a superb command of legislative tactics. He is a tough bargainer with endurance. And he

generally emerges from negotiations with more than he gives up.

His skill at slipping last-minute riders onto bills, which go undiscovered until too late, is legendary.

He could dictate policy to Idaho's national forests and BLM districts because he controlled their budgets through his appropriations committee seat. He is a master at obtaining special appropriations for pet projects requested by timber or mining interests.

If elected, Larry Craig will be as sympathetic to these industries as McClure but he won't have his clout — especially on budget issues. The same goes for Steve Symms, who will become Idaho's senior senator. Symms will gain some power, but he is neither much respected nor feared in the Senate. Idaho Democrats are hoping his lack of standing will become clearer since he will no longer be able to shelter behind McClure's competence.

Gov. Cecil Andrus, a Democrat and old Washington hand, will probably have more power (when he wants to use it) over Idaho matters in Congress than either McClure's replacement or Symms.

McClure's retirement will remove the most effective public antagonist Idaho conservationists have. In all sorts of ways, ranging from laws, budget riders, quiet calls to national forests or BLM offices, or arranged directives raining down on those offices from their Washington bosses, McClure has blocked what conservationists wanted, including wilderness, recreation budgets and grazing reduction on public land. And he has pushed through what they didn't want — roads, pipelines and commodity budgets.

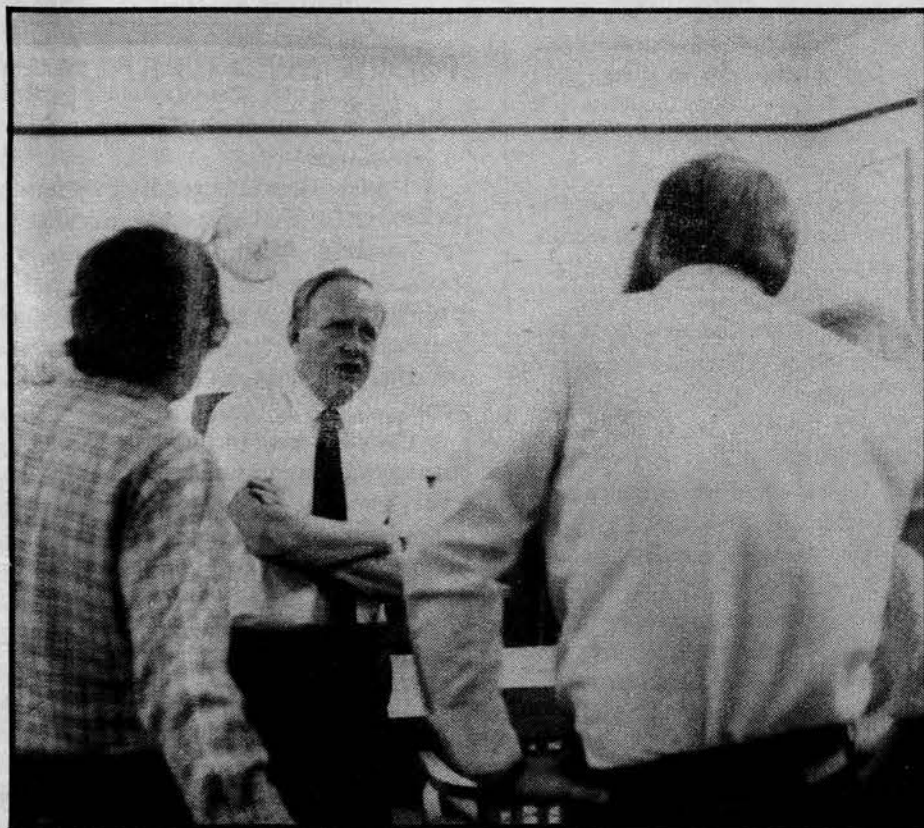
McClure has cooperated or assented to some Idaho conservation achievements, such as the creation of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. He has even led a few, as in appropriations for salmon-passage facilities at downstream dams. He was also smart or principled enough to keep a distance from some of the most radical Watt initiatives.

But overall, when December 1990 comes, Idaho conservationists (and probably most Forest Service and BLM people in Idaho) will watch him go with a few parts admiration and many parts relief.

There is no settled view of how much McClure wants to or can do in his final year in the Senate. His ability to repay other senators in kind for either favors or wounds is lessened, but perhaps institutional courtesies for departing colleagues will compensate. No one knows, for instance, whether he will mount a major push for the "McClure-Andrus forest management bill," which seems unlikely to pass this Congress (see HCN, 11/20/89).

But McClure has not retired yet, and it will be in character for him to pursue final financial and policy favors for timber, oil and gas, agriculture and nuclear energy. Judging by the past, the odds are he will deliver them.

—Pat Ford



Sen. McClure confers with staff members

GUEST OPINION

You knew where James McClure stood

Jim McClure's unwavering drive to harvest timber, his assaults on important environmental legislation and his strong conservative politics put him at odds with the Idaho *Post-Register* on almost every issue.

But Idaho's senior senator has our respect for his honesty, his intelligence and for sticking to his convictions. Even as he stood firm on his values, McClure tried to work with his adversaries, and for that reason he was effective on many issues.

He leaves the Senate knowing that many of his personal causes will be lost because of his absence. But perhaps he recognized that even he couldn't prevent the demise of some of his pet projects.

When he leaves, Congress probably will follow through on deep cuts in the timber road budget. The Special Isotope Separation project slated for the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory is likely doomed

and his favorite INEL project, the New Production Reactor, is on shaky ground.

But when McClure took the helm of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in 1981, the future of the INEL appeared dim. Nuclear safety programs, which had been the mainstay of the site, were on the downhill slide. By the end of the decade, employment was running at an all-time high and even the loss of the two weapons projects won't lead to deep cuts.

In addition to his work on defense projects, McClure was the key player in nearly every other major INEL initiative in the 1980s. Many of these programs — such as the building of the INEL Research Center — have opened new doors for research. They will fuel the growth at the site in the future.

Compared to most of his Senate colleagues,

McClure won't leave Washington a rich man. We hope when he returns to Idaho he will continue his public service in a new role.

But before he leaves Congress, he could do the state a great service by continuing his work to resolve the wilderness issue. It won't come without additional compromise. But the alternative is to leave the issue up to the courts.

We won't mind seeing the necessary changes in public land policy that will take place after McClure leaves. But we will miss the man who never left any doubt where he stood.

— Rocky Barker

The writer is a member of the Idaho Falls *Post-Register's* editorial board.

LETTERS

CORRECTION

Dear HCN,

I'd like to know where Dennis Brownridge gets his information on generating capacity of federal hydropower projects ("A Peaking Problem"). He states, "At peak capacity, all 50 federal dams in 15 Western states put out 10,000 megawatts" and uses this quantity for comparison with the generating capacity and operational characteristics of thermal power plants. I think he has seriously understated the peak generating capacity of federal hydroelectric projects in the western United States. My information comes from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Hydropower*, EM 1110-2-1701, 31 December 1985. The installed generating capacity at federal hydropower projects is listed by river basin below.

These figures do not encompass the entire federal generating capacity in the western United States. Other federal hydropower facilities are operated in the Missouri and Willamette River Basins.

Your publication provides a highly needed forum for discussion of water resource related issues affecting the western United States. Please, maintain credibility by reporting accurate information.

Brad Hall
Vicksburg, Mississippi

dispute and my article were focused on WAPA (the Western Area Power Administration) and the region it serves. One source of confusion, perhaps, is HCN's rather parochial definition of "the West," which generally excludes the Pacific states but includes the northern Great Plains. By coincidence, WAPA serves about the same region.

My point was that hydropower is supplying a declining fraction of our electricity — nationwide as well as in the West — simply because population and demand are increasing while the best dam sites have already been developed.

Dennis Brownridge
Mayer, Arizona

THE SCOOP ON WESTERN POOP

Dear HCN,

Nice to know that there is now a book that addresses this other human impact that we would all rather not talk about ... *How to Shit in the Woods*, by Kathleen Meyer, reviewed in HCN Nov. 6. But the book was published in California, and I would ask if it addresses the issue of proper defecation etiquette in the arid West?

As part of San Francisco State University's "Colorado Plateau Program," our class (fall 1986) was

instructed on the essentials of proper pooping during a session on low-impact camping near Zion National Park. We were told that if you did not dig your "cat hole" over one foot deep, the chances were good that it would be dug up by some other critter.

Nearly anyone who has visited any part of the arid West has noted the ubiquitous cow pie. However, many of us do not appreciate how old some of them are! These "pies" desiccate quickly, and are therefore preserved due to moisture loss/inhospitable environs for decomposer-type organisms. You might have noticed the increased preservation of such specimens when these nouveau four-leggeds seek the shade of an alcove. The point is to do what you can to avoid preservation of your specimens.

Some arid region tips: 1) Bury your shit. 2) Covering the hole with a rock will help avoid re-excitation by our smaller mammal relations, but a deep burial is also important. 3) Do "it" on the north side of a boulder, tree or shady area. This will increase the odds of the moisture retention of the soil, and therefore the "decomposer organisms." 4) Carefully burn the toilet paper that you can, throw what you cannot into your cat hole and bury (or pack it out). 5) Keeping your "liquids and solids" in the

same place will aid in the decomposition of the solid faction. 6) A stick or rock can be used to dig a hole, but may be more difficult than with a trowel. One trowel can be shared during backpacking adventures with a group, just as the stove may be seen as a community item.

James Dryer
Flagstaff, Arizona

For his master's degree, the writer studies human coprolites (fossilized excrement) that are found in archaeological sites in the Glen Canyon area.

Solar Electricity Today

Dependable power for homes, cabins, water pumping & R.V.'s



You Can Have Solar Electricity Today! From the arctic to the tropic, thousands of people are now using quiet, pollution free, easy to install energy from ARCO Solar.

Natural Resource Co.
P.O. Box 91
Victor, ID 83455
(208) 787-2495

ARCO Solar

RESTORING THE BALANCE
THE POPULATION FACTOR

A conference to explore the relationship between human population growth and environmental degradation

The Conference will address these topics:

- * The effects of population growth on ecosystems
- * Factors contributing to population stabilization
- * Political obstacles to stabilization
- * Third World and United States minority perspectives
- * Government regulation and individual freedom
- * The balance between nature's rights and human rights
- * Social justice as a factor in achieving environmentally sustainable population levels
- * Strategies for active solutions

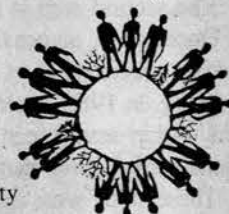
FEBRUARY 9 and 10, 1990

The conference begins Friday evening at 7:00pm, and continues all day Saturday beginning at 9:00am. All events will take place in the University Memorial Center on the CU campus.

SPEAKERS:

Paul Ehrlich
Governor Richard Lamm
Susan Weber
Dr. Leo Estrada
Pat Baldi
Howie Wolke
Judy Jacobson
Dr. Joe Speidel
Josie Heath

Stanford University
Denver University
Zero Population Growth
UCLA
National Audubon Society
Earth First!
Zero Population Growth
Population Crisis Committee
Boulder County Commissioner



For more information contact the CU Environmental Center, Campus Box 207, University of Colorado, Boulder, 80309. (303) 492-8308 from 11am to 5pm

Admission: \$15
CU Students: FREE
Other Students: 1/2 price



River Basin	Installed Generating Capacity (megawatts)
1. Columbia River upstream of Bonneville Dam	18,959
2. Central Valley Project (Trinity, Sacramento, and San Joaquin Rivers)	2,201
3. Colorado River	3,222
4. Missouri River (mainstem projects only)	2,048
TOTAL	26,430

Dear Mr. Hall:

Thank you for pointing out an error in my recent *High Country News* article on Glen Canyon Dam. My original sentence read: "... all 50 WAPA dams in 15 Western states put out 10 gigawatts," figures taken from WAPA's annual report. The editors inadvertently changed "WAPA" to "federal."

As you note, there are many other powerful federal dams around the country, particularly in the rainy Pacific Northwest. However, the Grand Canyon

RECYCLED PAPER
BY MAIL

WE MAKE BEAUTIFUL RECYCLED PAPER products, note cards, stationery, gift wrap, and many printing, copy, and computer papers. Compared to virgin paper, producing one ton of recycled paper uses half the energy and water, saves 17 trees, results in less air and water pollution, and saves landfill space. Send for our 32-page color catalog today and try it.

EARTH CARE PAPER INC.
Box 3335, Dept. 24, Madison WI 53704
(608) 256-5522



14-High Country News — January 29, 1990

GUEST ESSAY

Former ranger wishes he had raised hell earlier

by Steve Mulligan

During the early 1980s, I ran commercial river trips in the major canyons of southeast Utah. But after five years of dealing with what goes on behind the scenes — preparing for and cleaning up after long trips is unpaid and time-consuming work — I wanted something new.

Soon I focused on becoming a federal river ranger since they seemed to have a perfect set-up: lots of river time and no customers. I enrolled in the National Park Service training program, for which the participants were expected to pay \$1,200, and eight weeks later I was qualified to become a seasonal ranger.

What I didn't know about then was the peculiar world of bureaucracy. It thinks even nature must bend to what bureaucrats decide is best. At the time, I protested some Park Service plans but I never won a debate.

One of the more amazing schemes proposed was a Canyonlands National Park plan to alter river corridors. The hope was to restore them to the broad, multi-channeled rivers that existed when John Wesley Powell floated through in the mid-1800s.

The plan's major stumbling block was the ubiquitous tamarisk tree. The tamarisk was imported into southern Arizona in the late 1800s to control erosion in irrigation ditches. As imports often do, it proliferated. Tamies now line the banks of the Colorado and Green rivers for hundreds of miles and steal more water than any other tree.

The plan was to burn down the tamarisk, allowing spring run-off to flush the banks, and then cut down the charred trunks.

In 1985, during my second summer as a river seasonal, the resource management office presented this plan to the river crew and solicited our comments. I visited the supervisor to tell him my objections.

Several years earlier, I said, river-bottom upriver from Moab had accidentally burned and one result was not good news for the proposed program: Tamies thrived on the burn. The year after, new-growth tamarisk had reached a height of six feet, choking out the bottom as much as ever.

I was also concerned about the two river bottoms slated for test burns. The Green River site was typical, but the Indian Creek bottom on the Colorado River was beautiful. It was a river-runner camp, and the hike to a nearby Anasazi ruin was a river trip attraction. Burning Indian Creek would ruin both a major campsite and a popular hike.

When the resource manager replied, I quickly understood that nothing I said would make a dent. He was convinced that his plan was viable. This burn was a "go"; all I accomplished was to convince this bureaucrat that I was a potential "troublemaker."

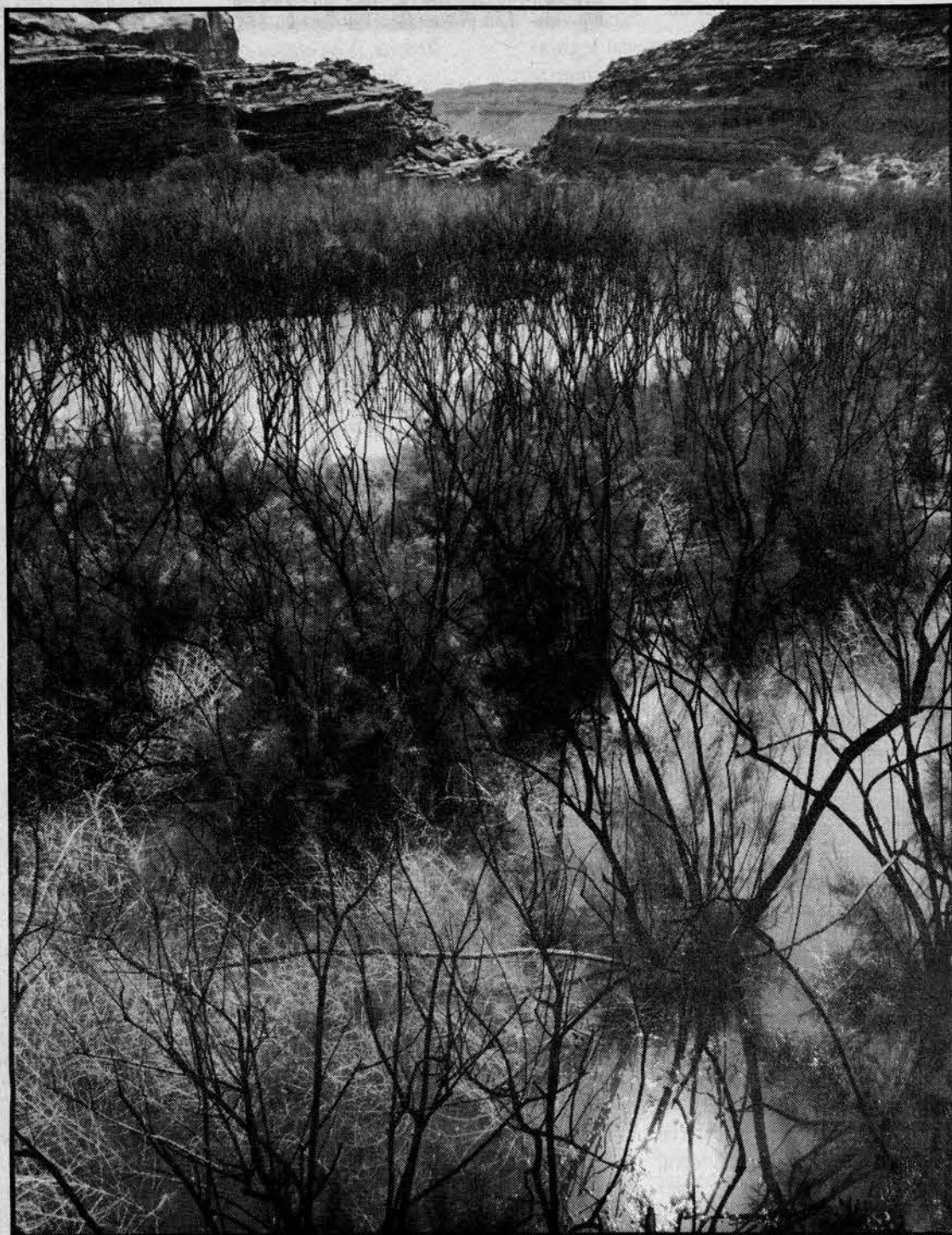
I wondered why no one else was objecting. Perhaps it was a reasonable plan and I was a mischief-maker. I also wondered why this man hated tamarisk. Perhaps he had tried it in a campfire and found it a lackluster firewood. When the tree would not burn well on a small scale, he decided to try burning it on a grand scale.

In the spring of 1985, two river crew members and three resource managers blithely motored down the river to burn. I was slated for this patrol but developed a timely case of flu. The crew burned the Green River bottom to the ground, and then rode off to Indian Creek to repeat the incineration. Luckily, the elements interceded to save Indian Creek when a storm front moved in and rained out the second burn. Nonetheless the trip was considered a success: One bottom had been burned and the plan had begun.

The second step in the plan relied on spring run-off. Once again, nature failed to cooperate. The Green River's watershed is the Wind River Range in Wyoming. In 1985, it didn't provide enough run-off to come within seven feet of washing over the bank of tamarisk snags. Step two never materialized.

These steps were apparently unrelated, as we proceeded on to step three without a pause. In the fall of 1985, I motored down to the Green River bottom with three resource managers and three chainsaws. We had five days to cut down four miles of large snags. I wasn't able to catch a flu to avoid this patrol.

There cannot be many woods as hard as burned tamarisk. For every two stumps cut we had to resharpen



Steve Mulligan

A thick grove of tamarisks along the Colorado River

en the chains. After three of us had run chainsaws for eight hours, we'd cut a 30-foot section. At the end of this disheartening day, the manager who instigated the plan looked at the remaining miles of stumps, shook his head and said it was hopeless.

After the aborted chainsaw attack, the Park Service gave up its attempt to control tamies. The Green River trees have since grown to a height of 10 feet and are choking out the bottom more than before. After wasting a large amount of time and money, after drastically altering the environment in a national park, and after creating an unsightly blemish in the river corridor, the plan evaporated.

My hope is that the agency now realizes that the tamarisk are here to stay, as much a park feature as the sandstone cliffs. These tough trees were around before Canyonlands became a park 25 years ago; in essence we had attacked a natural feature of the park.

For my remaining three seasons with the park I

became a gadfly. I argued against any resource management schemes I thought silly and confirmed my status as a troublemaker. At the end of my fifth season, I decided not to return to the river job. It seemed that the agency decided I ought to move on, too.

In retrospect, I wish that I had fought the burn plan with more vigor, but I was new to the river job and enjoying it. At the time, I was hesitant to gain a reputation as a troublemaker. If I had protested more vociferously I might have forestalled the plan. Or perhaps I would have made my brief career with the Park Service even briefer.

■

Steve Mulligan is a photographer and freelance writer in Moab, Utah.

Get a 16-page letter from home
24 times a year — subscribe to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

\$18/year for first-time student subscriptions

\$24/year for individuals and public or school libraries

\$34/year for businesses, government agencies or other institutions

Mail to: HCN, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428

High
Country
News

LETTERS

Editor's Note: This letter was written Oct. 26, 1989, in reply to a lengthy letter Feb. 4, 1989, from Jeff DeBonis, the Oregon forester who is pressing the Forest Service to rethink its timber-cutting practices (*HCN*, 6/5/89). Since then, DeBonis has begun an organization for federal agency employees who share his concerns. It is called the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics and can be reached at Box 11615, Eugene, OR 97440.

THE CHIEF REPLIES

Dear Jeff:

Thanks for your letter. Sorry I haven't answered sooner, but I just have not had time to focus on the many ideas you included in your letter.

First, I guess I should say that I disagree with many of your points, especially your sizeup of the attitude of the Forest Service. It does not represent my attitude nor that of the people I work with and know best. It seems to me that your letter was one-sided and did not appropriately take into account the interest and needs of the American people in the forest. We in the Forest Service have to keep a more balanced view of the world under our multiple use mandate. I think one of the things we have to guard against is getting caught up in the rhetoric of either the timber industry or the environmental groups and start believing it without putting some balance into it.

Having said that, you brought up several good ideas that the Forest Service must move forward on, such as more ecologically sensitive forestry. The Blue River Ranger District is a leader in



this area, and I commend the district for that and you for your part in it.

My testimony at the Senate oversight hearing this week represents my views on several points related to your letter. So, rather than restate it, I am enclosing a copy of my testimony, along with the recently published old growth policy statement.

I believe in participatory management. I encourage Forest Service employees to speak up and let their views be known as we go about making decisions. Otherwise, we lose many of the advantages of a diverse work force. I hope you continue to work cooperatively within the Forest Service to help us change and be responsive to new thinking and emerging needs of the American people.

Jeff, I hope I can count on you to help bring about constructive change in the Forest Service — change that is sensitive to both the environment and the people who are affected by our decisions. I hear good things about the job being done on the Blue River Ranger District and hope to get a chance soon to see your good work on the ground.

Sincerely,
F. Dale Robertson
Chief, U.S. Forest Service
Washington, D.C.

LOOSEN UP!

Dear *HCN*,

I see the newspaper has come under attack (large or small, it's hard to gauge the opposition just by what surfaces on the letters page) for reviewing Kathleen Meyer's joshingly frank booklet, *How To Shit In The Woods* (*HCN*, 9/6/89). Since *HCN* is that rare publication shaped more or less entirely by its readers, I'll join the fray, on the side of the author, the reviewer and the editors who put them in touch with me.

I'm afraid I cackled over the review and the very idea of anyone researching and then lecturing the world on something we all already feel qualified to do but never quite pull off without uneasiness, and somehow manage to never talk about or share methods, horror and success stories. This prehistoric yet always timely topic, once held up for rumination, clearly warrants it.

So the review was not adolescent bathroom humor to be condemned, but a highlight of the issue for me — sort of a philosophical example of the need to pay attention to what we most readily

take for granted. I pointed it out to friends (who also cackled) and sent for a copy of the booklet, which (while not earthshaking) did not disappoint, and now I'm considering ordering more copies as surprise gifts.

Setting aside my bias in favor of the review, there's something deeper that bothers me about the opposition, which in at least one case has threatened to subscribe nevermore and never recommend the paper to others, just because of this one perceived transgression. Readers like that seem awfully unforgiving and intolerant to me, and publications they shape (i.e., censor) would by definition wind up frightfully narrow and inevitably boring.

HCN is already narrow enough, it seems to me, in its focus and tone of voice (mostly serious, analyzing the environment in the Western region), and if anything, could stand to loosen up just a bit. A monotone tends to fade, and no doubt it's wearing on staff and most readers. The paper does a good job, it's hard to imagine ways to improve it (especially with no models out there), but experiments like this review and some other simultaneously humorous and thoughtful essays that have appeared should be encouraged, not as some new redefining of identity or shirking of mission, but merely as a little spice. Readers who don't like one story or another in any issue can do as I and readers from the beginning of written communication have done: Turn the page and look for something that does suit them. Judge the paper as a whole, allowing for — or savoring — many voices and tastes and even dangerous ideas and words.

Ray Ring
Tucson, Arizona

*"The fault is great in man or woman,
Who steals a goose from off a common;
But what can plead that man's excuse,
Who steals a common from a goose?"*

The Tickler Magazine, February 1, 1821

The "common" . . .

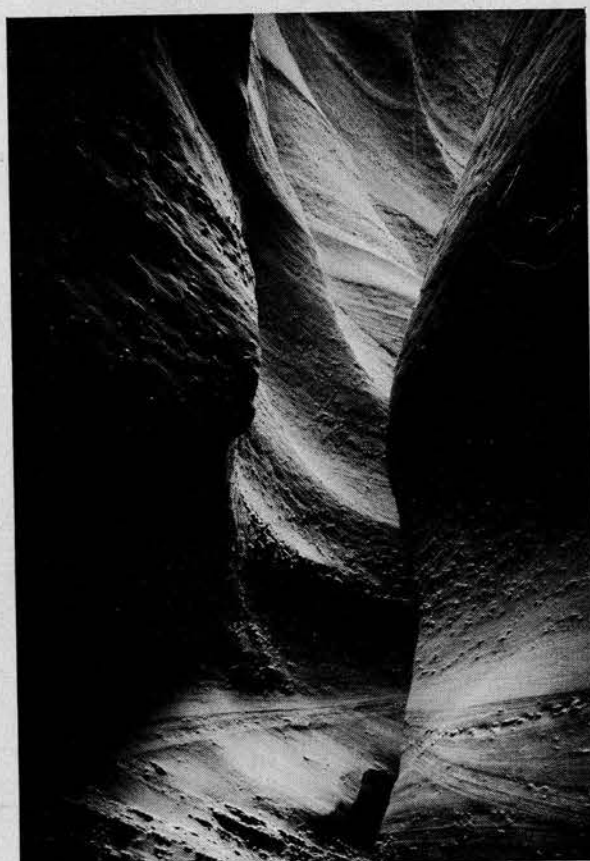
. . . we're fighting for is the canyon and desert country of southern Utah. It is a "common" because the 5.1 million acres we want to place under wilderness status belong to you and all Americans.

Public Lands are in Danger

Beyond that, these lands are **uncommon** in the greatest sense. Spectacular in their beauty and still wild, these lands are known for the five national parks they encompass. What is less known is that the parks are only semi-protected islands surrounded by public lands of equal or greater value -- **and in far greater danger!** The threats are flooding (Fremont Gorge), drilling (Desolation Canyon), mining (Kaiparowits Plateau again, both ends), and vegetation "improvements" (the leveling of whole pinyon-juniper forests which leaves a landscape of broken, uprooted trees). To these proposals and others just add the grasping of a few who want to recreate the old status of the public lands as a buffet for private interests.

We Seek Uncommon Members

So the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance is seeking some **uncommon** members . . . members who want to make Utah wilderness a national cause, build our organization's membership and skills, defend the land until Congress can decide its future, and promote an



Spooky Gulch, not recommended for wilderness designation by the Bureau of Land Management's draft environmental impact statement. Photo by Bruce Barnbaum.

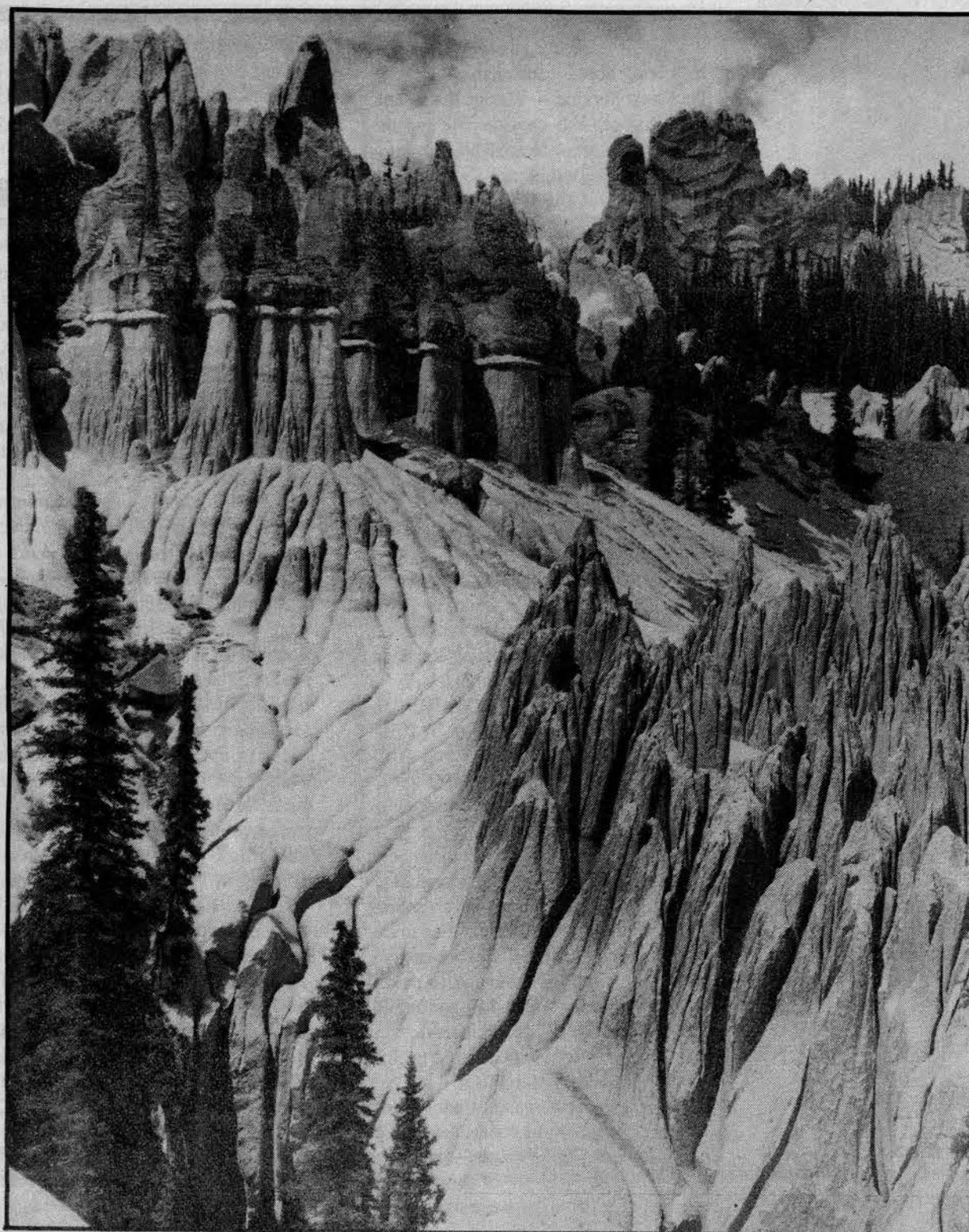
alternative view of the Colorado Plateau. Our members are **uncommon** because, even more than most, they love the canyons and deserts, they write forcefully to the agencies when asked to, they give a few extra bucks when an occasional issue demands it, and they encourage us to litigate when necessary. Our staff works long hours and our board of directors keeps us focused on the issues and frugal with **your** money. We understand that while compromise may be an alternative to losing, it is not a substitute for winning.

The Geese Fight Back

In the fight to keep Southern Utah from being stolen, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance may not be for everyone. But if you want to support **immediate protection and unapologetic advocacy**, we'd be proud to count you among our **uncommon** members. You'll get a quarterly newsletter, action oriented bulletins, and the work of dedicated volunteers, board members, and staff. And you'll be supporting the only wilderness advocacy outfit that's headquartered in southern Utah. If you want to join us, send your \$20 annual membership to:

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
15 South 300 West
Cedar City, UT 84720

Additional support is greatly appreciated.



The Pipe Organs, Wheeler Geologic site, near Creede, Colorado

*Thank you, Research Fund givers, for
helping us make the West clear*

**PUBLISHER'S
CIRCLE**Farwell Smith
McLeod, Montana**ASSOCIATE**Hoby and Dave Hinchman
Cincinnati, Ohio**BENEFACTOR**Walt Minnick
Boise, IdahoEasy
Spokane, WashingtonDave and May Raynolds
Lander, WyomingLock McShane
Steamboat Springs, Colorado**SPONSOR**Debra Shore
Chicago, IllinoisLaney Hicks
Dubois, WyomingBill and Eleanor Hedden
Moab, UtahBarron Bail
Redding, CaliforniaRon Thompson
Aspen, ColoradoWilliam A. Weber
Boulder, ColoradoJudith Hutchins
Heron, MontanaDavid Marcus
Berkeley, CaliforniaMarguerite Flanagan
Pine, ColoradoWarren G. Miller
Salt Lake City, UtahStephen Pomerance
Boulder, ColoradoDon R. Mabey
Moab, UtahNelle Tobias
McCall, IdahoChris Haartz
Campton, New HampshireJohn F. McGuigan
Midland, TexasWilliam J. Lewis
Cincinnati, OhioCarolyn L. Buchholz
Lafayette, Colorado**PATRON**Carolee Campbell
Sherman Oaks, CaliforniaAl Lewis
Roosevelt Island, New YorkMelinda Reed
Wheat Ridge, ColoradoEd and June Howard
Boulder, ColoradoRobert Tafanelli
Las Cruces, New MexicoMargaret E. Murie
Moose, WyomingCharley Rosenberry
Steilacoom, WashingtonKevin McKibbin
Los Alamos, New MexicoDavid McCargo, Jr.
Anchorage, AlaskaMike Bencic
Carlsbad, New MexicoWalt Keyes
Tucson, ArizonaDavid and Bette Seeland
Lakewood, ColoradoDel W. Ryder
Grand Island, NebraskaAndrea Goodheim
Boulder, ColoradoDaniel L. Mariani
Cortaro, ArizonaJames and Lyn Kemp
Fresno, CaliforniaArthur Hellman
Pittsburgh, PennsylvaniaJim McComas
Alamogordo, New MexicoBob Hartmann
Pine Grove, CaliforniaPaul F. Starrs
Pleasant Hill, CaliforniaDoug Thayer
Los Alamos, New MexicoStephen M. Jones
Cave Creek, ArizonaT.M. Power
Missoula, MontanaPaul Fritz
Boise, IdahoCathy Baer
Ketchum, IdahoHugh and Alice Young
Pittsburgh, PennsylvaniaFrances B. McAllister
Flagstaff, ArizonaBarbara Felton
Lava Hot Springs, IdahoDavid Hamilton
Seattle, WashingtonJerome Rich
Cincinnati, OhioMartin Walter
Boulder, ColoradoDavid Carlton
Seattle, WashingtonKimberly Martin
McMorrow
San Francisco, CaliforniaTom and Jane Cooper
Denver, ColoradoPeter Kozisek
Helena, MontanaMike Ring
San Rafael, CaliforniaJim and Nancy Coates
Red Lodge, MontanaBrian Reid
Gold Bar, WashingtonDave Kruse
Sacramento, CaliforniaPaula J. Lehr
Gunnison, ColoradoKenneth Weiner and
Kathy Fletcher
Seattle, Washington**FRIEND**Steve Spangler and
Sue Lueloff
Geneva, New YorkChuck Hendrit
Idaho Falls, IdahoTom and Joyce Goldsmith
Gunnison, ColoradoBill McGuire
Sacramento, CaliforniaMichael and
Sharon Fairchild
Kalispell, MontanaSpencer and
Marcene Amend
Fort Collins, ColoradoMichael R. Moore
Arlington, VirginiaBrad Hall and
JoAnn Campbell
Vicksburg, MississippiMichael Budig
Salt Lake City, UtahJohn M. Wade
Pueblo, ColoradoMichael E. Campana
Albuquerque, New MexicoPhilip Borigiorno
Aspen, ColoradoJulie Hoff
Tempe, ArizonaGladys Winblad
Albuquerque, New MexicoDanni Langdon
Grand Junction, ColoradoG.K. Harkness
Towner, ColoradoMichael and Marti Reynolds
Morrison, ColoradoEliot and Katherine Davis
American Falls, IdahoMarian and Bob Larson
Westcliffe, ColoradoMike Bryant
Green River, WyomingKaren Thea
Moscow, IdahoBrad Davis
Houston, TexasBilly and Jacqueline Funk
Littleton, ColoradoDale Yocum
Grand Junction, ColoradoScott Hemphill and
Jane Meagher
Chicago, IllinoisJ. Phelps
Billings, MontanaWilliam T. Broderick
Pocatello, IdahoBill Williams
Dolores, ColoradoAlison Sanders
Santa Fe, New MexicoScott Tyler
Reno, NevadaWalter Kingsbery
Boulder, ColoradoDavid C. Ochsner
Johannesburg, MichiganKevin Hawley
Boulder, ColoradoDr. Diana F. Tomback
Denver, ColoradoWill Northrop
Boulder, ColoradoH.D. Hampton
Missoula, MontanaRick Beauheim
Albuquerque, New MexicoJoanne Hershenhorn
Tucson, ArizonaMr. and Mrs. John Hinckley
Powell, WyomingCatherine James
Batavia, IllinoisMatthew Claman
Juneau, AlaskaTobi Van Dyck
Missoula, MontanaBruce Luer
Evergreen, ColoradoSarah Bates
San Francisco, CaliforniaJaniece Pompa
Salt Lake City, UtahMartie Crone
Palermo, MaineBruce Rippe
Golden, ColoradoRandall and Staci Hobbet
Walnut Creek, CaliforniaRichard Briesmeister
Los Alamos, New MexicoMary Moran
Moab, UtahMary Ashworth
Kelley, Wyoming

**Happy Birthday, HCN! Add my
support to the 1989-90 Research Fund**

☐\$1-\$49 (Friend) ☐\$50-\$99 (Patron) ☐\$100-\$249 (Sponsor)
☐\$250-\$499 (Benefactor) ☐\$500-\$999 (Associate) ☐\$1000 and above (Publisher's Circle)

Amount of Gift _____ ☐ Payment is enclosed ☐ Charge my credit card
Name _____ ☐ Visa or ☐ Mastercard Expires _____
Address _____ Card Number _____
Signature _____

☐ We plan to list contributors in the pages of *High Country News*. Please check here if you
do not want your gift acknowledged in HCN.

As a premium for contributors of \$50 or more, you may designate the recipient of a free gift
subscription — for new subscriptions only, please. Name _____

Address _____
Make checks payable to the High Country News Research Fund. Mail to Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428