

# High Country News

Vol. 3, No. 23

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, Nov. 26, 1971

## Wild Horses Rounded Up

Wild horses from the Pryor Mountains of Montana and Wyoming are being systematically thinned to provide more food and space for those which remain. The Bureau of Land Management, which manages the land, is doing the culling.

The effort to remove up to 18 head of this year's colts and 65 bachelor studs is still continuing. But winter has already taken its toll. Only 13 colts were found alive. These were captured by men on horseback, and then transported to Lovell, Wyoming, by truck. Two were brought in by helicopter because they were captured in remote, rough country.

The colts are being cared for by Dr. Ed Lowe, a veterinarian at Lovell. Rev. Floyd Schweiger of Lovell will be in charge of the colts until they are disposed of in the spring.

Homes for the colts will be found through WHOA (Wild Horse Organized Assistance) which was founded by Mrs. Velma B. Johnston (Wild Horse Annie). Mrs. Johnston said many applications had already been received by her, the BLM, the Lovell Chamber of Commerce, and other individuals.

"All applications will go through WHOA where they will be carefully screened before the final decisions are made," she said.

The ten colts are already responding well to improved feed conditions and care received since capturing began early in November. The advisory committee on wild horse management in the Pryors had recommended the colts be taken from their mothers before winter began. It was felt both mares and colts would have a better chance of survival.

Meanwhile, the trapping and transporting of up to 65 bachelor studs will go on. These horses are to be taken to the Crow Indian Reservation nearby. There they will be broken to ride if possible and if not they will be released to run free on the Indian tribal lands.

The horses are trapped in corrals, all are lip tattooed for identification, the studs are sorted with only the better ones to go back on the range, and the others are transported to their new home on the reservation. Lip tattooing is a rather simple marking procedure which causes little pain and does not show like a brand from a hot branding iron.

The reduction in wild horses was decided upon when the Wild Horse Advisory Committee appointed by former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall recommended it. Considerable controversy has arisen regarding the reduction since it was first announced last May. At that time the BLM said their studies showed a poor deteriorating range for the horses.

Charges and countercharges have flown in

regard to the horses. Some have contended that the horses are not really wild horses at all but only escapees from the plow. Others have displayed vertebral columns from horses which died on the range showing a difference of one vertebra. A true mustang is said to be endowed with only 31 while a domesticated variety gone feral has 32.

Some have contended that the herd of approximately 150 animals should have been left alone. They say that nature's way of thinning is the best, and that the process of natural selection would tend to keep the herd wild.

However, range and animal biologists pointed out that the horse herd is confined by a fence to a 31,000-acre pasture. There are no natural predators, and about the only way the herd can be reduced is by starvation. This immediately puts colts and mares at a disadvantage since the bigger, stronger studs can compete more readily. With very little survival of younger animals and weaker mares, the population is not a naturally healthy one.

Biologists also point to the range. Dr. Wayne Cook, head of the range science department at (Continued on page 11.)



Photo by Charles W. Smith

Elk herds make their way from the high country to sheltered valleys and open foothills as winter closes in on their mountain ranges. Man's encroachments and developments have crowded wild animals into less desirable habitats. As landscape diversity is decreased, more and more animals will make the endangered species list.

## Will The Devil Take The Hindmost?

The following article is reprinted from the SPORTS FISHING INSTITUTE BULLETIN, October, 1971.

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An anti-environmental coalition appears to be developing within the Administration and to be gaining domination among White House policy-makers. This is bad news for all Americans everywhere. To fail to conserve America's natural resources prudently, to fail to curb environmental pollution with all possible vigor, may be to doom the American environment to irreversible destruction on a massive scale. The latter could well lead to widespread disease and physical and mental debilitation among our people from contamination of the air and the water, and to the possible specter of eventual famine from contamination of the soil—in a word, unprecedented national disaster! Some added

cost for achieving environmental protection may be expected, of course—in terms of increased prices for goods, increased taxes for services, increased restraint on social and business conduct, occasional job dislocations from closure of marginal plants, etc.—but these forms of human inconvenience can and ought to be alleviated in the process by various readily-devised means.

Evidence that an effective anti-environmental coalition is active within the Administration comes in the last minute retreat by the White House from the final draft guidelines for air pollution control that were proposed by EPA Administrator William P. Ruckelshaus. The retreat was the forced deletion of a key provision (plus several others), that would have required industry to use the maximum available technology for controlling air pollution. The White House-forced deletion of

this key provision apparently indicates that the Administration's policy-makers intend to allow certain types of industrial pollutants to foul the air indefinitely — if the cost of controlling them is considered too high!

According to an article in THE EVENING STAR (Washington, D. C.) for August 13, 1971, by Newhouse News Service reporter Peter Bernstein, White House budget officials also succeeded in pressing EPA into cancelling plans for a nationwide permit system to control air pollution from big industry. They allegedly intervened at the joint request of Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans, Federal Power Commission Chairman John Nassikas, and several other federal officials who reflect big industry's viewpoint. Though EPA Administrator Ruckelshaus forcefully defended EPA's final draft regulations, Bernstein reported (Continued on page 11)



Friday, Nov. 26, 1971

# HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Third son, Jim, and I had a chance for a quiet discussion over dinner recently. In his studies at the University of Wyoming, he is getting exposed to some of the information which I see. We both have come to the conclusion that within his lifetime (and possibly mine, God willing that I live three score and ten) there will be some drastic and possibly catastrophic changes in the human condition.

As I look ahead into the future of my younger family (an adopted son, age 6, and two adopted daughters, ages 3 and 4) the prospects are bleak. Everything I see leads me to believe their lives are fraught with dangers. The whole world is on a merry-go-round gone mad, and the Earth being what it is, there is no way to get off. There may just be a chance to slow our headlong plunge toward common suicide, but the outlook is not promising.

I am not a pessimist by nature. I suffer no ulcers, and I rest with an easy conscience each night. My life has been a relatively happy one, and outside of a war experience, a relatively smooth and unmarred one. I have seen the futility of war first hand, and witnessed man's inhumanity to man. I remember the stricken look and near-naked bodies of little children in the cold, bombed-out cities of Italy. And I do not relish the thought of my own grandchildren being submitted to similar conditions.

It is true that a man's life is but a fleeting and ephemeral moment in the grand design of geological and historical time. And if, as our Judeo-Christian religion teaches us, we pass on to a more glorious existence in after life, we still must live out our lives here. Surely God does not ordain that the animal which He endowed with a spirit and a body in His own likeness, would be reduced to the level of any other animal. He has endowed us with an intelligence which has allowed us to rise above the level of our fellow animal creatures. And He has given us the wisdom to see that in spite of our intelligence, we are still governed by the same set of inexorable natural laws which guide the destiny of all lesser creatures.

Neither did God ordain that Man should give up on himself and resign his species to extinction. Only in the most dire straits does any human snuff out its own light. Many people suffering from the most ravishing diseases will hold dearly and tenaciously to the slender thread of life. It is just not in most normal humans to give up easily and resign themselves to a quick death and the glories of the hereafter.

But as I look down the long road, I cannot help but think Man may be committing himself to another Dark Ages. If the die has not already been cast, it soon will be unless enough people can be convinced of the consequences.

The evidence is becoming painfully evident for those who want to look and note. Conservationists have long warned that you cannot indefinitely exploit the finite resources of a small planet. And they have been warning for some years that an exploding human population, demanding ever more resources will ultimately lead to disaster.

Now, we are using the tools of our own technology to prove to ourselves we must change our social systems - or face extinction. The computers of M. I. T. are turning out frightening evidence of the dangerous course we are pursuing. Those computers show that if we do nothing to change the course of events, the world may come down around our ears sometime within the next 100 years. And when you consider that the same computer technology was able to put men on the moon within a few feet of a predetermined target, and within seconds of a predetermined landing time, the authenticity of such information leaves little question. The implications are frightening.

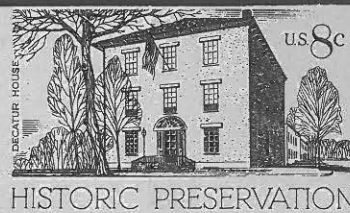
The sophisticated young people of today, with superlative educations and omnivorous reading habits, are well aware of the abundant evidence of our predicament.

It is their world, too. And it is their lives and their children's lives which will be so drastically and unalterably affected. I only wish there were more I could do in my own small way to help them.



Snow softens the landscape and provides an ever-changing pattern of form and contrast as it deepens or melts.

## Letters To The Editor



Editor:

Enclosed please find a check for \$10.00. We would like to subscribe to HIGH COUNTRY NEWS and just wish there were another paper like it for the Pacific Coast!

Mrs. Charlotte Corkran  
Portland, Oregon

Editor's note: Thank you for the subscription. I wish there were some way for the paper to cover more of the 11 western states. However, I have a difficult time just covering the northern Rocky Mountain states. There is so much going on in all of our states that there could be separate editions for each state. Given time, HIGH COUNTRY NEWS might be able to do just that.

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Editor:

Please put me back on the subscription list. The check was written weeks ago but held until a note could be put together. There are three ideas I wanted to express.

1) While we support your efforts in protecting the environment in your area, please keep enough of the paper filled with articles on how we vacationers can enjoy it. The promise of camping and hiking in the West is what keeps us looking forward to next year and another trip.

2) I would like to see some support by you and your readers toward restoring some of the budget for our parks. Unmanned entrance stations and understaffed patrols are simply short-sighted and we ought to get our congressmen to get off their collective duffs to provide the funds while the parks can still be saved from ruin.

3) A while back a guest editorial bewailed a \$2 fee for camping at North Rim and the high cost of camping. Our experience with a basic Apache tent trailer is this - if you assume \$10 a night's

lodging and \$1 a meal saved by "home" cooking, we paid for our unit in 5 years of 3-week vacations, including all fees, licenses, repairs and initial cost. The sixth year was practically free and there is a lot of life left in the rig yet. My vote is for clean, well managed campgrounds, public or private, with facilities not overtaxed by shoe-horning extra people in - and then a fee to cover the cost of the facility.

James Wichman  
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Editor's note: Thanks for the comments. are very well taken. Obviously, I am caught in the dilemma of trying to provide information on the environment in our western states and also trying to provide travel and camping news. I wish there were a way to do justice to both. I know that the people who travel to our western states often appreciate the quality of the environment more than the natives, and will let their own elected representatives know how they feel. And so I have taken the position of publishing articles telling more of what is happening to the environment than stories of telling of the scenic wonders awaiting you.

I heartily agree on the need for more and better budgeting for the national parks. I think you will find Verne Huser's column (The Wild World) of interest in this issue. Granted there is need for more and better environmental education, Yellowstone National Park is no place for another facility. And especially when the Park is suffering other needs which badly need attention.

You will be interested to note that many of us in Wyoming and the West have protested the emphasis on producing logs from our national forests to the detriment of the other multiple-uses, especially such things as adequate campgrounds and more and cleaner facilities at the campgrounds. In some cases, the Forest Service has not been at fault for dedicated men have also seen slum conditions and health problems arising from inadequate facilities. I think most people will agree with you that they are willing to pay for clean, well-managed facilities. What we need to do is make our wheel squeal louder than the timber industry's. If we don't they will have a logging road through most campgrounds anyway.



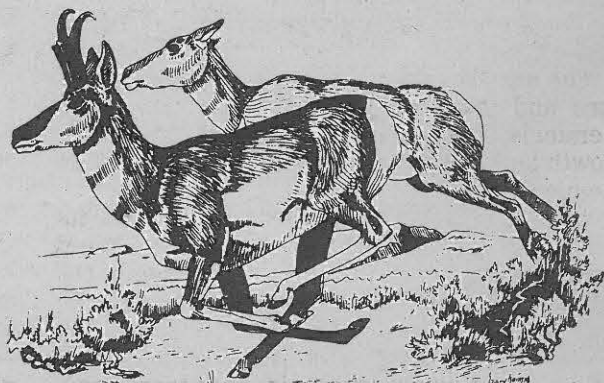
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# Guest Editorials



## What You Can't See - Might Kill You

Pollution can be seen almost everywhere. But invisible pollution may be an even greater menace.

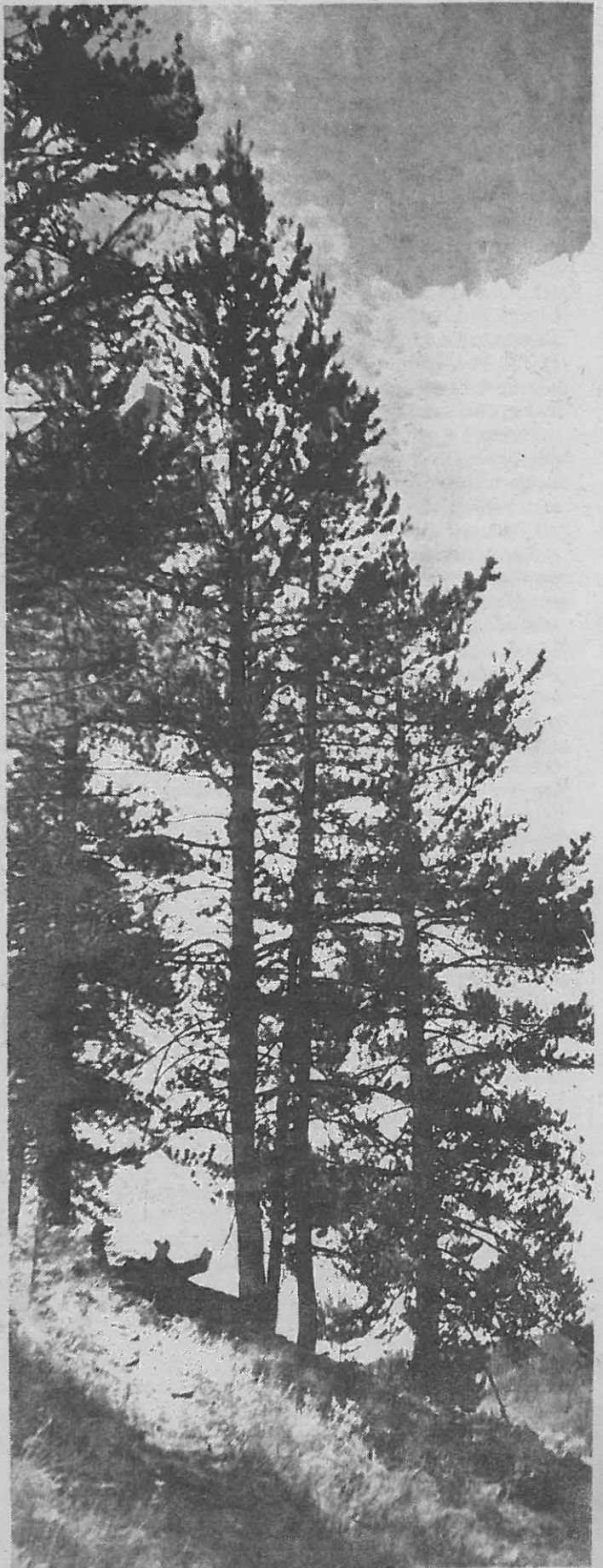
Pollution-control laws are directed at offenders that can be easily detected. And the offenders may be making matters worse by going invisible, says Vincent J. Schaefer, director of the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center, State University of New York at Albany.

One method to cut down on visible pollution in industries, for example, is to dilute the escaping pollutants with cleaner air to make the particles smaller and unseen. The role that small invisible particles may play in health is not at all clear. But, according to research at the Center, it is easy to show that the majority of small particles that reach the lungs remain there.

Schaefer also warns that buses and cars should not be allowed to idle for more than a few minutes. The exhaust from an idling car is often not visible, but if a plastic bag is held to catch the exhaust, the bag contains 100 trillion particles within a second.

According to Schaefer, his testing shows that the air in many motels and hotel rooms is cleaner than the outside air in cities or along highways. This is especially true if there is a refrigeration-type air conditioner in the room, or if the air comes from a central control.

Find out about air pollution and how to fight it more effectively. Check with your local tuberculosis and respiratory disease association, which is now conducting its Christmas Seal Campaign. It's a matter of life and breath.



## Despoiling The West

If plans for the New West now being nurtured by the coal-mining industry should succeed, they may well reverse the population trend of a century and send Americans scurrying back to the Old East. A Times survey indicates unmistakably that, unless a dangerous course is arrested, the shabby desolation of strip-mined regions in Appalachia will be reproduced on a monumentally larger scale from New Mexico to the State of Washington.

The attractiveness of strip-mining - to the coal companies - is obvious and understandable. Operating costs are about one-quarter those of deep mining, the process is less hazardous and productivity per man is five times as great. Western coal beds, moreover, contain 77 per cent of the country's economically strippable reserves - much of it of the low-sulphur variety now in demand by electric utilities subjected for the first time to air pollution restrictions. Above all, this low-sulphur coal is the greatest potential source of natural gas, capable of replacing wells which now produce this cleanest of fuels but which are due to run out in the next fifteen years.

The consequence of these advantages is that mining leases on public lands have for some time been disposed of with a lavish hand by the Federal Bureau of Land Management. Largely ignored is the price to be exacted along with the coal by the mammoth earth-moving equipment that has replaced the miner's pick. Stripped mountainsides, "spoilbanks" of uprooted earth, streams silted up and poisoned with acids, trees and grass swallowed up in man-made "badlands" - these are the features of a countryside despoiled by this process.

Hearings on the whole question of strip mining are scheduled in the House of Representatives early this fall. Proposals range from the Administration's bill to require that the states set reasonable standards for reclaiming abandoned mining sites to the effort by

Representative Ken Hechler of West Virginia to outlaw strip mining altogether.

The hearings should open the eyes of Americans to the ravages this practice has already involved and its imminent threat to the grandeur of the West.



## DDT Problem

The London Observer

GENEVA - Although DDT has proved deadly to certain forms of wildlife, the World Health Organization has issued a warning that its sudden wholesale withdrawal from use as an insecticide would be a major disaster in terms of human life.

In the 10 years up to 1970 more than one billion people were freed from the risk of malaria mainly through the use of insecticides, and especially DDT.

The most spectacular result was achieved in Ceylon even before that. Malaria cases there dropped from 2.8 million in 1946 to 110 in 1961, with deaths reduced from 12,587 to none after country-wide spraying.

Other major successes were in Mauritius, where malaria deaths fell from 1,589 in 1949 to three in 1955, and in Venezuela, where patients receiving treatment declined from 87,115 in 1943 to 800 in 1958.

In many places, says a World Health Organization report, the improvement in health broke the vicious circle of poverty and disease by cutting malarial sickness and death, which in turn led to heavier farm crops from a bigger and healthier force of workers.

But then comes the other side of the story. The report admits that DDT in the environment for the past 25 years has caused the contamination and reduction of fish in streams, lakes and offshore seas, and the progressive extermination of some birds that prey on fish and on other birds.

Some hawks and eagles are disappearing from Europe and North America, chiefly because their eggs are ceasing to hatch.

Thus DDT has been at once a boon to man and a deadly enemy of wildlife.

The report emphasizes that DDT used against malaria does not endanger wildlife so much as its use on farms and in forests: only two per cent of a household spray finds its way to outside soil. The report therefore recommends that the use of DDT outdoors should be reduced to a minimum.

For control of carrier-borne disease, the report argues, the use of DDT should be continued only through indoor spraying against malaria mosquitoes, indoor dusting against plague fleas, and in dusting powder against typhus lice. DDT should not be applied to water resources nor sprayed from the air, it adds.

The report says, however, that a sudden and wholesale withdrawal of DDT as an insecticide would be a major disaster.

Even the restrictions on its use in Scandinavian countries, the United States and Canada have caused grave concern in a number of developing countries. WHO officially urges countries manufacturing insecticides (including DDT) to continue making them available to developing countries for malaria control or eradication.

But WHO does not want the medical use of DDT to continue indefinitely.

Reprinted from THE IDAHO STATESMAN,

Boise, Oct. 26, 1971.

## Dilemma Posed

Former Idahoan Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, Nobel Peace Prize winner, warns against going overboard in controlling pesticides. He says a complete ban on fertilizers and pesticides would greatly reduce food production.

Generally what critics of pesticide abuses have been advocating is control, not a complete ban. Dr. Borlaug, in warning against a total ban on fertilizers and pesticides, is sounding an alarm against a threat which seems remote, to say the least.

Pesticides and other chemicals are contributing to the destruction of marine life in the oceans, which are also a source of food for man.

Since the scientists don't agree on which chemicals should be banned, or restricted, the layman has a bad time. It's a complicated field where much research remains to be done. Some of DDT's sins are proven, but what will the substitutes do?

When distinguished scientists on one side say one thing, and a Nobel prize winner says something else, uncertainty reigns.

As Dr. Borlaug points out, the overpopulated nations of the world that are struggling to feed their people will insist on using fertilizers and pesticides. You can't ignore hunger.

In this field the world needs an estimate of what the environmental effect will be if these nations are able to feed a world population expected to double in less than 40 years. And what are the alternatives for producing that amount of food - if any.

The answer perhaps is not simply more and more people and more and more chemicals, but a reduced rate of population growth and more careful and enlightened use of chemicals.

With its relative agricultural abundance, its technology and its scientific base, the United States ought to offer leadership among the nations of the world in addressing that riddle.

If we recognize that there are grave obstacles to imposing bans on fertilizers and pesticides, let us also recognize that there may be grave consequences from continuing to accelerate their use.



# Diverse Landscape Necessary

By Dr. Dennis H. Knight

The following article is reprinted courtesy of the author, Dr. Dennis H. Knight, Professor of Botany at the University of Wyoming. It was first printed in the JOURNAL OF RANGE MANAGEMENT, Vol. 24, No. 5, September, 1971. Its original title was, "Relevance of the Population Explosion to Management of Sparingly-Populated Lands."

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The human population problem has been the subject of considerable investigation. Apparently the optimum carrying capacity for mankind on earth has been exceeded. Problems are occurring that seem to be the result of people making too many demands on the resources of a finite management unit - the earth.

If it were possible to support our present human population with a satisfactory standard of living, there would be little need for concern. But in fact more than 1 billion people on the earth are either undernourished or malnourished. In our own country food is not yet the major problem, but open space is dwindling and parks are crowded; noise, pollution, ugliness, and general unrest are on the increase; and resources are becoming more difficult to acquire without unfortunate consequences. By the year 2000 the U. S. could have another 100,000,000 people if current trends continue. The demands of these additional people would be magnified by still greater affluence and resource consumption per capita.

What do these trends in our country and the world mean to the manager of our sparsely populated lands? This question can be considered by focusing on the concept of landscape diversity.

## Diversity in the Landscape

Landscape diversity is the number of different communities in the landscape. To evaluate landscape diversity, it is first necessary to classify communities; several classification systems are possible, but I will use a scheme suggested by Odum. The community types that Odum lists are 1) protective communities, e.g. wilderness, smaller natural areas, parks, wild rivers; 2) compromise or multiple-use communities, e.g. much of our forest and range land; 3) productive communities, e.g. agricultural land and perhaps strip mines; and 4) urban-industrial communities. Odum suggests that our civilization here in America, and in the world, depends on a certain proportion of all four community types. Obviously the categories are very general and would apply to a large landscape unit, usually not just a single watershed.

Though initially Fig. 1 may appear very general and simplistic, I believe that it deserves serious consideration and it does suggest some practical implications when considered in the context of the population problem. For example, as population pressure increases in the country as a whole, we can expect that urban-industrial communities will increase in the west, on the one hand reducing the amount of productive land, but also demanding more production. To meet this production demand, rangeland will be used much more intensively, converted to agricultural land with irrigation, or consumed by mining activities to provide mineral resources. With more demands for specific resources, compromise multiple-use communities such as rangeland probably will have a lower priority and will give way to productive communities; and protective communities will be either reduced in area or even more crowded to the extent that they can hardly be classified any longer as protective. It seems clear that the trend with more population pressure will be toward urban-industrial and productive communities, with a decline in the compromise and protective communities that are also in demand, but which probably will not have priority.

Obviously large land areas need to be considered when looking at land management from this viewpoint. Furthermore, the illogic of resource management on the basis of political boundaries is apparent. Although a general approach, there are definite practical implications. For example, consider the following:

1. As population increases, there will be more demand for the mineral resources and energy reserves in the sparsely populated west, with the destruction of range land and the subsequent, inevitable reclamation problems in an arid environment.

2. More rangeland will be irrigated and cultivated to allow more "efficient" primary production, with the accompanying costly

problems of getting already scarce water and then fighting the salinization of not only the land, but the drainage water and ground water as well. Wild rivers will be sacrificed.

3. Costs of maintenance will increase greatly as production is demanded from land that is marginal for that kind of production; some land is best used as range, but population pressure will force the conversion of rangeland into cropland, mines, or suburbia.

4. Forest management will become more dependent on the plantation approach, with fertilization and weed control increasing the chances for eutrophication and less wildlife diversity.

5. Protective communities and compromise communities will be sacrificed in the name of progress to provide resources. Parks will become even more crowded than they are today and hardly will serve their purpose, becoming more like urban communities.

6. With greater population pressure, cost-benefit ratios will be applied more often but will not consider beauty, stability, or diversity in the landscape. Conflicts of interests will become sharper, and solutions to land management problems will become increasingly less satisfactory.

In general, greater population pressure in the United States will create more conflicts for the manager in the sparsely populated west, and more problems for which the solutions are not clear or are very expensive. A general decline in our ability to import resources from the rest of the world will aggravate the problem for the western land manager. The pressures referred to are really not something of the future; they are upon us today and can only get worse as our demand for open space and resources continues to increase.

Of course, it may be an erroneous assumption to maintain that diversity in the landscape should be maintained, but many believe that diversity in the landscape increases the opportunity for stability and a quality life. The problem is to provide so many people with the opportunity to experience and utilize each type of community. Our nation has already sacrificed much of its protective communities in order to produce more in the name of progress and development. Now with greater population pressures, and suffering state and municipal economies, we are literally forced to produce more, this time in the name of humanity, regardless of the impact of landscape diversity and the quality of our environment.

## The Social Problem

The maintenance of a diverse landscape that provides a high quality environment for many people is not so much a technical problem as a social one, involving what appears to be wrong attitudes on the part of the U. S. public. For example, too many people in North America are still operating under the mythical assumption that we have a super-abundance of resources. We are indeed fortunate to have a good resource base, but the resources available to us are limited and we are making sacrifices to utilize them. The resources may be there, but must they all be utilized? If we desire a high quality life for our people in this country, can we really afford to use resources that lead to the destruction of already limited protective communities. If our

population continues to increase, there seems to be no alternative.

Another attitude problem with many Americans is their notion that the sparsely populated western lands are still a frontier waiting for development. The "woodsman mentality" suggested by Kollmorgen still persists and we have headlines in the Wall Street Journal that read, "BOOM IN THE BOONDOCKS, COAL MEN RUSH TO BOUNTIFUL WESTERN FIELDS..." A mere lack of people does not indicate no development; there are no frontiers on the earth today. Land suitable for production is already in production with few exceptions. Other lands in protective or compromise communities may not be producing what Wall Street economists think essential for development, but these lands are adding to the enjoyment of many people and will do so for

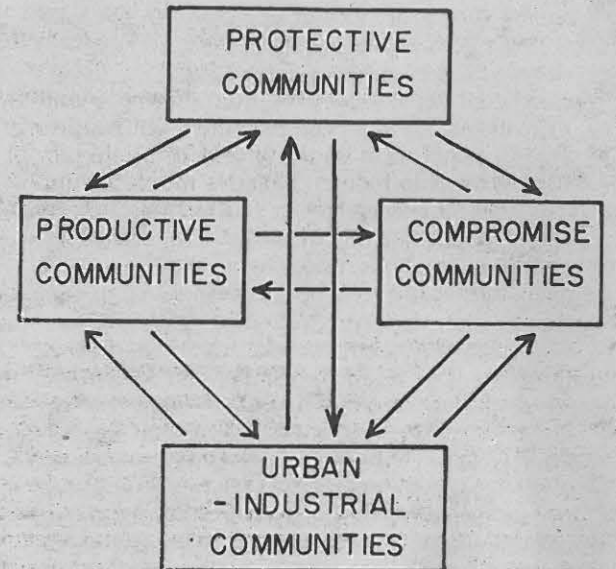


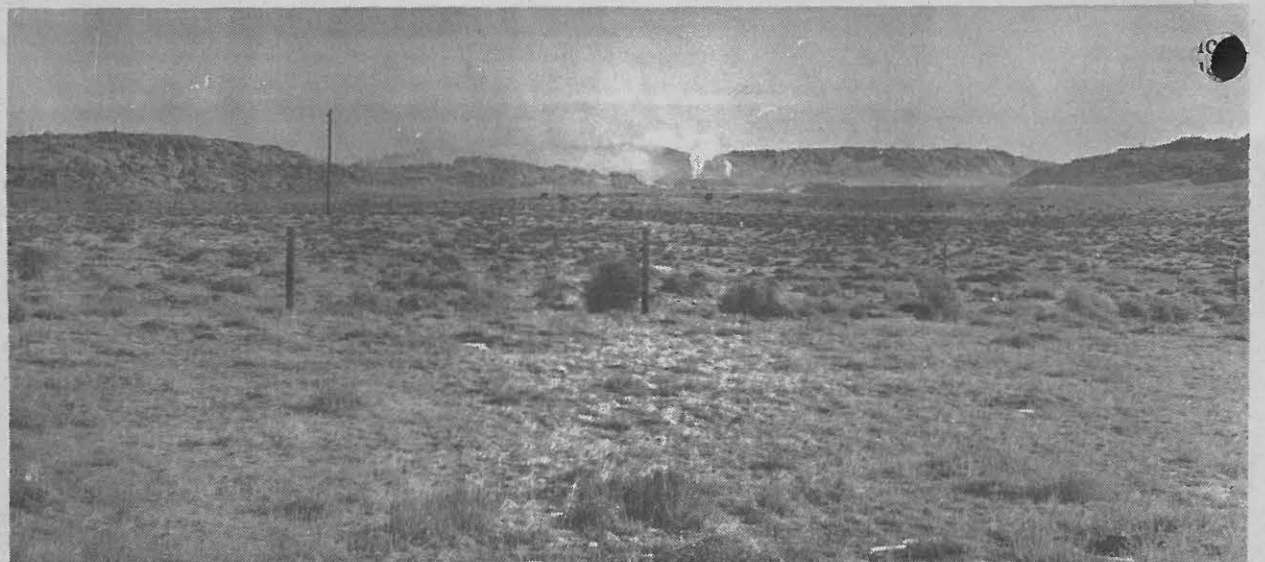
FIG. 1. Four basic communities or environments in the landscape; the arrows suggest interaction. Population pressure will result in the conversion of more of the landscape to productive and urban-industrial communities. Modified after Odum (1969).

many more people in the future if we can preserve them. Certainly new industries can be established in western lands, but if the frontier attitude persists, we will soon appreciate the value of what has been lost. A higher tax base may result from short sighted development, but so do other costly problems, and diversity in the Nation's landscape declines.

If we expect attitudes to change, then people must understand the problems associated with population demand, and they need to understand the necessity for population control. The land manager can facilitate this understanding by talking about the advantages of a stable population as well as the disadvantages of continued population growth. Family planning is an absolute necessity for proper land management, regardless of where a family lives, and land managers or their teachers are not doing their job unless they advocate no more than two children per family at every opportunity and explain why.

Often people admit that a population problem exists, but usually the notion is that nothing can

(Continued on page 11.)



What was once an untamed frontier (protective community) became a fenced rangeland (compromise community) and is now showing the effects of a mining-milling complex (productive community). The combination of increased population, increased mechanization with mining trucks and equipment, and increased industrialization with air pollution has drastically changed the diversity of the landscape here. This site is along Wyoming's Sweetwater River at Jeffrey City, where uranium is mined and milled.



# "Bigger Is Better" Syndrome Exploded

by Colorado State Rep. Richard Lamm

The assumption that growth is good comes as close to being a universally accepted truth as any we live by. Yet recently we are beginning to question the "bigger the better" philosophy; we are beginning to see that growth may be counter-productive to most of the hopes, goals and aspirations of Colorado citizens.

The growth in Colorado's population during the last 10 years gives cause for alarm; Colorado grew 25.8 per cent during the 1960's and now is home to more than 2.2 million people. Much of this growth was immigration. At the same time, those people have increasingly located in the front range. Thirty-two of Colorado's 63 counties lost population in the last 10 years, rural communities losing their young people to the already crowded cities for lack of opportunity in their home areas. Meanwhile Colorado's front range stands in danger of becoming one large, smoggy, polluted strip-city with 88 per cent of the people on 2 per cent of the land.

The future seems no better. Some planners project that by the year 2000 the front range will have a population equal to that of Michigan, or Illinois or Ohio today. There is much to support this view; a recent poll in California showed one out of three Californians were tired of the crowding and pollution and wanted to move elsewhere. Their three most popular choices to move were Oregon, Colorado, and Arizona.

I suggest that this would not be in Colorado's interest. We cannot be another California even if we wanted to, and few want to. Colorado clearly does not have the water to become another California. Colorado's entire available yearly water supply is only equal to a week's runoff of the Columbia River in flood. We have available in Colorado only about 8 million acre feet of water yearly, and that is already fully appropriated. Thus already additional growth will be at the expense of one of our major industries, agriculture.

Felix Sparks, director of Colorado's Water Conservation Board and one of the most knowledgeable water experts in the west has stated it well:

"Virtually all future municipal increases in water usage will come about at the expense of the agricultural economy. When we speak therefore of supporting a much larger urban population, we must realize that we will be slowly destroying an agricultural and rural society in favor of an industrial and urban society."

It will not only be agriculture which will suffer nor our heretofore balanced economy. It is doubtful that those living in cities benefit from growth. We are increasingly finding evidence that additional growth beyond a certain size costs the average taxpayer far more than the benefits he receives. Historically, the justification for the chamber of commerce version of progress was that growth "increases the tax base." We are finding now that while growth increases the tax base, it increases the cost of public services even more.

The prestigious Advisory Committee of Intergovernmental Relations has recently released a report, "Size Can Make a Difference," which shows that as a city grows the per capita cost of municipal services grow as well. Thus beyond a certain point of growth "diseconomies of scale" set in and growth ends up costing the average taxpayer additional costs in sewage disposal, in police protection, in schools, libraries, and most, or all, other municipal services.

Colorado is currently besieged by an unprecedented number of land developers, promoters, get-rich-quick schemers who are "promoting" Colorado for their own benefit. It is not for the benefit of the average Colorado citizen. Historically people have assumed that "development" was profitable for the taxpayers.

We see now it is not quite that simple. A recent study in California compared the cost/benefit of developing agricultural land in Ventura County, Calif. It showed that residential use brought in \$40 million in revenue and cost \$97 million in services; that industrial use brought in \$8 million in revenue and cost \$8.9 million; commercial use brought in revenue of \$2.5 million and cost \$3.9 million in services. The study concluded that maintaining agricultural use of the land, which brought in revenues of \$16 million and cost only \$380,000 in services was the only justified course of action. A similar study of open space in Palo Alto, Calif., showed that it would be cheaper for the taxpayers to immediately purchase 6100 acres of land than to permit it to be "developed."

Editor's note: Some interesting figures have recently come to light in the course of

discussions involving rate increases by Mountain Bell Telephone Company.

Company spokesmen point out that rates for an individual, residential telephone line go up as the number of telephones in a community increases. The following comparable figures on telephone rates were obtained for HIGH COUNTRY NEWS through the courtesy of our local telephone manager:

- Baltimore - \$8.10
- Phoenix - \$8.00
- Boston - \$7.90
- Denver - \$7.20 (rate increases pending)
- Casper and Cheyenne, Wyoming - \$6.20
- Rock Springs - \$5.70
- Cody and Riverton - \$5.35
- Lander - \$5.10 (proposed 60¢ increase)
- Buffalo - \$5.10
- Afton - \$4.80
- Pine Bluffs - \$4.30

Chicago, New York and Los Angeles are not comparable because these cities are so big the rates are figured in another way.

Similarly, an article in THE DENVER POST (Empire Magazine, Oct. 31, 1971), authored by two Colorado legislators, Richard D. Lamm

(above) and Michael Strang, points to other areas. The article, entitled COLORADO'S PEOPLE PROBLEM: IS THERE A SOLUTION?, states, "R. J. Smeed, a traffic systems analyst, has shown that the more commuters a town has, the more highways per capita it must build. Where there are 10,000 commuters in a town, they require eight square feet of roadway per person; 100,000 commuters require 28 square feet per person, and 1 million commuters require 97 square feet of roadway per person. Smeed thus shows that a 100-fold increase in population requires not a 100-fold increase in roadway, but a 1,200-fold increase.

"A Ford Foundation study, which produced the table below, shows how crime rates increase as population rises:

"There is evidence that concentrating people also increases their susceptibility to disease, even non-communicable disease. For instance, California has shown its most crowded counties have the highest emphysema death rates.

"We thus see that public needs rise faster than public revenues. Growth may, in some or many cases, be counter-productive, that is, as you grow you pay more and more and more..."

Population size 1960	Number of crimes per 100,000 per year			
	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault
Over 250,000	6.8	15.2	117.6	154.1
100,000 to 250,000	5.6	7.6	56.5	83.3
50,000 to 100,000	3.3	5.5	36.6	58.9
25,000 to 50,000	2.9	4.7	22.6	39.9
10,000 to 25,000	2.4	4.0	15.7	35.2
Under 10,000	2.7	3.3	12.8	28.9



Photo by Jeff Clack

The figure of a lone pronghorn buck in a landscape of many square miles of undeveloped land is misleading. Much of Wyoming's prime antelope habitat is underlain by coal, uranium and oil shale. As these minerals are developed, much of the former game range will become spoil piles, with serious question as to whether they can ever be reclaimed to usable landscape.

Editor's note: Some interesting figures have recently come to light in the course of



# The Beartooth-Absaroka...

by Tom Brown, Staff Writer

The following articles on the proposed Beartooth-Absaroka Wilderness Area were written by Billings Gazette Staff Writer Tom Brown. His analysis and comments are directed at this particular area, but are broad enough to be applied to other de facto and primitive areas of the West.

The editor

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"In wildness is the preservation of man," Henry Thoreau wrote as he reflected at Waldon Pond in mid-1800 New England.

As he wrote, America consisted almost entirely of pure, undisturbed wilderness interspersed with pockets of habitation.

Ascant 100 years later the scene had reversed and only the remote, rugged, out-of-the-way spots remained untouched.

SEEING THE wild disappearing and agreeing with Thoreau that undisturbed spaces were good for man's spirit, Congress passed a wilderness act in 1964.

Its purpose was to designate and preserve those areas of public land still deemed wild in a series of wilderness areas.

Government agencies were given 10 years to report to Congress on which areas under their management should come under wilderness protection.

The Forest Service is now in the final stages of developing that report on the Beartooth-Absaroka area.

BUT WHILE some wish to preserve the wild to be used by man only in a primitive type experience, others term wilderness classification a lock up and seek development.

In a sense those favoring development are right. Wilderness is a lock up or lock out of man's typical developments.

Wilderness law prohibits roads, it prohibits cabins and prohibits his motor powered vehicles. But some of the fears put forward by development types - such as there can be no trails or that only a very few people will be allowed in the protected areas - are simply myths.

The facts are that there can be and are trails in wilderness areas.

ROBERT MILLER, head of the wilderness study for the Custer National Forest, says trails in the Beartooth-Absaroka area would be maintained and a modest expansion program implemented under wilderness classification.

Under a non-wilderness, backcountry type classification, he says, the Forest Service would build even more trails and to standards which could, in some instances, handle scooter and motor traffic.

Wilderness trails, when possible, would be primitive and designed to minimize man's impact upon the land. Backcountry trails would be built to higher stands and more for the convenience of travelers.

PEOPLE, he says, would have to be managed in both types of areas. In wilderness, emphasis is placed on dispersal without permanent campgrounds and facilities.

In nonwilderness, campgrounds, permanent

outhouses, horse corrals and other facilities can be provided.

More people, Miller says, could be handled under nonwilderness classification. This would be made possible by more facilities such as permanent campgrounds and because faster trips could be made via scooters or from planned access roads.

However, nonwilderness, he says, would require more management personnel from the Forest Service to see that scooters stay on trails and that the recreation areas aren't destroyed.

And, Miller says, Custer Forest areas are not near their capacity in numbers of people, even under wilderness.

For example, he estimated that about 150 people used the popular Lake Plateau of the Absaroka on a heavy weekend last summer. He says the area could probably stand at least 300 hikers with proper dispersal before damage to wilderness resource would occur.

Under nonwilderness, use would have to be limited to about 300 also to prevent damage he says. Although, with faster trips, a few more might be able to use it.

At any rate, the myth that only say a dozen people would be allowed in the wilderness at one time is not true.

Earlier in the fall Forest Service officials said limits on the number of people which could be allowed in the Beartooth Primitive Area (similar to the wilderness classification) were not in the foreseeable future.

Limits on people numbers could and are coming in such high use areas as those near Los Angeles and Denver but those levels have not yet hit the Beartooths.

The difference between wilderness and nonwilderness management of backcountry areas is based in philosophy.

In nonwilderness, the area is a playground for man with the necessary facilities constructed to make his visit convenient and to allow for large number use.

In wilderness, man is a visitor who comes to see and to leave untouched. That means fewer conveniences and only those developments as are necessary to preserve the wilderness and provide man with access to it.



## The Studies

The fate of Montana's highest and most rugged mountain area is being decided.

The decision will be made by Congress after receiving a recommendation from the Secretary of Agriculture through the Forest Service.

At question is the Beartooth - Absaroka area of southcentral Montana and northern Wyoming.

The area contains hundreds of lakes, numerous mountains above 12,000 feet, including Granite Peak the state's highest at 12,799 feet, and a rich collection of big game animals and fish.

It is also largely unspoiled and undeveloped - a defacto wilderness which includes two established primitive areas.

The decision is whether to bring the wild area under formal protection as a wilderness area or

to subject it to some type of development.

Action on the unspoiled area began in 1964 with the passage of a national act calling for a review of Forest Service Wilderness for possible inclusion into a system of formal wilderness areas.

The Forest Service was directed to study all primitive and defacto wilderness areas and make recommendations by 1974 as to how much or if any of each particular area should gain the wilderness protection.

The Custer National Forest in conjunction with the Gallatin National Forest began work in the Beartooth-Absaroka country in 1968 with field studies.

The studies, which were designed to catalogue resources (such as mineral, timber, recreational and water) was completed last summer.

The Forest Service then developed three possible proposals for the area (see map below) and began a series of informal hearings with all interested groups in the region, both conservationists and developmental.

These hearings are now winding up and, according to Robert Miller who directs the study for Custer National Forest, all comments and recommendations from the interested public must be in his office in Billings by Thanksgiving.

Miller says the Forest Service will then develop a brochure listing and explaining their recommendation for the area which will be made public next spring.

The public will have an opportunity to offer its opinion on this Forest Service proposal during a series of hearings in the fall of 1972.

Miller says the Forest Service will then develop a final recommendation which will be forwarded through the Secretary of Agriculture to Congress.

Congress will then hold another series of public hearings and, possibly, bills will be introduced for wilderness classification.

Only a vote of Congress can set aside public land as wilderness.

## The Alternatives

Preservation of a large part of the Beartooth-Absaroka area in a wilderness state is recommended by the Forest Service in alternative one.

This proposal calls for a wilderness area of 538,310 acres consisting of the present Absaroka and Beartooth Primitive Areas plus the addition of 250,000 acres of adjacent lands.

A key part of alternative one is a corridor tying the two proposed wilderness areas (Beartooth and Absaroka) into one continuous section. (See map)

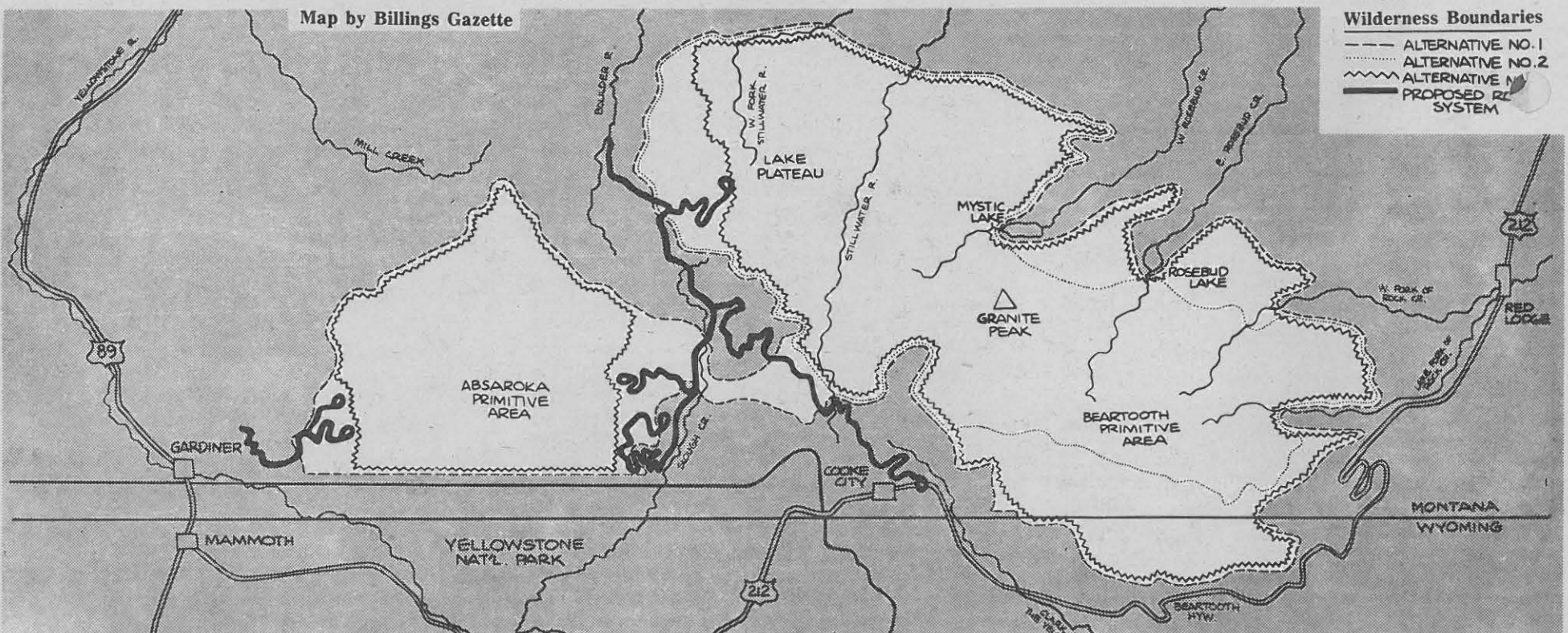
It also would include the lake basin region south of the present Beartooth Primitive Area lying in Montana and Wyoming.

Under this proposal, recreational use would consist of wilderness horse and backpacking experience with motorized vehicles, roads and most permanent facilities prohibited.

Management plans call for full development of surrounding, non-wilderness areas for camping and vehicle experiences.

The Forest Service report lists a primary management objective under this proposal as promoting dispersal of people and their animals to keep environment damage to a minimum.

(Continued on page 7)



**Wilderness Boundaries**  
 - - - ALTERNATIVE NO. 1  
 - - - ALTERNATIVE NO. 2  
 - - - ALTERNATIVE NO. 3  
 - - - PROPOSED RECREATION SYSTEM

Box K Lander, Wyo 83350  
 been adequately considered to warrant action at  
 the west of Shoshone Creek  
 fourth secondary road would be constructed



# ...A Proposal

Wildlife, the Forest Service report says, would be least affected by this alternative since human pressure from vehicle hunters along with habitat degradation from large numbers use, would be eliminated.

"Hunting pressure on grizzly bears (in the Absaroka area) and other big game animals would not increase and in many areas be reduced," it states.

The potentially harvestable timber resource located mostly in the Absaroka part, could not be cut under alternative one.

Minerals would not be affected since "information to date indicates no significant mineral deposits within the area which would be designated as wilderness," the report states.

Grazing within the area would be limited to recreational stock and wild animals except for permits encompassing some 11,000 sheep which are now in existence and would be allowed under exemptions in the Wilderness Act.

## The Minimum

Minimal wilderness in the Beartooth-Absaroka area would result under Forest Service alternative two.

The proposal would strip 38,600 acres from the present Beartooth Primitive Area and entirely eliminate the Absaroka Primitive Area.

It would add 107,400 acres to the remaining part of the Beartooth Primitive Area for a wilderness of 298,800 acres.

NOTABLY EXCLUDED from wilderness protection would be the lake basin region of Montana and Wyoming, the area between East and West Rosebud Creeks, Red Lodge Creek Plateau and the lower timbered portion of the high lakes region.

The protected area would be limited to mostly the high, rugged portion of the Beartooth range.

There would be a sharp difference between alternative one and two in recreational use.

Where alternative one would be restricted primarily to a wilderness experience, alternative two would allow a wide range of motorized vehicle use in the area outside the small wilderness.

The second alternative would also permit permanent improvements such as tables, fireplaces, toilets, water systems and horse corral and feeding areas.

"IN GENERAL, more people could use the area at one time doing a larger variety of activities but experience would not be in the natural surroundings common to wilderness," the report states.

A major Forest Service management objective would consist of expanded trail systems in the Rosebuds and Lake Plateau regions with "a form of motorized vehicle use instigated to be compatible with existing horse use."

Pressure on wildlife and fishing would be greater, the report says, requiring more management aided by modern equipment such as aircraft. Increased fishing would help some over supplied lakes, it says.

Timber and mineral management would be the same as in alternative one and some additional grazing would be allowed in what is now the Absaroka Primitive Area.

## Roads

A road corridor between Beartooth and Absaroka Wilderness areas highlights Forest Service alternative three.

This proposal contains essentially the same area as alternative one except for that which would be taken by a road system.

Total wilderness would be 488,200 acres.

Forest Service plans call for construction of a two lane paved road of the "scenic and recreational variety" up the Boulder River to Cooke City plus three side roads.

"The main road would leave the Boulder River near the mouth of Upsidedown Creek and proceed up the east side of the East Fork of the Boulder across Lower Rainbow Creek into the Slough Creek drainage.

Staying on the east side of Slough Creek, it would turn up Wounded Man Creek . . . circle the flank of Horseshoe Mountain and cross Rock Creek. It would proceed up the Lake Abundance drainage into the Stillwater Basin . . . climb into Daisy Pass and descend to the Beartooth-Cooke City Highway about a mile west of Colter Pass."

Secondary roads would be built up Rainbow Creek to near Fish Lake, from the Cooke City road at Wounded Man Creek to the Yellowstone Park boundary and into heavily timbered areas to the west of Slough Creek.

A fourth secondary road would be constructed

from Jardine to Crevice Creek.

Asking what "would be the consequence of this roaded corridor on wilderness," the Forest Service report states the road system would have "far-reaching" effects on the recreational resource of the area.

The service estimates the Boulder-Cooke City road would be closed by snow from Labor Day to Memorial Day but, during season, heavy traffic could be expected from Yellowstone Park travelers, those on their way to the Clark's Fork and people on a one or two day loop over the Beartooth Highway and down the Boulder to Big Timber.

The road system would provide for greater access to the Absaroka and upper Stillwater areas and a subsequent sharp increase in use.



Looking into the proposed Beartooth Wilderness of Montana and Wyoming. This photo, taken from the Red Lodge-Cooke City Highway, will give travelers a panoramic view of the magnificent area.

## Bottles and Cans May Be Taxed

by Jim Rathlesberger

David Dominick, Assistant Administrator of EPA, has predicted that public opinion and scientific studies will force Congress to pass a law within two years either taxing or prohibiting non-returnable bottles and cans. He spoke in an interview just before he addressed a conference sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, an organization of bottle and can manufacturers. He didn't raise the issue within his address.

The manufacturers argue that consumers should return old bottles and cans to collection centers to be remelted and made into new one-way bottles, but Dominick said their approach would not significantly ease the solid waste problem. His opinion is backed up by an analysis made by Bruce Hannon in the April/ May 1971 issue of NOT MAN APART. Hannon found that one-way bottles and cans are bringing more profits to the manufacturers, but causing increased consumption of energy, more pollution and increased solid waste problems.

Dominick said the legislation will likely take the form of a tax because "we haven't had very good luck with prohibitions in this country." The Administration has not yet proposed any legislation, and apparently doesn't plan to. EPA's position, stated officially, is "we do not believe enough information has yet been accumulated or that all pertinent factors have yet been adequately considered to warrant action at this time."

This use would put pressure of more fishermen on the lakes of the region and cause greater hunting for moose, elk and deer. An interruption of migration routes might also occur, the report states.

Other effects would include a "great reduction" of the prime grizzly bear habitat of the drainage.

Alternative three would allow harvesting of timber resources in the Crevice, Tucker and Bull Creeks region of the Absaroka.

Mineral use would be enhanced by providing improved access to the Horseshoe Mountain area. Grazing of 800 to 1,000 sheep and 150 head of cattle could be permitted along Slough Creek in the present Absaroka Primitive Area, the report states.

In 1969, 46.8 billion containers were produced. Slightly over 2 billion were returnable and carried around 41 billion fillings, 7 billion were non-returnable and each carried only one filling. It costs the public \$176 million each year to dispose of these containers - and the wastes are growing 7.5 per cent a year.

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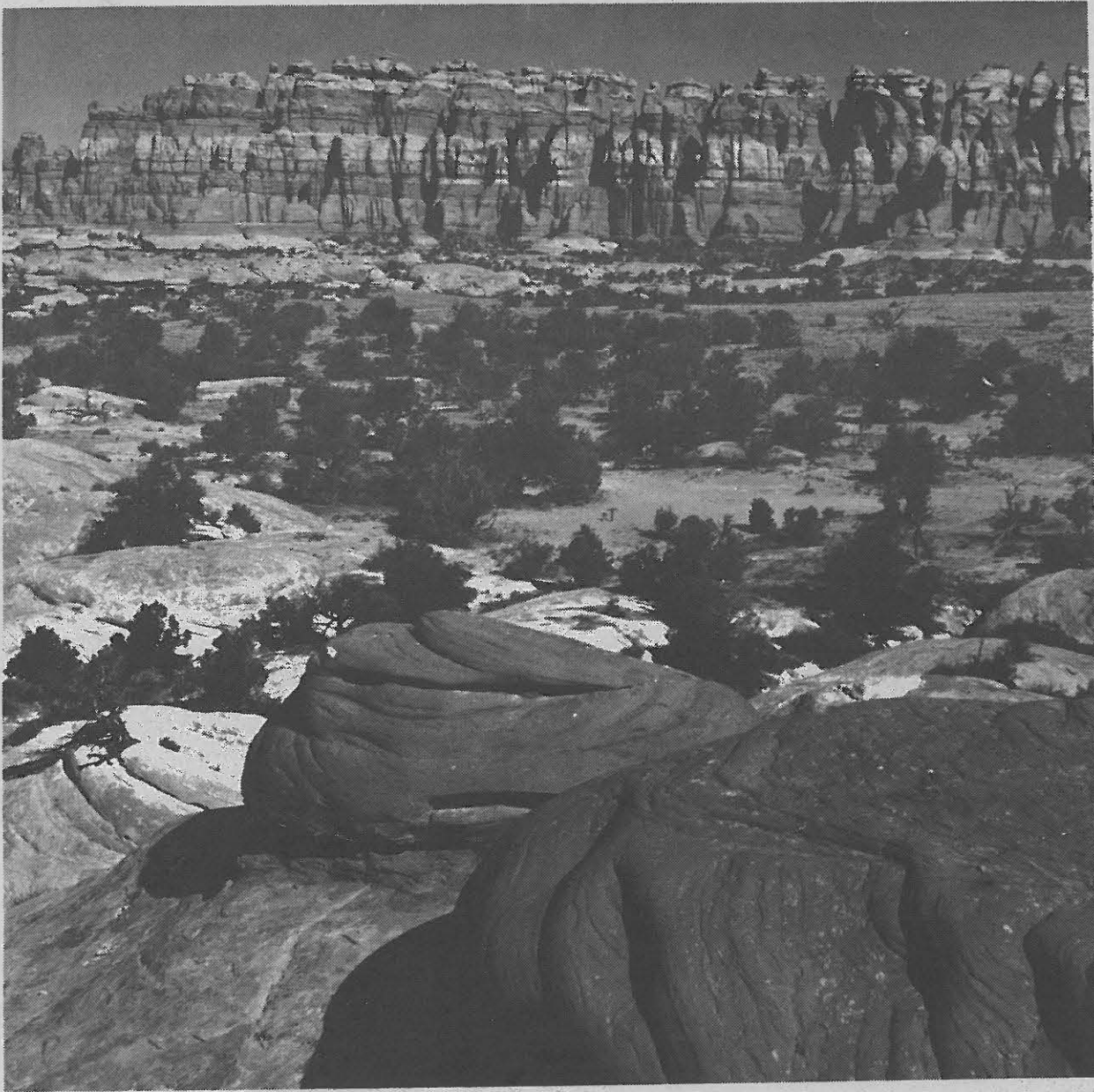
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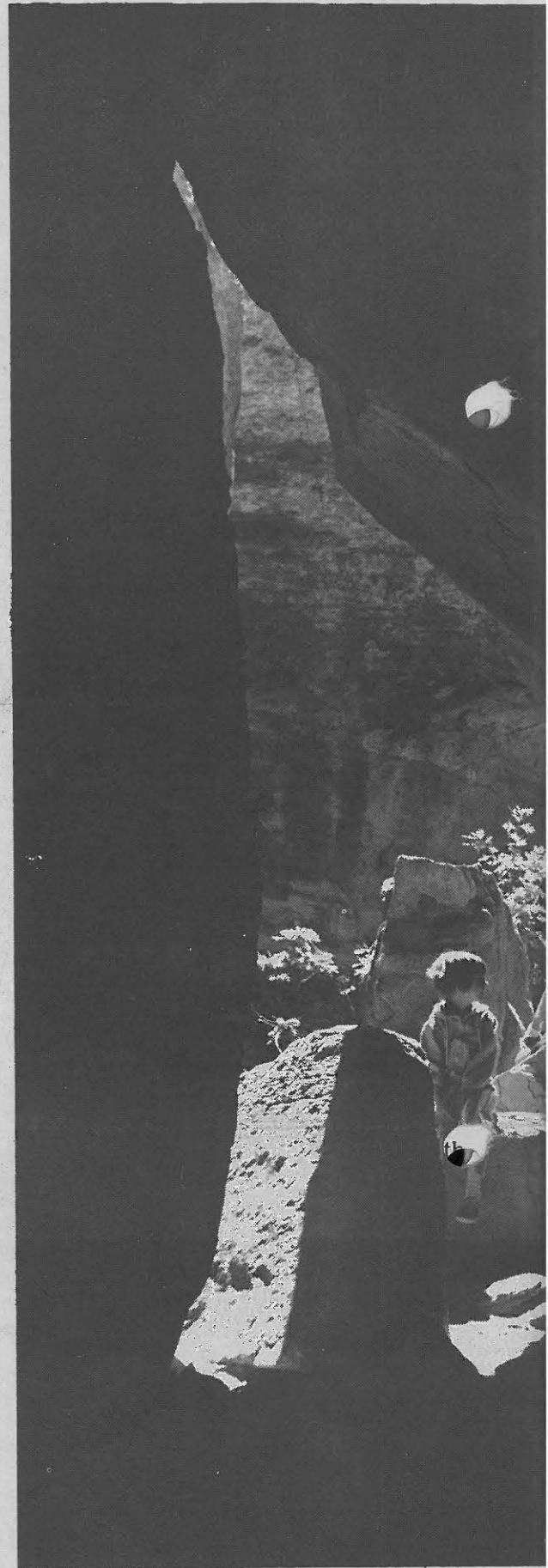


Scene from Canyonlands National Park.



Steven Arch in the proposed Escalante Wilderness shows up as a huge, black hole in this aerial photo.

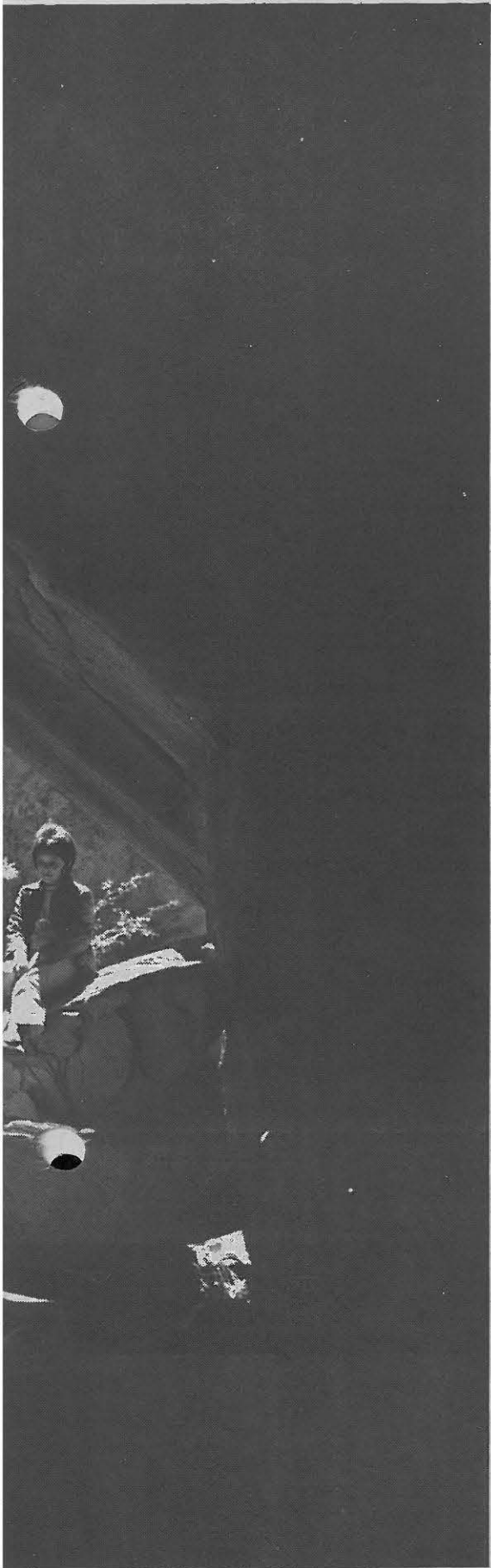
# THE ESC



Composition in contrasts, pr

The proposed Escalante Wilderness would protect those secluded pockets of land that have remained relatively untrammelled by man. Located in Bryce Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, south-central Utah, the wilderness is taking beauty in a serious way. Conservationists are working to set aside the 10,000-acre wilderness and maintain its wild scenery, which is already threatened by the proposed Colorado highway. (See page 10, Nov. 12, 1971.)





Broken Bow Arch on Willow Creek in the proposed Escalante Wilderness.

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High Country News,



Reduced to size amidst the wonders of the proposed wilderness in this scene from Silver Falls Creek, Escalante.

Silver Falls Creek in the proposed Escalante Wilderness shows up as a tiny speck in this aerial photo.





## Eagle Briefs

Two Illinois men were charged in a Chicago federal court in a case which investigators said involved the killing and buying of bald and golden eagles from Washington State. The eagles were killed in Washington, frozen, and then sent to Chicago where they were to be added to private collections. Eagles are protected by federal law. Maximum penalty for killing and possessing them is \$500, plus six months in jail on each count.

\* \* \*

The Illinois Wildlife Federation has joined the National Wildlife Federation in offering \$500 rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone killing a bald eagle.

\* \* \*

Use of poison on 1,700 square miles of the Coconino National Forest in Arizona was opposed by most of the people writing in on a coyote eradication program. The Forest Service had asked for public comment in compliance with the 1972 National Environmental Policy Act.

\* \* \*

Vern Vivion of Rawlins, Wyoming, president of the National Wool Growers Association, told the Idaho Wool Growers meeting at Boise that publicity about eagle killing in Wyoming was grossly exaggerated. He said the resultant publicity had given western livestockmen an unfair image. Vivion asserted that sheepmen are really "conservationists," and charged that although other interests were aware of this, they were resorting to unfair allegations to accomplish their "real purpose." He alleged that that purpose is to gain control of public lands.

\* \* \*

Sen. Gale McGee has announced that his Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environmental and Consumer Protection will hold hearings on Dec. 14 on predator control problems. McGee said it was clear that present predator control methods have had "some serious consequences and adverse side effects."

\* \* \*

Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton says he would like to see the department get out of the predator control business. Morton said his department had begun a review of the predatory animal control program. He said it would be aimed at creating "a new set of policies based on actual facts that exist on the ground."

\* \* \*

The Industrywide Environmental Advisory Committee of the National Wool Growers Association has formed an "Action Committee" to prepare educational materials for public consumption as to the sheepman's conservation of the environment. Chairman of the Committee, Edward Smith of Dagmar, Montana, said, "Sheepmen are among the original environmentalists in our country and we don't intend to stop now trying to make the environment better."



## Impact Noted

Bill Isaacs, a Wyoming Wildlife Federation Director, has requested an environmental impact statement on a road to an oil prospecting site in the Teton National Forest. The road penetrates an area once considered to be one of the most favorable elk habitats in the Rocky Mountain area. It is situated east of Grand Teton National Park.

Extensive clearcutting of timber on the headwaters of the Gros Ventre River has already greatly reduced elk habitat. Isaacs has suggested that the road be closed pending the impact statement. He also suggested that any further oil exploration be done by helicopter so that roads into the wild area would not be necessary.

# \$500 REWARD

OFFERED BY

ILLINOIS *Wildlife*  
FEDERATION



Photo courtesy National Wildlife Federation

FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST & CONVICTION  
OF ANYONE KILLING AN

## AMERICAN BALD EAGLE

## IN THE

## STATE OF ILLINOIS

### Equal Time Required

The following article is presented through the Appalachian Strip Mining Information Service (Richard C. Austin, Secretary, Star Route, Box 93A, Seth, West Virginia 25181).

The report mentioned in the article refers to Public Interest Report No. 5, "Legal Duty of Broadcaster to Present Strip Mine Abolition Issue Adequately and Fairly," by Ray E. Ratliff, Jr., Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, February 6, 1971.

\* \* \*

Extensive institutional advertising in support of strip mining has been a primary concern of groups working to oppose strip mining. During February and March, 1971, Citizens to Abolish Strip Mining in West Virginia prepared radio and TV spots, furnished them to stations, along with the ARDF report No. 5, above, and requested their free use to balance institutional advertising by the W. Va. Surface Mining Association. Many radio stations complied with the request. Only one TV station used the TV spot, but most were meticulous in giving full coverage to the abolitionist viewpoint in their news programs to balance the strippers' advertising campaign. The ARDF report should be in the hands of all groups attempting to contact radio and TV stations for similar purposes. Its conclusions are:

"1. Strip mining is clearly a controversial issue of public importance . . .

"2. The broadcaster is required by the Fairness Doctrine to adequately cover the strip mine abolition issue, and in so doing to fairly represent through public interest programming, the views of those who advocate the abolition of strip mining of coal.

"3. The broadcaster who sells broadcast time to the (strippers) on the controversial issue of strip mining must, in order to avoid presenting one-sided and partisan coverage, schedule reply time for the airing of views by advocates of strip mine abolition. Such reply time is in addition to required public interest coverage.

"4. Failure of a broadcaster to comply with direct and related duties imposed by the Fairness Doctrine is grounds for immediate complaint before the FCC as well as subsequent challenge of the license renewal."

Last month a formal complaint was filed with the Federal Communications Commission in pursuit of this point. As reported by Ben A. Franklin in the October 31, 1971 NEW YORK TIMES:

"An attack on the coal industry's institutional advertising has been filed with the Federal Communications Commission by critics of the spread of Appalachian strip mining and the rate of death and injury in the mines.

"The Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, Inc., a public service law firm based in Charleston, W. Va., and financed largely by Federal anti-poverty funds, filed the complaint

(Continued on page 11)



# Reports Say Clearcutting Disastrous

by Dick Young

Smashed logs, limbs, tree tops, rotten wood and broken down underbrush are glutting thousands of logged-over acres in the Pacific Northwest.

Two reports, just released by the U. S. Forest

## Devil Take . . .

he was finally defeated when Presidential assistants John D. Ehrlichman and Peter M. Flanagan intervened on the side of big industry (presumably, therefore, not on the side of the "silent majority" of Americans—the evident constituency of EPA).

Thus the battle lines are beginning to form, and the enemy coalition of anti-environmentalists is coming into clearer focus. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader, in recognition of Secretary Stans' strong recent pro-industry call before the National Petroleum Council for the Nation to "Wait-A-Minute," in its long overdue (over 7,889,000 minutes overdue, already, as we calculate it) efforts to snatch America from the brink of ecological disaster, subsequently called upon Mr. Stans to resign. The Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., is considering taking legal action against the Office of Management and Budget for allegedly having overreached its authority in forcing upon the EPA the changes in air pollution control guidelines. The Council charges that the weakened substitutions threaten to undermine the EPA's role in forcing states to comply with the 1975 clean air goals.

On January 1, 1970, when President Richard Nixon signed into law the National Environmental Policy Act, the new decade loomed propitiously for America. What, we wonder, happened to the shining inspirational commitment to the better way of life (excerpts from the text of the President's statement when signing the NEPA into law), expressed as follows:

It is particularly fitting that my first official act in this new decade is to approve the National Environmental Policy Act . . . I have become convinced that the 1970s absolutely must be the year when America pays its debt to the past by reclaiming the purity of its air, its waters and our living environment. It is literally now or never . . . We are determined that the decade of the 70s will be known as the time when this country regained a production harmony between man and nature.

On January 1, 1970, the Nation's Chief Executive presumably spoke with more authority, more dedication, clearer insight, and better timing to the crucial environmental issue of the 70s than did his chief spokesman for commerce. Secretary Stans, before the National Petroleum Council on July 15, 1971, when he called upon EPA to back off. Presumably, too, the President spoke with more sincerity of purpose than did Messrs. Nassikas (Federal Power Commission), Schulz (Office of Management and Budget), and John Ehrlichman and Peter Flanagan (presidential aides) when they evidently rebuffed William Ruckelshaus (Environmental Protection Agency)—who is supposed to be President Nixon's chief lieutenant for the control of environmental pollution.

It begins to look very much as if it's a case where the devil takes the hindmost—and may very soon be able to do just that, on a nationwide scale. A fundamental change in Administration philosophy at least is clearly needed, as we see it. Otherwise, we wonder, is this to be the decade when, as her ideological enemies have been predicting for half a century, America loses her sense of purpose and greatness? Is this to be the decade when America succumbs to the evil temptations of rape and pillage of her natural resources for the short-term economic gain of a privileged few regardless of the prohibitive long-term cost thereof to society as a whole? We trust not, but we're beginning to wonder . . .

## Landscape . . .

be done. The problem is solvable, but not without the positive help of land managers. People become very complacent if those most directly associated with resource management show little concern. Land managers have made great strides toward solving technical problems; unfortunately our biggest land management problem is a social one. At this stage in the history of our Nation, stewardship of the land should include working toward zero population growth and maintaining maximum diversity in the landscape.

Service Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Portland, state that:

More than 50 per cent of the total annual wood needs of all the pulp, paper and lumber mills in Western Washington and Western Oregon could be met by use of valuable wood left as waste after clearcut logging operations.

The Forest Service says 465 million cubic feet of potentially usable wood has been left in the forest after clearcut logging in the Douglas Fir region of Washington, Oregon and Northern California.

An investigation of 30 logging areas in Washington and Oregon revealed that eight of the clearcut units were littered with from 100 to 227 tons of logging slash per acre.

An example of Forest Service findings can be taken from the 74-acre Ditney Cutting Unit No. 2 in the Mount Baker National Forest. Here USFS survey crews estimate that each acre is blanketed with 122 tons of slash, and that 39 tons of the debris on each acre is usable wood.

Pulp and paper industry statistics say that, typically, it takes three tons of wood chips to produce one ton of newsprint. Theoretically, the Ditney Unit logging slash could supply enough raw material to produce 10.5 daily editions of The Post-Intelligencer.

The Forest Service reports did not say it was economically possible at this time to use waste wood, but urged foresters to study better ways of using the debris from logging.

One of the reports states:

"These residues must be removed from logged areas to allow ground space for (tree) regeneration, to eliminate obstacles to future harvesting, and to reduce fire hazard."

The report also says the slash obstructs forest recreation and efficient forest management . . . which to many, represent both a deprecation of natural beauty and a waste of potentially usable wood products."

Of the 30 clearcut units surveyed, by far the most logging slash was found on a 150-acre area in the Quinault Indian Reservation on the Olympic Peninsula.

The reservation land, administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), is covered by an average 227 tons of slash per acre - 100 tons more debris per acre than on any other area included in the study.

The Quinault Tribal Council is currently protesting logging practices on their lands. In September they locked timber companies out of the reservation as a protest move. The Indians have lawsuits pending in federal court and have written to President Nixon asking for help in preserving the economy and environment of their reservation.

The logging slash problem on the Quinault reservation is complicated by the fact that much of their timber is red cedar, a species that decomposes slowly. Also, red cedar is not widely used for pulp and paper chips.

The Forest Service estimates that the total of all logging residue on clearcut areas - usable and unusable - is 908 million cubic feet, the equivalent of about 26 per cent of the reported 1969 log harvest.

The most serious logging slash problems were found to be on National Forest lands.

## Wild Horses . . .

Colorado State University and chairman of the Wild Horse Advisory Committee, believes the deterioration of the range began 70 years ago when there were too many sheep. Today, poisonous weeds and such plants as prickly pear cactus and snakeweed have invaded the range. The wild horses show soil on their gums and teeth indicating that they are literally eating away at the roots of remaining plants.

Dr. Mike Pontrelli, a wildlife biologist who has worked closely with Mrs. Johnston in many efforts to save wild horses throughout the West, has been present at Lovell during the trapping operation. He says one of the chief goals of WHOA is to obtain funding for long-range biological studies of the Pryor Mountain wild horse herd.

The Bureau of Land Management views the extensive culling of the herd this year as a temporary answer to the problem of how to keep the horses healthy on the restricted range. In the meantime, research may point to some better answers.

No matter how management is done, it is sure to spark interest and engender controversy. Mrs. Johnston says she continually receives letters from all over the U. S. Most of them are from young people, many asking what they can do to help.

The USFS says that volumes of debris on National Forest lands averaged three times greater than on privately owned land in the Douglas fir region.

The Forest Service concludes: "As economic and technological changes occur, logging residues may present a substantial base for increases in paper and board production, with no additional drain on the timber resource of the region."

## Time . . .

yesterday as volunteer counsel for four reform groups. They are the West Virginia Black Lung Association, the Association of Disabled Miners and Widows, Citizens to Abolish Strip Mining and Mountaineers to Save West Virginia.

"The petitioners asked the commission to invoke both its equal time rule and its fairness doctrine against a state-controlled radio network that transmits play-by-play accounts of the football and basketball games of West Virginia University to about 25 stations.

"The respondents named in the complaint were the University Broadcast Service, known as the Mountaineer Sports Network, and the commercial radio station that originates the broadcast, WHAR in Morgantown, W. Va.

"The fairness doctrine requires radio and television stations to present both sides in a public controversy. The equal time rule, which chiefly affects politics, requires a station to make time available to all candidates for an office if it makes time available to one.

"For several years, the sponsor of one-quarter of the university's sports broadcast time has been the West Virginia Coal Association, the largest trade association of coal mine operators in the largest coal-producing state. The institutional theme of the coal messages this year has been 'Coal, West Virginia and safety,' or 'Coal, West Virginia and the environment,' followed by 'It's a vital combination.'

"In the complaint and in an interview, John L. Boettner, Jr., a lawyer for the public service law firm, said that the university had declined to promise broadcast time under the commission's fairness doctrine, even at commercial rates, for the groups opposing strip mining to respond to what they call the coal association's 'self-serving propaganda.'

"Such broadcast responses, he said, would include criticism of the environmental impact of surface mining, of the rate of death, injury and illness among coal miners, and of 'the social and economic effects of the coal industry.' All of these factors are mentioned in the industry messages . . ."

This complaint is similar to some filed by Friends of the Earth and other groups in that it seeks to establish the ruling that broadcasters who air commercials on public issues have an obligation to air (paid or unpaid) spot announcements giving opposing views. The precedent is FCC's previous requirement of spot announcements warning of the health dangers of cigarettes. Groups seeking anti-strip mining broadcast time should also obtain the text of this complaint and information about its course from ARDF.

Editor's note: Mrs. Johnston's address is 140 Greenstone Drive, Reno, Nevada 89502. WHOA is looking to private donations to fund research on the Pryor Mountain horse herd, and to carry on the work of defending and protecting wild horses. Contributions may be made to WHOA at the above address.

## Legislation Cleared

Legislation to protect dwindling herds of wild horses and burros was cleared for the President's signature on November 11. The bill was Senator Henry Jackson's S. 1116, with amendments incorporated by House bill 5375.

The new legislation will place responsibility for carrying out the protective measures of the bill in the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. The bill protects the animals from "capture, branding, harassment, or death." But the bill also provides for management "in order to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance."

Wild horse lovers in Nevada and Arizona report concentrated efforts to round up and dispose of as many wild horses as possible before federal legislation goes into effect. Public land managers in Wyoming report no known increase in wild horse activities.



# A Weekend at Hells Canyon

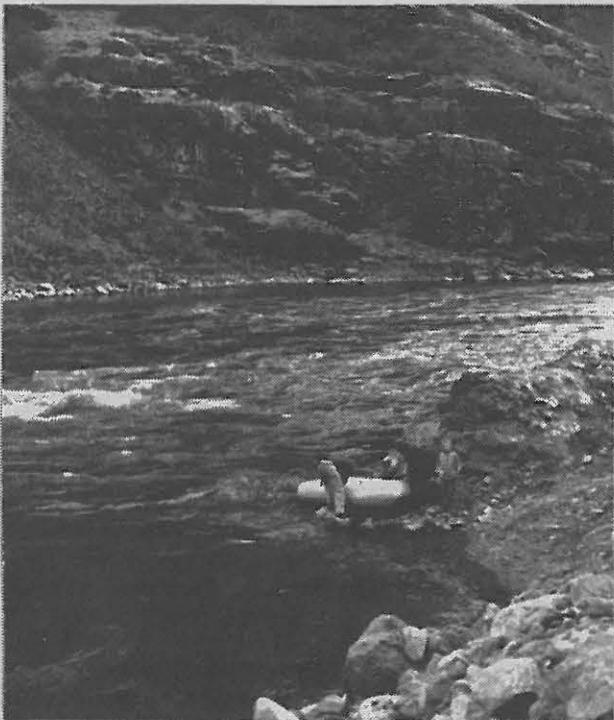
Text and photos by Verne Huser

I spent the Veterans' Day weekend in Hells Canyon—great country with relatively few people despite what Idaho Power Company says about recreational use of the reservoirs created by their trio of dams in Hells Canyon. In driving the 23-mile length of Hells Canyon Reservoir, I saw three boats, and one of those was on the free-flowing stretch between Ox-bow Dam and the reservoir. There were ten times as many people below the dam (Hells Canyon) as there were on the reservoir.

And I was reminded of Pacific Northwest Power Company lawyer Hugh Smith's statistic given at a recent hearing. Representing the power complex that wants to build ever more dams in Hells Canyon, Smith claimed that the hundred miles of Idaho Power Company reservoirs in upper Hells Canyon get 10 to 15 times as many people as the stretch of river between Hells Canyon Dam and the Salmon River (about 65 miles of river), and he's right—to a certain extent. Yet, probably half the cars the Idaho Power car-counters tally are heading for the half-mile stretch below Hells Canyon Dam. They are in fact counted as reservoir users when they are free-flowing river users.

Smith fails to point out that while the Hells Canyon reservoirs are accessible to automobiles over paved roads, Hells Canyon below the dam is accessible only by boat or by 4-wheel-drive vehicle. (And that at only two points, one on the Idaho and one on the Oregon side).

Senator Bob Packwood's Hells Canyon-Snake National River Bill (S. 717) would improve those two roads (to Dug Bar on the Oregon side of the Snake River, to Pittsburg Landing on the Idaho side). And, it would provide for ten million dollars worth of recreational development to open the free-flowing section of Hells Canyon up to the public that—through the surrounding national forests—owns most of Hells Canyon already. But in order for that recreational development to occur, the Forest Service must acquire the private lands within Hells Canyon.



The small yellow raft used by fishermen to cross over to Idaho side just below Hells Canyon Dam.

This they can do without condemning an acre of ground if they can get the money and get it within the next six months (a minimum of three million dollars, perhaps as much as six million). Senator Packwood's Bill provided ten million dollars for this acquisition, but Senator Packwood's bill (S.717) is going nowhere unless we have field hearings. (Few of the people who know Hells Canyon best were able to attend the hearings held in Washington in September; if enough people who are interested in saving Hells Canyon write to Senator Alan Bible, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20510, perhaps those hearings will become a reality).

But back to Hells Canyon—too bad its salvation rests in Washington, the political warehouse where far too many vital conservation and environmental issues languish in storage. Hells Canyon was vital and alive on Veterans' Day Weekend, contrastive in the sunlight-and-shadow patterns that played across the canyon, and in the fresh snow that still covered the trees high in the Seven Devils and the Wallows with autumn colors of sumac and poison ivy still vivid along the river.

A dozen cars traveled the 23 miles to Hells Canyon Dam from Ox-Bow—cars from as far away as Massachusetts, several from California

and of course, Idaho and Oregon, but as many distant cars as those from near the canyon. Some were merely sight seeing, but others were fishing—and those mostly went beyond the dam, that half-mile of rough dirt (or rather rock) road that drops down to the free-flowing river below Hells Canyon Dam, flowing "between 30,000 and 23,000 cubic feet per second."

A small yellow raft pulled up on a rock slab above the river on the far (Idaho) side of the river from the access road suggested that some adventuresome fishermen had braved the strong current just below the dam to fish from the east side of the river, where Deep Creek flows into the Snake from the snows of the Seven Devils more than a mile above the river. This proved to be the case, for an hour after our arrival, we saw the trio of fishermen ride the riffles below the dam to land at the normal launching spot for Hells Canyon float trips.

Several campers were parked in the recreation area provided by the Forest Service below the dam, and several parties were fishing—no steelhead today but a few catfish. Jim Zanelli, who operates Hells Canyon Navigations (jet-boat sight-seeing or fishing trips as well as float trips), reports frequent steelhead catches this fall and three huge salmon (the fish hatchery at the Ox-bow Dam reports a particularly heavy run of steelhead this year).

We met Zanelli about mid-afternoon for a photographic run a short way down the Snake River, as far down as Brush Creek (Idaho side) where the young bull moose has been spending



Jim Zanelli's family getting ready for a Sunday afternoon jet boat cruise and fishing trip in Hells Canyon. Zanelli, operator of Hells Canyon Navigation, runs jet boats and float trips in the canyon.

the fall. And as the sun began sliding down the western sky, leaving Hells Canyon partly in shadows, we roared down the canyon through those riffles and minor rapids I'd run three times last spring in oar-driven rubber rafts.

Still in sight of the unsightly Hells Canyon Dam, we spotted the goats. No, not mountain goats—though I had seen them in the Seven Devils last spring when we took Senator Packwood on a float trip and the Forest Service flew us by helicopter into the still snowbound mountains that tower 7800 feet above the river. What we saw this late-October trip were feral goats, probably Nubian goats that had been turned free (or had gotten away) in the Seven Devils—a small band of four, led by a big black billy with a long beard. Two were spotted, mostly black and white, and the fourth was a nondescript gray or tan or . . .

A ray of sunlight escaped a passing cloud and hit the fresh snow atop the peaks in the Seven Devils with a brilliance that belied the lateness of the hour. A patch of aspen—or larch—or was it merely willow—high on another ridge caught the sun and turned to gold. And everywhere along the canyon the deep red of sumac, the dead-grass tan, the multicolored poison ivy leaves added grandeur to the scene. That dead-grass tan seemed to highlight the tiny ledges that so typically characterize Hells Canyon topography.

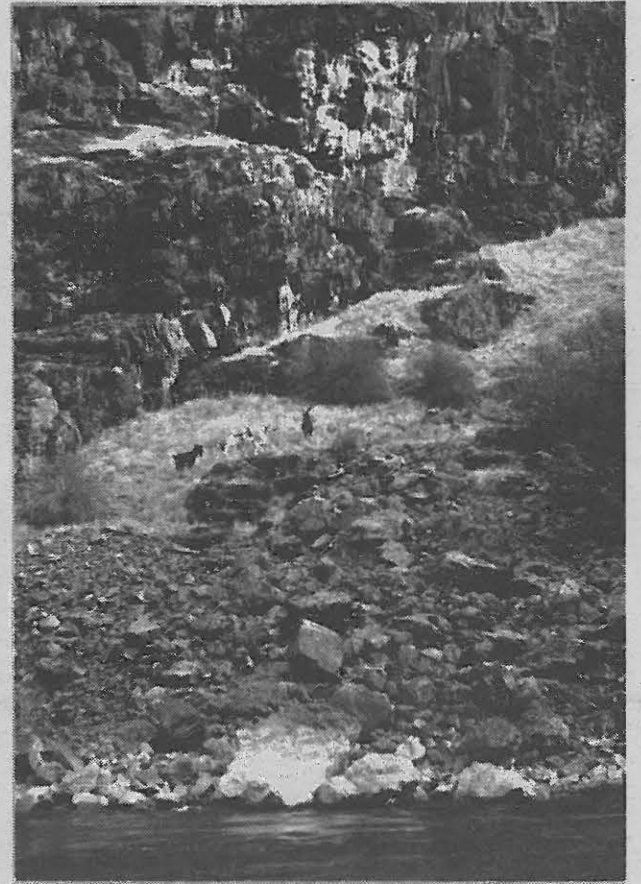
And then we were opposite the sandy beach where Zanelli said the moose had spent most of the previous day—he hadn't seen it today. We stopped, running aground on the pale sand of the beach between two rocks, and some members of the party fished while I went exploring—in the direction that I thought the freshest tracks led.

A well-worn trail angled up to the right, upstream, and the deep moose prints in the sand seemed to lead that way. Moose droppings littered the beach, and I found several scat piles, some old and some relatively new, as I followed the game trail south through poison ivy devoid of

leaves but characterized by the small white berries. Here and there, a hoof print dug deep into the rain-softened turf, but much of the route traversed rocky slopes where nothing grew—lousy moose habitat (what was he eating? Poison ivy?).

As I approached a tangle of shrubbery, I grew cautious, and suddenly I saw him as he slowly got to his feet and turned to look at me, not fifty feet away. I had no real fear of being charged as the slope consisted of loose scree, but I didn't want to disturb him any more than I already had. I shot a picture—not a very clear view through the foliage and with no telephoto—and moved as quietly as I could downhill and over a slight rise.

When I got back to the fishermen, I reported having seen the moose. No one was catching any



Feral Nubian goats along the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam.

fish, but apparently they'd seen the moose before or cared less. Only one companion followed me back up the slope for a look. He hadn't moved except to lie down; I hadn't disturbed him. He looked healthy, but he had odd—to me—antlers: two prongs on each side with no palm at all and the fork right at the head where the antler emerged from hair. It might have been either a yearling or a two-year-old, but his size suggested the latter. I couldn't help thinking someone ought to transplant a young female in the area by next fall, and there might be a moose population developing in Hells Canyon—but it was still lousy moose habitat to me—too many years in Jackson Hole.

## „Noted & Quoted..“

“The decade ahead, I sincerely hope, will be looked back upon as the time in which man recognized the fragility of the ecological balance of the world and set about to understand, to protect, and to improve his natural as well as his cultural environment. There are many big tasks to be done. The challenge is fully the equal, complexity and cost, to landing on the moon - or maybe even Mars.”

Dr. Walter Orr Roberts  
Address to 71st Annual Meeting  
Society of Sigma Xi

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“We travel together, passengers on a little spaceship; dependent on its vulnerable reserve of air and soil; all committed for our safety to its security and peace; preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work and the love we give our fragile craft.”

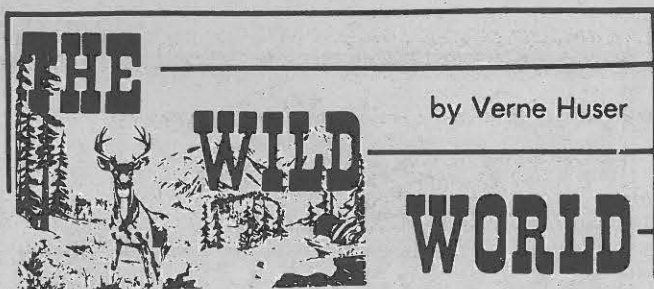
Adlai Stevenson

\* \* \*

“Other things being equal, an increase in population of a city crowds housing, overloads job opportunities, causes congestion, increases pollution, encourages crime, and reduces almost every component of the quality of life.”

Jay W. Forrester  
Professor of Management, M.I.T.  
In TECHNOLOGY REVIEW, Jan., 1971





"As a country for sightseers, it is without parallel; as a field for scientific research it promises great results; in the branches of geology, mineralogy, botany, zoology, and ornithology it is probably the greatest laboratory that nature furnishes on the surface of the globe." So said Lt. Gustav Doane in 1870, speaking of the Yellowstone country that became our first national park just two years later.

During the nearly hundred years that the Yellowstone country has been protected as a park, millions of tourists have enjoyed its wonders and its wildlife, but Yellowstone is badly over-crowded today during the summer months. Congestion, pollution, litter threaten to destroy the park experience; certain species of wildlife have been threatened by man's interference with the wild world of the park.

And now, on the eve of the centennial celebration, Wyoming Senator Cliff Hansen has asked Congress to add to the congestion and pollution by establishing an environmental studies center in the park.

Yellowstone Superintendent Jack Anderson, concerned about pollution problems in the park, speaks of setting numerical limits on the number of people the park can handle in a day. Thirty-five thousand is one figure that has been suggested, but Anderson says the limiting factor will be the park's ability to absorb man's impact upon the park without pollution.

Another permanent facility in the park will no doubt add to man's impact on the park's environment - will in fact reduce the number of people the park can handle in a day without damage to the environment. Why spend 2 -1/2 million dollars to add to the problems? Why not, for that matter, work toward phasing out all facilities within the park so that it may once more become the great natural laboratory that Doane described?

I believe we need environmental study centers, but they don't belong in the parks.

Another aspect of Hansen's proposal to establish an environmental studies center in Yellowstone—to help celebrate the centennial—is that the facility, which will cost \$300,000 a year to maintain, will be administered by the University of Wyoming, possibly in conjunction with the universities of other surrounding states.

That's mostly Montana and Idaho. How much does politics control those universities?

Academic freedom suffers from political pressure at the University of Wyoming. Can you imagine what would happen to Yellowstone National Park if it were the site of a University of Wyoming-controlled environmental studies center, run by the Wyoming politicians who are willing to use Yellowstone—exploit this great national park—for the sake of the tourist dollar?

Again, Superintendent Jack Anderson has said, "We don't want more people to come to Yellowstone for the Centennial year. We can't handle the ones we get in an ordinary year. If there is to be any celebration, it should commemorate a hundred years of trying to save a wilderness."

So who wants an environmental research center in the wilderness? Senator Hansen, apparently. I've spoken with him on two separate occasions about this proposal and written to him about it no less than three times. I've suggested to him the proposal of Nobel Prize Winner Murray Gill-Mann (Physics 1969) for an interdisciplinary environmental research center manned by representatives from dozens of major universities. I've had no positive response.

Why limit the control to the universities of the states surrounding the park, which belongs to all the people of the nation, when they may be subject to the pressures of the tourist-trapping businessmen of those states, men who might just as soon sacrifice the park for the almighty dollar?

If Yellowstone is really over-crowded, as I believe it is and as Superintendent Jack Anderson suggested to me last May, then why continue to push for more tourists unless the dollar is the only value? This is exploitation in my book, and it seems to me that Senator Hansen's proposal will lead to further exploitation. Certainly it will leave the road open to further exploitation should anyone be so inclined.

Yellowstone National Park was established "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to

provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Nothing about an environmental studies center!

But of course, the environment wasn't an issue in those days. Nor was it in 1918 when Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane issued the first directive to the National Park Service established shortly before. But Lane has foresight enough to provide valid guidelines as follows: 1) the national parks must be maintained in absolutely unimpaired form for the use of future generations as well as those of our own time; 2) they are set apart for the use, observation, health, and pleasure of the people; and 3) the national interest must dictate all decisions affecting public or private enterprise in the parks.

Can Senator Hansen get by those three principles? A 2-1/2 million dollar facility cannot leave the park unimpaired. Can the second principle be so construed through the interpretation of the words use and health to allow Senator Hansen's facility into the park? What is the national interest? If the need for an environmental studies center can be proved—and I sincerely hope that it can—does that facility have to be located in a national park? I think not.

I have opposed Senator Hansen's proposal from the first time I heard it. I have communicated with him about it, and I still oppose the proposal. I can see no justification for the center's being located in the park or its being governed by the University of Wyoming, by the educational institution of a state that still does not protect the rare and endangered black-footed ferret, that still lists the wolf and the mountain lion as predators, that provides no protection for the disappearing peregrine falcon—a state that still kills federally-protected eagles, and that has no pesticide control legislation.

## Glassy Glare Grows

Non-returns and all glass containers clog land, fill dumps, contribute to litter and are a useless expensive production. In 1969, consumers in the United States threw away 28 billion bottles.

At least one state has banned the selling of all non-returnable bottles and others are considering such legislation in the wake of mounting hills of solid waste and roadsides lined with throw aways.

You can help by buying only returnable beverage bottles and saving and reusing other glass containers.

Some major glass users, however, such as the Lucky Lager Brewing Company, Vancouver, Washington, are now recycling their own "non-returnable" bottles that are being returned by consumers.

Reprinted from SATURDAY REVIEW, Oct. 2, 1971.

## FCC Overturned

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, a national organization dedicated to preservation of the environment, has won a court ruling that television commercials for large-engine automobiles and leaded high-test gasoline must be balanced by messages informing the public that by polluting the air those products pose a threat to health.

The decision, handed down by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, overturned by a 2-to-1 vote a ruling of the Federal Communications Commission.

The crucial question in the case was the scope of the Commission's "fairness doctrine," which requires broadcasters to present contrasting points of view on "controversial issues of public importance."

Friends of the Earth argued that powerful cars and high-test gasoline should be considered health hazards comparable to cigarettes, previously ruled within the reach of the fairness doctrine.

Among its counter-arguments, the FCC affirmed that cigarettes "are a unique product" and that extending the cigarette ruling "generally to the field of product advertising" would "undermine the present (broadcast) system, which is based on product commercials, many of which have some adverse ecological effects."

In finding for Friends of the Earth, the majority judges held that "Commercials which continue to insinuate that the human personality finds greater fulfillment in the large car with the quick getaway do, it seems to us, ventilate a point of view which not only has become controversial but involves an issue of public importance."

"When there is undisputed evidence, as there is here," the opinion continued, "that the hazards to health implicit in air pollution are enlarged and aggravated by such products, then the parallel with cigarette advertising is exact . . ."

Two courses of action are now open to the FCC. It can implement the mandate of the appeals court that broadcasters inform the public of the polluting effects of big cars and high-test gasoline, or it can seek review by the United States Supreme Court.



Hells Canyon Reservoir looking north (downstream) on the Snake River with Idaho on the right and Oregon on the left. At this site, the reservoir drowned some of the river's greatest rapids.



# Aspinall

## Goofs! Criticized

Rep. Wayne Aspinall, a member of the joint Committee on Atomic Energy, took the side of federal officials in downgrading health problems from radioactive mill tailings at Grand Junction, Colorado. In recent hearings, the Colorado congressman, who represents the western area of that state, said state health officials were alarmists.

Aspinall refused to permit into the hearing records the statements from two doctors who had made a study of cancer deaths and birth defects. The statements were made by Dr. C. Henry Kempe of the University of Colorado Medical Center and Dr. Robert Ross, a pediatrician from Grand Junction. Since neither doctor was present for questioning, Aspinall refused to accept the statements.

The director of the Colorado Health Department, Dr. Roy Cleere, and radiological specialist, Robert D. Seik, have charged that there is a clear health hazard. They say the tailings ought to be removed from around homes, schools, and other areas where the health hazards do exist.

Colorado Gov. John Love also says he thinks the tailings ought to be removed, and by the AEC which allowed the tailings to be used. Both the AEC and the Environmental Protection Agency deny any responsibility.

A 300-page report entitled "Damning the West" has been issued by a task force of "Nader's Raiders." It charges that Bureau of Reclamation projects in the West have been a waste of taxpayer's money. It says that benefits to be gained have been contrived, and that profound environmental damages have resulted.

The report says that never again should irrigation benefits be allowed as justification for reclamation projects. It also urges that about \$5 billion in planned and proposed reclamation projects be held up pending new and more accurate studies.

Specific criticism was directed at Colorado Rep. Wayne Aspinall by Ralph Nader at a press briefing on the report. Nader said Aspinall, as Chairman of the House Interior Committee, dominated the Bureau's water resource development projects - a condition he termed "the Aspinall syndrome." This, he said, was the justification of public spending based on "economic lunacy and special interest politics."

The report charges that reclamation projects have damaged the entire agricultural system. It says that besides wasting taxpayer's money in the construction and operation of projects, the crops have contributed to surplus commodities, depressed farm prices, and caused the loss of as many as 180,000 farm jobs.

# Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Homemakers everywhere hope  
That someone will find how to cope  
With a problem as urgent  
As laundry detergent.  
Meanwhile—back to old-fashioned soap!

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Dr. Edward Goldbert told the National Biological Congress that polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, are now more dangerous than DDT in contaminating the oceans. He said the chemicals may cause problems for centuries to come. The chemicals are used in a wide range of industrial compounds.

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President Nixon has intervened on the side of Armco Steel Co. in a case involving the dumping of toxic wastes into the Houston, Texas, ship channel. EPA had won a court case to prevent the company from dumping the poisonous chemicals into the water. A report of the Citizen's Research Foundation showed officers and directors of Armco had contributed \$12,000 to Nixon's campaign in 1968.

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A Dutch newspaper, the DAILY DE TELEGRAAF, said the Rhine-Meuse Rivers were so polluted by chemicals that you could develop photos in the waters. As proof, the paper printed a photo of houses along the bank near Rotterdam where the photo was taken.

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Most forms of life which inhabit the oceans are now carrying some kind of man-made chemical poisons. Dr. Thomas B. Owen, an assistant director of the National Science Foundation, says the products and refuse of man's technological activities "are becoming a danger to the ocean and to the rest of the environment." He said the contaminants were mostly DDT and PCB's.

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Dr. Dennis Gabor, a 1971 Nobel Prize winner in physics, says man and science are on a collision course, and man must change. The scientist says, "We could very easily spare 25 per cent of the effort that goes into economic production and put it into social improvements - education, welfare, rebuilding our ugly towns, stopping the polluting and homicidal motor car from polluting the environment." He says overpopulation and pollution could be disastrous within a generation.

\*\*\*

The American Public Health Association says the Nixon Administration has taken no action against a threat to health posed by several hundred thousand women's coats. THE NATION'S HEALTH says lung cancer, asbestosis, and a cancer of the lining of the chest and abdomen may be awaiting the buyers of women's coats which contain up to 7.8 per cent asbestos fibers.

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California Gov. Ronald Reagan has signed into law a bill which would require emission control devices to be installed on an estimated 5 million autos in that state. The law applies to automobiles of the 1966-1970 vintage. The devices have to be installed by January, 1973.

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The Soviet Union is seriously considering using 20 nuclear devices to blast a 40-mile long section of canal to divert north-flowing rivers into the Volga River.

Cartoon courtesy Pat Oliphant and The Denver Post, November 7, 1971.



'CONGRESSMAN ASPINALL SEEMS TO FEEL THERE IS NO DANGER—AND WHO ARE WE TO DISPUTE HIM, AFTER ALL?'

## Roncalio Cites Ocean Concern

Wyoming Congressman Teno Roncalio has inserted in the Congressional Record the testimony of Dr. Thor Heyerdahl before the Public Works Committee indicating widespread pollution of international waters.

Roncalio, a member of the Committee, said Heyerdahl's testimony stressed the limits of the oceans' capacity to absorb waste materials and declared pollution has reached the farthest sections of the world's waters.

Using journals kept during his trans-Atlantic voyages on Ra I in 1969 and Ra II in 1970, Heyerdahl stated, "From all continents we keep on sending our refuse into the presumably endless ocean almost with the impression that we send it away into space. Rarely do we stop and think of the fact that the ocean is nothing but a very big lake, landlocked if we go far enough in any direction. Other than being the largest body of water on earth, its main distinction from other lakes is that they usually have an outlet to carry away excessive natural solutions and pollution, whereas the ocean has none. Through a worldwide, non-stop flow, all the excess waste and refuse that runs from lakes and land assemble in the ocean, and only clean water evaporates back into the atmosphere."

He said it was once inconceivable that a body of water the size of Lake Erie could be killed, adding, "Today Lake Erie is only one of a long series of lakes destroyed by man in the different parts of the world. Place ten Lake Eries end to end and they span the ocean from Africa to America."

"Although oceans are deeper than lakes, Heyerdahl pointed out that due to photosynthesis, the bulk of life is restricted to the thin upper layer and that an estimated 90 per cent of

all marine life is on continental shelves, which account for only 10 per cent of the total ocean area.

Heyerdahl said drifting oil clots were encountered during the crossing with the papyrus raft-ship Ra I in 1969 and deliberately surveyed and sampled during the 1970 crossing.

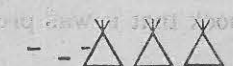
Quoting from his journal, Heyerdahl said that the 2,407 nautical miles covered by Ra II during its initial 43 days at sea represented an uninterrupted stretch of polluted surface water, ranging from slight to very grave.

Although the oil clots were not encountered in the balance of the 3,270 nautical mile journey, he said pollution in the form of plastic containers, metal cans, glass bottles, nylon objects and other perishable and non-perishable products of man, representing refuse from ships and shores, pass close by the raft at intervals throughout the trip.

Heyerdahl concluded, "What others dump at sea will come to your shores, and what you dump at home will travel abroad, irrespective of national legislation. We must start at the national level, but quickly move on to international agreements if we are to protect our common ocean for future generations."

Roncalio reported his co-sponsorship of House Concurrent Resolution 147 to express the sentiment of Congress that international ban on ocean dumping is necessary.

The resolution asks the President, acting through the U. S. delegation to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, work on an international agreement to prohibit the disposal of munitions, chemicals, military material or any pollutants in territorial waters, contiguous zones and any international waters.





Thoughts

from the  
Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

Did you ever have the feeling that you might be a character straight out of Lewis Carroll? Try revisiting a favorite childhood haunt years later, and you'll see what I mean.

Somehow my fondest recollections of childhood seem to be related to summer activities. Long-ago winters come to mind as a blur of school, snow, and "long-handled" underwear. (Which stretched at the ankles and had to be pleated into bumpy folds before stuffing into those long cotton stockings!)

But summer! Ah, that was different! When school was out, the family moved up to the mountains for three glorious months. The family consisted of Mother, Dad, Grandmother, Grandad, and six little girls of assorted shapes and sizes.

For several summers we lived at an old ranger station, four or five miles from "the Village," which was a small post office and two or three houses. "The Village," in turn, was about thirty miles from "the Town," where groceries and other necessities could be purchased.

The barn at the ranger station seemed huge. Grandad had hung three swings (also in assorted sizes!) from the high open end of it. I remember the scary, thrilling feeling as I pumped hard enough to kick the rafters on the underside of the barn roof, and then, at the other end of the pendulum, soar high over the creek which flowed past the house.

One favorite spot nearby was a hillside where tall goldenrod grew at the edge of the road. In late summer the bees were numerous, and for some reason which I can't now remember, we used to capture them by shaking them off the goldenrod into glass jars. I do remember that it was there I learned, painfully, that it is the other end of the bee that you have to watch out for!

Sometimes we would hike far downstream to "the Cliff." This was a precipitous formation of rock and loose shale which rose from the edge of a deep pool at the bend of the creek. We would clamber over the jagged rocks and then race each other sliding down the shale. The object was to see which of us could get to the bottom first without sliding into the water. Of course, we never mentioned this dangerous sport to the grownups, lest they spoil all our fun!

When our parents built a summer place, it was at a spot on the other side of "the Village," so it was quite a few years later that I returned to the old ranger station. By that time, I had a small daughter of my own, and thought it would be fun to show her where I used to play. As we approached the house, I stared in disbelief. It was so incredibly small! Moments later, I climbed up to peer into the spacious loft where four of us used to sleep. It was a hot, dusty little attic. As I started toward the barn, I began to feel like Alice in Wonderland after the second "Drink Me" dose! I was so tall that I could almost reach the high open end where the three swings has been. "Curiouser and curiouser," I thought. Had that big barn really been only this small shed?

I remembered "the Cliff," and turned to look downstream. The Cliff was a small cut bank which sloped gently toward a shallow pool. What's more, it was quite close to the house. So close, in fact, that the grownups had no doubt watched our dangerous sliding games through the kitchen window!

Like Alice, I came back to reality with a thump, as I realized that it was all a matter of perspective. I was relieved to note that my little three-year-old thought the rafters of the barn very high, indeed.

Some twenty-odd years later, I had that Lewis-Carroll-character feeling again. Last summer I went to the mountain to spend a few days with my mother. As I drove through "the Town" where we used to buy groceries, I saw new buildings. Over toward the ski slope, huge condominiums were scattered over what used to be green meadows and hillsides. I started feeling sort of like Alice again, only this time I was shrinking instead of growing larger.

I headed the car toward "the Village," thirty miles away. (It seemed closer, though, because the narrow dirt road had been widened and black-topped.) The once-sleepy village was bustling with activity. The little mountain stream had been dammed to create a lake, and now nearby acreage was being subdivided into building lots. Streets and houses seemed to be everywhere.

I looked over toward the old ranger station, and realized with a shock that it was probably

## Grassroots Sentiment To The Point

The following statement was submitted to Congressman Ed Edmondson, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Mines and Mining, for the hearing held September 21-24, 1971, in Washington, D. C. It was submitted by Mrs. Vera-Beth Johnson, Goulding Creek Rte, Roundup, Montana.

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Gentlemen, I am from the great State of Montana and I am speaking for a courageous group of people who are ranchers that live in the Bull Mts. of Montana. The name of this group is the Bull Mt. Land Owners Association and it was formed in February of this year for the specific reason to prevent our beautiful and productive area from being strip mined. All of the people that belong to this association operate family type ranches and cannot afford to have one acre out of production at anytime. There are over 70 ranches in the affected area. Most of these people do not own any coal rights and are at the mercy of the eastern coal companies and federal government. We feel that raising cattle for food and keeping the land productive for our future Americans is more important than mining "cheap" coal. There are tunnel mines in the area and we do not condemn them. In fact we feel that the new Mine Safety Act should be revised to be a flexible law that would apply to each unique area instead of a law that "blankets" the entire nation, thus causing many small tunnel mines in our area and others to go out of business or to strip mine. The mines in our area have been forced to put in expensive equipment to remedy a non-existent problem.

Two of the greatest assets in Montana is her unspoiled beauty and her mineral content. She is rightly known as the Treasure State and the Big Sky Country. We do not want these large companies coming to Montana and exploiting the one and at the same time destroying the other. When the minerals are gone our God-created beauty is gone forever. Oh, some say it will be reclaimed! Our natural God-created beauty can never be replaced by man. This land has been productive for thousands of years and will continue to be so unless man destroys it. Do we have so much earth that we can afford to destroy forever any part of it?

I'd like to tell you a little about the Bull Mts. while the slides picturing the Bulls are being shown. You then can judge for yourself just what my family and the others will lose if strip mining is allowed to continue. The Bull Mountains which lie 30 miles north of Billings, Montana, form the divide between the Yellowstone and Musselshell River valleys, rising to around 4,000 feet. They are heavily forested with a species of Ponderosa pine and cedar, intermixed with grassy meadows in valleys between sandstone buttes. The Bulls are dryland mountains. Ranchers who live in the sparsely settled area depend on springs and groundwater as their primary water sources. There is abundant game in the lonely highland pastures, including deer, elk, and wild turkey. At present the landscape is natural, unspoiled, and it forms a refuge not only for wildlife but for men who seek the high western country for their homes. The Bulls are underlaid with sub-bituminous coal, some of which has been traditionally mined by underground methods. At one time Roundup, north of the Bulls, was an important coal producing region, but with the advent of diesel locomotives the market for Bull Mountain coal declined.

Mineral rights to much of the coal in the Bulls is held by the Federal Government. Much of the rest is held by the Burlington Northern R.R. which inherited the Northern Pacific's checkerboard ownership of sections of land in the Bulls. U. S. government gave the N.P.R.R. every alternating section 50 miles each side of the track when the R.R. came through the state. The R.R. sold most of the surface and kept most of the mineral rights. Now the R.R. can condemn



just about under that red motorboat skimming swiftly over the water! At the far side of the lake were campgrounds, complete with boat docks and rest rooms. I felt disoriented, and for a brief moment I considered driving along the road to the campground, to satisfy my curiosity.

I didn't do it, though. If I had discovered that Goldenrod Hill was now covered with overflowing trash cans, I think I would have felt, not like Alice, but like the Mad Hatter!

the ranchers land and they will receive payment determined by the court. How can a court determine the value of a man's life's work? The ecology of the area is fragile. Due to the thin top soil, limited rainfall, short growing season, high altitude, forest cover, and the sandstone outcrop, reclamation is impossible. According to geologists, the water around this area comes from saturation and no one knows how deep the permanent water table is. Some guess between 1500 and 2000 feet. Where will the wildlife get water when the ground water is gone and the wells are dry? Not of course excluding the ranchers and their cattle.

For the past 1-1/2 years we have been besieged upon by Consolidation Coal Company. Consolidation sent public relations men to Roundup to tell the people that the new mining would restore the city's coal economy, which slacked off years ago when the railroads abandoned coal as their locomotive fuel. The ranches have been keeping Roundup "alive" ever since. But now when the R.R. can gain a profit from the coal again, they want it. This time when the coal is gone the land will be gone, the ranches will be gone and there will be a lot less to sustain Roundup. Consol told the people of Roundup that all the empty buildings would be filled with offices, etc. Two months ago Consolidation moved its office from Roundup to Billings and most of its men drive out from there. Now that they were successful with their "snow job", they decided to move where it was convenient, etc. Consol even paid for advertising in Time Magazine to get Roundup a new doctor. This good "deed" certainly doesn't coincide with their eastern image. Consol's survey and core drilling crews have been surveying and core drilling without the permission of most of the land owners and continue to do so until they get caught. They've been found cutting fences, gates, locks, and chains. They've been dumping garbage and writing their names on beautiful rock faces with fluorescent paint. They cut 52 trees on one ranch and carried most of them off. The oldest one was over 250 years old. They've also been core drilling on federal government coal. They do NOT have the federal lease on coal. No federal leases for coal have been given in this area. When ranchers catch them they just say they are sorry and that they must have made a mistake.

Due to the rough topography of this area, many fences are not on section lines. The section markers are lost in most cases and the witness trees are gone, too. Most of the surveys in this area were done around 1883. We are now asking the U. S. government to resurvey this area so that the federal government's coal will be protected as well as public and private land.

We, the Bull Mountain Land Owners Association, urge that strip mining be prohibited throughout the Bull Mts. for the stated reasons. In particular, we request that the Federal Government, which holds coal rights under much of the land, prohibit the strip mining of coal it controls by denying leases to potential strip miners. We urge that the government determine the relative values and merits of strip mining on the one hand, and irreplaceable scenery, wilderness and ranchland on the other and decide which shall be more important to future generations.

At this time I would like to submit in evidence at this hearing over 4,000 signatures from people in our area. I quote from the Petition: "I AM OPPOSED TO STRIP MINING OF COAL UNTIL IT CAN BE PROVED THAT THE LAND CAN BE RESTORED TO ITS ORIGINAL PRODUCTIVITY". According to these people anything less is unthinkable, and detrimental to the people in the area and to the U.S.A. We are all concerned because no place is an island. All strip mining areas will affect directly and indirectly areas hundreds or thousands of miles away. We do not want our beautiful state of Montana ruined nor other Western States such as Arizona, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, No. Dak. and So. Dak., in order to decrease the air pollution in the East when the true motive behind strip mining is a higher margin of profit for the coal companies. This greed and irresponsibility of the coal companies will lead to the destruction of our area and others like it. Tell these miners to go underground and leave the surface for the intention God created it for.

You Congressmen are in the public trust and you hold the future of this land in your hands. We expect you to do your duty to our God loving country and not let it be destroyed to benefit a few for a short time.







Yellowstone National Park is a winter wonderland of natural phenomena and wildlife of all kinds. More of the

scenic wonders can now be enjoyed and photographed, such as this coyote in a steamy setting.

## Park's Winter Wonderland Exposed

As the first snowflakes fly over our nation's oldest and largest national park, exciting news is also in the air. Yellowstone, thermal wonderland, wildlife sanctuary and summer playground for vacationers from all over the world, will open her white wonders to visitors this winter. For the first time in the park's 100 year history, guests may enjoy wintertime adventures, food and overnight accommodations in the very heart of the park at Old Faithful.

Appropriately named "Snow Lodge" the newly offered winter facility will offer rest and relaxation spiced with hearty meals and a host of winter activities. Snowcoach excursions and snowmobile, snowshoe- and ski-touring jaunts will originate at Snow Lodge. The beautiful, new National Park Service Visitor Center at Old Faithful will be open for winter guests, providing interpretive information on the park's natural phenomena. And, of course, Old Faithful Geyser will give her usual punctual performances with steam clouds rising hundreds of feet into the cold, clear air.

Visitors may journey to Snow Lodge from any one of three park entrances, North, West or South, via Snowcoach—big, 10-passenger, enclosed, heated snowmobiles that are fitted with frost-free thermopane windows and even a ceiling hatch for panoramic views.

Just getting there becomes an adventure as the big Snowcoaches skim across a fantastic white world high in the Rocky Mountains past steaming rivers and geysers, bubbling mud pots and herds of wintering big game. Many snowmobile enthusiasts bring their own machines and winter sightseeing in Yellowstone promises to become popular with organized groups and snowmobile clubs.

Snowshoes, skis and one- and two-passenger snowmobiles may be rented at Snow Lodge for an adventurous snow safari. All recreation vehicles are restricted to park roads to protect the delicate environment.

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River with its crashing 308 foot high Lower Falls is a beautiful sight in summer. It's breath-taking in winter. Snowcoach excursions departing regularly from Old Faithful, take delighted visitors to this new remote canyon of ice and snow. Gliding along past warm thermal basins that attract elk, moose, deer, buffalo and rafts of

waterfowl, Snowcoach passengers are treated to a dazzling winter thermal display of "ghost trees". Their frosty coating is formed after steam condenses and settles to decorate branches with millions of sparkling crystals.

Snowcoach excursions also take Old Faithful visitors "over the river and through the woods" to West Yellowstone, Montana -- over the now still Madison River Valley and through snow-laden lodgepole pine forest. This magnificent area is home for great congregations of wildlife, including the rare trumpeter swan.

The season continues from December 17 to mid-March, depending, of course, on snow conditions--average snowfall through the park is

15 inches per month. The average daytime temperature in Yellowstone is 33.3 degrees in December, January and February, but the mercury sometimes dips below zero.

A variety of winter package adventures are available in three, five and seven day selections. All facilities and services are offered by the Yellowstone Park Company and are available from travel agents throughout the United States and Canada. Those interested are encouraged to contact their favorite travel agent or transportation company or to write directly to the Yellowstone Park Company, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190, phone (307) 344-7311.

## Nebraska Offers Great Hunting

LINCOLN, Nebr.--Nebraska offers sportsmen a potpourri of hunting seasons for 1971 similar to those last year that yielded Nebraskans and their out-of-state hunting guests an estimated 1,025,000 rooster pheasants and 567,000 quail.

The pheasant season, the sportsmen's favorite, opens with a bang on November 6 and runs 72 days through January 16 of next year. Limits are 3 roosters daily and 12 in possession. Dates for the quail hunt are the same, with limits of 6 daily and 16 in possession. Statewide, the pheasant population is similar to 1970. Data gathered indicates slight increases in ringneck numbers everywhere but in the Sand Hills and Northeast.

Grouse, the third member of Nebraska's upland game trio, will give hunters a month of sport from September 18 through October 17,

with limits of 2 per day and 6 in possession. Both squirrel and cottontails will add variety to the bag, with liberal seasons on both species, opening on September 1.

The waterfowl picture in Nebraska is bright with large flights of ducks expected this fall and a liberal point system that allows as many as 10 birds in the daily bag. Duck season opens on October 9 throughout the state, closes for three days beginning November 1, then reopens on November 4. It continues through December 20 in eastern Nebraska and through January 9 in the west. Goose hunters will have 75 days to go after the big birds starting October 2.

## Ag Must Clean Up

A regional official of the Environmental Protection Agency at Seattle, Hurlon Ray, told a Seminar on Snake River Cleanup that agriculture must do its part to help alleviate water pollution. Ray said agricultural practices required to prevent water degradation were as necessary as those required of municipalities and other industries, such as paper mills and chemical plants.

Ray was the featured speaker at the seminar sponsored by the Idaho League of Women Voters at Twin Falls.

