

INSIDE: More on wilderness/ 10, 11, 14

High Country News

September 7, 1992

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A Paper for People who Care about the West

One dollar

Developer builds in a wilderness



Steve Hinchman

High on a ridge in the West Elk Wilderness, construction starts on a private home

Pulling his horse up short, U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Steve Posey turns to watch a helicopter fly overhead with another load of concrete and building materials dangling from its belly.

"It's a crying shame," Posey says quietly. "I wonder if that man has any conscience."

Soon the helicopter's roar fades and we are left to the sound of the horses' hooves and the gentle quaking of the surrounding groves of giant aspen. We are riding through the West Elk Wilderness — one of the largest and most spectacular wilderness areas in western Colorado.

Famed for hunting and horseback recreation — the abundance of deer and elk scat and the fresh bear paw prints

clearly show why — the West Elks have also begun to attract developers. Up to now they have only built on the outside edge of the wilderness.

Several miles and helicopter flights later, the sweating horses reach a burgeoning construction site high on top of Navajo Ridge. It is in the heart of the West Elk Mountains. As federally designated wilderness, these mountains are permanently protected from roads, all mechanization from cars to chain saws and any permanent structure. According

to the Wilderness Act, people can visit a wilderness but never develop it.

But on Navajo Ridge, a 160-acre "inholding" of private land forms a privately owned island in the wilderness.

Located six trail miles from the nearest road, the land is owned by the newly formed West Elk Development Corporation. The corporation is primarily owned by local real estate agent and developer Tom Chapman, who purchased the land and a second 80-acre inholding in July, and then subdivided them into six 40-acre lots.

Last month, to the dismay of the Forest Service, local outfitters, ranchers and vacationers, Chapman began to build a large, two-story log cabin, bringing in workers by horseback and logs and concrete by helicopter.

Chapman picked a stunning location, backed by aspen groves on one side and a sweeping 180-degree view of the West Elk Mountains on the other. He says the 3,450-square-foot cabin now

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by Steve Hinchman

Dear friends,



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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An HCNPotluck

All readers are invited to a *High Country News* potluck at the Elliot Bay Bookstore in Seattle, Wash., on Saturday, Sept. 19, starting at 6:30 p.m. We will provide appetizers and beverages.

Invitations have been sent to all subscribers within a few hours' drive of Seattle.

A potluck is held every four months around the region in conjunction with the board meeting of the High Country Foundation. Staff and board members will be at the event. It is one way in which *HCN* stays in touch with the region, and, in case you are wondering, it is not a fund-raiser.

High Country News goes to Deutschland

In place of a huge circulation, we boast that *High Country News* has reach: it penetrates Washington, D.C., state capitols, think tanks, and large and small communities throughout the West.

On a hot, sunny day in mid-August, we learned from Udo Zindel that *HCN* also reaches into Germany. Udo stopped by with a friend, Sibylle Eyerich, both of Stuttgart, to present us with a 40-page script titled "Das Letzte Gefecht der Cowboys," which translates roughly as "The Last Battle of the Cowboys."

The 70-minute radio program aired this summer on several German public radio stations and was sparked by Jon Christensen's Sept. 9, 1991, *HCN* article "High Noon in Nevada," on rancher Wayne Hage. It brought Zindel to the United States for six weeks of research on ranching in Nevada, with Hage's struggle with the Toiyabe National Forest as the focus.

Why would residents of one of Europe's most highly developed and cultured nations be interested in grazing in the rural West? Because Germans, said Sibylle, who just received her university degree in teaching German as a second language, are fascinated by the West's image of freedom, especially when contrasted with the tightly constrained society they live in. They believe the West is an empty, wild land, populated only by cowboys living in a state of pure, untouched nature, and smoking Marlboro cigarettes on horseback.

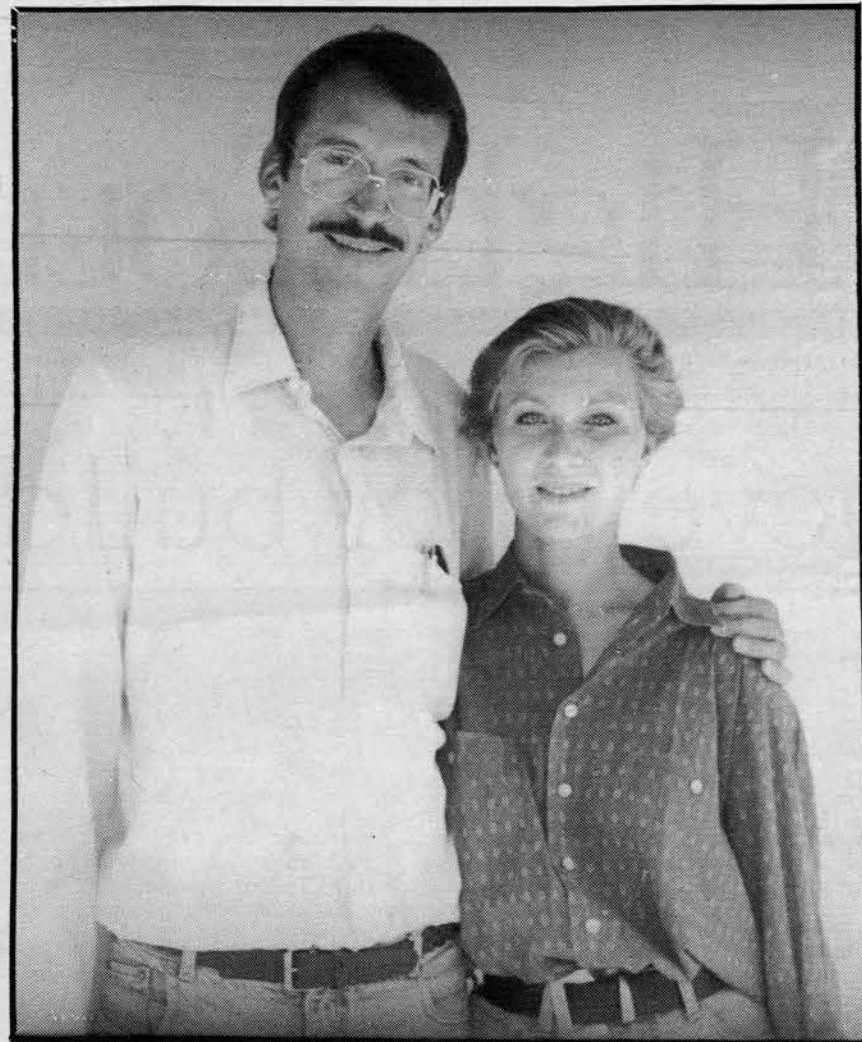
This vision has drawn large number of German tourists to the American West. As a result, said Udo, who went to school at Arizona State University, many Germans are ready for a more textured picture of the region.

So against a musical background taken from Italian, or "spaghetti," Westerns, meant to evoke the mythic West that Germans believe in, Udo presented interviews with Hage, Toiyabe Forest Supervisor Jim Nelson, environmentalist Steve Johnson, experts on riparian areas, and others. He plays enough of each speaker's voice to establish tone and character, he said, and then uses German-speaking actors to repeat what those he interviewed told him.

His editors loved the program, Udo said, but he doesn't know how listeners reacted to his attempt to modify their image of the West. "It was aired this month in Berlin and the former East Germany, while we are traveling here."

Passing through Paonia

Typesetter Ann Ulrich's sister, Alice Derra, here on a visit with her son Lucas and friend Sherry Chism, came by to subscribe. She lives in Madison, Wis.,



Ed Marston

Udo Zindel and Sibylle Eyerich visited Paonia from Stuttgart, Germany

where she is a machinist.

Subscribers Cecelia Box, who teaches at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, and Scott Forehand, a fine-art photographer and teacher in the same town, worked a stop in Paonia into their vacation.

Wade Davis, a Los Angeles real estate developer, and Patty Francy, treasurer and controller at Columbia University in New York City, came by on their way from a Junior Achievement meeting in Colorado Springs to a vacation at Telluride.

Two Rainbow Family members who are subscribers stopped by. Jay Kerley, who teaches school in Santa Cruz, Calif., came from Canyon de Chelly and other national parks to attend his fifteenth Rainbow gathering. "It's the only anarchy I've seen that works." With him was Cindy LeVan of Cupertino, Calif., who is studying to be a veterinary nurse.

John DeGraaf of KCTS public television in Seattle, Wash., stopped by to see what a print medium looks like. He was producer/director of a PBS documentary on David Brower titled *For Earth's Sake*.

Margot Smit, a graduate student at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources, came by to discuss the U.S. Forest Service.

And Edward Synonds of Dorchester, U.K., wrote to suggest that we add low country news to our high country news.

His first suggestion was that we cover the disappearance of ponds in England. We enjoyed the letter but had to decline.

Arriving in person were Craig Cunningham, an historian at UCLA, and Michelle Riley, a sociologist at UCLA.

Bev Noun, who works for the Environmental Defense Fund in Boulder, and Bob Noun, who is with the National Renewable Energy Lab, formerly the Solar Energy Research Institute, in Denver, stopped by.

Most visitors are on vacation. But not John Rold. The just-retired Colorado State Geologist was here to look at a piece of geology, which the North Fork Valley has in abundance.

Tim Hartzell, the new director of the BLM's Grand Junction district, stopped by to say hello.

Errata

The August 24 issue reported that the Sierra Club supports a proposed bill in New Mexico that would designate 487,000 acres of BLM land as wilderness. A member of the club, Sue McIntosh, tells us the Sierra Club does not support the bill.

A July 13, 1992, article on former National Park Service official Lorraine Mintzmyer misidentified John Schrote and Charles Kay as White House officials. They actually work for the Interior Department in its office of policy, management and budget.

— Ed Marston, for the staff

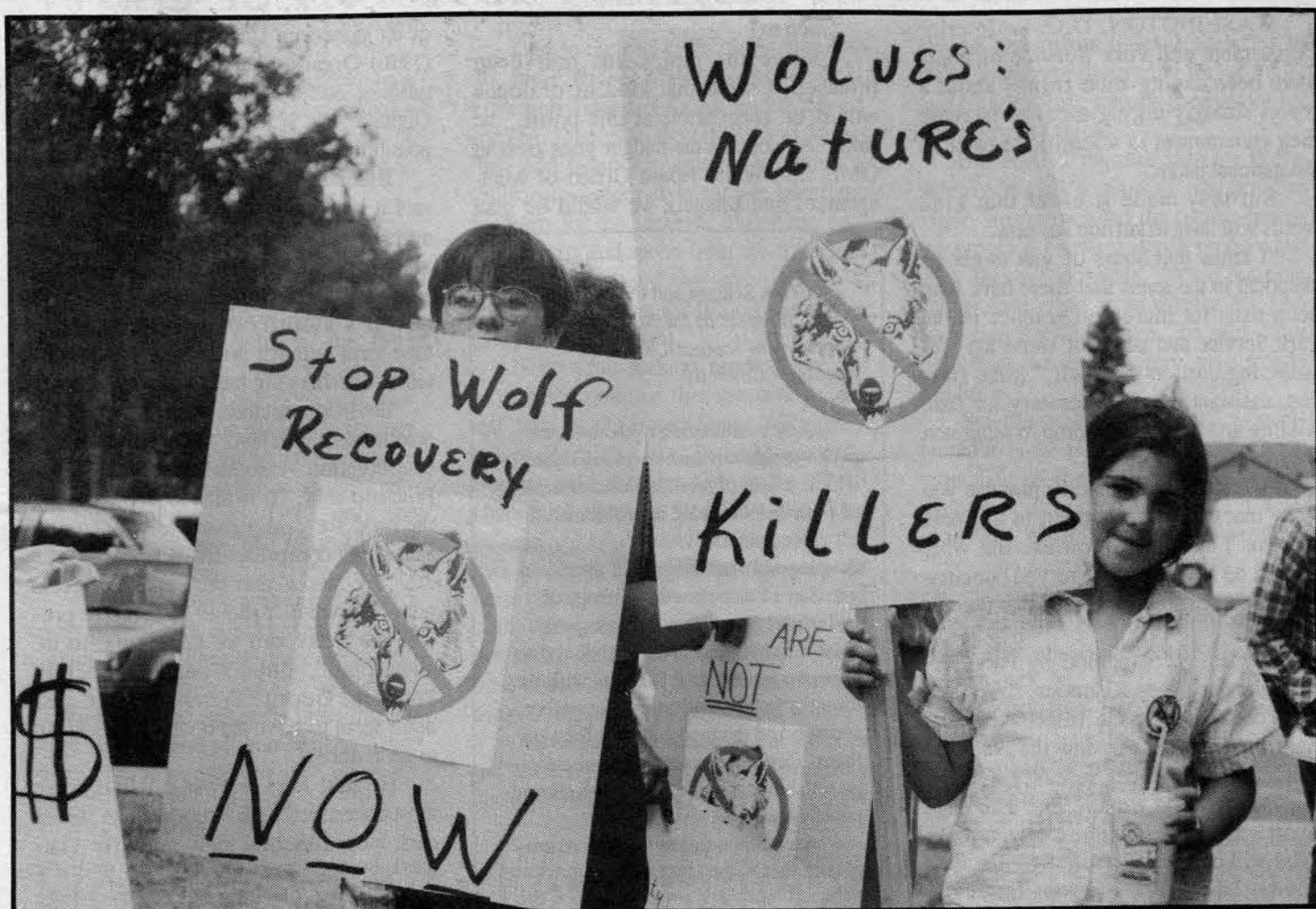
HOTLINE

No more nukes at Trojan

Oregon's only nuclear power facility, the 1,100-megawatt Trojan Nuclear Plant, will close in the spring of 1996 because repairs to its four cracking steam generators will cost \$200 million and raise the price of electricity. Oregon voters may decide to mothball Trojan sooner. Two measures for immediate closure will appear on the state's November ballot, and either would shut the reactors down within 90 days of the election. Portland General Electric said

it will replace Trojan's output with conservation and wind energy, the *Oregonian* reports. But the move to more environmentally sound electricity isn't risk-free. Sixteen years of nuclear waste will be stored in deep pools at the plant on the Columbia River until the government decides what to do with it. In California, the state's oldest nuclear plant plans a shut-down because one of its generators is losing efficiency. The San Onofre will close late this year, increasing the average utility customer's electricity bill 75 cents a month for the next four years, reports the *Los Angeles Times*.

WESTERN ROUNDUP



Melissa Blunt

Youngsters protest wolf reintroduction at a Wyoming hearing

Wolf hearing marked by howls and snarls

HELENA, Mont. — Bold yellow and black signs posted at the door of the civic center Aug. 18 made it clear that the government expected this to be a Wild West event:

OFFICIAL FEDERAL HEARING:
NO ALCOHOL, NO SIGNS, NO
WEAPONS, NO ANIMALS.

Hearings convened here and in Boise, Cheyenne and Washington, D.C., focused on the wolf and a controversial federal plan to bring back the predator to Yellowstone National Park.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, of the 435 witnesses at all Yellowstone hearings, 78 percent supported bringing the animal back to the park.

The plan and subsequent debate have elicited emotional responses from opponents. Many — but not all — are Montana, Wyoming and Idaho cattle and sheep ranchers, snowmobilers, big game hunters, mining and logging companies and those who want this part of the West tamed to pursue economic goals and mechanized recreation. The wolf, they fear, could restrict their activities.

The plan has also mobilized partisans of the wolf: environmentalists, Indian tribes, poets, urban tourists and regional hunters represented by the National Wildlife Federation. Leading the national pro-wolf information campaign is Defenders of Wildlife, which has set up a private fund to compensate ranchers for verified wolf-killed livestock losses.

A wild card in the so-far 10-year process came earlier in August when Bozeman wildlife cinematographer Ray Paunovich emerged with film footage of a wolf in Yellowstone. National park biologists said it doesn't mean wolves have arrived, because there is not yet evidence of a pack in the area.

If the wolf should come back to Yellowstone on its own after a 60-year absence, it would be treated as an endangered species, protected by law like the grizzly bear. Planted or reintroduced wolves would be considered an experimental population and subject to strict controls. They could be shot once they ventured out of Yellowstone and onto area ranches.

On the morning of the hearings, anti-

wolf Montanans attended a rally in a Helena city park sponsored by People For The West, a group funded heavily by mining and timber corporations but also supported by ranchers. They spoke out against the wolf and warned of its danger to livestock and economic development on public lands.

They wrapped yellow ribbons around their arms and marched with "No Wolf" signs up Helena's main street, Last Chance Gulch, on their way to the hearings.

In another city park, about three times as many wolf supporters listened to Defenders of Wildlife representative Hank Fischer. He explained the federal wolf recovery program and how his group polled Yellowstone visitors and found 25,000 in favor and only 10 opposed to the plan. He was joined by folksingers and speakers that included actress Amy McDowell, Pat Tucker, a National Wildlife Federation official tugging a wide-eyed skittish black female wolf on a leash, and writer Rick Bass, who read from his recent book celebrating the Nine Mile wolf pack that migrated from Canada to western Montana.

Bass, a Texan until five years ago, explained after the rally that he welcomes wolves to his adopted home valley in Montana's northwest corner.

"This area, the northwest, is getting a second chance, as far as wolves," said Bass, a former petroleum geologist and author of the books *Oil Notes* and *Winter*. "If we can do it right in Montana, maybe people won't think it's so bad and it can happen in other states."

There were more than 300 people at the hearing, and those who wanted to speak for three minutes had to sign up for a drawing of names. The hearing lasted for about seven hours, and sentiment among those attending appeared to be evenly split. Republican Ron Marlenee, one of Montana's two congressmen now running for the state's new single seat, sent a statement charging that the Endangered Species Act is "a tool for overzealous environmentalists." That brought cheers from the anti-wolf faction and boos and howls from the pro-wolfers.

Blackfeet Indian troubadour Jack

Gladstone used most of his three minutes to sing a song praising the wolf as a spiritual brother and an important part of "The Circle of Life." Yellowstone-area cattle rancher Len Sargent braved hostility by favoring returning the wolf to the park. The yellow-armband crowd guffawed when he said that in 30 years neither he nor his neighbors had ever lost livestock or pets to a coyote or any other predator.

Chad Shearer, a Great Falls hunting guide, called the gray wolf "a hazardous waste." Leroy Keilman challenged those "young people with stars in eyes who talk about wolves ... I'm in my 80s and I have lived in the day of the wolf. Have you ever seen what a wolf can do to cattle or sheep in a short time? They're in a hurry to not only kill to eat, but to have fun. Have you ever seen your pet horse hamstringing by a wolf and eaten alive while it's still screaming?"

In an interview earlier this month, Ed Bangs, head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wolf Recovery Team, said, "The mountain lion is almost biologically equivalent to the wolf. They eat the same amount of big game, they attack livestock, but unlike wolves, they occasionally attack people. Nobody thinks that much about mountain lions, but we've got thousands of them in the three Western states. To put wolves in perspective, it's good if people think of them as just another large predator."

Several years after the Yellowstone recovery program was proposed, wolves began leaking into Montana from Canada. How far the breeding packs will range is anyone's guess. But the recent sighting of what looks like a wolf in Yellowstone has given rise to hopes that they will transcend this long, expensive and divisive process and return naturally, on their own.

As Catherine Bushay put it in her testimony at the hearing: "Zealots from both sides need to stop ranting and start listening ... There's now film documentation of a possible female wolf in Yellowstone. It would serve both sides right if while bureaucratic machines stumbled and fumbled along, *Canis lupus irremotus* found its own way home to Yellowstone."

— Pat Dawson

Pat Dawson free-lances from Billings, Montana.

Senate cut threatens wolf research

Powerful Western senators recently chopped \$148,000 for continuing wolf studies from the National Park Service budget. The cut was made by Sens. Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo., Conrad Burns, R-Mont., Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Larry Craig, D-Idaho. Since the House approved the research, a joint conference committee will have to resolve the matter this fall. University of Montana professor Bob Ream said the Senate action was a heavy blow. "I don't know whether we'll be able to continue," he said. Ream, who began the Wolf Ecology Project in Montana in 1973, works with state and federal agencies to study wolf predation habits (HCN, 7/16/90). Baucus aide Kurt Rich said "tough choices" had to be made on funding, although he added that the senators assumed Glacier National Park could take up the slack and fund wolf research. That may not happen. "I don't know where the money would come from," said Glacier's chief scientist, Jim Tilmant.



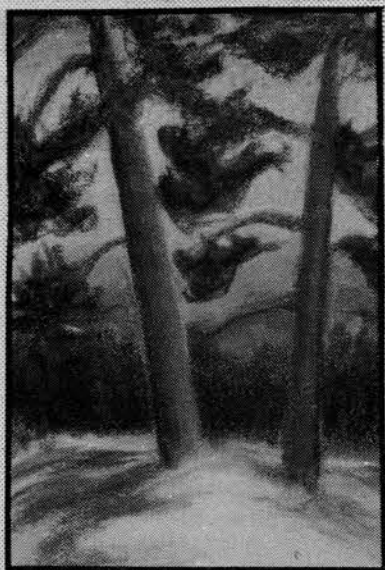
Kevin Sanders

What looks like a wolf, left, feeds on dead bison along with a grizzly bear, center

Was it a wolf?

At first, says Kevin Sanders, he thought what he saw darting away from two bison carcasses in Yellowstone National Park was a small, young grizzly or a German shepherd. Now he is sure that what he saw Aug. 7 and the next day was a black-haired wolf. Sanders, a wilderness guide, was with filmmaker Ray Paunovich in the park's Hayden Valley when they saw grizzlies, ravens and a coyote feeding at the bison carcasses. Suddenly, the men saw another animal run off after it spotted them. Through binoculars, Sanders got a good look: "It had yellow eyes and a wolf face," he said. The next day Sanders returned and snapped 100 slides of the animal from about 200 yards away. Its subtle communication with the grizzlies, he said, convinced him it was a wild wolf rather than a dog or a wolf that had been raised by people. Sanders, who writes a nature column for a local weekly, has given 12 of his slides to the Park Service for interpretation. His encounter, Sanders said, "was the most exciting thing that ever happened to me." If what he saw was a wolf, it will be the first confirmed sighting in the park since 1926.

HOTLINE



"We aren't running out of trees"

Tired of its clearcutting reputation, the timber industry is spending millions of dollars in advertising campaigns to tout the virtues of tree farms. Weyerhaeuser Corporation, Washington's largest private timber producer, begins some of its "advertisements" with the slogan "We aren't running out of trees. Not here. Not now. Not ever," reports the *Seattle Times*. Environmentalists agree there is no shortage of trees, but are concerned that the seedlings replacing 250-year-old timber stands will "never be allowed to become huge," says Elliot Norse, author of *Ancient Forests of the Pacific Northwest*. Boise Cascade pays up to \$15,000 each for its newspaper ads, some of which claim the endangered spotted owl can thrive in a managed forest. Though timber companies say they are simply presenting the truth, Norse finds the ads misleading: "What they don't say is that the reason they are planting the trees is that they have ruined forests."

Park science found lacking, yet again

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Interior Department and Park Service officials have been saying nice things about a report strongly urging them to increase their commitment to scientific research in the national parks.

But they made it clear that kind words will have to suffice for now.

"I know that some of you might be skeptical in the sense that there have long been calls for increased science in the Park Service and some of those are still collecting dust on the shelf," Mike Hayden, assistant interior secretary for fish, wildlife and parks, told some Washington reporters.

"We'd like to be able to promise you today that that won't happen to this one. We won't make that promise. But what we will do is demonstrate to you our commitment to try to ensure that that doesn't happen."

Hayden, accompanied by Park Service Director James Ridenour, spoke at a press conference at the Interior Department on Aug. 19, the day the National Academy of Sciences released *Science and the National Parks*. The 122-page report warns that pressures on the parks today will only get worse unless the Park Service responds to them from a more science-based standpoint.

Just as Hayden conceded, the report notes that more than a dozen "major reviews" over the past 30 years have come to the same conclusion.

"Yet, over the past three decades, little meaningful and consistent action has been taken," the latest report said.

That being the case, Hayden was asked which of the report's several recommendations he was willing to commit to right away.

"Right now, we're in the throes of the '94 budget," he said. "Since the budget has not left the department, we still have the opportunity to convey to our budget officer our feeling that in fact some of these recommendations need to be incorporated."

Such as?

"Since the report has just been released, I think that kind of dialogue would be speculative at this point," he said. "As soon as the budget goes over to OMB (the White House Office of Management and Budget), we would be glad

From Science and the National Parks, a report by the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council:

Any examination of the national park system can uncover many cases in which a lack of scientific understanding of park resources led to problems ...

For instance, visitor facilities were developed in habitat critical to endangered species before the concept of endangered species was appreciated. Exotic fish species were introduced to improve recreational fisheries without thought to the implications for native species and the predators that feed on them. Fire suppression led to unanticipated changes in the distinctive character of forests.

A common thread in these examples is that almost invariably, the establishment and early management of the parks was done with inadequate scientific knowledge of these ecological systems.

Today, our information base is substantially greater, but so too are the threats the park system must face.

to discuss with you what items we have identified."

A major recommendation of the report proposes that Congress enact legislation spelling out the responsibilities and mission of the Park Service's science program.

Park Service Director Ridenour said this idea made him nervous.

"I think it's important that we have a legislative mandate," Ridenour said. "One

of the concerns I have is opening up the (1916) Organic Act," the Park Service's guiding code. "When you open up the Organic Act, it seems to me there is the possibility for mischief to occur."

Ridenour, a political appointee, also said it would be tough to get park managers to put long-term scientific research at the top of their agenda, given the other problems they face every day.

"It's awfully hard to think about long-term science when your septic system is overflowing into the river," he said.

Environmentalists reacted with characteristic skepticism. National Parks and Conservation Association President Paul Pritchard said, "It is time to stop studying the need for comprehensive science and start *doing* comprehensive science."

"We know that the Park Service is not doing what it should be doing to protect our parks and we know what to do about that," added Wilderness Society President George Frampton. "We just don't seem to have the political leadership to get it done."

He said Park Service officials were most concerned with issues such as "more cars, more lunches, more beds (for visitors). Science gets the leftovers and it's going to take a lot of leadership to change that mindset within the Service."

Aside from a legislative mandate for science, the National Academy of Sciences' report recommends:

- Organizational and budgetary autonomy for the Park Service Science program,

- Appointment of a "chief scientist,"
- "Immediate and aggressive attention" to the science program.

Copies of the report are \$19.95 plus \$3 from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20418.

— John Brinkley

John Brinkley reports from Washing-

Busted timber towns seek new economic foundation

Richard Willis knows what it's like to free-fall. For 11 years he worked in the booming timber industry in the Pacific Northwest, planting trees, working in log yards and making plywood and veneer in sawmills. Then the lay-offs began. Mills closed. Old-growth timber sales slowed and a fuzzy creature called the spotted owl began appearing on the front pages of national news magazines. Willis knew it was time to get out.

"I've never parachuted, but I know what it would feel like to just go, 'Yaaaaaaah,' and not be able to jump back into that airplane," Willis said. "You're gone."

He is only one of what is expected to be tens of thousands of workers in Washington, Oregon and Northern California affected by environmental concerns, automated mills and exports of raw logs.

"We knew for years and years and years that it wouldn't last," Willis said. "In 1979, we were talking, 'Hey, there's only a few more years left of old growth.' You knew eventually the well would run dry."

While some communities and timber groups are still in a state of deep denial, fighting to the death, others are beginning to look for life after big timber.

Of the several timber bills pending in Congress this session, nearly all earmark federal funds in varying amounts to retrain dislocated workers. Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, D-Olympia, is pushing a Timber Resource

Employment Enhancement, or TREE, bill, with \$500 million over the next five years to create new forest jobs like trail building and tree planting.

Old mill towns like Cave Junction, Ore., are forming "2010 Committees" to plan ways to diversify their economies with tourism, recreation, retirees and light industry.

Since 1989, Lane Community College in Oregon has retrained nearly 1,200 timber workers — just a handful of the estimated 10,000 loggers and mill workers that have lost their jobs in Oregon since the peak timber cutting of the mid-1980s.

Rural Initiatives Inc., a private, non-profit group, has been meeting with nine counties and 60 communities in Oregon. They help communities do "SWOT" analyses — determining their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. They draw up strategic plans to stay alive.

Some observers, like University of Washington sociologist Bob Lee, say the planning only raises false hopes and that many communities are destined to become ghost towns. But others, including Lynn Youngbar, who heads Rural Initiatives, say the planning helps communities take control of their fate.

"The jury's still out," Youngbar said. "I don't have a single community whose economy has been transformed. But maybe in three or four years we'll have some glimmers, and in 10 we may be able to sort through some successes

and failures."

Lewis County, Wash., 80 percent dependent on the timber industry, has seen its timber cut fall from 220 million board-feet of Douglas fir each year to just 3 million last year because of environmental appeals of planned timber sales.

"We knew we would have long-term challenges to deal with," said Pam Brown, executive director of the Lewis County Economic Development Council in Chehalis. "But it's coming very, very quickly."

Now Brown is working to recruit new industry to the area, like medical waste recycling and a new woodworkers' cooperative to make and market everything from chopsticks and tongue depressors for Asia to knife blocks and spruce paneling for Europe.

No one believes the timber industry will disappear from the region. There are still acres of second-growth timber to be logged and milled, houses and furniture to be built and paper products to manufacture.

But it will be a smaller industry with a smaller, more sustainable timber harvest. The manufacturing side of the industry has already begun to change — downsizing mills to handle smaller, knobbier trees and using waste wood to make fiberboard. Rather than exporting raw logs overseas, the focus is now on building finished products like fine hardwood furniture.

In addition, the towns' demographics are slowly changing. Entrepreneurs,

artists and computer tele-workers, fed up with big city crime and pollution and searching for a quieter life near the outdoors, are beginning to set up small businesses in logging communities.

"If you look at the growth industries in the region of the last 10 years, they're all software, high-tech, biomedical, plastics, specialty metals, specialty oils ... a whole bunch of little niches in industries that depend on managerial, administrative, entrepreneurial and personnel skills," said Ed Whitelaw, University of Oregon economist.

But while the new immigrants may help keep mill towns alive, they also change the culture of rural life. And while outdoor tourism, high-tech industries and small, entrepreneurial businesses may be the wave of the future for the region, the number of jobs they create may never fully replace the old, high-paying ones in the forests and the mills.

"In many ways, we're going from an agrarian society, skipping the Industrial Revolution, and going directly into the Information Age," said Michael Farley, who runs the Puget Sound Telecommuting Demonstration Project in Seattle. "For the logger, the transition will be difficult. But we have to think of the next generation."

— Brigid Schulte

The writer covers the Northwest for States News Service in Washington, D.C.

Wake is held for salmon at Redfish Lake

REDFISH LAKE, Idaho — Thirty-five people stood silently in a circle on a Saturday night in early August, candles in hand, and prayed for the return of endangered Snake River sockeye salmon to Redfish Lake in central Idaho.

Cathy Baer, a Smiley Creek resident and vigil organizer, broke the silence. "We're gathered here to confront the reality that we're losing our salmon."

It was the third vigil of the 1992 migration season. In 1990, no sockeye returned to Redfish Lake; last year, four "redfish" survived the 900-mile journey inland from the Pacific Ocean to spawn. In 1955, nearly 4,400 fish migrated here.

But as of Aug. 31, 1992, only one sockeye — a male — had returned to its birthplace to spawn.

"You can't take a sockeye from a coastal stream in Alaska, put it in the Columbia and expect it to swim 900 miles to Redfish Lake," said Bert Bowler, an Idaho Fish and Game Department biologist and salmon expert. "Once these fish are gone, they're gone for good."

Due to the sockeye's precarious status, the National Marine Fisheries Service has listed it as an endangered species. Last year, the NMFS and Idaho Fish and Game Department launched a California condor-style captive breeding program for the sockeye. Biologists collected eggs and sperm from the four survivors and raised the juveniles in a hatchery. This year, NMFS officials plan to repeat the program.

Nine adult sockeye heading upriver have been counted this summer at the last dam on the Lower Snake, 450 miles below Redfish Lake. In early August, Bowler said the nine fish had a 50-50 chance of reaching Redfish Lake. The failure of any of the nine to reach the lake by Aug. 30 may mean that they've been delayed by low stream flows and high water temperatures, or that they will not make it. But if at least one female does reach the lake, fish advocates want the pair to spawn naturally in the lake.

Advocates fear a disease outbreak in the hatchery could kill off the remaining sockeye. But they also want to force the

NMFS and other federal agencies to make downriver dams safer for wild fish, said Charles Ray, salmon coordinator for Idaho Rivers United.

But NMFS regional director Rolie Schmitt said a team of fish-genetics experts recommended the captive-breeding program because it will produce the most sockeye possible. "When the time comes, our plan is to release the fish back into Redfish Lake," he said. "But right now, we have a very, very fragile condition."

Schmitt said the NMFS is committed to addressing all causes of salmon mortality in the Columbia basin. His agency is expected to release a draft recovery plan in early September. "Everyone seems to think there's a single, magical cure for recovery," he said. "But our plan will reflect all the elements that must be addressed to bring the fish back."

— Stephen Stuebner

Stephen Stuebner is a free-lance writer in Boise, Idaho.

HOTLINE



Of berries, bears and competition

Huckleberries are plentiful for both people and black bears in the Northwest, but growing numbers of commercial pickers are increasing chances of unpleasant encounters. That led the U.S. Forest Service to close roads to prime berry patches on public lands in Montana, Idaho and Washington, where the attraction of food and garbage left in campsites could lead to "problem bears," reports the *Spokane Spokesman-Review*. Some pickers have even taken to carrying firearms, said Idaho state biologist Wayne Wakkinen. Although most bears avoid people, a few don't scare easily. Veteran picker Gerald Sarff said of one encounter, "I kept looking at him and he kept looking at me, and we cleaned up the patch."

Bounty program was ripped off

On the Columbia River where squawfish prey on juvenile salmon, the Bonneville Power Administration decided to offer anglers a \$3 bounty for every squawfish caught over 11 inches (HCN, 10/21/91). But the year-old plan may not be working the way it was intended. In July, nine people were arrested on charges of conspiracy and defrauding the federal government by catching squawfish outside the Columbia River basin and turning them in for bounty. According to state and federal wildlife officials, the nine indicted people were paid or given vouchers for more than \$20,000. Last year's top bounty recipient was among the group arrested.

Agency narrows involvement

The Bureau of Land Management in Utah recently issued guidelines that restrict the public's ability to comment on grazing allotments. To receive information on grazing decisions, citizens must qualify as an "affected interest." That means people must have spent money or time on a grazing allotment or were involved early in resource management plans. Previously, "affected interest" status was granted to any citizen who requested it. The new criteria means many people will not qualify, and citizens won't be informed about changes that the BLM might make regarding an allotment, says Scott Groene of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance's Moab office. "The BLM has just gone too far with this one," Groene says. But Utah BLM range head Ken Boyer says the agency is only trying to reduce its paperwork and speed up decisions. Groene sees it differently. "The BLM feels if you're not wearing cowboy boots with cowshit on them, then you're not an 'affected interest.'"

How war ended and range renewal began

In 1985, Idaho rancher Bob Charles was at war with Bureau of Land Management officials who were pressing him to reduce his cattle numbers by 35 percent.

Believing the problems on the central Idaho public-land grazing allotment weren't as bad as the BLM professed, Charles fought their decision.

Finally, when they wouldn't back down, Charles, red-faced and furious, kicked the officials off his ranch.

"When someone's telling you that you have to take a 35 percent cut, you aren't going to just stand there and smile sweetly," said Charles, whose ranch is 25 miles east of Salmon, Idaho. "At that time I had to get tough, because I had no place else to go with the cows."

Now, rocking peacefully in his favorite chair, Charles is relieved to be working cooperatively with a new crew of BLM officials. He credits its leader, Salmon District Manager Roy Jackson, with ending the five-year stalemate.

"Without Roy Jackson coming out here to meet me one-on-one, I don't know where we'd be," Charles said. "He came out here wearing a cowboy hat, rode a horse out on the range with me, and he listened to my fears and frustrations. What I found out is that he wasn't out here to hold a club over my head, and that was what made me start loosening up."

By the time Jackson arrived, Charles had already learned a lot about the grazing allotment on his own. He knew the uplands were stressed and that his riparian areas were in dire need of immediate rest.

"As I was arguing with the BLM, I was listening to them and I was listening to them closely," said Charles. "Things were not as bad as they said, but I knew I had a problem on my range."

Charles said he read everything he could — including environmental publications — toured neighboring ranges that were in good condition, and paid a consultant thousands of dollars to find "the good, the bad and the ugly" on his range. The consultant showed him what he had and educated him in riparian assessment and management techniques, he said.

But Charles also said that if Providence hadn't followed Jackson to his ranch, he might not be singing such a happy song today. A neighboring allotment, which Charles had hoped to acquire, fortuitously came up for sale shortly after Jackson mended the relationship between Charles and the BLM.

The additional 30,000-acre allotment allowed Charles to temporarily reduce the number of cows on the first allotment by 50 percent. Eager to speed range rehabilitation, Charles took an additional permanent stock reduction of 100 head.

Charles's haste to improve his land was spurred on by a comprehensive resource management planning seminar that Jackson encouraged him to attend in Boise. Charles says he experienced his "conversion" when he began to talk to people outside the industry at the meeting.

"The biggest thing it did for me was to show me that this was not my land," said Charles. "Up until then, I always had the feeling in the back of my mind that this was my land."

Charles said that for the first time he began to see the full implication of the environmental movement and the power that public opinion could wield over his federal grazing allotment.

Now in his third year of range reha-

bilitation, Charles is zeroing in on his worst riparian areas first. He is building fences and introducing beaver to speed up the healing process. While he is gratified at the improvement, he says the progress is agonizingly slow.

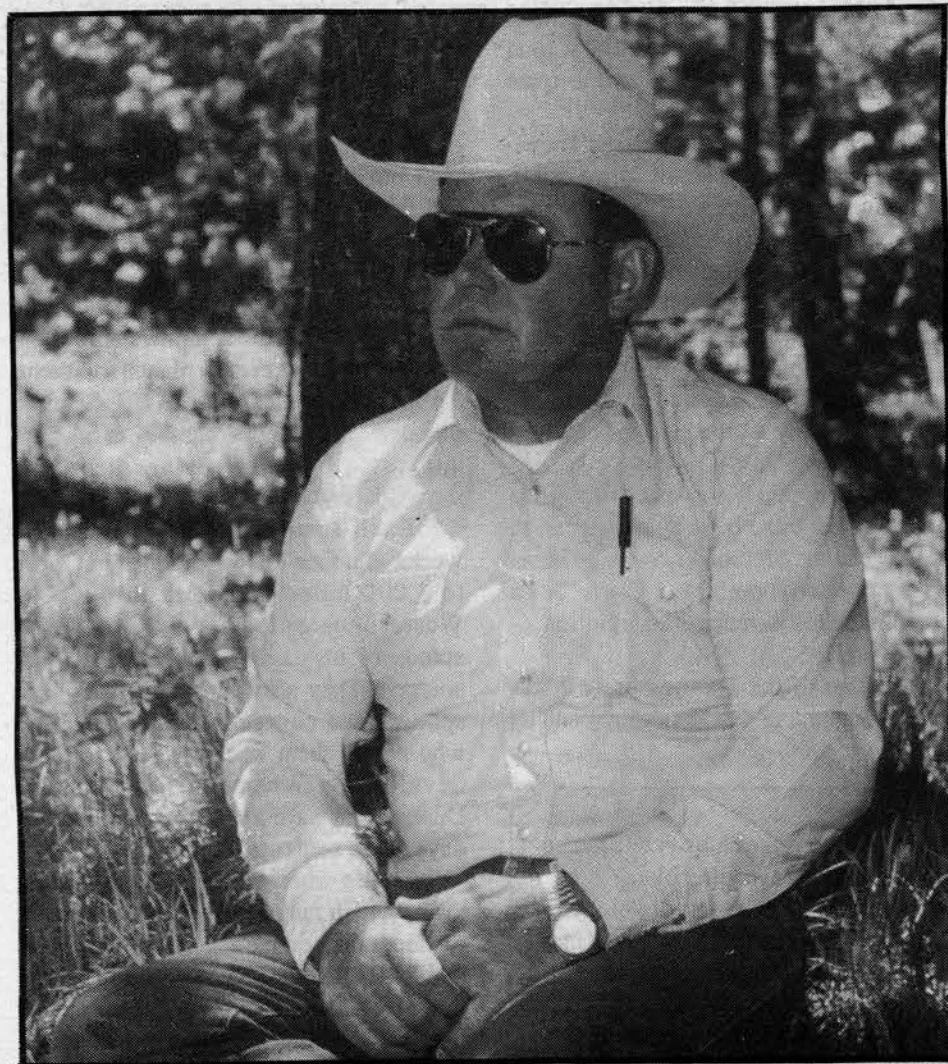
Manager and partner in a corporately owned and financially solvent ranch, Charles considers himself lucky to have been able to find a solution to his range problems. He worries about friends and neighbors who may someday face similar problems and not fare so well.

His years at war on the range have taught him a lot about the range and about people, Charles said. One lesson he's really taken to heart.

"We need to start doing things differently," he said quietly. "We need to stop being so harsh with one another."

— Candace Burns

The writer is a correspondent for the Idaho Falls *Post Register*.



Idaho rancher Bob Charles

Candace Burns

A couple starts a small company from seed

MANDERSON, Wyo. — On a shelf in a warehouse behind Rick and Clair Gabriel Dunne's home sits a small pile of sacks containing roughly two-thirds of the world's supply of Indian rice grass seed.

Several shelves away are a few sacks of fringed sagebrush seed. Each 25-pound bag is worth about \$2,000, because of the hundreds of hours the tiny, ridged seeds require to be found, gathered and cleaned.

These and other plants provide the Dunnes with their livelihood. From their Manderson home and farm, the couple operates Wind River Seed, a home-grown company that in eight years has become one of the most successful of the few native-seed wholesalers in the United States.

And with environmental standards and reclamation requirements growing more stringent, the native-seed business is booming. Some of the Dunnes' biggest customers include mining companies that must recontour and reseed the earth, restoring land to its original state after extracting coal or other commodities from beneath it.

"Wherever man digs a hole, you have to do something with it," says Clair. "That's where we come in." Though they also sell decorative wildflower mixes, most of their products are custom-mixed seed combinations of up to 20 of the 250 types of seed, from grasses to shrubs, that the Dunnes stock. The seeds go to customers from the U.S. Forest Service, for reclaiming areas burned by forest fires, to builders of irrigation projects who use them to rebuild wetlands.

But merchandising seed is not just a matter of sealing a handful in an envelope and selling it. It's laborious work that follows the seed from its mother plant all the way to germination. And it takes expertise to tell which seeds meet which needs — the Dunnes provide drought-resistant plants for dry areas, for example, and low-growing, unpalatable plants for highway margins to minimize mowing costs and dissuade grazing deer.

"You see sagebrush all over the West, but it's hard to start growing any of it from scratch unless conditions are just right. Nature is pretty specific," says Rick, as a kitten — carrying out mice control in the couple's seed warehouse — scurries beneath his feet.

After a large forest fire near Helena, the Dunnes provided 50,000 pounds of seed mix that was flown in by helicopter for a revegetation project. To fill the order, they had had only a few days to mix seed species that would provide for erosion control, livestock grazing and wildlife habitat.

For the roughs of a golf course in Hamilton, Mont., the Dunnes supplied native buffalograss seed. It does not require much water and never grows over eight inches tall, so little mowing is needed.

"It's more expensive to get established," Rick notes, "but you save lots of money in the long run."

The price of the Dunnes' seed reminds you that it's not from the local feed and seed shop, and for a reason: The Dunnes guarantee that their seed is genetically pure, free of noxious weeds and

heavy inert matter like leaves, and that it will germinate.

"Our reputation for quality is the most important thing we have," says Clair. "If someone is working on a multi-million-dollar contract and part of their contract is to get sagebrush to grow back, they want to have seeds they know are going to grow."

"Educated buyers, the people who are really interested in quality, are our best customers," Rick says. "If someone is just looking for a cheap price and doesn't care what they're getting, this is the wrong place."

in the seed business. Clair studied English literature at Stanford, and Rick majored in economics and geography at other major universities. In the 1970s, they began working for a large seed-collecting firm and then struck out on their own, hoping to build a life raising and selling wildflower seeds.

When looking for a place to settle, the Dunnes considered local water supplies, land prices, growing seasons and other factors, limiting their choices to Washington, Montana, western Colorado and Utah. Finding Montana laws unfriendly toward small businesses

they're probably liquored up enough to do it."

Hoping that the wind doesn't blow and it doesn't rain and cattle or sheep don't get there first, the Dunnes and their crews then start gathering. Whenever they collect on public land, they get a permit first; on private land, they get permission.

Still, it can be trying: They once spent 12 days in California's Sierra Mountains to get a few ounces of columbine seed.

"We take a lot of risks and have a lot of failures when we're trying to get a specific plant on a specific day," Rick says.



Michael Milstein

Rick and Clair Gabriel Dunne surrounded by bags of seed in their warehouse

Many ranchers in the West, the Dunnes say, could probably triple the grazing capacity of their land if they rejuvenated worn pastures dominated by exotic cheatgrass with much more nutritious native grasses. Rich green needlegrass and bluebunch wheatgrass, for example, once grew with vigor here. But a good supply of such seed is now hard to come by.

Since there is little scientific knowledge about the life cycles of native plants, the Dunnes have figured out quite a bit through trial and error. They discovered, for example, that sagebrush shrubs contain an acid resin that can destroy seeds left unused for more than a year. Once, after collecting a load of greasewood seeds, the Dunnes watched in dismay as "millions of tiny worms started crawling out of the bags."

"People haven't spent much time working with these before, so you can be on the cutting edge of knowledge about what these seeds do," says Clair. "It's a combination of science and intuition — like an art."

Neither of the Dunnes has a background suggesting that they might end up

(workers' compensation rates, for one, are far higher than Wyoming's), they turned toward Wyoming's Bighorn Basin. "In Colorado, growth is out of control. In Montana, taxes are out of control," says Rick. "Wyoming is not out of control, yet."

Now the Dunnes, both in their mid-40s, with two sons, 6 and 4 years old, live in a lofty log house on 40 acres just west of Manderson. It's also headquarters for their business, which employs five people full time — three in Manderson and two who collect seeds in other parts of the West. In the summer, the work force numbers close to 40.

They contract with farmers across the country to grow certain plants for them. Then they use a combine in the fields to produce a seed crop. What they cannot get that way, they gather, seed by seed, from the wild.

Each summer, the Dunnes spend weeks at a time on the road, driving close to 3,000 miles each week through 11 Western states looking for promising stands of plants that will serve as seed sources. They also work with free-lance spotters and collectors around the West who notify them when certain seeds are developing. When that happens, the Dunnes may have a window of only a few days when seeds are ripe for harvest.

That's when they field a collecting team, which may be only their family, or — depending on the size of the job or the need for speed — local laborers often recruited in bars or laundromats: "If they're hanging around a laundromat, they're usually bored enough to go collect seeds," Rick explains. "If they're in a bar,

"Probably 40 percent of our collecting trips end in failure because it's windy, or sheep got there first, or the seeds aren't right, or something else goes wrong."

Once they have the seed, they bring it back to Manderson and clean it by running it through equipment that separates out dust, leaves, stems and other byproducts. Often it takes a trailer load or more of collected material to yield even a couple of 25-pound bags of seed.

The Dunnes have slowly strengthened their business from different angles. Last year they developed a computer system to better track their inventory. Next year they will work on improving the efficiency of their seed-cleaning process. Since there is a demand for more seed than the firm can offer, they intend to try to improve their supply sources.

As more and more people turn back to native plants and wildflowers, the effort is paying off: "They like the idea of using native Western plants to serve many of today's uses and they're finding it often works better," Clair says. "The grass may look a little different, but you hardly have to water it, compared to keeping a big green lawn you have to water every day."

"It only makes sense to give the plants that have proven themselves here a closer look."

Wind River Seed can be reached at 3075 Lane 51 1/2, Manderson, WY 82432 (307/568-3325).

— Michael Milstein

Michael Milstein reports for the Wyoming bureau of the Billings, Montana, Gazette.

BARBED WIRE

And once we do that, watch those Klingons run for cover.

Sen. J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, arguing on behalf of the Superconducting Super Collider, said, "This is the most important scientific project in America. It involves breaking the basic code of the universe."

A military lunch special: synergistic salami on tocopherols.

The U.S. Army has developed a "shelf-stable sandwich." Its bread and meat fillings are mixed with a "synergistic antioxidant system made up of tocopherols, scorbil palmitate and BHA," according to the *Albuquerque Journal*.



Tacoma News Tribune

The Upper Cushman Dam dried up salmon spawning grounds on Washington's Skokomish River

Washington tribe seeks to restore salmon

Native legends say Coyote found wild salmon trapped behind a rocky wall, upstream in a mountain river. In exchange for their freedom to swim seaward, the salmon promised to return every year and feed the river people.

On the Skokomish River in Washington, the fish cannot return. For 62 years the dams of Tacoma City Light's Cushman Hydroelectric Project both blocked their journey to spawn and diverted 40 percent of the river's flow to a hydroelectric plant. The diversion dried up the salmon's spawning grounds and ended fishing as a way of life for the Skokomish Tribe's 650 members.

"I had two commercial fishing boats and just couldn't make it — there are just no fish," says Denny Hurtado, who chairs the Skokomish Tribal Council.

While the fishery above the dams is gone, the tribe has urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which considers relicensing the project this year, to include an instream flow requirement to restore the fishery below the dams.

The hydro project, however, has brought decades of cheap electricity to Tacoma's 160,000 people. This weighs against the tribe's efforts to replenish the river's coho salmon runs, says Vic Martino, the tribe's Cushman project manager.

To encourage hydropower back in 1930, the state allowed Tacoma to build the Cushman Project without fish ladders. The two dams and power plant upriver from the reservation also ignored tribal fishing and water rights as set forth in an 1855 treaty, the tribe says.

"Tear it down!" has become the rallying cry of some tribal members and local environmentalists. But most Skokomish support a more moderate approach: asking FERC to lower the reservoir level. That would release water to the almost dry river, transport sediment to an eroding intertidal estuary, and control dam spills that now flood Skokomish land.

FERC is reviewing the Skokomish request along with licenses of 170 of the nation's oldest hydro projects. Fifty more projects will need review before the year 2000. The little-known federal agency has the power to impose changes in operation

or deny a new license altogether (HCN, 12/2/91).

The Skokomish hope to sway FERC by emphasizing social, economic and cultural damage caused by the Cushman dams.

The tribe wants the city to use the instream flow to restore the river and estuary ecosystem, provide compensation for damage to the fishery and reservation lands, and share benefits from any future hydroelectric operations.

Garth Jackson, Tacoma City Light's resource development coordinator, says the dams aren't the only culprit. He says overharvesting in the ocean and Puget Sound, pollution, logging, tribal mismanagement of fishing, and other factors have hurt the fishery.

"Any claim that represents Tacoma as the sole source of impacts to the Skokomish fishery is incorrect and unfair," he says.

A bill introduced by Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., and Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., could complicate matters. Tacoma and Olympic National Park requested the bill, which would give Tacoma 11 acres of park land flooded by the reservoir, says a Dicks staffer. It would also

give the city, rather than the park, control over the reservoir level.

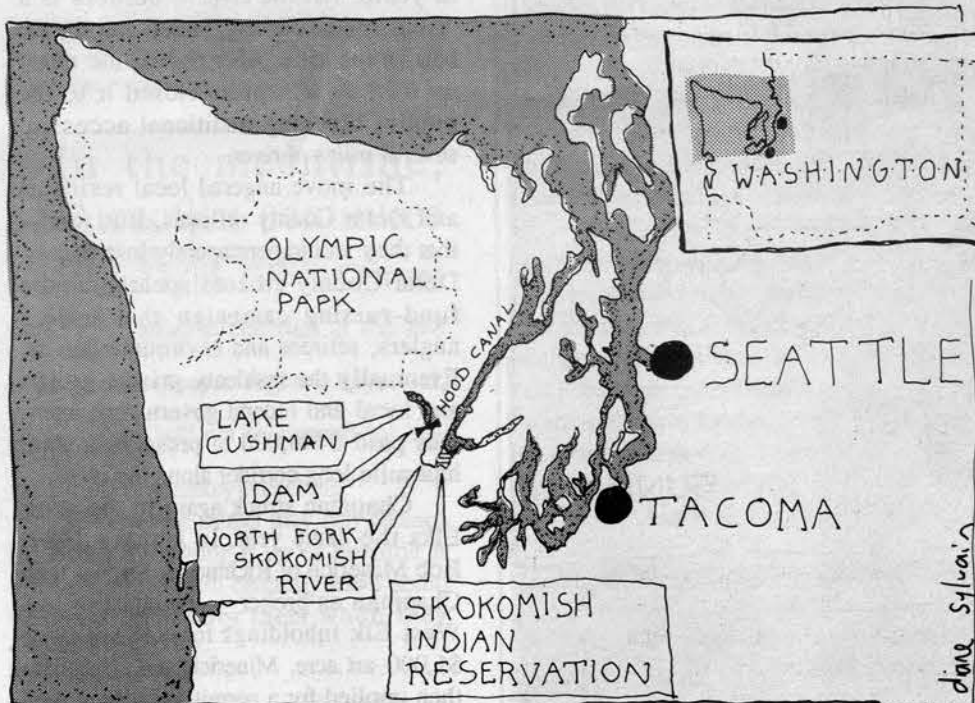
"The danger of this is that FERC will view congressional action as approval of the way Tacoma runs the Cushman Project and its plans for future action," says Martino. The landswap bill will be debated in Congress Sept. 15.

It is no secret that Tacoma resents the tribe's tactics. The tribe repeatedly refuses to negotiate, says Jackson of Tacoma City Light. "We're trying as hard as a municipality can, and we're looking forward to the opportunity to resolve this issue," he says. Jackson adds that Tacoma has always treated the tribe fairly.

The tribe points to history and disagrees. Martino says Tacoma illegally acquired reservation land when the project was built. As a result, Tacoma is now the largest owner of tribal land.

For more information, write to Victor Martino, Project Manager, Skokomish Indian Tribe, 8424 NE Beck Road, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110, or Tacoma City Light, Department of Resource Development, 3628 South 35th St., Tacoma, WA 98409.

— Mark Dooley



HOTLINE

Montana goes to extremes

Even for Montanans familiar with drastic weather changes, August's cold spell was a big surprise. In Great Falls snow fell for the first time in August in more than 100 years. Six inches blanketed the city and temperatures dropped from a high of 95 degrees Aug. 19, to 33 degrees Aug. 22. Summer tourists to Glacier National Park experienced travel problems as several of the higher elevation roads were blocked by snow and closed for the weekend. A dip in the jetstream, bringing cold air from Canada, clashed with the remnants of Hurricane Lester, producing the wacky weather, said Joel Lunstad, a TV news director in Great Falls. Unseasonal weather was felt in other parts of the Rockies as well. A flood warning was issued for several counties in Colorado and after the front passed through, Denver's monthly rainfall for August was more than double the normal average.

BARBS

Don't let California know.

To maintain its water right, the Colorado National Monument near Grand Junction, Colo., annually pours more than 1 million gallons of water into dry gulches, reports *The Denver Post*.

Nevada gears up for a water fight

Voters in White Pine County, Nev., approved a property tax increase in July to fund the legal battle against what local residents call "the Las Vegas water grab." That's what critics call the gambling mecca's plan to tap underground aquifers in three rural Nevada counties (HCN, 4/6/92).

The addition of 5 cents on every \$100 of assessed value will increase the property tax on the average home by \$5.25 a year. It will raise about \$300,000 over the five-year period approved by voters. The money will pay for legal fees and expert witnesses in hearings before the Nevada state engineer, scheduled to begin this fall.

Meanwhile, the Las Vegas Valley Water District announced in Washington, D.C., that it has joined with 20 other municipal water purveyors to form a lobbying group called the Western Urban Water Coalition.

Patricia Mulroy, director of the Las Vegas water district, was named chairwoman of the group. It claims to represent more than 35 million water users in Nevada, California, Washington, Oregon, Utah and Colorado.

The group would like to see a shift in priorities for water across the West, from agriculture to urban communities. While approximately 86 percent of the people in the West live in urban areas, lobbyists for the group pointed out, about 85 percent of the water in the region goes to irrigate farmland.

— Jon Christensen

Developer builds in wilderness ...

continued from page 1

going up will come complete with a spring, solar-powered electricity, and a helicopter landing pad. It is the first of six luxury homes Chapman plans to build in the West Elks, as a first of its kind wilderness subdivision.

"This house will cost upwards of \$800,000 to build and certainly will cost a lot more than that to buy," says Chapman, who won't name his asking price, despite, he says, numerous inquiries from interested buyers.

After seeing the site firsthand, the Forest Service's Posey says he is "disgusted" over Chapman's development plans. The public is angry, too, adds the ranger, judging by the dozens of phone calls he has had to field about the development. However, the Forest Service is helpless to prevent construction on private land, or stop the helicopter flights.

The project, Posey predicts, will be a disaster for the remote wilderness. Navajo Ridge is the focal point of the broad Coal Creek basin and miles of surrounding peaks and ridgetops. Generator noise, lights, chain saws, power tools and other activity from the development would destroy the character of this entire section of the wilderness, he says, ruining the wilderness experience for everybody.

As head of the Gunnison National Forest's Paonia Ranger District, Posey has spent eight years trying to buy the land for the federal government. Now he fears it will cost the nation's taxpayers a king's ransom to prevent the development. And very soon, Posey says, he

expects it to get worse.

Because of the area's wilderness designation, the Forest Service has limited Chapman's access to "foot, horse and helicopter." However, Chapman says he intends to submit a permit soon to build a road to his new subdivision. And, he warns, there is a large body of case law that guarantees his right to road access.

Not only does the Wilderness Act of 1964 require "reasonable access," he says, but existing federal statute mandates that once a public road has been established, its use cannot be denied.

"RS 2477 states that if there ever was an existing road or even wagon tracks, you have to be allowed to access the area," says Chapman. "It has already been used successfully in Utah and Alaska to access wilderness and a national park."

Chapman says an old four-wheel drive track passes through the mountains near the corner of his property, and claims he has photos and 8 millimeter film of pickup trucks driving the old road.

"We feel confident that road access will be required into the area," says Chapman. But he also says the road issue will not affect the subdivision. "For the caliber of homes that will be in here, the owners may elect to simply use helicopters."

While Chapman's subdivision plans have saddened local residents and the state's environmental groups, just about everyone seems to accept that he has a legal right to build. However, his recent announcement that he intends to build a road as well

has outraged the community.

"Mr. Chapman may access his inholding via foot, horse or helicopter,

period," says Joanne Carter, assistant regional director of The Wilderness Society in Boulder. "We support fully the Forest Service's denial of any other types of access."

She says The Wilderness Society and other groups would vigorously oppose a road application.

Chapman's plans have also drawn the attention of Colorado's congressional delegation. Normally very respectful of private property rights, a number of Colorado politicians are seeing red over Chapman's subdivision and road.

That is partly because the West Elk Wilderness, created in 1964 and then expanded in 1980, is one of the most prized wilderness areas in the state. But it may also stem from Chapman's history of extracting huge sums from the federal government by threatening public resources.

"Remember that this is the same guy who threatened to go into an inholding in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument with a bulldozer unless Congress bought him out," says Jim Martin, head of Sen. Tim Wirth's Colorado office. "He looks for these properties, purchases them, and then threatens to build roads or houses and destroy the wilderness in hopes of forcing the government to pay exorbitant prices."

In the Black Canyon case, Chapman's subdivision threat worked. Acting as the real estate agent for rancher Dick Mott, Chapman took a rented bulldozer into the monument to start laying out street and water lines for a 132-home subdivision. Eventually he forced the National Park Service to buy the 4,200-acre ranch for \$510 an acre, well above its appraised value of \$200 an acre (HCN, 6/25/84).

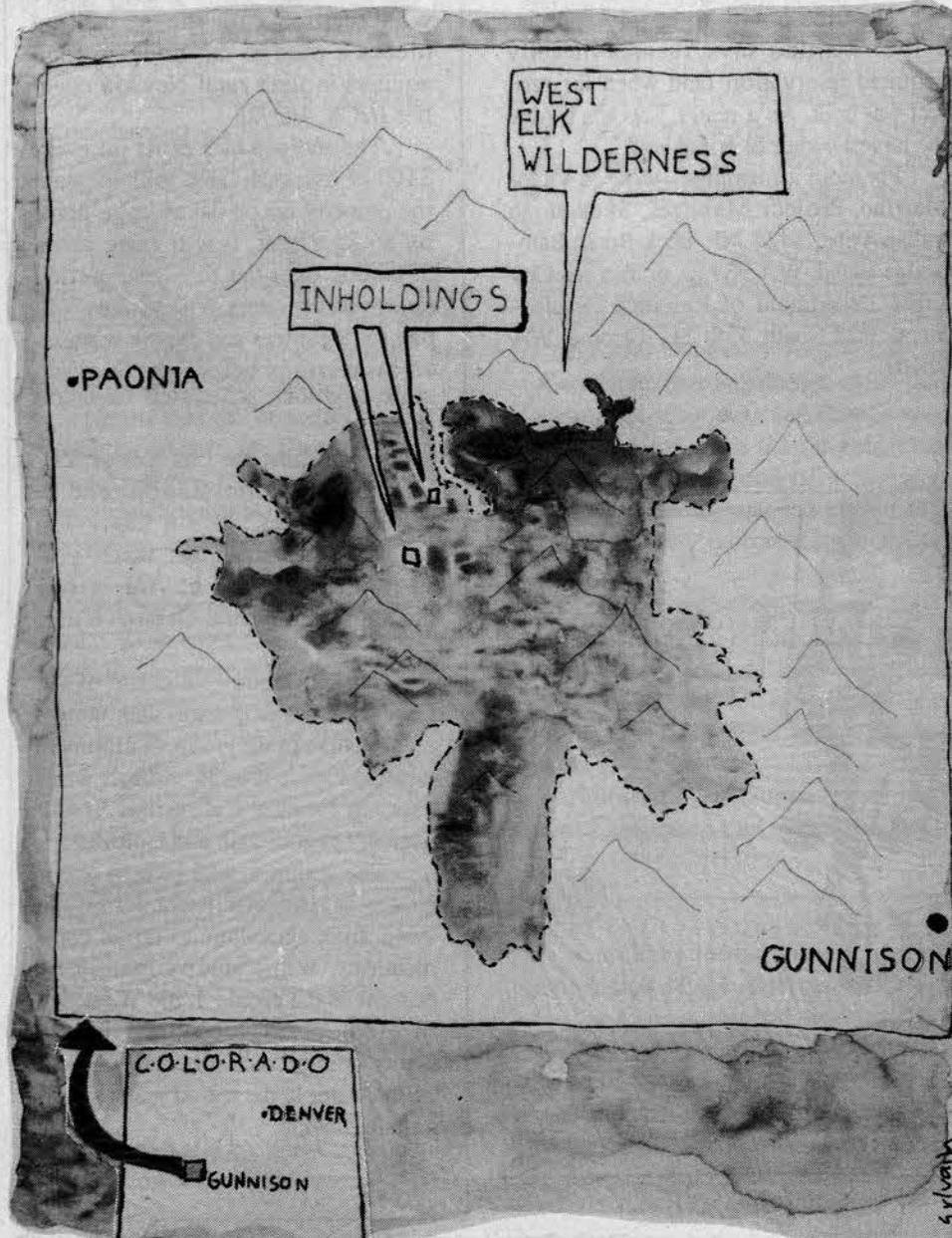
Five years later, in 1989, Chapman represented the run-down McCluskey ranch along the Gunnison River near Delta, Colo. The ranch hadn't been used in years, but the river it borders is a "Gold Medal Fishery," rated among the best in the state. After putting the ranch up for sale, Chapman closed it to the public, blocking traditional access to several miles of river.

The move angered local residents and Delta County officials. But fearful that they would permanently lose access, Delta County citizens spearheaded a fund-raising campaign that united anglers, retirees and environmentalists. Eventually the residents, private groups and local and federal government agencies paid \$400,000 to preserve a thin, half-mile long corridor along the river.

Chapman struck again in the West Elks the same year. In January 1989, Bob Minerich of Richmond, Ky. — with Chapman as broker — bought the two West Elk inholdings for \$240,000, or \$1,000 an acre. Minerich and Chapman then applied for a permit to build a road through the wilderness to build a house and hunting lodge. Or, they said they



A helicopter lowers building materials into the Tom Chapman



would sell the parcels to the federal government for \$5,000 an acre, or trade it for Forest Service land in Telluride worth about \$1 million.

But Gunnison Forest Supervisor Bob Storch says federal statutes prevent the agency from purchasing or trading land for more than 25 percent above its appraised value. The Forest Service appraised the West Elk inholdings at \$240,000, or what Minerich paid for the land originally.

After the agency rejected several proposals from Minerich, including a road application, Chapman formed the West Elk Development Corp. and bought the land himself for \$960,000, or \$4,000 an acre.

Chapman may have also bought himself a full-scale legal and political war. In a recent letter to Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson, Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, D-Colo., who is now campaigning for Wirth's Senate seat, urged the Forest Service to deny any road application



Steve Hinchman

Chapman property within the West Elks

from Chapman.

"The purpose of this letter is to urge you to oppose a permit to construct a road to this site under any circumstances," Campbell wrote. "The wilderness area was recommended by the Forest Service following RARE II. It was and is roadless.

"I am eager to work with you to again demonstrate that the taxpayers will not be held hostage or be extorted by speculators," he added.

Forest Service officials also say they will process any road application very carefully.

But this time, Chapman says, his subdivision and road plans are for real and the land is not for sale to the Forest Service or any federal agency. As for the damage his development may cause, Chapman faults Congress for designating the West Elks wilderness without first resolving the inholding issue.

"It isn't a wilderness. It's never been a wilderness and it's not going to be one," Chapman recently told the *Rocky Mountain News*.

There are 13,700 acres of wilderness inholdings in Colorado, notes Chapman. Instead of adding new wilderness, he says, Congress should spend its time and money acquiring those inholdings before it is too late for them too.

"Many people are watching to see how this is resolved," says Chapman. He argues that exist-

ing Forest Service policy arbitrarily values inholdings at dirt-cheap prices, even though his real estate company is proof that an enormous high-end market exists for these properties.

"When the federal government owns the land it is a 'national treasure,'" says Chapman, "But when a private landowner owns it, it is appraised as grazing land that's not worth very much. This is not an issue of a greedy developer forcing the public to pay exorbitant prices, but a question of whether the federal government should be allowed to arbitrarily determine what is the fair market value.

"If Congress does not put a viable acquisition program in place soon," he warns, "owners of those other inholdings may decide to use their lands this way."

Both Campbell's and Wirth's offices reject the charge that Congress or the Forest Service is at fault.

"Horse pucky!" says Jim Martin of Sen. Wirth's office. "Most landowners who have inholdings understand the value of their lands and work with the Forest Service or other agencies to transfer them to the federal government," he says. "They get a fair trade out of it. Mr. Chapman wants exorbitant prices."

Instead of setting the new trend, Martin warns that Chapman is likely to lose his land.

"If the rest of the Colorado delegation does not oppose us, Sen. Wirth will sponsor condemnation legislation" to take possession of Chapman's land, promises Martin.

If such a bill passes, Chapman would be forced to sell the land to the Forest Service at a price established by a federal court. Chapman says he doesn't believe existing case law allows condemnation to protect wilderness, but indications are that much of the Colorado delegation — which rarely agrees on wilderness issues — may support a condemnation bill.

"He would have the public believe that the 176,000 acre West Elk Wilderness should never have been designated at all because of his 240-acre inholding," says Campbell. "That kind of reasoning is absurd."

Julie McKenna, legislative assistant to Sen. Hank Brown, R-Colo., says, "Generally the senator is not supportive of condemnation, but it does seem that this developer is using his property for extortion-type purposes."

Both Campbell's and Brown's offices say they will be talking with Wirth and the rest of the state's delegation as soon as Congress reconvenes for its fall session.

In the meantime, construction continues in the West Elks.

Chapman says he is flying in materials at the rate of 25 to 50 helicopter flights a day. And, he warns, he will not be stopped by illegal means or monkeywrenching.

"If someone thinks they can change my mind by cutting it up or burning it down, well, we will certainly have some surprises ready for them when they arrive." ■

Steve Hinchman writes in Paonia, Colorado.

Across the mountains from Tom Chapman's West Elk inholding, a Gunnison, Colo., man is planning to build a small cabin in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness.

John Guerrieri says he will use a horse and wagon to haul logs to his mining claim at 11,400 feet on the side of Avery Peak near Crested Butte. Guerrieri refuses to sell or exchange his 21 acres with the Forest Service, arguing that the land is a true "gold mine."

Guerrieri's mining claim — one of hundreds that dot the West's high mountain peaks — is part of a growing threat to the integrity of parks and wilderness, says Jon Mulford, founder of the Wilderness Lands Trust in Boulder.

Mulford says there are 13,700 acres of wilderness inholdings in Colorado and 450,000 acres nationwide, all of it spectacular country. To prevent development, Mulford formed the Wilderness Lands Trust in February 1992, to buy endangered wilderness inholdings and transfer them to public ownership.

Most inholdings are 10-to-20-acre mining claims. "Federal agencies don't have the money or the staff to go out and deal with these small parcels," Mulford says. "And Congress is just ignoring the problem." The Lands Trust has begun buying inholdings with privately raised

money in hopes that Congress will appropriate funds later.

Unlike Guerrieri or Chapman, Mulford says, most private landowners easily agree on a price. Generally, he works with the landowner and the federal agency to do an appraisal and set a sales price approved by both parties. Usually, he says, an owner will sell the land for less than its appraised value just to ensure its protection.

So far the Lands Trust has acquired about 25 wilderness inholdings in Colorado, protecting 160 acres in the Holy Cross Wilderness near Vail, and 38 acres in the Hunter-Frying Pan Wilderness near Aspen. Mulford's goal is to acquire 1,000 acres this year, at a cost of about \$1 million. By next year he hopes to expand into Idaho and Montana and eventually go nationwide.

"Our goal is to buy all of these inholders out," Mulford says, "and get Congress to turn some funds in this direction for five to 10 years until we get the job done."

Jon Mulford can be reached at the Wilderness Lands Trust, 1390 Edinboro Dr., Boulder, CO 80303 (303/494-5805).

— S.H.

The following letter was sent by developer Tom Chapman's attorney to Robert Storch, supervisor of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, with a copy to High Country News.

Robert L. Storch
Forest Supervisor
United States Forest Service
Delta, Colorado

Aug. 24, 1992

Dear Mr. Storch:

I represent West Elk Development Corporation. As you know, the corporation owns a 160-acre parcel and an 80-acre parcel within the West Elk Wilderness. I was furnished with a copy of your letter of Aug. 14 to David Baumgarten, Gunnison County Attorney. A portion of that letter states "this letter will serve as advance notice that any trespass will be actively prosecuted."

Therefore, I was somewhat surprised to learn that last Tuesday, while West Elk Development Corporation had a work crew starting the construction on the 160-acre site, two Forest Service employees, whom I believe to be Steve Posey and Jeff Burch, escorted a third party, whom I believe to be Steve Hinchman from *High Country News*, to the site. West Elk Development had no advance notice that these parties were going to visit the site. Several pictures were taken of the site without permission from anybody from West Elk Development.

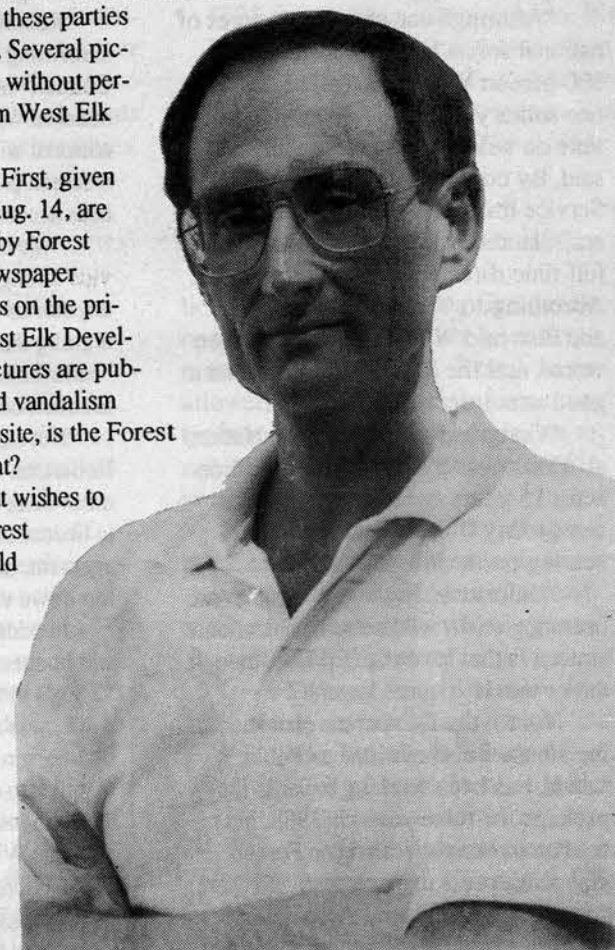
My concerns are two. First, given the tone of your letter of Aug. 14, are we to consider this action by Forest Service personnel (and newspaper employees) to be a trespass on the private property rights of West Elk Development? Second, if the pictures are published or disseminated, and vandalism occurs to the construction site, is the Forest Service responsible for that?

West Elk Development wishes to be cooperative with the Forest Service. However, we would appreciate some advance notice of visits by the Forest Service personnel, and some indication for the purpose for that visit.

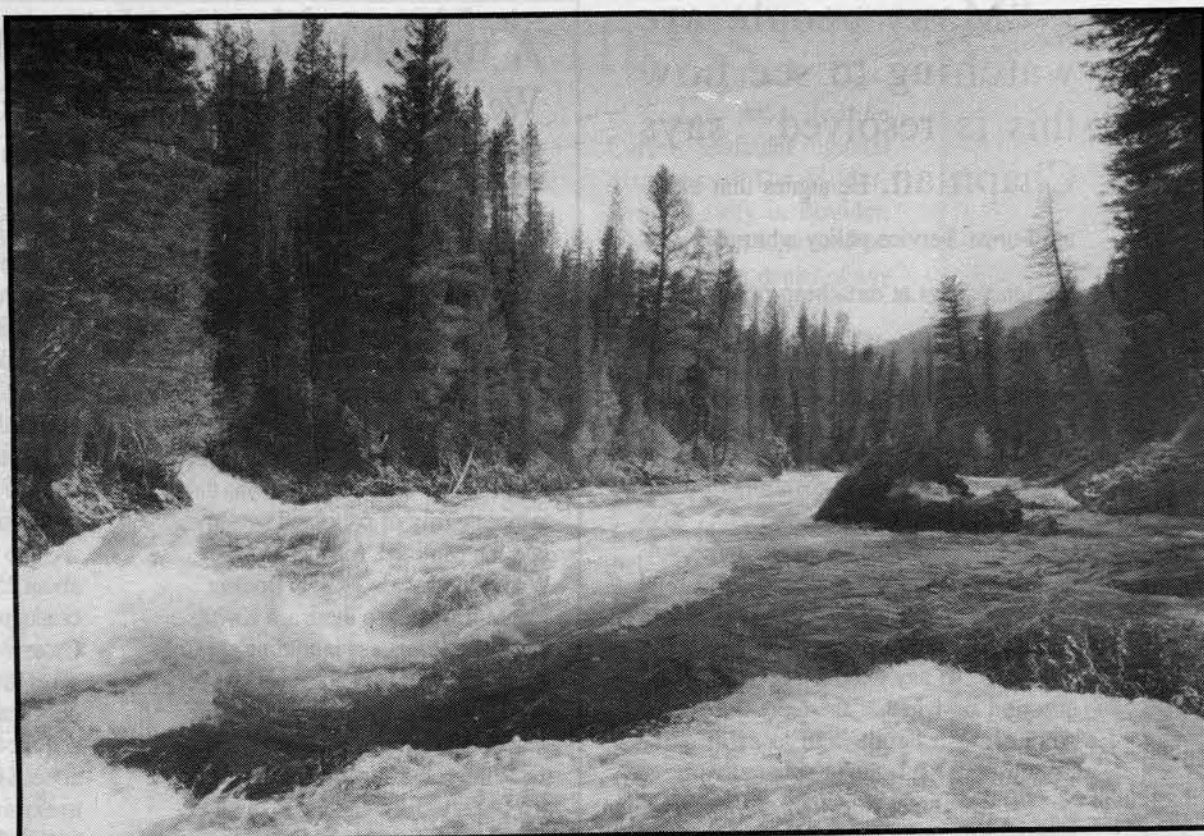
Sincerely,
Aaron R. Clay

cc: High Country News

Aaron Clay is an attorney in Delta, Colorado.



Tom Chapman



Tim Palmer

Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho's Frank Church Wilderness

Should the 'Frank' be one forest?

by Pat Ford

An influential congressman's proposal to create the nation's first all-wilderness national forest in central Idaho has the Forest Service scrambling.

They're not the only ones. Idaho conservationists are also arguing about the idea.

Minnesota Rep. Bruce Vento, chairman of the House Public Lands Subcommittee, wants to make the 2.4 million-acre Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness a single forest. It is now split

among four national forests. The proposal is embedded within HR 4325, one of three sweeping wilderness management reform bills Vento has introduced (see accompanying story).

"The Frank Church is the largest contiguous single wilderness in the lower 48 states," said Vento at a June 23

hearing on the bill, "and yet leadership is provided by a wilderness coordinator with no authority over the budget or the employees."

Vento's proposal was supported at the hearing by the Idaho Conservation League and Wilderness Society. It was opposed by the Idaho Outfitters and

Agencies resist top-down wilderness management

Minnesota Rep. Bruce Vento has introduced a package of bills to radically overhaul the wilderness management programs of the four primary federal land-managing agencies.

The three bills, HR 4325-6-7, would create separate wilderness divisions, directors, budgets, career paths and training programs within the Forest Service, Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Vento said lack of structural leadership is the key problem.

"Although one of every six acres of national forest land is wilderness, the 900-person Washington office has only one solitary employee who works full-time on wilderness management," he said. By contrast, other primary Forest Service missions — timber, range, minerals, lands, wildlife, recreation — have full-time directors with full-time staffs. According to Vento, the Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service are even worse, and the BLM, which once had a good structure, is dismantling it.

"Congress has enlarged the National Wilderness System from 9.5 million acres 25 years ago to over 95 million acres today," Vento said at a June 23 hearing on the bills in Washington.

"Unfortunately, the four agencies are operating under wilderness organizational structures that have changed little, though the system is 10 times larger."

Vento, the Democratic chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands, has been working towards the package for three years. In 1988, he held an oversight hearing on Forest Service wilderness management, and then commissioned General Accounting Office reports on wilderness management and budget problems.

The studies convinced him that pollution, erosion, garbage, unneeded improvements and violations of law are degrading the wilderness system's quality even as size and use increase.

To Vento's bills so far, agencies have responded with "Thanks, but no thanks."

Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson and Deputy Assistant Interior Secretary Richard Roldan said the bills would cost more money, create more bureaucracy, unduly constrain managerial flexibility and aren't needed because the agencies are acting on their own.

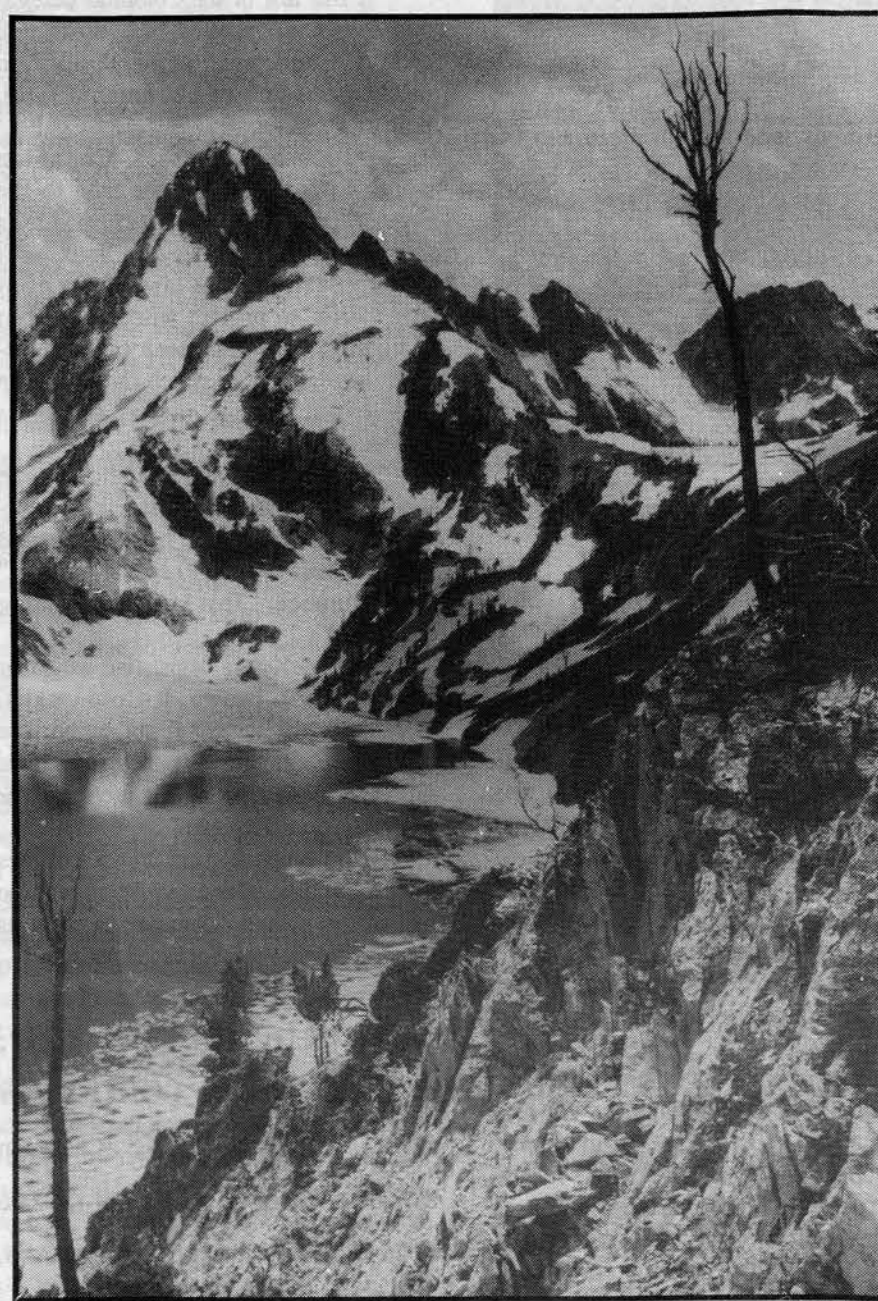
Robertson said the Forest Service is forming a "National Wilderness Council" in its head office to "establish national wilderness policy, resolve national wilderness issues, suggest research priorities, and evaluate wilderness accomplishments."

"We believe this group will provide stronger leadership than a single director of wilderness," Robertson said, arguing that a separate director would "contribute to the idea that wilderness is somebody else's job."

But supporters of Vento's bill say Robertson's arguments would have more force if his agency were moving to decentralize timber and range management, both of which are run in a top-down way.

In addition to wilderness divisions and budget lines within each agency, Vento's bill would create a national wilderness monitoring system led by a five-person scientific committee. It would also create a national wilderness research institute in Montana.

The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Wilderness Watch, National Outdoor Leadership School, and Idaho Conservation League all spoke in support of the bills, with some caveats. The



Del Owens

Mt. Regan in the Idaho Sawtooth Wilderness

Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association supported parts of the Forest Service bill, but opposed much of it as tending towards top-down, cookie-cutter, expert-oriented and user-distant management.

Vento's subcommittees and the full

House Interior Committee may vote on the bills before fall. The full House may act by the end of the year, but the Senate almost certainly will not. The fate of the package will likely await the next Congress.

—Pat Ford

Guides Association and the Forest Service.

"The Frank," as the area is known in Idaho, is huge and complex. It contains 2,700 miles of trail, 100 outfitter permits, and many inholdings and mining claims.

Last year, 10,000 people floated the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, entirely within the wilderness. Six thousand more floated the main Salmon River through the wilderness, many on jet boats whose use is grandfathered by law. About 6,675 landings occurred at some 20 airstrips, grandfathered also.

Several private roads cut through the wilderness to reach mining claims, and two more roads are under considera-

"The consolidation is working," says Doug Timms, president of the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA). "At the most recent coordinating session, all 50 folks with management responsibility for the Frank — wilderness rangers right up to Regional Forester Gray Reynolds — were there. Things are improving out on the ground for everyone. Let's give the new structure a chance to work."

"The only reason for any change is pressure from Stallings and now Vento," responds Craig Gehrke, The Wilderness Society's Idaho representative. "Everything they've done can be undone when Congress looks away."

The Frank Church Wilderness sprawls over four national forests, but who has overall responsibility?

tion. In the area's northeast corner, 60,000 acres which hold a rare domestic deposit of cobalt are designated a "minerals management zone," in which mining can be made a dominant use by executive order.

When the Frank was created in 1980, administrative boundaries weren't changed. Two Forest Service regions, six national forests and 12 ranger districts kept authority over their pieces. In the 1980s, grumbling slowly grew over ad hoc coordination, different rules in different places, and poor user contact or involvement. No employee on any of the six forests dealt with the wilderness as a whole.

The grumbling became audible in the late 1980s, when large fires generated an emotional "suppress or let burn" argument, and a fight between the Frank's land-based outfitters and the Forest Service over equipment caches ended in court. Users who fought over the merits of these conflicts ended up mutually disgusted with the agency's confused response and poor conflict resolution.

In 1990, Idaho Congressman Richard Stallings announced an advisory group to examine unified management options. That got the Forest Service moving. The agency settled with outfitters on the equipment caches, and consolidated management to four forests and six ranger districts. In the last year, it has hired a wilderness coordinator, begun regular meetings of managers and users, and produced a consolidated budget.

These actions have satisfied some.

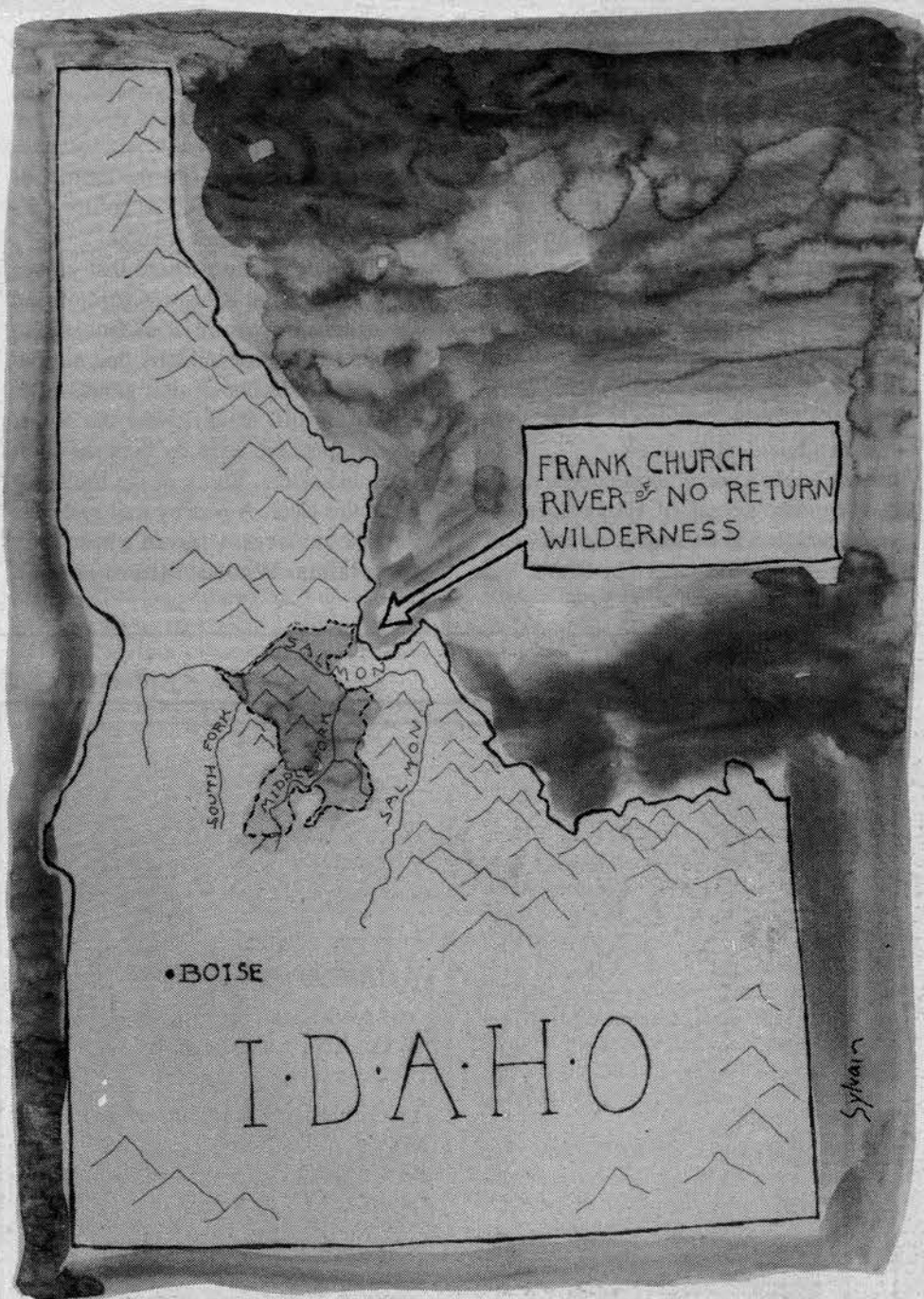
Gehrke also says the new structure won't work in the real Forest Service: "The wilderness coordinator is not a line officer. He has no power over program or budget, and has to go, hat in hand, to four forest supervisors to do anything. Vento's bill puts a supervisor in charge, with real power."

Public dispute between Idaho outfitters and conservationists is unusual. IOGA, which deservedly calls itself a conservation group, was key to the Frank's creation and supports much more wilderness for Idaho. But IOGA also represents businesses in a competitive industry, who must see public lands through a bottom-line lens and get along with the agency that writes their permits. The Frank supports two-thirds of Idaho's outfitting industry.

Idaho conservationists backing the bill also affirm their support for outfitters. "I want to clearly distinguish our views from others who support this legislation," the Idaho Conservation League's David Simmonds said at Vento's hearing. "We firmly support commercial outfitting in wilderness areas."

Both groups have great incentive to keep their alliance strong. After a decade's stalemate, the 1993-1994 Congress may pass an Idaho National Forest Wilderness bill to decide the fate of 9 million roadless acres. The two groups will need each other — and need Vento — to get a bill near their liking.

Idaho's two Democratic congressmen — Stallings and Larry LaRocco — remain publicly undecided on the Frank



Diane Sylvain

bill, while privately urging outfitters and conservationists to reach a united position. Idaho's Republican Senator Larry Craig has decided — he blasted the idea at the hearing.

Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson also opposed it, without mentioning the real reasons why.

Agency watchers say first, turf — four existing forests would lose between a quarter and half of their land. Second, precedent — the idea might spread to other wildernesses. Third, on-the-ground rangers and managers worry an all-wilderness forest would divert even more money to bureaucracy and buildings than already occurs.

Beneath the contention, Vento's proposal raises a basic problem of wild-land preservation. Biologist and writer David Ehrenfeld calls it the conservation paradox: "Active management needs rules; rules are based on generalities,

simplifications, and assumptions; and generality is often the enemy of specificity, which is the same as diversity."

How do you manage a diverse 2.4 million-acre wild area, hosting diversely conflicting lawful uses, to be consistent for and accountable to users and owners, and yet true to its unruly, unique diversity? One boss or many? One set of rules or many? By national criteria or in keeping with local character? By natural or human criteria? Whether Vento's bill passes or not, debate on these questions may endure as long as the Frank Church Wilderness. ■

Pat Ford writes from Boise, Idaho. For more information on House bills HR 4325-6-7, contact Congressman Bruce Vento, House Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands, Room 812, House Annex I, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20515 (202/226-7736).

LETTERS

FISH NEED FORESTS

Dear HCN,

Finally! After nearly two years of shouting and protests and government prevarication, someone brought up the third issue of clear-cutting old-growth forests: fisheries. Anadromous fish also depend on old-growth forests.

The fisherman can't take a fishing boat and protest in front of a BLM or U.S. Forest Service office 100 miles inland, like a logger can with a logging truck. But, fish are far, far more renewable, and grow more quickly than a tree.

Further, with increasing medical evidence to say that deep sea fish are good for our health, why are we destroying our food supply?

Growing up in San Diego, we had a local TV station that had a program called "Today on the Farm." At that stage, nearly 30 years ago, the results of clear-cutting or large-scale wildfires on fish spawning grounds and habitat were clearly shown.

It is amazing that no one has brought it up yet in the Pacific Northwest and the controversy over clear-cutting old-growth forests.

Fishing supports jobs, too. It isn't as flashy or romantic as a logger, perhaps, but is far more important — we all need to eat. Let's see some more coverage on the fishing industry of the Northwest.

Michael R. Selle
Meeker, Colorado

WAKE UP, ORV-USERS!

Dear HCN,

Randal O'Toole's article in the Aug. 24 issue concerning off-road vehicle users and environmentalists overlooked one very critical point.

The point is the opposition of ORVs to wilderness designation for areas of federal land now unprotected from development interests. By the restrictions of the Wilderness Act, motorized vehicles are prohibited from areas with this designation.

While the individual ORV user may love beautiful scenery, they are doing nothing to protect pub-

lic lands from the consumptive development interests who also love strip-mines and clearcuts. They have allowed the wise-use disinformation types to subvert their organizations to use as a weapon against wilderness preservationists.

ORVs are either guilty of ignorance or apathy. My anger with them goes way beyond the adrenaline rush from their simply ruining my wilderness experience.

Fighting for wilderness is no more culturally egotistical than their belief that they have a God-given right to ride their infernal machines anywhere they damn well please.

Charles A. Siller
Fl. Worth, (Where the
West Begins) Texas



LETTERS

O'TOOLE IS SURPRISINGLY SMART

Dear HCN,

Regarding Randal O'Toole's essay (HCN, 7/31/92), it's good that an environmentalist has the smarts to realize what he does about off-road vehicles (ORVs). I'm an environmentalist, a climber, backcountry skier — and ORVer. I love my mountain bike, enjoy my snowmobile and have been known to mount a horse on occasion.

O'Toole's points about noise and cultural egotism are salient. Hike many horse trails, and you'll see damage as bad — or worse — than that caused by ORVs. But

the equestrian ideal fits the culture of many environmentalists, so horses are a sacred cow (as ranchers are not).

It's interesting to note that groups such as the Blue Ribbon Coalition and Colorado Snowmobile Association, despite their motor-industry ties, emphasize the coexistence of user groups (after all, hikers still drive). Near our home, several trails are used by both snowmobiles and skiers. Signs at the trailheads make this clear. A nearby trail system is limited to skiers. I haven't heard any complaints. Whose culture is more

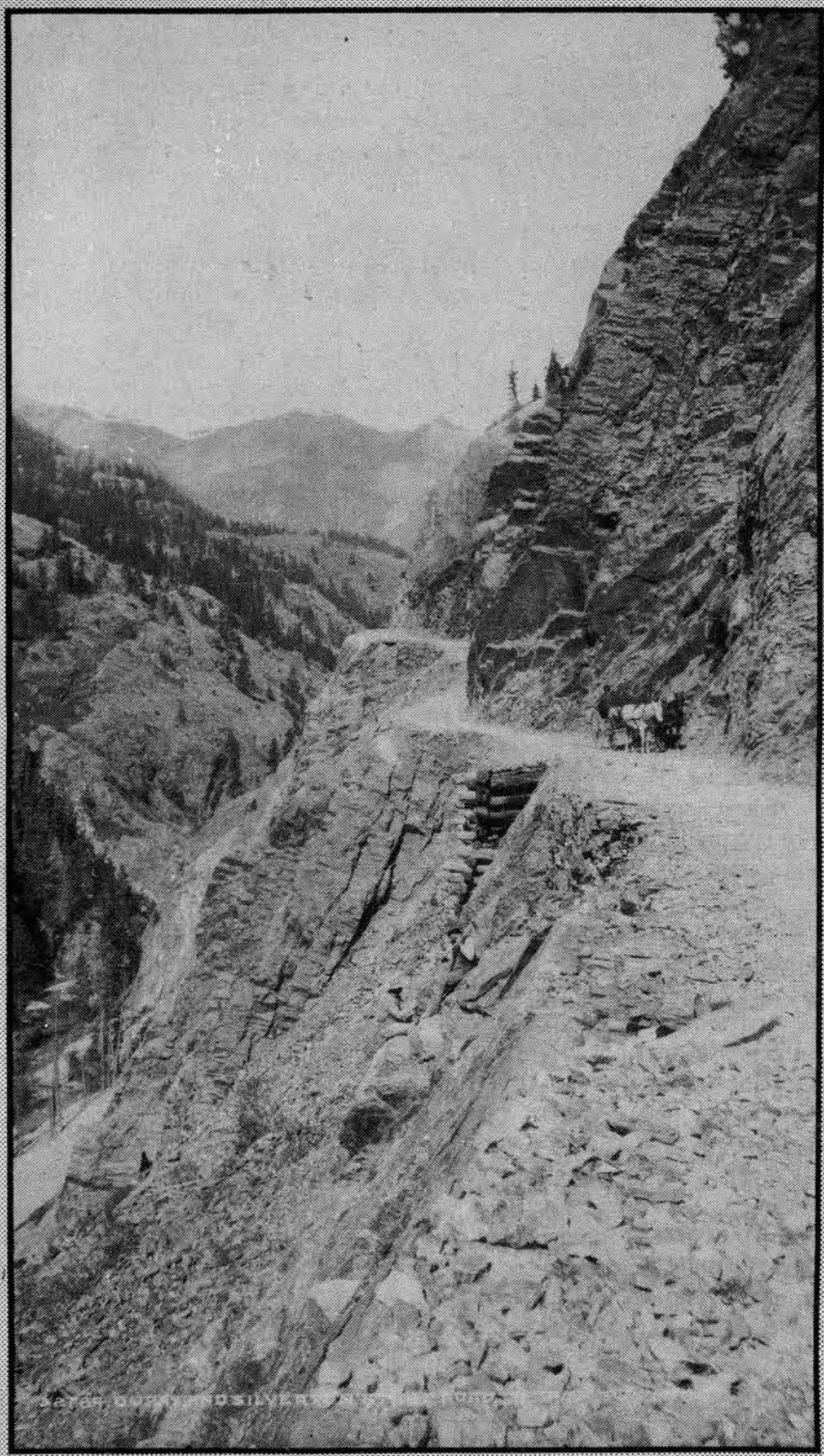
enlightened? You can bet the skiers would have howled if they'd been banned from the snowmobile trails. The snowmobilers see the logic in being restricted from the ski trails. At any rate, everyone has a place to go.

This might come as a surprise to angry environmentalists, but ORVs have gotten quieter. Most three- and four-wheelers are well muffled, as are most late-model snowmobiles. Motorcycles can be muffled, but dirtbikes continue to be the worst noise offender. Ignorant people have a theory that ORVs are noisy because the riders like them that way. Perhaps some drivers like to damage their ears, and teenagers sometimes match their raging hormones with a raging two-cycle. But the ORVers I know use a helmet or

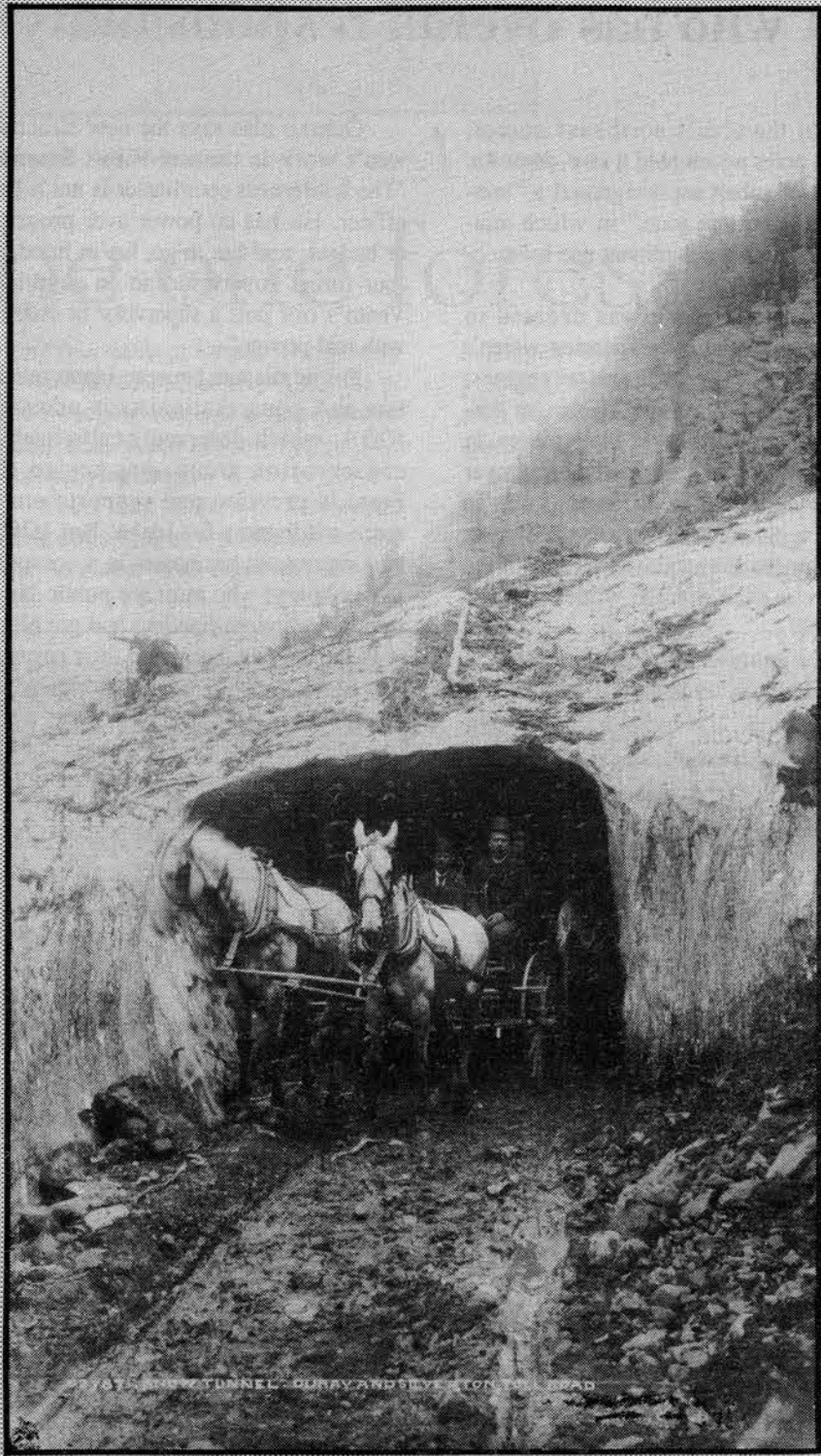
ear plugs to cut the noise and wish their machines had better mufflers. Ask any hunter using an ORV for access — they certainly have no intention of announcing their presence to wildlife.

Moreover, ORVs are not the only offender. I mentioned horses — should we ban them because I stepped in their mess and was bitten by a horsefly? (That was as nasty as the last dirtbike I heard.) Should we ban hiking because one guy left toilet paper hanging from a bush? Should we ban trail-running because a deer was startled? If we work together, many land-use problems will dissolve — even the cultural ones.

Lou Dawson
Carbondale, Colorado



George Mellen



W.H. Jackson

Horses and buggies traveled Colorado's Silverton-Ouray Toll Road in the 1880s. Photos from the Colorado Historical Society.

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of this position will involve data collection and analysis to develop whole-farm case studies covering financial, ecological and social aspects of cooperating farms. Training in holistic resource management is a desirable qualification. For more information write the Center for Rural Affairs, Box 736, Hartington, NE 68739 or call 402/254-6893. Application deadline is Sept. 29, 1992.

WILDLIFE COUNSEL. National conservation organization seeks experienced attorney to fill a new Wildlife Counsel position in Washington, D.C., directing litigation on wildlife and habitat protection issues. Send resumé to John D. Echeverria, Counsel, National Audubon Society, 666 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003. (1x16b)

LOBBYIST WANTED FOR IDAHO AUDUBON COUNCIL — for 1992 session of Idaho State Legislature (Jan. 1 to April 30, 1993). Must be an effective communicator and familiar with resource issues in Idaho. Full-time salary \$1,200/month. Contact: Dave Siebanthaler, Box 1514, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805 (208/267-2155). (3x16pp)

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COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA) opportunity in Denver. Folks interested in establishing a CSA-model garden in the Denver area are invited to attend an organizing and informational meeting on Monday, Sept. 21, from 7:00pm-9:00pm. The gathering will be at the Montview Manor penthouse, 1663 Steele St., Denver. CSA gardens emphasize organic, sustainable, co-operative practices. For more information contact Bruce Rippe at 303/650-6815. (1x16p)

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W

ake Up Colorado!

Do you know that the Department of Defense has control over 70 percent of the air space in Nevada and is trying to do the same thing here in Colorado? Using the Colorado Air National Guard as its pawn, the Dept. of Defense is trying to grab more of the air space over our national forests and wilderness areas right now.

Do you know what this means? They can fly their jets anywhere from 100 to 500 feet off the ground at 600 miles per hour, destroying our chances for preserving our wildlife areas for our children and grandchildren.

The Colorado Air National Guard will try to establish a Military Operation Area (MOA) over the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range and the Great Sand Dunes National Monument. They want to run thousands of fighters, per year, day and night. They plan to make this area a national jet air combat training facility. If we don't stop them now, some of the best Colorado wilderness will be lost to future generations forever.

Please don't let them steal our wilderness right out from under our noses. Write or call and voice your opposition to this environmental disaster. Contact Governor Roy Romer: State Capitol Building, Denver, CO 80203; 1-800-332-1716 and/or Major General John France, the leader of the military team responsible for trying to get this (MOA) approved: 6848 S. Revere Parkway, Englewood, CO 80112; 1-303-397-3028.

We need local volunteers all across Colorado as well as contributions to help fight the military. For more information regarding MOA's and to volunteer your time and/or send your monetary contribution, call 1-800-892-0135. For every minute you wait, Colorado will lose more of its wilderness.

SAY NO WAY MOA!

This ad paid for by the Say No Way MOA Alliance.

BULLETIN BOARD

DRILLING THE SHOSHONE FOREST

America's oldest national forest is examining a major increase in oil and gas drilling. Wyoming's Shoshone National Forest borders Yellowstone National Park to its west, and possible leased areas run through some historic and scenic areas, including Brooks Lake, Carter Mountain's fragile alpine tundra and the North Fork of the Shoshone River. The Forest Service's original plan called for leasing as much as 40 percent of the forest to gas and oil companies, says the agency's Bob Rossman. An alternative limits drilling while preserving more wildlife habitat and recreational resources. Rossman says oil and gas exploration in the Shoshone is nothing new; the Shoshone has been drilled 39 times in the past 40 years. The Bureau of Land Management predicts the discovery of one producing well in the next 10 years, even though only one site has produced oil in past Shoshone drillings. Says Rossman: "I think the BLM's prediction is optimistic." But the Sierra Club's Kirk Koepsel says, "The potential for environmental damage is high ... The Forest Service wants to allow drilling in the very heart of the Shoshone," he says. The Forest Service is accepting comments on the Shoshone Environmental Impact Statement until Sept. 10. So far, Rossman has received over 200 letters. Write the Shoshone National Forest, 225 West Yellowstone Ave., Cody, WY 82414, or call the Sierra Club's Northern Plains office at 307/672-0425.

COLORING THE ENVIRONMENT

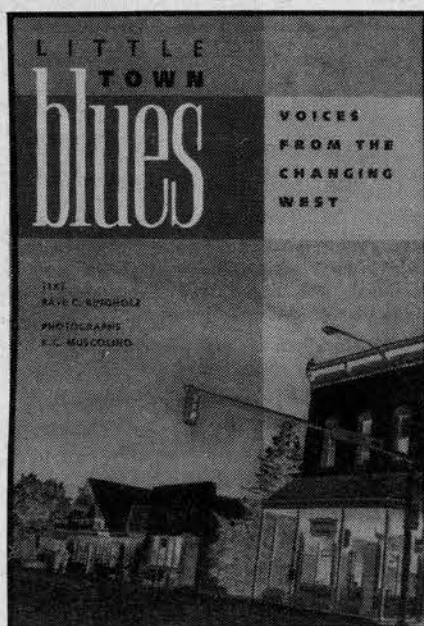
A new directory called *People of Color Environmental Groups* may be the first nationwide listing of environmental groups in non-white communities. As part of a research project, sociology professor Robert Bullard discovered how difficult it was to find these groups. When Bullard told the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, a non-profit organization funding his research, it offered to finance and produce the directory. "It was developed as a networking tool and information base," he says. "But I also see it dispelling the myth that communities of color aren't concerned about the environment." Arranged geographically, the 82-page directory lists 205 groups in 36 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Quebec, and includes addresses, phone numbers, contact persons, constituency served and other details.

Directories are available free from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, 1200 Mott Foundation Building, Flint, MI 45802-1851 (313/238-5651).

— Peter Donaldson

HE WALKED FOR WOLVES

Jeff Rottler ended his solitary "Walk for the Wolves" in Durango, Colo., Aug. 20, emerging from the Colorado Trail with 469 miles behind him and \$7,828 in pledges for southern Colorado's Mission Wolf. He said the message of his 66-day journey was respect for wolves "so humans can coexist with the natural world." Mission Wolf is a non-profit refuge for captive wolves and hybrids. Rottler, a 23-year-old student at Durango's Fort Lewis College, visited Mission Wolf in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains last spring, and says its grass-roots dedication inspired him to act on behalf of the animals. Money from his walk will help purchase a van for Mission Wolf's traveling education program. Mission Wolf can be reached at P.O. Box 211, Silver Cliff, CO 81249 (719/746-4459).

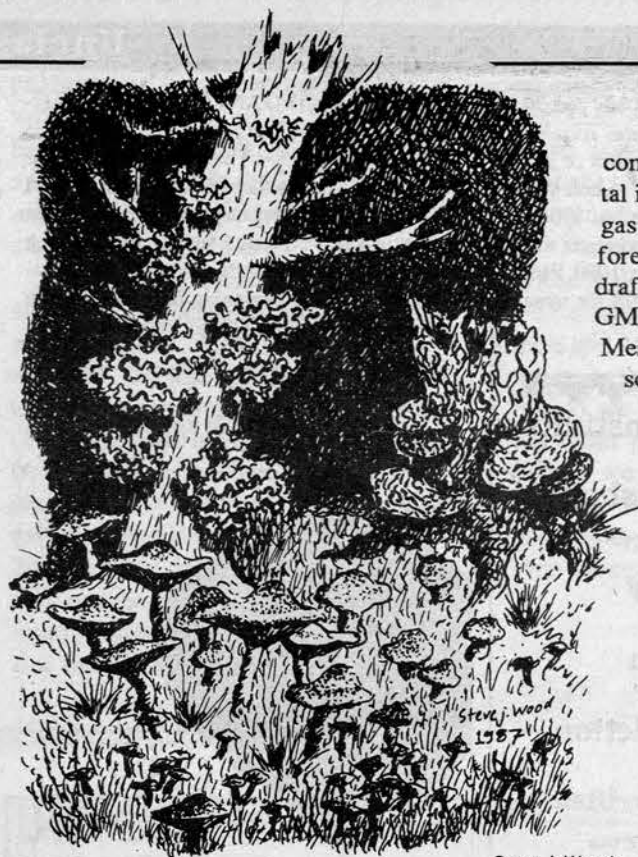


LITTLE TOWN BLUES

Western towns have always been plagued by change, by new immigrants and cycles of growth and collapse. Today, such changes occur faster than ever, says the author of *Little Town Blues: Voices from the Changing West*. Long-time Park City, Utah, resident Raye Ringholz writes of the latest deluge of tourism, recreation and second-home buyers threatening the character of rural America. For her focus, she profiles Moab, Utah, which she calls "on the cusp of change"; Sedona, Ariz., already affected by skyrocketing real estate and an influx of urbanites; and Jackson Hole, Wyo., now fully gentrified into a high-gloss resort. Illustrating the book are fine black-and-white photos by K.C. Muscolino.

Peregrine Smith Books, P.O. Box 667, Layton, UT 84041 (801/544-9800). Paper: \$14.95. 176 pages. Photos.

— Florence Williams



Steve J. Wood

VOICES OF THE NORTHWEST

Spotted owls were not able to testify before the "God Squad" — the Endangered Species Committee that urged a drastic reduction last May in the bird's critical habitat. Nor were marbled murrelets or any other creatures of great old forests able to defend their homes. The task of giving voices to these animals and landscapes is taken up by the editors of *Left Bank*, a semi-annual journal of Northwest writers and photographers. In his introduction, David T. Suzuki, host of PBS's *The Nature of Things*, writes that death is integral to life and survival, but that we must end human-caused extinction. Writers include Barry Lopez, who takes the reader on a journey of roadkills, and Sallie Tisdale, who explores Forks, Wash., timber capital of the world, where "real Americans" live in the spirit of Paul Bunyan and celebrate the development policies of former Interior Secretary James Watt. Richard Nelson writes of clearcuts, and David Quammen ponders animals in captivity. Other voices in this mosaic of Northwest landscape and culture include Tess Gallagher, Nancy Lord, Robert Heilman, William Woodall and Susan Stanley.

Blue Heron Publishing, Inc., 24450 NW Hansen Road, Hillsboro, OR 97124. 160 pages. Paperback: \$7.95. One-year subscription: \$14.

— Mark Dooley

EPA ISSUES NEW PESTICIDE RULINGS

After debating the issue for eight years while under pressure from competing lobbyists, the EPA tightened protection for farm workers who come in contact with pesticides. Issued Aug. 21, the rules could affect some 4 million employees of farms, nurseries, forests and greenhouses. The agency says the regulations could prevent 10,000 to 20,000 pesticide-related injuries a year, including respiratory and heart failure from prolonged exposure. Employers must now provide training, protective equipment and adequate emergency facilities for workers who handle poisonous chemicals. Employers must also post warnings around sprayed fields in English and Spanish that bar entry for 12 to 72 hours depending on the pesticide used. Although the rulings have little effect on penalties or enforcement, they help workers address grievances, says EPA spokesman Al Heier. However, Pablo Espinosa, the director for a farm worker advocacy group, says that without enforcement, farmers won't comply. A summary of the regulations can be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency, c/o Jim Boland H-7560C, Occupational Safety Branch, 401 M St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

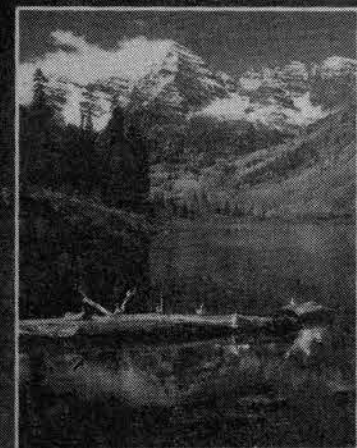


A GMUG DRAFT EIS

The Forest Service recently completed its draft environmental impact statement on oil and gas leasing in three national forests in western Colorado. The draft EIS for the 3-million-acre GMUG, which stands for Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison national forests, examines the potential for oil and gas development on about one-third of the forest land.

The agency predicts about seven more wells on some 45 new leases in the next 15 years, with most expected to be in the eastern end of the Grand Mesa forest. Currently 144 leases exist, but only 10 are producing oil and gas. The Forest Service expects royalties from oil and gas leasing on the forest land to remain about \$1.6 million a year. The agency's preferred alternative prohibits or limits leasing in several roadless areas and Forest Supervisor Bob Storch says leasing will not take precedence over other resources such as recreation or wilderness. The Forest Service is soliciting public comment for its hefty draft EIS through Oct. 13. Write: Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, 2250 Highway 50, Delta, CO 81416 (303/874-7691). Public meetings are set for Denver, Sept. 8 from noon to 7 p.m. at the Forest Service regional office and Montrose, Sept. 10 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the BLM regional office.

COLORADO HANDBOOK



STEPHEN METZGER

A DIFFERENT KIND OF GUIDEBOOK

In his *Colorado Handbook*, writer and skier Stephen Metzger advises travelers about the state's friendliest cafes and remote hiking trails. Metzger abandoned his "great American ski novel" to narrate this guide, which clues visitors in to Colorado's small-town culture and history as well as the state's cities. He likes the odd detail, warning cyclists to slow down in Boulder, for example, where even pedalers are issued speeding tickets. We learn how Rifle may have been named after a frontiersman's misplaced weapon, and Metzger tells us where on Lizard Head Pass we can see its namesake rock. He also singles out *High Country News* in Paonia as "one of the West's boldest, angriest and most progressive and intelligent environmental newspapers." Thanks to the encomium, the paper is receiving some curious visitors.

Moon Publications, Inc., 722 Wall St., Chico, CA 95928-5629 (916/345-5473). 422 pages. Color and black-and-white photos, maps and sketches. Paperback: \$15.95.

— Mark Dooley

EDITORIAL

If the West Elk developers want a suburb, let's give them a suburb

by Ed Marston

At 800 square miles, the West Elk Wilderness in Colorado's Gunnison National Forest is far from vast. You can fly over it in minutes in a small plane, and ride across it on horseback in a day. Nevertheless, thanks to its mountains, canyons and high uplifts, it is filled with hidden, difficult-to-reach places, and you can hike it for several weeks without exhausting its beauty and freshness.

It is more spectacular than many national parks, and today it is all the more desirable because it is lightly used. In the course of time, other events not interfering, the West Elk will become famous, and hiking within its borders will be rationed.

We know it because it is in *High Country News'* backyard. You can literally walk from Paonia into the West Elk. It is the land that drew some of us here, the way medieval people once migrated to cathedral towns. We love it, as do most of us who live in the North Fork Valley. Although the word "wilderness" conjures up political conflict, the West Elk, like most wilderness areas, was created by consensus and from the start it has been a highly valued community asset.

But wonderful places not only attract admirers and worshippers; they also attract hangers-on and profiteers. Christ, for example, preached against the money changers in the temple, and in America today undeveloped places are our temples.

Not surprisingly, some of those attracted to the West Elk have done more than become temporary visitors who leave no mark. A creeping suburbanization has afflicted it for years. People have bought ranches and smaller parcels bordering the wilderness and built large, often ostentatious, houses. Although they are no doubt attracted by the wildness of the West Elk, they want to enjoy that wildness from a comfortable perch. So they bring in utilities, improve roads and plant lawns. One man in the arms business has mounted a large caliber gun, which he shoots into the wilderness over and over again.

Thus far, the development has not created controversy. But in mid-August a few investors began to use helicopters to build on a chunk of private land within the wilderness itself. The new building, the first of a possible six on 240 acres, commands an enormous view, and is therefore visible for miles around. Add to this the possibility of electric generators throbbing day and night, and you have a dagger at the very heart of the West Elk.

It is not an isolated threat. Colorado has 13,700 acres of inholdings in designated wilderness. Nationwide there are over 450,000 acres. Those who drew wilderness boundaries assumed that any inholdings would eventually be dealt with. But the land management agencies have often failed to give wilderness the same attention they give logging and other natural resource activities. Although this part of the West Elk Wilderness has been in existence for almost 12 years, the inholdings remain.

The neglect of wilderness is not confined to west-

ern Colorado. Because of the West-wide scale of the problem, Congressman Bruce Vento of Minnesota has proposed legislation to force the Forest Service, Park Service and Bureau of Land Management to reorganize themselves to better manage wilderness. The West Elk situation shows that the Forest Service has not been aggressive, until recently, in dealing with western Colorado inholdings. But it also shows that more than administrative change is needed. For the inholding problems to be solved, the public needs to understand the magnitude of the threat to wilderness.

Public foots the bill

The destruction of the West Elk is being led by a man who has made a career of holding the West's sacred lands at gunpoint to extract money from a horrified public. Tom Chapman, a native and resident of nearby Somerset, has done this before at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument and at the confluence of the blue-ribbon Gunnison River with the North Fork of the Gunnison River.

At the Black Canyon, a miniature Grand Canyon not far from the West Elk, he brought a bulldozer onto its north rim and threatened to begin carving roads for a subdivision. The roads would have been visible from the heavily visited south rim. Development there was impractical, but for a few hundred dollars he could have created scars visible to tens of thousands of visitors a year. So the National Park Service paid the protection money.

A few years later, at the confluence of the Gunnison and North Fork rivers, Chapman closed off access to a blue-ribbon trout stream and threatened to begin subdividing. The owners he represented were bought out by a mix of public and private money.

Now Chapman has apparently accumulated enough money and enough of a track record to attract fellow investors and do a real development. Rather than just renting a bulldozer to threaten protected lands with mayhem, he is flying in helicopters carrying buckets of cement and loads of building logs.

The immediate urge is to try to induce the Forest Service to buy him out, or to ask The Nature Conservancy or Trust for Public Land to act as a middle man. But if this development is bought out at the developers' price, these "wilderness investors" will take their profits and do the same thing again elsewhere.

And if the development succeeds, others will follow. For by creating wilderness, we have also created what real estate developers call an "amenity." Usually amenities are golf courses or ski areas. But here the amenity is a guarantee of no surrounding development — a guarantee that these inholdings will continue to be enveloped by beautiful, quiet land. People with money are willing to pay for such federal zoning. And with the money made from selling these six houses, Chapman will search out and find other sacred places within

which to build suburbs.

So those who care about wilderness in general, and those who are local and care about the West Elk particularly, are caught between two evils. If we do nothing, wilderness will be despoiled and eventually destroyed. If we act to save this piece of wilderness, and buy out these developers, they will simply move onto some other inholding.

What we need is a policy — a plan for this West Elk development and for others that may follow.

The best way to think of these inholdings is as the opposite of a "takings." A takings is said to occur when the government either condemns private property or reduces its monetary value by, let's say, forbidding the development of wetlands. In the case of the wilderness inholdings, we have what might be called a "putting." We, the public, by prohibiting logging, road building and other mechanized activities within wilderness, have given private inholdings the benefit of iron-clad, federal zoning. It is this putting, this conferring of eternal federal protection, that wilderness developers are capitalizing on.

The West Elk has gangrene

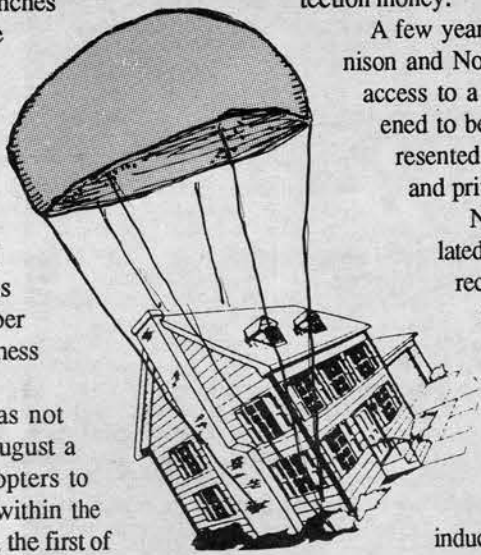
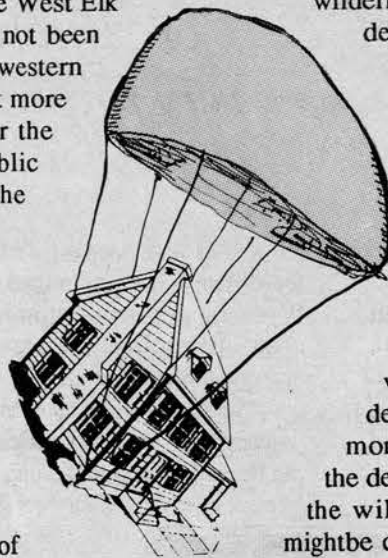
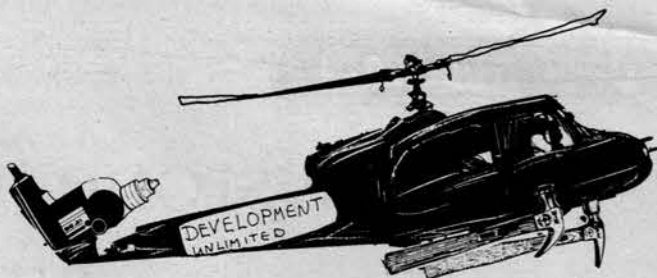
The answer is to recognize that what the public has given, the public can withdraw. We must recognize that the West Elk Wilderness has gangrene in one limb. Chapman and his investors have already destroyed a piece of wilderness. The only decision we can make is how best to amputate this diseased piece of the West Elk to prevent the spread of the poison and to ensure that those who have destroyed the wilderness do not profit from the destruction.

The most direct tactic is to remove wilderness designation from the land around the development and then road and log that land. It is mostly aspen, and the Louisiana-Pacific mill in Olathe could use the trees. And logging the land is a rural use, compatible with this area's community values, unlike the high-end country-club suburb Chapman is promoting.

There may be other ways to take away this inholding's wilderness values. But whatever the tactic, the end result must be to thoroughly destroy the wild, natural and scenic character of the land surrounding the development, and therefore to thoroughly destroy its appeal to wealthy buyers seeking solitude and beauty. This land must be martyred in order to save the wilderness system as a whole.

Wilderness is a place where nature reigns, where beauty and solitude can be experienced, and where our physical toughness and endurance can still be tested. Now wilderness presents us with another test. West Elk asks whether the wilderness movement and society at large will be able to take drastic initial action in order to stop the long-term, piecemeal destruction of the nation's protected lands. ■

Ed Marston has been the publisher of *High Country News* since 1983.



OFF THE WALL

Yellowstone forced to shoot rogue tourists after relocation fails

High Country News recently received the following press release from Yellowstone National Park's Joan Agenbite, who handles media relations. It seemed too important not to run in its entirety.

—The Editor

National Park Service officials today confirmed reports of the shooting of two tourists in Yellowstone Park early this season. The shootings were authorized under a newly implemented policy to protect bears.

"I know this sort of thing upsets people," said an assistant director, "but we had no choice in dealing with the problem. Human-grizzly encounters are simply too dangerous. We attempted relocation of both tourists in the past, but they just return the next season. The potential danger to bears had become too great, and we had to remove these tourists permanently."

Apparently both tourists had been

involved in a number of interactions with bears in the past. Park Service sources said both tourists had been relocated the previous season to what were believed to be their home ranges, New

York City and Austin, Texas. Despite the distance, both managed to return to Wyoming this year, intimidating grizzlies attempting to catch fish after emerging from hibernation.

She recounted attempts last year to keep one of the tourists, known to rangers as "Al," from approaching a grizzly with his camera to take close-ups.

'Some may think tourists are "cute" or "interesting," but they can be very unpredictable and dangerous.'

"Some may think tourists are 'cute' or 'interesting,'" said one official, "but they can be very unpredictable and dangerous."

"It was a close call for two of our rangers. Al suddenly swung his hiking stick at them. He caught one on the shoulder. They finally got a tranquilizer dart into him."

The other tourist, known as "Sonja," had been seen several times feeding marshmallows to bears. Attempts to

remove her from the area resulted in deep fingernail scratches on the necks and arms of two rangers. She also called them nasty names, one recalled.

Acknowledging controversy over the policy of shooting tourists who return to areas habituated by bears, the assistant director said, "We can't have it both ways. If we want our park safe for wildlife, then we have to do whatever is necessary to protect it."

Meanwhile, the congressional subcommittee on national parks of the Interior Committee announced an investigation into the policy authorizing the shootings. "It's a real shame when something this unfortunate happens," said the committee chairman. "It could have been avoided with more reasonable policies." Hearings begin as soon as Congress returns from the summer recess. ■

This parody of a Park Service press release was written by Mark Flower, who lives in Longmont, Colorado.

OTHER VOICES

Parachute, Colo., now looks to gambling

—by Jon Klusmire

In the 1970s, oil shale was the boom the little town of Parachute, Colo., longed for. Jimmy Carter had donned a sweater and declared a full-scale energy emergency. By 1981, oil prices were climbing daily and heading over \$30 a barrel.

With billions of barrels of "recoverable" oil shale right out their back door, the people of Parachute were sure the new fuel would keep America from freezing in the dark and help the town cash in big-time.

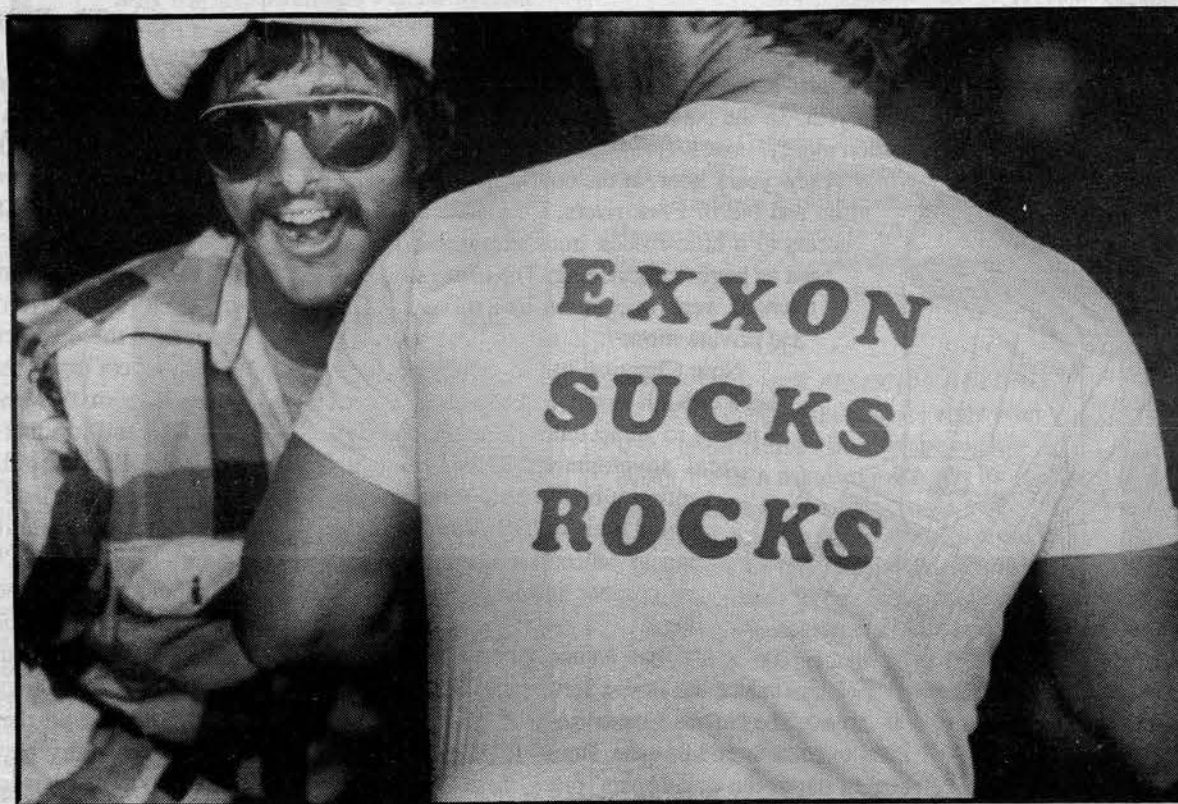
Parachute gave oil shale an enthusiastic welcome. Speculators in three-piece suits and wingtips jostled muddy-booted shale workers for space at the local pubs.

Land prices doubled and tripled and commercial and housing developments were plotted and proposed in a fast-buck bonanza that made past booms look like Monopoly games.

Before the bust hit Parachute, and then all of western Colorado a decade ago, Exxon was spending \$1 million a day on its Colony oil shale project. Just outside of Parachute, on Battlement Mesa, a sprawling town south of the Colorado River was planned for over 20,000 people.

There were a few prophets of doom. Friends of the Earth had a full-time meeting-goer named Kevin Markey who warned that environmental destruction could turn the northwest corner of Colorado into a plundered "sacrifice zone."

Amory Lovins, energy analyst at Rocky Mountain Institute, noted that the



Jon Klusmire

Hostile T-shirts proliferated after Exxon pulled out of Parachute

nation could save more oil by using the \$88 billion targeted for synfuels to buy fuel-efficient cars and then give them away.

Suddenly, on May 2, 1982, Exxon killed its Colony project. The date has remained "Black Sunday." All the shale-players' houses of cards came tumbling down as 2,200 workers got pink slips and final checks.

Then they left town in droves. There wasn't a U-Haul to be had between Denver and Salt Lake City.

Parachute has bet its future on another boom, this one on the ballot this November and called limited-stakes gambling. This cast of the dice doesn't have the support oil shale did. Many townsfolk think gambling is a silly idea and are content with the current economy. But gambling proponents there say

casinos and hotels full of tourists will get Parachute off the natural resources' wheel of fortune.

The question remains: Why does Parachute, population 500, have to drag its residents into a glittering gambler's paradise?

That's how we do things around here, comes the reply. This time we're just using poker chips and slot machines instead of shale, gas or oil. Interstate 70 will supply a steady stream of travelers who might be enticed off the road and into a casino for a little blackjack and wallet surgery.

As for other options, the best remnant of the oil shale boom is Battlement Mesa, Exxon's shale town, close to Parachute. Just enough of the new town was completed to create a highly marketable retirement community. Battle-

ment Mesa boasts cheap housing, championship golf, one of the best recreation/fitness centers on Colorado's Western Slope, a great climate and the relaxed pace and feel of small-town living.

The community is in a stable, no-boom, no-bust situation: It shows no signs of going away. More and more retirees, and their IRAs and pensions, are coming to Battlement Mesa. These folks won't leave, regardless of the fate of oil shale or gambling. They like the tranquility, the amenities, the life.

But Parachute is almost evenly divided about gambling, which can't occur unless a statewide referendum passes this November. The three towns where gambling is permitted, Central City, Blackhawk

and Cripple Creek, have already lost their Victorian mining-town charm to become centers of fast money (HCN, 5/18/92).

Those in Parachute who have become satisfied with stability see gambling as a crap shoot, with the town's soul on the line.

It's anyone's bet if Parachute will be allowed to chase the Holy Gambling Grail. It is encouraging, though, that almost half the town has decided that, to paraphrase Pogo badly, we have met the Promised Land, and we are there.

Jon Klusmire of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, started covering Parachute and oil shale in 1981. He is currently editor of *Trilogy* magazine.