

High Country News

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A Paper for People who Care about the West

One dollar

A fading Yellowstone 'Vision'

by Michael Milstein

From space you would see the boundary of Yellowstone National Park drawn like a line in the sand. Except here the line is drawn with trees — plentiful on the park side, missing on the other side.

In a satellite view of the Yellowstone region, composed of six national forests and two national parks, mountain ranges stand out as narrow strips of white. Lakes and reservoirs are dark blue and evergreen forests come out dark red. Along Yellowstone's western edge, the red abruptly shifts to concentrated specks of white. Those are Targhee National Forest clearcuts, where timber has been razed right up to the park bor-

der, a political line created in Washington, D.C., in 1872.

Although the trees stop at that line, the ecological processes do not. Grizzly bears and trumpeter swans cross it. Plant seeds cross it. Air, and the pollution it carries, cross it. Streams and rivers cross it. Even travelers, driving on roads, cross it.

In earlier times, land managers never really looked beyond their own boundaries. But in 1989 a coalition of park and forest chiefs in what is now called the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem embarked on a pioneering plan to coordinate their management. Instead of running their domains as independent federal units, they proposed to consider the whole ecosystem in managing their interdependent resources. Logging, for

example, would be carried out unobtrusively and with consideration for wildlife and human needs on both sides of park and forest boundaries.

"We wanted to set up a scene," says Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Bob Barbee, "not to restrict people, but to ensure that the place doesn't get messed up."

Never before had public land managers tried to operate according to biological and ecological boundaries on such a large scale. Last year they approved a draft document outlining this approach called "Vision for the Future: A Framework for Coordination in the Greater Yellowstone Area." It has become popularly known as "the vision plan."

When land managers took their plan

to the public at a series of meetings held in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, they had hoped for a forum that would convince both environmentalists and commodity producers that it was good for everyone. What they got, however, was criticism from all sides. Miners, loggers and livestock owners complained that the plan would expand national park protection of resources into national forests, ending multiple use. Environmentalists called the plan weak, but later rallied to support it as defensive land managers backedpedaled under the onslaught from the resource users.

"Somewhere along the line something went awry," recalls Barbee. "All of a sudden it became an evil on one side and a toothless wonder on the other."

Now, after the public meetings, more than 7,000 mostly negative public comments, and letters from dozens of politicians, "the vision" is fading. Due out in final form later this month, the plan will be much shorter and more concise than it was. While some strong elements may remain, the vision will probably have lost some of its far-reaching impact.

"What we have now may not be as luminous as we had originally projected," said Marshall Gingery, assistant superintendent of Grand Teton National Park. "But it will still come down to how much pressure the public will put on us to manage the right way."

If any place should be managed according to its ecological needs, it is probably the Greater Yellowstone region, one of the last largely intact ecosystems in the world's temperate zones. Encompassing almost 12 million acres, it includes Yellowstone National Park — the world's first — and majestic Grand Teton National Park. Surrounding that heart are the Shoshone National Forest — the nation's first — and five other forests, two wildlife refuges and assorted state and private lands.

Each site, however, has a different administration. The six national forests, for example, are under three different regional offices, all with different priorities.

"We need the people responsible for this place to look at it as one big unit, which it is in the eyes of nature, and develop shared ideals," says Ed Lewis, director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. "We need to look at timber sales in terms of what they will do to this entire natural treasure, not what they will do for a certain timber company."

Ironically, the term Greater Yellowstone was first used in 1917 to suggest an expansion of Yellowstone Park. Novelist Emerson Hough wrote glowingly in the *Saturday Evening Post*, "Give her [Wyoming] Greater Yellowstone and she will inevitably become greater Wyoming."

Since then, Greater Yellowstone has been named a world biosphere reserve. The region includes the largest collection of geysers and thermal features on Earth, and famous herds of bison, moose and elk, as well as remnants of threatened



Elk at the north boundary of Yellowstone National Park

Jeff Henry

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HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Dear friends,

The Emily L. Jackson Memorial Fund

Three unexpected checks from readers spurred us to consider how we could honor the spirit of Emily Jackson [see her story on page 7]. We had already decided to plant a small high-desert garden behind *HCN*'s new building in memory of her. But we can do something bigger, too, thanks to the generosity of readers who have asked us to use their contributions in a way Emily would like. So we are starting a fund to help defray the living expenses of *HCN* interns. Though some of our interns can count on financial support from home to tide them over twelve weeks without pay, many others — including Emily — plan and save for months to make it work. We know Emily would cheer for this one.

Checks earmarked for the Emily L. Jackson Memorial Fund will go toward rent and grocery money for interns who need a boost. In time, we hope the fund will enable us to attract prospective interns who otherwise could not come here at all.

Passing through

The office lately has been a popular flyway for well-wishers heading home from Utah parks. Gary Heckenlaible of Rapid City, S.D., in the Black Hills, alighted here after his fourth annual "rite of spring" — three and a half weeks in Canyonlands, where he hiked 10 to 20 miles a day. Gary is an organizer and fundraiser for Action for the Environment, formerly known as the Surface Mining Initiative Fund. Last November the organization stopped solid-waste dumping with a ballot initiative; now it wants to block heap-leach gold mining.

Linda Rosen of Shawnee, Colo. (pop. 120), and David Clark of Glendale, Calif., had been to Arches National Park. An electrical engineer, Linda has designed ranger stations and visitor centers for the BLM. She says she is trying to make her designs more energy efficient and ecologically sensitive, and is interested in solar photovoltaic buildings. Linda and David, a blood plasma researcher, became friends 20 years ago at Cornell.

Former intern Bonnie Hall, *HCN* Class of '89, dropped by on the way back from Canyonlands. Bonnie, who lives in Boulder, told us she was considering raising endangered species, probably tropical lizards and birds — "low-profile-type animals."

Another set of visitors wasn't passing through at all — they were here to nest. Chris and Barbara Manning and their children, Lima and Hale, recently moved to Paonia from Basalt, just over the hill.

Corrections

In May 8's lead story, we reported that the Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada is the second largest national forest in the country, an error quickly pointed out to us by T. Meacham, a reader in Anchorage, Alaska. The Toiyabe (3.2 million acres) is outsized by not only the Tongass (16.7 million acres) but also the Chugach (5.6 million acres). Both of these forests are in Alaska.

Thanks to Susan Seyl, photographs librarian of the Oregon Historical Society, for correcting a credit line in the April 22 issue. The old salmon-can label that appeared on page 5 is part of the society's Seufert Collection.

Now for an omission — the street address of Solar Box Cookers Northwest, for those inspired by last issue's story on the ingenious box and its inventors. It is 1922 15th Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112.

'Peaceful woman' keeps getting mail

Linda Hasselstrom's essay on carrying a pistol (*HCN*, 12/31/90) has stirred up more reaction by far than anything we've published in the last 10 months. Although a few of you pronounced it insufficiently Western and environmental to belong in this newspaper, others thanked us for not hewing to a "narrow-as-a-necktie editorial bent." We could have filled up two more letters pages, at least, if we'd had space to let the controversy run its course. Thanks to Edith Davis of Aspen and others whose letters came after our cutoff date.

But clearly, Linda touched a nerve. In April the piece was republished in *Utne Reader*, where NBC editors spotted it, and on May 10 Linda appeared on the NBC television program *A Closer Look*. She reported that the TV experience "confirmed what I've always thought about television — they're in too much of a hurry to pursue their own agenda," like asking her if she would carry a gun on a date. However, even in five minutes, she managed to reiterate the personal nature of her decision and make it plain that she doesn't recommend it for everyone.

HOTLINE

'Cancer Cannonball' stops in Utah

Utah has accepted 2,400 tons of contaminated soil carried by the 32-car "Cancer Cannonball" train. The waste, which originated in Michigan, had been rejected by several other states. Tom Adams, of the Stop Trashing Our Resources in Michigan organization, told the *Salt Lake Tribune*, "People in Utah are being used as what I'd call toxic chumps." Utah's Tooele County, where the train unloaded last month, already houses the Army's chemical and biological agent testing grounds as well as three other waste-disposal sites. Two others are under construction. Sen. Charles Calderon, D-Calif., predicts that hazardous waste flowing from California to Utah will increase by 126,000 tons within the next year or two because waste disposal is cheaper in Utah than in many other states. In a letter written before the Cancer Cannonball arrived, Sen. Stephen Rees, R-

Utah, told Calderon that Utah "does not consider itself to be a 'dumping ground' for any state. After the train became an issue Rees said, "We need to do more to make sure we're not accepting too much waste from out of state."

Yucca Mountain ruling goes against Nevada

The Supreme Court has rejected Nevada's attempt to block the federal government from placing a high-level nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain (*HCN*, 3/25/91). Nevada officials contend that the federal government has been given too much authority over land it owns within the state. The state has been fighting since 1988 to repeal the right of way to the test site that the Bureau of Land Management granted the Department of Energy. The court rejected the state's appeal twice in the past 11 weeks, according to The Associated Press. "This is a minor setback, not totally unexpected," said Mike Campbell, spokesman for

The whiteness tradeoff

During March and April at least 16 readers took time to write or call in their reactions to our new non-chlorine-bleached, part-recycled paper. What follows is an interim report, since we asked the question again in our recent readers' survey and will have a much bigger sampling of opinion to report later.

According to our tally sheet, all 16 strongly supported the change, and six expressed their willingness to pay more to help with the higher cost. Two readers pointed out that over time, a better market for recycled paper will develop, quality will improve and prices will go down. "Good for you not to wait," one of them added. Two readers asked that we work toward a higher post-consumer waste percentage, and several urged us to forget whiteness and brightness altogether and go for 100 percent recycled — "I don't care if it's brown and speckled," "I don't care if it's thin and gray." One realist observed that photographs reproduced on this paper are "a little muddy in the shadows but overall hold up well." Finally, thanks to the reader who raised the question, "Should *HCN* be recycled with high-quality office paper, or should we throw it in with the newspapers?" The answer is that when *HCN*'s earthly race is run and it's been passed along to your friends and colleagues or read to tatters at the library you offered it to, it should be bundled with its fellow newspapers.

The most fascinating comment so far is this: "The recycled paper is definitely louder. It wakes my spouse up when I read in bed."

Hasta la vista

We hope to see a lot of you at the potluck supper that will follow the High Country Foundation board meeting on Saturday, June 15, at 6 p.m. Our picnic spot will be the Paonia Town Park. Turn left at the Huskyburger (5th Street) or the middle school (4th Street) as you cruise into town.

— Larry Mosher and Mary Jarrett
for the staff

WINGS

Oh, blackbird, you startled me!
I thought I was alone,
deep in my woods of thought
until your movement
from the depth of the cattails
gave wings to us both.



Sharon E. Hile
Lincoln, Nebraska

Nevada Gov. Bob Miller. "We're very confident this is not a suitable site."

'Blackmail' in Wyoming?

The Wyoming Public Lands Council and many Western ranchers have closed some 4 million acres of private land to recreationists and hunters from the congressional districts of U.S. Reps. Mike Synar, D-Okla., George Darden, D-Ga., and Chester Atkins, D-Mass. In an attempt to block a congressional effort to raise federal grazing fees on public land (*HCN*, 4/8/91), the ranchers are requiring people from Oklahoma, Georgia and Massachusetts to write letters of opposition to the fee hike before being able to use the lands. "It's painful for us to do, but we have to raise attention," said Dick Loper of the Wyoming Public Lands Council. Synar called the ranchers' action blackmail, according to *The Associated Press*. "It's hard to believe grown men thought this up," he said. "I think what they're doing speaks volumes on the merits of their position."

WESTERN ROUNDUP

People for the West launches a 'holy war' against enviros

RENO, Nev. — In a last-ditch stand against a stampede of environmental reforms, Western ranchers, miners and loggers have taken a page from the organizing handbooks of their adversaries. Scared by tough environmental policies and even tougher reforms on the horizon, industries, businesses and people that depend on Western public lands are gearing up massive campaigns to mobilize grassroots support for "wise use" of the land.

"Eastern Politics Don't Understand Western Families," read one of the many picket signs at a recent protest in Reno put on by a campaign called "People for the West." Inside city hall, Congressman Nick Joe Rahall, a West Virginia Democrat and chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources, took divided testimony on his effort to revamp the 1872 Mining Law, which guarantees low-cost access to mineral deposits on public lands in the West.

Outside, more than 400 miners and their families — bused in from California, Oregon, Idaho and the Nevada hinterlands — charged that proposed changes in the law would put many out of business. A similar crowd greeted hearings in Denver and Albuquerque, and a rally is planned in Anchorage, Alaska.

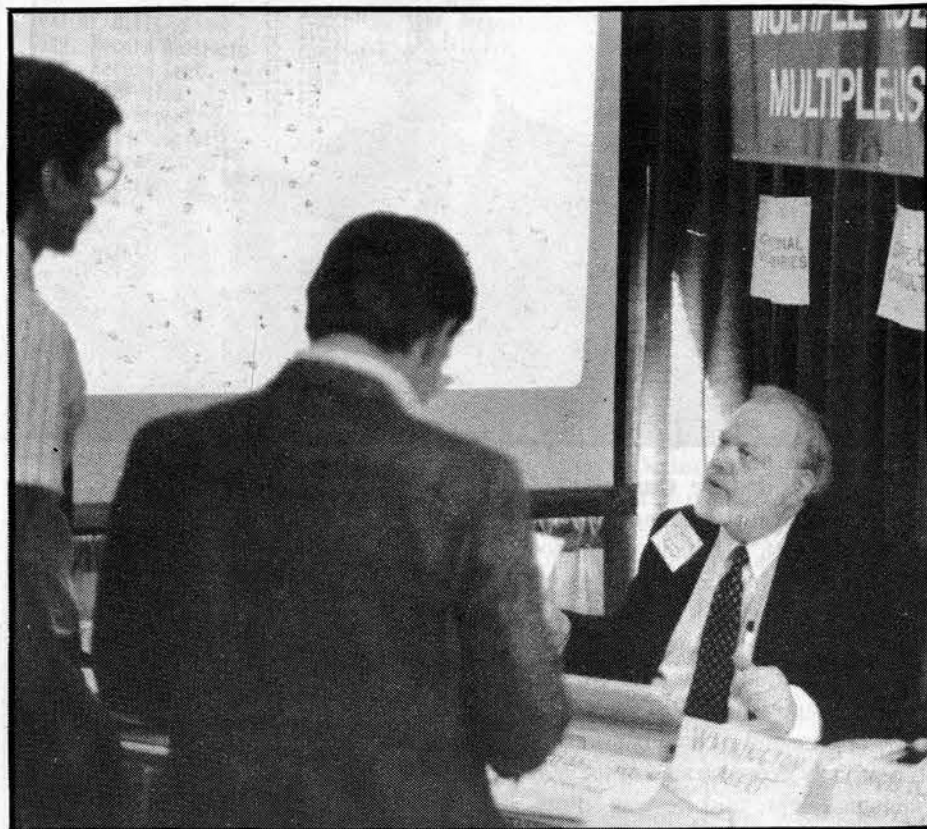
With \$1 million in industry backing, People for the West has formed dozens of groups in 13 Western states. One of many efforts to "put people back into the environmental equation," as one organizer said, the campaign is a sign of the changing tenor of environmental controversy. By raising the stakes and rushing people into what some in the movement call a "holy war," the campaign also could signal the beginning of a bitterly divisive era of regional resource battles pitting environmentalists against people who make a living from the land.

Phil Hocker, director of the Mineral Policy Center, the environmental group leading the effort to reform the mining law, accused the campaign of "bullying the opposition." Hocker said it was an industry move "to blow any reform out of the water" by raising unfounded fears that more strict environmental regulations and higher fees would put miners out of business.

Environmentalists requested a police escort to the public hearing in Reno. But local Sierra Club activist Glenn Miller did not find the crowd intimidating. "It's a lot of fluff," he said, "hard-right rah-rah."

"It's our chance to flex our muscles on the national scene," vowed People for the West director Bill Grannell of Pueblo, Colo., when he unveiled the strategy at a recent national conference of the "wise use" movement in Denver. Billed as a "National Wilderness Conference," the meeting was really a networking occasion for 230 of the most fervid opponents of wilderness and environmental regulation in the nation. Calling themselves "the largest coalition in America," organizers claimed that more than 25 million people were represented by the sponsors, including trade groups for miners, loggers, farmers, ranchers, dirt-bikers and oil-drillers, as well as lobbying groups like the National Rifle Association and conservative think tanks like the Mountain States Legal Foundation.

At the conference, lawyers and corporate executives in three-piece suits and bow ties mingled with ranchers in cow-



Jon Christensen

Chuck Cushman at the National Wilderness Conference in Denver

boy boots and Stetsons, and loggers in overalls and baseball caps. The speeches were toastmaster standards, mixing off-color jokes and down-home outrage with war stories from battles with the "preservationists."

"When I heard this was a national wilderness conference, I thought I was going to be a sacrificial lamb for a bunch of nuts," said T.S. Ary, head of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the government agency that oversees mining. "I don't believe in endangered species," Ary said, to the delight of the audience. "The only ones are in this room. And they won't be here for long if things keep going this way."

Despite their corporate and government connections, however, "wise use" advocates prefer to play the underdog to an environmental movement they portray as well-heeled and all-powerful but out-of-touch. Activists at the wilderness conference flocked to late-night "brainstorming" sessions on how to beat environmentalists at their own game by creating the right image for protests, organizing lobbying campaigns and staying in touch through computer networks.

"For too long we have not been competing," said Chuck Cushman, a movement guru of high-tech communications and firebrand organizing. "Up to now, the preservationists have been better at marketing their philosophy than we have ours," Cushman said. "There's no question that we've taken pages from their strategy books."

Cushman heads the Multiple Use Land Alliance, a newly formed network of some 1.2 million holders of permits to use public lands for cabins, wood gathering, mining and grazing livestock. With a push of a few buttons, Cushman demonstrated how his group can now track legislation and send action alerts to activists across the country via computer modem and fax machines.

"I see our role as a tactical guerrilla force on the side of the ranchers and other federal lands users," Cushman said. "The environmentalists are bigger than the cattlemen or the miners or the timber interests individually. But they're not bigger than all of us working as a team."

"We have become activists," vowed Pam Neal, an Arizona rancher and an official of the National Cattlemen's Association. Neal led the charge to organize a "multiple-use strike force" to

lobby Washington this fall. "We fought to win the West once and we will fight to win it again," she said.

The mainstream of the "wise use" movement comes from the West, and much of its leadership and rhetoric goes back to the Sagebrush Rebellion, a failed effort in the late 1970s to have federal lands turned over to the states. But the movement is reaching beyond the region now. The Multiple Use Land Alliance, for example, represents "inholders," people who own property within national parks and forests around the country. And conference participants talked of including property owners nationwide affected by new wetlands regulations that hamper development on private land.

Some Alaska natives also have joined the coalition, which is lobbying Congress to allow oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. "For us it would be a tragedy if we did not use the land to lift ourselves out of subsis-

tence," said William Hensley, president of the Northwest Alaska Native Association, a tribal corporation that operates a mine and oil services in nearby Prudhoe Bay. "Alaska is a tempting target for those who see a bygone America — clean and pristine," Hensley said. "But our people don't deserve to be frozen in time."

The "wise use" movement's philosophy was declared in a final document adopted by acclamation at the conference. "We are challenged by those individuals and organizations that would exalt the position of nature and the environment over the needs of the people," said the statement. "Our opportunity lies in our ability to prove that mankind is an integral part of the environment, and that mankind's wise stewardship of nature's bounty will benefit both man and nature."

"They really screw us up when they start talking about man as separate from nature," said George Reynolds, an old-timer who was honored by the gathering as the founder of the "most effective grassroots organization," the Wind River Multiple Use Association in Wyoming. The group has lobbied against expansion of Yellowstone National Park and for continued use of the surrounding forests.

"I'm as much a part of nature as a grizzly bear, a fox or whatever," said Reynolds. "I'll be damned if I'll give them the honor of being called the environmentalists and me being called something else."

Conference participants who called themselves "environmentalists" used the label "crazies" for those on the other side.

"Preservationists are like a new pagan religion. They worship trees and sacrifice people," said high-tech guru Chuck Cushman. "What we're facing is a holy war between fundamental religious differences."

— Jon Christensen

Jon Christensen is a free-lance writer in Carson City, Nevada.

HOTLINE

Park Service seeks canyon water rights

For the first time, the National Park Service has asked the Bureau of Reclamation to guarantee increased river flows through the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument in southwestern Colorado. The Park Service plan asks the bureau to increase flows from the Blue Mesa Reservoir in the spring and to decrease them in the winter to help fish populations in the canyon, according to *The Denver Post*. Death Valley in California and Great Sand Dunes in Colorado are currently the only two of the Park Service's 340 facilities that have legally quantified water rights. The amount of water asked for in the Black Canyon plan would be hundreds of times greater than these. Gunnison National Monument Superintendent John Welch says that while water-rights issues usually end up in court, a contractual agreement with the bureau will allow changes to be implemented more rapidly. It is unclear what effects they will have on Arapahoe County's Union Park Reservoir proposal and the proposed AB Lateral hydroelectric project (HCN, 2/11/91).



Leopard frog

Dick Randall

Wyoming wetlands to be seeded with toads

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designed a plan to repopulate Wyoming wetlands with the endangered Wyoming toad. The toad was plentiful until the mid-1970s, but sightings since 1987 have been confined to a two-square-mile area. The Wyoming toad's decline mirrors the decline of other Western amphibians, including leopard frogs, boreal toads and spotted frogs. Although the cause is unknown, experts believe mosquito-control sprays and diminishing wetland habitats are partly responsible. Researchers estimate that only 100 Wyoming toads remain in the wild. According to the *Casper Star-Tribune*, the Fish and Wildlife Service plan calls for establishing five populations of 100 members each at a total cost of \$1.6 million.

Colorado wilderness compromise upsets conservationists

Colorado's two U.S. senators, Hank Brown and Tim Wirth, have reached agreement on long-delayed wilderness legislation. The measure, introduced in the Senate May 9, would designate 641,690 acres of the state as wilderness, but would prohibit the federal government from establishing a reserved wilderness water right. Developers, miners and the agricultural community have opposed guaranteeing the water right; most Colorado environmental groups favor it.

Reserved wilderness water rights have been established by congressional action in four Western states — Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Washington. Similar language had been expected in the Colorado legislation but apparently was removed by Wirth shortly before the bill was introduced. The bill would, however, allow the U.S. Forest Service to acquire water rights for the wilderness land in state water court if necessary to protect the wilderness value. It would also prohibit the "authorization of permits for development of new water resource facilities within the lands designated as wilderness" by the current proposal. (See editorial on page 14.)

The measure designates 6,400 acres of the embattled old-growth forest area at Bowen Gulch, northwest of Grand Lake, for inclusion in the Never Summer Wilderness. An additional 6,800 acres, to be called the Bowen Gulch Backcountry Recreation Area, would be kept open to snowmobile access. The bill also earmarks 43,900 acres surrounding a core wilderness area at Fossil Ridge, near Gunnison, as a National Conservation Area.

Wirth, a Boulder Democrat, and Brown, a Greeley Republican, announced the agreement at a Denver news conference May 10, along with Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, D, whose district encompasses much of the federal lands tentatively designated as wilderness.

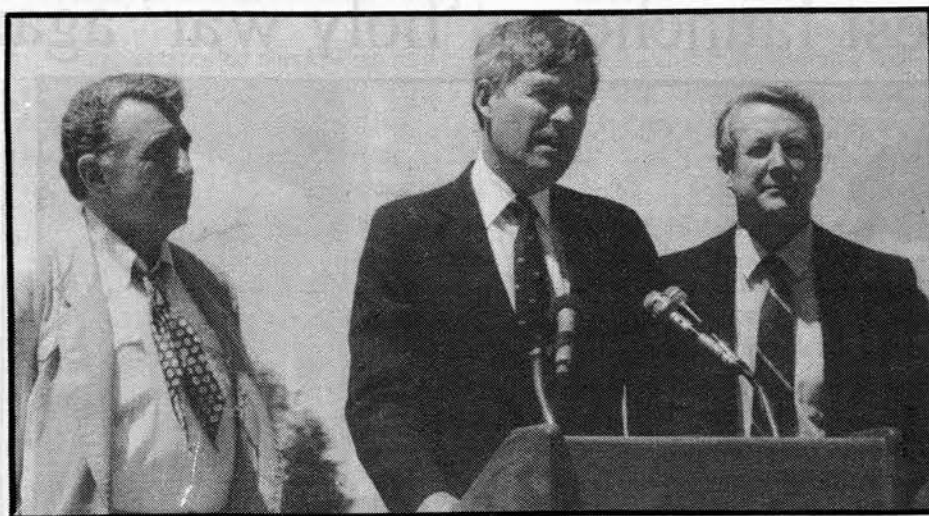
"We got what we wanted," Wirth said of the compromise. Brown suggested that "both Republicans and Democrats could be proud" of the proposal. But the proposed legislation ignores nearly 1 million additional acres recommended for wilderness designation in the 1991 Conservationists' Wilderness Proposal. That package, compiled by the Colorado Environmental Coalition, seeks wilderness designation for 1.6 million acres in Colorado.

Wirth reportedly succeeded in getting Brown to drop language that would have released from future wilderness designation any federal lands not earmarked by the current legislative proposal.

Campbell, who is sponsoring wilderness legislation in the House, said he would incorporate the Wirth-Brown language in his bill, but suggested the House might be more inclined toward a reserved wilderness water right than Wirth and Brown are. Incorporating such changes might jeopardize the delicately balanced political compromise, Campbell acknowledged.

Rep. David Skaggs, D-Boulder, earlier indicated he supports wilderness designation for nearly 1 million acres of federal lands in Colorado, including Rocky Mountain National Park. Skaggs said he would testify at House hearings on behalf of wilderness designation for the expanded number of acres. Rather than draft a separate bill, however, he expects to submit his wilderness proposal as an amendment to Campbell's proposal.

Some environmentalists view the Wirth-Brown proposal more as a sell-out than a compromise. The Colorado Mountain Club was one of the few environmental groups to endorse the compromise



Steve Gascoyne

Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, left, and Sens. Tim Wirth, center, and Hank Brown announce new compromise

when it was expected to include a wilderness water right, but Glenn Porzak, an attorney representing CMC, later suggested that Wirth had "capitulated."

Marty Walter, a member of the state executive committee of the Sierra Club and one of a handful of environmentalists who peacefully demonstrated at the May 10 announcement, said he was "disappointed, very disappointed" with Wirth.

Darrell Knuffke, Central Rockies regional director of The Wilderness Society, likewise criticized Wirth's position on the compromise.

"We have some very serious problems here. We could have achieved this much seven years ago" when Brown's more conservative predecessor, William Armstrong, was in the Senate, Knuffke said. "We still think Colorado cannot have second-class wilderness."

The Wilderness Society spokesman

said he planned to "work very hard in the House" to see the water language changed. "Should wilderness have a right to the water that is natural to it, that sustains it? Our answer is a resounding yes," he said.

Another demonstrator at the lawmakers' news conference was Jim Pekarek, of the Ancient Forest Rescue Effort. Pekarek called the establishment of the Bowen Gulch Backcountry Recreation Area "a sellout to big money interests."

The Sierra Club's Mark Pearson criticized the proposed acreage, suggesting that the total "falls far short of what we expect in a satisfactory bill."

"Anti-wilderness people talk about 700,000 acres as such a large area, when in fact there is a much larger area that should be wilderness," Pearson said.

David R. Cole, president of the Colorado Mining Association, said the

water-rights issue had been his main concern. Cole said he had favored releasing all of the areas under study to multiple use, but realized that that was not going to happen.

In Denver, Jerry Abboud of the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition stressed that his organization's position has not been anti-wilderness. "The position we have taken is to work with politicians to strike a balance between designating additional areas as wilderness and continuing to keep our opportunity to ride on public lands in off-highway vehicles." Abboud said he wanted to "dispel the notion that everyone who rides around in an off-highway vehicle is opposed to wilderness."

Buford Rice, executive vice president of the Colorado Farm Bureau, had earlier criticized the water language expected in the bill. But after learning the wilderness water right had been deleted, Rice said he would support the Brown-Wirth compromise.

Addressing the controversial water question, Todd Robertson of the Colorado Environmental Coalition said, "Our boilerplate position on wilderness water is that you protect trees from timber cutting and prevent scarring of the land with mineral development. The water is as integral a part of the wilderness area as the flora, the fauna, the trees and the rocks. It needs protection. We feel that the best way to protect that water is a federal water right that is quantified in the state water court system."

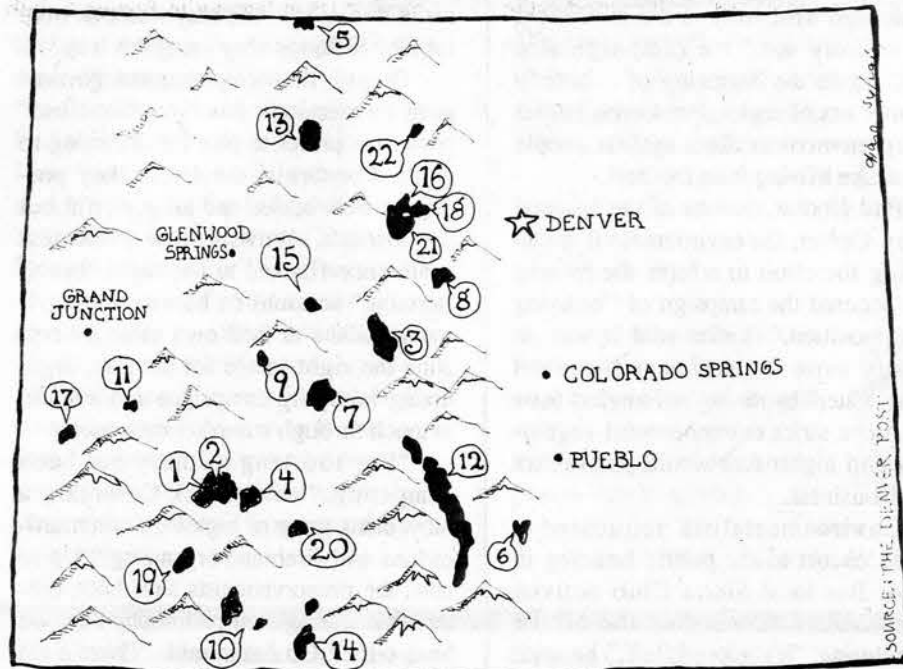
— Stephen Gascoyne

Stephen Gascoyne is a free-lance writer in Denver, Colorado.

Colorado areas proposed for wilderness designation

Following is a summary of the Brown-Wirth wilderness proposal with brief descriptions from the Conservationists' Wilderness Proposal of 1991:

1. American Flats Addition to the Big Blue Wilderness — 1,740 acres. Highly accessible wilderness area.
2. Larsen Creek Addition to the Big Blue Wilderness — 140 acres.
3. Buffalo Peaks Wilderness — 40,150 acres. A major bighorn habitat, with herd now estimated around 150 sheep.
4. Powderhorn Wilderness — 60,100 acres. The Cannibal Plateau has been described as one of the largest alpine tundra areas in the 48 contiguous states.
5. Davis Peak Additions to the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness — 17,300 acres. Prime riparian habitat.
6. Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness Area, southern end of Wet Mountain Range — 22,040 acres. Easy access to Pueblo residents, now more than two hours from the closest wilderness.
7. Fossil Ridge Wilderness Area — 30,700 acres. Forest Service rates Fossil Ridge as one of the wildest in Colorado.
8. Lost Creek Wilderness Area — 13,830 acres. Excellent recreational and scenic qualities.
9. Oh-Be-Joyful Addition to the Raggeds Wilderness — 5,000 acres. A superb example of glacially cut alpine country, with waterfalls throughout the addition.
10. Piedra Wilderness Area — 50,100 acres. Encompasses foothills of the San Juan Mountains.
11. Roubideau Wilderness Area — 18,000 acres. An area rich in wildlife, including black bear, bobcat, cougars and a wide variety of birds.
12. Sangre de Cristos Wilderness Area — 207,330 acres. Considered one of the most prized areas of the state for recreational opportunity, including waterfalls and six of Colorado's fourteeners.



13. Sarvis Creek Wilderness Area, western slope of Gore Range — 44,000 acres. Prime recreation area for a community that some say will triple by the year 2000.
14. South San Juan Wilderness Expansion — 15,920 acres.
15. Spruce Creek Additions to the Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness Area — 8,330 acres. An area some say could serve as suitable habitat for endangered species, including grizzly bears, wolverines and peregrine falcons.
16. Byers Peak Wilderness Area — 7,630 acres (formerly referred to as the St. Louis Peak Wilderness Area Proposal). Primarily high, rugged peaks above timberline with forests of spruce and sub-alpine fir at lower elevations.
17. Tabeguache Wilderness Area — 16,740 acres. Trees with diameters exceeding three feet are found in this old-growth aspen forest.
18. Vasquez Peak Wilderness Area, near Byers Peak Wilderness Area — 12,300

19. West Needles Wilderness Area and Weminuche Wilderness Addition — 28,740 acres. Extremely steep, rocky mountains that can be viewed by visitors traveling on the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.
20. Wheeler Additions to the La Garita Wilderness — 23,100 acres. Spectacular and unusual rock formations are but one part of this unique area, once a national monument.
21. Farr Wilderness Area — 12,100 acres (formerly known as the Williams Fork Wilderness Area Proposal). Easy access from Denver should ease the visitor burden on the Indian Peaks Wilderness and Mt. Evans.
22. Bowen Gulch Additions to the Never Summer Wilderness Area — 6,400 acres. Old-growth area outside of Rocky Mountain National Park.

— S.G.

Colorado old-growth swap creates a hard call

Bowen Gulch has narrowly escaped the fate of most of Colorado's old-growth forests through an unprecedented timber swap. Louisiana Pacific Corp. agreed in mid-March to accept a proposal to trade timber it planned to log in Bowen Gulch for trees from five other areas in Colorado.

Located in the Arapahoe-Roosevelt National Forest, Bowen Gulch sits snugly between the southern end of the Never Summer Wilderness and the southwestern boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park in north-central Colorado. This proximity to the west side of the Continental Divide results in unusually abundant rainfall. As a result, Bowen Gulch has Englemann spruce and sub-alpine fir as large as five feet in diameter and as old as 600 years. Such old-growth trees are rare in Colorado because of a short growing season, thin soils, arid conditions and decades of logging.

"It's unique in Colorado," says Rocky Smith of the Colorado Environmental Coalition. "We think it should be saved because it is an unusual old-growth ecosystem."

Plans to cut these old-growth giants, which some conservationists consider the largest trees left in Colorado, sparked a fire of controversy complete with monkey-wrench tactics, tree-sitting protests, a documentary film and a boycott of Louisiana Pacific wood products. Loggers and wilderness activists ceased hostilities last summer.

In July 1988, the U.S. Forest Service awarded Louisiana Pacific a 640-acre timber sale to cut 9.1 million board feet and construct 3.1 miles of logging roads, according to a Forest Service fact sheet.

The timber sale was not a clearcut but rather a three-step shelterwood cut in which 30 percent of the trees would be

logged first, followed by the remaining trees at 20- to 30-year intervals, the fact sheet says. Eventually, all the old growth would have been cut down.

Smith, who monitors national forest timber sales for the Colorado Environmental Coalition, originally sounded the alarm over Bowen Gulch. He says he wasn't optimistic about stopping the cut, until the Sierra Club's outspoken Marty Walter took up the cause.

The blade really hit the bark in the summer of 1989 after Louisiana Pacific carved a road into Bowen Gulch and began logging. Members of Earth First! chained themselves to a gate on the logging road and sat in trees to keep them from being cut down. Protestors pulled up road construction survey stakes twice, according to the Forest Service. Louisiana Pacific equipment was vandalized and hundreds of spikes were driven into trees to threaten chainsaws and sawmill blades.

While widespread publicity put political pressure on the Forest Service and Louisiana Pacific, conservationists in Boulder launched an economic boycott of LP products. Conceived by then-county commissioner Josie Heath, the boycott was directed by Richard and Dale Greene of the Sierra Club. In May 1990, the city and county agreed not to purchase any wood products from Louisiana Pacific. Local lumberyards and major builders joined the boycott.

"The boycott is what brought Louisiana Pacific to the bargaining table," says Smith. "A lot of things needed to happen first to make the boycott successful, but that was the bale of straw that broke the truck's back."

In June 1990, Louisiana Pacific agreed to stop logging in Bowen Gulch in exchange for other national forest tim-

ber of equal value. About a month later, the Boulder County commissioners lifted the boycott.

Louisiana Pacific's compromise proposal, unprecedented in the timber industry, was not simple to carry out. A major hurdle to terminating the sale was Louisiana Pacific's binding contract for the timber. The company had the legal right to log Bowen Gulch, no matter who protested. The Forest Service couldn't cancel the contract without authorization from Congress.

In the fall of 1990, at the request of local representatives, Congress passed an Interior Department spending bill that included a provision authorizing the Forest Service to offer the substitute timber on a non-competitive basis.

But finding replacement timber was no easy matter either. Forest Service officials searched Colorado's national forests for several months before coming up in late February with five areas to offer LP in trade for Bowen Gulch: the Transfer, Sand Point and West Prong areas in Routt National Forest; the West Fork area in Arapahoe-Roosevelt National Forest; and expanded volume in the Bronco Creek sale, where Louisiana Pacific already was logging. Louisiana Pacific accepted the swap but conservationists worry that Bowen Gulch will be saved by sacrificing other old-growth forests, particularly Sand Point and West Prong.

"It's not something we're enthusiastic about," Smith says of the proposed trade. "The whole thing points out that there's not that much timber left in Colorado to swap for Bowen Gulch."

—David Hatcher

David Hatcher is a free-lance writer in Boulder, Colorado.



Deborah Frazier

Greg Kyde of Earth First! "tree-sits" in the Arapaho National Forest as part of a nationwide protest against logging

Idaho attempt to mediate wilderness issue collapses

Despite a state commitment to spend \$150,000 on wilderness mediation, Idaho appears to be going nowhere. At stake are 9 million roadless acres in 10 national forests that could be added to Idaho's present 4 million acres of wilderness.

The 19-member negotiating committee represents timber and livestock groups, off-road vehicle users and environmentalists. After a short and rancorous meeting at Sun Valley last April, they broke up and have yet to meet again.

The low point of the meeting came when off-road vehicle users turned over their space at the bargaining table to a disabled outdoor enthusiast who has been confined to a wheelchair since the age of 20. Ralph Maughan, a Sierra Club member from Pocatello, reacted by adding, "Most people who oppose wilderness are psychologically disabled."

Livestock groups are skeptical about the wilderness negotiation process. During the Sun Valley negotiating session, the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation and the Idaho Cattle Association said they would only consider wilderness designation in areas that don't have active grazing allotments.

Environmentalists, who have promised that an Idaho wilderness bill will leave grazing rights intact, were insulted by the livestock industry's proposal. The plan would have precluded nearly 80 percent of central Idaho's roadless areas from wilderness consideration.

Off-road groups may be more willing to compromise. They're willing to concede wilderness in areas such as Borah Peak, Idaho's highest mountain, but want some areas around the mountain available

for motorized vehicle access.

Negotiators have agreed to defer the thorny issue of water rights to Congress, but disagreements over release language have bogged down wilderness talks in northern Idaho. The timber industry says it needs more assurance that it will be able to harvest trees in roadless areas that haven't been proposed for wilderness.

"We haven't been willing to give them that kind of certainty," said Mike Medberry of the Idaho Conservation League.

If the wilderness talks actually result in a bill, it would be the first time a wilderness bill has been successfully

crafted through mediation, according to Ty Tice of The Mediation Institute in Seattle, who is heading the negotiations.

A bill crafted in 1987 by Gov. Cecil Andrus and then-Sen. Jim McClure would have designated an additional 1.4 million acres of wilderness. But the bill died and Andrus and McClure were chastised for cutting a deal behind closed doors.

The various interest groups have been willing to give mediation a try because it gives them a chance to present a bill to Congress. They prefer this to the prospect of Congress or the federal courts settling the wilderness issue for Idaho.

"What else have we got, where we have a voice in it?" said Adena Cook, public lands director for the Blue Ribbon Coalition, an off-road group.

"I'm tired of watching Congress deal with something they don't know anything about," said Joe Hinson, executive director of the Intermountain Forest Industry Association in Coeur d'Alene.

But these comments were made before the negotiations actually started. Now, not everyone is so confident.

—Kevin Richert

The author covers energy and the environment for the *Idaho Falls Post Register*.

HOTLINE

Park Service says Lake Powell is safe

The National Park Service has rejected Arizona officials' recommendation to close polluted parts of the Glen Canyon Recreation Area. Lake Powell was polluted with batteries and other refuse (*HCN*, 4/22/91) that "may create a potential hazard for persons participating in recreational sports," state officials said. According to *The Associated Press*, they asked that the Park Service cordon off polluted sections of Lake Powell, post "no swimming" signs and ensure that "all releases of solid and/or hazardous waste to the Glen Canyon Recreation Area have ceased." The Park Service's Rocky Mountain regional director, Lorraine Mintzmyer, rejected the recommendation, saying, "We do not believe the public is at risk." Its Rocky Mountain regional safety manager, Richard C. Pow-

ell, says dangerous levels of chemical pollution have not been found and the batteries have been cleaned up.

EPA knows of hazard but doesn't act

The Environmental Protection Agency knew of potentially hazardous chemical contamination in North Casper, Wyo., but failed to take action, according to local activists. Linda Burkhart of the Pollution Posse said the EPA's own data show that groundwater in the area is contaminated with PCE (tetrachloroethylene), commonly used by dry cleaners. But no immediate action was taken when the problem was discovered in 1989 because none of the water was "being used for bathing, drinking or cooking." EPA spokeswoman Mary Hagan told the *Casper Star-Tribune*. The agency cannot take action until the exact source of pollution has been identified, she said.

Beer spill kills fish

Beer and unprocessed wastewater from a Coors brewery killed around 17,000 fish in May when a valve that was accidentally left open allowed beer into the brewery's wastewater facility. The beer killed organisms that treat the waste. Beer and untreated wastewater totalling 155,000 gallons then overflowed into Clear Creek, outside of Denver. The spill is one of 240 water violations since April 1986 for which the Sierra Club plans to sue the Adolph Coors Co. In some cases the state of Colorado has tried for more than a year to bring the brewer to compliance, but "it appears that Coors absorbs penalties as a cost of doing business," Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund lawyer Fern Shepard told *The Denver Post*. State penalties are small compared with the fines of \$25,000 per day violation that Shepard will pursue.

HOTLINE

Bullitt Foundation will benefit environment

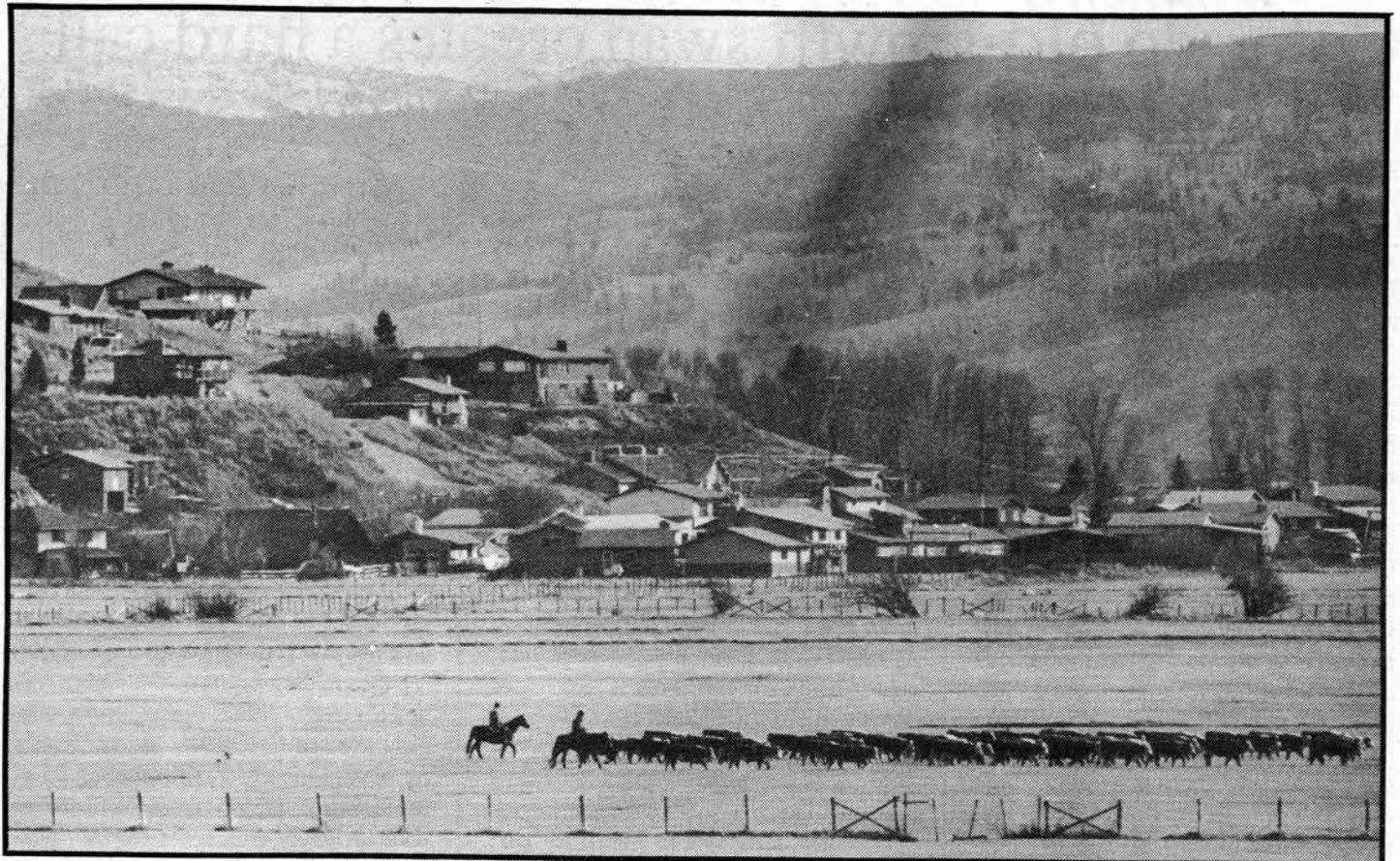
If the sale of King Broadcasting Co. goes through as planned later this year, environmental causes from western Montana to southern Alaska could benefit. One-third of the profits from the sale, estimated at between \$400 and \$500 million, will be channeled to the Seattle-based Bullitt Foundation. The foundation plans to use at least \$100 million from the sale to fund mostly environmental causes in projects around the Northwest. With the new endowment, the Bullitt Foundation's grants would increase from a current level of \$250,000 to \$5 million a year making it one of the larger foundations in the country dedicated to the environment. The foundation has made grants to organizations supporting electrical energy conservation, habitat acquisition, river valley and stream protection, growth management, salmon restoration and transportation, and has also helped fund studies of nuclear and toxic wastes. The sale includes KING-TV in Seattle, KGW in Portland, KREM in Spokane, KTVB in Boise, K38AS in Twin Falls, Idaho, and cable holdings in Washington and Idaho. The family-owned Providence Journal Company, based in Rhode Island, is the buyer.

Utah Navajos seek royalties

Navajos in Utah are demanding a 37.5 percent royalty fee for oil drilled on reservation lands in San Juan County. A Bureau of Indian Affairs plan allowed the Navajo Nation, based in Window Rock, Ariz., to contract directly with the Chuska Oil Co., but exempted Chuska from paying the Utah Navajos as required by a 1933 minerals law. While the plan may have benefitted the Navajo Nation, it deprived the Utah Navajos of royalty income, and the Utah Division of Indian Affairs is filing an administrative appeal for them with the federal Interior Board of Indian Appeals. According to the state Division of Indian Affairs Director John Powless, the Utah branch of the Navajos is demanding proper accounting for how much oil was taken from their lands. Royalty fees will then be sought from either the Navajo Nation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs or Chuska, *The Salt Lake Tribune* reports. "The dispute is not over whether Chuska owes additional money. It is over whether the Navajo Nation or Utah controls a specific portion of the revenues received by the Navajo Nation," said Chuska attorney Jeffrey R. Akins.

BLM volunteers to count prairie dogs, not cattle

A proposed program that would have used volunteer riders to maintain Bureau of Land Management rangelands in Wyoming was scuttled after agency officials met with local ranchers. Instead of counting livestock and inspecting range improvements such as fencing, the 50 people who volunteered would now map prairie dog colonies and maintain campgrounds. Duane Whitmer, manager of the BLM office that began the program, says the decision had nothing to do with complaints from ranchers. Mark Goldbach, the BLM's Worland District volunteer coordinator, has other views. When asked if the popular program was dissolved in response to ranchers' complaints, he told the *Billings Gazette*, "Yes. To the grazing community it was offensive, and they wanted more of a say in how it worked."



Richard J. Murphy/Jackson Hole News

More than half of Jackson Hole's ranch land has been sold to non-ranchers over the past 25 years

Jackson Hole buys time to plan its future

Jackson Hole, Wyo., has become the latest rural Western community to confront the issue of growth. Last March the Teton County Commission voted to curb further development for one year. Since then, the county's population of nearly 13,000 has been debating how to preserve the valley's wildlife and scenic mountain environment — and still prosper.

The county's three commissioners adopted a limited moratorium on development March 12. "We don't have a disaster here, but we could," Commissioner Dail Barbour told the *Jackson Hole News*. "Now is the time to stop, plan and have a vision."

According to county planner Theresa DeGrow, the year-long moratorium is not intended to control growth. Rather, it is designed to give county officials time to revise the county land-use plan, and to ensure that growth does not destroy the valley's scenic values and wildlife habitat, eliminate needed open space areas or exclude low- and medium-income housing. "It's a tourist-based industry," said Jackson Hole Airport manager Rick Crosman. "You can't kill the golden goose."

The moratorium will not affect individual building permits, conditional-use permits or development on previously approved residential and commercial projects. Moratorium supporters claim that the restrictions it imposes will not slow development enough to hurt the local economy or cost people jobs. Critics, however, expect it will trigger litigation by frustrated developers, although none has surfaced yet.

With property values soaring and tourism booming, Jackson has become a veritable paradise for developers. Last year the county issued 224 building permits for single-family houses, compared to 45 in 1985. County planner DeGrow attributes the growth largely to the success of the local ski industry. Jackson Hole Ski Resort logged a record 272,970 skier days this season, up from 272,486 last season. A skier day is one skier for one day.

While most summer tourists arrive in Jackson Hole by land, skiers and winter tourists fly into the Jackson Hole Airport. The number of air passengers in and out of Jackson increased by 270 percent over the last 10 years, reports Scott Garland, public lands director for the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible

Planning. Nearly 156,000 passengers flew in and out of Jackson Hole in 1990, which was a 10 percent increase over the previous year. Last November the Federal Aviation Administration predicted Jackson's air passengers would increase to 225,000 by the year 2000.

The Jackson Hole Airport is the only commercial airport located in a national park — the Grand Teton National Park. Its 6,300-foot runway is 6,444 feet above sea level. Although the FAA has repeatedly said the runway is safe to use as long as airlines stay within payload limits, the airport board decided May 20 that the runway should be extended. The FAA's safety standards often force airlines to fly with lighter loads than normal, Garland says.

Runway extension proponents believe the current runway is unsafe. Two Delta 737s have overrun the runway in recent years. But opponents of the extension say that extending the runway would merely allow greater payloads and more long-distance, non-stop flights, according to Terri Martin, Rocky Mountain regional director of the National Parks and Conservation Association.

Grand Teton National Park officials have formally stated their opposition to a runway extension. Their principal concern is the added noise. If safety is the main issue, "the airport board and other responsible entities should modify their operational procedures within the limits of the present runway length," assistant park superintendent Marshal Gingery told *The Associated Press*.

"By its own mandate," Garland told the *Casper Star-Tribune*, "Grand Teton is supposed to be a remnant of what pristine America was like, not a place for observing airplanes."

The proposal to extend the runway was based on noise and safety reports commissioned by the airport board. But the board cannot extend the runway without Interior Department agreement to amend the 1983 Use Agreement, signed by former Interior Secretary James Watt, who now lives in Jackson. This will require an Environmental Impact Statement, says Crosman, and could take years.

Many residents are wary of Jackson's becoming a stratified rich people-poor people society. Most of the development has been second homes, built for vacationers wishing to enjoy the rustic

qualities of the valley. Commissioner Barbour cites "a dearth of affordable housing" as one result of the recent growth.

Ranchers may be the hardest hit by Jackson's growth and soaring real estate values. "The property value is so high that if you look at only that, it's crazy to run cattle here," said Bob Lucas, a local rancher. "I would challenge anyone to take \$3 million to buy a piece of property, run cattle and bring a \$30,000 net return."

But as much as ranchers may wish to preserve their way of life, they feel pressured to sell their land to developers. In the past 25 years, 53 percent of Jackson Hole ranch land has been sold to non-ranchers.

Former Gov. Cliff Hansen, an old-time rancher himself, is the major proponent of a proposed Jackson Hole National Scenic Preserve. The 18,000-acre area would preserve the area's primary industry — ranching — and its spectacular valley scenery.

"Ranchers feel it is the consensus that people want open space," said Hansen. The plan would allow ranchers to sell easements to the federal government, lessening pressure to sell to developers for subdivision. County commissioners are supportive of the idea and will work to develop it, said Barbour.

The problem, according to Garland, is that there are no constraints on the market that demands the growth. "It's a bit of a chicken-and-egg situation," he said. Should growth be controlled by legislation limiting development, or by limiting the influx of tourists that demand such development? Can the influx of tourists be controlled by maintaining a smaller, less efficient airport?

Crosman, on the other hand, argues that the airport cannot be used as a catalyst for increasing or controlling growth. "It is the population of Teton County and the availability of accommodations that limit the number of persons who will use the airport," he said.

Looking at the glitz and neon of resort towns like Vail, Colo., many residents wonder if it's not too late to preserve the character of the valley. "Time is of the essence," warns Jackson rancher Bob Lucas. "Things are going to change fast."

Birth control for wild horses? Don't laugh; it's coming

The idea of birth control for wild horses conjures up a humorous image of our four-legged friends being given a packet of pills and a reminder to take one every day. But the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service are serious about the idea.

The BLM, which manages most of the wild horses in the United States through its Wild Horse and Burro Management Program, spends about \$15 million annually to remove "excess" horses from the range. The young, healthy ones are processed for adoption or sent to BLM-funded prison programs where inmates halter-train the horses to make them more adoptable. The older ones are placed in sanctuaries that receive BLM financial aid.

The agency has estimated that 26,000 to 31,000 horses would be an appropriate total population for its approximately 160 horse herd areas. This figure reflects the number of horses that the range can support and still "maintain [the] thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship" outlined in the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. However, current census counts estimate the population at over 40,000.

Faced with population numbers well over established management levels, a sanctuary program that is filled to capacity, a budget cut for fiscal year 1992 and an estimated horse population increase of 15 to 27 percent a year, the BLM is looking for some creative management ideas to control the burgeoning wild horse population. Fertility control is one such idea.

Last December the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board was appointed jointly by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to review current management practices and to study alternatives such as fertility control. The nine-member board is expected to make a recommendation for fertility control for wild horses sometime this year. The decision will not be an easy one, for the options are varied and controversial.

In 1985 Congress appropriated \$1 million for wild horse and burro research. A committee was formed and upon its recommendation the BLM funded a hormonal implant study at the University of Minnesota. This research project, completed last year, has been criticized by animal rights activists because numerous horses died or were injured as a result of experimental procedures. But the primary criticism stems from the fact that horses need to be captured, restrained and subjected to surgery in order to implant the birth control hormone.

BLM's wild horse and burro specialist Vern Schulze says the stress on the horse is minimal compared to other methods. Hormone implantation involves rounding up horses, anesthetizing them and inserting a sharp cylindrical



rod containing the hormone into the mare's abdomen. A mare would need four or five implantations in her lifetime. Schulze believes this procedure currently holds the most promise because of its relative long-term effectiveness. In the study, the implant was successful in preventing pregnancy in 90 percent of the mares over two breeding seasons, but long-term behavioral effects or health risks were not addressed.

Paula Jewell, wild horse specialist for the Humane Society of the United States, says, "There is no question in my mind that there will be behavioral impacts" with the hormonal implants. Jewell favors immunocontraception, a process that utilizes a vaccine to inhibit fertility, because it can be administered via a dart fired from a helicopter. Her stand on the issue reflects the Humane

Society's position that the horses "should be left as wild as possible." The vaccine contains no hormones that could act on the brain and alter behavior, she says. After the initial vaccine is administered, a follow-up booster shot is required in order to prevent pregnancy for one breeding season.

Schulze says that in order to get close enough to identify horses to be targeted, helicopters would have to fly dangerously low to the herds, causing them to run at a full gallop, which can be unsafe and stressful to the horses. He says helicopter roundups are performed routinely, but from a distance that allows horses to come in at a trotting pace. BLM will be considering "stress levels and practicability" in choosing a method of fertility control, according to Schulze. The immunocontraception method, he says, "hasn't proven to be very long-lasting, and ... until it is, it won't be very cost-effective." However, immunocontraception researchers hope to develop a single vaccine by this summer that would incorporate the booster and be effective for two years.

Other fertility control methods being considered include tying the fallopian tubes of selected mares and castrating dominant stallions. Jewell strongly opposes sterilizing dominant stallions because it "makes the strongest and best infertile ... encouraging the weaker to survive." She also opposes tubal ligations because of the "obvious effects on behavior" and the potential for infection. Two other options involve selective removal of horses based on genetics or age/sex ratios.

University of Kentucky researcher Dr. Gus Cothran's genetic management studies could help identify dominant stallions for sterilization or those with historic genealogy to be kept on the range. New Mexico State

University professor Walt Conley has developed a computer program that could identify the proportion of fertile mares that would need to be sterilized or removed from the range in order to decrease the reproduction rate of a given herd.

Selectively removing horses would mean putting fewer horses up for adoption while still reducing the population on the land. A preliminary economic comparison of different management strategies suggests that selective removals and hormone implants are about equal in their costs but significantly cheaper than the non-selective traditional method of population control. The board will consider these projected costs as well as the humaneness of each method.

Advisory board member Karen Sussman, who is a compliance officer for the BLM's Adopt-a-Horse program, says that "all management activity should be at the minimal feasible level," as mandated by the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. In her view, this means choosing a method that is the least stressful to the horse. Sussman charges that current horse management focuses on general roundups that are based on inadequate information about wild horses and their habitat. "If we did management on the range," she says, "we'd find we wouldn't have to take so many horses off." She predicts the board's recommendations will require more workers in the field and include a combination of fertility-control methods for the BLM to consider.

—Emily Jackson

Emily Jackson, an HCN intern, died in a hiking accident April 27. She had written many short news items, but this was her first Roundup.



Horses on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range in south central Montana

HOTLINE

Conservation plays key role in energy plan

From now to the year 2000, energy conservation will provide more energy to people of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana than any other source, according to a recent Northwest Power Planning Council plan. Conservation will liberate 1,500 megawatts of electric generating capacity. Nuclear plants typically provide about 1000 megawatts and fossil fuel plants about 500 megawatts each. The cost of conservation will be approximately \$7 billion — half the cost of building the generating facilities nec-

essary to produce 1,500 megawatts. The plan suggests that a utility's profits be linked with its energy savings. The plan would preserve two partially built nuclear reactors for insurance against high growth in demand. Critics of the plan would have the unfinished reactors dismantled.

Missouri trial delayed, tribes to be recompensed

U.S. District Judge Jack Shanstrom has ruled that a trial to settle the dispute over Missouri River waterflows (HCN, 3/11/91) will not begin until June 1992. Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska have joined together to oppose the lawsuit that

Montana and the Dakotas filed against the Army Corps of Engineers to reduce the flow to the downstream states, according to The Associated Press. Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, chairman of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs, has promised that Congress will approve a \$240 million settlement with the Three Affiliated Tribes and the Standing Rock Sioux for land flooded by dams on the Missouri. Inouye said the settlement would close a "deplorable chapter in United States history."

Bureau of Indian Affairs needs major overhaul

A 43-member task force of tribal and federal leaders has recommended

that the Bureau of Indian Affairs "be reformed, restructured and reshaped," according to Wendell Chine, president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe and co-chairman of the task force. The bureau is not protecting Indian rights or carrying out "the congressional policy of self-determination and self-governance and government-to-government relations" as it was created to do, the task force concluded. It examined issues ranging from the bureau's inability to account for funds (HCN, 2/11/91) to the mismanagement of bureau schools, reports The Associated Press. The task force called for giving more authority to local agencies, establishing a national Indian board of directors in the bureau and redefining the bureau's overall mission.

Anyone for biodiversity and Tarahumara garbanzo beans?

Gabriel Howearth walks into his organic gardening workshop in western Colorado, looking for all the world as if he just stepped out of a rainbow-colored VW microbus. The workshop participants, consisting of older farmers, younger market gardeners and even a commercial apple orchardist or two, look doubtfully at Howearth's dreadlocks and wonder if maybe they should have gone to a Farm Bureau meeting instead.

But within minutes the international seed gatherer and practitioner of organic biodiversity has his audience entranced in a freewheeling discussion of the merits of amaranth grain, Inca sweet corn, Tarahumara garbanzo beans and bread seed poppies for cultivation in the American Southwest.

"We need to become better grazers," says Howearth, noting that out of the world's 80,000 edible plants, only about 150 are still widely cultivated and only a fraction of those can be found in American diets. Today's supermarket fruits and vegetables represent about 3 percent of what was available at the turn of the century.

Additionally, almost all of the specialized hybrids being grown today are dependent on lots of water, chemical fertilizer and varying amounts of herbicides and pesticides. Soil erosion, water pollution and increasing fears about the quality of the nation's food have accompanied such industrial farming practices.

Proponents of plant biodiversity say modern hybrid crops have become increasingly uniform, with crop diversity and genetic variety shrinking as millions of acres of land are farmed in vast monocultures. Once a disease or pest figures out a way to breach the hybrid's defenses, huge crops are in danger of being wiped out.

But at the Seeds of Change farm in the Gila River Valley of southern New Mexico, Howearth and a group of environmental revolutionaries are quietly trying to change the way Americans — and especially Westerners — farm and garden their landscapes.

Seeds of Change, a tiny organic seed company based in Santa Fe, N.M., grows and sells the native seeds of the American Southwest, as well as many of the seeds of traditional and "heirloom" plants gathered from farmers in Central and South America. At the farm on the Gila, more than 600 varieties of plants ranging from drought-resistant Hopi corn to Deer Tongue lettuce are now being cultivated. The ancient seeds are marketed to curious and conscientious gardeners around the country.

"Since Christopher Columbus landed here, 75 percent of native American crop varieties have become extinct," says Howearth, who is part Tarahumara



Gilchrist/LifeLight Studio

Gabriel Howearth tends tall corn at the Seeds of Change farm on the Gila Indian. "The bulk of these varieties are already gone — and native cultures go when the seeds go."

Seeds of Change was formed three years ago by Howearth, Santa Fe journalist and filmmaker Kenny Ausubel and André Ulrych, a well-known macrobiotic chef who founded André's, a restaurant in Aspen, Colo. The trio wanted to help solve the problem of organic seed availability and also to raise a commercial supply of Howearth's extraordinarily diverse native seed collection. Dr. Alan Kapuler, a microbiologist and native seed gatherer, later added his large collection to the effort.

Success has come quickly. Already, two highly respected national horticultural catalogs — Smith & Hawken and

Gardener's Supply — have begun offering seeds from the farm.

The vision of backyard gardeners all over America helping preserve the planet's biosphere and gene pool by cultivating native plants is an irony not lost on Howearth, who blames modern petrochemical agriculture and its emphasis on high yields and uniformity for the rapid decline of the world's plant diversity. Howearth fears that as plant species and their irreplaceable genetic material vanish, so too will the many insect and animal species that depend on them for sustenance.

They sing to you, you sing to them'

Howearth, who has traveled through much of the Americas farming with indigenous people and collecting rare seeds, was a student of the legendary horticulturist Alan Chadwick in California and later worked with Peter Dukish, another gardening visionary who specialized in the spiritual relationships between gardeners and growing plants.

In 1984, after farming with such Indian tribes as the Tarahumara, Quechua, Hopi, Pueblo and Oodham, Howearth began working with the San Juan Indian Pueblo in New Mexico, where he helped raise a three-acre test plot with some 300 varieties of fruits, vegetables, grains and herbs. As part of the project, they searched for old native and heirloom seeds that were in danger of becoming extinct but could still be found in old pots, gourds and root cellars and in the adobe walls of old buildings. Even the seeds of the sacred red corn of

the San Juan, which hadn't been grown in more than 40 years, were found and planted once again at the pueblo.

"These native crops, you can just hear them sing," says Howearth, who focuses heavily on the spiritual energy of plants and their environment. "They sing to you, you sing to them. The Native Americans have a different kind of spirit about raising plants. They do it all on prayer and song and lightning bolts."

"Whereas other people have careers, Gabriel has a path," Ausubel says of his seed-growing partner. "Sometimes I think he operates by photosynthesis, since he's so attuned to raising vital plants." Howearth is credited with, among other things, having planted the first seed of quinoa in North America. The high-protein, drought-tolerant grain, considered a nutritionist's dream, is now cultivated widely in the West and is available in most natural food stores.

The 128-acre Seeds of Change farm, which has never been treated with chemicals, is surrounded by 3 million acres of national forest and wilderness that supply it with unpolluted mountain water. Its fields grow bountiful crops of corn, squash, peppers, tomatoes, amaranth, quinoa and other crops, most of them heirlooms and traditionals.

Howearth says the seed company will soon be marketing native seeds grown this year by members of three Southwestern Indian tribes — the Apache, Navajo and Pueblo. The company plans to donate organic native seeds to the indigenous peoples of the Third World as an alternative to the hybrids now being pressed on them by international hybrid seed companies.

Howearth would also like to see the Seeds of Change farm become a model for future agriculture in the West. American farmers and ranchers are taking the first tentative steps away from chemicals and toward low-input, sustainable agriculture, but much remains to be learned.

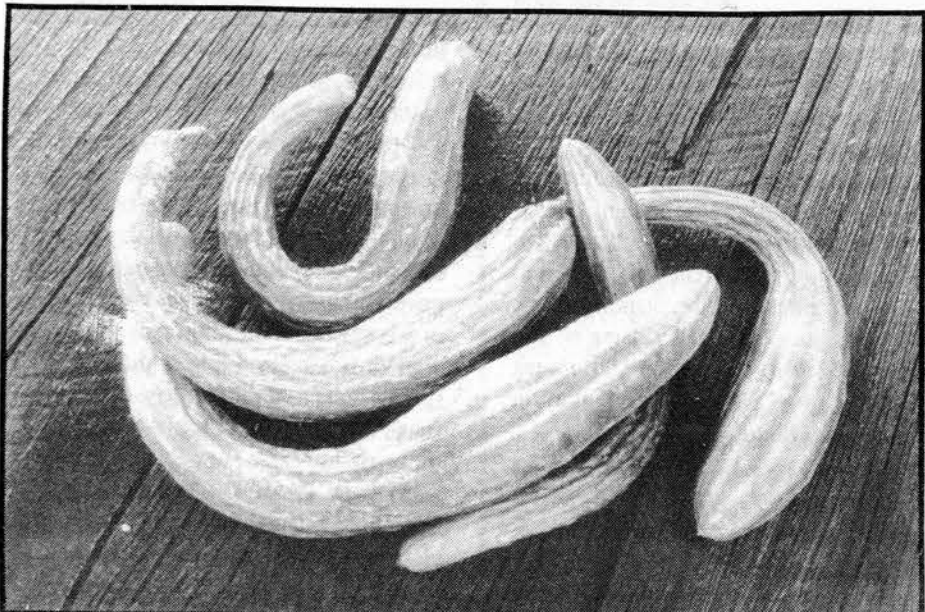
Recently, the National Academy of Sciences issued a landmark study advocating a national policy shift to organic farming to help improve the nation's topsoils and to provide better quality food. In the West that Howearth envisions, large mines that threaten precious watersheds would be gone, as would many of the cattle and grazing practices he believes harm the range. Many more ground-cover crops would be sown to prevent soil erosion and to improve soil vitality. Each farm might have its own wetland to filter and purify polluted water, and there would be "a lot more trees" to shelter the landscape. In perhaps his most idealized vision of the West, Howearth sees bioremedial projects for the region's "romantic" arroyos, which he says are really just gullies caused by overgrazing and soil erosion.

Would the native seed gatherer make any concessions at all to modern agriculture?

"I might go for a solar-powered tractor," he says.

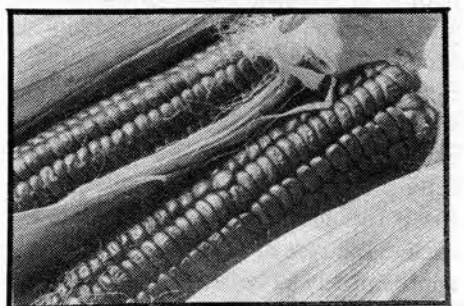
— Don Olsen

Don Olsen is a free-lance writer living and gardening in Hotchkiss, Colorado.



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PACIFIC CREST TRAIL

The Pacific Crest Trail Conference, a nonprofit organization that maintains 2,638-mile Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, is sponsoring "Trek-a-Thon '91" and the Trail Boss Program. In the Trek-a-Thon, hikers of all ages and abilities walk sections of the trail between April and October, soliciting pledges for miles walked. Funds raised will be used to develop water sources along the trail. The Trail Boss Program trains volunteers to lead trail maintenance crews. Crews can adopt segments of the trail to maintain annually. For more information about the Trek-a-Thon, contact Kurt Shultz, 27320 Manon Ave., Apt. 14, Hayward, CA 94544; 415/783-1972. For more information about the Trail Boss Program, contact Larry Cash, President, PCT Conference, 365 West 29th Ave., Eugene, OR 97405; 503/485-5550.



RIVER PROTECTION AND WATER USE

American Rivers Inc. and The Wilderness Society are sponsoring the River Protection and Water Use National Policy Conference on June 20-23. Co-sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the conference will include four concurrent workshop sessions. These are: River and Watershed Protection, Issues in Water Use and Development, Water Rights Management, and River Restoration and Management. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Denver Tech Center in Denver, Colo. The conference fee is \$135. For more information, call or write Judy Grigg or Karen Hone, The Wilderness Society/American Rivers Conference, 6535 South Dayton St., Suite 2000, Englewood, CO 80111; 303/799-0667.

WYOMING OUTDOOR COUNCIL WORKSHOP

The Wyoming Outdoor Council will hold its fourth annual workshop on Conservation Biology and Wyoming's Endangered Species Aug. 5-9. The workshop, led by Dr. Tim Clark, co-author of *Mammals in Wyoming*, will include field work with members of the Teton Science School staff and demonstrations of the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish "Project Wild." Threatened and endangered species such as grizzly bears, trumpeter swans, black-footed ferrets, whooping cranes and wolves will be studied. Ecological principles concerning research data, species extinction and ecosystem management will be discussed. Emphasis will be placed on development of curricular materials. Contact Don Kesselheim, 201 Main St., Lander, WY 82520; 307/332-7031.

CALL FOR AILING LANDS

The San Juan Center for Environmental Restoration is a new, nonprofit organization that provides free technical support, equipment and volunteer labor for restoration of private and public lands in the Rocky Mountain West. One of its major goals is to rehabilitate private land that has been damaged by logging, overgrazing and mining. The center welcomes applications for assistance from private landowners who have damaged lands in need of rehabilitation. Interested landowners or volunteers should write the San Juan Center for Environmental Restoration, P.O. Box 1463, Durango, CO 81302.



WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Writers at Work, a nonprofit corporation, is hosting a writing conference on June 23-28 in Park City, Utah. Doug Peacock, author of *Grizzly Years* and model for George Washington Hayduke in Edward Abbey's *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, will help present a panel on "Environmental Writing and Political Non-Fiction." Other guest writers include Terry Tempest Williams, author of *Coyote's Canyon*, and Rick Bass, author of *Winter: Notes on Montana*. Tuition is \$340. Classes are limited to 15 students and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Free informal readings will be open to the public in the evenings. For more information write P.O. Box 3182, Park City, UT 84060 or call 801/649-2059.



TELLURIDE WORKSHOPS

The Telluride Institute has announced two workshops to be held in Telluride, Colo., during the next few months. Talking Gourds 3, A Rocky Mountain Festival of Poetry in Performance, will be held June 7-9. It will include workshops on poetry writing and performing, open readings, waterfall hikes, dances and the Ah-Haa Poetry Playoffs competition. For more information on this program, contact Talking Gourds 3, Art Goodtimes, Box 1008, Telluride, CO 81435; 303/327-4767. At the Native American Writers Forum from Sept. 26-29, a panel of Native American writers, all from different tribes, will discuss and perform some of their work. Write or call the Telluride Institute, P.O. Box 1770, Telluride, CO 81435; 303/728-4402.

NEPA REVISIONS

The U.S. Forest Service invites public comment on the revision of its policy and procedures for the National Environmental Policy Act. The Forest Service is "fine-tuning" its existing procedures, according to U.S. Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson. For more information about the revisions, contact the Environmental Coordination staff, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090; 202/447-4708. Comments should be mailed by June 28 to Chief, USDA Forest Service, at the same address.

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OUTDOOR SINGLES NETWORK, bi-monthly newsletter, ages 19-90, no forwarding fees, \$18/1-year, \$4/trial issue-information. OSN-HCN, 1611 Cooper #7, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601. (10x10p)

CONSIDER TAKING FIVE DAYS next summer in the shadow of the Tetons, with the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as your classroom! Register for the Wyoming Outdoor Council's 4th annual workshop on Conservation Biology and Endangered Species. The cost is \$150; dates are August 5-9, 1991. Graduate academic credit from the University of Wyoming is available for an additional fee. Contact: Donn Kesselheim, Wyoming Outdoor Council, 201 Main St., Lander, WY 82520 (307/332-7031). (2x10b)

NEW WATER BOOK: An Introduction to Water Rights and Conflicts with emphasis on Colorado. \$14.95 plus \$3.00 S/H. To order, please write Network Marketing, 8370 Warhawk Rd., Dept. HC, Conifer, CO 80433, or call 303/674-7105. (12x5b)

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Fading 'Vision' ...

(Continued from page 1)

species like eagles, trumpeter swans and grizzly bears. Researchers tracking grizzly movements through the parks and forests have come to call the area the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem, since — from grizzlies to the plants they eat — each piece depends on the health of the whole.

Talk of ecosystem management, therefore, is not new. In the early 1960s, the heads of each forest and park in the region, plus the Forest Service and Park Service regional directors, joined together as the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee to improve communication. But mostly they only talked.

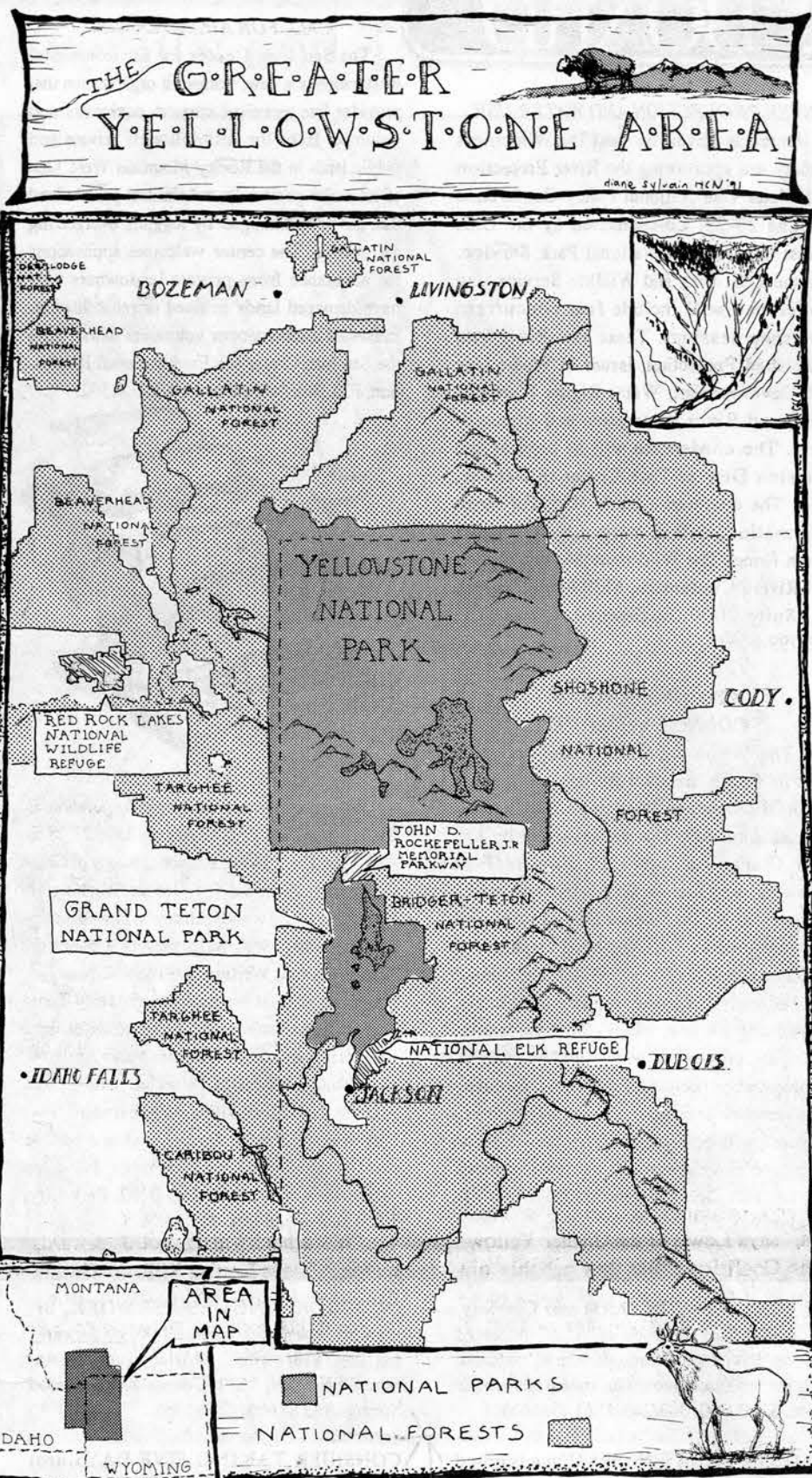
That became apparent in 1985, when Congress held oversight hearings on the management of Greater Yellowstone. A detailed report produced by the Congressional Research Service noted a serious lack of resource information and inconsistent management. Of all human development, roads had the most impact on wildlife and the ecosystem, but there was no comprehensive assessment of those impacts. Coordination was so bad, the report said, that grizzly bears, a measure of the ecosystem's health, continued dying in several bear "black holes."

"In virtually all agency decision-making," the congressional committee report concluded, "the whole is subordinated to its fragments."

While fine for commodity uses, this bits-and-pieces management did not serve Greater Yellowstone's recreational potential. And recreation, the report said, was the most important economic activity in the region, producing more than twice the income and about three times as many jobs as logging, agriculture and mining combined.

Congress suggested several ambitious changes: Scrap the current grizzly management concept, and adjust the boundaries of Forest Service ranger districts to improve data collection. Since human presence in Greater Yellowstone "is ultimately associated with all conflict there," managers should assess the human carrying capacity of the area and set up zones defining appropriate levels and timing of human activity. Most of all, managers should gather better information in order to assess decisions made in one park or forest that could impact the entire ecosystem.

Congress "will not hesitate to take whatever further action, by way of oversight or legislation," to make sure policies and cooperation are implemented to "protect the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem," the report said. So far, however, the agencies have done nothing. The



vision document is their first try.

In 1987, reacting to congressional demands, the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee published what it called the "Aggregation," a compilation of management strategies for each park and forest. Copies cost \$65, putting them out of the reach of most people. But the colorful document contained many pages of detailed maps that outlined uses in all the areas, and lists of vague "coordination opportunities."

The report was nevertheless very revealing. On the map showing developed roads in Greater Yellowstone, for instance, the Targhee National Forest

was so riddled with lines it looked like a plate of spaghetti. But other forests (partly because they contained more wilderness) and the national parks were relatively roadless. In Custer National Forest, the scenic Beartooth Highway's corridor was managed to retain its "high visual quality," but when it crossed into the Shoshone Forest it was not. In Yellowstone National Park, some areas — paved for parking lots, loaded with gaudy gift shops and rusty employee house trailers — looked worse than developed areas in surrounding national forests.

"This is the kind of thing we really

wanted to get at," says Shoshone National Forest Supervisor Barry Davis. "Why do we manage for different things on different sides of this line when it's basically the same place? The beauty is just as important to people on that road no matter which forest they're in."

The agencies could have fixed many of these discrepancies themselves, and some now privately wish they had. But by writing the "vision" plan, which makes only recommendations, not decisions, and so never required any formal public input, they had hoped to get the public to help set a management blueprint that could knit Yellowstone together.

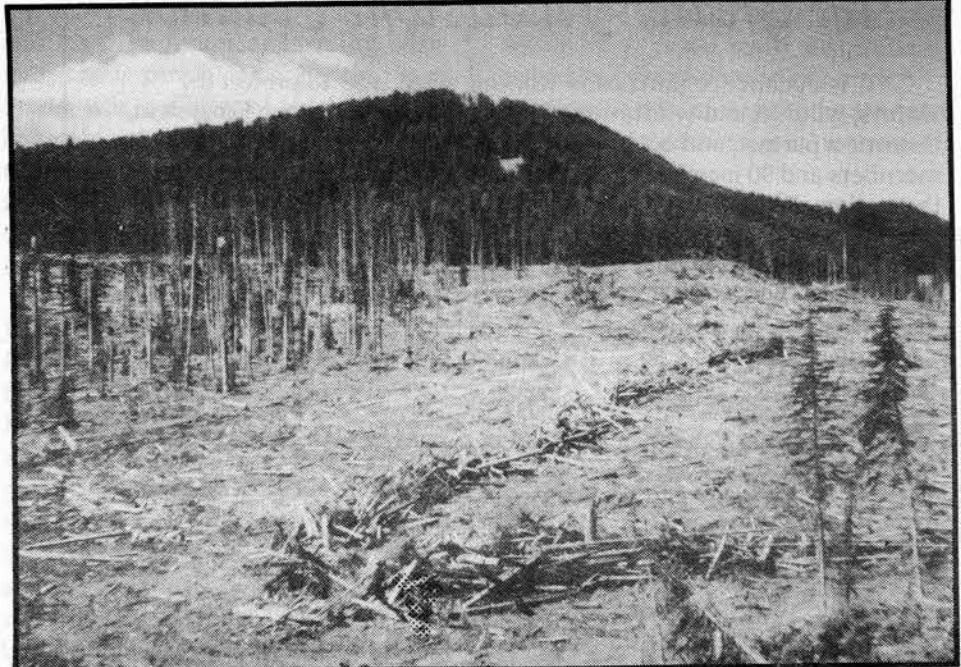
First they developed a set of 14 goals to guide land management in Greater Yellowstone, from maintaining biological diversity to protecting geothermal systems. After getting public comments, they expanded those goals into the 72-page "vision."

"The overriding mood," the document said, "will be one of naturalness, a combination of ecological processes operating with little restraint and humans moderating their activities so that they become a reasonable part of, rather than an encumbrance upon, those processes." It went on to state three foremost goals: to "conserve the sense of naturalness and maintain ecosystem integrity, ... encourage opportunities that are biologically and economically sustainable" and "improve coordination."

"We were hoping that if we got the public talking about this, we would have found that environmental groups and commodity groups have common goals for this area," says Bridger-Teton National Forest Supervisor Brian Stout. "It was to give us a common target to shoot for. We might not all be right on that target, but at least we wouldn't be real far apart."

At first, while praising its intent, environmental groups chastised the coordinating committee for coming up with a document that lacked clout. They said it was mostly a tract that contained attractive but vague statements like "Ecological processes will operate as freely as possible." The vision plan suggested a policy of no net increase in open roads, but didn't say how that would be done, the environmentalists complained.

While trying to look beyond their own boundaries to balance conflicting uses, land managers still wanted to have it all without acknowledging the trade-offs. "Biological diversity can often be maintained or enhanced as effectively on lands open to timber cutting, mineral extraction and grazing," the vision plan said, "as it can on park and wilderness lands."



Selective logging, shown at left, is encouraged by the vision plan; clearcutting, right, is not

"This is a nice statement of principles, and most people would probably support its essence," said Scott Garland of The Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning. "But there was no real strategy or time frame to get something done."

On the other side, so-called local multiple-use groups made up of logging, mining, drilling and livestock interests — at least one formed as a direct response to the vision plan — blasted the plan for putting too much emphasis on preservation. "Conserving the sense of naturalness," they said, sounded as if the managers intended to create one giant national park, where natural preservation would reign. These critics then waged a campaign of alerts and newsletters to portray the vision plan as unwanted governmental interference.

One group, the Yellowstone Regional Citizens Coalition, sent out flyers calling the vision a "master plan for anti-development land use." If it is enforced, the group said, "you will lose many of your existing rights. For example, tourism, access, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, off-highway vehicle use and other forms of recreation will be reduced as well as substantial losses in mining, grazing and timber harvesting."

Many such uses, including hunting and fishing, were not even addressed in the plan. But in an editorial, Wyoming's *Buffalo Bulletin* said the world vision "brings to mind something that happens when people are dreaming and most likely asleep. Yellowstone Park is a wonderful asset to this nation, and it's very important to the tourism industry of the area," the newspaper said. "But the dreamers who believe it is much more than a large open zoo are not in touch with reality."

"This is something a lot of people are worried will change the place they live," said Bob Budd of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association. "It may not explicitly say that, but this is our future we're talking about and we shouldn't have to sacrifice it to make sure the feds who run the parks have their way."

Wyoming's Legislature passed a resolution condemning the vision plan, saying it would end up "diminishing or totally excluding" multiple use, and would "vastly impact" Wyoming's economy, "crippling" state government.

When the motion came up in a committee, no one representing the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee was invited to testify, though representatives of five commodity groups did. In a show of hands on the House floor, only five representatives said they had read the document. Several claimed it would govern private lands around Yellowstone, which the plan specifically states it will not do.

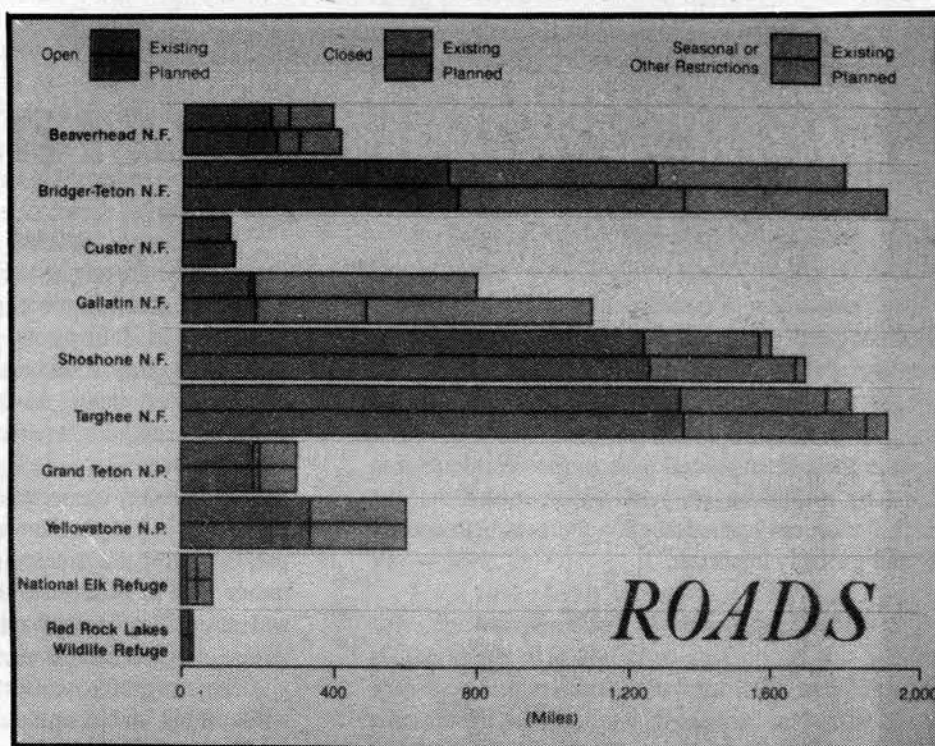
"I started reading it [the vision plan]," Rep. Peg Shreve told fellow legislators, "but it was a bunch of garbage, so I quit."

Urged on by powerful commodity groups, politicians also got in on the act, applying pressure in Washington, D.C., to drop or emasculate the vision document. "I can understand why the Park Service is so very interested in geothermal and visual impacts within the Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks," Sen. Al Simpson, R-Wyo., wrote to National Park Service Director James Ridenour. "I cannot understand why the Park Service, as an agency, is interested in these matters, as they occur within the entire Greater Yellowstone Area on lands that lie outside of the park system."

When such disdain surfaced, the enthusiasm of land managers noticeably subsided. They began focusing at public meetings on what the vision document would not do — end logging, for instance — rather than on what it would do. And they did not clear up some of the misinterpreted terminology like "naturalness," which one group, quoting national park nay-sayer Alston Chase, criticized as "woo-woo wilderness cultism." (See essay on page 12.)

"These are the agencies that have the responsibility to protect this precious area," says Lewis of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. "But they put this out there as if they were a U.N. peacekeeping force and their job was to step in between commodity groups and environmentalists, not to step forward and lead the way."

Conservation groups belatedly tried to defend the vision they had earlier criticized, but in some ways that just further antagonized opponents, who had pegged the vision as an environmental conspiracy all along. The Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning took



Current and planned roads in the greater Yellowstone area

the sensible step of paring down the document's 72 pages to a more forceful 15 pages. The alliance likened the vision concept to the canary in the coal mine, "forecasting the survival of the critically important shift toward ecosystem management."

The final version, which will be reviewed by politicians and agency officials in Washington, D.C., before it is released, will be an even shorter 10 pages. This will distinguish between the goals of national parks and national forests. The jargon will be gone, such as the term "naturalness." However, in separating the parks and forests, the final version may also submerge the concept of basing decisions on how they may affect other resources in other parts of the Yellowstone ecosystem.

"It's a backwards, not a forwards approach," says Louisa Willcox, Greater Yellowstone Coalition program director. "If you're just looking at one mine, you don't know what effects 17 mines will have until you've built them all and you find out. Nobody's trying to forecast these things ahead of time."

Even before the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee vision began, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition had launched a sort of alternative vision called the "Greater Yellowstone Tomorrow Project." Organizers are visiting area commu-

nities that depend on both commodities and recreation in an effort to come up with a true shared vision that will protect its valued ecological parts. It will look at the root causes of environmental ills, director Dennis Glick says, not just visible symptoms, and will suggest real answers like zoning changes and economic incentives for conservation. Perhaps it will help accomplish what the vision plan does not.

Some changes suggested by the vision plan, like moving away from clearcutting to logging selectively, will probably still take place, if only because the public is pushing foresters to do that. Better interagency management of bison, which are still shot when they leave Yellowstone, also is probable. But the concept of considering all the land — forest, park and the rest — in Greater Yellowstone as one ecosystem with equal parts, may be gone.

"A few of us are a little gun-shy from all this now," says Gingery of Grand Teton Park. "But we hope this can be a blueprint of what Greater Yellowstone should be for future generations. Maybe they can solve the conflicts and carry this forward."

Michael Milstein covers Wyoming for the *Billings Gazette*.



Robert Bower

Tourists stop to photograph a bull elk who has his attention on a doe, Yellowstone National Park

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ESSAY

Yellowstone: We must allow it to change

by Holmes Rolston III

In Yellowstone you can get lost — philosophically and biologically, as well as geographically. Yellowstone is significant for what it is: vast, spectacular, and perhaps the largest, nearest-intact ecosystem in the temperate zone of Earth.

It is the oldest national park in the world and it is visited by millions every year, which means that the search for an environmental ethic there is both nationally and globally important.

Valuing Nature in Yellowstone

In Yellowstone, we find that science is necessary but not sufficient for valuing nature. Were the massive fires a good thing for humans, for the fauna, the flora, for the ecosystem? Once we judged fires to be bad and suppressed them; now it is clear that fires are sometimes good and suppression sometimes bad, but we are still trying to figure out how much fire is a good thing.

We permitted an epidemic of pinkeye to destroy half of the Yellowstone bighorn herd, intending to strengthen the species, thinking it good to let nature take its course. We rescued a grizzly sow and her three cubs stranded after the spring ice breakup on Frank Island in Yellowstone Lake, hoping to help save the species, not letting nature take its course. A park official forbade four compassionate snowmobilers from rescuing a bison that had fallen through the ice into a river. This seeming callousness was castigated in national newscasts.

Carved in stone on the gateway Yellowstone Arch is the assertion that Yellowstone is preserved "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" by act of Congress. But to think that this place ought to be only a "pleasuring-ground" has come to seem shallow, humanistic arrogance. We value it also as a deeper token and symbol, an archetype of the primeval.

Glen Cole, a research biologist at Yellowstone, stated park policy: "The primary purpose of Yellowstone National Park is to preserve natural ecosystems and opportunities for visitors to see and appreciate scenery and native plant and animal life as it occurred in primitive America." It ought to be a biotic whole, a "natural community," untrammelled by humans, where nature takes its course and humans learn to take pleasure in it.

But what we ought to have in Yellowstone, if we listen to Alston Chase, a philosopher and acid critic of park policy, is sound scientific management. What we have instead, he thinks, is an inflexible ideology dressed up as biology — let nature take its course. This results, he says, in less and less scientific management and culminates, disastrously, in no management at all. With managers immobilized by a gospel of noninterference with nature, the park is being destroyed.

But urging scientific management is an instrumental, not an intrinsic, value judgment. To instruct managers to be scientific is to set strategic, not ultimate, goals for them. Science can determine how far human alterations have and will upset the spontaneous course of nature, and how far we can restore the original course. But do we value that natural course in Yellowstone? That is a philosophical question.

The current approach at Yellowstone, letting nature take its course, values biology. This might be foolish if nature here can no longer take its course and we have assumed an unrealistic goal of primitiveness. Philosophy cannot tell us if the Yellowstone ecosystem, though invaded by human interruptions, has enough recuperative power to heal itself without remedial help. That is a biological question. Biologists in Yellowstone have believed so at some points. But at no time have they disclaimed appropriate remedial help, although they have regularly said that the less remedial help the better.

That nature, invaded by human interruptions, is impossible to restore to at least relatively natural conditions is a claim in biology, pure and applied, which biologists in Yellowstone are reluctant to hold. They want to maximize restoration, rather than settle for a compromised nature. At the same time they want the minimal restoration it takes to get the maximum recovery of nature.

Where they cannot now regain processes like those operating before the human alterations, they may still prefer to give the remaining natural processes free rein rather than to manipulate them. A simultaneously wild and scientifically managed fauna is a contradiction in terms, a logical and managerial impossibility.

Do we prefer a natural grizzly bear population, reduced but viable, at the risk of losing grizzlies? Is a bear, with human interruptions compensated for by feeding, too much a compromised bear? Have we a duty to save the species, even if this requires feeding centers in the otherwise nearly pristine wilderness ecosystem? The soundest scientific management cannot answer these questions. Philosophical analysis is required.

The Concept of the Natural

Events are said to be "natural" in different senses; unless we discriminate among these everyone will get lost.

(1) In a law-of-nature sense, the natural covers all things governed by the laws of cause and effect. All organisms produce waste naturally, humans too; in this sense garbage is as natural as scat. Hence, bears at a Yellowstone dump feeding on oranges from Florida and bananas from Honduras are feeding naturally. Neither humans producing nor bears eating garbage breaks any laws of nature. Nor does hands-on scientific management. It is impossible to be unnatural.

(2) Another use of the word nature is at issue in Yellowstone. Spontaneous events in wild nature are natural; in contrast, deliberate human activities and their intended or unintended results are artificial, that is, artifacts. Plastic bags with leftover Froot Loops dumped in the middle of the Yellowstone forest are unnatural.

Since all actions of human agents interrupt spontaneous nature, it is impossible for managers to be completely natural. The Yellowstone ecosystem has often been interrupted; therefore, that nature can simply take its course here is an illusion, a romantic myth. Even

protection intervenes. Certainly, scientific management is unnatural. An influential official study, the Leopold Report, speaks of creating "a reasonable illusion of primitive America." In a cover story, *Newsweek* calls pristine parks "the grand illusion."

If we have only these two senses of natural, the natural will be either inevitable or impossible.

(3) There is a relative sense of "natural," one consistent with human management. Some human interventions are more, others less, natural, depending on the degree to which they fit in with, mimic or restore spontaneous nature. Any paint on a campground water tank is unnatural, but green is more natural than chartreuse. Restoration of wolves as predators would be more natural than culling elk by sharpshooters.

Given these distinctions, it does not help to label all restored nature a fake, a myth, or ideology. Compared with pristine nature, there is diminished naturalness, but the naturalness that remains is not illusory. Some processes were never tampered with; even restored processes, though minus their original historical genesis, are relatively more natural.

A broken arm, reset and healed, is relatively more natural than an artificial limb, though both have been medically manipulated. The arm, decades later, is not a "reasonable illusion" of a pristine arm. Except for hair-line bone scars it may be indistinguishable from the arm nature gave. Likewise with a restored forest or range, the historical genesis has been partially interrupted. But henceforth, deliberately put back in place, spontaneous nature takes over as before. Trees blow over in storms, coyotes hunt ground squirrels, lightning starts fires, natural selection resumes.

An environmental ethics in Yellowstone ought to value the relatively natural that remains or has been restored. Much natural history is still there — no illusion but objective biology that we can value philosophically. Active hands-on scientific management, beyond remedial restoration, would decrease this value and increase illusion.

Natural history

Yellowstone is not, never was, never will be, never should have been preserved as "a place where time stands still." Only bad biology and bad philosophy think that change is a misfortune. Even when the historical genesis has been culturally interrupted and restored, Yellowstone is a place of natural history, and without that term — sometimes despised by biologists and philosophers — no one can find his or her way here.

Yellowstone is not just biology on a regional scale. Yellowstone is biology on a historical scale, about which we are still more ignorant. On this unique and grand landscape in northwest Wyoming, we know far less than we wish about spontaneous natural history, which is one reason we cannot predict the outcomes of management interventions.

Yellowstone was tundra 10,000 years ago. The carnivore-herbivore-vegetation-climate interactions have been dynamically altering on the scale of centuries. The American West is a geologically recent landscape, drying out since much wetter Pleistocene times, and resulting, for example, in fish speciation more rapid than any known elsewhere among other vertebrates. Many big mammals once here are now extinct.

Since the Pleistocene, natural history here has been entwined with human history. The Indians long hunted on foot and were partially responsible for some extinctions. There is archaeological evidence of periodic hunting by Indians throughout the park, although apparently not for elk, which may have been sparse here. Indians sometimes set fires to increase browse and game. For a century before white men really knew the area, the Indians hunted on introduced Spanish horses, during about the same period of time that smallpox and other European-introduced diseases began to decimate Indian populations here.

Alston Chase claims that there never was a primitive Yel-



Gateway arch near Gardiner, Montana, dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt, 1903

lowstone whose conditions can now be defined, much less restored. It has always been a historical system, and since Pleistocene times Indian cultures have been ecologically significant here. The claim about biological history may be true; the claim about cultural interruptions may be false. Only archaeological evidence can settle the latter issue. That is a scientific question, mixing biology and anthropology.

Philosophically, however, we will get lost again without the relative sense of natural. Discovery of Indian impacts does not require giving up an illusion of the primitive for sound scientific management. Yellowstone with Indians was relatively natural; Yellowstone minus Indians will nevertheless be a viable ecosystem; and Indians will readily endorse both these claims.

The Leopold Report made a mistake to think that the goal at Yellowstone "should be to preserve, or where necessary recreate, the ecologic scene as viewed by the first European visitors," as though in Yellowstone natural history had only a past and no future. That is not historical enough, nor do we here wish to preserve Indian encounters with nature.

What our philosophy ought to value here is dynamic natural history. In Yellowstone, biology and philosophy meet in a proper-named place. Real biology is never abstract; it is on the ground. Bison frequent Hayden Valley; elk, Lamar Valley. Biology is a historical science in a way that physics is not. What we are preserving is this place, with its uniqueness. Let nature take its course here.

Playing God in Yellowstone

Alston Chase in his book *Playing God in Yellowstone* hoped by provocative analysis to rescue lost biologists and philosophers. He seemed to set forth an environmental ethics and refute the views of others. But has he a well-formulated ethics? Does he defeat the arguments of his opponents?

He uses logic when logic serves, data when data serve, but just as readily rhetoric, innuendo, selective weighing of evidence, humor, emotional appeal, almost anything that needles his opponents, whom he judges to be blind and hellbent in their nonmanagement philosophy, their know-nothing and know-too-much biology. He attacks persons sooner than arguments. Does his method produce any reliable analysis of causes and effects in Yellowstone biology, or of the values and arguments employed in environmental philosophy?

The answer is that Chase is relentlessly one-sided and mean-spirited. Almost everybody comes off badly.

Yellowstone people are not as stupid or bad as he claims, though there is ample criticism of park biology and philosophy from respectable persons.

Chase equally ridicules environmental philosophers, more for being rosy-eyed romantics than for being bad and stupid. Unfortunately, Chase does not even seem to know the technical literature of environmental philosophy, much less to care to analyze it. His strategy is more satire than argument.

Satire is what it takes when arguments fall on deaf ears. Did not Jesus ridicule the Pharisees for straining at gnats and swallowing camels, looking for dust specks in the eyes of others while they had logs jammed into their own? There is something comic about chicken liberation and rights for rocks.

But satire is no substitute for argument. Satire attacks persons; what one really wants is to assess the logic and interactions of biology and philosophy here. We need to give principal attention to Chase's analysis, rather than to Chase himself.

The problem is that Chase's analysis is no better argument or assessment of evidence than he alleges in the positions of those he attacks; neither his biology nor his philosophy operates to improve the situation he thinks he sees and laments.

When we analyze, for instance, Chase's deliberately abrasive central metaphor, we discover that "playing God" is empty of descriptive or normative, scientific or ethical content. Therefore it does nothing to help orient us. It does not illuminate any issues, either in theory or practice; it does not even mark wrong directions of travel. The metaphor only rhetorically belittles opponents.

Playing God, first round: Predators are removed, fires suppressed. But this does not work; it was misguided intervention. Playing God, second round: Under the theory of an abnormally large elk population damaging winter range, elk are culled. This does not work; the elk reproduce anyway. Playing God, third round: Under the theory that elk populations will be limited by food supply, even minus predators, biologists do nothing and expect natural regulation. They let fires burn, but set no fires. Playing God, round four: The Leopold Report recommends restoring the primitive scene as nearly as possible, and Chase faults that too as calling for intervention far more massive and controversial than ever.

Everything counts as playing God. Playing God is intervening to improve the ecosystem for humans; playing God is restoring the ecosystem; playing God is letting nature take its course. In "giving a blank check

to nature," "in taking a passive role they would not have stopped playing God." Having faith in nature, pantheism, or leaving it to the Creator — these are still playing God. Playing God is hands-on management; playing God is hands-off management. The Europeans who came to tame the continent played God. Even the Indians burning range to improve hunting were playing God.

So what is not playing God? What would Chase do? Of all the options that Chase considers, the one he seems to recommend would most deify resource managers and strong, scientific management. We never have a careful definition of the accusative metaphor that alleges bad biology and bad philosophy. The phrase operates to condemn, not to analyze; to attack people, not to reform policies. It operates psychologically, not logically, and for that reason it cannot advance the search for better biology or philosophy in Yellowstone.

Even God comes off poorly in Chase's ever-pejorative vocabulary as a manipulative cosmic boss calling all the shots. But the creative God, in the Biblical account, let Earth bring forth of itself and found the creatures to be very good. Jesus marvels at the "automatic Earth" that "produces of itself" (Mark 4:28) and which the meek inherit. If anything in wildlife management can be said to be divine, why not natural regulation — letting creation take its course?

Loving Yellowstone

Truth for truth's sake is not all we want in Yellowstone; we want truth for Yellowstone's sake. In Yellowstone, managerial control is not love; biology and philosophy, to say nothing of politics, economics, theology and the rest, ought to cooperate to form an ethics that seeks to appreciate, rather than to manipulate.

A loving restoration of land and wildlife is sometimes in order; after that, letting nature take its course is the appropriate form of caring for the great bear, the wapiti, the aspen, for the ecosystem, for the land, for this wild place.

■

Holmes Rolston, III, professor of philosophy at Colorado State University, is the author of *Environmental Ethics and Philosophy Gone Wild*. This article is adapted from "Biology and Philosophy in Yellowstone," *Biology and Philosophy*, volume 5, no. 2, 1990, pp. 241-258.

OTHER VOICES

Dancing with wolves in Yellowstone

by Bill Phelps

According to a Wyoming Game and Fish Department survey, there are a lot of us who can't make up our minds about whether to bring wolves back into Yellowstone. I am one of those undecided. It is not the answers that the pro and con forces offer that confuse me. The questions that are not even asked are what keep me in doubt.

I am in favor of healthy ecosystems, and I'm not afraid of the big bad wolf. On the other hand, the pro-wolf group stretches its argument a little thin at times to cover up the genuine uncertainty of its proposition.

For instance, the report by a panel of experts that was issued one year ago is repeatedly cited by pro factions as the green light to start hauling in the wolves. The report concluded that wolves would have a minor impact on ungulate herds in Yellowstone, but that is not all that it concluded. The report also concluded that there would be an effect on hunting of ungulates by humans, that wolves would leave the park, that wolves would interact with livestock, and that "control" would be necessary both inside and outside the park.

The conclusion I find most interesting is the caveat that the experts put in the report to cover their collective ass. Concerning the question of how much wild "area" is needed to establish a "secure population," they said, "No research, short of placing wolves in the park, can answer that question without conjecture." This, of course, is scientific speak for "we really don't know what will happen."

We hear over and over about the predicted impact of wolves on everything from sheep to tourists, but we

have yet to hear about the impact all this will have on the wolves that get snared for this duty.

Our lack of concern for the impact on the wolves is evident by the term we use to describe this experiment. We call it a "re-introduction" as if we could just reconstitute an ecosystem that existed here 200 years ago and before we humans arrived. This is impossible, of course — which is why we hear the word "control" so often. We may begin with gray wolves from Canada, but then we will create a new subspecies in Yellowstone that we should label the Controlled Gray Wolf.

For along with the packs of wolves will come teams of naturalists armed with high-tech gadgetry like helicopters, dart guns, radio collars, spotting scopes, and all other sorts of observation and manipulation devices. This is not a re-introduction; this is an introduction of human-manipulated wolves.

These wolves will be wild only in our imaginations. They must learn to look both ways when they cross the road, stay away from our campgrounds and lodges, and especially to stay away from our food both inside and outside the park. In other words, they will be slightly domesticated, or trained, like the elk that follow the hay wagon on the refuge in the winter and then return to roam free each spring. So maybe we should call this the introduction of slightly domesticated gray wolves.

I still wonder what the wolves think about this. Imagine how a classified ad in the *Canadian Wolf Times* might read:

WANTED

Volunteers for habitat opening in Yellowstone National Park. Must be able to adapt quickly to

human-dominated ecosystem. Applicants must be willing to accept human control. This includes observation by assigned control humans and tourist humans who just want to get a photo of your pups.

Ungulates plentiful during summer and fall, but you can't follow them during winter. Venture outside of park at your own risk (boundary not marked with urine). If you or your offspring leave the park, severe human control likely.

Control may include relocation away from familiar territory and family. This includes transportation in large scary whirly birds. You will be drugged for the trip and confined in cages, but the drug will usually wear off before they dump you. Immobilization trauma support groups will be available.

If you do not accept relocation or refuse to avoid human zones, you will accumulate frequent flyer points. When you have earned enough points, you will get a free one-way ticket to wolf heaven. Hurry, as space is limited.

If you were a wolf, would you volunteer? It is for the good of the ecosystem, and it is also good for tourism! Perhaps I should say it is good for tourism and it is also good for the ecosystem. If it is good for the ecosystem then it must be good for the wolf. Say it whichever way it sounds most "natural" for you.

But I can't help thinking that the wolf would much rather stay up in Canada where a wolf can still be wild.



■
The writer lives in Wilson, Wyoming.

EDITORIAL

Colorado's 'good' compromise

by Lawrence Mosher

Colorado's Sen. Tim Wirth has been roundly chastised by several environmental organizations for "selling out" to the water interests in the wilderness compromise he reached with Sen. Hank Brown earlier this month. (See story on page 4.) I would like to politely disagree with the purists who find Wirth's action so reprehensible. Perhaps I lived in Washington, D.C., too long (23 years), and so am permanently stained by its process of political compromise. But there comes a time when action is better than endless stalemate, and this is one of them.

On page 5 we carry a story about Idaho's wilderness hangup, in which the ideologues on both sides continue to frustrate that state's efforts to mediate. Last Sept. 24 we reported Montana's wilderness "imbroglio" that managed to split the environmentalists there. Next month we plan to run a front-page story about an historic struggle shaping up in Utah over how much of its nationally unique Bureau of Land Management canyonlands to protect with wilderness designation. The dimensions of that wilderness fight make Colorado's fuss over federal reserved water rights in the proposed national forest headwaters additions a nitpicker's delight.

"The intense long-standing public debate over the existence or non-existence of federal reserved water rights has been largely hypothetical and ideological on both sides of the table," argues Greg Hobbs, a Denver attorney who took part in the Wirth-Brown negotiations as

counsel to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. "Future downstream wilderness designations pose different problems that must be dealt with, but cosmic language for all situations appears unattainable at this time. And it's time to deal with headwaters wilderness where negotiated resolutions are attainable."

Hobbs maintains that the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society, in particular, have held Colorado's wilderness designations hostage to the separate issue of federal vs. state water rights. After eight years of controversy over federal reserved water rights and four years of fruitless negotiations by a 16-member team appointed by Wirth and Brown's predecessor, William Armstrong, the time for compromise was ripe. But does the Wirth-Brown deal set the stage for "second-class wilderness," as The Wilderness Society's Darrell Knuffke charges? I don't think so.

Let's examine the compromise. Sen. Wirth specifically disclaimed a federal reserved water right for the 641,690 acres that would be designated as wilderness. This was a reversal of his previous position. But will anything really change concerning the amount of water these headwaters wilderness areas actually get? The answer is no. Does the disclaimer open these areas to water developers in the future? Not really. Access is the real issue, and these "rock and ice" areas are largely inaccessible to diverters. Beyond that, the compromise eliminates the President's authority to allow new water development in wilderness

areas, which the 1964 National Wilderness Preservation Act specifically allows.

Further, the compromise allows the U.S. Forest Service and the Justice Department to file a water claim in Colorado Water Court if a new water project ever injured one of the new wilderness areas. This is in line with last year's 10th Circuit Court of Appeals decision, which vacated Judge John Kane Jr.'s 1985 ruling on a Sierra Club lawsuit (see HCN 9/24/90). Kane had recognized federal reserved water rights in Colorado's current 24 wilderness areas. The circuit court said no injury had been alleged, which sets up the expectation of future legal standing for actual injury cases.

Leaving aside the water issue, Wirth also won a significant concession by eliminating the "hard release" language concerning 16 other potential wilderness areas so that they may be considered for wilderness designation at a later date. Armstrong had insisted on the releases, but Brown conceded.

It is significant to note how Colorado's water development interests split over the Wirth-Brown compromise. The Colorado Farm Bureau, the city of Colorado Springs and the Colorado River Water Conservation District oppose the deal because of its provisions giving the federal government the right to file water claims as of the date of wilderness designation. These groups also disliked the cancellation of the presidential authority to grant water-development rights in wildernesses, even though this authority has never been used.

Wirth's environmental critics, however, do have one legitimate worry. This concerns the Piedra River as a harbinger of future downstream Bureau of Land Management wilderness designations. The Wirth-Brown compromise would require the federal government to accept streamflows in the Piedra set by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, which must provide enough water for the "preservation of the environment to a reasonable degree." The board has allowed a flow of 70 cubic feet per second, which supports the river's fisheries. But it has never been asked to increase this flow for the sake of the river's "environment."

The board should be given the opportunity to deal with the downstream problem first, before the handwringing begins. The Piedra River provision will test whether the downstream water rights holders can live with its instream-flow program. If the board ends up injuring the environment of the Piedras River, then environmentalists will have a reason to worry.

Yes, it would be nice to guarantee sufficient water to support future downstream wildernesses with a federal reserved water right. But at what price? Sens. Wirth and Brown decided not to keep Colorado's headwaters wilderness designations in legislative limbo for another eight years. That is a good decision, and their deal is a good compromise. Both should be congratulated for getting on with the state's business.

Lawrence Mosher is HCN's editor.

LETTERS

GRAZING FEES AND PREDATOR LOSSES

Dear HCN:

I enjoyed your feature story, "A Federal Killing Machine Rolls On" (HCN, 1/28/91). You did a good job, but only told part of the story on how good ranchers that hold federal grazing permits really have it at taxpayers' expense.

The current grazing fee formula, established by a 1977 study, is:

$$\frac{[FMV \times (FVI + BCPI) - PPI]}{100}$$

= the cost of grazing one cow and her calf for one month, or one Animal Unit Month (AUM)

where:

Fair Market Value (FMV) = \$1.23; constant since 1966

Forage Value Index (FVI) =

\$2.43 in 1990; changes annually

Beef Price Index (BCPI) = \$3.06 in 1990; changes annually

Prices Paid Index (PPI) = \$4.02 in 1990; changes annually

This grazing fee formula, used on BLM and Forest Service lands, compensates permittees for losses to predators. The compensation is contained in the Fair Market Value term. The FMV, developed from a 1966 survey, is \$1.23. It would be \$1.43 if predator losses were given the same consideration as on private land. This 20-cent difference in FMV amounted to a 29-cent credit (reduction) per AUM during the 1990 grazing season. The credit changes every year because the grazing fee formula has three annually changing terms.

The 20-cent difference, though, is fixed because of the lost-animal consideration in the FMV, which does not change.

In Utah there are approximately 2.4 million AUMs grazed on BLM and Forest Service lands. Multiplying 2.4 million by \$0.29 equals \$696,000 less the permittees will pay because of predator losses for the 1990 grazing season. Here in Idaho there are approximately 2.7 million AUMs grazed on BLM and Forest Service lands. Multiplying 2.7 million by \$.029 equals \$783,000. This amounts to about \$1.5 million in subsidies at the taxpayers' expense to ranchers whose cattle graze on federal land.

The permittees who get this credit also get predator control work done on their allotments by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Animal Damage Control (APHIS-ADC), again at the taxpayers' expense.

I would like to see the permittees' income tax records. I bet they have filed profit/loss statements to reduce their taxes for the same losses they have already been compensated for by the reduced grazing fee.

In Idaho, there is a Wildlife Degradation bill waiting for the governor's signature. The bill proposes to pay livestock producers, many of whom lease BLM and Forest Service lands, for losses to predators. The governor has not yet signed the bill because the payments are to come entirely out of Fish and Game funds, and he does not agree with this source of funding. Thank God! I am sure other states have compensation plans to pay farmers and ranchers, even those that hold federal grazing permits.

This double compensation for lost animals, once by the reduced FMV and again by state reimbursements, gives

ranchers who hold grazing permits on BLM and Forest Service lands an economic advantage over producers of livestock on private lands.

James Prunty
Twin Falls, Idaho

'A BLOODY RAMPAGE'

Dear HCN,

Allow me to share with you some front-page news from my hometown paper, the Greybull (WY) Standard, May 9, 1991 edition:

Coyotes go on lamb-killing rampage

Coyotes killed 32 of Martin and Diana Mayland's lambs a week ago last Friday in a bloody rampage that left many more orphaned.

The Maylands were lambing about 1,300 head of sheep at their White Creek pasture in the area of the Chimney Rock east of Shell.

A shepherd normally stays with the sheep around the clock but he had come into town that evening. When Martin arrived Saturday morning to feed, he discovered the carnage.

"I went out to feed and saw lambs lying dead everywhere. It was not a pretty sight. They were all killed the same way, bitten right behind the head and in the throat. None of them had been eaten at all," Mayland said. ...

"It's really hard to tell how many we lost altogether. The coyotes had the ewes so stirred up, a lot of them ran off leaving their babies," he said.

The Maylands contacted government trappers Jack Clucas and Harold Weeks who later shot two coyotes higher up on the mountain.

Mayland believes the damage was

caused by only two of the predators, but doesn't know whether it was the two the trappers shot.

A butane gun has been set up at the sheep camp that discharges a loud boom every 20 minutes to scare away predators. Mayland said it should work for a while until the coyotes get used to the sound. There have been no further problems since that night.

Mayland estimates the 32 lambs were worth between \$60-\$70 apiece. There are government reimbursement plans for livestock deaths resulting from attacks by endangered species such as mountain lions or bears, Mayland said, but the coyote is considered a predator so the ranch will have to take the loss.

"There's just nothing you can do about it. It was awful. It must have just been the killer instinct in the coyotes since none of the lambs were eaten. They get a taste of blood and just go crazy," Mayland concluded.

The last time Mayland could remember a disaster of this proportion was about seven years ago when a mountain lion killed 17 ewes in one spot. ...

I'll compare my environmentalist's credentials with anyone, but I must admit to having just a tinge of uncertainty as to the fairness and high-mindedness of your article on predator slaughter and the picture of the "skinned and dumped" coyotes in your Jan. 28 edition. Will you admit that there might be reasons for concern on both sides of the issue? And can you understand why stockmen might be uneasy about the reintroduction of the wolf when this smaller version can do such damage?

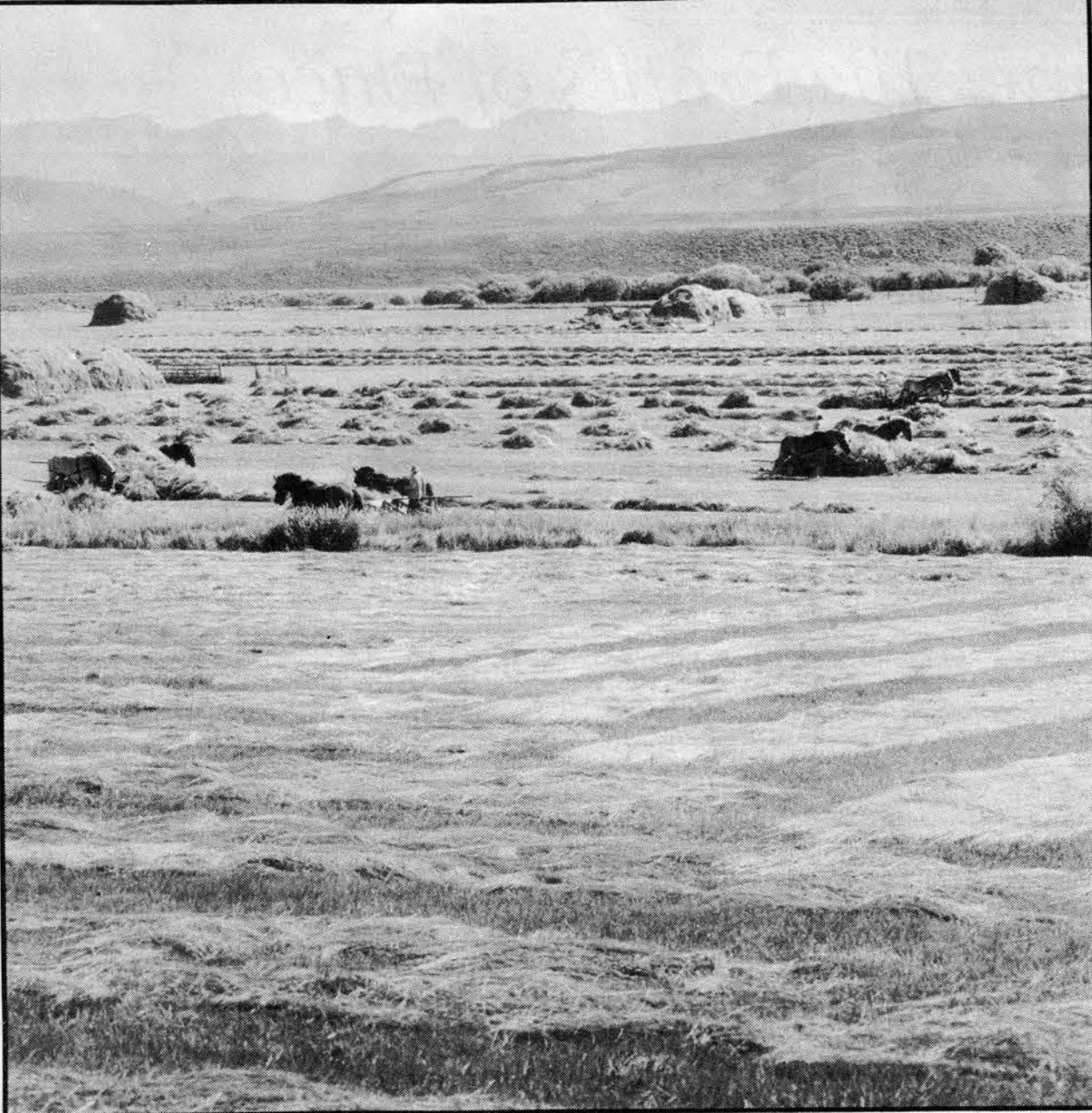
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Steve Collector

Old-time haying in the high country

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ESSAY

Yellowstone: The Erotics of Place

by Terry Tempest Williams

Steam rising. Water boiling. Geysers surging. Mudpots gurgling. Herds breathing. Hooves stampeding. Wings flocking. Sky darkening. Clouds gathering. Rain falling. Rivers raging. Lakes rising. Lightning striking. Trees burning. Thunder clapping. Smoke clearing. Eyes staring.

We call its name — and the land calls back.
Yellowstone.
Echo System.
Echo.

An echo is a sound wave that bounces back, or is reflected from, a large hard surface like the face of a cliff; or the flanks of a mountain; or the interior of a cave. To hear an echo one must be at least 17 meters, or 56 feet, away from the reflecting surface.

Echos are real — not imaginary.

We call out — and the land calls back. It is our interaction with the ecosystem; the Echo System.

We understand it intellectually.

We respond to it emotionally — joyously.

When was the last time we played with Echo?

The Greek god Pan played with her all the time.

Echo was a nymph and she was beautiful — long, dark hair flowing over her bare shoulders, lavender eyes, burnished skin, and red lips. Pan was intrigued. He was god of wild nature; rustic, lustful, and seductive. But with his goat legs and horns, he could not woo Echo. She remained aloof, indifferent to his advances.

Pan was not accustomed to loving nymphs in vain. He struck her dumb, save for the power of repetition.

Echo roamed the woods and pastures repeating what she heard. The shepherds became incensed and seized her. They tore her body to pieces.

Gaia, the Earth Mother, quietly picked up the pieces of Echo and hid them in herself — where they still retain their repetitive powers.

Pan, seeking no further revenge, strengthened his vows to love the land in all its wildness — dancing in the woods, in the fields and grottoes ... on mountain tops and in glens ... dancing, chasing, and seducing the vulnerable, all in the name of fertility.

Pan, as we know him, is therianthrope — half-man and half-animal — with a bare chest and the lower limbs of a goat. Two small horns rise from his head like lightning rods. He is blessed with the merry goat's prodigious agility and bestial passions. He wears a crown made of pine boughs and blows through pipes of reed.

He is a dangerous creature.

But we know Pan is dead. Elizabeth Barrett Browning has told us so:

But the earth outgrows the
mythic fancies sung beside her in youth
Pan is dead —
Pan is dead —

These lines are founded on an early Christian belief that when the heavenly hosts told the shepherds at Bethlehem of the birth of Christ, a deep groan was heard throughout Greece. Pan was dead.

When James Watt was asked what he feared most about environmentalists, his response was simple: "I fear they are pagans."

He is right to be fearful. Perhaps we are.

I would like to suggest Pan is not dead, that Echo lives in her repetitive world, in the cycles and circles of nature.

I would like even to suggest that the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem/Echo System is a Pansexual landscape. Of Pan. A landscape that loves bison, bear, elk, deer, moose, coyote, wolf, rabbit, badger, marmot, squirrel, swan, crane, eagle, raven, pelican, red-tail, bufflehead, goldeneye, teal, and merganser.

Pansexual. Of Pan. A landscape that loves white pine, limber pine, lodgepole, Douglas-fir, blue spruce, aspen, cottonwood, willow, sage, serviceberry, huckleberry, chokecherry, lupine, larkspur, monkshood, steershead, glacier lilies, spring beauties, bistort, and paintbrush.

Pansexual. Of Pan. A landscape where the Bitter-



M. McClure

A mudpot gurgles in Yellowstone

root Valley, the Sawtooths, Tetons, Wind Rivers, and Absarokas loom large in our imaginations — where Henry's Fork, the Clark's Fork, the Snake and the Missouri nourish us, refresh us, and revive our souls. Wild rivers run through our veins.

It is time for us to take off our masks, to step out from behind our personas — whatever they might be: educators, activists, biologists, geologists, writers, farmers, ranchers, and bureaucrats — and admit we are lovers, engaged in an Erotics of Place. Loving the land. Honoring its mysteries. Acknowledging, embracing the spirit of place — there is nothing more legitimate and there is nothing more true.

That is why we are here. It is why we do what we do. There is nothing intellectual about it. We love the land. It is a primal, current affair.

Pagans? Perhaps.

Involved in an Erotics of Place? Most definitely.

There are rituals along the way. Doug Peacock writes in *Grizzly Years*:

Before leaving for Bitter Creek, I had one more job to do: hide the head of the bull bison, which died in the open. If the Park Service discovers the head, rangers with sledgehammers are sent to smash the skull to pieces. This is to protect the bones from horn and head hunters, who spot the skull — perhaps from a helicopter — swoop down, pluck it up, and sell it to buyers who grind up every last piece of bone and antler for sale on the Asian market as an aphrodisiac.

Late in the morning, I packed up for Bitter Creek wondering where I should hide the bull buffalo head. He should have stayed where he was forever. Barring that, I thought he should rejoin the bull herd of about a dozen bison with which he spent his adult life. I had been looking after this herd for years, and stashed other skulls when bulls died during hard winters. He would join his buddies in a semicircle of four bison skulls facing the rising sun. A mile away, hidden where they would never be discovered, below trees and under the snow, I brought together a ghost herd of bison skulls, decorated with the feathers of crane and eagle, the recipients of bundles of sage and handfuls of earth carried from sacred mountains and offered up in private ceremonies.

Rituals. Ceremonies. Engaging with the land. Loving the land and dreaming it. An Erotics of Place.

Biologist Tim Clark says at the heart of good biology is a central core of imagination. It is the basis for responsible science. And it has everything to do with intimacy, spending time outside.

But we forget because we spend so much time inside — inside offices, inside board rooms, inside universities, inside hearings, inside eating power breakfasts, power lunches, dinners, and drinks.

To protect what we love outside, we are inside scheming, talking, telephoning, writing, granting, faxing memos, memos, memos, memos to them, to us; inside to protect what we love outside. It is self-imposed madness.

Let us get out and love the land. Let us be intimate. The most radical act we can commit is to live well. There is no defense against an open heart and a supple body in dialogue with wildness. Internal strength is an absorption of the external landscape. We are informed by beauty, raw and sensual. Through an Erotics of Place our sensitivity becomes our sensibility.

If we ignore our connection to the land and disregard and deny our relationship to the Pansexual nature of Earth, we will render ourselves impotent as a species. No passion — no hope of survival.

Edward Abbey writes, "Nature may be indifferent to our love, but never unfaithful."

We are a passionate people who are in the process of knowing who we are and what we are connected to. We are learning that the source of our power lies outside ourselves in the land, pure and self-defined.

And it is sensual.

I believe that out of an Erotics of Place, a politics of place is emerging. Not radical. Not conservative. But a politics rooted in empathy where we extend our notion of community to include all life forms — plants, animals, rivers and soils. This business of conservation is a revolution, an evolution of the spirit. We will stand our ground in the places we love.

We call to the land — and the land calls back.

Echo System.

Steam rising. Water boiling. Geysers surging. Mudpots gurgling. Herds breathing. Hooves stampeding. Wings flocking. Sky darkening. Clouds gathering. Rain falling. Rivers raging. Lakes rising. Lightning striking. Trees burning. Thunder clapping. Smoke clearing. Eyes staring. Wolves howling into the Yellowstone.



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