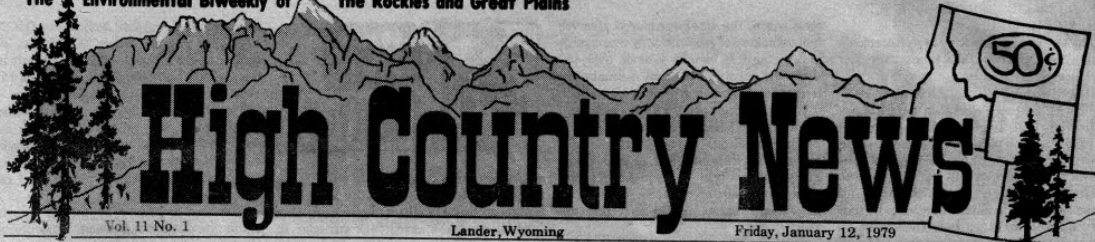


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The Environmental Biweekly of the Rockies and Great Plains



Vol. 11 No. 1

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, January 12, 1979

Will a tight-fisted Congress be tough on the environment?

by David Crosson

The turn of the year is traditionally a time of renewal. Yet as the 96th Congress convenes, Washington's environmentalists appear only cautiously hopeful for their movement's loftiest goals. The prevailing feeling is that the gains of the past decade and a half will be sorely tested by a new Congress well-tuned to demands for fiscal conservatism.

"There is no getting around the political fact that environmental rules are viewed as inflationary," says Michael McCabe, director of the Environmental Study Conference, a congressional information service,

"and the major concern of the American people is inflation." Advising environmentalists at a recent National Wildlife Federation meeting, McCabe cautioned that "unless we recognize the political and economic realities facing elected officials, it will be hard just to preserve what's on the books and next to impossible to legislate needed new programs.

"Environmental positions stated in all-or-nothing terms will more than likely be ignored," says McCabe, who believes that only a unified, politically sophisticated effort can deflate the "obstructionist" label that has been attached to environmentalists.

Already, the conservation community seems to be constructing a strategy that may result in 1979 being the Year of the Coalition. Not only does the Alaska Coalition remain in place, but also, for the first time, the Washington environmental community has jointly compiled its priorities for the coming year.

Nearly 40 active lobbying organizations participated in the ad hoc group, which was organized by Washington Sierra Club representative Brock Evans. Alaskan lands, endangered species, water projects and RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) wilderness designations ap-

Indians file suit to block uranium development
...see page 10

RARE II complete
...see page 5

ENVIRONMENTALISTS FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT

ALASKA COALITION
620 C Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
'To Preserve Alaska's National Interest Wildlands'

COALITION FOR WATER PROJECT REVIEW

WYOMING'S WILDERNESS HERITAGE
WYOMING WILDERNESS COALITION

1979 — THE YEAR FOR COALITIONS?

pear to be their top four legislative concerns.

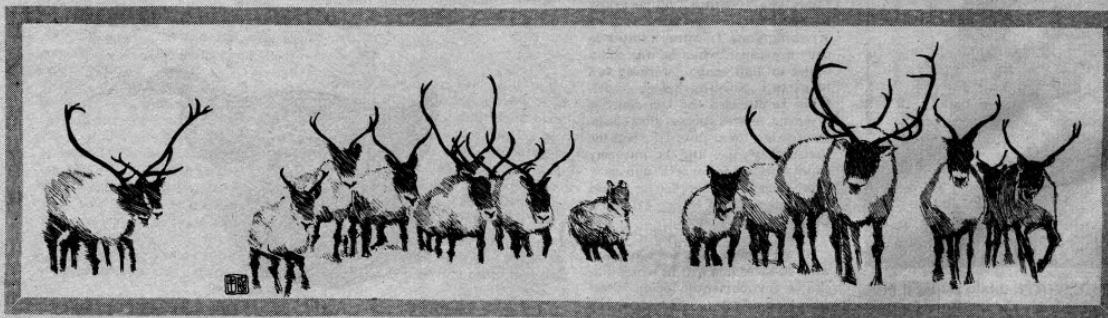
MAJOR ISSUES

Environmentalists' hopes are high for passage of a favorable Alaskan National Interest Lands bill. The administration's commitment to austerity bodes well for water project cuts, though the effort will have to contend with what Toby Cooper of Defenders of Wildlife calls "porkbarrel

paranoia" — Congress's defensiveness about its traditional powers of the purse. The Endangered Species Act and RARE II wilderness designations appear most menaced.

In the wake of last year's last minute sinking of Alaskan lands legislation by Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska), Kathy Smith of Friends of the Earth and the Alaskan Coalition now sees the "political shoe on the other foot." Smith thinks that

(continued on page 4)



2-High Country News - Jan. 12, 1979

Wilderness sacrifice would save, at most, a year's worth of oil

Dear HCN:

The energy handwriting is on America's wall, and it reads: "the times they are a-changin'."

It does not say "Rip up the Wilderness." The MIT-based Workshop on Alternative Energy Strategies, including some 70 specialists from industry, government and universities in 15 countries, projects that world oil production will begin to decline well before the end of this century, and unsatisfied oil demand will have to be met by coal and other sources. The report on their study (*Scientific American*, March '78) says: "If oil is discovered, or recovery techniques are improved, on a scale greater than can now be foreseen, the effect would be only to delay for a few years — not to obviate — the necessary transition to other fuels."

In the Overthrust Belt RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) areas, the oil industry guesses that 2.675 billion barrels of oil could be recovered. This is much higher than the U.S. Geological Survey estimates, but nobody really knows. By

comparison, the total measured reserves (not estimates) of economically recoverable coal in the U.S. would provide over 450 times the energy of that oil estimate. Potential coal reserves are much larger still. Even the oil industry's high estimate, if fully recovered, with widespread roads and production fields throughout the best mountain wildlands left in the Lower Forty-eight, would postpone the worldwide exhaustion of oil reserves by little more than a year at 1990 rates of consumption.

Since the transition from oil to other energy sources is inevitable, the question we must decide is whether the possible (but doubtful) postponement of that transition for perhaps a year — if the high industry guesses prove out — is worth the destruction to wildlife and wilderness.

It is true that, in some parts of the Overthrust, oil exploration and perhaps development can take place without unacceptable costs to wilderness and other surface values of the land. But there are many areas which are simply too steep, whose



soils are too unstable or where wildlife use is too important to sacrifice the land for a few more hours of oil supply.

The proposal I made last summer to permit drilling in some Overthrust Belt RARE II locations (HCN 9-22-78), also included as an integral component the idea that special review and oversight procedures would be set up to ensure that entry into critical lands would only take place where it could be done safely and reclaimed if the drilling was unsuccessful. The oil industry liked the idea of being permitted to enter, but they generally rejected the thought that some special care should be taken to be sure it was done right.

Mr. Driessen's letter for the Rocky

Mountain Oil and Gas Association (HCN 12-15-78) rejects either wilderness or further study for the RARE II wildlands in the Overthrust Belt. That leaves, in his view, only the option of Non-Wilderness — and uncontrolled development of these areas for all commodities, not simply oil and gas. It means the certain loss of wilderness values, in return for a very uncertain possible gain in short-lived energy resources.

I continue to believe that there are parts of the Overthrust Belt where compromise is possible; in seeking that compromise, we need to weigh permanent values against temporary expedients, and we have to take the oil industry's self-appointed religious mission to save us all with a large grain of salt.

Compromise does not mean drilling every lease in the Rockies, just to be sure it's worthless.

Philip M. Hocker
Chairman, Wyoming Chapter Sierra Club
(This letter does not represent Sierra Club policy.)

Dear Friends

The name of correspondent Philip White is becoming familiar to those of you who are crossword puzzle fans or who have enjoyed HCN's articles on the Bureau of Land Management wilderness inventory, the recent accident at the Fort St. Vrain nuclear plant, the Grayrocks dam controversy or the geyser gazers at Yellowstone.

Nine years ago, White started his career as an attorney. He was in private practice for awhile, worked for the county legal services office and then for the University of Wyoming student body.

However, he discovered he was more at ease as a "quill driver" (a writer) than as a lawyer. He found the legal profession too staid, stiff and formal. "If you're going to represent someone and you're going to do it right, you have to conform to all the lifestyle requirements of the judge. I think it's a disservice to the client to have a beard and wear weird clothes," says White (who has a beard and wears very casual clothes).

White questions whether he should



PHIL WHITE thinks the legal profession is too staid, stiff and formal.

be called "a Writer" now — "I really don't think of myself as a writer. Sometimes when I look at poetry, I don't think I'm that skilled with words," he says.

Despite his modesty, his fascination and skill with words are obvious. Words are both powerful tools and delightful toys to this tinkerer. Language connoisseurs delight in his alliteration and puns, and his letters send us scurrying to our dictionary to understand the latest jokes.

We should have known better than to ask him to suggest a title for himself when he first started to work for HCN on a regular basis. That game lasted for months. "I like Field Ophiophager best — would you call me that?" Another letter asks, "Field Helminthologist? Ornerythologist?" We chose a more mundane — but clearer — option: "Correspondent."

It's a challenge to get White to take himself seriously. He refers to a guest editorial on endangered species as his "magnum oopusus." Asked to give a short summary of his achievements for this column, he wrote, "Suffice it to say that life has been all downhill since I won fifth place in the county spellin contest at the age of 12."

We finally cajoled him into revealing that his journalism career started in high school when he covered sports for Cheyenne's *Wyoming Eagle* on Friday nights. He became sports editor of the *Wyoming State Tribune*, a statewide daily newspaper, when he was still a senior in high school, working two hours each morning before school. While he attended the University of Wyoming, he was sports editor ("master of cliches," as he puts it) for both the Laramie city paper and the university paper, as well as editor of the university paper. Summers he worked for United Press International in San Francisco, Cheyenne and Houston.

("What about Field Oologist?") He did turn serious for a moment when we asked him why he writes articles on environmental topics. "Creatures have no votes, no money and no



Photo by Phil White

PHIL'S FAVORITE PHOTO. Owl fledglings in the cottonwoods at Phil's and his wife, Kathi's, place at Simpson Springs, south of Laramie.

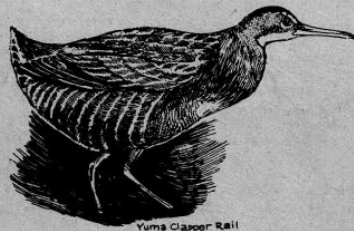
voices, so all of us in this movement are trying to provide some protection for them."

Not all writers for HCN consider themselves environmentalists, but White does. He became interested in identifying wildflowers and birds while he was still practicing law and soon discovered that these interests inevitably

lead to questions like, "What does it eat? Where does it live? Then you must think of man's place in the cosmos." The job of the environmentalist — and especially of the environmental writer — is to draw attention to these interactions, according to White.

("How about field hemidemise-miquaver?")

— the staff



Yuma Clapper Rail

Rocky Flats weapons plant should be moved

by Alexis Parks

Sometimes the offering of poison is not given in a single cup. Sometimes it comes by a more subtle means: through the groundwater, through the food chain, through the air. While we may draw aside in horror at mass suicides, the slow steady gnaw of radiation-related cancers, the psychological fear, the waiting—these can all lead down the same path toward the same terrible destruction.

We have been told that other than being targeted by a bomb, the "worst possible accident" at Rocky Flats would be to have a jet, fully loaded with fuel, crash into the plutonium reprocessing plant. But we have already experienced lesser catastrophes.

The \$45 million fire in 1969—one of the most expensive industrial fires in the history of the United States— which released toxic plutonium into the atmosphere. The leak of plutonium from stored oil drums into the soil and the subsequent discovery of radioactive tritium in the Broomfield water supply. The windborne spread of plutonium-laden dust particles away from the site. And over 200 "lesser" fires and accidental releases some of which included

americium, beryllium and other toxic or radioactive materials handled at the plant.

In this manner, the short term, latent or genetic health risks rest not only with the employees of the plant whose continuous emphasis upon safety is directly related to the deadly material they process. The risk of accident, the dependence upon human judgment which is so prone to error, and human designed machinery which is so prone to failure, extends beyond the plant site to the downstream, downwind population of Denver.

Ever since the plant was built in the mid 1950s, its mission has been to manufacture plutonium triggers for nuclear weapons and has never changed. Nor has its location. Then as now it has remained 16 miles from the center of Denver. What has changed, however, has been the size of the city, expanding continuously so that today many thousands of Denver residents live within a few miles of the plant boundary. Their growing fear about health risks from the weapons plant is very real.

The residents of Broomfield, for example, have drawn their drinking water for years from groundwater contaminated by radioactive tritium traveling through the

soil from the plant site. According to Dr. Karl Z. Morgan, father of modern health physics, people who drink the water from Broomfield's Great Western Reservoir may face the same cancer risk as employees at the Hanford, Wash., nuclear processing plant.

Other residents in the Denver area worry about the health risks from airborne dust particles blown away from the plant site or worry about the great "What if...?" For the protesters blocking the railroad tracks leading into the plant, this fear also includes the global one of nuclear holocaust.

Therefore, one of the simplest yet most compelling arguments for moving the weapons plant, beyond the desire to live in a world free from the nuclear threat, is the fact that it is located next to a major metropolitan area. This location near an urban area, while offering a steady flow of manpower, also imposes a degree of risk to public health that the surrounding population may not be willing to tolerate.

While some critics would suggest there be a six-month moratorium on the production of nuclear weapons in order to see if the Russians would cease production in a simi-



Guest editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of HCN.

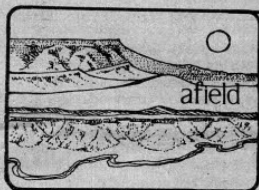
lar manner, the plan most likely to succeed would be to simply move the plant. It could be moved someplace else: to Arco, Idaho, or to the Nevada Test Site.

Arco becomes a possible choice because it already serves as one of three temporary repositories for radioactive wastes from past and ongoing military programs. Nuclear research facilities are also located at the Arco site. But what makes such a location more desirable than Denver is that the community which services the facility is located 50 miles away. Each day, Arco employees are bused the distance between home and work. Another possible choice might be the Nevada test site again because related activities have gone on there.

It makes timely sense to consider the options before us: to wait until Murphy's Law "if anything can go wrong, it will" goes into effect; to give ourselves 90 minutes to evacuate the half million residents of Denver, which everyone agrees ahead of time is unworkable even in the best of weather; to move the city of Denver.

Or, we could move the Rocky Flats Weapons Plant.

Alexis Parks is a writer-photographer based in Boulder, Colo.



by Hannah Hinchman

LANDER, WYO., December 31—a cold, icy sliver of a crescent moon over the Wind River spine. The brilliance of the sunlight on that sliver and the distinct line between night and day on its surface is another illustration of the power of our star. Later, the unlighted portion of the moon is faintly visible, too. Reflecting earth light? Reflecting the daylight flooding Asia?

By a fire after skiing. Could there be any more satisfying pair of opposites than a deep drift of snow and a deep bed of incandescent coals? Novelist Wallace Stegner describes a woman who likes to go out "...amid tempests of wind and rain with a fire and a cup of tea and the sure affection of a sheltered house afterward. Exposure followed by sanctuary was somehow part of her emotional need..." That seems like a sane emotional need. Enjoying a warm hearth and mug after being outside in winter, like most simple pleasures, shouldn't be underestimated. Likewise the relief at being out of confined spaces into cold, clear air that commands your blood to stir.

When the temperature is 44 degrees below zero your body sends alarmed messages about any part of it left exposed. It is indeed an alien environment. I'm glad that as humans we've devised a way to carry our "sanctuary" around with us in the form of warm clothing. If, as writer Tom Birch says, "wildness is the heart of otherness," then this cold can be considered a form of wildness.

People have seen bald eagles moving in our area recently, often far from water. At



a distance, a mature bald eagle in flight can look tailless since its tail is white. That and its slow deep wingbeats help identify it. Bob Oakleaf of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, who is studying bald eagles this winter, says that they gather to roost in large numbers but forage over dry land within a range of 20 or 30 miles looking for carrion and rabbits during the day.

Ravens and hawks are the most obvious winter birds now. Away back in under the snow grizzly bear cubs are being born.

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

The Afield editor, Hannah Hinchman, would like to hear from readers in other parts of the Rockies. How is the weather out there? What sort of landscape surrounds you?

HCN will pay \$2 each for timely tidbits about natural surroundings and Western life. Address to HCN, Afield, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520.



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Congress and environment...

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after President Carter's recent executive actions to extend protections on approximately 120 million acres of Alaska, even former enemies of the bill will be eager to pass it in some form this year.

Smith points out that with the threat of additional executive action to protect 44 million acres permanently under the Land Policy and Management Act, in addition to the permanent protection already afforded 56 million acres by the Antiquities Act, it would behoove opponents of the legislation to settle now.

"Things haven't changed that much in the House, which passed the Alaska bill last year by 277 to 31," says Smith. "Already, Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, has scheduled consideration of the Alaskan lands bill. On the Senate side, Henry Jackson's (D-Wash.) Energy Committee is changing dramatically, perhaps for the better. Massachusetts's new Democratic Sen. Paul Tsongas was a strong advocate of the bill as a representative and he may get on the committee." Further, adds Smith, "With the energy bill finished, there now appears to be enough time to deal with the issue."

ANOTHER HIT LIST

If there is any issue where environmental concern coincides with the prevailing economic concern, it is the water projects authorization issue. A coalition of 25 organizations reportedly representing 4.5 million Americans is in the vanguard for environmentalists. The Coalition for Water Project Review has singled out as environmentally destructive and economically unjustifiable a dozen dams, canals and irrigation projects costing an estimated \$28.6 billion.

The Western projects include the Garrison Diversion in North Dakota, the Central Utah Project and the Central Arizona Project. However, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway leads the environmentalists' "hit list."

SPECIES ACT ENDANGERED

The Endangered Species Act, again endangered, was weakened last year by amendments requiring that the economics of saving a species be considered and that a review board be established to rule on cases involving difficult conflicts, such as the snail darter versus Tellico Dam. John Dring, legislative assistant to Rep. Robin Beard (R-Tenn.) who would like to gut the act, says that species listings and deletions now are at "the whim of a few biologists" and he suggests that a soon-to-be-released General Accounting Office review of the law will bolster arguments against the act. "You do come down to hard questions of prioritizing," says Dring, "even if environmentalists say it's playing God."

Washington conservationists hope that the endangered species review board will resolve the Tellico issue, effectively fending off further efforts at weakening the act. But, as Toby Cooper of Defenders of Wildlife points out, "There are plenty out there who would like to scuttle the whole thing — a regular lynch mob of Southerners."

Cooper also sees room for improvement in the act. He says that captive endangered birds of prey are not required to be registered. This loophole, put in place last year, is opening wide the illegal trade in peregrine falcons and white gyrfalcons, he says. Some of the endangered birds are fetching

about \$20,000 in the Middle East, where wealthy sheiks use them for sport hunting.

In addition, Cooper is concerned about the new requirement for economic impact statements. "The biological issue should not be balanced against economic considerations. In Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, for instance, if you were to compromise biological findings you wouldn't find any more grizzly bears."

Nevertheless Cooper hopes the act will remain basically intact this year. Cooper is counting on changes in the Merchant Marine subcommittee on fisheries and wildlife conservation and the environment. Subcommittee Chairman Robert Leggett (D-Calif.) has retired, and while John Breaux (D) of Louisiana is in line for the chair, he may take another post. As a result, Gerry Studds (D-Mass.), who is more sympathetic to the environmental cause, may get the nod.

RARE II

When Congress takes up the Forest Service's RARE II proposals, nearly every environmental group appears interested in jumping into the fray. Evans' group is calling for the White House to allow for additional comment, with legislation to be recommended on a "case-by-case or area-by-area" basis.

PUBLIC LANDS

Most of the remaining environmental concerns in Washington this year are public lands issues. While no omnibus parks bill is expected, there is hope for at least one park authorization, the Tall Grass Prairies in Kansas and Oklahoma.

The Jackson Hole (Wyo.) Scenic Area bill, intended to prevent development on private ranch lands near Grand Teton National Park, lost the support of the local county commission after the last election. Pat McDonald of Sen. Malcolm Wallop's (R-Wyo.) Washington office quotes the senator as saying, "I won't go charging over the hill on this, look back and find no one behind me."

1872 MINING LAW

"The impact of the 1872 Mining Law is perhaps greater than any other pressure on public lands," says John Hooper of the Wilderness Society. But Hooper and a number of other lobbyists see little opportunity this year for reform. Environmentalists want the law, which allows for almost unrestricted mineral exploration on public land, to be replaced by a competitive leasing system.

Neither the administration nor Congress are likely to act until at least August, when the non-fuel mineral policy study is due. Hooper fears that the study is becoming a "forum for mining industry bitches."

While Bureau of Land Management roadless area legislation is not expected this year, environmentalists are pushing for early wilderness designation of BLM areas where development pressures are severe. The Wilderness Society's Dave Foreman is particularly concerned about Aravaipa in Arizona and the Great Rift in Idaho.

THE MX

An as yet unspecified tract in the West, ranging in size anywhere from 3 million acres (the size of Connecticut) to four times that, also is a concern to Washington en-



vironmentalists. Hooper of the Wilderness Society says that the Air Force wants such a piece of real estate to deploy hidden missiles. Dummy silos, trenches, trains and ponds are all being considered in the Air Force's MX Missile proposal. "They could take a big chunk of land from us," Hooper says, "in one fell swoop." Humorist Art Buchwald has suggested that trains be used and their scheduling be handed over to Amtrak to baffle the enemy about when the missile might arrive at a given location.

In a number of instances, land issues are butting against the ever-present pressure for budgetary constraints. While political realism might dictate a lower profile by environmentalists this year, on certain counts, "particularly where new programs are just getting into swing," says the Audubon Society's Young, "environmentalists have just got to scream."

Young says the National Parks Service, with its new additions, is already "woefully under budget." The conservation

community's priorities list also targets the Rangeland Improvement Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund as arenas where budget cuts would be devastating.

The Interior Department's new Office of Surface Mining may be facing both attacks on its funding and its authority. Hooper says that the Council on Environmental Quality has commissioned a \$500,000 study of the strip mine law, but that, so far, the agency has only been listening to industry complaints about the legislation, rather than finding out how well the law is protecting the environment. Of course, there is an appropriate counter to any attempt to weaken the law, says one Washington conservationist — to push for its extension to the entire extractive industry.

The Nature Conservancy, with backing from many groups, is hoping for federal legislation to establish a state natural heritage program. For a number of years, the Nature Conservancy has been inventorying ecological systems nationwide. This has provided a number of states with data on the diversity of their flora and fauna and "led to protections for threatened items in the ecological ark," according to the conservancy's legislative liaison, Bill Chandler. In many instances, protection has been provided through cooperative agreements with private landowners. "In an era of cost-cutting," says Chandler, "a Heritage Act would encourage the idea that acquisition isn't the only manner of protecting the land."

THE SECOND TIER OF CONCERNS

An expanded Interior Department, to be called the Department of Natural Resources, is expected to be recommended as part of President Jimmy Carter's campaign promise to streamline the government. The new department would include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, currently part of the Commerce Department, as well as the Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service, both now controlled by the Department of Agriculture. The Bureau of Reclamation's water projects would move from Interior to the Army Corps of Engineers. Environmentalists feel that Agriculture won't give up the Forest Service without prolonged gnashing of teeth. Similarly, congressional committees that now oversee those agencies would probably be unwilling to give up their jurisdiction to another committee.

Bottle deposit legislation seems to be on the back burner until more states pass bottle laws. Seven have been passed so far. Significant campaigns are proceeding this year in Washington, Ohio and Massachusetts. Mark Sullivan of the National Wildlife Federation says, "I think if we have 25 percent of the can and bottle market covered by state programs, a national bill would emerge. With what we have, Ohio alone could make a big difference."

Headlining the energy agenda is the prospect of solar research and development funds being doubled to \$400 million. Pamela Deuvel of Environmental Action says her organization is likely to join the Solar Lobby in pressing for a "solar bank" proposal that would provide low-interest loans for solar installations.

The congressional hopper clearly appears full of environmental issues. At the

(continued on page 5)

"Environmental positions stated in all-or-nothing terms will more than likely be ignored," says Michael McCabe.

RARE II results final; 'an acute disappointment'

Forest Service proposes wilderness for one-fourth of its remaining roadless areas

by David Crosson

Slightly more than 15 million acres in 37 states, or 24.3 percent of the National Forest Service's roadless areas, have been recommended for wilderness designation in the final RARE II (Roadless Area Re-

view and Evaluation) environmental impact statement. Of 26.6 million acres of Forest Service roadless areas in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado, 5.85 million acres, or 22 percent, have been suggested for wilderness protection.

The Forest Service recommendations, the end product of eight years of controversy, are drawing immediate flak from all sides. A joint statement by the Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth and the National Audubon Society terms the proposal "an acute disappointment." Both the National Forest Products Association and the Rocky Mountain Oil

and Gas Association say important commodity supplies will be cut off by the action.

Approximately one-third of the National Forest System was analyzed by RARE II for its wilderness potential. Environmentalists had recommended that about 36 million of the 62 million acres be designated wilderness. In addition to the Forest Service's 15 million acre wilderness proposal, 10.8 million acres will be subjected to "further planning," which could result in more wilderness recommendations. More than twice as many acres were recommended for non-wilderness (36.2 million) as for wilderness, however. Most of these lands will be released for other uses April 15, according to M. Rupert Cutler, assistant secretary of Agriculture.

The "further planning" lands — all of which, Cutler says, have "high wilderness potential" — will remain "essentially undeveloped" until forest management plans or other required plans are completed. No timber will be cut. However, under certain conditions exploration and leasing for oil, gas and energy minerals will be permitted, the draft statement says.

On lands recommended for "wilderness," "no activities which might alter wilderness qualities of the land will be allowed," according to the statement. For instance, grazing permits will be continued on these lands, but motorized vehicles will not be allowed.

In making its decision, the Forest Service used alternatives C and I in its draft statement, which emphasized "high resource output" and "highest wilderness attributes" respectively. However, wherever 71 percent of the public's comments recommended either wilderness, further planning or non-wilderness, the Forest Service bowed to the public's wishes. Regional foresters also had a chance to modify the results. Adjustments were made to assure good distribution, accessibility and diversity of wilderness areas.

Adjustments also were made to insure wilderness proposals for lands rated high by the Forest Service's Wilderness Attribute Rating System. On the other hand, roadless areas "with proven, producing or high potential mineral and energy resources were moved to non-wilderness or

further planning to insure their potential was not foreclosed," the statement says.

Finally, regional foresters, the chief of the Forest Service and his staff, and representatives of the department of Agriculture met to finish and review the allocation job.

A 45-day comment period is provided for reaction from both the Congress and the governors of the states involved. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland will then make a legislative recommendation to President Carter. Congressional consideration is expected to follow soon after.

Tim Mahoney of the Wilderness Society says that if the 5.6 million acres of land in Alaska already protected from development as national monuments are subtracted from the total acreage recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness designation, the recommendation is a step back from an earlier 12.3 million acre RARE I proposal, which was scrapped by the Carter administration.

Mike Griswold of the Forest Service says, however, that nearly a quarter of RARE I proposals already have either been recommended for or designated as wilderness, thus reducing the total acreage that needed to be considered in RARE II. The Forest Service's RARE II recommendation could nearly double the nation's wilderness acreage, he says.

However, such a doubling would probably not impress environmentalists. According to Cutler in the 15 years since the passage of the Wilderness Act, only 19 million acres have been protected "instead of the 50 million they (the act's proponents) had in mind."

The quality as well as the size of the Forest Service's wilderness proposal has come under fire. Peter Kirby of the National Wildlife Federation questions boundaries that have been modified since the release of the RARE II draft EIS. In a number of instances, he says, land parcels with diverse wilderness attributes have been reduced to the rock and ice of only the highest elevations.

Even where the Forest Service seems to have taken the greatest pride in its effort — in the wide distribution of wilderness parcels — environmentalists are disappointed. Plains wilderness recommendations are being termed "token," while a

(continued on page 12)

Congress and the environment . . .

(continued from page 4)

same time, the conservation cause is being pressed at the White House. The Natural Resources Council of America, a coalition of some 45 conservation groups, expects 80 groups nationwide to endorse its third memorandum to the president since last May, when Carter invited the council to convey their concerns to him directly.

With a 92 percent rating from the League of Conservation Voters, Carter far outshines both the Senate — at 52 percent — and the House — at 47 percent — in his commitment to the environmental cause.

The Natural Resources Council hopes that its latest message will prompt presidential attention on five counts:

— Budget cuts on water projects, highway construction, synthetic fuels technology and the Clinch River Breeder Reactor. Budget support is specifically sought for Endangered Species and the Marine Mammals Commission.

— International trade in endangered species. Timely participation by both federal agencies and the public is sought to insure a representative U.S. position in international talks.

— Sanctions against outlaw whalers. Import restrictions are sought against nations refusing to join the International Whaling Commission.

— Career reserve. Depoliticization of the top executive positions in the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and National Marine Fisheries is sought.

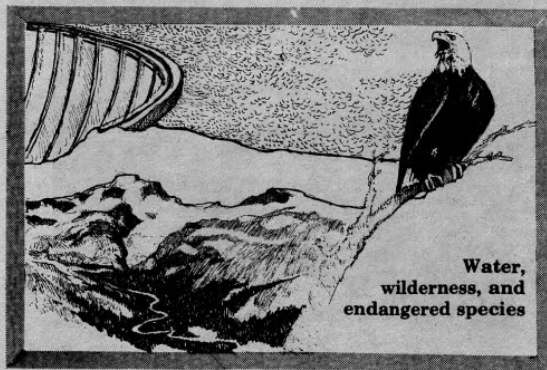
— Natural resources reorganization. Time for public comment is requested.

The new Congress' affinity for environmental concerns is difficult to gauge. Marion Edey, head of the League of Conservation Voters, which monitors the pulse of the conservation cause, believes that the House may be "slightly behind" last year, while the Senate is "not that much different."

League ratings indicate that the Senate lost members who averaged 51 percent environmental voting records against a Senate-wide 1977-78 average of 52 percent. In the House, which averaged 47 percent in 1977, the average of members who will not be present for the 96th Congress was 46 percent. Three Senators with ratings above 90 percent are gone while three members scoring less than 15 percent also are gone. Three of 13 House members with 0 ratings have been displaced while one of six with a 100 rating, Paul Tsongas, has moved from the House to the Senate.

In general, according to Edey, losses in Congress by the environmental movement — traditionally considered a liberal cause — were not based on environmental grounds. Rather, says Edey, the defeats reflect a general drift away from liberalism.

Fifteen years ago, it was perhaps inconceivable that the sort of political savvy now being demanded of environmentalists might ever be necessary. Yet this seems to be the price of what the Audubon Society's Young calls "the nitty-gritty of now working within the establishment." With a decade and a half of gains behind them, Washington's environmentalists appear to believe that the national passion for spending constraints is demanding a new kind of effort — as vigorous as in the past but ever so much more intricate.

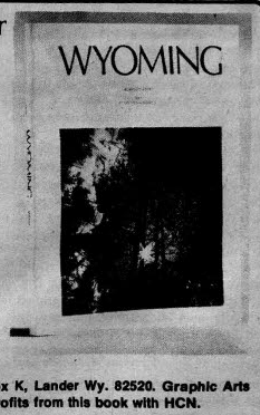


THE TOP environmental legislative concerns for 1979.

Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company

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6-High Country News - Jan. 12, 1979

'Areas of national concern'

A new trick in the U.S. land preservation bag

As belts continue to tighten on national environmental programs, the Carter administration has been looking for ways to "do more with less."

"We are in an era that requires conservation of the taxpayers' dollar as well as the natural resources," Assistant Interior Secretary Robert Herbst told the Sierra Club's directors at a recent meeting.

One thing this may mean in the new year is the blossoming of a land preservation partnership among federal, state and local governments and the private sector. The cooperative effort could be an economical alternative to direct federal acquisition of important land, according to conservationists and the Carter administration.

Federal purchase of lands for national preserves is becoming prohibitively expensive, and is often accompanied by a host of administrative problems, Herbst says. But when left up to the state, local and private efforts, the job of protecting natural, historic, and recreational resources often is neglected, he says.

Congress has already passed legislation which sets up a few joint protective efforts. Herbst and the Interior Department hope to expand this type of protection for what he calls "areas of national concern." Though still in an infant stage, the strategy would be effective and flexible, tailor-fit to the needs of a particular area, Herbst says. Zoning regulations, easements, tax incentives, as well as some direct federal acquisition are part of the arsenal of tools available. Intergovernmental sharing of power and responsibility would be stressed throughout the planning process, he says.

What is now being called a model "area of national concern" was established last year in the one million acre Pinelands National Reserve in New Jersey. A 15-member planning commission representing federal, state, and county governments, as well as residents of the Pinelands, now has 18 months to develop a protective strategy. The plan finally must be approved by the secretary of the Interior.

Similar partnerships already are protecting other areas, such as Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts, Sawtooth National Recreation Area in Idaho, and Santa Monica National Urban Recreation Area in California. The oldest model is Adirondack Park in New York state, a 6 million acre mountainous region that includes substantial public inholdings mixed with private lands subject to strict land use controls. Basically, wherever land is being protected in such a way that public rights and values can be made compatible with traditional private uses, aspects of the "areas of national concern" philosophy are being applied.

This type of approach is neither radical nor new. In his new book *In the Wake of the Tourist*, Fred Bosselman describes the British and Japanese examples, where a park is conceived as a "state of mind." In both countries, no rigid boundaries separate park lands from private lands.

Over 150 years ago, poet William Wordsworth saw the English Lake District, with its grazing sheep and thatched huts as "A sort of national property, in which every man has a right and an interest who has an eye to see and a heart to enjoy."

But despite foreign models, "areas of national concern" are "a radical departure from our traditional views that a park is

something owned by the government," Herbst says.

Funding problems are the main impetus behind the administration's new thinking. In the past, the Department of Interior has relied heavily on the Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase threatened lands of national importance. Over two million acres have been protected in this way since the fund was established in 1965. But we are not dealing with "an unlimited pot of gold," Herbst says. "Between now and 1989, when the fund is scheduled to expire under the current legislation, most of the money we get on the federal side will go to buy land in areas Congress already has authorized," he says. So new programs will have to find a new pot.

Federal purchase of land is riddled with other problems, too. Federal intrusions are often bitterly opposed by state and local governments, not to mention the property owners themselves.

"In fact, some of the private land uses in an area proposed for protection may make positive contributions to the values we wish to preserve," Herbst says. Orchards, plowed fields, horses and cattle, farmhouses and ranching activities may all be part of the essential character of an area that would be erased by federal purchase—or would have to be reproduced at public expense.

Purchase also appears to invite overuse. As the areas belong to all people, Herbst says, "Enthusiasm for use can overwhelm natural carrying capacities. People have come to expect a range of campsites, interpretive services and other facilities in national parks—but these efforts to accommodate public use can also destroy many of the resources we want to protect."

Herbst also says that as designation of national parks, refuges, and forests stimulates development on the fringes, the character of the preserved lands can be eroded.

"Indeed, the whole concept of a rigid boundary may be at the root of many of these problems," says Herbst. "Wherever the line is drawn, new problems of impacts and intrusions suggest that we need new tools for protection. Most important, we need a new perception of what is public and what is private."

David Sherman, a special assistant in the Interior Department, says, an "areas of national concern" approach is well suited to preserve buffer zones around natural areas, or lands along major highways, wildlife habitat or migratory routes. The

proposed Jackson Hole Scenic Area legislation, which died in Congress last year, attempted to provide such protection. The private land in Teton County, Wyo., is surrounded by Grand Teton National Park, the Bridger-Teton National Forest and the National Elk Refuge. These resources

In Japan, a park is a state of mind. No rigid boundaries separate park lands from private lands.

draw about 4 million visitors a year. The resulting pressure for development has begun to threaten scenic, recreational and wildlife values.

In response to these pressures, people in Teton County drafted a bill to preserve the local ranches, wildlife, and spectacular mountain scenery of most value to the public. The main tool was to be the sale of scenic easements paid for by public funds. By selling an easement, a landowner promises to keep his land in some low-intensity use like ranching. While retaining ownership of the land, he gives up the right to develop it. A landowner might want to sell all his development rights or just restrict the number of subdivisions or agree to build only in a certain area. Since the deed restriction follows the land no matter who owns it, an easement is permanent. In Jackson Hole, a nine-member Scenic Area

Commission representing federal, state and county government as well as residents was proposed to choose the lands to be preserved and to organize the sale of easements. Introduced in the last session of Congress, the measure passed the House as part of the omnibus parks bill but was dropped from the Senate and conference committee versions.

Despite the failure of the bill, the administration is still committed to preserving Jackson Hole, according to David Hales, deputy assistant to Herbst. The agency hopes to have defined its strategy by March. Hales isn't sure whether the plan of action will include legislation.

The current Jackson situation points out a serious problem facing cooperatively managed areas. The political situation in Teton County has changed radically since November's elections. Judging from the campaign platforms, the new county commission probably will not seek federal scenic area legislation nor will it commit funds to advance the idea. Despite grassroots support in the county, scenic area legislation could be blocked by the local government in the upcoming Congress. The changeability of local politics could be a serious problem facing the development of the "areas of national concern" approach, according to Story Clark, assistant planner of Teton County.

Potential problems for partnerships also exist where areas needing protection are

(continued on page 7)

The idea of preserving public values on private lands is somewhat new to the United States. But it's attractive to Assistant Interior Secretary Robert Herbst as a way to avoid the cost and other problems associated with federal purchase of important natural areas. Herbst suggests that the lands placed in this new system could be called "areas of national concern."

More conventional approaches to land preservation, all on public lands, are shown here.

AT LEFT is land protected in the National Forest System near the Maroon Bells in Colorado.

BELOW, Grand Gulch in Utah, a proposed Bureau of Land Management wilderness area.

AT RIGHT, Mesa Verde National Park.



Copyright 1979 by Ann and Myron Sutton



Photo by David Sumner

Preservation...

divided between two states. For example, Lake Tahoe lies partly in Gov. Jerry Brown's environmentally conscious California and partly in Casino-oriented Nevada. Efforts to fend off encroaching development have been also unsuccessful in

the Columbia Gorge which runs through Oregon and Washington.

Friends of the Earth's National Parks Representative Chuck Williams says that what is needed for such problems is something stricter than the Pinelands model, with more federal involvement. According to Williams, FOE will make passage of a

National Scenic Area Act one of its top priorities in the next Congress. The bill could include such areas as Lake Tahoe, Columbia Gorge, and Jackson Hole, Williams says. Thus, the Pinelands model of the "areas of national concern" approach may become just one of a number of new ways to save threatened areas.

Herbet hopes that "the lessons learned through this approach may provide officials and citizens — the closest to the land we want to save — with new skills and tools

The strategy would be effective and flexible, tailor-fit to the needs of a particular area.

to do the job of protecting the resources we must protect for our enjoyment and the needs of future generations."

Private, public harmony found

by Robert L. Herbst
Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Over 150 years ago, William Wordsworth described the English Lake District as, "A sort of national property, in which every man has a right and interest who has an eye to see and a heart to enjoy."

This district that Wordsworth describes was full of natural splendors. But the attraction of the area was not purely natural. Indeed, Wordsworth saw man and nature existing in harmony: thatched huts which seemed to have risen by their own instinct from the native rock — and sheep grazing on the hillsides to create a pastoral landscape. Wordsworth's was an early vision of what Rene Dubos later described as a harmony of man and nature and what the Council on Environmental Quality is now calling "productive harmony."

Not until 1949 did the British government establish a system of national parks. Nevertheless, that early-held concept of public rights in a privately-owned landscape is at the foundation of the British National Park System.

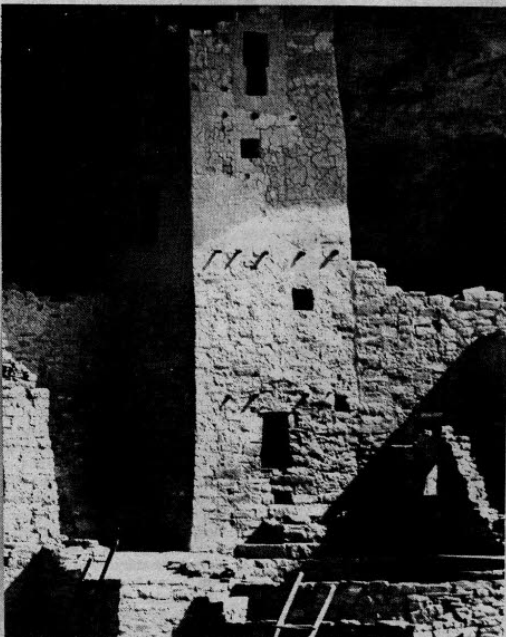
Today, the Lake District National Park is England's most popular. About 25 percent of the land is owned by a semi-public national trust, while the balance remains in private ownership.

Land use controls protect the "public rights" to preservation as Wordsworth envisioned them. Public ownership of interpretive facilities and a few parking areas help provide access for recreational enjoyment.

The British approach to finding harmony between private property and the public's right to recreation and enjoyment is not confined to their system of national parks. A network of more than 140,000 miles of footpaths and bridleways extends throughout England and Wales. Many of these paths date back to the earliest periods of recorded history, and they have been kept open by citizen activism — tangible affirmation of the continuity of civilization.

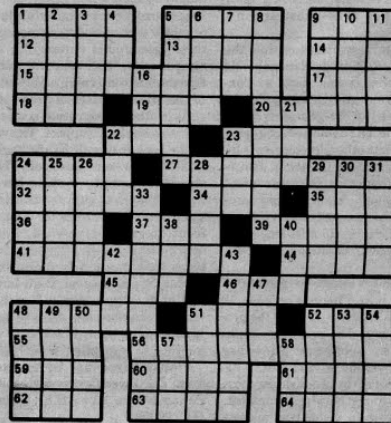
In a way, the maintenance of the system of pathways from our past is an answer to Mahatma Gandhi. When asked once what he thought of Western Civilization, after a moment's hesitation he said he thought it would be a very good idea. Britain's footpaths and horse trails are testimony to the health and vigor of Western Civilization.

In 1865, the Commons Preservation Society began its work to preserve public access to the countryside. In spite of property lines, bristling fences, snarling dogs, angry bulls and other obstacles, a dedicated breed of English walkers has successfully preserved public access to the country side — without reliance on governmental acquisition.



National Park photo by Fred Mang, Jr.

Conservation Crossword



ECLECTICITY

by Philip White

DOWN

ACROSS

1. Arrogantly self-satisfied
2. Disfigure
9. Small bird
12. Relating to aircraft
13. Sea eagle
14. Crete's highest mountain
15. "Penguins" of the North Atlantic; slaughtered for flesh, feathers and oil, became extinct in 1844
17. Taro preparation
18. Minced oath: —d
19. Expectoration material: phl—
20. Hollow, horny barrel of a feather
22. Eagle's nest: —ie
23. Old World bird liberated near Miami: bul—
24. Eastern U.S. marsh wader with red plate between eyes: —inule
27. What some desert mammals do in summer
32. Perfect
34. Shack
35. Mountains forming traditional boundary between Europe and Asia: —is
36. Fall behind
37. Wonder
39. National Audubon's symbol
41. Range astride Yellowstone's east boundary
44. Tibetan oxen
45. White-supremacist vigilantes (abbr.)
46. Shred
48. Murie brother who wrote "The Elk of North America" and became first director of The Wilderness Society
51. Eskimo boat: um—
52. Groove-billed —
55. Arachnid's handiwork
56. U.S. pigeon slaughtered to extinction by 1914
59. Scientist's workplace
60. Forearm component
61. Roof overhang
62. "I —" Cosby and Culp
63. Soaks flax
64. Three (Sp.)

1. Mint used as seasoning
2. Hooded or red-breasted —ansers
3. Urine component
4. Former Portuguese colony, West India
5. Scant (variation)
6. Skunkcabbage's family
7. Squid's defense
8. Leguminous, spiny tree of Southwest
9. House of poles and hides
10. Religious object
11. An ouzel's is short
16. Used in golf
21. Female genitalia: v—a
22. Wing
23. Unit of heat
24. First National Forest wilderness, set aside in 1924 through Aldo Leopold's efforts
25. Amount of Brylcreem needed
26. — like Betty Grable
28. Ancient Hebrew unit of weight: —el
29. Luminous radiation
30. Trip
31. The loser — crow
33. Delphinium found from prairies to high ridges
38. Used to cook fried rice
40. Swindle
42. Heyerdahl's Easter Island book
43. Whooper's winter redoubt: —n—
47. Fifties' President
48. Screech, barn and saw what
49. Frog or year
50. "Dear —"
51. "Contrariwise," continued Tweedledee, "if it was so, it might be; and if it were so, it would be; but as it —, it ain't. That's logic."
52. Alga extract
53. A field of granular snow
54. Incoherence
57. "There shall be no more cakes and —" Twelfth Night
58. "but we and our children Must watch the — draw narrower" Jeffers, "The Purse-Seine"

8-High Country News - Jan. 12, 1979

Flowing Free

The River Conservation Fund, Washington, D.C., 1977. \$3.25, paper, 76 pages.

Review by Peter Wild

Flowing Free begins by reminding us that there probably is a river in our lives, "the old swimming hole, your favorite trout stream, the most exciting white water in the state or a just plain lovely river." Looking over one shoulder at developments that have ruined other rivers, the book gives a short course on how to keep that stream a natural treasure.

Less known and less often used than the Wilderness Act of 1964, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed by Congress in 1968. What the act does is simple. It offers protection for designated rivers by banning hydroelectric dams and irrigation projects. It restricts other developments by acquisition of land along the banks. This is done either through outright government purchase or through buying scenic easements from private property owners. Basically, any free-flowing, 25-mile-long river segment of scenic or recreational value can qualify.

At first thought it sounds too good to be true. In a way it is. The map on page 19 shows that only a few rivers enjoy the protection of the act. The reason is plain enough. Usually wilderness areas are created from government land that is already administered by a single agency, such as the U.S. Forest Service. In contrast, wandering as they do, rivers tend to cross

federal, state, county and city boundaries — not to mention those of private owners. There's the rub and the purpose of the book — to explain how to bring together half a dozen jealous government agencies and perhaps as many as 20 suspicious private landowners in a spirit of goodwill for the benefit of a river.

For some time now, The River Conservation Fund has been helping to do just that. This paperback, the distillation of its successes and hard knocks, is about as concise and as savvy an approach as the river lover could hope to find on the subject. It explains in detail how the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act works and gives the complete text of the legislation. It includes charts, maps and addresses of people to contact for assistance. It gives lengthy hints on how to organize a river-saving campaign. Of the three case studies chronicling successful river battles, HCN readers probably will find the feud concerning a Montana portion of the Missouri River of greatest interest.

As in other conservation issues, often the key is strong local support. The wisest part of the book may well be the four pages of typical landowners' question. The answers show how property owners have little to fear and much to gain for themselves and their heirs if the rivers flowing past their front doors are protected. Financially, nearby development often means spiraling taxes that threaten farmers' livelihoods. Under the act, however, their land is assessed at the lower agricultural tax rate. Further, owners are able to enjoy their land knowing that its esthetic values are guarded in perpetuity.

Flowing Free may be ordered directly from The River Conservation Fund, 317 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

The Coyote

by Francois Leydet, Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 1977. \$7.95, hard cover, 222 pages. Illustrations by Lewis E. Jones.

Review by Peter Wild

Mexicans say "the coyote is the smartest person next to God." This goes a long way in accounting for the many thoughtful books about this small relative of the wolf: J. Frank Dobie's *The Voice of the Coyote*, Joe Van Wormer's *The World of the Coyote*, Hope Ryden's *God's Dog* and now this new study.

Ultimately all nature books, especially coyote books, are about human psychology as it is reflected in the mirror of the natural world. The psychology Leydet dwells on most is that of coyote haters, particularly as typified by some sheepmen. Some years ago the sheep business went on the skids, not because of molesting coyotes but largely because of the invention of man-made fiber. In order to survive, the sheepmen scrambled for subsidies and tariffs. As Dick Randall, a disillusioned trapper and now field representative for Defenders of Wildlife, puts it, "If all these subsidies were ended and the industry had to operate as a real free enterprise, it would collapse overnight."

In order to cut financial corners, some ranchers stopped the ancient but increasingly expensive tradition of herding livestock. Instead, they turned their sheep loose on the range. The bleating creatures proceeded to fall over cliffs and wander off to freeze and starve in large numbers. The

frantic sheepmen complained to the government, which obligingly cranked up its helicopters to shoot eagles in the skies and coyotes on the ground.

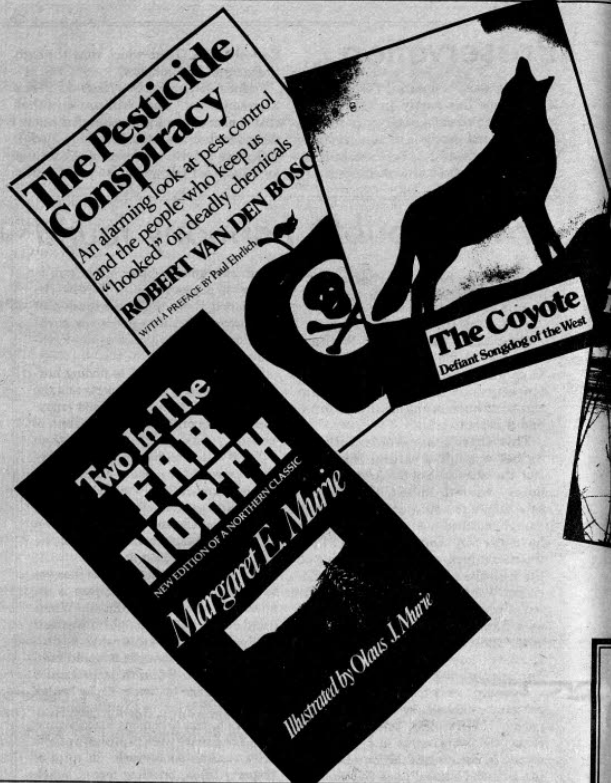
The various extermination programs ring with the futility and ecological mindlessness of the Vietnam War. At an annual cost of millions of dollars to taxpayers, the government hired trappers and paid pilots to broadcast poisons over the public's lands. In 1963 alone, one agency boasted that it had killed "842 bears, 20,780 lynx and bobcats...294 mountain lions, 2,779 wolves (most of them red wolves, now on the endangered species list), 6,941 badgers, 1,170 beavers..." It also managed to dredge up 89,655 coyotes in its bloody net.

Leydet doesn't spare the gruesome details. Throughout the book, coyotes writhe

The book is no maudlin attempt to make coyote lovers of us all.

from strychnine, 1080, and other poisons. One man brags, "When I get that coyote in a steel trap I like to leave him in it a while. I like to give him three or four days to repent his sins before I shoot him." Another can hardly stop laughing long enough to tell "how he takes a burlap bag, cuts out a hole for the head and two holes for the front legs, pulls the bag on the animals, pours kerosene on, sets them on fire and turns them loose."

But the book is no maudlin attempt to make coyote lovers of us all. Blithe spirits as they may appear to be at times, coyotes are not cuddly puppy dogs. They do kill sheep. At least some coyotes do. And this is



the crux of the book. Coyote predation is a highly localized problem. Leydet's study is a plea for selective, rather than wholesale, methods of control aimed at the individual coyote that acquires a taste for mutton.

The ultimate irony is that despite the millions of dollars spent on the warfare directed at them — despite cyanide guns, sharpshooters blasting away from airplanes and scientifically-designed traps — coyotes have prospered, multiplying and thinking faster in areas where they are persecuted. The final joke — if one can call it that — is on man.

In contrast to the stereotype, some ranchers maintain that the coyote problem really is a people problem created by use of the environment. "We never had predator

manipulate the earth, the more trouble we create for ourselves. He draws on recent studies — notably the Leopold Commission's damning 1964 report on senseless predator programs — and discusses positive changes brought about by pressure from environmentalists.

The book does not shed striking, new light on people and coyotes, but since the relationship is linked to our whole approach to the earth, it deserves the updating and retelling that Leydet offers us.

Rivers of

by Earl Perry, privately published at 7896 Westview, Lakewood, Colo. 80215, 1978. \$3.95, soft cover, 60 pages.

Review by David Sumner

Were this slight, 8 1/2 by 11 booklet merely what its title suggests, a guidebook, its publication would not be worth noting.

True, *Rivers of Colorado* is a guidebook describing runs on stretches of the South Platte, Colorado, Dolores, Yampa, Gunnison, Rio Grande, Animas and Arkansas rivers. It does this with intelligence, clarity and detail.

However, the wealth of this book far exceeds the customary data on stream flow, gradient and difficulty. For one thing, author Perry is an acute (and acidic) environmentalist; his book becomes a running commentary on our nation's obsession with kilowatts and acre-feet.

For another, Perry has an extraordinary capacity for fascination; the book teems



trouble on the ranch unless the range was in bad condition," says one stockman.

In the course of examining the problems, Leydet touches on the folklore and habits of the coyote, concluding that the more we

Two In The Far North

Jan. 12, 1979 - High Country News-9

by Margaret E Murie, Alaska Northwest Publishing Co., Box 4-EEE, Anchorage, Alaska 99509, 1978 edition, \$6.95, paper, 386 pages. Illustrated by Olaus J. Murie.

Review by Bruce Hamilton

If you're young, there's nothing more disheartening than to hear some old-timer talk about the good old days and thank his lucky stars that he wasn't born any later than he was.

I enjoy reading the accounts of early naturalists who saw wolves in Colorado, grizzlies in Utah and bighorn sheep in North Dakota. But it's demoralizing to realize that these places now may be covered with highways and houses.

If you're a frustrated pioneer, too — one who thinks you were born too late — *Two In The Far North* is the book for you. It offers not only a captivating tale of the early frontier days in Alaska, but also the hopeful story of the frontier that remains and can be preserved for all Americans for all time.

Margaret Murie moved to Alaska in 1911 when she was nine years old. *Two in the Far North* was written from a diary of the years she spent there.

She grew up in a log cabin in Fairbanks. Her early life was spiced with river steam-

ers, horse sleighs, berry picking and friendly prospectors. There were also long, dark sub-zero winter days, the ever-present fear of house fires in a community heated by wood stoves, and the constant drone of mosquitos in summer.

She married Olaus Murie, a wildlife biologist working for the federal government. They spent an unbelievable honeymoon following caribou on a dogsled in the arctic wilderness. But that was only the beginning.

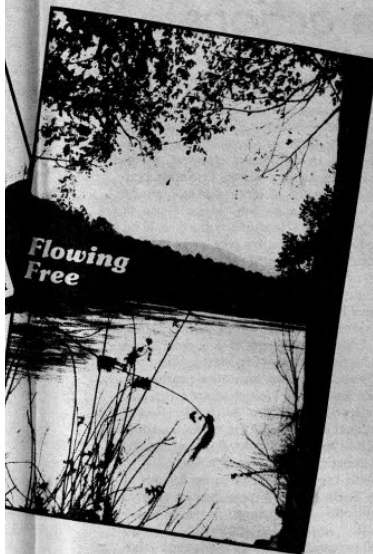
The Muries had a remarkable and inspiring series of adventures in Alaska: floating wild rivers with their baby son, scouting virgin wilderness for a proposed Arctic Wildlife Refuge, poling up rivers, banding waterfowl, swatting mosquitos, watching wolves, visiting with sourdoughs.

Two In The Far North was first published in 1962. This 1978 edition includes three chapters that bring the Muries' story and Alaska's story up to date. It examines the changes that have accompanied the building of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline and the controversy over the current proposal to set aside millions of acres of new national parks, national wildlife refuges, national preserves and national wild and scenic rivers.

"When I think about that return to the part of Alaska which has meant so much in

my life, the overpowering and magnificent fact is that Lobo Lake is still there, untouched," writes Murie. "Last Lake is still there, untouched. Although the instant you fly west of the Canning River man is evident in all the most blatant debris of his machine power, east of the Canning the tundra, the mountains, the unmarked space, the quiet, the land itself are all still there.

"Do I dare to believe that one of my great-grandchildren may someday journey to the Sheenjek and still find the gray wolf trotting across the ice of Lobo Lake?"



HCN BOOK REVIEWS

The Pesticide Conspiracy

by Robert van den Bosch, Doubleday and Company, Garden City, New York, 1978. \$8.95, hard cover, 226 pages.

Review by Peter Wild

Heavily laden, the Forest Service airplanes lumber down an airstrip, then disappear into the skies over the Pacific Northwest. Moments later they begin spraying woodlands with DDT. By the end of the program the Forest Service has treated 427,000 acres and handed the taxpayer a bill for \$3 million in its efforts to kill the tree-munching tussock moth.

Yet even as the aircraft leave the ground, the insect invasion is dying off from natural causes. As a result of the unnecessary counterattack, ranchers lose 18,000 cattle. The vast area is so badly

contaminated that hunters are warned not to eat the deer they kill. The massive program is a failure — for everyone but the DDT salesmen.

A few hundred miles to the south, the author drives through rural California and stops to ask directions from a bare-chested farmhand coated from head to toe with a powder. The worker is completely unaware of the fact that he is handling Parathion, "one of the deadliest nerve-gas derivatives among the modern insecticides." He cheerfully volunteers that he is replacing a man who mysteriously became ill.

In the more civilized atmosphere of a state university, a young faculty member is called on the carpet by the administration. He has just completed research on tomato contamination. The canning industry has told the university that it will

withdraw its grants to the institution if the research is published. "Hell, what could I do?" explains the instructor. "I was just a little guy raising a family and up for promotion. You better believe I tore up the manuscript."

But didn't Rachel Carson slay the pesticide monster with her expose, *Silent Spring*? It would be pleasant to think so. The controversy following her book rattled the teeth of the industry, but the politically-powerful chemical manufacturers were not about to give up a profitable business simply because their products endangered the public. As a consequence, insecticide use has doubled since 1962, the year of Carson's revelations. "Today, the pesticide treadmill spins more wildly than ever," van dan Bosch wrote. A scientist at the University of California, Berkeley, he died Nov. 19, 1978.

Van den Bosch's book cites case after case in which pesticide promoters not only gouge the farmer while poisoning the environment — they often create insect plagues that are far worse than the problems they supposedly cure. Behind the fiasco is the "pro-pesticide Mafia" — the manufacturers, government agencies and universities. As is true of the members of any Mafia, they are bent on protecting their own financial interests, regardless of the costs to others.

Paul Ehrlich explains in his introduction: "Pesticides were big business in 1962 and are still big business, and pesticides are an ideal product: like heroin, they promise paradise and deliver addiction."

Is Ehrlich reflecting the paranoia of the eco-freaks and bunny lovers? Readers can draw their own conclusions from the book's documentation.

Admittedly, all of this makes rather gloomy going until the last few chapters. Here the author details the safe, effective and inexpensive alternatives to poisoning the earth. Already being used successfully in Australia, China, and some parts of the United States, these options await the day when economic and ecological good sense will put a stop to the present game of "environmental Russian roulette."

Colorado

with digressions on landforms, hydraulics, human endurance, squawfish, Entrada sandstone, debris flows, hobos on freight trains, trashed out campsites, anchor ice and "musty gray sewage blossoms."

Finally, Perry is learned and can write. The book salvages (if only briefly) the guidebook genre from its usual humdrum, condescending, tape-tour banality. In *Rivers of Colorado* one gets Tacitus and Rabelais here, Faulkner and Hawthorne there, and Rod Nash and John McPhee somewhere else. Odd as it sounds, it turns out to be unusually rich.

His short history of the Bureau of Reclamation includes this passage: "At first they were going to reclaim land. Water to the thirsty desert, these men died to make the desert bloom, tame the rampaging river wasting its waters in the sea, make Los Angeles a garden spot, that kind of thing. Of course, it's pretty hard to get through high school civics without reading some snippets of Jefferson and getting a

soft spot for the yeoman farmer, who could object to land reclamation?"

Then the Bureau discovered multiple use. The farmers don't pay much for it, so why don't we put some of the water in generators? And get some boats on the lake? Poison the native fish and get some bass in there? Stick another dam up a side canyon and get some pumped storage power going here? Lay out some motor bike trails? And dribble 27 cfs out of the dam and call it a fish-and-wildlife release? Multi-purpose."

In other parts of the book his prose style is more expansive, though in general Perry excels at a kind of baroque, barbed brevity.

The volume's history is worth noting. Originally it was to be published by the Colorado Division of Parks and Recreation. However, many of the rivers that Perry includes flow through public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and federal officials in Denver said, "If you publish this guide, then we'll have to go out and manage those rivers."

So the parks division backed out, and Perry took over the project that he'd initiated and fought for. Next the American

Canoe Association decided to jump in and help, only to do a quick 180 and decide (a) that the book might alienate government agencies and (b) that it was not the group's

The book salvages (if only briefly) the guidebook genre from its usual humdrum, condescending, tape-tour banality.

policy to do so. Now Perry is distributing the book himself.

I hope it is only a beginning. The environmental movement has gained much from gifted writers who have directed their talents to its concerns. Individuals like Edward Abbey, John McPhee and Gary Snyder have made a difference. Perry, of course, is none of these; *Rivers of Colorado* is his first book. Nonetheless, his skill, brilliance and wit are most welcome.

10-High Country News - Jan. 12, 1979

Navajos, FOE sue to stop all uranium actions

by Tom Barry

Ninety-two Navajos and one Acoma Indian have joined forces with an international environmental group, Friends of the Earth, in a lawsuit aimed at stopping all uranium development in the nation until the federal government prepares environmental impact statements.

The defendants of the suit, filed Dec. 22 in federal district court in Washington, D.C., are the Departments of Energy, Interior, and Agriculture; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The suit claims these agencies made decisions to further the production of uranium yellowcake (uranium oxide) without preparation of adequate environmental impact statements, without adequate environmental planning and without consideration of reasonable alternative actions.

"We're asking for a full review of uranium production before actions can occur," says Richard Hughes of DNA People's Legal Services, Inc., which is representing the Indians. DNA (which in Navajo means attorneys who contribute to the economic revitalization of the people) is a federally funded legal office serving poor people in the Navajo Nation and the surrounding area.

An attorney for the Interior Department, Tim Vollmann, says the department has no comment at this time since he just received the complaint this week.

The suit was filed in Washington, D.C., because the Indians contend there is a national uranium policy that has never been reviewed by the public. NEPA calls for environmental impact statements for federal actions that significantly affect the environment.

To comply with NEPA, DNA says the federal government should prepare national, regional and site-specific impact statements for federal actions relating to uranium production. The regional statements would pertain to the San Juan Uranium Region in northwestern New Mexico and the Southern Powder River Basin Uranium Region in Wyoming. DNA demands that the federal government study appropriate alternatives to uranium production activities.

Presently operating mines and mills would also be affected, since the suit asks that federal agencies rescind and reconsider past actions that were taken without compliance with NEPA. EISs are sometimes filed for individual mines or mills. Often long "environmental assessments" are prepared instead, but they don't meet NEPA requirements, the suit says.

Hughes says that in New Mexico, the federal government's involvement in uranium production is pervasive. About one-half of the uranium leases are on Indian land, with many other uranium leases on public lands managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Since 1970, in the San Juan Region alone, the BIA has approved 303 uranium leases, USGS has approved nine mining and reclamation plans, and BLM and BIA have approved several hundred rights-of-way — all without EISs, the suit alleges.

UPSETTING HARMONY

Nearly all the individual plaintiffs speak the Navajo language, live in the traditional way and adhere to Navajo cultural beliefs, the suit says. "The present and



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TRADITIONAL NAVAJO CULTURE is still the way of life for most of the plaintiffs in the suit, who say uranium development offends their religious beliefs.

"There's no grazing here anymore because the company leveled all the land when they were exploring. Now I have to buy hay for my sheep."

proposed uranium development in the region directly offends the cultural practices and religious beliefs of the Navajo," which include a "profound appreciation of the interrelationships among the various aspects of the natural world and of the importance of man's maintaining proper harmony with that world," it says.

In addition, the uranium activity disrupts their livelihood. Although uranium production has not yet begun, the plaintiffs claim extensive exploration has already damaged much grazing land in the Crownpoint, N.M., area, and indirect mining effects may kill livestock.

Mary C. Largo, one of the parties to the suit, says 20 exploration holes surround her home within 100 feet of her front door near Crownpoint. "There's no grazing here anymore because the company leveled all the land when they were exploring. Now I have to buy hay for my sheep," she says.

The company has promised to replant the cleared land, but so far the promise hasn't been fulfilled. When she went to the BIA office to ask what was happening, the BIA told her that mining would bring her money, she says. Another woman charges that her horses have died from drinking contaminated water.

The New Mexico Navajo Ranchers Association is concerned enough that it has signed on as one of the plaintiffs in the suit.

In addition to the social and economic impacts cited in both New Mexico and Wyoming, the suit lists several specific air and water pollution problems that are expected or have already occurred.

"Exposure to ionizing radiation can produce serious biological effects," the suit alleges, "including tissue damage, cancer and genetic mutations. The production of yellowcake increases the exposure of uranium mining and milling workers and

the public generally to dangerous radiation."

DNA Director Peterson Zah says the aim of the suit is not to stop uranium development but to assure that in the future, people who are being affected will get information. The preparation of impact statements will guarantee public discussion of the development plans, he says.

Presently, he says, information is not being provided. In the Navajo Nation, the communications problem is especially bad between the BIA and individual Indian landowners (allottees). People such as Mary Largo say they haven't ever been notified of the exploration permits ap-

proved by BIA for their land.

The Interior Department is preparing a draft San Juan Basin Regional Uranium Study to assess cumulative impacts of uranium development until the year 2000. Public meetings will be held on a draft of the study in the spring. However, Assistant Study Leader Robert Friedman says the study is not an environmental impact statement because "no federal action is contemplated." He says the study could be used in the future by people doing individual environmental statements so they can relate their project to the total impact.

Zah says the plaintiffs asked for a national EIS, too, because they recognize that the level of uranium development in areas such as Crownpoint is largely determined by federal policies set in Washington, D.C.

"Even though the impacts of nearby projects have to be looked at on a regional basis, you also have to look at the effect of national policies. That is where the alternatives to uranium development can be meaningfully considered," he says.

Will Pozzi, a spokesman for Friends of the Earth, says, "Ninety percent of total production of uranium is yet to occur. With about 40 percent of the \$50-per-pound ore likely located on Native American land, there is a very serious need for comprehensive assessment for the Navajo here and all people everywhere of the real consequences of uranium mining and milling."

In addition to DNA Legal Services attorneys Joseph Gmuca and Alan Taradash, the plaintiffs are represented by Bruce J. Terris and Norman Dean of Washington, D.C.; Richard W. Hughes of Albuquerque, N.M.; and Andrew Baldwin of Friends of the Earth.

Terris was one of the attorneys representing the Sierra Club in a similar suit in 1973 when it sued the Interior Department demanding regional impact statements on coal development in the Northern Plains.



The **HCN**
Hot Line

energy news from across the country

NUCLEAR SECURITY EXPLORED.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is exploring 51 incidents involving attempts to steal nuclear materials. Evidence is mounting that small amounts have been stolen in some instances. The NRC is also dealing with an alleged cover-up by its own chief executive, Lee Gossick. Gossick said there was "no evidence" of any materials having been stolen when he testified before two Congressional subcommittees last year.

RIGHT TO LIGHT LAW. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors is working on an ordinance that will guarantee that a solar home's sunlight won't be blocked by new construction. This ordinance will complement one already passed that requires solar water-heating units in all new homes, according to the *New York Times*. People in the local construction industry have protested, saying the requirement will drive the price of solar water heaters up, pushing the price of homes beyond the reach of many buyers.

NEW HOPE FOR HOT WATER. A researcher for a private firm has come up with a way of using geothermal energy that avoids the problem of mineral deposits on well piping, according to a *Denver Post* story. Steam plants using naturally hot water face a serious risk that mineral deposits will build up, eventually clogging the pipes. The new process involves transferring the heat from the water to a synthetic refrigerant, which turns a turbine. The water is reinjected after going through a heat exchanger. Since the dissolved gases in the water are never removed, no solids precipitate out of the water. The process was developed by Magma Power.

MONKEY WRENCH GANG? Farmers and their friends protesting the construction of a 400-kilovolt transmission line in North Dakota allegedly have cost the utilities \$140 million or more than 40 percent of the construction cost, according to *Engineering News-Record*. The \$140 million has gone for legal expenses, replacing shot-out insulators at \$100 apiece, guards for the towers and repair of towers that protesters allegedly knocked down. The power line between Underwood, N.D., and Delano, Minn., is complete, but the upkeep remains expensive. Between 60 and 100 insulators are being shot down per week. A leader of the protesters says, "They cut up our farms, they don't know about adverse health effects, and it's an unneeded monstrosity."

For development, too

Industry poll indicates strong public support for environment

Atlantic Richfield Company says that an opinion poll it commissioned from Opinion Research Corp. of New Jersey shows that the public favors development of natural resources located in potential wilderness areas. However, the poll also shows that most Americans consider environmental protection more important than economic growth at the expense of the environment and believe that the U.S. should either slow down or drastically limit the use of its natural resources.

The poll, which is dated September 1978, was released early in January. In its "summary and implications," Opinion Research says, "Although most Americans firmly believe in protecting the environment and conserving the country's natural resources, they register very little support for complete withdrawal of federal wilderness areas from productive use. In fact, the majority of Americans favor judicious and responsible study and development of most natural resources that might be available on the federal public lands that government is considering setting aside as wilderness areas."

However, the results do not appear to be as clear cut as the summary makes them out to be. Earlier in the report, Opinion Research notes, "Half or more of Americans think that the U.S. is faced with at least somewhat serious shortages of six basic resources: clean air, clean water, oil, wilderness areas and timber." Half of the people polled believe that there will be a shortage of wilderness areas, while only 32 percent believe that there will be adequate

supplies of wilderness over the next 15 years.

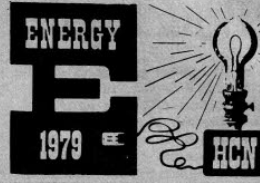
The most serious shortages anticipated by the public are clean air, 73 percent expecting a shortage; clean water, 65 percent; and oil, 59 percent.

Moreover, nearly 60 percent of the total public believes that to deal with these shortages the U.S. should reduce its consumption of natural resources.

The public favored development of natural resources in potential wilderness areas only "as long as developers restored the environment, as nearly as possible, to its original state."

The poll also found that "if unemployment was a serious problem in a particular region, the public, on balance, would favor using at least some federal public lands for commercial purposes to provide jobs in that region." However, only 17 percent of the people would use "most of the federal public lands" for commercial purposes, while 44 percent favor setting aside most of the federal lands for wilderness areas. Some 33 percent believe that the commercial activities should take place "selectively," with the remainder becoming wilderness.

Opinion Research concludes from its data that "the public does not support the most extreme of conservationists who believe that all or most of the potential wilderness areas should be 'locked up' forever. Nor do people agree with those who advocate unbridled growth and exploitation of natural resources. Rather the position of the public appears to be balanced somewhere in the middle of these two extremes."



PROTECTION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION. Several non-Indians attending a meeting in Wolf Point, Mont., said it would be unfair for Indians on the Fort Peck Reservation to demand Class I air protection because whites are the majority on the reservation. They said the tribes' efforts toward redesignation are just another example of tribal governments trying to exert control over non-Indians. Tribal planner David Johnson says, however, that the basic reason for seeking the designation is to give reservation residents time to develop agricultural potential, which would depend upon clean air. The tribal council voted earlier to start a study to get Class I air protection, which allows almost no degradation of air quality, from the Environmental Protection Agency.

N.D. FARMERS SEEK GASOHOL PLANT. Hoping to turn their crops into additional cash, a group of North Dakota farmers have applied to the federal government for a \$15 million federal loan guarantee to build a plant to convert waste potatoes into ethyl alcohol. The alcohol would be added to gasoline to make "gasohol," a gasoline substitute. The plant would be located in Walsh County in eastern North Dakota and would produce about 2.5 million gallons of alcohol annually. The farmers are one of 10 groups applying for four federal loan guarantees.

COUNTIES SEEK IMPACT AID. Four Colorado Western Slope counties are asking the state legislature for \$26.5 million from the Colorado impact trust fund. Mesa, Garfield, Moffat and Rio Blanco counties claim that Western Slope coal and oil shale development has resulted in large population increases for some small towns of 25 or 30 percent since September of 1977. The state impact trust fund, administered by the legislature, now contains about \$60 million and is expected to reach \$90 million by 1980. The legislature has been reluctant to dip into the capital of the fund and interest earnings total only about \$5 million annually. The counties want more than five times that amount. The legislature had appropriated \$8.1 million for the counties in 1978-79, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*.

PSC UPGRADES SMOG CONTROL. Under pressure from the Colorado State Health Department, the Public Service Company of Colorado has agreed to spend \$32 million to upgrade pollution control equipment on its Cherokee power plant in Commerce City. The equipment will be designed to remove particulate emissions from the plant but will increase sulfur dioxide emissions by 10 to 15 percent, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*. Health commission chairman Dr. Alfred Whatley says that the trade-off is acceptable because the Denver metropolitan area exceeds federal air standards for particulates but is well within federal standards for sulfur dioxide. When the new equipment is installed, nearly all visible emissions from the Cherokee plant will be eliminated, according to the company.

NEW SLURRY FANS? Nebraska grain shippers are furious about railroads' increasing coal shipments while neglecting their grain. The Nebraska Grain and Feed Dealers Association may even change its mind about a proposed coal slurry pipeline across Nebraska. The farming industry there generally has opposed the pipeline because it might threaten agricultural water supplies and some productive land, according to the *Omaha World-Herald*. But the continued shortage of rail cars and increased movement of coal out of Wyoming may make the association a fan of the pipeline in the 1979 Legislature. "The state has lost millions of dollars because of poor transportation (for agricultural products)," says State Senator Loran Schmit of the Legislature's Agriculture Committee. Barry Combs, a spokesman for the Union Pacific Railroad, agrees that there is a severe grain-car shortage, but he says that it is not connected to increased coal shipments. "The two commodities don't move in the same kind of cars," he says. Combs blames the problem partly on increased grain production and sporadic marketing. The pipeline, scheduled to begin in 1982, would run 1,400 miles from coal fields in Wyoming's Powder River Basin to Arkansas.

CITIZEN CONSERVATION. The Missoula (Mont.) Energy Forum has devised a way to save county taxpayers' money and fund its own projects. If the citizen's group can reduce energy use in county buildings and show cash savings, it will ask the county commissioners to fund its activities with half the money saved. The *Missoulian* reports that the commissioners have not yet acted on the plan. The forum's scheme is modeled after a similar plan developed in Davis, Calif., where residents trimmed their electric costs by eight percent between 1973 and 1976.

RAILROADS OWN OIL, TOO. A federal judge recently ruled that land grant railroads own oil and natural gas under the surface of lands they have sold, according to *The Missoulian*. U.S. District Judge Ewing Kerr ruled that oil and gas resources were part of the mineral rights retained when Union Pacific sold the surface rights to some of its land. The definition of "mineral" was the central issue in the lawsuit brought by Amoco Production Co. against Guild Trust. Amoco held an exploration lease on a former railroad section on the Wyoming-Utah border, which is now owned by the trust. Though it offered the usual royalty, Amoco had been denied entry by Guild Trust. Kerr prohibited the surface owner from interfering with Amoco's exploration.

AERO TO LOBBY. The Alternative Energy Resources Organization will send a "citizen advocate" to the 1979 Legislature to defend Montana's alternative energy grants program. The *Missoulian* reports that more than \$100,000 from the now-endangered grants program has gone to finance the New Western Energy Show organized by AERO in 1976. Ron Pogue, editor of AERO's newsletter, says that the show, which promotes alternative energy use in Montana, now is almost self-sufficient. The grants are funded by part of the state coal tax. Last September, an interim legislative committee called a moratorium on the grant program. More attacks are expected in the 1979 Legislature.

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2-High Country News - Jan. 12, 1979

RARE II results now final...

(continued from page 5)

representative smattering of wildernesses are proposed for Eastern forests, the lack of any wilderness recommendation in Vermont, where 55,720 acres were studied, has prompted a hue and cry from environmentalists.

In the Northern Rockies region, the results of the Forest Service's actions are "mixed," according to Bart Koehler and Bill Cunningham of the Wilderness Society. Koehler and Cunningham's immediate reactions: "Montana — hit hard with non-wilderness; Idaho — did fairly well; Utah — not terrific; Wyoming — not all that bad; Colorado — did OK."

In Colorado, 30 percent of the total National Forest roadless acres were allocated or wilderness; in Idaho 28 percent; in Montana 12 percent; in Utah 16 percent; and in Wyoming 17 percent.

"There were some glaring Wyoming exceptions (to the generally positive assessment)," says Koehler. "In the Upper Green River area of the Gros Ventre, for instance,

there are three timber sales scheduled and they (the Forest Service) refused to recommend wilderness. The Big Horn Forest also was a disappointment because all they did was add a small parcel to the Cloud Peak Primitive Area." Koehler says, however, that wilderness recommendations in the Medicine Bow Forest will be a pleasant surprise for Laramie area residents.

Where oil and gas potential and wilderness conflicted in the Overthrust Belt, Koehler is disappointed that there were not more recommendations for further planning. Both Commissary Ridge and Grayback in Wyoming, for instance, were recommended for non-wilderness by the Forest Service.

In Montana, Cunningham says, "We are genuinely disappointed. Both West Big Hole and Rocky Mountain Front, where there is some oil and gas potential, went non-wilderness when they should have been put in further planning. The same with Crazy Mountain, where they don't



William Henry Jackson photo, 1876

UNCOMPAHGRE PEAK from Uncompahgre Roadless Area. Most of the roadless area was recommended for non-wilderness.

Wilderness acreage in Northern Rockies

FOREST	ACRES RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS	WILDERNESS AS PERCENT OF FOREST ROADLESS AREA
COLORADO		
Manti Lasal	—	—
Grand Mesa Uncompahgre	539,380	34.8
Rio Grande	178,250	21.2
Roosevelt	235,330	29.7
Routt	71,690	13.9
San Isabel	419,390	39.1
San Juan	284,623	34.2
White River	230,860	24.3
IDAHO		
Boise	76,667	47.0
Bitterroot	170,700	100.0
Idaho Panhandle	135,544	16.8
Clearwater	192,570	23.3
Caribou	16,000	3.4
Challis	415,478	25.1
Payette	688,615	55.1
Salmon	106,829	18.8
Kootenai	506	93.0
Sawtooth	190,188	29.2
Targhee	59,360	8.9
Nez Perce	118,808	22.2
MONTANA		
Riverhead	113,619	16.1
Bitterroot	50,000	12.9
Idaho Panhandle	12,680	62.0
Custer	26,400	18.8
Deerlodge	—	2.3
Flathead	25,400	—
Gallatin	16,300	3.4
Helena	39,627	3.5
Kootenai	63,304	11.3
Lewis and Clark	242,351	6.1
Lolo	—	33.1
UTAH		
Ashley	181,688	32.4
Dixie	133,640	38.8
Fishlake	24,920	4.0
Caribou	—	—
Manti Lasal	48,400	7.4
Sawtooth	—	—
Uinta	—	—
Wasatch	104,350	22.9
WYOMING		
Bighorn	5,370	0.8
Black Hills	—	—
Bridger Teton	319,378	18.9
Medicine Bow	107,250	23.7
Shoshone	85,948	12.0
Targhee	111,355	70.0

NOTE: The percentages were computed using gross roadless acreage figures, which in some cases include small amounts of private land. Percentages of national forest lands that have been recommended for wilderness would be slightly higher in those cases.

even have a land use plan scheduled until 1982. Out near Missoula, there was overwhelming support for a Rattlesnake wilderness, and all they got was a further planning designation."

Cunningham speculates that Montana did "proportionately worse than other states simply because of our recent success with Great Bear and Absaroka-

Beartooth," two wilderness areas that Congress designated last year.

Whatever the apparent outcome of the Forest Service effort, the final verdict hasn't been given — the issue now is being thrown to Congress.

Copies of the final RARE II EIS, with maps depicting the recommendations, will be available at Forest Service offices.

Center for Rural Affairs helps family farmer through research

by Shane Smith

Very few industries alter the earth's ecosystems more than agriculture. Our system of agriculture has undergone great changes in the last 25 years, and the effects are far-reaching. The number of small, family-oriented farms is decreasing, and the attributes of the rural family structure and lifestyle are disappearing with them.

In 1974, in Walthill, Neb., the Center for Rural Affairs began as an advocate for the small farmer and rural life. The center's primary concerns are people's rights to earn a living from the land, to control their communities and to protect and use their resources wisely to prevent exploitation.

The center originally was a delegate agency for the Community Action Program, a non-profit organization that uses federal funds to assist the poor in communities across the country. Local CAP staff felt a need for a rural-oriented agency and feared the Nixon administration would close the CAP office down, as it had done in other parts of the country. They started the center as a "life raft," just in case.

The center's present directors, Don Ralston, 35, and Marty Strange, 30, were among these founders. So far the staff has focused on Nebraska, but a grant from the Shalan Foundation will help broaden its work to address rural issues nationwide.

In one of its special reports, "Where have all the Bankers Gone?" the center reported a decline of independent banking in Nebraska. The report concluded that this could accelerate the drift toward large-scale agriculture by squeezing smaller farmers out of credit.

Another publication, "Wheels of Fortune," deals with the effects of the invention that changed the face of Nebraska, the

center pivot sprinkler. The center says a large percentage of absentee landlords and corporate investors had brought land with very delicate soils into cultivation using this sprinkler. Since the practice often places soils in jeopardy, it can set the stage for another Dust Bowl, according to Ralston.

An article in *The New Land Review*, the center's newspaper, led to a state investigation of reported price fixing in the edible bean industry in western Nebraska. Other articles have covered solar energy and gasohol on the farm, utility rate structures, foreign investors and the dangerous effects on people and the soil of a widely-used fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia.

The center also holds annual workshops on biological methods of agriculture, such as composting and nitrogen management.

Nationally, the center has received attention for its Small Farm Energy Project, a three-year research and demonstration project funded by the Community Services Administration. The project is designed to help decrease farmers' dependence on purchased energy and to help them begin to produce their own.

The 50 farms in northeast Nebraska that are involved use wind power, a technology that was once common in the state, and other solar energy applications.

Rural advocacy can help small farmers deal with their future problems, both economical and ecological, the center's staff and board believe. "To some people, the preservation of the small family farm seems to be a part of a nostalgic or back-to-the-land type movement, but the fact is, the small family farm makes good economical and business sense," Ralston says.

For more information, write to the Center for Rural Affairs, Box 405, Walthill, Neb. 68067.



Western Roundup



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FARMHOUSE IN KANSAS. Would a switch from agriculture to industry reduce water usage in High Plains states? A federal study is trying to answer that question. Photo by Kent and Donna Dannen

Water study group eyeing agriculture

A federally-funded study group is studying whether a partial shift from agriculture to industry in water-short states in the High Plains might result in using less water. The study is part of a more encompassing study of future economic options for Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico. Concern over the rapid depletion of the Ogallala aquifer underlying these states prompted the Congress to provide \$6 million for the study.

Other proposed study topics for the group are the transfer of large amounts of surface water, possibly from the Missouri River, to the very dry areas in the southern part of the region; growing crops with smaller water needs; and reverting to dryland farming where feasible.

Pesticide group loses Idaho battle

The Citizens Against Toxic Herbicides (CATH) group has lost its bid to halt use of herbicides on 60,000 acres of the Idaho Panhandle, Clearwater, and Nezperce national forests in northern Idaho. On May 15, 1978, CATH asked the Forest Service to write a supplement to its draft environmental statement dealing with herbicides on these forests, based on an April revision of Forest Service policy on pesticides.

This request was denied, so CATH appealed to Northern Regional Forester Alfred H. Troutt, who also denied the request. CATH can now appeal to the chief of the Forest Service.



Court to rule on hunting law v. religion

Whether a member of the Athabaskan native village should be punished for violating an Alaskan state game law will be decided by the Alaska Supreme Court, ac-

ording to the Alaska Advocate. Athabaskan Carlos Frank transported a dead moose to his village to fulfill religious obligations, according to his attorney, who argues his religious freedom is being violated by the state.

Wild meat, especially moose meat, is served during the potlatch (a ceremonial feast) held after an Athabaskan funeral. "The young man died unfortunately at the time the moose season was closed," the defense attorney argued.

However, Assistant Attorney General Geoffrey Haynes said using dried or preserved meat would have been a minor inconvenience and not a threat to the vitality of the religion.

In order to avoid such debates in the national monuments recently set aside by President Carter, the Interior Department provided for "subsistence hunting" for both whites and non-whites.

Snowmobiles may go off parks roads

A proposal by the National Park Service would allow snowmobiling in all national parks "to provide the opportunity for visitors to see, sense and enjoy the special qualities of the parks in winter." The proposal would allow snowmobiles to operate on roads and frozen lakes, the same areas where cars and motorboats are allowed in the summer.

Exceptions would allow snowmobiles more freedom in certain parks in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania and Wyoming. At Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, snowmobilers would be allowed to drive off the road in the Potholes area of the park.

These exceptions are not consistent with Executive Order 11644, which outlines federal policy on off-road vehicle use, according to the Sierra Club. Public meetings concerning the proposed policy will be held in Billings, Mont., at the Holiday Inn of Billings-West on Jan. 25 at 7:00 p.m. and in Denver at the Holiday Inn of Denver-West on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. Written comments are acceptable until March 1 and should be sent to the Director, National Park Service, 18th and C Streets N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Water rights don't guarantee quality

The Colorado Supreme Court, in a reversal of an earlier decision, has ruled that holders of water rights have no claim to the specific quality of the water they receive. The \$100 million suit was brought against the federal government by the A-B Cattle Company and the Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company, which charged that the Pueblo Dam on the Arkansas River west of Pueblo had reduced the silt content of their

irrigation water so much that its usefulness was reduced.

The clear water caused increased leakage in the ditches, more growth of aquatic vegetation, ditch erosion and a reduction of the area the water will irrigate by about half. The federal government argued that senior water rights covered only the amount, not the quality, of water received.

In the majority opinion, Justice James Groves wrote that water storage fulfilled the primary legal consideration of "maximum utilization" of water, and that if a downstream water user could demand water of the same quality he had historically been receiving, that "would have the practical effect of halting all upstream use." Justice William Erickson, in the dissenting opinion, said the lack of silt effectively reduced the amount of water the plaintiffs received.

Rampton objects to reserved rights suit

Former Utah Governor Calvin Rampton has criticized a Sierra Club lawsuit brought against Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, according to the *Deseret News*. The suit seeks to force Interior to use "reserved rights" to water to protect scenery in southern Utah, where the 400-megawatt Garfield Power Plant is planned 10 miles south of Escalante. The plant would use water from the Escalante River.

Rampton, who is the lawyer for the developers of the plant, charges that the suit "attacks the authority of public land states to control the water within their boundaries." Rampton refers to states that include large amounts of public lands.

The suit asserts in effect that all water

originating on federal lands is within the jurisdiction of the federal government. Rampton is also angry that the suit was brought in district court in Washington, D.C., "where the judges have little personal understanding of the practical problems involved."

Four-lane into Glacier Park opposed

A group of citizens called the Coalition for Canyon Preservation says it will seek a court order to halt a proposed four-lane highway approaching Glacier National Park from the west. The Montana Highway Department and the Federal Highway Administration have planned a 10-mile stretch of 108-foot-wide road to replace the

existing 26-foot-wide segment of U.S. 2 between Hungry Horse and West Glacier.

The coalition contends these agencies violated federal procedures by failing to consider alternatives and by not consulting the public on their proposal. The four-lane road would create safety hazards, according to the coalition, by creating bottlenecks on both ends of the 10-mile segment as four lanes merge into two.

The coalition says the road would also harm local economies by encouraging non-stop traffic through the small towns on the route, would offer little economic benefit as jobs created would be short term, and would split the communities of Hungry Horse, Coram and Martin City down the middle.

The coalition's alternate proposal is to widen the existing highway to 44 feet but to keep it only two lanes. They also propose realigning dangerous curves and providing a segregated pedestrian-bike-bridle-ski path. The coalition says its proposal would reduce project costs possibly by 30 percent and reduce maintenance costs by 50 percent.

Water policy recommendations surfacing

The water policy review promised by President Carter shortly after he took office is starting to take shape, according to Audubon Leader. Last summer Carter made a water policy statement in which he noted that 25 separate federal agencies are spending more than \$10 million a year on water projects, but "only a few small federal programs in (the departments of Agriculture and Interior are directed at water conservation, while many other programs encourage consumption."

Carter now has 19 task forces working on various aspects of water management, some of which have already made their recommendations. The task force on conser-

vation pricing has audited a number of water projects and has recommended ways to charge more realistic rates to water users. Reflecting the true cost of the water in the charges to consumers will encourage conservation.

The task force on groundwater tables has recommended a groundwater depletion assessment for all future water resource projects. Other groups are studying floodplain management, cost-sharing requirements for the states that will supposedly benefit from water projects and a revision of the benefit-cost evaluation procedures now used when considering water projects.

INDISPENSABLE SNOW

By Myra Connell

Snow banks around our place are deeper than they have been for many years. In early November winter laid a thick cover over the land here in high country. Vegetation that labored mightily all summer converting solar energy is now enjoying a long rest under the protective white blanket. Many species of wildlife have sought their underground caves.

Alas, we humans can only partially hibernate. We must endure frigid temperatures and high fuel bills. Icy streets and clogged highways prevent us from going



either and yon as we might wish. Consequently, being often house-bound, I have been thinking of snow—the sine qua non of our existence.

When I was growing up on a Wyoming homestead, snow and its accompanying cold inflicted even more hardship than it does now. Nevertheless everyone knew that we'd be much worse off without it. Snow was our lifeline, then as now. Shelter was dependent upon it, since snow in the mountains produced the timber for our rude log cabins. Without it there would have been no water for crops and livestock, nor for us.

We adjusted to the snow that dominated our winter environment in usual and some unusual ways.

We walked to school, usually having to break trail following a snow storm. The big kids would go ahead, the smaller ones following in their tracks. We soon had a well-packed route.

We had several types of winter sports, one of which was snow bathing. This was started by a health-conscious uncle who lived with us. Since our place was out of sight of neighbors, no one complained of indecent exposure. Our brothers slept in a separate cabin, so after they had gone to



their quarters for the night we girls and Mother would take off our clothes, put on our courage and roll in the snow drifts. The one who rolled over most times was champion. The next night we stayed indoors while the boys and Uncle John had their turn. Dad was the only one who wouldn't try it.

A circular track, cut like a pie with a packed area in the center, is dandy for a game of fox and geese. When softened by mild weather, big balls can be rolled for forts or clowns.

For years, our winter water supply was melted snow. To get enough water for laundry we had to carry snow all one day, melting it in big tubs on the range. The soft water makes wonderful suds. It not only gets clothes extra clean, but also makes the best soap bubbles, blown on an empty wooden thread spool.

Snow also is fine for tracking wildlife.

It's fun to learn various species by their footprints.

Snow has esthetic as well as economic, recreational and practical values. The sun, reflecting on freshly fallen snow, creates

countless "poor folks' diamonds," a joy to look upon. The artist is strongly challenged by the colors reflected on snow—the rose of sunrise, creamy pink of sunset, blue of shadows, grays of a cloudy day.

Snowflakes caught on a dark blanket show up as intricately patterned crystals, each one unique.

Skiers, snowmobilers, resort owners and snow-cat dealers will doubtless agree with me that we should cease complaining of snow, considering that we can't live without it.

classifieds

READ THE INFORMATIVE BOOKLET, "WOODBURNING STOVES" \$2.00. Burns Solar Press, 78 North 12th, Brighton Colo. 80601.

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BOOKMARKS NO. 2 A listing of over 100 new and little known books on feminism, nuclear power and energy, racism and culture is now available for \$7.75. We will special order any book reviewed in HCN. High Country Books, 107 Vinson, Laramie, Wyo. 82070.

STAFF WANTED: The Dakota Resource Council has an immediate position for an organizer. DRC is an organization of ranchers, farmers and other citizens concerned about coal and energy development in North Dakota. Responsibilities include research, travel and organizing on related issues. Salary: \$500 per mo., liberal vacation time. Health insurance paid. Call (701) 227-1851; write: box 254, Dickinson, ND 58601.

1979 WIND POWER ACCESS CATALOG. Most comprehensive listing available anywhere; includes lists of manufacturers, distributors, plans and publications. Complete wind machine specifications and wind energy primer included. \$6.00. Cost includes a one year (four issue) subscription to WIND POWER DIGEST magazine. Write: Wind Power Digest, Box 489, Bristol, IN 46507.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

The Wyoming Environmental Quality Council will hold a public hearing to consider a request for an exception from the State's Water Quality Standard for turbidity on the North Platte River from Guernsey Dam downstream to the Nebraska State Line at 7:00 P.M., Monday, January 15, 1979, at the Citizens National Bank, Torrington, Wyoming.

Several irrigation districts in southeastern Wyoming and in western Nebraska have requested the hearing, indicating that without the requested exception the method of operation of Guernsey Dam will have to be altered to eliminate the annual sluicing of silt from Guernsey Reservoir. The irrigators indicate that without the "silt run" there will be a loss of water due to increased seepage, damage to the irrigation canals, and a significant detrimental economic impact to the area.

Groups or individuals wishing to make statements may submit written comments on or before January 15, 1979, to:

Mr. David B. Park
Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
Hathaway Office Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Groups or individuals wishing to make oral statements may do so at the hearing, however, it is requested that a written copy of all oral statements be provided to the hearing officer. The hearing record will not be held open after January 15, 1979.

Questions or comments regarding this hearing should be directed to Mr. John Wagner, Water Quality Division, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming, telephone 307-777-7781.



HCN Bulletin Board



FILM WINS

The U.S. Interior Department's 15-minute color film, "Where Do We Go From Here?" has won the top film award of the American Society for Information Science. The film suggests a scientific approach for resolving conflicts that arise between development of natural resources and protection of the environment. Prints are available without charge from the regional offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

URANIUM COURSE

Colorado School of Mines is offering non-scientists a two-day course in uranium technology. The course will be taught by Dr. Jerome G. Morse, an adjunct associate professor of physics, a fellow of the American Nuclear Society, and a consultant to state and federal agencies. It is designed to provide "the background and understanding necessary to evaluate the issues surrounding nuclear power," according to a news release from the school. Registration is \$185. For more information, contact the Director of Continuing Education, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colo. 80401 or call (303) 279-0300, extension 2321.

BIG SKY MINE

Public comments on Peabody Coal Co.'s plans for its Big Sky mine in southeastern Montana are due Feb. 5. The company has prepared a draft environmental impact statement, which discusses mining 4.2 million tons of coal a year in Rosebud

County. Copies of the statement are available at public libraries in Billings, Hardin, Helena and Forsyth, Mont., and from the U.S. Geological Survey, Land Information and Analysis Office, Federal Center, Stop 701, Box 25046, Denver, Colo. 80225 and the Montana Department of State Lands, 1625 11th Ave., Helena, Mont. 59601. Send comments to the Director, U.S. Geological Survey, National Center, Mail Stop 108, Reston, Va. 22092.

SOLAR LOCATOR

The Solar Energy Information Locator, a free publication from the Solar Energy Research Institute, lists energy organizations, libraries with energy collections, solar energy pamphlets, brochures and publications. The 36-page booklet includes a subject and organizational index. For copies, write Stephen A. Rubin, SERI, 1536 Cole Blvd., Golden, Colo. 80401.

CONTROVERSIAL COYOTE

A Montana Outdoors reviewer calls The Controversial Coyote: Predation, Politics and Ecology "the most sincere and balanced treatment" of the predator controversy he's read. The book's author, Laurence Pringle, discusses coyote control and alternatives to the poison 1080. The 87-page book is \$5.95 from Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, Inc., New York, 1977.

INPUT ON INPUT

The Bureau of Land Management wants comments on its plan for handling public

comments on land management decisions. The agency published proposed regulations in the Dec. 15 **Federal Register**. Comments are due April 1 to Director (210), Bureau of Land Management, 1800 C St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240. Copies of the proposed regulations are available at BLM offices.

COAL LEASING HEARINGS

Top Interior Department officials met with the public early in January on the agency's proposed federal coal management program. The meetings will be followed by 10 formal hearings on the program. The program was outlined in a draft environmental impact statement issued Dec. 15. Public comments are due Feb. 13. The hearings will be held Jan. 22 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Albuquerque, N.M.; Jan. 23 in Casper, Wyo., and Craig, Colo.; Jan. 24 in Billings, Mont., and Denver, Colo.; Jan. 25 in Bismarck, N.D.; Jan. 30 in Chicago; Feb. 1 in Lexington, Ky.; and Feb. 6 in Washington, D.C. Copies of the statement are available from state BLM offices. Written comments should be sent to: Director (140) Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. 20240.

SOLAR WATER HEATER

A low-cost solar water heating system is described in a 20-page booklet from the Energy Conservation Center in Lancaster, Pa. The groups says the system, which they've installed on local low-income homes, was "trouble-free" last winter, "generating storage temperatures of 110 to 120 degrees on clear January days when it's a windy 20 degrees outside." For a copy, send \$2 to the Community Action Program of Lancaster County, 630 Rockland St., Lancaster, Pa. 17602.

TAXING COAL

The philosophical and economic aspects of taxing coal are discussed in a free study available from Bryon L. Dorgan, N.D. Tax Commissioner, State Capital, Bismarck, N.D. 58505. The pamphlet shows that production of coal in the Northern Plains is increasing rapidly despite industry's claim that rising severance taxes would slow production.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING

"Neighborhoods are capable of being the basic element of human community or a critical link in a larger system of human interaction," according to **The Neighborhood Organizer's Handbook** by Rachelle B. Warren and Donald I. Warren. Not a "how-to" book, the handbook seeks to develop a theoretical basis for understanding all kinds of neighborhoods. The book costs \$4.95 through University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556.

SOLAR EDUCATION

The Solar-Ed Corporation has catalogs with curriculum materials for students of all ages, from primary grades through college. The catalog lists filmstrips, slides, books and demonstration equipment for teaching about solar energy and insulation. Write to the Solar-Ed Corporation, P.O. Drawer X, Woodbridge, Conn. 06525 or call (203) 624-5151.

UTAH BILLS

For information on environmental bills in the Utah legislature, contact Sara Michl, 961 Fairview Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah 84105, (801) 581-9838.



The John Muir Institute for Environmental Studies, Inc.
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The spring issue (January 1979) will contain:

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Holmes Rolston III: "Can and Ought We to Follow Nature?"
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Charles Hartshorn: "The Rights of the Subhuman World."

Discussion Papers

Philip M. Smith and Richard A. Watson: "New Wilderness Boundaries."
Donald C. Lee: "Some Ethical-Decision Criteria with Regard to Procreation."
J. Baird Callicott: "Elements of an Environmental Ethic: Moral Considerability and the Biotic Community."

Book Reviews

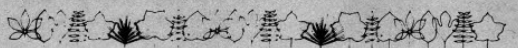
Daniel Lehouck: *Carrett Hardin, The Limits of Altruism*, Indiana University Press.
Mark Sagoff: *Bruce Ackerman, Private Property and the Constitution*, Yale University Press.

The summer issue (April 1979) will contain an unpublished essay by Aldo Leopold: "Some Fundamentals of Conservation in the Southwest," with commentary by Susan L. Hader, Leopold's biographer.

Subscription Price, anywhere in the world: Individuals, \$15; Institutions, \$20; Single copies, \$5.

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LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

"With paperwork I am replete,"
Said a red-eyed young hiker named Pete.
"To hell with who won.
The survey is done.
I'm happy RARE II is complete."

POLLUTION CONTROL INDUSTRY BOOMING

The Environmental Protection Agency reports that firms making equipment used to clean up air and water pollution had sales of \$1.8 billion in 1977 and are growing about twice as fast as the rest of U.S. industry. EPA says that the pollution control industry accounted for about 35,850 jobs.

BOTTLE BATTLE

Michigan may become a proving ground for bottle legislation, according to a Newhouse News Service story. Since the state is larger and more industrialized than the three other states with bottle bills — Oregon, Vermont, and Maine — the success of its law is expected to affect Congress's decision about national bottle legislation. The new Michigan law requires a deposit on all beverage bottles sold in the state, with the exception of wine and beer bottles. Mark Sullivan of the National Wildlife Federation says, however, "We already have three examples that prove the law works. And I don't really feel we need another test case."

PUBLIC BACKS PROTECTION

A researcher for Resources for the Future, a private research organization, says that a new poll indicates that public support for environmental protection is not slacking off. Robert C. Mitchell says that his poll shows that environmental issues are "an important enduring social concern." Fifty-three percent of those polled believe "protecting the environment is so important that requirements and standards cannot be too high, and continuing improvements must be made regardless of cost." In contrast, only 10 percent say "it costs more than it is worth."

16-High Country News - Jan. 12, 1979

Jean Curry strives for diversity in her life

By Don Schwennesen

Photo by Harley Hettick

JEAN CURRY: "Sometimes they don't like to see me coming."

More than 30 persons, mostly utility managers, were gathered in the carpeted meeting room of the local motel. The speaker was from the Bonneville Power Administration, and he was telling the utility managers that their wholesale electricity rates were going to double.

There were only four women in the place, counting the secretary at the door. One of them was a bright, cheery-faced woman in blue denims seated near the front.

She listened quietly for a while in the hot, stuffy room, but soon she asked why meeting rooms are inevitably designed to be hot and stuffy when the energy needed to heat them is becoming more scarce and expensive all the time.

The question drew a sympathetic laugh, but the speaker had no easy reply.

Jean Curry's questions are sometimes like that, and they often vex the bureaucrats. They sometimes seem irrelevant because they interrupt the careful arguments and question the premises—premises that the bureaucrats don't want to think about or believe they are powerless to change.

Soon she asked another question—this time about the federal agency's role in regional nuclear power plants.

Like the organization she represents (Friends of the Earth), Curry is a strong opponent of nuclear power. She is also an active member of Citizens for a Nuclear-Free Zone, the group that was behind the successful initiative to ban nuclear power plants from Missoula County.

Her second question went to the nut of the power price increase issue. There was no laughter.

The speaker explained, in careful technical language, that his agency has no authority to build new power plants. But in some cases it can agree in advance to buy some of the power from a new plant.

In fact, he said, the agency will end up marketing all of the power from one Washington nuclear power plant. Moments later he acknowledged that the cost of those nuclear power plants will account for more than two-thirds of the wholesale price increase.

Curry questions the wisdom of such investments, the costs of which are ultimately passed on to utility customers. She wonders if the nuclear power plants could ever be built without the indirect federal support.

Her next question was about the costs of dismantling nuclear power plants after they are obsolete.

When she asked about the disposal of radioactive turbines, those in the room broke into laughter, because any utility manager knows that the steam cycle running the turbines in a nuclear power plant never comes into direct contact with the radioactive fuels.

They were laughing so loudly that many of them didn't hear her add that her concern was about low-level radiation—contamination that builds up gradually in spite of the separate cycles.

In Congress they are no longer laughing about low-level radiation because it is costing millions of taxpayer dollars to dismantle a single nuclear power plant in New York.

Through it all, Curry remained smiling, friendly and unruffled. And she peppered the bureaucrats with many more questions before the evening was over.

That meeting was typical of others that

have made Curry's face familiar to scores of bureaucrats.

"Sometimes they don't like to see me coming," she says. "They say, 'Oh God, here she comes again.' But they know I do my homework...I have my facts."

Curry is one of the environmental leaders in western Montana.

She is also an artist and a housewife and mother who has been hostess to such notables as Daniel Ellsberg, David Brover, Gary Snyder and Allen Ginsberg.

"I make money by doing what I call Jean's Jobs," she says, explaining that she cleans basements and garages, scrubs walls, cleans windows, prunes trees, digs weeds and cuts lawns.

Many of her customers have opposite views on environmental issues.

"They know who I am, and I know who they are. We don't argue, but we always chat" and "find areas of common ground," she says.

"I get a lot more than just money out of these jobs. I have touched people in this community I wouldn't normally have met."

How does she find time for all of it? She doesn't believe she could get along without it.

"The clue to my success in terms of sustaining all my activities is in the diversity of my life. Since I'm an ecologist, I recognize the value of diversity," Curry explains.

In nature, "those systems that are most diverse will end up being the most stable and the most healthy" despite climate changes, disease or other forces. "There's always something there to keep the life systems going."

In contrast, an acre of corn is a "monoculture."

"If it gets a bug, what have you got left?" she asks.

Curry believes that the same principle can be applied, in different ways, to many things—including human activities.

Anyone who concentrates his life on one activity "is heading for trouble," she says. And that may explain why so many Americans—be they bureaucrats or environmentalists—get uptight and burned out.

"I never want to get that uptight, that involved, that consumed by anything," she says.

She served for several years as a representative of the Sierra Club. In 1975 she was asked to become Montana's representative for Friends of the Earth, an international environmental group.

"I said yes, because in many ways I didn't think the Sierra Club was radical enough," Curry says.

She tried wearing both hats for awhile, but now she is strictly an occasional helper for the Sierra Club.

Today most of her environmental efforts are focused on a few major issues, including:

—Energy: The choice between renewable and non-renewable energy systems is "the biggest decision facing our country and the planet."

—"A solar based economy is inevitable," she believes, and "I'd like to see the transition be as smooth as possible with as little hurt and pain as possible...I don't like to see money and time spent on systems that will make the fall harder."

—Watersheds: The topic for her includes



all the watershed resources of forest lands, grasslands and floodplains. Curry's outlook stresses such things as "the value of using fertile valleys for agriculture...instead of covering them with interstate asphalt and concrete."

"Today the majority of people in this country don't have to think about where their energy or water is coming from. Yet

there are people in this country who have to buy bottled water because their watersheds have been screwed up.

"I wish they would teach watershed consciousness in schools. It's a foreign language to most people. If people learned from the very beginning about watershed systems, people could learn to be adaptive to the watershed process rather than exploitive."

—Wilderness: "I define it a little differently than the people working to save it or those working to develop it.

"Wilderness to me is a word that describes watersheds that are still evolving, untouched by people-caused pollution. The value of wilderness to me is the naturalness of the life process.

"I spend too much time fighting for the wilderness to enjoy it," she says. But in summers she enjoys hikes or float trips, avoiding wild rapids or strenuous expeditions.

"I don't think we have to risk life and limb to enjoy wilderness. I don't like to go out and conquer wilderness. I like to go out and listen to it and feel it."

—Population: "We're the only species that doesn't know how to control its numbers to be adaptive to the place in which it lives.

"It doesn't matter who I talk to—sheepmen in Idaho, the Forest Service, presidents of major corporations, the local minister, friends—everyone acknowledges there's no way we can keep producing these numbers of people and still provide for their needs.

"Even people that I disagree with on other issues agree that we've got to do something about population growth."

Reprinted from The Missoulian

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