

High Country News

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A Paper for People who Care about the West

One dollar



'Because I believe so deeply in the Park Service's mission and understand the extraordinary amount of pressure which has been placed on the director and his staff ... I have tried to keep my peace about this matter.'

— LORRAINE MINTZMYER,
Regional Director, National Park Service



'I'm here today with a heavy heart — a heart that's in shock at what's happening in the national forests of this country.'

— JOHN MUMMA
Regional Forester,
Forest Service

Two say politics rules their agencies

WASHINGTON, D.C. — John Mumma came alone to a packed subcommittee hearing Sept. 24 to denounce the agency that — for three decades — he put above family and friends.

He cried openly, saying once that he could not continue with his written testimony, then continuing at the urging of the subcommittee chairman.

"All I tried to do was perform my job as a career civil servant and to carry out the policies of the executive branch in accordance with federal law," said Mumma, who was forcibly reassigned late last month from his job as Northern region forester to an assignment as special assistant to the chief of the Forest Service.

"I feel hurt — hurt for my family, hurt for my friends and hurt for the employees of the Forest Service," Mumma said. "I feel hurt for the public which has placed its trust in our government and hurt for the people engaged in making their living in the national forests."

Mumma said he was increasingly subjected to "undue interference and pressure" by politicians who wanted him to cut more timber in Montana and north Idaho, even though that meant breaking environmental laws.

When he stood by the law, Mumma said, he was punished with a transfer out of the 25-million-acre, 13-forest region.

Sitting at the same table throughout the dramatic three-hour and 45-minute hearing was Lorraine Mintzmyer, director of the National Park Service's

Rocky Mountain region. She, too, was there to say she had been forced out of the job she loved by politicians; she has been ordered to the Mid-Atlantic region in Philadelphia as of Oct. 6.

"I feel like I have given most of my life to the Park Service," Mintzmyer told the House Subcommittee on Civil Service. "I was the first female to do everything I have done in the last 20 years. My work has been my devotion."

Mintzmyer, who arrived in the company of three attorneys, is fighting her reassignment despite two behind-closed-door offers that, if she "keeps quiet," a Senior Executive Service-level job will open for her in Denver within six months.

The "deal" was off, she was told, if she told her lawyers about it. She also could not respond to the offers on the telephone — lest the conversation be taped — or in writing, as there was to be no paper trail.

Firmly, her voice breaking only when she said the transfer will be devastating to her personal life, Mintzmyer told the subcommittee that her work on the Greater Yellowstone Vision Document angered Republican appointees in the Department of Interior and at the White House.

She recounted a meeting on Oct. 5, 1990 — a meeting she documented with detailed notes in a small green notebook — with Scott Sewell, then the deputy assistant secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in the Interior Department.

"He began a lecture on the fact that significant

political contacts and pressure had been made to the White House and the secretary regarding the vision document by political delegations," Mintzmyer said. "He then stated that Mr. [John] Sununu had personally spoken to him about this issue."

Sununu, President Bush's chief of staff, told Sewell that "from a political perspective the 60-page draft of the vision document was a disaster and must be rewritten," Mintzmyer said.

Her punishment for continuing to advocate a scientific, substantive document was the directed reassignment, which Mintzmyer said was "used like a blunt instrument on me."

Both Mumma and Mintzmyer were subpoenaed by the subcommittee — at their request — because they fear retaliation for their testimony. "The risk to these people is very, very great," said Rep. Gerry Sikorski, D-Minn., and the subcommittee chairman.

Mumma was visibly reluctant to speak harshly about the agency that he has championed since he started work in 1959.

Only under insistent questioning by subcommittee members Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., and James Moran, D-Va., did Mumma name the congressmen who he said forced him out of Montana.

"You want me to be specific?" he asked Norton. "Yes, Mr. Mumma," she said. "I want you to name the names. Who put political pressure on you to cut more timber than was possible without violating

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Dear friends,



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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A big deal

The annual Research Fund appeal should arrive about the same time as this issue. It's no big deal: it just determines whether *High Country News* lives or dies.

Approximately half of *HCN*'s income comes from subscriptions, with another 35 percent coming from the voluntary, tax-deductible Research Fund. The Research Fund pays for the paper's journalism: the free-lancers, the telephones, the editing, the travel, et al. *HCN* could put out a paper without the Research Fund, but it would be blank. Each year, approximately 20 percent of *HCN* subscribers contribute to the Research Fund. We hope you will be one of those contributors this year.

For sooth!

Bob Turner of Denver is wondering whether enough of the Research Fund income goes to editing. He wrote in reaction to the Sept. 9 headline which read: "Grizzlies may be laying low in Colorado."

"For sooth and for shame!" Turner writes. "'Laying' is a transitive verb, which means that it must take an object. 'Low' hardly qualifies as an object."

"I don't recall *HCN* committing such blatant grammatical errors in the past. Let us hope this is not 'the start of something new.'" Needless to say, the person responsible for that headline is laying especially low.

Whole lot of shaking

Newsweek named staffers Ed and Betsy Marston to its "Who's Who: 20 for the future," as two of the "leading movers and shakers in the West." The list included many people familiar to *HCN* readers: economist Randal O'Toole, Forest Service reformer Jeff DeBonis, Louisa Willcox of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, inholder champion Charles Cushman, sagebrush-rebel attorney Karen Budd, Idaho Sen. Larry Craig, Colorado Sen. Tim Wirth, California Congressman George Miller, Colorado Congressman Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Idaho Attorney General Larry Echohawk, *Northern Lights* editor Don Snow and writer Marc Reisner.

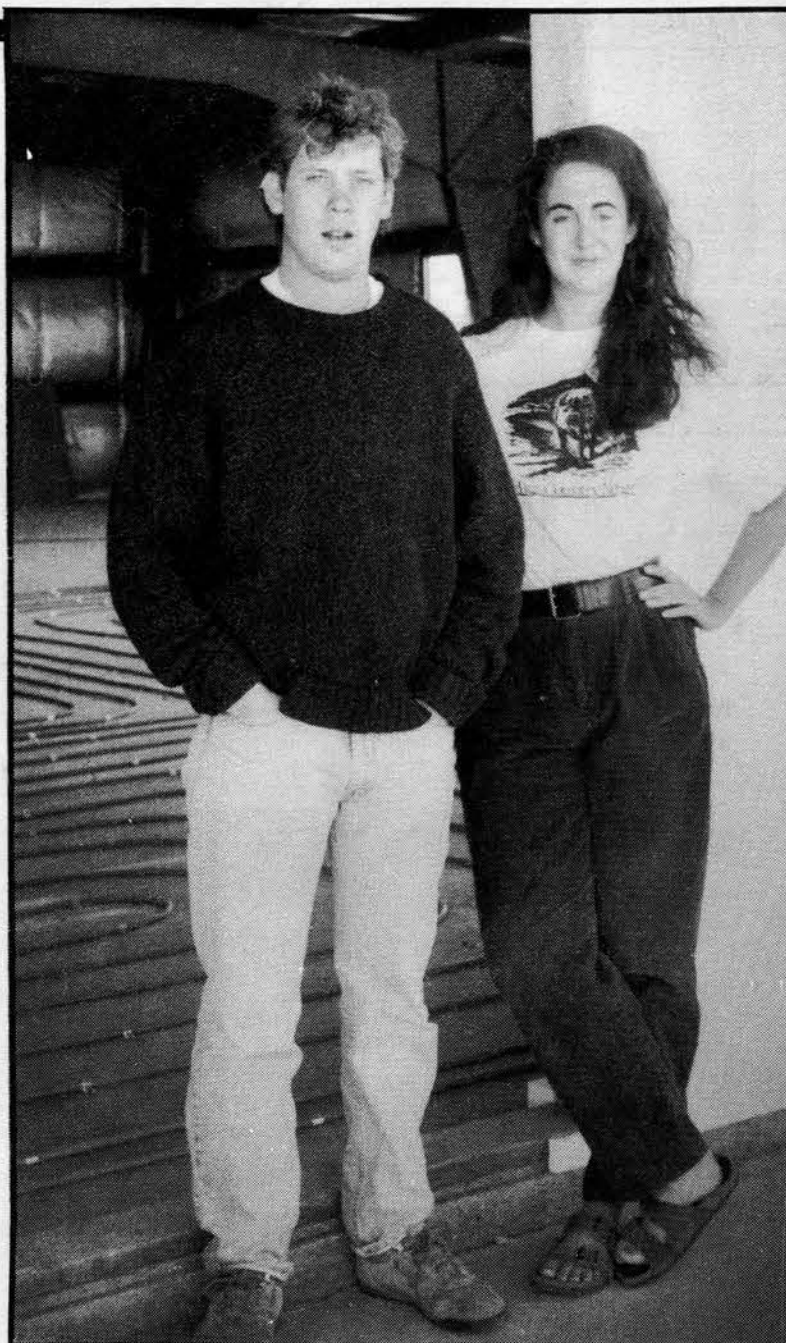
Two from the Great Lakes

New intern Dan Egan comes to *HCN* from Yellowstone National Park, where he spent the summer assisting the park's historian. As a park resident Dan became intimate with things most tourists only glimpse.

"The most dangerous thing about that place isn't the bison or the bears; it's the Winnebago drivers trying to video-record an elk without stopping," he confides. Prior to living in Yellowstone, Dan worked as a news reporter for the *Idaho Mountain Express*, a weekly paper in Ketchum, Idaho.

Dan is a native of Green Bay, Wis., and a 1989 graduate of the University of Michigan. A veteran of both the National Outdoor Leadership School and Colorado Outward Bound, Dan says he thinks he prefers life on this side of the Mississippi.

After her first day at *HCN*, new intern Kristin Howse found herself recruited onto Paonia's recently formed ultimate Frisbee team. Following a prolonged period of huffing and puffing, she says, she realized she was no longer in the low country.



Florence Williams

Interns Dan Egan and Kristin Howse stand in front of heating coils in *HCN*'s new building

Kristin joins us from Michigan, where she spent the summer living on Mackinac Island in the northern waters of Lake Huron. A recent graduate of Michigan State University, Kristin says she's glad to explore Colorado and learn more about environmental issues before beginning law school next autumn.

Remodeling continues

The remodeling of the future home of *High Country News* continues, with each step an adventure. The laying of the sewer line was a cliffhanger — for a while it looked as if the line was infringing on a neighboring lot. An emergency resurvey settled that problem.

The building will be heated with radiant heat. Delta Plumbing and Heating laid the heating coils in a spiral pattern, and on Sept. 25 a large crew poured the cement (actually, a material called Gypcrete) over the coils. Our hope is that we never see those coils again.

The false front is in place, as is a wooden awning to keep the afternoon summer sun out of the windows. The building must look very Western, because reader Tom Huerkamp of Delta stopped by to ask what we were going to name our new saloon, and have we ordered the swinging doors yet.

Visitors

The building has already relieved the paper's space crunch. When readers stop by, staff just walks them across the street for a tour. First to get such a tour was Jo Kixmiller of Englewood, Fla., and her son, Dan, of Tallahassee. They are related to former (and future) staff writer Steve Hinchman.

From Bronckville, Fla., came Axel Griner and Sherrie Kubis. They work for the Southwest Florida Water Manage-

ment District, and were enjoying the dry country and canyonlands.

Virginia and Luther Linkhart of Alameda, Calif., came by on their way to an Elder Hostel in Estes Park, Colo. He is the author of *A Guide to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area*, published by Wilderness Press of Berkeley, Calif.

Anne Fitzgerald, also of the Bay Area, came through on a tour of the West on behalf of the Tides Foundation. Anne said the organizations she visited had one thing in common: their bathrooms sported posters asking: "Is your washroom breeding Bolsheviks?"

Joan and Ray Sussmann of Dundee, Ill., detoured through Paonia because they had read about *HCN* in the local paper. They are retired, and were on their way to Durango, Colo. Also attracted by recent publicity were Lucia C. Cipolla and Margaret Raabe, both of Grand Junction, Colo. They were in Paonia to visit subscriber Joan Fay.

The fortnight's quickest visitor was Gail Carol Smith of Carbondale, Colo., who poked her head in the door, handed us \$24 with a subscription renewal card, and said she was on her way to see the fall colors.

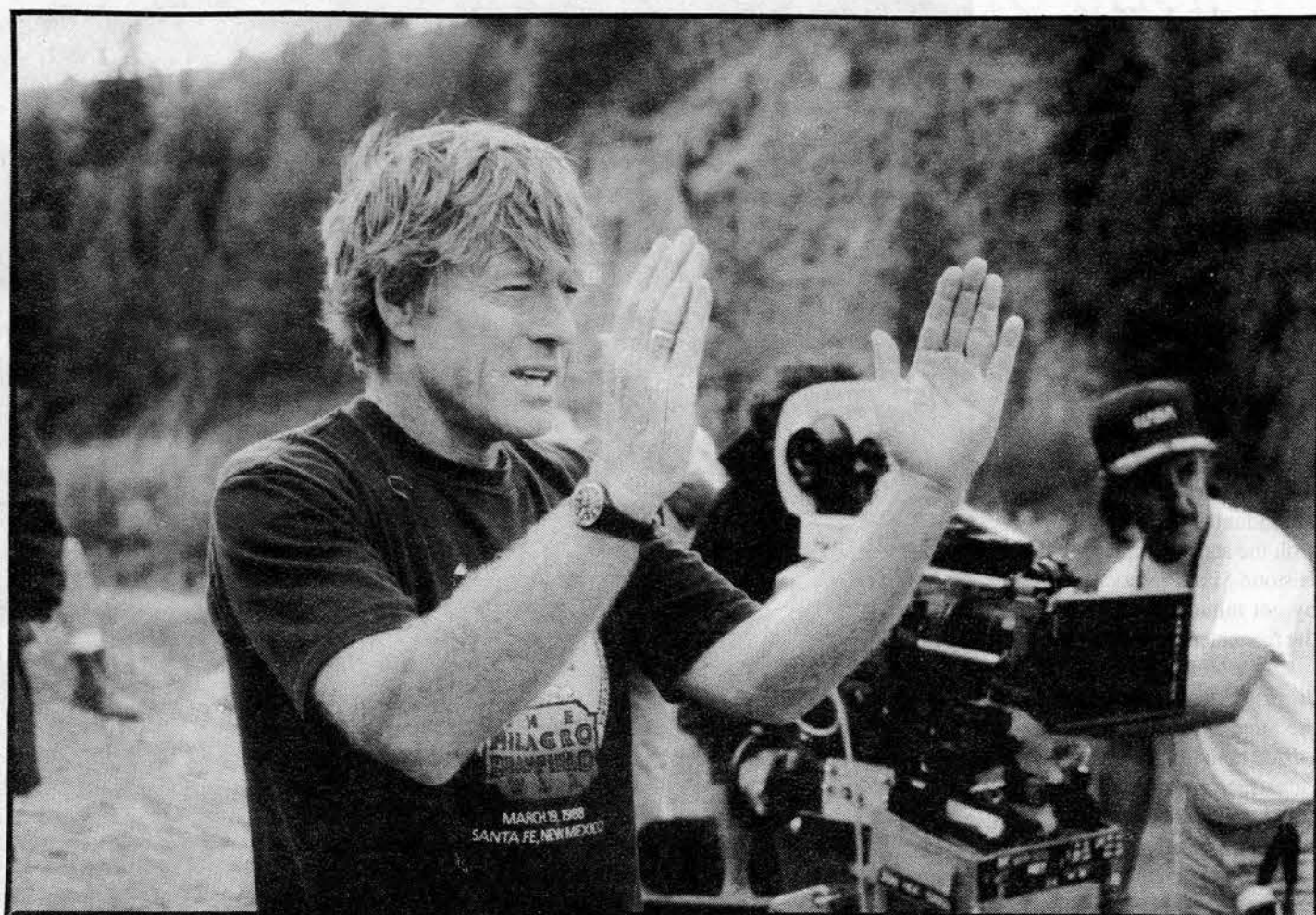
Koren Bosworth of Juneau, Alaska, dropped by to subscribe on behalf of herself and her husband, Robert, both of whom are natural resource managers. They were visiting their family, the Zimmermans, who run a casting operation in Paonia. On the day she visited, the foundry was casting a huge saifish for Fort Lauderdale.

Richard and Darlin' Arnold of Hereford, Ariz., are new subscribers who were hunting for a home in western Colorado. Wendy Kennedy Ellsworth and David Ellsworth stopped by. He is a woodturner-sculptor in Bucks County, Pa. They were on their way to Chaco Canyon.

Two brothers — Jay Satz of Seattle and Jonathan Satz of Glenwood Springs

Continued on page 14

WESTERN ROUNDUP



Robert Redford sets up a scene in Montana

Francois Duhamel

Robert Redford: A river runs through him

He pedals between scenes on a black mountain bike and is known on the set simply as "Bob." The tawny locks that made him famous are showing flecks of gray, and the ever-youthful face — well, it appears more weathered than the last time you saw him on the big screen.

Middle age has brought changes to Robert Redford's life, but none so profound, perhaps, as his own maturation as an environmentalist.

Flyfishing — an addictive passion responsible for luring him into the fold of the conservation movement 20 years ago — is the theme of his latest directorial effort, *A River Runs Through It*, based upon the late Norman Maclean's 1976 autobiographical novella. The film is due for release in autumn 1992.

On the set in Livingston, Mont., Redford sprawls on the grass in a T-shirt, blue jeans and cowboy boots. Behind him, darkened outlines of the Absaroka Range hang on the horizon as a backdrop.

Redford came to southwest Montana in search of authenticity for his film. "The rivers in Montana are as pure as you would find anywhere, except in Idaho and parts of Canada," he says.

A River Runs Through It, while not intended to be an environmental treatise, is threaded with subtle messages about the West. According to Redford, the once-pristine region is being transformed by urban immigrants into whatever it was they left behind in the city.

"It's a new kind of phenomenon," Redford says. "Thirty years ago, you would say people were a reflection of their environment, but now you have so many transplants, particularly in the West, that do not reflect the environment around them. The direct relationship between a person and his or her environment has been broken up, lost."

Almost by accident, Robert Redford slipped into the current of conservation two decades ago by joining fellow anglers near Provo, Utah. They challenged state highway department plans to build a new road into a canyon along

a premier trout-fishing stream.

"It increased my awareness that this kind of thing was happening all over the country," he says. "A lot of our natural assets were being threatened for short-term gain."

A native southern Californian, Redford first came to the Rockies on a baseball scholarship at the University of Colorado, but left after two years to pursue painting, then acting.

Following his screen success, he returned to Utah.

"As Los Angeles was slipping farther out into the ocean," he says metaphorically, "I kept going farther and farther into the interior of the West for my own personal satisfaction. I realized I had become an environmentalist almost without knowing it."

'If we are ever going to have reform, it's not going to come from the top, it's going to come from the bottom.'

— Robert Redford

Although he was among the first in Hollywood to champion wildlands protection, Redford's "green" credentials attracted flak.

"I realize that being an actor you're going to draw fire," he says. "You're going to draw criticism if you don't know what you're talking about. I try to educate myself by getting with experts whom I trust and also hearing the other side, the other point of view."

In 1975, Redford and others fought construction of a coal-fired power plant

that experts said would harm air quality in five surrounding national parks. Incensed Utahns, believing the project represented jobs, tested Redford's nerves by burning him and the mayor of Salt Lake City in effigy.

Such threats merely galvanized Redford. He has narrated more than a dozen nature documentaries, testified before Congress, assisted Native American tribes with environmental protection, and, most recently, challenged a private industry proposal to erect a giant screen movie theater outside the scenic entrance to Zion National Park.

When producers for ABC-TV's Nightline called the National Park Service this summer and asked for a list of recommended speakers to discuss the agency's 75th anniversary, Redford was placed near the top, said Park Service spokesman George Berklacy in Washington.

"Redford has a high degree of credibility," Berklacy said.

Redford does not mince words in condemning profiteers who act at the expense of resources.

"Much of what we see is a direct result of Reaganomics," Redford says. "I think that in time, history will rank Reagan right up there as one of the worst presidents we've ever had."

Reagan's policy of shunning alternative energy sources, liquidating ancient forests and ignoring the threat of global warming will leave an impact for generations to come, he says.

President Bush continues that approach, he adds. "It's the mindset (of Bush) that the environment is something to be used for profit and not to be taken seriously."

"If we are ever going to have reform, it's not going to come from the top, it's going to come from the bottom," he says.

Redford also questions the sincerity of Hollywood as it adopts certain environmental issues. He fears Hollywood's tendency toward hype trivializes issues.

The prospect of significant environmental reform in his lifetime leaves Redford "intellectually pessimistic and vis-

cerally optimistic." The majority of his resources are aimed at grassroots conservation organizations, which he says "are up against incredible challenges and operate on a few thousand dollars a year."

Through his Sundance Institute and the Institute for Resource Management, Redford remains in the vanguard of environmental education by examining sustainable use of natural resources.

Human occupation in the West is marked by endless ironies, Redford says. The latest contradiction involves Montana's Blackfoot River, whose haunting beauty inspired Maclean to write the story about his family's bond to the stream and the tragic death of his flyfishing brother, Paul.

Although *A River Runs Through It* immortalizes angling on a pristine river 60 years ago, recent pollution from abandoned mines has eradicated trout and numerous aquatic insects from miles of the river's upper stretches.

"It is deeply ironic. I feel bad about it," Redford says. "The Blackfoot is a good example of indiscriminate development and irresponsible behavior with a great natural resource. A lot of it has been unnecessarily destroyed."

Redford believes people have an opportunity to return their affection for the environment by protecting it. The Blackfoot River is a testament to that challenge.

Did Redford find a kindred spirit in Maclean? "Nature is my religion," he says. "I've been through the experience of several organized religions in an effort to find something for my life but what I found was nature's form. Having a good day is having a day free of too much artifice and too much talk."

In the final paragraph of *A River Runs Through It*, Maclean writes that he is "haunted by waters." Redford remembers his own obsession with flyfishing and his relentless battles to defend waters in the West.

"You can try to repair nature, maybe clean up a lake," he says, "but there are parts of nature you can't replace once you disturb them. You can't put back a river."

— Todd Wilkinson

Todd Wilkinson lives in Bozeman, Montana, and writes on environmental issues for a number of publications. He is a regular contributor to *High Country News*.

HOTLINE

Grandmother fights grizzly

Mama bears aren't the only animals with the instinct to protect their families. When Lorraine Lengkeek, a 62-year-old grandmother, saw a grizzly attacking her husband Deane, she slugged the bear on the nose four times with her binoculars. The Lengkeeks were hiking in Glacier National Park last month when they encountered the grizzly sow and her cubs near a trail. The couple played dead before the grizzly started attacking Deane. "I could hear him screaming and I knew he wasn't playing dead anymore," Lorraine told the *Hungry Horse News*. "I could see the bear pulling and chomping on him and I thought, 'you dirty bird, you're not going to get him without me fighting to my very end.' " After the binocular-wielding grandmother chased off the grizzly, she stopped her husband's bleeding using her bra as a tourniquet.

'Paper' park is vanishing, rock panel by rock panel

Last year Congress created Petroglyph National Monument, the first devoted solely to the preservation of rock art. The 17-mile-long West Mesa Escarpment in Albuquerque, N.M., has been called the nation's most spectacular concentration of petroglyphs.

But so far, the monument exists only on paper. It will be 10 years before the government is able to complete acquiring the desired land, estimates Diane Souder of the Park Service in Albuquerque. In the meantime, the petroglyphs are vulnerable to everything from vandalism to theft.

Along the West Mesa Escarpment, prehistoric people carved thousands of images into the basalt rock. Most of the petroglyphs are in the renowned "Rio Grande style," the climax of rock art by the Tiwa-speaking farmers 400-700 years ago.

This culture later gave rise to the kachina cult, which forms the basis of present-day Pueblo Indians' religion. Herman Agoyo, chairman of the nearby All Indian Pueblo Council, regards the West Mesa Escarpment as a "temple of spirituality, an outdoor church," where the Pueblo go for sacred rituals or to educate their children.

But it is a slowly crumbling church. Ike Eastvold, president of Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs, estimates that 20 percent of the area's rock art has been damaged in recent years. West Mesa, he says, is like "an outdoor art gallery or Smithsonian with no security."

The setting is not ideal for such a treasure: The monument is located on the western edge of Albuquerque's rapidly expanding suburbs.

Besides the threat of people using the escarpment for target practice or scrawling graffiti, the most pressing danger is the proposed construction of two roads, which would cross the escarpment in several places. Particularly damaging would be the 12-mile-long extension of a boulevard that would cut a 102-foot-wide path through monument lands.

Five conservation groups, the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs, National Parks and Conservation Association and National Trust for Historic Preservation, filed suit in state district court last May to block construction of the highway.

The groups charged the defendants failed to comply with the state's Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act by not minimizing impacts to the monument.

A month later, the court dismissed the suit, saying only the State Historic Preservation Office could stop the project. Construction of the highway began in July on a one-mile segment near the monument's most pristine area, Rinconada Canyon. Conservation groups are seeking to stop construction through the state Court of Appeals.

In addition, several residential developments on the escarpment may proceed if the National Park Service does not soon receive funds for acquiring sensitive land. Several subdivisions have been built adjacent to the monument's boundaries.

Only in mid-August was the monument's management plan approved by Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan. The plan ranks properties for acquisition in order of cultural significance. Earlier, the Senate earmarked \$8 million, and the House \$4 million, for the monument in 1992. A compromise on spending will be reached in conference committee this fall.

Unfortunately, says the Park Service, even \$8 million is not nearly enough money to protect the monument.

Park Service officials estimate they need more than \$60 million to acquire about 2,700 acres. The state and the city of Albuquerque already own some protected property within the proposed monument boundaries, but the agency says it needs \$30 million to acquire 1,760 acres more.

Meanwhile, property owners who

want to sell are becoming impatient with the lengthy process, says project manager Souder.

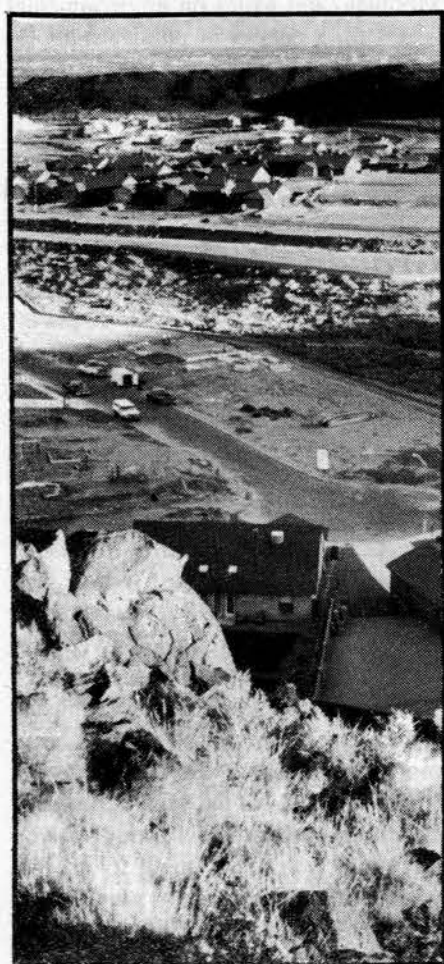
— Robert A. Freed

Robert Freed, an archaeologist with the Bureau of Reclamation, lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Dean Hanson

Petroglyphs on the West Mesa Escarpment near Albuquerque



Dean Hanson

Development encroaches



Dean Hanson

Petroglyphs on the West Mesa Escarpment represent the Rio Grande style of 400-700 years ago

Experts learn how man used to stick it to mammoths

Before Bob Perkins of Bozeman, Mont., applied beer, engineering and thought to the problem, archaeologists really didn't know how early hunters used the atlatl, or throwing stick. It seems like an unwieldy weapon.

Across the West, archaeologists have found many atlatl points, which are larger and heavier than arrowheads. But only a few two-foot-long sticks and five-foot-long wooden darts have been found preserved in dry caves.

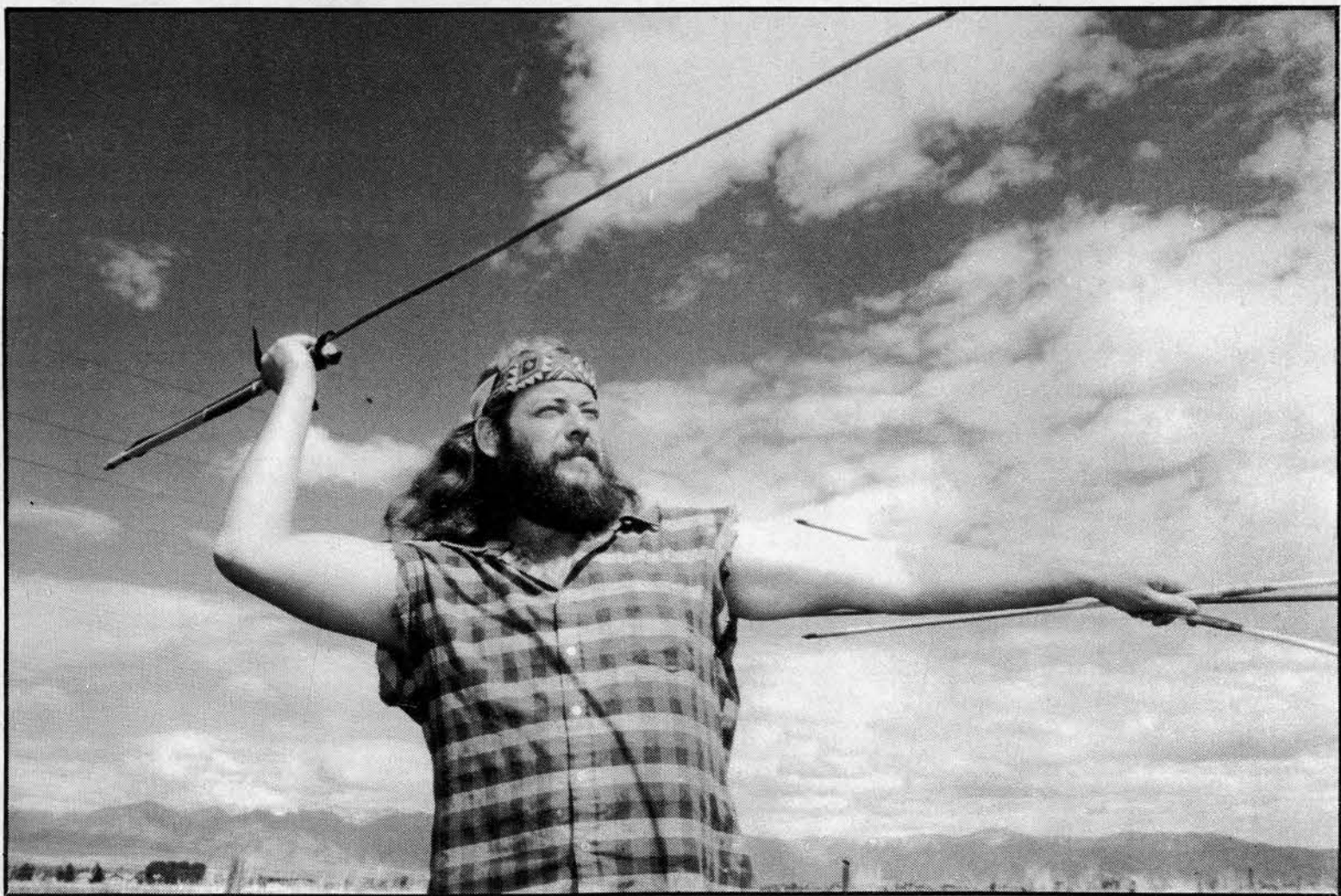
It was up to Bob Perkins, a bearded, burly man, and his ex-roommate, Paul Leininger, to replicate the atlatl and learn how it worked. They were then engineering students at Montana State University. In 1984, the roommates prepared a paper titled, "The Weighted Atlatl and Dart: A Deceptively Complicated Mechanical System."

They explained that the old term "spear thrower" wasn't an accurate description of the atlatl. A spear is stiff. But the atlatl arrow, or dart, is flexible. So is the atlatl itself.

When the atlatl is swung, the atlatl and dart flex in opposite directions. The flexing stores energy that is released as the dart flies off. Replicas of primitive wooden atlatls can throw darts more than 125 yards. Since the darts are longer and heavier than arrows, they don't have to fly as fast to pack the same wallop.

The atlatl was used in North America from about 10,000 years ago to about 2,000 years ago, when the bow and arrow came into use, said David Schwab, Montana's state archaeologist. Australian aborigines still use a form of the atlatl with darts 8- to 10-feet long.

Perkins makes replicas of the atlatl



Bert Lindler

Bob Perkins readies an atlatl

for museums, archaeologists and primitive weapons buffs. His firm is BPS Enterprises, with the letters standing for "The Bob and Paul Show." Friends came up with the name after spending evenings drinking with Perkins and his ex-roommate.

"That's all I do anymore is make atlatls and drink beer," Perkins said.

Early hunters used the atlatl, or throwing stick, to toss six-foot-long arrows into mammoths or other prey. Perkins has used the atlatl to hunt deer, though he's reluctant to discuss the hunt

in detail.

When he began asking state wildlife officials whether he could legally hunt with the atlatl, Perkins got three different answers: "Sure. Go ahead and use it"; "Can't use it"; and "Try it and see what happens."

He was told to hunt during rifle season because of equipment restrictions during archery season. He killed a yearling buck with a 20-yard throw.

This summer, Perkins topped a field of 50 atlatlists in the world atlatl championships at Casper, Wyo. He beat his ex-

roommate Paul Leininger by just one point.

"It was pretty stiff competition this year," Perkins said. "It took two beers to get me one point ahead."

Perkins not only wants to see atlatls legalized for hunting, he wants to see atlatl throwing become an Olympic sport.

"They have synchronized swimming," he said. "I think we've got a hell of a chance."

— Bert Lindler

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

National park may be in for rough ride from oil wells

MEDORA, N.D. — Visitors to Theodore Roosevelt National Park may soon see rolling grasslands and rock formations backdropped by 500 oil wells.

Next to the 280,000-acre park is the Custer National Forest, which recently released a draft environmental impact statement that proposes leasing 1.3 million acres to oil and gas companies.

Expected impacts include noise, dust, smoke and pollution from hydrogen sulfide, an odorous, poisonous gas.

But the worst impact, say park officials, would be visual. Large oil and gas rigs would sit just beyond park and wilderness boundaries. Environmental groups, state agencies, the National Park Service and the governor's office all charge the environmental impact statement fails to address these specific problems. And it is the EIS that will determine what happens outside the park for the next 10 years.

"The EIS has no data essentially," says Jeff Bradybaugh, former resources management specialist at the park. "The (Forest Service) is making conclusions based on no information and saying there is no problem."

"This is a perfect example of how you can't separate a park from its surroundings," says Terri Martin of the

National Parks and Conservation Association.

Carl Fager, who is coordinating the EIS for the Forest Service, says he recognizes the concerns, but that there is only so much that can be done. "It just happens that the Williston Basin is a known source of fuel ... We're not running an oil field because that's what we want to do. It just happens to be there," says Fager.

To contribute to the EIS, the Park Service had provided the Forest Service with the results of a study by Colorado State University. The study indicates that oil and gas leases will not only affect visitor enjoyment but the tourist economy as well. Researchers found that the sight of already existing wells reduced visitor satisfaction and decreased the amount of time and money spent in the area.

Despite the findings, the study "wasn't utilized or referenced at all," says Bradybaugh. "Here's the data right here, months of work that they're not even using."

As currently stated in the draft EIS, the Forest Service plan allows oil and gas development in the foreground and middleground of views from the park. Some stipulations require the rigs to be painted brown, in order to keep "human activities ... subordinate to the

characteristic landscape." Drilling in some areas will be subject to further requirements prohibiting drilling equipment from sitting on the surface of the land. Here, oil and gas would be extracted by horizontal drilling from behind hills or other obstructions.

This No Surface Occupancy designation, however, will be required only if development cannot appear "subordinate" by other methods, such as painting.

The draft EIS does not make it clear who will decide if the NSO is necessary, nor does it make this option available to all wilderness areas. Furthermore, the NSO designations would only affect drill sites within 1.5 miles of the park boundary.

"We ask that on land within five miles of the viewpoint that there be no oil and gas drilling on the surface," says Martin. "There is no need to sacrifice our historical and cultural resources in order to squeeze out one more gallon of gas."

The Park Service is also concerned about the Elkhorn Ranch site, where President Theodore Roosevelt lived and hunted.

"It's a small unit, a little over 200 acres, and its value is in its solitude," says Park Superintendent Peter Hart.

The ranch sits on rich land known

as the Bakken Formation and stands to receive the most visual impact. Meridian Oil already owns one operating well near there, which carries noise and a strong sulfuric smell to the ranch.

Says Wally Owen, a horse outfitter in the park: "With a minor amount of money (Meridian) could have moved it back." Owens points to the well as an example of what the oil companies will do if not forced to drill sensitively.

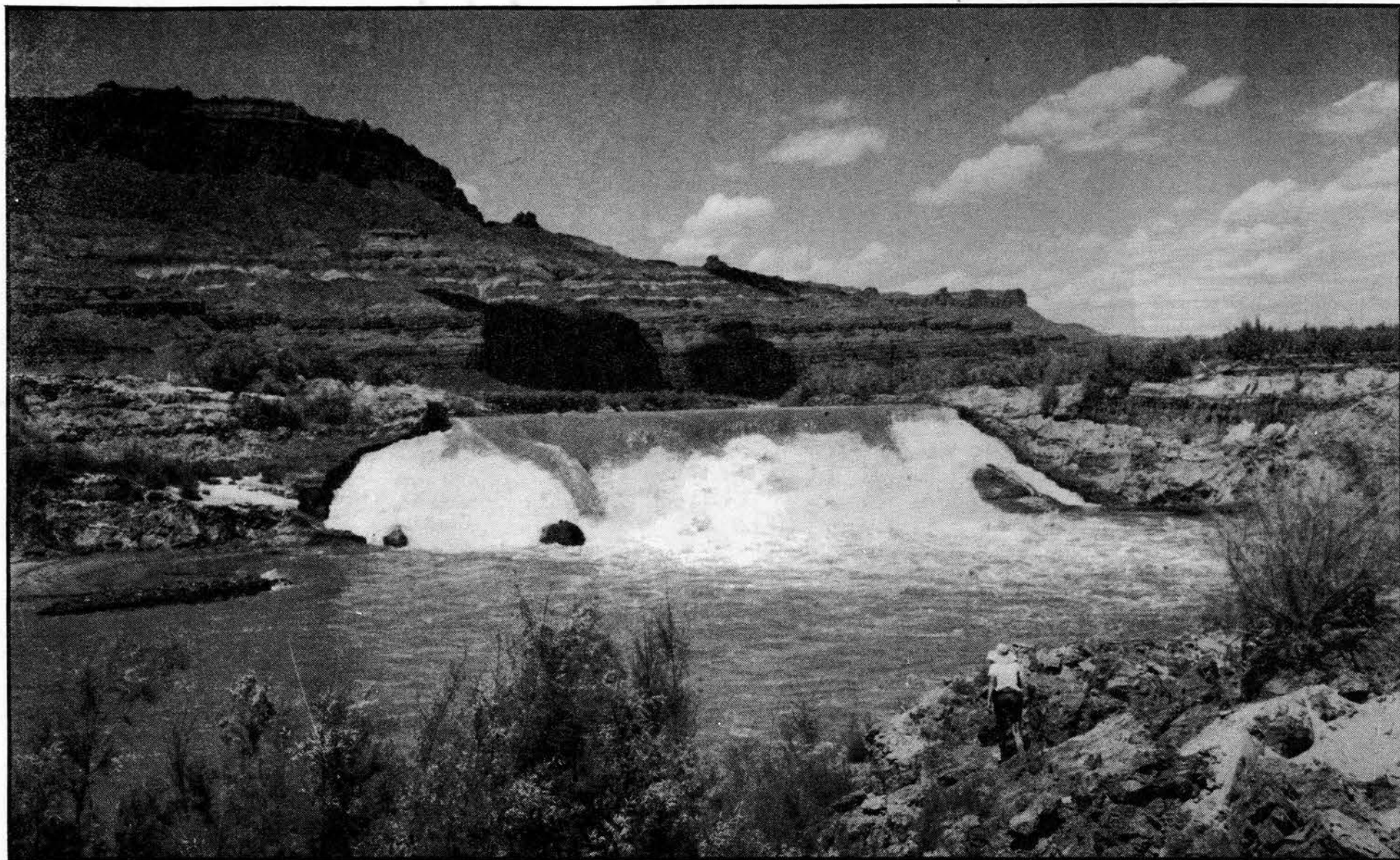
The Park Service would like to see strong regulations for what could be hundreds of the wells. Currently, the Park Service works with the Forest Service on a lease-by-lease basis.

"The Forest Service listens to our concerns and supports us when they can," says Bradybaugh. "But their hands are tied in terms of some of the old leases. That's why it's so important to get new lease stipulations, and this EIS is the time to do it."

According to the Forest Service's Fager, the agency is now reviewing public comments and will complete its final EIS this fall. For more information, contact Curtis Bates, Forest Supervisor, U.S. Forest Service, 2602 1st Avenue North, P.O. Box 2556, Billings, MT 59103.

— Yvette La Pierre

Yvette La Pierre is a free-lance writer in Grand Forks, North Dakota.



Don Fritch

Hiker finally arrives at the new San Juan Falls, created when Glen Canyon Dam slowed the San Juan River and forced it into a new path

Retreating Lake Powell reworks the San Juan River

The San Juan River in southeastern Utah is no longer content to merge placidly with Lake Powell. A 30-foot waterfall now interrupts the river's flow through the desert north of Monument Valley.

"The river never would have gone that way. It's an entirely man-induced thing," says Gene Stevenson, geologist and co-author of a guidebook to the San Juan.

Stevenson explains that silt, recently deposited by Lake Powell, slowed the river down, causing it to choose a different route. The San Juan carved its new channel over a buried cliff.

The brand new waterfall poses challenges for fish, boaters and resource managers, who fear more is yet to come.

Lake Powell, designed to store water from the San Juan and Colorado rivers, formed behind Glen Canyon Dam, built in 1964. Several years of drought have now shrunk the lake by about 70 feet from its highest level, 3,700 feet, in 1983. At its 3,700-foot elevation, the lake backed up 16 miles into the San Juan's canyon. The lake deposit-

ed tons of sediment, which remained to impede the river after the lake retreated.

The transformation of lake to river in 1989 left a legacy of mud and a small rapid near a take-out for rafters. Dubbed "Breakthrough," for its bold emergence in what had been a lake, the rapid took on new meaning when it punched holes through the floors of two wooden dories.

That rapid is still there, its edges muted by erosion. But just downstream, the new waterfall emerged this spring as a seething explosion of water over crumbling red shale.

"It's a curious phenomenon," says Doug Young, a biologist in Salt Lake City with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The river is confused, and it will continue to downcut the feature until it reaches reservoir level." Young is part of a team studying the San Juan River to determine whether endangered fish are threatened by the proposed Animas-La Plata Dam project in western Colorado.

Rick Harris, resource specialist at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, says, "The waterfall would certainly be an impediment to any fish traveling

upstream." He says alternatives exist, such as re-channeling the river, building fish ladders and even transporting the fish around the dam. "But hopefully, the lake will come back up and the waterfall won't be there," he says.

But author Stevenson argues the lake level won't rise because Glen Canyon Dam "can't hold the water and they're afraid to admit it."

"That's not true at all," replies Randy Peterson, chief of the Water Operations Branch of the Bureau of Reclamation in Salt Lake City. "The dam is in perfect shape, completely repaired, and we have every intention of filling the reservoir as soon as we get some wet years."

Meanwhile, the rapid continues to pose hazards for fish and boaters alike. "We tell everyone to take out at Clay Hills and not at Paiute Farms," emphasizes Leah Quesenberry of the Bureau of Land Management in Monticello, which regulates the river permit system. "But we're still concerned about people who might not be informed."

A warning sign and photograph of

the waterfall are now posted at the rafting launch site near Bluff.

Some are worried the rapid may get worse. Stevenson speculates, "Right now everyone is saying what a cute little thing the waterfall is, but it's a time bomb. If that rib of organ rock shale finally gives way to erosion, that whole lower canyon could experience an 'unzipping' effect, where the erosion could move upstream like a fuse, leaving the river banks perched 30 to 50 feet above the water."

Local residents have been bushwhacking through the dense tamarisk and mud to see the new waterfall. There is no easy way to reach it, except by boat or plane.

"It was the worst hike I've ever done," said Michael "Red" Wolfe of Monticello, once he'd gotten to the site. "But the waterfall is awesome. It's like the river's revenge."

— Tamara Wiggans

Tamara Wiggans is a free-lance writer and river guide in Bluff, Utah.

HOTLINE

Water district is denied

Conservationists are pointing to a recent court decision in Utah as evidence of the declining Western water establishment. District Court Judge Gordon Low dismissed a petition to create a water conservancy district in Cache County. Proponents wanted to form the district in northern Utah so it could tax county residents and build the proposed Bear River water project (HCN, 7/15/91). Low dismissed the petition on technical grounds, saying the district's boundaries shifted during the signature-gathering period. The decision marks the first time in Utah history a water district has been defeated, but it was not quite the defeat opponents hoped for. Conservation-

ists argued that the state's Water Conservancy Act is unconstitutional because it allows a small minority of residents to tax an entire district. Cache is one of the few counties in Utah without a water district.

Rosebud Reservation says no

South Dakota's Rosebud Reservation has reversed an earlier decision to approve a national landfill on tribal land. Last November, the Sioux tribal council reached an agreement with RSW Inc. of Connecticut to site a 5,700-acre landfill on the reservation in southwestern South Dakota (HCN, 6/17/91). But when growing opposition to the dump helped defeat tribal chairman Ralph Moran in August, the council changed its mind. "We're

proud the council is finally listening to the people," said Christine Valandra of the citizen's group, Good Road Coalition. A representative for RSW Inc., which had begun work on an environmental analysis of the dump site, refused to comment on his company's future plans.

Lujan overrules agency

Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan has rejected the BLM's recommendation for wilderness in parts of Colorado, Utah and Nevada. According to a leaked document obtained by the *Denver Post*, Lujan removed Handies Peak and Red Cloud Peak in Colorado's San Juan Mountains, Turtle Canyon in eastern Utah, and Roberts and Silver Peak in Nevada from a wilderness package proposed by the Bureau of

Land Management. After 10 years of study and public involvement, the BLM had found the areas suitable for wilderness designation. But other interior agencies, notably the U.S. Bureau of Mines, complained that federal wilderness designation would block future minerals development (HCN, 9/23/91). In the leaked document, an interagency memo dated Sept. 10, Lujan wrote, "...Handies Peak and Red Cloud Peak (and the other sites) shall not be included in the wilderness designation recommendations," reported the *Post*. The whittled-down bill now awaits the signature of President Bush. Said Todd Robertson of the Colorado Environmental Coalition: "This shows the 10-year BLM wilderness effort was really a sham, just to be radically changed by Lujan a month before it goes to the President."

For whom should the Arkansas flow?

It's an old Western story — a conflict over water — but with a new twist.

The interest groups arguing over stream flows in southern Colorado's Arkansas River aren't dam builders or irrigators. They are recreationists, the "non-consumptive" users Colorado hopes will boost its economy while protecting its natural resources.

On one side are rafting companies, which convinced the Bureau of Reclamation to increase late summer flows in the Arkansas. They say they don't want to "use" the water in the traditional sense, they just want it moved downstream when they can profit from its journey through more than 100 miles of whitewater rapids.

Another recreation group, Colorado Trout Unlimited, says late summer is just when native brown trout need low flows. It is then they build fat reserves for fall spawning and winter survival.

On Aug. 12, Trout Unlimited filed suit and won a temporary restraining order to stop extra releases from upstream reservoirs. Although that was only three days before the releases were scheduled to end, the ensuing court battle may decide the future of recreational releases on the Arkansas.

Both sides agree that the Arkansas is no longer a natural ecosystem. According to Reed Dills, chairman of the Colorado River Outfitters Association, as much as 135,000 acre-feet of Western Slope water is diverted by tunnels through the Continental Divide and sent down the Arkansas to Pueblo Reservoir each year. Another 6,000 acre-feet of water is pumped out of the river near its headwaters and sent to Colorado Springs.

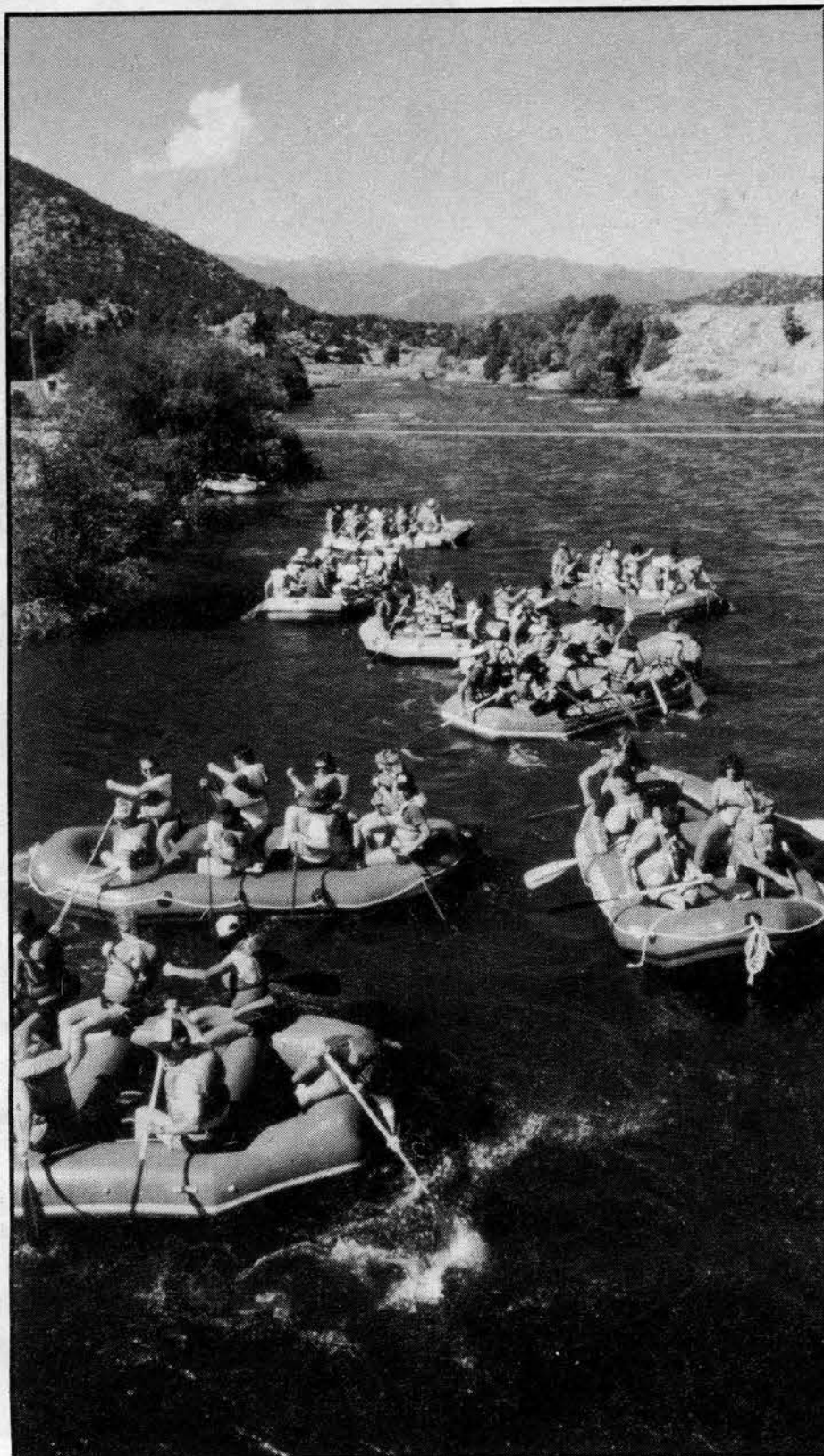
For most of its 148-mile length, the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area is paralleled by both a highway and a railroad. In summer, the valley's roads and RV parks are jammed with tourists, and sections of the river are sometimes so busy that a continual line of rafters and kayakers stretches for miles.

Despite this intensive use, Trout Unlimited says it is defending the river's natural values. The group bases its legal challenge on a Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) study that says low flows in late summer provide easy feeding for brown trout, helping them to gain size and strength. Coupling this study with a directive from the river's management plan, which makes biological concerns the primary consideration in flow manipulations, the group decided that additional flows should be stopped. When their appeals to the Bureau of Reclamation failed, they filed suit, claiming that manipulating flows requires an environmental impact statement.

Although Trout Unlimited is a fishing advocacy group, member Fred Rasmussen says the river's ecosystem is its concern.

"If the DOW study is found to be flawed, we'll back off ... We're not only concerned with fishing and fishability," The study on which Trout Unlimited bases its challenge showed that in 1990, when meager runoff made additional flows necessary to maintain 700 cubic feet per second, first-year brown trout that would have grown to six inches with the lower, natural flows, averaged only 5½ inches with the increased flows.

The DOW found this significant enough to recommend against manipulating flows in 1991. The recommendation was passed to the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, which oversees the DOW. But director Ken Salazar



Tim Brown

A typical river jam on the Arkansas River

decided that 700 cfs, down from the 1,000 cfs the rafters initially sought, represented a compromise sufficient to protect both fish and rafters. His recommendation to the Bureau of Reclamation that it guarantee flows at 700 cfs through Aug. 15 again in 1991 prompted Trout Unlimited's appeals and lawsuit.

While Trout Unlimited says the health of the river's ecosystem is its only concern, some commercial boaters say differences between the two groups are more basic: Fishermen prefer peace and quiet; rafting clients enjoy boisterous waterfights.

When the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area was formed to coordinate activities on the river in 1989, the money-making power of rafting gave it precedence over fishing in many management decisions. Commercial rafting lures \$28 million and more than 250,000 people into the Arkansas Valley each year. That economic clout helped outfitters win higher flows in late summer, when natural runoff often dwindles to levels that are barely runnable for rafts.

"We believe it's not a biological issue, but a user issue," says Reed Dills.

Citing their industry's long involvement in river conservation, the rafters defend their environmental position. "If we had the option of getting 1,500 (cfs), but knew it would hurt the fish, I honestly believe we wouldn't take it," says Dick Eustis, director of the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center.

Moreover, the rafters don't think the flow of 700 cfs is harmful. They commissioned an independent study by Colorado State University professor Robert Behnke to evaluate the effects of the augmented flows. Behnke said the DOW's information didn't justify final conclusions, and that the flow of 700 cfs was probably not harmful to the integrity of the ecosystem.

Doug Krieger, a state DOW biologist who co-authored the original study, says that Behnke's refutation contains little of consequence, though he admits that his study is not conclusive for the ecosystem as a whole, or even for the brown trout population.

Trout Unlimited is not arguing for a return to natural flows. They like the provision of the management plan that provides a small amount of extra water through the winter months, a practice intended to keep brown trout eggs healthy. They would also like to see early spring flows held back until trout fry are through the critical early stage of their development.

When the issue went to court in a discovery hearing Sept. 12, it was not a question of natural vs. artificial flows. Instead, the issue was how priorities are set in an ecosystem largely controlled by humans.

— Rick Craig

Rick Craig was an HCN summer intern.

HOTLINE



Earth Firsters sentenced

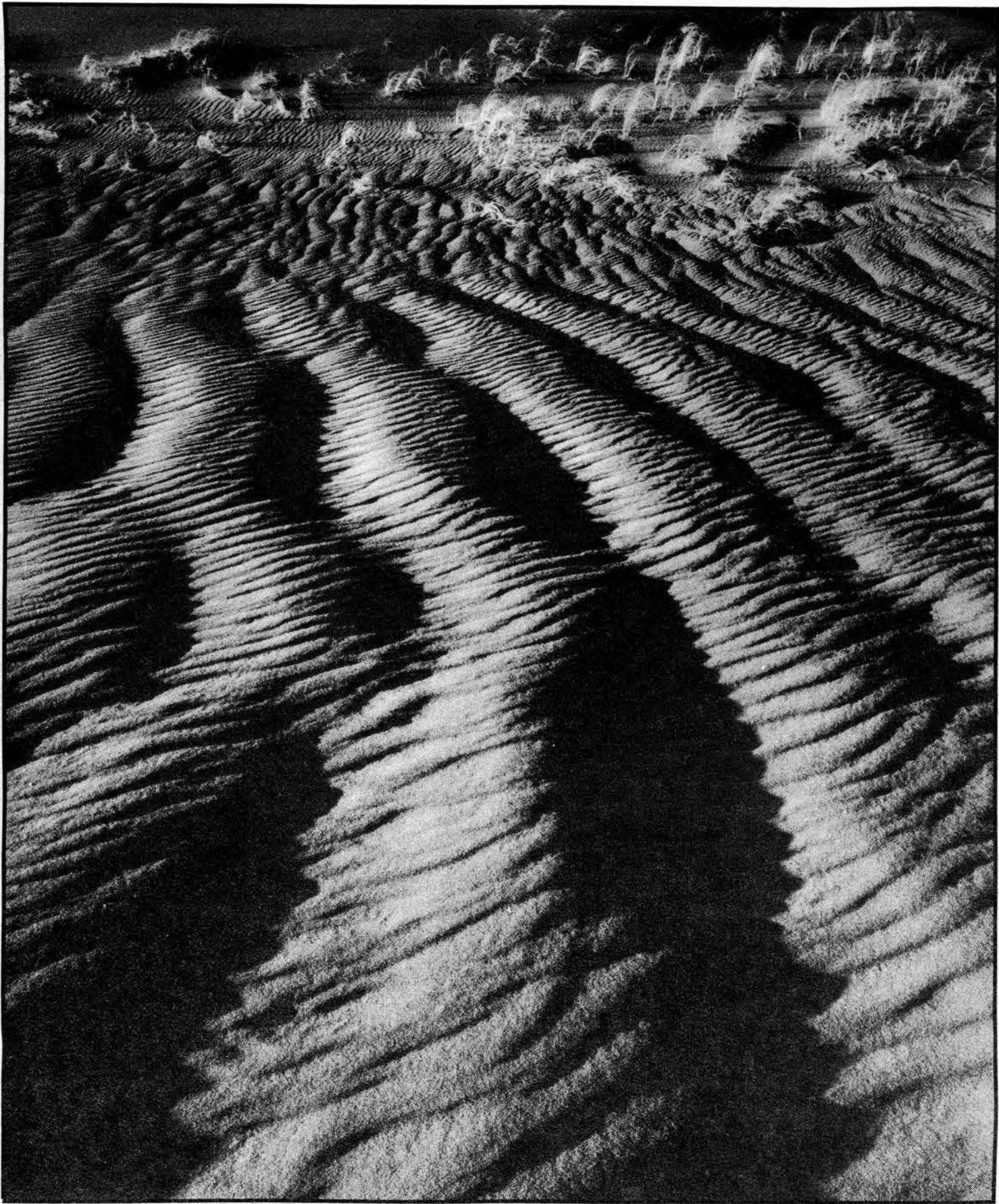
Four Earth Firsters have received prison sentences in Arizona, climaxing a multimillion-dollar FBI campaign to stamp out ecoterrorism. Peg Millett, Marc Baker and Ilse Asplund pleaded guilty in September to vandalizing ski lifts near Flagstaff, Ariz. U.S. District Judge Robert Broomfield sentenced Millett to three years in jail and a fine of \$19,000 to pay for the damage. Baker received a term of six months, and Asplund 30 days, which she can serve on weekends. Mark Davis, sentenced a month earlier, received the maximum six-year prison term. Dave Foreman, the Earth First! co-founder who authored the how-to book, *EcoDefense*, plea-bargained for a five-year delay in his sentencing. At that time, he can plead guilty to a misdemeanor and serve no penalty. "We've put a crushing end to the most diabolical type of domestic terrorism we've seen in Arizona," said U.S. Assistant District Attorney Roslyn Moore-Silver in *The Arizona Republic*.

Ready, don't aim, fire

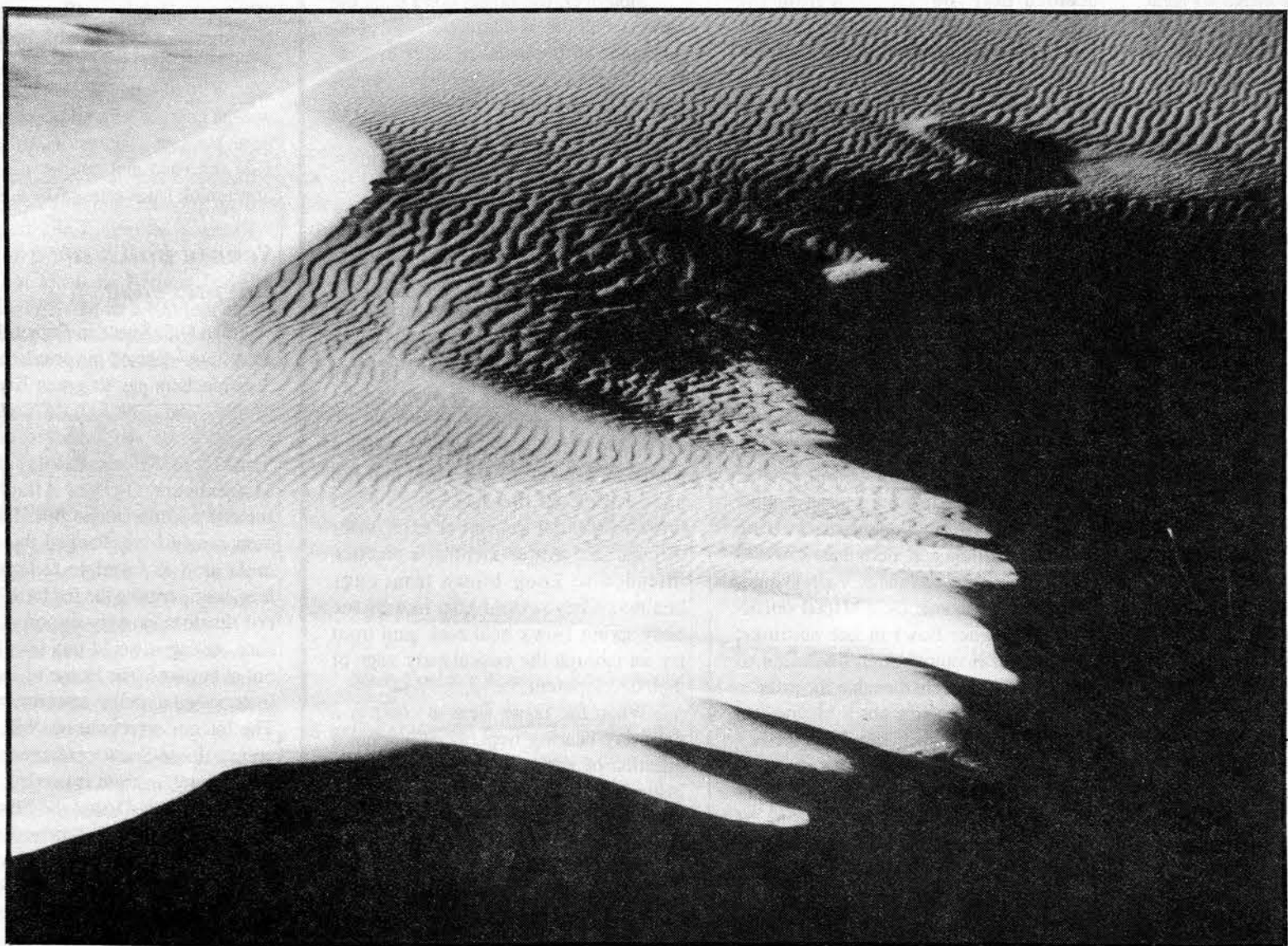
Montana resident Dennis Williams lost a leg after a hunter somehow mistook him for a bear and shot him. It was the opening day of bear hunting season, and Williams had just rolled his vehicle down an embankment. He then sat down on a rock alongside a rural road about eight miles north of Troy, Mont., and waited for help, AP reports. A pickup truck approached, but suddenly a man inside the truck opened fire from about 100 yards. Williams, 48, was hit in both his legs and chest, which led to the amputation of his right leg just below the hip. Williams said he hopes the hunter will be charged with some kind of violation. He says: "Unless bears sit alongside the road and smoke cigarettes, I don't think I was acting like a bear."

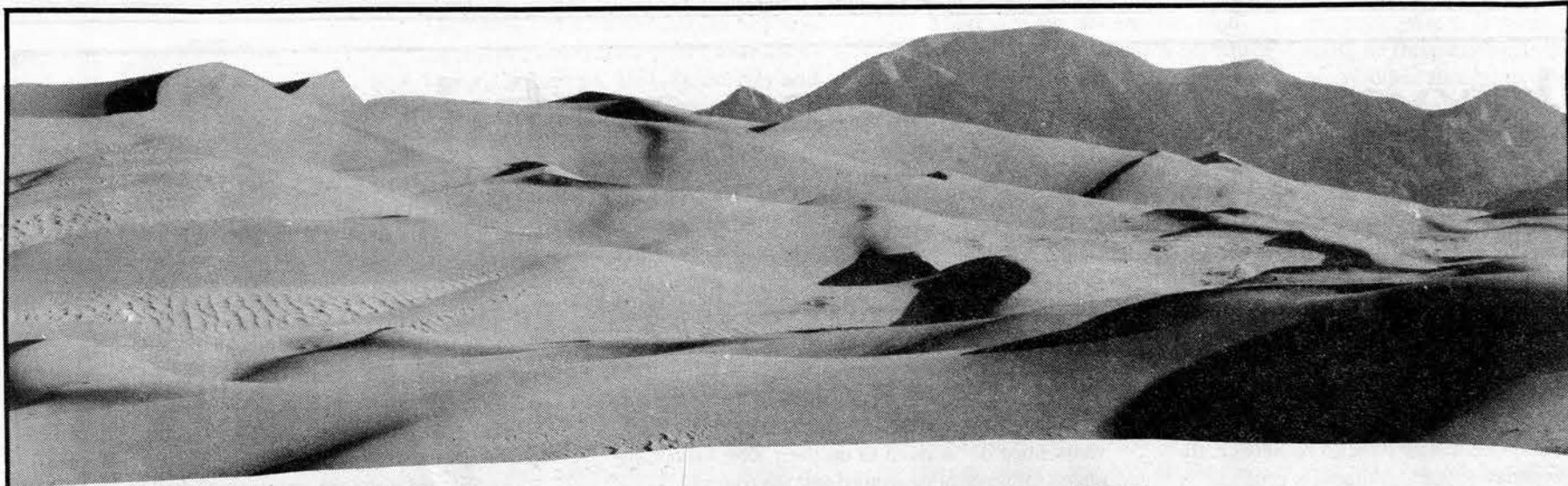
Senate balks at fee increase

The U.S. Senate in September rejected a hotly debated proposal to raise the fees ranchers pay to graze livestock on public land. The Senate voted 60-38 against the fee hike amendment offered by Sens. James Jeffords, R-Vt., and Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio. Attached to an Interior appropriations bill, the amendment would have changed the 1966 formula used to calculate federal grazing fees, nearly tripling the fee by 1995. Western senators strongly opposed the measure, saying it would put small ranchers out of business. The House of Representatives passed a similar amendment in June. The Interior appropriations bill will now go to a House-Senate conference to decide what, if any, increase is needed. Colorado Sen. Tim Wirth, D, said the Senate's vote was crucial "for the survival of family ranchers and their communities." But Steve Richardson, an aide to Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla., said a compromise is likely despite objections from the livestock industry, if not this year, then next.



Summer patterns, remnants of higher spring ridges, begin to flatten into new contours. Below: Sand patterns created in late spring by winds that blow hard in that season. Photographs on this page by J.D. Marston.





D•U•N•E•S

From Colorado Highway 17 a passing motorist might miss the Great Sand Dunes National Monument. It seems a gray mass in the distance, overshadowed by the high peaks of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and almost lost in the sweep of the San Luis Valley.

Up close, the dunes are astonishing. They sprawl over 55 square miles and climb as high as 700 feet above the valley floor.

Fifteen thousand years ago, winds began blowing northeast from the San Juan Mountains, carrying sand from the Rio Grande floodplain across the valley. Blocked by the Sangre de Cristos, the sand began to accumulate into what the monument's superintendent says is now a "national treasure."

More than 250,000 visitors stop by each year to take a look, to climb the dunes to watch the patterns wind makes on the sliding sands. Some camp at the base of the mountains and cool themselves on a hot summer day in Medano Creek, which tumbles along the eastern base of the dunes. Some come to ski the dunes in summertime, wearing self-styled Arab garb. And some come in winter to camp, a challenging — and usually solitary — experience.

Their days in the dunes may be numbered. The dunes have a pivotal role in multimillion-dollar plans to tap local water supplies. It's an old story in Colorado — take water from one place and put it somewhere else. This time it involves tapping an aquifer in the San Luis Valley and sending the water north to Denver, to the tune of 200,000 acre-feet of water each year. That translates to 65 billion gallons.

How could a lack of water harm this Saharan landscape?

Despite their desert-like appearance the sand dunes are very moist inside. Superintendent Bill Wellman and others are

convinced that that moisture plays a vital role in the stability of the dunes, which appear today much as they looked 50 years ago. The water at the heart of the dunes holds them more or less in place, giving them the lumpy solidity of brown sugar instead of the sifting softness of white. The superintendent and others think the dunes' moisture stems from groundwater, not precipitation from rain and snow. Lower the water table and you dry the dunes — that's their belief.

Last year scientists drilled into the dunes for the first time and began to study the dunes' interior and their water content. Publicity about the threat to the dunes touched off further scientific studies this summer — from a look at the unusual and sometimes unique insect life on the dunes to the intricate role tiny Medano Creek plays in the life of the dunes.

American Water Development Inc., a Denver-based corporation with substantial Canadian backing, will have its day in court in Alamosa Oct. 15, when the company faces more than two dozen challengers to company plans, including the U.S. government.

In the meantime, life at the sand dunes continues today much as it probably has for centuries. The surface of the dunes gets so hot by midday that visitors are warned against foot burns on sand that can reach 140 degrees. Children play in Medano Creek until the summer ends. The kangaroo rat does its best to avoid tourists while seeking food. The sand itself is picked up by the wind and dropped into the creek, only to return again another day, just as it has done for thousands of years.

— Stephen Gascoyne

Stephen Gascoyne is a free-lance writer in Denver, Colorado.



Subcommittee gets an earful ...

(Continued from page 1)

environmental laws?"

Said Mumma, "Senator Burns from Montana, Congressman Ron Marlenee and Senator Larry Craig."

Mumma said he was told by Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson that Marlenee did not want him recertified as a senior executive because he wasn't meeting congressional timber-cutting targets.

Members of the Senior Executive Service are recertified every three years; Mumma's certification is up this year.

Robertson also is under "extreme pressure" to bypass environmental laws and increase timber harvests, Mumma said. "If this is allowed to continue, the ramifications are very, very great."

Northern region forests fell 314 million board feet short of the 1.1-billion-board-foot timber target in fiscal 1990, and will again fall short this year.

Mumma also said he was confronted last spring by a criminal investigator from the Office of Inspector General who said he was looking into suspected illegalities in the Northern region, and who claimed he was filing weekly reports to Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., and Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho.

The investigation apparently was ordered by an assistant U.S. attorney in Grand Junction, Colo., and centered on the sale of Missouri fox Trotter horses to national forests in Montana by a broker-friend of Mumma's. To date, the investigation has revealed

no criminal wrongdoing, Mumma said.

The Civil Service subcommittee's purview, Chairman Sikorski said at the hearing, is the Civil Service Reform Act and the Whistleblower Protection Act. If Mumma's and Mintzmyer's allegations are true, they represent "serious violations of the law," he said.

"I want a Civil Service free from the whims and prevailing politics of the day," Sikorski said. Civil servants must be "allowed to do their jobs without the undue influence of the monied and the powerful."

The Sept. 24 hearing set off a lengthy series of pronouncements from members of Idaho's and Montana's congressional delegations. All the Republicans accused in Mumma's testimony denied any involvement in his ouster and claimed the hearing was engineered by environmental activists and campaign operatives of Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mont.

Williams and Marlenee will face each other in what promises to be an extraordinarily hostile election in November 1992 for what will be Montana's only seat in the House.

Williams warned that the subcommittee hearing revealed "the tip of the iceberg of scandal" in the Park Service and the Forest Service. "There is no doubt in my mind that both the Park Service and the Forest Service have been victimized by political hijinks."

By week's end, Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson was on the telephone doing interviews

with reporters from newspapers coast-to-coast, defending his decision to relocate Mumma and defending his agency's commitment to sound land management.

Robertson said he was not — "absolutely not, N-O-T" — asked by Republican congressmen to transfer or fire Mumma. "To put it bluntly, one of my most important jobs in the Forest Service is to look at how I've got my senior executives placed, evaluate how things are going and what the future looks like, and make the necessary shifts," he said.

"It was time for a change in leadership in Region One," Robertson said. "But I was not under political pressure to make a change. I would have resented political pressure if it had been exerted."

Robertson conceded, though, that Mumma was not "putting forth the extra effort" to meet his region's financed timber target and that he hadn't acted aggressively to amend forest plans that set impossible timber quotas.

"I have to look at end results," Robertson said. "I expect people to do the best they can do to meet their targets. I am a reasonable person. But I was a little concerned whether I was getting the best effort from all the forests in Montana."

Still, Robertson insisted that the region's timber-cutting shortfalls "contributed very little" to Mumma's reassignment. "Overall, the region was not pulling together to get the job done," he said.

—HCN staff

Chairman Sikorski and members of the committee, my name is Loretta Lorraine Mintzmyer. I am the regional director of the Rocky Mountain region of the National Park Service.

I began my employment with the National Park Service as a secretary. I progressed through the ranks, serving in many locations and many positions. I have been the regional director in the Rocky Mountain region for more than 11 years, and of the Southwest region before that. I am the only woman to have held the regional director position, and one of only two Senior Executive Service-level women in the service. I have received numerous awards, including the highest non-valor award presented by the Department of Interior, the Distinguished Service Award. I have also received the department's meritorious service award.

In October of 1985, the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks and Recreation held a joint subcommittee hearing on the greater Yellowstone area. Because of these oversight hearings, the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, a joint effort of Park Service and Forest Service personnel, published the 240-page *Aggregation of National Park and Forest Service Management Plans*. The purpose of this 1987 report was to illustrate the relationship and goals of greater Yellowstone's forests and parks and to provide an overview of their management. To meet the congressional expectation of prospective review and analysis, an interagency document was anticipated — one which would describe the future condition of the greater Yellowstone area through coordinated management

goals and how they could be achieved.

It is critical to note that this was not simply to be a regional plan or decision document — it was to be a study of the conditions of the areas involved, a recognition of goals, and a formalization of coordinated, guiding principles. This document was to be a model for interagency cooperation in this area and a model for other areas, well into the next century.

In my capacity as regional director of the National Park Service for the Rocky Mountain region, I was assigned to act as the co-chair of the coordinating committee along with my counterpart in the Forest Service. This report was to become known as the "vision" document. To study the scientific and management issues, to plan, and to write this document, a joint project office for the coordinating committee was opened in Billings, Mont. I designated Sandra Key to undertake many of the tasks. She worked in this office along with her Forest Service counterpart, as team leaders. A number of professional and scientific studies and analyses were prepared or collected for this purpose.

On Aug. 14, 1991, the draft of the vision document was released for full public review. The draft was titled *Vision for the Future, A Framework for Coordination in the Greater Yellowstone Area*. The study was approximately 60 pages in length.

On Oct. 3-4, 1990, I was in Washington for a series of meetings. On Oct.

3, 1990, I received a telephone call about a meeting that had been called for the next day regarding the vision document in [Wyoming Senator] Alan Simpson's office. Although the Wyoming delegation met with Messrs. Sewell, Moseley, Cargill and Moorehead, I was specifically not asked to attend as co-chairperson. It is my understanding that revision of the vision document was the primary topic of discussion.

On Oct. 5, 1990, I was told that the document would be completely rewritten. I was asked to attend a meeting with Scott Sewell, who was then the principal deputy assistant secretary, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of Interior.

If I might digress here for just one moment. I mentioned I was originally a secretary. One of my jobs then was taking notes and dictation. I developed the habit of recording the key points of conversations and other information in a series of green notebooks. These books are, I fear, the source of some humor among my co-workers. However, through the years, they have provided a continuous, simultaneous record of many of my important business transactions.

To return to the morning of Oct. 5, 1990. I sat across from Mr. Sewell with my notebook and some other papers on my lap. He began a lecture on the fact that significant political contacts and pressure had been made to the White House and the secretary regarding the vision document by political delegations.

He then stated that Mr. [John] Sununu had personally spoken to him about this issue. He stated that Mr. Sununu told him that from a "political perspective" the existing draft of the vision document was a "disaster" and must be rewritten. He continued in this vein for a period of time.

Mr. Sewell made it clear that he "had been delegated by the department" to retain the appearance that the document was the product of professional and scientific efforts by the agencies involved, but that the reality would be that the document would be reviewed based on these political concerns — some of which he shared with me at that time. He also made it clear that he was upset with me personally because of the draft, and that he had, therefore, taken over control of the writing and content of that document. He was emphatic as to this point — stating that I should proceed, but that it was he who would ultimately control and revise all content.

Suddenly, apparently realizing that I was taking notes, he severely reprimanded me about the notes, and demanded that I stop. He stated that he "did not appreciate my taking notes or keeping any record of our discussions." At the time I felt that this was an odd statement as I might not have a clear record of his instructions, but I did not take further notes.

He went on to emphasize that the vision document would be rewritten to meet these political requirements under



his control — stating again that he was “designated to represent Interior,” and that the contents and the document generally would be directed, reviewed and given the final “OK” by him.

As I was concerned about the political manipulation of the document, the essential misrepresentation of stating to Congress and the public that it was a Park Service and Forest Service document derived from professional and scientific evaluations, and the abrogation of those professional and scientific bases of the document, I spoke with the director of the Park Service [James Ridenour] in November 1990.

I specifically stated that I was surprised by Mr. Sewell’s statements — and his assertion that the White House was so concerned and involved because of political pressure from members responding to commodity interests — at a time when the Gulf War had reached a high level of tension. The director stated that he had read the existing draft of the vision document twice. He said that he thought it was a good document, he was pleased, and that he supported the concept.

Regarding the statements by Mr. Sewell, the director advised me to “hang tough.”

During the period of Feb. 14-22, 1991, after Mr. Sewell’s statements to me, I had occasion to brief people on the Hill prior to appropriation and legislative hearings. This was a standard practice. A copy of my schedule, names and times was furnished to the Washington office, Legislative Affairs Division.

Immediately after these briefings something quite unusual occurred. I was informed that an undisclosed member of Congress had told Secretary Lujan I was “lobbying.” In a baffling turn of events, I was mysteriously facing a demand for a letter of reprimand and discipline at the insistence of Mr. Sewell. The message to me was clear.

I felt threatened by the allegation, and particularly the call for a letter of reprimand. On March 21, 1991, the issue of Mr. Sewell’s demand that I be reprimanded was raised in a meeting with the director and members of his staff. I noted that this was a groundless attack. Though I sent a memo to the director on this charge, I have never received any word or response. To this day this matter has never been formally explained to me, nor has the role of officials involved with the vision document.

I submit to the subcommittee that it appears clear that had I not flatly rejected this issue, and had I not been lucky enough to clear my efforts with both the Washington office and the director, this could have served as a basis for explaining a subsequent directed reassignment. Just enough manufactured leverage existed to stop me from resisting. As it was, the pressure of that incident hanging over my head had to affect my testimony at appropriation hearings before Chairman Yates in March of 1991.

After the lobbying and other incidents, there was a June 7, 1991, meeting between Mr. Sewell, the director, Mary

Bradford, Dave Behler, Sandra Key and myself on the Yellowstone vision document. On June 14, 1991, Sandra Key and I sent a confirming memorandum of that meeting to the director. The vision document had been almost completely rewritten by this time — and in my professional opinion its position on almost all major issues reversed — because I was not able to provide any realistic direction or guidance, as I had with the draft.

That memorandum of June 14 is the only writing I know of which gives any indication of the plenary level of the involvement of others in controlling the vision document. I saw significant evidence that a similar level of political control was exercised from the Agriculture side.

Word came to me from Mr. Sewell’s staff that Mr. Sewell was “incensed” that we had documented the meeting and Mr. Sewell’s relationship to the revision of the vision document. It was stated that this sort of reference to Mr. Sewell’s involvement was never to happen again because “Scott wants no tracks back to him on the vision document.” We were not to in any way suggest that the service’s position on the document had been reversed and controlled for political reasons, rather than being based on scientific or professional criteria. I recognized this as a serious issue, and immediately made note of the discussion with me.

Simultaneously, the director’s office had circulated requests for information from Senior Executive Service personnel relating to the fact that “17 of our 21 SESers will be eligible for retirement within the next three years.” I understood that this was because the Office of Personnel Management had directed the service to reassign SES-level employees with 10 or more years of service. Statements to this effect were made not only internally, but also to the media — including statements to at least one reporter whose notes have been made part of the service’s internal files.

Then, on June 25, 1991, I was notified that I would be subject to a directed reassignment — the only person to be involuntarily subjected to directed reassignment. In the cases of two other persons rotated at the same time, the shifts were not involuntary. Mr. Baker has correctly commented that he obtained a major increase in his responsibilities and status. Mr. Coleman was not involuntarily reassigned either. Nor do I know of any other person who has been subjected to an involuntary directed reassignment in Interior based on a “10-year trigger.”

Such a trigger is contrary to Section 5-4(6), Operations Handbook for the Senior Executive Service, FPM Supplement 920-1, which states that “agencies should not impose arbitrary time-in-job limits to trigger moves.”

The assertion of a “10-year OPM trigger” has been revealed to be false. My counsel’s investigation revealed that OPM had not transmitted any such directive to the service, and that no such policy exists. The service has now confirmed that OPM has no such policy. The service has never explained why this explanation was given, or why its press officials made this assertion to reporters.

Chronologically, the next position adopted to explain that my reassignment was not politically motivated was that there was a 10-year OPM trigger developed within the service. First, this is a totally different position than had been taken in the press and in many statements. Second, in his memorandum of Aug. 1, 1991, Mr. Davis, associate director, Budget and Administration, National Park Service, stated that it was an OPM directive that had been the basis of my reassignment, but admitted that:

There are no documents, studies, or other materials related to the decision to reassign regional directors with experience in excess of 10 years ... the director ... has decided that your reassignment would provide management skills needed in (the Mid-Atlantic) region.

Thus, Mr. Davis stated that I am being reassigned pursuant to a decision made by the director. He also stated that there is not a single shred of documentation to support the position that this is the actual reason.

The most recent person to explain my transfer under some sort of 10-year trigger has been Mr. Goldstein, Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan’s press secretary. In a statement about my transfer appearing in the Sept. 14, 1991, edition of the *Rocky Mountain News*, verified with the reporter by my counsel, I was surprised to read that “Secretary Lujan inaugurated a policy of moving senior executives who have been on the job for more than 10 years so a fresh perspective can be brought to bear.” This is another completely different story. In this version it is the secretary who created the policy, so supporting documentation is referenced, and apparently the policy has been effectuated on a department-wide basis. Yet to my knowledge, no other involuntary directed reassignment prior to mine, with a letter like mine, has occurred in any other agency where the agency referred to anything resembling a set 10-year involuntary trigger.

I have not stated my own beliefs as to several points.

- Why I was moved by use of exactly the same SES directed reassignment mechanism as my Forest Service counterpart on the GYCC.
- Why the proximity in time between these two uses of the SES directed reassignment provisions exists.
- Why there are so many factual coincidences between the SES directed reassignments.
- Why there exists such a temporal coincidence between these directed reassignments and the issuance of the new, 11-page-long version of the vision document.

I have only stated exactly what happened to me, and described the three distinct, completely different and contradictory explanations I have read in service statements to the media and memos for

my reassignment. (I would also note that most of these explanations along with many other statements about my reassignment by the service or the department, many false, were available in the newspapers well before I received those that I did. I have never received other of the explanations.)

As I mentioned earlier, I have served the Park Service for just over 32 years. I rose from a secretary to serve the last 11 years as a regional director. Although it sounds melodramatic, I feel I have given most of my life to the service. Because I am an employee of the service and believe in its goals and its people, I have begun my move to Philadelphia, and will report for duty on Oct. 6, 1991. Because I believe so deeply in the service’s mission and understand the extraordinary amount of pressure which has been placed on the director and his staff with regard to this document and my reassignment, I have tried to keep my peace about this matter.

But I say now that the SES directed reassignment provisions have been used like a blunt instrument. Let me be clear, I do not dispute the right of the Congress or the Bush administration to act affirmatively in response to the concerns of constituents — that is the political process.

But suggesting that the vision document as it presently stands is the result of efforts by the Park Service or the Forest Service, based on scientific considerations and the professional opinions of those agencies is, in my opinion, not accurate.

To have created this appearance by neutralizing two of the people who could have continued to guide the document into its being an expression of those professional opinions by simultaneous, coincidental uses of the SES regulations seems to undercut the mandate that the people have given these agencies. And it runs contrary to the mission I have served so long.

Finally, I ask the subcommittee to accept my apologies for not having expressed more of my opinions and views — as opposed to this mere recitation of the facts. ■

Lorraine Mintzmyer and John Mumma testified before a House subcommittee on civil service in Washington, D.C., Sept. 24.

‘Framework’ replaces ‘vision’

In a major — but still theoretical — struggle over land use in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, the multiple-use side has scored a win.

A rewrite of the controversial U.S. Forest Service-National Park Service “vision report” for the Yellowstone region has appeased resource industries and infuriated environmentalists.

That’s almost a complete reversal, since the draft of the vision document pleased most environmentalists and frightened many industries (*HCN*, 6/3/91).

“I think the final document represents a complete capitulation to the commodity groups,” said Ed Lewis, Greater Yellowstone Coalition executive director.

What have the multiple-use interests won? Maybe not much. The new 11-page management “framework” for the region, like the 60-page vision report that came before it, sets no policies for public land use in and around Yellowstone National Park.

The multiple-use side, an amorphous group including ranchers, loggers, farmers and off-road vehicle users, saw the first vision report as a threat to their livelihood. Since it called

for maintaining “a sense of naturalness,” and for cooperative management between the Park Service and Forest Service, these groups lashed out against it.

For environmentalists, the original vision report represented a milestone. In it they found the Park Service and Forest Service finally talking about managing the special, fragile Yellowstone ecosystem together.

The new framework still talks about cooperative management, but environmentalists say the report does little to recognize how unique the Yellowstone ecosystem is. For them, it falls short on style and substance.

In the words of Terri Martin of the National Parks and Conservation Association, it is a “vision with cataracts.”

Agencies said they wanted to condense and simplify the report — to cut out a lot of the original’s “discussion and fluff,” as Bob Williams of the Targhee National Forest puts it.

—Kevin Richert

Kevin Richert reports for the *Idaho Falls Post-Register*.

M

y name is John Mumma. I am regional forester of the Northern region, a 25-million-acre national treasure of some 15 national forests located in Montana, northern Idaho, portions of Washington, and North and South Dakota.

Headquarters of the Northern region are located in Missoula, Mont.

I'm here today with a heavy heart — a heart that's in shock at what's happening in the national forests of this country. Before I discuss some current events, I would like to touch on a bit of personal history.

I grew up in a family with strong ties to the land and forests of southwest Colorado and northern New Mexico. On my father's side, the family was engaged in sawmills and lumber yards. On my mother's side, the family income was derived from cattle ranching and law enforcement. As a youngster, I was thrilled at every opportunity to go to the forest. Whether it was fishing or hunting or staying at the logging camps made little matter, for the excitement was always there — as it still is!

My first encounter with a forest ranger occurred the summer of my high school freshman year. It was while working at a ranch in Colorado where we cut poles, skidded them by horse and built fences. Late one evening, the ranger rode into the camp and said that he had spotted a fire, so he had saddled up his horse and rode out to the wilderness to go control the blaze.

I began my career with the Forest Service as a laborer III on the San Juan National Forest in Colorado. It was 1960, and I was a student in college. That summer was followed by several more and a few Christmas vacations where I put my skills as a sawyer to work.

In the mid-1960s, an opening in the Job Corps Civilian Conservation Program became my first permanent position. I was actively recruited by forest personnel who came to recognize my high energy, commitment and interest in the out-of-doors as a desirable work ethic. The next year, I entered the regular Forest Service as a range conservationist with duties split between range and wildlife, since no wildlife-trained personnel were being hired by the Forest Service. After my one-year probationary period, I soon transferred to another forest as an assistant ranger, with duties as a range conservationist, timber sale layout and design and during the winter as a snow ranger at a major ski area.

In 1968, I transferred to the Southwest region and assignments to date have included range and wildlife project staff, district ranger, timber, fire and range staff at the forest level, forest supervisor, regional director of wildlife and fisheries, regional director of range and wildlife, staff assistant in D.C., deputy regional forester and regional forester.

During my 28-year career, I have moved 12 times, worked in most Western states and the national office. I held two GS-7, two GS-9, three GS-12 and four GS-15 positions, all in different locations. During that same time, I was promoted in place four times. One of those moves resulted in a financial loss that will never be regained.

I am extremely disappointed that the political pressures I have dealt with over the last few years (from numerous factions) in my region have now apparently resulted in the decision to remove me

from this region. I have read accounts in the newspapers that I am a reformer, and that I was trying to balance competing interests. This characterization of me is inaccurate. All I have tried to do is perform my job as a career civil servant and to carry out the policies of the executive branch in accordance with federal law.

The political pressures I experienced are related to compliance with targets including timber harvesting in the forests I have responsibility for. These targets are pursuant to Forest Service estimates which are now unattainable because meeting them would require us to violate other laws, standards or regulations. In recent years, requirements in appropriations legislation mandate these timber programs.

This has resulted in a situation where we have been legislatively required to sell a prescribed amount of timber, but we have also been told by Congress in the same legislation that we have to comply with environmental and other laws. The application of these other environmental laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and the Endangered Species Act, can preclude our reaching the quotas prescribed in the appropriations legislation.

Faced with this apparent conflict in laws, we have been repeatedly advised by the Office of General Counsel at the Department of Agriculture and Department of Justice that we must follow the existing law even if it prevents us from meeting a quota prescribed in appropriations legislation. In fact, three cases now being argued involve the Department of Justice and will affect how we manage the national forests.

This part of my job has been particularly frustrating. Over the past few years, I have experienced several instances of what I regard as undue interference and pressure by political figures in the management of the Northern region.

I believe that this interference was designed to force me to make decisions unwarranted by existing law. Such decisions would have been subject to successful challenge by opposing interests.

My [forest] supervisors and district rangers in the Northern region recognize that we cannot meet my timber targets. I also believe that my superiors in the Forest Service recognize that I cannot meet my targets or sell more timber.

I did work on trying my best to convince everyone that we were doing everything possible within the law. I have done this since I have been the regional forester in the Northern Region. I have done everything I can to meet all of my targets.

I have failed to reach the quotas only because to do so would have required me to violate federal law.

I recently read in the newspapers that the Department of Agriculture public affairs office is stating that the reason for my reassignment is my performance.

I believe this to be untrue and an inaccurate attack on my character and capabilities, not to mention the hard-working employees of the Northern region. Forest

Service management knows that I have accomplished all that I could have under the circumstances I faced. I met or exceeded all of my target expectations over the past four years with the exception of timber sale and minerals management at the 90 percent level. I believe my performance compares quite favorably with other regional foresters.

I find it strange that I am reassigned from the Forest Service's Northern region for meeting approximately 85 percent of my timber target, when the national average for the entire Forest Service is closer to 65 percent in 1991.

I could spend many hours explaining complicated processes by which our hands have become tied and, thus, our ability to meet certain program outputs will be more difficult.

Our well-thought-out, long-range plans for timber harvesting have been adversely affected over the past decade by accelerated harvests on non-federal lands. This unanticipated harvest rate must be taken into consideration by the Forest Service in environmental documents to be issued under the National Environmental Policy Act.

In addition, those interested in Forest Service decisions have the right to file appeals under Forest Service regulations challenging our decisions to harvest timber in certain areas. These appeals, which may be judicially reviewable, have the potential of delaying further our ability to sell timber.

The "roadless" issue has been particularly difficult to deal with. In the Northern region, many of the forests contain large areas of roadless lands. When we put roads in those areas, they have an impact on the environment, which must be dealt with, and pursuant to federal law, must be studied and evaluated before allowing action. We are involved in a national test case of this issue on two fronts. One as it relates to the programmatic effort and the other for a specific timber sale. Both of these are before the courts as we speak.

Finally, the absence of statewide wilderness bills in Idaho and Montana further complicates the matter. This creates substantial pressure on us to cut more timber on the already harvested lands, and requires a greater reliance upon federal environmental statutes than might otherwise exist.

These are just a few of the complex and difficult issues I face as regional forester of the Northern region. I could point to numerous specific examples where we have had to change our anticipated programs and explain why the laws of the land required the change.

I KNOW OF NO INSTANCE IN WHICH FEDERAL LAW WOULD HAVE ALLOWED US TO CUT OR OFFER FOR CUTTING MORE TIMBER THAN WE HAVE DONE. [Mumma's emphasis]

Over my career, I have received many awards, with some of the more significant ones being the American Motors Conservation Award (professional category) and the Secretary of Agriculture Award for outstanding leadership

from former Secretary [John R.] Block. After the historically significant Yellowstone fires of 1988, the firefighters in the Northern region presented me an award for outstanding leadership. This year the Northern region employees presented me an award for initiating an outstanding employee wellness program; and in January of this year, Bob Gibson, supervisor of the Gallatin National Forest in Montana, presented me with a certificate of merit for my outstanding leadership and commitment to a good land ethic. In May of this year, the Regional Leadership Team of the Northern region, which includes all forest supervisors and directors, presented me an award for my commitment to a good land ethic and outstanding leadership. These awards from my peers, my superiors and the private sector confirm that my performance as regional forester has never been at issue before.

Well, Mr. Chairman, you can imagine the shock and disappointment I felt when I was told that I was being transferred to a staff position in the Washington office.

I was told there were no options — this was on the 26th of August. A week later, I offered some options, but was told there are no options. I certainly was not consulted by the agency or asked my preferences and had them taken into account as required by Section 3395 of Title 5, U.S. Code. I have never received any statement of reasons ... just told it was for the good of the service, a time for a change.

I suspect if the real reasons were written, as required by the law, they would not stand up to what the law requires.

I feel hurt — hurt for my family, hurt for my friends and hurt for the employees of the Forest Service — especially those in the Northern region who have worked their hearts out these past four years.

I feel hurt for the public which has placed its trust in our government and hurt for the people engaged in making their living in the national forest.

I love my job, I love my career, and I love the national forests — often at the expense of a Mother's Day, a child's birthday, a visiting relative. I was always committed to my job first. My employees call me a workaholic.

I am just a person who loves his work, because it means so much to all the citizens of the Northwest, the nation, and ultimately, the future generations of all Americans.

Now I feel betrayed, not bitter, but deeply hurt. I have until the end of October to decide to move back to Washington or retire.

This concludes my remarks and I will answer any questions you may have. I am, however, concerned about any potential retaliation as a result of testifying here today.

John Mumma testified before a House Subcommittee on Civil Service in Washington, D.C., Sept. 24.

OPINION

In the spring and summer of 1990, Twin Falls, Idaho, District Ranger Donald Oman made national news when he refused a "directed reassignment" he described as political retaliation.

Oman said he had done his job so well ranchers on his Forest Service district brought political pressure to have him transferred. Thanks to *The New York Times* and the threats of one rancher, who said he'd like to cut the ranger's throat, Oman is at his post today.

Oman survived, but so did directed reassignment of federal land managers who run afoul of the West's traditional establishment of ranchers, loggers and miners. Most recently, two top officials in the National Park Service and the Forest Service have been reassigned.

Lorraine Mintzmyer of the Rocky Mountain region of the National Park Service and John Mumma of the Northern Rockies region of the Forest Service are being punished for a Yellowstone-area vision statement that enraged commodity producers in the Northern Rockies.

Why did Bush aide John Sununu go after these two people? Perhaps because he read about the vision statement in Western newspapers and did not like what he read. But more likely, he was asked to take action by the West's logging, mining, oil and gas, water and ranching associations. Our guess is that some or all of these groups asked Sununu and some members of the West's congressional delegation to do something about the objectionable vision statement.

They got action. They got action that at best was immoral, and may have been illegal. Whether that action was solely on the initiative of political appointees in the White House and the departments of Interior and Agriculture, or whether the impetus for the acts came from the congressional delegations and the commodity producers' associations, remains to be seen.

Those who instigated the transfers of Lorraine Mintzmyer and John Mumma, with or without the accompanying attempts at political intimidation, are not likely to see what they did as improper or out of the ordinary. As the Oman case and as thousands of similar cases stretching back to the early 1900s testify, the political mugging of federal land managers is not new. It's the way Westerners handle "god-damned bureaucrats" who get out of line.

But these once taken-for-granted events are now occurring in a new context. Backed by a changing public attitude toward development and land use, national environmental groups over the last 20 years have convinced Congress to pass scores of laws which require public lands and streams to be managed in kinder, gentler ways. Grassroots environmental groups, watching over ecosystems and thousands of drainages in every state in the West, stand ready to sound alarms and file appeals and lawsuits when these laws are violated.

The laws were not passed quickly; they were not slipped through in the last hours of a congressional session. They have been debated endlessly; once passed, they have been litigated repeatedly. Today their legitimacy and their meanings are clear.

The wiggle room on the ground is gone. That is part of what Regional Forester John Mumma's testimony before a house subcommittee (reproduced elsewhere in this issue) says. His testimony also says that he — like thousands of his fellow land managers — was determined to obey the law. And if he didn't obey the law, his testimony makes clear, there were people ready to take him and his agency to court.

The result of his determination was a directed reassignment which political appointees attempted to reinforce by

land managers.

The letter and spirit of the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Public Range Improvement Act, the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act and others will continue to be stretched or broken.

To counter these assaults on the law, members of environmental groups will file appeals, go to court, and chain themselves to trees. On the national level, the large environmental groups will try to strengthen the laws and to put as much land as possible beyond the "discretionary" powers of the politically dominated land management agencies.

But this scandal says that in the longer run, the West's congressional delegation and the Bush administration must lose control of the land management agencies. The land managers are a

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Will the Bush administration choose reform?



launching an investigation of him. In the case of Lorraine Mintzmyer, the political operatives attempted to stifle her possible protests by accusing her of illegal lobbying. In both cases, the executive branch resorted to attempted blackmail and intimidation.

The lessons of this affair will be clear to most of the nation. The West's commodity producers — unwilling or unable to adapt to the nation's new land ethic — appear determined to continue to conduct their economic activities outside the law. They have chosen out-law status.

As the new legal requirements penetrate deeper into the land management agencies, these industries are forced to exert ever more political pressure on land managers. Now they have reached the point where even conservative, long-time professionals must be destroyed so that ranching, mining, logging, oil and gas drilling and water development can continue to operate as if this were still the late 19th century.

This scandal will probably cause little change. The West's delegation to Washington — even with the loss of such men as James McClure, William Armstrong, Jake Garn and Steve Symms — will continue to heed the commodity producers' associations and exert extra-legal political pressure on

subset of the public at large, and the public and the land managers are coming to see ever more clearly what the logging, mining, drilling, ranching and dam-building interests — as a whole — are doing to the West.

As a result, the commodity interests and their politicians will find it increasingly difficult to maintain their grip on the Forest Service, Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation and others.

Moreover, the political costs of maintaining control will become higher and higher, as the present scandal centered on Mintzmyer and Mumma shows.

Starting in the 1970s, both Republican and Democratic national administrations decided that the nation could no longer afford to build water projects for the West. That bipartisan decision has gradually stifled new and even ongoing water projects.

Now the Bush administration faces a similar decision. Will it continue to prop up and participate in a corrupt system of public land governance? Or, for its own political good, will it choose reform over continuance of the present

system?

The decision will come soon. It will come with the choice of a new Forest Service chief.

Leadership has its privileges, but it also has responsibilities, and Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson has evaded his major responsibility. It was Dale Robertson's job to shield John Mumma from political attacks prompted by Mumma's efforts to do his job and obey the laws he and Robertson were pledged to uphold.

Having failed to stand up for his staff, Robertson has made matters worse by trying to shift blame onto Mumma. In reaction to Mumma's testimony, the chief told *The Associated Press*:

"John identified that (criticism from Congress and the Bush administration) as political pressure. But in working with members of Congress, they are usually quite free to offer their advice and criticism. ... If you make the assumption that just because you get criticism from Congress, that it is political pressure, then you'd be under political pressure all of the time."

Mumma wasn't reacting to press releases from Rep. Ron Marlenee's office. He was reacting to a directed reassignment to Washington, D.C., because he had gotten involved with the Yellowstone vision statement and because he had not gotten 100 percent of the timber cut out. He was reacting to an investigation of supposed wrongdoing whose object, he knew, was to intimidate him.

Robertson has failed the minimum test of leadership. He should have defended Mumma by telling John Sununu: "If you push this any further,

I'm going to resign, and I'm going to tell the Congress why I'm resigning."

Robertson not only failed those under him. He also failed those above him by not providing a credible cover for the attack on Mumma. Robertson is no longer of use to the Forest Service professionals he was supposed to lead and protect, and he is no longer of use to the Bush administration and the West's congressional delegation.

The question is: Who will replace him? It won't be another Robertson, unable to choose between his agency and his political bosses. Most likely, the successor will be a political appointee whose mission will be to serve commodity interests by harassing professionals who attempt to do their jobs.

But it is also possible that the Bush administration will decide to eliminate the likelihood of future scandals by allowing the Forest Service to be headed by someone who can lead the agency back to its professional, conservationist roots.

We expect the former and hope for the latter.

Meanwhile, and in any case, the war to save what is left of the West continues.

— Ed Marston

BULLETIN BOARD

THE COSTS OF COWS

Did you know that there are three times as many domestic animals as people? Or that more than 3,000 liters of water are used to produce one kilogram of American beef? These facts are from a Worldwatch Institute study tallying the ecological costs of meat production. The study, *Taking Stock: Animal Farming and the Environment*, concludes that the livestock industry causes massive environmental degradation. Recommendations include managing rangelands for ecological values and making producers more efficient as well as responsible. The 62-page pamphlet is available for \$4 from Worldwatch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036-1904 (202/452-1999).

SANDBENCH SPIKERS SOUGHT

In the continuing battle over old-growth trees in southern Colorado this summer, 29 trees at the Sandbench sale in the San Juan mountains were spiked with ten-penny nails, less than 3 inches long. While these "spiketrees" did little to dissuade Stone Forest Industries

from building a road into the area, the search has widened for the perpetrator(s). Ancient Forest Rescue, a group opposing the cutting, is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the spiker(s). They say the act was fabricated to discredit them. "I don't have a problem with spiking. I do have a problem with its fabrication," says Naomi Rachel of Ancient Forest Rescue. The U.S. Forest Service and Stone Forest have dismissed as "ludicrous" allegations that they are in any way responsible for the nails, and together with the Archuleta County Sheriff's Department are offering a \$3,200 reward of their own. Says Ann Bond, spokeswoman for the Forest Service, "We still have no idea who did it." Anyone with information can call Forest Service District Ranger Sam Scanga at 303/264-2268 or Naomi Rachel at 303/823-5429. Confidentiality has been assured by both groups.

HOT TOPICS — COLD LUNCH

A box lunch and a hot topic are scheduled for Denver on Tuesday, Oct. 8 and Tuesday, Nov. 5. Maggie Fox of the Sierra Club will

speak against the proposed Colorado wilderness bill on Oct. 8. A speaker from Sen. Hank Brown's office has also been invited. On Nov. 5, the subject will be "Cooperative Natural Resources Conflict Resolution: The Promise, the Reality, and the Future." Speaker will be Dan Luecke of the Environmental Defense Fund and Kaleen Cottingham, a policy advisor to Gov. Booth Gardner of Washington. The luncheon will start at noon in the Hersher Room, One United Bank Center, 17th and Lincoln, Lincoln St. Level, Denver. The lunches are sponsored by the Natural Resource Law Center, University of Colorado, Boulder; 303/492-1288. The cost is \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

MAKING A SUSTAINABLE LIFE

"Models for Sustainable Living" is the theme of the 17th annual meeting of the Alternative Energy Resources Organization on Oct. 12-13 in Lewiston, Mont. The get-together features a mixture of workshops, a barter fair, and lectures on subjects such as renewable energy, food irradiation and pesticide residues, opportunities for beginning farmers, and forestry stewardship. Huckleberries, potatoes and squash are among the items slated for door prizes. Tickets are \$13 for non-AERO members and \$10 for AERO mem-

bers. For more information, contact AERO, 44 North Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601 (406/443-7272).

NINE INTERNS WANTED

Wes Jackson's Land Institute in Salina, Kan., is looking for nine interns to research sustainable farming practices. Candidates should be college graduates or upper-level undergraduates, preferably with credits and related experience in biology or agriculture. To apply, send a letter describing past academic and job experience, major goals, and any involvement in environmental issues. Interns will be assigned relevant readings, carry out perennial grain crops experiments and be responsible for maintenance of the gardens and buildings. The job begins Feb. 17 and pays \$132 a week. Include a transcript and two letters of reference by Dec. 1, 1991, to: The Land Institute, 2440 E. Water Well Road, Salina, KS 67401, attn: Jake Vail. For more information, call 913/823-5376.



Dan McRoberts

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OUTDOOR SINGLES NETWORK, bi-monthly newsletter, ages 19-90, no forwarding fees, \$18/1-year, \$4/trial issue-information. OSN-HCN, 1557 Goodrich Creek, Council, ID 83612. (10x10p)

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electric generators, wood-fired hot tubs, composting toilets, and more. \$2.50 refundable with order. Yellow Jacket Solar, Box 60H, Lewis, CO 81327.

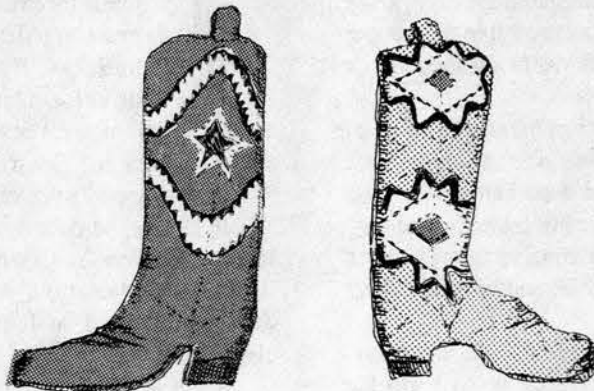
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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Is Babbitt just funny, or is he also shrewd?

by Ed Marston

California is unique. It evolved from barbarism to decadence without passing through civilization.

And Las Vegas, thanks to water diverted from desert rivers, looks like a tropical rainforest.

This is the West according to Bruce Babbitt, the former Arizona governor now practicing law out of Phoenix. Does he miss his old mover-and-shaker days? Listen to his favorite story, the one he opens every talk with. For variation, sometimes he sets the story on an airplane; sometimes he sets it in an airline terminal.

Wherever the setting, it always involves a man staring at Babbitt. Finally, the man asks: "Weren't you once Bruce Babbitt?"

The story invariably causes his audience to break into laughter, even — perhaps especially — those of us who have heard the joke before. The unflappable and down-to-earth Babbitt has told the story scores, maybe hundreds, of times. But he has never revealed his reply to the question.

If he did, it might run along the following lines:

"Yes, I used to be Bruce Babbitt, the governor of Arizona from 1978 to 1986, and then a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president. I was a very political governor and when I ran for president the reporters told me I wasn't much of a speaker.

"But now I'm free of all that, so in a sense perhaps I'm no longer Bruce Babbitt. Instead, I travel the West speaking my mind. I have a very good time. I've developed a superb sense of timing, and I'm very funny."

His humor and timing were most recently on display at a picnic in Aspen given by Henry and Jessica Catto in honor of the board of the Environmental Defense Fund. Babbitt, who has an anecdote to fit every audience, recalled how EDF staffer Bob Yuhnke had come to him several years ago asking for help against the copper companies, whose pollution was causing acid rain in the Rockies.

"I told Yuhnke: 'You've come to the wrong person. The copper companies run Arizona; I'm only its governor.'"

As it turned out, Yuhnke had come to the right person, although even today Babbitt seems surprised that the copper companies were either cleaned up or shut down.

He also described the politics of water in the West. "Arizona would pick a young man and send him to Congress with one mission: build the Central Arizona Project." Arizona sent Carl Hayden to Congress in 1927, and he stayed there until 1969.

In one election, Babbitt said, Hayden hadn't been seen in Arizona for years. His opponent was beginning to make headway in the polls with the charge that Arizona was represented by someone who had already passed to the other side.

So an enterprising Arizona newspaper sent its top investigative reporter to Washington, D.C. After days of searching, the reporter found Hayden in a government hospital in so weak a condition that the senator could only raise his right

arm in greeting.

That hospital room photo, Babbitt said, ran the next day in all Arizona newspapers, and Hayden won in a landslide.

Babbitt does more than talk about water. He represents the rural areas of Nevada that are battling Las Vegas'

majority even as he burns bridges to what he perceives as its declining ruling class? Did environmentalists' conquest of Arizona's copper companies give Babbitt a glimpse of a new Western order?

A definitive answer is impossible, but it is hard to imagine that Babbitt is

Closer to the ground, the heads of water districts, county commissioners, district rangers, operators of local mines and mills, and influential local attorneys no longer swing the sticks they once swung.

At the same time, as election after election shows, the green vote in the

'Weren't
you once
Bruce
Babbitt?'



multibillion-dollar water outreach program, and his Aspen talk included a call to arms against water developers. Dams and irrigation projects were once necessary, he said, but that time is past.

Today, Babbitt said, the main threat to the West is not aridity, but dam builders. Each new water development destroys another chunk of the West, said the man who fought for the Central Arizona Project while Arizona's governor.

In closing, he called on the audience to save the West by destroying the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. And if we can't destroy it, he said, at least scare it into changing its ways.

What are we to make of today's Bruce Babbitt? Is he attacking the traditional West as a personal vaccination against some future Bruce Babbitt — a man who might want to again run for public office? Or is he being a lawyer in and out of court, rousing public opinion against water developers on behalf of his rural Nevada clients?

Or is he still the ambitious politician, now engaged in building new bridges to the West's emerging political

simply being reckless. Babbitt must have been a masterful politician to have provided Arizona with centrist, occasionally progressive, government during his eight years as governor. His mastery became clear as soon as he left, and the state fell into a Lebanon-like anarchy that sent Evan Mecham temporarily to the governorship.

Rudderlessness may be most dramatic in Arizona, but it is visible throughout the West. This region is going through a decentralization comparable to that occurring in eastern Europe, and those who once ran the West out of Washington, D.C., as well as those with whom they worked in the West's cities and small communities, are becoming superfluous.

On the national level, men such as Bill Armstrong of Colorado, James McClure of Idaho and Jake Garn of Utah have voluntarily decided that they do not wish to spend another term in the U.S. Senate, trying against ever greater odds to stop change. In the various capitols, today's successors to the Babbitts, Scott Mathesons, Dick Lamm and Ed Herschlers are unable to lead their states and are unable to come together to speak for the region as a whole.

West is far from decisive. Whatever the polls may show, when election time comes, conservationists are still only a noisy, determined, and usually disappointed minority.

Democrat Bruce Babbitt appears to think that hard work and better organizing can make conservationists a more potent political force. For today he is president of the non-partisan League of Conservation Voters, and he stumps the West often and vigorously in search of and on behalf of Democrats and Republicans who are willing to run under a conservation banner.

He explains his new office by saying: "I always wanted to be president of something."

Conservationists should hope that this is only another joke, and that Bruce Babbitt is still a shrewd, centrist politician whose best guess is that the route to power in the West is marked by green road signs.

Ed Marston is publisher of *High Country News*.