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High Country

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Friday, December 11, 1981

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Uranium tomorrow



When uranium mines shut down last year in Jeffrey City, Wyo., there was no alternative employer to pick up the laid-off workers, so the town held one of the biggest garage sales in Wyoming's history, after which the trailers and trucks beaded down the road. Industry officials are now wondering if, or when, they can bring towns like Jeffrey City back to life.

Down in the pits, the industry looks for a way back up

by Don Snow

John Benitez is a man hard at work in a troubled industry. As Director of Government Affairs for Rocky Mountain Energy Company, the energy subsidiary of Union Pacific Railroad, Benitez keeps tabs on policy and market developments that affect his company and the uranium industry at large. So when New Mexico Sen. Pete Domenici asked the Department of Energy to assess the viability of the U.S. uranium industry, Benitez followed the department's study with intense interest.

DOE's conclusions shocked Benitez. The agency found that in spite of cut-backs in production, massive lay-offs of uranium workers, and exploration

activities that might not be sufficient to fulfill additions to long-term uranium supply, the industry is currently "viable." Benitez adamantly disagrees.

"We at Rocky Mountain Energy believe that the industry is not currently viable at all," he said. "If you define viability to mean that the industry is currently capable of growing, developing new facilities, and making investments today to meet future requirements, then the industry simply is not viable."

A self-proclaimed optimist, Benitez believes that the industry's current illness is not fatal. In fact, he maintains, given a firm federal commitment to

(continued on page 10)

WESTERN ROUNDUP



High Country News

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Bear in Glacier National Park

Cabin Creek mine scares Glacier Park

A proposed open-pit mine which would produce two million tons of coal a year in Cabin Creek, British Columbia, Canada, poses a serious threat to fish, wildlife, water and air quality in Glacier National Park, environmental officials on both sides of the Canadian — United States border have conceded.

As one of the last grizzly bear habitats on the continent, home for big horn sheep, moose, elk and deer, and a major gathering place of eagles who feed on the 30,000 salmon which spawn here, the area around the North Fork of the Flathead River in northwestern Montana still constitutes one of America's most pristine wildernesses. Yet, if mining in B.C.'s Elk River Valley just to the west is any indication, the now clear waters of the Flathead could soon flow black as the coal dust which chokes the Elk River each spring and fall.

Bill Burge, spokesman for Sage Creek Coal Co., which has proposed developing the two-pit coal mine, said the company would do "whatever is necessary to protect the environment." He noted that the company's mine plan has been designed with settling ponds, retaining dams and dikes "as stable as modern engineering can make them." Burge stated the company would not allow

sedimentation to flow into any streams.

Norm Ringstat of the B.C. Ministry of the Environment is not so sanguine about the proposed mine's effects. "I am not convinced that existing technology exists to meet North Fork quality objectives," he said. The mine would engulf Cabin Creek, a tributary of the North Fork. Pointing to the effects of open pit coal mining activities in the Elk River basin, Ringstat said, "We feel we have major sediment problems there" as a result of unpredicted storms and snowmelt. Typical types of coal mine pollution control would work to some degree, he said, but not necessarily to acceptable levels.

While the North Fork receives large amounts of silt as part of normal runoff, the river would face "a heavy load of pollution on a year-round basis," said Dr. Jack Stanford of the Flathead River Basin Environmental Impact Study Group, a \$2.8 million federally funded organization formed in 1978 to study development in the area. The pollution and subsequent rise in water temperature could mean the demise of the bull trout which spawn at the mining site in Cabin Creek and which live in Flathead Lake, the largest freshwater lake in the West. The B.C. Environment Ministry has expressed particular concern about the proposal's impact on the grizzly population in the area.

Sage Creek Coal is not the only company eyeing the coal resources in this isolated area. According to Ron Cooper, director of the river basin study, there are three more potential coal mines in the region, and his group has already been contacted by Crows Nest Resources, a subsidiary of Shell Canada, which is considering a mine about 30 miles north of the border.

While the coal in Cabin Creek will be marketed as thermal coal for use in power plants and cement factories in Japan, Korea and other Far Eastern nations, its low sulfur and low acid content also make it suitable for metal refining. This characteristic, along with its high energy value, make the coal particularly attractive for development.

Sage Creek Coal plans to submit its environmental and social impact assessment and plans for mitigating effects to the B.C. government by mid-January. If the markets are right, according to Burge, the mine could be operational in 1985. The Flathead River Basin Study Group will not finish its work until the summer of 1983. The group is planning to develop enough data so that by the fall of 1982, serious discussions on U.S. and Canadian concerns in the area can

be undertaken. As with the grizzlies and other wildlife that move between the two countries with little regard for the border, environmental effects such as acid rain have moved easily across political boundaries, officials on both sides note. "The fisheries and environmental people are treating this like one country," said Bill Burge, "and we're proud of that...that's the way it should be."

—V. M. Kahn

Plug pulled on Garrison once again

Efforts to get North Dakota's Garrison Diversion Project under construction again without bureaucratic review were stopped by a landslide 314-to-67 congressional vote last month.

Halting one of the West's largest water projects — at least temporarily — was "a unique victory," said Cyrus Mehri, lobbyist with the National Audubon Society in Washington, D.C. "Water projects are one of their (Congress') biggest sacred cows."

North Dakota Sens. Quentin Burdick (D) and Mark Andrews (R) proposed an amendment to a \$12 billion water projects bill that would nullify a 1977 court order ruling no construction on the Garrison project could occur without review by the Interior Department. The project is fifteen percent complete.

Mehri claimed such an amendment would have violated the 1977 order, which resulted in part from Canadian complaints that the project would cause pollution problems in their waters. Farmers and environmentalists also argued the project was economically unfeasible, environmentally harmful, and would consume too much farm land.

However, Garrison did receive \$4 million in the water projects bill, money that Rich Madson, National Audubon's North Midwest regional representative, said is a "waste of the taxpayers' money." Because no construction can begin without review, the \$4 million will be used for maintenance and upkeep of the project's Bismarck office, Madson said, although the project still had \$6 million left from fiscal year 1980.

Garrison's cost has been ammunition for the opposition since its beginning in 1965, estimated then at \$200 million. "The cost to complete it now would be over \$1 billion and still growing," said Mehri.

Ann Humphrey, press secretary to

Dear friends,

The holidays are upon us, and that puts many people in a mind to give. And receive. So it seems a proper time to report on gifts to our research fund, the lifeline that gives the paper its punch.

The research fund is doing very well, thank you. Contributions are running well ahead of last year. We've topped \$11,000, and our goal of \$20,000 seems within reach. But if you're like us, you probably enjoy gifts for something other than their dollar value. We'd like to share a few with you.

First, some of the notes. A student without much money wrote about a father asking a child whether ice cream or an education was more important. She went on, "You're an important part of my education, so here's my ice cream money." A couple of dollars which might as well have been a thousand. "Keep the faith — you help me keep mine," said one reader, in a variation on an oft-repeated theme. And an energy company gave a donation and thanked us for "accurate, well-researched" stories.

Even more fun are some of the oddities that cropped up. For one thing, the HCN Research Fund is now a rather inconspicuous stockholder in an east coast water utility. We have our very own certificat and, goodness, the stock market is on the rise. Still, we'll sell it; no time to watch the Dow Jones. And a Colorado businessman offered a typewriter — good for us, and not a bad idea for a company that has depreciated such equipment; perhaps it will start a trend.

Still another gift. A good load of snow dropped in our mountains over Thanksgiving. The skiing on Togwotee Pass was excellent; elk tracks in the snow on the edge of the Teton Wilderness.

Many gifts to be thankful for. Good snow, a paper whose readers believe in it, elk tracks, and two shares in our very own stock portfolio.

Some masthead changes worth noting.

First, Michael Moss is gone. He left as

he came, with his coffee machine and running shoes in a beatup VW. He left a big piece of work behind, though, and a legacy to the paper of more depth in its agricultural reporting than it ever had before. He expects to stay in the region, and you can count on seeing more of his work in *HCN*. The more the better.

Also, Tom Bell is back on the masthead, as "editor emeritus," an honorific title that doesn't by any means say it all. Bell has given up his ownership of the paper to allow us to go officially non-profit, but we've lured him onto our board of directors. Of him, too, we say the more the better.

We'll be skipping an issue over Christmas. One week of that free time will be spent on a staff "retreat", during which we will mull over all the changes in the paper, plot its new year, and get inspired. The second week we're taking off, some of us into that powder on Togwotee, others, just taking a powder. Happy holidays.

— the staff

Sen. Burdick, said North Dakota had given up over 2,000 acres to build the Garrison dam to provide flood control for states downstream, and that the state is due more benefits. She said Garrison would irrigate 250,000 acres of farm land and provide water for 14 municipalities.

Mehri said, however, that 220,000 acres of prosperous farm land would go under water to irrigate that other 250,000.

The defeated Burdick amendment was opposed by Reps. Silvio Conte (R-Mass.) and John Dingell (D-Mich.) during the joint House-Senate review conference of the water bill. They insisted on permitting discussions of individual provisions in the bill when it returned to the two houses for final approval. That paved the way for its defeat in the House; the Senate concurred later, apparently persuaded by the House opposition.

"We don't know why the vote was so heavy (against us)," said a disappointed Humphrey, "But Dingell and Conte are both ardent hunters, and eagerly took the chance to get behind an environmental cause at no expense to them or their constituents."

The issue is out of Congress' hands for now, said Humphrey, and will go back to the courts for resolution.



Official rebuffs group on predators

Little official encouragement or help seems likely for a group known as the organization for the Preservation of Colorado's Deer and Elk, which advocates destruction of mountain lion and coyote populations as a way to boost failing deer and elk herds in the state.

The group has been pressuring the state Division of Wildlife to step up its predator control program through such means as increased use of compound 1080, strychnine and cyanide. The DOW, however, feels it and the group are "operating under basic philosophical differences" and has no plans to bow to the groups' desires, according to senior wildlife biologist John Ellenberger.

After meeting with the group last week, Ellenberger said, the division disagreed with the assumption that predators are causing area wildlife population fluctuations.

"We realize that predators are a natural part of the ecological system," Ellenberger said. "We've got a responsibility to all wildlife in the state, not just deer and elk that are bringing in income to us."

He said the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife's predator control program, aimed at trapping and destroying predators known to be attacking livestock, will be maintained, not accelerated.

Ellenberger said loss of habitat through residential and industrial development, and a disastrous winter kill two years ago, are reasons for the current lows in the state's deer and elk herds.

He also said preliminary indications show the herds are beginning to build up again and predicted that this year's "harvest" by hunters could be the best in several years.

Ellenberger's charge that the organization really is only concerned about predation of livestock was denied by August Jewell, an organizer of the group. Jewell said he had data showing that the state's wildlife populations had been dropping due to predators before the heavy winter kill two years ago.

— John Colson

Mont.-Ida. solons forge wilds bill

U.S. Sens. John Melcher (D-Mont.) and James McClure (R-Idaho) are trying to forge a compromise in the Senate that would hasten passage of wilderness "release" legislation and designate some additional new wilderness lands. In a "Dear Colleague" letter sent to other senators, Melcher and McClure said they wanted to remove what they perceived to be the "primary objection" to the release bill, which would immediately open areas designated as non-wilderness by RARE II (the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation of U.S. Forest Service lands.)

The letter said the primary objection to the release bill was that it released non-wilderness but did not create any new wilderness. The senators asked their colleagues to respond with the "consensus wilderness designations from (each) state." Along with the letter was a list of wilderness alternatives in each state including the amount of wilderness acreage recommended by RARE II, the Carter administration proposals for wilderness, and a "U.S. Forest

Service revised" number, which was prepared by the Forest Service on Nov. 13, 1981.

Environmentalists in Washington are alarmed by the Melcher-McClure overture. Said the Sierra Club's Tim Mahoney, "In the first place, we disagree with the premise. Our primary objection is that the release language says that you can't look at wilderness anywhere for any reason. We're not ready to take some crummy wilderness bill just to get the timber industry's dream release bill."

In addition, Mahoney said the list of proposed wilderness areas accompanying the letter is "strange." He said, "In most states, this 'U.S. Forest Service revised' number makes some minor changes — always recommending less wilderness overall than the RARE II proposals. In Oregon there are major changes. The Carter administration had recommended 385,000 acres of Oregon wilderness. This USFS revised number recommends 186,700 acres and 13 'further planning' areas to go to non-wilderness.

"In addition, it's obvious they didn't examine any non-wilderness areas to change them to a wilderness or further planning designation.

"It is our position that if the Forest Service is going to alter the numbers from the RARE II final environmental impact statement, they have to do a new supplement to the EIS. It appears that they are trying to undermine the RARE II recommendations."

A spokesman for Melcher wasn't much more certain about what the Forest Service's revised number means. He said, "They were refinements to RARE II. They are based on new information obtained since the final EIS was completed. The numbers don't mean anything. The creation of wilderness is a political decision and we wouldn't presume to tell a member of Congress how much wilderness is in his state."

Rupert Cutler, who helped instigate RARE II as an assistant secretary of agriculture under Carter, told the Montana Wilderness Association last week that the Forest Service revisions offered only "rock and ice" wilderness. "They're tossing us a bone," he said. "No thanks."

Melcher's office said that, so far, there has been little response from other senators to the letter. However, Sen. McClure is reportedly eager to get some sort of release language through Congress next year.

In a related development, the newsletter *Public Lands News* reported that the Forest Service is about to issue a draft of its Resources Planning Act goals that will include the option of deleting existing wilderness "where portions are

found for better uses." "Better uses" could include oil, gas, coal and other mineral development.

However, John Crowell, assistant agriculture secretary in charge of the Forest Service told the same publication, "It is beyond the range of possibility."



Bird hunt hurt by endrin

The endrin contamination of gamebirds in Montana was responsible for nearly a fifty percent decline in the number of bird licenses issued this year.

According to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, bird license sales through October totalled \$85,000 — \$77,000 less than last year.

The administrator of the department's Centralized Services Division, Dave Mott, blamed the decline on the endrin scare. "There was a lot of publicity about it right in the heart of bird season," he said.

Endrin, an acutely toxic pesticide, was sprayed on 200,000 acres of wheat in eastern Montana to combat the army and pale western cutworm. In September biologists discovered high levels of the poison in migratory waterfowl and considered closing the season.

Against the recommendation of the state Department of Health, however, the Montana Fish and Game Commission decided to let the season open.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks said they can make up that revenue from increases in sales of other types of licenses.

Some state biologists believe that the endrin contamination may have beneficial fallout. One said that populations will increase because very few birds were hunted this year.

— Jim Robbins

BARBED WIRE

Okay, all you old folks get in front of the line. Two Oak Ridge National Laboratory researchers reported that, should a nuclear war occur, the survivors' overall cancer rate could be reduced if older people, rather than younger people, do jobs and eat food that could expose them to more radiation. Maggie Kuhn, head of the Gray Panthers, an advocacy group for the elderly, said the study was "revolting." The two authors of the study promptly denied they were advocating the abuse of old people after a nuclear confrontation. Another expert on nuclear war called the study too optimistic and said no one would survive a nuclear war anyway.

Don't they eat bread? If "they" are Chinese, the answer is no, to the chagrin of the Montana Wheat Marketing Committee, which just opened a \$10,000 bakery in Peking to promote sandwiches (and the importation of U.S. grain). After all, the group said, "With both husbands and wives working at physical labor, the needs for protein can't be filled by rice alone."

Let 'em eat cats. A speaker at a Montana Farm Bureau luncheon said that the goal of the "animal rights" movement is to indoctrinate youngsters toward vegetarianism. "Material like this will destroy or radically change the livestock industry," said the spokesman, according to the *MontWyo Agri-News*.

And they can reclaim it for a subway. The state of New Mexico, commenting on the proposed mining of the Bisti Badlands, wrote, "Weathering of the siltstones and claystones of the Bisti Badlands provides fine-grained particles for the region's dust storms. Thus, the Bisti Badlands...are a major source of natural pollution of the streams and of the atmosphere. Strip mining...will decrease this natural pollution."

"Clearcutting, not pruning." Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.), describing proposed cuts in the Environmental Protection Agency budget.

Wait 'til Quaker Puffed Rice bears about this. A Virginia man found that shooting waste material from a cannon flattens cans, tears plastic and fabric to bits, and explodes cellulose material into tiny pieces, ideal for fuel pellets or compost.

"James Watt's chances of efficiently managing and conserving the Interior are as likely as a Clydesdale winning the Triple Crown."

— letter to President Ronald Reagan reprinted in *National Wildlife*

This month's Horatio Alger Free Enterprise Medal goes to... General Public Utilities, owner of the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear power plant. GPU is suing the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission for \$4 billion for, essentially, not regulating them hard enough to prevent the TMI accident in March of 1979. GPU said, "Negligence and omissions by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the performance of its duties and responsibilities were causes of the TMI accident and resultant losses to GPU."

WESTERN ROUNDUP



Legislative agendas:

Budget cuts, mineral taxes for '82

Tightening budgets and mineral severance taxes will be major concerns of most of the region's state legislators when they return in January or February to their respective government houses. Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico have budget sessions, Colorado and Idaho meet in regular sessions and Montana's legislators do not reconvene until 1983.

Federal budget cuts have sliced into all the Rocky Mountain states and their legislative sessions will reflect it.

Idaho's projected revenues fall \$50 million short of expected budget requests by the state's agencies, said Jim Fields of the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry. That will bring many programs to the chopping block.

The Idaho legislature cut back environmental regulators in 1981 when it refused to fund the state's Air Quality Bureau, claiming the Environmental Protection Agency could handle the monitoring. In the 1982 session, the Idaho Conservation League and other groups say they will work for reinstatement of the bureau. Idaho is the only state without a state air quality regulatory agency.

Renee Quick, lobbyist with ICL, said Boise, Lewiston, Pocatello, Soda Springs and the Wallace/Kellogg areas all exceed federal air pollution standards, a good indication the the EPA cannot handle regulation on its own.

Fields and Sen. Dean Van Engelen (D-Burley) both agree there is no reason to oppose a state air bureau if it does not overlap responsibilities with the EPA. Van Engelen said the previous air bureau was stifled by federal guidelines and that the new state bureau would need more flexibility in determining its own policy and enforcement. Both agreed its chances will be determined by the availability of funds.

Also cut in 1981 was funding for Idaho's Stream Channel Protection Act, reducing stream channel staff at the Idaho Department of Water Resources from four to two-and-one-half persons. More cutback efforts are expected this year simply because budgets are being trimmed in all agencies. ICL lobbyists fear more cuts will further reduce needed enforcement.

Van Engelen said the question shouldn't be over funding staff to issue permits, but whether permits should be issued at all.

A push for a higher and more comprehensive mineral severance tax will also come before Idaho legislators. A two percent oil and gas wellhead tax was approved last year, but the ICL claims it was an insignificant, pacifying act, and wants it broadened to include all minerals and increased for oil and gas. Fields, who opposes any increase, said there is no significant oil and gas development in Idaho currently, but he is hopeful it will come.

Fields said that because of the current business climate in Idaho, where 2,100 miners are out of work, his association opposes a hardrock or phosphate severance tax on a mining industry that is already hurting. Conservationists claim the tax could provide benefits for those

laid off. Fields said such a tax, which must be considered a cost of business, would cut down on profits and possibly force a processing plant to close sooner than it would otherwise. He said a lead smelter plant that closed this year in Kellogg might have closed two years earlier if such a tax had been imposed.

Even though 1982 is slated as a budget session, Wyoming legislators will review the state's Department of Environmental Quality. That department is in danger of "real politicking," said Tom Wolf, executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Council, who fears the DEQ's strong environmental regulatory performance could be weakened to the less stringent levels of federal agencies. Rep. Jack Pugh (D-Sweetwater County) said the criticism he hears most often is "that the DEQ's regulatory stance is harmful to industry — a claim I've never seen substantiated."

Speaker of the House, Rep. Bob Burnett (R-Albany County) said, "We don't want to disturb our environment, but the DEQ has too many unnecessary rules and regulations." He said he expects this session to "slap DEQ on the wrist" by outlining the agency's authority.

A proposal to siphon part of Wyoming's mineral severance tax revenue to create a wildlife and recreation trust fund will be debated by the legislators. The proposal, by Sen. John Turner (R-N. Lincoln, Sublette, Teton Counties) would give the Wyoming Game and Fish Department funding in addition to revenue it currently receives from hunting licenses. It passed the Senate but was killed in the House during the 1981 session.

The bill was opposed by farming interests, and legislators who argued the Game and Fish Department already spends too much time and money on studies. The bill must receive a two-thirds majority in both houses to be introduced.

Pugh said the bill would be "an intelligent use of mineral tax income. The main encroachment on wildlife habitat is the rapid increase in mineral development all over the state."

Uncertainty clouds the chances of in-stream flow legislation in Wyoming. A bill was introduced last year but never made it out of committee — the legislation would make in-stream flow for fish and wildlife a beneficial use of water and allow the state to purchase water rights for that purpose. A state-wide effort to gather signatures to put an in-stream flow initiative on the 1984 ballot has enough signatures to qualify, but duplications and disqualifications could pare the number to below the required amount. If the petition were successful, the legislature might act before the election.

During Utah's short budget session in January there will be a drive by Democratic Governor Scott Matheson for a comprehensive mineral severance tax. The tax plan would raise the current one percent tax on hardrock minerals

to two percent, raise the current two percent on oil and gas to four percent, and add a two percent coal severance tax.

Brec Cooke, associate director of the energy and minerals division in the Utah Department of Natural Resources, said his department is "cautiously optimistic" that the bill will pass the Republican legislature. He said the proposal would channel part of the revenues to community impact problems; some into a capital facility account used for highways, buildings, bridges, jails, and water facilities; and some into a permanent trust fund for future generations.

Cooke pointed out that the most substantial revenue would come from the oil and gas hike. However, the coal tax is the most controversial portion of the bill. He cited an attempt to instate a similar coal tax in 1981 that passed the Senate, but failed in the House.

In New Mexico's budget session, only the governor can introduce legislation other than budgetary. Governor Bruce King (D) is expected to offer legislation to correct problems with the state's Environmental Improvement Board, which approves and develops regulations for the state's natural resources regulatory agencies.

Controversy recently arose over some agency staff members who also served on the board; the uranium industry has used that controversy to challenge the board's stringent regulations.

The industry went to court last year to successfully challenge rules affecting uranium tailings. An appeal by the board was denied by the New Mexico Supreme Court.

Paul Robinson, director of the Southwest Research and Information Center, fears further efforts by the uranium industry to reduce the board's regulatory power affecting radiation protection, air quality, hazardous wastes, occupational safety and health, and food quality.

And an effort by mining industry lobbyists to reduce New Mexico's mineral severance tax probably will also come before legislators.

Colorado will be battling with state mineral tax issues, as well as a refund bottle bill, water diversion issues and hazardous waste disposal problems. (See HCN 11/27/81 for a full Colorado legislative preview.)

Montana legislators got the jump on other Rocky Mountain lawmakers by holding a budgetary session last month to come to grips with federal budget cuts. The biggest impact of the session may be the transfer of welfare programs from state to county governments with strict new limitations. In the resource area, an effort to dip into the state's coal severance tax fund for highway maintenance was defeated.

State highways programs lost \$11 million in federal funds due to Reagan administration budget cuts this year, and more cuts are expected. Gov. Ted Schwinden (D) proposed raising the gas tax by five cents a gallon, which

would give Montana the highest fuel tax in the nation, but the Senate defeated the measure by a close 26-24 vote.

Rep. Paul Pistoria (D-Great Falls) introduced legislation that would put coal severance tax collections into the state's highway fund for 18 months. It failed by a 48-57 margin.

That left the state with a deteriorating highway system and a headache that is expected to recur in the 1983 legislature. Schwinden said it was up to Republicans — largely responsible for defeating the fuel tax increase — to come up with a solution.

Republican Rep. Harrison Fagg (Billings) told the *Montana Eagle* that highway funds would hold up until 1983, and that legislative committees would study the problem in the interim. "We Republicans think we can take money from the coal tax pie (not the trust fund), if necessary," he said.

In other business, the legislature funded the state's Hard Rock Mining Board, which was created, but not funded, earlier this year with mining industry backing in response to attempts to pass a hardrock severance tax sponsored by Rep. Tom Towe (D-Billings). Lobbyists at the Montana Environmental Information Center, who wanted the hardrock severance tax, did not object to funding the board, though they expressed doubts about its viability.

Cheyenne look to coal riches

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana has gained fame with its strong environmental philosophy of past years. But now tribal leaders are taking a look at new development options.

Last year the tribe succeeded in convincing Congress to pass legislation voiding coal contracts covering more than half of the reservation. The tribe initiated the action in 1973 because it said the federal government had not obeyed its own regulations providing for environmental protection and equitable monetary return when it approved the contracts between the tribe and six coal companies.

While the new tribal leaders are not interested in rescinding the Class I air designation or in mining coal on the reservation, they are looking into several development options just off the reservation.

The new attitude surfaced at a hearing held last month on an unsuitability petition filed by the Northern Plains Resource Council which is designed to protect the Tongue River Valley on the eastern boundary of the reservation (see HCN 10/30/81). The tribe signed an oil and gas contract the previous year with Atlantic Richfield Co., but because of the relatively minor environmental consequences of oil development, it was not seen as a major departure from previous tribal attitudes by most observers.

Now, however, the tribal council is planning a coal mine and exploring the possibility of a joint venture with a private energy firm to build a coal coking facility, both on land adjacent to the reservation that the tribe hopes to acquire. The tribe is getting land as part of its settlement with the coal companies, whose lease cancellation agreements must be finalized December 31.

Four years ago the tribe became the first entity in the nation to take advantage of federal clean air protection regulations by redesignating its land as Class I, allowing little degradation of air. The action temporarily stalled and significantly changed the design of a coal-fired power plant being built just north of the reservation at Colstrip. The U.S.

Supreme Court reaffirmed the tribe's Class I status early in December.

The council opposed the unsuitability petition, which, if approved, would declare part of the valley unsuitable for coal mining. The council fears barring mining in the valley would affect its coal mining plans elsewhere in the vicinity.

On the other hand, some tribal members at the hearing said they disagreed with their leaders' position. Three Northern Cheyenne said they thought traditional ways meant more than dollars and that development would hurt more tribal members than it would help.

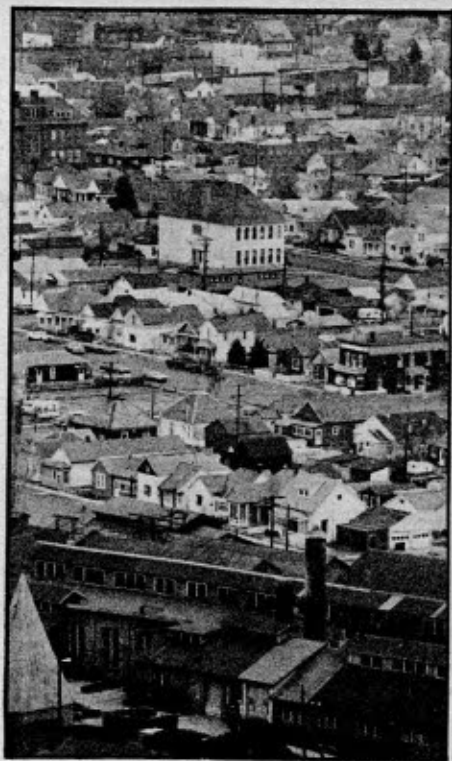
The tribal council, however, said it must find ways to attract jobs and money to the area because of economic hardships caused by recent federal budget cuts.

— Marjane Ambler

Aluminum to move into Anaconda?

Alumax, Inc., a California-based aluminum company, is looking at two Montana communities hit hard last year by the shutdown of Atlantic Richfield Co.'s Anaconda Copper Co. copper smelters as possible sites for a new aluminum plant.

Alumax spokesman Robert Miller said exploratory talks with Montana officials were "very, very preliminary." Miller said four possible sites nation-



Anaconda, Montana

wide are currently under consideration. Among them is the town of Anaconda, where roughly 1,000 workers were laid off when Anaconda Copper shut down the copper smelter last year, and Great Falls, where 500 workers lost jobs at an Anaconda refinery.

Alumax is the fourth largest aluminum producer in the country. While the industry has been in a slump, the company states proudly that it has built the only new aluminum plant in the United States since 1973 in Charleston, S.C.

The company ships its raw material from Australia to Pacific coast ports, Miller said, and markets most of its products in the Midwest, putting Montana

along its transportation route. Its primary concerns in locating its aluminum plant are business climate, available work force, and, most important, inexpensive power.

The latter two are readily available in Montana, say state officials. Many of Anaconda's laid-off workers have stayed on in Great Falls and Anaconda.

In addition, Alumax officials have been talking to the Montana Power Company about buying some excess power from Colstrip Units 3 and 4 for a proposed MPC coal-burning power plant near Great Falls. Projections for marketing Colstrip electricity failed to adequately anticipate the drop in electricity use in recent years.

As for business climate, Montana Public Service Commissioner John Driscoll told Alumax officials his agency was "very strict" but "not a no-growth oriented commission," according to the *Missoulian*.

The \$800 million aluminum smelter would employ 1,500 workers during the building stages and 775 for full operation. Officials said Alumax would have no problem meeting the state's air quality standards with current pollution control technology — standards which were blamed by some for the Anaconda shutdown.

GAO drops CERT probe

After a year long investigation, the federal General Accounting Office has decided not to file an official report on

the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (see *HCN*, 3/6/81). The GAO does investigations for the U.S. Congress.

The Senate Appropriations Committee called for the investigation because its members were concerned that CERT was not adequately accounting for the more than \$2 million it receives each year from the federal government. Some Bureau of Indian Affairs officials complained that the staff of the organization of Indian tribes was performing government responsibilities without federal supervision.

However, during the course of their investigation, the GAO officials were satisfied that the Departments of Energy and Interior had improved their controls over CERT's funding. The Senate committee members said they would be satisfied with an oral report from the GAO: GAO officials said it is not uncommon to reduce reporting requirements following an investigation.

The BIA wrote the GAO saying it had revised its CERT policies and now requires BIA field officials to review and approve each tribal request for CERT assistance. The Denver BIA minerals office now must review all CERT products. Funds become available to CERT as individual tasks are approved.

The Department of Energy wrote the GAO saying it conducts on-site visits at projects on reservations and has instituted monthly meetings at which CERT presents progress reports and agency representatives discuss ways to improve cost effectiveness and avoid duplication.

— Marjane Ambler

HOTLINE

WHOOPS!

The population of whooping cranes may drop slightly this year, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. One of four chicks raised in the wild this year died when it hit a power line. No final count of the endangered cranes has been made as yet, but in 1980, there were about 100 whoopers in all, up from a low of 15 birds in 1941. U.S. and Canadian wildlife officials have launched an extensive tracking campaign of the birds this year, following the flock along the whole 2,600 mile migration from Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park to the Texas Gulf Coast.

YET ANOTHER PIPELINE

Frontier Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil Co. (Indiana), has submitted an application for a right-of-way grant across Bureau of Land Management land for a 300-mile-long crude oil/condensate pipeline from the Overthrust Belt in western Wyoming's Unita County to Casper, Wyo. A spokesman for the company said that 1983 crude and condensate production from new and existing fields in the Overthrust are expected to exceed the requirements of the Salt Lake City area refineries, where most of the oil is processed. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-1983.

SAGEBRUSH ORGANIZING

A group of western state legislators have formed the States Rights Coordinating Council to promote the goals of the Sagebrush Rebellion, a movement to place federal lands in state or private ownership. The group, which includes at least one legislator from each of the Western states, has opened an office in Elko, Nevada. It hopes to introduce legislation that will recognize state and local governments as the final decision makers for use of public lands "as well as those public lands which properly should be transferred to private taxpaying status."

OVERTHRUST WILDLIFE

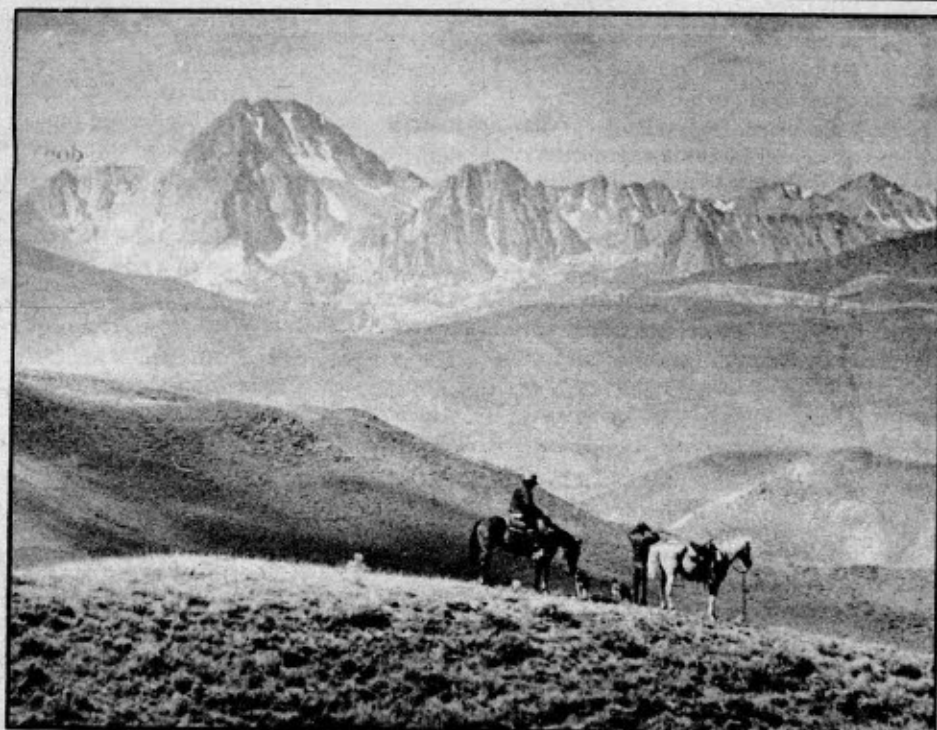
An \$800,000 study of effects on wildlife of oil and gas development in Wyoming and Utah's Overthrust Belt has been funded by the Overthrust Industrial Association, averting a threatened court suit by the National Wildlife Federation. The OIA, representing 37 energy firms operating in the oil-rich area of southwestern Wyoming, will join the NWF Wyoming, Idaho and Utah affiliates, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in choosing contractors to conduct the study. The OIA is also giving state agencies funding to police poaching in the area, and will put \$40,000 into an "environmental awareness" program for the area.

ALAS THE POOR PUPFISH

The Tecopa pupfish has been declared extinct by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The agency has removed the creature from its endangered species list after making extensive efforts to locate it in more than 40 places near Tecopa, California. The fish's demise is believed to have been caused by alteration of its habitat and the introduction of non-native, competing fish in its waters. The fish was virtually eliminated by 1969. According to FWS director Robert A. Jantzen, "The Tecopa pupfish was possibly already extinct when the first recovery efforts were made under the endangered species law."

SOLAR SHALE TOWN

Battlement Mesa, Colo., Exxon's instant boom town in oil shale country, will be the site of a new 216-unit solar apartment complex. About 6,500 structures are being planned for the town and, "in every instance where it is cost-effective," solar energy will be used for water and space heat. Battlement Mesa is a city being built by Exxon and Tosco in Colorado's Western Slope to house an expected influx of workers in the fledgling oil shale industry.



A view of the Sawtooths, Idaho

ENOUGH WILD VISITORS

The Sawtooth Wilderness in Idaho is so popular among Sierra Club hikers that the local chapter has asked the group to send its outings elsewhere. Calling the area "overcrowded," local Sierra Club leader Ralph Maughan of Pocatello said there were many other wild areas in the state "where more use and national attention will not damage the wild country, and will enhance the chances that they will be saved."

ELKHORN REJECTED

The U.S. Forest Service has denied the 85,760-acre Elkhorn Wilderness Study Area protection as a designated wilderness. Instead, Helena National Forest officials say in a final environmental impact statement they want the area to be a Wildlife Management Unit, which would put an emphasis on protecting wildlife and preserving roadless habitat. Officials said it did not qualify as wilderness because of human intrusions — primarily signs of miners searching for high potential reserves of gold, silver, molybdenum and other metals. The Elkhorn Mountains lie south of Helena, Mont.

ORVs CURBED

Citing soil erosion and other management problems, the Bureau of Land Management has decided to close the Missouri Breaks area in northwestern Montana to recreational off-road vehicles. ORV use will be limited to retrieval of downed game and for authorized ranching or oil and gas searches.

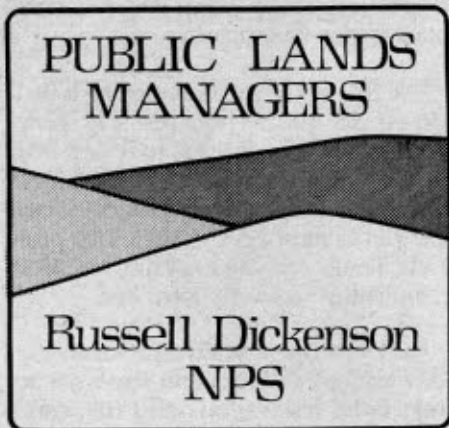
COLSTRIP STRIPPED

The Colstrip 3 and 4 power project, now under construction in eastern Montana, lost 26 rural electric cooperatives as customers last month. The co-ops were negotiating to buy seven percent of the power from the controversial plants, which are owned by Montana Power Co., Pacific Power & Light, Washington Water Power, Puget Sound Power & Light, and Portland General Electric. A spokesman for the co-ops, C.R. Theissen of Basin Electric Cooperative, told the *Associate Press*, that the co-ops could not arrange transmission systems to get the electricity to central Montana customers. Theissen noted that Montana Power had cited the co-ops participation in its efforts to get permits for the plant.

*Park Service chief***Dickenson: Old parks hand survives**

by Ron Wolf

Russell Dickenson was a U.S. Marine in the spring of 1943, assigned to the naval fleet on the West Coast. Selected for officer training, he was shipped to Flagstaff, Ariz., where he resumed the college education that had been interrupted by the war. By chance, Dickenson enrolled in a geology course at the



old Arizona State College to fulfill a requirement for a science elective.

As part of the course, the young Marine was taken on a field trip into the depths of the Grand Canyon, his first encounter with the chasm. That "deeply felt experience" set the direction for the rest of his life. The 20-year-old kid who grew up in the flatland country of central Texas vowed to return and become a park ranger.

Three years later, after service in the Pacific, Dickenson was mustered out of the military. On the way home, he detoured to the Grand Canyon and, still in his Marine uniform, applied for a seasonal job. By the time he got back to Dallas, a telegram was waiting. That summer Russ Dickenson began his Park Service career "emptying garbage cans."

Even in those days getting a permanent job in the national parks was difficult, despite the agency's struggle to

make up for the years of wartime neglect. Dickenson worked for three more summers as a seasonal employee, supporting himself in between as a night watchman and returning to school in the off-season to work on a graduate degree in education. Finally, he landed a permanent position in 1949 and immediately abandoned his alternative plan to become a schoolteacher. Now, 32 years later, Russ Dickenson heads the National Park Service.

When he assumed the top job in May, 1980, Dickenson inherited a troubled agency. Rampant inflation had been eroding park budgets for several years. Visitor services, personnel and essential maintenance had all been slashed. At the same time, the Park Service faced the prospect of staggering expenditures to replace its dangerously aging facilities, some dating back to the turn of the century.

All these headaches obscured an even greater long-term threat to the parks — the accelerating loss of their natural resources to pollution and other forms of encroachment.

Then came the 1980 election: The new administration put James Watt at the helm of the Interior Department, signalling a radical shift in management of public lands.

Since taking office as secretary of the interior, Watt frequently has boasted that he cleaned out every one of the high-level appointees installed by his predecessor, Cecil Andrus. Watt overlooks Dickenson and a few other survivors of the mass firings. Without conceding that he has a Carter holdover running the Park Service, the new secretary paradoxically insists that Dickenson is "a new member of a new team."

"We...decided that we'd hire the very best Republican," Watt explained in a speech to park concessioners last March. "Russ will try to pretend that he was really a career employee, but he's not. He's committed to what President

Reagan wants to do and what I want to do with the department."

Whether Dickenson is or is not committed to Reagan's, and Watt's agenda is difficult to discern. He soft pedals disagreements with his superior, avoiding controversy on volatile subjects like new park land acquisition or pollution from energy projects near parks, and some environmentalists call him weak. But his agency gets gentler treatment from Watt than other Interior branches, and many Park Service employees say that's due to Dickenson.

At the same time that Dickenson has won the confidence of James Watt, he has miraculously retained the overwhelming support of his subordinates, including many whose views are diametrically opposed to the policies of the secretary. The director of the Park Service stands squarely between his development-minded boss and the preservation-minded rank and file of his beleaguered agency. Dickenson's balancing act is impressive evidence of his impeccable professional credentials and his highly polished political skills, assets that are being severely tested.

Until a decade ago, the director of the National Park Service enjoyed a degree of autonomy and stability almost unknown in high-level federal posts. More recently, unwelcome political interference and unsettling turbulence have become common in the top job. The first seven directors of the agency, spanning 56 years, were respected by presidents as apolitical professionals. They remained in office through shifts in the White House and reversals of the party in power. In 1972, Richard Nixon abruptly ended that tradition.

Nixon fired parks veteran George B. Hartzog, Jr., and appointed one of his political advancements, Ron Walker, to the post. Walker had no experience in the parks and was widely viewed as incompetent. After six months on the job, he was asked a question about Yel-

lowstone National Park while appearing before a Congressional committee. Walker leaned over to an aide and softly asked what state that was in.

Most of the career people in the Park Service flatly declare that during the disastrous Walker years, the agency was held together by a capable deputy director who worked quietly in the background — Russ Dickenson. His inconspicuous efficiency was noticed by James Watt, who was working elsewhere in the Interior Department at the time. As the head of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Watt watched Dickenson "work in one of the most difficult management situations that could exist."

"Russ handled that situation with a loyalty we would all desire to be treated with," Watt remembered. Now he is the beneficiary of that loyalty himself.

Two more controversial choices, Gary Everhardt and William Whalen, followed Ron Walker in relatively rapid succession. By 1980, Jimmy Carter and Cecil Andrus once again were shopping for a new director for the Park Service. The groundswell of support for the appointment of Dickenson began hours after the announcement that Whalen was stepping down. The news of Whalen's imminent departure flashed over the highly sensitive political grapevine that connects the far-flung outposts of the Park Service. The phone calls promoting Dickenson for the job flooded into Washington.

While working his way up through the ranks, Dickenson had gotten all the right career tickets punched. He had served his time in small parks like Chiricahua National Monument and had accumulated experience in the prestigious large parks like Grand Teton and Glacier. He had served in wild, undeveloped areas like Big Bend and in controversial urban areas like the nation's capital. He had worked in critical park jobs like resource management and visitor protection. He had started at the

Dickenson: on the job, and other subjects*Purpose of the parks:*

You start with the premise that national parks are unique and superlative areas. You do not create national parks to accommodate tourism...

The national park system itself, I believe, was never intended to provide for the park and recreation needs of the country in toto...There are many remaining areas that ought to have a kind of protection. (But) in almost every instance, those unique, superlative examples that ought to be a part of the national park system are either in or we can see the opportunity at some future time to bring them in...

The areas that serve other kinds of park and recreation needs ought to be operated by other units of government. For the most part the system as it relates to natural areas is largely rounded out.

Future growth:

The growth of the system will occur primarily within the historical field. I don't think there is any end to the dynamic qualities of the history of this country. Tomorrow's heroes and heroines ought to be honored. Their homes and places of birth ought to be protected. That is an area that will continue to receive attention as long as there is a United States of America and as long as there is a national park system.

A new role:

We would be interested in supporting, aiding and encouraging appropriate reservations of park and recreation lands to be saved, but not under the operation or responsibility of the National Park Service. We'll be aiding states, counties and cities to establish their own parks and recreation lands, but not under the aegis of the National Park Service.

We're being set up now so that we can really do that...We'll be able to resume the kind of consultative and technical service we had many years ago, with the kinds of financial assistance programs which we inherited. It will cast the National Park Service in a new and much better role.

Overuse of the parks:

While we have some difficult problem areas in parks today related to the general theme of overuse, it is certainly not as critical as might have been visualized in the sixties or early seventies...In those most troublesome areas, we've gone to alternative transportation systems as a means of dispersing some of the visitor use and mitigating the impact of the automobile...There are still lots of people, but it's not as bad as it was.

Changing patterns of use:

Our planning now is based on the kinds of trends that strongly showed

themselves during the latter half of the seventies. Higher energy costs for operating the family automobile and more compact automobiles have changed Americans' travel habits. But nothing has changed the instinct of Americans to select national parks as their primary destinations. People are planning their trips to national parks in a different fashion. The organized tour group is the look of the future. The trend is so strong now that I can predict with confidence that it is the way we will be maintaining, interpreting and managing the parks for the decade of the eighties.

A ceiling on accommodations:

If the trend (toward the organized tour group) continues, we can accommodate additional people very well within the existing national park system. We don't have to try to double the existing accommodations at the Grand Canyon or Yellowstone or any place else. I see that plant as essentially fixed.

Any increase in visitations that cannot be properly accommodated within the existing facilities will have to be absorbed by gateway communities — by the private sector. Most of the big national parks should not be further developed for overnight accommodations and the kinds of amenities that are associated with public visitations.

Combatting environmental degradation:

Fundamental to the long-term protection of the parks is the kind of sophisticated monitoring that we do not currently have. We need to be able to measure the changes — some of them very subtle — that are occurring...It is not sufficient for us simply to state that it is happening from visual observation. In order to really deal with those kind of problems in today's world, we have to deal with them on a scientific basis. That requires appropriate long-term monitoring. We are acquainting the administration with our needs. There is a considerable amount of interest in Congress in giving us that capability.

The value of monitoring:

When you look broadly across the system, there are some things we may be able to affect and others we may not...I think that, armed with the facts, over a period of time, we will be able to affect those kings of safeguards — those kinds of changes — necessary to perpetuate the parks...The real value of the monitoring is that we will be able to say that these are the conditions that will have to be changed; otherwise the parks will no longer be able to exist as they were intended in their natural state.

D.C. turmoil

bottom and knew what life was like for the individual ranger in the field. Most of all, he knew his way around Washington.

Dickenson headed the Park Service's National Capital Region, an extremely sensitive post unlike any other in the system, during the tumultuous years from 1969 to 1973. The office operates the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the Kennedy Center and most of the federal parks, roads and landmarks around the capital. It also supervises the U.S. Park Police, which have jurisdiction over the federal property in the city.

Most of the career people in the Park Service originally joined the agency to be outdoors, not stuck behind a desk in the capital. They dislike the bureaucrats, politicians, red tape and the rest of the Washington scene and want to be insulated from these headaches.

Members of Congress seeking to entertain constituents or wanting other favors regularly deal with this unusual and little-known side of the Park Service. The chief of the National Capital Region quickly makes friends — or enemies — on Capitol Hill and throughout Washington's powerful inner circle.

When Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.) landed in the Tidal Basin with stripper Fanne Foxe, the park police on the scene ultimately reported to Dickenson. He adroitly engineered the Park Service's flexible accommodation of innumerable antiwar protests. He patiently masterminded the federal response to the Poor People's March and the encampment known as Resurrection City. Although the government's handling of those events was controversial at the time, Dickenson minimized the disruption and earned the gratitude of the White House and Congress for avoiding complications.

Dickenson's nearly universal support within the agency is based on more than political skill. Understandably, there is a tendency among the 8,900 permanent Park Service employees to close ranks behind one of their own in such difficult times. But Dickenson's popularity transcends the tactics of bureaucratic survival. Dennis Huffman, the superintendent of Colorado National Monument, said the director is the object of a full-blown "mystique."

Colleagues frequently cite his personal warmth, solid integrity, encyclopedic memory for names and faces, and contagious enthusiasm for the parks. In casual conversation, Dickenson occasionally folds his hands in the manner of a silver-haired schoolmaster and spontaneously launches into rapturous testimony on the virtues of the parks. An effective speaker strongly grounded in the history and philosophy of conservation, he could have become a more familiar national figure had he not chosen to remain in the background, leaving the spotlight to the secretary of the interior. He mixes easily with vastly different groups, getting along with maintenance staff as well as members of congress. Almost everyone knows him as "Russ," even employees who have never met him.

Art White, general superintendent of the NPS Navajo Lands Group, remembered when he phoned his old friend early this year to leave a message of congratulations and encouragement after the announcement that Dickenson was being retained by the new administration. Late the next day, the director returned the phone call. When White's secretary in Farmington, N.M., mistakenly asked "Mr. Dixon" the nature of his business, he politely made no reference

to his position as the head of the agency. Later, after figuring out what happened, she marveled that the chief of the Park Service knew of her small office and that he placed his own long-distance calls.

Unlike previous directors, Dickenson has paid scrupulous attention to small management details that matter primarily to career people. He has opened up the mysterious internal procedures for advancement within the service and has settled such annoying, mundane issues as ever-changing specification for ranger uniforms. A young superintendent credits him for "not tolerating favorite-son procedures" in making promotions, a demoralizing practice that was common in the past.

Dickenson has few confidants and no "team" of his own, a rarity in an inbred organization that is frequently divided by office politics. As a result, he has been able to make painful decisions without making enemies. People in the field claim that Dickenson maintains a heavier travel schedule than his predecessors and spends more time with them. "He's made us feel that he's available," said Dennis Huffman.

Subordinates also appreciate his decentralized approach to management and his extensive delegation of authority. Lorraine Mintzmyer, the regional director presiding over the 34 parks in the Rocky Mountain area, noted that she has never had a single one of her personnel recommendations disapproved by Dickenson. Larry Reed, the unit manager at Arches National Park in Utah, has noticed a reduction in the red tape emanating from the Washington headquarters. "Russ realizes that in a lot of areas, the parks can pretty well run themselves," Reed said. "He doesn't have to see his name on something every day." Under Dickenson, the regional directors and their superintendents once again have a free hand to run the areas assigned to them.

Environmental leaders are more divergent in their opinions. While some are as enthusiastic as the career people, others characterize Dickenson as a weak director who is afraid to make a tough decision or take a strong stand. They admit that he is a sweet guy, but insist that he compromises too readily.

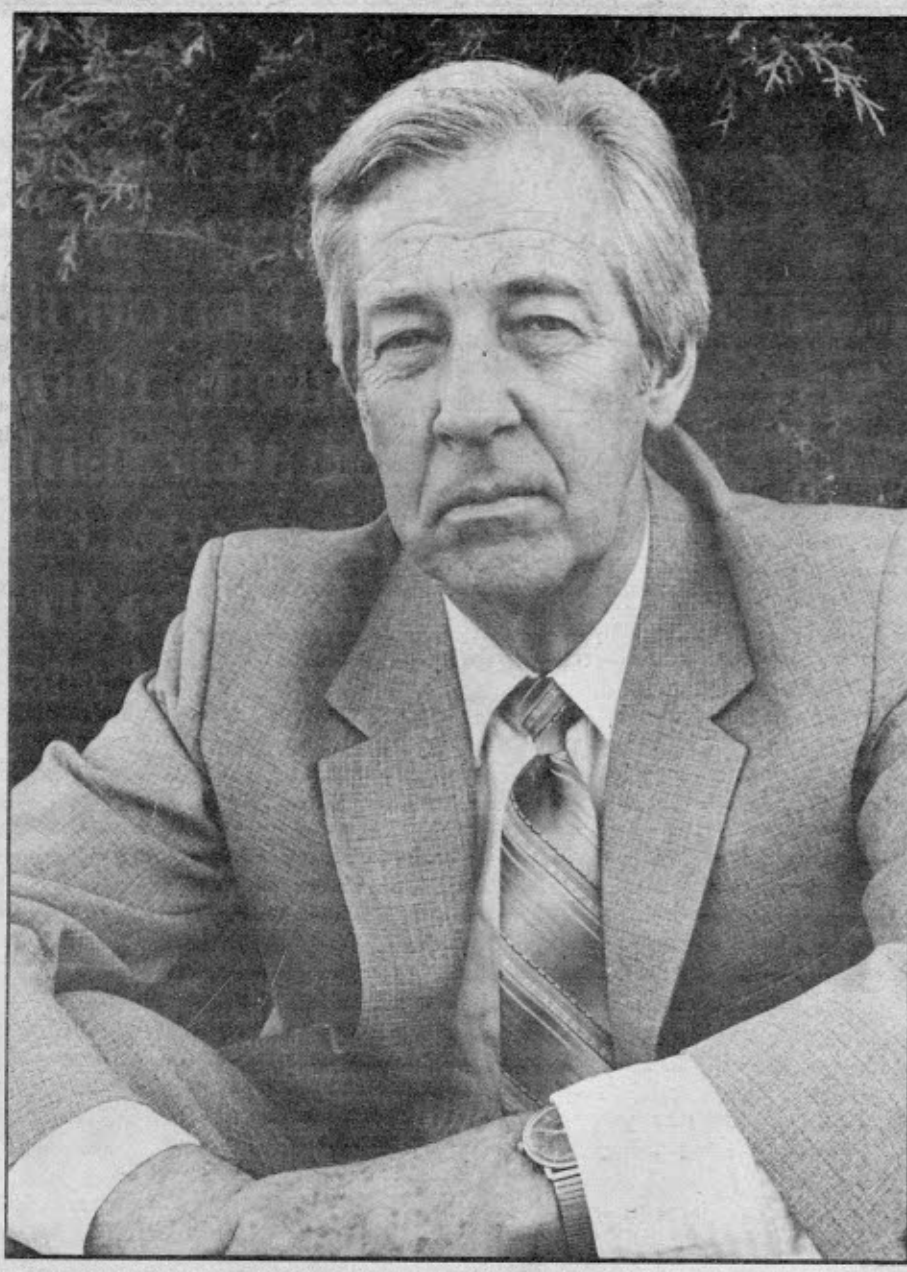
Dickenson's lieutenants refute the charge. They say he approaches decisions in a cautious, analytic manner that shouldn't be mistaken for timidity. "Previous directors would leap first," explained the head of a western park, "then try to get the field people to bail them out."

So far, Dickenson has been able to avoid open confrontation with his controversial boss. The director has a remarkable ability for finding common ground. These qualities have enabled him to adapt easily to some of James Watt's most troubling policies:

— Dickenson is "totally opposed" to further development in the parks, a position seemingly at odds with the secretary's emphasis on improving facilities. But Dickenson quickly adds that additional accommodations and services will have to be provided by the private sector in gateway communities, putting himself in relative harmony with Watt's objectives of enhancing access to the parks and granting a larger role to private business.

— Even before the 1980 election, Dickenson concluded that the park system had expanded too rapidly in recent years and needed a "period of consolidation." This view fits well with Watt's limited aspirations for future expansion of the parks.

— Once intimately involved in the



"Russ will try to pretend that he was really a career employee, but he's not. He's committed to what...I want to do with the department."

— James Watt, Secretary of the Interior

operation of urban parks, a concept that Watt considers inappropriate for the federal government, Dickenson now tactfully says that "the jury is still out."

Such flexibility has cemented Dickenson's relationship with the secretary, but several associates said that the director has been badly embarrassed by Watt on several occasions: the purge of many of his close friends; Watt's statement to concessioners that park officials who cause them problems will be removed; the secretary's suggestion that certain parks should be eliminated from the system. If Dickenson has been provoked by these incidents, he has discreetly held his tongue.

This silence has convinced the skeptics among the environmentalists that Dickenson won't do or say anything to displease his boss. Even some of the park superintendents are beginning to get upset that the director "doesn't tell Watt to shove it," in the words of one high official. Most, however, contend that he is engaged in a noble, self-sacrificing campaign to limit the damage inflicted by the new administration.

Park managers "learn how and where they can have influence," explained one veteran. "This is very much the case with Russ Dickenson. He thinks he can exert influence and that is enough satisfaction."

Another compared him to the head of the French Vichy government during World War II faced with an impossible choice: collaborating with the enemy to retain a small measure of authority or relinquishing the last vestiges of independent rule. "Do you quit or stay on and do the best you can?" asked the superintendent of one large park. "The rest of the service has given Russ Dickenson the utmost personal support. His colleagues are asking him to do it and they are backing him up."

The National Park Service certainly is not flourishing in the new era of fiscal austerity, but no one expected the agency to remain unscathed. The budget cuts and staff reductions have been less severe for the Park Service, however, than other agencies in the Interior Department. James Watt even went to Congress asking for an emergency appropriation of \$105 million to begin work on the most serious health and safety problems in the parks.

The rank and file see their less-impaired status as evidence of Dickenson's fine hand, patiently educating Jim Watt about the parks just as he tutored Ron Walker. But they wonder how long their leaders will remain in Watt's good graces in the face of additional budget cuts and developmental pressures. "I'm sure he's one of the most bitterly frustrated individuals in Interior right now," remarked another career man.

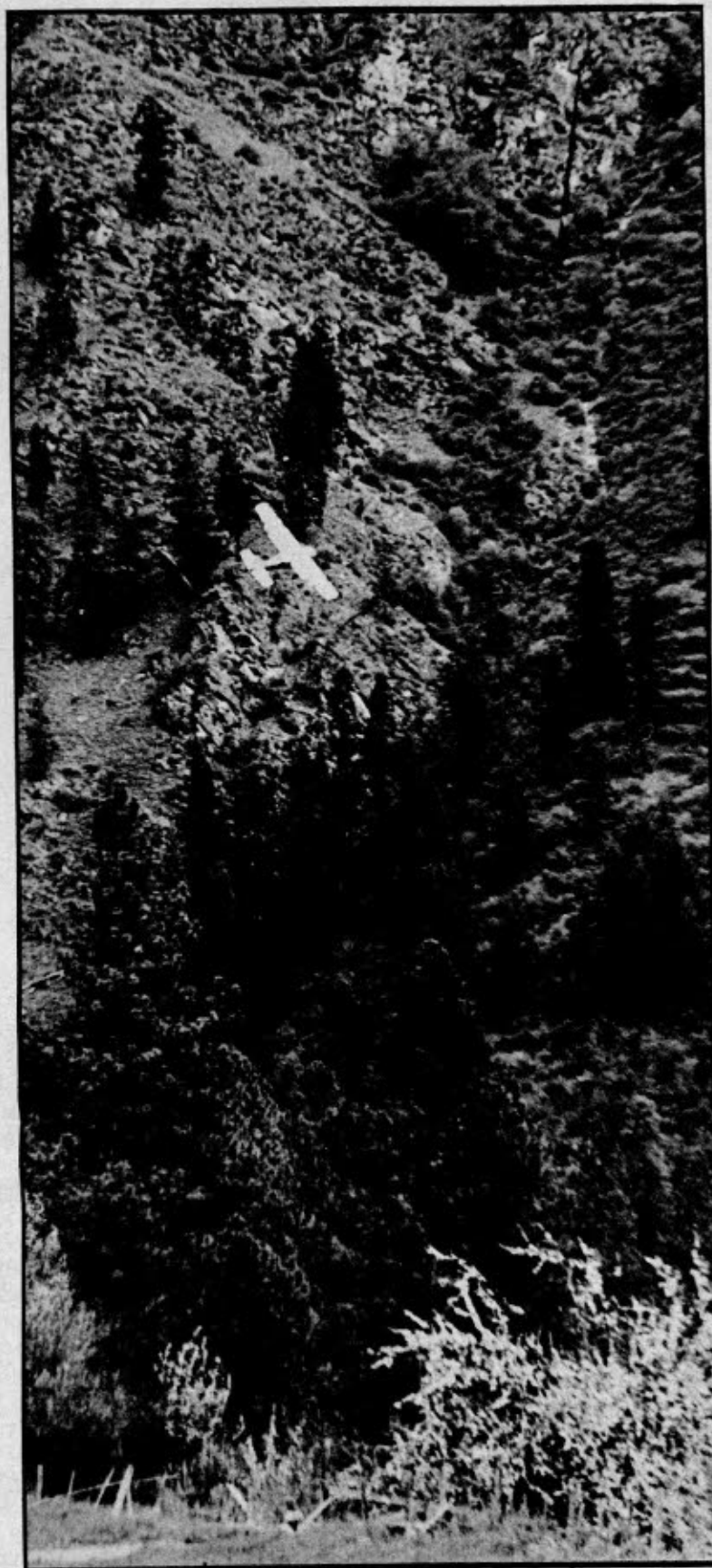
Most of the oldtimers agree that Dickenson is not the strongest director in the annals of the Park Service or even the strongest person around the agency these days, but they invariably point out that he is uniquely suited to the problems it is facing. Phillip Iverson noted that each director of the Park Service has fit the times. Dickenson, he said, is "the right man for this time, when the Park Service is in a holding action."

Another retired superintendent described him as "the best tightrope walker in the National Park Service."

— Ron Wolf former editor of the *Straight Creek Journal* in Denver, is currently a fellow with the Alicia Patterson Foundation. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

Flying the Salmon River backcountry

Winged messenger carries mail, nails, a



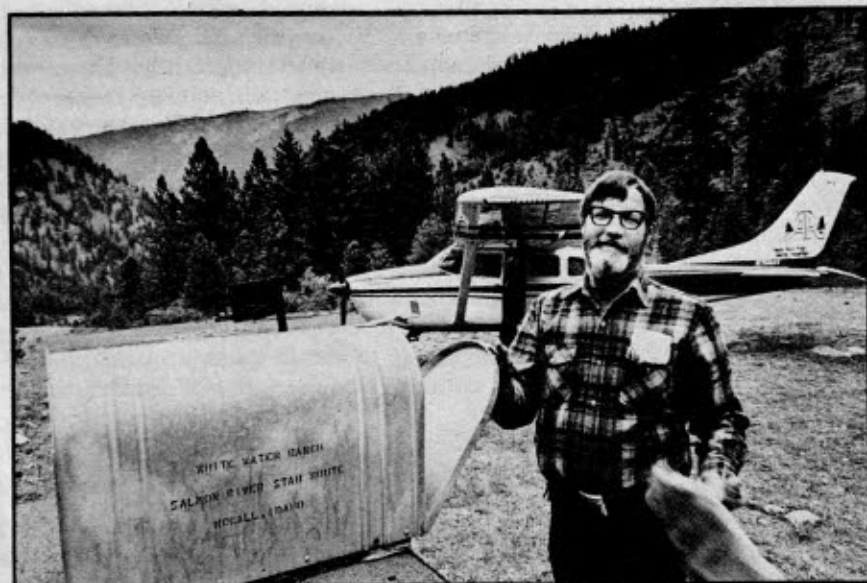
Lifting off and banking steeply above a gully near the Hettinger Ranch on the South Fork of the Salmon River.



Frances Wisner, and her dog, Gretchen, two of the farflung residents of the Salmon River backcountry, watch Arnold line up for a landing at her homestead.



Dog food and groceries for the Mackey Bar resort ranch.



Usually it's people, not a mailbox, that await Arnold as he carries mail to remote homesites in the Salmon River backcountry.

Story and photos by Glenn Oakley

Salmon River, Idaho — With Ponderosa pine and cliff walls whizzing by outside the 206 Cessna, Ray Arnold shouts jokes above the roar of the plane's engine. He circles the plane around and around in a slow descent until he can get low enough to make a straight shot landing at the little runway that doubles as horse and mule pasture. Tiny figures below emerge from a log cabin, heading for the landing strip. The mailman is coming.

When the plane lands at Yellow Pine Bar — named for a river formation, not a drinking establishment — Newt and Val are waiting in an ancient jeep. Yellow Pine Bar is about the half-way point on Arnold's Salmon River mail route; he has six more stops to make before he can fly back to his home in the small town of Cascade, Idaho. It is about 12:30 p.m. and Newt and Val invite Arnold in for lunch.

Like many of Arnold's customers, the couple caretakes a chunk of mountain

land adorned with a few cabins, used by wilderness outfitters or private individuals with a taste for the wild and remote. Practically everything at Yellow Pine Bar has been flown in by Arnold or brought upriver by jet boat; a foot trail through the mountains is the only other way in or out.

Arnold takes a long, leisurely lunch with the caretakers in their cabin, which is perched on a bluff 80 feet above the swift-coursing river. Newt, 40 years old and retired, is a refugee from England. He wears his brown hair neatly combed back in a long ponytail — a hairstyle for men that has survived in the Salmon River country — and smokes the sort of long-stemmed pipe one might associate with hobbits.

Val sets about making coffee and fixing up soup and sandwiches — groceries Arnold flew in last week. Arnold is not just an aerial mailman; he is the grocery deliveryman, hardware hauler and occasional ambulance driver for the backcountry residents. It all comes with delivering the mail.

Arnold digs into his lunch while Val digs into the mail he has brought. She

reads some of her letters aloud. The biggest news: her medicine man from Pocatello, Idaho will be coming soon, flown in by Arnold, of course. Val, a Sioux, and is immersing herself in Indian culture. The cabin smells early sweet because she is tanning hide with a sassafras root mixture. The process she says she won't try again. The traditional method of rubbing brains into the moist hide works, she has discovered.

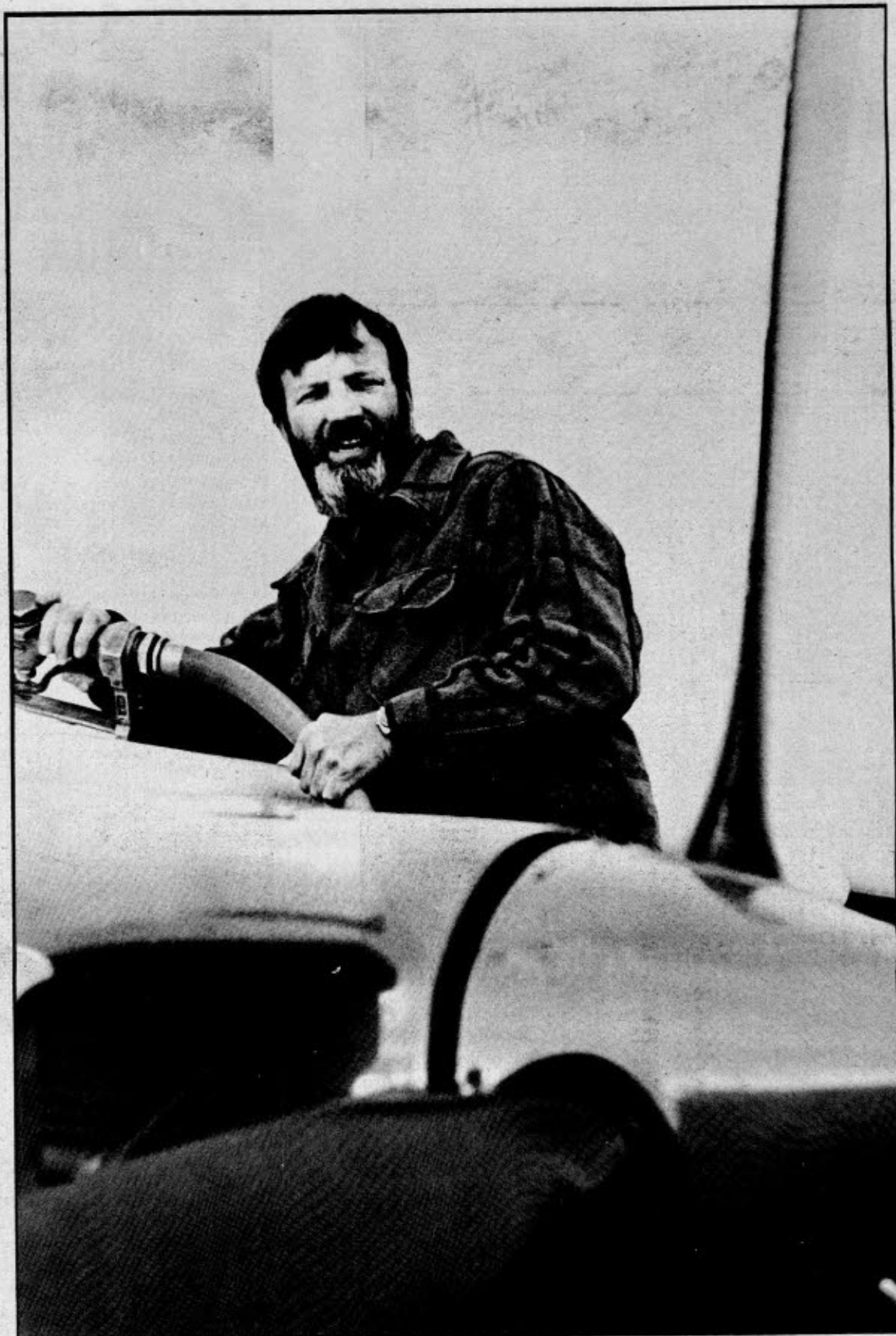
The medicine man comes to conduct sweat lodge ceremonies, an important part of American Indian religious life. Val is a link to the outside world, and becomes involved in whatever her route customers are doing. He has lava rocks requested by the medicine man for building the sweat lodge. Val is trying to talk Arnold into joining on an upcoming sweat lodge ceremony. He is reluctant; the ceremonies require participants to remain in the shelter for four hours or more. Val's resolve is wavering under her but for now he must get back in the plane and get the mail delivered.

Arnold taxis to the end of the

...ils, and an occasional medicine man



un-



Fueling up in Cascade, Ida., before taking off with the Salmon River mail run.

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pivots the plane around and gives the engine full throttle. The plane bounces down the runway, and on one final bounce never comes down. Airborne, Arnold brings the plane up, banks it sharply to the right and begins the climb out of the canyon.

For six years Arnold has delivered mail and groceries in the Salmon River country — every three weeks in the winter and every week in the summer. He still enjoys flying the treacherous mountain skies, and the backcountry residents anxiously await his arrivals. "Everybody sits by the radio and follows Ray along his route," said Steve Knudsen, who, with his wife, Karen, manages the Hettinger Ranch on the South Fork of the Salmon River. Arnold's arrivals and departures are overheard on the two-way radios that are the only form of communication in the backcountry.

Arnold starts a mail run early in the morning, weighing and loading his cargo of letters, packages, groceries, tools and perhaps a passenger or two into the plane. The cargo must be loaded in the reverse order that it will be unloaded, and it must fit: two requirements that seem all but impossi-

ble considering the small size of the plane and the large stacks of boxes.

Springtime flying is easiest for Arnold — high winds and snow squalls are the only serious problems that may be encountered then. Winter is a different matter. Sudden storms can reduce visibility to zero, a serious condition when one is trying to navigate a plane through canyons. Because of the unpredictable and dangerous weather Arnold delivers mail and supplies only every three weeks. Despite his precautions, he is stranded on the ground at one of his customer's homesteads three or four times every winter.

In the summer things might seem easiest, but the hot midday air in the canyons often becomes too thin and light to guarantee safe landings and take-offs in such tight quarters. To avoid the hot air, Arnold leaves his airstrip at Cascade by 5:30 a.m. in the summer.

All of the Salmon River landing strips are different, but they all have something in common: they are unpaved, bumpy and short. The landing strip at Frances Wisner's homestead is the rising face of a mountain. In the winter

Arnold must run his ski-equipped plane sideways immediately after coming to a stop at the upper end of the runway to keep from sliding back down the mountain.

Frances Wisner uses a plastic sled — even in the summer — to haul her goods back from the runway to her house situated downhill from the landing strip. She is one of the few persons living in the backcountry who was there before there was a mail pilot. Sitting on the green meadow that is the runway, Wisner talks about the time she and her late husband decided to snowshoe out of the mountains in the winter to pick up mail and supplies. It was a mistake, she says. The unbroken trail was steep and treacherous and long. They never tried to reach the outside world in the winter again like that.

No one has to risk their life to receive mail and goods any longer in the Salmon River country. Arnold takes the risks for them.

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Glenn Oakley is a freelance writer in Boise, Idaho. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.



Larsen's Bicycles

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"In Winter's Domain" is an educational film on winter environmental survival. It was produced by the Denver Audubon Society from whom it may be rented or purchased. Contact: Linda Hamlin, Denver Audubon Society, 2239 East Colfax, Denver, CO 80206; 303/399-3219.

SPACE AVAILABLE. Spacious condominiums available for black-footed ferrets in prairie dog town north of Belfry, Mont. Contact, care of this paper, Blackie & Cumquat (yes! together again).

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Many domestic uranium producers fear that even if the market revived, a flood of foreign uranium could smother the future of the domestic industry. If trends continue, the non-U.S. stockpile of yellowcake will exceed annual reactor needs by almost 600 percent in 1990.

Uranium...

(continued from page 1)

nuclear power growth, a careful relaxation of regulations that create more costs than benefits, and the imposition of quotas on foreign uranium imports, the uranium industry can enjoy "a glorious tomorrow."

While many disagree with Benitez's proposed solutions, practically everyone agrees on the nature of the problem. Some 8,000 of the 22,000 workers in the uranium industry have been laid off since 1979. At least eight major mines and mills, slated to come on line before 1982, have now been postponed or cancelled. And while the 33 active milling and solution mining operations have the capacity to produce 23,000 tons of yellowcake per year, actual reactor demands in the U.S. will reach only about 15,000 tons by the end of the year. DOE predicts that under a low-growth scenario for nuclear power — and such scenarios here historically have been on the high side — the actual demand for uranium will equal existing production capacity by the end of the decade.

Meanwhile, mining costs have skyrocketed while the spot-market price of uranium dropped 60 percent since 1979 — in real terms, back to its 1975 level. In the last 3 years, mining costs have increased between 27 and 44 percent, depending on mining methods and grades of ore recovered. While companies only 10 years ago produced ores that averaged four pounds of uranium per ton of ore, today's ores average less than two pounds.

If that isn't trouble enough, massive deposits of high-grade low-cost uranium have been discovered in Canada, Australia and other countries that have excellent trade relations with the U.S. It is the specter of large import commitments that prompts John Benitez and others to argue for stiff import quotas, thereby providing domestic producers with a predictable, less competitive market.

While Benitez believes that the federal government should help the industry out of its bind, others argue that the problem is not so severe or unique to the uranium industry.

John Atkins of Pathfinder Mines in Riverton, Wyoming, believes that the uranium industry is only a little worse off than the rest of the economy. "You have to put this thing in its proper context," he said. "Yes, the uranium and nuclear power industries are hurting right now, but so are a lot of other things. Look at the steel industry." Atkins believes that the main reasons for slower than expected growth in nuclear power demand are high interest rates and a sluggish economy, which, in turn, are major contributors to declining demand for electric power.

"Two-thirds of the electricity used in

this country goes to business and industry," he said. "When the economy turns around and other industries get going again, we'll have a turnaround in the utility industry, too." Atkins believes uranium still has an unrealized role to play in electrification, since "nuclear power is the safest, cleanest, and one of the cheapest ways to make electricity."

Atkins points out that many industrialized countries are trying to enlarge the role of electricity in their overall energy systems. He cites as examples the use of electrical commuter trains in Europe, and the French commitment to essentially displace petroleum use with nuclear electricity. "The U.S. might make some similar commitments," he said. "If we do, we might see nuclear power providing 30 percent or more of our electricity."

But today, and for the past ten years, electrical demand has dropped dramatically in the U.S. From a metronomically reliable 7 percent annual growth rate in the 1960s, the rate is below 3 percent today. It has also become quite unpredictable as business and individuals begin to respond in various ways to conservation strategies.

According to utility planners, the unpredictable growth in demand is a major reason for cancelling nuclear power plants and other baseload generators. But a second and perhaps more important reason is the unpredictability of nuclear licensing coupled with the ever expanding lead-times required to plan, site and build a power reactor.

James Bull, Manager of Systems Operation and Planning at Iowa Power and Light Company, explained why his company cancelled plans for a 1,300 megawatt reactor at Vandalia, Iowa. "We indefinitely cancelled the plant back in 1977 because of regulatory problems at the local and federal level. Our own Commerce Commission here started changing its siting regs due to public reaction, and at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission we saw problems with having to retrofit to meet new standards." Bull claims that many staff members of IP&L perceived that two of the five commissioners at the NRC were "decidedly anti-nuclear."

After cancelling the Vandalia reactor, IP&L announced plans to build a coal-fired plant instead. "The risks were perceived to be a little less on the fossil-fuel side," according to Bull. Currently, declining demand keeps plans for the Vandalia reactor from being resurrected.

At Nebraska Public Power District, Larry Kuncl, Assistant General Manager of Power Projects, echoed many of Bull's concerns over licensing, delays and declining demand. In 1977, NPPD cancelled plans to build 1,100 mw reactor at Fort Calhoun, then later announced its commitment to a coal-fired substitute.

"A nuclear plant today will take at least 13 years to build, while coal plants

can come on-line four to five years quicker," said Kuncl. "That advantage alone makes coal the preferred technology."

But nuclear advocates are still convinced that the technical superiority of nuclear power will eventually triumph, and a thriving uranium industry will follow close behind.

Wyoming State Senator Roy Peck, Chairman of the governor's Ad Hoc Committee on Uranium Industry Problems, believes that in five years "the industry will be back on its feet again." Peck points to the recent takeover of Pathfinder Mines by Cogema, Inc., the French government-owned supplier of nuclear fuel, as an indication of the future viability of domestic uranium. "Cogema came to Wyoming because we have a proven, stable, reliable supply of uranium. This is a good signal for the stability of the American industry," Peck said.

John Benitez disagrees. "Cogema's takeover is a good example that we aren't viable here. The French came aggressively into Wyoming because they want a diversity of supply for their own nuclear program, which is more vigorous than ours."

In spite of its unexpected setbacks, the U.S. nuclear industry is not exactly sitting still. A. David Rossin of Commonwealth Edison Company in Chicago points out that nuclear power has made the most rapid contribution to electrification in history. Starting from ground-zero in 1960, nuclear now provides over 12 percent of the power in the U.S. electrical system. Today, 74 commercial reactors are humming along in 27 states. Another 98 are under construction or in various phases of licensing. If all of them are eventually built, the U.S. will own some 157,000 mw of nuclear capacity by the turn of the century. And demand for uranium will grow by more than 30 percent.

To some experts, the real question is not whether demand will rise again, but who will fill it. Like John Benitez, many domestic producers fear a flood of foreign uranium could smother the future of the domestic industry. Several prominent market analysts fuel their fears.

M.J. Reaves, Vice President of the uranium brokerage Nuexco, predicts that the spot-market price of uranium will not rise above \$40 per pound again this decade. Nuexco therefore believes that foreign producers with their low-cost reserves might provide more than half of United States' needs by 1990.

Other analyses point in the same direction, but stop short of predicting the purchasing behavior of domestic nuclear utilities. Writing in *Technology Review*, Thomas Neff and Henry Jacoby of MIT report that in 1980, 35 percent of world production went into inventories, chiefly in West Germany, Japan and France, which together account for three-fourths of all purchases outside the United States. If the trend toward

filling inventories continues, the non-U.S. stockpile of yellowcake will exceed annual reactor needs by almost 600 percent in 1990.

According to Neff and Jacoby, uranium oversupply will continue to drive the price down through the 1980s — that is, unless a rapid revitalization of the world nuclear industry occurs. The authors predict that without some form of production and price agreement among producers — a polite way of describing a cartel — foreign production threatens the long-term health of the American industry by restraining domestic investments in exploration.

The U.S. Department of Energy agrees that in the absence of a thriving domestic market, exploration investments could fall to dangerously low levels. But top officials doubt that foreign production will vastly outstrip demand. Speaking at the DOE Uranium Industry seminar in Grand Junction, John Patterson of the Office of Uranium Enrichment and Assessment noted that non-U.S. production could double, leaping to 80,000 tons per year by 1990. But, he said, "Such levels of production are well above projected demand and are not likely to happen that rapidly." DOE believes that no major federal action — such as restricting imports — is necessary at present. Official sentiment seems to be that the market will stabilize as production declines due to slow demand.

Like foreign producers, American companies responded dramatically to the post-embargo uranium price jump from \$8 to over \$40. As nuclear optimism soared through 1976 — the year that U.S. reactor commitments peaked at 237 — the uranium industry geared up to meet unprecedented levels of demand. By 1980, additions to planned capacity topped 7,000 tons of yellowcake per year, lifting the U.S. total to over 30,000 tons of capacity. But cutbacks and deferrals since then have left the industry limping. Actual 1981 production dropped to 18,000 tons from a 1980 peak of 22,000. In 1982, DOE predicts it will fall to 15,000 — the actual level of reactor demands.

Industry analysts are terse in their assessment of the near future. "There is just no need for a 30,000 ton industry, since existing capacity will suffice through 1990," said Frank Hahne of the Nuclear Assurance Corporation.

Like many of his colleagues, Pathfinder's John Atkins believes that clear, consistent federal policies favoring nuclear power growth will eventually help stabilize the uranium market. He believes that it's too early to tell whether policies of the Reagan administration will substantially aid the industry.

But the specifics of a program to pull the ailing nuclear industry out of its slump have evaded at least two administrations. Since 1976, 54 reactor orders have been cancelled or indefinitely postponed. A recent NBC poll found that more than half the country believes no new reactors should be built, while only one-third remain committed to nuclear power. Meanwhile, the Reagan administration appears intent on developing a demonstration breeder reactor that will probably do nothing to help either the light water reactor or the uranium industry. It will, however, keep the U.S. technologically competitive with the French, who are already building their third commercial breeder reactor.

As uranium producers in Wyoming, New Mexico and other states cut back, serious reclamation questions have begun to arise. None of the states' mined land reclamation laws cover the question of temporary suspension in mining operations. And in Wyoming, no one seems intent on amending the law.

State Senator Roy Peck said he prefers letting the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality handle the prob-



In-situ uranium operations near Powder River

"The longer uranium mine reclamation is postponed the greater the chance that it will fail."

— Reed Zars

Powder River Basin Resource Council

lems through regulations on a case by case basis. "If DEQ can prove they aren't in violation of the statute and they can handle this thing through rules and regs, then the law should not be changed."

However, Peck said he wants to be sure that the statute adequately protects both the agency and the industry against lawsuits from "those in Wyoming who are against mining." He listed the Wyoming Outdoor Council and the Powder River Basin Resource Council as groups that are "anti-mining and anti-nukes."

Reed Zars, Staff Director of the Powder River Basin Resource Council, agrees that the reclamation laws need not be amended if DEQ can handle temporary closures through regulations. He and other PRBRC staff, however, are not convinced that all of the shut-downs are temporary. Citing a "massive oversupply of uranium into the foreseeable future," Zars is concerned that DEQ has not yet required companies to provide timeline for the duration of the closures. "It's not very wise to postpone reclamation," said Zars.

Peck scoffs at concerns that reclamation will not occur. "All this fuss about lowering reclamation standards is completely one-sided," he said. "Nobody has ceased operations altogether, and if they do they are all bonded to guarantee reclamation."

Zars replied, "Mr. Peck might be reminded that no bonds have been released for uranium or coal, and that reclamation has not yet been proven successful."

"Our concern is that the land be returned to its prior state and that people who live around mines don't sustain hardship. The longer reclamation is postponed the greater the chance that it will fail," Zars said.

John Atkins agrees with Peck that reclamation will occur regardless of the length of closures. "Anyone suspending operations is still carrying an environmental commitment with the state, and those things have to be honored," Atkins said. He believes the industry fears a strict interpretation of regulations that would make them begin filling in holes 30 days after operations cease, regardless of their long-term intentions to reopen. "It's DEQ's job to see that the lion's share of mines will start up again, and to work out interim regs to protect groundwater, manage tailings and so forth. This should all be done on a case by case basis."

"Legislative intent never took into account six- to seven-year suspensions caused by economic reasons," said Atkins. "But nobody in the industry will abandon anything. It's illegal."

Chris Shuey of the Southwest Research and Information Center in Albuquerque believes that compared with New Mexico, Wyoming is handling interim stabilization very well. "The Environmental Improvement Department here doesn't know how to handle the Sohio (mill) closure, or really any of the shutdowns. We have no idea how long we will have this suspended animation in the uranium industry."

Citing the layoffs of 3,000 New Mexico uranium workers, Shuey believes that his state has been hit hardest by the softening market. He said that before the EID makes definitive decisions on how to handle closures, "the economic condition of the market ought to be addressed." Like Zars, Shuey is not convinced that all closures are temporary. "The industry's general line is that uranium will rebound in four to five years," he said. "But given what Nuexco says about prices, I'm not so sure."

While officials in Wyoming have conducted hearings on the issue of interim stabilization, Shuey says there have been none in New Mexico and none are in sight. Meanwhile, three of New Mexico's five major mills have either announced closure or major cutbacks. "Something has to be done," he said.

While uranium states wrestle with the troublesome issue of stabilization, the Reagan administration appears bent on helping the nuclear industry through shorter licensing procedures and renewed subsidies to develop advanced nuclear technologies. Yet ironically, it appears to be the very market that Reaganites put such faith in that now holds nuclear power at bay.

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



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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 (2) INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES, AND (3) OIL TREATER FACILITIES, TO MODIFY (1) INDUSTRIAL PERMIT, AND (1) OIL TREATER PERMIT, AND TO RENEW AND (30) OIL TREATER PERMITS.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(1) APPLICANT NAME: Basins Engineering Company, Inc.
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 845
 Wheatland, WY 82201
 FACILITY LOCATION: Platte County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030945

The Basins Engineering Company operates an open-pit Dolomitic Limestone (Marble) Mine in Western Platte County, Wyoming. Groundwater and surface runoff which enters the mine is occasionally pumped out into Marble Quarry Creek (Class IV Water) via an unnamed drainage. The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment standards." Self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity is required on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire November 30, 1986.

(2) APPLICANT NAME: Lamb Construction Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box N
 Torrington, WY 82240
 FACILITY LOCATION: Goshen County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030953

The Lamb Construction Company operates a sand and gravel mine located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 14, T25N, R63W, Goshen County, Wyoming. The operation is located on the banks of the North Platte River and under high water conditions river water filters into the Nick Pit #1. When necessary, the water is pumped out of the pit and into the North Platte (Class II Water).

The proposed permit requires immediate compliance with effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment." The proposed permit also requires self-monitoring of effluent quality and quantity on a regular basis with reporting of results quarterly. The permit is scheduled to expire November 30, 1986.

(3) APPLICANT NAME: Conoco, Inc.
 MAILING ADDRESS: 907 North Union Blvd.
 Casper, WY 82601
 FACILITY LOCATION: North Danker Field, Well 9#2, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 Section 9, T57N, R98W, Park County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030937

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Park County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Polecat Creek (Class II Water) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge 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 discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit 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 permit is December 31, 1983.

(4) APPLICANT NAME: Golden Eagle Explorations, Inc.
 MAILING ADDRESS: 1101 North F Street
 Lompoc, CA 93438
 FACILITY LOCATION: Federal-Cole Lease Tank Battery 5A, Barton Lease,
 Tank Battery 4A, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 4, T49N, R65W,
 Crook County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030961

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Crook County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Tomcat Creek (Class IV Water) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge 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 discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit 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 permit is December 31, 1984.

(5) APPLICANT NAME: Powder River Oil Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: 1111 Ridgely Bank Bldg.
 Fort Worth, TX 76116
 FACILITY LOCATION: Craft #2, Section 8, T57N, R68W, Crook County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028495

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Crook County, Wyoming. The produced water separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to North Fork of Little Missouri River (Class II W.W.) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. No chemical limitations have been imposed on this facility except for oil and grease (10 mg/l) and pH (6.5 - 8.5). This is due to the extreme aridity 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 discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit 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 permit is December 31, 1984.

(6) APPLICANT NAME: Antelope Coal Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: 111 S.W. Columbia, Suite 800
 Portland, OR 97201
 FACILITY LOCATION: Converse County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030198

On March 9, 1981 the Antelope Coal Company obtained a permit to discharge from this Department for its proposed Antelope Mine located approximately 45 miles north of the Town of Douglas, Wyoming. That permit authorized discharges from two separate points into School Draw (Class IV Water). The Company has now requested that the permit be modified to authorize two additional discharges to Antelope Creek (Class II W.W.) and an unnamed tributary of Antelope Creek.

The discharges must meet effluent limitations which are considered by the State of Wyoming to represent "best available treatment." However, the permit also contains a "re-opener clause" which requires the permit to be modified should more stringent limitations be 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 December 31, 1986.

(7) APPLICANT NAME: Altex Oil Corporation
 MAILING ADDRESS: 1660 - 17th Street, Suite 300
 Denver, CO 80202
 FACILITY LOCATION: Elk Mountain Lease, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 23,
 T20N, R80W, Carbon County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000230

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Carbon County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Bear Creek (Class III Water).

The discharge 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 discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit if evidence indicates that more stringent limitations are needed.

The permit is being modified to include an additional discharge point 002. Quarterly oil and grease and a semi-annual flow measurement are the only parameters required to be monitored at the additional discharge. This is because one analysis of the chemical constituents as required at discharge point 001 is sufficient from an oil treater facility. The proposed permit is scheduled to expire December 31, 1982.

(8) APPLICANT NAME: Husky Oil Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 380
 Cody, WY 82414
 FACILITY LOCATION: Polecat Facility, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 34, T57N, R98W,
 Park County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0000388

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Park County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to Polecat Creek (Class II Water) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge 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 discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit 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 permit is December 31, 1983.

(9) APPLICANT NAME: Lawrence - Allison & Associates West, Inc.
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 90159
 Casper, WY 82609-1159
 FACILITY LOCATION: B-1-20 Tank Battery at Naval Petroleum Reserve #3,
 SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 20, T39N, R78, Natrona County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003484
 FACILITY LOCATION: B-TP-10 Tank Battery at Naval Petroleum Reserve
 #3, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 10, T38N, R78W, Natrona County, Wyoming

PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028274
 Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Teapot Creek and Little Teapot Creek both Class IV Waters.

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, 1985.

(10) APPLICANT NAME: Toco Corporation
 MAILING ADDRESS: 26 South Seneca
 Newcastle, WY 82701
 FACILITY LOCATION: SS-U Unit, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 23, T44N, R64W,
 Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023175

Facility is a typical oil treater located in Weston County, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharge is to South Beaver Creek (Class IV Water) via an unnamed drainage.

The discharge must meet Wyoming's Produced Water Criteria effective immediately. No chemical limitations have been imposed on this facility except for oil and grease (10 mg/l) and pH (6.5 - 8.5). This is due to the extreme aridity 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 discharge and, if necessary, will modify the permit 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 permit is December 31, 1986.

(11) APPLICANT NAME: B.W. Allen
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2352
 Casper, WY 82602
 FACILITY LOCATION: 28-1 Federal Tank Battery, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section
 28, T45N, R67W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028860

(12) APPLICANT NAME: Amoco Production Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 569
 Powell, WY 82435
 FACILITY LOCATION: Little Buffalo Basin Northeast Dome USA Well #7,
 SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 2, T47N, R100W, Park County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028266

(13) APPLICANT NAME: Diamond B Industries
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 608
 Newcastle, WY 82701
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wagner Federal Lease #018920, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 9,
 T44N, R62W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028304

(14) APPLICANT NAME: Dome Petroleum
 MAILING ADDRESS: 2305 Oxford Lane
 % Mellinay - Adams & Company, Inc.
 Casper, WY 82601
 FACILITY LOCATION: Federal 1-4, Lease #W-35920, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 2, T45N, R98W, Hot
 Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0030686

(15) APPLICANT NAME: Phillips Petroleum Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74004
 FACILITY LOCATION: Golden Eagle Lease, Tank Battery #1, SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 Section 11, T45N, R97W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001279
 FACILITY LOCATION: Golden Eagle Lease, Tank Battery #2, NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 Section 12, T45N, R97W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027600

(16) APPLICANT NAME: Terra Resources, Inc.
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2500
 Casper, WY 82601
 FACILITY LOCATION: West Fiddler Creek Unit, Water Flood Plant A,
 SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 20, T46N, R65W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0002500
 FACILITY LOCATION: West Fiddler Creek Unit, A-1 Battery, NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 Section 22, T46N, R65W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0002534
 FACILITY LOCATION: East Fiddler Creek Field, Egert Unit, NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 Section 19, T46N, R64W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0002577
 FACILITY LOCATION: Fiddler Creek Field, Uplike Government Lease,
 SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 14 T46N, R65W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0002585
 FACILITY LOCATION: Fiddler Creek Field, Lundberg Lease, SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 Section 15, T46N, R65W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0002593
 FACILITY LOCATION: East Fiddler Creek Unit, Tank Battery #3, SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 Section 23, T46N, R65W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0002607
 FACILITY LOCATION: East Fiddler Creek Unit, Tank Battery #2,
 NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 15, T46N, R65W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0002615

(17) APPLICANT NAME: Texaco, Inc.
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2100
 Denver, CO 80201
 FACILITY LOCATION: East Fiddler Creek Field, Gilmer Unit, SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 Section 18, T46N, R64W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0002411

(18) APPLICANT NAME: Toco Corporation
 MAILING ADDRESS: 26 South Seneca
 Newcastle, WY 82701
 FACILITY LOCATION: West Mush Creek Flood Area A, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 26,
 T44N, R63W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001406
 FACILITY LOCATION: State Lease, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 16, T44N, R63W,
 Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0001414
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wright Government Unit, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24, T44N,
 R64W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023167
 FACILITY LOCATION: Mush Creek Unit, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 21, T44N, R63W,
 Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0023183
 FACILITY LOCATION: Rogers Lease, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 16, T44N, R63W,
 Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0026956
 FACILITY LOCATION: Anderson - Michaels, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 20,
 T44N, R63W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0027529
 FACILITY LOCATION: Wade Unit, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 18, T44N, R63W,
 Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0028983

(19) APPLICANT NAME: The Townsend Company, Inc.
 MAILING ADDRESS: 210 Grandview Drive
 Newcastle, WY 82701
 FACILITY LOCATION: Pendeco Waterflood Plant, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22,
 T46N, R64W, Weston County, Wyoming
 PERMIT NUMBER: Wy-0003085

(20) APPLICANT NAME: Santa Fe Energy Company
 MAILING ADDRESS: One Security Park, 7200 I-40 West
 Amarillo, TX 79106

BULLETIN BOARD

COAL ADVISORY MEETING

The public will have the opportunity to address the second annual meeting of the Federal-State Coal Advisory Board of the Bureau of Land Management at the afternoon session on Dec. 17, at the Holiday Inn-Airport, 4040 Quebec St. in Denver. The board will be discussing national and state perspectives of the federal coal leasing programs.

CONTRACTS ON RUEDI

The Bureau of Land Management has contracted the sale of 7,850 acre-feet of water from the Ruedi Reservoir in the oil shale region of Colorado. Public comments on the contracts will be received until Dec. 24. Copies of the contracts may be obtained at the Colorado Water Conservancy District Office, P.O. Box 1120, Glenwood Springs, Colo. 81602. Comments should be mailed to J.F. Rinckel, Projects Manager, 762 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction, Colo. 81501.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIAMONDS

Twelve diamond-bearing kimberlite deposits discovered in the Laramie Range of Wyoming and the Front Range of Colorado have stirred interest in such exploration. The Geological Survey of Wyoming in cooperation with Colorado State University in Ft. Collins has conducted several exploration, prospecting and research programs and projects to locate and identify such deposits. Information on diamond deposits can be obtained from the Geological Survey of Wyoming, P.O. Box 3008, University Station, Laramie, Wyo. 82071 or by calling (307) 742-2054.

SMOKEY/WOOSY POSTER CONTEST

It's time to enter the 1982 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl environmental poster contest. Anyone, any age, can enter the contest. Competition is based on age groups. Posters must be based on an environmental theme, although it is not mandatory to use either Smokey or Woodsy in the artwork. Keep the poster size smaller than 12 by 18 inches and use any medium of expression. Include your name, age or grade (if the entrant is a school age child) and address. Entries must be received by the state poster contest chairs no later than Jan. 5, 1982. Chairwomen for the Northern Region of the U.S. Forest Service are: Susie Yurman, Box 337, Chester, Mont. 59522; Mrs. Stanley Stokka, Hannaford, N.D. 58448; and Mrs. Milan Norden, 1860 Valley View, Clarkston, Wash. 99403.

GRAZING USE CHANGES

The public is encouraged to comment on the Bureau of Land Management's proposed changes in regulations of managing livestock grazing use. The proposed amendments delete 20 percent of the existing regulations and BLM says they will provide incentives for livestock operators to contribute to rangeland improvement work. The proposed amendments were published in the Nov. 13 *Federal Register*. Comments should be sent to the BLM, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240 no later than Jan. 12, 1982.

HANDOUTS FOR ENERGY INFO

Energy/Environment Information, a free newsletter published by the Regional Energy/Environment Information Center of the Denver Public Library is in financial trouble. They ask if you are still interested in their reporting of energy and environmental issues in the Rocky Mountain Region to send a \$5 tax-deductible donation so they may continue to publish. Checks should be made payable to Denver Public Library, and sent to Energy Information, DPL, 3840 York St., Denver, Colo. 80205.

COMMENT ON CASCADES

The draft environmental assessment of the Bureau of Land Management's proposed land management plan for the Cascade Reservoir in Idaho is ready for public comment and review. Comments should be sent to BLM, Code 150, Box 043, 550 W. Fort St., Boise, Idaho 83724, no later than Jan. 11, 1982.

RECIPROCATATE WITH CANADA

Due to recent changes in Canadian investment customs and proposed changes in Canadian investment laws, the public is invited to comment on whether Canada should continue to be treated as a reciprocal nation as defined in the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920. The Act states that "citizens of another country, the laws, customs or regulations of which deny similar or like privileges to citizens or corporations of this country, shall not by stock ownership, stock holding, or stock control, own any interest in any lease." Comments should be sent to Jack Campbell, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Budget and Administration, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Room 5124, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, no later than Dec. 31.

BE A SUMMER SMOKEY BEAR

Applications for temporary summer and seasonal employment with the U.S. Forest Service will be accepted between now and Jan. 15, 1982. Employment varies from one to six months, applicants must be 18-years-old and hourly wages range from \$4.52 to \$6.18. For positions in Utah, Nevada, southern Idaho and western Wyoming contact the Intermountain Regional Forest Service Headquarters, 325 25th St., Ogden, Utah 84401 or the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, 507 25th St., Ogden, Utah 84401. For positions in the Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service (Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming) contact any Forest Service office.

CHRISTMAS TREES

It's that time of year to obtain a permit to cut your Christmas tree on either U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management land. Permits are \$3 and can be purchased at the Gunnison National Forest, 216 N. Colorado in Gunnison, Colo; and at the Glenwood Springs Resource Area office, 50629 Hwy. 6 and 24, West Glenwood Springs, Colo. Contact other USFS and BLM offices in your area for availability of local permitting.

SAVING SOIL

Hold back soil erosion by 860 million tons a year; cut the currently fast-eroding 141 million acres to 126 million; reduce nonpoint agricultural runoff pollution by 320 million tons. Such are the goals outlined in the Agriculture Department's plan for saving the nation's soil. Production costs and consumer prices should rise "moderately" while reducing flood damage and could save some \$400 million a year, under the plan, which proposes to spend some \$100 million a year on grants. For a copy of the plan, write SCS, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, D.C. 20013.

BLM RAISES SPEED LIMIT

The Bureau of Land Management plans to speed its study of the 24 million acres of public lands under wilderness review. The BLM says it plans to complete work on 86 percent of the acreage by the end of fiscal year 1984, at an estimated savings of \$3.5 million. BLM Director Robert Burford said the decision to speed up the study process will save money, increase the total amount of acreage studied in the next few years, accelerate the total acreage studied with energy conflicts and minimize impacts on other BLM program efforts. He said despite the hurried efforts, the BLM still plans to meet all requirements of federal law, including the National Environmental Policy Act and the federal Land Policy and Management Act. A complete listing of the 949 wilderness study areas, including the study schedule, is in the Nov. 18 *Federal Register*. For more information contact state BLM offices.

SCULPTURE SEARCH

A search for a sculptor whose work will be compatible with the environmental aspects of the new George Amos Memorial Library in Gillette, Wyoming is being sponsored by the library and the Association of Professional Artists, Inc. Interested sculptors should send slides, proposed sketches, a resume that includes past commissions and an estimated cost. The theme for the artwork is realistic western art and the application deadline is Feb. 1. Interested persons should contact the Association of Professional Artists, Inc., P.O. Box 1046, Gillette, Wyo. 82716.

USGS MAPS

Index maps which show areas covered by the U.S. Geological Survey's "Coal Resource Occurrence and Coal Development Potential (CRO/CDP) Reports" for Wyoming can be ordered through the Wyoming Geological Survey, P.O. Box 3008, University Station, Laramie, Wyo. 82071 or by calling (307) 766-2286. It is entitled Map Series 9A and costs \$1. "An Index to Topographic Mapping in Wyoming" is also available, free of charge, from either the Wyoming Geological Survey or from the USGS Map Distribution Center, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, Colo. 80225.

IN-SITU FOUND DISAPPOINTING

A study indicating that the experience with Wyoming's first in-situ uranium mine was not as promising as once hoped, entitled, "The Problematic Solution, A Case Study of In-Situ Mining in Wyoming," is available from the Powder River Basin Resource Council, 48 N. Main, Sheridan, Wyo. 82801 for a nominal charge. The study focuses on the Irigaray solution mine located 40 miles southeast of Buffalo, in Johnson County.

FINK ON A POACHER

Idaho Citizens Against Poaching report 284 calls from concerned citizens have produced 71 arrests since the program began one year ago. Rewards are given if a call results in an arrest. Citizens can call toll-free, 1-800-632-5999. Their identity will be confidential.

PARK OPENINGS

Yellowstone National Park's winter opening is scheduled for Dec. 17. Snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers and other winter enthusiasts are invited to enjoy the park. The Old Faithful Visitor Center will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning Dec. 19. The Albright Visitor Center and Museum in Mammoth is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. and features exhibits on the history of the park. Designated unpaved roads in Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway in Wyoming will be open to snowmobiling Dec. 10. Free permits must be obtained from the Moose Visitor Center or the Colter Bay Ranger Station. Due to lack of sufficient snow cover, the Potholes area of Grand Teton National Park will remain closed to snowmobiling until adequate snow covers the area.

AX FOR WATER QUALITY?

The public is encouraged to comment and make recommendations concerning the continuation of the Ad Valorem Tax Division of the Wyoming State Board of Equalization and the Water Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality on December 15 at 9 a.m. in the Ramada Inn in Casper, Wyo. These agencies will be terminated July 1, 1983 unless the legislature acts to continue them beyond that date. Anyone making testimony is requested to submit a written copy at the meeting.

SLOWING SHELL OIL

A federal law against mining of alluvial valley floors may eliminate part of the area that Shell Oil Co. plans to mine for coal on the Crow Reservation, according to the final environmental impact statement on the Crow-Shell coal lease, which was released Nov. 20 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Water is the chief environmental concern discussed in the EIS. More than 200,000 gallons of groundwater would flow into the Youngs Creek strip mine per day, which would reduce the flow of Youngs Creek. Both ground and surface water quality could be degraded although state and federal water quality standards are not expected to be exceeded, according to the EIS. The principle social impact is expected to fall on Sheridan, Wyo. Copies of the EIS are available from David Pennington, BIA, 316 North 26th St., Billings, Mont. 59101.

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 # of shirts _____
 small, green medium, green
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FACILITY LOCATION:	Hamilton Dome Field, Tank Battery A, SW 1/4 Section 7, T44N, R97W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming Wy-0001236
PERMIT NUMBER:	
FACILITY LOCATION:	Hamilton Dome Field, Tank Battery C, NW 1/4 Section 19, T44N, R97W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming Wy-0001244
PERMIT NUMBER:	
FACILITY LOCATION:	State 30 Lease 70-1284, SW 1/4, Section 30, T48N, R103W, Park County, Wyoming Wy-00027751
PERMIT NUMBER:	
(21) APPLICANT NAME:	E.C. Yegen
MAILING ADDRESS:	Box 1774 Casper, WY 82602
FACILITY LOCATION:	#1 Federal Battery, NE 1/4, Section 12, T44N, R97W, Hot Springs County, Wyoming Wy-0024082
PERMIT NUMBER:	

Facilities are typical oil treaters located in Weston, Park and Hot Springs Counties, Wyoming. The produced water is separated from the petroleum product through the use of heater treaters and skim ponds. The discharges are to Beaver and Mush Creeks (Class II W.W.), Owl Creek and Greybill River (Class II Waters), and Sage, Little Buffalo, Cottonwood, Fiddler, North Fiddler, Sheep Canyon, South Beaver Creeks, Coal Draw and Spring Gulch (All Class IV Waters) 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 28, 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 28, 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.

Public Notice No. Wy-81-014

OPINION

RX for boom and doom: Front end \$

by Tim Schultz

Recently, in northwestern Colorado's Rio Blanco County, county and town officials from Rangely successfully negotiated an impact mitigation agreement with Western Fuels Association, Inc. The company plans to operate a coal

GUEST EDITORIAL

mine within the county and a power generating plant in Bonanza, Utah.

The agreement calls for Western Fuels to provide about \$7 million in up-front capital expense money and another \$8 million in capital aid should the need arise. Western Fuels will also provide operating cost attributable to the company's impact on the various services and facilities in Rangely.

The agreement is the largest single commitment of front end impact aid negotiated in the Rocky Mountain states since the "energy boom" got under way. Western Fuels will provide funding for public health services, schools, recreation, town and county planning and administration, fire, police, social services, water and sewers, road improvement and housing.

The Rio Blanco settlement was inspired by the often painful experiences of other communities facing substantial energy development. Local governments have difficulty meeting operating budgets during the height of a boom. The resources of police, fire

and school departments are stretched to — and beyond — the breaking point.

Local fiscal problems are often aggravated by a mismatch between the revenue generated by a new industrial development and expenditure requirements. Energy facilities promise substantial tax revenues once they are finished and operating, yet the greatest need for money comes prior to and during the construction of the facility, well before it provides any taxable base. If the community is unable to overcome this lag by borrowing, public services may suffer substantially. In the case of Rio Blanco, with only the mine to be located in Colorado, not even the projected tax revenues from the power plant would go to the county.

Energy "boom towns" in the West are usually — like Rangely — sparsely populated areas with an economy based primarily on agriculture. There are few public services and facilities. When energy facilities come to small, isolated towns, they typically bring with them a substantial work force and a somewhat smaller permanent operating force. Each of these new populations makes demands on the local economy and on government services. Because of the time lag between expenditures and revenue increases, there are severe problems inherent in the front-end financing of these new facilities. Numerous studies have estimated a lag time of between five and eight years from the expenditures to the future realized income.

Further complicating the problem is the nature of "boom" planning. Many local services — like sewers and school facilities — are capital intensive and require long lead times to plan and build. Local governments often don't have accurate information even about whether a proposed project will be built or the level of public services needed to serve the population increase.

Even if this information is available, local governments have difficulty marketing bonds, since their meager pre-boom tax bases would not support debt retirement and the security of the loan depends on the success of the energy project. Lenders are not notorious for their love of risks — and "boom town" lending is extremely risky.

These problems are not merely hypothetical. They have been documented in the past in rapid-growth towns that dot the West. In Sweetwater County, Wyoming, the population doubled over the course of four years, from about 7,000 to 15,000 with virtually no moves to insure adequate infrastructure development. Housing education, public services and recreation all lagged far behind the needs of the community.

As a result, industrial productivity declined between 20 and 40 percent in just one year. This was attributable in part to rapid employee turnover, but myriad problems contributed, including increases in crime, alcoholism, and mental illness.

In reaching its record pact with Rio

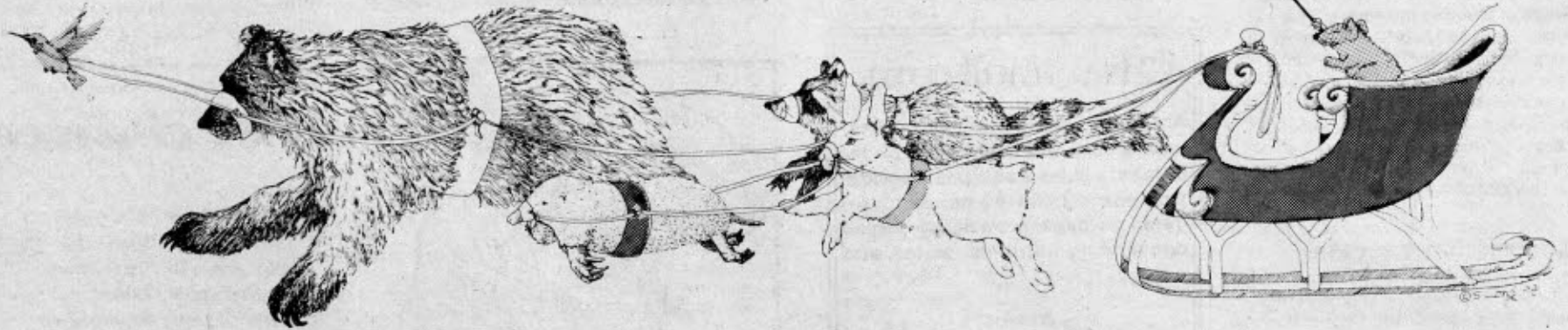
Blanco County, Western Fuels had its own financial incentives to mitigate the adverse impacts. The company hopes to achieve long-term benefits from improved employee productivity, resulting from a better quality of life for the employees and their families. After all, Western Fuels' employees and families are going to be as much a part of Rangely as the current residents. The company has also avoided unnecessary and costly delays in constructing the mine and power plant.

An additional concern on the part of the county and town officials in Rio Blanco county was preparation for a possible "bust" cycle of the energy development picture. What happens if the company pulls out, for one reason or another? Even the energy companies have repeatedly said, "Energy development — particularly oil shale — is no sure thing." As responsible administrators, we cannot ask our local residents and taxpayers to pass bond issues on an unguaranteed risk.

Energy companies have asked the federal government for loan guarantees to reduce or eliminate adverse risks they might encounter. We believe that substantial front-end impact mitigation financing is the similar guarantee for local governments and their taxpayers.

Tim Schultz is a county commissioner for Rio Blanco County in Colorado. He was instrumental in negotiating the settlement with Western Fuels.

'Twas two weeks 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,
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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.

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LETTERS

BLM BARGAINING

Dear HCN,

In regard to Michael Moss' article, "Making the Most of the Public Lands," several things come to mind.

First, Bob Burford takes his orders from (Interior Secretary) James Watt who takes his orders from President Reagan.

Second, resource people need to be knowledgeable regarding the resources they are in charge of; hence, I have no quarrel with wilderness interests having a say in wilderness decisions, oil and gas people handling the oil and gas leases, and ranchers having more of a say in grazing lease policies. In fact, it's about time all of this happened, for the lack of this sort of administration was directly responsible for the Sagebrush Rebellion.

Third, wouldn't you rather develop resources on Bureau of Land Management land than on wilderness areas?

Fourth, you should know that Bob Burford has put Allen Bibles in charge of trades and exchanges, *not* just outright sales of land, in an effort to block up BLM holdings and prevent leapfrog development in areas where BLM lands are contiguous with towns and cities. I do some work for The Trust for Public Land. It took us seven years to complete a trade and exchange which was of great benefit to BLM, as it was an inholding in a primitive area. Our combined goal is to cut that time frame to one year. Bibles comes with extremely high marks. His ability to move and get things done is uncanny. No one appreciates that quality more than I do. Look at a map of New Mexico or Colorado. The BLM lands in 40 and 80 acre parcels, scattered all over the state, are totally unmanageable. Similarly, there are deeded inholdings in BLM tracts that need to be converted to BLM land; hence, trades and exchanges. They are lengthy, complicated and time-consuming, but must be done for the public good.

Finally, I thought the photograph of Burford was an extremely poor choice.

Jake Kittle,
Golden, Colorado

ON THE BATTLEMENTS

Dear HCN,

I very much enjoyed the articles on Western Slope Colorado (HCN, 11/27/81). I lived in Craig for a while last summer, and have a good friend in Glenwood Springs, and every time I go through that area I am depressed and amazed at how quickly everything is changing.

One aspect of the Battlement Mesa issue that's particularly depressing (that word keeps coming into my conversations about this area) is that while the planners are including jogging and horseback riding trails (just what every oil shale worker wants) in the community, no provisions are being made for motorized recreation. When asked about this, one Exxon fellow replied, "Oh, we border BLM and FS land" — implying that the public lands (and the critical elk winter range) will provide the recreational opportunities for the workers. Except of course for the executive golf course up the slope.

Another disturbing aspect is the expected change in population when the shale process moves into the production stage — between 70 and 80 percent of the construction stage work force will no longer be needed — no problem, the same friendly Exxon fellow explained, Battlement Mesa expects to take up the slack in service jobs (oh, groovy, my friend at this meeting said, riggers and oil shale workers working in 7-11).

I guess that is what one means when one talks about "socioeconomic" problems.

It would be really helpful and interesting to see some sort of flow chart or



And on the fifth acronym, they rested

by Chip Rawlins

A mercifully brief glossary

EA: Environmental Assessment
EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
FONSI: Finding of No Significant Impact
NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act
ROD: Record of Decision

GUEST EDITORIAL

In the ongoing furor over environmental policy, there is much mention of EAs and EISs. Anyone familiar with the subject has probably heard of NEPA and RODs and FONSI. There seems to be an insidious, cinder-block wit peculiar to the upper-level bureaucracy that coins alphabetic jargon relating to anything and everything, then forgets to laugh.

So I looked forward to writing my first EA — Environmental Assessment — with all the anticipatory glee of a coyote contemplating its first taste of 1080. I was familiar with the area and the issues and spent weeks wallowing in files and composite plans and analysis data. In the process I learned a lot of facts, concerning both my subject and the writing of assessments and impact statements as a whole.

In the beginning, there was NEPA. And NEPA begat EA and EIS. And EA and EIS begat ROD and FONSI. NEPA is the National Environmental Policy Act, which required environmental decisions to be documented by an EA — Environmental Assessment — or an EIS — Environmental Impact Statement. The idea was to weigh carefully the factors involved in any action from giving a permit for a huge strip mine to renew-

ing a grazing permit or building a trail. The consensus was that we couldn't afford many more monstrous environmental mistakes.

Many of us, myself included, still believe that. But there is a contrary body of opinion publicly voiced by mining, timber and developmental interests that condemns the whole process and would scrap it as a bad job. To them, it is an exercise in money-wasting and foot-dragging that takes time better used for cutting, blasting and digging.

One distressing fact is that many of the people who work for the agencies responsible for preparing and evaluating EAs and EISs are developing a marked distaste for them, not so much because they agree with any anti-EIS special interest groups, but because of the increase in research and paperwork they require in a time of tight budgets and increased responsibilities.

Writing EAs and EISs can be right up there with hemorrhoids and the common cold as a form of enjoyment. The reason is not so much in the concept itself as in the means that have evolved to execute it. Not content to allow any local or personal interpretation of the procedure, the bureaucratic community came up with some wrinkles that, close-up, look more like mental crevasses.

The various handbooks and workbooks that instruct the neophyte contain earnest admonitions to make certain that the numbers on the pages match those in the table of contents. There are also instructions regarding "professional terminology," telling the fledgling EA writer not to use words like "beauty," "grandeur," "awesome," "lovely," "magnificent" or "magical."

The proper term, one is testily informed, is "the visual resource."

One can imagine John Muir, if employed by the Park Service, being encouraged to write: "In the Yosemite Valley, management goals and objectives for evaluation of the visual resource are met at a high level."

The jargon and the kind of "objective" thinking involved is an illegitimate offspring of our infatuation with the scientific method as a way of avoiding moral or ethical choices. And the danger of it is that it ignores what we lack — a developed intuition for the land — in favor of what we already have.

What we have is a frightening capacity for analyzing, describing and evaluating. For squeezing the juices out of everything with blind and brutal judgments that are rated objective in proportion to their chill disregard of the intangible qualities that make life worthwhile. An adult picking apart a teenager's confession of first love would be seen as cold, cruel and insensitive. Doing essentially the same thing to our land is merely professional.

In spite of these reservations, I hope that the law stands and the writing of EAs and EISs, regardless of their weaknesses, continues. At the very least, it forces some consideration and thought and gives breathing space between the idea and the often irrevocable act.

But I won't start truly liking the whole thing until there's an EA that begins: "This place is too beautiful to tear up and I'll shoot the first S.O.B. that tries!"

— — —

Chip Rawlins left the Forest Service in November 1981, and is currently a freelance writer and photographer based in Cora, Wyo.

breakdown of who owns whom in articles such as this. I think it's good to see the interrelationship among the big companies.

Mary Pat Haberte
Dutch John, Utah

IT'S GOOD

Dear HCN,

With the depressing realization that I was feeling negative about the completely new look of HCN (depressing because I tend to think of fear or criticism of change to indicate either closed-mindedness or creeping senility — two conditions I never wish to succumb to), I sat right down and read the whole thing (HCN, 10/16/81).

It's good. The content is great — which is what I buy it for — and I studied the picture of the staff and really liked what I saw. So now I feel appreciative of the big change. The pictures are

also bright and clear. Overall, a great publication.

Helen Engle
Tacoma, Washington

WOC ON WATER

Dear HCN,

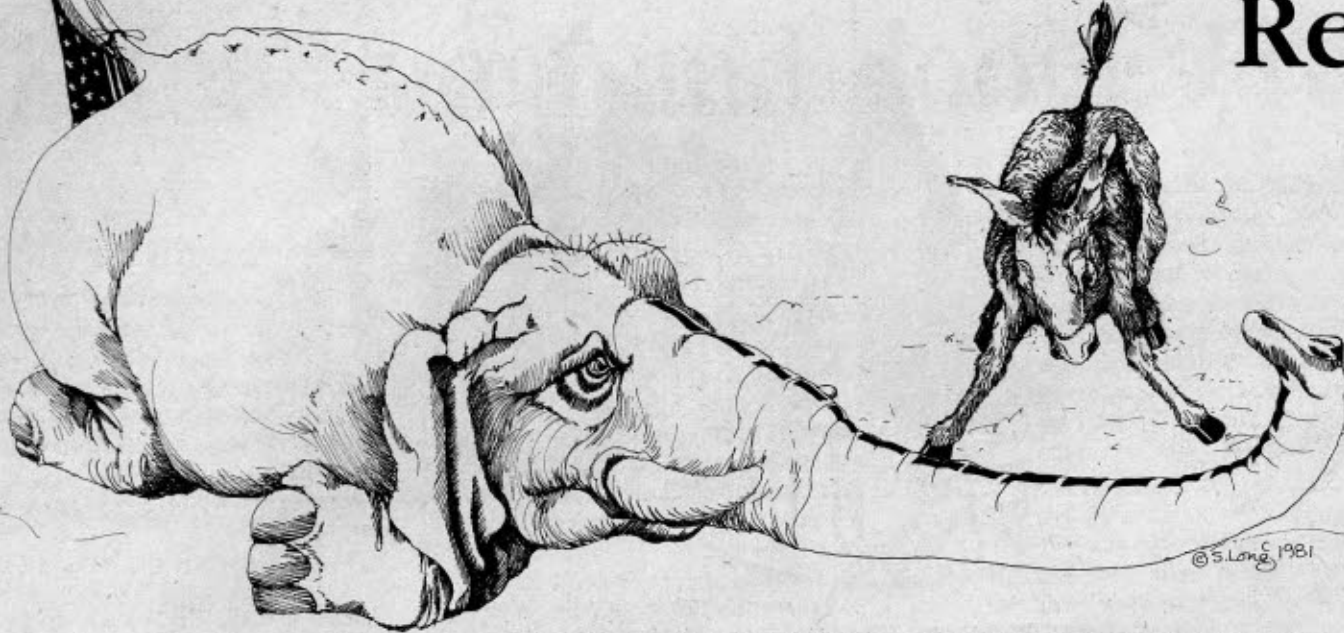
Cross my heart and hope to die... You quoted me accurately in your Nov. 24 article on Gov. Herschler's water plans. But (shades of David Stockman) the context makes it appear that the Wyoming Outdoor Council is attacking the governor for *not* promoting water development. That is dead wrong. The error is mine for not explaining our position accurately to your reporter.

The Wyoming Outdoor Council has monitored the governor's record on water development over the year, and for the most part we have agreed with his sensible fiscal restraint. HCN's own

studies show that most water projects come oinking straight from the pork barrel.

But now energy development, for better or for worse, is providing money for the Wyoming Water Development Fund. Should we spend money just because it seems to be burning a hole in our pockets? WOC says "yes" *only* if any water development is part of a state-wide, comprehensive plan that answers hard questions about: 1) need — especially for agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses (in that order of priority); 2) favorable cost-benefit ratios that take into account interest and operation/maintenance costs; and 3) consideration of environmental effects, especially with regard to salinity, high altitude collection systems, and trans-basin diversions.

Tom Wolf
Executive Director, Wyoming Outdoor Council
Cheyenne, Wyo.



by Carol Jones

Once every ten years the U.S. Census Bureau starts political wars. As soon as they inform us of population gains, falls and shifts, state legislators square off over territorial lines. They joust to preserve or create party strongholds and lock horns when two incumbents find themselves inside the same boundaries.

After the redistricting battles, which are either currently in progress or will be in January in most of the region's states, many voters will find themselves regrouped, often with changes in representation.

Census results gave Colorado, Utah and New Mexico each an extra congressional voice. Those states rejoiced at the gained representation, but are battling over where to draw the new district lines. And in all the region's states, population shifts have affected state legislative redistricting with similar combative results.

The most heated political squabbling over redistricting is occurring in Colorado.

Colorado picked up an additional congressional seat from the 1980 census, bringing its U.S. House of Representatives delegation to six. That one addition prompted a tug-of-war between the Republican legislature and the Democratic governor that has placed the whole decision in the hands of three federal court judges in Denver. They finished reviewing testimony from both Republicans and Democrats this month and there is a possibility they could throw out both parties' plans and redistrict the state themselves. Neither side is happy with that idea.

The debate began last June when the Colorado General Assembly passed the first of three redistricting bills — all of which were vetoed by Democratic Governor Richard Lamm. After the third veto, Lamm proposed his own bill and an angry Republican party delegation filed suit against the governor, asking U.S. District Judge Sherman Finesilver to take jurisdiction. Finesilver ordered the two sides to work out a compromise, threatening to make the decision in court if they couldn't agree on a plan. A compromise was reached in the Senate, but refused by the House.

Buie Seawell, legislative liaison to the governor, said Democrats originally worked for a three-three Republican-Democrat split of the districts. Republicans envisioned a five-to-one split in their favor. That was unacceptable to Democrats, who then suggested a three Republican-two Democrat-one swing district plan.

"Then the debate started over what is the definition of a swing district," Seawell said. According to Seawell, a swing district is one that could go either way at the polls.

The district causing the headaches in all three legislative proposals and in Gov. Lamm's proposal would include

the Western Slope and part of heavily Democratic Pueblo County along the Front Range. Seawell said the Western Slope is 31 percent registered Democrats and 29 percent registered Republicans. Of the remaining 40 percent non-affiliated registered voters, he said 60 percent vote Republican.

"That does not make it a swing district," he said, contending that no Democrat would have a chance of winning the seat. Rep. Ray Kogovsek (D), the current incumbent in the Pueblo area, would be the Democrat running in that district. He said there is no way he could be re-elected given those district lines.

The court will have 60 days to review the testimonies and either select a plan or make up its own.

Feathers have also been ruffled over Colorado's state legislative redistricting plan, drawn by the Colorado Reapportionment Commission this fall. The bipartisan commission, representing all three branches of the state government, was established after the General Assembly created gerrymandered, uncontiguous districts following the 1970 census. The commission has been presenting its redistricting plan throughout the state at public meetings this fall.

Dave Morrissey, staff director of the commission, said he thinks the plan overall is a good one, but most of the public meetings have brought protest from citizens who say they are being grouped incompatibly. Some incumbent senators and representatives who would find themselves facing each other for the same district have also complained. This is particularly true of Democrats, because, Morrissey explained, Democratic strongholds didn't gain as much population as Republican areas did.

Most citizen complaints are over boundaries which group some mountainous and Western Slope counties with Front Range counties. They argue against grouping such urban and rural areas together, claiming fair representation of all interests would be impossible.

In Denver, where population losses cost four Democratic House seats, the more liberal, Democratic voting section of Capitol Hill near downtown will be thrown into a district with conservative southwestern Denver. State Sen. Sam Zakhem (R), who currently represents southwestern Denver, told the *Denver Post* he was concerned about the possibility of representing these two "philosophically" different groups of people.

Morrissey said he is hopeful the commission will be able to make the changes and have a plan accepted by the Colorado Supreme Court before Christmas. If not, he said it would be no later than mid-February.

In Utah, a two-thirds Republican majority legislature easily controlled redistricting plans, despite Democratic Governor Scott Matheson's attempt to influence redistricting through his

newly established bipartisan Advisory Commission on Reapportionment. The commission made suggestions, most of which went unheeded by Republicans.

The new congressional seat, bringing Utah's electorate to three, is due to a growing population in the Salt Lake area. The congressional plan and the state Senate redistricting plan, also designed to Republican advantage, became law this fall without Gov. Matheson's signature. Matheson vetoed the House legislative plan on November 10, but Republicans easily overrode the veto and added an amendment, which sent it back to Matheson again.

"It's not any more acceptable than the first plan," said Alene Bentley, Matheson's press secretary. But knowing a veto would be overridden again by the Republican majority, Matheson also let the House reapportionment bill become law without his signature on Dec. 8.

When New Mexico's legislature takes up redistricting in its January session, Albuquerque will probably be by itself in the state's new third district, said Mercedes Romero, senior research assistant for New Mexico's Legislative Council. Incumbent Rep. Manuel Lujan (R) is expected to run there.

A big fight is expected over slicing the state for the other two districts. New Mexico's legislature is split, run by a two-vote margin, Democratic majority in the Senate and by a coalition of 11 conservative Democrats and 27 Republicans in the House. She said loyal Democrats will be pushing for a traditional — culturally and historically — north/south split. The north is predominately Hispanic and Democratic, the south has oil, gas and ranching interests and is Republican. Romero expects the Republican coalition to fight for an east/west split, hoping to break the Democratic hold in the north.

In legislative redistricting, Romero said population shifts from east to west to boom towns like Farmington, have created difficult situations for senior representatives in old eastern districts. She said new lines will probably place

some of these senior incumbents together in districts, forcing election showdowns.

Idaho's two congressional districts shifted only slightly following the 1980 census and a redistricting plan passed easily and was signed into law this summer. Both seats are held by Republicans, the party that also controls the state legislature.

The job of realigning Idaho's 35 legislative districts will confront the state's lawmakers when they reconvene in January, said Susan Bennion, senior research analyst with the state's legislative council. She said there have been major shifts in population that do not follow geographic lines and she expects some controversy when new district boundaries are proposed. Democratic Governor John Evans wanted to appoint an informal, bipartisan redistricting committee, she said, but Republicans refused to participate because they said it had no legislative power.

Wyoming has only one congressional district and is one of the few states that still bases both Senate and House legislative districts on county lines. That practice has gotten the state in trouble, said Rep. Charlie Scott (R) of Natrona County. Several counties are too small to justify their own House representative. He cited a 325 percent difference in population between Wyoming's most- and least-populated counties.

In January 1981 Scott's bill to combine low-population Niobrara County with adjacent low-population Goshen County in eastern Wyoming passed the House. The Senate, however, wanted to continue with one representative per county. The Senate version was passed.

Recently the League of Women Voters filed suit on the basis the plan is unconstitutional. The issue should go before Federal District Court in Cheyenne early next year.

The Montana legislature will not consider redistricting questions until their 1983 session. □

Redistricting: Drawing the line



A look at Jan. 8...

The snow deepens and the mercury shrinks, and *High Country News* comes out of its brief hibernation for a look at winter in the Rockies. We'll plow through the controversy caused by snowmobiling on public lands, ski through avalanche country, set up a snow camp and then treat your frost bite and other chilling problems.