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The Paper for People who Care about the West

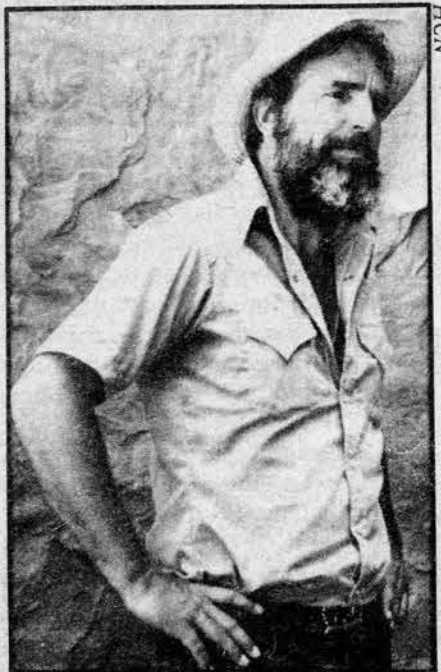
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Can Edward Abbey learn to love Glen Canyon Dam?

by Ed Marston

Tom Gamble wants to show writer Edward Abbey through Glen Canyon Dam. If Abbey has the time, if he's not racing a deadline to finish his next book on ecotage or the horrors of modern America, he might want to accept the invitation.

Gamble, 47, gives a good tour; he has run the dam for a decade and knows all 710 vertical feet of it. Moreover, he's a spirited tour guide. He's a career Reclamation man. But rather than a faceless, opinionless bureaucrat, he's an outspoken defender of the eggshell-shaped Glen Canyon Dam and of the 30 million



Edward Abbey

acre-feet of water it backs up to form Lake Powell.

"People say the lake is boring. Boring hell. I go to Arches (National Park in Utah) and I say: What this place needs is water. I don't buy the argument that we've ruined a unique place. There's a hundred canyons just as beautiful."

His admiration for the dam goes past megawattage and water stored into the intangible. He sees himself as caretaker of a symbol as much as of a structure. "Lake Powell represents the United States all over the world. Wherever I travelled in Europe, I saw it on posters."

Gamble says European and American tourists who visit his facility at Page, Arizona find more than just "a lake that rivals any other in the world for stark, exotic beauty." They also find proof of America's ability to build big and be efficient. "I like big structures. I like machines. I like to see things run well."

He satisfies these multiple likes at Glen Canyon. He runs the 1200-megawatt powerplant and hosted 380,000 visitors last year with only 55 employees. And there is no sign of decay at the dam and powerplant -- it is all clean and painted and in order. For invidious comparison, the nearby coal-fired Navajo power plant needs 750 employees to produce only two to three times Glen Canyon's power.

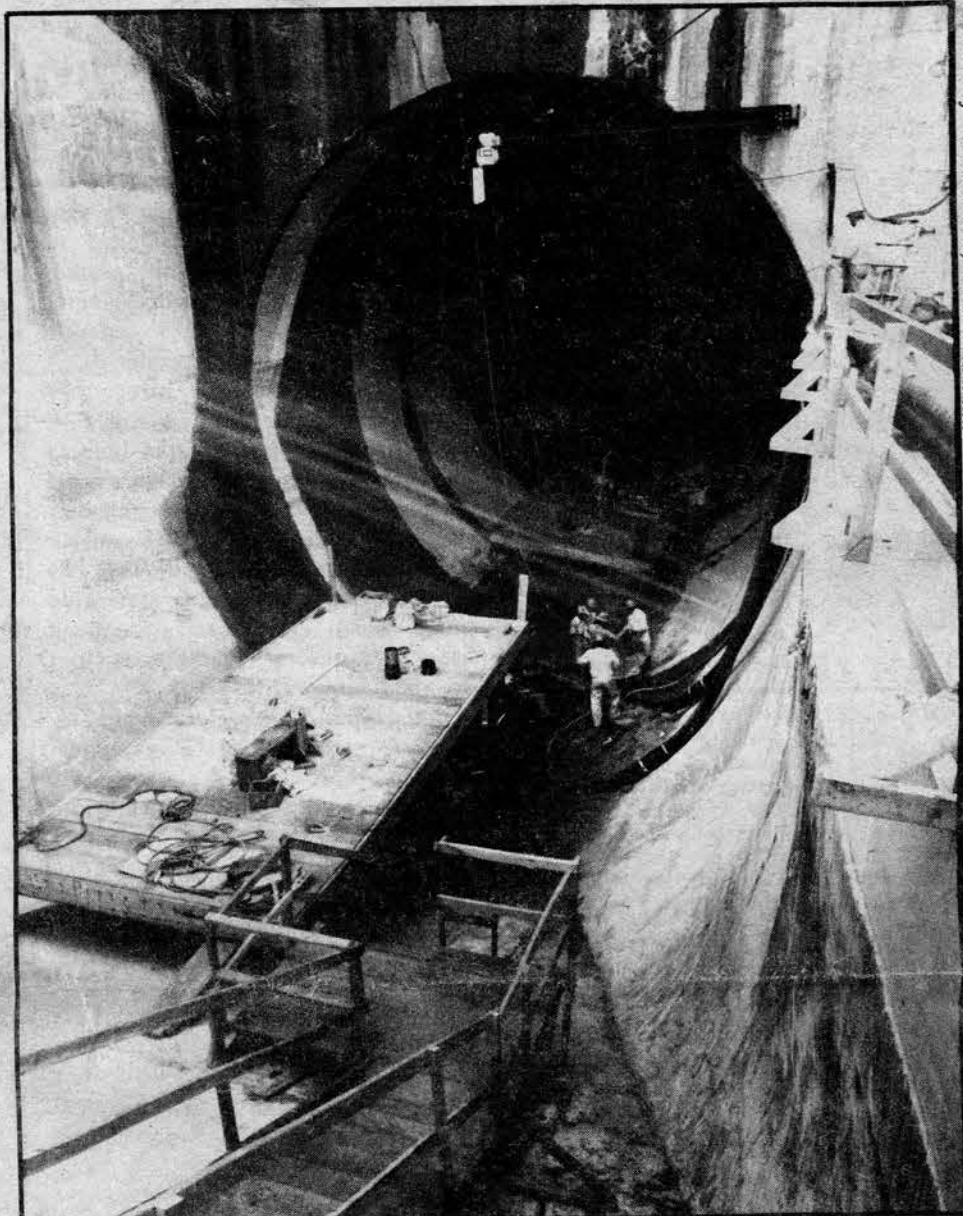
Despite its productivity and efficiency, the dam is casual -- no buttoned up technologists guarding the portals. "We've bent over backward to make it accessible.

Europeans especially can't believe it. They ask: 'You mean you'll let us go into the dam?'"

More than that. The Bureau doesn't even subject them to a group tour. Instead, they wander unescorted into the dam at the top past the large digital cash register whose dollar totals change with each revolution of the spinning electric generators, read the story boards explaining the dam's operation, and then take an elevator 528 feet down, past galleries that allow access to the interior of the dam, to the power plant to watch the generators and turbines do their work and to look at the grassy lawn at the bottom of the dam (HCN, 12/12/83).

Why does the Bureau let several hundred thousand visitors wander through the dam? And why does Gamble want to show Abbey the dam and lake? First, to share: "I'd like Edward Abbey to experience it." And second, "Because I believe in getting as close to your adversaries as possible." Gamble also has a suspicion about Abbey. "In Abbey's calendar a couple of years ago, he had a picture of Lake Powell. But he labelled it the Escalante River." Gamble believes Abbey knew the picture was Lake Powell. "He's probably a closet Lake Powell lover."

To Gamble, Abbey is a potential convert -- a man who can be brought to see the benefits of the dam and the beauty of the 2,500-square-mile lake it creates -- a lake used by 83,000 people Memorial Day alone, more than rafted it the entire time it was a canyon.



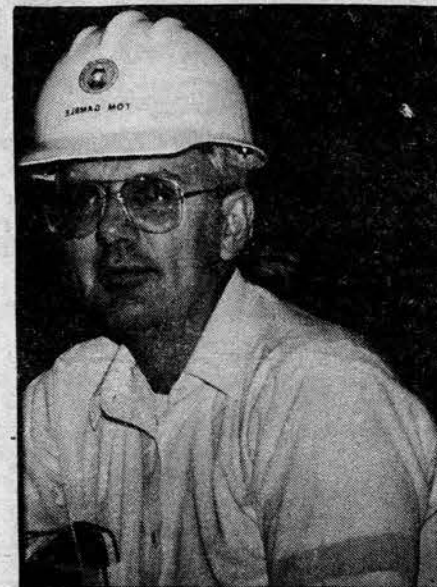
Glen Canyon Dam's right spillway outlet, 9/14/83

Bureau of Reclamation, Tom Fridmann

Anything is possible. Abbey may be living for the day his works go Book-of-the-Month-Club so he can buy a home on a Phoenix golf course and another on the ski slopes at Vail.

But it is more likely that Gamble, an easy-going and friendly man who epitomizes open, can-do America, doesn't understand the depths of Abbey's rage. The gap between the two men is as big as the dam. Gamble, for example, views the roughly 400,000 tourists who yearly seek out the dam as putting their seal of approval on dam and lake -- as voting with their tires and gasoline for a large-scale, well-managed and productive world.

[Continued on page 14]



Tom Gamble

WESTERN ROUNDUP

WOC heads into its 19th year



High Country News

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When Wyoming Governor Ed Herschler received truckloads of mail from people all over the country concerned about starving antelope fenced off from their Red Rim winter range last winter (HCN, 2/20/84, 4/16/84) it demonstrated that people who would never hunt or even see wildlife valued them, according to Paul Cleary of Herschler's staff.

Cleary said the outpouring showed the value even non-users put on environmental qualities. But he said non-users are not considered in government decision making. Instead, government agencies add up hunters' expenditures in an attempt to compute the financial value of wildlife. "If that's their only measure, they underallocate resources for wildlife."

Cleary made his remarks June 23 in Lander, Wyoming as part of a panel on economics and the environment at the annual meeting of the 18-year-old Wyoming Outdoor Council. WOC, as it is acronymed, is an active state-wide group which concentrates on such areas as air quality, wildlife, and other environmental values.

On the panel with Cleary was Larry Sanders, a natural resources economist from Fort Collins, Colorado. He suggested several ways to include the economic, as well as the financial, value of wildlife or wilderness. He and two colleagues at Colorado State University, Richard Walsh and John Loomis, are developing scientific methods to measure non-user values. He said some federal agencies are beginning to accept their methods.

Asked how he would use economics to protect the Jim Bridger Wilderness from acid rain, Sanders said he would compute what the public would be willing to pay, in addition to

what it already pays, to experience wilderness. He said a comparable study of "net willingness to pay" had been done of the economic benefits of 11 proposed wild and scenic rivers in Colorado. It found households were each willing to pay \$95 a year to protect the rivers.

Sanders said his approach was an attempt to go beyond market economics. "Pollution and the general state of the environment are examples of market failure."

Some on the panel questioned the desirability of using economics to make environmental decisions. Richard High, editor of the *Casper Star-Tribune*, said he fears the market accurately reflects the values of the majority.

Dick Loper, a Lander grazing consultant, said the Wyoming Outdoor Council should rely less on government to influence environmental decisions. "Bureaucracy has become one of the multiple uses of federal land," and government in general is part of the problem. To change that, he suggested that whenever the government is heavily subsidizing development, such as the Exxon USA sour gas processing project at Riley Ridge, it should evaluate the impacts. If there are significant impacts, then it should stop the subsidies. "If the project is still terribly important, the companies will proceed without the subsidies," he said.

John Barlow, a Cora, Wyoming rancher and the new president of the outdoor council, suggested that numbers were not as important in influencing government decision-makers as values. "If you can convince people in government that these values are important, then

you're doing the Lord's work," he said.

The panel highlighted the annual meeting of the statewide environmental group, which was founded in 1966 by Tom Bell, who founded the *High Country News* in 1969.

At a board meeting the following day, the board voted to protest the air quality permit for the Chevron fertilizer plant in southwest Wyoming because of concerns about acid rain in the Wind River Mountains. Debra Beck, WOC executive director, said the council wanted the state to require Chevron to reduce its emissions if impacts were discovered. For the same reason, WOC will challenge the air quality permit granted to Exxon USA in April by the state. Protection of air quality in the Wind Rivers has been the organization's top priority for the past year, according to outgoing president Jo Porter.

The board also voted to call for a full Environmental Impact Statement on a proposed road improvement over Union Pass between Dubois and Pinedale. The Forest Service released the Environmental Assessment last month. WOC fears the road will make it possible for the Louisiana Pacific mill in Dubois to get large logging contracts on the west side of the mountains. WOC says that would hurt the small contractors near Pinedale and change the environment of the Upper Green River Valley by making it a thoroughfare instead of a destination.

New board members are Larry Means of Lander, Muffy Moore of Cheyenne, Sandy Horner of Laramie, Stuart Thompson of Cora, and Jack Puugh of Green River.

--Marjane Ambler

Dear friends,

In December 1983, *High Country News* ran a front page story predicting that 1984 would be a Wilderness Year. Stories in this issue bear out that prediction. Utah, the state most hostile to wilderness, will almost certainly get 750,000 acres of new wilderness. The Arizona bill will create over one million acres. Collectively, 25 state bills could create six million acres of wilderness.

The big question marks remain the Idaho and Wyoming bills. Both state delegations want smaller acreages than aimed at by conservationists and Congressman John Seiberling. The outcome of those struggles are in doubt.

It is not too early to think about the meaning of these bills to the West. Flushed with our success in predicting a big wilderness year, we make another guess: that the wilderness issue is a dynamic one that will go on and on.

The best hint to the future is contained in a brief hotline also in this issue. It describes the goals of the Yellowstone Coalition: to combine management of public lands in that region so as to preserve the area's ecosystem. That approach heralds what we think will happen elsewhere as we attempt to look at very large chunks of land in a unified way.

With the National Forest bills out of the way, attention will turn to the millions of acres the Bureau of Land Management has charge of. An example of that attention is also in this issue, thanks to James Baker, an HCN

freelance writer who attended the BLM wilderness hearings conducted last month in Washington, D.C. by the ubiquitous Mr. Seiberling. The High Country News Research Fund paid for Mr. Baker's reporting, which we bet will prove to be the most thorough account any newspaper will run.

Wilderness is portrayed by critics as a lockup on behalf of an elitist minority, as if the rearrangement of vast western acreages is being done on whim. In reality, the West is in the midst of a thorough-going economic change, and one sign of that change is the creation of wilderness.

The fun of journalism is in the research. That was especially true in the story on Glen Canyon Dam. The Bureau of Reclamation was gracious enough to let us hitch a ride on a plane carrying some of their officials from Colorado to Page, Arizona, and to then let us run around the place. Most exciting was the descent into a 41-foot-diameter spillway tunnel on a cable-suspended mancar. A recreation of Glen Canyon Dam would be the hit of any theme park in America.

Pictures from Washington, D.C. and Glen Canyon play an important role in this issue, which brings us to the picture above of smiling Laura Christopher Yarrington, 24, our tireless darkroom person and centerspread consultant. Laura came to Paonia two years ago to help found a restaurant and enjoy small town life. She had lived with her parents in Brazil, Costa Rica and Santa Barbara, where she took an Associate Science



Laura Christopher Yarrington

degree at Santa Barbara City College.

Luckily, she also did freelance work in graphic arts and her own photography. She continues to use that background for HCN on alternate weekends. But she is out of the restaurant business and is now a full-time travel agent at HCN's neighbor, Mountain View Travel.

What does she look for when working on a centerspread? "I like to try new things, break the rules, and keep it clean." Those are also good rules to follow as she and husband Gordon Yarrington plan their own solar energy-efficient home.

--the staff

The Great Salt Lake buries a bird refuge

A sign on the road out of Brigham City, Utah, reads "Bird Refuge 15 miles-Closed." The reason is obvious: the Bear River has flooded the road to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. Inching slowly through the swirling water a month ago, it took almost an hour to arrive; once there the scene is desolate.

The visitor's center is the only dry spot as far as the eye can see, and the once teeming refuge seems devoid of life.

This Refuge in northern Utah is one of the largest resting and nesting areas for migratory birds in the country. Each year hundreds of thousands of ducks, geese, swans, and shorebirds stop at the 65,000 acre refuge on their spring and fall migrations. Thousands of Canada geese, gadwall, mallard, teal, pintail, and shorebirds nest here each spring.

This year the refuge will produce few broods. Heavy spring runoff from mountains which received record snowfall has destroyed feeding and nesting areas, and as assistant manager Peter Smith puts it: "The only place where there's any land surface left is around the visitor's center."

The long-term outlook for the refuge is bleak. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will decide in the next several months whether to abandon the refuge completely. They expect it may be ten years or more before water levels return to a manageable level, and nesting and feeding vegetation grows enough to attract waterfowl. The refuge will be kept open for the next year, though, and managers are trying to decide how a hunting season should be conducted.

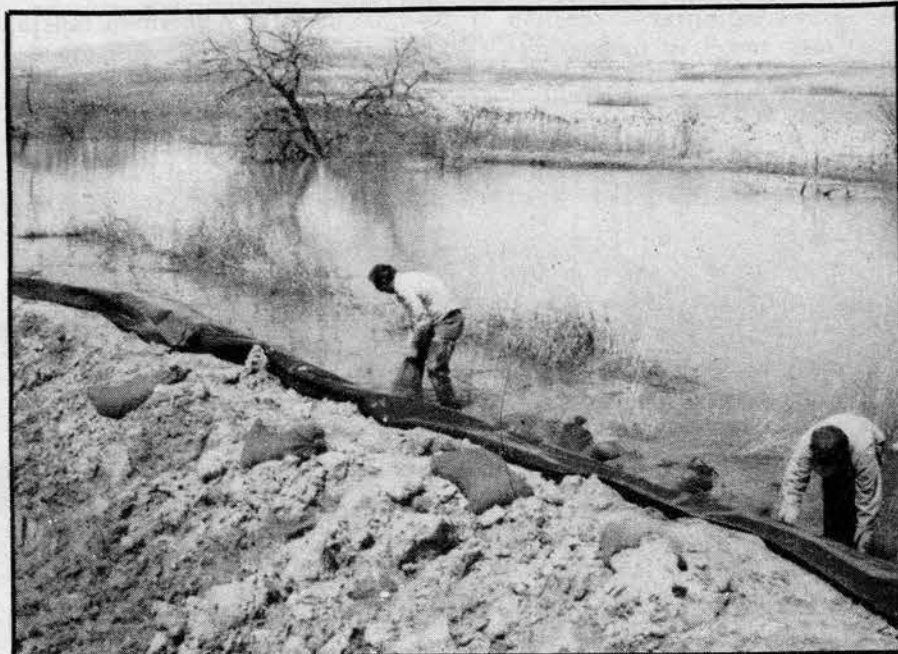
"There will be no place to hunt anyway because it's all open water," says Smith. "There's no cover for ducks or hunters. Neither will be attracted to the refuge."

Not only hunters will be discouraged from coming to the refuge, but birdwatchers, students, and tourists as well. Bear River receives thousands of visitors annually, and letters and phone calls have poured in from the public, universities, and school children concerned about the refuge and its wildlife. "There's disappointment for a lot of folks," says Smith.

Headquarters have already been moved to Brigham City, 15 miles away, and the road to the refuge has now been barricaded to prevent the public from visiting. Out of eight permanent employees, four are left and only two of these are biologists. Smith is now in charge of the refuge, while Linda Waters, also an assistant manager, handles biological activities. Two maintenance workers are kept busy building and repairing dikes against the constantly rising water.

"We're going to have a lot of water," says Smith, "and there's nothing we can do about it." As of June 7, the water levels were six feet above normal for this time of year: 4208.8 feet in the refuge, and 4209.2 feet in the Bear River which empties into the refuge.

The refuge is made up of five 5000 acre units bounded by roadway dikes and water-control structures, and five open water units which include the remaining acreage of the refuge. The refuge's southern boundary is in this open water and connects to Willard Bay and the Great Salt Lake. In past years, there were mud flats out to the boundary, but this year the water is almost seven feet deep and the Great



Building up dikes at the bird refuge

Salt Lake is slowly moving into the refuge.

Utah State University engineering experts say the lake may rise to 4209.4 feet before the flooding has peaked. "The diked units on the refuge are already six and a half feet deep and we lost our ability to control water levels at about 4.8 feet," says Smith. "We have 40 to 48 inches of water on what normally is marsh."

A view from the refuge's 200 foot observation tower confirms this. All the dikes are completely under water, and a one-way sign pointing toward a four-mile public tour route now points to an expanse of water. Sadly, there is no solution to the problem. Smith says all they can do is wait it out. "We'll need drought for three years in a row, with maximum evaporation, to get back to where we were before the floods began."

All this is bad news for the birds. The deep water not only rots away cattails and bulrush used for nesting habitat, but also covers up food sources for nesting waterfowl. "Without food, the units won't attract any birds," says Smith. Most spring migrants are off the refuge and in the fields to the north. The northeast corner of the refuge still has some nesting cover left, mostly saltgrass, and a few coots are nesting there. About 1000 American avocets, white-faced ibis, long-billed curlews, and a few ducks and geese are resting and feeding there as well.

"Geese are affected most by loss of home range and nesting habitat," says Smith. "We produce between 1200 and 1500 goslings in a normal year, and this year we've found only 6 nests and 10 goslings. Small flocks of geese are standing around like they don't know what to do. Maybe 20 pairs have nested."

For one species of waterfowl, however, things aren't so bad. Linda Waters, after returning from a nesting survey, reports, "We've got thousands of western grebes out there--they've got wall-to-wall floating nests."

One other good thing may come from the flooding. Avian botulism, which last year killed 16,000 birds at the refuge, may be much less severe due to the high water. Since there is no cover for birds on the units, few birds will be attracted there. An influx of saltwater from the Great Salt Lake, although it will kill vegetation, may also kill some of the botulism bacteria.

The refuge was also home to other wildlife, including skunks, red fox, and a herd of mule deer. All have disappeared now. About the only thing left on the refuge is carp, a fish

the refuge has tried to eradicate. They are now swimming freely and muddying the water, which precludes growth of aquatic vegetation. Along with the high water, carp will destroy any new vegetation which manages to grow.

The next month and a half will be critical. Waters will gather biological information on birds and vegetation to determine how both are dealing with the high water. Peter Smith will take weekly water and salt readings, and keep an eye on the dike. The visitor's center and other refuge buildings are surrounded by three-quarters of a mile of dike made of sand, plastic, and sandbags -- 11,000 so far. The dike has sprung leaks as waves damage it, and seepage water is pumped out four hours a day, seven days a week.

"If the water only goes to 4209.4 feet, our dike will hold," says Smith. "Any higher and we'll need hundreds of sandbaggers fast. Our biggest loss will be the visitor's center and our employee housing."

It may be years before the refuge returns to the beautiful wildlife sanctuary it was. For now, the waters continue to rise, pushing the birds and wildlife further from their protected home. The visitor's center sits empty, like an island in the middle of ancient Lake Bonneville, waiting for the flood water to recede. "It's such a beautiful place," says Smith, "it's sad to see it go under. We'll just keep hoping for better luck next year."

--Julie Bridenbaugh

HOTLINE

The selling of a dump

The nuclear industry has hired a Utah public relations firm to rally public support for a proposed nuclear waste dump at Gibson Dome, one mile from Canyonlands National Park. Dale Zabriskie of Zabriskie and Associates in Salt Lake City said the U.S. Committee on Energy Awareness hired him to "gather information on what is happening on the waste deposit issue in Utah." He said he also would organize pro-nuclear Utahns to take a public stand on the proposed dump. The Department of Energy will select three of nine sites in the country for "site characterization" in 1985 (HCN, 5/28/84).

Zabriskie said, "Our point is not that Gibson Dome should be the site of the nuclear waste depository. Our point is that the DOE study be allowed to run its course. Then, if Gibson Dome is designated the site, we would say that ought to be the site." The Committee on Energy Awareness was formed in the wake of Three Mile Island to improve the industry's image, and it receives much of its funding from utility companies that use nuclear power.

Sylvan rustlers

Rustling trees in north Idaho has become a popular and profitable enterprise. Bob Brown of the U.S. Forest Service told the *Idaho Statesman* that thieves steal as much as four million board feet of timber every year from federal land in the five northern counties of the state. Brown estimates the mill value of the timber at \$500,000.

The take ranges from a few cords of firewood to a full-scale logging operation on an absentee owner's land. In most cases, law enforcement officials say the rustlers have knowledge and equipment which points to people in the logging industry itself.

Because of price and size, cedar is the most profitably-stolen tree; one pickup load can be worth several hundred dollars. To combat timber thievery, the Forest Service has begun a tree-branding system on timber sales. And the sheriff of one northern county is calling for a universal permit system for logging on both private and public lands.

At Wounded Knee

Native Americans from across the country gathered at Wounded Knee, South Dakota on June 26 to honor their dead. In 1890 at Wounded Knee the last major confrontation between cavalry and Native Americans left more than 200 Sioux dead. And in 1973, the village was taken over by militant members of the American Indian Movement, two of whom were killed.

Air Force gets ready

Although Congress may not have resolved the MX missile question, the Air Force is moving ahead on its MX headquarters at Warren Air Force Base just outside Cheyenne, Wyoming. Bulldozers have cleared a former firing range for storage of the 10-warhead, 4-stage nuclear missiles, and construction is due to start this month on one of 14 planned new buildings. Test flights are also continuing, with the fifth launch reported June 15. Six unarmed warheads were fired 4,100 miles into the mid-Pacific from the California coast.

BARBS

What's his sister do? The National Labor Relations Board, which is supposed to arbitrate and decide labor disputes, is bitterly feuding. Board member Donald Hunter copes by keeping his office TV tuned to daytime shows. "I just like the noise. It makes me feel like I'm not alone," reports the *Wall Street Journal*. Top official Scott Gordon is at the center of some of the friction. He has no experience in labor relations or the law, but says: "I have a brother in personnel."

Will the NRA protest? A police officer who shot and killed his ex-wife's lover has protested an extra ten-year sentence he received for using a gun in the commission of a crime. Doug 'Ken' Stroud claims the sentence violates his constitutional right to bear arms. The Montana Supreme Court rejected his legal plea as "incredible," according to Associated Press.

HOTLINE

Utah loses 1800 jobs



Kennecott Minerals Company

Kennecott Corporation's Utah Copper Division laid off almost 1800 of its 4400 workers on July 1. A decline in copper prices was cited as the cause of a two-thirds cut in production at the Bingham mine southwest of Salt Lake City. Kennecott's Harlan Flint said that a proposal for drastic cost-cutting concessions was submitted to the unions in hopes of preventing the layoffs, but the only union response was an invitation to a July 6 industry-wide fact-finding meeting.

A change in Idaho

The Idaho Conservation League has a new executive director. After seven years with the ICL, Pat Ford is moving on. He will be replaced by Wendy Wilson, who was formerly with the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ford, who says he has not yet decided what he will do next, helped build the Boise-based group into a 1400-member state-wide organization with 14 local chapters. ICL is surprisingly effective in a state not known for strong environmental leanings. During its ten years, ICL has concerned itself with a variety of environmental, water and power issues. Of late, it has put most of its energies into the Idaho wilderness bill struggle. It can be reached at P. O. Box 844, Boise, Idaho 83701.

New Marathon EIS

The Bureau of Land Management has decided to redraft its Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Marathon Oil Company oil well outside the boundary of Yellowstone National Park. The BLM decision came after drilling opponents and oil industry officials criticized the Bureau's first EIS (HCN, 4/16/84).

The BLM's John Thompson, team leader for the first EIS draft, said he and his staff will be "looking at... different alternatives that were not given serious consideration" in the first Statement. The next EIS will consider other drilling sites in the area. Marathon Oil had applied to drill its well in the Shoshone National Forest 20 miles east of the Yellowstone boundary and several miles south of the Northfork of the Shoshone River.

Drilling opponents attacked the agency's first EIS for failing to analyze sufficiently the effects of the well on wildlife, recreational activity and groundwater. Industry officials said that the drilling of one well did not require the BLM to prepare an EIS since the well might be nonproductive.

The new draft EIS is scheduled for this October and a final EIS by March 1985. Comments can be sent to: John Thompson, BLM, P. O. Box 119, Worland, WY 82401, or call 307/347-6151.

Parks are being bombed by the air

An Environmental Protection Agency task force is finding that statutory or regulatory changes may be necessary to protect the nation's wilderness areas and national parks from air pollution because the Clean Air Act is not doing the job.

A spokesman for the EPA, who asked not to be named, said the task force has found that some national parks, such as the Grand Canyon in the Southwest and Shenandoah in Virginia, are being damaged by pollution from distant cities, over which the National Park Service has no authority under the act. Other areas may be in jeopardy because of inadequacies in predictive technology or vagueness in current laws.

EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus set up the task force last year with members from his own agency, state air pollution officials, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. After public hearings in Denver and Washington, D.C. in September the task force will make specific recommendations to Ruckelshaus.

The group is studying large wilderness areas, national parks and national monuments that were designated by Congress in 1977 for special Class I protection under the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) section of the Clean Air Act. The task force is also looking at the voluntary reclassification section of the act to determine why no states have used it to protect fragile lands within their boundaries. To date only three Montana Indian reservations have voluntarily changed their air status.

The task force has been thwarted

by what the EPA spokesman calls a "remarkable lack of quantifiable information, especially for gauging existing damage." The Park Service has reported extensive tree damage in the Shenandoah National Park, which the task force assumes is caused by ozone from urban areas, but it doesn't know which cities might be blamed. Los Angeles smog is causing much of the visibility problems in the Grand Canyon, but the PSD section does not address either cars or stationary pollution sources, such as factories, in distant urban areas.

Even where the act gave land managers authority, there have been problems. Congress assumed air pollution officials could predict the effects of new polluting industries and whether they would exceed certain pollution increments. However, the task force is finding that current technology may be inadequate. While mathematical models may predict that a pollution increment will be exceeded by a proposed facility, they cannot determine when or where the violation would occur, which is crucial to knowing whether the park or wilderness area will be affected.

After modeling is completed, federal land managers are responsible for determining whether there will be too much damage to air quality-related values, such as vegetation, wildlife, water, soils, and visibility. But neither the Park Service nor the Forest Service has ever used its power to block a permit, according to the task force's review. This could mean that conditions added to permits satisfied their concerns, or it might mean that parks and wilderness areas are suffering because federal land managers thought their predictive

capacity was inadequate or their authority too vague, according to the EPA spokesman. For example, the act does not define damage.

The Forest Service tried to compensate for these problems recently by recommending that conditions be added to a permit for Exxon USA's Riley Ridge sour gas processing plant in southwestern Wyoming. The Forest Service fears the plant may contribute to acid rain precipitation in the Jim Bridger Wilderness Area. However, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality did not adopt the recommended condition, which would have required Exxon to reduce its emissions if problems were found.

Under present law, federal land managers make permit recommendations for new facilities to state air pollution agencies when Class I areas are involved. This gives states considerable authority over the fate of national parks and wilderness areas. The task force is now questioning whether it makes sense for the states to make the final decisions.

The task force is also finding that parks are being affected by other facilities over which the act has no authority, such as those too small to require PSD permits and those that were grandfathered out of the section. Smelters built in the Southwest before the PSD section was enacted are affecting the visibility in national parks in that area. Small natural gas facilities also may be hurting the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, according to the task force's review.

--Marjane Ambler

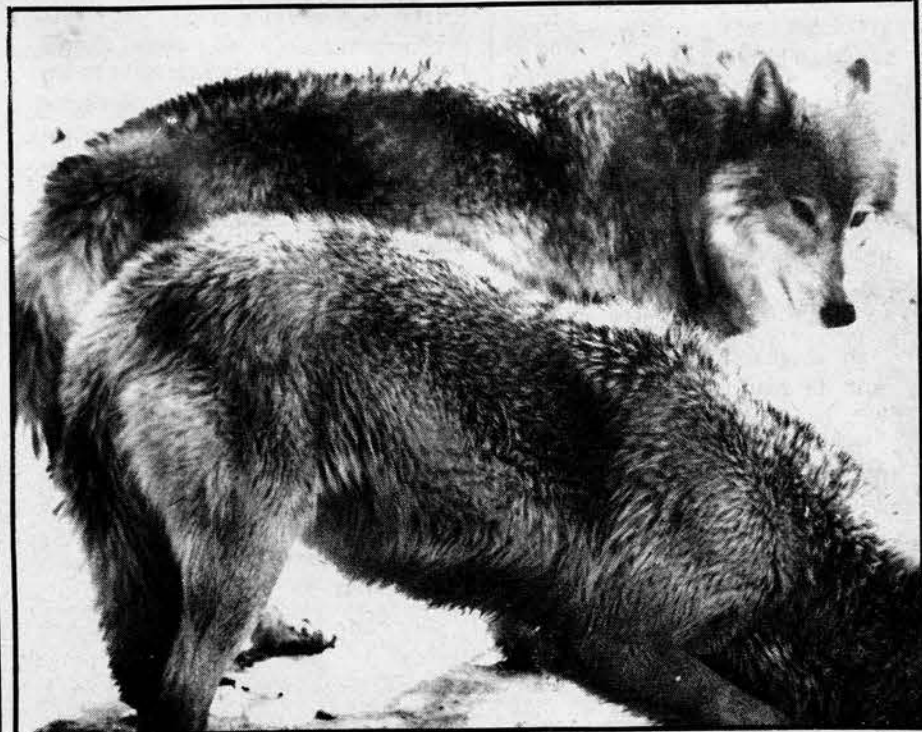
Extinctions may be a Reagan legacy

The existing backlog of over 3,000 species waiting to be considered for threatened or endangered status would take almost a century to review at the current rate, according to a new Defenders of Wildlife report.

Saving Endangered Species is critical of every administration since the Endangered Species Act was signed into law in 1973, but its focus is on the Reagan administration, which it calls the most damaging to threatened wildlife. Over a year in the making, the report grades the Reagan administration on the three main aspects of endangered species protection: funding, listing and recovery.

For fiscal years 1982-1984, Reagan's budget proposals for the Fish and Wildlife endangered species program undercut the amount authorized by Congress by as much as 44 percent. Congress persistently appropriated more than the president requested, but funding was still below 1981 levels. The administration got an F in the budget category.

The Defenders of Wildlife also found that Secretary of Interior James Watt had virtually halted listing of new endangered or threatened species. An analysis showed that even the current budget limitations would allow 260 new species to be listed each year; in fact, only 37 species were listed in the last three years. The report said that about seven species awaiting listing were becoming extinct each year. Reagan got an F here, too, a slightly better grade, a D plus, to the administration's recovery projects,



Gray wolf

cooperative state recovery programs and for Land and Conservation Fund purchases of endangered species habitat. And though credit is given for processing a number of recovery plans, the report says "the better measure of commitment is found in actions taken, not the amount of paper produced."

The Defenders of Wildlife study concludes on a positive note, with general recommendations as well as a campaign to reverse population declines of ten selected species. The recommendations are for increasing funding, eliminating the candidate species backlog within ten years,

consolidating listing proposals for groups of candidate species living within a single habitat, timely development and implementation of recovery plans and better enforcement of laws guarding listed species such as the Minnesota wolf.

The conservation group also plans a campaign to highlight the problems of the lower 48 states wolf and grizzly bear, desert tortoise, red-cockaded woodpecker, black-footed ferret, western yellow-billed cuckoo, lynx, Gulf of California harbor porpoise, pine barrens buck moth, and the small whorled pogonia, an orchid.

--Mary Moran

Should mountain bikes be on trails?

The growing popularity of mountain bikes in the backcountry and the question of where they do and do not belong has created a muddy environmental issue.

Mountain bikes also complicate the already sticky question of multiple use. In a sense, bikers form another special interest group along with horseback riders, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers and jeeps. All want the freedom to pursue their idea of fun in the great outdoors.

The bikes themselves are a new high-tech breed with fat-tires. Built with strong, light-weight chrome-molybdenum frames, wide, knobby tires, and geared for anywhere from 10 to 18 speeds, they are designed for rugged terrain and abuse.

Less heavy-duty varieties are becoming increasingly popular as commuter bikes, for people appreciate their comfort and stability. It's estimated that about 75 percent of the fat-tire bikes sold nationwide never see a dirt road, much less a mountain trail.

One of the first controversies in the Rocky Mountain area started in January, 1983, when the city council in Boulder, Colorado banned the bikes from the city's greenbelt system. The outcry by mountain bikers to this action was quick, vocal and prompted formation of a Trails Advisory Committee to help resolve the debate.

This committee, with representatives from city staff, horseback riders, environmentalists and mountain bikers, helped formulate a trails policy for all special interest groups. Eventually this group recommended that 23 trails be reopened to mountain bikes.

Then in the spring of last year, the Aspen district Forest Service closed the Snowmass/Maroon Bells Wilderness area to both mountain bikers and hang gliders. According to Tom Klabunde, a recreational staffer, there was no provision in the Code of Federal Regulations at that time to deal with mountain bikes. That meant the Aspen office had to take action on its own.

"We decided that we couldn't live without a prohibition (on mountain bikes) because we were getting a fair amount of traffic from Crested Butte over East and West Maroon passes," says Klabunde. "Bikes are just not appropriate in a wilderness area; it has been the specific intent of Congress not to allow vehicles into those areas...Last year we took a low-key approach and would just talk to offenders. But this year we'll give tickets."

The Crested Butte area, close to Aspen on the opposite side of the Elk Range, claims to have more mountain bikes per capita than any other community in the country. In winter, people put chains and studs on their mountain bike tires and keep cruising. In summer, the town hosts Fat-Tire Bike Week, billed as the international event of its kind. Last year 300 people, some from as far away as England and Japan, came to Crested Butte to ride their bikes in the mountains around the small, picturesque town.

Neal Murdoch, promoter of the event, is co-owner of a Crested Butte bike shop which was one of the very first in the country to carry fat-tire bikes. He started converting old newspaper-boy bikes into backcountry machines in 1976. He says the inspiration for the annual bike event happened eight years ago when a group of Crested Butte bikers rode their one-speed clunkers over the



Buzz Burrell of Paonia on a mountain bike

Pearl Pass jeep road to Aspen to go bar-hopping.

Murdoch calls the Aspen Forest Service ban on mountain bikes a "knee-jerk reaction. The closure happened before anything intelligent was done. I think people are reacting to the bikes before they really know what they are all about."

Murdoch is a representative of the California-based National Off-Road Bicycle Association (NORBA), which is the main sanctioning agency for mountain bike activities. NORBA is currently helping *Bicycling* magazine with a study of the environmental impact of mountain bikes on trails. The group hopes the results will help to convince people that bikes are not as environmentally-damaging as their opponents believe. NORBA has issued a "cyclist's code" which emphasizes courtesy to hikers and horseback riders on trails.

When explaining why mountain bikes should be allowed on trails, bikers often bring up the issue of horses in the backcountry. Their argument is that horses are much more environmentally-damaging than bikes, and more of a menace to hikers as well.

Dick Lyman, chief ranger of the Boulder Mountain Parks system, disagrees. "Bikes make a continuous track which fills up with water and causes erosion when that water starts moving downhill. People complain about damage from horses, but there you have a hoof-print which just fills up with water and stays," he says.

Natural selection will play a significant role in limiting the numbers of people riding on mountain trails. Even some of the fittest and most dedicated mountain bikers say that occasionally they have to dismount and walk their bikes on steeper sections of trails or jeep roads. So it won't be surprising if a fat-tire bike called the Slickrock Special is put on the market, for the canyonlands of southeastern Utah have become one of the favorite areas for bike touring. Trails and roads are relatively flat and the scenery is beautiful.

But after enough mountain bikers discovered the joys of riding in the canyons, the Superintendent of Canyonlands National Park enacted a policy specifically prohibiting mountain bikes from trails within the park. Superintendent Pete Parry says that last year mountain bikes quickly became a problem in the arid, delicate ecosystem of this high desert area.

Canyonlands rangers now immediately contact bikers when they drive into the park and tell them about the "no trails" policy. Still, one ranger in the Needles district of the park estimates that 25 percent of the

mountain bikers get off the jeep roads and onto trails. Of this group, another small percentage is riding cross-country and off the trails entirely.

Thea Nordling, a Needles district ranger, says that mountain bikes cause the same problems as motorized dirt bikes. "People (mountain bikers) get incensed if they're compared to motor bikers, but they're causing the same problems. It's not a huge number causing the problems, but it doesn't take much to cause major damage."

Tim Wilhelm, a ranger in the more remote Maze district of the park, says he usually gets along with bikers. "But some of them get on mountain bikes and they tend to go a bit crazy. They turn from Mr. Nice Guy into Mr. Aggressive, and feel like they can go anywhere and do anything."

Later this year, Crested Butte is planning to host a major forum on mountain bikes. Don Bachman, a Crested Butte resident and head of an environmental organization called High Country Citizens Alliance, has been involved in helping to plan the event. Although not a mountain biker himself, Bachman thinks the fat-tire renaissance in the Crested Butte area has been a positive thing for the community. He calls mountain biking "a good, healthy non-motorized activity," but he is hoping that Crested Butte bikers will take a stand against riding on trails at the forum.

"I think that there are differences in opinion about whether to ride on the trails or not, and if the Crested Butte community takes an anti-riding-in-the-wilderness stance, it could influence other places to do the same," Bachman says.

In Boulder, when hikers and bikers were debating the issue of mountain bikes on greenbelt trails, the dialogue was volatile at times. Scott Havlick, a local bike-racer who led the opposition to allowing the mountain bikes on trails, was surprised at the bike community's reaction to his stand.

"A posse ran me out of town," he jokes. "So I decided to go to law school so I can battle them in the courts... The whole incident alienated a lot of my friends. Some people still don't talk to me, and my cycling team just sort of let me go."

One of Havlick's main arguments was that the bikes should be regulated before they became a significant problem, not afterwards. He was concerned both about the potential for irreversible environmental damage and the conflicts with hikers.

Now a law student in Utah, his opposition to bikes on trails has not changed. "As much as I love cycling, it's earth first," he says.

--Sarah Locke

HOTLINE

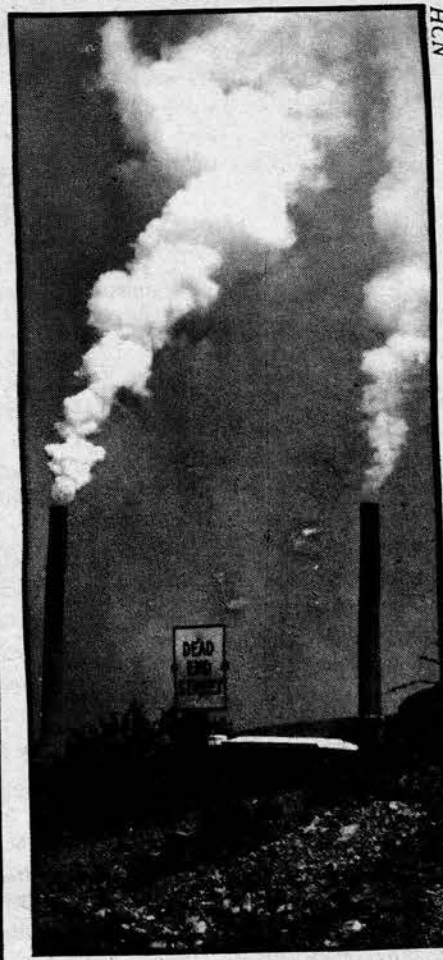
Critics hope to nuke utility expenses

A coalition of consumer, public interest and environmental groups wants to protect utility ratepayers from paying for a \$25 million pronuclear advertising campaign. The Safe Energy Communication Council, based in Washington, D.C., is calling on state public utility commissioners to disallow the advertising expenses in future rate proceedings. The advertising campaign is sponsored by the U.S. Committee for Energy Awareness, a group that receives funding from electric utility companies.

Montana rivers unfenced again

For the second time in two months, Montana's Supreme Court has ruled that the public has a right to use all state rivers for recreation. The decision June 21 upheld a district court ruling against a Dillon-area rancher, Lowell Hildreth, who had built a fence across a river flowing through his property. The rancher was challenged in district court in 1981 by the Montana Coalition for Stream Access, which was granted a permanent injunction guaranteeing public use of the river between its high water marks. The state Supreme Court upheld that injunction in wording similar to its May 15 decision against rancher Michael Curran (HCN, 6/11/84).

Smelters linked to acid rain



Sulfur emissions from copper smelters in Arizona, Utah, and Nevada have been directly linked to acid rain pollution in the northern Rockies. A report by the Environmental Defense Fund of Boulder, Colorado says that data from six government monitoring stations from Idaho to Colorado show a direct correlation between copper smelter emissions and acid rain pollution at the stations. The stations have been measuring sulfur depositions since 1980 and the greatest sulfur deposition was recorded in 1981, when copper production was at a 5-year high. EDF estimates that smelters emit over 70 percent of the sulfur pollution in the intermountain West.

HOTLINE

Urban renewal



Utah prairie dog

The Utah prairie dog is not now in danger of extinction, reports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In fact, their burrowed towns have almost doubled in Utah since 1976. So on May 29, according to a Federal Register notice, the Utah prairie dog was reclassified from "endangered" to "threatened."

Between 1976 and 1980, Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources transplanted 2,437 animals from private to public lands in eastern Iron County, Utah, where prairie dogs did extensive damage to crops. Transplants will continue, says U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, because "extensive conflicts with local agricultural interests still occur." Utah may also authorize "the taking" of a maximum of 5,000 prairie dogs each year in Iron County. In 1982, the number of known prairie dog towns on public lands increased from 11 to 35, but on private lands the number of towns increased from 40 to 57.

An electric change

Electric energy consumption is up 8.3 percent over the past year -- a rate of growth not seen since 1973. The growth is good news for utilities, which built large numbers of new plants based on early 1970s growth. According to a *Wall Street Journal* article, the question is: will the growth continue? The big percentage increase was partly a result of depressed year-ago levels. Use in 1982 fell 2.4 percent from 1981, for example. If the growth continues, it could revive plans for new coal-fired power plants and breathe new life into cancelled nuclear plants.

Black Canyon reprieve

Development was halted on the North Rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument in Colorado after landowner Richard Mott signed a purchase agreement with the Nature Conservancy June 27. Sydney Macy of the Nature Conservancy said there will be an appraisal of the 4,000 acres Mott planned to subdivide for condominiums. Then, subject to Park Service approval of the price, the land will be held by the Conservancy until bought by the government. The Senate bill authorizing the purchase of 6,700 acres, including Mott's land, passed the House just before the June 29 adjournment and is awaiting Reagan's signature. Mott, who claimed that he needed money immediately to satisfy creditors, will not receive payment until October 1, but Macy said his creditors have accepted the Nature Conservancy's agreement as surety.

Utah to get 750,000 more wild acres

Utah will soon have 25 times more wilderness. Thanks to a compromise between the Utah House and Senate delegation and Congressman John Seiberling's (D-OH) public lands subcommittee, Utah's wilderness acreage will rise from its current 30,000 acres to 750,000 acres.

That leaves three western wilderness bills locked in controversy: Idaho, Wyoming, and Arizona. The three, plus Arkansas, are part of a continuing tug of war between Senator John McClure (R-ID) and the Wyoming delegation on one side, and Seiberling and wilderness advocates on the other.

In addition to the three western states involved in the dispute, Montana's delegation is on the verge of submitting a wilderness bill and Colorado's second wilderness bill, which passed the House last month, is awaiting an announcement by Senator Bill Armstrong (R) as to his position. The Nevada delegation has not submitted a bill.

The Utah bill is expected to sail through Congress as a result of late night negotiations June 28 between Seiberling and the Utah delegation. The only possible sticking point is a provision to allow helicopter skiing in two Wasatch Front wilderness areas near Salt Lake City. The Sierra Club and American Wilderness Society fear the exemption will lead to other motorized activities in wilderness.

Rob Smith of the Sierra Club's Salt Lake City office said of the compromise: "Some would say that getting a Utah wilderness bill at all is a major victory. The 750,000 acres is big compared with Utah's present 30,000-acre Lone Peak. But it's small compared with the three million roadless acres in the state."

Gary Macfarlane of the Utah Wilderness Association said, "We're happy to have a bill." The Utah delegation has come a long way since last summer, when it suggested a 615,000-acre bill with what Macfarlane described as "time and eternity release language" -- land not

included in the bill could never be considered for wilderness.

The current bill includes the standard release language; it bars the Forest Service from studying the state's remaining roadless areas for wilderness for 10 to 15 years. Wilderness advocates can go back at any time to Congress with new proposals. But the Sierra Club's Smith said:

"Realistically, our next chance is several years from now." He also said that without the support of the Utah delegation, "There would have been no bill." Pressure to act came from broad public support in Utah for some wilderness land and from development interests who feared that without a bill roadless land would remain locked up due to RARE III studies required by a California court decision.

Utah's bill is among the last in a series of state wilderness bills to move toward passage since the hard release - soft release compromise was reached between Seiberling and McClure in May (HCN, 5/14/84). The logjam was broken by pressure on McClure from Republican senators in Washington and Oregon, who wanted soft release for their state bills.

But Idaho, Wyoming, Arizona and Arkansas are now caught in a different logjam. According to Smith, "Arizona and Arkansas are being held hostage to force" Congressman Mo Udall (D-AZ) and Seiberling "to move the Wyoming and Idaho bills."

Seiberling especially is holding out for higher acreages in the Wyoming and Idaho bills. At issue is the six percent of Wyoming land that is in National Forest but still roadless. The Wyoming delegation initially proposed that 480,000 out of four million roadless acres be put into wilderness. The present bill proposes 635,000 acres. The Reagan administration and Governor Ed Herschler (D) are asking for about one million acres. Environmental groups are asking for 2.4 million acres. The state currently has 2.3 million acres of wilderness.

The Idaho bill would create 526,000 acres of wilderness out of 8.5 million acres now roadless. Conservation proposals ask for from 3.4 million to 4.9 million acres. Governor John Evans (D) is asking for at least 1.2 million acres.

The politics of the Wyoming and Idaho bills are complicated. Under the rules of the Senate, McClure will not block a wilderness bill a Republican colleague wants passed. So Washington and Oregon were broken loose. But Arkansas has two Democratic Senators. And in Arizona, Republican Senator Barry Goldwater is cooperating with McClure's delay of the 1.1-million-acre bill which passed the House. Arizona's other senator is Democrat Dennis DeConcini.

The Arizona wilderness bill has strong backing in the state because of a compromise between environmental groups, uranium interests and local government in the Arizona Strip north of the Grand Canyon (HCN, 4/2/84). It would create both Forest Service and BLM wilderness land. (See BLM wilderness story in this issue.)

Returning to Utah, the compromise increased the total acreage from 700,000 acres to 750,000 acres. A key addition was land on the north slope of the High Uintas. It was subject to timber cutting and drilling and has elk habitat and recreation value. Smith said, "It is low-elevation land. The delegation would have saved rocks and ice in the middle. This helps save an entire ecosystem."

A second addition was 25,000 acres in the Stansbury Mountains west of Salt Lake City. It contains the well-known Deseret Peak and is a Salt Lake City recreation area. The Forest Service had recommended 44,000 acres.

The compromise also adds the Santaquin Mountains on the north flank of Mt. Nebo, the highest peak in the state. Mt. Nebo was already in the bill. Finally, the compromise added the 5,000-acre Cottonwood Canyon below Mt. Naomi near Logan in north Utah.

--Ed Marston

Natural resource agencies face deep cuts

The Soil Conservation Society of America has analyzed President Reagan's 1985 budget proposals for federal agencies involved in natural resources. Their conclusion is that some proposed cuts are severe, with overall spending for the environment down 8 percent from 1984 for a total of about \$11 billion.

Hardest hit is the Soil Conservation Service, which would lose \$130 million or 21 percent of its funding from last year. The largest reductions are sought for flood prevention and watershed programs and planning. The Resource Conservation and Development program would be ended, and Conservation Operations would lose \$5 million along with a personnel cut of 5 percent.

At the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the budget would be reduced from \$254 million this year to \$129 million in 1985. Most of the cuts would come from a 63 percent reduction in the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Proposed funds and personnel for the Bureau of Land Management are similar to the 1984 level, but reductions are set for management of rangeland, soil, water, air and wildlife habitat.



Eroded hillside, Wyoming

At the Forest Service, staff would be cut by 20 percent although the budget projects a \$20 million increase over last year, largely because of projected higher income from step-

ped-up timber sales. Increases are planned for lumber production and oil and gas and minerals leasing. Most other programs, including research and land acquisition, would be reduced.

The National Park Service would keep most of its 16,370 employees, but take a seven percent budget reduction over 1984.

The Environmental Protection Agency would gain funding -- \$4.2 billion compared with last year's \$3.9 billion -- but most increases are set for operating programs and Superfund's hazardous waste cleanup. Other increases are scheduled for research into acid rain, law enforcement, and cleaning up Chesapeake Bay.

In contrast to other agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is scheduled for a \$21.6 million increase over last year, an increase based on the assumption that legislation for acquiring and protecting wetlands will be enacted, reports the Soil Conservation Society. Personnel could also increase slightly.

But scheduled for massive cuts is the National Marine Fisheries Service, whose budget is set to fall from \$124 million in 1984 to \$60 million next year.

--Betsy Marston

Wyoming BLM starts a gold rush

A modern-day gold rush occurred in the Atlantic City area of Wyoming June 18 when the Bureau of Land Management released 2,000 acres that had been withdrawn from mineral entry.

While wildlife advocates were not completely satisfied with BLM's decisions of which areas to open, they were happier than the Wyoming Game and Fish representative for the Green Mountain area. There, the BLM opened up 1705 acres for uranium exploration.

The BLM lands had been withdrawn in 1967 and 1970 to protect recreational values, but the Federal Land Policy and Management Act mandated that the agency review all withdrawals by 1991. In addition, a group of miners from the Atlantic City area contacted the Wyoming Congressional delegation demanding that the areas be opened.

Surprisingly, both the miners and the Sierra Club approved BLM's decisions of which areas to open. In the Atlantic City area, the BLM did not open 1700 acres because of their historic or wildlife importance. Much of the acreage was considered critical moose winter habitat by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Only 120 acres were not opened in the Green Mountain area near Jeffrey City because of existing campgrounds and picnic sites. Greg Hyatt of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department



Bob O'dell, precious minerals scout on Peabody Ridge

said he was not pleased with BLM's decision, but he could understand the agency's reasoning. The withdrawn areas were small and scattered, and while they are important elk calving areas and riparian habitat, they are not any more crucial than other lands that are already being mined, he said.

Both Pathfinder Mines, a division of Cogema of France, and Western Nuclear, Inc. operate mines in the Green Mountain area, and Atlantic Richfield has properties there. In

addition, U.S. Energy-Crested Butte of Riverton, Wyoming, and some smaller firms participated in the staking. Spokesmen for the companies said the competition reflected the value of the reserve, not any imminent plans for development. Pat Ormsbee of U.S. Energy said companies are still pessimistic about the uranium market. "There is a future, but it's a question of timing," he said. The companies said they perceived staking as a low cost, low risk investment.

The uranium ore is believed to stretch the length of the mountain - 10 to 12 miles -- and to be relatively high grade 2000 feet below the surface.

Freeport Exploration Company of Lakewood, Colorado and Cactus Corporation of Riverton dominated the Atlantic City area staking, and 19 claims were also staked by individuals. The individuals staked placer claims and are assumed to be seeking gold. Although a spokesman for Freeport would not comment on whether his company is after gold, Freeport has acquired hundreds of other acres in the area this summer. The staking is provided for by the 1872 Mining Law, which covers all hardrock minerals.

Local miners said they don't expect a boom in development activity unless the price of gold rises dramatically from its present level of \$393 per ounce.

--Marjane Ambler

EPA may give way on toxic waste ponds

The Environmental Protection Agency appears to be softening its stand in negotiations with Union Pacific over the cleanup of four toxic waste ponds at the closed railroad tie plant just outside of Laramie, Wyoming.

Negotiations began last month after UP filed suit against EPA to protest the agency's rejection of the railroad company's cleanup plan. The more comprehensive plan EPA proposed calls for the removal of pond water and sludge as well as contaminated materials beneath the ponds, and shipment to an off-site facility. Union Pacific's plan is for on-site storage and no excavation beneath the ponds. Both plans are only a first step towards rehabilitating water and soils in a 100-acre area contaminated by toxic chemicals used in the tie-treatment process (HCN, 5/14/84).

Although the official EPA position remains that the agency is standing behind their cleanup plan, UP spokesman John Bromley said June 28 that UP, EPA and the state of Wyoming had agreed that excavation to the bottom of the ponds would be sufficient. Bromley added that they hadn't yet decided where the contaminated material would be stored.

The UP spokesman called pond excavation in the EPA plan "enormous and unnecessary". Excavation depths are "based on order-of-magnitude contaminant concentrations... We're talking about 20 to 25 feet below the ponds -- down to bedrock".

The EPA plan required pond cleanup to be completed by last April 30 before the runoff season swelled the Laramie River adjacent to the plant. So far however, the railroad company has only done preparation work. Actual removal of sludge and water will begin in early to mid-July,

according to UP's Bromley. Sandbagging around the ponds prevented surface water from the Laramie River from flowing over the pond area.

But Jeff Stern of the Powder River Basin Resource Council said that "groundwater is a more serious concern." As the Laramie River rose, the groundwater level also rose and during a visit to the area on May 17, Stern said the water table was already near the ground surface, leaving water standing within the waste pond area.

Meanwhile, an ad-hoc Laramie River Cleanup Council held an informational panel discussion in June on the tie plant contaminants, featuring representatives from state and local government and experts who have studied the site. Cleanup council member Tom Hill says that members of the group have also met informally with the federal attorneys involved in the settlement negotiations. "We've put our input in. Now we're waiting in limbo and hoping for a response."

--Mary Moran

BARBED WIRE

She had thought lambs give meat the way cows give milk. Rock stars Paul and Linda McCartney turned vegetarian when they looked up from their roast lamb dinner to see sheep grazing in a field outside. "It struck us that... I was eating somebody's leg."

Comforting News. Although rain in the Southeast is 10 to 20 times more acid than normal, and although some species of trees are dying, the Council on Environmental Quality says things are not as bad here as in Europe. Wholesale die-offs of forests are unlikely here because of a wide variety of tree species, some of which are resistant to acidity.

Learning from your mistakes. Denver has the nation's worst office vacancy rate in the nation -- 28 percent. So last week a developer announced that the new 35-story 440,000-square-foot Boettcher Building will go up between the 1.3 million-square-foot Tabor Center, still under construction, and the Republic Plaza, which has rented out 20 percent of its 1.1 million square feet of space, according to the *Denver Post*.

No rush. Republican chairman Frank Fahrenkopf, Jr. thinks it's time for George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt to move over a bit and make room for President Ronald Reagan at Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota. A White House spokesman calls it "an interesting idea."

Why not a bell bull? The *Rocky Mountain News* reports that Rep. Richard Cheney (R-WY) is one of a select group of legislators who leads factions in the House of Representatives herd as a kind of "bell cow." A House Republican leader says he follows the inclinations of the seventeen bell cows so he'll "know who to whip."

Shot for shot. The *Atlantic* magazine reports that San Diego is in danger of being buried under a flood of sewage from rapidly growing Tijuana, just across the border in Mexico. The U.S., which sends sulfur emissions southward to Mexico from copper smelters and northward to Canada from Midwest powerplants, is not in a strong position to protest.

HOTLINE

Welcome, Ash Meadows

A unique desert oasis 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada will soon become the 422nd National Wildlife Refuge. The new Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is a spring-fed wetland basin straddling the California-Nevada border, barely 40 miles from the parched Death Valley National Monument. The Interior Department reports there are 26 plants and animals in the basin that are found nowhere else in the world. Four of these are fish species listed as endangered; several others are potential endangered species. Refuge management may include restoration of marshes for use by waterfowl. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service just bought the first portion of the refuge -- an 11,173 acre tract -- from the Nature Conservancy. The private conservation group bought the area after it was slated for development and held it for later purchase by the federal government. Federal-public domain lands may later be added to the first tract. Fish and Wildlife Service management of the Ash Meadows refuge awaits formal transfer of property ownership and development of a management plan.

New face at EnviroSAFE

EnviroSAFE, the beleaguered hazardous waste firm based in Idaho, has hired a new general manager who announced he will try to end negative impressions about the company. Manager Lee Archambeau replaces Rick Morton, who was fired last January amid controversy over the firm's waste dumps in Owyhee County. Federal officials had previously fined EnviroSAFE \$200,000 for illegally burying liquid wastes and improperly handling PCBs. Then this April, two employees were suddenly taken sick, reporting dizziness and trembling. A just-released preliminary report by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration came to no conclusion about what caused the workers to become ill.

Groups want to make Yellowstone whole

The year-old Greater Yellowstone Coalition wants Congress to mandate complete ecosystem management for the six national forests, two national parks and two national wildlife refuges within the Yellowstone ecosystem. At their second annual meeting last month in Yellowstone National Park, the organization of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming conservation groups voted unanimously to support a proposal to Congress for a new protective status for the area.

Under the proposal, new national legislation would legally recognize the greater Yellowstone ecosystem. The various federal areas within the system would retain their separate jurisdictions, but their management mandates would be subordinate to the larger ecosystem mandate. According to Hank Phibbs, Jackson attorney and coalition board member who introduced the proposal, forest managers would no longer be allowed to concentrate on timber production and other resource development. The proposal urged that all federal land involved be managed for the "protection and preservation of the ecosystem, and the maintenance of wildlife." The coalition pointed out that besides federal agencies, another 16 municipal or county governments are involved in the fate of the ecosystem.



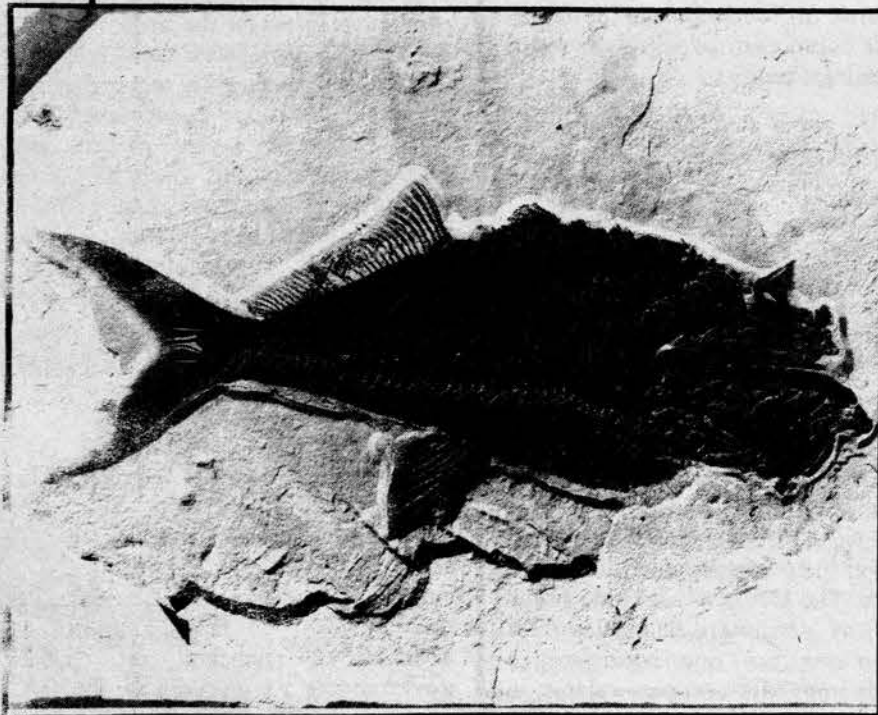
Tracy Thompson

LOADED WITH FOSSILS

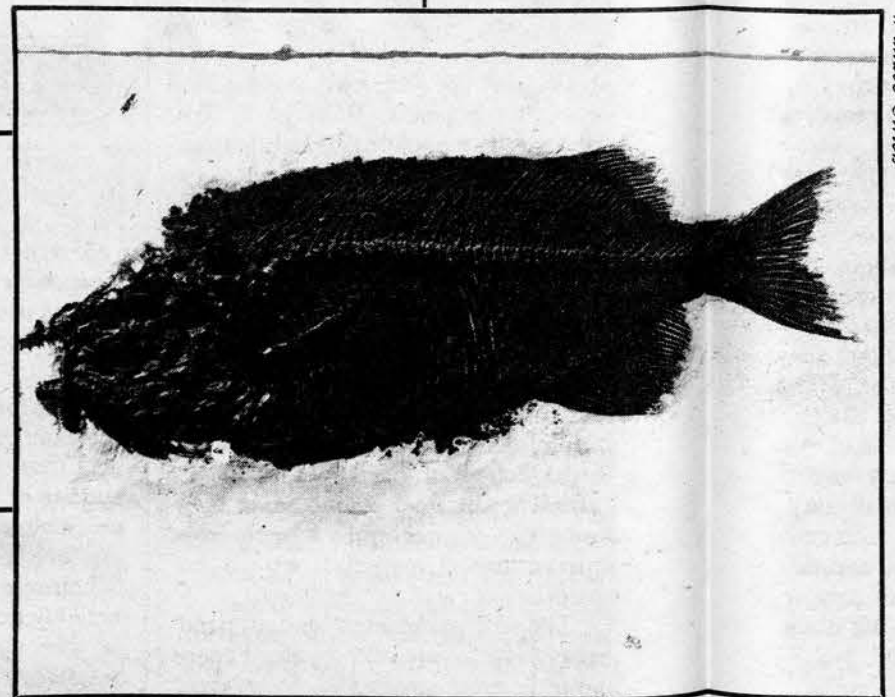
Fossil Butte National Monument lies within a dry, almost treeless southwestern Wyoming desert where a few cattle graze. The butte rises above the desert floor within the 8000 acre monument, exposing multicolored layers of rock. Mud and creatures accumulating at the bottom of a huge freshwater lake that covered parts of Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado 50 million years ago formed the rocks. Fossils in the rocks include palm fronds that you can see plant cells in, insects, birds, and even a bat. But mostly there are fish, the best fish fossils in the world, including relatives of our modern herring, perch, catfish and sting rays.

Paleontologist Wallace Ulrich uses a small hand-tool to scrape material off the top of a seven-foot by fourteen-foot palm frond fossil to prepare it for display in the Smithsonian Institution. The fossil

was uncovered last summer at the private Ulrich Quarries near Fossil Butte National Monument. A special backing was built and glued to the cracked rock slab containing the fossil.



Wallace Ulrich



Wallace Ulrich

These fossil fish photos are typical of the larger specimens taken from Fossil Butte National Monument.

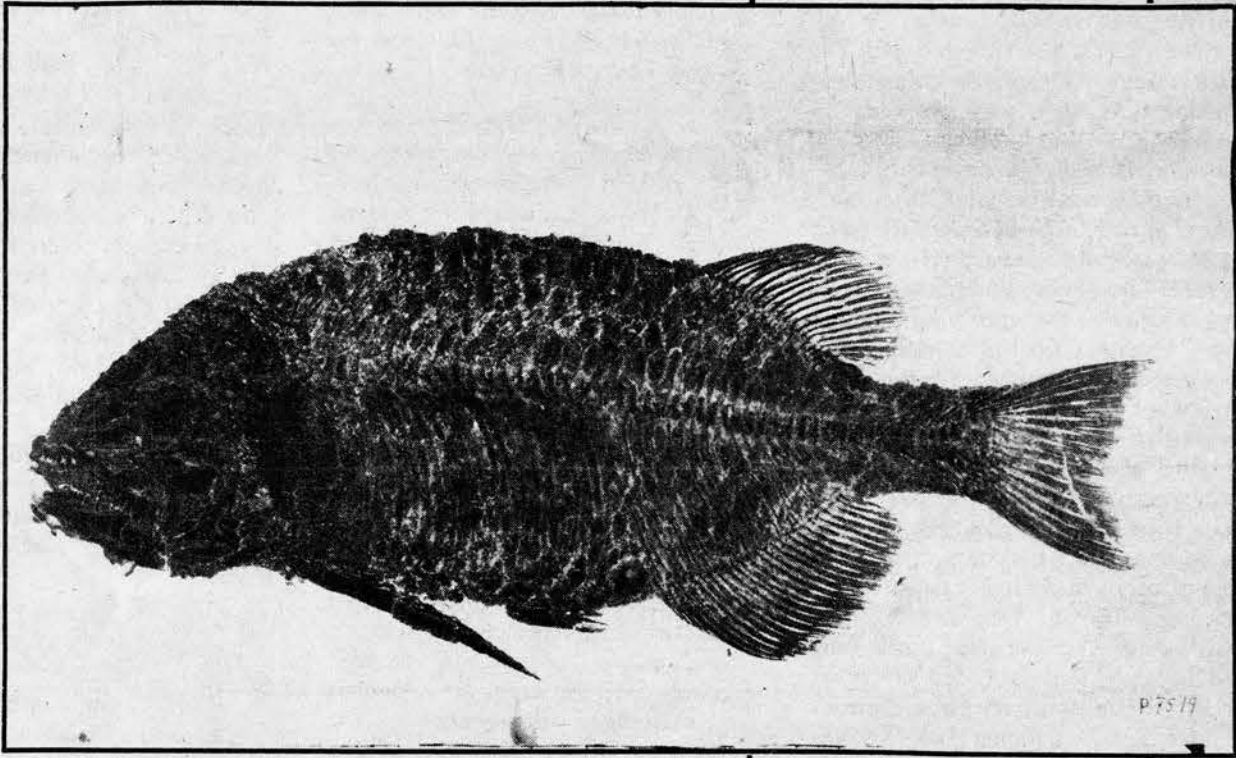


National Park Service

Fossil Butte National Monument, visited by 20,000 tourists each year. Fossils from the area are found in museums all over the world, and were first collected in 1877.

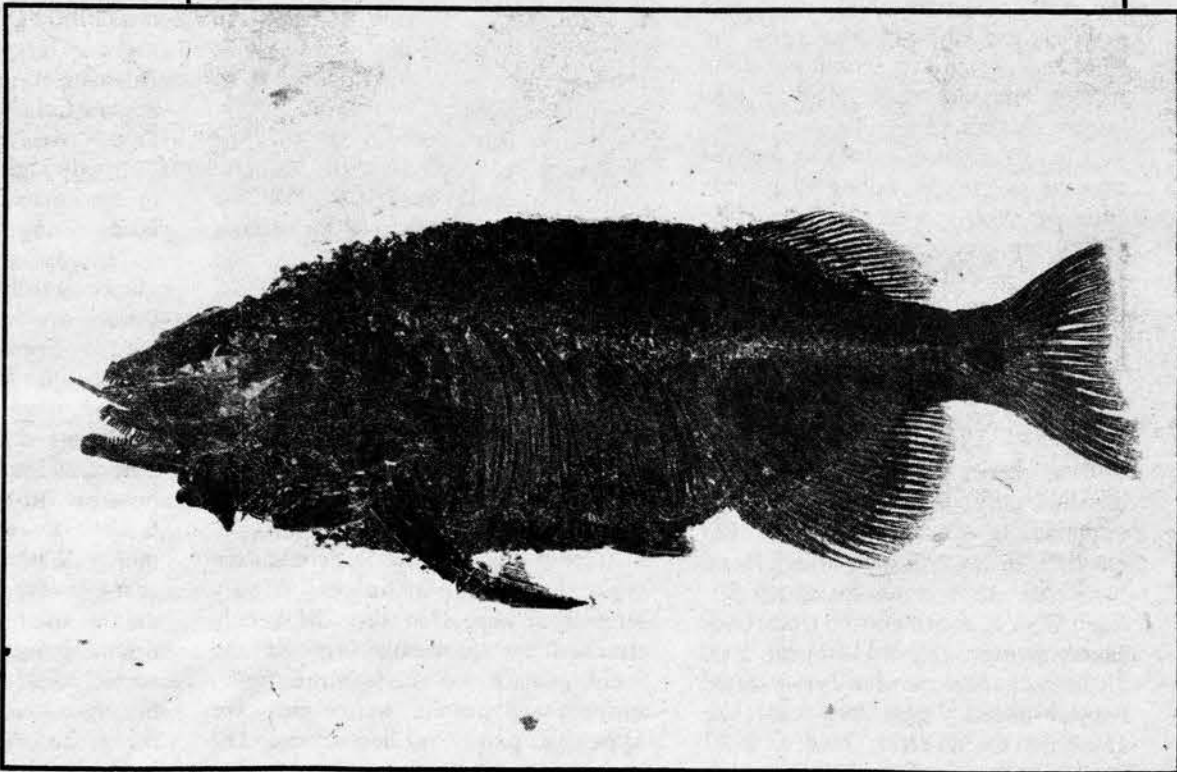
*Photos collected by
Ken Rand*

Wallace Ulrich



This fossil is 23 inches long.

Don Hinton



The BLM's wilderness policies are probed by a skeptical Congressional committee

by James Baker

Washington, D.C. -- Rep. John Seiberling (D-OH) rapped his gavel in the House Interior Committee hearing room. For more than a year, the chairman of the House Public Lands Subcommittee had been trying to schedule the oversight hearing which he had just called to order.

Finally, on this hot, muggy morning in Washington, D.C., conservationists from across the West were going to tell Congress what had gone wrong in the nationwide wilderness review of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

The BLM is a relative newcomer to wilderness. When the landmark Wilderness Act was passed by Congress in 1964, it affected just the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. The BLM was added in 1976 with the enactment of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the agency's "organic act." Section 603 of FLPMA directed the Bureau to conduct a wilderness review of its 290 million acres, most located in the West and in Alaska.

One of the principal authors and architects of FLPMA was none other than John Seiberling of Ohio, which accounts for his long-standing commitment to holding this oversight hearing. The Subcommittee Chairman's interest might also explain why the hearing was attended at least briefly by an unusually large number of members, including Jim Weaver (D-OR), Ron Marlenee (R-MT), Sala Burton (D-CA), who is filling out the unexpired term of her late husband Phil Burton, and James Hansen (R-UT). Subcommittee attendance, especially by Republicans, was no doubt also boosted by the scheduling of Interior Secretary William Clark to appear two days later.

It was the drastic action of James Watt, Clark's predecessor, which convinced Seiberling and others that Congress should exercise its oversight powers in the BLM wilderness review. On December 27, 1982, Watt signed an order immediately abolishing all Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) of less than 5000 acres, which contained so-called "split mineral estates" (in which the federal government controls the surface, but another party owns the sub-surface mineral rights), or which could not stand on their own values though contiguous to other wilderness areas or recommended wilderness areas. Environmental groups immediately sued in the U.S. Ninth District Court, California. Last fall the court issued an injunction

against any development activities in the affected WSAs pending a final ruling in *Sierra Club et. al. vs. Watt* sometime this year.

Watt also accelerated the wilderness review, intending to bring the Reagan administration's proposal to Congress in 1984, if possible. Because of that acceleration, budget cuts, and numerous policy directives, millions of acres have been struck from the review process. Out of some 172 million acres of BLM land in the 11 westernmost states, approximately 24 million were put into WSAs at the completion of the inventory phase in 1980. If current trends continue during the Reagan administration, the agency is going to recommend only about eight million acres to Congress for designation as wilderness.

Conservationists charge that the BLM is throwing out these massive amounts of acreage through biased studies and even through illegal means. Last year the agency's own administrative court, the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), ruled in favor of a Utah environmental coalition which had appealed 925,000 acres deleted during the inventory phase. The IBLA sent 825,000 acres in 21 units back to the BLM for reconsideration.

The Bureau has been rejecting for wilderness types of land which are not currently represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. "Sand dunes, grasslands, deserts, and wide open flat areas are important for wilderness designation," Joe Fontaine, a former national president of the Sierra Club, told the subcommittee in the first statement of the day. "Regrettably, these are precisely the kinds of places that the BLM has tried to eliminate from further consideration. And it has largely succeeded."

Conservationists are also worried that the agency is failing to provide Interim Management Protection (IMP), as required under section 603(c) of FLPMA. According to the IMP provision in FLPMA, the BLM must maintain the wilderness values in all WSAs until Congress specifically decides whether or not to designate the unit as wilderness.

But alarming stories call into question the Bureau's ability or intention to carry out IMP. For example, in 1982, Exxon drilled for oil more than three miles inside the Mt. Ellen WSA of south central Utah. Over Thanksgiving weekend last year, 1000 dirtbikers participated in a resurrected Barstow-to-Las Vegas race across the southern California desert. BLM issued a permit for the race even

though part of the course crossed the Soda Mountains WSA. For the agency to knowingly allow such an obvious violation of IMP "is a slap in the face," said Debbie Sease, Washington, D.C. representative for the Sierra Club. "It goes beyond just ignoring the law."

The IMP provision was written into FLPMA so Congress could preserve its options during the review process and also avoid the same pitfalls and controversies which plagued the U.S. Forest Service during its second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) program. "It is in the interest of all concerned parties, including Congress, that the BLM not repeat the mistakes made by the U.S. Forest Service in its Wilderness review," Joe Fontaine told the subcommittee. "The BLM should make fair, defensible, and credible studies of all potential Wilderness Areas. If the studies are not thorough and fair, administrative appeals and litigation could be endless."

As witness after witness sat at the table citing example after example of the agency's failures in the wilderness studies and in IMP, Seiberling began to express his doubts about the BLM wilderness review.

"It seems to me that the BLM is backing itself into the same situation as the Forest Service did in RARE II," Seiberling said. "Some people never learn."

UTAH

Jim Catlin, Conservation Chair for the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Wayne McCormack, General Counsel for the Utah Wilderness Association, brought over 50 pages of written testimony to document what Catlin called "the massive abuse in the Utah BLM wilderness review."

McCormack reported on 57 IMP violations connected with mineral extraction operations, including the Mt. Ellen oil well. He said he found a pattern of illegal practices by the agency: "failure to provide (public) notice," "reliance on categorical exclusion reviews," "failure to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs)," and "unlawful failure to make the necessary determinations in support of 'grandfather' exemptions."

Catlin then told the Subcommittee that the conservationists' highly successful appeal to the IBLA only touched the proverbial tip of the iceberg: "If we had more time, money, and people, we might have appealed up to 2.9 million acres in 122 inventory units."

Chairman Seiberling said he was disturbed by an alleged conflict of interest on the part of Moab BLM wilderness coordinator Diana Webb. She is married to a George Shultz, a representative for Cotter Corporation, a major mining concern in the region, and is the President of Red Rock 4-Wheelers Club, an organization which opposes wilderness designations. Catlin claimed to have proof that Webb doctored official files on sensitive units. In his ruling last year, IBLA Judge Harris wrote: "Ms. Webb's failure to disqualify herself is highly questionable at best." Nonetheless, she continues to hold her post at the Moab District Office.

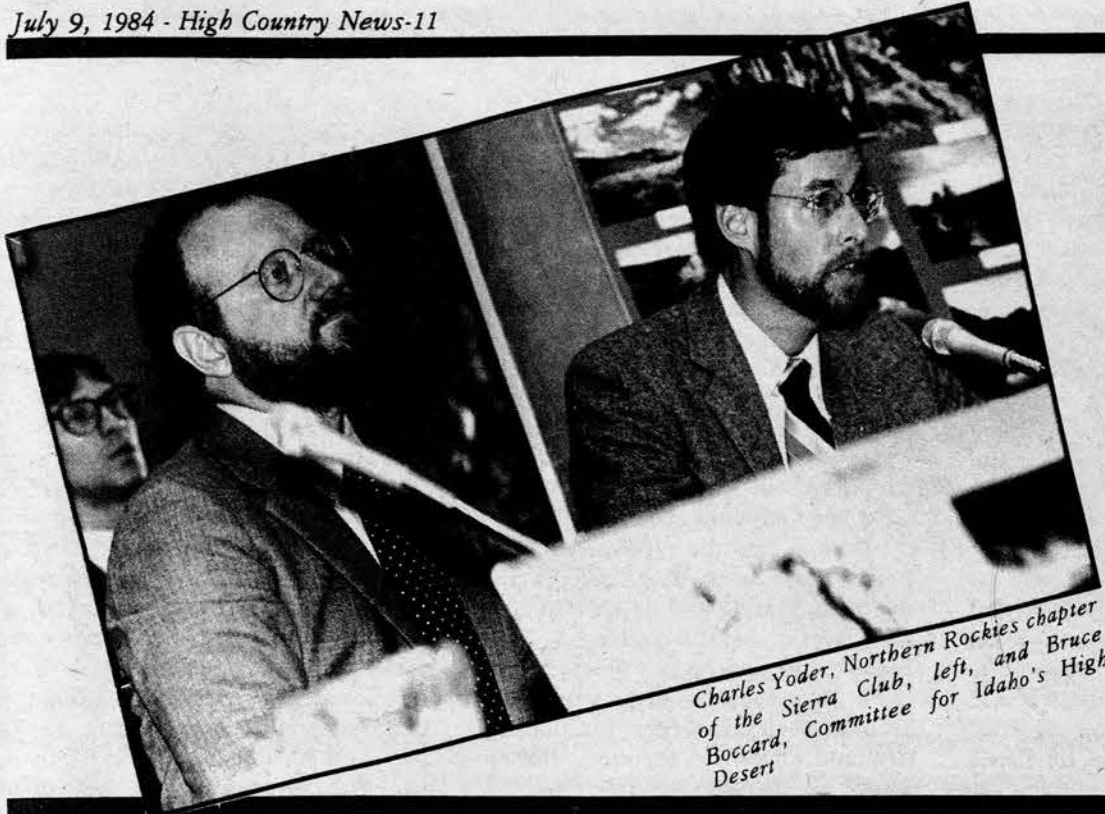
Seiberling also reacted to Catlin's account of repeated attempts by the BLM to eliminate portions of the Fiddler Butte WSA in southeastern Utah. Catlin said, "Throughout this entire process, the agency justified all its various decisions by citing a 'road'. And throughout this entire process, I informed the BLM in written comments and during personal visits that this 'road' does not exist, that to exist as marked on BLM maps, the road would have to travel straight up a 300-foot high cliff!"

OREGON

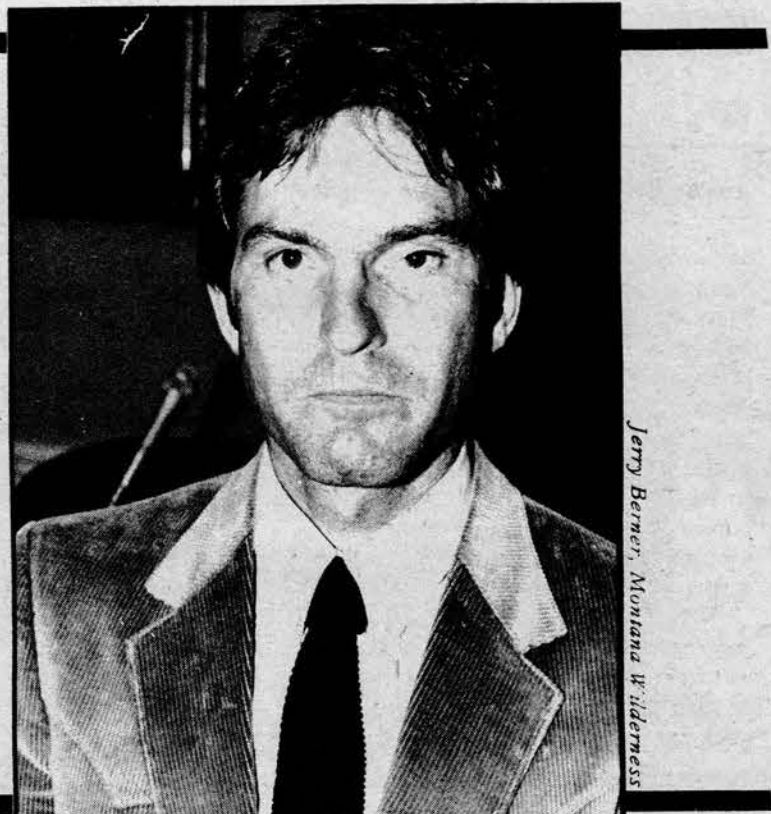
"Put simply, BLM line officers are recommending areas that they like, and using a potpourri of excuses to not recommend areas that they do not like," said Don Tryon, President of the Sage Association, who methodically documented his case with two dozen examples.

According to the Bureau's own documents, he said, "the Abert rim is a unique geologic feature representing the largest fault scarp in North America, rising more than 2,000 feet above Lake Abert." But the BLM found this WSA unsuitable due to "outside sights and sounds," and due to the proximity of privately-owned lands along the southern boundary. "Virtually all public parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, and national forests are in the proximity of private land," Tryon observed. "Somehow private property owners and public land managers cope."

Tryon charged that the agency's potpourri of excuses have run from possible off-road vehicle intrusions to future livestock grazing improvements. With regard to the latter, BLM cost-benefit analyses amortize investments over 50 years at a 7.78% discount rate. "I wish I could get that sort of deal on a house, a car, or a business loan," Tryon said. "It is one thing to subsidize the livestock industry. It is another to subsidize



Charles Yoder, Northern Rockies chapter of the Sierra Club, left, and Bruce Boccard, Committee for Idaho's High Desert



Jerry Berner, Montana Wilderness

them to destroy valuable wilderness resources."

MONTANA

Jerry Berner of the Montana Wilderness Association recounted how the review process has slowly but steadily discarded the natural lands in his native eastern Montana: "In the eastern prairie grasslands and river breaks, the Montana BLM manages nearly seven million acres, and has recommended wilderness designation for 100,127 acres, or 1.5 percent. In the Missouri River Breaks, nearly 500,000 acres should have been studied. About 25 percent of that was studied, with only 50,750 acres, or about ten percent recommended wilderness."

Berner said the principal rationale for the vast exclusion centered on impacts from vehicle ways. In 1980, Berner said one group "purchased many local radio spots expressing opposition to BLM wilderness and inviting all hunters, sightseers, and anti-wilderness supporters to drive the

Breaks -- an 'abuse-it-or-lose-it' type appeal." Apparently the strategy worked, he said.

In a plea for wilderness to preserve wildlife habitat on BLM lands, Jim Richard, President of the Montana Wildlife Federation, argued: "Sportsmen know that we can raise deer and elk in a feedlot, or even a parking lot if we have to. But we can have wild elk and deer only in wild country."

NEVADA

Nevada's wilderness "gem" is the Black Rock Desert located in the northwestern corner of the state, said Dr. Glenn Miller, Conservation Chair for the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club. "It is vast, remote and pristine." In the Black Rock have been found the fossil remains of a 12,000 year old mammoth and prehistoric Indian artifacts along with a landscape that epitomizes the Great Basin. Miller said it took a citizens' advisory panel to raise BLM's preliminary recommendation of virtually no wilderness

to about two-thirds of the roadless area. Miller said the remarkable Black Rock was threatened and other Nevada WSAs were found unsuitable for wilderness designation in order to placate "highly speculative miners' pipe dreams."

"Our objection," he said, "is that a known, high, and real wilderness value was weighed against a largely unknown mineral value." Particularly questionable, he said, is BLM policy allowing designation of Areas of Critical Mineral Potential solely on the basis of a nomination from the mining industry.

WYOMING

"BLM area managers and district supervisors often spend considerable time crawling through the sagebrush, hunting for nits," joked Dick Randall of Defenders of Wildlife. "When one is found, it is picked to death."

Randall cited the agency's proposed action for Wyoming's Adobe Town WSA, 52,710 acres of weird columns and domes rising out of a

treeless plain of grey clay. It is "the most remarkable example of so-called badland erosion within the limits of the fortieth parallel," Randall said. But what the BLM encourages, he said, is livestock forage and commodities such as natural gas.

Since 1980, Randall has been a member of the Rock Springs District Multiple-use Advisory Council, he told the subcommittee. But after former Interior Secretary James Watt packed the Council with development representatives, "it became known as 'Grazing Board Number Two'", he charged. "As for representing the multiple-uses on our public land, this Council is a farce."

ARIZONA

Michael Scott, Southwest Regional Representative for the Wilderness Society, summarized the unprecedented negotiations which led to an agreement between industry and environmentalists over wilderness designations on the Arizona Strip, that northwestern

[Continued on page 12]

The U.S. Congress can be tenacious

Under the U.S. Constitution, the Congress is empowered to make the laws and to authorize the collection and spending of tax money. The executive branch of the federal government, namely the President, implements the laws.

However, as the maker of the laws, Congress also has an implied responsibility to oversee the President's activities in executing the laws. Traditionally the Congress relegates this oversight function to its committees, which do its duties largely through formal hearings.

The question is, what can be accomplished by spending several hours in the nation's capital talking about an administration program like the BLM wilderness review?

"What is accomplished, first of all, is for us to bring to the attention of the top people (at the Interior Department) and the public what is going on with respect to the BLM wilderness review process," House Interior Subcommittee Chairman John Seiberling (D-Ohio) told *High Country News*.

"And secondly, we will be submitting additional questions to the administration for response in writing to complete our record. I would think that Interior Secretary Clark and the Director of the BLM will be reviewing their procedures and policies in the light of what is brought out at the



Rep. John Seiberling

hearing -- with the knowledge that Congress is probably going to take action if they don't."

In other words, the purpose of oversight hearings is politics, said Debbie Sease, Washington, D.C. Representative for the Sierra Club. Sease points to hearings which preceded enactment of the Endangered American Wilderness Act in 1978. The testimony of conservationists at

those proceedings discredited the Forest Service's doctrines of "purity" and "outside sights and sounds," both of which placed overly-strict definitions on what could qualify as wilderness.

The political import of congressional hearings was not lost on former Interior Secretary James Watt. Appearing before the House Public Lands and National Parks Subcommittee in December, 1982, his Assistant Secretary Garrey Carruthers "dissembled" and "prevaricated" -- to use Seiberling's words -- in order to conceal Watt's plan to eliminate about 1.5 million acres in BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Watt waited, and did not sign the order until the "lame-duck" Congress had adjourned and safely gone home.

The House Interior Committee reacted angrily, passing unanimously a resolution that Watt should reinstate the WSAs immediately. But the former Interior Secretary ignored the resolution and dodged every request to appear before the Committee, Seiberling recalled.

"We tried for almost a year to get Secretary Watt to come before the Interior Committee," Seiberling said. When Watt continually refused to show up, oversight hearings on the BLM wilderness review had to be postponed again and again. Then the

invitations became academic when Watt resigned. After William Clark was appointed the new Interior Secretary, another delay of six months became appropriate to give him time to take charge at the department.

"Some may question whether it is reasonable to expect Secretary Clark to have reversed the Watt anti-wilderness policies after only six months in office," Terry Sopher, director of BLM programs for the Wilderness Society, told the subcommittee in his testimony. "The answer is evident: these policies were put in place with the stroke of a pen, and can be corrected through another stroke of the pen."

The hearings called to order by Seiberling on June 19 took well over a year to come to fruition. Did the Reagan administration gain much by the delays? The Sierra Club's Debbie Sease thinks not.

"We had 18 people who have been working for the last year on testimony, and who had been working for years previous to that following this program. In a couple of days, William Clark was not going to be able to get briefed well enough to defend his agency's record on this program -- not with all the problems that it has."

--James Baker

Wilderness...

[continued from page 11]

portion of the state bounded by Utah, Nevada, and the Grand Canyon. The BLM was willing to recommend just 26,000 acres in the entire region, but Energy Fuels Nuclear and several conservation groups sat down together last year and hammered out a wilderness package of 288,000 acres on BLM lands, plus 107,000 acres on Forest Service holdings. That compromise package is currently pending before the Congress.

What the compromise revealed, Scott said, was that the BLM's disinterest in wilderness had forced private citizens to do the agency's work for it.

IDAHO

"We are seeing a 'Canyons and Lava Flows' syndrome," said Bruce Boccard, Executive Director of the Committee for Idaho's High Desert, "in which the agency recommends wilderness protection only for areas with few resource conflicts -- often deleting areas with high wildlife, recreation, solitude, and other wilderness values." As cases in point, he cited the Great Rift, Bruneau River, and Jarbridge River WSAs where the Bureau's recommendations have care-

fully excluded all sagebrush grasslands.

While Boccard surveyed the Idaho wilderness review, Charles C. Yoder of the Northern Rockies Chapter of the Sierra Club concentrated his testimony on a proposed livestock-watering pipeline adjacent to two WSAs on the Jacks Creek Plateau, "one of the few remaining islands of native bunchgrass left in Southwest Idaho." The plateau's small herd of California big horn sheep comprises three percent of the world's population of that rare species.

BLM documents clearly state that the proposed pipeline would increase grazing several fold and impact the two wilderness values in the WSAs -- the native grasses and the big horn sheep. In a classic case of flip-flops, Yoder said, the Regional Solicitor for the Interior Department last year released an opinion that the pipeline would constitute a management plan violation. But under pressure that opinion was withdrawn and a new one issued which reached exactly the opposite conclusion, he recalled. "Our protests to the State Director and the National Director of the BLM were not allowed," Yoder told the subcommittee.

NEW MEXICO

According to Judy Bishop, Chairperson of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee and state coordinator for the New Mexico BLM Wilderness Coalition, WSAs in her state are under siege. From a livestock-watering pipeline in Veranito, illegal wood-cutting at Ojito, post-FLPMA roads in the Presilla, and exploration for petroleum and hardrock minerals in the Florida Mountains, West Potrillo Mountains, Rimrock, and Apache Box, WSAs have been mismanaged.

Drilling in the Rimrock WSA began just one day before the oversight hearing and took place near the largest natural arch in New Mexico, she charged. "We feel that lands being considered for wilderness study are being managed for industry first and wilderness second," Bishop said. "If industry wishes for an impairing action to be approved, BLM usually does so."

COLORADO

Testifying for the Colorado Open Space Council, Paul Peterson said BLM's "anti-wilderness stance was obvious."

Field staff recommendations for the Willow Creek and Skull Creek WSAs, south of Dinosaur National Monument "were reversed by BLM State Director George Francis on the

basis of a brief helicopter overflight in May, 1982," Peterson told the subcommittee. "This outrageous, unfounded reversal of the field personnel's recommendations prompted the resignations from BLM of the team leader for the EIS." When the field staff could not develop any credible rationale for non-wilderness and again supported the areas in spring of 1983, State Director Francis overturned that decision, too, Peterson said.

At the Red Cloud Peak WSA in central Colorado, which encompasses two peaks over 14,000 feet in elevation, a proposal has come forward to develop alunite ore. "Such development will result in a 2,000 foot deep stripmine on the top of 12,800 foot Red Mountain over the 104-year life of the proposed mine," Peterson testified. "Yet, incredibly, BLM has determined that the removal of an entire mountain from the WSA constitutes no significant adverse environmental impact." Local citizens want the BLM to write a full EIS to analyze the impacts further.

A free-lance writer in Salt Lake City, Utah, James Baker also serves as National BLM Wilderness Chair for the Sierra Club. This article was made possible by The High Country News Research Fund.

Interior Secretary Clark gives a low-key performance

Two days after conservationists appeared before Seiberling's subcommittee, the list of witnesses contained exactly one name -- William P. Clark, Secretary of the Interior.

Half an hour before the day's proceedings were scheduled to begin, the hearing room had passed the point of standing room only. Officials from the Department of the Interior and the BLM occupied the entire front row of the audience gallery, sitting shoulder to shoulder in business suits, whispering to one another and waiting for their boss to arrive.

When he did, Clark shook hands with the Subcommittee members, and then to the surprise of more than a few spectators, sat down alone at the witness table. Protocol permits an aide or two to accompany such a star witness. Clark apparently felt so well prepared that he would not need a staffer to push the relevant document across the table, or whisper the forgotten detail in his ear.

Little new information came out. Clark did announce: "The field work studies will have been completed by 1987." That represents a significant de-acceleration in the wilderness review process. Watt had intended to bring the Reagan administration proposals to Congress as early as 1984, and certainly not later than 1986. Now, according to Clark, the

President may not be prepared to make his recommendations to Congress until the statutory deadline of 1991.

The Interior Secretary repeated that his approach was to deal with the wilderness program "on a case-by-case, issue-by-issue basis, following the law." But to questions about specific cases and issues, he largely promised to follow up with answers as soon as possible.

Questioned by Subcommittee Chairman John Seiberling and by Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-Connecticut) about the 1.5 million acres deleted from wilderness study by Watt in 1982 and 1983, Clark responded that he preferred to let the courts decide the matter. He said there was no compelling reason to rescind Watt's order or to settle out of court.

Clark was asked specifically about which "anti-wilderness policies" he might be willing to change. Would he hire some botanists, asked Rep. Jim Weaver (D-Oregon), especially since the BLM does not have any on staff in Eastern Oregon, Nevada, Utah, or Idaho? Clark replied, "I find that more personnel doesn't necessarily mean bigger product."

Clark was asked about section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act which mandates Interim Management Protection for all

Wilderness Study Areas, about the oil well at the Mt. Ellen WSA in Utah, the proposed water pipeline at the Jacks Creek WSA in Idaho, and the Barstow-to-Las Vegas motocross race in California.

"As with all such issues," Clark said, "we are committed to following the law."

Seiberling countered, "BLM has almost deliberately allowed degradation of wilderness values, or even promoted degradation." Then he gave the Interior Secretary two aerial photographs of the Mt. Ellen oil well pad, which demonstrated little or no effort to reclaim the area. Clark responded that the episode occurred before his tenure as Interior Secretary, but that "reclamation is underway." He could not explain why the photographs showed so little progress.

As for Diana Webb, the district wilderness co-ordinator in Moab, Utah, who has been accused of conflict of interest, Clark told Rep. James V. Hansen (R-Utah) that the case "has been thoroughly investigated" and closed. Later, when Seiberling read from the testimony of Jim Catlin, Conservation Chair for the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, Clark said, "This is all very interesting." He added that in his opinion, the Diana Webb matter should be referred to the new solicitor for the Interior

Department. But Clark said the issue might better be "worked out" through co-operation between Interior, special interest groups and Congress rather than the courts.

Unlike his predecessor, the Interior Secretary did not show hostility to the concept of wilderness. He told the Subcommittee: "I look upon wilderness as a resource. Our handbook says so." Noting the results of a recent study by the U.S. Geological Survey, he said, "There is less (oil and gas) asset there (in wilderness and wilderness candidate areas) than thought."

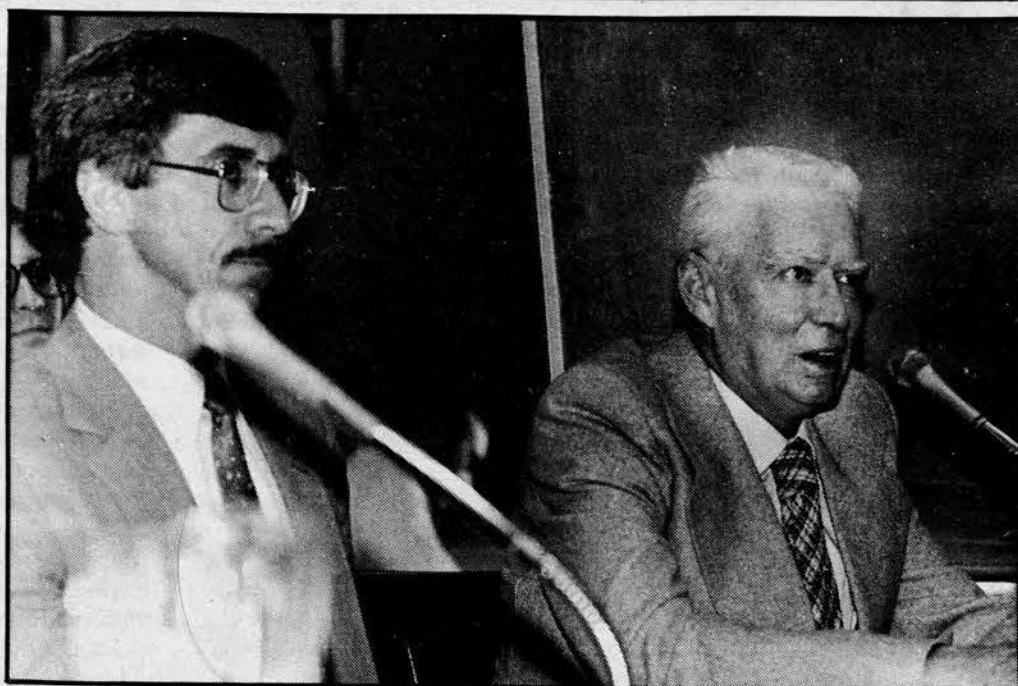
But the Interior Secretary was tripped up once on a matter of basic information. He reported that, after the wilderness designation last year of Bear Trap Canyon on BLM lands in Montana, "horseback riding must cease -- a traditional use." Chairman Seiberling quickly informed Clark that horseback riding within designated wilderness areas is not prohibited under the Wilderness Act.

Typical of Clark's style, his performance before the Subcommittee aroused no heat and less controversy. "Policies (at Interior) do not seem to have changed much," Rep. Gejdenson commented. "But you are doing a good job of keeping the press away."

--James Baker



James Baker



Terry Sopher, the Wilderness Society, left, and Dick Randall, Defenders of Wildlife

A closer look at two who spoke up for wilderness

A total of 18 witnesses -- all conservationists -- testified before the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks on June 19. Within their ranks could be found national leaders such as Terry Sopher, Director of BLM programs for the Wilderness Society based in Washington, D.C., and local activists such as Alice Elshoff, a schoolteacher who has "adopted" the Badlands Wilderness Study Area in central Oregon. Here is a closer look at Jerry Berner and Judy Bishop, two who came to Washington to tell Congress about BLM wilderness.

The same year that Judy Bishop left her native Ohio, the Cuyahoga River in downtown Cleveland caught fire. "I realized that things like that happen when people don't care," she says.

Nobody will ever accuse Judy of not caring. She is the Chairperson of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, the first woman to hold that post, and two years ago she helped found the New Mexico BLM

Wilderness Coalition which she also heads. None of these "honors" happened overnight: "I worked my way up through the ranks from general flunky and indentured servant."

Last year she left her job in state government to set up her own consulting firm in accounting and data processing. "It's ending up that I'm working more on public land issues. That's all right, it's a lot of fun."

Why does she invest so much of her time and energy without pay? "I'm a desert rat. I have sand in my boots," she told the Subcommittee in her testimony. "I know most people think only of sand, heat, and probably desolation when they think of desert. This is because they do not know the desert."

The desert rat began doing nitty-gritty work like mailings, petition drives, and phone calls, as well as the "glamorous things like testifying before Congress," when "I suddenly realized that the desert was not being managed right, and it did need to be protected."

Single, Judy Bishop lives in Santa Fe with her dog Hannah. Last year she fulfilled a lifetime dream: she earned her pilot's license. Now when it is needed, she can do her field work from her own plane.

By contrast, Jerry Berner, who testified at the oversight hearing for the Montana Wilderness Association, lives with four generations of his family, including four daughters, on their 5000 acre ranch at the end of "a bumpy dirt road" near Big Sandy. His father and brother raise wheat while Jerry works the cattle and runs the tree nursery.

Growing up on the badlands and steppes of the Missouri Breaks in eastern Montana, Jerry learned to ride a horse as soon as he could get in the saddle. "I used to ride 25 miles on horseback just to visit my best friend," he recalls. In the saddle, he developed "an ingrained appreciation for the wide open prairies and badlands" along the Missouri River.

In 1980 he formed the Missouri Breaks Protection Association "be-

cause the BLM was doing such an inadequate inventory, and it appeared the study decisions were going to be equally inadequate." He also saw sodbusting, dams, and bulldozers tearing up the lands he has loved from childhood. He says he wanted to save at least a few fragments for his grandchildren to enjoy.

Jerry Berner sees no inconsistency between ranching for a living and advocating wilderness as an avocation. "Deep down inside, ranchers love wilderness," he says. "That's why they are out there ranching, because it's certainly not for the money."

But some of his neighbors do not share his enthusiasm for wilderness and have expressed less than enthusiasm for Jerry Berner. In other words, there have been threats. "I don't worry about it," he says. "I just try not to leave the bars late at night by myself."

-- James Baker

LETTERS

A SACRED ABUSE

Dear HCN,

Just when I began to worry that *High Country News* readers might convict me of using hyperbole in telling the story of how the Animas-La Plata project got authorized, along comes the story of Stagecoach Reservoir on the Yampa River. In this one the conservancy district board didn't even bother to get themselves reappointed to office before pushing a taxing scheme to build the latest monument to the Colorado water religion.

I had no intention of topping that story except that life works that way. One outrage succeeds another. In Durango a district court judge just ruled that the legal bills of the Southwestern Water Conservation District are "confidential attorney-client privileged" documents.

The Southwestern Water Conservation District collects property taxes from parts of nine counties. Over half the annual budget of this district goes for legal work. Thanks to the ruling of Judge Al Haas the taxpayers in those counties can't even find out

where and for what their tax dollars went.

Voltaire once said that nothing is as sacred as an established abuse. (He was referring to wife beating when he said it.) That statement is even more applicable to Colorado water institutions.

Jeanne W. Englert
Lafayette, Colorado

MONSTROUS WATERWORKS

Dear HCN,

The June 11 issue of *High Country News* featuring the Colorado River is by far the best I have read on this monstrous Bureau of Reclamation undertaking. While with the Forest Service in Utah, I had opportunity to see how the Bureau operates in selling the Central Utah Project including the Bonneville Unit. Your article and Ms. Englert's aptly describe the situation. I wish all our Congressional people would read this issue.

John M. Herbert
Darby, Montana

CONDEMNS VIGILANTES

Dear HCN,

If letters to editors carried titles, over this one would be "The More Things Change the More They Are the Same." My reference is to the report (HCN, 6/11/84) of KKK-type doings in the Utah town of Escalante: effigy hangings and gangsterlike vandalism in the burying in a target person's driveway of one or more boards with intruding nails with the obvious intent to damage somebody's car or cars, and possibly even to cause damage to human beings as well.

This sort of thing harks back to the doings of long ago when the white man's West was young and whoever could draw fastest or talk the persuasively-est did away with whoever had obstructed the getting of something of dollar value. It reminds of Wyoming's Johnson County War and, yes, of the doings of both sides in the frequent cattle-sheep "wars" of those same years. More recently, in the late 1940s, a respected gasoline and oil distributor based at Casper, Wyoming, was driven out of business through a boycott while he was active

in the opposition to the attempted Great Land Grab of those years by a segment of the livestock industry, working through its Joint National Committee on Public Lands. Charlie Piersall was the businessman's name, and the *Casper Star-Tribune* came close to calling what happened "gangsterism."

It seems we've still got a bunch of the vigilante types around--and Utah certainly isn't alone in this--who are bound and determined to take the law and "justice" into their own hands whenever somebody comes along who thinks and talks a different solution to our resource problems; different, that is, from what the vigilante types want.

Somehow, but soon, the law-abiding and justice-seeking people of the West--and other parts of the country where vigilante thinking still lingers, which includes my present home in some similar respects--must persuade those who choose the wrong way, the vigilante way, that such attitudes and actions have long since outlived whatever excuse for existence they may possibly have ever had.

William Voigt, Jr.
Blackshear, Georgia

Dam...

[Continued from page 1]

Abbey sees these same mildly curious, polite, clean visitors as the scum of the earth -- "Slobivius americanus". At his most charitable, most humble, Abbey asks: "Who am I to pity the degradation and misery of my fellow citizens?"

At times Abbey admits to understanding how dams come to be. Rafting in Glen Canyon before Lake Powell, he wrote: "Alone in the silence, I understand for a moment the dread which many feel in the presence of primeval desert, the unconscious fear which compels them to tame, alter or destroy what they cannot understand, to reduce the wild and prehuman to human dimensions."

But in the same essay ("Down the River" in *Desert Solitaire*), dam building becomes a plot:

"Such are my... feelings... as we float away on the river, leaving behind for a while all that we most heartily and joyfully detest. That's what the first taste of the wild does to a man, after having been too long penned up in the city. No wonder the Authorities are so anxious to smother the wilderness under asphalt and reservoirs. They know what they're doing; their lives depend on it, and all their rotten institutions."

It is clear what Abbey is against. It

is harder to follow him "into freedom in the most simple, literal, primitive meaning of the word, the only meaning that really counts. The freedom, for example, to commit murder and get away with it Scot-free..."

That's Abbey the extremist -- the man who writes lovingly of exploding a bomb in the depths of Gamble's beloved Glen Canyon Dam. It's an Abbey who is easy to dismiss. While he spews hatred toward mass man, the Tom Gambles of the world keep that society warm, clothed and fed through their organizational talent and technical mastery.

So the question isn't: Will Edward Abbey deign to tour Glen Canyon with Tom Gamble, but Why should Tom Gamble take time from his productive life to guide destructive, fulminating, impractical Abbey through his dam?

An outsider can't answer that question. And Bureau insiders aren't about to tell us if they feel firmly enough in control of their destiny to guide Abbey or anyone else through their facilities. Or whether they feel, over the long run, that they are losing ground and must come to some terms with what Abbey stands for.

Is there common ground on which Gamble and Abbey can stand during this tour? Not on the issue of Lake Powell. It will take only a glance downstream of the dam -- at the river flowing through the unflooded canyon -- to remind Abbey of what's been

covered up to create "this reservoir of stagnant water" whose name "Dis-honors the memory, spirit and vision of Major John Wesley Powell... Where he and his brave men once lined the rapids and glided through silent canyons two thousand feet deep the motorboats now smoke and whine, scumming the water with cigarette butts, beer cans and oil, dragging the water skiers on their endless rounds..."

Gamble might have better luck communicating with Abbey within the dam, out of sight of lake and canyon. And communication might have been easiest during the past 12 months, when the dam was an arena which challenged workers, scientists and administrators as much as the canyon challenged Powell and his crew on their voyage. For the dam last summer came close to self-destruction.

A remnant of that effort was still visible in early June as a crew of construction workers perched on a wooden platform hung from cables in the nearly vertical 41-foot-diameter left spillway tunnel. The tunnel had been ready for water since May, but the crew was painting the lily -- installing water and pressure monitors, using torches to cut off metal bars left from the concrete pours, and exmining for one last time the surface of the tunnel.

Even in the warm spring desert air, the work looked hard. The men and women were clad in plastic coats to protect against water which poured out of openings in the tunnel walls. It was difficult to imagine conditions during the winter, when below freezing temperatures and a constant wind through the tunnel whipped up the cold spilling water and made work a misery.

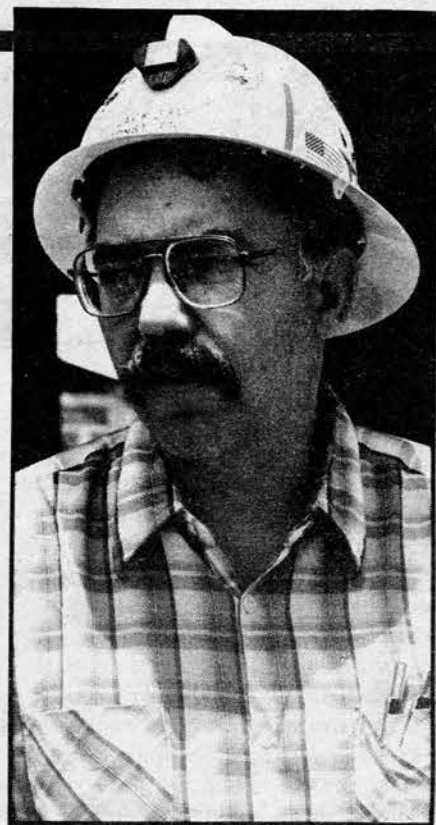
About 500,000 man and woman-hours have been spent in the two tunnels, blasting and mucking out the log-cabin-sized debris ripped out during last spring's spills, building jumbo platforms and floating barges to work on, and then pouring concrete to restore the tunnels to their original round, water-resistive condition.

The work was done by a crew that was 50 percent minority -- mostly Navajo Indians -- and 12 percent women. Judging by their t-shirts, the contractor had hired a large number of MASH fans. Judging by their appearance, they were as different from Bureau career men as is imaginable.

The work in the gently sloping bottom section of the tunnel -- the part the 100 mile per hour water had ripped to pieces -- was fairly routine. The interesting work took place above the elbow, where the vertical part of spillway is joined to the gently sloping section. On that vertical part, working off the cable-supported jumbo platforms in a constant drizzle, Controlled Demolition, Inc. played a delicate game. Their job was to drill 3,400 holes into the concrete walls to blast a four-foot-deep, four-foot-wide slot running part way around the tunnel like a belt. (HCN, 5/14/84).

Just above the slots workers poured a seven-inch ramp to send water shooting over it to mix with air sucked in through the slot. The goal is to mix air into the spilling water, turning the water mauress-soft to suppress shock waves caused by cavitation. It was those shock waves which made the initial holes in the spillway, holes then widened by erosion.

The slot and its ramp look impressive enough to visitors roped to a mancar held by cables on the very



Jack Tyler

steep sides of the left spillway tunnel. But Jack Tyler, the project engineer who has kept the \$20 million repair project on schedule for the last year, is bothered. "After all the money and agony we went through I was disappointed -- just a four-foot ditch in the tunnel."

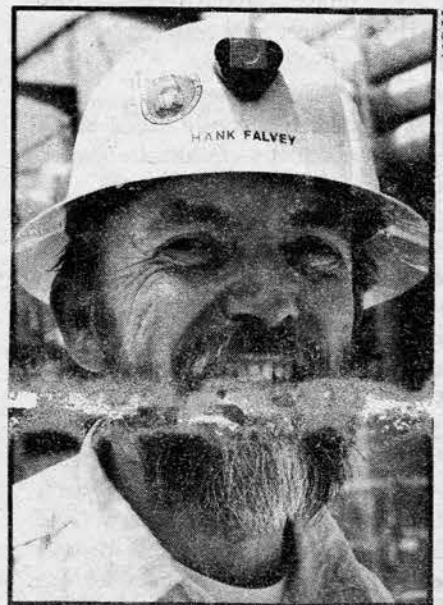
The disintegration last spring occurred under flows of only 20,000 to 30,000 cubic feet per second. This year, with the air slot in place, Bureau scientist Henry Falvey estimates each spillway will be able to handle over 100,000 cfs without damage.

Will the spillways and their fancy new air slots work? That will be known in early August. Divers will go into Lake Powell to knock out the epoxy glue which seals shut the 52.5-foot-high radial gates guarding the tunnels -- the gates on which the famous plywood splashboards were mounted last spring. With the seals broken, the gates will be raised and flows of up to 50,000 cfs will test the left spillway.

Would Abbey, after a tour, see Glen Canyon Dam as a challenge such as that which faced Powell and his crew in the same place? Would he see it as a place where people test themselves, their ideas and their instruments in as legitimate a way as faced by Powell or any mountain climber or river runner?

Would he be interested in quirks of the project, such as the "Navajo Navy" -- the barges built to gain access to the flooded spillway tunnels? Would the death that occurred in an explosion, or the fact that the project's safety record was exemplary, allow him to establish some sort of comradeship with the Bureau and its people?

Probably not.



Henry Falvey

Western issues aren't always pretty



Jeff Clack

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OPINION

The rancher-environmentalist feuding should end

by Linda Hasselstrom

I'm a South Dakota rancher; we run cattle on land leased from the government as well as land to which we hold title. I'm also an active environmentalist. In 1980, I helped lead the fight to pass an initiative which would have required a statewide vote before the establishment of any uranium or nuclear facility in the state. I'm now involved in passage of a similar initiative affecting only radioactive waste dumps, and have worked hard for similar causes.

Because of my interests, I've been disturbed to see an apparent battle line being drawn between ranchers and environmentalists. The ranchers, with hundreds of acres destroyed by prairie dog damage, sneer at environmentalists who seem to think the little rodents are cute, and environmentalists charge ranchers with overgrazing, murdering antelope and deer, and other "cruelties."

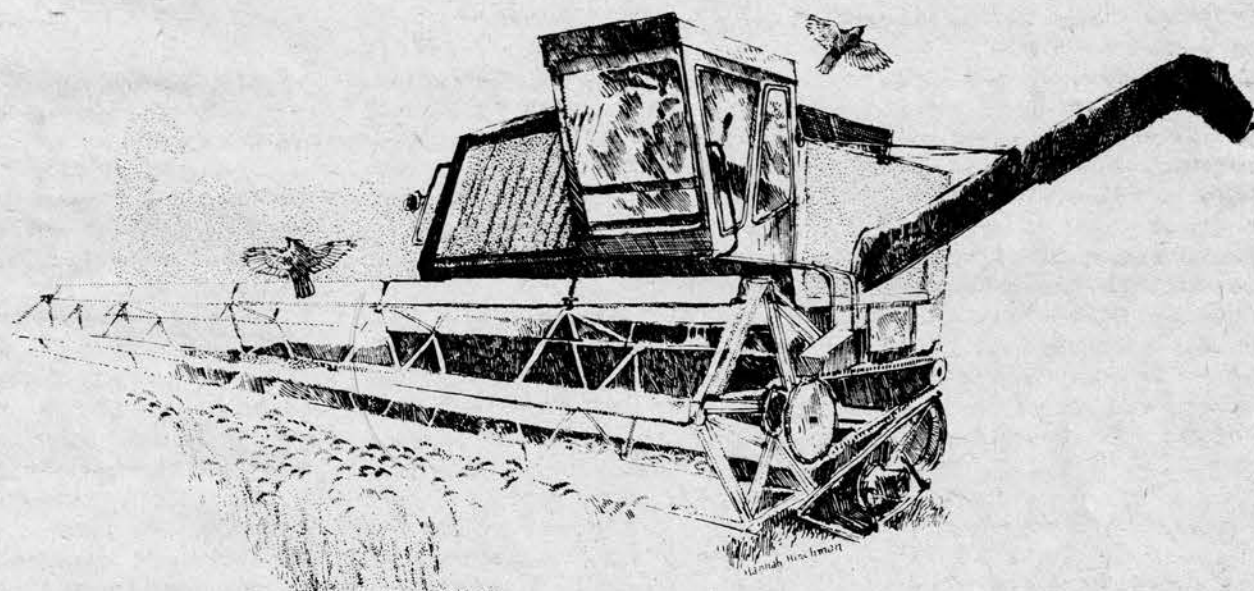
As a rancher, I must protest. Bear in mind that here in South Dakota, public land leased to ranchers is not generally counted in the millions of acres as it is in some less populous states. But I think some of the same misunderstandings between the two camps still apply.

We treat our public land just as we treat our own: with care. If we don't, it won't support our cattle next year. We never overgraze; in a dry year we start selling cows in early summer to avoid it. My father, who runs this place, has lived on it almost all of his 75 years, and he knows to the cow how many head a particular pasture will run comfortably, in wet years or dry. If anything, we habitually undergraze, and we're not alone; most of the ranchers we know might not call themselves conservationists, and certainly not environmentalists, but they know that if you take care of the land, there's a better chance that it will take care of you. And most, like us, are equally respectful of the other life forms that share this land with our cattle.

This morning, trucking cattle to our summer pasture, my husband and I saw the usual herds of deer and antelope; we see them every time we make that 10-mile trip, and we've never shot at them yet. One buck rates special care: he's still limping on the leg some hunter wounded last fall. We go out of our way to avoid disturbing him, and like the others, he merely makes a token run when he sees our pickup coming.

In the pasture where the prairie dogs used to be the only living thing we saw, burrowing owls ruffled their feathers and crouched as we passed; later in the spring owlets will gather at the burrow entrance, climbing on each others shoulders to see out. We let the prairie dogs alone until they destroyed most of a hay bottom; then we obtained bombs that asphyxiated them in their burrows. We chose bombs to kill the rodents with less risk to the surrounding population of coyotes, owls, and other predators, and only after using dogs for target practice had failed to limit the size of the town. It's risky to ride a horse at more than a gallop across the dog town even now, and we often have to do tricky high-speed maneuvers on horseback there when cutting cattle.

When driving through the pastures, we stick to the trails we've used on this land for 60 years. Even driving over grass buried under snowdrifts leaves trails that are visible next spring. And everywhere we can see the trails of hunters who have somehow avoided our signs and warnings, and driven all over the pasture; those tracks of a



single passage will remain for several seasons.

We did drive out of the track this morning to keep from running over a bull snake. We don't even bother rattlesnakes, though I'll admit to killing one that surprised me when I was picking corn in the garden barefoot, something I don't do anymore. Out in the pastures, we ride or drive around them, and hope the little calves don't get too curious.

You'd find no garbage on our land of our leaving, only what is left by hunters, and the railroad crews who toss their lunch leavings over the fence. An amazing amount of junk blows deep into our land from the highway that passes by one side of it, and now and then we're able to catch passerbys who have parked in our entrance road to empty their bladders and their car waste baskets. We don't mind the former, but we make them pick up the other trash. We've longed to find an address in the piles of garbage we pick up annually, so we could return the favor on someone's lawn in town.

When I first began driving the tractor to mow and rake hay in the summer, my father warned me that one field was a favorite spot for does to hide their fawns. The noise of the tractor frightened the little fellows so much they wouldn't run until the tractor hit them. He advised me to mow slowly in that field, maintaining just enough speed to keep the cutter bar moving, to lessen the chance of maiming a fawn, in spite of the fact that speed is everything in getting hay into the stack in good condition. That's just one example of his concern for our co-residents. He's also known as one of the few ranchers in the area who allows no one to shoot a coyote, ever. Other ranchers insist that coyotes kill calves, but he points out that in 60 years, he's seen no evidence of that. Once a calf of ours caught his head in a tree and was helpless to escape for at least a week. The coyotes didn't bother him until he died after we'd freed him. Then they cleaned up the remains, the job they do best.

A few days ago, I rode a neighbor's pasture to check on a report that some of our cattle had been seen there. I found no cattle, but I saw 10 deer, 7 antelope, 2 coyotes, and dozens of smaller animals including a great horned owl. The grass was knee-high on my horse, and the bottoms overflowing with water from the last snowstorm. I used to ride a good deal in this pasture when I was a child, and once saw two turtles -- larger than washtubs -- mating or fighting in one of the ponds.

I didn't see them on this trip, but saw many of their smaller relatives.

It occurred to me that this pasture and many others in this area are really "wildernesses" by the American Heritage definition: "any unsettled, uncultivated region left in its natural condition." Our neighbor turns his cattle in late June, and removes them in October or November, giving the land plenty of time to recover from the grazing. The little streams have more manure in them, but they still support an abundance of water life. If this was public land -- if the public could enter it to enjoy its beauty -- the streams would rapidly become clogged with beer cans and toilet paper; the owls, the deer, antelope and coyotes would go elsewhere (if there were anywhere left to go); the buffalo grass would be flattened by cars; and the cliffs scarred by footpaths and the devastation of individuals who enjoy the sound of rolling rocks.

Because this land is under private ownership, it remains wild. It is managed so that the cattle will do no permanent damage; in fact, their manure, and their feeding habits, encourage plants that might not survive elsewhere. Not every rancher is so careful with his land, but if we bother to investigate, we'd probably find that most individual ranches are well cared for. It's the corporate owners, or the people who buy a place, strip it and then move on, who do the greatest damage. Unfortunately of course, private ownership also means that not just anyone can enjoy the land. You have to ask permission -- but in many cases, if you demonstrated that you would not be careless with the land, permission would not be difficult to obtain. This won't help everyone, of course, because if we let in everyone who promised to be kind to the land, the thundering hordes would trample it to dust.

Still, perhaps some who care about the land can be content knowing that someone is taking care of it, that we don't really regard ourselves as owners of the land, but only as those chosen to keep it in good shape for the future. I ask my fellow environmentalists to think and investigate before they make sweeping condemnations of ranchers; and ranchers to be similarly understanding with environmentalists. We have much more in common than most of us know, and if we ever concentrated on those issues and ignored the disagreements -- what a coalition!

Linda Hasselstrom lives in Hermosa, South Dakota where she also runs an independent publishing service.

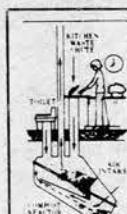
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OFF THE WALL

New Playboy philosophy

If you drink and drive, *Playboy's* bunny logo is going to shed a tear for you. The crying bunny ads say:

"Drunk driving ends the good life."

The firm will spend several hundred dollars spreading the word where beer and booze are consumed: Playboy Clubs, liquor stores, and college campuses.

The explicit message is that you shouldn't drink and drive. The implicit message is that men (if you call them that) who don't belong to a Playboy Club or at least subscribe to *Playboy* magazine are not leading the good life. Such poor souls clearly have nothing going for them and might as well get into their classless non-turbo underpowered car and smash themselves up.

Pinball zaps PacMan

It may be too soon to lose faith in America. Those who believe we have permanently turned from traditional values which made us strong can take hope from a front-page article in July's *Western Business*.

It said the nation's infatuation with video games has ended and we are returning to traditional favorites: pinball and pool. Video game revenue dropped by half in 1983 from its heyday. If the steep decline continues, pinball, on a per machine basis, may soon be earning more than video games.

A warming plot

High Country News has learned that behind the Greenhouse Effect lies a massive plot. Certain large companies plan to earn billions by heating up the world. In on the plot are makers of air conditioners, swim and sunwear, sunglasses, swimming pools, beach umbrellas and cabana club franchisers.

But these are small fry compared to the plot's real movers and shakers -- Big Oil and Big Coal. With coal at \$25 a ton and gasoline at \$1.15 a gallon, they see their energy sales as loss leaders. They are pumping as much carbon dioxide into the air to bring on the warming. They then expect to make big money from real estate.

Industry scientists have already calculated where the new Atlantic and Pacific ocean shorelines will be. An examination of records in 1,700 county courthouses reveals a pattern of land purchases along narrow strips of land several hundred miles inland. Plans already exist to build

boardwalks, seaside condominiums, Nathans Hot Dog stands and gambling casinos in such towns as Boone, Kentucky, Decatur, Alabama, and Cedar City, Utah.

A spokesman for the conspirators said Operation Greenhouse has a sound basis in economics. "You can only get really rich during times of radical change. The energy firms made their first fortunes during the shift from animal to fossil energy. But that's over. So now they're precipitating a huge climate change to make their next fortune."

One victim of the drive to melt the seacaps has been the nuclear industry. The spokesman said, "Environmentalists think they did the industry in. But we're the ones who destroyed it. Nuclear power produces lots of nasty stuff, but no carbon dioxide. So it had to go."

The fossil fuel firms haven't acted against solar energy. "It's small. And once we get well into the greenhouse changes, the skies will become much more cloudy. And that will cook their goose."

Although most of those pushing for global warming are in it for the bucks, the conspirators include some ideologues. They see that the Sunbelt is thriving while the Frostbelt staggers. Plus, much of the nation's military industry is in the Sunbelt. So they figure that a strong America is a hot America and they want to heat things up.

--Ed Marston

BULLETIN BOARD

WILDERNESS FIRE POLICY

Max Peterson, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, is accepting comments on a proposed policy change that would allow rangers to light and manage fires in National Forest Wilderness areas. The Forest Service contends the proposed change would permit fire to return to its natural role in wilderness ecosystems. The deadline for commenting is August 4. Write to Peterson at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, P. O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call 202/447-2311.

UTAHNS AGAINST A DUMP

The U.S. Department of Energy, which is considering a site for a nuclear waste dump one mile from Canyonlands National Park, faces opposition in Utah from the *Don't Waste Utah Campaign*. The group of concerned Utahns can be contacted at: Don't Waste Utah, Box 1563, Salt Lake City, UT 84110, or call 801/532-4796.

FROM THE DANNENS

HCN contributors Kent and Donna Dannen tell the story of past and present Colorado in their book *Colorado: Rocky Mountain Country* (Rand McNally & Company, 1983). Filled with photographs, maps and anecdotes of the state's history, the book is a good introduction for the first-time visitor. *Colorado: Rocky Mountain Country* is a volume in Rand McNally's Landmarks of America series.

GAO REPORTS

The General Accounting Office (GAO) publishes hundreds of reports and pamphlets a year and publicizes them in the *Monthly List of GAO Reports*. A wide variety of government-related topics are examined from a fiscal standpoint, ranging from the status of the Peacekeeper (MX) weapon system to EPA's preliminary estimate of future hazardous waste cleanup costs. The monthly lists and the first copy of any report are free. For more long titles and deathless prose contact the U.S. General Accounting Office, Documents Handling and Information Services Facility, P. O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 (202/275-6241).

COMMENTS WANTED BY THE BLM

The Bureau of Land Management has asked for public comments about what financial and other information should be required when a coal lease is transferred from one company to another. The information would be used by BLM to evaluate other coal tracts being considered for leasing and to determine whether bids received for these coal leases constitute fair market value, says BLM Director Robert Burford. Comments may be submitted until August 17, to Director (650), Bureau of Land Management, 1800 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.



MEADOW MEETING

Colorado State University is hosting a seminar on management of irrigated mountain meadows and pastures July 11-13 in Gunnison, Colorado. The second annual Intermountain Meadow Symposium will feature water researchers and area ranchers who grapple with the issues of ranching, water and soil in mountain meadows. Registration costs are \$45 for the full symposium and \$25 for single-day registration. For information call Gene Seimer, CSU Mountain Meadow Research Center at 303/641-2515.

FOUR STATES TO COVER

The Sierra Club has selected Larry Mehlhoff as its new Northern Plains representative and organizer. Mehlhoff, who worked for the Colorado Open Space Council in Denver, has a wide territory to cover: Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wyoming. Mehlhoff replaces Bruce Hamilton, who supervises field offices for the Sierra Club in San Francisco. Mehlhoff's office is at the Columbus Building, 23 North Scott, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801, 307/672-0425.

INVESTOR NEWS

If you buy and sell stocks for yourself or an organization, you may wish to invest in "The Corporate Examiner." The ten-times-a-year newsletter describes the policies and practices of various companies in the areas of environmental and social issues. The No. 3, 1984 issue looks at the global pesticide issue. Subscriptions are \$25 each from: Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, 475 Riverside Dr., Room 566, N.Y., N.Y. 10115; 212/870-2936.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

...the more they stay the same, especially with western water development. And this is shown very clearly in a 100-page book by Helen M. Ingram titled *Patterns of Politics in Water Resource Development: A Case Study of New Mexico's Role in the Colorado River Basin Bill*. Although the title was created by a specialist in dullness, this 1969 academic study of the 1968 passage of the bill authorizing the Central Arizona Project is -- on a per page basis -- the best we've seen. Although Professor Ingram pretends to focus on New Mexico, her perspective is national. She tells how the late Senator Scoop Jackson of Washington and former Congressman John Saylor of Pennsylvania, as well as 'locals' like Arizona Congressman Mo Udall and Colorado's late Wayne Aspinall shaped the bill we live with today. In our quickly-moving world, 1969 academic studies should be dated by now. But Prof. Ingram's work may be more interesting, and more relevant, today than when it was first published by the University of New Mexico's Institute for Social Research and Development in Albuquerque.

DIAL-A-FLOW

Here's more phone numbers where river runners can obtain river flow and weather information. For flows of most of the raftable rivers and creeks in Colorado call 303/371-7739. The National Weather Service in Salt Lake City has a recording (801/539-1311) with more complete weather and flow information for the White, San Juan, Weber, Green, Yampa, Dolores, and Colorado Rivers in western Colorado and Utah. Find out about New Mexico river flows at 505/243-0702. For Idaho rivers, call 208/334-9867; for Oregon, 503/249-0666; and for Washington, 206/526-8530.

A CALL FOR WASTE PAPERS

Sponsors of next spring's annual Tucson waste management conference are calling for papers. Waste Management '85 will be held March 24-28, 1985 and is sponsored by the University of Arizona, the U.S. Department of Energy, the American Nuclear Society, the Electric Power Research Institute, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Papers on all aspects of radioactive and hazardous waste management are invited. Abstracts must be in by September 20, 1984; completed papers are due February 20, 1985. Write to M. E. Wachs or J. G. McCray, Department of Nuclear and Energy Engineering, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.



WILDS EXPEDITIONS

The American Wilderness Alliance is sponsoring more than 60 non-profit outdoor expeditions this year to acquaint people with threatened wild places. Outings include backpacking, hiking, horsepacking and fishing in the Rocky Mountains, as well as rafting, boating, kayaking, canoeing and sailing wild waters from Arizona to Alaska and Minnesota to Hawaii. Nature photography workshops and adventure study for college credit are also available. All outings are described in a 16-page, four-color "Wilderness Adventures" brochure. Send \$1 to Wilderness Adventures, American Wilderness Alliance, 4260 E. Evans, Denver, CO 80222.

FOREST SERVICE LEASE FEES

Comments will be accepted until July 23, 1984, on a new fee schedule proposed for privately-owned recreation residences on National Forest land. Among other changes, the review cycle would be extended from 5 to 20 years and annual fees would more accurately reflect the market value of the property lease. Details can be obtained from the May 23 Federal Register, and questions and comments sent to R. Max Peterson, Chief, USDA, Forest Service, P. O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013.

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