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BPA bill shapes destiny of states in Rockies

by Marjane Ambler

The governor of Montana and conservationists in Western coal-producing states have become alarmed at a proposal now before Congress — a proposal that has concerned conservationists in the Northwest for some time. The bill would reorganize the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a public agency that was created by Congress in 1937 to market power generated by federal dams in the Northwest. Only a small portion of Montana and a corner of Wyoming are served by BPA, so it hasn't been a big issue in these states.

However, conservationists fear that the bill could pave the way for several new power plants in the West as well as a vast network of transmission lines connecting the Rocky Mountain states with the Northwest. Some state officials also fear that under the bill, the federal government could usurp state energy planning authority.

Neither BPA nor Congress made much effort to inform the Rocky Mountain states about the bill, which was introduced in the Senate (S 2096) by Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) and in the House (HR 9020) by Rep. Lloyd Meeds (D-Wash.). Congressional hearings in December were held only in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

This upset Montana Gov. Tom Judge. He thinks the bill has vast implications for his and other coal-producing states and listed several objections to the bill when he testified in Boise. He said Montana needs another year to look at the proposal, since it had been prepared without significant public participation from his state. Other speakers asked the committee to schedule hearings in Montana and Wyoming.

The bill was written by a group of more than 100 Western utilities and BPA indus-

Montana's severance tax being challenged by Eastern utilities.

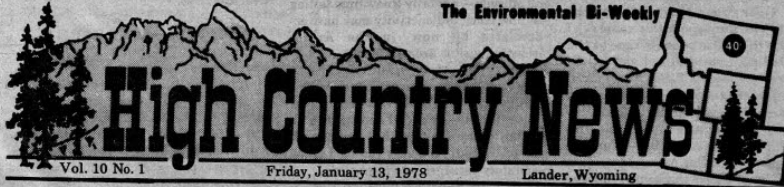
See story on page 10.

trial customers known as the Pacific Northwest Utilities Coordinating Council (PNUCC), according to Dan Schauben, assistant to the administrator for BPA. BPA has not taken a position on the proposal.

The utilities hope the legislation will remove economic, legal, and perhaps political hurdles to building power plants that would serve the Northwest, wherever the plants might be located.

A study conducted for BPA said that a maximum of 26 thermal plants, both nuclear and coal-fired, might be needed by 1995, or more than one every year. Schauben says that the costs for building nuclear plants have "escalated tremendously in the last four or five years." Yet he says BPA also recognizes the environmental problems of coal-fired plants. Asked whether or not the coal plants would be located where

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Vol. 10 No. 1

Friday, January 13, 1978

Lander, Wyoming



LOU REED: Credits Art Manley with nudging them into action.



DOROTHY BRADLEY: Wrong age, wrong party, wrong sex.



RANDOLPH NODLAND: "It was my farm."

Why activists are active Issues, politics, people, and — fun

"A leader," said Walter Lippman, "leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on." Leadership, in its many forms, helps motivate people to undertake many tasks — charge into battle, win elections, fight dragons, or save the environment. A leader inspires, organizes, pulls, pushes, flatters, cajoles, criticizes, and praises to get others to join him or her in achieving a goal.



LYNN DICKEY: Helping farmers against nukes.

But, how? Several months ago, Connally Mears of Lakewood, Colo., wrote HCN about an article by Peter Wild on Olaus Murie. "Wild mentioned briefly Murie's great ability to motivate others. How? I feel that one of the highest duties of an activist must assume is finding his replacement — enlarging the corps," Mears said.

Margaret Murie, responding to Mears' letter, said that the writer asked "a very legitimate question, but one which I have been trying to answer for myself for years — one which is hard to answer because it touches on the inner spiritual ingredients of a human being and is almost impossible to put into words."

For the activists today in what is loosely described as the "environmental movement," the qualities of leadership that motivated them are apparently as difficult to put into words. In a series of interviews with many Western activists, HCN asked, "Why do you do what you do?" and "How would you try to inspire others?"

As could be expected, an amalgam of factors contributed to each one's involvement. These include personal inclination, concern about issues, desire to effect change, another individual's inspiration, coincidence, and, of all things, fun.

Florence Krall is an assistant professor of education at the University of Utah who teaches environmental and alternative education. As a teacher, she is of necessity a motivator herself, and has a theory about

her efforts to turn people on to the environment in her courses.

Krall says that for most people, another individual initially generated their interest in the environment. This person, either a parent or someone later in life, was usually "somebody who gets kicks out of devotion to the environmental movement" or some kind of fulfillment.

The second stage of involvement, says Krall, is curiosity and a need to contribute to society. Ideas begin to challenge the fledgling environmentalist's mind. "It's an area that captures the human need to inquire into what's going on around us. Exploration of people's immediate environment is usually very important to them."

Finally, people are drawn toward environmentalism because they find the alternatives so dissatisfying. "Just buying things and following TV ads doesn't bring satisfaction," she says.

In Krall's opinion, when people finally do get involved in environmental work, many of them "turn on" with such zeal that they almost become religious advocates. "It becomes a spiritual substitute for the lack of meaning they find in institutionalized religion," she says.

However, not everybody is interested in environmentalism to fulfill their need to contribute to society, she says. There are a certain number of hedonists involved

(continued on page 4)

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HCN Letters

MANIFEST DESTINY LIVES

Dear editor,

Many thanks for your excellent piece in the Dec. 30 issue, "Indians Wrestling for Control Over Their Minerals." For the energy tribes throughout this country, I have come to see this period in time as the seesaw between survival and extinction. Nearly every aspect of Indian history and in particular the Osage tribes' history has clearly demonstrated the certain destruction of Indian peoples under the onslaught of the need for natural resources. Manifest destiny as an American political banner is far from dead. Under this banner, energy tribes do not face the traditional fears of termination. In relative terms, "termination" appears as only a mild side effect when weighed against annihilation.

As you and many others have perceived, the economic forces that besiege the tribes can quickly be tied to the backlash movement. Again, historically there have been many forerunners in the backlash realm. Evidence of such organizations dates back here on the Northern Cheyenne reservation to the turn of the century.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for the continuing coverage you have done. Because of the lack of regional media networks and more importantly, the existence of the same economic forces that are mentioned above, so many of our issues never make it into the American information networks.

Eric Metcalf
Northern Cheyenne Research Project
Lame Deer, Mont.

RADIOACTIVITY IN MOAB

Dear Editors,

We read with interest Timothy Lange's article in your Dec. 16 issue concerning the "lackadaisical attitude" of government and corporate officials toward the prevention and cleanup of accidental spills of uranium yellowcake.

Perhaps your readers would like to know about a severe case of the same to-hell-with-the-public attitude concerning a chronic long-standing non-accidental situation involving radioactive materials, a city of 6,000, a group of National Park Service employees, and every visitor to the popular national park they manage.

The little city of Moab, Utah, lies in a deep, narrow, sheer-walled valley that tapers funnel-like to an even narrower gorge to the northwest. A large uranium processing mill, with its immense tailings pond, lies adjacent to the mouth of this funnel. Moab begins about a mile south of this plant, and the only entrance, visitor center, maintenance buildings, and ranger residential area for Arches National Park lies just inside the narrows of this big geologic funnel.

The problem is that Atlas Minerals, the owner and operator of the uranium processing mill, stockpiles huge quantities of unprocessed uranium ore beside the mill, uncovered and unprotected. And when the wind blows strongly, as it so often does in this high desert country, the powdery gray dust that is a large part of local uranium ore blows in great opaque clouds toward either Moab or the residential visitor

center of Arches National Park. No matter what the general wind direction, the geologic funnel that is the northwest end of Moab Valley directs this radioactive dust either toward Moab or Arches.

The problem is compounded by the fact that the Arches residential-visitor area is higher than Atlas, the source of the radioactive dust, and the dust thus drops out and accumulates in this vital, heavily used area.

Oh, I can hear the atomic apologists crying now — "but the radiation level in that ore is too low to be harmful!"

In response to this contention I would like to pose a few questions:

Does anyone — Atlas, local, state or federal officials — actually know from testing just how much radioactivity may have accumulated by now in the Arches residential-visitor area in Moab?

Does anyone know, positively, that it takes more than just one or a few molecules of uranium oxide lodged in human lungs or sinuses to cause local cell damage and ultimately cancerous growths? And do such radioactive materials stay confined to the respiratory passages when inhaled?

Does Atlas Minerals have the right to expose the public to this risk, no matter how small or great, by ignoring it? Do local, state, and federal officials also have the right to ignore this matter, as they have been for so long?

F. A. Barnes, Executive Director
ISSUE, Moab Chapter

STOP ONE SHOT

Dear High Country News,

Regarding the One Shot Antelope Hunt held each year in Lander:

I hope the News will start a campaign to put a stop to this barbaric "sport" where animals are wounded and may suffer for hours before dying or being killed by other



Photo by Eric Metcalf. A large, dark, multi-lobed object, possibly a piece of machinery or a biological specimen, set against a light, textured background.

means after a long chase and thus terrifying them in addition to the pain of the shot that didn't kill immediately. That brutality can bring pleasure speaks very badly for the human race.

Kathleen M. Schiller
Wolf, Wyo.

SPEECHLESS

Dear Everyone,

When I opened the latest edition and saw the goose family centerfold I was totally speechless. It is so exquisite that it hurts.

Sue Schrader
Riverton, Wyo.

HOPEFUL ABOUT RARE II

Dear Editors,

I question the timing of Mr. Dave Foreman's "guest opinion" in the 11-4-77 issue of HCN. The U.S. Forest Service is into a top priority national effort, commonly known as RARE II, to respond to the concerns expressed on the wilderness and undeveloped area issue. Mr. Foreman may not agree with the techniques being employed, but it would seem appropriate to set the rhetoric aside long enough to examine the results of the program to date. I am familiar with only the Shoshone National Forest's RARE II program, but an examination of their maps and inventory clearly shows that Mr. Foreman's "Jewels in the Crown Syndrome" has not prevailed.

I urge Mr. Foreman and readers of HCN to acquire a copy of the draft environmental statement on RARE II when the document is issued next June. It should answer many of the concerns Mr. Foreman poses. If it doesn't, then there will be time to develop public support and a strong response before a final decision is made. In the meantime, I submit that resources could be more profitably invested in other important issues.

David A. Stark
Cody, Wyo.

MUTTON, WOOL UNNECESSARY

Dear Editor,

While reading your article on sheep vs. grizzlies, and all the letters it brought in response, a startling thought occurred to me, one which may sound facetious but is not intended that way. "WHO NEEDS SHEEP, in this day and age?"

Do I eat sheep or use wool? No. I stopped eating mutton and lamb and buying wool products during the big sheepmen-shooting-eagles fiasco, and have continued that boycott ever since. How many wool garments have I seen being worn, or for sale, lately? Very few. Cotton and synthetics either can or already have replaced wool.

In sum — WHO NEEDS SHEEP?

Of course, the sheepherders do, but if we, as a nation, don't need sheep, do we need sheepherders either? Are we, as taxpayers, supporting an entire fictitious industry through various government subsidy programs? Is the whole nation being ripped off by a bunch of sheepmen who are laughing up their sleeves while raising a few sheep as a "front," screaming about "predator control" for a diversion, and making millions through tax-supported programs, while not sending a single animal to market?

An interesting question, one that I am sure the "sheepgrowers" will be most anxious to answer.

Frank Cox
Moab, Utah

INCLINED TRANSPORTATION

Dear Friends,

I would like to relate two items in the Dec. 16 issue: An article reported the threat of subdivision of a hay meadow near Jackson, Wyo. A book review mentioning technological "nightmares" was illustrated by a cable car serviced development at El Portal.

The relationship is this: if we are to stop wasting agricultural open space, then we are going to have to make sensitive use of stable mountain sides. Inclined mode of transportation is better than destructive highway cut-and-fill.

I made some comments about Jackson in this context in an article on the planning problems of ski resorts in the Fall 1976 issue of *Ski Area Management*.

Raymond S. Rodgers
Planner-economist
Community Planning Assn. of Canada



GRAZING AND ASPEN

Dear HCN,

The Dec. 2 issue of High Country News contains an article entitled "Aspen" by Carl Brown. Mr. Brown makes the following statement, "Sheep grazing a site three years in a row, feeding upon the young suckers, means death for the grove."

This is a statement I have never heard nor seen in the literature.

I would appreciate it if Mr. Brown could supply me with the references upon which this statement is based.

Bob Elderkin
Grand Junction, Colo.

CARL BROWN'S REPLY

I have received several queries about the effect of sheep grazing upon aspen groves. My statement, "Sheep grazing a site three years in a row, feeding upon the young suckers, means death for the grove," is an over-simplification of a complex issue.

Grazing has been used as a management tool to convert aspen groves to grassland. The grove I referred to was clearcut. Then it was grazed three years to destroy sprouts. The conversion was on purpose.

Well-managed grazing causes little or no harm to a healthy aspen grove. However, repeated, heavy use by sheep — or by wildlife — has destroyed groves of aspen.

I sincerely hope that wayward sentence caused no grief. I am pleased that the article stimulated discussion. I realize that the Basque shepherds are an irreplaceable asset to the mountain community. If we keep tabs on our management, we can have the benefits of both aspen and grazing.

References:

1. Jones, John R. "Rocky Mountain Aspen." in *Silvicultural Systems of the Major Forest Types in the United States*. USFS, Agricultural Handbook No. 445.
2. Patton, David R. and Jones, John R. "Managing Aspen for Wildlife in the Southwest." USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-37. 1977.

'Unconventional' home deserves a loan

Somewhere out there is a financial institution with enough foresight and flexibility to approve a loan for Stanley and Judy Frank's partly-underground, passively solar-heated home. After months of searching, the Franks cannot find one, however (see story, page 11).

The Franks' preliminary plans hardly make the home seem like a risky experiment. They were drawn up by a reputable architect and a solar engineer. However, the plans were rejected because, in the lenders' eyes, they were "unconventional" and "had no resale market."

What the leaders ignored was that the Franks' home was "unconventional" mainly because it would conserve fossil fuel. What could be better insurance of a good resale value? It is unquestionably the traditional, fuel-guzzling homes that will soon be hard to sell. Even usually cautious lenders should realize that the wisest among us are coming up with unconventional ideas to survive tomorrow's fuel costs.

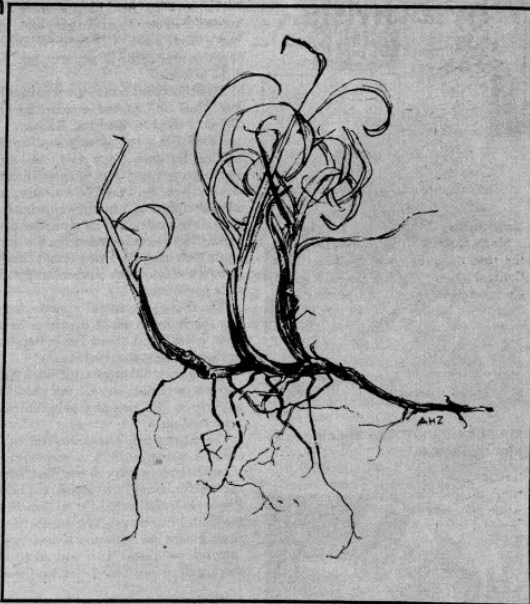
What we find even more discouraging than the Franks' failure to get a private loan, however, is the federal government's apparent inability to do anything to help. The couple has yet to receive a solid suggestion from any of the public officials they have contacted, including people at the

Department of Energy, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Farmer's Home Administration.

In the meantime, the Franks are about to settle — unhappily — for a home that will land a loan — and, of course, use much more fuel than they had contemplated. How many others who are interested in underground houses will give up when they hear of the obstacles encountered by the Franks?

Government officials are spending millions of tax dollars educating the public about the need for energy conservation. If Stanley and Judy Frank are any indication, it looks like the public is several steps ahead of the officials who are attempting to educate them.

—JN



RELOCATE SHEEP

Hello:

To answer all those complaining about your article on the grizzly bear, I want to say that although it may have been somewhat emotional — that's what's needed if we are to convince people these great animals deserve a place to live.

It seems ironic to me that despite all the arguments on both sides, no one seemed to mention the fact that sheep, being domesticated, can be moved successfully. Trying to move grizzlies to Iowa — and relocating their habitat is impossible.

How long is it going to be before local officials and those who sit beside our Great White Father wake up and see that grizzlies have only a little bit of land left?

Katherine Golding
Round Rock, Tex.

ONE-SIDED DIATRIBES

Dear HCN,

In the classified ads in the back of your 12-30-77 issue, you solicited articles by Utah writers, asking for "fair, accurate new reporting. One-sided diatribes unacceptable."

Yet in the same issue you featured a long article on Edward Abbey, the very king of "one-sided diatribes."

Am I the only one who caught the irony of this?

It occurred to me, after reading about how inspiring Abbey's "one-sided diatribes" have been for inert environmentalists, that perhaps **High Country News** would do well to make room for the writings of a few more inspired and inspiring heretics, and **HANG** strict adherence to "fair, accurate new reporting," which is a semantic fiction anyway.

M. M. Irvine
Moab, Utah

Keeping a wary eye on our neighbors

We hope Congress as a whole is not as pliable in the hands of the utilities as Sen. Henry Jackson and Rep. Lloyd Meeds seem to be. The legislators will soon vote on the bill these two men are sponsoring (see story page 1). We hope other Congressmen can see that the proposed legislation benefits a special interest group, and calls for unfair — and unnecessary — sacrifices from one region for industry in another region.

Whether it passes or not, the bill should serve as a lesson to us to keep an eye on the Northwest and its growing energy appetite. We can't afford to get so caught up in our own battles over individual coal-fired power plants in the Rockies and Northern Plains that we miss what's going on a few hundred miles away in the Northwest. The utilities there want electric power — lots of it — and they're looking greedily our direction.

One Washington resident, a transplant from Montana, told HCN, "These states consider Montana and Wyoming their back

yard, where they can go and muck around and do what they wouldn't do in their own states."

Environmentalists in the Northwest are focusing on the danger of more nuclear plants in their states. They are not very worried about coal plants elsewhere — especially out here where there aren't any people anyway, she says.

Another Northwestern environmentalist says this is generally true but that it's not out of malice — just ignorance. As they start seeing more slide shows of installations like Colstrip, the Northwest environmentalists are becoming more concerned about the social impact, air pollution, and reclamation problems here.

In any case, we can't let ourselves get caught in a tug-of-war with the concerned citizenry of the Northwest over who gets to keep the cleaner environment. We don't wish nuclear plants on anybody (especially since our region seems doomed to get their wastes).

Instead, we should take every opportunity to push for energy conservation. The environmental groups of the Northwest have made it easy by leading a professional, thorough study on the kilowatt and dollar potential for conservation.

We'll get the chance to speak out for conservation at a public hearing soon. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared a draft environmental impact statement on its role in the region, which includes its possible plans for the coal-producing states. The hearing will be held on Feb. 1 at the Holiday Inn West in Billings, Mont., at 7 p.m. to give residents of this region a chance to add their comments to those from people of the Northwest. The written comment deadline has been extended to Feb. 13. For a copy of the statement, call BPA at its toll-free number for details — 1 (800) 452-8429.

We suggest you voice opposition to the bill introduced by Rep. Lloyd Meeds (D-Wash.), too. It's HR 9020. Contact Meeds now since the House is considering it before the Senate. Write him through the

Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, and write your own Congressmen.

—MJA



Research Fund

The High Country News Research Fund has paid for some of the expenses involved in researching several stories in this issue: Bonneville Power Unit Administration, Adobe Town, and why activists act.

Would you like to help with expenses on stories such as these? You can do so by donating to the HCN Research Fund. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Your generosity allows HCN to go about its work. Make out checks to: Wyoming Environmental Institute — HCN Research Fund, and send it to WEI, P.O. Box 2497, Jackson, Wyo. 83001. Thank you.

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Why activists...

(continued from page 1)



MARCIA PURSLEY: "People really like challenges."



JAY REED: "I'm just trying to save what I love."

purely because it gives them pleasure or power.

To motivate others, Krall says that leaders have an "obligation to introduce the natural world to others." She believes that contact with nature can bring them to enlightenment faster than any other way. In her courses, Krall teaches first through nature, not through issues. "I can't begin with issue-oriented courses," she says.

Enlightenment came for Krall in a "contact-with-nature" experience similar to those she prescribes for her students. She went to an Audubon camp at Dubois, Wyo., and saw people who had tremendous feeling for the natural world. "I was amazed at all the people finding delight in the flowers I was tramping over — amazed to see people spending what seemed like hours staring at an eagle."

CRAZY?

At first she thought, "Either I'm crazy or they are." Later, however, she decided that the Audubon campers weren't so crazy after all and began to develop her own love for natural things. Now she's an advocate of what she calls "old-fashioned nature study," which means field work and the joy and excitement that can accompany it under the right conditions.

The "love-of-nature" incentive does not work for all people, however. Lynn Dickey, former head of Powder River Basin Resource Council in Sheridan, Wyo., and now Wyoming State Energy Conservation

Coordinator, says that to motivate people "The basic thing is to have an issue that is having or threatens to have a strong influence on their own lives. To get people moving, they have to feel personally threatened — something that hits very close to home."

These backyard issues are what got Dickey "fired up," in her words. She says, "When I lived in Wichita, Kansas, I got involved with a religious group, the Ecumenical Institute. They said, 'As long as you're living here, you may as well jump in. Get involved.' So, I went to a meeting with a bunch of Kansas farmers whose land was about to be condemned for a nuclear power plant. They needed someone in Wichita to argue their case. So, I was it and I started going on radio shows and talking to the state government.

"The thing that actually motivated me was the desire to assist people in having their voices heard about issues important to them — basic survival issues."

Dickey says that originally Ralph Nader was her personal "hero," but only for a short time. "He was the only individual that stood out."

The concern for "basic survival issues" has been the impetus for several rancher-conservationist groups in the West, including the Northern Plains Resource Council, Powder River Basin Resource Council, and the United Plainsmen. The membership of these groups often blanch if described as "environmentalists," but will admit that their goals are at least "conservationist."

One such conservationist farmer is Randolph Nodland, now the head of United Plainsmen. On Dec. 15, 1974, Nodland and a neighbor were sitting around the kitchen table wondering what they could do about a gasification plant that had been proposed for a site near their farms in Dunn County, N.D. They decided to drive around and contact neighbors to see if anyone else was concerned.

By the next night, they had convinced 40 farmers to attend a meeting to listen to a speech by a United Plainsmen representative. On Dec. 17, the newly-organized opposition appeared at public hearing of the North Dakota Water Commission, stunning both the commission and People's Gas, the sponsors of the plant.

No decision was made at that meeting. But Nodland, fearing that the commission would "sneak away" to some other part of



DICK RANDALL: His camera got him involved.

the state and vote for approval, convinced four or five others to follow the commission around the state with him to testify in opposition and keep an eye on the commission's activities.

After a year and a half, their vigilance apparently paid off — the commission turned down the plant. Nodland has since been involved with the United Plainsmen on many issues. Asked why he kept going, he says, "It was my farm. People won't get involved unless they're threatened."

HE FOUGHT

Some people do, however, get involved in difficult and complex challenges without being threatened by a coal gasification plant in their back yard. Bart Koehler, Wilderness Society representative for Wyoming and Nebraska, has a graduate degree from the University of Wyoming in recreational planning and was once the executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Council (WOC). Koehler says that there are two people in particular who inspired him — Tom Bell, publisher of the *High Country News*, now living in Oregon, and Margaret Murie, wife of biologist-writer Olaus Murie and a respected writer and naturalist in her own right.

Koehler says, "Tom Bell just went out and fought. He spoke out when nobody else was speaking out against (former Wyoming Gov.) Stan Hathaway and his so-called 'quality growth' plan. And, he took a lot of abuse for it."

Colleen Kelly, current head of WOC, echoes Koehler's respect for Bell, saying, "He had a lot of deep feelings about Wyoming — he wasn't the type who just wanted to be in a fight all the time."

Kelly says that, ironically, one of the things that inspired her was a confrontation with Hathaway in her early college years. "About three or four of us fresh scrubbed young kids went in to see Gov. Hathaway and he ate us up for dinner. We couldn't have been very controversial; we were all very scared of the whole situation. We were started to ask him some questions about what he thought of quality of growth and he got real angry. I thought he was going to start pounding his shoe on the table like Kruschev."

Margaret (Mardy) Murie, who says she has difficulty describing the qualities in her husband, Olaus, that motivated others, has inspired a number of people herself. Montana activist Liz Smith says it is Murie's "living warmth" that has made Murie the grand lady of the environmental movement in the West. Jay Reed, a teacher for the Audubon Society, says there is something intangible about Murie. He saw her at the Teton Jetport and Alaska Wilderness hearings. "When she walked in, I could sense there was an important person in the room," he says.

Colleen Kelly says, "Mardy can voice environmental concerns in everyday ways and bring people in who otherwise wouldn't be interested because they are impressed with her sincerity and her graciousness. She really supports young people and what they're doing — I know she always did me."

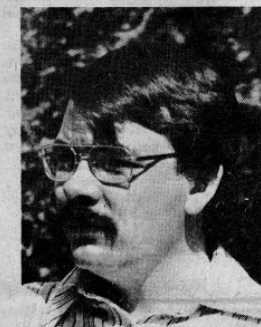
Audubon's Reed is another environmentalist who is involved even though there is no "clear and present danger" to his back yard. But he admits a kind of self-interest. He is responsible for the Audubon educational van, in which he tours the Rocky Mountain states giving workshops for teachers and students.

He says, "I'm just trying to save what I

love and trying to help people." He says he was in the movement "up to his ears" before he met some of the people who have influenced him most — Murie, Friends of the Earth President David Brower, and Elvis Stahr, executive director of the Audubon Society.

Occasionally, an issue that strikes close to home evolves into a broader appreciation of the environment and the issues surrounding it. For Mike Jacobs, North Dakota newspaper editor and author, the beginning was the Garrison Dam. His grandfather was one of the first homesteaders in the Missouri River Valley. Every Sunday afternoon, his grandparents would take him to watch the filling of the reservoir, which began when Jacobs was seven years old. "I remember a lot of head shaking about why this was happening, but nobody ever provided an answer. . . Now that I'm an adult, I know that there was no answer — it was a foolish thing to do."

Jacobs' "leaders" in this environmental awareness were his parents. "My father



MIKE JACOBS: Tells the story as he sees it.

wasn't embarrassed about being interested in the prairie. I don't remember a time when I wasn't involved in appreciation of nature," he says.

To convey this philosophy to others, Jacobs has chosen journalism. However, his paper, *The Onlooker*, isn't exclusively an environmental publication. He thinks environmentalism is an integral part of the agricultural lifestyle. His thinking is conveyed in his paper's motto, "There is not much one man can do but tell a story the way he sees it."

Dick Randall, Defenders of Wildlife representative in Wyoming, says that his camera got him involved in conservation issues. "It takes so much time, hiking, putting up blinds — it leaves time to look and ponder. Once you get hooked, oh, brother..."

Randall was a predator control agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for many years. This experience eventually turned him toward conservation. "I learned a little about predators and a lot about predator control. It got to me. Any time you have to trap or poison two or three of the wrong animals to get the one you're after, which usually didn't deserve killing in the first place, it's not a good system. That's when I started talking and I still have a lot to say."

He sometimes is frustrated with the paper work and the meetings, which keep him from field work. But the meetings

Activist Scott Reed says, "Where else can you charge off on a white horse, tilt at windmills, and feel righteous about what you're doing?"

serve both as an inspiration to his listeners and a motivation for him. He tells of receiving letters from 40 children thanking him for a talk he gave. "They asked the most beautiful questions . . . It kind of lights a spark."

Politics and environmentalism are closely intertwined. Lurking deep in some environmental souls is the desire to be elected to the state legislature or go to Washington. One person chasing this par-



MARGARET MURIE: The grand lady of the Western environmental movement.

ticular dream is Dorothy Bradley, an environmentalist and Montana state legislator since 1971, who will campaign for the U.S. Congress in 1978.

Bradley says that her pursuit of environmental goals is the result of, first, Montana's responsive political climate. "You can see the worth of environmental and political work here." She says that "You can really accomplish something."

Secondly, Bradley says that the beauty of Montana "makes it worth the fight. People are here by a conscious choice."

Part of Bradley's inspiration on the political trail rests with Montana state Sen. Harry Mitchell of Great Falls, who encouraged her to run for state legislature on Earth Day, 1970, by saying, "What have you got to lose? You're the wrong age, wrong party, and wrong sex." She was a 22-year-old Democrat.

Environmental advocate Liz Smith has also exercised a strong influence on Bradley. She says that Smith's intelligence inspired her: "Liz is fascinated by details and has incredible insight into the issues."

And, like some others HCN interviewed, Bradley comes from a long line of environmentalists — she's a third generation Sierra Clubber.

BUILD FREEWAYS

Leaders who want to motivate by appealing to backyard issues have an ally in Scott Reed of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. "Build more freeways" is his facetious recommendation

for building support since it arouses peoples' "primitive instinct" to protect their own territory. Reed is an attorney and a member of the Idaho Water Resource Board. His wife, Lou, is vice-chairman of the Idaho Conservation League, and chairman of the board of the Northern Rockies Action Group.

Scott says that to get people involved, the environmental movement needs to make people sensitive and aware of what's happening in their own territory — and to show them that what's happening elsewhere can also come their way.

Both he and Lou credit Art Manley, now a state senator, for their involvement. Scott came to Idaho 20 years ago and went to a National Wildlife Federation meeting at which he hoped to find out where to go hunting. "Instead, I got tied up with Art Manley."

"He's the sort of person who drags you into things," Scott says. Lou says that Manley would call up after they had been skiing or hiking and ask where they'd been and whether they had completed their appointed conservation tasks. He'd ask in a joking way, she says, but he would succeed in nudging them into action. "Art is a kind of a saint — very modest and very conscientious." Lou now serves as Manley's political advisor.

Scott Reed says that one of the attractions of the environmental work is "fun." He says, "Where else can you charge off on a white horse, tilt at windmills, and feel righteous about what you're doing?"

The Environmental Information Center works on environmental issues in Montana, lobbying the state legislature and keeping Montanans informed about the state's political activities as they affect the environment. The staff director for the past one and a half years has been Bob Kiesling. He says that he was inspired by the quality of his surroundings in Montana and seeing "the worst of the urban blight in Chicago." A lot of people inspired him but Dr. Clancy Gordon, an activist professor at the University of Montana, had the most profound effect. "He has an almost quixotic approach," Kiesling says.

Kiesling echoes some of the "fun" aspects that Scott Reed mentioned. He says that his "workmates" are such fine people that they soon become his "playmates." However, the social attraction is secondary. He says, "I would still be out here fighting these battles even if the people weren't so nice."

Kiesling says that he can see the results of his efforts. "We definitely have an impact, but that really isn't the most important thing. Environmentalists are tenacious. It doesn't take too much reinforcement to keep an environmentalist going. They

Lynn Dickey says, "To get people moving, they have to feel personally threatened — by an issue that hits very close to home."

are some of the toughest people around." He has a simple formula for motivating these "tough people": "Put them to work."

CHALLENGES

Marcia Pursley, the first director of the Idaho Conservation League (ICL), echoes Kiesling's work philosophy. "People really like challenges. We need to lean on the people who are right next door — find them and encourage them to move into bigger action."

Pursley herself started in 1971 in Boise, Idaho, organizing her neighborhood to fight for a good foothills transportation plan. The issue grew into a full-fledged planning effort and Pursley was on the committee to draft a planning ordinance.

Later, a group of activists asked her to head the newly-formed ICL. She says, "I wouldn't have considered applying, but they believed I could do it." She headed the organization for about two years during its delicate growing period. Now, she fills in occasionally and serves in the board of the Northern Rockies Action Group.

She thinks that encouraging new activists is important, but that most groups don't do it very well. "That's where we fall down. We're not aware of all the things that people who now are just writing letters could do."

Issues, politics, nature, people — all help inspire leaders in the environmental movement. However, one activist admits

what is undoubtedly true for a number of people — he got involved by accident.

After working as a teacher on the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana, Brad Klafehn moved to Colorado and looked for volunteer work. "I figured an environmental organization would be as good a group as any to volunteer for," he says. So, he went through the Denver telephone book and found the Colorado Open Space Council (COSC).

Carolyn Johnson, then director of the COSC Mining Workshop, gave the new volunteer work that he found satisfying enough to toil at for a year before even asking for a salary. Klafehn says that this approach worked for him and believes it will work for others. "You have to get people started working on levels they can handle first and then build up . . . you have to take time to work with people."

Klafehn became head of the mining workshop after Johnson left. Now, he wouldn't consider any other kind of work. "These problems are so overwhelming and so imminent that it doesn't seem like there is anything else I could be doing."

Whatever their motives, environmentalists as a group seem loyal and tenacious. From HCN's unscientific poll, they can also be called issue-oriented and individualistic.

HCN's survey also indicates, as you may have suspected, that the qualities of good leadership are elusive, and as individual as the leaders that possess them.



BOB KIESLING: "I put them to work."



TOM BELL: Just went out and fought.



FLORENCE KRALL: Curiosity and contribution.

The best leaders are those whose existence is merely known by the people.
 The next best are those who are loved and praised.
 The next are those who are feared.
 And the next are those who are despised.
 It is only when one does not have enough faith in others that others will have no faith in him.
 The great leaders value their words highly.
 They accomplish their task; they complete their work.
 And when they are done, the people say, "We did this ourselves."

Lao Tzu

6-High Country News — Jan. 13, 1978,

BPA bill. . .

(continued from page 1)

the power is to be used, Schausten said, "In some ways it does appear more attractive to have plants at or near the mine mouth in Montana or Wyoming" because of transportation costs. The agency hasn't ruled out Utah, but Schausten says other states' coal fields would probably be too far away to be feasible.

If all the electricity were produced by coal plants in the Rocky Mountain states, BPA and the Forest Service project as many as 20 transmission lines stretching from the coal plants across Idaho and into the Northwest.

PAVING THE WAY

In the past, there have been regional studies predicting dozens of power plants in Montana and Wyoming, but so far relatively few have been built. As the bill says in its introductory language, "radical increases in costs of new thermal (coal-fired and nuclear) generation and unexpected delays in licensing and authorization have imposed major unanticipated difficulties."

The bill proposes to remedy both the problems of increasing costs and approval delays. To remove the risks for investors who want to invest in power plants, BPA would promise to purchase all of the power from any new power plant that is approved.

The bill specifies that if for any reason the plant is not operable or if its operation is suspended or reduced, BPA would still meet its contractual obligations, paying for electricity it was not receiving. Jim Blomquist of the Sierra Club in Seattle says that, in effect, the federal government would be guaranteeing loans for power plant construction.

Normally, before a private utility can build a power plant, it must sell bonds. A bond broker would look at questions such

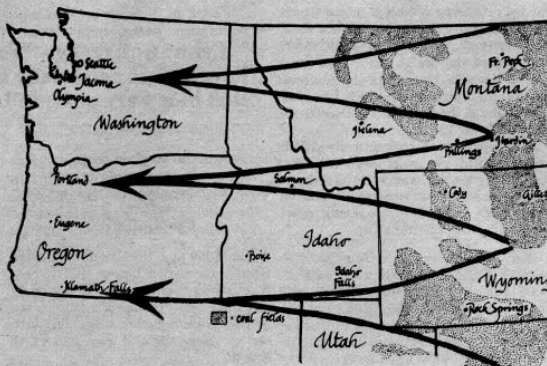
Colstrip units 3 and 4 in Montana and Jim Bridger unit 4 in Wyoming would not be needed prior to 1995 if conservation were practiced in the Northwest.

as the need for the plant and the possibility of lawsuits against it before he would invest. However, if the PNUCC bill were passed, "need" would not worry investors since BPA would guarantee to buy the power. To reduce the threat of lawsuits, the bill specifies that legal actions would have to be filed within 60 days after a contract between BPA and a utility was signed. The utilities would not be subject to any anti-trust suits if the bill passes with its present language intact.

"Need" would be determined by a non-profit corporation formed of representatives from private and public utilities, to be known as the Pacific Northwest Electric Planning and Conservation Organization (PNEPCO). PNEPCO would prepare forecasts of power loads, conduct or participate in plant siting studies, and decide from which plants BPA would purchase power.

Many of the conservationists' objections to the PNUCC bill focus on the utilities' power to make energy forecasts and conduct siting studies. "The board PNEPCO... will wield amazing powers — and we see no real checks or balances of that power," Sanna Porte of the Environmental Information Center in Montana said at the Congressional hearing in Boise.

Porte and others question whether energy conservation will be given much weight in determining the need for new power plants. The PNUCC bill requires



ENERGY WILL FLOW WEST through transmission lines, railroads, and coal slurry pipelines under Bonneville Power Administration's plans for the future. This energy flow map, adapted from a joint BPA-Forest Service study, is designed to show the areas that may be impacted to serve Northwest load growth by the year 2020 and the general flow patterns of energy (not actual energy corridors).

BPA to prepare an annual report that compares, on a regional basis, the cost of power from conventional electric generation technologies to that from alternative technologies and conservation.

However, there is no requirement in the PNUCC bill to choose the cheapest route. Energy conservation is new in the Pacific Northwest where hydroelectric power has always been cheap. There are thousands of all-electric homes with little or no insulation, according to the *L.A. Times*. Per capita, the region uses twice as much electricity as the national average. BPA's mandate when it was created was to "encourage the widest possible use of all the electric energy that can be generated and marketed."

The federal government actively encouraged aluminum companies, which consume huge amounts of power, to locate

It's important to the industry to keep the cheap power because every tenth of a cent per kilowatt hour the industry saves represents a total of \$40 million, according to figures cited by Blomquist of the Sierra Club.

Consequently, the aluminum industry is one of the strongest proponents of the PNUCC bill, which guarantees power for the industry. The bill also provides a rate classification that means the industry would be provided a mix of cheap hydroelectric power and thermal electric power from nuclear and coal-fired plants, which is much more expensive. New users, including public utility districts, would get all thermal electric power. The cheapest power pool, all hydroelectric, would go to existing public utility districts.

CIVIL WAR

Speakers at the Congressional hearings last month indicated that some kind of regional energy planning effort is needed in the Northwest, although testimony was split about half and half on whether the PNUCC bill was the right approach.

Gov. Dixie Ray of Washington said at the hearings that the PNUCC bill is necessary to hold off a "regional civil war" over electricity. About 80% of Washington's electricity is from public utilities, which have first rights to the cheapest BPA power. Only about 20% of Oregon's electricity is from public utilities, and the state would like more cheap electricity.

Idaho Gov. John Evans testified that he would go to court if necessary to guarantee his state a fair share of BPA power. Presently, he said, two out of every three kilowatt hours of power produced by fed-

eral dams in Idaho are marketed outside the state.

He said he will propose a bill to the Idaho Legislature that would create a state public power agency, apparently similar to BPA, that would be authorized to buy federal power and resell it to domestic and rural customers through existing distribution systems. This would put the state into the same category as public utilities, as a preferred customer of BPA.

Rep. James Weaver (D-Ore.) has introduced another bill (HR 5862) that he says would stave off "civil war" over electricity. His bill would offer cheap energy to households and farms throughout the Northwest. The rate structure would reserve the most expensive electricity for the larger users, thus encouraging conservation.

His bill would also encourage conservation, by giving the same emphasis to reducing the demand for energy as to increasing the supply. If it was shown to be less expensive to save a kilowatt hour of energy than to produce one in new facilities, then new generation facilities would not be built, under his bill. Both Gov. Evans of Idaho and Gov. Robert Straub of Oregon support Weaver's bill.

The energy conservation alternative is a viable alternative, according to a report sponsored by the Energy Research and Development Administration (now a part of the U.S. Department of Energy) and several conservation groups. The study concluded that no new power plants would have to be built before 1995, except four that have already received site certification in Washington and Oregon.

This means that Colstrip 3 and 4 in Montana, Jim Bridger unit 4 in Wyoming, and nuclear plants now planned in Washington and Oregon would not be needed prior to 1995 if conservation measures were enacted. The conservation measures considered in the plan don't depend upon new energy sources nor on changes in lifestyle.

With the PNUCC bill's emphasis on increased demand and de-emphasis on conservation, conservationists foresee several other problems that could result in Idaho and the Rocky Mountain states, if the bill were passed.

Porte of the Environmental Information Center said she fears the new Pacific Northwest Electric Planning and Conservation Organization would usurp state siting authority, deciding whether plants are needed and where they should be located. A member of the Oregon siting council expressed the same fear.

The proponents of the PNUCC bill, however, insist that the new organization's siting studies would be in addition to — not instead of — the states', and that it would not be able to override the states.

Judge of Montana isn't sure; he told the Congressional committee the question would have to be cleared up before he could support the bill.

Blomquist of the Sierra Club says that even if the new organization created by the PNUCC bill didn't have such authority, it could still wield tremendous political clout.

"They can say, for instance, that seven million customers all want Bridger unit 4," he points out, since all users in the region would be tied together sharing power. The utilities could theoretically use this clout in state siting deliberations.

Another question that's unclear in the proposed legislation is whether BPA's powers of eminent domain would usurp state siting authority. The agency can condemn private land and perhaps state land, but not federal land. BPA is planning lines as large as 1,200 kilovolts, larger than any now in use in this country.

Another section of the bill provides that BPA can buy power from a pilot plant that isn't necessarily economic or reliable. This

NW conservation study is available

For a closer look at the conservation potential in the Northwest, see **Choosing an Electrical Energy Future for the Pacific Northwest: An Alternative Scenario**. Each use of electric energy in the region was investigated to find out how energy could be saved. Potential savings and their costs were quantified. This made it possible to compare the cost and benefit of conservation practices with the costs and benefits of building more nuclear and coal-fired plants.

The study was prepared in response

to a request by the Bonneville Power Administration. It was sponsored by the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club Foundation, the Oregon Environmental Foundation, the Northwest Fund for the Environment, and the Energy Research and Development Administration.

A 43-page summary of the **Alternative Scenario** can be obtained from the Sierra Club's Northwest Office for \$1.50. Write 4534 University Way NE, Seattle, Wash. 98105 or call (206) 632-6157.

(continued on page 7)



BPA bill. . .

(continued from page 6)

apparently opens the door for BPA, in effect, subsidizing geothermal, solar, or other renewable energy sources that produce electricity. It also could mean subsidizing coal gasification, if electricity were to be produced from the gas.

Proponents of the PNUCC bill will continue arguing in coming weeks that the bill is essential for encouraging the development of new energy plants, for allocating cheap power, and for rescuing the aluminum industry.

Opponents of the bill, on the other hand, will be saying that energy conservation is preferable to power plant construction and that the federal government shouldn't be interfering with free enterprise. They will argue the Rocky Mountain states will have to bear the burden of increased coal mining and power plants, while getting little if any benefit.

WYOMING INDUSTRIAL SITING COUNCIL NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF INSUFFICIENT JURISDICTION WITH REGARD TO CONSTRUCTION OF KEE-MCGEE NUCLEAR CORPORATION SOUTH POWDER RIVER BASIN URANIUM FACILITY, CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING

DOCKET NO. WISA-77-2

Pursuant to Section 3.c., Chapter 1, Industrial Development Information and Siting Rules and Regulations, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT KEE-MCGEE CORP. HAS FILED AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF INSUFFICIENT JURISDICTION WITH REGARD TO CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTH POWDER RIVER BASIN URANIUM FACILITY, CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING.

W.S. 35-502.80 provides that no person shall commence to construct an industrial facility as defined within the Wyoming Industrial Development Information and Siting Act, W.S. 35-502.75-94 (Laws, 1975, Chapter 169, Laws, 1977, Chapter 66) without a permit issued by the Industrial Siting Council. Section 3, Chapter 1 Industrial Development Rules and Regulations provides, however, that a person intending to construct a facility may submit an application for a certificate of insufficient jurisdiction stating that the proposed facility intended to be constructed does not qualify as an industrial facility under the Siting Act, and that the Council lacks sufficient jurisdiction to require that an application for a permit to construct be submitted.

The application, filed December 23, 1977, describes the proposed uranium mining and milling project as consisting of a uranium mill, four surface mines and nine underground mines. The project is located approximately 16 air miles northwest of Douglas, within T23N and T26N, R75W, T25N, T26N, and T27N, R74W, and T25N, T26N, T27N, AND T28N, R73W. The estimated construction cost is presented as five hundred ninety-three million, four hundred thousand (\$593,400,000) dollars. It is estimated that the project will employ 670 people.

Mining rights for the described lands were acquired in 1966 and 1967, and exploration and development activities initiated, including development of the "Bill Smith" mine site during the period 1969 to present. The application alleges principally that on the basis that the facility described therein was under construction as of March 1, 1975, that the facility is not subject to the permit provisions at W.S. 35-502.80, or any similar requirement within the Industrial Siting Act.

Interested persons (parties) who would be parties pursuant to W.S. 35-502.85(a) in any permit proceeding before the Industrial Siting Council with respect to the facility proposed may file objections to the issuance of a certificate of insufficient jurisdiction with the Office of Industrial Siting Administration. Such objections must be filed within thirty days after the last date of publication of this notice.

Dated December 27, 1977.
Office of Industrial Siting Administration
Suite 500 Boyd Bldg.
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7368

Publish January 13 and 21, 1978.

BLM to have grazing, multiple use advisors

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has begun setting up grazing advisory boards, composed solely of people who run livestock on federal lands. Soon to follow will be re-establishment of advisory groups representing a wide spectrum of interests, according to James W. Monroe of BLM's Washington, D.C., office.

Both types of advisory groups were mandated by the recently passed Federal Land Policy and Management Act, sometimes called BLM's "Organic Act."

The grazing boards, which were phased out several years ago, will be re-organized in any BLM district where a majority of the

livestock users request it. The grazing boards will advise BLM in developing grazing plans and making range improvements.

Multiple use advisory boards were established in 1975 but have not met for the past year. They will be replaced by "advisory councils," which will operate much like the old boards, representing a broad spectrum of interests such as mining, recreation, environment, ranching, and wildlife.

Monroe, BLM's associate director of legislation and planning, says that Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrus has already approved the concept of advisory councils

at the district and national levels and will probably approve funding for them in a few months. Councils will not be established at the state level to replace the state multiple use advisory boards, however, Monroe says. Instead, BLM will rely on the district councils "to provide very good advice from the grass roots," he says.

Twenty out of the 36 members of the old national BLM advisory board were representatives of the livestock industry. The new BLM advisory council will number only 15 and will represent a wider range of interests, according to Monroe.



HCN Bulletin Board



LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

What makes an eco-freak tick?
Has he a brain with a nick?
Or is the thing
that makes his heart sing
Dragons that others can't lick?

WYOMING INDUSTRIAL SITING COUNCIL NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF INSUFFICIENT JURISDICTION WITH REGARD TO CONSTRUCTION OF CARBON COUNTY COAL COMPANY MINE

DOCKET NO. WISA-77-3

Pursuant to Sec. 3.c., Industrial Development Information and Siting Rules and Regulations, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CARBON COUNTY COAL CO. HAS FILED AN APPLICATION WITH THE OFFICE OF INDUSTRIAL SITING ADMINISTRATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF INSUFFICIENT JURISDICTION WITH REGARD TO CONSTRUCTION OF AN UNDERGROUND COAL MINE NEAR HANNA, WYOMING.

W.S. 35-502.80 provides that no person shall commence to construct an industrial facility as defined within the Industrial Development Information and Siting Act, W.S. 35-502.75-94 (Laws, 1975) without a permit issued by the Industrial Siting Council. Section 3, Chapter 1 of the Rules and Regulations of the Industrial Siting Council provides, however, that a person intending to construct a facility may submit an application for a certificate of insufficient jurisdiction, stating that the proposed facility intended to be constructed does not qualify as an industrial facility under the Act, and that the Council lacks sufficient jurisdiction to require that an application for a permit to construct be submitted. The application, filed December 19, 1977 is intended to demonstrate that the latter two provisions are met, specifically that the proposed mine does not constitute an "industrial facility" pursuant to W.S. 35-502.79(c)(ii) which defines industrial facility as

"Any industrial facility with an estimated construction cost of at least fifty million (\$50,000,000). The council shall adjust this amount, up or down, each year using recognized cost indices as determined by the council to be relevant to the actual change in construction cost applicable to the general type of construction covered under this act." The current cost criterion is established at fifty-eight million, eighty-nine thousand (\$58,089,000) dollars. The estimated construction cost of the proposed mine, presented in the application as "total projected expenditures" is fifty-three million, sixty-four thousand (\$53,064,000) dollars.

The mine site area is located within the boundaries of T23N, R81W, about four miles northeast of Hanna, in Carbon County. The proposed underground mine will produce 1.5 million tons of coal annually over a twenty-five year mine life. On-site work is scheduled to begin in April, 1978, with coal production commencing in mid-1979. At full production, total employment will be about three hundred and fifty personnel.

Interested persons (parties) who would be parties pursuant to W.S. 35-502.85 (a) in any permit proceeding before the Industrial Siting Council with respect to the facility proposed may file objections to the issuance of a certificate of insufficient jurisdiction with the Office of Industrial Siting Administration. Such objections shall be filed within thirty days after the last date of publication of this notice.

Dated December 21, 1977
Office of Industrial Siting Administration
Boyd Building, Suite 500
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Publish December 30, 1977, January 13, 27, 1978.

GRAND CANYON TRIPS

If you want to take your own boat down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, you have until the end of January to get your name in the hat. The National Park Service has announced that applications for noncommercial river trips should be mailed no later than Jan. 31 and must be received no later than Feb. 7. All applications received will be included in a lottery to be held Feb. 15. For more information call (602) 638-2411, or write Inner Canyon Unit Office, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Ariz. 86023.

ALASKA COLLOQUIUM

Conservationists who have been working to save wild lands in Alaska will gather in Washington, D.C., Feb. 4 and 5 for an Alaska Colloquium. The meeting is sponsored by the Wilderness Society and other members of the Alaska Coalition. Celia M. Hunter, executive director of the society, says that the group will discuss "the best strategies for bringing about a successful resolution of the Alaska land question."

CONSERVATION DIRECTORY

The 1978 Conservation Directory, which includes the names and addresses of more than 11,000 people and groups involved in natural resource use and management, is available from the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. It costs \$3.



ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH BILL

The proposed Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness needs help, according to a group called the Billings Wilderness Coalition. A bill (SB 1671) to designate 913,000 acres of the area as wilderness has been introduced by Montana Sen. Lee Metcalf. The U.S. Forest Service has proposed that up to 73,500 acres be excluded from that proposal. Letters are needed to convince Rep. Ron Marlenee and Sen. John Melcher that there is local support for the bill, the coalition says. For more information contact Dick Fox, Blue Creek Star Route, Billings, Mont. 59102, (406) 245-2535 or Rick Pokorny, 745 Avenue F, Billings, Mont. 59102, (406) 248-1829.

CAN CAMPAIGN

There's still time to mail a can to President Jimmy Carter, if you want to join the National Clearinghouse on Deposit Legislation's "War Against Waste." The group suggests that American citizens send a clean, dry metal beverage can to the President, explaining that it is one of 70 billion throwaways in this country that become trash and waste energy. The suggested punch line is: "I support a national deposit on all beer and soft drink bottles and cans. President Carter, please urge Congress to adopt deposit legislation." Twenty-four cents postage is required. The clearinghouse hopes all cans will be mailed before Jan. 20, with the messages wrapped around them.

188 IMPACT COMMUNITIES

The Department of Energy (DOE) has pinpointed 188 impacted or potentially impacted communities in the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. A recent DOE report analyzes the current status of these communities in the areas of community information, administration and planning, housing, health and safety, education, community services, and financing. Copies of the report are available from Dr. Polly Garrett, Office of Socioeconomic Program Data Collection, Department of Energy, Lakewood, Colo.

CEDAR BREAKS MONUMENT EIS

The final environmental impact statement is available for public review on the proposed wilderness classification for Cedar Breaks National Monument in southern Utah. The National Park Service is recommending a 4,830 acre wilderness in the natural area in Iron County. Copies are available on request from Cedar Breaks National Monument, P.O. Box 749, Cedar City, Utah 84720, or the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 655 Parfet St., P.O. Box 25287, Denver, Colo. 80225.

8-High Country News — Jan. 13, 1978

by Dan Whipple

The Washakie Basin, says the U.S. Geological Survey, is "a thick sequence of interbedded tuffaceous and arkosic sandstone; gray, green, or red mudstone; and minor thin beds of tuff, limestone, conglomerate, shale, and siltstone." USGS doesn't offer a translation, but the description is of badlands—rainbow-colored, cone shaped, dry badlands.

The basin lies in southwestern Wyoming, bordered by the Sierra Madre on the east, the Rock Springs uplift on the west, Cherokee Ridge to the south and, somewhat obscurely, Interstate 90 on the north. It is south and east of Rock Springs, Wyo.

In 1872, a visitor named Cope entered the center of the Washakie Basin. He wrote, "We strike Bitter Creek and follow

it west into a howling wilderness, where the water is scarce and bad, with grizzly bears plenty. . . . As I proceeded, I found marks of mankind — the most dangerous animal of these wilds."

Some things have changed in the basin since Cope visited. For instance, the grizzly bear is gone. But, man still represents the major threat to the region, particularly his efforts to extract the minerals that lie under the area's stark beauty.

Several of us visited the basin on the first day of summer last year — the "summer saultiss" as the radio announcer insisted on mispronouncing it. We, too, struck Bitter Creek and proceeded to take the wrong road, heading off in the general direction of Craig, Colo., instead of our intended destination — Adobe Town.

We bedded down by the side of the road in the cool of the 11 o'clock evening. We awoke at 6 a.m. to a day that was hot. Impressively hot.

The announced purpose of the trip was to evaluate the desert or portions of it for possible inclusion in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness system that is

now authorized under newly-passed legislation for that agency. Or, to see if mining withdrawals would be appropriate. At least as important, however, the trip offered a new adventure for a bunch of fledgling desert rats.

On awakening that first hot morning, Bruce joked, "This is godforsaken. Why don't we go try to save some mountains?"

Bart responded, "Yeah, let's draw the boundaries quick and go swim in a mountain stream." This exchange was lighthearted, but in the unimpressive spot by the road, this particular desert didn't seem to have much to offer. This impression was soon altered, however.

We picked up the remainder of our party the next day, after correcting the previous evening's navigational error. Our guide was to be Dick Randall, whose pictures grace these pages. Randall is now Wyoming representative for the Defenders of Wildlife, but for several years he had been a government predator control agent in the Washakie Basin. He knows the area as

A visit to Adobe

A haven for wildlife

well as a human being can, and was anxious to share it with us.

The party consisted of, besides Randall and myself, the Sierra Club's Bruce Hamilton, Bart Koehler of the Wilderness Society, Colleen Kelly of the Wyoming Outdoor Council, Friends of the Earth's Howie Wolke, Dennis Knight, a botanist from the University of Wyoming, and an amiable group of observers and photographers, bringing our total number to about a dozen.

Once our band was assembled, we set out along a sandy road. At first, we roughly paralleled the Overland Trail, past the remains of Fort LaCede, the crumbling rock walls of the LaCede stage station, and the Dug Springs stage station. All of these installations had been in use between 1840 and 1870. It is rumored that there is a fortune in gold hidden in the walls of Fort LaCede. The rumors are believed, of course, and visitors have periodically stop-

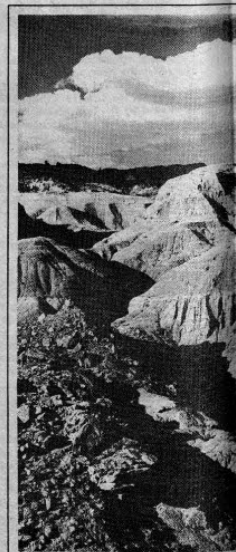
WILD HORSES compete for food with the native antelope. At a camp site, one herd's stallion watched us for about an hour at a cautious distance, making sure that we had no evil intent.



SHORT-HORNED LIZARD — usually called a horned toad — is common in Adobe Town. Actually, they are not related to toads.



Photos by Dick Randall,



THE HAYSTACKS on the north side of the basin are in technicolor.

Adobe Town badlands

life — and desert rats

ped to take the old fort apart stone by stone.

After a few hours and two golden eagle sightings, we came to a fork in the road, clearly marked with the bleaching bones of 12 coyotes, cleanly skinned and grinning. "Do you think they're trying to tell us something?" Colleen asked.

"I think they're trying to tell the coyotes."

We turned right at the fork to the base of Haystack Mountain, 500 vertical feet of desert beauty. From a distance, the mountain looks like a series of crayoned, inverted cones — like haystacks, piled on one another in technicolor.

The haystacks are made of "mudstone." A first-person non-technical analysis reveals that this means mud, dried to a hard consistency, with the dried paths of rainfall running to the desert floor still etched on the face. Mudstone crumbles under foot.

The Haystacks are liberally strewn with

petrified wood. One report says that the Washakie Basin "is one of the best areas in the world for collecting Eocene fossils." The Eocene landscape of the basin 40 million years ago was probably something like many parts of Africa today. Crocodiles and rhinos roamed the basin. Three-toed horses and other extinct creatures with unpronounceable names inhabited the area. Their bones are found so easily that the area is in danger of being picked clean by amateurs.

The reasonable thing to do seemed to be to climb the Haystacks. We split up into small groups, each finding our own way to the top. One party scared up two irate prairie falcons. The hikers had apparently stumbled too close to the birds' nest, and the falcons, taking umbrage at the intrusion, flew in circles above their heads screaming at them.

Bruce and I reached the top and watched from above until the falcons broke off the attack. At the summit, we were greeted by a pair of sage grouse — common birds in

what seemed to us an unusual place.

That night, from our campsite, we could see the light atop an oil rig several miles away — another sign of the presence of Cope's "most dangerous animal."

I learned that oil wells are not an unusual occurrence and are likely to become even more common. Eighty percent of the basin has been leased for oil and gas exploration by the BLM. The basin also contains uranium, coal, and oil shale, though not enough to attract any commercial interest — yet.

We reached Adobe Town the next day. The name is derived from the appearance of the natural formations. These are poetic natural mudstone structures that resemble the man-made adobe buildings of the Southwest. It looks like someone dropped a series of cathedrals in the desert. Stark beauty rises from the flat harsh floor with majesty.

The desert is an unusual place for a wilderness. When we were there, water was unavailable. Due to the drought, several springs that Randall knew of from his previous visits were dry.

There is abundant wildlife. In addition to

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eagles and falcons, there were vast herds of wild horses, antelope, and lots of rabbits. Dick Randall noted that the coyotes won't go hungry — if they escape the most dangerous animal of these wilds.

The wilderness evaluation we began that trip is so far inconclusive. In recognition of the values there, however, the BLM has withdrawn the area from coal leasing.

We all agreed that this spectacular badlands area is wild. But, it is criss-crossed with oil field roads and jeep trails, which usually disqualify an area from formal wilderness consideration.

There is also some question whether, without roads, anyone could ever visit the remote area. Some members of our group suggested we could simply leave it to the wildlife. Not every wild place needs to be managed for man's benefit.

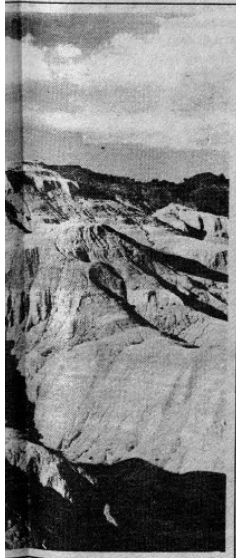
ADOBE TOWN looking east from the top of Adobe Town rim.



FIXING DINNER at the base of the Haystacks. From left, Dan Whipple, Bruce Hamilton, and Bart Koehler, all nattily attired in the desert dress of the day.



all, Defenders of Wildlife



th side of Adobe Town rim. Muds-

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The **HCN**
Hot Line

energy news from across the country

PRICE-ANDERSON UNCONSTITUTIONAL? U.S. District Court in North Carolina recently ruled that the Price Anderson Act is unconstitutional. Since 1957 the act has limited the liability of private firms in the nuclear power business. The judge, James B. McMillan, said that the act denied potential victims of a nuclear accident the right to just compensation. According to an article in the November issue of *Public Interest Economics*, the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review McMillan's decision sometime this year.

SUN CONSOLATION. The California Assembly, apparently hoping to make the best of its bad situations, has passed a law that would provide interest-free \$2,000 loans for solar heating or cooling equipment to persons whose homes were heavily damaged in the Santa Barbara fire and other calamities. The measure covers 250 homes in Santa Barbara, 200 flood-damaged homes in the Imperial Valley, and a few wind-damaged homes in Bakersfield, Calif.

HOT POTATO. The U.S. Department of Energy has suggested that the government should, for a fee paid by the utilities, accept responsibility for the radioactive wastes generated by nuclear power plants. While the nuclear industry has welcomed the plan, environmental groups have denounced it. The Natural Resources Defense Council told the department that putting the government in the spent fuel business for a one-time fee "essentially insulates the nuclear industry from any economic risks associated with the handling and disposal of nuclear wastes." On the other hand, NRDC says, "The utilities may be unable to store spent fuel safely and this could pose an intolerable risk to public health."

BLACKS LINK GROWTH, WELFARE. A report issued by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has criticized President Jimmy Carter's energy plan, saying that it reveals too much concern for environmental protection and not enough concern about jobs. The report endorses nuclear power, deregulation of new oil and natural gas, and, in general, government stimulation of energy production. "We simply recognize that economic development for blacks is tied very closely to the expansion of the economy," said a spokesman for NAACP. "That's the reason we've taken the position that industry must be encouraged."

NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS PESSIMISTIC. The Wall Street Journal reports that the four major builders of nuclear power plants are expecting few orders for new plants in either 1978 or 1979. General Electric Co., Westinghouse Electric Co., Babcock and Wilcox Co., and Combustion Engineering, Inc., say that they expect orders for a total of only about five new plants in 1978, even though the industry has a capacity for as 30 a year. The companies also say that 1979 looks equally bleak for the industry.

Utilities will sue Mont. over coal tax

Three utilities are planning a lawsuit against the state of Montana, claiming that the state's 30% coal severance tax is illegal, exorbitant, and a violation of the interstate commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The utilities, Commonwealth Edison in Chicago, Detroit Edison, and Texas-based Lower Colorado River Authority, all have contracts with Decker Coal in Montana. Decker currently ships a total of 10.5 million tons annually to the Chicago and Detroit utilities. LCRA's contract begins later this year. The company will receive 3.5 million tons of Montana coal annually.

The 30% severance is passed along to the

utilities' customers. Leon Cohan, vice-president and general counsel for Detroit Edison, says, "In the life of our contract, this tax will cost our customers \$1 billion over a 25-year period. We contend that this is unfair and illegal."

Cohan says, "There can be fair and equitable taxes without being exorbitant." In a study last year, Cohan says that Rand Corporation compared the tax to the high prices that the oil producing countries' cartel charges for oil. He also says that the state will be collecting more money than it needs to tolerate the impact of coal development. "There is no rational basis for the services performed by the state to warrant so high a tax."

Montana Gov. Thomas Judge lashed out strongly against the suit, calling it "attempted economic blackmail by giant Eastern and Midwest utilities for whom the welfare of the people of Montana is non-existent."

Judge says that the tax is fair and that it assures there will be impact funds to provide help for impacted areas. "We do not believe that Montana alone should pay for the coal impacts. We recognize the responsibility to provide energy, but we're not about to see our state torn up and our lifestyle destroyed," he says.

The governor says that, far from being too high a tax, in some places the revenue from the severance does not even pay for necessary road upgrading and additions. Besides, he says, "The philosophy of the tax is not just to offset impact of development. Once the resource is gone, it's gone forever. The state has a right to impose a tax to benefit future generations." After 1979, 50% of the severance tax income will go into a permanent mineral trust fund. The fund will be used to invest in the state's economic base after the coal boom is over. Currently, 25% of the tax money goes into this trust fund.

One impact of the suit could be to chill attitudes toward coal development in Western states. North Dakota and Wyoming, two major coal producers, also have relatively high severance taxes. Judge says that he has talked to the governors of these states and that they are concerned about the impact of an adverse decision. Or, possibly, states would be reluctant to raise their taxes.

A Montana state source explains, "A successful suit (by the utilities) would have a deterrent effect on future coal development. If we can't pay for impact assistance, we'd be reluctant to develop. There is a cost to the agricultural base that would have to

be replaced. However, we don't anticipate losing."

Colleen Kelly, executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Council, says that the lawsuit may backfire on the utilities and the coal industry. She says, "This should show Wyoming and other coal producing states that out-of-state interests are raping their land without returning anything. They should start examining this so-called corporate responsibility of utilities when they (the utilities) start questioning a state's right to levy a reasonable tax."

Judge says that this action does not demonstrate any "corporate responsibility." He says, "That's the first thing you hear

Judge says that most of the cost of Western coal is freight, not taxes. "The railroads alone are getting \$11 to \$15 per ton. The state is only getting \$1.50."

Decker Coal is apparently an unenthusiastic supporter of the lawsuit. Company officials say that they are required to go along with the utilities because of clauses in their contracts. But, they say, "We wouldn't have done this on our own. We have to do business in Montana."

Judge, in reacting to the suit, said that the state has been even-handed about developing its resources and protecting its environment and economic base: "We de-

"In other words," Judge says, "the out-of-state utilities intend to take our coal and make us pay for them to do it."



Mont. Gov. Thomas Judge: "Economic blackmail."

veloped programs in a cooperative atmosphere that has permitted our coal industry to expand its production 27 times in less than a decade. But, our continuing reiteration that we are willing to share our mineral resources to assist in solving national energy needs falls on calloused and unhearing giants whose only goal is profit at any cost to our people."

"In other words," Judge says, "the out-of-state utilities intend to take our coal and make us pay for them to do it."



Where the Grizzly Walks

Where the Grizzly Walks by Bill Schneider is a history of the big bear's struggle for existence. The author reveals who is to blame for the silvertip's plight and outlines a strategy for the bear's salvation.

The book is more than a story about bears; it concerns people, their life styles, their government, their land, and their dreams.

Bill Schneider has written extensively on conservation in dozens of periodicals. His writing focuses on protecting wildlife habitat and wilderness. He has been the editor of *Montana Outdoors*, the official magazine of the Montana Department of Fish and Game, for eight years.



Doug O'Neary photo

Mountain Press publishing company of Missoula, Mont. is sharing the profits on sales of this book with HCN. To order, send \$9.95 to HCN, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520. Price includes postage.

256 pages, illustrated, clothbound

IPP site threatens farm water

Concern about the Intermountain Power Project's (IPP) proposed 3,000 megawatt coal-fired power plant has shifted from the issue of air pollution to the issue of water consumption.

Since the U.S. Interior Department nixed two proposed sites near Capitol Reef National Park in southern Utah, attention has moved to a site near the town of Lynndyl in central Utah that was suggested by a state task force. At the new site, IPP would probably have to buy water rights from agricultural users. The project could take one-fourth to one-third of the area's present agricultural acreage out of production, according to state officials and IPP.

IPP is hesitant to accept the Lynndyl

site. The company says that it would add \$400 million to the cost of the \$4 billion project. In addition, having to purchase so much agricultural water "is a policy decision that really troubles our organization," says IPP president Joseph Fackrell. "Some of the California participants (in IPP) have been involved in suits and public uprisings resulting from buying agricultural water, and they aren't anxious to get into that again."

Fackrell is investigating buying water from the Central Utah Project (CUP) as an alternative to using agricultural water. He says that Utah Power and Light Co., which is also planning a power plant in the Lynndyl area, plans to use water from CUP.



energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

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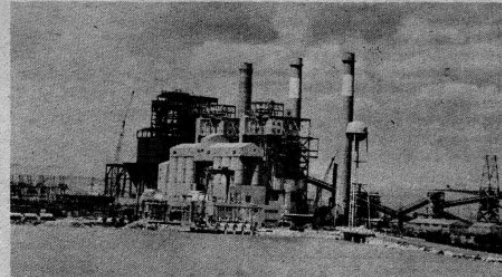
OIL SHALE DEVELOPMENT on two tracts of federal land in Colorado is about to begin. Both air quality permits from the Environmental Protection Agency and mining permits from the Interior Department have been issued. A conservationists' suit is still pending, however.

OIL SHALE AIR O.K. The Environmental Protection Agency has issued air quality permits for two oil shale demonstration projects on federal land in Colorado. The U.S. Interior Department has already approved the projects' mining plans. Still pending, however, is a suit filed by three conservation groups based on the National Environmental Policy Act. The groups have asked a U.S. District Court judge to stop all development on the federal tracts until environmental impact statements on individual mining plans and an update of the programmatic environmental statement is complete.

RADIOACTIVE LETTERS. A Colorado resident's unique protest of the nuclear power industry has aroused the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Leigh Hauter included a sample of radioactive wastes in each of 150 letters that he mailed to government leaders and corporations dealing with nuclear power, according to *Straight Creek Journal*. Hauter says that while the uranium mine tailings that he sent would not be harmful to a person after a short exposure, they were radioactive. "This uranium is a necessary byproduct of the entire nuclear industry, an industry which is producing more and more radioactive material every day," he wrote in the letter he included in each mailing. "There are no practical means for limiting access to this material. . . Look what has just happened to you. I hope you will think of the consequences," he said. An FBI official in Denver says the agency "wants to talk with Hauter" but cannot locate him.

IDAHO SITING LAW. Idaho's first power plant siting law has "an excellent chance" of being approved by the 1978 legislature, according to the *Idaho Statesman*. As the bill now stands, the Public Utilities Commission would be given siting jurisdiction over any power plant generating more than 50 megawatts. The bill requires applicants to submit up to three site alternatives. If all three are rejected, the PUC would designate a site. The bill gives the PUC 15 months to act on an application, with a possible nine-month extension. It also requires that the applicant pay up to \$300,000 on the primary site proposal and an additional \$100,000, if the first site is ruled unacceptable.

MONTANA'S "FENCE." Proposed revisions to Montana's power plant siting law "seem to be nailing a higher rail onto whatever fence there might be around Montana," according to an Associated Press writer. The proposed new rules require a detailed alternative siting study. They also say that if more than 20% of the output from a proposed power plant would be consumed outside Montana, the plant would be allowed in the state under only one condition—if the company could prove that Montana consumers would have to pay more for power if the plant were built out-of-state.



Wyoming Travel Commission Photo of the Dave Johnson Plant
POWER PLANT siting rules have become a big issue in Montana and Idaho. Conservationists say strict rules are necessary to make sure public values are taken into consideration in site selection. One Montana writer says the state's proposed new rules may mean a higher "fence" around the state.

Too unconventional'

Loan institutions shun energy-conserving home

When Judy and Stanley Frank of Parma, Idaho, designed the house of their dreams, they concentrated on energy conservation. They chose a two-story concrete structure set into a hill with windows facing south to gather the sun's rays. The architect and the solar engineers hired to design it said that without any heat input it would stay at 58 degrees 10 months of the year.

That sounded good to the Franks. "We felt by only having to heat the home 15 to 20 degrees, we would be doing our share in conserving energy," Judy says.

But, for some reason, it didn't sound good to the bankers the Franks contacted about a loan for the \$50,000 home. Their own bank and every other loan institution they contacted said pretty much the same thing — that the house was "unconventional" and would have no resale market.

Western Mortgage and Loan in Boise

said it would finance construction only if the Federal Housing Administration would insure the loan. But the federal agency agreed with the Idaho bankers. If the Franks were planning a standard-looking, above-ground house with wood frame or masonry walls and a full heating system, they might consider it. But a semi-underground house with a passive solar heating system? — no way.

In a letter published in the *Idaho Statesman*, Judy said she feels angry when she listens to a "Democratic president, governor, and Administration on the national level and a Democratic society all giving lip service to energy conservation. When it's time to actually get something done, you get nothing but bureaucrats saying what a nifty idea it is, but 'sorry.' " She mailed copies of the letter to her Congressional delegation, the U.S. Departments of Energy, Interior, Housing and Urban Development, the Idaho Energy Office, the American Institute of Architects, and Ralph Nader.

It's been over a month since she wrote the letter, and Frank says she hasn't received word of any loan possibilities.

She fears she may have to settle for a conventional house with a basement, "but I'm not going to drop the issue," she says.

Her architectural firm, David Shurtleff Associates, is also willing to fight. "If it takes us to be a clearinghouse for people who want to build underground homes, we're willing to do it," says Don Hutchison, an architect with the firm. Hutchison says they have another client who wants to build an underground house, but his firm has declined to go ahead with preliminary drawings until the Franks' loan problem is resolved.

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Utahns fight to 'leave the Wellsvilles as they are'

Development proposals and the suggestion of a motorbike trail in the Wellsville Mountains in Utah have aroused vociferous opposition from many Logan-area citizens.

A banner with the words "Leave the Wellsvilles as they are" written across it was hung in the room where over 150 people met with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) officials in Logan on Jan. 4. The meeting was organized by USFS to discuss both trail reconstruction in the Wellsvilles and the concept of a 100-mile national trail along the crest of the Wasatch range, which would allow motorbikes in some stretches.

Mayor Seth Maughn of Wellsville, Utah, said he would "fight to the Nth degree to keep any new trails off the Wellsvilles." His sentiments were echoed by most other people at the meeting. Twenty-one of 23 work groups that filled out a USFS questionnaire at the meeting chose the first of six alternatives outlined by the agency: "Leave the trails as they are."

Both the scenic nature of the Wellsvilles and what some see as USFS's inept handling of the issue account for the strong feelings expressed at this meeting and several others that preceded it.

The Wellsvilles claim the distinction of being the steepest mountain range in the world, according to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. The existing trail rises 4,000 feet in five miles. Not surprisingly, traffic in the Wellsvilles has been traditionally non-motorized.

The area is rich in wildlife, including mountain lions, bobcats, eagles, and grouse. An effort to re-establish bighorn sheep has begun there. The area has been identified as a wilderness roadless study area under the Forest Service's RARE II process.

Local feeling about the Wellsvilles runs high, since a local group helped the mountains first gain federal protection. In the '30s severe overgrazing and subsequent mudslides moved residents to form the Wellsville Mountain Association. Through donations of land and money, the association obtained title to most of the Wellsville range. In 1936 they transferred this title to the Forest Service.

Survey stakes discovered in the range this summer and USFS documents convinced several Logan conservationists that the agency intended to improve trails to accommodate motorbikes and make the Wellsvilles a part of a national Wasatch Crest Trail.

When confronted with their research, Logan District Ranger M. J. Roberts said that the agency's plans for the Wellsvilles were still being shaped and that no action would be taken without public input.

In late September the conservationists launched a letter-writing, petition campaign to arouse public sentiment. By November, 2,300 signatures had been gathered on petitions opposing a motorbike trail in the Wellsvilles. The Mendon and Wellsville City Councils had unanimously passed a resolution of concern about the trail. A group called Citizens for Protection of the Wellsville Mountains had been formed.

Wasatch National Forest's public information officer, Bob Christopher, said in a telephone interview that the Forest Service had never intended to encourage motorbikes in the area. But he said that the agency had made some mistakes that gave citizens that impression.

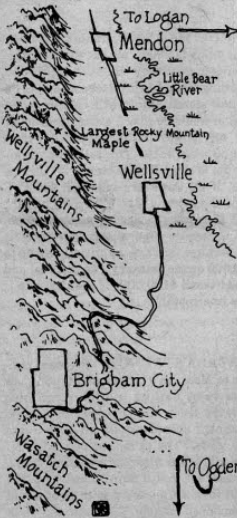
"Through an oversight," Christopher said, parts of the area had been left open to motorbikes in the Logan Ranger District's USFS off-road vehicle plan. In addition, a

World's steepest range has loyal protectors



Photo by Ann Schimpf

THE WELLSVILLE MOUNTAINS in Cache Valley near Logan, Utah. Rumors of a proposed motor bike trail along the crest have aroused vociferous opposition.



Dixie Reece

Clark: poisons key to ferret's fate

Five years of study on black-footed ferrets has resulted in several conclusions about why ferrets are disappearing, but has rewarded the researcher with no actual sightings. Tim Clark concluded that the ferret is "teetering on the edge of extinction," according to the *Casper Star-Tribune*.

Clark blames massive government poisoning in Wyoming aimed at prairie dogs for the ferret's scarcity. Prairie dog populations have been reduced in Wyoming by at least 75% since 1916, according to a study quoted by Clark. The ferret spends most of its time in prairie dog holes and

eats prairie dogs.

Control of chemicals could increase ferret populations, he thinks. Since about 10% of Wyoming prairie dog towns are on state-owned land, he says the state could help the ferret's plight by stopping prairie dog control on these lands. He also recommends that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department watch for ferrets and if any sightings are confirmed, immediately stop all poisoning or shooting of prairie dogs in the area.

"The decline of the black-footed ferret and many other species in the grassland and semi-desert ecosystems is clear evidence that we have a long way to go to learn how to implement an ecosystem management policy where it is understood that each species is a functional unit and part of the whole," he says.

Clark's research is continuing. It has been sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

MONTCEL to aid candidates backing environment issues

A new group has formed to support environmental candidates in Montana. The group, known as the Montana Committee for an Effective Legislature (MONTCEL), hopes to raise about \$30,000 this year. The money will be used to help candidates who are concerned with the proper use of Montana's natural resources.

One staff member will be hired by Jan. 9 and another may be hired later, according to the Associated Press.



Photo by Ann Schimpf

THE WELLSVILLES are the steepest mountain range in the world. These hikers are en route to a local Audubon hawk watch site where as many as 250 hawks can be seen passing overhead in a six-hour period.



Western Roundup



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Non-game benefit from Colo. tax option

Colorado taxpayers will have the opportunity to contribute part of their income tax refund to help manage non-game wildlife species. The state income tax form will have an option to allow a taxpayer to give \$1, \$5, or \$10 to the Nongame Wildlife Cash Fund out of their tax refund.

In the past, the state's non-game species management was paid for out of the general fund, but this produced a budget of

only \$125,000 to manage 783 species. Nongame Wildlife supervisor John Torres says, "That breaks down to about \$160 per species, and clearly isn't enough to meet the need."

Torres points out that while hunting and fishing licenses fund game animals and fish, non-game animals "have to be looked at as everybody's responsibility."

Scientist proposes desert greenhouses

A California scientist has proposed building massive greenhouses in the American deserts, according to the *Christian Science Monitor*. Biochemist James Bassham of the University of California has suggested "covered energy farms" to keep food production up in the face of drought and fears of spreading world deserts.

Bassham says that the greenhouses have been successful on a small scale in experiments in Mexico, Abu Dhabi, and Iran. Bassham suggests that the controlled environment greenhouses could be built across vast stretches of the western deserts. The smallest of the greenhouses would stand 500 feet high and cover a square mile.

Kelly, Wyo., wants to secede from park

The town of Kelly, Wyo., is trying to secede — from Grand Teton National Park. The town of about 50 acres and 100 people lies entirely within the park, and residents are fearful that the park will buy their property. The Park Service has long had a policy of buying such inholdings.

Residents have asked Sen. Cliff Hansen (R-Wyo.) to introduce federal legislation to remove their land from the park. Hansen says, however, that "it would be an uphill battle, because land is not usually removed from parks. Usually it is the other way around."

At least one town inhabitant is opposed to the secession move, however. *Jackson Hole Guide* reports that 27-year Kelly resident Betty Parks says the community "should be in the park." She says that most of the long-time residents of Kelly who would have a valid reason to seek exclusion from the park have already sold their land to the government. "The rest of the people are all new," she told the *Guide*. "Congress has said for years it wants all inholdings and it's been in all the Park Service master plans. The park hasn't been keeping it a secret."

Rocky Flats emergency plan not fail-safe

Colorado State Health Director Anthony Robbins says that the only way to prevent radiation danger to Coloradans from the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant is to move it somewhere else, the *Rocky Mountain News* reports. Robbins was defending an emergency response plan that his agency drafted, saying that the plans could not anticipate every conceivable disaster. "There's nothing about emergency planning that is going to make the place safe to have," he said.

The plan is designed to prepare public agencies to deal with a potential disaster at the plant. Robbins says that, if such a disaster occurs, hospital facilities would be found lacking. There are only three area hospitals equipped to clean up persons who

might be covered with plutonium dust. The plan was based on a "maximum credible accident" which assumed release of plutonium from the installation that would create a dense radioactive cloud.

Robbins said that the study was biased by restrictions placed upon it by the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), which guards the plant. The study team did not consider possible terrorist-related disasters, because ERDA didn't want publicity given to plans for dealing with terrorism. Robbins said. He criticized ERDA for not taking on the planning job themselves and said the agency showed "a lack of enthusiasm for this kind of planning."

NWF says dams to hurt whooper habitat

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) says that important whooping crane habitat will be lost if Narrows Dam in Colorado and Grayrocks Dam in Wyoming are built. The group says that the two dams would lower water at a stopover place for the migrating cranes near the confluence of the North and South Platte Rivers in Nebraska, Big Bend marsh.

Lowered water in the marsh would allow vegetation to encroach on sandbars, which are favored feeding areas of the rare birds. In a letter to U.S. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, NWF head Thomas Kimball said, "We want to place federal decision makers on notice that further water developments in the Platte River system must not be al-

lowed to destroy or adversely modify the crane's habitat."

The Narrows Dam is a proposed Bureau of Reclamation Project near Fort Morgan in northeastern Colorado. Grayrocks Dam, which is already under construction, would supply water for the Missouri Basin Power Project's Laramie River power plant in Wheatland, Wyo.

NWF asked the Interior Department to designate the crane habitat at Big Bend as critical. This would prevent federal projects from altering the site. Both dams are funded at least partly by federal money.

At one time there were as few as 25 whooping cranes. There are now 126, Kimball says.



THE LARK BUNTING is only one of the creatures assisted by non-game funds.

Indian water rights stay in state court

A Wyoming state district court judge has denied the United States' motion to move a water rights case involving the Wind River Reservation to federal court.

Judge Harold Joffe said the state has jurisdiction over the case, which was initiated by Wyoming to determine who has valid water rights in the Big Horn River Basin. The federal government had argued that only a federal court can decide a water rights matter involving an Indian reservation.

Jack Palma, state assistant attorney general, says, "Basically, jurisdictional rulings are not appealable." Therefore, the state is assuming the water rights will be determined in state court.

The next step will be for the parties to the action to hold a pre-trial conference to determine how they will handle the logistical problem of having 20,000 individuals defend their water rights.

Ariz. scientist says 'leave burros alone'

A University of Arizona scientist says that there is no reason to exterminate the wild burros in the Grand Canyon, because they will not upset the balance of plant and animal life. United Press International reports that geoscience professor Paul Martin said in a recently-released environmental impact statement that plants and burro-sized horses have co-existed for millions of years in the canyon.

Martin says there is no reason to believe that continued grazing by wild burros would cause long-range damage to the na-

tional park. Martin says that skeletons of modern burros were "anatomically indistinguishable" from those of small horses that roamed the canyon until 11,000 years ago.

Martin says the fossil record indicates that the canyon's native vegetation is less vulnerable to overgrazing than many scientists contend. He says that some southwestern plants, including mesquite and the saguaro cactus, actually rely upon large animals to eat their seeds so the seeds will germinate.

Group asks for larger Uinta wilderness

The High Uintas Wilderness Coalition (HUWC) is proposing a 655,000 acre wilderness area for the Utah mountain range, instead of the 323,000 acre area suggested by the U.S. Forest Service. The group says that the agency was preparing logging plans for a large portion of the area when it was supposedly studying it for wilderness.

The group says, "These studies allocated all of the inaccessible and undeveloped lands to unnecessary logging and extensive road construction up almost every drainage on the north slope." HUWC

charges that the Forest Service failed to study an area of isolated, undeveloped, contiguous land comprising 400,000 acres — larger than the area the agency recommended for inclusion in the wilderness system.

HUWC says that the Uintas contain a large variety of wildlife. In addition, "Over three-fourths of all Utah bird species are found in the Uintas... and it is home to 1,000 plant species." Anyone interested in helping the group should contact them at 523 Judge Building, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.

Eavesdropper

THROW AWAY CONTAINERS. A ban on throw-away beverage containers could save 80,000 barrels of oil a day and millions of tons of aluminum, steel, and glass, according to Sen. Robert Packwood (R-Ore.). Packwood is sponsoring legislation that would require a five cent deposit on all beverage containers, similar to a law in use in Oregon. Packwood says that in addition to saving the raw materials, the throw-away ban would reduce beer and soft drink costs by \$1.8 billion.

OH, SAY CAN YOU SEE? "America's air is getting cleaner," says Environmental Protection administrator Douglas Costle. EPA reports that from 1970 to 1976, sulfur dioxide levels dropped 27%, carbon monoxide levels were down 20%, and particulates (smoke and dust) decreased 12%. Costle

says that the long-term declines in particulates and sulfur dioxide are the result of successful efforts of state and local air pollution control agencies. Carbon monoxide levels have decreased primarily as a result of auto emission controls. "But," he says, "We're still a long way from having healthy air throughout the country. Urban smog levels remain high and are even increasing slightly in some areas." Costle also says that several industries — notably, steel, copper, petroleum, and electric utilities — are still lagging behind in pollution control.

REDWOOD LANDS BOUGHT. California's Save-the-Redwoods League has announced the purchase of another 256 acres on the east side of the Humboldt Redwoods State Park. The league has now contributed more than \$23 million over the past 60 years to purchase 135,000 acres of land now included in 28 redwood state parks in California, the Los Angeles Times reports.

STATE OF WYOMING PUBLIC NOTICE

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO STATE THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS UNDER THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972 (FWPCA), P.L. 92-500 AND THE WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (35-502 et. seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1957, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973).
IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO (1) ONE OIL TREATER DISCHARGER AND (2) ONE FISH HATCHERY DISCHARGER. TO AMEND (9) NINE FISH HATCHERY DISCHARGE PERMITS, (1) ONE WATER TREATMENT PLANT PERMIT AND (1) ONE MUNICIPAL DISCHARGE PERMIT. TO RENEW (1) ONE MUNICIPAL DISCHARGE PERMIT AND (12) TWELVE OIL TREATER DISCHARGE PERMITS, AND, TO REVOKE (1) ONE OIL TREATER DISCHARGE PERMIT WITHIN THE STATE OF WYOMING.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: V.R. GALLAGHER
MAILING ADDRESS: 140 METROBANK BUILDING, DENVER, COLORADO 80222
FACILITY LOCATION: FUSSELMAN-EDWARDS WELL No. 1, NE¼, NW¼, SECTION 34, T44N, R92W, WASHAKIE COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0027570

Facility is standard oil production unit located in Washakie County, Wyoming. Produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Nowater Creek (Class III stream) via an unnamed drainage. The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately upon discharge. The proposed expiration date is December 31, 1980. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that every produced water discharge is beneficially used if the total dissolved solids content is 5,000 mg per l or less.

APPLICANT NAME MAILING ADDRESS	WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT 5800 HUNTER BLVD CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002	FACILITY LOCATION	FACILITY LOCATION
FACILITY LOCATION	TENSLEEP FISH HATCHERY TENSLEEP, WYOMING	FACILITY LOCATION	DI BUIS FISH HATCHERY NEAR DUBOIS, WYOMING WY-0002003
APPLICANT NUMBER	WY-0027481	FACILITY LOCATION	SPEAR REARING STATION SOUTH OF CASPER, WYOMING WY-0002011
FACILITY LOCATION	BIR LINDER REARING STATION NEAR BOWLER, WYOMING WY-0000094	FACILITY LOCATION	STORY FISH HATCHERY NEAR STORY, WYOMING WY-0002020
FACILITY LOCATION	CLARKS FORK FISH HATCHERY NEAR CLARK, WYOMING WY-0001066	FACILITY LOCATION	TILLET SPRINGS REARING STATION NEAR LOVELL, WYOMING WY-0002046
FACILITY LOCATION	CUMBERLY FISH HATCHERY NEAR ROCK RIVER, WYOMING WY-0001096	FACILITY LOCATION	WIGWAM REARING STATION NEAR TENSLEEP, WYOMING WY-0002054
FACILITY LOCATION	DANIEL FISH HATCHERY NORTH OF DANIEL, WYOMING WY-0000066		

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department operates a total of ten fish hatcheries and fish rearing stations in Wyoming. All of these facilities are designed to have a constant flow of water through the various raceways and ponds and then out into the receiving waters (all receiving streams are Class I waters). Most facilities have more than one discharge point.

As water moves through these facilities, there is some water quality degradation through pick-up of suspended solids (uneaten food, fish wastes, etc.). Increased degradation occurs during cleaning of the fish holding facilities, such as during flushing or scrub-down of the raceways.

The original discharge permit for one of these facilities (the tenth only recently was required to file a permit application) set limitations on the total quantity of suspended solids which could be discharged during normal operations and required quarterly self-monitoring during normal operations and during raceway cleaning. The monitoring data reported indicated that the level of suspended solids discharged at these locations was quite low and that quarterly sampling was more frequent than necessary.

It is proposed that the nine existing permits be modified and the new permit be written to reflect the following limitations:

Instantaneous maximum limitation on total suspended solids during normal operation is based on the following calculation: Maximum lbs of food used per day x .75 (one lb of food results in .75 lbs of TSS) x .8 (best practicable treatment) of 20% removal of TSS.

Instantaneous maximum limitation on total suspended solids during raceway cleaning is based on the following calculation: Maximum lbs of food used per day x .75 x .8 x percentage of day in which cleaning occurs x 1.5.

It is proposed that self-monitoring and reporting be done on a semi-annual rather than a quarterly basis. Self-monitoring samples will be all grab samples collected during April to represent heaviest load and November to represent lightest load.

All permits are scheduled to expire December 31, 1982.

(3) PERMIT NAME: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
MAILING ADDRESS: 136 WEST 9th STREET
CASPER, WYOMING 82601
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0023612

The Casper water treatment plant has two discharges to the North Platte River (Class I stream). Discharge point 001 is the overflow from the filter backwash settling ponds; this discharge point has been controlled by a permit since March of 1973. Discharge point 002 is the discharge caused by the backwashing of the raw water intake screens. It was originally assumed that this backwashing was done with unchlorinated water, however,

recent investigations indicate that the backwash water is chlorinated.

The proposed permit includes effluent limitations on discharge 001 which are considered to be "best practicable treatment" and are effective immediately. The only limitations on discharge point 002 are on total residual chlorine concentration (5 mg per l) and pH (6.0 - 9.0). The total residual chlorine limitations in discharge 001 (1 mg per l) and 002 are based upon insuring that the toxic level of chlorine is not reached in the receiving stream based on the following:

Seven consecutive day — ten year low flow in North Platte River — 377cfs
Maximum discharge from 001 — .5 MGD
Maximum discharge from 002 — .1 MGD
Toxic level of chlorine — .002 mg per l

The proposed permit requires periodic self-monitoring of both discharge points with reporting of results quarterly. The permit will expire January 31, 1983.

(4) PERMIT NAME: TOWN OF MIDWEST, WYOMING
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 190
MIDWEST, WYOMING 82643
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0020273

The wastewater treatment facility for the Town of Midwest presently consists of a single cell lagoon with a discharge to Salt Creek (Class III stream). A wastewater discharge permit for this facility was issued July 2, 1976.

The Town has now decided to add a second lagoon to its present facility with a separate outfall structure. The two cell system, when complete, will allow either series or parallel flow operation. The proposed permit modification simply adds the second discharge point to the existing discharge permit. Both discharge points (001 on the north side of the existing lagoon and 002 on the east side of the proposed lagoon) must be operated at maximum efficiency and capability until such time as grant funds are made available to the Town. Upon receipt of Federal grant funds, the Town will be required to upgrade the system to meet National Secondary Treatment Standards. Quarterly self-monitoring is required for each discharge point. The permit will expire June 30, 1981.

(5) PERMIT NAME: TOWN OF DIXON, WYOMING
MAILING ADDRESS: TOWN HALL
DIXON, WYOMING 82323
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0021835

Wastewater treatment for the Town of Dixon consists of a single cell lagoon which discharges to the Little Snake River (Class I Stream) via an unnamed drainage. The proposed discharge permit requires the Town to operate the existing facilities at maximum efficiency until such time as Federal construction grant funds are received. At that time, the effluent must be upgraded to meet National Secondary Treatment Standards for BOD₅, pH and total suspended solids. In addition, limitations on fecal coliform bacteria and total residual chlorine will be imposed to insure that the discharge will not cause violation of Wyoming water quality standards. The limitations on fecal coliform bacteria and total residual chlorine are based on 7 consecutive day-10 year low flow in the Little Snake River of .45 MGD and a maximum discharge volume of .05 MGD. The permit requires self-monitoring of the effluent on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit will expire on March 31, 1983.

PERMIT NAME MAILING ADDRESS	FACILITY LOCATION	FACILITY LOCATION
6) PERMIT NAME: CHEVRON OIL COMPANY MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 908 DENVER, COLORADO 80201	FACILITY LOCATION: MURPHY DOME FIELD SHAD LEASE WATER KNOCKOUT No. 1, SW¼, SEC. 1, T45N, R92W, HOT SPRINGS COUNTY, WYOMING WY-0024219	FACILITY LOCATION: MURPHY DOME FIELD SHAD LEASE WATER KNOCKOUT No. 2, SW¼, SEC. 6, T45N, R91W, HOT SPRINGS COUNTY, WYOMING WY-0024220
FACILITY LOCATION: SECTION 13, T17N, R77W ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING	FACILITY LOCATION: NORTH GARLAND FIELD TENSLEEP BATTERY EMERGENCY DRAIN, SW¼, SEC. 14, T66N, R90W, PARK COUNTY, WYOMING WY-0024281	FACILITY LOCATION: NORTH GARLAND FIELD, CLOVERLY, MORRISON BATTERY, SW¼, SECTION 11, T66N, R90W, PARK COUNTY, WYOMING WY-0024279
7) PERMIT NAME: DECALTA INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION MAILING ADDRESS: 216 PATTERSON BUILDING, SUITE 214 DENVER, COLORADO 80202	FACILITY LOCATION: NORTH GARLAND FIELD TENSLEEP SKIMMING POND B, SW¼, SECTION 14, T66N, R90W, PARK COUNTY, WYOMING WY-0024287	FACILITY LOCATION: NORTHERN PETROLEUM CORPORATION P.O. BOX 22 111 NORTH OGDEN DREMHIGHT, OKLAHOMA 74890 BARKER BASIN, NE, SW, SEC. SECTION 7, T37N, R30W, PARK COUNTY, WYOMING WY-0024040
FACILITY LOCATION: SEN. SECTION 11, T66N, R90W, CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING WY-0024268	FACILITY LOCATION: MURPHY DOME FIELD, CORBETT BATTERY TREATER, SW¼, SEC. 1, T66N, R90W, HOT SPRINGS COUNTY, WYOMING WY-0024171	
8) PERMIT NAME: FARMERS UNION CENTRAL EXCHANGE, INC. MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 128 LAUREL, MONTANA 59044	FACILITY LOCATION: MURPHY DOME FIELD, HANCOCK SHANNON BATTERY, SW¼, SECTION 11, T66N, R90W, WASHAKIE COUNTY, WYOMING WY-0024281	
FACILITY LOCATION: MURPHY DOME FIELD, SHAD BATTERY TREATER HOT SPRINGS COUNTY, WYOMING WY-0024171		

Facilities are all oil production units located in Carbon, Albany, Hot Springs, Washakie and Park Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters, skim tanks and skim ponds. All discharges are to Class III waters of the State with the exception of three Farmer's Union facilities (WY-0024261, WY-0024279 and WY-0024287) which discharge to unnamed drainages of the Shoshone River (Class I stream). On these three particular discharges, sulfide is to be monitored along with the other parameters semi-annually, however, no limits have been placed on sulfide since all the discharges are to unnamed drainages.

Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria must be met on all of the discharges effective immediately. Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all chemical parameters with the exception of the Decalta facility. Chemical parameters are to be monitored annually on the Decalta permit since the discharge is to a closed lake. Oil and grease is to be monitored quarterly for each facility including Decalta.

The expiration dates of the permits are December 31, 1982, December 31, 1980 and July 31, 1980, depending upon the areas in which they are located.

Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that every produced water discharge is beneficially used if the total dissolved solids content is 5,000 mg per l or less.

(10) PERMIT NAME: TIGER OIL COMPANY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 546
WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA 58801
FACILITY LOCATION: FEDERAL NO. 13-18, SW¼,
SECTION 18, T37N, R77W,
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING
PERMIT NUMBER: WY-0027324

A wastewater discharge permit was issued to Tiger Oil Company for the above referenced facility on October 9, 1977. It has been determined, however, that the total dissolved solids content of this discharge is more than three times greater than the level generally allowed to be discharged by an oil treater facility (5,000 mg per l). In addition, the letter of beneficial use submitted to this Department by the 7 L Livestock Company does not fully comply with the requirements of Wyoming's Water Quality Rules and Regulations, Chapter VII, Section 5a, in that "the history" of the beneficial use of the discharge was not shown. This Department, therefore, intends to take necessary actions to revoke permit number WY-0027324. If a hearing is not requested within 30 days of the date of this notice, the permit will officially be revoked.

Tentative determinations have been made by the State of Wyoming in cooperation with the EPA staff relative to effluent limitations and conditions to be imposed on the permits. These limitations and conditions will assure that State water quality standards and applicable provisions of the FWPCA will be protected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Public comments are invited any time prior to February 13, 1978. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Pathway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80285. All comments received prior to February 13, 1978 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling the State of Wyoming, (307) 777-7781, or EPA, (303) 327-3874, or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete applications, draft permits and related documents are available for review and reproduction at the aforementioned address.

Classified Ads

Classified ad rate is 10 cents a word. \$1 minimum, no billing. Deadline is Tuesday of publication week.

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WANTED: PHOTOGRAPHS of uranium mines, mills, exploration, tailings, or mining towns. HCN wants good quality black and white photos of these and other relevant topics. \$2-\$4 for each photo used plus exposure to other potential clients — our readers. Contact HCN Editors, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520.

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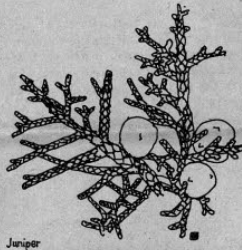
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NATIONAL HISTORIC BUILDING looking for home. Forest Service demands Snowy Range Lodge be moved from national forest. Built in 1919 of classic log construction, lodge is massive building with famous past. Owner, U. W. professor, wishes to purchase land for relocation of lodge near Laramie. To retain historic designation, property must have aesthetic qualities similar to present sylvan lodge site in Snowy Range. Please contact David or Jamie Egoif, 311 Clark, Laramie, WY, 307-745-9662 or 307-766-2162.

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Juniper



JUNIPER

by Myra Connell

An old Western saying declares that "beans and sowbelly built the West," some self-appointed authorities would add sourdough bread. But fuel, too, was indispensable. Settlers in the Rocky Mountains and in the Southwest would have found living very difficult without juniper trees.

Long before European people moved into the region, the juniper, (sometimes called cedar) furnished necessities and enriched the lives of American Indians. Navajos ate the ripe berries and chewed the inner bark of the cherry stone juniper during food shortages. They cut the branches to feed their sheep when snow was too deep for grazing. They made the bark and berries into a green dye for wool. They borrowed designs for baskets from the overlapping leaves. They worked the beautifully colored wood, sometimes burning it into charcoal for smelting their silver jewelry.

Several other Indian tribes, including the Havasupai, were sustained by the Utah juniper (*Juniperus utahensis*) from cradle to grave. The bark was used in countless ways — for cordage, baby cradles, sandals, woven bags, thatch, matting, and mattresses. Berries were used as medicine to ward off rheumatism. They fumigated with juniper and applied the sap as "new skin." It was also used in religious ceremonies.

Juniper has been widely used as fuel wherever it grows. In our own locality, *Juniperus scopulorum* meant survival to the early homesteaders, including my own family. For dwellings my folks went to the mountains and got lodgepole pine, but wood from the cedar hills furnished the

Jan. 13, 1978 — High Country News-15

firewood that held the beast of winter at bay. Its intense heat made a fine cooking fire. As a youngster it was a rare privilege for me to go with the men to the cedars for a load of wood.

Homesteaders were required to fence their land in order to "prove up" (obtain title). Again the junipers proved useful by providing fence posts. So durable and rot-resistant are they that many are still found intact after 50 to 75 years in the ground. Their picturesque curves, festooned by strands of rusty barbed wire are a part of the Western scene.

In recent years the handsome rose-red wood streaked with white has become a favorite of craftsmen.

Vast areas of Western lands between 5,000 and 9,500 feet altitude are covered by a number of species of juniper, the most abundant being *utahensis* and *scopulorum*. Lumbermen pass the junipers by because they are too branched and crooked for profitable sawing. This is fortunate, because these shrubby evergreens hold fragile soils in place while at the same time creating new soil as their roots penetrate cracks and crevices in the rocks.

Being extremely resistant to dry conditions the indomitable junipers are symbolic of undefeated life. Near the Grand Canyon some venerable specimens with trunk diameters of three feet are believed to be 3,000 years of age.

The same characteristics that turn the sawyer away give the junipers great esthetic appeal. Clinging perilously to edges of cliffs, contorted by wind and weather, they assume interesting shapes that create an artist's paradise.

Donald Peattie in *A Natural History of Western Trees* describes deep poetic feelings for junipers: "the wind in its sharp-angled foliage... is a comforting sound... a sort of message from green life... A juniper tree in its venerable age... reminds of an old patriarch — rugged and weathered and twisted by hardship... hard to discourage or kill."

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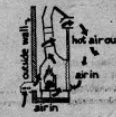
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Claim jumping in the wild; Comola v. ASARCO

by Bill Schneider

Mike Comola has just been elected president of the Montana Wilderness Association — despite the fact that he has been staking mining claims in one of the West's most spectacular wild areas. And the smart money is betting that Comola will keep his job when he starts to develop his holdings.

After a few years in the Marines, Mike, 32, needed an escape. So he and his wife bought a small farm near Noxon, Mont., and began sustenance farming. But it wasn't long before the Comolas left their peaceful life for a fight to preserve the wild lands surrounding them.

Some wilderness advocates looked on with skepticism. Most citizens in northwest Montana weren't, to say the least, rabid in their environmentalism. This didn't thwart the Comolas, however. They formed Northwest Citizens for Wilderness, which soon became an influential force in wilderness preservation.

Northwest Citizens for Wilderness started out as a grassroots group hoping to prevent destruction of the Scotchman Peaks area.

"We knew the Forest Service's planning process was an attempt to sink the roadless resource," Mike Comola recalls. "So when RARE I (the first Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) came along, we did our own inventory to check with the Forest Service's."

His work revealed many discrepancies in the Forest Service report — particularly deletions of potential wilderness. "The wilderness received the cold shoulder," according to Comola.

However, Comola is determined that wild country should get a warmer recep-



Mike Comola

tion in RARE II. Northwest Citizens for Wilderness is coordinating Montana environmental groups' participation in the process, a testimonial to Comola's credibility.

Comola first gained statewide attention in a David-and-Goliath struggle with American Smelting and Refining Co. (ASARCO). The giant mining company had plans for a copper mine in Scotchman Peaks, but the executives were so busy that they overlooked the competition — namely, Mike Comola.

"Nobody knew what we were doing until I announced it at the 1976 Montana Wilderness Association meeting," he recalls with a smile. "Then, they were jumping up and down on their desks shouting.

ASARCO had a lawyer over to the meeting in about five minutes."

But it was too late. Although Comola's mining claims are being contested, there is an excellent chance that at least part of a massive mining project planned in wilderness country has been stopped because Comola's organization staked mining claims over the main ore body. That's enough to make mining executives look for another line of work.

In a related episode, ASARCO tried to file mining claims by flying over the wilderness in a helicopter and throwing out plastic sewer pipe. And it might have worked — if it hadn't been for a local named Comola, who carried out the pipe and successfully contested the claims. Unfortunately, the proceeding took so long that

develop the claims using pick-and-shovel technology.

For his efforts, Comola received the Sedlack award in 1976. This award is given by the Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) for outrageous acts that benefit the environment. It is named after a Glacier National Park ranger who became so frustrated trying to apprehend trespassing snowmobiles that he shot one. In addition, Northwest Citizens for Wilderness won MWA's Sutton award in 1977 for its outstanding work.

Don't expect to hear Comola boasting of his achievements. Quite to the other extreme, he is quiet, reserved. "Lots of people think only white collar workers are wilderness advocates, but I'm a working fellow. I'm a gunsmith, farmer, mechanic, truck driver, and I collect minerals for a hobby," he says.

Bob Kiesling, staff director for the Helena-based Environmental Information Center, sees Comola differently. "He's a one-man guerrilla army who is the bane of every hard rock mining company west of the Mississippi," he says.

Comola is so dedicated that he has left his farm and moved to Helena so he can devote more time to wilderness preservation.

He sees his work as part of a bigger picture. "I have an all-encompassing philosophy. Whether it's wilderness, weed control, grizzly bears, or mining, it's all connected. People just don't understand this."

Chances are that more people will after Comola is finished.

He's a one-man guerrilla army who is the bane of every hard rock mining company west of the Mississippi.

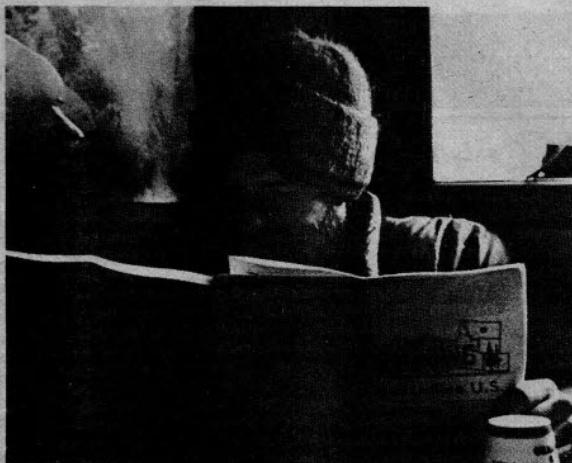
ASARCO quietly refiled the claims properly.

ASARCO has won that battle, but the war lies ahead. Even though the company correctly filed the claims, Northwest Citizens for Wilderness also held claims for much of the same area. "ASARCO jumped our claims," Comola says.

The conservationist's claims have been sold for one dollar each to Northwest Citizens for Wilderness Mining, a sister group headed by Cesar Hernandez which plans to

HCN TAKEN TO NEW HEIGHTS

Photo by Morgan Smith



IN THE REFUGIO AT 15,800 FEET, OR HOW HIGH COUNTRY NEWS GOT READ COVER TO COVER AT COTOPAXI.

On their way to the 19,347 foot summit of Cotopaxi (a snow-covered, active volcano near Quito, Ecuador), storms forced Chris Brown's party to spend four days in a refugio (cabin) at 15,800 feet. To pass some of the time, Chris read his copy of High Country News cover to cover. Some people

go a long way to read High Country News.

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Dear Friends,

In pursuit of our story on leadership and motivation on page 1, we contacted a number of environmental activists and organizers, but of course we missed some. We did try to come up with a broad sampling of opinion from people with varying backgrounds, of different ages, from different states.

The fact that we found no common theme won't be too surprising to most environmentalists. Only those on the outside make the mistake of thinking we're all from a common mold: selfish, elitist, young, and robust enough to play in the wilderness.

We were glad that several of our subjects acknowledged the hidden motive that we know helps keep us going — it's fun. Without that, we would have little hope of seeing the number of activists and the number of victories grow. Our subjects mentioned deep satisfactions in the work itself, which come from learning and acting upon knowledge — charging off on a white horse, as Scott Reed puts it. They also mentioned another kind of pleasure, which is perhaps just as important — the pleasure of associating with other people who are trying to make a contribution to society. The activists we interviewed were well aware of both these kinds of personal benefits, and described them eloquently.

We hope that the article has provided some insight for people interested in

the environmental movement, or at least some entertaining reading. For some readers, perhaps it will have the same effect it had on us. We were inspired by these remarkable people! Thanks to everyone who agreed to share their thoughts.

—the editors

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