

High Country

news

Friday, January 21, 1983

Vol. 15 No. 1

\$1.00

Campaign finance

Selling every seat in the House — and Senate

FOR SALE: Used and slightly cynical U.S. Congress. Shares in this large speculative venture may be had for a relatively small investment. Inquire at your local political action committee.

In Utah, incumbent Sen. Orrin Hatch (R) spent about \$3.7 million to defeat Salt Lake City Mayor Ted Wilson (D) and win a second term in the U.S. Senate. Of that total, \$680,000, or 23 percent, came from political action committees. This latter figure earned Hatch the distinction of being the recipient of the second largest amount of PAC money in the United States.

According to Common Cause, the Washington, D.C.-based public interest lobbying group, political action committees spent about \$9 million in seven Rocky Mountain states — Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. Although the group's figures weren't final, Common Cause estimated that about 57 percent of that total came from business-related PACs, 25 percent from labor, four percent from agriculture, eight percent from ideologically-oriented PACs and four percent from health-related PACs. The remainder came from professional groups and miscellaneous PAC donations.

The widespread use of political action committees is a relatively new phenomenon on the American political scene. In 1974, Congress passed a law that formalized what was already established in practice: the use of labor union dues and business revenues to administer political funds that solicit voluntary donations from employees and union members. The law also placed a limit on the contributions from PACs. A PAC may give \$5,000 per candidate per election. For example, a candidate could receive \$5,000 from the HCNPAC for the primary election of 1982 and \$5,000 more for the 1982 general election.

In 1974, when this law was enacted — in response, by the way, to widely recognized campaign spending abuse,

particularly the Watergate scandal — there were about 600 political action committees. By 1982, there were 3,500, an increase of more than 500 percent. In 1976, PACs spent about \$26 million. This year, the figure will be close to \$80 million.

According to Elizabeth Drew's excellent articles on "Politics and Money" in the December 6 and 12, 1982 *New Yorker*, "The acquisition of campaign funds has become an obsession on the part of nearly every candidate for federal office. The obsession leads the candidates to solicit and accept money from those most able to provide it, and to adjust their behavior in office to the need for money — and the fear that a challenger might be able to obtain more."

The cost of running for office, in the Rockies as elsewhere, is skyrocketing. Hatch spent \$3.7 million, opponent Wilson, \$1.7 million. This amounts to more than \$7 for every registered voter in Utah. About \$1.70 of every seven dollars came from an identifiable special interest group.

Utah, of course, was not alone in this spending race. Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.) raised nearly \$800,000 and his opponent Larry Williams (R), \$430,000. PACs funded over 50 percent of Melcher's campaign. Colorado candidates for the U.S. House spent a total of \$2.6 million on their campaigns.

Not surprisingly, there is a strong correlation between how much money is spent and who wins. Virtually all the victors in the Rockies outspent their opponents. A notable exception was the popular Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.), who spent \$187,909 to Republican Arch Decker's \$264,410.

The need for money leads to a scramble for money and, as Drew put it, candi-



dates go to "those most able to provide it." As one might expect, Rocky Mountain Republicans get most of their PAC money from business PACs and Rocky Mountain Democrats get most of their money from labor PACs. This may partly explain why there are more Republican federal legislators from this region than Democrats. Business outspends labor by better than two to one.

The biggest PAC in the Rockies is also the biggest one in the country. The Political Action Committee of the National Association of Realtors had spent \$85,985 in the seven Rocky Mountain states by the end of August, 1982. The realtors were pretty good at picking winners, too, giving money to, among others: Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.), \$7,500; Rep. Dick Cheney (R-Wyo.), \$5,600; Rep. Dan Marriott (R-Utah), \$6,200; Rep. Larry Craig (R-Idaho), \$3,000; Rep. George Hansen (R-Idaho), \$5,000; and Hatch, \$5,000.

The next four most active PACs in the West, in terms of total outlays, were unions. As of August, the International Union of Operating Engineers spent \$92,500, the United Steel Workers \$91,700, the International Machinists \$90,000 and the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE) \$87,850. They weren't so good at picking winners since they gave money mostly to Democrats. Among some victors that one or the other gave money to were Rep. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.), COPE \$1,000; Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm (D), COPE \$5,000; Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.), COPE \$3,000; Steel Workers \$2,500; Idaho Gov. John Evans (D), COPE \$3,000; Operating Engineers \$10,000; Rep. Pat Williams (D-Mont.), COPE \$4,000; Machinists \$2,000.

When broken down into "issue groups," the largest contributors to Rocky Mountain candidates were, not

(continued on page 6)

WESTERN ROUNDUP

Watt whittles wilderness

Interior Secretary James Watt was as busy as Santa during the Christmas holidays. First he announced that 800,000 Bureau of Land Management acres under wilderness study would be withdrawn from study. Then he announced his intention to not issue any oil and gas leases in wilderness areas during the three months of 1983 when wilderness could be open for leasing.

Six environmental groups have filed suit against Watt's decision to withdraw the BLM acreage from wilderness study.

Watt announced shortly after Christmas that dropping the BLM areas from wilderness consideration was "not really a big deal." His decision was based on an Interior Board of Lands Appeals decision that three categories of BLM land could not be studied for wilderness potential under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The three categories are areas of less than 5,000 acres, split estate areas — public lands with sub-surface mineral rights not held by the federal government — and BLM areas that are contiguous to other federal agency wilderness areas or study areas.

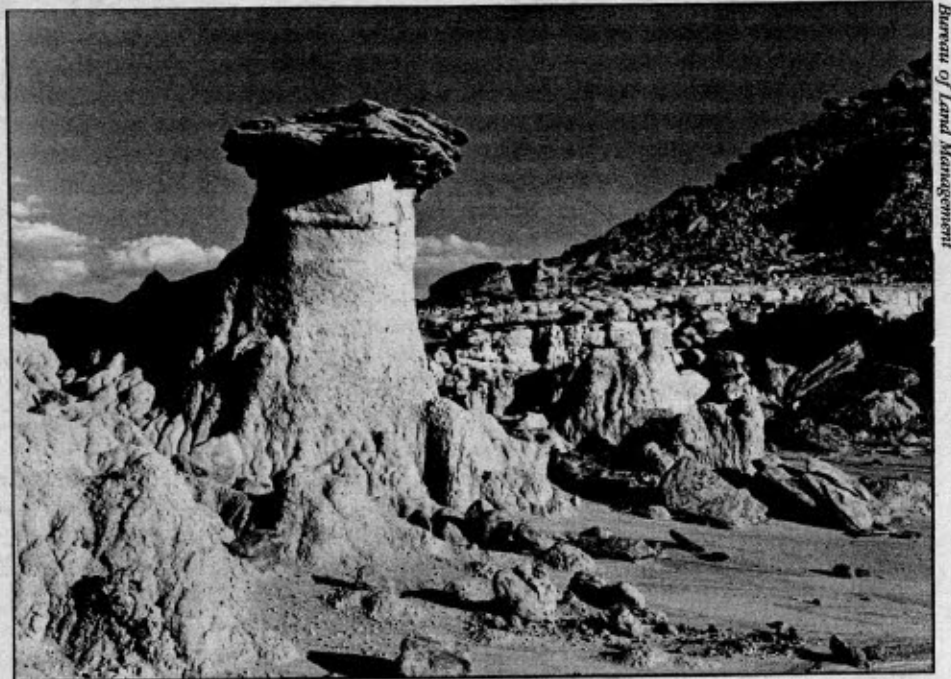
The environmental community immediately defended the three categories and pointed out that many of the 800,000 acres were already recommended for wilderness designation by the BLM. Bruce Hamilton, Rocky Mountain regional representative of the Sierra Club, said Watt does not have the authority to release the study lands. He said such action must have congressional approval.

According to Rick Middleton of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, "Watt did not make any analysis of the decision's impact, nor solicit any comments from the public."

The House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, which is chaired by Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio), was also concerned over Watt's decision, according to a congressional aide. The committee told Assistant Secretary Garrey Carruthers that they believed it was illegal to drop the BLM areas from study and asked that no action be taken during the holiday break. They also asked for 60 days' notice before the announcement.

Hamilton said the Sierra Club and others concerned believe that Watt's action is a violation of FLPMA. He said, "FLPMA requires the interior secretary to evaluate and protect all lands the government has interest in for wilderness consideration. These areas were already on the inventory."

Hamilton also said Watt is hiding



Adobe Town proposed BLM wilderness near Raulins, Wyoming

behind the IBLA decision, because the secretary is not bound by the board's decisions. One congressional aide said the courts will probably overturn the split estate and contiguous decisions.

Hamilton said that much of the acreage affected has already been noted by the BLM as having "outstanding wilderness characteristics," and in many cases provides critical wildlife habitat for many species, including some endangered species.

The groups involved in the suit are the Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Fund, National Audubon, The Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation and the National Resources Defense Council.

Two days after his BLM land decision, Watt turned around and announced he will not issue any leases in wilderness areas when protection for those lands runs out September 30, 1983. The leasing ban was tacked onto the Interior's appropriations bill in a last minute effort to protect wilderness from leasing in the past Congress (HCN, 12/24/82). The Wilderness Act of 1964 forbids any mineral leasing after December 31, 1983. In an Associated Press report, Watt said, "I do not expect there to be any federal leasing in wilderness areas. We would not try to slip things through the window of opportunity (from October to December). That would be inappropriate."

However, a congressional aide said Watt could be sued or forced to lease during those three months.

Despite the noble intentions, the

Interior Department a few days before had granted a drilling permit to Yates Petroleum Corporation, giving the go-ahead to drill in the Salt Creek Wilderness in New Mexico. In late November the company had bulldozed its way into the area without the necessary permits, was taken to court and told to leave the area (HCN, 11/26/82). But in the wilderness leasing ban attached to the Interior appropriations bill was language allowing drilling permits to those holding leases before October 31, 1982. Therefore, Yates was granted the permit, reversing the environmental victory of a month before.

Since Congress has begun its 1983 session, wilderness battles are already being plotted. The Wyoming wilderness bill is still being held up in committee as disagreements continue over softer release language and more acreage. Although the Wyoming delegation has been unanimous in its support of the bill as it now stands, Sen. Alan Simpson (R) has said he is willing to compromise on the release language.

And in Montana, conservation groups are working on a proposal to add 400,000 acres to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Both Rep. Pat Williams (D) and Sen. John Melcher (D) have said they may try to include the acreage as they work on the Montana wilderness bill early this year.

Both the Montana and Wyoming wilderness bills failed to make it out of the 1982 lame duck session (HCN, 12/24/82).

— Carol Jones



High Country News

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

Tom Bell
Editor Emeritus

Jill Bamburg
Director

Dan Whipple
Managing Editor

Carol Jones
Associate Editor

Kathy Bogan
Design and Production

Marjane Ambler
Geoffrey O'Gara
C.L. Rawlins

Don Snow
Peter Wild
Contributing Editors

Betsy Schimelpfenig
Finance

Phil Heywood
Production Assistant

Claudia Bonham
Circulation

Mike McClure
Photography

Jazmyn McDonald
Nita Loper
Typesetting

Jess Funk
Intern

Publishers Circle, Friends and Associates

Tom Bell
Booke & Cooper
Steven Gerdes
Mark and Sally Gordon
Jake Kittle
Anne Model
Louise Murie-MacLeod
David Palmerlee
Elise Untermeyer
Anonymous donors

Articles appearing in *High Country News* are indexed in *Environmental Periodicals Bibliography*, Environmental Studies Institute, 2074 Alameda Padre Serra, Santa Barbara, California 93103.

Write for permission to print any articles or illustrations. Contributions (manuscripts, photos, artwork) will be welcomed with the understanding that the editors cannot be held responsible for loss or damage. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with all unsolicited submissions to ensure return. Articles and letters will be published and edited at the discretion of the editors.

Advertising information is available upon request. To have a sample copy sent to a friend, send us his or her address. Write to Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520. ISSN:0191-5657.

Subscriptions are \$15 per year for individuals, \$25 per year for institutions. Single copies \$1.00 plus \$1.25 postage and handling.

All coppered out in Montana

A poor copper market, rising fuel costs and the inflexibility of unions have caused the Anaconda Minerals Division to shut down the remainder of its copper mining operations in Butte, Montana, according to Frank Gardner, general manager of Montana operations.

Seven hundred copper miners will lose their jobs on June 30 and another 300 will be laid off in Columbia Falls, where Anaconda plans to close one of the five pot-lines at its 25-year-old aluminum smelter.

With the closure of the Butte operations, Anaconda no longer produces copper in Montana. In mid-October Anaconda Public Relations Director John Calcaterra of Butte said his company had 20 years worth of ore at its East Pit, where the last of the company's 700 miners worked. "We are not turning our backs on Butte," he said, noting that Anaconda still produced over 40,000 tons of ore per day from the East Pit.

But on January 6, three days after the 48th Montana legislature convened, Calcaterra told the *Montana Standard*, "We've been losing virtually a million dollars a week" at the Butte operations.

Frank Gardner estimated Anaconda's losses in 1982 at \$30 million. In 1981, his company lost \$65 million in Butte.

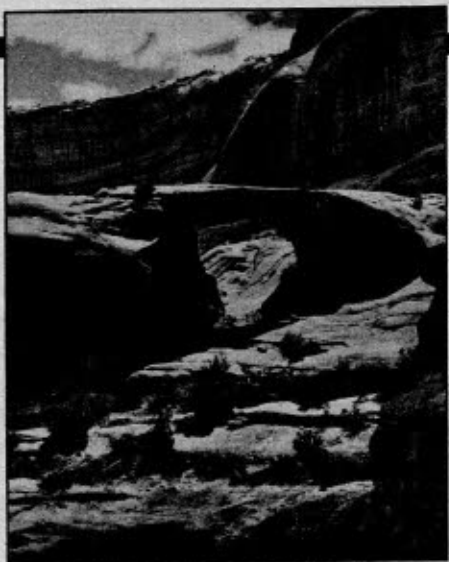
In announcing the closure, Gardner seized the opportunity to lash out at state government's attitude toward industry, saying, "I guess it's up to the state's populace to finally determine if it wants pristine Class I air or air that's just not polluted." He fell short, however, of blaming air quality standards for the final Butte closures.

Tom Daubert, associate director of the Montana Environmental Information Center in Helena, called Gardner's comments "irresponsible." Daubert said that the Anaconda Company received eight consecutive air quality variances from the state Air Quality Bureau to give the company time to clean up its operations in Anaconda and Butte.

"In 1976, Silver Bow County (where Butte is located) stood among the 20 counties in the United States with the highest level of sulfur dioxide pollution," Daubert said. "For an official at the Anaconda Company to discuss the merits of Class I air in Butte is ludicrous," he added. The Butte area is currently classified as a non-attainment area, meaning that it consistently violates air quality standards.

Montana's Governor Ted Schwinden (D) announced that Anaconda will probably remain closed for at least two years. Meanwhile, legislators from the Anaconda/Butte area have introduced legislation aimed at forcing the company to pay severance benefits to its employees. Montana unions have twice failed in their efforts to put a plant closure initiative on the ballot. The measure would have required large businesses to provide severance benefits and community impact funds upon closures.

— Don Snow



Fisbeye Arch, near proposed nuclear waste disposal site, Canyonlands

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Congress sets nuclear waste policy

After 25 years of struggling with legislation, Congress has passed and President Ronald Reagan has signed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act establishing a system for permanent disposal of highly toxic radioactive waste from nuclear power plants.

The act requires the U.S. Department of Energy to recommend three sites to the president by 1985 for the first waste site repository. The president will have until March 1987 to choose the location of the first waste site. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission would be required to issue a license for a repository within three years after the site is chosen.

DOE currently is considering six states — Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Washington, Nevada and Utah — for potential sites.

Congressional passage hinged on a compromise giving states a stronger veto over the federal government's decision to store or bury waste within their

boundaries. The bill provides for a "double override" veto requiring votes by both the House and the Senate to reverse a state's veto of a site selection.

State governors including Gov. Scott Matheson (D-Utah) lobbied hard for the two house override provision. Matheson has been tangling with DOE over the possible Utah site in the Gibson Dome area near the boundary of Canyonlands National Park (HCN, 2/19/82).

Matheson has said DOE is unwilling to provide the state with necessary information and he has withdrawn the state from further participation in the federal studies in progress.

U.S. Senator Jake Garn (R-Utah), a co-sponsor of the state veto provision, told the *Deseret News* that the legislation makes DOE responsible for proving the acceptability of a particular site and called it a big win for the states.

At least one Washington D.C. environmental group doesn't see it that way. David Berick of the Environmental Policy Center said the legislation will speed up the DOE nuclear waste program at the expense of environmental protection.

According to Berick, rather than making DOE more accountable, the legislation passed "came up short in requiring review of the previous work done by

DOE. It doesn't give us a good handle on reviewing decisions DOE has already made."

Berick said the dates set for site selection are arbitrary and he fears that they will be used by the federal government to justify its actions regardless of the technical feasibility of its waste disposal program.

Berick said the bill sets up a "fast track" system allowing DOE to hurry approval of site selection through the federal bureaucracy resulting in limited judicial and environmental review. He is especially alarmed by the fact that a full environmental impact statement isn't required until the final site has been selected.

Paul Gilman, staff to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee through which the legislation went, said that although an EIS isn't required, environmental assessments will be.

A spokeswoman for Matheson's office said the governor has preferred a full EIS on the Utah site because it would provide greater public involvement. She said while there are strong indications from within DOE that the Utah site won't be selected the governor feels the strong state role will force the federal government to respond to public pressure no matter what site it selects.

— Jess Funk

HOTLINE

Four parks w/vu

Three environmental groups have filed a joint suit against the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to enforce the Clean Air Act's visibility protection program. They say that although regulations were formulated in 1980, the agency has done nothing to implement them. The law calls for the prevention or improvement of impaired visibility in selected national parks, wildlife refuges and national forest wilderness areas. In the 1980 regulations EPA asked states to develop implementing plans by 1981. Since no states have approved plans, the three groups are asking the court to require EPA to develop plans for the states, as the law requires. Those participating in the suit are the National Parks and Conservation Association, the Environmental Defense Fund and the Colorado Mountain Club.

Imported water

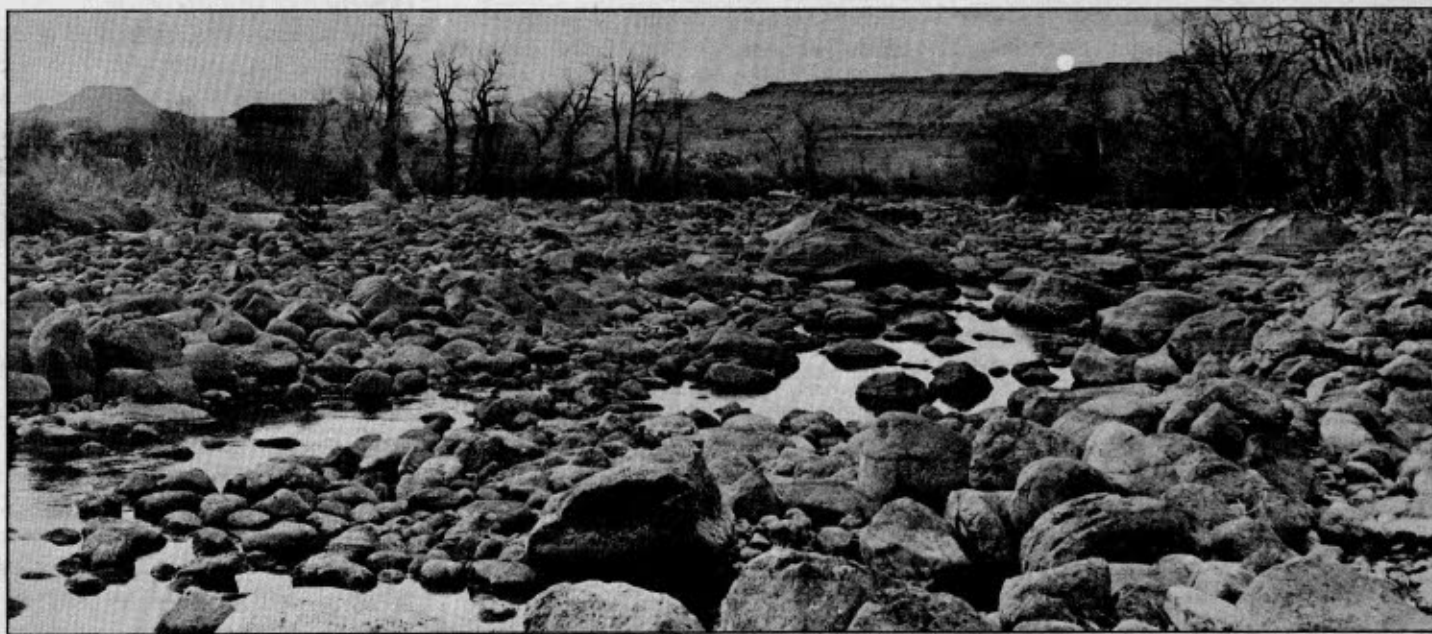
A proposed plan for importing water from as far north as Canada into the agriculturally rich High Plains area of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska is financially infeasible, according to a study just completed. The six plains states get most of their water from the Ogallala Aquifer, an underground source being depleted more rapidly than it is being replaced. Conducted by the High Plains Study Council, the study found that importation of water from the north through an elaborate system of canals would cost billions of dollars and concluded that water conservation programs and improved farming techniques were a better answer to the area's water needs. In addition, the Canadian government has expressed its unwillingness to participate in any importation scheme.

BN tries to railroad El Paso

Seeking to expand its energy business, Burlington Northern Inc. is trying to take over the El Paso Gas Co., which specializes in oil and gas exploration. El Paso also operates gas pipelines and holds federal coal leases in North Dakota and Utah. After Burlington Northern offered \$602 million for controlling interest in the company, El Paso officials moved to block the takeover attempt. Both sides are now in court over the issue. Burlington Northern, a railroad holding company, owns the BN Railroad (the nation's longest and largest) and extensive private timberland in Montana; it also manages mineral and trucking subsidiaries. Burlington Northern has been trying to expand its natural resource activity for several years and El Paso is the company's first target. U.S. Congressman Pat Williams (D-Mont.), who has challenged Burlington Northern's use of proceeds gained through federal land grants, is looking into the takeover attempt.

Tar sands in Utah

Tar sands development has been proposed in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the French Spring-Happy Canyon Wilderness Study Area in Utah. Santa Fe Energy Company of Houston, Texas, and Altex Oil Company of Denver own leases on around 66,000 acres 50 miles southwest of Moab. One of the proposed sites is three miles east of Canyonlands National Park. A spokesman for Santa Fe Energy told the Associated Press that "This is probably the most significant tar sands area in the United States." Both companies have said they are only going to do exploration and will not significantly disturb the area.



Bull Lake Creek, Wind River Indian Reservation, Wyoming

Indians gain significant water rights

Shoshone and Arapahoe Indians in Wyoming have succeeded where non-Indians have failed so far in gaining protection for instream flows. A special master for a state court, former U.S. Rep. Teno Roncalio, has issued his recommendations for water rights for the Wind River Reservation, home of the Shoshone and Arapahoe in the Big Horn-Wind River Basin.

After a year of testimony, Roncalio suggested that quantities of water be allocated to the tribes for several purposes, including fisheries and aesthetics, mineral and industrial development, and more traditional uses such as agriculture, domestic and municipal use. His report must be accepted by state District Court Judge Harold Joffe after hearing objections in April.

Roncalio said that within two areas of high aesthetic quality, 60 percent of the maximum flow will be protected. However, most of both these areas are located in the mountains where there are likely to be few non-Indian demands for diversion anyway, according to legal experts analyzing the impacts of the ruling. Therefore, this water allocation is probably relatively insignificant, they say.

Of more consequence is Roncalio's

allocation of instream flows for fish, which provides a month by month minimum for 16 segments of the Wind River and its tributaries. While these amounts are only 40 to 60 percent of what the tribes sought, they apply to lower stretches of the river where there is more demand.

challenge this part of the ruling. Former Wyoming Attorney General Steve Freudenthal said state attorneys have not decided specifically what objections will be filed. (Freudenthal is working with the present attorney general on the lawsuit on a contract basis.) The state of Wyoming does not list instream flows as a beneficial use of water, despite legislative and initiative efforts to do so.

Outsiders also expect the state to challenge a section of the report allowing the tribes to lease their water for use off the reservation, which could lead to transbasin diversion of water.

Nor are the tribes entirely happy with the ruling. The attorney for the Shoshone Tribe, Harry Sachse, said the tribe believes Roncalio went beyond his authority in limiting the way the tribes use their water, especially when he said any tribal irrigation projects would have to be built in stages.

Roncalio put other limits on the tribes, too, apparently to protect non-Indians and the environment. He said that because of the slow recharge of shallow aquifers, only the deep aquifers could be used for industrial development. He also limited the amount of water that could be used for off-reservation development.

The tribes had sought an open ended quantification, leaving them free to get more water as their needs changed in the future. However, Roncalio denied this request, saying his adjudication was final. More than 20,000 water users in the basin are involved in the lawsuit, but this ruling affects only the Indian water rights. Roncalio will file another report on the other claims.

Roncalio based his arguments on the Winters Doctrine, a 1908 Supreme Court ruling that said water was reserved by the federal government when it set up Indian reservations. Roncalio said the government set up the Wind River Reservation as a "permanent homeland" for the Indians in its treaty of 1868 and that to accomplish this purpose, water was needed for mineral development as well as other uses.

— Marjane Ambler

HOTLINE

Cabinets drilling

Conservationists are concerned that U.S. Borax proposals for core sample drilling next summer in and around the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness in southwestern Montana will seriously jeopardize the wilderness characteristics of the area. And forest managers told the *Missoulian* that the combined drilling of ASARCO and Borax in the Cabinets will have adverse impacts on local grizzly bears and their habitat. Although the U.S. Forest Service must prepare an environmental assessment for the Borax plans, grizzly researcher Charles Jonkel of the University of Montana said information about the Cabinet grizzly is lacking and that increased activity in the area will be detrimental to the bears. Under the Wilderness Act of 1964, Borax and other mining firms have until December 31, 1983 to prove that commercial quantities of minerals exist under their wilderness claims.

Brownish-yellow is beautiful

The brownish-yellow gas rising from a stack at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory near Idaho Falls may look bad, but it really isn't, according to state and U.S. Department of Energy officials. The gas violates state visual air pollution standards but because it would cost millions of dollars to clean up, DOE, which runs the INEL facility, is asking the state to extend a temporary variance which ran out at year's end. The Idaho Air Quality Bureau concurs with DOE that the gas, a mixture of nitrous oxide and nitrogen dioxide, is harmless. DOE estimates it would cost \$10 to \$16 million to install equipment to clean up the gas and over \$1 million annually to operate it. Idaho officials seem receptive to continuing to allow the gas to be released. However they will probably require DOE to conduct cleanup feasibility studies as part of any extension.

Cheaper rangeland

It will be cheaper to graze livestock on national forest lands this year than it was in 1982. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has reduced grazing fees to \$1.40 per animal-unit month, 46 cents less than it was last year. The fees are determined by a formula given in the Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 which considers the rates for leasing on private lands, beef cattle prices and livestock operating costs. The U.S. Forest Service said the fees were lowered because in the last year beef prices declined, while production costs climbed. It is estimated that ranchers will pay \$9.7 million to graze livestock in 1983. Of that, 50 percent will go to maintenance and improvement of rangelands; 25 percent to the counties where the lands are located and 25 percent to the national treasury.

Purchase freeze

The Office of Management and Budget has directed the Interior Department to freeze acquisition of new land for four national recreation areas. The move is part of an effort to cut \$700 million from Interior's budget for fiscal year 1984 now being planned. Department spokesmen claim the OMB directive is not the final word and the funding will probably be restored in the final budget proposal to Congress. The administration was greeted with a storm of protest when it proposed a similar freeze in the current FY '83 budget. Areas affected by the policy include Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco, Cuyahoga NRA in Ohio, the Santa Monica Mountains NRA near Los Angeles, and Chatahoochee NRA near Atlanta.

Idaho lowers water standards

The Idaho Health and Welfare Board voted January 12 to lower the regulations governing non-point source water pollution and to create a task force which could develop the first scientific standards for classifying acceptable levels of such pollution.

The Idaho Conservation League predicted the change would open the door to increased stream sedimentation as logging and logging road construction proceed unhampered by tough legal language.

The adopted regulation replaces a provision prohibiting injury to a designated use of a stream — such as salmon spawning — with a clause allowing water pollution if such pollution is "socially or economically justified." The adopted regulation was proposed by the state Division of Environment, which has been under pressure from the state legislature and the U.S. Forest Service to change the law. The new regulation affects activities which cause sediment runoff into streams — primarily logging, road construction and farming.

Division of Environment director Lee Stokes presented the regulation change as a compromise among four other proposals presented by the Forest Service, the Northern Idaho Forestry Association, the American Fisheries Society and the Idaho Conservation League/Idaho Environmental Council. Conservationists had earlier blasted the Division of Environment proposal as essentially a copy of the Forest Service proposal, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game expressed "serious reservations" about it. The Forest Service dropped its own proposal to support the state's regulation.

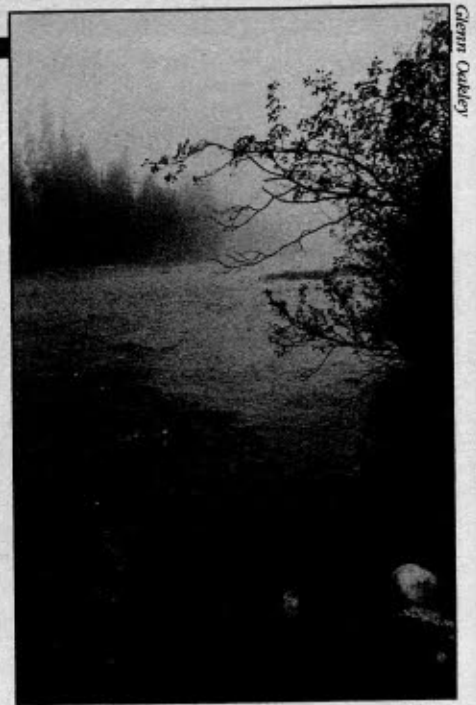
Stokes acknowledged that language in the adopted regulation — "socially or economically justified" and "serious injury," in particular — is "quite frail." The deputy attorney general for the Div-

ision of Environment, Mike Johnson, labeled the language "a lawyer's nightmare." However, Stokes said it was the best his department could devise and urged the board to adopt his plan over those offered by industry, conservationists or biologists. He said the no-injury regulation had to be changed because if interpreted literally it would prohibit all logging and road building.

The board ordered the formation of a task force to clarify and quantify "serious injury." Although the yet-to-be-formed task force will be given no specific directions about how to proceed, an American Fisheries Society spokesman said the task force could pioneer a numerical standards system to gauge stream sediment tolerance. The AFS proposal called for development of a system to predetermine the amount of sediment any particular stream in Idaho could sustain without serious injury. Stokes argued against the AFS plan, saying such a system has never been developed and is unworkable. AFS water quality chairman Jack Griffith said development of such a system is inevitable and Idaho should pioneer in this field.

While Idaho Conservation League director Pat Ford expressed some relief over formation of the task force, he said the regulation change has "seriously weakened" the state's ability — as well as conservationists' ability — to protect Idaho streams. Ford said the highly erodible batholith country in central Idaho will be especially vulnerable under the new regulation. He said the regulation's reliance on best management practices (BMPs) — state approved logging methods — is ill-founded because the BMPs are "very weak" and non-existent for farming and road construction.

The two-year-old no-injury regulation came under attack after the Division of



Salmon River, Idaho

Environment informed the Nez Perce National Forest that a planned logging sale would violate the law because the Forest Service's own environmental assessment predicted a 20 percent loss in the fishery of a salmon spawning stream. The Forest Service and logging industry said they were unaware of the no-injury provision and believed they were within the law if they used the best management practices — regardless of the resulting stream sedimentation. The Forest Service and timber industry went to the Idaho legislature in the waning days of the 1982 session and had a resolution passed to remove the no-injury provision. Although the resolution did not have the force of law, Stokes said, "The department couldn't overlook the existence of that document."

The adopted regulation now goes to the Idaho Legislature, which has the prerogative of changing the law in any way it sees fit. The Northern Idaho Forestry Association says it is still not entirely satisfied with the regulation and may press the legislature for further changes. Said Ford, "I'm reasonably certain there will be attempts to further weaken it in the legislature."

— Glenn Oakley

ICL plays defense in Idaho

Faced with a \$69 million shortfall in the state budget, money is overshadowing all other issues in the opening days of the Idaho Legislature. A major priority of the Idaho Conservation League — the only conservation group actively lobbying in the capitol — is protection of environmental budgets: pollution control funds, mine inspection monies and more. So desperate is the Republican-dominated legislature that the Legislative Budget Office prepared a list of dedicated funds that might be raided to help balance the budget. These included monies specifically raised for water pollution control, soil erosion control and wildlife habitat improvement.

The legislature is now moving away from the idea because the money to be gained would be relatively small — about \$10 million — while the political repercussions of seizing hunting and fishing license money, for example, would be tremendous. Many political pundits expect the legislature to reluctantly raise taxes to cure the deficit.

As usual, conservationists will be on the defensive this session, protecting past gains and trying to fend off new attacks on environmental protection. With almost one-fourth of the 105 legislators newly elected, there is additional uncertainty on how votes might run on specific issues.

The Idaho Conservation League will try to ward off any additional weakening of the water quality regulations for non-point source pollution. (See Western Roundup, this page.) The Board of Health

and Welfare lowered the standards January 12 following complaints from the timber industry and Forest Service that the regulations were too restrictive. The timber industry would like to see the regulations further relaxed and has said it may ask the legislature to oblige.

Conservationists hope to see the reconfirmation of Conley Ward to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. Ward has made enemies on the political right for his support of inverted rates and similar energy conservation programs.

Unless 1983 is unique, attempts will be made to gut the local land use planning act by making compliance voluntary.

On the offensive, ICL has prepared a memorial opposing the administration's public lands sale program. ICL lobbyist Renee Quick said passage of the memorial would be "sending a real clear message to Washington." If the memorial fails to pass, she said, "then it's good to get our legislators on the record." During the past congressional race the public lands sale became an issue which was gaining votes for Democratic contender Larry LaRocco (D). His incumbent opponent and the eventual victor, Rep. Larry Craig (R), quickly changed course and joined in the criticism of the lands sale as the public sentiment became evident. Gov. John Evans (D) also capitalized on the issue in his successful bid for re-election.

ICL is also seeking to tighten language in the state Surface Mining Act, adding the mining of old tailings piles and

wastes to the list of projects which must be reclaimed. As silver and gold prices increase, modern miners are taking a new look at tailings which still contain small amounts of the precious metals. Five such projects are planned or have already begun in Idaho. ICL also will push for an increase in miners' bonding fees — from the present maximum of \$750 per acre to amounts that reflect the true cost of reclamation.

A group of small hydroelectric producers is seeking legislation to enforce what the PUC already is requiring: that utilities pay for privately produced electricity at the "avoided cost" — the price the utility would have to pay to produce the power at a new dam or generating plant. Idaho Power Company has taken the PUC to court over the requirement. Conservationists are tentatively planning to support the bill, but are leery because the bill's sponsor is lobbyist Vern Ravenscroft, founder of Sagebrush Rebellion Inc. and ICL's leading nemesis at the statehouse.

The Idaho Water Resource Board is seeking legislation to enact the state energy plan, including: a bill to require solar energy engineering in all new state buildings; solar access legislation, requiring cities and counties to guarantee sun exposure to new and existing buildings for potential solar energy; and an amendment allowing local governments and irrigation districts to issue revenue bonds to develop electrical power generating facilities.

— Glenn Oakley

Budget deficits, hazardous waste occupy Colorado

The 54th Colorado General Assembly convened in early January with an unusually high number of first term legislators. Twenty-seven of 65 House members and nine of 35 senators are newly elected.

Preoccupying the thoughts of the entire assembly is the budget crunch which hit Colorado in the form of a projected \$100 million to \$175 million shortfall. Colorado is forbidden by law to use deficit spending and so must come up with solutions to the shortfall by the end of the current fiscal year, June 30. The money problems are the result of low sales tax receipts throughout the state and a decline in corporate tax revenues.

Governor Richard Lamm (D) ordered a two percent across-the-board

cut in order to ease the budget crisis. Moderates in the legislature feel that further cuts, while lessening the crisis, would seriously weaken many state programs. However, conservatives favor slashing entire programs in order to make up the deficit.

Temporary sales tax increases or a reinstatement of the state tax on food are suggestions that have been made as alternatives to eliminating programs. If the majority Republican party cannot reach agreement on which way to proceed, there is talk of a "bipartisan coalition of the center" where moderate Republicans and Democrats would join together to ensure passage of favored budget strengthening measures.

After budget problems, hazardous waste is high on the list of legislative

priorities. Nineteen bills have been pre-filed with as many as 11 more still to come. Sen. Martha Ezzard (R-Englewood), chair of the Health, Environment, Welfare and Institutions Committee, has introduced a bill which would eliminate the "no more stringent" clause that severely cripples the state's ability to control hazardous wastes. Under the current statutes, Colorado disposal requirements can be no more stringent than Environmental Protection Agency regulations. Proponents of Ezzard's bill claim that EPA regulations were meant only as a first step toward complete protection from the problems of hazardous wastes.

Industry favors a different hazardous waste bill which would 'grandfather' the Lowry site from local review and

would allow the site to reopen. Not out of the drafting office at this time, the bill is sponsored by Rep. Frank DeFilippo (R-Golden) and Sen. John Donley (R-Greeley).

Other issues surrounding hazardous wastes that are likely to be covered in 1983 are the state's siting authority and emergency response capabilities.

Water issues undoubtedly will come up this session including underground injection of hazardous waste and ground water quality. Dam safety, a subject in Lamm's recent State of the State address, will be discussed, especially considering the failure of the Lawn Lake Dam this summer which flooded parts of Rocky Mountain National Park and Estes Park.

— Deidre Duncan

Utah reviews Matheson's BOLD plan

The 45th Utah Legislature will probably be more moderate than its immediate predecessor. As one returning lobbyist put it, many of the "crusaders" from the last session are gone. And even with substantial Republican majorities in both houses, early signs indicate that the need to address a projected shortfall in state revenues, brought about by the current national recession, should make for a less partisan session than in recent years.

As the 60-day general session convened on January 10, a number of energy and natural resource proposals were expected to be given consideration by lawmakers.

Heading the list, and a top priority of Gov. Scott Matheson (D), is a concurrent resolution endorsing Project BOLD, the governor's two-year-old effort to exchange three million acres of scattered state school lands for federal government lands. Matheson wants to consolidate state land holdings into larger, more manageable, and theoretically more profitable land blocks.

The concurrent resolution, still being put in final form during the session's first week, will be sponsored by Rep. Gayle McKeachnie (R-Dagget, Uintah). The proposal provides legislative endorsement of the project and sets forth guidelines to be followed by the state in its negotiations for exchanges with the federal government. Commitments to honor existing rights and uses on the public lands for grazing, minerals, rights-of-way, and a commitment to change existing law that now limits the uses permitted on state school trust lands will also be detailed in the legislation.

While the State Land Board already has authority over such exchanges, the governor feels that the magnitude of the proposed exchange requires the endorsement of the legislature before he can submit his more detailed proposal to the U.S. Congress.

The project, initially under fire from virtually every land user group in the state, has been steadily gaining support during the last nine months. However, a number of problems still confront the current legislative proposal.

Dick Carter, director of the Utah Wilderness Association, said that most Utah conservation organizations now support the project conceptually. These groups are not yet prepared, however, to support specific exchanges without additional legislation to require the state to manage its land holdings based upon multiple-use practices.

Other user organizations — the cattlemen, sheepgrowers and the Farm Bureau — have also asked the governor to develop state multiple-use legislation as a prerequisite to supporting specific exchanges and consolidations.

There now seems to be general agree-

ment among various user groups that the current purpose of state land management — to provide maximum revenue to the state's school trust fund without consideration of other values — is too narrow and needs to be more flexible. In response to these concerns the governor has now prepared a draft bill, modeled after the federal Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, that would amend the state's land management code and provide for multiple-use practices.

Opposition to the resolution is still expected from individual users and the Utah Mining Association. On the other hand, the sponsorship by Rep. McKeachnie, a well-respected and articulate spokeswoman from an area of the state sure to be impacted by the project, is evidence that the governor is making substantial progress with the proposal.

Another priority for the current session is Matheson's request for authority to issue \$50 million in state general obligation bonds to provide loans for public water projects and sewage treatment facilities.

As federal funding for water and sewer projects has declined over the last two years the state now faces an enormous task in meeting growing infrastructure needs. Currently, over 100 Utah communities have unapproved municipal water systems. And the Governor's annual budget message, delivered on the second day of the session, estimated that the state's capital needs over the next 10 years for water and sewer projects alone exceed \$800 million.

The bonding proposal was originally considered during a two-day special session called by the governor on December 15-16, but it failed to pass. Due to the complexity of the proposal and to the 33 new members in the House, where the package ran into its most trouble during the special session, it is unlikely to move as quickly as the governor and some legislators would like.

Another measure receiving considerable attention during the session's first week is an instream flow bill pre-filed by Rep. Orval Harrison (R-Salt Lake). The legislation would amend Utah water law to provide that the instream flow of water be considered a beneficial use. Existing state law requires that water be diverted in order to be considered a beneficial use. Harrison's proposal would allow the state to file for water rights to be used without diversion to meet instream needs. Harrison, not generally viewed as an environmental advocate, surprised state officials and many of his colleagues by introducing the legislation.

As the Harrison bill went to hearing in the House Natural Resource Committee on January 13, there was some confu-

sion over exactly what the measure would mean. The proposal addresses only unappropriated waters. For the most part, Utah's surface water is already appropriated. The bill does not address transfers, acquired rights, or change of use — all of which remain bound by the legal need to divert before water can be considered put to beneficial use.

Also, State Engineer Dee Hansen told

Harrison that he already has the authority under existing law to protect instream needs. Harrison agreed that, in some instances, Hansen is doing so. Whether this authority is as strong as Hansen believes has been the subject of several meetings among state officials. Some are inclined to build upon Harrison's initiative and develop a more comprehensive instream flow proposal on

(continued on next page)

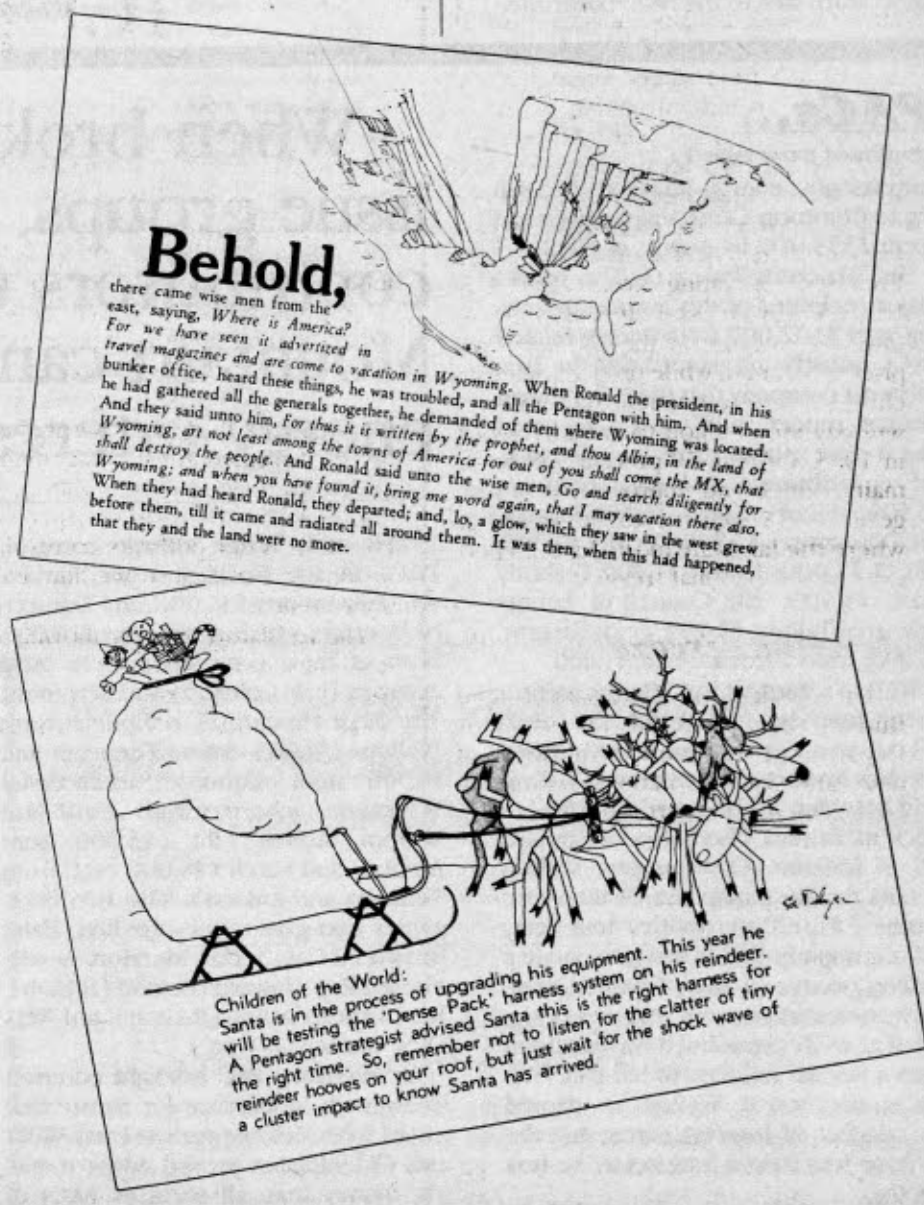
BARBED WIRE

Lafayette's never around when you need him. The mayor of Rio Hondo, Texas, has asked the French government for financial assistance to repair potholes left in the town's streets after hurricane Allen struck last year. French President Francois Mitterand expressed his sympathy but said that, frankly, his government could not help.

A holiday Mixture. We received the following holiday communications from Ed Dadey, a Marquette, Nebraska artist and sculptor:

What's in a name department. The Bighorn National Forest wants to know if anyone is interested in buying timber from the Ghostly Timber Sale.

This month's prudence in government award goes to... the Rock River, Wyoming, town council which scrapped a plan to pay \$23,000 to bring one additional television station via satellite to the 415 person town. The money will be used instead to pay off debts incurred from the renovation of the town's water system.



Utah...

(continued from previous page)

behalf of the governor. However, chances of ultimate passage are considered slim.

Other energy and resource management measures to be considered by Utah lawmakers during the nine-week session will likely include reorganization proposals for the Utah Department of Natural Resources and the state's Public Service Commission.

An innovative funding proposal creating lifetime hunting and fishing licenses should receive favorable consideration along with a related proposal to allow the state's Wildlife Resources Division to bond against future license revenue to provide funds for wildlife needs.

The Department of Natural Resources has also given priority to a yet-to-be drafted proposal to create a charitable non-profit Utah Natural Heritage Trust. The trust would encourage private gifts

of real and personal property for natural heritage purposes such as the conservation and enhancement of natural, historic, scientific, educational, inspirational or recreational resources.

Also certain to receive attention this year will be consideration of an increase in the state's oil and gas severance tax. Matheson has recommended that the current two percent tax be raised to six percent of production value. Of the three major tax increase proposals recommended by the Governor to meet needs beyond his proposed \$1.9 billion basic budget, legislative leaders give the oil and gas severance tax increase the best chance for adoption. With the state's coal and other mining industries currently depressed, neither an increase in the existing one percent hard rock mineral severance tax, nor a new coal severance tax initiative is likely. Utah legislators failed to pass a coal severance tax in each of the past two sessions.

— Brec Cooke

Wyoming's budget blues

The Wyoming Legislature is trying out for the lead in "Poor Little Rich Kid." Despite \$120 million available but dedicated to Gov. Ed Herschler's pet water projects, the legislature is scrambling to find money for various programs. The major issue facing the state is the reallocation of money to equalize school funding and the time and attention devoted to this will probably distract from other matters.

While everyone seems convinced that the state is in a financial bind, there have been a number of environmental victories already as a result. Citing the recession, mineral and energy companies have asked legislators for relief from their severance taxes. But the legislators, citing the state's comparative poverty, have "reluctantly" abandoned this politically unpopular cause. It would be irresponsible, they said, to reduce the state's income when there is a financial crunch. The collective sigh of relief at abandoning this particular ship was almost audible.

Russ Donley (R-Natrona), the new House Speaker, is adroitly using his committee assigning authority to kill bills he doesn't like. For instance, he has assigned a "greenbelt" free-trees-for-agriculture bill to the rules committee,

from which even Houdini could not escape.

However, a number of environmentally favorable bills have a reasonable chance of passage. Two separate proposals to establish a wildlife trust fund are before the legislature this year and a compromise bill has a good chance of passage. A bill to provide in-stream flows for fish and wildlife has been introduced by Rep. Lynn Dickey (D-Sheridan), who ran the initiative drive that barely failed to get that issue on the ballot. In addition, Donley has introduced a bill on the same subject that is generally acceptable to environmentalists.

The legislature seems certain to de-authorize some questionable water projects, including the \$8 million Little Horn Water Project and the rival Fuller-Little Horn project in northern Wyoming. These projects were approved in legislation passed last year.

There will be a "hot and heavy" debate on a resolution in support of the nuclear freeze, but passage is unlikely. Also introduced, but unlikely to pass, are a five cent deposit requirement on beverage containers and a bill giving the state control over toxic waste disposal.

— Dan Whipple

**In Montana,
it's a question of
how to split the pie**

Economic development heads the list of issues that conservationists are taking to the 48th Montana Legislature. After passage of Initiative 95 in November, the legislature must decide how to spend approximately \$13 million of coal tax monies earmarked for economic development.

The state Department of Commerce has drafted a bill that would create the Montana Economic Development Board to oversee investments of coal tax monies in Montana-based business ventures. Under provisions of I-95 the businesses must be owned and operated by Montanans and must preserve the state's environmental quality.

Conservationists will also support a nongame management program funded by a voluntary income tax check-off. Similar measures failed in two prior legislatures.

The Montana Conservation Congress, an alliance of 45 conservation groups last September endorsed the nongame measure as one of its two priorities in 1983. Conservation Congress lobbyist Luci Brieger said, "We have a good chance of getting the bill through the House, but the Senate is a great unknown." Brieger said that opposition to the measure comes from the Montana Stockgrowers Association, Women Involved In Farm Economics, and the Montana Petroleum Association. MPA director Don Allen said that the program would be used by environmentalists to stop mineral development.

Several conservation groups are calling for a joint resolution to study weed and pest control practices in Montana. The widespread use of endrin to control army cutworm in wheat triggered a statewide scare over pesticide residues found in the tissues of game animals last year. The study would be performed by the Montana Environmental Quality Council, a research arm of the legislature.

A second pesticides measure supported by conservationists would amend laws that regulate the registra-

tion of pesticides. Under existing law, the state must allow registration and use of all pesticides approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. The new measure would eliminate the provision and allow the Department of Agriculture to examine new chemicals more thoroughly before they are approved for use.

A big issue that conservationists will fight is the removal of Montana's statutory ban on the use of water in coal slurry pipelines. The Powder River Basin Pipeline Company, a consortium of investors, triggered the coal slurry controversy by approaching state officials with pleas to make water available for slurry. The company plans to originate a line in the Tongue River valley where the absence of a large transportation system is partly responsible for stalling coal development.

Apparently influenced by the leasing of South Dakota water to Energy Transportation Systems Inc., Montana officials are promoting water marketing as a method to increase state revenues.

Susan Cottingham, director of the Montana Environmental Information Center, said her organization believes the existing ban is constitutional since it was enacted to conserve Montana's water resources. She sees no reason to remove the ban, but expects a tough fight in both Houses.

Another bill aimed at helping the energy industry is the so-called "Tenneco relief bill" which would eliminate assessments of need and alternative site studies from the Major Facility Siting Act. The bill's sponsor is Sen. Thomas Keating (R), a Billings oilman.

Tenneco Coal Gasification Company of Houston has told Montana officials that the state's siting act stands in the way of choosing a Montana location for its proposed Beach-Wibaux plant. The Keating measure is yet another opportunity to "send a positive signal to industry," according to its proponents.

— Don Snow

PACs...

(continued from page 1)

surprisingly, energy interests. According to Common Cause, energy PACs had spent \$553,000 by August of 1982.

Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) was a major recipient of this largesse, receiving over \$102,000 from energy related PACs, mostly oil companies. In fact, every oil company that filed a campaign finance report in Wyoming reported that it gave money to Wallop. The largest contributors included: Tenneco, \$6,500; Fluor Corp. \$6,500; Amox, \$1,000; Amoco, \$2,500; Bechtel, \$2,500; ARCO, \$1,000; Exxon, \$1,300; Peabody Coal, \$1,500; the Council of Energy Resource Tribes, \$1,000; Texas Eastern, \$1,000; Utah International, \$1,000.

Wallop's interest in and receipts from energy interests provoked a mini-storm of controversy when syndicated columnist Jack Anderson reported that Wallop held between \$50,000 and \$165,000 of stock in Exxon, Chevron and Standard Oil of Indiana. Chevron gave Wallop \$1,000 for his campaign. Wallop also received \$4,000 in royalties from Getty Oil, a company that is trying to obtain a drilling permit in Little Granite Creek. Environmentalists want that area designated as wilderness, but it was excluded from a Senate wilderness bill that Wallop co-sponsored. Wallop has denied any conflict of interest, saying that the oil lease was issued long before he was elected.

**When broken down into
issue groups, the largest
contributors to Rocky
Mountain candidates were
energy interests.**

The most active energy company PACs in the Rockies were Amoco, which spent over \$30,000, and Tenneco of Houston, which spent over \$26,000. Both of these companies were most active in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming. The largest individual recipients were Wallop (\$6,500 from Tenneco and \$2,500 from Amoco), unsuccessful Wyoming gubernatorial candidate Warren Morton (R) (\$5,000 from Amoco) and Hatch (\$5,000 each from Tenneco and Amoco). The two companies also gave money to Rep. Hank Brown (R-Colo.), Dan Marriott, newly elected Rep. Howard Nielson (R-Utah), Rep. James Hansen (R-Utah) and Rep. Dick Cheney (R-Wyo.).

An interesting PAC sidelight occurred in Montana in the race for Senate that pitted John Melcher against Larry Williams (R). Melcher proved adept at raising money from all sorts of PACs of

diverse interests, while Williams raised virtually no PAC money for his campaign. However, the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) spent \$190,000 in an independent anti-Melcher campaign. Melcher won anyway, but the effect of NCPAC's effort is uncertain. The conservative group will probably target incumbent Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) in 1984. A liberal Montana PAC, the Montana Committee for an Effective Legislature (MontCEL), which worked mostly on a state level, did very well. It actively assisted 20 state legislative candidates, most of whom won.

PACs throughout the region had a tremendous impact on the elections, typically providing at least one-fourth of all the campaign monies. Some candidates, like Melcher (who covered about 50 percent of his expenses with PAC money) did better, others worse. Envir-

onmentalists organized PACs on a large scale for the first time and generally did well around the country. In New Mexico, Jeff Bingaman (D) was elected to replace Harrison Schmidt (R) in the U.S. Senate.

The growth of the PAC influence has created a heated debate over changing the way campaigns are financed. Mobil Corporation said in one of its recent public interest ads, "Far from being worrisome, PACs are actually among the most effective ways in which the man or woman on the street — union member, company employee or whoever — can play a more active role of citizenship." Mobil pointed out that business PAC contributions came to "only" 23.6 percent of campaign contributions by all PACs in the 1980 elections.

Common Cause has said, however, that PAC money is "threatening our representative form of government." The group has called the PAC phenomenon "Alarming. Outrageous. Downright dangerous." The organization has formed a People Against PACs lobbying campaign.

†††

This story was written by Dan Whipple from information compiled by Whipple, Don Snow (Montana), Diedre Duncan and Randy Udall (Colorado), Susan Tweit (Wyoming), Glenn Oakley (Idaho) and Jess Funk (Utah). The story was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.



Mike McClure

Why is this woman smiling?

Production manager Kathy Bogan makes a point of smiling for at least two weeks after every vacation.

This time, however, her smile might last a little while longer. Thanks to this year's successful Research Fund drive, it looks like we'll be able to keep our in-house typesetting capability, making her job a whole lot easier than the makeshift arrangements we were contemplating. Then, too, she'll have money to buy better photos, commission more illustrations and maybe even add a cartoon or two.

Our total now stands at \$20,020. Only \$4,980 to go to meet our \$25,000 goal.

Our thanks this issue go to the following Research Fund contributors:

Chris & Jim Alfonso
Kemmerer, WY
James W. Ames
Maumee, OH
Roger Ames
Tulsa, OK
Jane Anderson
Boulder, CO
Larry Anderson
Providence, RI
Martha Anderson
Seattle, WA
John K. Apel
Beaumont, TX
Ray & Chris Arthur
Ft. Laramie, WY
Mary Back
Dubois, WY
Mary Baker
Jackson, WY
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Baker
Pinedale, WY
Brad T. Barber
Salt Lake City, UT
Mr. & Mrs. Led E. Barger
Lincoln, NE
Bob Barry
Worland, WY
Steven Bauer & Elizabeth Arthur
Oxford, OH
Debra Beck
Elko, NV
Med & Petie Bennett
Wilson, WY
Alice F. Blood
Columbia Falls, MT
Bill Boud
Roosevelt, UT
Guy Bonnier
Picabo, ID
J.W. Bradbury
Colorado Springs, CO
Nina Bradley
Baraboo, WI
Roger Brooks
Newport, OR
Arlo Brown
Green Village, NJ
Sally Burkhardt
Garfield, WA
Mary Butters & John McCarthy
Kendrick, ID
Calico Services
Pomona, CO
Janet & Thomas Cameron
Palisade, CO
Marion L. Carlisle
St. Ingoes, MD
Steve Carville
Denali Park, AK
Martha Christensen
Laramie, WY
Joy & Janet Cornish
Butte, MT
T. Crawford
Ketchum, ID
Don & Ellie Crecelius
Sheridan, WY
Dr. & Mrs. Rupert Cutler
New York, NY
Dana Dailey
Portland, OR
R.S. Davidson
Columbus, OH
Davis Engineering Inc.
Sheridan, WY
Phillip & Nancy Davis
Bozeman, MT

Ponce de Leon
Moline, IL
J.B. Donnelly
Santa Fe, NM
Elise R. Donobue
Clyde Park, MT
Wilbur G. Downs
Branford, CT
Alice M. Drogin
Moab, UT
Dorothy Dodge Duncan
Sheridan, WY
Mickey & Pat East
Warren, MI
George & Carolyn Edmondson
Columbia, MD
Van C. Ellis
Dallas, TX
John C. Ellsworth
Moscow, ID
Joan & John Enger
Powell, WY
Environmental Opportunities
Walpole, NH
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Etlinger
Bannockburn, IL
Bruce Furling
Missoula, MT
E.J. Feblig
Whitehall, MT
MacGregor Folsom
Evergreen, CO
Michael J. Frederick
Colorado Springs, CO
Dennis Freeman
Rock Springs, WY
Paul Fritz
Boise, ID
Patricia R. Fuller
Aurora, CO
Pete Gardner
Laramie, WY
Chris Garlasco
Denver, CO
Thomas W. George
Austin, TX
Dennis Gertenbach
Golden, CO
J. Calvin Giddings
Salt Lake City, UT
Ed Giebel
Billings, MT
Kent Gill
Davis, CA
Mary Gillespie
Greeley, CO
Bob Gollen
Boulder, CO
Craig Groves
Idaho Falls, ID
Laurie Gunst
Cambridge, MA
Scott A. Gutting
Salt Lake City, UT
Bill Geer
Seattle, WA
Sherry Hamann
Palisade, CO
Michael D. Hammar
Halfway, OR
Doug Hamilton
Green River, WY
Ruth C. Harpel
Silver City, NM
David L. Harrison
Boulder, CO
Evelyn Haydock
San Francisco, CA

Lillian Hayes
Provo, UT
Alison Hiebert
Bluffton, OH
Carol & Howard Hillman
Framingham, MA
Hannah Hinchman & Wendell Large
Peaks Island, ME
Bern Hinckley
Laramie, WY
Mr. & Mrs. J. Calvin Hodge
Dallas, TX
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hooper
Sundance, WY
Laurel Houe
Seattle, WA
Marrin & Emily Hoyt
Boise, ID
Judy Hutchins
Heron, MT
James D. Hyland
Oceanside, CA
Thomas H. Jefferson, Jr.
Livermore, CA
Nancy S. Jenkins
Hemet, CA
Karen Jepsen
Boulder, CO
Craig Johnson
Sidney, MT
Pete & Jean Jorgensen
Jackson, WY
Rick & Carole Keister
Monkton, MD
Robert Keller
Laramie, WY
Mark & Pam Keller
Orofino, ID
Robert C. Kerr
Boulder, CO
George Kinder
Cullin, IL
Ken F. Kirkpatrick
Denver, CO
Dennis & Judy Knight
Laramie, WY
Charles Kruch
Bend, OR
David Kuntz
Boulder, CO
Susan Lamm
Chicago, IL
Nancy Mae Larson
Couer d'Alene, ID
Martin A. Lenke
Port Angeles, WA
Luna B. Leopold
Berkeley, CA
John D. Lesby
Tempe, AZ
Charles Lindley
Penrose, CO
Hannah H. Loeb
St. Cloud, MN
Carleton C. Long
Boulder, CO
Robert B. Loren
Ft. Davis, TX
Sue Louvy
Laramie, WY
Sydney S. Macy
Boulder, CO
Adrian H. Malone
Sheridan, WY

Ernest R. May III & Carol May
Evanston, WY
Thomas & Richlyn McArthur
Conner, MT
William C. McCandless
Gibsonia, PA
Jean McCulloch
Durango, CO
Kate McCutchen & Fred Dowsett
Lakewood, CO
Mrs. Lloyd McElboney
Torrington, WY
Roger A. McKenzie
Dayton, WY
Jill McKinstry
Boulder, CO
Gerald H. Menal
Sacramento, CA
Zach & Val Miller
Boulder, CO
The Minors
Los Alamos, NM
Joan & Cliff Montagne
Bozeman, MT
Robert M. Moore
Pueblo, CO
Mary Moran
Socorro, NM
M. Gale Morgan
Durango, CO
Wendy Morgan
Wilson, WY
Stephen W. Morrall
Fort Collins, CO
Laurence Moss
Estes Park, CO
Doc & Chris Munson
Boise, ID
Jack Nichol
Billings, MT
Norman Nielsen
Denver, CO
D. James Nielsen
Wayzata, MN
Kiyoshi Nishikawa
Carson City, NV
Mr. & Mrs. Howard E. Norris
Bloomfield, CT
Mark O'Neill
Price, UT
Harley Orabood
Grand Junction, CO
Duncan & Eva Patten
Tempe, AZ
Walter Perry III
Cheyenne, WY
Leslie Petersen
Jackson, WY
Brent Petrie
Anchorage, AK
Geoff Pietsch
Miami, FL
Pauline D. Plaza
Denver, CO
John & Karen Porcher
Salt Lake City, UT
David A. Poss
Cheyenne, WY
Ken Pratt
College, AK
Mrs. William S. Preston
Green Valley, AZ
Project Lighthouse
Santa Fe, NM
Rob Pudim
Boulder, CO
Dick Randall
Rock Springs, WY
Jay & Pat Reed
Michigan City, IN
Nathaniel P. Reed
Nobe Sound, FL
Mrs. Joseph E. Rich
Lake Forest, IL
Becky & Mark Russler
Lander, WY
Michael S. Sample
Billings, MT
Peter Sartucci
Fort Collins, CO

Jon Wesley Sering
Montrose, CO
Harold N. Sersland
Salt Lake City, UT
Kenneth Seyffert
Amarillo, TX
Hal & Mary Sbelton
Golden, CO
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie E. Shoemaker
Dubois, WY
George Shonka
Fort Collins, CO
Dick & Sandy Shuptrine
Jackson, WY
John & Pauline Simmons
Carson City, NV
Faye Sitzman
Omaha, NE
Bruce Smith & Connie Isdahl Smith
Jackson, WY
Rob Smith
Salt Lake City, UT
Southwest Seeding Service
Glade Park, CO
D.C. Spencer
Durango, CO
Joanne Sprenger
Las Vegas, NV
Rich & Kathi Stafford
Lakewood, CO
Mrs. Donna M. Starr
Tucson, AZ
Ben Steele
Logan, UT
D.A. Stephenson
Benicia, CA
Carlos Stern
Arlington, VA
Dick Stokes & Ingrid Hamann
Fort Collins, CO
Mrs. T.C. Stricklin
Dallas, TX
Clare C. Swanger
Palo Alto, CA
James Thomas
Harrisburg, IL
J. Kirk Thompson
Stevensville, MT
Ron Tomasini
Oceano, CA
Udalls
Denver, CO
Mrs. Elise S. Untermeyer
Santa Fe, NM
Karen Urbom
Lander, WY
Charles & Dorothy Valle
Canyon Lake, CA
Harris L. Voules
Phoenix, AZ
Michael J. Waggoner
Boulder, CO
Marion McKay Walley
Fort Wayne, IN
James & Jean Walsh
Pittsford, NY
Bruce E. Wampler
Tijeras, NM
Richard T. Ward
Fort Collins, CO
Larry E. Watson
Golden, CO
Jim Welch
Ft. Collins, CO
Richard Wheeler
San Anselmo, CA
Brad Wiley
Navarro, CA
Mack Wilkinson
Ft. Bragg, CA
Phyllis N. Windle
Washington, D.C.
Lois Witte
Colorado Springs, CO
W.J. Worthington
Inglewood, CA
John & Cherry Wunderlich
Bethesda, MD
Marianna Young
Salt Lake City, UT

Have you made your Research Fund contribution yet?

If not, use this handy little form to make your donation TODAY. And keep Kathy smiling.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

We plan to continue to list the names (no amounts) of Research Fund contributors on these pages. Please check here if you *do not* want your gift acknowledged in this manner.

PHOTOS BY



Early spring in the East River Valley near Crested Butte, Colorado

Curiously, none of the current staff of *High Country News* ever met David Sumner. It would not be quite correct, however, to say that we didn't know him. We knew him through his writing and photography.

Sumner was born in 1937 in Concord, Massachusetts. He moved west about 15 years ago and began a successful career photographing and writing about the snow-covered peaks and sparkling western deserts. He wrote a number of books, including *Colorado* and *Rocky Mountains*, with photographer David Muench.

Clarus Backes, book editor at the *Denver Post*, wrote, "Sumner ... was one of a whole breed we seem on the verge of forgetting — a transplanted, old-line New Englander and an Ivy League product who had sought out the wilderness in these parts for its own sake,

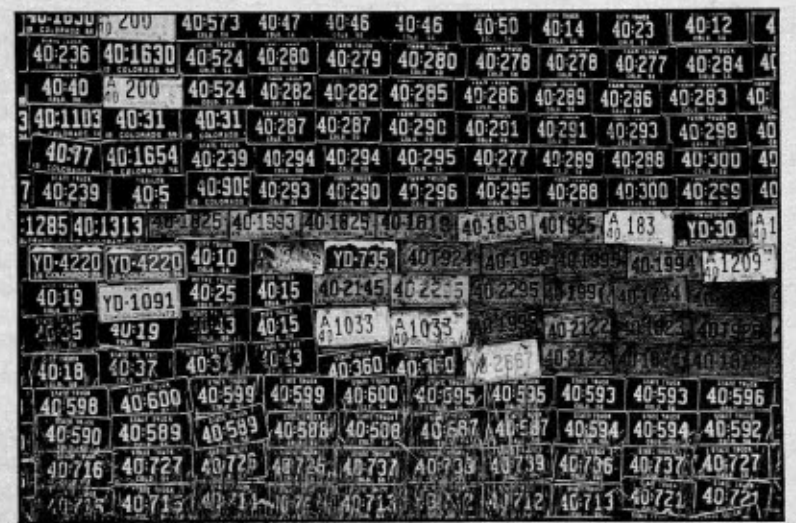
much as the early trappers and mountain men must have done. ... For him, Colorado was never simply a place to live, it was the essence of life itself."

Sumner was always willing to share his interpretation of that essence with *HCN* and its readers. However, we got a note from him several weeks ago announcing that he wouldn't be able to send any more pictures for a few weeks because he had to go into the hospital. His doctors had diagnosed leukemia. Surprisingly, he didn't seem too worried, since the doctors told him it was a type that could be successfully controlled.

On January 4, 1983, he died in Denver. A memorial scholarship fund has been established for his children, Margaret and Jason, c/o the Crested Butte State Bank, Box 637, Crested Butte, Colorado 81224.

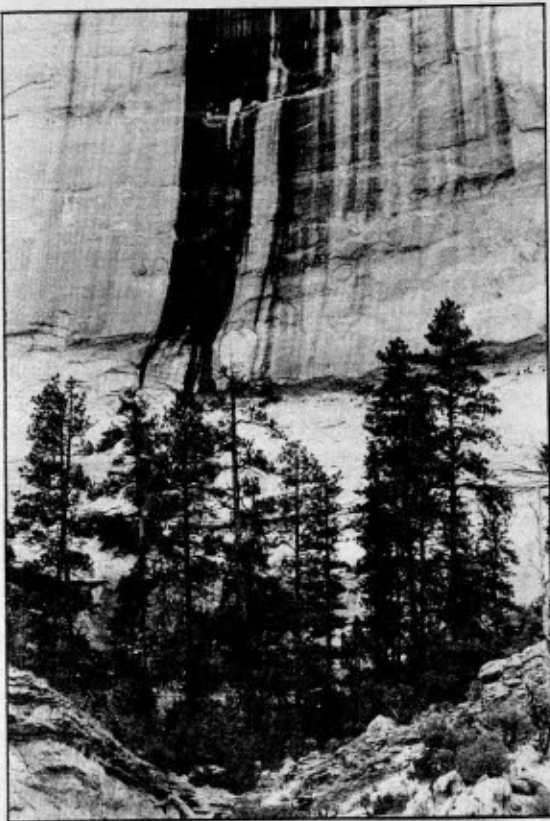


Pots & pans, McCartney, Alaska

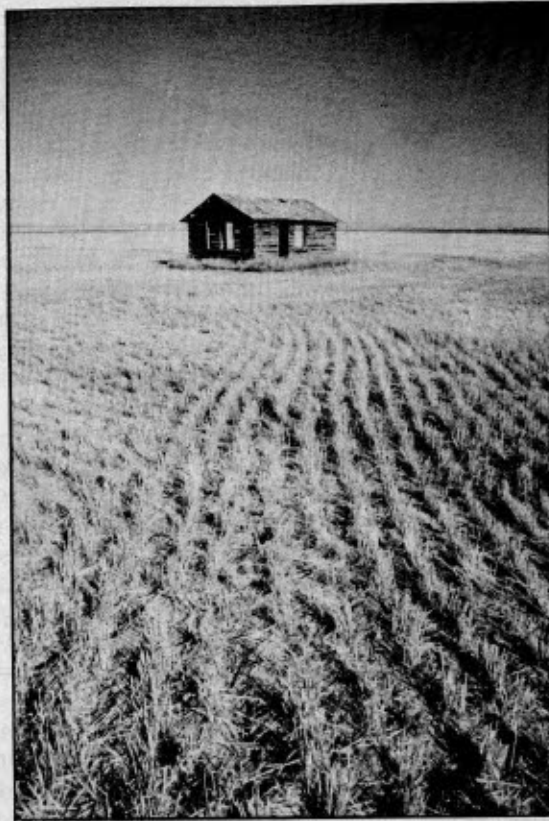


License plates, 1953-1973, Crested Butte, Colorado

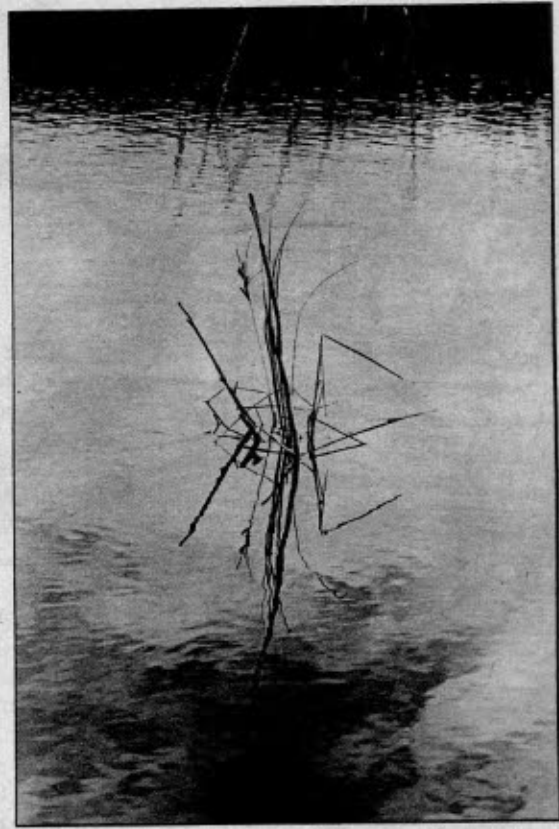
DAVID SUMNER



*Douglas fir, Weber sandstone alcove, Yampa Canyon,
Dinosaur National Monument*

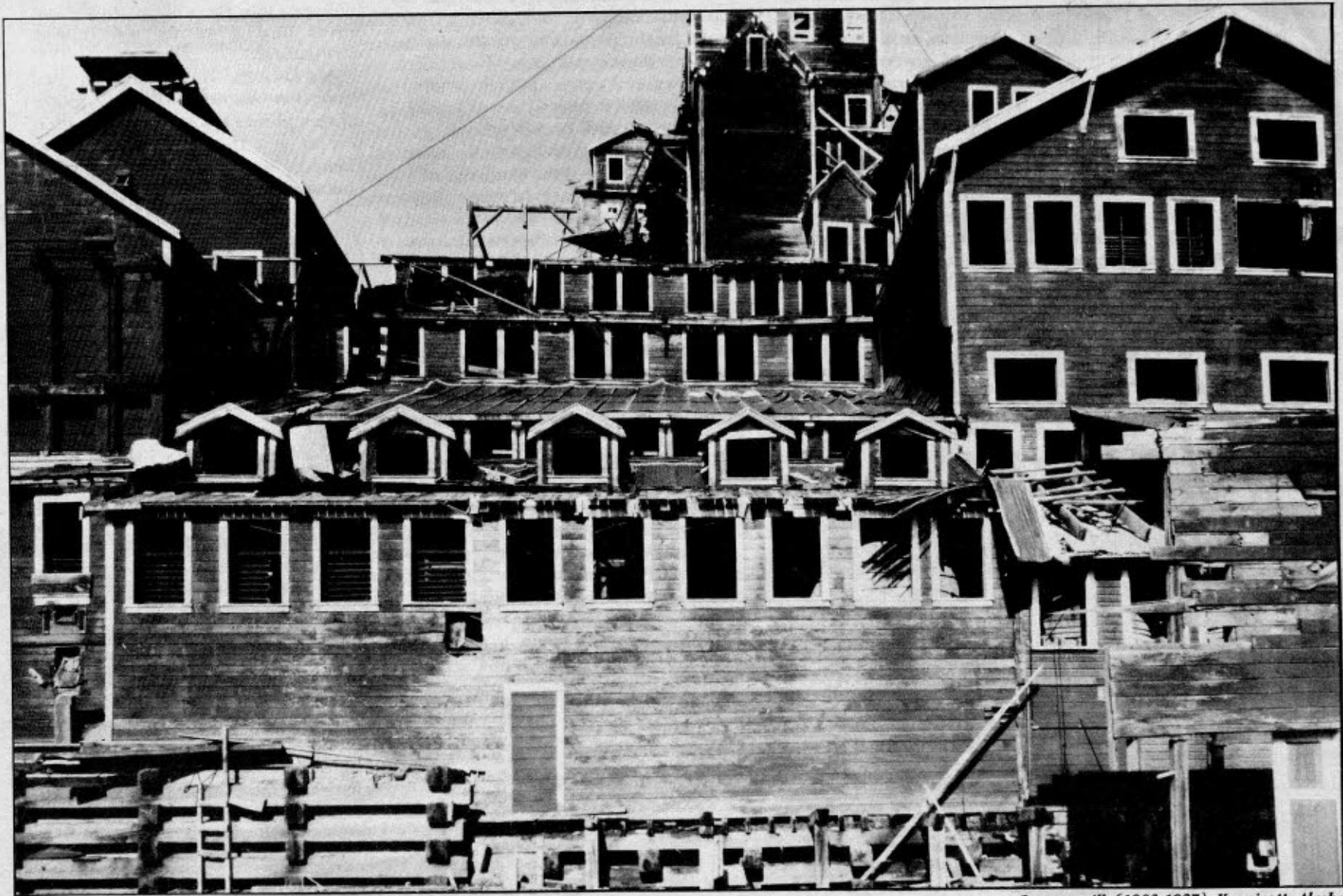


*Cut wheat field and abandoned cabin near Driggs,
Idaho*



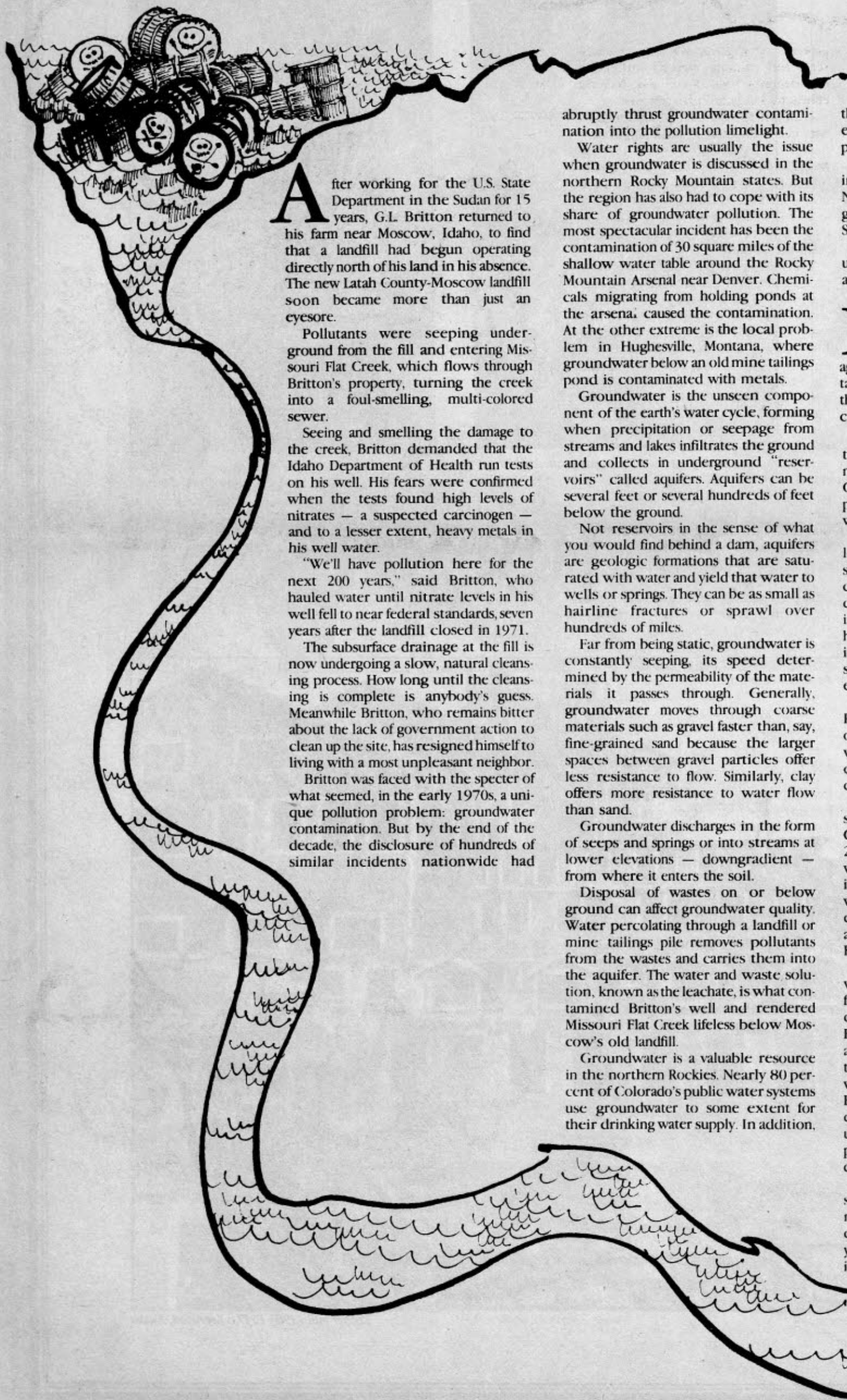
*Kind of like calligraphy. Reflection in a beaver pond,
Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado*

1937-1982



Copper mill (1903-1937), Kennicott, Alaska

Dirge over



After working for the U.S. State Department in the Sudan for 15 years, G.L. Britton returned to his farm near Moscow, Idaho, to find that a landfill had begun operating directly north of his land in his absence. The new Latah County-Moscow landfill soon became more than just an eyesore.

Pollutants were seeping underground from the fill and entering Missouri Flat Creek, which flows through Britton's property, turning the creek into a foul-smelling, multi-colored sewer.

Seeing and smelling the damage to the creek, Britton demanded that the Idaho Department of Health run tests on his well. His fears were confirmed when the tests found high levels of nitrates — a suspected carcinogen — and to a lesser extent, heavy metals in his well water.

"We'll have pollution here for the next 200 years," said Britton, who hauled water until nitrate levels in his well fell to near federal standards, seven years after the landfill closed in 1971.

The subsurface drainage at the fill is now undergoing a slow, natural cleansing process. How long until the cleansing is complete is anybody's guess. Meanwhile Britton, who remains bitter about the lack of government action to clean up the site, has resigned himself to living with a most unpleasant neighbor.

Britton was faced with the specter of what seemed, in the early 1970s, a unique pollution problem: groundwater contamination. But by the end of the decade, the disclosure of hundreds of similar incidents nationwide had

abruptly thrust groundwater contamination into the pollution limelight.

Water rights are usually the issue when groundwater is discussed in the northern Rocky Mountain states. But the region has also had to cope with its share of groundwater pollution. The most spectacular incident has been the contamination of 30 square miles of the shallow water table around the Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver. Chemicals migrating from holding ponds at the arsenal, caused the contamination. At the other extreme is the local problem in Hughesville, Montana, where groundwater below an old mine tailings pond is contaminated with metals.

Groundwater is the unseen component of the earth's water cycle, forming when precipitation or seepage from streams and lakes infiltrates the ground and collects in underground "reservoirs" called aquifers. Aquifers can be several feet or several hundreds of feet below the ground.

Not reservoirs in the sense of what you would find behind a dam, aquifers are geologic formations that are saturated with water and yield that water to wells or springs. They can be as small as hairline fractures or sprawl over hundreds of miles.

Far from being static, groundwater is constantly seeping, its speed determined by the permeability of the materials it passes through. Generally, groundwater moves through coarse materials such as gravel faster than, say, fine-grained sand because the larger spaces between gravel particles offer less resistance to flow. Similarly, clay offers more resistance to water flow than sand.

Groundwater discharges in the form of seeps and springs or into streams at lower elevations — downgradient — from where it enters the soil.

Disposal of wastes on or below ground can affect groundwater quality. Water percolating through a landfill or mine tailings pile removes pollutants from the wastes and carries them into the aquifer. The water and waste solution, known as the leachate, is what contaminated Britton's well and rendered Missouri Flat Creek lifeless below Moscow's old landfill.

Groundwater is a valuable resource in the northern Rockies. Nearly 80 percent of Colorado's public water systems use groundwater to some extent for their drinking water supply. In addition,

the Colorado State Engineer's office estimates that there are over 100,000 private wells in the state.

Groundwater is used extensively for irrigation in Montana, Utah and Idaho. Nearly one million acres of land are irrigated with groundwater in Idaho's Snake River plain alone.

Rural Wyoming residents rely heavily upon the resource for their domestic and livestock water.

Rachel Carson wrote about groundwater pollution at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal over 20 years ago in *Silent Spring*. At that time, pollutants had migrated underground from the site to poison livestock, wells and crops up to three miles away.

In 1980, DBCP, a pesticide manufactured at the arsenal, was found in a municipal water well in South Adams County. The well is still not in use. The pesticide was also detected in several wells in the Irondale area.

A large part of the arsenal has been leased to the Shell Chemical Company since 1946. Shell manufactures pesticides and herbicides there. For years, chemical by-products from manufacturing those products were disposed of in holding ponds. The chemicals slowly infiltrated into the shallow aquifer and spread throughout the subterranean environment.

Paul Osborne of the Environmental Protection Agency's Denver regional office said that efforts are now underway to stop the off-site migration of chemicals and to treat 40 years worth of contaminated groundwater.

Anaconda Company's abandoned smelter and refinery in Anaconda and Great Falls, Montana, respectively, 250,000 tons of metals refining wastes were dumped in and on the ground during the facilities' active lives. Groundwater at both sites is laden with zinc, cadmium, arsenic and other metals, according to Jim Dunn of the EPA in Helena.

Dunn said contamination of private wells around the sites has not been found so far, but the investigation being conducted by Anaconda Company and EPA has not been completed. Pollutants at the Great Falls plant are moving towards the Missouri River, Dunn said, while metals are leaching into Silver Bow Creek near the smelter in Anaconda. The smelter is eligible for clean-up money under the EPA's Superfund program for cleaning up toxic waste dumps.

At the Hanford nuclear complex in southcentral Washington, low-level radioactive liquids have been discharged into trenches and ponds for 40 years. Much of this liquid has percolated into the groundwater under Hanford.

troubled waters

by Jeff Stern

A 1981 study of Hanford's groundwater states that radioactive iodine-129 has migrated several miles underground and is entering the Columbia River, which forms Hanford's east boundary. Tritium has also entered the river via the groundwater.

A spokesman for the Department of Energy at Hanford said that concentrations of iodine-129 and tritium reaching the Columbia are below EPA and state drinking water standards and no action is planned to halt the flow of contaminants to the groundwater. The Columbia is used by communities in the Hanford area for drinking water, irrigation and recreation.

Household septic wastes leaching into the Spokane-Rathdrum aquifer are the primary threat to Spokane, Washington's domestic water supply. The aquifer is virtually the only source of water for over 300,000 people.

The city has developed a management plan that includes replacing septic systems with municipal waste treatment plants to prevent further deterioration of the aquifer's quality.

These incidents are only some of the more visible or publicized cases of groundwater pollution in the region. From Montana to Colorado, the western landscape is pockmarked with dozens of waste disposal-related groundwater contamination problems.

Montana Water Quality 1982 lists 15 landfills that are either polluting groundwater or are likely to in the near future. The report also documents 13 cases of groundwater pollution from mining activities in the state.

The Denver Post reported that more than 90 percent of Colorado's 3,600 surface impoundments holding liquid wastes threaten to contaminate the state's groundwater.

The fact is that no one knows the extent of groundwater pollution in the northern Rockies, according to Osborne. And even when contamination is discovered, Osborne said, it is often difficult to pinpoint the source.

"Groundwater pollution is much harder to assess than surface water pollution. It takes more research to figure out how to handle groundwater problems," Dunn said in explaining the EPA's slow progress in protecting groundwater.

The EPA has been trying since 1979 to develop a groundwater policy. According to Marion Mlay, deputy director of EPA's Office of Drinking Water, the policy has finally been drawn up and is now awaiting Cabinet approval.

Mlay said the policy will focus on coordinating the agency's groundwater

protection program, which is currently scattered among several different departments, and state and federal efforts to safeguard groundwater.

Concern for the lack of cooperation between local, state and federal governments prompted Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) to introduce a bill in the last Congress encouraging their cooperation in protecting aquifers that are the only source of drinking water for communities such as Spokane. The bill was not enacted.

"The bill's main purpose is to develop procedures between different levels of government to define critical recharge zones in sole source areas," said Debra Knopman, staff member on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Knopman said the bill would encourage agencies to use existing laws such as the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect sole source aquifers. The bill will be re-introduced during this legislative session.

A move to establish a National Groundwater Commission has been put forward in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) reauthorization bill. RCRA regulates hazardous waste disposal. The proposed commission would assess the impacts of hazardous and solid waste disposal on groundwater and determine the need for a groundwater protection policy. EPA opposes the idea, saying it would duplicate research already conducted by the agency and that the lead time required for the commission would delay the EPA's groundwater program.

The much heralded Superfund has lost much of its punch under the Reagan administration, according to Kathy Durso-Hughes of the Environmental Action Foundation in Washington, D.C. Durso-Hughes cited reductions in funding and the EPA's enforcement staff as weakening the program.

Several sites polluting or threatening to pollute groundwater in the northern Rockies are eligible for Superfund aid. They include sites in and around Leadville, Commerce City and Denver, Colorado; Anaconda, Libby, and Milltown, Montana; Kellogg, Rathdrum and Caldwell, Idaho; and Laramie, Wyoming (HCN, 12/24/82).

Most current groundwater pollution problems in the northern Rockies originated out of either ignorance or indifference. The old Moscow landfill was located above springs at the head of a creek, thus assuring abundant leachate production. Wastes at Anaconda's facili-

(continued on page 12)



Groundwater...

(continued from previous page)

ties at Anaconda and Great Falls, Montana, were dumped with little concern for future pollution problems.

Today, a technology has developed around protecting groundwater from buried wastes. Landfills and surface impoundments are being built with "liners" of dense clay and plastic to prevent leachate migration. Leachate collection systems divert the contaminated liquid to ponds where it can be treated. States require operators to cap landfills with soils of low permeability to minimize water percolation through the wastes.

But even when the best available technology is used, are the mistakes of the past being repeated by burying wastes today?

The answer is no, according to EPA's Osborne. Osborne said that by proper siting and capping of landfills, leachate generation can be minimized and groundwater protected.

The EPA's Jim Dunn said that mine waste disposal in Montana is now regulated through a state permitting system which insures wastes will be buried in a "suitable repository."

But the EPA said in the February 5, 1981 *Federal Register* that, "Unfortunately, at the present time, it is not technologically and institutionally possible to contain wastes and constituents forever or for the long time periods that may be necessary to allow adequate degradation to be achieved. Consequently, the regulation of hazardous waste land disposal must proceed from the assumption that migration of hazardous wastes and their constituents and by-products from a land disposal facility will inevitably occur."

"The bottom line is that land disposal facilities, whether they contain municipal or hazardous wastes, all eventually leak," said Lois Gibbs, former Love Canal resident and now director of the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes, Inc. in Arlington, Virginia. Gibbs cited a study of four chemical waste landfills in New Jersey that were built with double liners of clay and plastic. Within four years, leachate had breached the innermost liner and was working its way to the second liner at each landfill.

A 1981 *Civil Engineering* article reported that certain chemicals can react with clay, causing the clay to compact and crack, allowing rapid movement of contaminants into the surrounding environment.

Conservationists stress the need to implement alternatives to disposing of wastes in the ground. Gibbs said there are viable alternatives to land disposal,

including burning wastes for energy, as is being done at one facility in Wisconsin.

Other alternatives include recycling, incineration, neutralization of chemical wastes, source reduction, where industrial processes are altered to reduce the amount of wastes produced, and waste exchange. Waste exchange is the concept that one company's waste might be another company's raw material.

A few states have taken tentative steps in the direction of alternatives. Montana is experimenting with a waste exchange program to reduce industrial waste dumping in the state (*HCN*, 11/26/82).

California is phasing out the land disposal of certain materials including strong acids, PCB's and wastes containing cyanide, all of which could significantly harm human health if they are released to the environment. The state is studying alternative methods for recycling, treating and destroying those wastes.

The federal government, however, has not rushed to embrace alternatives to land disposal. Funding for research and development has been, up to this point, effectively killed by the Reagan administration.

Mlay said the reason that alternatives have remained a low priority for funding is because legislation directing the EPA to develop alternatives has not been enacted. The research money goes to established pollution control programs.

The debate over alternatives to land disposal continues to rage, but conservationists and government officials agree on at least one point: the cheapest way to get rid of wastes is to bury them, and until that fact is altered, land disposal, with all its attendant risks to groundwater, will continue to be the number one method of waste disposal.

+++

Jeff Stern was *HCN's* intern over the past three months. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

Groundwater goes to the cleaners

Over 100,000 gallons of highly toxic chemicals have spilled from ruptured tankers, contaminating a surface area of 250,000 square feet. Residents living near the spill are being evacuated. Emergency clean-up crews are working to contain spilled materials. The chemicals are seeping rapidly into the soil and may be entering the shallow aquifer.

Taken from the files of O.H. Materials Company (OHM) of Findlay, Ohio, the above mishap occurred in the Midwest in 1979. OHM specializes in environmental emergency response, hazardous materials spill control, and land and water reclamation. OHM's response to the spill and subsequent treatment of the aquifer illustrate techniques for decontaminating groundwater.

At the spill, the first step was to clean up liquid on the ground and excavate the surface layer of soil to prevent further seepage of pollutants into the ground. Excess liquids and contaminated soil were disposed of at a landfill.

A study was initiated to determine the extent of sub-surface contamination. Monitoring wells were placed along the perimeter of the spill to detect migration of contaminants off-site.

The study disclosed that thick clay soil to a depth of 50 feet was preventing the downward migration of the chemicals to the main aquifer. However, the shallow aquifer, at a depth of eight feet, was contaminated.

The cost of excavating and disposing of eight feet of soil over the entire spill site was prohibitive. It was decided instead to treat the polluted groundwater using pneumatic recovery and a recovery-point system.

Two hundred recovery wells were installed where soil borings had indicated pollution and along the spill's perimeter. The wells were connected to a central point where groundwater could be collected above ground for treatment. By using specialized pumping equipment, water was drawn out of the ground to the collection point.

The suction created by pumping pulled groundwater, along with contaminants, into the recovery wells. Proper location of wells insured that no contaminants migrated off-site.

During initial operation, the recovery system "produced" 75,000 gallons of water per day. Concentrations of chemicals ranged from 2,000 to 10,000 parts per million.

Once above ground, the water was treated on-site using various methods including aeration and activated carbon filtration.

Treated water was reinjected via wells to flush out pollutants and to replace water drawn from the ground, creating a closed loop of recovery-treatment-reinjection-recovery.

When the chemicals were reduced to less than 200 parts per million, a biological degradation program was initiated to treat the water in the ground. Prior to reinjection, water was inoculated with bacteria, nutrients and air. With favorable conditions underground, the bacteria worked rapidly to reduce the levels of pollutants to concentrations approved by the regulatory agencies involved.

At this point clean-up ended, although water quality was monitored for some time afterward until complete

removal of pollutants from the aquifer was verified. The entire project lasted eight and a half months.

The pneumatic recovery system used at the spill is the most common method of cleansing aquifers and is an example of hydrodynamic control. Hydrodynamic control collects groundwater and controls groundwater flow to halt the spread of contaminants.

At the spill, suction drew groundwater to the wells. Other types of hydrodynamic control include positive displacement, where water is forced to the surface instead of drawn up, and gravity collection, where trenches dug down from the source of contamination intercept and recover shallow groundwater. Hydrodynamic control can be effective at greater depths and in more complex geology than was encountered at the spill.

Using sub-surface biodegradation to restore groundwater quality is an emerging technology. According to Jim Quince of OHM, bacteria can degrade various organic compounds and hydrocarbons. The important thing is to provide the bacteria with a comfortable underground environment, which may include adjusting pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and nutrients.

Quince said that, theoretically, even the most complex groundwater contamination problems can be corrected. However, in a technology where effective restoration of ground water quality can cost millions of dollars and take years to complete, time and cost are the biggest limiting factors to decontaminating groundwater.

— Jeff Stern



BULLETIN BOARD

IDAHO LOBBY

The Idaho Conservation League is asking for financial help for its work in the 1983 Idaho State Legislature. The league seeks to raise \$12,000 for its legislative project to cover staff salaries, printing and postage for legislative alerts and telephones. Contributions can be sent to the Idaho Conservation League, Box 844, Boise, Idaho 83701.

WYOMING WATER QUALITY

The Wyoming Environmental Quality Council will hold a public hearing Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Wyo. Highway Dept. auditorium, 5300 Bishop Boulevard in Cheyenne. The public may comment on modifications in state water quality rules and regulations dealing with permits to construct, install, or modify public water supplies, waste water facilities and other facilities capable of causing or contributing to pollution. Written statements may be submitted any time prior to Jan. 27 to Chairman, EQC, Equality State Bank, 401 West 19th St., Cheyenne, 82002. For additional information call Jake Strohm, (307) 777-7781.

ENVIRONMENTALISM 101

Learn how to work on Colorado's environmental issues by attending class "Environmental Activism 101" offered through Denver Free University. The class will be held on four consecutive Monday evenings beginning Jan. 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Washington Park United Church of Christ, 400 S. Williams St., Denver. For more information call the Denver Free University at (303) 393-6706.

WINTER IN YELLOWSTONE

"Winter in Yellowstone," the first in a series of programs offered this year by the Yellowstone Institute, features three courses beginning next month. "Following Yellowstone's First Winter Explorers," Feb. 20-25, traces the route of the first winter expedition into the park; "Winter Ecology in Yellowstone," March 5-10, observes the dynamic wintertime ecosystem in the park, and "Winter Photography," March 12-14, aims at taking advantage of the unique photo opportunities which occur this time of year. For further information, write or phone The Yellowstone Institute, Director's Office, 555 So. Roberts, Helena, Mt., 59601; (406) 443-0861.

HONOR A WILDLIFE RANCHER

Nominations are being sought for the outstanding Colorado wildlife farmer-rancher of the year. Nominees must be a farmer or rancher in Colorado who is currently involved in conservation efforts for the benefit of wildlife, including big game, upland birds, waterfowl, or nongame wildlife. The award is sponsored by the Colorado Wildlife Federation and the United Sportsmen's Council of Colo. Nomination forms are available from the Colo. Division of Wildlife, Southwest Regional Office, 2300 S. Townsend, Montrose, 81401. Deadline is Feb. 10.

Northern Lights...

(continued from page 16)

consider important, and issues they may not be working on yet."

One of the institute's most useful publications is likely to be a "natural resource atlas," a regional guide now in the planning stages. The atlas will be a large format map and narrative summary of the region's timber, fossil fuel, agricultural land, public and private lands, water, and other resources. Designed for use by schools, consumer groups, conservation groups, public officials and others, the project is an example of the institute's intention to provide simple, practical data to a wide range of people, in subject areas where people must have good information in order to make better decisions.

At the heart of the Northern Lights Institute's immediate future is work on what Clark calls "regional need." That is a product of several things, including history and heritage, geography and human resources. "One of the best ways to understand the institute is to go back 10 or 20 years and look at the changes this region has experienced since then. In 1970, few people thought that Montana and Wyoming would be two of the major coal-producing states. Ten years ago, the timber and housing industries

OWYHEE CANYONLANDS STUDY

The Bureau of Land Management will soon be determining whether 440,900 acres of public land along the Owyhee River canyonlands in Oregon, Idaho and Nevada should be designated wilderness. The acreage is contained in eight wilderness study areas which lie upstream from the town of Rome, Oregon. The BLM is soliciting public comment on the issues and alternatives to be considered in the Owyhee canyonlands in demers environmental impact statement. Comments on the EIS should be submitted by Feb. 15, 1983. Write to BLM, Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness EIS, Boise District Office, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, Idaho 83705. For more information contact John Benedict or Ted Milesnick at (208) 334-1582.

INDIAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Business opportunities and markets for American Indians and Alaskan Natives will be discussed at the American Indian Business Development Conference to be held Feb. 10-11 at the Dunes Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev. The conference will focus on federal policies, marketing, capital acquisition, corporate development, taxes and other concerns related to Indian business development. Contact the American Indian Business Development Conference, Denver Technological Center, 7901 E. Bellview, Suite 3, Englewood, Colo. 80111; or call (303) 756-3642.

OLD FAITHFUL COMMENT

Future uses of the Old Faithful area in Yellowstone National Park are detailed in the environmental assessment performed by the National Park Service as part of the Development Concept Plan for the park. The park master plan calls for gradually converting the development at Old Faithful to a scenic day use area. The public is invited to comment on the proposed uses by Feb. 15. Copies of the plan are available from the Supt., Yellowstone National Park, Wyo. 82190.

GREEN RIVER/HAMS FORK EIS

The environmental impact statement for the second round of the Green River/Hams Fork coal leasing project is being prepared by the Bureau of Land Management. The project includes counties in southwestern Wyo. and northwestern Colo., and will assess a leasing target of 750-950 million tons of coal reserves. Public meetings to obtain comments are scheduled as follows: Jan. 24, Marriott Hotel, 1701 California, lower level 2, Denver; Jan. 25, BLM Office, 1300 3rd St., Rawlins, Wyo.; Jan. 26, Holiday Inn, 1675 Sunset Dr., Rock Springs, Wyo.; Jan. 27, Craig-Moffatt Co. Library, 570 Green St., Craig, Colo. All meetings are at 7 p.m. Information packages are available from Team Leader, Green River/Hams Fork Coal Leasing Project, BLM, P.O. Box 1136, Craig, Colo. 81625. Comments must be received by Feb. 11.

were booming. The population of Wyoming has increased 40 percent in about 10 years. These changes, of course, have major impacts on people's personal lives. One of Northern Lights' functions is to help people look back, look at the present and look forward. The trends are there and we can build on them."

Mike Clark has never lived in this region. He is a native of North Carolina and grew up in the Smoky Mountains, the son of farmers and millworkers. In college, he studied journalism and photography but turned to education through his work at the Highlander Center in New Market, Tennessee. There he worked with local farmers, union people and civil rights workers, and eventually became the school's director.

His work centered on the problems and issues of Appalachia, a region rich with traditions and culture, as well as hardship and changes. The Highlander Center trained people to be better leaders in their communities by giving them information and the tools to become more self-sufficient.

"In teaching people to become more self-sufficient," said Clark, "the school developed methods of teaching based on social and cultural ways of doing things. For instance, many people didn't read or write so workshops were taught by talking — getting people to tell stories, explain their own lives. Giving a leader-storyteller-teacher the oppor-

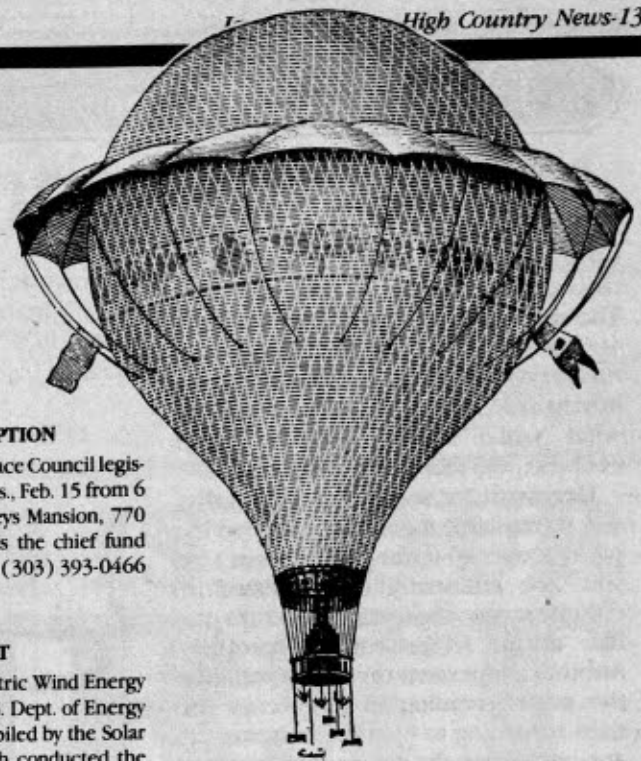
tunity to talk was one of the school's main functions."

After 10 years at the Tennessee school, Clark decided it was time for a change and moved to Montana to take the job as director of the Northern Lights Institute.

The Nature Conservancy's Bob Kiesel believes Clark's work in Appalachia is an asset in terms of both professionalism and perspective. "The cross-pollination of regions is healthy," he said. "Mike already sees the richness of the Northern Rockies region and the institute is not in an adversarial posture. It will be able to see the loose possibilities of the region and bring them together."

Clark has already gathered a few of those "loose possibilities" in the form of personal impressions of the region — its openness of space, people and access to government; the strong involvement of women in public issues; and the fact that here, changes are more evident, partly because of landscape — "You can't exactly hide an open-pit coal mine in eastern Montana" — and partly because of a progressive tradition.

The attribute with the most significance for the Northern Lights Institute is perhaps the region's increasing responsibilities as an enormous repository of natural resources. "Many decisions made here will have a major impact on the destiny of the entire country," said Clark. "In part because of that, people here have a different kind of responsibility. People in other parts of the country need our resources and at



LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

The annual Colorado Open Space Council legislative reception will be held Tues., Feb. 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Grant Humphreys Mansion, 770 Pennsylvania St., Denver. This is the chief fund raiser for the COSC Lobby. Call (303) 393-0466 for reservations.

WINDY REPORT

Proceedings of the Rural Electric Wind Energy Workshop sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Energy earlier this year have been compiled by the Solar Energy Research Institute which conducted the workshop held last June in Boulder, Colo. The conference focused on the potential and shortcomings of energy use in rural America and sought to foster a strong working relationship between the wind industry and the rural electric cooperatives. Copies of the 354-page proceedings are available from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Springfield, Va. 22161 for \$27. Use reference number SERI/CP 254-1689 when ordering.

WILDLIFE AND RESOURCES CONFERENCE

The 48th annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held March 18-23 in Kansas City, Mo. Billed as the oldest and largest annual conservation meeting, the conference is sponsored by the Wildlife Management Institute, and brings together leading ecologists, scientists, biologists, resource managers, and natural resource administrators to discuss the issues, problems, and progress of the North American Conservation movement. For more information write the Wildlife Management Institute, P.O. Box 28354, Central Station, Washington, D.C. 20005.

YELLOWSTONE WINTER SAFARI

Free guided winter camera safaris through the northern section of Yellowstone National Park will be offered each Sunday from mid-January through March 20. Beginning at 9 a.m. near the Centennial Railroad car in Gardiner, Montana the safari covers 50 scenic miles of road in the park ending at Cooke City, Montana near the northeast entrance. A park naturalist leads each caravan of cars and conducts the three to four hour tour using a CB Radio. Photography stops are made as opportunities arise. A CB radio is needed to hear the trip leader. Visitors are asked to bring their own radios although a few receivers are available. The tours are sponsored by the National Park Service and the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce. Reservations are required for this free program; call (307) 344-7381, ext. 2357.

MORE COMMENTS FOR SAN JUAN

In response to input from public officials, citizens and interest groups, the Bureau of Land Management has extended the public review period for the draft environment impact statements for proposals in the San Juan River Coal Region to April 8, 1983. The draft EISs released November 30 discussed competitive federal coal leasing, construction of a 2,000 megawatt coal-fired power plant, and designation of federal wilderness areas in the Bisti region. Send comments to BLM, Albuquerque Office, 3550 Pan American Freeway, N.E., P.O. Box 6770, Albuquerque, N.M. 87107; or telephone (505) 766-2455.

HUMANITIES/ENVIRONMENT

"Humanities and the Environment," one of the Wyoming Council for the Humanities "Reverence for Life" programs, will be presented Feb. 11-12 in the Little Theatre, Jackson Hole High School, Jackson. George Schaller, a zoologist who has spent much of his time in the field, will speak on reverence for the lives of others. Contact Colleen Cabot, project director, at (307) 733-4765.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The annual American Law Institute-American Bar Association course in environmental law will be offered Feb. 17-19 in San Francisco. Co-sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute and the Smithsonian Institution, this year's course gives basic instruction in toxic waste and toxics regulation, clean air and water act developments, environmental litigation, the National Environmental Policy Act and its state and local implications, public lands and energy resource development, and wilderness law. Registration is \$325. For more information write Donald M. Maclay, Director, Courses of Study, ALI-ABA, 4025 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19104; or telephone (215) 243-1630.

The Northern Lights Institute can be reached at Box 904, Helena, Montana 59624.

the same time we must tell them that we, too, have a say in how they are used or taken. To do that, we must develop arguments that place the needs of this region on the national agenda."

Placing on a national forum the very diverse needs of the people of three states won't, of course, be easy. It has been said that in order for a group of people to get attention paid to their specific needs, they must build a solid sense of their own identity.

The same may be true for a region with shared traditions, a diversity that is, in itself, a commonality, and a vision that needs to be strengthened. The Northern Lights Institute will play a role in regional identity, with a style that is simple and straightforward.

"The institute's main goal," said Clark, "is to get ideas and choices to people in a way that respects the unique history of people, and the dynamics of the people who have spent their whole lives in this region. You don't impose ideas on people in an arbitrary way. In the sense of a democracy, you give them options. The Northern Lights Institute will be a place where people will feel free to come and talk about their ideas."

†††

Ellen Ditzler is a freelance writer in Helena, Montana. This article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

Dear friends,

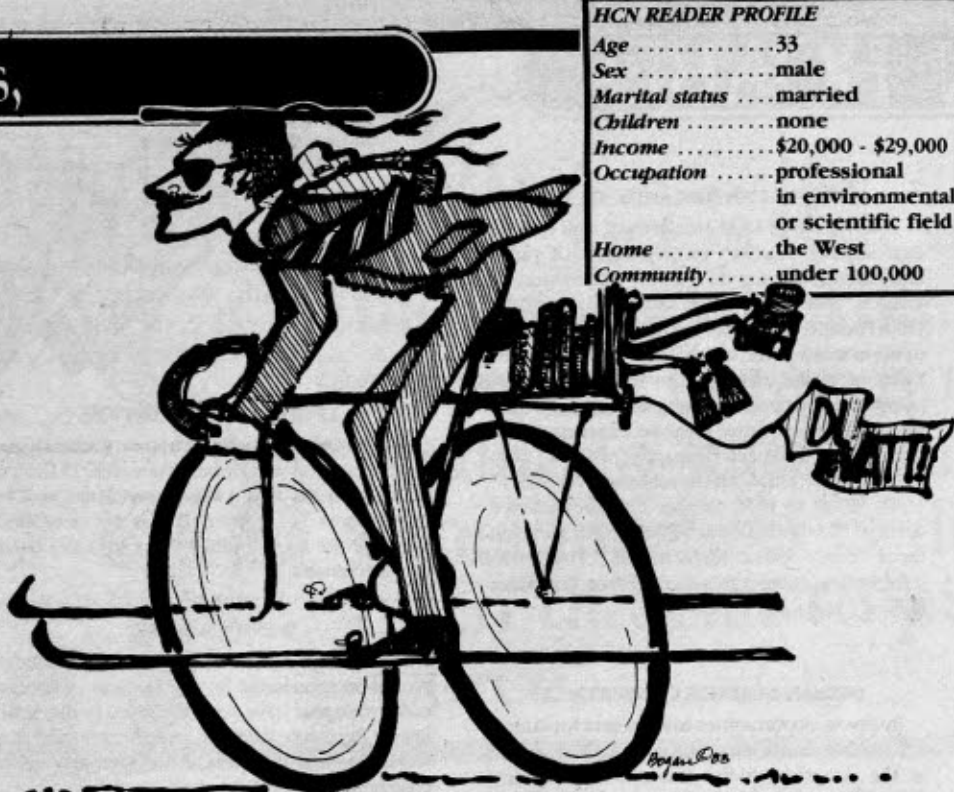
To those of you who took the trouble to complete the reader survey we ran in the paper last fall, it will come as no surprise that it has taken us this long to tabulate the results of that leviathan. The response to the poll was excellent: 466 of you, or a little over 10 percent, told us who you are, what you like to do, how you feel about *High Country News*, what you'd like to see the paper become. We feel we learned a lot.

Herewith are some of the highlights. A remarkable number of you read the paper cover-to-cover (26 percent), so you are eminently well-qualified to comment on what you do and do not like about *HCN's* editorial product. Another 39 percent of you said you skim the paper, reading shorter items and then returning to read longer items. No one answering the survey only skimmed the paper.

In fact, most of you spend quite a bit of time with the paper and keep it around as a reference for even longer. Eighty-five percent of you spend an hour or more reading *HCN* and an amazing 42 percent spend two hours or more. Fifteen percent of you keep your copies for three to six months and a whopping 44 percent keep your copies for a year or longer. Eight percent of you pass your copies along and most of you at least share your copies with other readers. The average copy of *High Country News* is read by 3.5 people.

The most popular single feature in *HCN* is *Barbed Wire*, our brief humor collection on the Roundup pages, which is "always" or "usually" read by just over 89 percent of the readers. Five dour souls said they never read it. Second most popular is the front page feature (88 percent), *Hotlines* (88 percent), *Roundups* (88 percent) and *Dear Friends* (81 percent). Least popular items were *Books* (65 percent), *Letters* (67 percent) and *Bulletin Board* (70 percent).

Reader interest in the subjects we cover seem to correspond pretty well to the quality of coverage they receive, at least according to the survey responses. *HCN* readers are far and away more interested in wilderness than anything else (196 respondents listed it either 1, 2 or 3 in interest) and they considered it the second best of the issues we cover. The next issue area generating the most interest was energy development,



Age33
Sexmale
Marital statusmarried
Childrennone
Income\$20,000 - \$29,000
Occupationprofessional in environmental or scientific field
Homethe West
Communityunder 100,000

which ranked first in our "best coverage" category. Readers also expressed high interest in public lands issues, wildlife, ecology and biology, nuclear issues, water and politics. Inadvertently, we didn't include a category for air quality on the survey. Judging by the number of write-in votes this issue got, it probably would have ranked up there very high had it been on the survey sheet.

In addition to energy and wilderness, readers apparently think we do a good job covering public land politics and ecology and biology, along with a relatively large number who said we did everything best. (It's great to have loyal fans.)

On issue coverage that could stand improvement, readers mentioned agriculture, ecology and biology, appropriate technology and urban issues. Also making an appearance on this list was politics, an issue that also ranked high on the best coverage list. Sixty-nine people — more than any other single category — said we don't need any improvement. We appreciate their enthusiasm, but we'll always be trying to improve.

Readers seem to be generally satisfied with the writing in the paper as well. Ninety-one percent said we were "always" or "usually" fair and balanced, 78 percent "lively/interesting" and 89 percent "thoughtful/perceptive."

Only one percent said we were usually "boring/dry." In fact, one reader

apparently thinks we are not boring and dry enough. He's cancelling his subscription because *HCN* has become too "literary." Sixty-five percent did think we were "sometimes" boring or dry, though, so we'll try to liven things up a little more in the coming year. Our intelligent readership thinks we are hardly ever too technical — 66 percent "never" and 33 percent "sometimes." Thirty-five percent of the respondents said we were never too short with our articles and 63 percent said we sometimes were. Thirty percent said we were "never" too long and 64 percent said "sometimes."

HCN's layout received consistently high rankings. Ninety-six percent of our readers rated attractiveness "excellent" (50 percent) or "good" (46 percent). Readability was 51 percent "excellent" and 44 percent "good"; quantity of illustrations, 40 percent and 48 percent; quality of illustrations, 47 percent and 46 percent; quantity of photographs 47 percent and 49 percent; and quality of photographs 49 percent and 39 percent.

And, of course, you read *HCN* for all the right reasons (we couldn't think of any wrong reasons). The responses to these questions don't fit neatly into percentages, but most people read *HCN* to get environmental news from elsewhere in the Rockies, for investigative reporting and for environmental news in their home state and community. The

least mentioned reasons were to find out what environmentalists are up to and for environmental news from Washington.

Which brings us to the new features readers would like to see. The highest ratings went to regular listings of environmental impact statements in the region and to a regional political column, favored by 51 and 47 percent of our readers, respectively. A calendar of environmental outings and events and regular news of environmental groups also earned high marks, as did regular news from Washington, D.C. A natural history column was another popular item, due no doubt to fond remembrance of Hannah Hinchman's old "Afield" column. Watch *HCN* for changes in all those areas in the course of the next year.

Most readers also favored more advertising for the paper. The top choices for ads were appropriate technology (71 percent), books (70), conservation groups (61), outdoor equipment (53) and arts/crafts (46). A good many readers favored "anything that will pay the bills," a position that we share.

And speaking of the bills, we asked readers what they would like us to do in the event of a financial crisis: reduce our number of pages, reduce our frequency or raise our price. The latter suggestion was the clear winner. It was acceptable to 80 percent of our respondents and preferred by 69 percent. Reducing the frequency was next with 48 percent finding it acceptable and 22 percent preferring it. Last was a reduction in the number of pages, an alternative acceptable to 36 percent and favored by only nine percent.

(In anticipation of a financial crisis, which has tended to be an annual event around here, we've felt compelled to raise our subscription price immediately as per the ad on page 15, which gives you a one-time-only chance to renew at last year's rates. Who says we aren't responsive to reader suggestions?)

We're now in the process of compiling the demographic and consumer information from the reader survey into a brochure we can mail to prospective advertisers. If you're interested in obtaining a copy, send us a self-stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll see that you get one as soon as it comes off the press.

— the staff

CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED ADS cost 20¢ per word, prepaid, \$5 minimum. Rates vary for display advertising; write *HCN*, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520 or call (307) 332-6970 for further information.

HIKE ACROSS UTAH June-July 1983. Experienced backpackers invited — not an outfitted trip! Hika/Nation-Utah, P.O. Box 374, Monticello, UT 84535.

YELLOWSTONE IN WINTER. February and March courses in winter ecology, winter photography and history. Write for more information to: The Yellowstone Institute, P.O. Box 515, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

COLORADO OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL offers college credit 9 week course on land use issues. Send for free catalog: 945 Pennsylvania, Dept. WWP-3, Denver, CO 80203.

ALTERNATIVE JOB/INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES! The environment, women's rights, disarmament, media, education, community organizing, and more. Latest nationwide listing — \$2.00. COMMUNITY JOBS, Box 330, 1520 16th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR needed for Northern Alaska Environmental Center. \$1500/mo.; health insurance. Call immediately if interested: (907) 452-5021. Northern Alaska Environmental Center, 2118 Driveway, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

APPLICATIONS FOR the spring *High Country News* internship will be accepted through February 28. This non-paid position will begin April 1 and last at least three months. Interns have both editorial and production responsibilities. Interest in natural resources is a plus (so is a sense of humor). Send expressions of interest, resume and clips to *HCN*, Internship, Box K, Lander, WY 82520.

Environmentally sensitive Wyoming real estate broker will help you find Wyoming property suitable to your needs. Also available for ski-tours, backpacking, etc.

Contact: Vernon J. Scharp, Century 21 Roundup Realty, P.O. Box 2161, Jackson Hole, Wyoming 83001; 307/733-2900 (Office); 307/733-5008.

ENVIRONMENTAL T-SHIRTS

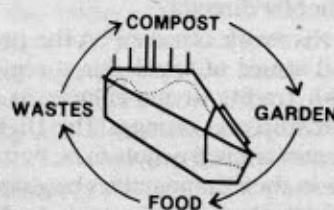


NEW DESIGNS! SEND \$4 FOR NEW 1983 CATALOGUE! 17 great designs, many printed front and back: wolf/eagle, dolphin/whale, DUMP WATT, nuclear freeze, fringed gentian (a new multi-colored rare plant design), seal/polar bear and others. *Happening! 1983
Men's 100% cotton, S, M, L, XL; women's french cut and children's S, M, L. \$6.00 each; discounts on orders over 4 (\$7.00 each 4-11 shirts). Colo. residents add 3% tax. 10% of profits go to environmental causes. Satisfaction guaranteed.
AM MORRIS, ENVIRONMENTAL T-SHIRTS, P.O. BOX 3308, Dept. C28, BOULDER, COLO. 80306
SHARE THE EARTH

Larsen's Bicycles
255 E. 2nd St., Powell, WY 82435
(307) 754-5481
Schwinn — Raleigh

Clivus Multrum

An environmentally sound, waterless waste treatment system for homes, cabins and campgrounds. Composts toilet wastes and organic garbage into a rich fertilizer, conserving nutrients, water and energy.



FOR INFORMATION AND NAME OF NEAREST DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT:
Clivus Multrum Northern Rockies
205 Meadows Rd.
Whitfish, MT 59937
(406) 862-3854

Power for those who are remotely civilized. Now, make electricity directly from the sun. Anywhere the sun shines, you can immediately begin producing electricity. The ARCO Solar modules turn sunlight into electricity for battery storage or direct use. Modules are easy to install and once in place, are virtually maintenance free. We can show you an ARCO Solar photovoltaic power system that will meet your energy needs.
TETON TINKERS & TRADERS
BOX 91
VICTOR, IDAHO 83455
208-787-2495

NOTECARDS

Dinwoody Canyon
by Hannah Hinchman
10 card set/\$6.75 ppd.
High Country News NoteCards, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520.

OPINION

How James Watt stole Christmas

by Bruce Hamilton

When Congress finally adjourned a few days before Christmas the country heaved a collective sigh of relief. Despite all the rumors of major congressional mischief most attempts were aborted. However, the adjournment of

GUEST EDITORIAL

Congress did not signal that the Republic was safe. For Interior Secretary James Watt it marked the beginning of a free-for-all with the public's resources and without the watchful eye of Congress to worry about.

Around Washington, the sober and serious Watt is not known as the cheerful partying type. But in late December, Watt demonstrated that despite his teetotaling ways he can still throw a fun-filled elaborate and expensive holiday feast for his select supporters in the public land exploiters sector. Watt's offerings to his guests included irresistible (and irreplaceable) public wilderness and mineral wealth aplenty. You and I were left to pick up the tab.

During the lame duck session, the House Interior Committee had examined Watt's announced intention to remove protection from hundreds of thousands of acres of Western wild lands under consideration by the Bureau of Land Management for wilderness. Watt's chief lawyer and the Interior Board of Land Appeals (a quasi-judicial board) had both held that the Congress did not intend the BLM to give wilderness consideration to three categories of wild lands: any tract, no matter how spectacular, if it is less than 5,000 acres in size; any federal land underlain by non-federal minerals, even if the minerals are undevelopable; and lands contiguous to existing wilderness and proposed wilderness areas that are managed by other federal agencies. Watt's predecessor at interior, Cecil Andrus, had decided these types of

lands deserved study. At a congressional hearing, House leaders had a different view than Watt's of congressional intent and asked the secretary to hold off on the release of these areas and to have a public comment period before areas were stripped of their protective status. However, soon after Congress adjourned, Watt saw an opening and invited the developers in.

During the Andrus years, on-the-spot BLM resource specialists had studied these potential wilderness areas and had gone through an exhaustive public involvement process to make sure that only the most deserving areas were given protected status. But the holiday spirit of giving away the nation's treasures struck Watt. Without ever setting foot in any of the areas he decided that none of them were suitable for wilderness and all were suitable for other uses.

The miners, grazers and drillers who wanted to exploit these lands without any obligation of protecting their wilderness characteristics were handed a giant Christmas present by Watt. The Sierra Club has had to start out the new year by filing yet another lawsuit against the "chief conservationist" of the Reagan administration.

Watt's holiday fest would not have been complete without recognizing a guest of honor. Watt's most honored guest at the post-Christmas public lands feed was Yates Petroleum — the public-spirited oil company that earned notoriety last November by bulldozing a road into the Salt Creek Wilderness in New Mexico and setting up a drill rig without a federal permit. Many of you may have seen Yates in action, for a TV news crew recorded the company's bulldozer as it ran through the middle of a campsite of conservationists who were peacefully protesting the presence of Yates's illegal rig. In late November a U.S. District Court judge ruled that Yates had to cease operations because it lacked the required federal permits. On December 27, Watt rewarded Yates for its wilderness destruction and harass-

ment of meddling citizen conservationists by granting the company all the permits it lacked. Now, Watt says, it's perfectly legal for Yates to desecrate this wild area.

Merry Christmas, Mr. Yates. And

here's a lump of coal for the rest of us.

Bruce Hamilton is the Northern Plains Regional Representative of the Sierra Club based in Lander, Wyoming.

LETTERS

TOO MANY WATTS

Dear HCN,

I enjoyed the special issue on the identity of the Rocky Mountains (HCN, 12/24/82) especially the articles by Joan Nice and C.L. Rawlins.

But:

One photo of Secretary Watt, I can tolerate, but two photos of Watt in the same issue? That's going too far!

Myra Connell
Lander, Wyoming

REASONABLE FORCE

Dear HCN,

A friend gave me a copy of the November 26 issue of HCN quoting me in the article on Colorado rivers by Van Becay about my differences with boaters.

I want to correct what I feel is a misleading statement that I pressed my trespassing case "too hard" and consequently was charged with harassment by the boaters. There was no misjudgment on my part. I knew full well that I was more likely to incur charges than were the boaters.

At that time, the district attorney had made a public statement in the *Durango Herald* defying the Supreme Court's Emmert decision by declaring the Animas River was "navigable" and that the public had a right to float the river. I was determined that he was not going to subvert my property rights which had just been affirmed by the Supreme Court.

After I was charged, the state pres-

ident of the Farm Bureau wrote a letter to the state attorney general in support of my position on the trespass. The AG then prepared and issued a lengthy opinion citing the Emmert decision and affirming the non-navigable status of the Animas. Only after the opinion was prepared was my case dropped.

If it becomes necessary, I will resort to the same tactics again. The law allows a person to use "reasonable force" to defend his property against trespass.

Carl Weston
Durango, Colo.

IOWA?

Dear HCN,

I couldn't help but notice that when *High Country News* discovered the Rockies (HCN, 12/24/82) it lost Idaho. This is sad since the state is already confused with Iowa, wherever that is.

Glenn Oakley
Boise, Idaho

THANKS

Dear HCN,

Thanks for your Rocky Mountains issue (HCN, 12/24/82). I probably enjoyed reading it more than I have any past issue of the paper.

Lynn Dickey
Big Horn, Wyoming

EARTH MAGIC

Dear HCN,

Your special issue on the identity of the Rocky Mountains (HCN, 12/24/82) was the best collection of inspirational earth magic journalism I've seen lately.

Carlos Sauvage
Palisade, Colorado

THIS IS YOUR FIRST LAST AND ONLY CHANCE TO RENEW YOUR HIGH COUNTRY NEWS SUBSCRIPTION AT 1982 PRICES

It had to happen, right? Our last subscription price increase was in 1979 and operating expenses have increased quite a bit since then. In fact, if we're to meet our projected budget for 1983, we need to generate \$70,000 from subscriptions alone. And to do that we need to raise our rates.

Institutional subscriptions already went up to \$25 last fall. Beginning next month, individual subscriptions will cost \$18 per year.

Still, to be fair to all you loyal, long-time subscribers, we're offering you a chance to renew your *individual* subscriptions early at last year's prices: \$15 for one year; \$27 for two.

To take advantage of this offer, simply cut out the address label on the front of your paper, attach it (or a copy of it) to the form below, and send it and your check to *High Country News*, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520.

Thanks for sticking with us. We appreciate your support.

Attach mailing label here:

Or copy it here:

Name

Address

City, State & Zip

Expiration date (as shown on label)

Enclosed is:

- \$15 for one year
- \$27 for two years

Return with your check to *High Country News*, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Offer good through February 28, 1983.

TURNING ON THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

by Ellen Ditzler

In these days of ponderous economic and social complexities, it is comforting to know that among us there is an organization whose primary purpose is to "effectively support the flow of ideas in the Northern Rockies region."

A formidable — and intriguing — ambition.

The Northern Lights Institute, a private, nonprofit research and education center based in Helena, Montana, is a new regional "think tank" devoted to helping people develop and discuss their ideas, become informed, and actively influence the public policies that affect their lives. "How do you build and maintain viable communities, particularly in the face of massive changes?" asks Mike Clark, the institute's director. "That question, more than anything, is the root of what the Northern Lights Institute is doing."

Clark is a tall, quiet man with a voice warmed by the accents of the rural southeast. There is nothing about him that lets you believe the mission of the institute will be anything but successful.

Although it has been in the making for several years, the Northern Lights Institute officially opened its office in January of 1982 and began its mission as a citizens' public policy center for Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

While its goals seem refreshingly optimistic, the institute was created by a group of very frustrated people — frustrated because for the past decade, they had seen citizen activism become incessantly adversarial and increasingly labeled as negative. All energy seemed to focus on short-term battles over specific issues. The battles were fought with the immediate goal of having a particular impact, such as stopping or protecting something, changing or defending a law, or in some way influencing the outcome of an accelerating onslaught of complex public issues.

The group that started Northern Lights included Bill Bryan of Helena, Montana, then director of the Northern Rockies Action Group, Med Bennett of Jackson, Wyoming, Mary Lou Reed of Couer d'Alene, Idaho, Arnold Silverman of the University of Montana at Missoula and Jon Roush of Florence, Montana, among others. Roush and Silverman are still on the Northern Lights board of directors.

"Fighting brushfires" characterized the maturing public interest movement's chronic tendency to be on the defensive and often unable to initiate positive issues. These people felt that something visionary rather than reactionary was needed — some sort of entity that would focus attention, analysis and research on an issue and help people build a long-term vision for their region that would reflect its unique character and concerns.

The group became a formal committee and obtained a National Science Foundation grant for a two-year planning study. Committee members gathered ideas from all over the region, met with leaders of diverse citizen's groups, and investigated potential funding sources.

In January, 1982, the Northern Lights Institute opened its doors. It has a 12-member board of directors, a staff of two (executive director Clark and office manager Carol Abrams), and plans for more staff as projects evolve.

When the institute was still more or less an abstract idea, some looked at it with skepticism, partly because its function was not yet clearly defined, and because it was perceived as another bloom in the bumper crop of public interest groups produced in the 1970s. Several veteran advocacy groups agreed with the need for a policy center, but were not yet convinced of its style.

"At first we envisioned the 'institute' with a bit of cynicism," recalls a former staff member of a Montana conservation group. "We saw it as a place that gathered forth the illuminati and gave them hot tubs and the time and money to argue about the state of the cosmos and obscure political theories. In the meantime, we would be in the trenches — underfunded, underpaid, overworked, burned out and fighting for ideals whose greater meaning we had no time to contemplate."

Both the image and the skepticism have vanished, largely due to the arrival of Mike Clark and the manner in which he works. "It didn't take Mike long to dispel any doubts about the value of the institute to the region," said Tony Jewett, director of MontCEL, a Montana political action group. "He brought an impressive people-based background and a sincerity that let the public interest community recognize the value of his work immediately."

Bob Kiesling of the Nature Conservancy's regional field office agreed. "The institute is new, refreshing and necessary," he said. "It is neither elitist nor ephemeral. It is totally humanistic."

Although Clark insisted the institute's role and structure are still "in the hopes stage," the task of translating "the support of ideas" into specific projects is underway. Clark, whose travel of late would make Jack Kerouac look like a homebody, is spending a great deal of time becoming familiar with his territory, meeting people, and talking to members of citizen networks in the region. At the same time, he has launched the institute's three-year operating plan for a research center with education and leadership development programs.

The leadership program is aimed at identifying "emerging leaders" in the region and providing them with tools and opportunities to more effectively deal with regional issues. Those leaders, Clark said, range from public officials, business and labor leaders, to ordinary people who are in some way natural community leaders. In fact, the people the Northern Lights Institute will help may show qualities of leadership in ways one might not expect.

"At a meeting I attended last month," Clark said, "a young woman explained that her community's water supply was contaminated with arsenic. She asked the others how she could help strengthen the ability of local residents to get their officials to respond to the problem and asked where she could get information on chemicals in drinking water. She was highly motivated and ready to learn. If you could lead her to someone who could teach her or help her find answers, the potential for exchange is tremendous and could have an impact on her community."

"You can do that with very little money. Get people to information and assistance they need. Although the connections between people already exist to some degree, we hope to build a stronger regional network of people with certain skills in particular issues, and help the natural channels of exchange run more effectively."

The institute's education and research functions are closely tied. It will sponsor research projects on certain issues and will share that information in workshops, seminars, publications and less formal means. Clark has asked people from all over Montana, Wyoming and Idaho to tell him the issues they think should be part of the institute's research and education program. From those ideas, several specific projects have emerged.

Northern Lights will look at the changing role of the federal government in the region and the impacts of the "new federalism" on the programs and policies that have been an integral part of the region for the past several decades. The project will cover broad issues, such as identifying the region's responsibilities for public resources, as well as the nuts-and-bolts of community programs affected by changing federal

policies. In the near future, the institute plans to publish a citizen's guide to block grants, a guide that will help people make sense out of the often baffling system of federal funding and its effects at the regional, state, county and community levels.

Another Northern Lights project involves economic development and ongoing efforts to find ways to build more diversified, balanced and stable economies in communities that are predominantly rural. "Too frequently people look at this issue in terms of jobs," said Clark. "We hope to take a less superficial look at economic development and draw some attention to the full complexity of the region's economy — not only energy and mining, but agriculture and recreation as well. For one, the economy of leisure-time activities can have a tremendous impact in this region, but it is often given little recognition."

The institute will also tackle regional water issues in a three-year project that examines the development of the water resources of an area that encompasses the headwaters of the Northwest's three major rivers, the Columbia, Colorado and Missouri.

These initial projects were selected not only because they are important to people in the region, but also because, as a collection of ideas, they have applications in each state in the region. Work on them will involve diverse groups of people, Clark said, including conservationists, social workers, labor, church groups, business people, and more.

"I don't see us as an arm of just one of the many groups we plan to work with," Clark emphasized. "We won't, for example, become an arm of the environmental movement. That is one circle of people we want to involve. But if you look at an issue like natural resources and the policies being made about them, you have to reach far beyond the conservation community."

"One of the exciting things about this region is the number and variety of natural resource-oriented groups working here — not only environmental groups, but also cattlemen, stockgrowers associations and others. When public policy is made in this region, it is made through a mix. I want to cast as broad a net as possible, dealing with issues that people

(continued on page 13)



Northern Lights Director Mike Clark

At the heart of the Northern Lights Institute's immediate future is work on "regional need."