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High Country

news

Friday, November 13, 1981

Vol. 13 No. 22

75¢

Bob Burford

MAKING THE MOST OF THE PUBLIC LANDS

by Michael Moss

On his recent swing through the West, Secretary of Interior James Watt was not alone. The day after a rousing speech to Coloradoans in Grand Junction, the local newspaper ran a front page photograph of the secretary. On his left, slightly to the rear and out of focus, stood another man.

The caption left unidentified this mysterious aide. He had been ignored in the excitement encircling Watt. Yet for westerners, his administrative powers are nearly as significant as the secretary's. A wave of his regulatory hand can tune in or tune out any one of the many users of some 330 million acres of public lands.

The man was Bob Burford. His job is running the federal Bureau of Land Management. And the question many people are asking is, to whom will his regulatory hand respond? His rhetoric and actions to date leave little mystery.

Traditionally, the BLM director and his 6,000 employees have been less than free to choose their own administrative course. Their decisions are vigorously pressed by user groups — livestock growers grazing the range, miners extracting its ores, recreationists visiting for fun, and conservationists arguing for preservation.

Burford says flatly his mission is to balance those sometimes competing interests. To do so fairly today, he adds, will require tipping the scales toward resource developers, just to offset the upperhand conservationists have gained under Democratic administration.

Boosting the economic growth and national security goals of the Reagan administration will also require a little more emphasis on development, he says, as will a more accurate interpretation of laws such as the 1964 Wilderness Act, which in his view clearly allows mining in wild lands.

Add to those policies Burford's own personal familiarity with miners and grazers, as well as the heavy political clout borne by those lobbies, and the answer is clear: To the extent he can, Bob Burford will extend a helping hand to resource development on the public lands.

He has already begun. His top staffers were plucked from industry. He has sped up energy and mineral leasing, while also spurring cattle and sheep grazing. He has canned a state BLM director whom he felt responded too sluggishly to his new development philosophy. Most significantly, he has helped steer budget cuts away from economic resource programs.

Burford scares conservationists. They mourn the loss of his predecessor, Frank Gregg, whose environmental credentials and experience as a staffer for former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall were sympathetic with their prejudices and philosophies. They've called Burford's grazing leases on western Colorado BLM lands a conflict of interest and they fear the worst from his history as a Sagebrush Rebellion supporter in the state legislature.

But if Burford is the bane of conservationists, he's the darling of energy and mineral developers, and western ranchers.

A three-term Colorado state representative and speaker of the house, Burford draws recognition and praise throughout his native Colorado. His future could include a run for the governor's seat.

For now, though, he's the man Secretary Watt promised will "never forget that he graduated from the Colorado School of Mines" — a fact that prompted Ken Monroe, a 25-year veteran lobbyist for the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association in Denver, to call him one of the "five percent of the legislators who had a strong background in energy issues."

Tom Nelson of the American Mining



Congress in Washington, D.C., has not worked so closely with Burford, but is equally encouraged. "Given that there is not a lot of recreation or timber resource on BLM lands, his minerals background and ability to get along with stockmen is all the more useful," said Nelson.

Burford has brought to Washington a unique staff. The core team includes two special aides — David Tidwell, rancher, real estate broker and former public lands consultant to Idaho ranchers; and Lynn Engdahl, who headed a trade association in Portland, Ore.

Directly below them is Delmar Vail, a BLM veteran now in charge of the Lands and Renewable Resources division, into which land exchanges, recreation and wilderness were consolidated. Sandra Blackstone, also a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines and former consultant to several Denver-based energy firms, was picked for the new Energy and Mineral Resources division, consolidated from lower administrative ranks to emphasize those resources.

Budget allocations have been Burford's first tangible policy move. The Interior Department's Fiscal Year 1982 budget generally reflects President Reagan's call for a 12 percent across-the-board reduction in government spending. But a close look reveals that BLM oil, gas and coal leasing programs were spared the radical surgery fostered on recreation and cultural programs. Some examples: oil and gas leasing, cut only 1.9 percent from \$21.4 million; recreation and wilderness programs, cut 24.4 percent from \$7.8 million; cultural programs, cut 40.3 percent from \$2.5 million.

Enforcement activities were cut 17 percent; wildlife management, cut 14 percent; and grazing management, cut 15 percent. The coal leasing program was cut 30 percent, but all in technical

areas that would not delay processing lease sales.

It's unclear to what extent Burford and his staff influenced the proposed budget, which rose mainly out of the Office of Management and Budget. They'll have even less say this month as a House-Senate conference committee meets to hammer out Congress' own budget proposals. Both houses disagree over allocations, and Reagan is threatening to veto any budget bill that "busts the budget."

Burford and his staff have had more influence over the second visible wave of Burford's administrative hand: two key resource development policies.

Through a series of red-tape cuts, the BLM has moved to speed up the energy and mineral leasing process, accelerate the reviews of lands previously withdrawn from mineral entry, and spur wild land studies with efforts to free those areas that will not be further considered for wilderness designation.

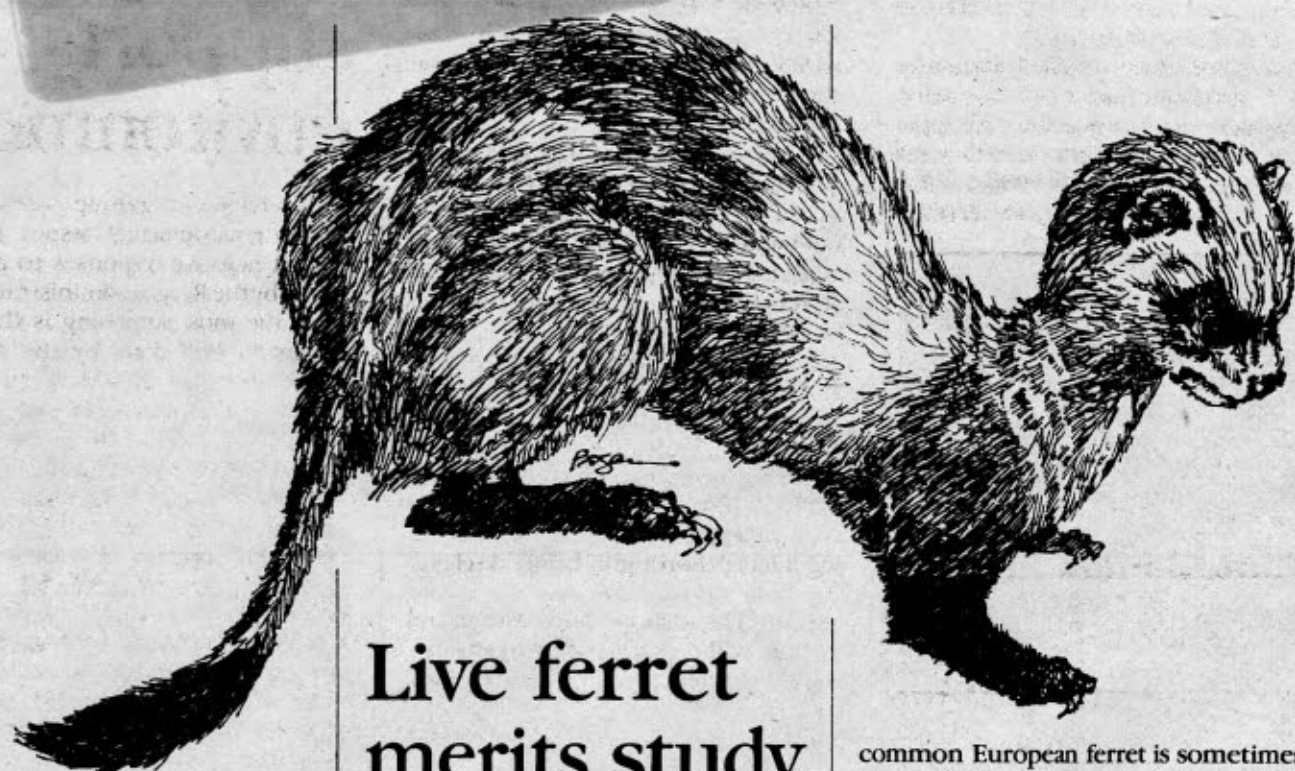
Just how successful this streamlining has been is difficult to calculate, but there's widespread perception of action. "They're getting right with it here," said Percy Cooper. The mineral rights to his ranchland near Casper, Wyo., are owned by the BLM; drilling by third-party developers has accelerated this year, he said, with 15 oil wells drilled since May.

The second major policy shift has been a "cut-out-the-weeds" grazing land management program. Burford's scheme basically scraps the area-by-area study plan instigated by settlement of a court suit brought by the Natural Resources Defense Council in 1977. It is replaced with a natural resource "triage" — classifying BLM lands into three categories that would manage grazing lands in a manner that emphasized range improvements for average lands, while largely ignoring the best and worst acreages.

The response is mixed. In areas

(continued on page 10)

WESTERN ROUNDUP



Live ferret merits study in Meeteetse

What weighs a little over two pounds, is only two years old, wears a neat little collar and nothing else, and makes grown men sit out all night in the freezing cold hoping for a chance glimpse?

A black-footed ferret. Wildlife biologists have found, trapped and released the first positively identified black-footed ferret in the wild in almost a decade, and they are tracking it round the clock near Meeteetse, Wyo.

In fact, they are now on the trail of two ferrets, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman Sam Marler in Denver.

FWS biologists from Fort Collins, Colo., have been keeping a 24-hour watch on the first ferret. It was discovered during the investigation of a ferret carcass killed by dogs near Meeteetse last September; biologists spotted a live one last month along a roadside and began tracking it. FWS biologist Max Schroeder and his colleagues captured the ferret, observed it overnight, and released it wearing a tiny radio collar.

The *mustela nigripes* is an endangered species; University of Wyoming biology professor Mark S. Boyce told the Casper (Wyo.) *Star-Tribune* that the FWS was "about to officially presume the ferret was extinct." Marler said that while the Meeteetse ferrets provided the first physical evidence in a decade that the species still exists, there have been authoritative sightings in Montana and the Dakotas in recent years. A more

common European ferret is sometimes mistaken for the black-footed variety native to North America.

Never a populous animal, the black-footed ferret once ranged throughout the Great Plains region. The conversion of grasslands to cultivated fields and the systematic extermination of prairie dogs — its primary food source — have been blamed for the species' decline.

The Meeteetse radio-collared ferret has already given biologists valuable information on habits of the species. It has remained in the vicinity of a prairie dog town, often sitting just before dawn at the mouth of a burrow. Biologists believe the ferret listens for the sound of prairie dogs digging out the blockade erected overnight in their tunnels, then enters the hole to surprise them.

At one point the radio-collared ferret entered a burrow and did not move for 33 hours. Biologists, fearful that the animal might be injured or dead, later concluded he had made a kill and was feasting and resting.

The second ferret, sighted this week in the same prairie dog town, does not interact with the first. It has not been trapped or examined closely, so its sex is not known.

Ranchers in the area have been "very cooperative," said Marler, though they are wary of "spectators" that might come on their land looking for the rare species. The FWS intends to study the area as long as weather permits, then put a new collar on the ferret "that will last through winter. "There will be funding available for this," said Marler, "because it is so hot."

Marler described biologists on the ferret team as "thrilled and excited."



Published biweekly at 331 Main, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Telephone (307) 332-6970. Printed by the *Jackson Hole News*, Jackson, Wyoming. Second class postage paid at Jackson. (USPS No. 087480). All rights to publication of articles herein are reserved.

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Subscriptions \$15.00 per year. Single copies 75 cents.

Indians and oilmen mix

Denver — "Doing Business with Indian Tribes" was the official theme of the fifth annual Council of Energy Resource Tribes meeting held Oct. 26-27 in Denver. But it focused on the federal government's role in tribal energy development — and what to do about it.

Luncheon speaker Michael T. Halbouty, an independent Houston oilman, tried to create an atmosphere of comradery, portraying the more than 300 energy company representatives and the 200 tribal representatives as facing the same enemy — government regulation.

"I learned a long time ago that anybody with the right combination of guts, goals and guidance, can go anywhere and achieve anything...provided he's honest, responsible to the needs of society and not shackled and shorn of all ambition...by the very forces that claim to be governing this country," he said.

His free enterprise message was generally well-received by the tribal representatives, many of whom have encountered opposition from their local Bureau of Indian Affairs when they try to reform mineral management on their reservations. They are particularly upset by a current BIA policy that blocks tribes from negotiating many types of innovative oil and gas contracts.

However, individuals pointed out that they do not want the federal government to back off of Indian reservations entirely, as Halbouty implied. Leland Ground of the Blackfeet Tribal Council said federal regulations are needed to strengthen the tribal position and to insure that tribes exercise their responsibilities to their members. "The trust relationship cannot be severed," he said.

Speakers at the meeting also pointed out that federal monetary involvement is still necessary. For example, CERT is seeking \$2.5 million from the federal government for its budget this fiscal year. Speakers for the Departments of Energy and Interior gave broad assurances that the Reagan administration will continue to support CERT. DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary Michael J. Bayer told the participants that President Reagan has chosen CERT, not DOE or DOI, to be the "lead agency" in developing Indian minerals.

Peter MacDonald, CERT chairman and chairman of the Navajo Tribe, said that he and other Indian voters agreed last November to work with less government to see if it would help the econ-

from our former printer. We checked alternatives and found a printer, the *Jackson Hole News*, who would produce *HCN* at a cost about the same as the price hike we faced — and on better paper to boot. The increase in cost would have come even if we'd stuck with the old format.

More important, we want *HCN* to look like the quality paper it is. We are gambling that our new look will satisfy current readers and attract some new ones.

The same is true of the "slicker" research fund mailing. We hope to elicit a better response — though readers have always been generous to us. There is some risk, of course, but it is a trite but true maxim that you have to spend some money to make some money.

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Our front page story in this issue is an examination of Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Burford. This kicks off a series of interviews with important public lands managers. They will appear in alternating issues of *HCN* through early next year.

— the staff

Dear friends,

A little over two weeks ago, a faithful band gathered at Geoff's house for a "stuffing party." Party is just the word we use to attract unwary volunteers. There was a little imbibing of wine and beer, but the festivities consisted primarily of pushing 3,500 missives into recalcitrant envelopes. Young Genya O'Gara seemed singularly bemused, licking the tasty stamps.

In this case, we were putting together a mailing for the HCN Research Fund. Most of our readers have received the fruits of our labors by now. Normally, we would not expect to write about a research fund mailing for a month or so — it usually takes that long to get a feeling for how successful our fundraising has been. However, the early response has been very encouraging and, in addition, some questions have been raised that deserve attention.

We got a little fancier this year, including in the mailing a return envelope, letter and card. The letter had one

serious error in it, for which a number of alert readers castigated us. We described one of last year's articles as being about "a Montana thinktank plotting the return of public lands to private hands." Well, John Baden's Center for Natural Resource Analysis at Montana State University does want to put some public lands in private hands. But, as one reader pointed out, "Disregarding the Indians, as we normally do, public lands for the most part in the West were never in private hands or state ownership." Absolutely right. The word "return" was incorrect.

Another reader raised questions about cost. *HCN's* new format and better quality paper — debuting as it did in the midst of a recession and after *HCN* itself teetered on the brink of bankruptcy — might make one wonder if we aren't dancing on the Titanic.

In fact, our change to better paper came in part because we were facing an announced increase in printing costs

omy and the nation. He encouraged energy company representatives present to gamble by developing Indian reservations. But, he pointed out that federal budgetary supports are needed in the interim.

An example that some federal support is still needed is the 75 percent unemployment rate on the Navajo reservation, a direct result of federal budget cuts, MacDonald explained.

The CERT board passed a resolution urging Congress to foster private industry on reservations through such legislation as enterprise zones, which offer incentives to developers in depressed areas. The board also called for immediate action on the tax status act, which gives tribes similar tax advantages to those that states and political subdivisions now enjoy. Tribes could issue industrial bonds, and taxes paid to tribal governments would be deductible from a company's federal tax liability.

— Marjane Ambler

Crows study coalgas plant

The Council of Energy Resource Tribes staff has chosen the Crow synthetic fuels plant as the first model for an environmental review process the organization is now developing.

The U.S. Department of Energy awarded the Crow Tribe a grant of \$2.7 million in July 1980 to study the feasibility of a coal gasification plant on its reservation in Montana. The feasibility study, which includes socioeconomic, environmental, technological and economic factors, is to be completed by next June. If the Crow Tribe decides to proceed with the project, the CERT environmental review process will speed up the permitting time for the plant, possibly by as much as one year, according to Robert Sick of the CERT staff.

While the process will help industry eliminate unnecessary delays in the permitting, Sick said it also will benefit the Indian tribe, by providing for early public involvement. "Public involvement in reviewing energy-related projects is traditionally limited to protest filings, public hearings and litigation. This usually results in adversary conflicts after project planning is complete or well on its way," he said.

The tribal process will not change any regulations or any jurisdictions. Instead it will coordinate the regulatory requirements of the tribal and federal agencies involved, reduce duplication and provide for a more thorough environmental review, Sick said.

Whether the tribal council will proceed with the gasification project after the feasibility study is unclear. The socioeconomic portion of the study has concentrated on questions relating to the potential workforce — how many people are available (Crow unemployment is over 48 percent), how far they are willing to travel on the reservation to work and what their skills are — rather than on their attitudes toward impacts of the plant.

This study is under the direction of two tribal members, Eloise Pease and James Kindness, both of whom are firmly committed to the gasification plant. "It's just a dream now, but we could send our children to the best colleges in the world. We could have a Crow teacher in every classroom on the reservation, who could also teach the customs of our people," said Kindness. He would also like to see the tribe buy back land within the reservation now owned by non-Indians and improve local hospitals.

The CERT staff is studying the environmental impacts. Fluor Corp., Pacific Coal Gasification Co. and Lehman Brothers are studying technical and marketing questions.

Some tribal members are unhappy with the direction the feasibility study is

taking. One, who asked not to be identified, said, "They're on a train of when and how, and there is not much effort to look at it if it should be built."

That question will probably be left to the U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corp. The tribe has applied for a loan guarantee for most of the project costs, which will total \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion in 1988 dollars.

— Marjane Ambler



Boise, Idaho, Boise River in center

Boise River takes heat

Boise, Idaho — The city of Boise has asked the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to remove some restrictions from the "special resources water" classification for the Boise River. The city wants to discharge geothermal wastewater, with which it plans to heat city buildings, into the river. Although the wastewater is not considered a significant hazard to the river, the precedent which would be set by granting the discharge is causing concern among officials.

Terry Keyes, manager of Water Quality Planning and Standards, noted that the special resources water designation is the highest water quality classification given in Idaho. "Nobody can discharge anything into (a classified river) if it lowers the quality of water at all — even a little bit," Keyes explained.

Under the city's present plan, according to Keyes, 2,000 gallons of water per minute would be discharged into the river as it flows through the capital city. Under the special resources water protection the water could not be discharged because it will be too hot — 100 degrees Fahrenheit — and contain relatively high levels of fluoride — 18 parts per million. "We don't think it'll affect the fishery," Keyes said, "but it does set a precedent."

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has not yet given its opinion on the request, but Fisheries Bureau Chief Stacy Gebhards concurred with Keyes that setting the precedent poses the most serious problem. Gebhards said the two degree increase in temperature that would result from the discharge probably "would have little or no effect." He said the fluoride levels, which at high concentrations can kill fish, had yet to be studied by his department.

"One-third of the state's rivers are protected under the special resources water classification," Keyes said. The removal of temperature and fluoride standards would affect only the Boise River.

Keyes noted that if the city is allowed to discharge its water, the state of Idaho,

which has plans of its own to geothermally heat the entire capital complex, would likely want to discharge its wastewater in the Boise River also. This additional water would further increase the river temperature and fluoride concentration.

If the discharge is approved, Keyes said the Boise River would be protected by the second highest classification — cold water biota. This classification sets standards less stringent than special resources water, Keyes said, but does protect the fishery.

Lowering of standards is what concerns Gebhards. The precedent, he said, could lead to the point "where the category (special resources water) would have little or no meaning."

The alternatives to discharging in the river are re-injecting the water or treating it more thoroughly before discharging, both considerably more expensive options. The Idaho Board of Health and Welfare will deliver its decision following the public comment period which ends Nov. 30.

— Glenn Oakley

Uranium lag discourages Navajos

More than 90 Navajo plaintiffs have given up their attempt to have the federal government prepare a regional environmental impact statement for uranium development in the San Juan Basin of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona.

Attorneys for DNA-People's Legal Services, which represented the Navajos, said they dropped the lawsuit (*Peshlakai v. Schlesinger*) because of a negative ruling from the federal district court and because the slump in the uranium market has significantly reduced uranium activity in the area.

In his ruling last spring, Federal District Court Judge Harold Greene said regional impacts should be considered, but he indicated that site specific statements could include regional impacts.

The Powder River Basin of Wyoming was originally included in the lawsuit and later dropped. DNA attorney Alan Taradash said the case could have set a precedent for the Powder River Basin and other uranium producing areas if the suit had been successful.

Taradash said his office will not hesitate to file another lawsuit if companies violate leases or do not fulfill their responsibilities to DNA's clients.

— Marjane Ambler

Polls: public supports environment

Several recent public opinion polls about environmental issues seem to reflect negative responses to positions taken by the Reagan administration. Perhaps the most surprising is the Rocky Mountain Poll done by the Phoenix-based Behavior Research Center. It shows that while a slight majority have no opinion, most of the rest view Interior Secretary James Watt unfavorably.

Of the Rocky Mountain states polled, only Wyoming, Utah and Idaho had a "favorable" opinion of Watt — 60 percent, 61 percent and 52 percent, respectively. Colorado, Montana and Nevada all registered 63 percent "unfavorable" views about the secretary.

In addition, 54 percent of Rocky Mountain residents polled said it was more important to "protect the environment" than to "promote growth." According to BRC, 70 percent of the westerners who have formed an opinion about Watt "believe he places the economic development of natural resources ahead of environmental protection." Some 57 percent of the people questioned said they had no opinion about the secretary.

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, Louis Harris testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, "By 80 to 17 percent, a sizable majority of the public does not want to see any relaxation in existing federal regulation of air pollution." Harris told the subcommittee, "This message on the deep desire on the part of the American people to battle pollution is one of the most overwhelming and clearest we have ever recorded in our twenty-five years of surveying public opinion."

Harris, who is chairman of the professional polling organization Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., also noted that not a single major segment of the public wants environmental laws loosened. Sentiment for either strengthening or maintaining the Clean Air Act cuts across all demographic lines measured in the survey.

Finally, an Associated Press/NBC News poll found that only about 30 percent of the public believes that President Ronald Reagan is doing a good or excellent job in dealing with environmental issues. In addition, by 48 percent to 39 percent, respondents think maintaining wilderness is more important than developing natural resources and 52 percent to 37 percent said that protecting the environment is important even if it means paying more for industrial products.

BARBED WIRE

You ought to see the football team. Pennsylvania Gov. Richard Thornburgh (R), asking Congress for money to help clean up the damaged nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island, said the accident presents an educational opportunity for the nation. He described it as "a national college of nuclear crisis management."

Lafayette, here you are. The U.S. Geological Survey has prepared a topographical map of colonial Virginia in French.

For the fatalist who has everything... The Omega Group, publisher of the mercenary's bible, *Soldier of Fortune*, has announced the publication of a new magazine called *Survive*. Articles will cover survival in urban, desert, wilderness and sea environments, nuclear warfare, weapons, natural disasters and related topics.

That's what they did to Smokey. A correspondent to Montana's *Missoulian* suggested that, rather than shoot all the grizzly bears, "They should be trapped and placed in zoos." That way, he continued, "The public safety in the wilderness is protected. And the need for the full development of the nation's natural resources can proceed."

We have met the enemy, and he is us... Birdwatching, once considered the province of tweedy octogenarians, has apparently caught on with a younger, more aggressive set. In an article titled "Who Will Watch the Birdwatchers?", a Canadian publication, *Wildlife Review*, describes a group of Californians who attacked a marsh en masse trying to flush out a rare black rail. They gave up...but one who lingered found the rail, mangled and dying, stomped into the mud by the trompers.

WESTERN ROUNDUP



Hanford under construction

Nuke stalls could cost NW users

Two uncompleted nuclear power plants in Washington occasionally haunt Idaho Public Utility Commission President Perry Swisher.

"In my nightmares (the plants) sit there like Stonehenge or some ancient mind temple...and archaeologists will say 'What kind of religion was this?'" Swisher said.

The pair of plants have been causing nightmares throughout the Northwest as the region has scrambled to find a financing scheme that will keep the plants from being abandoned. The facilities are two of five owned by a consortium of Northwest utilities called the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS). The five plant project, dubbed "Whoops" is the largest nuclear program in the nation with the largest public debt outside the federal government. Cost projections have ballooned from \$4 billion to \$23.9 billion, with construction years behind schedule. "It's one of the most incredible put-togethers I've ever seen in my life," Swisher said.

Meanwhile, voters in Washington have voiced their disapproval of the financial mess by passing legislation mandating voter approval of all bonds for major public utility projects. There is also regionwide debate over whether the additional 2,490 megawatts of power from the plants is even needed.

Debate in the Northwest is focused on the last two plants because power from the first three will be purchased by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a federal energy distribution agency that markets power to Northwestern utilities. No such agreements have been made for plants four and five at Hanford and Satsop.

WPPSS officials decided last spring to place a one-year moratorium on construction of four and five because participating utilities could no longer afford to construct the \$12 billion facilities.

Since the moratorium, utility officials have been trying desperately to raise money to mothball the plants for two years. They hope to avoid permanently abandoning the facilities — a scenario they fear would cause bankruptcy if bondholders and contractors demanded immediate payment of debts.

A preliminary agreement reached Oct.

23 would split the \$150 million mothballing cost among the WPPSS participants, some of the region's large energy consuming industries and three private utilities, Washington Water Power of Spokane, Pacific Power and Light of Portland and Puget Sound Power and Light of Bellevue, Wash. The money is needed to maintain the plants in a state of suspended construction until 1983 when an independent regional power council will decide if the power is needed.

Mothballing costs to the 16 Idaho utilities and cities that are WPPSS participants totals \$2.8 million. Under the preliminary plan 40 percent of that must be paid before the end of the year. That will mean increases for many of the Idaho utilities involved in the project. For example, electric customers in Heyburn will see an immediate 15 percent hike, while the Fall River Rural Electric Coop in Ashton plans a 12 percent increase in December or January.

Nevertheless, many Idaho utility officials support the mothball plan as a way to avoid bankruptcy and power shortages.

"If this project is supported, it will be the biggest mistake the region makes," Idaho Falls mayor Tom Campbell said. "You'd be buying some security in the present by giving away the future."

Campbell and others hope the two year mothball plan will give them time to convince the BPA or other Northwest utilities to help pay costs. The entire region would see rate hikes if BPA agrees to purchase power from four and five. BPA administrator Peter Johnson, a former Boise businessman, has said the agency may buy electricity from the troubled plants in the future depending on the power council's recommendations.

And there is at least one environmental action group advocating permanent closure of the plant.

"It is now clear that the (utilities) have no intention of attempting to complete the plants without assurances of outside help," said Ralph Cavanagh, senior staff attorney of the Natural Resources Defense Council. "In other words, termination is not one of a number of choices, it is the only choice."

— Ellen Marks

Crested Butte changing face and direction

It is recent history that the small ski town of Crested Butte, Colo., followed its vocal, pro-environmental mayor W Mitchell into battle against the AMAX mining company and its proposed local molybdenum mine. Mitchell and Crested Butte won, at least temporarily — AMAX has delayed opening the mine.

But now, after a near 75 percent turnout in an off-year election, Mitchell is out and real estate man Tom Cox is in as the new mayor. Crested Butte voters by 313 to 247 decided the town should follow Cox's plan to bolster the local economy through tourist development. Mitchell said it is an indication that people here are turning back, as they are in other parts of the country, to nuts and bolts economic issues.

"I don't consider it a rejection of what I've done," Mitchell said of his defeat. "I think they are supportive of what has happened (with the AMAX mine). However, the people were nervous about economic problems and my opponent was offering more."

Cox will try to boost the tourist industry, Crested Butte's primary income source. He said he plans to tour the state with a slide show — emphasizing

Crested Butte's beauty and the opportunities the area provides for summer tourists. Among new promotions is the possibility of a jazz institute — bringing people to study music in Crested Butte.

However, Cox said he doesn't intend for development to get out of control: "My environmental viewpoints are the same as the former mayor — he just took stronger steps."

Mitchell complimented his successor, calling him an earnest individual, one who will react to his constituents' concerns. He said Cox will need support and information, specifically on how people feel about environmental issues. "We didn't fight against AMAX to have it all go down the tube," Mitchell said, and added, "I will be one of his biggest supporters."

Wild river tames Idaho road plan

The Idaho Department of Transportation has backed away from a proposal to improve U.S. Highway 12 along the Middle Fork of the Clearwater and the Lochsa Rivers. But two state environmental groups are still suing the trans-

portation department and the U.S. Forest Service over current management of the river corridor.

The transportation department has withdrawn their applications from the Army Corps of Engineers to widen two curves that would require filling sections of the Lochsa, which has been designated as a national wild and scenic river. The proposed improvement plan to build turn and passing lanes as well as reconstruct other curves has been tabled indefinitely.

The Idaho Bowhunters Association and the Idaho Wildlife Federation sued to stop the improvement plan, contending the modifications would not solve the conflicts among the river corridor users, and that the cumulative effects of recreation and river quality were not investigated.

They are still pressing the suit to force the Forest Service to manage the area for recreation, not as a commercial highway. They say an environmental impact statement should be done to study alternatives to improving the highway, alleging such improvements would only result in increased traffic and speed.

"Our clients feel the Forest Service is responsible for what goes on on that road. The Forest Service can't allow the degradation of that river," said Neil Franklin of the University of Idaho Legal Aid Clinic, which represents the environmental groups.

The so-called Lewis and Clark Highway is the only major connecting road between central Idaho and Montana.

HOTLINE

INSTREAM WAVE

The effort to put the issue of preserving instream flow on Wyoming ballots in 1982 is going "down to the wire," according to Lynn Dickey, of Sheridan, who is leading a petition drive to let voters decide an issue the Legislature backed away from in 1981. The instream flow initiative would allow the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to purchase or accept donations of water rights from willing owners and give instream flow legal recognition as a "beneficial use." If the initiative makes the ballot, it will be the first in Wyoming's history. Dickey said she has about 24,000 signatures, but needs to gather 30,000 before December 10. She is concentrating her volunteer signature-gatherers in Rock Springs, Cheyenne and Casper.

MISSING MONEY

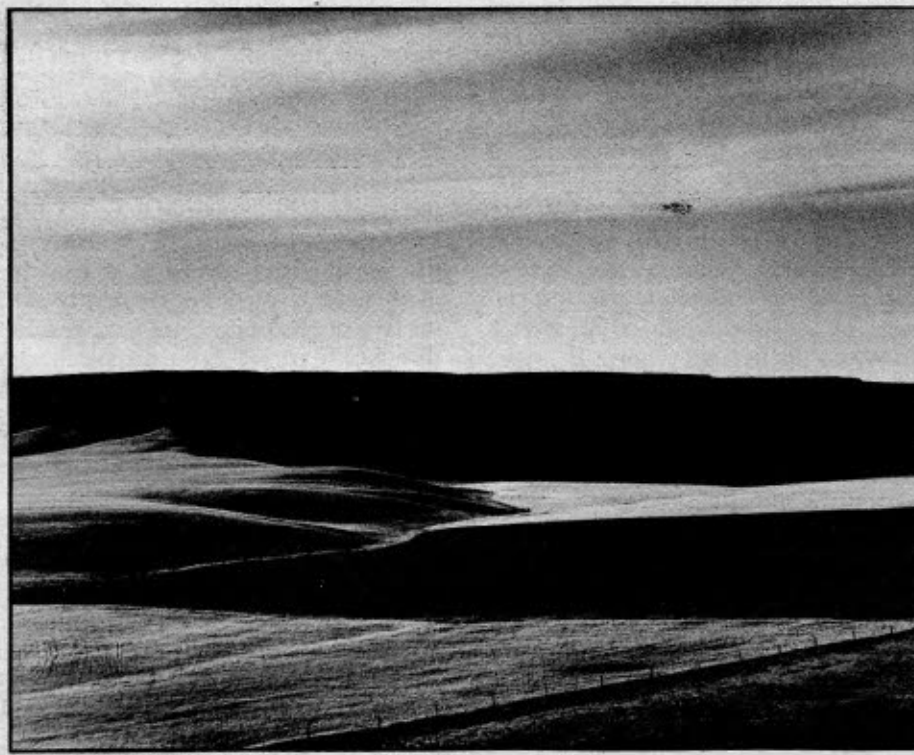
A joint federal-state audit team has turned up about \$7.8 million in delinquent royalty payments from federal mineral royalties owed the state of Wyoming. The state is entitled to 50

percent of the royalty payments made to the federal government for leases. All of the money is due from oil companies. Companies which allegedly owe back payments are Davis Oil Co., Hanson Oil Corp., Laguna Petroleum Co., Dycos Petroleum Corp., Sun Oil, Amoco Production Co., Cotton Petroleum Corp., Chinook Resources and Conoco, Inc.

BN SYNFUEL SWAP

Burlington Northern, the railroad company which is also the largest private coal owner in Montana, has proposed a swap of federal and BN coal in the vicinity of Circle, in northeastern Montana. BN official told the Billings *Gazette* that the swap could lead to a synthetic fuels plant in the Circle area, an idea that has been proposed, and mothballed, before. BN has asked the Bureau of Land Management to trade scattered sections of coal lands below Nelson Creek for BN's scattered sections north of the creek. The trade would consolidate one large, leaseable government tract north of the creek, and an unbroken BN holding below.

Landscape near Circle, Montana



David Spear

The 100 mile stretch in question winds along the rugged river canyon from Kooskia, Id. to Powell Ranger Station, near the state line.

The area's conflicts began in 1975 when slack water was backed up from the Snake River dams allowing barge traffic to reach Lewiston in 1975. Since then, Montana grain trucks have traversed the road in increasing numbers.

The lower elevations of the canyon along the river are prime winter habitat for wildlife, especially elk and deer. Big game roadkills along the highway have increased more than five times since 1974, according to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Automobile accident rates have also increased. Although trucks account for only 20 percent of the total traffic, they are involved in 45 percent of the accidents. The transportation department says Highway 12 is the most dangerous highway in Idaho.

— John McCarthy

Timber sales on the skids

Three controversial timber sales in the Rocky Mountain region have been halted, at least temporarily.

In Montana, an attempt to sell pine bark beetle-infested stands of timber west of Glacier National Park fell on dead ears in the timber industry. The Ketchikan timber sale in Flathead

National Forest, involving 12 million board feet of lodgepole pine, was opposed by wildlife groups who called the area prime habitat for grizzly bears and the other rare species and objected to planned new roads.

In Wyoming, two sales of timber in the Bridger-Teton National Forest have been postponed pending appeals by the Sublette County Commissioners and various environmental groups. Again, the opposition was based on wildlife concerns and objections to road-building.

The cost of building logging roads in the Ketchikan sale would be greater than the Forest Service's appraised price on the timber. The Forest Service can make up such a deficit through competitive bidding, using the appraisal price as the starting bid. But the lack of interest in this sale, resulting in no bids at all, allows a logging company to pick up the timber at the appraisal price without any competition. With the threat to wildlife habitat and other problems, opponents say a deficit sale makes the benefits even more questionable.

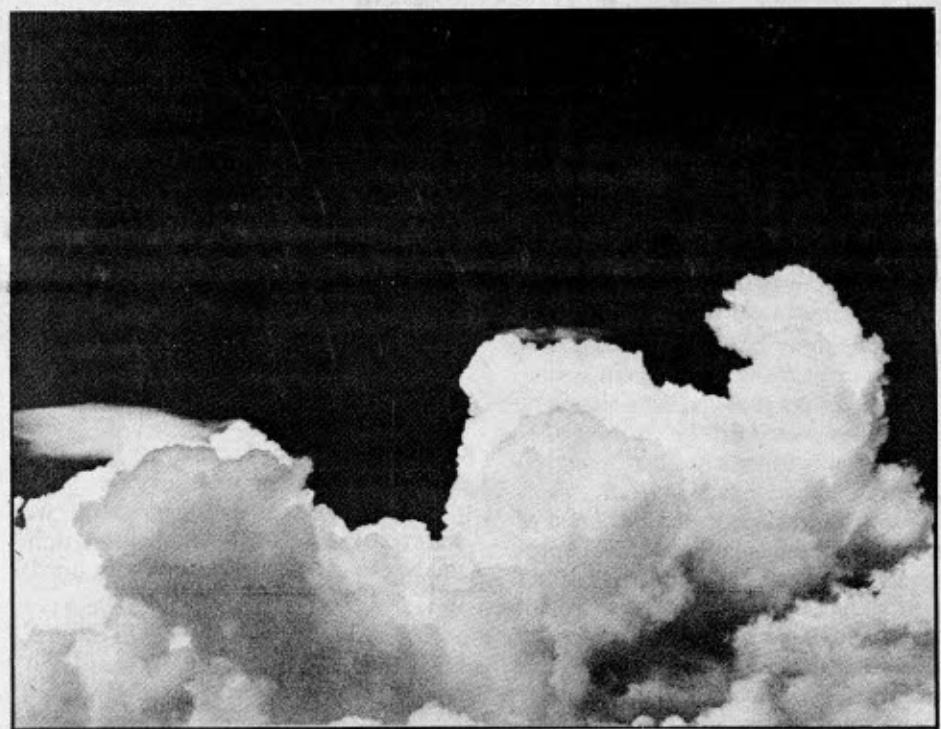
Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) wrote to U.S. Forest Service chief Max Peterson suggesting a sale of six million board feet could be accomplished from existing roads. But Peterson rejected the administrative appeal of three environmental groups last month, and the sale went ahead.

Baucus and environmentalists are now proposing that the best use of the area be reviewed as part of Flathead's overall forest planning.

And, according to Hank Fischer of



Defenders of Wildlife, it is one of the few roadless wildlife habitat areas in the vicinity of the North Fork of the Flathead River. Research by Charles Jonkel of the University of Montana, has shown it to contain possibly the densest grizzly bear population in the lower 48 states.



CLOUD SEEDING POSSIBLE

Fifteen million dollars of the Bureau of Reclamation's budget may go to a cloud-seeding program in the Rocky Mountain and Southwestern states. The BuRec has been studying and developing weather modification techniques for two decades and would like to test its findings in areas of high energy and agricultural production. BuRec officials hope the induced precipitation will enhance the Colorado River system, produce more showers during growing season and add to watersheds.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant northwest of Denver may be looking for a new home. According to the *Denver Post*, a \$3.1 million, three-year study to determine the future of the plant will be completed next summer. The study is investigating the plant's growing potential hazard to the Denver area, the political problems it creates and the cost of relocating the facility. Possible future home sites are Wyoming, Utah or Texas. Both Gov. Ed Herschler (D) of Wyoming and Gov. Scott Matheson (D) of Utah said they don't want the controversial plant transferred to their states. Gov. William Clements (R) of Texas said he'd never even heard of it.

SLURRY SUIT

It seemed like the perfect solution when South Dakota Gov. Bill Janklow announced that his state would sell Energy Transportation Systems, Inc. water from the Oahe Reservoir, on the Missouri River for its coal slurry pipeline from the Powder River Basin to points south. But water seems to flow more toward the courts than the south Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri are all considering legal action to block the sale of 16.3 billion gallons annually to ETSI. South Dakota stood to make as much as \$1.4 billion over 50 years from the water sale, said Janklow.

MUD FARMING

With oil and gas drilling rigs proliferating on U.S. Bureau of Land Management acreage, the BLM is looking for a way to handle one of the chief byproducts: mud. The special muds that go down with the drill to line the shaft also end up on the ground around the site — a muck of clay, water and salts. The BLM is trying to grow grass on a "mud farm" test plot in the Oregon Basin near Cody, Wyo., using mixes of native grasses and plants. The grasses have sprung up; now the BLM is analyzing them for toxic chemicals. The results will be out in 1982.

CLEAN FOR 1000 YEARS

Moving ahead where the federal Environmental Protection Agency is slowing down, the Colorado Board of Health adopted a set of performance regulations for hazardous waste dump sites. With the EPA currently de-emphasizing its role, the state will be supervising the transportation, inspection and treatment of hazardous wastes by July 1983, said Ken Waesche, senior geologist for the board. The most controversial of the regulations is one requiring the dump site to be contamination-free for 1,000 years. Local governments and citizen groups support the stipulation, but industry sees it as vague and impossible to demonstrate.

SUING THE BLM

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management failed to study the impact of coal development on ranchers in eastern Montana in developing its 1979 land use plan for the area, according to the Northern Plains Resource Council. As a result, said council chairman Helen Waller, the group is going to court. The land use plan is one element leading up to a planned 1983 coal lease sale in the Fort Union lignite field. The Department of Interior recently set coal leasing targets for the area at 800 million to 1.2 billion tons, upping the targets of a regional coal team and causing a howl of protest from area ranchers and environmentalists. A BLM spokesman told the *Missoulian* that the BLM will get around to looking at impacts on agriculture this winter.

IDAHO INSPECTORS

The sole full-time Idaho surface mine field inspector told an Idaho Falls audience last week that his state's environmental regulation of surface mining is "going downhill bit by bit, the way I perceive it." Larry Jones, of the Idaho Department of Lands' Bureau of Minerals, inspects dredge, placer and surface mines, such as those digging coal or phosphate. Jones said the rapid increase of mines has made his job difficult to keep up with. His department requested six more inspectors last year; that was cut in half by Gov. John Evans; and the legislature rejected any increase, reported the *Missoulian*.

In Wyoming, Bridger-Teton officials claim that elk and other wildlife would not be hurt by the Jack Creek, Klondike Hill and other sales planned for the forest. They said roads would be closed after logging and areas reforested, in some cases improving the habitat.

But locals around Pinedale, Wyo., said the Forest Service had failed to listen to their objections, which include wildlife impacts, the future use of new roads for other purposes, and damage to the Green River drainage. There has been talk, spurred by Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) and Forest Supervisor Reid Jackson, of forming a "blue ribbon committee" to review forest management plans.

The Sublette County Commissioners have joined the Wyoming Wilderness Association, the Sublette and Sweetwater County Wildlife Associations, and the Wyoming Sierra Club chapter in appealing the Jack Creek sale, which involves 7.3 million board feet of timber. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department and state Sen. John Turner have also objected to clearcutting the area.

The Klondike Hill clearcut, involving three million board-feet, was appealed only by the Wyoming Wilderness Association and the Sublette and Sweetwater County Wildlife Associations — but now the Sublette County Commissioners are intervening in that appeal, too. Appeal sessions are being scheduled this month; Forest Service officials say they will not be open to the public or press.

SOLAR FLASH IN THE PAN

The residents of the Schuchuli Village on Arizona's Papago Reservation are going to replace their innovative solar photovoltaic electric power system with conventional electric power. The solar cells brought electricity to the remote village for the first time in 1978. According to the *CERT Report*, a spokesman for the village said, "All in all, the system was well received...but does not meet all the needs of the people. The system was like giving a person a very small piece of very good chocolate."

NO FUEL LIKE A SYN FUEL

The federal Synthetic Fuels Corporation held its first board meeting October 28, and adopted a budget for fiscal year 1982 of \$24.5 million. However, the group deleted funding for the Great Plains Coal Gasification Project in North Dakota. Victor Schroeder, who was elected SFC president and chief operating officer, said the Great Plains project will be left under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy, which guaranteed the initial loan. The \$24.5 million budget is less than half the amount authorized by the Energy Security Act, and will allow the SFC to handle studies for two oil shale projects already approved by DOE and three other synthetic fuels plants to be selected by the board.

HOME TO DENVER

After an extended fuss over transferring the regional office of the Office of Surface Mining from Denver to Casper, Wyo., Congress has arranged for it to stay — at least in part — in Denver. House and Senate members meeting on the agency's budget agreed to place a technical center in Denver and give Casper a state liaison office. The technical center will employ more personnel than the Casper office. Under the original plan, proposed by Interior Secretary James Watt, the entire Denver office would be moved to Casper. Most Denver employees did not want to move, the U.S. General Accounting Office said it would cost too much, and some conservationists feared the change would lower OSM's regulatory effectiveness.

WHAT TO EAT...



by Don Snow

There was no running water when we moved in. Just a green plastic garbage can with a spigot glued to the bottom. We filled it through the kitchen window with the stock watering hose. There were cracks in the walls wide enough to see through. I identified my first unknown bird through the one in the living room: a loggerhead shrike. There were furies of moths in spring and flies midsummer. I became outstanding at swatting them in midair and considered taking up tennis.

It wasn't the sturdiest of houses — a migrant laborers' shack plopped down on railroad ties on the bank of a mudbottom creek. But it was shelter enough, except when the wind blew, which was most of the time. Significantly, it was part of my introduction to farming, a part I grew to love precisely for all its faults.

We fixed it up. The last people there, whose names I never learned, used one of the cisterns for a dump, so the first task was to clean it out: 2,000 gallons of semi-composted garbage. We scrubbed it with all kinds of sterilizers, rinsed it, pumped it out, and ran the first few dozen fill-ups through the goats. They didn't die. We trenched a line into the house, insulated the pump shack and installed a pressure tank, then went to work on the bathroom. Three months later we baptised the septic field.

The system was complete and I knew every component. My hands had touched every piece. For me, at a tender 22, that touching took an outsized importance. It was the central lesson of

farming: that the whole place was a wheel with people in the middle holding the spokes. I was one of them, standing in the midst of much life.

Like just about everyone, I grew up in towns and suburbs where agricultural skills are limited to lawn and garden. Our family ate what we could forage from the supermarket, with few exceptions. Every summer my mother canned fruit, and every fall my father made a mysterious compact with a farmer for meat on the hoof. We spent many autumn Saturdays in the countryside around Somerset, Pennsylvania, slaughtering big-eyed steers who blew steam like powerplants and suspected no harm from my Remington .22. Then, while the carcass cooled in the barn, with cats underneath lapping blood, we'd amble up the nearby hills for grouse. They were harder to hit than the steers.

One other experience gave me an early glimpse into farm life. At age 12, I went on a three-day caponizing expedition with an ice cream manufacturer named Tony. We stood in the weak sun of early spring, cutting into 600 young roosters and removing their slippery yellow testicles with stainless tools. Miraculously, they recovered, paddling off into the clean straw of the barn where warm lights and much corn awaited them. Without the powers of testosterone, their muscles softened and swelled. They became the succulent fare of faraway chefs.

So I knew that farms were pretty much blood-and-guts affairs, perpetual tragedies for animals. I also knew that in my budding conservationist's mind, life on a farm held great promise for growth and sense of wholeness. When the chance came, I jumped at it.

All through college I dreamed of farming, of owning land that could produce food and accept care. But I didn't want to be out in the howling space of western Nebraska, alone, waiting for the radio to report that all my neighbors had just committed suicide in a February storm. I wanted work, companionship, community and culture, all at the same time. A nurturing place populated by people who could fix tractors and play music, who were interested in home-grown arts but not alienated from the organic breast that feeds us all. I was nuts.

Here was my dream a working farm owned and operated by perhaps six people, who performed in a cycle of work that required some to power the farm while others worked off the farm, supplying the needed inputs of capital, diversity and culture. Then the cycle would shift and the workers would exchange roles. In my dream, the farm was not just an economic unit, an organic factory, but a teacher and refuge. Our work on the place would lead us back into a world that I thought was getting lost in the specialization and fragmentation of our America.

One of my college friends came from an almond farm in California. His father, once an attorney in Palo Alto, fled from the city with his family and learned orchardry. My friend and I would sit up late at night, munching almonds from a shopping bag, and discuss my great idea. He thought I was nuttier than his farm, but played along. Nothing came of the idea until I dropped out of graduate school in 1973 and found it again, green but not quite peaceful.

Nobody but university people called it a "spread." It was just a farm — 720

acres of red, sandy loam, about half-and-half irrigated and dry. The dry we didn't till, but grazed cattle. The irrigated, we watered from the North Poudre Ditch, the one that Horace Greeley built, north of Fort Collins, Colorado.

I met the owner of this place, John, in a writing class at Colorado State University. Everyone in the class was trying to create something Real through fiction. Not John. He wrote surrealism and fantasy, and wore a sweater that looked woven from grease. He smelled like goats. His smell attracted me. It was Real.

One night I followed this olfactory attraction to his place, a house carved in the rough from a barn. An alligator stood on its hind legs holding a washtray. A great-horned owl hovered on open wings above the loft. Vivaldi splashed through four seasons on the stereo. The air was stiff with goat. They were out there in the dark, grunting occasionally. I liked the man and fell quite in love with his place. He and his wife Sue became my teachers and best friends. I stayed five years.

My romantic notions died a shocking death. There was the cistern and its compost festooned with metal and glass. The fields that three families of tenant farmers had reduced to red powder through years of chemical cash-cropping. The aching back and arms, the chafed knees and elbows, that came from stacking 60 tons of hay in a day. There was the deathly snap of barbed wire through my hands, blood pouring from a jagged wound. There were the million green tongues of the beans, parched and lolling on a 100 degree day. The endless excursions into midfield

patches of Canada thistles with scythes and hoes, and the hours of mindless swinging. Finally, there were chemicals to fight them, chemicals we had said we wouldn't use.

Like everyone in agriculture, we faced the delicate problem of balancing the needs of the soil with the demands of paying for it. For better or worse, the market called many of our shots. John borrowed heavily to pay for bigger tractors and specialized machines. Since labor runs from scarce to nonexistent, capital provides the energy to get the job done. That fact dominates farming.

After three years of planting alfalfa to rebuild the depleted soils, we started conventional rotations of corn, grain and hay, using small amounts of commercial fertilizers to make the crop. We couldn't rely on rain to sprout new seeding, so we powered sprinklers with our tractors. Learning that diversification sometimes paid, we raised oddball crops and tried marketing them ourselves. Goat meat. Triticale, the high-protein grain developed through the so-called Green Revolution. Vegetables, grown by very few of our neighbors.

We tried to put up the best quality hay in the area. We baled at night after the dew fell, moistening the windrows just enough to allow the hay to bale with minimum of leaf-shatter. Our best hay looked as if it had been pressed in a taxonomy book, and it brought premium prices.

We responded to the loud demands of agri-business, that tell every farmer to "get big or get out." But in doing so, my dream faded. The slow little machines we started with grew into towering red behemoths that whined to full throttle over the voice of Charley Pride, spirit of the cab. They were inter-galactic looking things, all torque and no soul, too far from horses to make sense on earth. But did they do the job! Our farming lost the fresh flavor of experiment and exploration. It became a had-to affair, with the beans propagating interlocking directorates with the bank. Farming grew up in a hurry and farmers with it. I couldn't get that big, so I got out.

Before the wind claimed it, a small sign hung above the pumphouse door. It said, WHAT TO EAT? Then we hung a horned ram's skull in its place and right away a pair of Say's phoebes came to nest there, in the notch of horns. But that sign still haunted me. What indeed to eat? Before I worked there I didn't really know.

The farm for me was a second university, but a better one. Sometimes I stood

amazed at how little I knew before, how in my civilized life I had altogether lost touch with the simple facts of existence. My father's meat-seeking helped, but still there were worlds of knowledge I hadn't touched.

There were visits from seekers of all kinds. Some came guided by a vision from the Aquarian Age, like the fellow who wanted a goat to take backpacking for a supply of fresh milk on the trail. We sold him a young doe named Rhubarb who had a peculiar habit of stretching her neck backwards to suck herself dry. We told him she was a recycler, and he liked that. Some came for fresh air and sunshine and the chance to work up a gritty sweat on the haystacks or to help plant the mile-long row of windbreak trees that we worked on every spring. Some came to hunt the ducks on one of our small reservoirs, and they were often surprised at the answer: for every hour you hunt, you will work an hour on the farm. No work, no hunt.

Others came for a sort of junior high field trip to gawk at the geeks. One day the newly appointed City Manager of Fort Collins came for a tour. He travelled with a local socialite who found the place "charming". The manager came from New Jersey. He wore sunglasses dark enough for a welding mask. His skin carried the cool fluorescent glow of paraffin. At the end of his tour — all in an air-conditioned Citroen — he asked John one very terse question: "Why do you try to farm in an area that is so dry and rocky?"

John did not answer for many days. He kept the question in his breast and worked like a demon. When he answered, he answered me.

"He thinks this land is rocky."

"Yes."

"Well, it isn't."

"No."

"Do you suppose the manager has not yet heard of irrigation?"

"Well, John, he's managing a city, not a farm."

"That's what I'm afraid of."

Gradually, my ideas about conservation focused on the matter of personal responsibility. We spent four hard years repairing soil that tenant farmers had all but destroyed by growing silage corn and malting barley for the Coors Brewery. The soil responded to its problem by giving birth to abundant weeds — thistle, lambs quarter, pigweed and bindweed — to stabilize itself and rebuild its own fertility. We did what farmers always do. We returned the fields to monocultures and then poured all of our energies into maintaining them, an unnatural but necessary condition. Unlike many modern farmers, we

allowed the fields to rest as much as possible, and rotated crops.

We refused to cut corn for silage but grew picking corn and turned the biomass back. We experimented with minimum tillage, planting new grain in last year's stubble that we disked but didn't plow. We moved our squash crops to different fields each year to stay ahead of insects and the urge to spray.

There was an unseen order at work on the farm, and we tried to identify and obey it. It was an order written for the long haul, not for short term gain. The health of the land depended on it. When we obeyed the order our work seemed easier, our lives more complete.

Responsibility grew toward the soil. We were making things happen, manipulating and changing circumstances, pushing the soil a little beyond what it wanted to do. The responsibility came in pushing as gently as possible in a way that did not maim, but nurtured. We took from the fields. We had to give thanks and give back.

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I left amidst sadness — divorce, trauma, death. I wandered empty for many months, but even in leaving I learned something new. You can leave a farm, but it doesn't leave you. The overwhelming life of the place remains inside, as powerful and vivid as blood.

The day before I pulled out, all my ragged possessions packed Okie-style on my truck, I walked west for the view.

There was a long hogback up there where eagles nested and deer and coyotes birthed their young. Near the top grew some isolated acres of grass that the cattle couldn't reach. That grass

said what the land used to be. Below the cliffs stood a dwelling made from terra cotta blocks, and at the head of a nearby draw, two ancient windmills spun without purpose in the crazy wind.

We called the place The Hermitage, though its owner was no hermit but a shepherd who spent many seasons alone with his stock. He built his one-room house in 1947, then surrounded it with plantings of ponderosa pine, protecting them from his sheep with rings of woven wire. Two of them still survive, ragged little jack-pines hanging on with all their might. He watered his trees and stock from the wind-pumped wells. In the autumn of 1947 a pair of hunters started a brush fire that killed all but a few of the trees.

I know these details because of a diary pencilled on his wall. There are no words of feeling or lament, just the facts spaced evenly in entries two weeks apart over two full years. The diary ends in the fall of 1948, but the view from his crude front porch goes on and on.

From up there the portrait of our farm was complete, though I could not see into the lives below. I watched a bright red Massey-Ferguson roll like a billiard ball over green felt. I could see the way the place worked, all square and logical, but I could not feel it, or smell it, or begin to know what it meant.

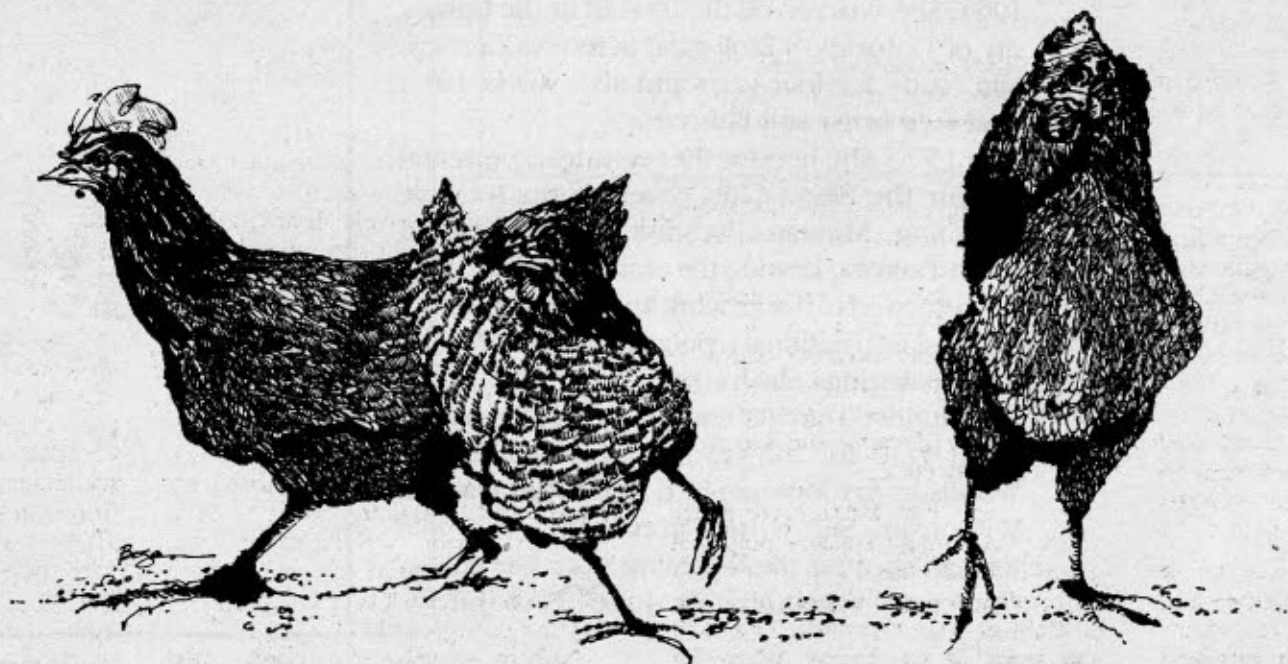
I was about to become an outsider again, wandering off with a little wisdom and too many things. I could see the place quite clearly, its earthly green penetrating my thoughts, but I had no idea then how far it went in, and no inkling of a return.

Its landscape has stayed with me. Like many, I now understand that conservation exists in more than slogans and biodegradable detergents. It lives in community and family gardens inside cities, where people touch soil all summer in an ancient way. It lives in a few backyard chickens who deposit eggs like perfect mysteries in nests of clean straw. It lives in the relations between men and women who finally, somehow, learn to work together side by side at tasks that nourish. Conservation is simply a grateful recognition of connections, the self in two-way contact with a world of elements and lives.

In my stubborn way I had to spend years on a farm before those messages penetrated and became real. Now I marvel at those who know much of what I know but have never left the city. There are a few. You can see it in their eyes in crowds sometimes.

Don Snow is a freelance writer in Stevensville, Mont. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

... what, indeed



Laney



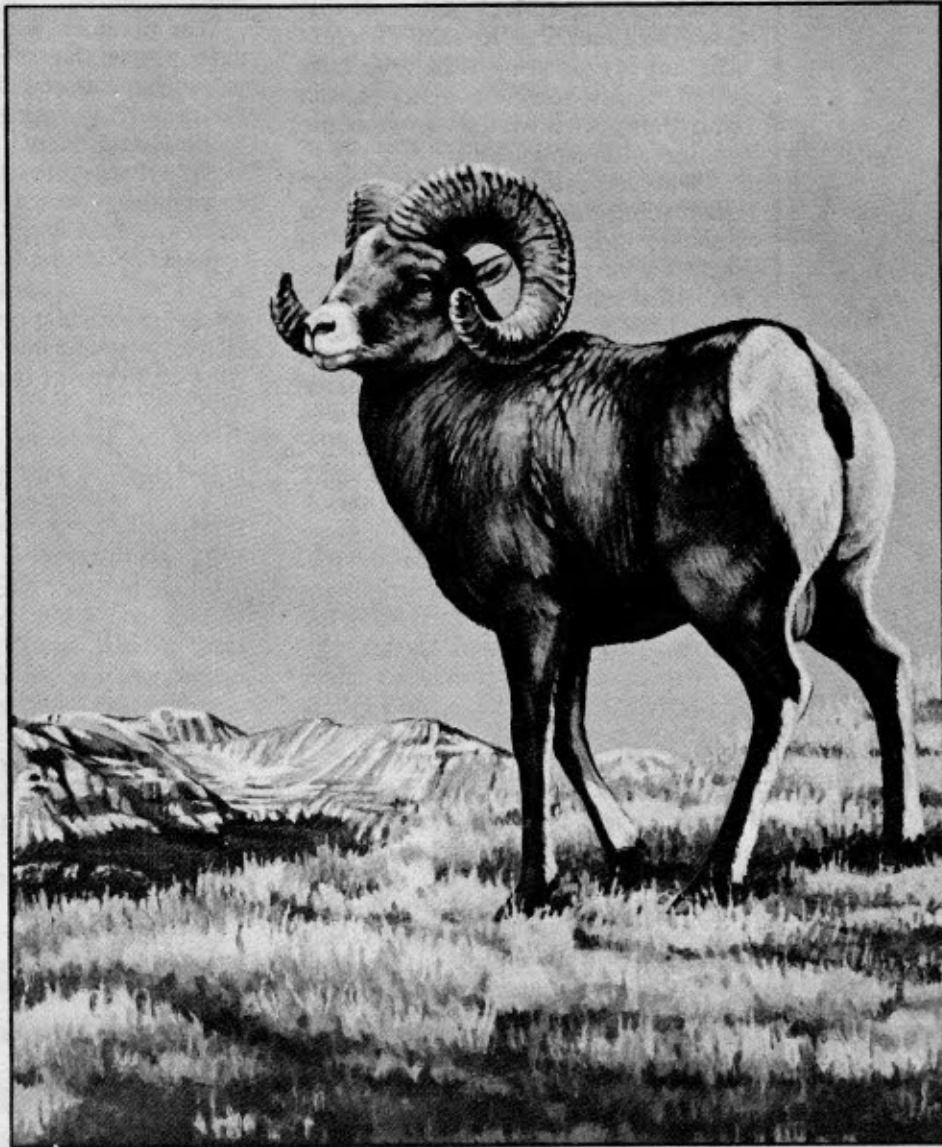
Laney Hicks is an artist living outside of Dubois, Wyoming. She said, "Painting birds, animals and people and the environment in which they live is my way of becoming a part of the world in which I live...a form of appreciation and discovery."

Hicks was born in Denver, Colorado, and received her bachelor of fine arts degree in 1964. She worked on the art staff at the University of Colorado's Biological Sciences Curriculum Study for four years and also worked as a freelance artist and illustrator.

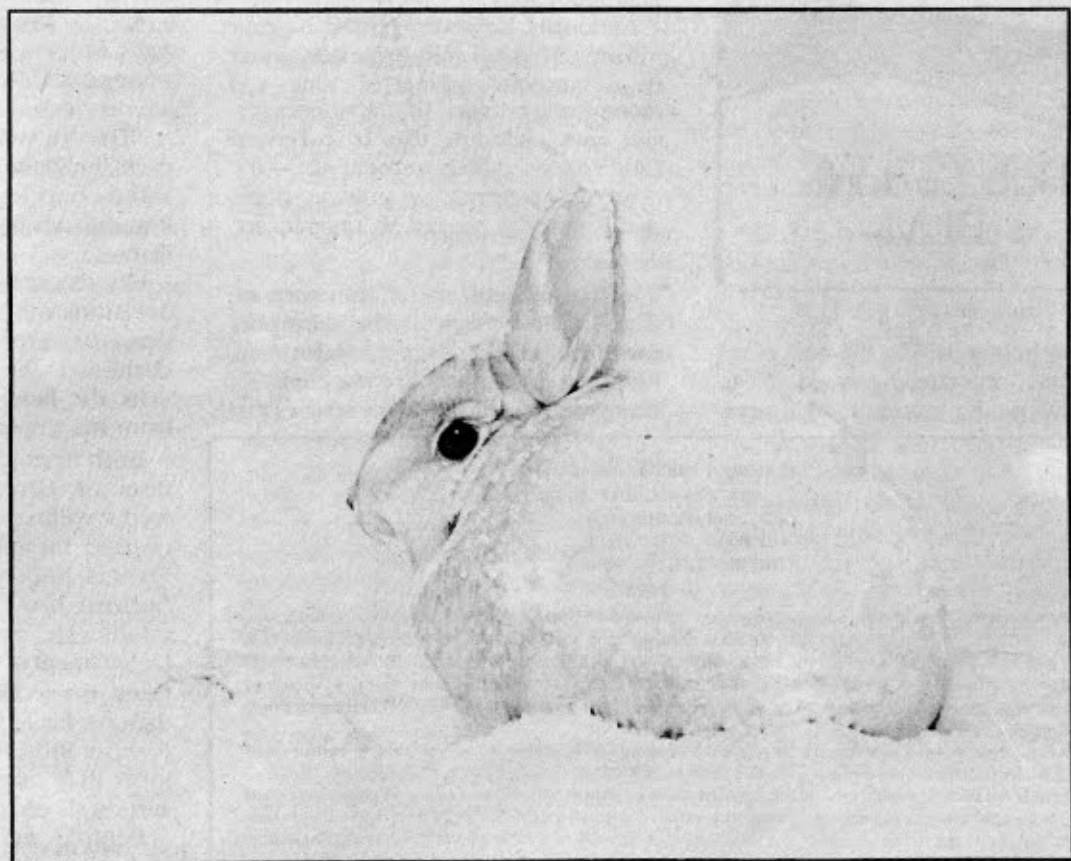
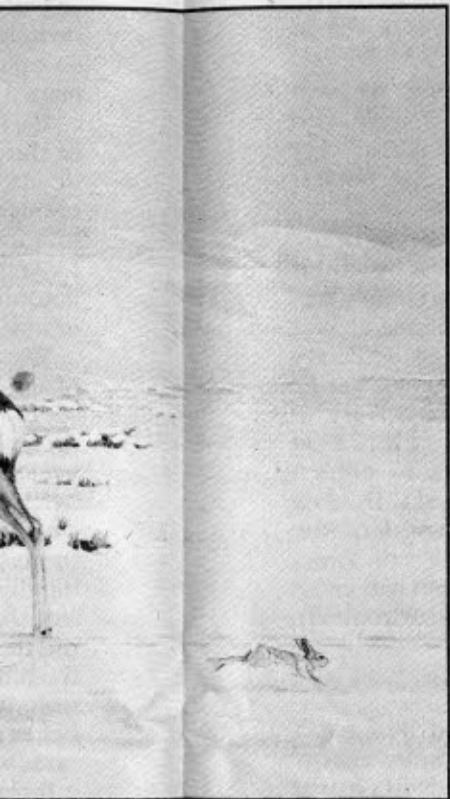
In 1970, she became the regional representative for the Sierra Club, covering the states of Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska and North and South Dakota. Leaving the Sierra Club in 1977, she returned to her artwork and is establishing a regional and national reputation for wildlife and ranch paintings. She has been selected as one of one hundred artists chosen from an international field for the 6th Annual Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum Bird Exhibit in Wausau, Wisconsin. She is now preparing for a one-woman show at the Wyoming State Museum in Cheyenne scheduled for June 1 to July 5, 1982. □

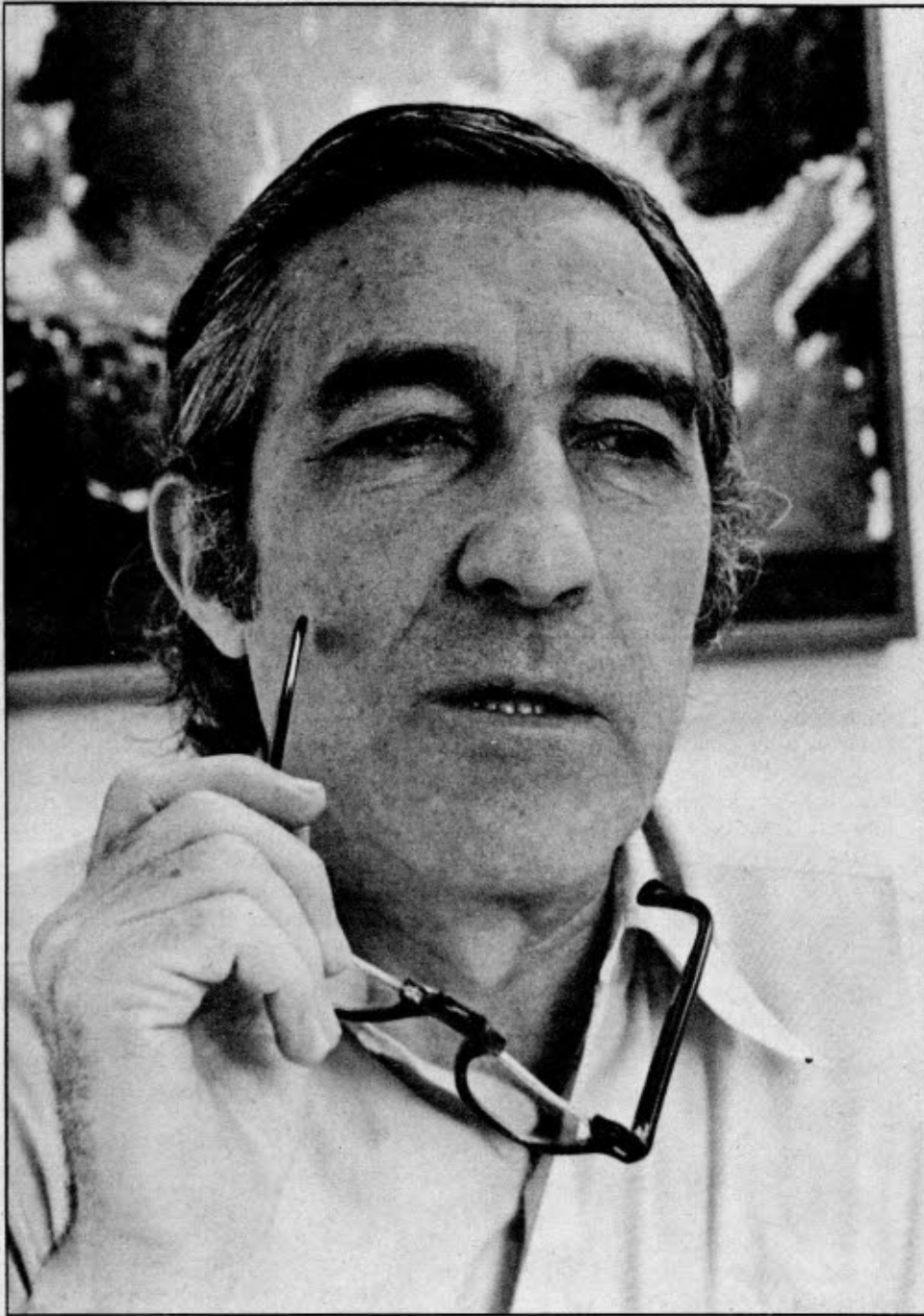


Laney



Above, left: *Wes Hyatt, transparent watercolor*
 Above, center: *Too Close for Comfort, acrylic*
 Above, right: *Winter Range, acrylic*
 Below, left: *A Pair, transparent watercolor*
 Below, right: *Blanket of Snow, transparent watercolor*





Stewart Udall

Stewart Udall

Watt's Interior "contrary"

by Ken Olsen

From his downtown Phoenix law office, Stewart Udall, secretary of interior from 1961 to 1969, discussed the policies of the current holder of that position, James Watt. He said, "There is a historical irony in that Watt never talks about Teddy Roosevelt, a Republican who I always felt was the father of the conservation movement.

"Watt acts as though Roosevelt never existed and it all began when (President Ronald) Reagan was elected. He feels there's a new page of history with no historical antecedents."

Udall believes that Watt's handling of the Interior Department "is contrary to the tide of history, to the trends that we developed. I think the momentum of the 1960s, of the eight years I was at the Interior Department, carried forward. Nixon's two secretaries, Walter J. Hickel and Rogers C.B. Morton, were carrying on what we had started, I felt. He (Nixon) proposed some important laws himself, like the one creating the Environmental Protection Agency.

"I think the thrust continued under Presidents Ford and Carter, and I think you have come down to this year and Watt to what you would think of — in my terms — as retrogression. You know, some of the things Watt is trying to reverse are laws passed under Republican presidents like Nixon.

"I do think that Watt is reflecting what President Reagan wants," Udall said. "I don't read it like these Republi-

can politicians are pretending he's a wild man who is ignoring the president. Watt had a long, heart-to-heart talk with Reagan before he became secretary and I think he is acting for the president and expressing the views of this administration.

"The president has given Watt a lot more power than most interior secretaries have had, and there is no sign yet that he's losing any support from the White House.

"I'm against this whole attitude Watt exemplifies — that the oil industry subscribes to these days — that we just have to go out there and find all the oil there is and use it up now. I just had my second grandchild born last week and I'd like my grandchildren to have a little bit of oil 30 years from now to do things with.

"We are desperately saying, 'We have to find what oil there is because we need to use it right now.' I find that very short-sighted and very offensive. But it is Watt's attitude, no doubt about it."

Udall said that Watt is a darling of the oil industry. "They just think he's their man," he said, "and that has not existed, I guess, since Albert B. Fall...and he was certainly very obliging." Fall, secretary of interior under President Warren G. Harding, was convicted of bribery in connection with the sale of leases on Naval Petroleum Reserves to oilmen Harry F. Sinclair and Edward L. Doheny in the Teapot Dome scandal of the 1920s.

Regarding whether voters had given Reagan a mandate to alter environmen-

PUBLIC LANDS MANAGERS

Bob Burford
BLM

(continued from page 1)

immediately affected by the new plan, grazers are reportedly pleased. Near Lander, Wyo., for example, BLM area

manager Dale Brubaker told the *Casper Star Tribune* that ranchers would suffer no grazing allotment cuts for at least two years, and then probably only minimal reductions.

Nationally, however, NRDC attorney Johanna Wald has called the new policy an "enormous waste of time and money" and charged that it violates several laws, including the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act — the heart of the agency's regulatory maze, also known as the BLM organic act.

On the national scene, the courts are likely to host many of the skirmishes over BLM policy in this administration. Resource developers are watching for changes to any of the 30 or so laws that

govern the agency's activities — laws such as the 1872 Mining Law, the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act, the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1971 Wild Horse Protection Act. But most observers, including Nelson of the American Mining Congress and a key House Interior staffer, predict little congressional action.

"They're waiting for the next Congress," said the Capitol Hill source, who asked not to be identified, "when Republicans hope to gain control of the House."

On the range, however, key policy decisions will be made without legislative, or even major administrative changes.

In the field, the marks for Burford from his employees are generally high.

Both Penfold and Colorado state BLM director George Francis credit Burford's willingness to listen. "He'll even change his mind if convinced," said Francis. But on some critical decisions Burford has changed state directors' minds. He and his superiors in the Department of the Interior sharply overruled the Montana office's recommendations for federal coal leasing in the Powder River Basin, upping the acreage local BLM managers and state officials agreed should be turned over to miners.

Penfold and Francis said they felt strong support from Burford for their quick implementation of the Reagan administration's new emphasis on resource development. "He was particularly pleased with our efforts to streamline things," said Penfold, "speeding up decisions on releasing withdrawals and mineral leasing."

Idaho state director Bob Buffington said he couldn't agree more. "Only last month the director was out here saying we're doing a heck of good job and that we'd set him six months ahead in his goals," he said. But in a move that has generated enough political heat to bake an Idaho spud, Burford last week invited Buffington to step down as state director and move to a desk job in Washington, D.C.

"I feel let down," said Buffington. "We'd done a lot to be more energy conscious, accelerating withdrawal reviews and submitting streamlining proposals. I've put more people into mineral leasing than ever before, and our 'good neighbor' policy has benefited private and state landowners."

Exactly who levered Buffington's transfer is unclear. Buffington said he believes it was livestock grazers, although National Cattlemen's Association President Bill Swan of Twin Falls, Idaho, said charges that they were involved were "an unequivocal lie."

Swan told the *Idaho Statesman*, however, that relations between his group and the BLM in Idaho had deteriorated to a "severe polarity" because of Buffington's plans to reorganize state field offices, as well as several individual management decisions. Buffington filed under the Freedom of Information Act to obtain 32 critical letters reportedly sent by grazers to Idaho Sen. Steve Symms (R) — complaints that Buffington thought influenced Burford's decision. He has received 17 "pieces of information" to date, only two actually calling for his resignation.

While the "who" behind Buffington's transfer remains anonymous, the "why" is crystal clear. Said Burford: "there was a perception in some people's minds that (Buffington) was a political appointee of Andrus" and was more in tune with Carter administration policies than ours."

Former BLM director Gregg, who appointed Buffington two years ago, denied it was politically motivated. "He got the job on merit, on his managerial skill," said Gregg. "The fact was that Andrus did want to appoint a political friend but I disagreed with him, arguing for Buffington because he was a fine administrator."

Burford said he had "no way of knowing" whether Buffington was indeed a political appointment, but that the "perception" that he was put Buffington in a

BEFORE THE WYOMING INDUSTRIAL SITING COUNCIL

NOTICE OF ROCHELLE
COAL COMPANY APPLICATION
FOR PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT
THE ROCHELLE COAL MINE
DOCKET NO. WISA-81-3

Pursuant to provisions of the Wyoming Industrial Development Information and Siting Act (W.S. 35-12-101 through 35-12-121; Wyo. Stat. Anno., 1977) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ROCHELLE COAL COMPANY, A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN POWDER RIVER COAL COMPANY AND PANEACTION COAL COMPANY, HAS FILED AN APPLICATION WITH THE INDUSTRIAL SITING COUNCIL FOR A PERMIT AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROCHELLE COAL MINE, CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING. The Powder River Coal Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Peabody Holding Company, and Paneaction Coal Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company.

Coal from the Rochelle Mine is to be shipped to the proposed WyCoalGas Gasification project in Converse County by a private railway line. If the WyCoalGas project is not developed, alternative markets will be sought.

The coal mine and processing facilities described in the application filed on October 9, 1981, will have a capacity of 11 million tons of coal per year. The Rochelle Mine will be a conventional surface mine operation utilizing trucks and shovels. The coal processing facility will consist of crushing facilities, storage and loadout facilities, and other ancillary facilities. The mine will be designed for disposal of ash from the WyCoalGas Project.

The proposed Rochelle Mine will be located entirely within Campbell County approximately 68 miles south of the City of Gillette, Wyoming. The estimated total capital cost for the Rochelle Mine is \$116.5 million. The estimated cost exceeds the cost criterion under W.S. 35-12-102(a)(iii)(B), thereby requiring that the permit application be filed.

The Rochelle Coal Company will begin construction of the mine during 1982 and should complete the primary operating portions by the end of 1983. The mine is expected to have an average of 192 construction workers in 1982 with a peak of 427 construction workers June, 1983. Production will begin in January 1984 with a workforce of 90 employees during the first quarter of 1984. The production workforce will then build steadily until the fourth quarter of 1992 when 292 workers are anticipated. The Rochelle Coal Company considers that the local governments primarily affected by the proposed facility will include Campbell County, Campbell County School District No. 1, and the City of Gillette. The unincorporated community of Wright, Wyoming will also be affected primarily by the facility. Weston County and the town of Newcastle will also be secondarily influenced by construction of the Rochelle Mine.

Copies of the Application have been filed with the County Clerks of Converse County, Campbell County, and Weston County. Copies have also been forwarded to the Converse County Library, 300 Walnut, Douglas, WY 82633; Campbell County Library, 412 S. Gillette Ave., Gillette, WY 82716; and Weston County Library, 23, W. Main St., Newcastle, WY 82701, and are available for public inspection.

Persons desiring to become parties to the permit proceedings may do so pursuant to W.S. 35-12-112, by notifying the Office of Industrial Siting Administration in writing of their intent to become a party.

Limited appearance statements will be received in accordance with provisions at W.S. 35-12-112 (c). These should be mailed to the Director, Office of Industrial Siting Administration, Suite 500, Boyd Building, Cheyenne, WY 82002.

Dated this 9th day of November, 1981.
Office of Industrial Siting Administration
Suite 500, Boyd Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307)777-7368

to the tide of history"

tal policy, Udall said, "There was no big mandate on environmental issues in that election. I don't sense any big shift in environmental thinking. I've read a lot of polls this year and peoples' views on clean air and clean water and what the nation ought to do haven't changed. I believe that is where Reagan and Watt are miscalculating."

"He (Watt) is having success pushing the idea that we are frantic for resources and that that should be our paramount goal. Watt wants us to ignore wilderness, conservation values, clean air and things of that kind and believes we have got to strengthen our economy and go get these resources."

"The amount of damage Watt can do is on two levels," Udall said. "He cannot repeal laws but, as an administrator, there is an area in which he can make certain changes. He has been doing that rather vigorously. In many ways, that is the margin where the secretary is free to make policy on such things as park acquisition or oil drilling in wilderness. However, in the main thrust of things, his hands are tied by laws."

"There is a wilderness bill and he's got to live with it. To the extent that one considers wilderness an area that we have decided should be left alone and in pristine condition, invading to mine or drill goes against the grain of that land policy. It's true that it can be done with little impact, perhaps, if you require it done that way."

"But, if you find oil or minerals, or you get the feeling that the country's got to

"politically untenable situation." Asked who shared that perception, Burford would not be specific, saying only "user groups, mainly."

Politically forced transfers are not new to the federal bureaucracy, including the BLM. During Gregg's tenure, the transfer of district manager Gary McVicker in Arizona raised charges by the Sierra Club that grazers were getting their way.

Burford's quick move to ease a "user group's" complaint is indicative of the agency's emphasis on resource development, said Pat Ford of the Idaho Conservation League in Boise.

State BLM directors Penfold and Francis declined to comment on the Buffington case, although Penfold said, "I haven't felt a lack of support from the director," and Francis added, "This is a national organization and nobody has sinecure."

Buffington has until Nov. 16 to decide whether to take the Washington job. Meanwhile, he remains hurt. "It's the same old thing," he said, speaking from his 25 years in the BLM. "Every time a new administration comes in, we spend one year getting torn up, two years patching up, and then only one year actually working."

Burford says his top priorities include designing new range management plans, leasing lands in Alaska for oil and gas, reviewing past administration withdrawals, and studying potential wilderness areas. All will be done, he said, in a streamlined approach that limits his staff to "gathering only that information that is necessary to resolve a conflict. If there isn't a conflict, why gather the information?"

All will be done, he stressed, "with a balanced approach." And all will be done within the Reagan administration budget constraints.

Burford measures his success by the conflict he generates. "I've been sued twice so far," he said. "Once on the environmental side by Gov. (Jerry) Brown (D-Calif.) and once by the Nev-

ransack for resources, the whole wilderness idea breaks down. You end up using steam from Old Faithful to generate electrical power."

Udall also said Watt's handling of plans for extending the Central Arizona Project canal to Tucson was "arrogant and clumsy." Watt had threatened to hold the canal hostage unless Udall's brother, Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), head of the House Interior Committee, made some policy concessions to the administration. "The big question now," he said, "is with the Tucson aqueduct, and Tucson definitely needs the water. Now that Phoenix has gotten its part of the Central Arizona Project, are they (the administration) going to help Tucson finish the plan that everyone agreed upon, or are they going to dump on Tucson? They would rather hurt Mo and Tucson than carry out their part of the earlier commitment."

However, Udall does predict that Watt will "surprise some people" by coming out against the controversial Orme Dam. The dam is one of the storage options for CAP water and is perceived by some Phoenix interests as essential to protect the city from possible flooding. If built, Orme Dam would displace the Yavapai Indians from their McDowell Reservation home. Udall is opposed to taking Indian land for the dam.

Ken Olsen is currently working on a graduate degree in journalism at the University of Arizona.

ada Cattlemen's Association. I think that's a good sign we're achieving that balance."

Gregg's advice to Burford is to "spend enough time in the field to persuade himself that the agency was just beginning to achieve a balance. That it is not full of environmental zealots. But rather professional people, trained to do their job well."

Bob Burford is the BLM's tenth director. He commands a staff of thousands, a budget of millions. He is a regular in Secretary Watt's Monday morning strategy sessions, where the "spirit to cause change" is rejuvenated.

But while his regulatory hand is clearly more sensitive to developing economic resources, there is still some doubt over how much influence this man, or even his agency, really has on federal lands in the West.

Dr. Oliver Scott, Casper's first pediatrician and a long-time Wyoming cattle rancher, shuts the gate on another black steer sorted from his and his son's herd. The animal had been plumped on federal BLM leases; its coat is shiny from the public's forage.

To Scott, at least, a change of hands in far-off Washington doesn't seem to matter a whole lot. "Oh, we may see some policy change in a couple of years," he said, "but I'm more concerned about our new area manager. It may take a while to educate him."

"And even he doesn't really factor in much. Ask me about the prices we're getting for these calves." □



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Walter Hickel

Jobs and progress, yes — "but we want it done right"

Walter Hickel was Secretary of the Interior under President Richard Nixon, serving from 1969 to 1971. Prior to that he was governor of Alaska. He currently runs a construction company in Alaska.

+++

Question: Does Interior Secretary James Watt represent a break with the tradition of interior secretaries of the last 20 years?

Hickel: In my opinion, more of an extreme position went toward preservation in the Carter administration — I think there was a sort of backlash there. From Stewart Udall's time up until Carter's time, there seemed to be a pretty good balance between use and preservation. I noticed in the Carter administration where it became a kind of anti-people thing. The law is very clear on that. It isn't just a case of everything being a wilderness — though God knows we need lots of wilderness — but the balance has to be there. I think there was a backlash against the extreme preservation thing in the last few years.

Watt's approach to the problem might be a little abrasive, but I don't think it's so much what he's doing — or trying to do — as possibly the attitude with which he approaches it. I'm not being critical at all. The thing that's upsetting to many people I know, both in the environmental movement and developers, is his approach to the problem.

Due to many factors — and it's not just the Carter administration's fault — the pendulum was swinging that they reacted to and became much more restrictive. I think that's where the backlash came from.

What other factors do you think were involved in creating this backlash?

One of them was the coming to the forefront of the environmental movement that started in the '60s and capped off in the mid- to late 1970s. Number two was the restrictiveness in some of the national parks where they were just grabbing more national parks and not really taking care of the national parks they had. There was a public reaction to that. They were deteriorating while the government was grabbing more. I sort of agree with Secretary Watt when he said, "Let's get our national parks back up to standard and treat them as parks." We shouldn't treat them as wildlife refuges, shouldn't treat them as wilderness, we should treat them as parks — and that's mandated under a congressional act. It's awful easy to take the parks and keep them from being people oriented.

Would you personally favor the opening of wilderness areas for oil and gas exploration?

That would depend on the situation. That's a very broad statement and that's a very tough situation. There are some wilderness areas that, obviously, man is not going to get into. I think the problem that congress or some administration got into was broadening the wilderness system to such a degree that they locked up a lot of areas that just weren't wilderness by their very nature.

In your own state of Alaska, has there been a reaction to the Alaska lands bill which withdrew over 100 million acres in the state for parks, refuges and wilderness?

It's too early. Nothing has really been tried as to how difficult it's going to be to get access across those federal withdrawals to get to native lands, to state lands and even to other federal lands.

It's just too early to gauge the effect. It was a pretty restrictive bill — it was pretty near federalist legislation. By "federalist," I mean you can't trust local government, you can't trust state government, you can't even trust people — you can only trust big government. It is that attitude that I think drew the most opposition.

A number of governors in the West are pushing the Interior Department for what is essentially a veto power over federal land decisions that affect their states. You've served both as a governor of Alaska and as interior secretary. What kind of problems would this state concurrence in federal decisions cause for an interior secretary?

It was talked about when I was secretary. We worked it out and we were in pretty close contact with all the governors. I think in some cases it would make the executive branch of government — regardless of whether it was Democratic or Republican — be more responsive if they knew a state had a chance to veto, rather than just saying arrogantly, "This is what we want to do and we know best."

This came up when I was secretary and I wouldn't have any problem with that because it would really make you weigh your decision.

You wouldn't have any concern that a governor would hold one project hostage — say a coal mine — until another project the governor wanted was approved?

That's possible, but you're talking about a short term thing and you have to balance in the national pressure. If I were going to make a massive withdrawal, or open or close a large area, the governor would have veto power over that decision. That's a pretty drastic thing for the governor. He'd have to live with that decision if it were not in the best public interest. But he's only going to be there a few years. And governors, while they're fighting for their states, I've found generally quite reasonable.

Do you have any assessment of Secretary Watt's tenure in office so far?

Well, he's been very controversial, very visible. In my opinion, he is probably carrying out the direction that the Reagan administration wants. One thing has to do with the make-up of Jim Watt. It's his abrasive action and just a little bit of that "holier-than-thou." I don't want to misjudge the guy. I hired Jim Watt. He was one of the first guys I hired when I went to Interior. But if there is a weakness, it would be that approach to the problem.

But I think he is facing some of the difficult issues — on his approach to the parks, for instance. I really don't have any problem with that when he says, "We're going to upgrade these parks." Some of them are really disasters. The federal government accepts a responsibility along with the ownership of these parks. Watt is doing an excellent job in pointing out to the American public that there is an obligation to bring these parks up to standards. In the parks thing, I think Jim Watt is overall doing a good job.

How much influence do you think environmental issues have on voters?

Basically, people are very environmentally concerned, more so than they were 15 or 20 years ago and they are more sophisticated than they were 10 years ago. They know that they need jobs and progress, but they also say, "We know we can do it, but we want it done right." □

STATE OF WYOMING PUBLIC NOTICE

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO STATE THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS UNDER THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972 (FWPCA), P.L. 92-500 AND THE WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (35-11-101 et. seq., WYOMING STATUTES 1957, CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT 1973).

IT IS THE STATE OF WYOMING'S INTENTION TO ISSUE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS TO AND (3) OIL TREATER FACILITIES, TO MODIFY AND (1) INDUSTRIAL PERMIT, AND TO RENEW AND (4) OIL TREATER PERMITS.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT NAME: Eastern American Energy Corporation
 MAILING ADDRESS: 3025 South Parker Road, Suite 907
 Aurora, Colo. 80014
 FACILITY LOCATION: O'Brien Springs Unit #3, Lease W-0775, SE¼,
 Section 34, T25N, R86W, Carbon County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030911
 (2) APPLICANT NAME: Gulf Oil Corporation
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2619
 Casper, WY 82602
 FACILITY LOCATION: Twenty Mile Hill State 1-36-3B, NE¼, SE¼,
 Section 36, T37N, R79W, Natrona County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030929
 (3) APPLICANT NAME: TXO Production Corporation
 MAILING ADDRESS: 1800 Lincoln Center Building
 Denver, CO 80264
 FACILITY LOCATION: Reno Federal 21-1, SE¼, Section 21, T45N, R79W,
 Johnson County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0050902

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Carbon, Natrona, and Johnson Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to an unnamed drainage in Great Divide Basin, East Teapot Creek and Soldier Creek all Class IV Waters and all via unnamed draws. The discharges must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharges and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date is December 31, 1982 for the Eastern American facility and December 31, 1985 for the other facilities.

(4) APPLICANT NAME: The Thunder Basin Coal Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Atlantic Richfield Coal Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1569
 Gillette, Wyoming 82716
 FACILITY LOCATION: Black Thunder Coal Mine,
 Near Reno Junction,
 Campbell County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024091

The Thunder Basin Coal Company which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the ARCO Coal Company operates an open pit coal mine known as the Black Thunder Mine located near Reno Junction, Campbell County, Wyoming.

The mine now has seven separate discharge points which include mine pit water, equipment wash water, dewatering well water, treated sewage, runoff drain disturbed areas and plant site runoff. Four of the discharge points (005,006, 009 and 010) flow into unnamed playas (Class IV Water) and three points (004,007 and 008) flow into the North Prong of Little Thunder Creek (Class IV Water).

Because the discharges to the unnamed playas are not to waters of the U.S. as defined by federal law, and because a discharge high in total suspended solids would not be detrimental, the proposed permit limits only pH and oil and grease from the combined equipment washwater/dewatering well discharge (005) and mine water discharge (010).

The discharges to the North Prong of Little Thunder Creek and the sewage treatment plant discharges must meet effluent limitations which are considered to represent best available treatment by the State of Wyoming, however, the permit also contains language which requires the permit to be modified if more stringent limitations are developed at the federal level.

Runoff from disturbed areas will be controlled by sedimentation ponds which are designed to completely contain the runoff resulting from a ten year - 24 hour precipitation event. Because these ponds will not normally discharge, they are not specifically identified in the permit but are covered by operation and maintenance provisions.

Periodic self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire November 30, 1986.

(5) APPLICANT NAME: Husky Oil Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 380
 Cody, WY 82414
 FACILITY LOCATION: Federal Ogle #1 and 2 Battery, SW¼, Section 19,
 T44N, R96W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023388

(6) APPLICANT NAME: L & R Drilling Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 337
 Newcastle, WY 82701
 FACILITY LOCATION: Government Olds #1, SW¼, NW¼, Section 9,
 T44N, R62W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027081

(7) APPLICANT NAME: Marathon Oil Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 120
 Casper, WY 82601
 FACILITY LOCATION: South Water Collection Pit, SW¼, Section 20,
 T46N, R98W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001805

FACILITY LOCATION: North Water Collection Pit, NW¼, Section 18,
 T46N, R98W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001813

FACILITY LOCATION: Walker Dome Field, Smith 4E Battery, NW¼,
 Section 9, T46N, R99W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0022659

FACILITY LOCATION: Walker Dome Field, Smith 3E Battery, NW¼,
 Section 9, T46N, R99W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-022675

FACILITY LOCATION: Walker Dome Field, Smith 2E-8F Battery, NW¼,
 Section 9, T46N, R99W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0022683

FACILITY LOCATION: Walker Dome Field, Smith 6F Battery, NW¼,
 Section 9, T46N, R99W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0022691

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Hot Springs and Weston Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Coal Draw, Beaver Creek and Enos Creek (Class II Waters), Gooseberry Creek (Class III Water) and Grass Creek and Sand Coulee (Class IV Waters) all via unnamed drainages.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. No chemical limitations have been imposed on these facilities except for oil and grease (10 mg/l) and pH (6.5-8.5). This is due to the extreme aridness of the area which allows for beneficial use of the water for agricultural purposes. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharges and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1986.

(8) APPLICANT NAME: Arco Oil and Gas Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 5540
 Denver, CO 80217
 FACILITY LOCATION: Hamilton Dome Field, NE¼, NE¼, SE¼, Section 15,
 T44N, R98W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000680

FACILITY LOCATION: Argo-Westates Lease, SW¼, SE¼, Section 10
 T44N, R98W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025461

(9) APPLICANT NAME: The Brinkerhoff Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: 3410 Anaconda Tower
 555-17th Street
 Denver, CO 80202
 FACILITY LOCATION: Waugh Dome Field, Husky 3A Lease, SW¼, Section 7,
 T44N, R96W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0026387

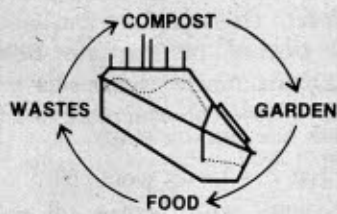
(10) APPLICANT NAME: Coastal Oil and Gas Corporation
 MAILING ADDRESS: 2100 Prudential Plaza
 P.O. Box 749
 Denver, CO 80201
 FACILITY LOCATION: Todd Federal Lease, NW¼, Section 21, T45N, R67W,
 Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0022578

(11) APPLICANT NAME: Conoco, Inc.
 MAILING ADDRESS: 907 North Union Blvd.
 Casper, WY 82601
 FACILITY LOCATION: South Sunshine Battery, NE¼, Section 9, T46N,
 R101W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000833
 FACILITY LOCATION: North Sunshine State 16 Battery, SE¼, Section
 16, T47N, R101W, Park County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000850
 FACILITY LOCATION: North Sunshine State 27 Battery, SW¼, Section 27,
 T47N, R101W, Park County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000973
 FACILITY LOCATION: Gebo Unit Battery, NE¼, Section 23, T44N, R95W,
 Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001031
 FACILITY LOCATION: Coronado Oil Company
 1500 Security Life Bldg.
 1616 Glenarm Place
 Denver, CO 80202
 (12) APPLICANT NAME: Collins Lease, NE¼, Section 33, T45N, R61W,
 Weston County, Wyoming
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wy-0025127
 PERMIT NUMBER: Odys Smith Lease, North Skull Creek Oil Pool,
 NE¼, Section 33, T45N, R62W, Weston County, Wyoming
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wy-0025135
 PERMIT NUMBER: North Skull Creek Oil Pool Chism, Government
 Lease, NE¼, Section 33, T45N, R62W, Weston County, Wyoming
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wy-0025143
 PERMIT NUMBER: Peter Smith "A" Lease, NE¼, Section 27, T45N,
 R62W, Weston County, Wyoming
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wy-0025151
 PERMIT NUMBER: Townsend Lease, NE¼, Section 23, T46N, R64W
 Weston County, Wyoming
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wy-0025160
 PERMIT NUMBER: State of Wyoming Lease, SW¼, Section 14, T46N,
 R64W, Weston County, Wyoming
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wy-0025178
 PERMIT NUMBER: Butcher Government Lease, NW¼, Section 23, T46N,
 R64W, Weston County, Wyoming
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wy-0025186
 PERMIT NUMBER: Lake Government Lease, SE¼, Section 15, T46N,
 R64W, Weston County, Wyoming
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wy-0025194
 PERMIT NUMBER: McCaullough Government Lease, SW¼, Section 13,
 T46N, R64W, Weston County, Wyoming
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wy-0025208
 PERMIT NUMBER: L. Richard Girouard
 MAILING ADDRESS: 1515 Cleveland Place
 Denver, CO 80202
 FACILITY LOCATION: Waugh Dome Field, Government 21-1 Lease, SW¼,
 NE¼, Section 12, T44N, R97W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0026379
 (14) APPLICANT NAME: Gordon Construction Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: Lincoln Center #3150
 1660 Lincoln Street
 Denver, CO 80264
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wagonhouse Field, Christensen #1 Lease, NE¼,
 Section 6, T44N, R98W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0025054
 (15) APPLICANT NAME: Husky Oil Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 380
 Cody, WY 82414
 FACILITY LOCATION: Davis Lease, NE¼, Section 3, T44N, R96W,
 Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000345
 FACILITY LOCATION: Nelson Tank Battery, NW¼, Section 2, T44N, R96W,
 Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0024660
 FACILITY LOCATION: Pitchfork Unit, NE¼, Section 14, T48N, R102W,
 Park County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0026590
 FACILITY LOCATION: Davis #2, Little Sand Draw Field, NE¼, NE¼,
 Section 11, T44N, R96W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030503
 FACILITY LOCATION: Rose Creek #4, SW¼, SW¼, Section 2, T48N,
 R103W, Park County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030511
 FACILITY LOCATION: Pitchfork Unit, NE¼, Section 14, T48N, R102W,
 Park County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0026590
 FACILITY LOCATION: Davis #2, Little Sand Draw Field, NE¼, NE¼,
 Section 11, T44N, R96W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030503
 FACILITY LOCATION: Rose Creek #4, SW¼, SW¼, Section 2,
 T48N, R103W, Park County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030511
 (16) APPLICANT NAME: J-W Operating Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: 1900 LVT Tower
 Dallas, TX 75201
 FACILITY LOCATION: Sheep Point Field, Section 16, T47N, R102W,
 Park County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0020265
 (17) APPLICANT NAME: Myron Riesling
 MAILING ADDRESS: Box 307
 Osage, Wyoming 82723
 FACILITY LOCATION: Government Buffalo Lease, SE¼, Section 8, T44N, R63W, Weston
 County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003425
 (18) APPLICANT NAME: L & R Drilling Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: Box 337
 Newcastle, Wyoming 82701
 FACILITY LOCATION: Bock Lease, NE¼, Section 7, T44N, R62W,
 Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027090
 (19) APPLICANT NAME: Marathon Oil Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 120
 Casper, WY 82601
 FACILITY LOCATION: Buffalo 20 Lease, Battery #1, SW¼, NW¼,
 Section 2, T47N, R100W, Park County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0050309
 (20) APPLICANT NAME: McAlester Fuel Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 10
 Magnolia, AR 71753
 FACILITY LOCATION: Skull Creek Unit, Battery B, NE¼, Section 21,
 T44N, R62W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003051
 FACILITY LOCATION: Skull Creek Unit, Battery D, NE¼, Section 28,
 T44N, R62W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003069
 FACILITY LOCATION: Skull Creek Unit, Battery C, SE¼, Section 21,
 T44N, R62W, Weston County, Wyoming

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BULLETIN BOARD

NOMINATE ADVISORS

Interior Secretary James Watt is providing the opportunity for organizations, associations and individuals to nominate persons to serve on the National Public Lands Advisory Council. The council would advise the secretary on management of public lands in the West. Send your nomination with qualification information by Nov. 30 to the Bureau of Land Management, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240

COAL LEASING

If you are interested in leasing coal in southern Utah's Kaiparowits, Alton-Kanab and Kolob coal fields, let the Bureau of Land Management know your desire by Nov. 30. The BLM expects to call for coal leasing interest in central Utah and Colorado later this year. Contact the Salt Lake City BLM office at (801) 524-5826.

WILDERNESS MEETING

The Wyoming Wilderness Association will hold a general membership meeting in Lander, Wyo., on Nov. 21 in the Fremont County Library. Interested persons are welcome to come by between 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

RURAL WATER

Rural folk and agricultural leaders are invited to attend Colorado area meetings concerning the High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer Study and its results. Meetings will be held Nov. 19, Northeastern Junior College, Sterling; Nov. 23, Walsh Community Building, Walsh; Nov. 24, Cow Palace, Lamar; Nov. 30, St. John's Catholic Church, Yuma; Dec. 1, Ramada Inn, Burlington; Dec. 2, American Legion Hall, Holyoke.

SCENIC TRAIL MOTORING

The Bureau of Land Management has proposed regulations for governing the use of motorized vehicles on national scenic trails. Portions of both the Pacific Crest Scenic Trail in California and Oregon, and the Continental Divide Scenic Trail which stretches from Montana to Mexico cross BLM land. Copies of the proposed rules are available from the BLM (420), 1800 C St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments on the proposals should be sent to the same address by Dec. 18.

SNOWY RANGE COURSES

Winter outdoor courses offered at the Snowy Range campus of the University of the Wilderness are detailed in the University's new catalog. The Snowy Range campus is located 35 miles from Laramie, Wyo. For a copy of the catalog, write: University of the Wilderness, P.O. Box 1687, Evergreen, Colo. 80439, or call (303) 674-9724.

WIDE WATER

"The River Is Wider Than It Seems" is a film exploring the environment/development conflicts of the lower Flathead, a free-flowing river in western Montana. The film is available through the Wyoming Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 3274, University Station, Laramie 82071, (307) 766-6496.

BLACK HILLS PLAN

A plan to guide the management and resources of the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota for the next 50 years has been released for public review. For copies of the plan, contact the forest supervisor's office, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730.

SIMPLE ACCESS

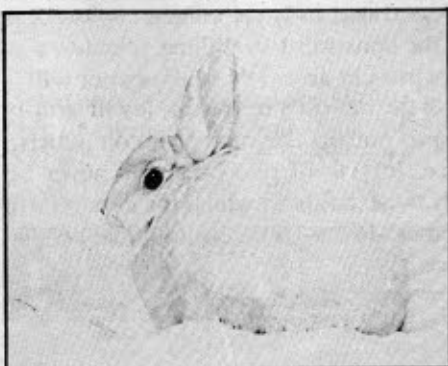
The Bureau of Land Management has proposed simple ways for processing the right-of-way access applications for energy-related projects. Robert Burford, BLM director, says the application process has taken too long in the past and that we need to bring domestic energy from the field to the market and home quickly. For a copy of "A Review of the BLM's Energy Permitting Process," contact the BLM at 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

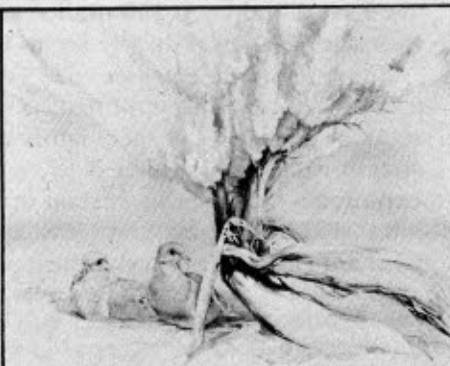
A set of proposed rules for nominating sites to the World Heritage list awaits your comments. The Interior Department encourages the public to review the proposed rules used to determine historical and natural areas of international significance and irreplaceable qualities. Current listing examples are: Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Canyon and Mesa Verde National Park. Copies of the rules are available at the International Affairs Branch, National Park Service, Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments should be sent to the director of the National Park Service at the above address, no later than Dec. 21.

BLM IMPROVES

The BLM has evolved improvements for processing rights-of-way applications for pipelines and transmission lines. These improvements should reduce time, money and frustrations spent in applying for right-of-way permits, said BLM director Robert Burford. For a copy of the BLM's "A Review of the Bureau of Land Management's Energy Permitting Process," contact the BLM (330), 18th and C St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.



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 Dubois, Wyoming 82513

STATE OF WYOMING PUBLIC NOTICE

On December 7, 1981, the Wyoming Environmental Quality Council will hold public hearings. The public hearings will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Medicine Bow Room, School of Extended Studies, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearings will be to receive public comments on the following:

1. Amendments to Section 25c (2) of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations to revise the required control measures on the coal handling system and product load out system for FMC Corporation.
2. Modifications of Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations, Chapter III to include provisions for obtaining permits to operate wastewater facilities and public water supplies.
3. Proposed new Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations, Chapter XI entitled "Standards for Permit to Construct, Install, or Modify Public Water Supplies and Wastewater Facilities."

The hearing on the Amendments to Section 25 of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations will begin December 7 at 10:00 a.m. The hearing on Chapter III and Chapter XI will immediately follow the Air Quality hearing.

Persons making oral statements at the hearing should provide a written copy of their statement to the hearing officer. Written statements may be submitted anytime prior to December 7, 1981 to the Chairman, Wyoming Environmental Quality Council, 401 West 19th Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Written comments receive consideration equal to oral comments.

Persons wishing additional information concerning the Chapter III modifications or the new Chapter IX may contact Mr. Jake Strohman, Engineering Control Supervisor, Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division at 1111 E. Lincolnway, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Telephone: 307-777-7781.

A copy of the proposed regulations is on file at each of the County Clerks' offices as well as the Department of Environmental Quality field offices in Lander and Sheridan, Wyoming.

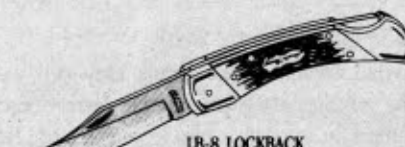
J.B. McKenzie Co. is now offering these quality Schrade knives at a great savings to you for the coming Christmas season.

Because of our concern for the vanishing wilderness and wildlife, we will donate all profits from the sale of these knives to Dr. Charles Jonkel of the University of Montana for his ongoing Border Grizzly Project. —J.B. McKenzie



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PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003077
 FACILITY LOCATION: Skull Creek Unit, Battery A, SW 1/4, Section 15, T44N, R62W, Weston County, Wyoming

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Hot Springs, Weston and Park Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Coal Draw, Wood River, Stockade Beaver Creek, Beaver Creek, Rawhide Creek, unnamed tributary of the Greybull River, Sunshine Creek and Mush Creek all Class II waters. Gooseberry Creek is a Class III receiving stream. Class IV waters include Cottonwood Creek, Lone Tree Creek, Oil Creek, Sand Draw, Wagonhound Creek, Little Buffalo Creek and Skull Creek. The discharges reach these receiving streams via various unnamed drainages.

The discharges must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. Chapter VII of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations infers that as long as the Produced Water Criteria is met, the water is suitable for beneficial use. There is no evidence to indicate that limitations more stringent than the Produced Water Criteria are needed to meet Wyoming's Water Quality Standards. The Department will continue to evaluate the discharges and, if necessary, will modify the permits if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

Semi-annual self-monitoring is required for all parameters with the exception of oil and grease, which must be monitored quarterly. The proposed expiration date for the permits is December 31, 1986.

STATE/EPA TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to December 14, 1981. Comments may be directed to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Permits Section, 1111 East Lincolnway, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Enforcement Division, Permits Administration and Compliance Branch, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, Colorado 80295. All comments received prior to December 14, 1981 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling the State of Wyoming, (307) 777-7781, or EPA, (303) 327-3874, or by writing to the aforementioned addresses.

The complete applications, draft permits and related documents are available for review and reproduction at the aforementioned addresses.

OPINION

Lottery leasing: the government's casino

The U.S. Interior Department has announced that it will implement a program to increase the filing fee on oil and gas lease lotteries to \$75, a change from the current level of \$25. In addition, the agency will increase rentals to as much as \$3 per acre per year from the current \$1 level.

Interior's decision has come in for a lot of criticism — for all the wrong reasons. The hue and cry has been raised that the increased fee will discourage the "average guy" from participating in the lottery. In addition, say critics, it will "turn the whole thing over to the very affluent oil companies."

Perhaps a little review is in order. Every month, leases on public lands are offered to the public in a lottery. Until recently, anyone could enter by paying \$10, filling out the lottery card and agreeing to pay one dollar per acre per year if he or she won the lease. Entrants did not have to be oil companies, or know the slightest thing about oil exploration and development.

As any government employee who knew anything about it would tell you, most of the leases have very low potential for the discovery of oil and gas. The Bureau of Land Management, which runs the lottery, simply makes any and all leases available. Considering the bargain price, a large number of people took their chances, hoping to get rich in oil.

Interestingly enough, very few oil companies enter the lease lotteries. Because there is so much competition, they sit it out and buy leases from the eventual winners. Unlike the people sending in their \$10 for the drawing, the industry usually knows which leases actually have production potential. They can make an informed decision.

Speculation is rampant in these drawings. BLM defends them because they raise a lot of money for the government — in some years, the Wyoming BLM has taken in more money in oil and gas lottery entrance fees than it spends for all its other activities.

However, the lottery does not — and never has — encourage the development of oil and gas resources. Only about six percent of the lands leased have ever been explored for petroleum. The lottery has encouraged instead fraud and abuse of the system.

Interior says its fee and rental increases will cure these abuses. While the steps

may help, they are not nearly enough. Interior should institute a program for competitive bidding on onshore federal oil and gas leases, just as it has done on offshore leases.

A competitive bidding system would accomplish many things. Most important, it would virtually eliminate the current scattershot approach to leasing that has resulted in far more land leased than is ever explored. This chaotic system has led to disjointed management of public lands. In the case of the Overthrust Belt and leasing within potential wilderness areas, land management agencies have been backed into an untenable position, in part due to 30 years and more of leasing whatever lands became available.

Second, competitive bidding would assure that the leases would fall into the hands of those most likely to do something useful with them — oil and gas development companies. Public lands and the minerals on them should not be a parlor game for idle speculators. Speculators do not develop leases. Oil and gas companies — whatever their faults — do. The purposes of these leases is to get the hydrocarbons from the ground to the consumer, not to enrich speculators who have an extra \$10 — or even \$75 — laying around.

If the federal government wants to run a lottery, let it go ahead and do it. Everybody can throw in \$10 and the winner takes the lion's share. Lots of states do it, and it is more honest than luring dollars for an oil lease without any oil in it.

The final argument against a competitive system is that it will "cut down the possible acreage (a small operator) can acquire." To this we can only say "Good!" We have already seen 100 million acres leased and only six million explored. A shortage of "acreage" hardly seems to be the constraint to drilling.

Simply raising the entry fee to \$75 will not prevent any of these abuses nor will it encourage better long-term management of the nation's resources. It will simply reduce the number of speculators willing to put up the money. A competitive system would reduce useless leasing — i.e., leasing of tracts that will never be explored — it will make certain that only those lands in which the experts are interested will be leased, and it will place those leases in the hands of the people who are most likely to make them produce.

—DSW

'Twas the month before Christmas...



...and all through the West,
Myriad creatures were stirring, they were cold and distressed.
The grizzlies and mule deer and ferrets black-footed
Looked in wonder at plunder, and asked: How'd they stood it?

James Watt in his fervor and Big Oil in its zeal
Were increasingly leasing the great Commonweal.
The rigs and the draglines arose such a clatter,
We sprang to our typewriters and started to batter.

Out of their beds jump your friends in a panic,
Tear open the mailbox in a state nearly manic,
When what to their wondering eyes should appear,
But a sixteen page paper, with prose fair and clear.

On Utah, Wyoming, Montana, New Mex,
On endrin, on Exxon, on shale and BuRec.
On cows, Colorado, on overthrust belts,
On ecotage, wetlands, on land trusts and pelts.

On Idaho, tailings, on solar and peat,
On things that you plant and things that you eat.
On smelters, and elk bugles, on gas and more such,
On BLM, EPA, Burford and Gorsuch.

So spring to our sleigh, give your friends a subscription,
And the issues will fly full of photos and diction.
To readers and revilers, whom we please or offend:

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all HCN!"



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Reagan's free market energy myth

GUEST EDITORIAL

by Colin Norman

If the Reagan administration were really serious about letting market forces determine energy supply and demand, the United States would consume little more energy in the year 2000 than it uses now, energy costs would stabilize and oil imports would drop virtually to zero. The key to this rosy outlook, said the study, *Eight Great Energy Myths: The Least-Cost Energy Strategy — 1978-2000* by the Mellon Institute, is to regard energy like any other commodity, such as food or metals, and let economics rather than politics guide its production and use.

This, of course, is what the Reagan administration claims it is doing. But while it preaches free market ideals, it has increased funding for nuclear power and retained some subsidies for synthetic fuels; it has backed away from its promise to deregulate the price of natural gas; and its chief energy official, Secretary of Energy James Edwards, argues that the way to solve the nation's energy problems is to "produce, produce, produce."

"The only reason you make all that market intervention is if you think the market is not going to work," says Roger Sant, who directed the Mellon study.

Sant appears at first glance an unlikely enthusiast for the free market. As head of energy conservation in the Federal Energy Administration under President Ford, he helped put together many of the regulations governing energy use, and he now says he was "as guilty of furthering the myths (about energy problems) as anyone before or since." The 1979-1980 OPEC — Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries — price rise helped him change his mind.

Oil prices have now risen to the point where alternative energy sources can compete economically and where investments in more efficient use of energy will pay handsome dividends, the Mellon study argues. As a result, economic forces alone, if given a chance, should hold energy use to about 83.5 quadrillion Btu (quads) in 2000, compared with about 80 quads today. In contrast, the Department of Energy is forecasting that demand will swell to more than 100 quads. The difference between the two levels of demand amount to hundreds of billions of dollars, not just for the fuel, but also for the facilities to supply it.

The Reagan administration, Sant argues, has been fooled by the same myths that have guided energy policy since the 1973-74 Arab oil embargo. Chief among them is the belief that energy is in short supply. The Mellon study concludes that the economic incentives for energy conservation are

now so strong that the supply problems can be reduced to manageable proportions. But the Reagan policy rests on the assumption that the only way to meet rising demand is to spur production. "This preoccupation with the supply side of energy is a misconception that could be deadly," argues Sant, for "the economy cannot afford to dissipate capital into noncompetitive market entities." He would prefer to see all subsidies for energy production removed so that investments in energy efficiency can compete on an equal footing with investments in energy supply. This, he believes, would force choices to be made on the basis of cost, and consumers would choose the least-cost way of meeting their energy needs.

Another myth that Sant believes the Reagan administration has swallowed is that environmental regulations constitute a major roadblock to a healthy energy policy. The Mellon study's analysis was based on the assumption that environmental laws on the books in mid-1981 — including the Clean Air Act — would remain in effect, and yet concluded that this would not pose any real problems. "Although there is plenty of room for discussion about the costs and benefits of current and future environmental regulations," the study asserts, "current environmental regulations are not a significant barrier to meeting energy service needs." The reason is simple enough: investments designed to

reduce energy consumption are far less environmentally disruptive than are investments in energy production.

All this may seem too good to be true, and perhaps it is. The Mellon study does not, for example, deal with the market imperfections that prevent customers from choosing the least-cost energy options. Such imperfections include the fact that more than half the household appliances sold in the United States are bought by developers and landlords, rather than by those who will use them and pay the fuel bills. It also does not address the equity issues involved when consumers cannot make a least-cost energy decision because they cannot afford the investment needed to make long-term savings.

Nevertheless, the study's central thesis presents an interesting challenge to the administration. In essence, it is claiming that the administration would do much better if it began to practice what it has been preaching.

Colin Norman is an editor with *Science* magazine and the author of a recently published book, *The God That Limp*. This article was originally published in *Science*, Vol. 213, Sept. 25, 1981, page 1481. The material is copyrighted 1981 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and is reprinted here by permission.

LETTERS

SHOWING PROMISE

Dear HCN,

The "new" HCN gives promise. As with any major venture there is learning to come with familiarity and experience. I recall the first issue of the small town weekly I had just joined as editor carried 8 one-column heads across the top of page one, with solid body type below all the way to the bottom. Never again, of course, for I got a quick lesson in break-it-up makeup from my non-resident owner-publisher. Maybe a bit of tooling in that line would make it easier on your readers, but content was good enough to bring nods of approval from this persnickety one.

More important, though was what your lead story implies (HCN 10/16/81), and aspects of the whole thing that I'm afraid left a few holes in the story. Moss did a good piece of work in the space he had, and I'm sure you'll come back to salinity in the Colorado Basin more than once as you go along.

That and other examples are told well in the CEQ report titled *Desertification in the United States*, which is or should be a companion piece to its 1980 report, *Global 2000*. Scares hell out of anybody thinking beyond day after tomorrow. One sentence from the former's "Conclusions" reads: "About 225 million acres of land in the United States are undergoing severe desertification — an area roughly the size of the 13 original states."

Worse still, we seem to be doing precious little to turn the situation around; are, in fact, plunging ahead at an even more reckless pace, thanks to Interior Secretary James Watt and what's-his-name from that logging outfit who's in charge of the Forest Service over in the Department of Agriculture. Meantime, while the energy scouts are buying up agricultural water in our West (which means less wheat, sugar, and beef for the future), some 500 to 750 million people worldwide are suffering severe malnutrition (which is today's euphemism for "starvation"). More, the numbers of human mouths to feed keep going up at

the well known exponential rate, while we stay disputatious over what's the right or wrong thing to do about it.

Enough on that. You're making it, HCN, and count on me to renew when my subscription runs low.

William Voigt, Jr.
Blackshear, Georgia

WILD CORRECTIONS

Dear HCN,

Your "Hotline" column (HCN, 10/16/81, p. 5) says "Colorado, Idaho, and New Mexico have already passed statewide wilderness bills."

This should read Colorado, New Mexico, Alaska, S. Dakota, Louisiana and Missouri. The Idaho bill of last year dealt with the River of No Return Wilderness and Selway-Bitterroot additions in central Idaho only. There was no statewide bill for Idaho...only for the above listed states.

Another correction: The Utah delegation is working on a Utah bill with plans for introduction in early 1982.

Andy Wiessner
Counsel, House Subcommittee on Public Lands
Washington, D.C.

DUELLING DURANGANS

Dear HCN,

In an otherwise informative article (HCN, 10/16/81), your paper printed one error of fact in its story about Durango, Colo. and the Animas-La Plata water project.

The water project will not cost the average Durango household an additional \$81 per year for water, but will increase our water bills an additional \$81 per *bimonthly* water bill! That figure, of course, is based on the current estimated cost of this \$490 million water project. Since the project's cost has been increasing at the rate of nearly \$100 million per year, it is reasonable to project that the cost of it to Durango area water users would be double that amount, if the project were built.

It is also interesting to note here, that if the Animas-La Plata had had to be analyzed by the Principles & Standards, it could never have passed muster. And if the Bureau of Reclamation had done a

single-purpose alternative for Durango, we would never have been included as one of this project's so-called "beneficiaries."

It has cost those of use who opposed the Animas-La Plata project over \$10,000 in legal bills to attempt to extricate ourselves from this monstrosity.

Jeanne W. Englert
Durango, Colo.

(ed. note: John Murphy, head of the local water district negotiating contracts for the project's water, said the cost would be much lower than Englert contends.)

DEEPER SNOW

Dear HCN,

I was still enjoying the beautifully formed prose of Don Snow's "Afield" (HCN, 9/18/81) when I received the next issue and read the disparaging letter from Myra Connell critical of Snow's style. I really couldn't believe my eyes...was it possible that HCN readers were so "concrete" that they could not appreciate the metaphors in Snow's piece? Surely that letter could not be representative of the reaction to "Afield."

Generation gap be hanged; I am edging on half a century of wilderness walking and reading and by God I can not only accept but actually look forward to reading about "gopher chokers" AND trout "given to chasing whores" all in the same publication. I hope you folks know there are more like me out here who appreciate both the beauty and the beasts of HCN...and look forward to more and deeper Snow.

Richard Prossapio
El Paso, Texas

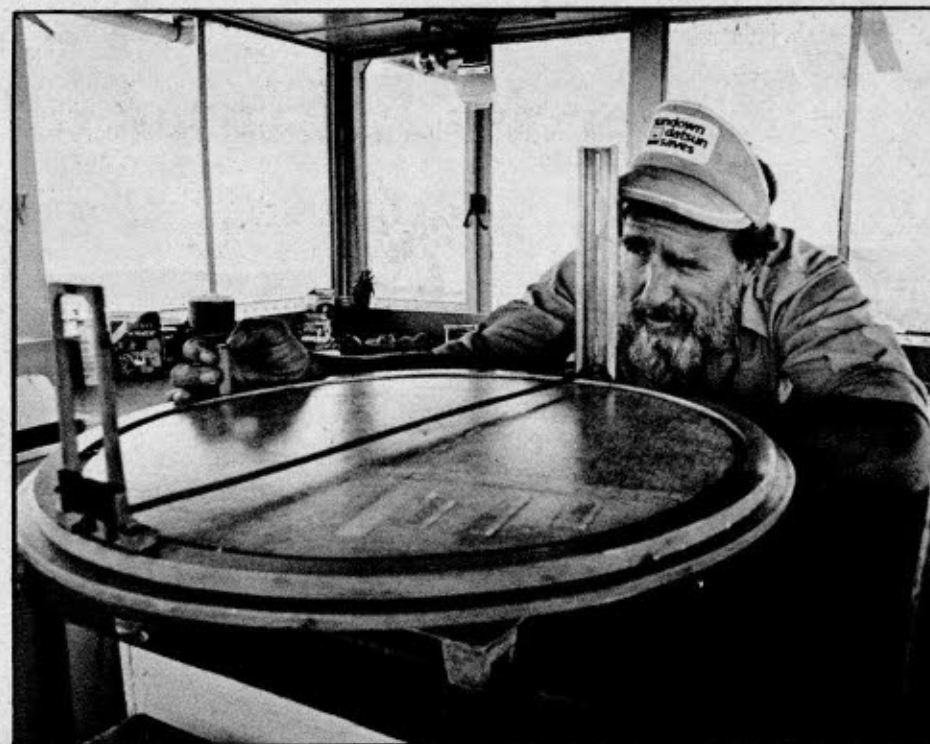
BENEVOLENT MIEN

Dear HCN,

I was flattered by the drawing of the author on the last cover of HCN (10/2/81), but would like to reassure you and your readers that I don't really look as fierce and choleric as your artist imagines. Evidence enclosed (see below).

How come no poems anymore? And I miss the book reviews by the indolent critic Peter Wild.

Ed Abbey
Oracle, Arizona



Cecil Andrus on windmills and balance

Cecil Andrus served as Interior Secretary under President Jimmy Carter. Following Carter's defeat in 1980, Andrus returned to Idaho, where he had served as governor from 1970-78.

+++

Question: Some western governors have recently expressed a desire for more state participation — consent, essentially — in decisions regarding federal lands and resources. What kinds of problems would this create for an interior secretary?

Andrus: Well, if you're talking about consultation, where the governors have a right to help us make policy, that's not a problem. We did it very well with the coal leasing policy. When we started up federal leasing again in 1978, it followed two years of continual cooperative help from the western states. But if you're talking about an outright veto power, that would cause all kinds of problems for any secretary of interior. But take me back to when I'm sitting in the governor's chair, and I'll be all for that.

But the regional coal teams that you set up to determine federal leasing targets — their recommendations have been disregarded in recent Department of Energy targets for coal leasing. In a previous interview (HCN 10/3/80) you said you wanted to make sure there was a full cupboard for the coal industry to come to. Do you think it's the right approach to make available more coal than the market seems to require?

What I said before was that we had a pantry cupboard, and we wanted it so that if we needed 100 million tons of coal we could go to the pantry and say okay, we will sell 100 million tons of coal. But you should not lease a whole lot more than what is necessary because then you suppress the marketplace, creating unfair competition. That's not the role of the federal government. They're talking about raising those goals way above this procedure — and we've got a coal glut right now. You've got 150 million tons of unused capacity because industry doesn't have a market for it.

Should sales of oil and coal leases be designed to maximize income to the federal government?

Revenue to the federal government was aside and apart when I was at Interior. You did your job and whatever revenues were, that's what you made — we did not look upon it as selling resources to balance the budget. However, the last year I was there we had about a \$5.8 billion budget and brought in \$9.1 billion in revenues. But we didn't go out and try to sell a bunch of acreage just to make money.

Wouldn't raising the coal leasing targets and having a sale tend to drive down the revenue to the government?

Sure would. Take a look at an actual happening: the last Gulf of Mexico OCS (Outer Continental Shelf) sale, where the oil companies didn't bid anywhere near the normal amount, because their plates are so full right now — they don't have enough drill rigs to explore them all. The returns to the federal taxpayer were down.

Looking at the budgetary cutbacks at Interior and in the federal government generally, what's your feeling about turning over enforcement of laws — particularly environmental laws — to states?

The problem is, this administration is saying we're going to give you this responsibility, but they're not giving them any of the money, so what you have is federal laws enacted by Congress — many of them in 1970-73, the National Environmental Policy Act, clean water, clean air — but there are no dollars to enforce them. So what

you're going to find is a lack of enforcement until a local group on a given issue takes it to a federal court, and a federal judge says, "Thou shalt," and then you get enforcement. Now, the strip mine act is a good case of that — I suspect that the federal judges will be running that program before very long.

You take the Environmental Protection Agency rhetoric, some of the trial balloons they're floating about cutting budgets over there, and you'd have the same thing. You run head on into a legal confrontation where there will be litigation.

How do you feel about the interpretation of the wilderness act by which drilling must be allowed in wilderness if reclamation is feasible?

It's wrong. There isn't any question that the Wilderness Act of 1964 permitted mineral exploration in wilderness areas. Now the law permitted it, but it did not mandate it, and it has historically been the view of all administrations from 1964 on through 1980, Republican and Democrat alike, elephants and donkeys, that you just don't do it. And yet now there appears to be a concern on the part of some that you should do it. Well, I say to you...why here and why now? If we were told that we had no other place to go I'd say sure, so be it. But that is not the case. You've got 100 million acres under lease — when I left Interior we had 112,000 leases onshore covering 100 million acres — of which they had only explored six million acres. They don't need to go into some of these fragile or sensitive areas until they've looked at some of the other high potential areas.

These areas were declared wilderness, not by some fuzzy-headed idiot out there with a walking stick, but by highly qualified technical people, who identified those few, and I underscore few, areas that should be set aside in a wilderness state. Comprehend if you will that the wilderness in the Lower 48 is only 1.2 percent of the land area. That's not a great big theft from the federal larder.

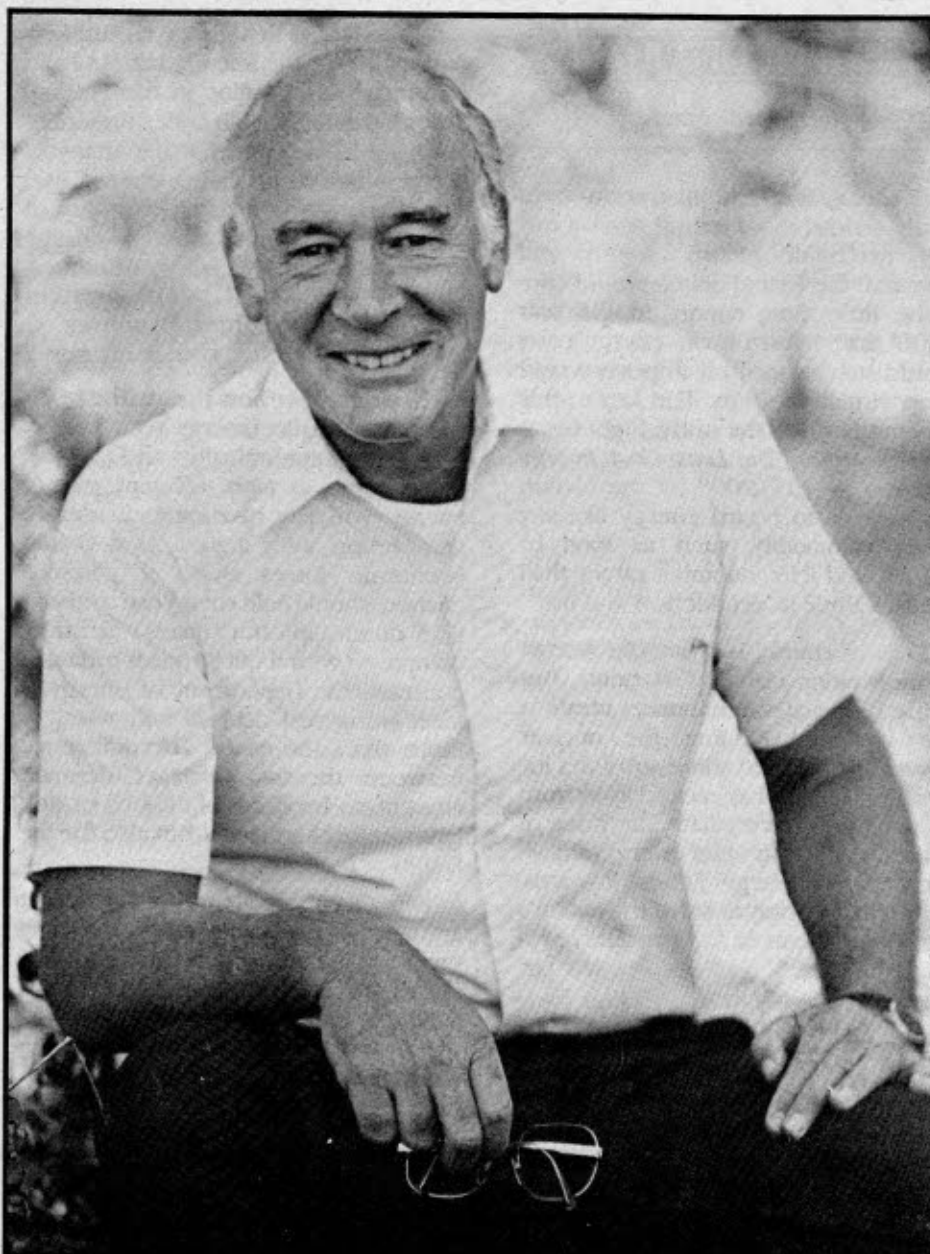
How important are environmental issues in voters' minds, compared to issues like inflation?

If they're general items, they drop down — on a scale of one to 10 — in the two-three range. If they're specific issues, local issues, then they're right up there at nine or ten. A specific issue would be like the molybdenum mine in the White Cloud Mountains (of Idaho).

Is the kind of issue that helped elect you governor in 1970 — like your opposition to the mine in the White Clouds — still an issue you could win with?

In my state, yes. The people here are very jealous. The funny thing is, if you asked, "are they wild-eyed environmentalists?" they'd say "Oh heavens no! I'm not one of those." But if you said are you still opposed to the molybdenum mine in the White Clouds that could drain right into the east fork of the Salmon River and then into the main Salmon River, they would say, "We don't want that kind of stuff going on here." You would be interested in seeing the testimony of Lou Harris, the pollster, Oct. 15 before a congressional committee, on this very thing...He pointed out that no single major segment of the public wants environmental laws made less strict.

The people look for rational ideas and balance, and that word balance is so elusive...One man's balance is another man's tilting at windmills. For example, the molybdenum mine in the White Clouds, I opposed that then I oppose it now, and I would in the future...but I approved a molybdenum mine over by Challis (Idaho), where it wasn't up in a



Cecil Andrus

hydrological drainage. It was out in an area where they had plenty of opportunity for protection. You have to look at each one individually.

Do people understand the clean air act well enough to make it a ballot consideration in 1982?

Not when you speak of it that way. If you put it on the ballot as: Do you want to see the air in Wyoming deteriorate below what it is right now, you're damn right, it'd be an issue. But if it's just in general terms, are you for the Clean Air Act, it's no big deal. You've got to be specific.

What are you doing now? Are you off the synthetic fuels corporation board?

I lasted about 15 minutes. Hell, I

didn't even sit down in a chair and get it warm.

I'm trying to make a living and how I'm doing it is in the consulting business, in the energy fields. I buy and sell some energy products...sulfur, coal, that type. I'm an organizer of and stockholder in Environmental Testing and Certification Corp., in Edison, N.J., which is a large lab for testing samples of soil, air, and water to make certain what is in those samples.

Any political plans?

I'm not active in any political endeavor in my own right. The first time I'll have to make a choice is in 1984. That's the (Idaho) senatorial race; then in the gubernatorial race, in 1986. So I've got time to sit back and reflect and try to get my own affairs in order; I don't have to jump out and make any rash statements.



NEXT

High Country News focuses on another of the region's states: Colorado. To ease growing pains in oil shale country, Exxon is building a new town from scratch — Battlement Mesa. We also see how the Denver Water Board often goes in over its head while trying to secure water to quench the enormous urban thirst. And HCN finds

two shoot-em-out editors in the coal-mining town of Paoonia, battling on issues from orchards to unemployment.