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High Country News

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Lander, Wyoming

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Indian energy lures industry

Canny CERT gets respect, money, problems

by Geoffrey O'Gara

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Leonard Burch stood behind the conference table and stared at a sweating water pitcher. Short and stocky, shy and soft-spoken, the greying Indian leader wore a dark sport jacket and no tie. He is tribal chairman for the Southern Ute reservation in southern Colorado, where 770 Indians live.

A tall man in a grey pinstripe suit, an oil company representative, leaned towards him: "...if a few of us could get together with you," he was saying. "Nothing formal, but we're down here, we're interested in what's happening here, and if you have the time..."

Burch's dark, square face looked up at the man, then away again, and he shifted his feet tiredly. "I know how busy you must be," said the oil man hurriedly. "Maybe not today..."

No, today would not be good, said Burch in a polite, quiet voice. He and other board members of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes were meeting in closed session that afternoon. Moments before, a federal official had promised that \$24 million in federal energy aid would go to CERT tribes this year. The following day they would announce several new energy projects on tribal lands.

"How about tomorrow then," asked the oil man. "Nothing formal, just a few of us,

"Shall we eat, drink and be merry, and partake of American affluence at least once in our history?"

— Peter MacDonald, CERT chairman

over a drink maybe, and we'll chat..."

Burch smiled weakly and agreed, then moved away.

The scene was repeated over and over last week at a meeting here of the CERT board of directors, which was also attended by state and federal energy officials, energy company representatives and the press.

Such encounters were often awkward, a tentative "Shall we dance?" between energy companies and Indians. But there was, too, a sense of relief pervading the proceedings. Clearly CERT, while it has its problems and dissidents, is emerging as a serious and apt player in the energy de-

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Photo by Charles W. Kneyses

In the News

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Scenic beauty contest unfair

Glacier-chiseled peaks, pine trees and meadows splashed with shooting stars, primroses and pasque flowers. That's the essence of one kind of wilderness — the kind that's particularly attractive to backpackers.

But there's another kind at the base of those ethereal peaks. People who venture there shiver by night and sweat by day. The sagebrush and desolation discourage them. The expanse and lack of amenities shrink their confidence.

The United States has made some progress in protecting the home of the pine, despite admonitions from the U.S. Forest Service about wilderness designation being a "neon sign" that will bring in hordes of destructive backpackers. However, most of our roadless desert lands remain exploitable. For them, wilderness designation is discouraged not by the neon sign argument, but by a belly laugh and a "who the hell would want to go to that godforsaken place?"

But Congress did not have a geographic beauty contest in mind when it passed the Wilderness Act in 1964. Nor did it require that the lands in the wilderness system be well-endowed playgrounds for backpackers.

It did ask that the lands be roadless, at least 5,000 acres (or a manageable unit) and "provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." It also had in mind areas that contain "ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value," according to the act.

Do the harsh, brown deserts fill the bill? If we have millions of acres of sagebrush country, how can any of it be considered outstanding?

The answer should be obvious to anyone who's ever felt a yen for the frontier. In this urbanized country, any tract of land over 5,000 acres that hasn't been penetrated by a road is remarkable. Even in the relatively undeveloped state of Wyoming 92 percent of the Bureau of Land Management's lands were declared too civilized to be considered for wilderness status.

We have lots of pine trees in the high country as well as lots of sage down below. What makes either type of country worth saving is its occurrence in a spot that remains, as the Wilderness Act puts it, "affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable."

The pretty, wooded areas chosen by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service have done more to define wilderness than Congress' own dictates. The Bureau of Land Management, now engaged in its first wilderness inventory, seems all too eager to follow the precedent of those agencies.

Certainly not every dry tract of emptiness in the public domain should be protected. But neither should an area's commonness or lack of physical appeal to backpackers or hunters preclude it from wilderness status. The desert is all the more wild for its lack of humans. While it is not a playground, it is a haven for wildlife, for silence, for space — the last remains of the Western frontier. Such land deserves man's highest respect, and the Wilderness Act was designed to protect it. protect it.

—JN

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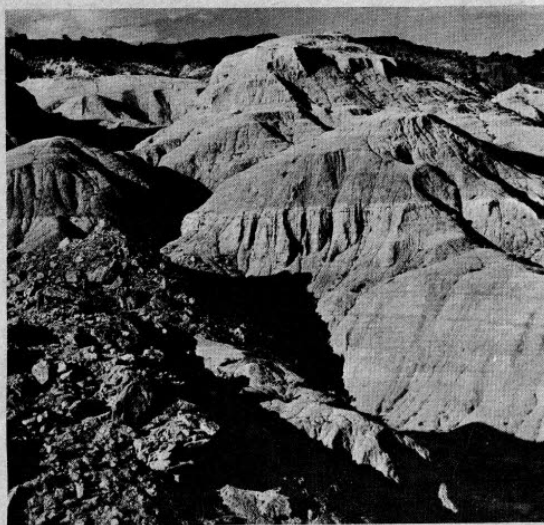
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Opinion



Defenders of Wildlife photo by Dick Randall
THE COUNTRY HAS MADE SOME PROGRESS in the protection of leafy green wild lands, but most of our desert lands remain open to development. The photo shows the south face of the Haystack Mountains on the northern border of Wyoming's Adobe Town.



NOT FOND OF FONDA

Dear HCN,

I can't tell from your masthead who D.S.W. is, but I sure can tell that his apologia for Jane Fonda discredits him forever (plus 3 days) as far as I am concerned. No matter how many good things she has done, she still is an avowed Communist — and as such I wouldn't trust her as far as I could throw a grand piano — left handed.

Incidentally what is the rationale for putting such a controversial and irrelevant editorial in a publication with such a narrow and specific orientation as HCN?

Henry Bond
Cincinnati, Ohio

P.S. — Don't bother answering — I know you are too busy for trivia, but I just wanted to get his off my chest.

NO FONDA FAN

Dear HCN,

Your editorial of Nov. 2, 1979, in

cavalier defense of Jane Fonda was just too much for me.

Here is a woman whose protests against her country were relentless (during the Vietnam War) but who remains silent when Communist countries of Southeast Asia subject their own citizens to ruthless cruelties.

I think I understand Miss Fonda, but I don't understand HCN. After many years I will not be renewing my subscription.

Howard W. Dellard
Wilmette, Illinois

(Ed. note: Mr. Dellard is referring to a "Popular Realities" column)

GOOD REFUGE

Dear HCN:

I couldn't pass over Peter Wild's generous piece about Barry Commoner (HCN, 10-19-79) without stopping for a look; it's a friendly, sympathetic description which ought to provide Commoner a good refuge if the attacks mount too high and fierce about him!

The news about new coal mining in the Sheridan-Decker area is depressing; surprising, rather than depressing, was DSW's moderate support of a coal slurry pipeline in the June 29 issue. Couldn't such support be tied to the recycling of pipeline water so that the net drain from Wyoming would be reduced?

Stewart W. Herman
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Friends,

For years High Country News has struggled to surpass the 3,600 subscription mark, which has always seemed the insurmountable barrier between us and financial security, circulatory respectability and emotional well-being. At the end of November, we finally did top that figure.

As of Dec. 1, our total count was 3,882 — 591 more than at the same time last year. As nearly as we can figure it, the glorious leap was due primarily to three factors: 1) the past year's promotion campaign; 2) an unusual number of subscriptions given as Christmas gifts; and 3) an Associated Press story about HCN that has appeared in newspapers across the country, from Eugene, Ore., to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Even the Army's Stars and Stripes carried it.

All these things were fun, fatiguing, and educational.

During the promotion campaign, in which we have mailed out 31,000 samples so far, people who received HCN unsolicited in the mails offered critiques ranging from "excellent paper" to "unpatriotic."

The most startling event was the newspaper article. Authored by Associated Press correspondent Lee Catterall of Cheyenne, Wyo., it was months in the writing, weeks in the editing, and immediate in impact. Within a few days of its appearance we were getting clippings, letters from people who had traveled through Lander years ago, and numerous subscription queries.

Around the office, we preened like the media peacocks we had become and waited for the networks to call. We're still waiting. Finally we calmed down

enough to be simply grateful for Catterall's introducing us to many new readers.

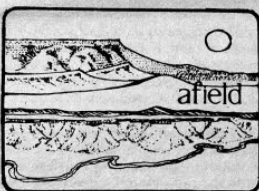
We decided months ago to change our ad policy, opening our pages to advertisers of all persuasions, and it still seems a wise step, for financial and other reasons. We expect it to be a controversial decision.

For several years we've taken ads only from sources that are either neutral on environmental issues or consistent with our editorial positions. Now we will accept them from those who might disagree with our editorial stands.

It is not simply a matter of economic need, though our newfound popularity has left us only slightly more secure financially than in the past.

Censorship of advertising has its proponents — in the environmental field, many feel it is a way of righting an imbalance between wealthy corporations with p.r. machines skilled at misleading consumers and environmental activists with neither funds nor ready access to the public's ear or eye. There are plenty of avenues for corporate free speech besides HCN, but we question whether we should set ourselves up as the arbiters of advertising "rights," in the first amendment sense. Certainly we will run no ads that we find contain deceptive information. But otherwise, we trust our readers can judge for themselves whether any ad is worth reading or believing.

—the staff



by Hannah Hinchman

Brief notes: a winter thaw before winter has fairly begun. A few warm blusters and I'm listening for returning

blackbirds. Fifty degree temperatures persist for days. Chinook winds repossess the snow, blowing trains off the tracks on the high plains near Laramie. In calmer Lander, it gusts at 75 miles per hour, tries the arthritic limbs of the cottonwoods, whistling like a whip snaking through the air. Wind keeps me keyed to a strained pitch; like an animal I am nervous when a gust drowns out all other sound. I expect danger from behind.

There have been some tumbleweeds through town. Walking down Main Street, I find a tumbleweed poised at the crosswalk. It seems lost — it's not going anywhere. No one seems to notice the bush (and it's a big one, about three

feet in diameter) at large on the streets of Lander. Then it begins to scrape and roll down the sidewalk, and the well-dressed townspeople step out of its way with alarm.

We go walking along the south-facing cliffs carved out of the Nugget Sandstone, a geologic formation that appears repeatedly along the foothills of the Wind River Mountains and elsewhere. Junipers and limber pines grow in profusion on the sandy soil. As we look back down the slope at the backlit trees, a Townsend's solitaire materializes, catching the light as it spreads its wings. It lands and becomes invisible again in the general brilliance.



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Respect, problems for CERT...

(continued from page 1)

velopment game: and just knowing that CERT is there makes businessmen and government officials more at home.

"It's always easier to negotiate with a sophisticated opponent or partner," said Richard Stone, who handles the U.S. Department of Energy's relations with state, local and tribal governments. "The tribes have the big energy reserves, and as CERT becomes more solid, they will become easier to deal with."

The 25 tribes that belong to CERT own one-third of the low sulfur coal west of the Mississippi: as much as half of the privately-owned uranium in the country; and sizable reserves of oil, natural gas and oil shale. They have social and economic problems on a similarly grand scale, but that is not what sparks DOE and corporate interest.

The Indian reservations represented in CERT are: in Arizona, the Hopi and Navajo; in New Mexico, the Jemez Pueblo, Jicarilla Apache, Zia Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo, Acoma Pueblo and Santa Ana Pueblo; in Colorado, the Ute Mountain and Southern Ute; in Wyoming, the Wind River; in Utah: the Uintah-Ourray; in Montana, the Blackfeet, Chippewa-Cree, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Crow and Northern Cheyenne; in Idaho, the Nez Perce and Fort Hall; in North Dakota, Fort Berthold; in South Dakota, the Cheyenne River Sioux; and in Washington, the Colville, Spokane and Yakima.

In recent years, the Indians have not been as easy for energy developers to woo as they were 20 years ago, when, for instance, some coal leases on Montana reservations were sold at 17 cents or less per ton, in perpetuity. That's about what gravel went for at the time.

Most Indian leaders still lack the technical expertise, but they have learned to hire it. And many of them are now skeptical of energy development and distrustful of energy company experts.

CERT, then, is a welcome addition, for both sides. For Indians, it offers a growing technical staff, primarily non-Indian, to advise them on industry and government

proposals. For government officials, it has a chairman, Peter MacDonald, a Navajo, who has, with a patriotic flourish, committed the tribes to helping solve the nation's energy problem. And for businessmen, it creates a speculative atmosphere, meeting in classy hotels like Phoenix's Adams, where energy lawyers feel right at home. And do the Indians? Well, it's hard to know what tribal leaders feel treading the thick

during the three-day conference for maximum media exposure. Several announced attendees didn't bother to show up: Govs. Ed Herschler (Wyo.), Bruce King (N.M.), and Scott Matheson (Utah), and Energy Secretary Charles Duncan among them. A minister from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) who was scheduled to speak also bowed out.

To kick things off, CERT and the Western Governors' Policy Office announced their intention to work together on certain issues: exemption of state and tribal energy revenues from any federal windfall profits tax; federal impact aid to Western

matching funds for an Indian Energy Education Institute.

Similarly, the energy projects announced were neither as astonishing, nor as concrete, as CERT officials tried to make them sound. The biggest, a plan to open a new coal strip mine on the Crow Reservation in Montana and use it to fuel an 800-900 megawatt power plant and a 50,000-barrel-a-day coal liquefaction plant, is hardly a sealed deal: The Crows are only beginning a feasibility study, and neither the tribe nor the intended partner, Fluor Corp., a division of Peabody Coal Co., has committed itself to full-scale development. Financing must await the outcome of the feasibility study. Nevertheless, if the study supports the project, Crow business manager DeWitt Dillon predicted the syn-fuel plant could be operating in five years.

An announced mine-mouth power plant on the Southern Ute reservation that would, if built, supply 800-900 megawatts of electricity to a southern Colorado utility, is still in the early stages of delicate negotiations, according to Leonard Burch.

The other projects announced were a small low-head hydroelectric dam on the Clearwater River on the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho; a natural gas propane refinery on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in New Mexico; and a localized geothermal energy project, funded by DOE, on the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana.

MOVING INTO THE MAINSTREAM

If nothing else, the parade of announcements indicated that CERT has entered the mainstream of the energy business world.

During its five-year life, CERT has been viewed with a mixture of doubt, hope and fear, both in and outside the Indian nations.

While recognizing the considerable size of energy holdings presented by the original 22 member nations, outsiders wondered if tribes as traditionally hostile as the Crows and Northern Cheyenne could really work together.

Others, haunted by CERT meetings in 1977 with OPEC representatives and the presence of a former Iranian oil official on the CERT staff, feared that the United States would soon be faced with its own internal energy cartel. Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) fanned such fears recently when he wondered aloud if CERT might be viewed by the public as "unpatriotic."

The situation on the reservations might justify a mood of revenge among CERT members. Alcoholism, suicide and poverty figures still rank high above national norms — the income level of reservation Indians is currently one-fourth of the national average, according to CERT staff. Chairman Daniel Boggs of Montana's Blackfeet reservation said unemployment there is currently at 40 percent, and the rate for Indians nationwide is eight times the national average.

CERT chairman MacDonald, however, sounds less and less like a troublemaker. When CERT first formed, MacDonald, an engineer who once worked for Hughes Aircraft and has held several offices in the Navajo hierarchy, lashed out at energy companies and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which he held jointly responsible for the cheap leases uninformed Indians had signed in the past for their minerals.

But now leases are being renegotiated, in part because of legal challenges by Indians and their lawyers, and in part because energy companies have greater hope for future contracts if they rewrite the old

"For native American leaders — from tribes that were often opponents on the battlefield — to submerge themselves behind another leader does not happen: It's an unprecedented phenomenon."

— Richard Stone, DOE

carpet past plush hotel conference rooms with names like "the Apache Room."

But CERT is not without its problems. Behind the scenes, internal struggles are taking place: a natural consequence, perhaps, of the increasing funding, media attention and political clout wielded by CERT. There are disputes about the leadership, which some say is oriented more towards the southern tribes than the northern. There are conflicts between the younger Indians and their elders, who, as one young Sioux said, "feel threatened when we come back better educated." And there is the age-old struggle between traditional Indian values and the big business of energy development.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS ANNOUNCED

The accomplishments announced here were substantial, though in fact most of them were prearranged and orchestrated,

states and tribes hosting energy developments: no interference in state or tribal law and management by the Energy Mobilization Board; and a voice for tribes and Western states on federal agencies promoting rapid energy development. Clearly the governors, some of whose states have been to court in the past to keep Indian minerals under various kinds of state taxes, now recognize CERT as a political force and ally worth courting.

In the days that followed, the CERT staff peppered the media with announcements of accomplishments.

DOE's Stone announced \$24 million in federal energy aid to CERT tribes this year. Six new energy projects on CERT reservations were unveiled. Laudatory results of a CERT energy education program were released, and an Indian education advisory committee, chaired by a Colorado bank official, was formed. Peter MacDonald announced a proposed energy development charter for his tribe, the Navajos, and his appointment to the National Petroleum Council.

As one would expect from an association seeking to legitimize its authority, many of CERT's biggest announcements were more spirit than substance. For instance, the \$24 million in federal aid.

MacDonald, in a letter to President Carter last summer had requested \$600 million over 10 years to make CERT energy available to the nation in a hurry. What he got was considerably less: \$24 million for one year, with future funding indefinite. Of that \$24 million, one-third to one-half would have gone to the Indians anyway, with no special arrangement by DOE, because it was already budgeted for the type of assistance requested by the tribes.

Still, as MacDonald pointed out, the tribal energy alliance has only been in existence five years and began on a shoestring budget of a few thousand dollars. This year's \$24 million breaks down into \$2.2 million for CERT's technical staff and executive operations; \$7 million for a U.S. Geological Survey mineral inventory on reservations; \$10 million in loan guarantees from the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration for qualifying energy projects; \$750,000 for three feasibility studies of energy proposals on reservations; and \$150,000 in

Energy holdings of CERT tribes

TRIBE	KNOWN AND POTENTIAL RESOURCES					
	COAL	URANIUM	GEOTHERMAL	NATURAL GAS	OIL	OIL SHALE
Acoma Pueblo (NM)	*	*	*			
Blackfoot (MT)				*	*	*
Cheyenne River Sioux (SD)	*	*		*	*	*
Chippewa Cree (MT)			*	*	*	*
Colville (WA)		*		*		
Crow (MT)				*	*	*
Fort Belknap (MT)			*	*	*	*
Fort Berthold (ND)				*	*	*
Fort Hall (ID)			*	*	*	*
Fort Peck (MT)			*	*	*	*
Hopi (AZ)	*	*	*	*		
Jemez Pueblo (NM)	*	*	*	*		
Jicarilla Apache (NM)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Laguna Pueblo (NM)	*	*	*	*		
Navajo (AZ, NM, UT)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nez Perce (ID)	*		*	*	*	*
Northern Cheyenne (MT)	*		*	*	*	*
Santa Ana Pueblo (NM)	*	*	*	*		
Southern Ute (CO)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Spokane (WA)		*		*		
Uintah-Ourray (UT)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ute Mountain (CO)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wind River (WY)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Yakima (WA)			*	*		
Zia Pueblo (NM)	*	*	*	*		

Chart courtesy of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes

(see next page)

ones more equitably. Partly as a result of lawsuits brought by tribes, the Interior Department has changed its policies and, in some cases, has refused to approve leases until royalty rates were raised.

It is not just his outspoken criticism of past injustices or his technical experience that makes MacDonald the logical choice as head of CERT — his tribe, the Navajo, has more members than all the other CERT tribes combined. There are over 130,000 Navajos on a reservation of almost 14 million acres; no other tribe in CERT has over 8,000 members, and some, such as the Southern Utes, number fewer than 1,000.

In addition, the Navajos have a long history of coal, uranium and oil development on their reservation.

There are rumors that the well-dressed, articulate chairman is looking beyond CERT now, even to retiring Sen. Barry Goldwater's Senate seat (MacDonald is a Republican). In his letter to the president, MacDonald said he wanted to "work with the government, with industry, with all Americans" to make the nation self-sufficient in energy.

PROBLEMS

MacDonald's canny ways with energy companies, politicians and the media are also bound to draw criticism; some of his fellow Indians wonder if he is more at home in a corporate board room than on the reservation.

"We'd like to see more traditional values emphasized," said Pat Goggles, an Arapahoe from the Wind River Reservation, echoing the feelings of several other Indians here.

MacDonald exults over expanding tribal energy production, and while he also repeatedly stresses the need for environmental protection and preservation of Indian culture, some argue that he has failed to see the incompatibility of Indian traditions and full-scale development.

The only public note of dissension here came from a small band of protesters from the "Big Mountain" area of Arizona. A group of four, three Indians and one Caucasian, claiming to represent thousands of Navajo and Hopi shepherds, said they were being driven out of their traditional lands to make way for a Peabody Coal Co. strip mine.

The four declared CERT "a front being utilized by the multi-national corporations and the U.S. government ... to justify the land rip-off and to disguise the corruption and the political manipulation of the resources of the indigenous people."

Their cry went virtually unheard at the gathering here. Other disputes within CERT never even became public.

According to two sources, several northern tribe representatives got together the second night of the conference and shared their grievance that the southern tribes were, in the words of one, "bringing home more of the bacon" through CERT. The chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of CERT are all from Southwest tribes.

However, when the subject was raised at the closed session of the CERT board the next day, most northern tribe representatives failed to support it, insiders said. "The subject came up, but we didn't think it was the right time to make it an issue," said an Indian from the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana.

If such murmurs of dissent indicate anything, it is that CERT, in becoming larger, wealthier, and more influential, is destined to suffer the sort of infighting that political parties, large corporations and national governments suffer. One Navajo said he expected internal conflict to grow along with CERT.

But CERT members say MacDonald exerts firm control during board meetings,

readily calling speakers out of order if things get out of hand. The Big Mountain contingent was not allowed to address the board at all. And those tribes who have been slow to participate in the energy boom still seemed willing to accept his authority: For social and economic improvements, said Nez Perce Chairman Wilfred Scott with a nod to MacDonald, "We must thank only the leaders, who have the patience and responsibility to achieve this."

"This is an historic process taking place here," enthused DOE's Stone. "For native

past, said he was sent only to observe and figure out the CERT power structure.

INSPIRING YOUTH

One of the most serious problems facing CERT and the tribes is how to inspire the young Indians: how to involve them in decisions without losing control; how to pull them out of the lethargy and unemployment that characterize reservation life; how to educate them to take over technical

"(For young Indians) there are financial incentives; there are cities; there are technological luxuries (outside the reservation); all of which are attractive."

— Susan Williams, Sioux attorney

American leaders — from tribes that were often opponents on the battlefield — to submerge themselves behind another leader does not happen: It's an unprecedented phenomenon.

And it's very pleasing to men like Stone, who, along with the energy industry representatives, are searching out knowledgeable Indian authorities with whom they can deal and make agreements stick. An AMAX employee whose company had had problems dealing with Indians in the

jobs. Training Indians to handle their own technical evaluations of energy projects, and, ultimately, planning, management, and manpower remains CERT's most elusive goal, according to several tribal chairmen here.

A look at the CERT technical staff tells the story: It is almost entirely Caucasian and includes the former Iranian Deputy Minister of Economics and Oil, Ahmed Kooros.

Susan Williams, a young Sioux now

finishing up at Harvard Law School, cites "a traditional dependency on outsiders." She grew up on the Navajo Reservation, where her father worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs — "a classic BIA brat," she says — and spoke to the conference on the tribes' power to tax and regulate on the reservations.

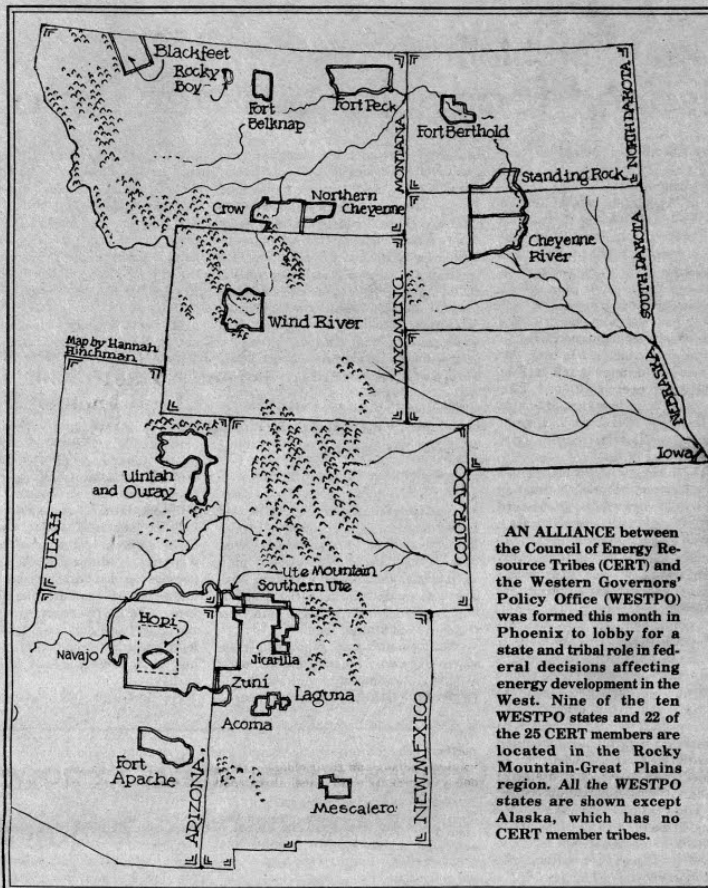
Williams does not intend to return to a reservation upon graduating. Seeking broader experience and wanting to avoid tribal politics and what she called a fear of well-educated younger people among tribal elders, she expects to work for a Washington, D.C., law firm.

Eventually she expects to go back; but she thinks she understands why others do not. "There are financial incentives, there are cities, there are technological luxuries out there — all of which are attractive," she said.

A well-educated Indian will be courted by the government, which actively seeks minorities, and by energy and other companies that want to make a positive impression on Indian tribes. But that is only a dilemma after an Indian youth gets a degree. Right now, very few do. Burch of the Southern Utes contends that those young Indians who do finish college most often end up in the teaching field, not in technical professions, law, or medicine, where he feels they are most needed.

George Thomas, who heads the CERT Office of Human Resource Development, said that of the 45,000 graduating engineers each year in this country, only 30

(continued on page 6)



AN ALLIANCE between the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) and the Western Governors' Policy Office (WESTPO) was formed this month in Phoenix to lobby for a state and tribal role in federal decisions affecting energy development in the West. Nine of the ten WESTPO states and 22 of the 25 CERT members are located in the Rocky Mountain-Great Plains region. All the WESTPO states are shown except Alaska, which has no CERT member tribes.

6-High Country News — Dec. 14, 1979

PCBs over easy? Sunny side up?

Poisoned foods slip past feds into supermarkets

by Lonnie Rosenwald

BOISE, Idaho — On July 6 a U.S. Department of Agriculture official took a routine sample of slaughtered chickens at the Jolly Poultry Co. in Provo, Utah. Assuming there was nothing unusual about it, the inspector put the sample in a refrigerator and went on vacation for 10 days. Tests would later find the chickens were tainted with alarming quantities of a toxic chemical compound called PCBs.

The inspector's vacation was only the first in a series of dangerous delays. The Provo chickens had come from the Ritewood Egg Co. in Franklin, Idaho. It was not until Sept. 4 that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration told Paul Woodward, owner of Ritewood, that the eggs on his farm contained prohibited levels of PCBs — more than eight times as much as the agency allows. Woodward voluntarily stopped selling eggs that day.

But it was too late. Not only had Woodward already sold 18 million potentially contaminated eggs, but other distributors had sold impure products in a dozen states and two foreign countries.

At this point, however, FDA officials didn't know the extent of the contamination, nor its cause. As late as Sept. 11, the agency had not notified the public of the egg contamination. "We didn't want to cause panic," explained an FDA official.

PCBs — polychlorinated biphenyls — are a synthetic hydrocarbon compound widely used in electrical transformers and capacitors. They are known to cause cancer and birth defects in laboratory animals. The FDA can forbid sale of food containing PCBs in concentrations above certain levels. In the case of eggs, the maximum level is 0.3 parts per million. The Ritewood eggs contained 2.5 ppm.

In the middle of an exhaustive search at Ritewood, an FDA investigator discovered six feed samples stuffed in the back of a

bookshelf. One of these samples later turned out to be contaminated, unlocking the mystery of the PCB spread. On Sept. 12, the FDA learned the feed had come from the Pierce Packing Co. in Billings, Mont., a pork packing firm which distributes meat meal as a byproduct. The FDA began to track down 2 million pounds of Pierce meat meal that was sold in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, North Dakota, Minnesota, Washington, Oregon and other states during the contamination, which officials determined occurred between July 26 and mid-August. During that period Pierce also sold 5 million to 10 million pounds of grease — some of it contaminated — which was shipped to Japan and Canada.

A LEAKY TRANSFORMER

Investigators determined PCBs had leaked from a ruptured electrical transformer in a locked storage room at Pierce. About 230 gallons of PCBs dripped into a vat and later were mixed with meat meal. The meal was distributed to the farms and feed mixers who combined it with other ingredients in animal feed.

Other contaminated products eventually withdrawn from the market were: 350,000 Ritewood laying hens; 75,000 Pepperidge Farm frozen strawberry cakes,

which had been made with contaminated eggs at a Richmond, Utah, baking plant; 80,000 pounds of chicken meat at a Campbell's Soup Co. plant in Minnesota and a Swift and Co. meat plant in Clinton, Iowa; over 100,000 chickens at the Montana Farms near Townsend, Mont., Cherry Lane Farms near Three Forks, Mont., and Oakdell Farms in Riverton, Utah.

Millions of eggs were recalled, including nearly all of those at 54 supermarkets in Montana.

Officials from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., and health officials in Idaho took blood and milk samples near the Ritewood farm to determine how much humans were contaminated by eating the tainted eggs. The samples showed contamination below average U.S. levels, perhaps because an isolated population was tested, the officials said.

PCBs are a chemical family about which little is known and much is feared. They were first synthesized in 1927 and became popular as chemical "carriers" in paints and as ingredients that make oils resistant to heat. By 1937, workers involved in making PCBs were suffering from skin problems and other symptoms of acute poisoning. In the 1960s, the FDA found PCBs in food.

The first health problem connected with

food contamination was discovered in 1968, when PCBs leaked into rice oil that was sold in Yushow, Japan. A group of Yushow residents who ingested an average of 2,000 milligrams of PCBs developed chloracne, joint pain and lethargy. This incident prompted the FDA in 1973 to restrict PCB content in food. But the substance was so persistent in the environment that in 1976 Congress ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to ban manufacture of PCBs. This was done in January 1978. Last summer the FDA reduced allowable levels of PCBs in food, primarily based on laboratory tests that showed PCBs caused malignancies and behavioral defects in mice and monkeys.

'INEFFECTIVE' BAN

The Environmental Defense Fund has filed a suit against the EPA claiming the manufacturing ban exempts most current uses of PCBs and is thus ineffective. The EDF claims 350 million pounds of PCBs are still in use in 148,000 electrical transformers, as well as in equipment ranging from air conditioners to mining machinery. The suit claims the continued use of PCBs poses a threat to the environment — as exemplified by the recent egg contamination.

(continued on page 15)

Congress shrinks BLM's power to make grazing cuts

Congress has weakened the Bureau of Land Management's power to decide what to do about declining range lands — but only slightly.

The Senate passed a bill this fall that would have allowed the agency to cut grazing privileges on the public lands it man-

ages by no more than 10 percent a year.

When the legislation finally emerged from a House-Senate conference committee Nov. 27, however, it had been softened considerably. It now states that ranchers can file an appeal on proposed reductions in excess of 10 percent. During the period

process, which must be completed within two years, the agency must limit its cut to 10 percent. Since the provision was attached to the fiscal 1980 Interior appropriations bill, its requirements will be in force for only one year, according to a Bureau of Land Management spokesman.

The amendment's sponsor, Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho), said the bill was necessary to keep the BLM from putting ranchers out of business by making drastic grazing cuts. He said that where the range was declining, it should be healed through better management, range improvements and better grazing systems — not by big cuts.

"A lot of guys on the Western range can't take a drastic cut and stay in business," said McClure's legislative assistant, Frank Cushing.

BLM is unhappy about the bill because "It detracts from our management prerogatives," said Paul Vetterick, BLM's acting assistant director for renewable resources. Vetterick said that cuts have been recommended on about one-half of the allotments included in recent grazing environmental impact statements. On other allotments, no cuts or increases have been allowed.

Where use exceeds capacity, "Improvements don't do any good. The agency has to make cuts," Vetterick said. He said the agency has tried to phase reductions over a three-year period to minimize the damage to operators.

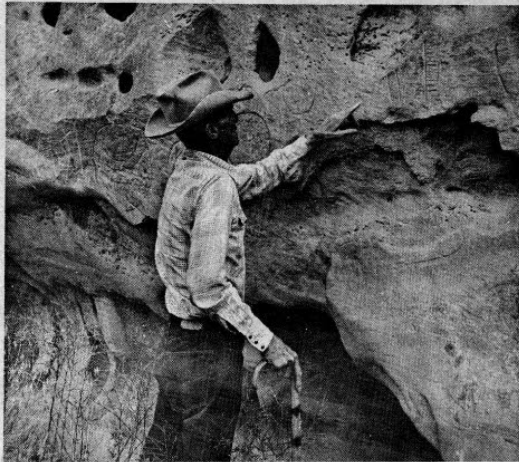
Drastic cuts are sometimes necessary despite the harm to ranchers, according to Vetterick. "What happens after a wildfire on the range?"

McClure said next year he hopes to offer legislation making more permanent changes in the BLM's grazing management practices.



Photo by Larry Edwards

DRASTIC CUTS in grazing privileges issued by the Bureau of Land Management would put many Western ranchers out of business, according to Idaho Sen. James McClure. The sheep herd above is grazing on the foothills of the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming.



PETROGLYPHS. If a tribe considers a site to have cultural or religious significance, it could designate it unsuitable for mining. However, tribes that prepared the strip mining study said they may need to maintain the confidentiality of such sites to protect them.

Regulating Indian coal

CERT's proposals 'surprisingly uncontroversial'

by Marjane Ambler

The Council of Energy Resource Tribes completed this fall a landmark study of how the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 can be applied to coal mining on Indian reservations. The result, said a U.S. Interior Department official, is "surprisingly uncontroversial."

When the act was passed, Congress left unresolved complicated legal and technical questions concerning Indian reservations. Legislators said they wanted to know more about the Indian lands and what the coal-owning tribes wanted.

The Department of Interior contracted with CERT to undertake a study, and CERT shared the job with its coal-owning member tribes.

After months of work, the 25 coal-owning tribes have agreed on seven recommendations for Indian lands mining and reclamation legislation. The recommendations are considered uncontroversial by the Interior Department officials who have read them, according to Dick Wilson, a special assistant to the assistant secretary for energy and minerals.

Congress, which originally asked that the recommendations be submitted by late 1977, is not expected to receive them until next spring.

The federal Office of Surface Mining would prefer legislators did not amend the strip mining bill now because some factions in Congress have been trying to eliminate OSM's regulations entirely, and amendments establishing tribal authority would provide them with a possible vehicle.

The tribes' recommendations would allow increasing tribal control of mining and reclamation as tribes gain more expertise, while upholding federal environmental standards required for strip mining coal.

The most controversial tribal recommendation would force the government to compensate tribes for coal that lies unmined beneath alluvial valley floors, which are protected under the 1977 act because of such valleys' fragility and agricultural value.

"We're going to have a lot of problems with that one," Wilson said. Critics fear tribes would use the provision to get money for preserving land they never intended to mine.

Wilson pointed out that Congress provided for an exchange of federal coal leases when one lease included an alluvial valley and that similar exchanges of Indian coal leases are not practical on reservations, largely because the land base is so limited. Therefore, compensation may be justified, Wilson said.

CERT said that while the tribes do not wish to engage in environmentally unsound resource development, the loss of return from alluvial valley coal would be severe for many tribes.

Another CERT recommendation that varies from the strip mine law's provisions, for states deals with tribal regulatory con-

trol. The states must choose between taking complete control or leaving regulation to the OSM. The tribes want full control in some cases but say they need the option of partial control.

While some of the tribes have research offices, none have all the soil scientists, hydrologists, lawyers, engineers and botanists they need to effectively regulate coal development, according to the report. Consequently, some tribes want to rely for awhile on federal regulators to supplement their efforts.

Other tribes may never want to assume full control. If, for example, a tribe plans only to develop one mine, it may want to avoid the expense of developing a full regulatory program.

While no one in OSM seems to object to the partial control concept, it will take some time to work out the mechanics, Wilson said.

Still another question about mining on the reservation was raised in a draft report by Interior's solicitor. Within reservations some federal minerals lie beneath tribal lands; some tribal minerals lie beneath land owned by non-Indians; and some non-Indian minerals lie beneath non-Indian land. Since the tribes' jurisdiction over mining such coal is unclear, according to the solicitor, legislation will have to resolve the question.

The legislation may also address conflict-of-interest problems. In some ways, the tribes' role in energy development will be the same as the states' in development of state leases — royalties are paid to the regulatory authority. However, individual tribal council members may get personal remuneration when royalties from tribal coal are distributed as per capita payments to all tribal members. Tribes might also become partners in or owners of coal mining companies, which states do not do. Neither of these problems was addressed in the CERT report.

Wilson does not see conflict of interest as a threat. "Per capitas don't amount to that much; I don't think anyone would be compromised for them," he said. In addition, the OSM retains an oversight role to be sure the tribes adhere to the strip mining law's standards, he said.

Wilson said he hopes the bill will have total concurrence from the tribes before it is introduced in Congress, but CERT will have no veto power over the bill's final language.

The tribes are watching the Interior Department closely to see what it will do. "The fate of these legislative proposals will be a true test of the Interior Department's resolve to fulfill its appointed role as the advocate for tribal interests before the federal government," said Allen Rowland, CERT treasurer and chairman of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

Copies of CERT's 300-page report by Doug Richardson are available free from CERT at 1000 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 610, Washington, D.C. 20036 or call (202) 466-7702.

Respect, problems for CERT...

(continued from page 5)

to 45 will be Indians, a number that has not risen in half a decade. If Indians occupied engineering jobs in proportion to their share of the general population, Thomas said, there would be 6,200 nationwide — instead, there are about 400 practicing Indian engineers in the United States.

CERT last summer financed an experimental project at Arizona State University in which 27 graduating Indian high school students were tutored in math and science. With typical exuberance, the CERT staff heralded it at the conference here as an "unqualified success," but the statistics indicate otherwise.

Of 36 Indian applicants accepted for the course, 27 came, and only 15 stayed the full six weeks. According to the CERT report, "The predominant explanation for leaving was family illness, but it is suspected that most of the students were homesick or weary of math." Though these were top-ranked Indian students, science

not four years, but maybe 20 years....And by then, how much oil and gas is gone?"

ROSY FUTURE

At the moment, CERT's future looks rosy. Federal officials have recognized it as a useful tool for dealing with energy development on the reservations, and officials say the \$24 million in federal support this year is only the beginning. Federal aid will increase in certain areas — for studies, some energy projects, education and impact aid. It will decline, said Stone, in the area of "core support": He and CERT officials are negotiating to determine when CERT will begin paying its own operating costs. Funds now come primarily from federal agencies. Energy companies will see that CERT prospers, too. It offers the kind of centralized authority that they can approach and possibly influence, and they have already begun contributing dollars and ad-

"We're talking about something (technical education) that takes time, maybe 20 years....And by then, how much oil and gas is gone?"

— Pat Goggles, Wind River Reservation

courses had to be modified because of the math shortcomings. On the positive side, math scores improved among those who remained in the program.

If, as Thomas said, the training must reach all the way back to grade school, then the process will take time and money. But many of the Indians here want faster results.

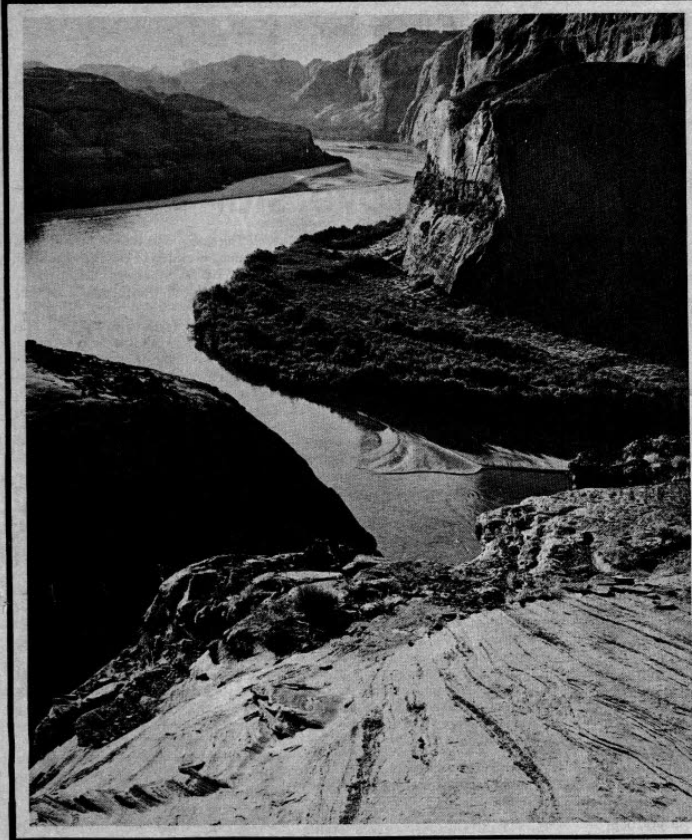
"Theoretically," said an Indian from the Fort Peck Reservation, "these (CERT) guys should work themselves out of a job in five years."

A Wind River Indian disagreed. "We're talking about something that takes time,

vice. The bills for this conference are being picked up by five corporations in the energy field.

But even MacDonald, for all his enthusiasm, repeatedly warned that the Indian energy reserves could be gone in 25 years. "They are the only assets we have; they hold our only hope for the future. They could mean a new beginning, or the beginning of the end... Shall we eat, drink and be merry, and partake of American affluence at least once in our history?" Or, he said, should the Indian tribes build cautiously for the future and preserve the ancient cultures?

8-High Country News — Dec. 14, 1979



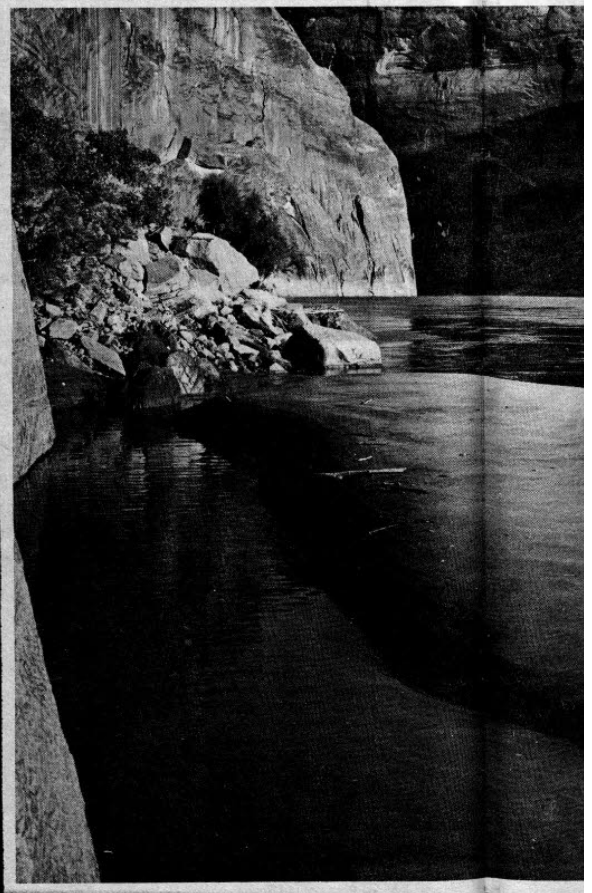
a.

Again the high water took us around the first turn by boat and from there we waded in mud up to our thighs. Above us the walls vaulted ever closer and deeper, sometimes letting only the faintest trickle of light ooze from the far sky. We filed through as ghosts. Now more twisting and convoluted, the passage lengthened out to a long nave of staggered piers in the style of late English Gothic. But here is no mutter of priests absolving the nameless, only the thread of our voices, our feet disturbing the pebbled floor, and beyond, a silence walled by numberless stony centuries. Nature throwing lucky dice...

- a. Bend in the Colorado above Klondike Bar
 b. Bar at entrance to Mystery Canyon, Colorado River
 c. Redbud leaves, Music Temple, Glen Canyon

Philip Hyde

A Glen Canyon Portfolio

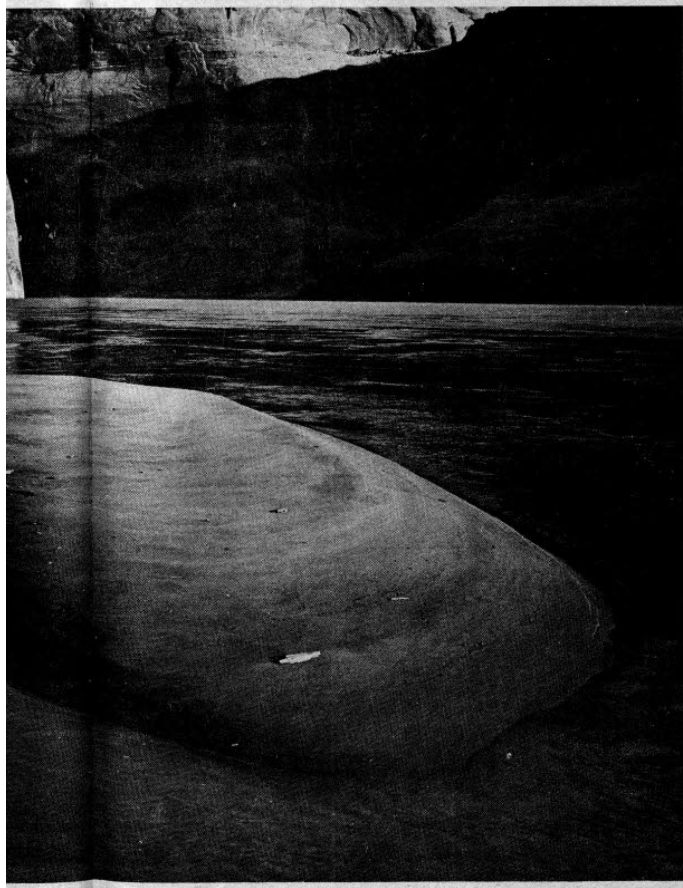


b.

Hyde Canyon



C.



Twenty photographs by Philip Hyde. Twelve pages of text by Bruce Berger. Northland Press, Flagstaff, Arizona, 1979. \$35.00, portfolio.

Review by Peter Wild

In 1956 a grinning President Eisenhower detonated a blast that heralded construction of a concrete plug in a little-known portion of the Colorado River. Since then conservationists have realized belatedly that they lost, perhaps unnecessarily, one of the most delicate and fantastic natural treasures that God gave to America.

I say belatedly because Glen Canyon Dam was a tradeoff. At the time, environmentalists were engaged in a strenuous effort to insure the integrity of America's parklands by keeping Echo Park Dam out of Dinosaur National Park. Although part of the political exchange was congressional authorization of Glen Canyon Dam, it seemed a small price for the victory in Dinosaur.

Activism was not fashionable during the Cold War years, and the fact that a few men with wilderness in their eyes such as David Brower and Howard Zahniser roused the country to stop the government from building any dam at all was an extraordinary accomplishment in itself.

Some people, however, began feeling the loss of Glen Canyon even before it occurred. Before Glen Canyon Dam backed water over hundreds of square miles of southern Utah's slickrock country, photographer Philip Hyde joined a Sierra Club expedition through the doomed labyrinth. On a separate but similarly bittersweet voyage, writer Bruce Berger floated through the Canyon just before the dam's gates closed. Hyde's photographs and Berger's prose combine in this Northland Press portfolio to give those who will never know the canyon a feeling for the "un-counted, unnamed glories flickering out."

Those "glories" — vaulted chambers, plunges, rock sculptured and polished by

eons, the very essences of wonder and loneliness — are now ghosts waiting beneath fathoms of water for release. Above them, for now at least, water-skiers and houseboaters revel in their own smoke and noise.

Berger and Hyde do not sentimentalize the lost canyon or the emotionally laden situation that led to its destruction. In different ways, both accounts take their strengths from the details that the canyon once offered to anyone eager enough to see. Hyde's black and white photographs play no games. In contrast to the passion of his "Photographer's Comment," they are surprisingly relaxed, presenting the quiet nobility of the river as if the reader faced stone and water on the page.

Berger is a writer who can shift gears rapidly and convincingly. The story of his trip is hilarious in places — "manned" as it is by Katie Lee, a folksinger who likes to frolic around sans clothes, and Natalie Gignoux, a former owner of a taxi business in Aspen, Colo. The fourth crew member is Leo, an old river rat. Finally coaxed into taking a swim au naturel, he has "the look of a Christian martyr being boiled alive."

Appropriately, though, the diary concentrates, often with painful intensity, on the passing river itself. Characteristic of his perceptive similes, Berger describes his first view of the condemned place as "a bit like opening an invoice." His narrative, at turns lively and reflective, ends with an episode so perfectly ironic that there can be no doubt about its authenticity.

Measuring 11 by 14 inches, handsomely printed on quality papers, this sensitive reminder of once wild Glen Canyon is every bit the production that a peasant to a lost place — and to our own sense of loss — should be. Few of us can afford to sit down and without a second thought write a check of \$35 for this unbound collector's item. It would, however, make a stunning gift, and librarians with any room at all in their budgets might consider *A Glen Canyon Portfolio* in terms of what it will mean to many of their patrons, a priceless acquisition.

10-High Country News — Dec. 14, 1979

ENERGY

NRC tailings control too lax, Wyoming charges

by Marjane Ambler

An expected confrontation between the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has been temporarily averted.

The state last month ordered Western Nuclear, Inc., to stop construction of a uranium tailings dam extension that the NRC had already approved (see HCN, 11-30-79). DEQ said the company needed state permits for the pond behind the dam. The department has been urging the company to comply since 1975.

Rather than challenge the state's authority, the company, a subsidiary of Phelps Dodge Corp., agreed to comply with state regulations, according to Robert Sundin, DEQ director.

However, the jurisdictional question is far from settled, according to Ross Scarano of NRC and Grey Bogden of Western Nuclear's Denver office. Bogden said the company is concerned that there may be some duplication and overlap between the state and the federal regulations (see separate story).

Behind the interagency squabbling is a more crucial question: Has the NRC fulfilled its responsibility to protect groundwater from radioactive and toxic contamination? Both state and federal regulations provide for protecting groundwater, but the state says the NRC is not enforcing its regulations adequately.

The NRC prepared a draft environmental statement in November 1978 saying that the tailings pond had been "seeping" into the ground at the rate of 1,180 gallons

The tailings pond has been "seeping" at the rate of 1,180 gallons a minute.

a minute (or 1.7 million gallons a day) and that groundwater on the site has been contaminated with radioactive elements. In addition, the statement says that tailings water "may be continuing on toward the Sweetwater River," which is one mile from the pond.

The NRC statement also said the dam, built in 1957, has a history of failures — six in 18 years. The latest in April 1977 released 2 million gallons of radioactive tailings solution.

NRC determined that the existing and future contamination of the water is "not significant enough to warrant discontinuing use of the existing impoundment." The agency does not think tailings would reach the river if there were another dam failure, and, it said, the dam extension would help prevent similar failures.

SHOULD BE ABANDONED

Neither DEQ nor the federal Environmental Protection Agency is convinced, however. "We are surprised that NRC proposes relicensing this mill with only nominal program modifications," said regional EPA Administrator Alan Merson last June. EPA said the proposed dam expansion is "notably vulnerable to rupture" and said the existing pond should be abandoned and replaced — not expanded.

In fact, DEQ said that by allowing Western Nuclear to continue using the pond,

NRC is violating state law and possibly federal law. Burying the tailings in the mine pit would be a better idea, DEQ said, but the company estimates it would cost more than \$20 million just to haul the tailings from the mill to such a site.

Gary Beach of DEQ said the reclamation

plan in NRC's environmental statement was "obviously deficient." For now, he is most concerned about seepage and the possibility of dam failure. Some of the groundwater is already so polluted near the site that if it were above ground, the state would classify it as unsuitable for

any use, even livestock watering. This pollution is the result of 20 years of seepage, Beach said, and enlarging the pond will increase the rate of the seepage, he thinks.

"And if there were another dam failure, it would be a tragic mistake if it (the radioactive pollution) got into the river. I don't even know how you clean up a river. It's not like an oil spill that stays right on top of the water. I guess you just hope for a lot of dilution," he said.

Scarano of NRC said that as a result of the criticism, the NRC staff has re-evaluated their data, but they still are convinced it is not necessary to abandon the pond. The final environmental statement, which will be released next month, will confirm this decision, he said. "If we couldn't be assured that the Sweetwater is safe, we wouldn't authorize it," he said.

In two previous cases in Wyoming where water pollution was considered serious, NRC told uranium companies that they could not continue to use their tailings ponds, Scarano said. In these cases, however, the alternative disposal sites were near the mills, according to DEQ. Western Nuclear's alternatives are not.

Scarano said that anyone concerned about the impacts of the tailings pond can request a public hearing before the license decision is announced, which will be 30 days after the final impact statement is released.

CONFRONTATION LIKELY

Western Nuclear may agree to apply for the state permits and avoid challenge of DEQ's jurisdiction. However, judging from the depth of DEQ's concerns, the state may refuse the permits without major revisions, which might include a new tailings disposal site.

Such a requirement would no doubt force the jurisdictional question, since Western Nuclear is meeting the NRC's requirements.

Research for this article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

Jurisdiction — why the dilemma?

As a result of the controversy over Wyoming's tailings regulations, the state attorney general's office is studying the jurisdictional issue further. One of the alternatives under study is applying to become an "agreement state," according to a representative of the governor's office.

Unlike most uranium-producing states, Wyoming has chosen not to sign an agreement with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission that would give it power to regulate nuclear materials and activities within the state border.

Gary Beach of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality said that until recently, this had not caused any problems. State mining permits have been applied to activities at uranium mills as well as mines, and neither NRC nor the companies have objected, with the exception of Western Nuclear. However, when the federal Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act was passed in 1978, NRC's authority over tailings became clearer and the NRC more adamant about exercising that authority.

In the past, Wyoming officials have tried to avoid the expense of becoming an agreement state, especially since it did not seem necessary. The federal government provides money to establish state regulatory programs for states that want that jurisdiction, but the state must use its own funds to continue the programs. When state health officials have tried to get legislative ap-

proval for a NRC program to cover only health-related uses of radioactive materials, state legislators have refused.

Even without agreement state status, Wyoming state attorneys think DEQ has jurisdiction over non-radioactive but toxic materials in tailings. In fact, Beach said the state is required by its Environmental Quality Act of 1973 to control tailings.

On this assumption, the state is adopting its own tailings regulations, which would apply to all mill tailings, including those of uranium mills.

The NRC has written to the state objecting to the proposed regulations.

Ross Scarano of the NRC said, "Even in non-agreement states, there is a valid role that the state can and should play in monitoring what mine operators and the NRC are doing. But I don't think Wyoming and the NRC have come to an agreement about what this is."

He said the state can enact standards to assure reclamation and to protect water that are more stringent than the NRC's standards, "and we would use them."

However, he said Wyoming's tailings regulations go a step further — they provide for state permitting, which, he said, is a NRC role.

Referring to Western Nuclear's situation in Wyoming, Scarano said, "It would seem that Wyoming is trying to become an agreement state without the benefit of an NRC agreement."



WESTERN NUCLEAR, INC.'s tailings pond, in the upper half of the photo, is safe, according to the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Wyoming officials disagree.

Wyoming State Journal photo



The Rockies and Great Plains

NON-COAL MINES AND STRIP ACT.

A study by the National Academy of Sciences recommends that surface mining of minerals other than coal should be regulated by local and state governments, not by the federal Office of Surface Mining. The 330-page report, which was mandated by the 1977 strip mine act, says that mineral quarries and uranium, phosphate and titanium mines cannot be comfortably lumped with coal under current federal surface mine reclamation laws, which were designed to regulate coal strip mining. The report will be reviewed by the Council on Environmental Quality, which will make recommendations to the White House.



GASOHOL PLANNED. Wyoming Agri-Fuels, Inc., is planning a plant near Torrington, Wyo., that will consume about 36,000 bushels of corn or wheat a day and produce gasohol. Company spokesmen told the *Casper Star-Tribune* that the gasohol — a blend of 10 percent alcohol and 90 percent gasoline — would have a 130 octane rating, much higher than gasoline's. The plant would employ about 65 people, burn Wyoming coal and produce livestock feed as a by-product.

BOMBING BOB MARSHALL. If the Forest Service gives the go-ahead, there will be a new man-made sound in the Bob Marshall and Great Bear wilderness areas in Montana. Consolidated Georex Geophysics, Inc., a Colorado firm, wants to set off 5,400 charges of plastic explosives throughout the wilderness areas, hoping to discover what sort of mineral strata lie beneath by listening for reflected shock waves. The firm would sell the information it gathers to mineral extraction firms.

IPP SITE BECKONS. While some parts of the country fight to keep away big energy developments, in southern Utah, Wayne County officials are making a last ditch effort to lure the giant Intermoun-

tain Power Project their way. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus fears that siting the coal-burning power plant in Wayne County's Salt Wash might cause air pollution at Capitol Reef National Monument 20 miles away. Because of such fears, the plant is now expected to be approved at a site just north of Delta, Utah, in Millard County. But Wayne County officials, in a letter to Andrus, contend that the wind rarely blows from Salt Wash toward the monument and say their site would be closer to the coal to be burned by the power plant, reducing transportation costs.

POWERING THE MX MISSILE SYSTEM. The Defense Department is now suggesting that a renewable energy system involving power from sun, wind, biomass and the earth's natural heat as well as advanced energy storage devices could provide the 180 megawatts necessary to power the MX Missile System. The cost of such a system is estimated at \$1 billion to \$2 billion, compared with the \$750 million estimate for connecting the MX project to conventional sources of electricity. The cost of the renewable system, according to the department, would be matched by the cost of a conventional system plus its fuel after 10 years of operation.

WYOMING SEVERANCE TAX. Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler's attempt to raise state severance taxes on minerals by five percent next year faces stiff opposition in the state legislature. Currently, Wyoming has a severance tax of about 10 percent on coal, less on other minerals. State Rep. Russ Donley, who chairs a committee handling general revenue projections, claims that expanding energy development in 1981-82 should provide the state with more than enough funds to operate, with severance tax revenues up \$140 million over 1979-80. Bills now before the U.S. Congress would set limits on how high states could set their severance taxes, but support for such legislation is reportedly low.



Wyoming Game and Fish photo

CAN ANTELOPE AND COAL MINES COEXIST? Antelope in the Red Rim country south of Rawlins, Wyo., will wear some expensive scientific jewelry for the next two and a half years — ear tags and radio collars. As many as 1,500 antelope use the Red Rim area for winter grazing, and they will be studied to determine what impact a coal mine proposed for the area by Rocky Mountain Energy Corp. would have on their habits. Within the study area is a three square mile section that remains relatively snow-free in the winter. Movement of the antelope from summer to winter will be monitored with radio collars. Rocky Mountain Energy, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the University of Wyoming are funding the \$70,000 project.



Across the nation and around the world

SOLAR TAX CREDITS. Builders and developers may gain \$330 million in tax credits through 1986 for passive solar systems in new homes. The Senate gave overwhelming approval to the measure as an amendment to the windfall profits tax bill. Now a conference committee will have the last word: the House bill contains no such measure.

MORE OPEC PRICE INCREASES. In the wake of this year's energy price increases — more than 60 percent — OPEC is meeting this week in Venezuela, and analysts agree that yet another rise in OPEC petroleum prices should be anticipated. Currently, the OPEC base price is \$18 for a 42-gallon barrel of high grade Saudi Arabian light crude. Industry sources say that price could move to \$25, according to the Associated Press. At the same time, 20 percent or more of OPEC's production currently is said to be moving in the market on a spot basis at prices as high as \$40 per barrel.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. Congress has defeated a proposed moratorium on nuclear power plant licensing at the same time the Nuclear Regulatory Commission continues with its freeze on reactor construction and licensing. According to the *Deseret News*, 16 new nuclear plants producing power equivalent to 424,000 barrels of oil a day will not be operating by mid-1981 if the NRC moratorium continues. The NRC also appears to be pursuing its "tough-guy" image in the wake of the Three Mile Island incident by imposing its largest fine ever — \$450,000 — against Consumers Power of

Michigan. Consumers Power mistakenly had allowed a vent to remain open at a nuclear station for 18 months. Three Mile Island prompted a \$155,000 fine from the NRC. While nuclear power appears to be under fire in the United States, an International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation Conference is anticipating a 12-fold increase in nuclear power in the non-Communist world alone by 2000. A conference report asserts that the nuclear expansion poses new problems in the attempt to curb the proliferation of nuclear arms.

GASOLINE PRICE HIKES. As an incentive to U.S. refineries to produce more unleaded gasoline and gasohol, the Department of Energy is allowing across-the-board price increases on gasoline products that could amount to four-tenths of a cent per gallon. The new rules allow refiners an extra two cents on every gallon of unleaded product over and above what was produced in a comparable month last year, to be distributed among all gasoline sales. DOE also is allowing the cost of alcohol for gasohol as well as other additives and process chemicals to be passed through and distributed among all gasoline products. Previously, DOE says, only a portion of the costs of producing gasoline were reflected in gasoline prices with the remainder distributed among other petroleum product sales.

SHADOWS AND SOLAR ENERGY. Federal legislation to allow states to study the ramifications of blocked sunlight on solar energy users has been introduced by Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.). In most states, says Hart, both the right to sunlight and legal redress if it is blocked are "undefined or unclear" and, without resolution of the issue, "both homeowners and developers will be frightened away from solar heating and cooling." The bill reportedly would provide states legal assistance for formulating laws and for reviewing existing, germane codes and ordinances.

12-High Country News — Dec. 14, 1979

WOLVES: the animals that man created

I recall "Joseph Campbell, who wrote in the conclusion to *Primitive Mythology* that men do not discover their gods, they create them. I thought, so do they also create their animals."

— Barry Lopez

by Thomas M. Jenkins

Nowhere in human history has fiction so outdistanced fact as in the lore of the wolf. Along with spiders, snakes and sharks, Carl Jung lists the wolf as generating almost universal fear in the human psyche. From Shakespeare's *Henry IV* ("Wake not the sleeping wolf") to "Little Red Riding Hood" to *Lord of the Rings*, the wolf connotes evil. For countless people, the wolf is the epitome of savage, blood-thirsty predation.

Although some wildlife historians say that at one time wolves killed Indians and Eskimos, these stories have never been verified. To this day, there isn't a single documented case in North America of a wolf killing a human. A few non-fatal attacks have occurred, usually involving rabid wolves. Instead, it is usually the wolf who dies at the hands of man. As early as 1630, American colonists began earning bounty money for dead wolves. Livestock predation, rather than attacks on people, intensified public hatred and led to the slaughter of many wolves in the 1800s.

Today, the wolf is still losing its battle with its only significant enemy: man. Timber wolves once ranged from the Arctic through the lower 48 states to Mexico's Sierra Madre, but today their range has been reduced by 99 percent. About 1,000 wolves remain in the lower 48, mostly in northern Minnesota, while 8,000 to 15,000 roam Alaska.

This predator of the ungulates — moose, elk, deer, antelope, bison and caribou — and of smaller mammals, is an effective hunter. But it must work hard for its successes, making test-runs before a kill. In winter, the wolf travels almost all the time seeking food, sometimes as far as 40 miles in a single day. To kill, a wolf depends upon its wits and its size (5-6½ feet from nose to tail and 100 pounds) as well as teamwork with other members of a pack.

The wolf pack is more than the result of a herding instinct. It is sort of a hunting guild controlled by the great alpha wolf leader who makes other wolves fit a precise, lesser role. The "lone wolf" is a persecuted inferior unwillingly exiled by the pack and only tolerated as a distant tag-along. It leads a marginal existence, particularly in winter when food is scarce. A wolf's survival depends upon membership in the pack.

The wolf is indefatigable. Stories are told of a pair in Canada that plowed through chest-deep snow for 22 miles and never lay down to rest. An Alaskan wolf



Drawing by Hannah Hinchman

pack's hunting circuit covered an area 100 miles long and 50 miles wide. In his superlative book, *Of Wolves and Men*, Barry Lopez tells of a hunter pursuing a wolf that jumped off a 300-foot cliff into a snowbank to escape. It "came up running in an explosion of powder." An adult wolf can fast for two weeks while hunting and then join the pack in pulling down an 800-pound moose.

Not only do wolves mate for life, but they also are devoted to other pack members and their offspring. When pregnant females are unable to hunt, food is brought to them. Then, after the mother is back hunting with the pack, adult wolves of both sexes eagerly tend the young. Wolves will regurgitate food for others' pups and

will bring food to the old and crippled members of the pack. This cooperative behavior sometimes saves orphan weanlings.

Wolves rarely fight among themselves. Whenever they must establish or defend their status in the pack, they test without injuring each other.

The hierarchical pack structure doesn't preclude affection. At times the wolf expresses itself by soft whines, tail wagging, hugging, pawing and pressing against other wolves. Wolves seem capable of deep trust and emotional attachments, which sometimes are extended to humans who raise or tame them.

Wolves' sense of territory is well de-

veloped. Marking their jurisdiction with urine on posts, rocks and stumps, they avoid hunting in an area on both sides of the boundary, creating a kind of buffer zone. Proof of the neutrality of this zone is evidenced by the lack of deer predation within it. Wildlife biologist David Mech observed this phenomenon in the Superior National Forest in northeastern Minnesota with a wolf pack that occupies 85 square miles, surrounded by at least five other territories.

Tom Jenkins is an instructor of English, literature and writing at the Community College of Denver, Red Rocks Campus.

Colorado group would 'adopt' wolves

In January, the Alaskan Department of Fish and Game plans to allow private hunters to kill approximately 200 wolves in a 35,000-square-mile area south of Fairbanks. Alaskan officials say such a measure is necessary to reduce wolf predation upon caribou and moose herds. The hunters would not be paid but would be allowed to keep the pelts.

Ed Andrews, president of Wolf Country Foundation, a Boulder, Colo., organization devoted to preserving the species, has offered to catch, transport and shelter 200 wolves on 270 acres of donated, privately owned land 10 miles west of Ft. Collins, Colo., if Alaskan officials grant him permission. To carry out the plan, the organization also needs a permit approved by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dave Hardy, a staff biologist for the

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, said the Alaska Board of Game is reviewing Andrews' offer. Hardy said Alaska has a standing offer to any state interested in receiving wolves, but no states have yet responded, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*.

The planned hunt may not help caribou and moose, according to Andrews. He thinks random shooting of the wolves would likely disrupt or destroy each wolf pack's social structure and its predation patterns. The pack would probably roam from its accustomed territory, attacking more caribou and moose less systematically.

Bob Hinman, deputy director of the Alaska Division of Game, says that Alaska's wolf population is between 8,000 and 12,000, the highest it has been in 20 years. "Our intent is nothing more than to temporarily reduce pre-

dator pressure so that the herd sizes can increase," he said.

The department has restricted hunting to reduce other pressures on moose and caribou. Aerial wolf hunting for sport has been banned. Where the wolf was once classified as a varmint that could be poisoned, trapped or shot without restrictions, the state now considers it a fur-bearing animal, which brings it under the protection of bag limits and other regulations.

The Wolf Country Foundation thinks the department is more interested in pleasing hunters than in protecting wildlife. The group also questions the state's figures, saying the population numbers only about 5,000 wolves.

According to William Wolfe of the foundation, the group's goal is to reintroduce wolves in various parts of the country. The foundation already owns six wolves, which are penned near Boulder. A litter is expected this spring.

Western Roundup

Sagebrush rising rouses few in West, according to new poll

Support for state takeover of federal lands in the Rocky Mountain area is less extensive than "Sagebrush Rebellion" organizers might be imagining, according to an October public interest poll conducted

by the Phoenix-based Behavior Research Center, an independent non-partisan research firm.

Only one-third of 1,025 randomly selected residents in the region support the idea

of allowing states to seize Bureau of Land Management properties in the West. State appropriation of BLM lands is at the heart of federal and state legislative efforts, which have become known as the Sagebrush Rebellion.

Among the minority in the BRC poll that supported moves to take control of BLM lands were many people who also support state jurisdiction over national forests, wildernesses, wildlife preserves, and monuments as well as national parks, Indian reservations and military reservations.

Support for state management of such federal lands ranged from 25 percent to 40 percent, according to the poll. In fact, support for state management of national wildlife preserves, wilderness areas and

forests exceeded sentiment for removing BLM lands from federal jurisdiction.

Pollster Earl de Berge of BRC speculated that such feelings might represent an "overreaction to hardcore environmental positions." Curiously, the poll found that support for continued federal presence in Western land management was high among older, middle- to upper-income white males who described themselves as political moderates or conservatives.

The term "Sagebrush Rebellion" was not used in the polling.

Telephone interviews were conducted in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. BRC plans a follow-up poll in January.

Protection proposed for tallgrass prairie

After years of failing to establish a tallgrass prairie national park, backers have tried a new approach. New legislation would not use the power of eminent domain but would allow present owners to keep the land through their lifetimes, pass it along to members of their families and even sell it, with the government having first rights to buy it at the quoted price.

Three "conservation" areas totaling 374,000 acres in southeastern Kansas and northern Oklahoma would be established. From them, the park eventually would be formed. Federal tracts would be leased for ranching, and local governments would be

reimbursed for lost taxes.

Rep. Larry Winn (R-Kan.) has introduced the bill (HR 5592), and Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) is a co-sponsor. While other members of Kansas' congressional delegation are cool to the bill, its soft approach to land acquisition makes it less of a target for criticism from landowners in the area than previous attempts.

Six conservation groups — the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, the Wildlife Foundation, the Izaak Walton League, the Audubon Society and the National Parks and Conservation Association — have joined to support the bill, listing it as second only to Alaska in their priorities for national parks legislation.

Utah

Deep Creek range protection expiring

The Bureau of Land Management faces a difficult decision next spring when it decides the fate of Deep Creek Mountains in Utah. Atlas Minerals of Moab, Utah, has been trying for three years to develop uranium claims in the range.

In 1977, BLM issued an emergency withdrawal of 27,000 acres to block Atlas plans for mineral development. When the withdrawal ends on May 2, 1980, BLM can extend it, change the boundaries of the withdrawal, let it expire, or propose Deep Creek as a wilderness area. The BLM wilderness inventory recommended that 68,910 acres in the Deep Creek range be set aside as a wilderness study area.

The Deep Creek Mountains, located about 140 miles west of Salt Lake City, have a vertical drop of 8,000 feet, rising

from the desert floor to 12,101 feet at the highest point.

"An area as arid as the West Desert creates habitat types that you don't find anywhere else in the western United States," said Dick Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association. "It is one of the few places in Utah with a healthy population of mule deer and cougar." It contains a population of the near-extinct Snake Valley cutthroat trout, a remnant from the days of ancient Lake Bonneville. Bristlecone pine over 3,000 years old are found there.

The Deep Creek range is considered a prime area for wilderness designation because mineral conflicts are minimal.

The BLM is accepting written comments until Jan. 15, addressed to Don Pendleton, Richfield District BLM, 150 E. 900 No., Richfield, Utah 84701.

The West

Solons rated on environmental issues

U.S. representatives from the Rocky Mountain states scored an average of 37 percent "correct" votes on environmental issues in 1978, according to the League of Conservation Voters.

The league is a national group headed by a committee of leaders from national environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club and the Friends of the Earth. Each year the league evaluates the voting records of members of Congress on what they consider key issues and raises money to support those with particularly high scores.

Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) scored 80 percent, the highest number of "correct" votes on environmental issues of the 12 representatives from the Rocky Mountain states. The rest of the congressmen and their scores were: Tim Wirth (D-Colo.) 77 percent; Max Baucus (D-Mont.) 52 percent; Frank Evans (D-Colo.) 47 percent; Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) 42 percent; Ron Marlene (R-Mont.) 42 percent; Jim Johnson (R-Colo.) 30 percent; William Armstrong (R-Colo.) 27 percent; Gunn McKay (D-Utah) 19 percent; George Hansen

(R-Idaho) 19 percent; Steve Symms (R-Idaho) 12 percent; and Dan Marriot (R-Utah) one percent.

Copies of the 1978 voting chart can be ordered for \$3.00 from the League of Conservation Voters, 317 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

State averages are: Colorado 52.2 percent; Montana 47 percent; Wyoming 42 percent; Idaho 15 percent; and Utah 10 percent.

Montana

Plan to expand Libby Dam attacked by GAO, senator

A proposal by the Army Corps of Engineers to add more generators to the Libby Dam in northwest Montana and to build a re-regulating dam downstream would return only 58 cents for every construction dollar, according to a study by the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress.

The study was requested by Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.). The GAO report recommends that the Corps recompute the

cost-benefit ratio of the project, which would cost an estimated \$300 million. The report also says the Corps hasn't proved the need for a re-regulation dam, which is supposed to reduce fluctuation of water levels.

Baucus said, "We have no choice but to delay any more funding for the rereg facility." The report lists five alternatives to the project, both to increase power generation and to manage future peak demand.

Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.) criticized the GAO report and faulted Baucus for releasing it, calling it incomplete and citing errors. According to Melcher, the report fails to take the effects of inflation into account. "The cost involved in the Libby rereg dam over 50 years would probably be much less than other forms of energy which are subject to year-to-year price inflation," he said. "Hydropower plants, once built, operate at a stable cost level."

How much? The cost of reregulation

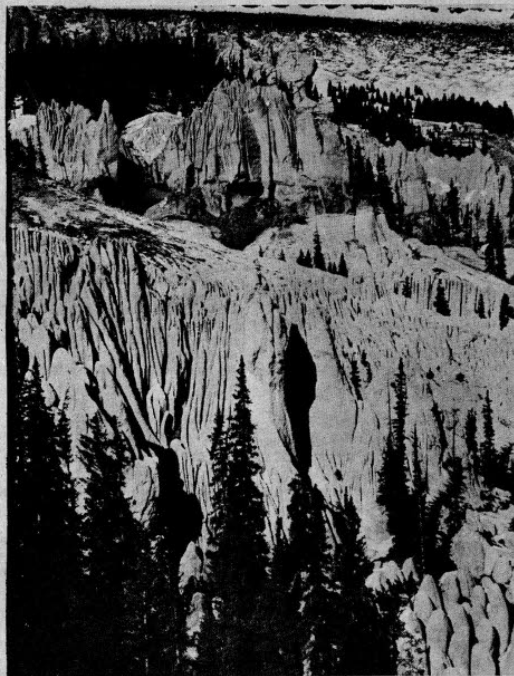


Photo by Dave Sumner

WHEELER GEOLOGIC AREA in Colorado, a roadless area being considered for wilderness. Some Sagebrush Rebellion enthusiasts would like states to acquire wilderness areas, national parks and Indian reservations as well as other federal lands.

14-High Country News — Dec. 14, 1979

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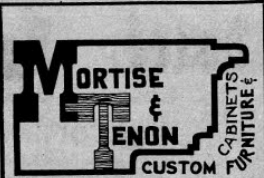
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CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED. Freelance writers or photographers to cover North Dakota natural resource news. Pay is two to four cents a word or \$4 per photo. One-sided diatribes unacceptable. Contact Marjane Ambler, High Country News, Box K, Lander, Wyo. 82520.

PERSONAL. Would anyone having information of the whereabouts of David Thomson, author of *In the Shining Mountains*, please contact Lee Goerner, c/o Alfred Knopf, 201 E. 50th St., New York, N.Y. 10022.



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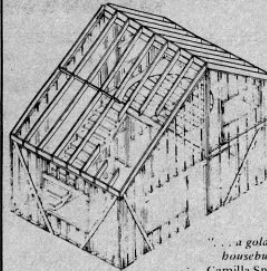
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FACT: The marketplace sets the demand for coal, not the method of transportation. Because pipelines are an environmentally preferable means of moving coal, their existence actually will help to reduce the total impact of Wyoming coal development.

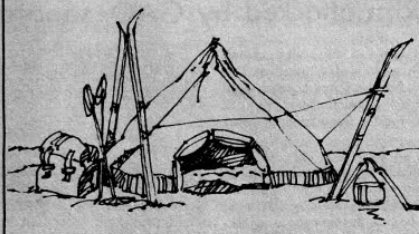
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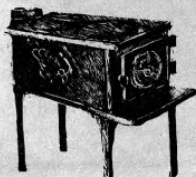
Dec. 14, 1979
— High Country News-15

LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

"Except for some groundwater leaching, And occasional tailings dam breaching, The pond's safe as can be!" Says our friend, NRC, "Don't listen to DEQ's preaching!"

ADOBE INFORMATION
Adobe: A Comprehensive Bibliography, covering all facets of earth construction is available — \$6.95 in paper, \$12.00 in cloth, plus \$5.00 shipping — from the Lightning Tree, Jene Lyon, Publisher, P.O. Box 1837, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501.

WOOD ENERGY
A trade show and conference on all aspects of wood burning is scheduled for Feb. 4, 5 and 6 at the Red Lion Inn, Seattle, Wash. Contact Mary Crandal, W.W.R.E.C., Puyallup, Wash. 98371, (206) 593-8551 for further information.



RESEARCH FUNDS AVAILABLE

The National Science Foundation is seeking ideas that can be translated into marketable, money-making products and services. Development funding of as much as \$225,000 may be made available to individual projects. Requests should be submitted by Jan. 21, 1980, to the National Science Foundation, Forms and Publications Office, Room 235, 1800 G St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20550. Copies of "Program Solicitation 79-59, Small Business Innovation Research" should be requested.

REDFORD FILM BENEFIT

The Electric Horseman, starring Robert Redford, Jane Fonda, Valerie Perrine and Willie Nelson is premiering, in Denver Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., at the Cherry Creek Cinema. The premier will benefit the Environmental Defense Fund. Tickets are \$20 plus an additional \$20 for a post-premiere party. Tickets are available from EDF, 1657 Pennsylvania St., Denver, Colo. 80203, (303) 831-7559.

CANCER IN THE WORKPLACE

One-fourth of all Americans will suffer from cancer during their lifetimes and 40 percent of the victims will contract their disease from substances found in working places. **More than a Paycheck**, a film on cancer hazards in the workplace, is available for loan from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Direct inquiries to **More than a Paycheck**, 246 W. 34th St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46208.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Nominations are being accepted for awards recognizing individuals and organizations that have contributed to environmental improvements in the Rocky Mountain region. Nominations are limited to those who reside in or conduct substantial activity in Colorado, Utah, New Mexico or Montana. For more information, contact Phyllis Muth, ROMCOE, Center for Environmental Problem Solving, 5500 Central Ave., Suite A, Boulder, Colo. 80301, (303) 444-5080.

WYOMING STRIP MINING PLAN

The federal Office of Surface Mining has scheduled a public hearing Jan. 7 at 9 a.m. at the Hitching Post in Cheyenne, Wyo., to discuss the proposed plan for regulating strip mining in Wyoming. The plan discusses how Wyoming will comply with the requirements of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Comments are also due by Jan. 7. For a copy of the plan, contact the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Hathaway Bldg., Cheyenne, Wyo. 82002 or OSM, Brooks Tower, 1020 15th St., Denver, Colo. 80202 or call (303) 837-5966.

COLORADO ENERGY SCHOLARSHIPS

One hundred scholarships, 15 fellowships and five internships are being offered to Colorado residents by the state for energy-related studies. The deadline for fall 1980 studies is March 1, 1980. For further information, contact the Colorado Energy Research Institute, 2221 East St., Golden, Colo. 80401, (303) 279-2881.

EPA ENERGY POLICY STATEMENT

A draft energy policy statement for Colorado, Utah and Wyoming has been developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is available for comment by contacting Roger L. Williams, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VIII, 1860 Lincoln St., Denver, Colo. 80295.

NEW MEXICO MILITARY MAP

"Military Occupation Map of New Mexico" depicting the extent of military reserves in the state as well as information on uranium mining and "peace conversion" is available from the New Mexico Peace Conversion Project, 2405 Meadow Road SW, Albuquerque, N.M. 87105. One to five copies cost \$1.25 each, while an order of six or more costs \$1.00 each.

ANTI-NUCLEAR STRATEGIES CONFERENCE

A Western states' skills and strategy meeting bringing together a host of anti-

nuclear organizations is scheduled for Jan. 18, 19 and 20 at Laney College, in Oakland, Calif. Registration is \$20 and low cost food and housing can be arranged. For further information, contact Alternatives to Nuclear, 2065 Grape St., Denver, Colo. 80207. Registration by January 1 would be appreciated.

SOLAR GREENHOUSES

A special edition of *Alternative Sources of Energy* magazine devoted to solar greenhouses is available for \$2.00 from *Alternative Sources of Energy*, Route 2, Milaca, Minn. 56353.

WILDLIFE FILM FESTIVAL

The student chapter of The Wildlife Society at the University of Montana is sponsoring its third International Wildlife Film Festival. Application deadline is Feb. 1, 1980. Winning films will be shown during the week of Feb. 25 through March 2 at the University. Contact the Wildlife Film Festival, Wildlife Biology Program, University of Montana, Missoula, Mont. 59812, (406) 243-5272.

URANIUM RESOURCES ON FEDERAL LANDS

A source book on uranium and the range of issues surrounding it is available for \$28.95 from Lexington Books, D.C. Heath and Company, 125 Spring St., Lexington, Mass. 02173, (617) 862-6650. The book, by Charles F. Zimmerman, is titled *Uranium Resources on Federal Lands*.

PCB-contaminated food...

(continued from page 6)

"With that much material out there, there's bound to be more accidents like the Montana case," said EDF attorney Jacqueline Warren.

The FDA says there have been nine other known cases of PCBs contaminating foods. The two most well known of these were in 1970 when General Electric Co. discharged PCBs into the Hudson River in New York, causing fish contamination, and in 1977 when PCBs leaked into fish meal in a Puerto Rico plant, which distributed 21 lots of contaminated meal to 45 poultry farms, some of which were in the United States.

The Montana incident has prompted the FDA and USDA to review their ability to detect chemical contamination. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol Tucker Foreman has called for increasing private-sector monitoring of foods. The USDA screens 46 chemicals, some licensed for agricultural use and others such as PCBs that become accidentally mixed in food. Foreman says the agency is unable to detect another 97 chemicals used in ag-

riculture. The 46 chemicals are screened on a random basis because Foreman says contaminations don't show up frequently enough to justify regular testing.

In hearings held before the House Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce Sept. 28, Acting FDA Commissioner Sherwin Gardner acknowledged that much remains to be learned about chemicals in food.

"Our awareness of the overall magnitude of the potential health risk from environmental contaminants — especially long-term risk from low-level exposures — is still uncertain," Gardner called for an "intensive effort" to develop food quality controls and to educate people of the chemical problem.

Research for this article was paid for in part by the HCN Research Fund. Lonnie Rosenwald is a reporter for the *Idaho Statesman* who specializes in agricultural and environmental issues.



BOOKS — the ideal Christmas Gift!

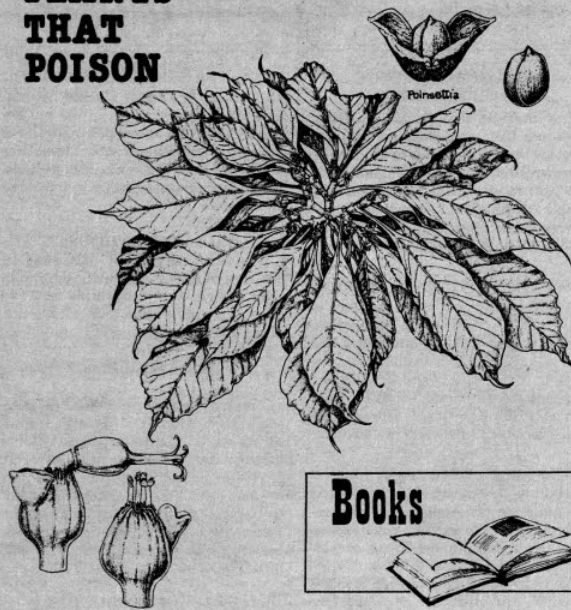
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Missoula, Montana 59801

PLANTS THAT POISON



by Ervin M. Schmutz and Lucretia Breazeale Hamilton, Northland Press, Flagstaff, Ariz., 1979. \$7.50, paper, 241 pages. Illustrations.

Review by Peter Wild

"Nausea, violent vomiting, nasal bleeding, burning of mouth and throat, kidney failure, internal bleeding. Death occurs rapidly...."

Sounds like we're nearing the end of a Machiavellian intrigue. Instead, the list includes just some of the symptoms that result from eating the leaves of that garden favorite, the rhubarb.

Equally dangerous are various parts of the apple, peach, daffodil, sweet pea — not to mention such native plants as the fern, chokecherry and the seemingly innocent buttercup. Poison is all around us, and with the interest in natural foods, this anthology of dangers certainly is well-timed. Besides, it's fun being surprised while flipping through *Plants That Poison*. The seeds and leaves of the plum can zap you with dizziness, spasms, irregular heartbeat. That knowledge may not be particularly useful, but it's fascinating all the same.

The guide is one of the most thorough available, covering well over 200 plants found in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. Yet the volume has a wider application. Many of the plants, such as the tomato, mistletoe and poppy, are found across the West.

Beyond thoroughness, the text's careful presentation of the material is its highest recommendation. Plants are arranged alphabetically by common names. The right-hand page of each entry includes several headings: a description of the species, identification of the toxic parts and the poisons they contain, symptoms, and general comments about the plant. To the left is a full-page line drawing.

A glossary of scientific terms, a bibliography and an index make the volume a handy, well-rounded reference for the layman, who can follow it with confidence.

brings a career in research and publishing to bear on *Plants That Poison*. Over the years his collaborator, Lucretia Hamilton, has illustrated many plant books. Her graceful drawings in this work provide clear guides for identification.



Mexican Wilderness and Wildlife

by Ben Tinker, University of Texas Press, Austin, 1978. cloth, 131 pages

Review by Gary Nabhan

The high country doesn't stop at the Mexican border, and neither does its wildlife. Where the southern Rockies trail off and where the northern Sierra Madres begin is a moot question. Together, these ranges form the backbone of the continent — and the habitat of some of its more remarkable creatures.

If one individual could be singled out who has received a full, uncut dose of northern Mexico's wildlands, it would have to be Ben Tinker. He lived for decades in the midst of the Sierra Madres. Appointed as Mexico's first federal game warden in 1922, he spent several years protecting endangered populations of bighorn sheep and pronghorn, patrolling from Baja to Chihuahua.

Later, as a rancher near the Sonora-Chihuahua divide, Tinker encouraged locals to help maintain populations of grizzly and black bears, wolves, mountain lions, white-tail deer and turkeys. More recently, he has lived in California and explored the more inaccessible trout streams of Baja's San Pedro Martir. Over a half-century of experience as a game manager, photographer, hunter and naturalist are summarized in Tinker's book. The remarkable graphics by Doris Tischler bring many of the author's sightings back to life.

Mexican Wilderness and Wildlife has as its focus the life histories of 12 mam-

mals, plus an account of wild turkeys. The material is based largely upon Tinker's firsthand observations of these species' behavior and seasonal cycles within the deserts and mountains immediately south of the border. He describes witnessing with awe the birth of a desert bighorn sheep in a secluded valley on the Sea of Cortez coast. He tells of seeing a litter of seven timber wolves frolicking along a creek under the watchful eye of their mother. He also relates Papago Indian folklore about the animals and their habitats.

Tinker's notes bridge a gap between those of a zoological professional, A. Starker Leopold's *Wildlife in Mexico*, and those of an imaginative amateur, Jack Schaefer's *An American Bestiary*. With these three books, lovers of the Greater Southwest may gain a fascinating, balanced view of the region's wildlife.

Tinker's attempts to go beyond wildlife to introduce northern Mexico's wildlands geographically and ecologically fall short, however. His descriptions of a couple dozen wildlife foods are inadequate, because the animals in the region draw upon hundreds of plant species. In addition, the names he gives for these plants are largely obsolete.

Such flaws, however, hardly diminish the richness of this book. Tinker has provided us with an original, succinct statement on the seldom-seen features and creatures of an unsung portion of North America.

Rocky take-off for plane plan at Teton hearing

by Geoffrey O'Gara

JACKSON HOLE, Wyo. — The Jackson Hole Airport Board and the National Park Service continue to disagree over whether commercial jet service should be allowed at the airport within the borders of Grand Teton National Park.

But the dispute between the two agencies actually occupies the middle ground between more extreme advocates: Environmentalists who feel an airport is unacceptable within or near a national park; and pilots who feel that a noise abatement plan proposed by the Board and the Park Service would ground the small planes they use to fly sightseers and others in and out of the Teton valley.

When the Board and the Park Service aired their jointly devised noise abatement plan this week at hearings here and in Denver, they disagreed only on the matter of jet service. Under the plan, a noise limit of 89 decibels on take-off and 98 decibels on landing would be set, and an air traffic control tower would be built. Planes would be routed away from the park and instructed to keep their noise within the limits.

But the Board would exempt the Boeing 737 from the standards, calling jet service "essential to support the social and economic life" of Jackson Hole. That position received considerable support from the crowd of over 100 here. Frontier Airlines, which flew almost 50,000 visitors to the Teton in propeller planes last year, wants to fly B737 jets to Jackson Hole, the busiest airport in western Wyoming.

The Board and the Park Service agreed to apply the new noise standards to smal-

ly reduce air traffic in the park's vicinity. Because of that, the noise abatement plan received its harshest criticism from "general aviation" pilots from the area.

The Park Service, however, refused to go along with the Board's exemption for B737s. In addition, Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, whose department includes the Park Service, has announced his intention to remove the airport from the park by 1995.

If the Board and the Park Service cannot agree on all provisions of the plan before it is finished early next year, the question of who has final authority will "end up in court," said a Park official. The Board operates the airport under a special use permit granted by the Park Service.

Two other federal agencies have taken positions on the issue: The Federal Aviation Administration has written in support of jet service, and the Environmental Protection Agency has sided with the Park Service.

Margaret Murie, a director of the Wilderness Society, and Dr. Sam Hakes, dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Wyoming, said that general aviation planes constitute a bigger problem than commercial planes at Grand Teton National Park.

Hakes, who has spent five years studying noise in the Tetons, said a "startling amount" of noise from the airport to Deadman's Bar came from small planes. Hakes showed HCN a 1978 study, not yet released, in which he took noise readings from 20 sites around the valley and found that a great majority of "noise intrusions" were from executive jets, private prop-

Country Club and a site west of Blacktail Butte, were from executive jets.

Hakes told the crowd that the Park Service could not long avoid the "difficult" issue of restricting airspace over parks, given rapidly increasing recreational aviation around the country.

Phil Hocker, chairman of the Wyoming Sierra Club, called for such restrictions. Hocker also pointed out that since 1967, when jet service was first proposed as an economic necessity for Jackson Hole, employment in the valley has risen from 2,600 to 6,100, a 12 percent growth rate.

In Denver, a Sierra Club attorney said the Park Service was legally obliged to preserve park values such as solitude, and also cited federal transportation law prohibiting use of parklands for such facilities when alternatives exist.

General aviation fliers in Jackson Hole, many of whom run air services from the airport, objected vehemently to the plan because it would direct them away from the Tetons, restrict low-altitude flying in the park area and bar planes that could not meet noise limits.

A representative of the National Business Aircraft Association called the proposed air traffic control tower "a symbolic police station." Chuck Lewton, a 10-year Jackson Hole resident, said, "The individuals who favor closing down the airport are the same ones who ran this country out of energy by regulation...I'll fight regulations the rest of my life."

Some participants, however, were disappointed that the plan was not tougher. The report did not set a night curfew, restrict "touch and go" practice landing or