

High Country News

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A Paper for People who Care about the West

One dollar

Two Forks Dam:

EPA reaffirms its veto intent

The Environmental Protection Agency pushed the proposed Two Forks dam one step closer to oblivion last week.

At a press conference in Denver, Colo., Lee DeHines, the EPA's acting regional administrator for the Two Forks project, said that after 4 1/2 months of study and 160 hours of meetings with both project backers and opponents, he will recommend that his agency veto the massive dam as a violation of the Clean Water Act.

"We believe there are practical alternatives to Two Forks," DeHines said, noting that the project would cause excessive and unacceptable environmental damage, reports the *Denver Post*. DeHines also said that Denver's stagnant growth rates and half-hearted water conservation efforts made the need for the \$1 billion dam questionable.

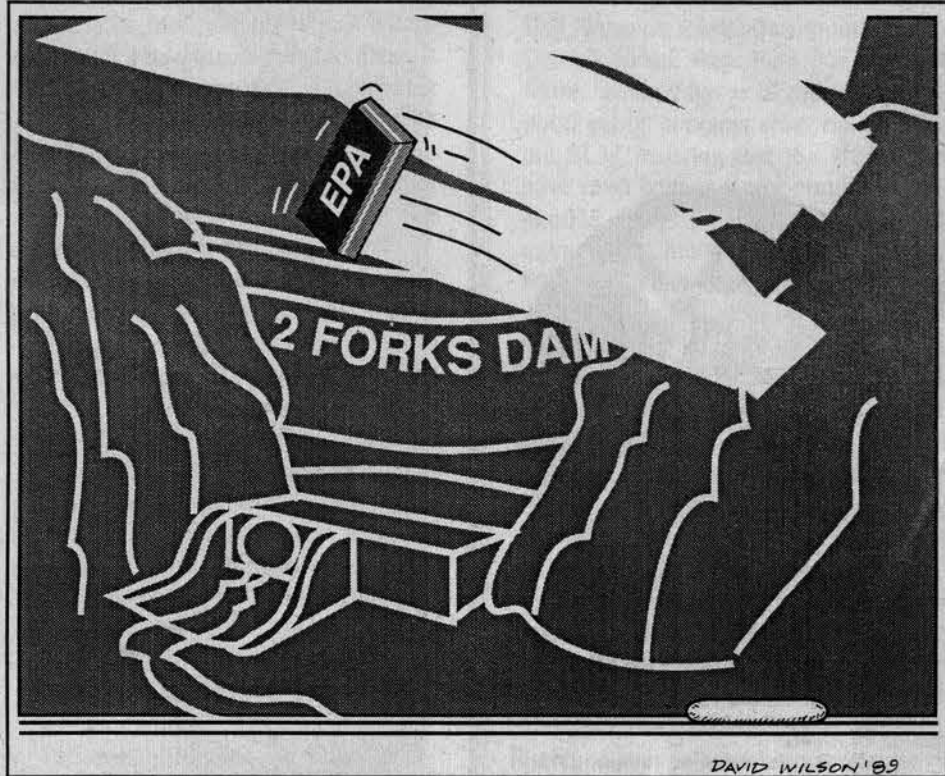
While expected, the decision angered Denver politicians and developers. "There are so many errors and mistakes here that it's clear to us that Mr. DeHines did not understand this issue," Denver Mayor Federico Pena told the *Post*. "This is not a factual statement he has made. This is a political statement."

Other politicians warned that the veto would dry up farmlands on Colorado's Front Range, cripple the state's economy and bar any further large water projects in the West.

But the state's environmentalists and project opponents praised the EPA for refusing to buckle to intense pressure from the Denver Water Board. "This recommendation brings us one step closer to a triumph for common sense, for Colorado ratepayers and for the environment," said Melinda Kassen, a senior attorney with the Environmental Defense Fund.

The political odds are now weighted heavily against the 615-foot-high dam. Since EPA administrator William Reilly announced the proposed veto last March, the agency has been flooded with over 7,000 letters on the issue — which ran 10 to one against Two Forks, DeHines said.

However, several steps remain before Reilly can make a final ruling. DeHines will consider public comments on the proposed veto until Nov. 17, and will hold at least two public hearings in October, one in Denver and one in Nebraska. He will then forward the



entire project file to Reilly in Washington, D.C.

In the public notice announcing the veto, DeHines asked specifically for comments on the effect of the dam on water quality, wildlife and recreation; new information on threatened and endangered species, population projections and alternative water supplies (including conservation); and whether

the project should be prohibited forever, restricted in time, size or other manner, or permitted as proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Comments should be addressed to Mary Alice Reedy, Record Clerk, EPA Region VIII, 8 WM-SP, 999 18th St., Suite 500, Denver, CO 80202.

— Steve Hinchman

Pockets of old growth survive in the northern Rockies

by Richard D. Manning

A few miles up a closed road in Montana's Lolo National Forest sit 30 acres of land sheltered by centuries-old Western larch ready to die. Not at the hands of loggers but because nature has taken its course.

It seems a simple-enough event on a piece of land, allowing nature a free hand. But the issue is not a simple one; logging or not logging old-growth trees is one of the most controversial issues in the West.

At about 30 acres, the plot may seem piddling, especially when we consider the vast tracts of land now fueling the spotted owl controversy in the Pacific Northwest. You might well ask: Has development progressed so far in the Northern Rockies that we are reduced to protecting bite-sized plots?

The first answer is that the Northern Rockies are a very different place from the rain-soaked Northwest. Since the retreat of the glaciers 10,000 years ago, fire has swept some drainages as frequently as every 20 years. But topography, hydrology and luck has preserved scattered islands of old growth ranging in size from a few acres up to a few hundred acres.

"That's how small they are, but that's okay, because that's probably what they were like (before man intervened)," said biologist Sallie Hejl. The Forest Service hired her a year ago to begin fundamental research on old growth in the Northern Rockies. Hejl's work has just begun, and she and other researchers acknowledge that other than knowing

the importance of fire in the region, our ignorance is staggering.

There is only about a decade's worth of solid research on old growth, she said, and that work is fueling the rise of a new movement among biologists. But almost all research pertains to the Northwest, and much of it won't apply to the Northern Rockies, said Mike Hillis, a Forest Service biologist who has criticized his agency's legally required efforts to protect old growth.

Hillis is not alone. Several officials of the Forest Service's Region I, which includes 13 forests in Montana, north Idaho and parts of the Dakotas, are frank about the problem.

There is not enough science to allow them to properly carry out the requirements of the National Forest Management Act, said Doug Glevanik, who

oversees planning efforts in the region. The act mandates agency action to ensure "species diversity" and preserving old trees is one way to achieve that.

In the Northern Region, old growth plots may total some 2.4 million acres.

Efforts to save the old-growth-dependent spotted owl have drawn national attention in Washington and Oregon, but in the Northern Rockies researchers fear the flammulated owl may already have slipped away. Its old-growth habitat is virtually extinct.

The shifting elevations and moisture patterns of the region provide for a vast collection of old-growth habitat types. One of these, Ponderosa pine, needs dry, low sites where frequent fires keep Douglas fir from taking over. The stately old

pinus, which grow close to valley floors and therefore close to humans, provided too tempting a target for loggers. Most of that old growth was logged out in the '30s, Hillis said.

Research by Richard Reynolds in Colorado has shown the flammulated owl to be almost totally dependent on old-growth Ponderosa pine. The last record of a flammulated owl nesting site in Montana was in 1986, when researchers were able to observe it closely. The nest was taken from a Ponderosa pine snag that had been cut by a logger, said Denver Holt, who heads the Missoula-based Owl Research Institute. There have been only six confirmed sightings of the birds since 1975 in Montana.

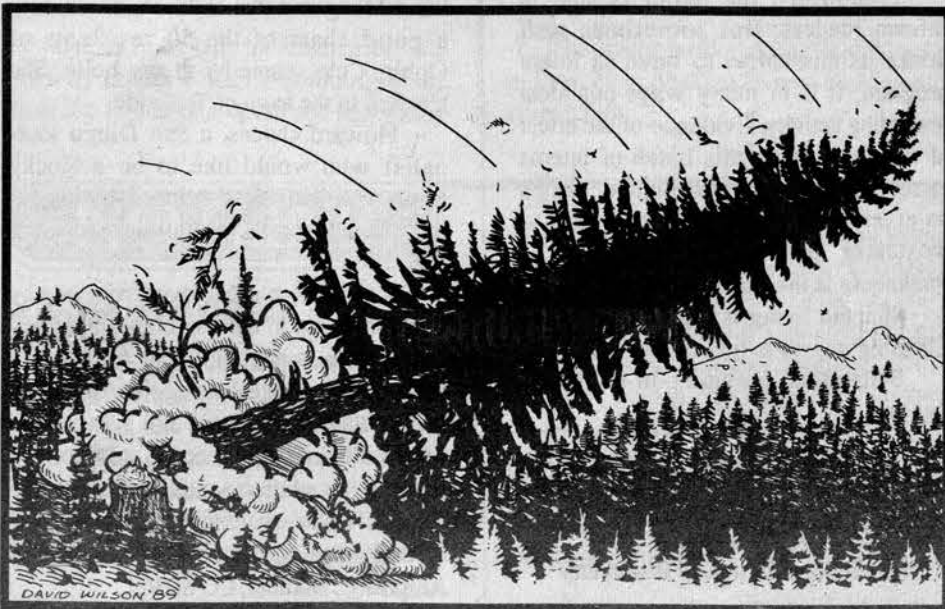
Biologist Hejl said the information is still sketchy because no one has done detailed monitoring of flammulated owls. She fears that the birds may be the Northern Rockies' version of the spotted owl. More importantly, the owl's decline clearly signals the demise of a key piece of the ecosystem — its old-growth Ponderosa pine.

"It's scary. That's one community type where we might have crossed the point of no return," Hillis said.

The case also illustrates that in order to be effective in protecting the range of diversity of ecosystems, old growth must be protected at all elevations and in a variety of drainages, which presents a political problem.

In Montana, for instance, about 3.3 million acres of the Forest Service's 19

(Continued on page 10)



Dear friends,



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Congratulations

The staff of High Country News congratulates past staff member Hannah Hinchman, of Dubois, Wyo., on her receipt of the Neltje Blanchan and the Frank Nelson Doubleday memorial awards.

Normally, the awards would go to two people. But the Wyoming Council on the Arts newsletter said: "Because of the extraordinary quality of a manuscript submitted" to both competitions, Hannah received both the \$2,000 cash prize and will be honored at the Council's Art-speak conference in Laramie on Sept. 29 and 30.

The competitions' judge, Patricia Goedicke, a Missoula poet and teacher, said of Hannah's non-fiction piece, *From the Nameless Places*, that it "constantly nudges us from near to far, from the intimate to the infinite."

HCN readers will be able to judge Hannah's talents for themselves: a reminiscence piece about her years at High Country News accompanied by her drawings will be part of our twentieth anniversary issue, to be published this month.

Welcome, students

It took only one telephone call to increase HCN's subscriber rolls by 87. The call came from University of Colorado Professor Spenser Havlick. He enrolled two courses — one on environmental impact analysis and the other on resource management issues for architects and planners — in High Country News.

If you teach, and think your students would profit from the paper, we will be glad to mail the paper to you for distribution to the class for \$6 per student per semester. If you would like to distribute only a single issue of the paper to a class, we'll send you a bundle gratis. We also have a new introductory rate of \$18 per year for first-time subscribers who are students.

Spense had word for us about a former HCN intern — his son David, who is now an associate editor of *Walking* magazine, a Boston publication with a half million subscribers. David's next story describes his test of 100 or so walking shoes — he is the Imelda Marcos of the outdoor crowd.

Doggerel at HCN

It is lonely at the moment in the High Country News office. It is not just that summer is dying here; it is that two of three of the summer interns are gone, with the third, Richard Hicks, about to go. Matt Klinge has returned to college at Berkeley and Don Mitchell to CU law school.

Technically, the paper is here to inform readers. But sometimes staff thinks its mission to have an intern program. It is in many ways our most rewarding activity. Evidence of the effect of the program on this batch of interns came in a ditty they left behind. Here's an excerpt from "Paonia Days," sung to the tune of "Green Acres":

Paaaaonia is the place to be
Spartan living is just right for me
Clipping papers is lots o' fun
Better than lounging in the noon-day sun

Religious folks here abound
On every corner a church is found
Entertainment is a scarcity
So the teens practice insobriety

An intern's life is sad and grey
Lots of work with little say
But we're doing it for the cause
Resume padding for our next boss...

Perhaps the writing of poetry is not among the skills interns pick up in the front room.

Knock, knock

The gap caused by the lack of interns was partially made up by visitors. Gene and Margo Lorig of Eagle, Colo., came through. They are long-time fighters against the Adams Rib ski area, proposed for a mountain outside Eagle. Another mountain couple, Karen and George Chapman, who publish the *Silverton Standard*, came through with restaurant owner Fritze Klinke. The three were in Paonia to attend a meeting on economic development organized by John Hess of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments. The speakers included Michael Kinsley of the Rocky Mountain Institute and Phil Burgess, head of the Center for the New West in Denver, a new regional think tank.

Staff is used to seeing its far-flung board only three times a year, but board member Michael Ehlers, spouse Tracy Ehlers and friend Connie Fisher stopped by to say hello. The three were on their way to the Labor Day film festival at Telluride.

Doug Reynolds and Debbie Bandrosky stopped in on their way from the University of Montana's Flathead Lake Biological Station to Fairplay, Colo. Doug is on a year's sabbatical from teaching biology at Eastern Kentucky University. Debbie is a wilderness ranger. They agreed that Colorado is different from Montana and Washington, and the difference is not good; Colorado has more jeep trails and suburban homes on the edges of wilderness areas.

Two lawyers and one potential lawyer wheeled by the office as part of a three-week-long bike trip. Both Reid Zars and John Huss, the lawyers, are former staff members of Wyoming's Powder River Basin Resource Council, a coalition of ranchers and environmentalists formed in the 1970s to protect the region from coal mining. Reid now works for the Environmental Protection Division of the Massachusetts attorney general. John is with the Casper law firm of Brown and Drew. The third member of wheeled trio, Megan Hayes, starts law school in the fall at Boston's Northeastern University.

After-hours visitors were Gerald Jacob, a policy analyst for the Western Interstate Energy Board in Denver, and Kathy Butz, who works for an environmental consulting firm in Denver. They hiked the nearby Black Canyon and hauled some local vegetables and fruit to Boulder.

Lauren Wolfe, who, with her husband Doug and two children, constitutes a good share of the 50 residents of Ophir, Colo., came by to say hello. She teaches in the town of Telluride.

Howard Owens, a San Diego journalist who would like to be a Rocky Mountain journalist, stopped by on his way home from a vacation-job-scouting trip.

Kelly Green drove over from nearby Crested Butte to tell us about an organization she is attempting to create. We think of it as a legal aid society for environmentalists. The Land and Water Fund of the Rockies would act as advisor and attorney to environmental groups in the region. Kelly, an experienced environmental litigator, can be reached at 1405 Arapahoe, Boulder, CO 80303.



Hannah Hinchman

Recycling

In addition to in-the-flesh visitors, the mailman knocks. BLM river ranger Skip Edwards subscribed to HCN by converting a bunch of aluminum cans into a subscription. Skip said rafters contribute the cans to the station, which then uses them for needed but unbudgeted items.

Lloyd Clark of McCook, Neb., sent in his renewal check with a question: "What about a plains discount? You don't carry a lot of news about the prairie. Don't forget we are over one-half mile high." The idea had appeal until we began thinking about the several thousand readers who live in California, New York, Chicago, et al — places that get even less coverage in High Country News than the prairie states.

To say nothing of Singapore, where subscriber Vicki Collins lives: "You've been my main contact with U.S. environmental issues during my stay in Singapore. I'm returning now and don't feel as out of touch as I might have without your publication."

A summer fresbet

Finally, a word about finances. Usually, summer is a low cash-flow time, with the paper reaching toward the annual fall Research Fund drive in parched condition. We are a little less parched this year thanks to three large summer contributions, totalling \$10,000. Two were anonymous, with the third from Patagonia Inc., the outdoor company that tithes to environmental groups.

In addition to the contribution, the firm's public relations director, Kevin Sweeney, sent along his "The Media Director: Patagonia's Guide for Environmental Groups," intended to help groups use the media better. Sweeney has put an old question in a new form: "If a tree falls in the forest and it isn't on the 6:00 News, did it actually fall?" To get the brochure, and perhaps to get on the 6:00 News, write Kevin Sweeney, Patagonia, Inc., P.O. Box 150, Ventura, CA 93002.

—Ed Marston for the staff

WESTERN ROUNDUP

New Mexico forest takes long-term view

John Bedell, supervisor of the Carson National Forest in northern New Mexico, is no stranger to controversy.

Anti-development activists nail signs to the trees around Taos Ski Valley decrying the pollution and cultural change introduced by the tourism industry. Opponents of logging show up for hearings by the dozens in northern New Mexico, demanding new safeguards for wildlife and firewood supplies, and shouting down foresters who offer reassurance.

The forest supervisor holds regular meetings in his office with several detractors at a time. He candidly admits his agency's shortcomings and defends its strengths.

This time, Bedell has bitten off his largest mouthful ever.

The Carson National Forest sponsored a four-day conference Aug. 13-16 in Taos and surrounding forests billed as an opportunity to "Get Together With Your Ancient Forest." It was designed, Bedell said, to create a model for a forest that can stay healthy and productive while being put to use as a source of recreation opportunities, wildlife and timber.

In reality, the conference may help set a new agenda for forest management in the Carson.

"I see us going in a totally new direction," Bedell said. According to the supervisor, the sustained-yield principle that has governed logging for decades is outdated. Instead, future forest plans will try to create a "sustainable forest."

Biologist and writer Chris Maser said, "It's the most open demonstration I have ever seen between the public and a government agency."

The conference was inspired largely by the work of Maser, a longtime researcher who was described at the conference as a "prophet." Maser wrote *The Re-designed Forest*, a chronicle describing the destruction of forest soils and the gradual extinction of productive forests due to heavy logging.

It is Maser's contention that no forest being logged anywhere in the world can survive more than three generations. For coniferous species, a generation spans about 80 years.

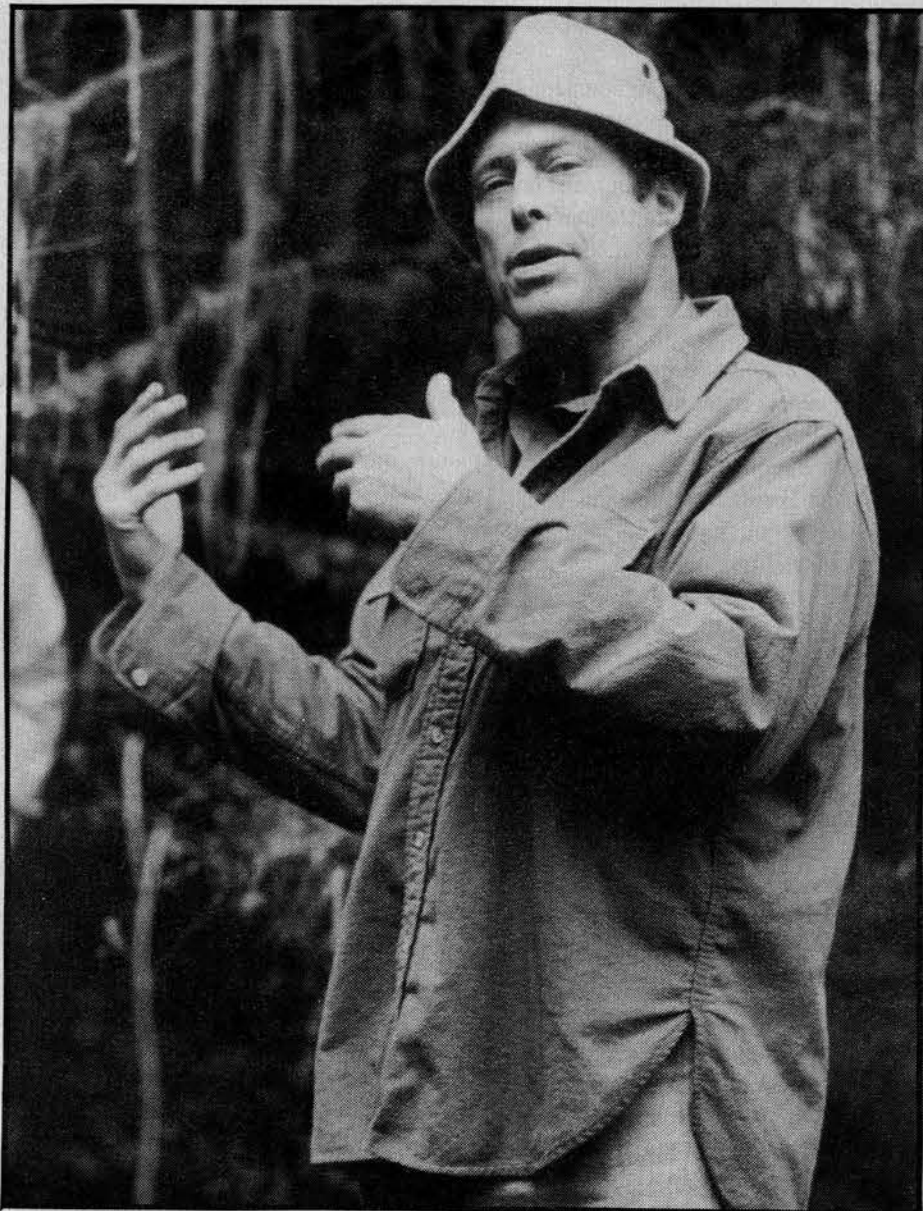
In western Europe and Scandinavia, where tree plantations are over 200 years old, trees have almost stopped growing. Normally replenished by rotting logs, the soil has simply worn out, he said. In the words of National Audubon Society's New Mexico representative David Henderson, "They've hit the wall."

Bedell said he is determined to keep the Carson National Forest from that fate, even though it means scaling back plans for logging, and even if it means decreasing the amount of firewood northern New Mexicans can cut.

"We've got to change," he said.

The conference was organized by a coalition including Indian leaders, Taos residents, environmentalists and loggers. Rancher Luis Torres, who is also a board member of the Southwest Research Information Center, spoke of the psychological aspect of the conference. "We're recognizing ourselves as part of the environment rather than a master of it," he said. "The forest is embodied in the mind and spirits of its people and the needs of traditional users is very important."

Non-professional participants in the conference, who numbered about half the 400 people that attended, were asked to express their views through a survey



Chris Maser

that asked questions about forest management.

Maser said the local conference is part of a "grassroots movement" among forest managers around the country to change philosophies of forestry. Forest managers are trying to convince the public and the timber companies that management practices must change to create sustainable forests, so that those citizens will endorse new forest management plans.

If we allow forests to be exhausted, Maser said, the timber companies "are on a collision course with bankruptcy."

As an ecologist, he predicts the same fate for commercial fishermen and farmers who are not limiting their harvests enough to preserve ecological balance. We are practicing "the economics of extinction," he warned.

We are discovering, Maser asserted, that healthy forests are critical to our supplies of clean water and air. Growing trees create much of the oxygen we breathe, and healthy forest soils filter impurities from the water and prevent silt from clogging our streams and dams.

In a decade, he said, "Trees won't be the endangered commodity; water will."

On a field trip he illustrated his point by taking a handful of rotting wood from the inside of a stump and squeezing

a cupful of water out of it. Then he took a canteen and poured water on the wood, allowing it to soak it up.

Ecology professor Stan Gregory of Oregon State University pointed out that there are some short-term economic advantages to preserving primeval forests as recreation resources. "People are demanding a high-quality natural environment," he said. Forests can't be managed in isolated "plots," he continued. Instead, entire watersheds and viewsheds must be managed together to preserve the overall biological and aesthetic quality of the forest.

New Mexico Game and Fish officer Todd Stevenson said his eyes were opened to how the health of the forest system affects game animals.

"I've become aware that it's all even more interrelated than I thought," he said.

A 12-year veteran of public wildlife management, Stevenson was not convinced that practices will change quickly.

"You won't see it immediately tomorrow," he said. "But we're on the right track."

—Bryan Welch

The writer works at *The Taos News* in Taos, New Mexico, where he is managing editor.

HOTLINE

BLM critics keep trying

Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla., won't let up on the Bureau of Land Management, which he calls "the worst-run agency in this government ... rampant with incompetent administration." He supported a bill, introduced by Rep. Bruce Vento, D-Minn., and since passed in the House, that requires the BLM to place more emphasis on the maintenance of wildlife habitat and protection of riparian areas. But Western Republicans are not in Synar's corner. Rep. Ron Marlenee, R-Mont., accused Synar of slandering "the good public servants that we have" in the BLM, insisting that the BLM lands have never been in better condition. "We should not put a straitjacket on an agency that has performed so well," Marlenee said. H.R. 828 would also expand the definition of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to include buffer zones around national parks and wilderness areas; make agency forest managers responsible for reforestation and scientific research in addition to timber production; institute stiff penalties for violating BLM regulations; and require all BLM managers under the director to be career professionals rather than political appointees. Prospects for the reform legislation in the Senate are not optimistic. No companion legislation has been introduced and no Senate champion has emerged, says Lawson Legate, the Sierra Club's Southwest representative.

Uranium mine close to closing

Unless the owners of the largest uranium mine in North America find a buyer or partner, the mine in New Mexico will close on Oct. 15, and at least 180 jobs will be lost. Conditions in the international uranium market make the closure of the Mount Taylor Mine near Grants, N.M., necessary, says Chevron Resources President Bob Daniel. "Unfortunately, Mount Taylor has comparatively high maintenance and power costs because of its depth and water volume," he says. Mount Taylor pays roughly \$6.9 million in wages and \$1 million in state taxes each year, reports the *Albuquerque Journal*. "It's a tough blow," says Darrel Roberts of the Greater Grants Industrial Development Foundation. "You're talking about 180 of the highest paying jobs here ... It's the loss of an industry." Uranium mining jobs in Grants stand at about 300, a decrease from 4,700 in the late 1970s.

BARBS

The Ute Indians are going to be very lonely.

The Colorado Natives Club is in danger of disappearing, as long-time members die and younger native-born Coloradans fail to join.

The colorful Southwest reaches out a civilizing arm to mainstream America.

The "Santa Fe style" is bringing billions of dollars to New Mexico from tourists enchanted by bleached cow skulls and other rustic items.

HOTLINE

A plan for peace

Reviving an idea first proposed by President Eisenhower, the House recently passed a bill urging a bilateral agreement to halt production of plutonium and highly enriched uranium in the United States and Soviet Union. The bill requires the administration to prepare a

report on agreement verification by mid-1990, reports the *New York Times*. "Congress, by an overwhelming majority, wants a plutonium cutoff to be an important arms control priority," said Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon. The notion resurfaced after mismanagement and waste storage problems crippled the U.S. nuclear weapons industry. Cost estimates for cleaning up and rebuilding U.S. bomb plants, such as Rocky Flats near Denver,

Colo., run from \$100 billion to \$200 billion (*HCN*, 7/31/89). The Bush administration and many influential members of Congress oppose the bill, however. "This agreement would force the president to negotiate an agreement from a position of weakness," said Kathleen C. Bailey of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. A Senate version of the measure is sponsored by Tim Wirth, D-Colo., and Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

Proposed resort sets off fight in a rural Idaho valley

The dramatic crest of the Teton Range does more than divide two watersheds, and separate Grand Teton National Park from the Jedediah Smith Wilderness.

The range also separates two very different areas: Wyoming's Jackson Hole, with the booming resort town of Jackson and world-class ski slopes, and Idaho's Teton Valley, with scattered ranches, and small towns, like Victor and Driggs.

But the differences may lessen if a proposed land exchange gives a Teton Valley developer title to 270 acres of Forest Service land at the base of his Grand Targhee Ski Resort. The ski area overlooks Teton Valley, most of which is in Idaho. And the only access to the resort is through Idaho.

The land exchange would let resort owner Mory Bergmeyer expand Targhee. Bergmeyer says he wants to keep the "intimate, friendly, family character" of the ski area.

But his proposal would more than double the existing development at the base of the ski hill, lead to construction of two "Italian style" hilltop villages overlooking the base, and transform the winter ski area into a four-season destination resort.

The new Grand Targhee would have the same skier capacity as the Jackson Hole Ski Resort on the other side of the Tetons.

The proposal has generated a strong reaction from a group calling itself Citizens for Teton Valley, organized to oppose the expansion. Bergmeyer claims that CTV members are wealthy residents who already have their houses and land, and "don't want anyone else to have a view." Bergmeyer says resort expansion would be good for the valley's economy, and that the area needs the boost because "Farming in the valley is the pits, anyway."

Mike Whitfield, a wildlife biologist and CTV spokesperson, says that CTV members are mostly farmers and ranchers who raise barley, wheat, potatoes and livestock. All income levels are represented in the membership, he says, but most members aren't wealthy.

Whitfield admits that Teton Valley farmers have had a tough time in the valley recently, but that agriculture has turned up in the past year. Whitfield also says that there is reason to be optimistic about the future — Teton Valley's high elevation doesn't harbor many insect pests, and the market for organically grown produce is growing.

In fact, says Whitfield, the major threat to agriculture is Bergmeyer's plans. According to Whitfield, the resort expansion could lead to the demise of agriculture in Teton Valley. He says many farmers lease the land they work and would be pushed out of the valley by the land rush development would bring.

"Even though farm income can be fairly marginal, these are people who have been here a while who could have left the valley to make big bucks elsewhere. Instead, they chose to stay for the rural lifestyle in the valley," he says.

For the moment, CTV has halted the land exchange the expansion needs. The swap approved by Congress, whose approval is required for interstate land exchanges, would trade land at the base of Grand Targhee in Wyoming for prime bald eagle habitat along the South Fork of the Snake River in Idaho.

Whitfield says CTV recognizes the ecological importance of the South Fork land, but wants the Forest Service to

complete a full environmental impact statement on the resort expansion before the land is exchanged.

The agency said an environmental assessment on the land exchange itself was adequate. It did not address potential effects of the planned development on wildlife and recreation in the nearby Jedediah Smith Wilderness, and the effects of the development on the rural, agricultural ways of the Teton Valley.

When the Forest Service announced the environmental assessment's finding of "no significant impact" for the land exchange in March, CTV appealed the decision. The Forest Service refused to consider the appeal, saying it could not review a congressionally mandated land swap. CTV then filed suit to require the agency to consider its appeal.

In July, the Federal District Court in Cheyenne, Wyo., granted the group an injunction halting the land swap until after CTV's case is heard in September.

CTV argues that Congress voted to allow a land swap but didn't require a swap. That decision, CTV says, was left in Forest Service hands.

In the meantime, the purchase option Bergmeyer held on the Snake River property ran out and the land was sold. There is other desirable property along the South Fork, however, although the only land mentioned in the bill has now been sold.

This has led Bergmeyer to ask for dismissal of the CTV lawsuit. CTV, however, wishes to pursue the larger issues raised by the failed trade or any other trade.

CTV has also appealed the Forest Service appraisal of the Grand Targhee property. CTV claims in the appeal that the land at the base of the resort was appraised at only \$2,500 per acre, or 10 percent of what some subdivided land in Teton Valley is going for. The Forest Service has not yet ruled on that appeal.

The larger issue raised by the Grand Targhee fight is whether the Teton Valley will become more like Jackson Hole.

In part, that process is already under way. The southern Teton Valley is becoming a bedroom community for workers priced out of Jackson. These commuters brave a twice-daily 30-mile trip over the winding 10-percent grades of 8,400-foot Teton Pass.

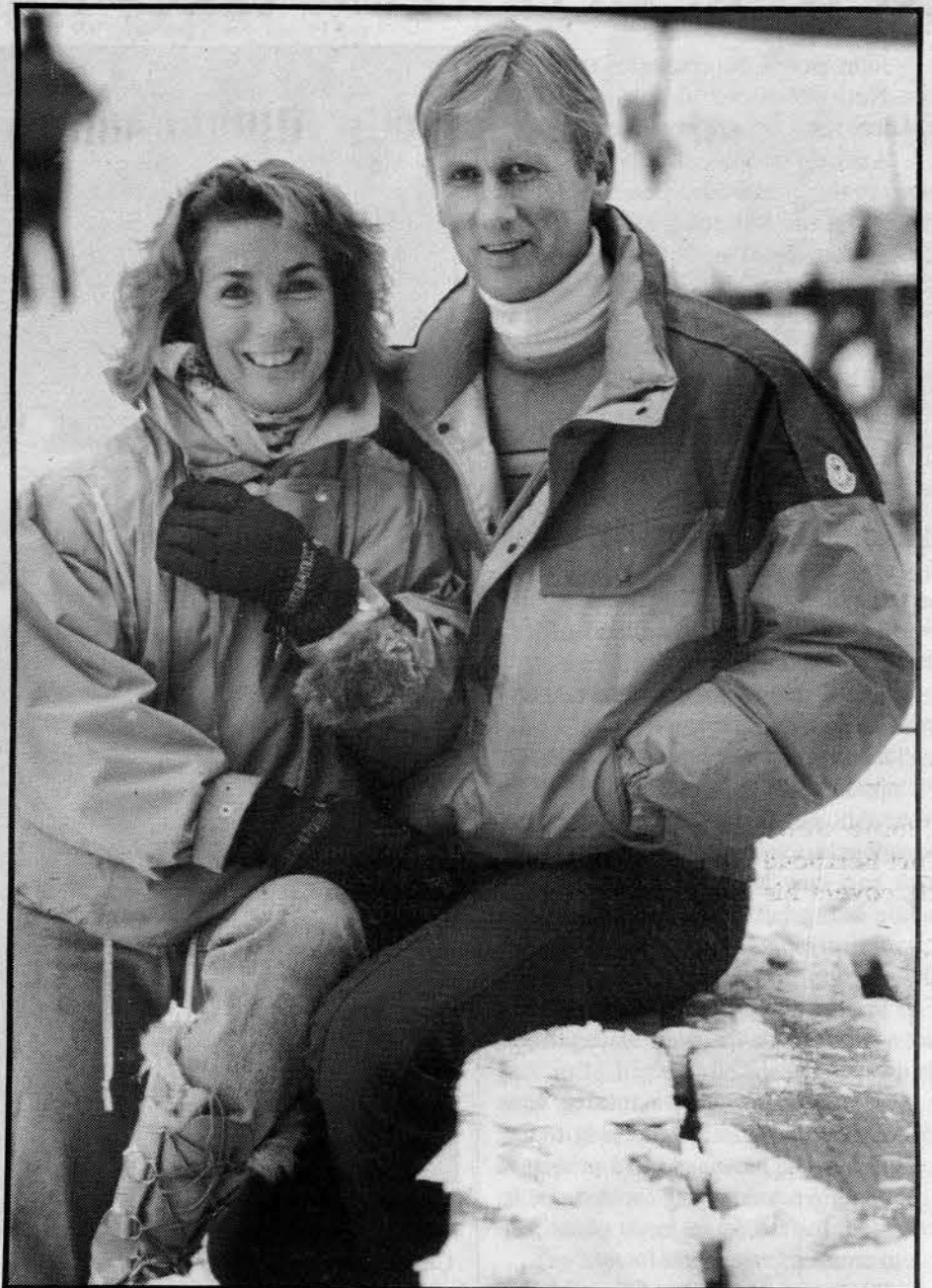
Whitfield notes that this new, third land boom follows a 1969 spree brought on by the establishment of Grand Targhee ski area, and talk of resort expansion in the late 1970s, when all Western ski resorts except for Targhee seemed to be plagued by snow droughts.

While open land in Jackson Hole is protected to some extent by national park boundaries and an active Jackson Hole Land Trust, Whitfield says Teton Valley doesn't even have planning and zoning regulations to help prevent its agricultural open space from sprouting condominiums and subdivisions.

Geography is also a barrier to control. The Teton County, Wyo., commissioners have already approved Bergmeyer's concept plan for the resort.

Neighboring Teton County, Idaho, which includes Teton Valley and stands to be affected the most by the possible resort expansion, has no official say over Bergmeyer's plans.

—Don Mitchell



Carol and Mory Bergmeyer

They came to ski, stayed to build

When Mory and Carol Bergmeyer's March 1987 plans for a Sun Valley, Idaho, ski vacation fell through, the young couple made reservations at a resort they had never heard of — Grand Targhee Ski Area on the west side of the Tetons.

The vacation was a success. In fact, they loved Grand Targhee so much they bought it.

Mory Bergmeyer left the Boston real estate development firm he started and his wife, Carol, left her management consulting firm.

Their new home was Alta, Wyo., a

tiny town in the Teton Valley, a few miles downhill from the resort they had bought.

Left behind were puzzled friends. Mory says, "We were very successful in Boston and left a lot behind — we had lots of things and high regard there."

When asked how his new life in tiny Alta differed from life in crowded Boston, Mory Bergmeyer replied, "It's not all that different. I still spend most of the day inside working."

—D.M.

HOTLINE

Mine threatens to swallow town

The same forces which brought the northeastern Nevada town of Tuscarora to life now threaten to destroy it. Horizon Gold Shares, a mining company based in Golden, Colo., wants to expand its gold mining operation surrounding the town into the historic mining town itself. To gain the surface rights, the company has gone to court seeking "quiet title." Unfortunately, surface rights are clouded since the county lost its plat map of the town in 1938, according to Dennis Parks of the Tuscarora Property Owners' Association. If the courts decide that Horizons' rights are superior to those of town property owners, Park says, the company could order the townspeople to vacate without compensation. Another option the mining company has is to

declare eminent domain over the townsite, a procedure allowed in Nevada. Parks says that the mining company has promised not to take that route. Meanwhile, the company's blasting is already subjecting the town to dust and noise up to 16 hours a day, seven days a week.

Loggers have a murky image

Will a \$12 million public relations campaign help the timber industry overcome its bad image in the Pacific Northwest? At least 12 companies plan to spend that much over the next three years to gain public support for logging. The national campaign of television and magazine ads is planned for people just becoming aware of old growth and forest-management issues. "Pressures against the industry are such that we have to get out and tell our story," Jim Bradbury, a Weyerhaeuser spokesman, told AP.



George Gillette, chairman of the Fort Berthoud Indian Tribal Council, covers his face as he weeps in

the office of the Interior Secretary in Washington, D.C., on May 20, 1948. The treaty signed that day

sold 155,000 acres of the reservation to the government for the Garrison Dam

Indian land dispute opens old wounds

Efforts by North Dakota tribes to reclaim about 5,900 acres from the Army Corps of Engineers along Lake Sakakawea, a Missouri River reservoir, are not going well. The problem is a dispute over access.

Last April, Lois Little Owl, a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, dug a trench across a road on her property that cut access to 18 vacation cabins on Lake Sakakawea. Little Owl complains that cabin owners dump trash, cut fences and drive vehicles on her property.

Though the situations are officially unrelated, tension stemming from the trenched road has spilled over to the land-return issue. Non-Indians are worried that access to the popular reservoir will be threatened if the tribes get some of their land back.

The land-return issue is controversial in its own right, with a painful history dating to the 1940s. It began when the federal government secured title to 155,000 of the choicest acres on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation to construct Garrison Dam and accommodate Lake Sakakawea.

George Gillette, who was tribal chairman of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes four decades ago, made a somber forecast while signing the sale documents on May 20, 1948: "The members of the tribal council sign this contract with heavy hearts ... the future does not look good to us."

History proved Gillette correct. After 41 years, the reservation's three tribes have never recovered from losing the Missouri River bottomland that had supported their agricultural way of life. The tribes had been permanent residents of the river valley for an estimated 10,000 years.

The present chairman, Edward Lone Fight, confirms Gillette's foreboding. "Garrison Dam devastated the economic base and the cultural and social structure of the tribes," he says.

"After the dam, what had been a self-sustaining group of people, with virtually no unemployment and no welfare, was in big trouble. We now have unemployment running to 70 percent and serious social problems that are connected to our economic problems," the chief says.

The 155,000 acres drowned by Lake

Sakakawea included 94 percent of the three tribes' crop and grazing land. Displaced people were shunted off to the dry and open uplands above the river valley. The vast reservoir also split the reservation, isolating one half from the other.

Garrison Dam was built as part of the Pick-Sloan Plan to harness the Missouri River and prevent flooding to downstream cities and farmland. But the public works project was destructive as well.

In South Dakota, five reservations lost lands to the project. In both Dakotas, the Sioux people lost 202,000 acres. All suffered, but Fort Berthold suffered most of all.

While Pick-Sloan engineers went out of their way to prevent reservoirs from inundating white communities, Indian concerns were ignored.

"The Corps was still negotiating with us about our land as the water backed up behind the dam reached our ankles," recalls Edward Lone Fight.

The tribes received a \$12.6 million settlement but no lasting benefits. They gained no discounts on Garrison Dam power, no stock watering opportunities in the reservoir, no grazing along the reservoir and no removal of trees of lands scheduled to be permanently flooded.

The power discount would have been especially helpful because many of the new Indian homes on the colder and windier uplands were electrically heated.

The Corps forbid the tribes from using any of the settlement money to hire attorneys to seek more benefits.

In 1986, a tribal advisory council convened by Congress determined that some Fort Berthold lands taken for Lake Sakakawea were not needed by the Corps. Some 5,891 acres along the reservoir were identified as "excess lands," and the three tribes began efforts to regain their former property.

"We want to develop the sites," says Edward Lone Fight. "The tribes are not interested in denying access to anyone," he adds.

Non-Indians say the access problems encountered by the 18 cabin owners reflects what could happen if more Sakakawea land becomes the property of the tribes.

Floyd Robb, who owns a cabin on the lake, says any land returned to the tribes should be accompanied by an obligation to allow access. "Unless there are specific provisions for access connected to the return, this will continue to be an issue," he says.

Robb blames at least part of his current access troubles on the Corps of Engineers. He criticizes the agency for selling the lots and for building public recreation facilities without first obtaining proper access across Indian lands.

"This issue of access has been a difficult issue for 20 years. The Corps has consistently denied responsibility," says Robb, "but they created the problem."

The Corps began selling lakeside lots in 1962. Corps spokesman Doug Misterek says that Mercer County informed his agency that access through Indian property was secured. But Misterek says the county used incorrect legal descriptions for the access road. Since then, cabin owners have paid a yearly fee to the tribes to reach their cabins.

While Floyd Robb and his neighbors have recently worked out a temporary agreement with the tribes for an alternative route to their cabins, the access squabble continues to muddy the "excess land" issue. Edward Lone Fight says the tribes are waiting for a settlement of the access controversy before restarting the campaign to regain land around the lake.

The Corps of Engineers, however, appears reluctant to return the land. Doug Misterek says the Corps held public meetings in the area to "determine public reaction to the return." Misterek warns there was considerable concern.

"A lot of folks think the land was purchased with public money and it should remain public," he says.

That attitude rankles Indian leaders, who accuse the Corps of continuing to ignore tribal needs.

"The Corps thinks this is a war," says Edward Lone Fight. "That's their mentality." He says since it took congressional pressure to get the Corps to admit there were excess lands in the first place, it may take Congress to make sure the lands are returned.

— Peter Carrels

HOTLINE

Cenex wants to drill

Cenex Corporation continues to seek permits to drill two controversial oil wells that are next to Glacier National Park in Montana and within a river corridor designated wild and scenic. Court challenges have come from environmental groups which say grizzlies and wolves frequent the area of the North Fork Flathead River. One oil well permit on private land was revoked on Aug. 18 by a district court judge, who ordered the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation to start over again with advertised public hearings. The North Fork Preservation Council and Montana Environmental and Information Center, filers of the suits, hailed the decision. A nearby well on state land may be drilled, however. On Aug. 22, the Montana Supreme Court found sufficient the state's 1983-84 environmental review and operating plan. A district court had told the state to file an environmental impact statement because of potential cumulative effects of oil and gas drilling in the remote North Fork country. Environmental groups are concerned that such wells could lead to major oil development in a wild valley under consideration for designation as an international bioserve by the U.S. and Canadian governments. The Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation will hold a public hearing Sept. 14 in Kalispell, Mont., on the Cenex permit still in question. For more information on North Fork drilling issues contact the Montana Environmental Information Center, Box 1184, Helena, MT 59601 (405/443-2520).

Wyoming Travel Commission



Black bear

Indian remains may go home

A tentative agreement between American Indian leaders and the Smithsonian Institution could end a debate over who owns Indian remains and artifacts stolen from graves or taken from battlefields. The compromise would require the Smithsonian to return on request any of its 18,600 remains and artifacts linked with "reasonable certainty" to present-day tribes, reports the *New York Times*. "This would send a strong signal to society that the Indian dead are entitled to be reburied in proper circumstances just like anyone else," says Walter Echo-Hawk, a lawyer for the Native American Rights Fund in Colorado. "That's a signal that has to be sent." Two universities have already agreed to return entire collections to requesting tribes, but the American Anthropological Association continues to insist that only close relatives should have remains returned.

Intense water fight may drown Colorado wilderness bills

After two years of dead-end negotiation between environmentalists and water users to hammer out a Colorado wilderness bill, Colorado's senators have taken matters in their own hands.

But the legislative effort is beginning to look as futile as the negotiations, with Sen. Tim Wirth, D, leading environmentalists against Sen. Bill Armstrong, R., and the water users.

One thing is clear: any solution will have consequences far beyond Colorado's borders.

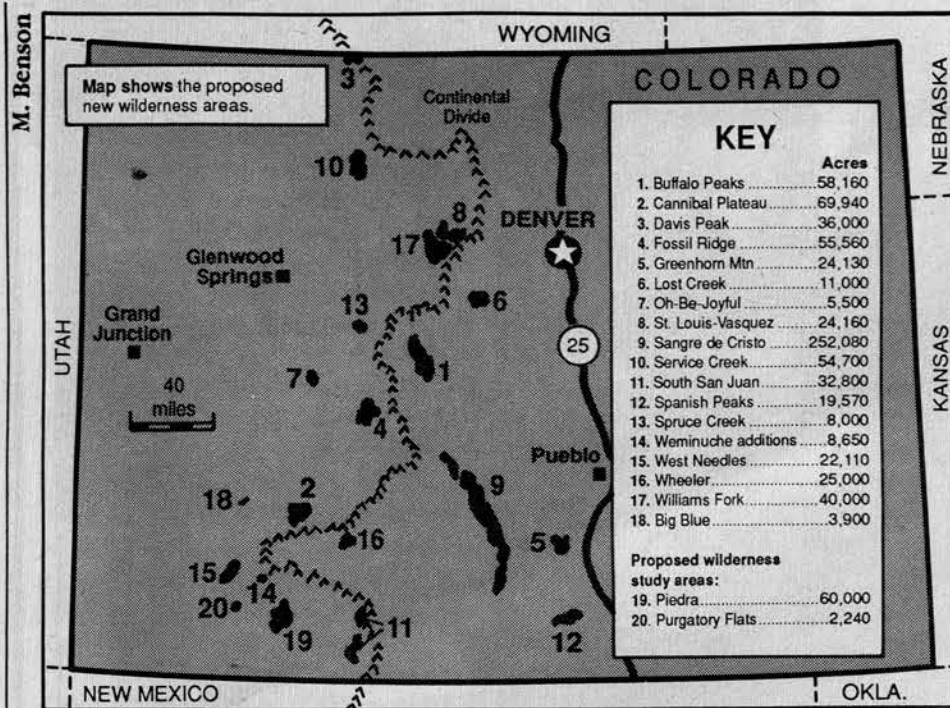
The controversy is not about what areas to preserve. Proposals have varied from former Rep. Ray Kogovsek's 372,483-acre proposal in the 98th Congress to then-Rep. Tim Wirth's 773,675-acre proposal in 1985. Armstrong said his proposal is for approximately 550,000 acres; Wirth's new bill is for about 750,000 acres of wilderness.

While boundaries have been juggled and areas added and deleted, the question was never about the desirability of additional wilderness. The public has spoken on that point, and the politicians have listened.

The sticking point is water rights. Early in the negotiations, the Colorado Water Congress — representing water users in the state — insisted that any wilderness legislation should state that the Colorado wilderness system has no "express or implied water rights."

The contended areas, with one exception, are all in the headwaters of mountains with little demand on their water, and therefore little potential for conflict between water dedicated to keeping a wilderness area whole and water needed for development.

Armstrong, in his 1986 wilderness bill, did point out that at times water is diverted out of the headwaters to Denver area cities. Nevertheless, the general



Sen. Tim Wirth's proposed wilderness areas in Colorado

agreement was hands off water in the headwaters. But potential future downstream additions to the wilderness system are another matter. In those areas, there are a multitude of conflicts between water flowing in streams and developers' interest in diverting water.

Wirth and the environmentalists have given some ground on this question; Kirk Koepsel, wilderness coordinator for the Colorado Environmental Coalition, calls Wirth's latest proposal a significant compromise.

"I think Sen. Wirth has come up with a position that is middle ground, that has effectively broken the argument of the developers. He has separated the proposed areas from downstream wilderness and written nothing that would give implied water rights to downstream

areas. The water developers don't have a leg to stand on," he said.

The developers, however, have said repeatedly that they want this bill to settle rather than avoid the wilderness water rights issue. In particular, they want wilderness water rights renounced, now and forever, in the headwaters or at lower elevations. In effect, they want to trade action on the proposed Colorado wilderness areas for a ban on wilderness water rights anywhere in the West.

In response to Wirth's bill, a coalition of water users joined under the banner of the Colorado Farm Bureau and denounced Wirth's attempt to get a bill without the water language they seek. One of the groups is the Mountain States Legal Foundation, a nonprofit group representing extractive users of public lands.

Eric Twelker, an attorney with the group, said: "We want a precedent for no downstream rights. If Wirth is willing to scuttle downstream rights, we can have a bill."

The water users' language would overturn recent court decisions granting reserved water rights to wilderness. Those rights were affirmed in 1985 by Judge John Kane in federal district court in Denver, in response to a Sierra Club suit.

The precedent for wilderness water rights lies with the 1906 Winters Doctrine, a U.S. Supreme Court decision that says Congress, in creating Indian reservations, also assigned to those reservations enough water to achieve their purposes. In the same way, Judge Kane ruled that when Congress creates wilderness areas, they come with enough water to achieve their purposes.

Kane's ruling is under appeal, but Twelker said the water users see federal legislation as providing the only real security.

Mark Collier, chair of the Rocky Mountain region of the Sierra Club, agrees that more is at stake than 750,000 acres of Colorado rocks and ice wilderness.

"A tremendous amount of energy has gone into protecting these lands, but we're not very likely to allow the language renouncing water rights for future wilderness in the bill just to get it," he said. "Especially when it would affect all future wilderness and could be used all over the country."

Armstrong, who retires in 1990, has said that a wilderness bill is one of his top priorities. But unless he and Wirth can reach agreement, neither senator is likely to get a bill this session.

—Ron Baird

Activist Russell Means enters Navajo fray

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — In the wake of the July 20 killing of two supporters of ousted Navajo Chairman Peter MacDonald during a demonstration, another well-known Indian leader has come to the fore on the Navajo Reservation.

Indian activist Russell Means, now a resident of Chinle, Ariz., has been making local headlines for weeks.

Means, 51, broke onto page one in early July when he grabbed James Stevens, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Navajo Area director, and held him in a headlock in Stevens' office before a phalanx of reporters and cameramen. Means, who was peeled off Stevens twice by BIA officers, said he was trying to place the area director under citizen's arrest.

Like MacDonald, Means uses fiery rhetoric to accuse the BIA of installing a puppet regime, thereby creating turmoil on the reservation. He says the trouble comes from the BIA's usurpation of tribal sovereignty, and not from MacDonald's alleged corruption, or the Navajo Tribal Council's February vote to strip the chairman of his authority until he clears his name.

Means, who will be tried in tribal court on assault charges, says he was asked to help in a letter from suspended Navajo Vice Chairman Johnny R. Thompson. Means told the *Arizona Daily Sun*: "That's one of the reasons I attempted to arrest that idiot, Stevens."

The June 12 letter states: "We have

organized our people to restore our government and we seek your advice and assistance in reorganizing our tribal government," but Thompson now says he doesn't remember signing the letter.

Weeks after the two demonstrators were killed by Navajo police, whom a crowd was also trying to place under citizen's arrest, Means organized another protest march in Window Rock.

With three Navajos and a small crowd of Lakota-Sioux and Anglo American Indian Movement members, Means marched to the Window Rock District Court. As they passed by, Navajo onlookers chanted: "Go home, Russell."

Means said he had a right to be on the Navajo reservation by virtue of his marriage to a Navajo. That argument was undercut by the news the day before that his wife, Gloria, had asked Navajo police to escort her to her home to pick up some clothes after Means allegedly beat her.

Although Means described his home trouble as a simple quarrel, a tribal prosecutor refused to drop the case even after Gloria Means asked that charges be dropped.

Means was arrested by Navajo police Aug. 31 after he failed to appear for a court hearing on the case.

Meanwhile, federal and state investigations of alleged corruption by MacDonald plods on with no indication when — or if — MacDonald will be indicted.

The Indian leader was in Montana recently to join forces with Crow Chairman Richard Real Bird against the feds. Real Bird and 26 Crow tribal members were indicted on corruption charges in July.

According to Navajo press secretary Duane Beyal, interim Navajo Chairman Leonard Haskie, who attended the Crow Fair in August, concluded from his visit that Crows are as upset with their chairman as the Navajos are with theirs.

"I could boil it down to one phrase," Beyal said. "Birds of a feather flock together."

Navajo officials have estimated that it could cost the tribe as much as \$1 million to investigate and prosecute MacDonald. Already some \$400,000 has been spent on security, \$200,000 has been set aside for special legislative counsel and \$100,000 allocated to pay special prosecutors.

But MacDonald's supporters charge that the legal effort could cost the tribe \$6 million a month.

At this point, six months after MacDonald was removed from power, exaggerations and rumors receive such currency across the reservation that the Haskie administration recently tried to quell a rumor that the BIA was resuming the dreaded and hated livestock reduction program of the 1930s and in fact had already begun to kill and burn sheep.

—George Hardeen

HOTLINE

Moly mine reopens

Molycorp, Inc. is reopening its Questa molybdenum mine in Taos County, N.M., after a three-year hiatus. But environmentalists worry that proposed new tailings ponds, close to a wild and scenic stretch of the Rio Grande River, pose a threat. Existing ponds at the mine have a 10-year capacity but company officials say they need to move now. Constructing a new tailings dump will take at least five years, reports the *Albuquerque Journal*. Molycorp has filed mining claims on Guadalupe Mountain near Questa for the new ponds, and a final BLM environmental study is expected by the end of the month. The company says jobs are at stake — nearly 200 people are now on Molycorp's \$8 million payroll for the mine, and 100 more workers are planned for next year. Environmentalists say the reopened mine is a threat to the river valley and are gearing up for what could be a pivotal legal battle over federal mining and river protection laws if the BLM approves Molycorp's plans.

BARBS

Right now, of course, the Denver Front Range is a model of orderly growth.

Hubert Farbes, head of the Denver Water Board, told the Environmental Protection Agency that without the proposed Two Forks Dam, real estate development around Denver could proceed haphazardly.

Biologists give up on foster parenting of whoopers

To wildlife watchers everywhere, the whooping crane symbolizes how a species may be brought back from the brink of extinction.

From only 14 birds in 1941 and 33 in 1952, the main flock of wild whooping cranes has grown to more than 130. But because that single flock could be reduced or wiped out, even as a hurricane killed one small wild flock in the 1940s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began in 1975 to create a second wild flock in the Rocky Mountains.

The \$1.5 million effort has not succeeded. In June, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its Canadian counterpart called for an end to the 14-year-old "cross-fostering project."

Among the people most saddened by the news are residents of Monte Vista, a small southern Colorado town that developed a civic festival around the twice-yearly appearance of the tall white whoopers in the surrounding grain fields.

"Cross-fostering" refers to placing eggs from one species in the nest of another that will raise it as its own. The whoopers' foster parents are the slightly smaller sandhill cranes. They are part of a flock of roughly 25,000 that migrates up the Rio Grande Valley from southern New Mexico through Colorado and into a summer nesting area centered on the Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Idaho.

The whooping crane eggs came from two sources. Some were rushed to Gray's Lake from captive whoopers kept at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. Others were taken from whooper nests at the main flock's nesting ground, Wood Buffalo National Park, on the boundary of Alberta and the Northwest Territories in Canada.

Between 1975 and 1988, when the cross-fostering was suspended because of drought conditions at Gray's Lake, some 288 whooping crane eggs were taken to Idaho and placed with foster parents. Of these, 210 hatched and 85 chicks survived to flight age. The rest succumbed to predators such as coyotes, cold weather, disease and other factors.

Cross-fostered whoopers suffered high mortality. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 64 percent of Canadian-bred birds survived from banding time to Nov. 1 the following year, but the rate in cross-fostered birds was only 47 percent. Survival of yearlings in Canada was 96 percent, but in cross-fostered birds only 58 percent.

Similarly, among birds two to eight years old, 97.5 percent of the main flock survived each year, but only 83.6 percent of the Rocky Mountain flock survived.

At its height, the Rocky Mountain whooping crane flock numbered 34 birds, but by spring 1989 it had dropped to 13. Adult cranes perished in collisions with fences and powerlines, from disease and from predation.

And yet, with all the losses, a number of fostered female whoopers survived to mating age of four or five years old. None, however, successfully paired off, laid eggs and nested.

Why not? The biologists in charge, crane coordinator Jim Lewis and Rod Drewien of the University of Idaho, cite these possibilities.

First, there were always relatively few mature fostered whoopers spread over a wide area. Some spent summers in the Green River Valley of Wyoming; others showed up in Utah.

As a result, opportunities to court and mate were reduced.

Since the Rocky Mountain whoopers were raised by a different species,



Wendy Shattill, Bob Rozinski

Male whooping crane wears both an identifying band and radio transmitter.

they may not be sexually imprinted to perform and to respond to their own species' courtship routines. It was not that they saw themselves as sandhill cranes; instead they might be "incomplete" whooping cranes.

To remedy this lack of familiarity, biologists last May shipped a six-year-old female from the Patuxent captive flock to the refuge at Gray's Lake. There they put her in an enclosure within the territory of a wild, foster-reared male. He took interest in her, and after a week for familiarization, she was released.

The two birds paired off and mated but did not build a nest. In June the male began to moult, and moved into the center of the marsh. The female was joined by another male, although no observer ever saw them mate.

Biologists also tried capturing wild cross-fostered females to place them in males' territories. Mating was unsuccessful.

More discouraging news came from Dr. Oz Garton, a University of Idaho biometrician. According to Garton's statistical models, even if the Rocky Moun-

tain birds could thrive as well as those in the main flock it would take 50 years to reach a population of six breeding pairs.

As a result, the effort to create a second flock will take a different path in the future, Lewis said. He expects more attempts will be made to place captive-reared females with cross-fostered wild males.

In addition, attempts may be made to establish a non-migratory whooper flock in Florida. Those birds would be raised as naturally as possible in captivity, completely isolated from people. A similar technique was used to supplement the wild population of the non-migratory Mississippi sandhill crane, another endangered species.

Meanwhile, at Country Harvest, Glen Hagedorn's floral shop in Monte Vista and unofficial headquarters for the annual Monte Vista Crane Festival, the mood is still upbeat.

"Last year we changed the name from Whooping Crane Festival to just Monte Vista Crane Festival because we were thinking that (cross-fostering project cancellation) might happen," said

Hagedorn, the festival's incoming president.

"But we still have the sandhills, and the Chamber of Commerce has come up with tremendous maps of places to see wildlife and waterfowl. It still has the potential for being a big, big weekend."

Indian rock art attests to sandhill cranes' presence in the surrounding San Luis Valley since prehistoric times, but the idea of a crane festival arose only five years ago, said Bill Metz, the local school superintendent.

"I was at an Economic Development Committee meeting at the Chamber of Commerce when the question came up: What do we have in Monte Vista that's unique and interesting to other people in Colorado?" Metz recalled.

Someone suggested the whooping cranes, and the festival, complete with bus tours of the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, wildlife art exhibits, a banquet and a San Luis Valley baked potato lunch emerged.

The off-season economic impact to Monte Vista, primarily an agricultural town with a population of about 4,000, is noticeable, Hagedorn said. The 1990 Crane Festival, originally set for March 24-25, may be moved into April, he said.

While huge flocks of sandhill cranes settling into a San Luis Valley barley field are a marvelous sight, area residents may have not seen the end of the whooping cranes. Even though the flock is down to 13, no attempt will be made to remove them, said Jim Lewis of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition, some of the new techniques may increase the flock, and certainly the reason for its original creation has not ceased.

"The concept of establishing a second wild whooping crane flock is still strongly supported," Lewis said.

"The Arkansas (Texas) whoopers are just too vulnerable to natural or man-caused disasters."

— Chas S. Clifton

HOTLINE

Independence Pass: How scenic?

A proposal by the Forest Service to designate 12,095-foot-high Independence Pass in Colorado as a scenic byway is drawing fire, reports the *Aspen Times*. An amendment to the White River and Arapaho National Forest Plan proposes that the agency publicize Colorado Highway 82 between Twin Lakes and Aspen as a scenic route. The road will not be widened, but the agency will add additional pullouts and signs, upgrade campsites and provide them with water so the Forest Service can charge camping fees. Bob Miller, at the White River forest, says the amendment is necessary to generate additional revenue. Some Aspen residents, however, say the agency is mortgaging the forest for a quick buck. Dottie Fox of the Aspen Wilderness Workshop says scenic designation and improvements will add traffic along the extremely narrow road, increasing the risk of accidents. Fox also says that more recreation vehicle facilities will damage the forest experience for other visitors. The proposal also includes repairing hiking trails, protecting archaeological resources, maintaining roads and studying future recreational opportunities. For more information contact the White River National Forest, 303/945-2521, or the Aspen Wilderness Workshop, 303/925-4146.

'No wolves' edict may change

Wolves and grizzly bears are not likely to reappear anytime soon in Colorado. But the state's wildlife commission will consider a proposal this month that would allow reintroduction efforts — as long as they are preceded by vigorous scientific study and ample public comment periods.

That the commission will even entertain a discussion about changing its seven-year-old resolution opposing wolves and grizzlies is a victory for Glen Ayers and Jill Smith. Ayers and Smith are members of the LaPorte, Colo.-based Western Earth Support Cooperative. Earlier this year they wrote letters to the Division of Wildlife challenging the commission's January 1982 resolution.

The 1982 resolution stated that the commission would "oppose every person or entity which may now or in the future suggest or plan the introduction of either the gray wolf or the grizzly bear as free-roaming populations."

Ayers called the resolution a "joke." The DOW "must be embarrassed to be

associated with something as ridiculous as this document," he added. Ayers also reminded the DOW that it has a legal mandate to protect endangered species.

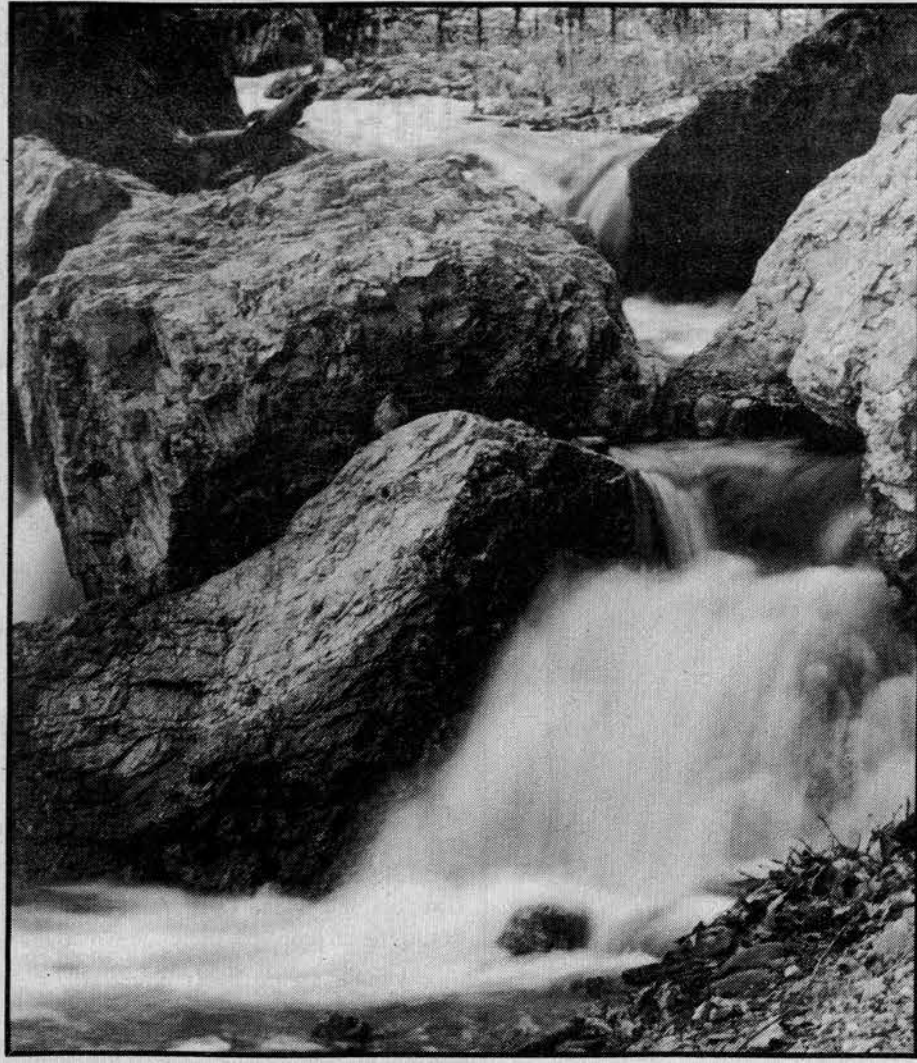
Judy Sheppard, who heads DOW's endangered species section, acknowledged it was pressure from Ayers and Smith that led to the commission's decision to reconsider the resolution.

Most wolf advocates agree that reintroduction will probably have to take place in Yellowstone Park before it has a chance in Colorado. But there are plenty of wolf proponents who think some areas in Colorado could support wolf-packs.

Those areas include the Uncompahgre Plateau, the Weminuche Wilderness, the Flattops Wilderness and Rocky Mountain National Park.

In addition, grizzly researcher Tony Povilis of Boulder published a paper this year claiming that the South San Juan Mountains in Colorado could provide "core habitat" for 50-100 grizzly bears.

— Barry Noreen



White Water Canyon in the Gila Wilderness

The Gila Turns 65

Our First Wilderness

In that country which lies around the headwaters of the Gila River I was reared. This range was our fatherland; among these mountains our wigwams were hidden; the scattered valleys contained our fields; the boundless prairies, stretching away on every side, were our pastures; the rocky caverns were our buying places....

— Geronimo, Apache chieftain, *Autobiography* (1905)

by Becky Rumsey

In 1924, quietly, and with very little fanfare, the U.S. Forest Service created the first federal wilderness reserve. It was the Gila (pronounced hee-la) Wilderness of New Mexico, born out of the urgings of a young and eloquent forester named Aldo Leopold. It would take 40 years and 6,000 pages of testimony before Congress passed a national wilderness bill. In contrast, the document creating the Gila Wilderness was a mere eight-page inter-office memo setting aside nearly 800,000 acres.

That document, the first declaration of independence for wilderness, will be on display at the Western New Mexico University Museum during a Southwest wilderness symposium and anniversary celebration Sept. 29-30. Festivities at the Gila National Forest and in Silver City, N.M., mark the 25th anniversary of the National Wilderness Act and the 65th birthday of the first designated wilderness.

Today the Gila contains 558,000 acres — the 1964 Wilderness Act split

off the adjacent 202,000-acre Aldo Leopold Wilderness. The Gila ranges in altitude from 5,000 feet to nearly 11,000 feet. Known for its rich riparian habitats, it is home to varied and numerous wildlife in the West.

"There are seven different life zones in the United States," says Andrew Gulliford, director of Western New Mexico University's museum, "and five of them are represented in the Gila."

Both recreational and species diversity make the Gila special to New Mexico author Dutch Salmon. He says it combines elements of the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Madres of Mexico.

"Within a hundred miles of Silver City you can go from the Lower Sonoran Zone, which is Chihuahuan grassland full of cholla and mesquite, to an alpine zone that gets 40 inches of rain or snow-fall a year and is full of blue spruce."

"Take the Gila River as another example," says Salmon, who canoed 200 miles down the river and wrote a book about it. "As the water temperature changes you go from trout, the rare Gila trout, browns and rainbows, to mountain bass, and then to channel and flathead catfish."

Salmon is current chairman of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, a citizens' advisory group working with the Bureau of Land Management and members of Congress on wilderness designation.

"So much has been destroyed by dams, floods and channelization," he says. "Of the few riparian areas left in the Southwest, the best are found along the Gila and San Francisco rivers." Both run through the Gila Wilderness.

Walking along this high prairie in the sombre sunset with a howling wind tossing the old cedars along the rim, and a soaring raven croaking over the abyss below, was a solemn and impressive experience. Jumped three white-tails right out on the prairie but it was too late to see horns. They were very pretty bounding over the sea of yellow gama grass with the wind blowing them along like thistledown.

— Aldo Leopold, trip to the Gila backcountry, 1927, *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work*, Curt Meine

When Aldo Leopold arrived in New Mexico in 1909, fresh out of the Yale Forest School, the Gila was one of only six roadless areas left in the Southwest. "By the mid 1920s the Gila was the only one left," says Leopold's biographer Curt Meine.

Leopold was a naturalist and a hunter who became a forester. In the years he spent in the Southwest working for the U.S. Forest Service, he founded the profession of game management and later helped create the science of ecology. He would go on to help found The Wilderness Society and write the lyrical and descriptive book, *A Sand County Almanac*. An independent and visionary thinker, Leopold also had the ability to communicate and build relationships with local hunters and ranchers alike. He spent years forging a game protection league out of Albuquerque sportsmen, an association which helped to reform the New Mexico Game and Fish Department.

Land, then, is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals. Food chains are the living channels which conduct energy upward; death and decay return it to the soil. The circuit is not closed; some energy is dissipated in decay, some is added by absorption from the air, some is stored in soils, peats and long-lived forests; but it is a sustained circuit, like a slowly augmented revolving fund of life.

— Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

Leopold came to the Southwest as a utilitarian forester. But his experiences in the region became a source for his developing sense of the interconnectedness of

all species to the land. He would eventually conclude, and express in *A Sand County Almanac*, that wilderness, in addition to its material value, was essential for scientific, cultural, recreational and aesthetic reasons.

As assistant forester in charge of operations, a post he acquired in 1919, he studied and inventoried the forests in District III (the Datil, Carson, Manzano, Gila, Santa Fe and Apache forests). He was alarmed by overgrazing, soil erosion and diminishing game herds. But his primary concern was the disappearance of large roadless areas.

Leopold was not alone in his growing recognition that the nation's forests and wildlands had worth beyond their material value. The National Park Service had eagerly embarked on a "good roads" plan aimed at bringing the newly motorized nation to the scenery and recently constructed visitor centers of its national parks. The Forest Service itself was just beginning to promote scenery and recreation as forest 'products.' But Leopold had another kind of sport and beauty in mind.

"Mechanized recreation already has seized nine-tenths of the woods and mountains" he would later write. "A decent respect for minorities should dedicate the other tenth to wilderness."

Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language.

— Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

In 1919 Leopold found a kindred spirit in Arthur Carhart, a landscape architect working for the Forest Service in Denver. The agency asked Carhart to design the placement of vacation homes around Trapper's Lake in western Colorado. He had also toured the Quetico-Superior region between Minnesota and Ontario. In both cases he suggested that the areas remain undeveloped and that the Forest Service manage the land for wilderness scenery and recreation.

"The thought of preserving portions of the national forests in their wild state seems to have occurred to Leopold at least as early as 1913," writes Meine. "He did not advertise the thought. It was, quite simply, a radical notion, and it developed only slowly."

Mark Erickson



Gila Wilderness

Finally, in 1921, Leopold went public with his ideas about wilderness protection. He wrote *The Wilderness and Its Place in Forest Recreation Policy*, which appeared in the November issue of the *Journal of Forestry*.

In that article Leopold wrote that the policy of "greatest good for the greatest number" in forest planning "had already gone far enough to raise the question of whether the policy of development ... should continue to govern in absolutely every instance, or whether the principle of highest use does not itself demand that representative portions of some forests be preserved as wilderness."

Leopold did not stop with the general idea of wilderness preservation. He also proposed "setting aside the headwaters of the Gila River, high in the Mogollon Mountains of west-central New Mexico." According to Meine, Leopold's main concern in preserving the Gila as a primitive area was that it was a prime hunting ground. Its economic value was slight. "There was only a bit of logging," says Meine. "Its main value was in recreation and in preserving the watershed itself."

By 'wilderness' I mean a continuous stretch of country preserved in its natural state, open to lawful hunting and fishing, big enough to absorb a two weeks' pack trip, and kept devoid of roads, artificial trails, cottages, or other works of man.

— Leopold's initial definition of wilderness, from *The Wilderness and Its Place in Forest Recreation Policy*, 1921

By today's standards the Gila is still a remote wilderness. No other wilderness receives fewer visitors. The nearest big cities, El Paso and Tucson, are both over 200 miles away, and nearby Silver City has a population of only 12,000. It is the biggest wilderness area left in the Southwest, and as Dutch Salmon puts it: "You can really get lost in there."

"The Gila was a benchmark in Leopold's thinking about wild lands," says Gulliford. It was also the platform from which he sprang into an understanding of ecology. Leopold hunted and fished in the Gila. In the early years he was concerned about the disappearance of big game herds, and that meant that he was a proponent of predator control. His thinking about predators and their role in the health of natural systems would change, but only gradually.



The disastrous occurrence of overpopulated deer in the Kaibab National Forest caused Leopold to rethink some of his game management theories, especially when the same kind of range destruction and subsequent mass starvation threatened to repeat itself in the Gila and elsewhere.

We all strive for safety, prosperity, comfort, long life and dullness. The deer strives with its supple legs, the cowman with trap and poison, the statesman with pen, the most of us with machines, votes, and dollars, but it all comes to the same thing: peace in our time. A measure of success in this is all well enough ... but too much safety seems to yield only danger in the long run. Perhaps this is behind Thoreau's dictum: In wildness is the salvation of the world. Perhaps this is the hidden meaning in the howl of the wolf, long known among mountains, but seldom perceived among men.

— Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

In 1924, when the Forest Service created the Gila Wilderness, most native predators had been exterminated. Ben Tilly, a contemporary of Leopold's, was a mountain man who killed grizzly bears and mountain lions for both the Forest Service and the U.S. Biological Survey.

Tilly tracked large predators in the Gila area from 1916 to the 1930s. "He traveled with his dogs, his frying pan, his rifle and his knife," says Gulliford. "He was an extraordinary hunter and tracker. He made his own knives, never bathed or shaved, never drank and never killed anything on Sunday. But he could tree a bear on Sunday and hold it with his dogs while he waited for Monday."

In 1931, the last grizzly bear was trapped out of the Gila. "In 1909, when I first came to the West," Leopold wrote later in *A Sand County Almanac*, "there were grizzlies in every major mountain mass, but you could travel for months without seeing a conservation officer. Today there is some kind of conservation officer 'behind every bush,' yet as wildlife bureaus grow, our most magnificent mammal retreats steadily toward the Canadian border. Of the 6,000 grizzlies officially reported as remaining in areas owned by the United States, 5,000 are in Alaska. Only five states have any at all. There seems to be a tacit assumption that if grizzlies survive in Canada and Alaska that is good enough. It is not good enough for me. The Alaskan bears are a distinct species. Relegating grizzlies to Alaska is about like relegating happiness to heaven; one may never get there."

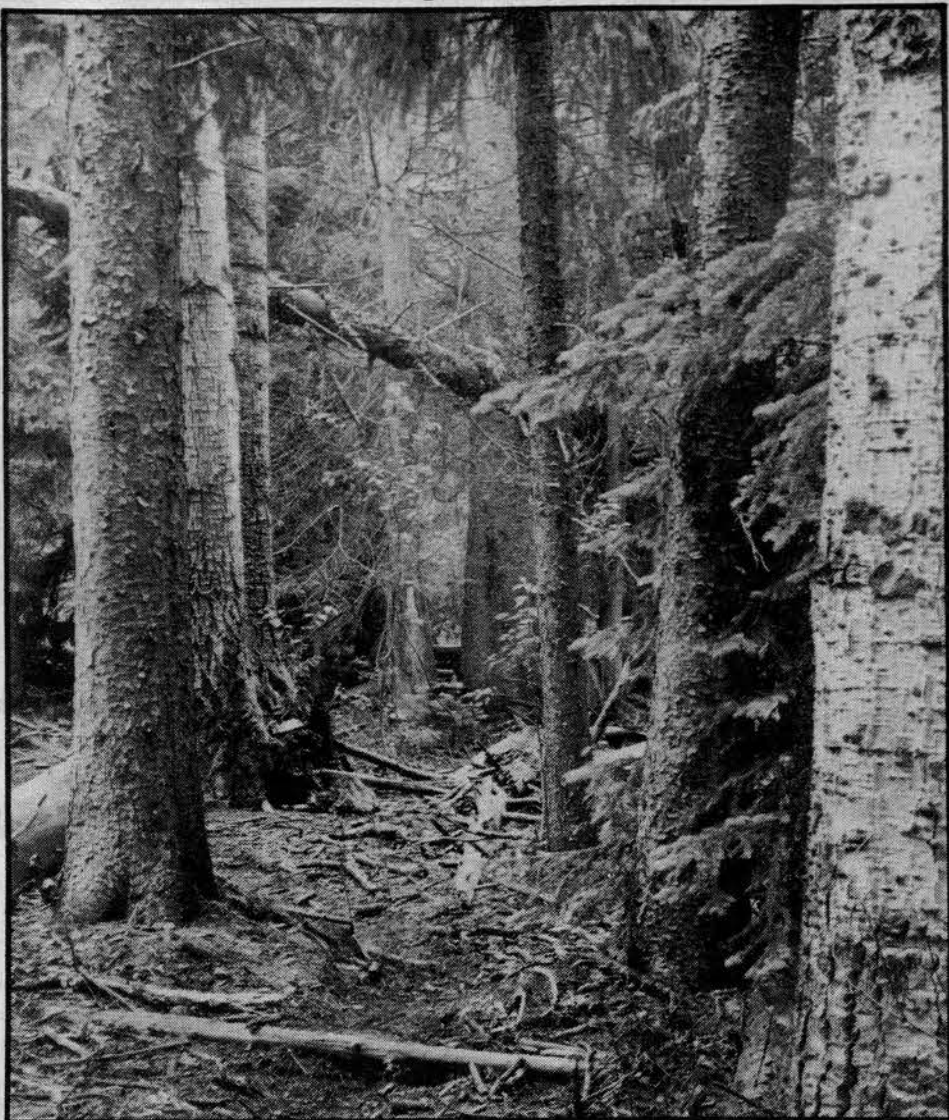
"By officially designating the Gila 'a wilderness,' " writes biographer Meine, "Western culture had in fact taken final possession of the wilderness. It was a conquest, albeit a conquest of the gentlest kind. It conquered by recognizing that there is a point beyond which the spoils of conquest are no longer commensurate with the value of the vanquished. For all the settlers' energy and impertinence, here was a sign of cultural foresight, a willingness to let a wild place be."

Wilderness is a resource which can shrink but not grow. Invasions can be arrested or modified in a manner to keep an area usable either for recreation, science or for wildlife, but the creation of new wilderness in the full sense of the word is impossible.

It follows, then, that any wilderness program is a rearguard action, through which retreats are reduced to a minimum.

— Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

Dale Schickelanz



Upper elevations in the Gila



Mountain Man Ben Lilley (left) circa 1910



SOURCES:

A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold, 1949

Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work, Curt Meine, The University of Wisconsin Press, 1988

Wilderness and the American Mind, Roderick Nash, Yale University Press, 1967

Gila Descending: A Southwestern Journey, M.H. Salmon, High Lonesome Books, 1986

Pockets....

(Continued from page 1)

million acres is formally designated wilderness. Another six million acres are now being managed as wilderness. The timber industry is unlikely to support greater old-growth protection for lands outside the wilderness system.

Wilderness, however, is virtually all at higher elevations in a narrow range of habitat types. It simply won't meet the legal mandate of preserving the diversity of the region, said Rosalind Yanishevsky, an independent researcher who studies old growth near Glacier National Park.

"Most of wilderness is rocks and ice," she said.

To meet its legal requirements, the Forest Service sets aside 5-10 percent of its land outside of wilderness areas. These small plots are scattered throughout the range of elevations, soil and moisture conditions. How should those plots be managed?

"There are things out there we don't know anything about," said Richard Hutto, a University of Montana ornithologist. "It seems like a lot of land should just be left alone."

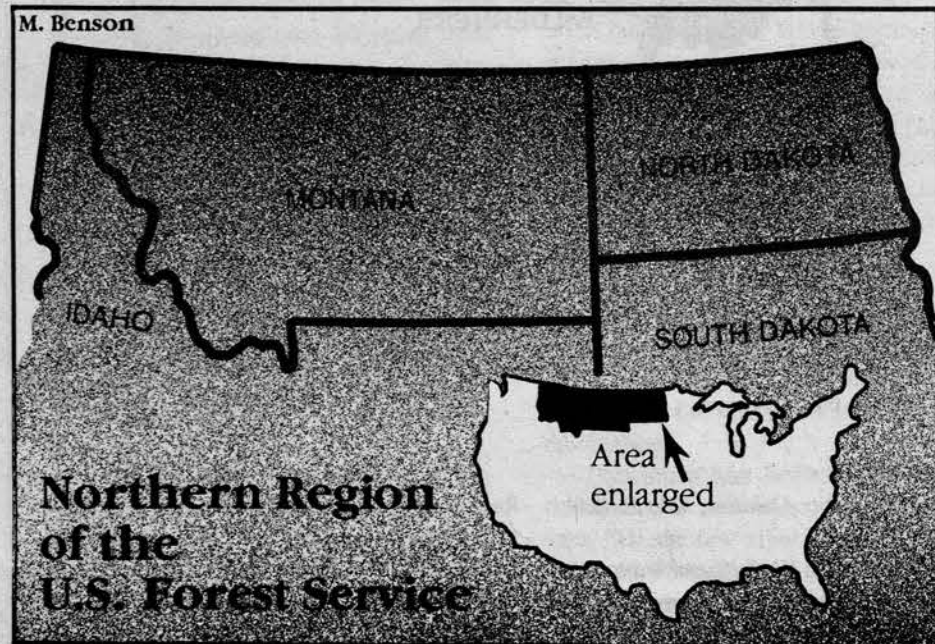
But we have never left land in the region — no matter how remote and seemingly untouched — alone. We have fought fires and that has changed the face of the land. There's an irony here.

Fire suppression has allowed fir trees to flourish, asserting their climax-species status over larch and Ponderosa pine. What that means is that the old-growth of the Northern Rockies has come to look like the Douglas fir forests of the Northwest. Fire suppression, our human bias against the catastrophe and caprice of nature, has narrowed the diversity of our forests in the West.

That 30-acre plot within the Lolo National Forest is slowly changing during our lifetime. The towering larch are dying, which is not a bad thing at all in the world of old growth.

Researchers say the death of an ancient tree marks a halfway point: 400 years of growing followed by 400 years of decline and decay. It is a second life, of sorts, to shelter and feed the 50 species of mammals, 85 species of birds and untold number of invertebrates that use snags, Yanishevsky said.

But beneath the larch is a thriving generation of fir, which gained an opportune toehold through fire suppression. Hillis said climax fir forests have always played a key role in the region, but they are fast becoming the only player at the expense of old-growth larch and Ponderosa pine. On this small plot, the Forest Service intends to remedy that through something that seems like a misnomer — managed old growth.



Researchers say the death of an ancient tree

marks a halfway point:

400 years of growing followed by

400 years of decline and decay

Paper's conflict of interest hits reporter

A protracted set of skirmishes between Montana's timber industry and this reporter ended rather abruptly last month. I found myself in that battle in my role as the environmental reporter for *The Missoulian*, a newspaper that covers much of western Montana.

Over the years, the stories I wrote drew fire from the industry. Finally my editor, Brad Hurd, said he had had enough. In a meeting Aug. 17, he said I was to be reassigned to a different beat.

Instead, I quit.

Hurd said his major reason for reassigning me was that my personal commitment to the environment was beginning to show in my work. I suppose I can't disagree that it was. This contention that one must try to balance all bad news dispassionately brings the issue beyond a personal conflict. It raises the question of whether we can, in this time of growing environmental degradation and crisis, count on traditional newspapers to bring the truth to the American public.

Montana's logged lands, particularly the private lands, are a mess.

In doing my job I walked the clearcuts, the rutted skid trails and the scoured creekbeds. I had been, as we say here, "on the ground." Anyone who sees what I saw there can't help but write about those responsible with a touch of passion.

That's the paradox: seeing and studying what is happening to the environment today is bound to spark activism. Yet most newspapers are uncomfortable with activist reporting. Although this problem crops up from time to time across the range of political issues, it is far more acute and the conflict more fundamental on environmental issues.

From my perspective, that's true on a couple of fronts.

First, the basic battle for the environment in states like Montana is with the natural resource industries that permeate the economy. For a local newspa-

per, taking on the very basis of the economy is a far different matter than tackling city hall, a corrupt judge or even a single offending business.

But also, as our environmental awareness progresses, it becomes ever more clear that the real enemy is the consumerism that fuels the American economy. If we are to have any sort of a reasonable shot at a decent future for this globe, it will come through curbing the profligate habits of the American public.

The average newspaper's financial health depends on fueling those habits. More than half of most newspapers is given over to advertisements for consumer goods responsible for our environmental problems. My former newspaper and virtually all others have a basic conflict of interest in reporting on the environment.

In my case, the conflict finally caught up to me.

—Richard D. Manning

The agency will keep the upstarts from taking over, Hillis said, by logging out the fir.

"It really isn't going to be an old-growth stand, but in 20-30 years, it will look like old growth," he said.

To the Forest Service, it's not an altogether alien concept, the idea of managing nature into a "natural" state. Yet Hillis says there really isn't much choice at this point. The issue was essentially decided after fires were suppressed, leaving the region in an unnatural state. If certain key habitat types are to be preserved or, arguably, recreated, then heavy-handed action may be in order, he said.

All of this brings into question the definition of old growth. Most of us think of old-growth as simply big trees, but that is too simplistic, researchers say.

The trees are but an element of an interwoven system that is based on centuries of relationships. It is, in the richest sense of the word, an ecosystem.

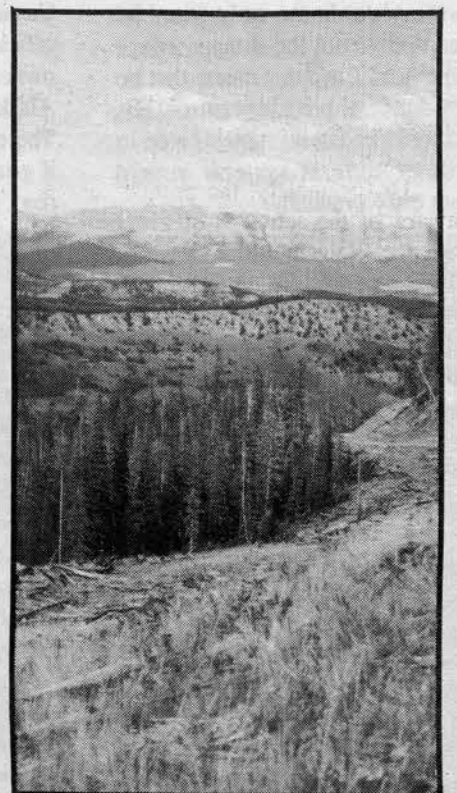
And now, armed with almost no knowledge of this system, we set out to manage it or even re-create it.

"I'm not sure we're smart enough to do it," Hillis admitted.

Last year, the *New York Times* reported that the nation's largest computers are now at work trying to crack a problem that has heretofore eluded the best efforts of mathematics — generating randomness. No matter how hard humans try to be random and capricious, a pattern eventually emerges. Even our most sophisticated thinking machines fail the task.

Apparently, nature does not fail. Yanishevsky says that an old-growth forest is simply a living record of randomness: a fire here, a wind-toppled tree there, an insect-infestation that leaves a bit of a clearing. Some birds happen to drop a seed, a predator wipes out some ungulates, and on and on through the centuries and epochs.

"Old growth is a compilation of chance events," Yanishevsky said. "Can



Logging area in the West

we randomize ourselves to the point that we can create old growth?" One way to do that, of course, is to let nature call the shots.

□

Dick Manning is currently studying wilderness management at the University of Montana Wilderness Institute.

National forest plans in Idaho, Montana get low grades

by Richard D. Manning

An internal Forest Service report has concluded that many of the plans for protecting old growth and critical wildlife habitat in the Northern Rockies are inadequate and vulnerable to legal challenge.

Although the report is labeled an "internal working paper" and "not subject to FOIA (Freedom of Information Act)," Forest Service officials in Missoula agreed to release it to *High Country News*.

The report, called *Management Indicator Species/Monitoring White Paper*, evaluates what has been done to preserve old growth, dead trees called snags, streamside zones and big-game habitat in each of the 13 forests in the Northern Region.

The report uses language such as "embarrassing," "off the wall" and "we're really hurting" to describe measures that have been incorporated in each forest plan.

Although the report was prepared more than a year ago by Forest Service biologists Mike Hillis and Nancy Warren, Hillis acknowledged in an interview that officials have taken virtually no steps since then to correct the flaws in the forest plans.

The lone exception is the Flathead National Forest in northwest Montana. Its assessment that the agency's steps to protect old growth were vulnerable to appeal proved prophetic. A formal appeal of the plan was upheld by the agency's Washington, D.C., office and the forest has since revised its provisions for old growth.

In many of the remaining forests, the issue still is open to appeal, said Doug Glevanik, who oversees planning in the Northern Region. "The vulnerability is still there," he said.

"The Forest Service certainly runs the risk of legal challenges," said Tom France, a National Wildlife Federation attorney who has seen the report. "I think the report certainly raises serious questions about the adequacy of certain forest plans."

Part of the problem is that very little research has been done on old growth specifically in the Northern Rockies, which leaves the Forest Service without solid information to guide its management plan. Still, the Forest Service report said a larger issue is that many forest planners in the region ignored the solid information that does exist.

The problem is particularly acute in an area known as "management indicator species." That is the practice of selecting one species and ensuring its well being on the assumption that other species that depend on a similar ecosystem also will fare well.

That practice is itself suspect, said Sallie Hejl, a Forest Service biologist in charge of research on old growth in the region. Nonetheless, the practice drives the forest plans' efforts on critical habitat.

Regardless of whether the practice of using indicator species is acceptable in theory, its application broke down in practice, the report concluded.

For instance, the Nez-perce National Forest in Idaho selected the fisher and

the Lewis and Clark National Forest in Montana selected the wolverine to monitor as indicator species. But both species are "totally impossible to monitor."

The Custer National Forest in Montana used "a whole laundry list of non-resident songbirds" as indicator species. But because the birds migrate over long distances, it is difficult to determine whether fluctuations in numbers are the result of local conditions or of problems thousands of miles away.

A second flaw in existing research occurred in the area of maintaining snags. This is a growing concern among biologists because as many as 50 mammal species and 85 birds depend directly on snags. Forests now are required to protect these standing dead or dying trees, but at least a couple of forests paid only lip service to the requirement.

Research shows that the species that need snags, particularly the pileated woodpecker, only will use trees larger than 20 inches in diameter. Nonetheless, both the Nez-perce in Idaho and the Gallatin in Montana chose to meet its snag requirements with stubs as short as five feet and as skinny as six inches in diameter.

"This creates a credibility problem," the report said. It also concluded that "most forests ignored" the provision of the National Forest Management Act that requires protection of endangered species. Some plans for snags were "totally off the wall" and with "no trackable rationale."

Each forest also was required to set a percentage of its total area it would maintain as old growth, generally from 5-10 percent. While the report said many

of those minimums would hold up in court, others are on shakier ground.

"The Helena and Lewis and Clark (national forests) both require 5 percent old growth within every given land unit," Hillis wrote. "I'm not sure how they can defend it."

The report assessed each forest's plan as presenting either a low, moderate or high risk of significant problems in each of four areas: elk, snags, old growth and streamside zones. Hillis said in the interview that the high-risk category is sort of a "double whammy." Planning standards are so lax that problems develop, he said, and monitoring is so faulty that no one would know the problems existed.

Forests falling into the "high risk" category for snags were the Beaverhead, Clearwater, Deerlodge, Gallatin and Nez-perce. The Bitterroot, Idaho Panhandle and Lewis and Clark were listed as "moderate risk" for snags.

For old growth, high risk forests were the Beaverhead and Lewis and Clark. At moderate risk were the Bitterroot, Deerlodge, Gallatin and Idaho Panhandle forests. The report also classified as a moderate risk the old-growth plan of the Flathead Forest, which was successfully appealed.

The Custer was the only forest with a plan for streamside areas that was a high risk. Moderate risks were assessed to the Beaverhead, Bitterroot, Clearwater, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, and Nez-perce forests.

As far as elk were concerned, each forest won "low risk" status.

LETTERS

MEXICAN WOLVES

Dear HCN,

Congratulations on the very fine articles in the June 19 HCN by John Bancroft. The Mexican wolf needs all the positive publicity it can get and this was excellent.

Unfortunately, the author was not aware of the activities of Preserve Arizona's Wolves, which was founded in 1988 and announced in HCN. We are a people now numbering about 300 nationwide who are interested in the preservation and eventual reintroduction of the Mexican wolf. Our first mailing alerted members to write the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to ask that the written public attitude survey mentioned in your article be rescheduled. It had been curtailed for nearly a year following completion of the telephone survey. The commission received about 100 letters from P.A.W.S. members and it was directly following this deluge of letters from the public that it rescheduled the written survey. There was no doubt that our letters produced the desired effect because there had been no mention of rescheduling the written survey prior to this public demand.

Our last alert encouraged members to write to Mike Spear, Region 2 director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, asking that Carol Cochran's fine slide show and educational materials be reviewed and approved for public release. This request, while producing a reported mass of letters has not, as yet, produced the desired results. After months of long distance phone calls, literally pleading with U.S.F.W.S. officials

Bob Miles



Mexican wolf

for release of this material, we are still being put off and asked to be patient ...

On a brighter note, we are planning Arizona Wolf Symposium '90 for March 23 and 24 at Arizona State University. It will include a background on the myths and folklore surrounding the wolf, will describe the demise of the wolf in the Southwest, the status of the wolf in captivity and the wolf's survival in Mexico.

Bobbie Holaday
1413 E. Dobbins Rd.
Phoenix, Arizona 85040

SAVE LOGGERS AND TREES

Dear HCN,

For the past few summers, my husband and I have come to Colorado's spectacular North Fork Valley to escape Oregon's heat — not only the heat of summer but also the unending heat generated by the controversy over clear-cutting that is so oppressive in our state.

So this summer we were agast to discover a similar controversy raging in western Colorado over the proposed

clear-cutting of our beloved aspen on Kebler Pass and other areas. In our travels, we have seen nothing that rivals the beauty of these aspen, with their scabby, chalkily bandaged limbs and quivering paddle leaves. How devastating it would be to exchange your magnificent aspen groves for the barren, brown, clear-cut patches that would be visible for many miles and many years. And just to make waferboard, a common building material, for Louisiana-Pacific Corp. in Olathe, Colo.

It remains to be seen what effect clear-cutting will have on this area's wildlife and watersheds. In Oregon, the effects include a decrease in many species and severe problems with erosion and siltation.

As in so many of these controversies, the bottom line seems to be jobs. Just as Oregon loggers can't "eat" the spotted owls and old-growth trees many people are trying to save, Colorado loggers can't eat aspen. Those of you concerned mainly with the environment will need to listen to your logger neighbors, who may come from generations of loggers and not wish, understandably, to change jobs. Like so many others in our society — miners, farmers, steel workers — loggers are being forced into a new style of life. Our sympathies must be with them and the trees.

I want to wish you luck as you come together as neighbors in your search for a solution to this problem. But it will take more — information, dialogue, creativity and sensitivity — much more than mere luck to help you find a compromise that saves loggers and trees.

Linda McJunkin
Corvallis, Oregon

LETTERS

MARKET SKEPTIC

Dear HCN,

In an earlier op-ed article in HCN (5/8/89) I was somewhat skeptical about the universal applicability of John Baden's "free-market environmentalism." Don Leal, one of Baden's colleagues, responded recently with a lengthy letter (HCN, 7/31/89). Since the usefulness of the market mechanism in dealing with environmental problems is an important current issue, I offer the following thoughts in this ongoing dialogue.

First, the issue is not being for or against markets but whether markets are the solution to the broad range of environmental problems that threaten us. My article indicated why I thought environmentalists should be skeptical about embracing the ideology of the free market while exploring with an open mind specific uses of markets to help solve particular environmental problems.

It is the peculiar spectacles worn by the ideological free-marketeers that I am uneasy about. Those spectacles lead them to see some things that may not really exist, while blinding them to important aspects of reality. Mr. Leal's letter illustrates these problems.

Mr. Leal urges me and other readers to reconsider the role that markets can play in protecting environmental values. The first example he offers is Nature Conservancy's role in protecting wildlands and wildlife habitat. This is a baffling example. Nature Conservancy is not a market-oriented business. It is the opposite: a nonprofit, "charitable" organization operating outside the commercial realm heavily supported by "tax expenditures" from the federal government. It is private (although it gets substantial government support through the tax codes), but that has little or nothing to do with commercial markets.

Nature Conservancy's commitment is most certainly not to exploit markets, charge whatever they will bear and maximize profits. If that were its commitment, it would have a much harder time raising funds to protect wildlands. Nature Conservancy purposely places itself outside of the commercial market so that it can effectively pursue its environmental objectives.

Mr. Leal's enthusiasm for the market leads him to see markets operating even where the institutional arrangements are those designed to insulate the organization from commercial market forces. Clearly, it would improve everyone's understanding of the role markets can play to at least distinguish between private, non-commercial activities and commercial, market-oriented activities. The array of institutional arrangements is far broader than "market" vs. "central government."

Mr. Leal's ideological spectacles also lead him to see the appalling destruction associated with industrial timberland owners in western Montana as caused by the federal government, and not by these large corporations' pursuit of short-term profits.

It was, he says, the Forest Service that started clearcutting alternate sections of the Gallatin range and, since the Forest Service had already undercut the value of the private holdings for recreation by offering recreation for free on public lands, Plum Creek had no choice but to clearcut, too. That is an amazing reconstruction of reality!

I would refer Mr. Leal to the documents filed by Plum Creek with the Federal Securities and Exchange Commis-

sion in connection with its reorganization as a limited partnership. It makes clear what the financial press has discussed for almost five years: Plum Creek (and other industrial timberland companies) is in the process of liquidating the "excess" inventory of old-growth trees so as to generate a large, short-term cash flow that Wall Street has been drooling over.

Champion International is doing the same thing in the Blackfoot Valley on an even grander scale, and in that location there is no checkerboard pattern of ownership. Of course, the checkerboard ownership pattern actually works the other way around: As private landowners butcher their land, the Forest Service is forced to curtail harvests on its lands to fulfill its legislatively imposed environmental obligations. This has led to the Forest Service significantly reducing its harvest activities in the Lolo Creek area of the Lolo National Forest.

The pattern of private timber companies liquidating old growth to convert paper assets to cash is not limited to Montana. The redwood areas of northern California and the Cascades in Oregon are experiencing the same thing. This is also not a new pattern in our history.

Market incentives can easily lead to massive environmental destruction, even when the government is not creating distorted incentives. That elemental fact must be kept in mind as we work to

eliminate the distorted incentives government policy can provide and as we try to modify the incentives faced by the private economic actors that encourage them to ignore environmental values.

I agree with Mr. Leal that there should be no fixed, historically determined line that specifies where markets and commercial business can productively be relied upon and where they cannot. That line, as he points out, is constantly shifting. But it is *not* constantly shifting in the direction of more reliance on markets and commercial businesses. With each generation we find some areas where it appears to be productive to extend collective, non-commercial institutions into areas previously left to commercial business. We also find areas previously the domain of government or non-commercial institutions which we turn over to commercial businesses.

We and the rest of the world have been engaged in ongoing, adaptive experimentation with a variety of institutional arrangements. In all of this, however, we have always found important areas of human activity in which we have felt we had to constrain the role that private pursuit of profit and markets played. I expect that as we seek to protect environmental resources, we will also find significant situations where we will want to depend upon nonprofit organizations, local semi-public organizations such as cooperatives or volunteer

fire departments, as well as local, state and federal governments.

But even when one says "government," it tells us little about the institutional arrangements. A "public" park need not be a "commons." Even with public parks, property rights usually are vested in a very particular organization which can be given greater or lesser autonomy and held responsible in a variety of ways. It is the richness of alternative institutional arrangements that needs to be critically explored as we seek to solve the environmental problems which threaten to engulf us.

The emphasis on markets and private businesses that characterizes the language of the free-marketeers focuses far too narrowly. The ideological agenda they carry with them also may, in the long run, be seriously in conflict with the philosophic values of many environmentalists. It was for these reasons that I urged some open-minded skepticism on the part of those working to protect environmental values when it comes to the grander claims of free market environmentalists.

Thomas Michael Power
Missoula, Montana

The writer is an economics professor and chairman of the economics department at the University of Montana.

afield

Slime sends Tucsonan scrambling home

by John M. Bancroft

Ed Abbey said it's easy to leave Tucson; he did it lots of times.

And so have I, but I always come home to the Sonoran Desert, to Tucson in particular, because no place but this hard, dry country feels like home.

Abbey was a neighbor of mine. I can't claim him as a friend, at least not in the usual sense, as I had talked with him only a handful of times since meeting him a dozen years ago. Like a lot of people, I was sad to see him leave Tucson for the last, irrevocable time this spring, although he didn't go far.

Our first meeting, carried out in the dark of night on the neutral ground of the Tucson Community Center plaza, was straight out of a spy thriller or the dooperunner's handbook, although he carried something far more dangerous than drugs.

Ray Ring and I were editing a now defunct newspaper at the time, and we had heard that Abbey's novel *Good News* was about to go to press. We tracked him down by phone at his home "near Oracle" (then just a little town of copper miners, reclusive eccentrics and a handful of artists living quasi-communally, none of whom was Ed Abbey), and timidly asked whether he might consider allowing *Tucson Weekly News* to excerpt the new book.

Ray, who has since turned novelist himself, became a good friend of Abbey's over the years, but back then we were both just readers and admirers of his work and the independent spirit of the cantankerous West his work embodies. We were sure he'd say no, probably forcefully, and so we were surprised when the gentle voice on the other end of the line invited us to meet its owner.

That's how we came face-to-face with the author of *Desert Solitaire* and *The Monkey Wrench Gang* after sundown on a summer evening. As we

walked north along the plaza to our meeting place, Abbey, in the company of a pretty woman — his wife, I believe, although we didn't ask — loomed up out of the shadows, stopped, and waited for us.

It was Ray, who as both a journalist and a human being is nine parts skeptic and one part innocent, who spoke first.

"Edward Abbey. It's good to meet you ... I think."

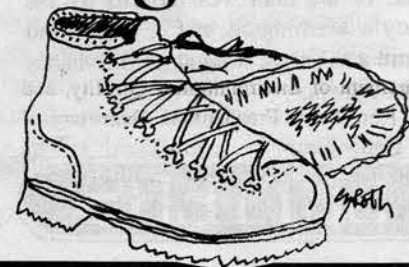
Abbey just smiled at that, an amused grin growing first out of his hawk's eyes and only later out of his anarchist's beard, and handed over a beat-up manila envelope containing the freely annotated manuscript of his book.

"Use anything you want. Just be sure I get that back," he said, nodding at the fat envelope and starting away. Ray and I stayed where we were for a while, as I recall, and watched him walk back into the shadows.

That's the whole story. It doesn't hold a candle, I'll admit, to Tony Hillerman's story about a friend of his who one cold night in New York recognized William Faulkner stamping his feet under a streetlamp outside a bar, and upon being invited inside for a drink and conversation stammered that he'd love to, if it weren't for the fact that he had to catch the last train to White Plains.

That's a New Yorker for you. A Tucsonan like me probably would have just stood there on the sidewalk with his mouth open until he froze solid. Which reminds me of the reason I started this piece: I've been East several times, usually to take work as a writer or editor that paid better than the trade does here, but it never worked out. No sooner had I arrived in Chicago or New York or Palm Beach than I began making plans to go home, back to Arizona, where I could use my lungs and not the gills I felt growing just under my ears.

It is so wet and warm in Tampa, where I rode out five benighted Reagan



years, that just about anything but mountains will grow there, whether you want it to or not. That's what finally sent me packing. I remember clearly the horror of the moment that sent me over the edge.

I have a pair of old-fashioned, high-topped, lace-up leather hiking boots that I broke in with a stroll along the trail up Wasson Peak west of Tucson in 1974. I loved those boots unreasonably the moment I laid eyes on them in the window of the Red Wing shoe store.

I didn't put many miles on those sturdy boots in Florida, and so they sat for months on end in the back of a closet in a rented bungalow. Having been built for the steamy climate back in the '20s, with deep overhanging eaves, a wide verandah and so many windows that even the lightest breeze found its way in, the house had no air conditioning. Which meant the air inside was as moist as a pelican's pouch nine months out of 10.

One day I pushed aside the clothes that hung in the closet to renew my acquaintance with those boots. I didn't see them right away, but I did dance back a step or two at the sight of twin columns of a cancerous-looking green fuzz back behind some boxes I'd never unpacked.

It took a minute for the disgusting truth to sink in. When it did I found I was already on the phone to the U-Haul company, booking a truck for Tucson.

□

John Bancroft is a freelance writer in Tucson, Arizona.

BULLETIN BOARD

CAN THEY BE SAVED?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is soliciting public comment on draft recovery plans for three endangered fish species. The humpback chub, bonytail chub and Colorado squawfish are all native to the slower, warmer and larger waters of the Colorado River Basin. But their habitat has been fragmented or destroyed by dams, pollution, irrigation projects and competition with non-native species. The draft plan summarizes what is known about the biology of the fishes and outlines recovery steps such as hatchery-rearing, habitat improvement and reintroduction to suitable waters. The draft recovery plan is available from Larry Schanks, Chief, Division of Endangered Species and Environmental Contaminants (Mail Stop 60153), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225 (303/236-7398). Comments are due by Sept. 19.

TALKIN' TRASH IN WYOMING

The Wyoming Outdoor Council's annual meeting Sept. 23-24 will focus on "Waste Management: Unfinished Business." Speakers include Deb Rogers of the Technical Information Project, Rapid City, S.D., and Chuck Rogers of the Romar Group, Pagosa Springs, Colo., who will debate interstate waste disposal. Recycling from both national and local perspectives will be explored as John Ruston of the Environmental Defense Fund and Bob Trost of Casper, Wyo.'s Rocky Mountain Recycling present their views. Other speakers include Dave Finley, William Garland and Dennis Hemmer of Wyoming's Department of Environmental Quality, and State Rep. Steve Freudenthal. Secretary of State Kathy Karpan and author Geoff O'Gara are the luncheon and dinner speakers, respectively. The meeting will be held at the Triangle X Guest Ranch in Grand Teton National Park. For details contact the WOC office at 201 Main, Lander, WY 82520 (307/332-7031).

FOUR-WHEELING FOR PROFIT

The BLM, Forest Service and Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation want to help communities benefit from snowmobiling, motorcycling and other off-highway vehicle recreation. That's why they have joined with a group called Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition to host the "Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Symposium" at the Grand Junction Holiday Inn, Sept. 29-30. For a \$45 registration fee, participants will hear discussions about recreational marketing, tourism, economic development and plans to create a state off-highway vehicle program. Speakers include Colorado Gov. Roy Romer; Rich Meredith, executive director of the Colorado Tourism Board; Ron Holiday, director of the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation; and representatives from several snowmobile, motorcycle and four-wheel-drive recreation groups. Also planned is a field trip to a nearby park offering opportunities to ride. For more information write OHV Symposium, c/o CMDA, 2015 W. Alameda Ave., Denver, CO 80223 (303/744-6632).

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THEY SUPPORT GLACIER

A new, nonprofit group formed to support preservation of the natural and cultural resources of Montana's Glacier National Park will hold a dinner dance at the McDonald Lake Lodge in the park. The Sept. 16 fundraiser is a first for Glacier National Park Associates, which plans to support programs not otherwise funded. Those programs include the park library, non-native plant control and preservation of historic park photographs. The group also plans to establish an educational trust to fund park interpretive programs. For more information, contact Superintendent Gil Lusk, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, MT 59936 (406/888-5441).

ACCESS

NEAT STUFF

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR: The Nature Conservancy, a private nonprofit conservation organization, is seeking a responsible person for all aspects of fund raising. Qualifications: 3 years successful fund raising or related experience, ability to communicate ideas with enthusiasm, organize diverse activities, and deal effectively with a wide range of people including corporate and foundation leaders. Apply to: TNC Wyoming Field Ofc., P.O. Box 450, Lander, WY 82520. Application deadline: Sept. 22 EOE (1x17p)

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY is accepting applications for a Regional Associate located in its Boise, Idaho, office. The position has administrative and conservation issue responsibilities. Must be able to work with a broad spectrum of people. Knowledge of conservation issues in Northern Rockies is strongly recommended. For more information contact Craig Gehrke, Regional Director, The Wilderness Society, 413 West Idaho St. #102, Boise, ID 83702. The Wilderness Society is a nonprofit membership organization concerned with public land management issues. (1x17p)

UTAH CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB presents the Fourth Annual Archdruid Lecture featuring Tom Till and former Gov. Bruce Babbitt, Oct. 7, 7 p.m., East High School, Salt Lake City, Utah. Tickets: \$5 in advance, \$6 at door. Reception: 9 p.m., First Unitarian Church, light refreshments, \$5. Info: Linda Wilburn, 801/363-9621. (1x17p)

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY — Let the sun work for you. Solar electricity for your home or RV. Free information. Photocomm, 2555 N. Hwy 89, Chino Valley, AZ 86323, 602/636-2201 or 602/778-1616. (ufn17B)

SHARON D. CLARK, ATTORNEY AT LAW. ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, LAND USE, and WATER LAW. 20 Boulder Crescent, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. (719/473-9966). (10x14p)

THE WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL Job-letter is the environmentalist's monthly employment directory listing job openings in western North America, including Canada. For subscription information: WEJ, P.O. Box 800H, LaPorte, CO 80535. (2x14 p)

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KEEP COMMENTING

A controversial plan to triple the aspen harvest in three western Colorado national forests will be debated until Sept. 25, a month longer than planned. "We hope to give every individual ample opportunity to comment on the measure," says R.E. Greffenius, supervisor of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison national forests. Offered as an amendment to the 1983 forest plan, the proposal would increase aspen cutting from about 1,000 to 3,000 acres each year for the next 10 years. "We've received in excess of 300 responses," says Matt Glasgow, a GMUG spokesman, "and that's a significant response." According to Glasgow, the forest plan has been "heavily opposed." People are concerned about the environmental consequences and "a great many write about the threat to pocketbook issues, such as tourism," he adds. To obtain a copy of the draft amended forest plan and draft supplemental environmental impact statement, contact R.E. Greffenius, Forest Supervisor, GMUG National Forests, 2250 Highway 50, Delta, CO 81416 (303/874-7691).

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OTHER VOICES

Federal agents killed about 250,000 predators in 1987

by Steve Johnson

For more than 60 years, very little has changed inside the federal Animal Damage Control division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Except for the telltale 1930s truck, it would be hard to tell which of the two photographs accompanying this article is the more recent. Both depict dead lions (or portions thereof); both were photographed in Arizona; and both demonstrate all too graphically the activities of the ADC, past and present. The severed lion heads, however, were photographed only weeks ago.

About five heads came from lions killed on the ranch of Eddie Lackner, the rancher who lost one of his federal grazing permits due to violations of laws regarding the reporting of bears and lions killed under the Arizona stock-killer laws. In fact, Lackner reportedly killed two of the lions himself.

The very pleased expressions of the two unidentified ADC men can be better understood when one realizes that their paychecks depended on their performance. The slogan "Bring them in, regardless of how" was no idle exhortation back in the 1920s and 1930s. The use of the slogan on every letter sent by their superiors to the ADC people in the field meant that the men had to get results or be fired. In the days of the Great Depression, the loss of a steady job had a meaning that is unimaginable to us today. Finally, these two men lived in very different times, when what they did was applauded by most.

The overall method by which the ADC rated its employees in those long-vanished days relied heavily on a point system. While dead bears were acceptable as part of the total, wolves and lions earned more points. Bears were just too easy to kill, and also tended to cause fewer problems for cattle ranchers. Then, as now, keeping ranchers happy was a vital part of keeping the ADC in business. The political power of the livestock industry was the reason the ADC began and remains the chief reason that it still survives today.

Today's ADC division of the USDA employs about 900 people nationwide whose purpose, according to the 1931 Animal Damage Control Act, is "to promulgate the best methods of eradication, suppression or control" of the nation's predatory and other wild animals, and to "conduct campaigns for the destruction or control of such animals." Roughly 600 people are actually employees in the field.

The Bush administration has asked for a 14 percent increase in ADC funding, from about \$26 million in 1988 to more than \$29 million in 1990.

The tools of the trade range from the archaic steel leg-hold trap to helicopter gunships, and also may require skill in poisoning, snaring and ground shooting. This arsenal is directed against nearly all vertebrate wildlife species, including coyotes, bobcats, foxes, black bears, mountain lions, skunks, badgers, raccoons, ravens, owls, dogs, jackrabbits, cottontails, various rodents, blackbirds, grackles and even woodpeckers.

In 1987 (the latest year for which statistics are available), the ADC killed nearly 250,000 animals in 14 western states, according to its own annual reports. This total does not include the hundreds of thousands of birds such as grackles and blackbirds killed on their roosts in the East.

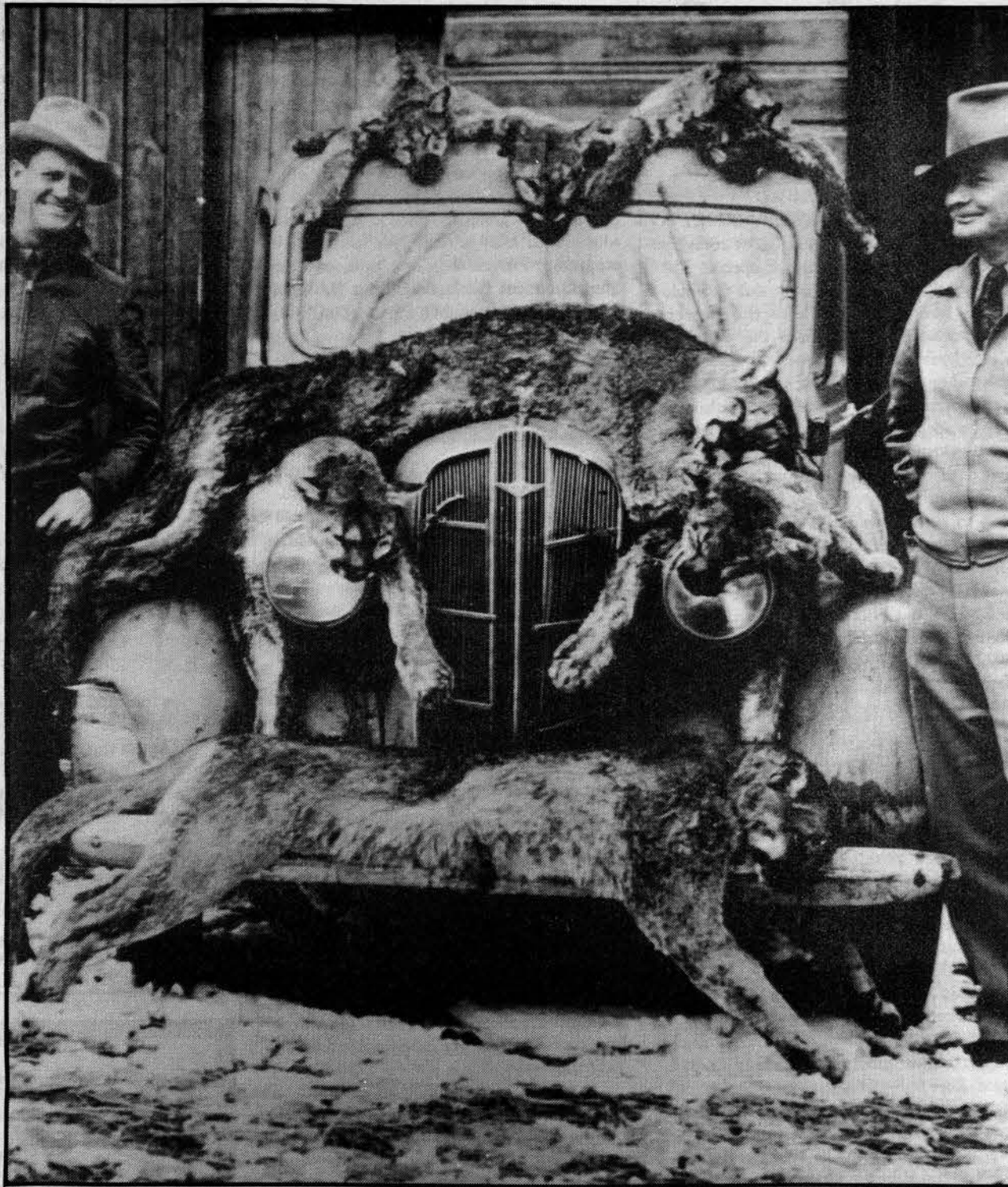
The roots of the ADC go back to 1890, when federal involvement first began. First organized as a part of the U.S. Biological Survey, it was known as the Predator and Rodent Control Agency until passage of the 1931 act. The sole reason for the ADC's original existence was the almost-constant pressure of Western ranchers for governmental help in killing wolves, mountain lions and grizzly bears.

When ranchers finally began to pay for the formerly free forage on the federal lands, the fact of that minuscule fee (5 cents per cow in the early 1900s) was used as another justification for federal expenditures on their behalf.

From 1931 to 1985, the ADC was under the Department of the Interior and a part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the same agency that administers our National Wildlife Refuges and the Endangered Species programs. In late 1985, the entire ADC operation was transferred by Congress to the

(Continued on page 15)

Lowell Jett collection



Government trappers proudly show off their kill some 50 years ago

Anonymous source



These lions were recently killed in Arizona

OTHER VOICES

We should turn wilderness war into search for consensus

by Dick Carter

Wayne Owens, Utah's second congressional district representative, said, "Let the debate begin." His counterpart from the first district, Rep. Jim Hansen, responded, "Let the wild rumpus start."

Both were talking of wilderness. Owens is the author of a 5.1-million-acre Utah BLM wilderness bill, HR 1500. Hansen has written HR 1501, a 1.4-million-acre bill. Owens' district, largely the metro Salt Lake area, doesn't contain a single proposed BLM wilderness area although it has many of the state's wilderness advocates. Hansen's district contains fewer wilderness advocates but dozens of proposed wildernesses.

BLM wilderness triggers great emotion in Utah. And it should. Although dotted with a few scattered national parks, the Colorado Plateau and Great Basin represent an unmatched physical landform, carved by wind and rain, lifted, dropped and scorched. The result is canyons and cliffs, bridges and arches, fins and mesas, colored red, yellow, buff and purple, all changing daily with the rising and setting of the sun and seasonally with its changing height in the sky. It is a landscape found nowhere else on earth.

After a great deal of pushing and pulling through the late 1970s, the Bureau of Land Management, which controls the public lands in question, identified 3.2 million acres of wilderness study areas and made a 1.9-million-acre preliminary recommendation.

In response, the Utah Wilderness Association, joined by other environmental organizations, filed and won the largest-ever BLM wilderness appeal before the Interior Board of Land Appeals in the early 1980s. The victory enlarged the wilderness study area acreage by over 600,000 acres.

With the study and appeals past, the BLM and other players assumed their positions. The BLM recommended to Congress that it designate 1.9 million acres. Owens' and Hansen's bills were separated by

3.7 million acres, and the Utah Wilderness Association proposed 3.8 million acres.

With the filing of bills and recommendations, the stage is set for the ultimate battle: the struggle to convince Congress to pass a bill, thereby creating winners and losers. It is a battle that many expect to go on for years, and it will further divide a state that is already badly divided. This raises the question: Is there an alternative to yet another protracted and bloody political struggle over the management of public land in Utah?

The automatic answer from both sides is a loud "no." And that raises a second question: What is so difficult about seeking consensus? Alternately, what is so attractive about a no-holds-barred fight? The present fighting, after all, will do little or nothing to educate and alter the fundamental problem surrounding resources — that of always looking at natural resources as something to be consumed.

So long as the political and financial needs of both wilderness opponents and proponents dictate the starting point, the debate or rumpus will always seek justification of these positions, rather than discussions and then resolution of the real interests surrounding wilderness designation. Both sides seek to coerce rather than understand. Neither side appears to have an interest in setting in motion the personal and cultural changes that must occur if wilderness is to have any value.

So long as BLM wilderness is pursued as the final statement on environmental quality, Right versus Wrong, Purity versus Impurity, we guarantee islands of wilderness surrounded by masses of development. Fifty years from now, we may see wilderness areas as monuments to our insensitivity to larger issues, rather than, as we now like to think, monuments to our vision.

Rather than see wilderness as an end, we should see it almost as a practice arena. For if we can't solve wilderness issues with some degree of consensus, success, respect and dignity, then the other, larger issues we are facing will not be solved either.

Because we have positioned wilderness as a moral struggle, pitting environmentalists versus non-environmentalists (there are variations on this within the environmental community — the larger the wilderness recommendation, the purer the environmentalist), the debate generates heat and questionable wilderness boundaries. Of all the values wilderness has taught, communication is not one of them.

Implicit in both wilderness bills is the assumption that a maximum or minimum wilderness bill will be shoved through Congress, with the possible tradeoff that all other lands will be subject to development. We experienced this in the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act, which designated Forest Service wilderness. That is because the Forest Service process pursued wilderness in the same manner that has been set in motion for the rumpus/debate surrounding BLM wilderness.

Utah is not alone. Statewide wilderness bills harbor identical release language emphasizing the continued need for roadless area protection and wilderness reconsideration in the future. Yet many of these bills exited Congress with uniform dissatisfaction, prompting a call on the one hand for "no more wilderness" and on the other to designate valuable wildlands that were left out of the first round.

The problem is that the wilderness bills have been burdened with too much weight. Wilderness should be only one issue, but it has become an icon, and therefore it is the entire debate. Instead of the tool, it is the end.

We treat wilderness as an end even though we know that after its designation, wildlife is still threatened, watersheds are still hammered by too many sheep or cattle and hillsides are denuded by off-road vehicles. That is because some of the most critical watersheds, some of the most critical wildlife habitat and some of the most sensitive ecosystems don't even qualify as wilderness. Yet they need our attention as much or more than the most beautiful and isolated mountain range or desert setting.

If we are to achieve fundamental change in our collective view of the land, we must recognize that it is not an "us versus them" matter. It should be obvious by now that coercing others to alter their value system doesn't work. It should also be obvious that there is



Steve Mulligan

Dune at Cataract Canyon, Utah

nothing magical about Owens' 5-million-acre bill or the BLM's 1.9-million-acre recommendation. The need is for pursuit of the real issues, and reasonable discussion.

I know lofty talk about a search for common ground seems meaningless when opponents of wilderness, such as the Multiple Use Coalition, continue to denigrate wilderness, wilderness advocates and wilderness users. Their absurd "no, no, no" must end because it lacks political and ecological substance. It will definitely end when the land is destroyed and non-productive for consumptive or non-consumptive uses. Our job is to help end the stand-off long before then.

Both sides can work toward consensus by asking basic questions. From the environmental side, we should look up from our headlong rush for wilderness and ask: Of what value would this wilderness be? After all, we have been extraordinarily successful in creating wilderness without doing much to stop the degradation of the environment.

The anti-wilderness side should ask: Why are we reflexively against wilderness? Have the mining and milling and clearcutting and overgrazing of the past century — a period when environmentalism barely existed in southern Utah — brought us wealth, stable and prosperous communities, or even a financially comfortable life for more than a few years at a time? Or has it, instead, brought us financial and social instability, a flow of wealth out of the region and exhausted and damaged land?

At the base of environmentalists' search for more wilderness, and for protection of land that doesn't fit the wilderness formula, is our belief that protection of the land and its resources are necessary for a full and rich life, and now perhaps even for survival.

If that is true, we must also believe that other people — both in Utah and beyond — will soon come to realize the importance of broad protection of land and its resources. Today, we see that movement clearly in Utah. While the rest of the West embraced wilderness as a goal years ago, Utah, with its high birth rate and its development culture, resisted wilderness. Now the public perception is shifting. The birth rate is dropping and public sentiment, as expressed in polls, is strongly pro-wilderness.

The temptation is to see these trends as providing an opportunity to "roll" our opponents — to grab off a bigger chunk of wilderness in, let's say, 1993, than we can get today.

But there is an alternative. Our opponents can see the shifts as well as we can. What if, instead of awaiting our rise to power, we use this intermediate, changing time to create a common ground.

Wouldn't it be better to have a working relationship than continuous war, with the land held hostage?

Dick Carter is coordinator of the Utah Wilderness Association.

Killing...

(Continued from page 14)

USDA, where ADC's overzealousness on behalf of ranchers and farmers would be more warmly received.

Conservationists, while concerned about the transfer, generally offered little resistance. Some even supported it, believing that the Fish and Wildlife Service would be more likely to adopt a much tougher enforcement stance if the ADC were no longer under its umbrella.

Unlike many other federal bureaucracies, the ADC has done its job well. Due to its single-minded efforts, we no longer have either wolves or grizzly bears left in Arizona or in the great majority of the West. Both are now listed as endangered. When the ADC poisoned prairie dogs, it also added the black-footed ferret to the endangered-species list. If the lion had eaten carrion, and therefore been vulnerable to poisoning, it too would now be gone from the West.

As incredible as it seems today, both grizzly bears and Mexican wolves were common in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico just after the Civil War. During that mythical period of what has become known as the "winning of the West," a few people trying to make the world safe for cows and sheep made the decision for all of us that we would never see or hear a Mexican wolf in the wild, or watch a grizzly bear chase fish in the Santa Cruz River near Nogales. By the 1930s, both species were finished in Arizona and New Mexico.

Today, nearly all of us place a very high value on all wildlife, both predators and prey. It is now up to us to ensure that we do not allow ranchers and the ADC to make decisions for our own descendants that they will never have a chance to see lions and black bears. If we do not break the stranglehold of the rancher over our wildlife and our public lands, such a future could well come to pass.

Steve Johnson is the Southwest representative of Defenders of Wildlife.

16-High Country News — September 11, 1989

GUEST OPINION

Let's share the wolf risk with ranchers

by Hank Fischer

Back in frontier days, entertainment consisted of placing a bear and a buffalo in the same arena and watching the ensuing fracas. Sometimes in the West it seems we engage in similar sport, only instead of bears and bison, conservationists and ranchers are the combatants.

The current battle over restoring wolves to the Yellowstone National Park area provides a case in point. The only common ground ranchers and conservationists seem to be finding is the dirt they're throwing at one another.

"We need wolves like we need another drought," say ranchers, reinforcing many environmentalists' view that livestock producers are selfish and hate wildlife.

"Wolves should be restored to the Yellowstone area and cows should be removed," say some wildlife supporters, reaffirming many ranchers' view that environmentalists are selfish and hate people.

Meanwhile, the public and press seem mesmerized by this spectacle of ranchers and conservationists whacking and hacking at one another, drawn to the tiresome conflict the way some people are drawn to car crashes.

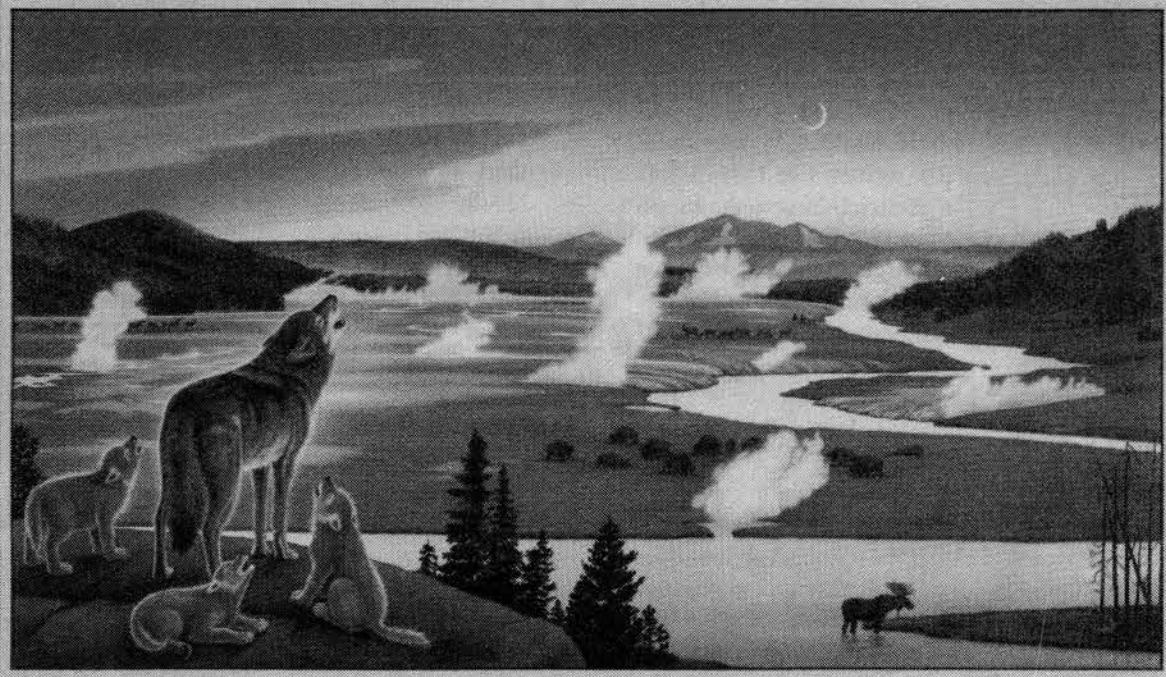
Now wouldn't you think that a society smart enough to put men on the moon could figure out how to restore wolves to Yellowstone without causing major problems? Of course. And the sensible way to begin solving problems associated with returning wolves to Yellowstone is to start looking at those problems one at a time and begin proposing solutions. So let's put the arguing aside for a moment and try that approach.

Most people would agree that the single most effective argument against wolf restoration in Yellowstone and other parts of the Northern Rockies has been that wolves might cause economic hardship for livestock producers.

While we conservationists can sit back with our livestock-loss statistics and argue till the cows come home (or don't come home) that industry-wide losses to wolves are only a fraction of one percent, we cannot deny that some losses will occur.

We could jaw with the livestock industry about all these livestock-loss studies and statistics and what they really mean for the next decade without making an inch of progress toward getting a wolf track back in Yellowstone. Trying to convince ranchers that their losses won't really be that large simply doesn't seem like an inspired strategy. We'd have better luck trying to persuade a prairie dog to climb a tree.

But let's look at this issue from a different perspective. How confident are we wildlife supporters



A poster by Montana artist Monte Dolack has been commissioned by Defenders of Wildlife to help create a fund to pay ranchers for livestock killed by wolves in the Northern Rockies.

Dolack says his rendering of a mother wolf and her cubs, set against a nighttime Yellowstone setting, will not only help raise money for the fund but also raise people's consciousness about the often maligned animal.

"We call this supply-side environmentalism," says Defender's Hank Fischer. "The idea is to use our private resources to pay for environmental solutions instead of waiting for the government or someone else to do something."

So far the group has raised \$42,000 of the \$100,000 they think is needed for the program. The "Restoring the Wolf to Yellowstone National Park" poster can be ordered for \$25 from Defenders of Wildlife, 1244 19th St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20036.

of these livestock loss statistics we throw around? And more to the point, who pays the bills if we're wrong?

If we're sincerely convinced that livestock losses to wolves will be low, if we really believe the opinion surveys that tell us we have overwhelming public support for Yellowstone wolf restoration, then why not put our money where our mouths are and simply pay for verified losses?

After all, it's just good common sense — and smart politics — to shift any economic burden associated with wolf recovery away from individual livestock producers and onto the willing shoulders of the millions of wolf supporters all over the nation.

And if it's the money that concerns people, there are two answers. First, is it fair to ask someone else to carry a load we wouldn't carry ourselves? And

second, it's probably cheaper for us to pay for livestock losses outright than to pay people to sit around for years and argue about just how significant these losses are or aren't going to be.

Paying for the losses allows both groups to win. Conservationists get wolves back in Yellowstone, and the livestock industry is protected from economic hardship. The idea is to use our resources to pay for environmental solutions rather than waiting for the government or someone else to do something. We're putting our money on the wolf.

□

Hank Fischer is Northern Rockies field representative for Defenders of Wildlife in Missoula, Montana.



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LETTERS

SUPPORTS TED TURNER

Dear HCN,

The purchase of the 110,000-acre Flying D Ranch southwest of Bozeman, Mont., by Ted Turner (HCN, 8/14/89) has created lots of attention and some controversy.

The matter of public access to public lands through peripheral private holdings is controversial throughout the West. Whenever ownership changes or public concern is expressed about the question of access through private land, it is proper to examine the issue.

However, in this case, the protection of a key wildlife sanctuary is paramount and cause for support from the entire environmental community. Ted Turner is seeking to return biologic integrity to a portion of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem that has, in the past, been managed for commodity production by its absentee owners.

The integration of private land use strategies into ecosystem management

options is a discussion that has just begun. Traditional agricultural economies centered around livestock and in the case of the Flying D, timber stand liquidation can be appropriately woven into the ecosystem fabric through careful management.

This, unfortunately, is not often the case. Sale of private land often implies a new or more intensive use. However, we do breathe easier when the conversion of agricultural holdings is accomplished, not for subdivisions, ski areas, or dense-pack stocking of cows, but rather in recognition of the biologic integrity of an area.

The acknowledgement of the Flying D property as a preserve and sanctuary should make the matter of public access less important in this case. We hope that other private holdings will undergo such conversion when appropriate.

Don Bachman
Bozeman, Montana

The writer is program assistant for The Greater Yellowstone Coalition.