

High Country News

The Outdoor and Environmental Bi-Weekly

Vol. 2, No. 38

Friday, December 18, 1970

Christmas Issue



Photo by Pat Hall

Winter magic, when icy sheaths become jeweled crests.

Citizens speak out...

Oppose Dams on Green

Wyomingites turned out last week to comment on a proposed water development plan for the Green River. They were almost unanimous in speaking out against the environmentally destructive and economically prohibitive proposals.

Conspicuous by their ab-

sence were representatives of the industries which would profit most from transbasin diversion of water from the Green River to the Platte. Not one spokesman arose to say the project was either desirable or feasible.

"Use it or Lose it" was the theme of State Engineer

Floyd Bishop. He told those who attended the hearings that Wyoming must put its water to use by 1980 - or stand to lose it. In the case of the Green River, it would be put to use by people and industries in Arizona and California.

(Please turn to page 16)

Congressman says...

Reverse Decision On Soapholes Land

Congressman Henry S. Reuss has written the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Public Lands, Harrison Loesch, and requested a reversal of his action on desert land entries in Wyoming. The lands involved are along the Green River in Sublette County. The area is commonly known as the Soapholes.

Reuss is chairman of the Conservation and Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations. He wrote the assistant secretary on Dec. 9, "We believe that the Interior Department should vacate the decision of October 8, 1969, as not consistent with its own regulations and notify the Petitioners that the State Director's order is final until the land is classified pursuant to the regular procedures prescribed by the Department's regulations. Please advise us when you take this action."

Ranchers had filed desert land entries and hoped to gain private ownership. The entries were denied by the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming. Through political intercession from Wyoming, the Interior Department reversed the denial of the BLM and said the ranchers could have the public land.

The Wyoming Outdoor Council protested the action

of the Interior Department and appealed to Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel and Congressman Reuss. The Department rejected the appeal.

Reuss criticized the Interior Department for rejecting the findings and recommendations of its only trained personnel in the BLM. He also asked whether the "views and comments of the Fish and Wildlife Service were obtained before vacating the State Director's decision."

Reports of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the BLM show the desert land entries in the Soapholes area to be critical winter range for large deer herds. Findings by the Soil Conservation Service showed much of the land to be unsuitable for cultivation and irrigation. Fears were also expressed that irrigation of the highly alkaline land would result in unwarranted saline pollution of the Green River.

Reuss was severely critical of the Interior Department for classifying the lands for disposal by desert land entry before environmental studies were made. He told Mr. Loesch, "We believe that your Department has failed to recognize that this classification action is not an adversary proceeding. The classification of public lands (Please turn to page 3)

1970 is drawing to an end. The air is filled with Holiday spirit and cheer. The New Year brings forth great expectations.

This is the season for loving your fellow man, and thanking God for his helping hand... in all that you have done, all that you wish to do.

The staff of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS wishes all its readers the Merriest Christmas and the Happiest New Year ever.

This issue concludes the 1970 publishing season. We will resume publication on January 8, 1971.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Within the last few days, I have traveled far and wide across this great state . . . To Pinedale, in the land of the Green River, for hearings on proposed dams for this scenic historic waterway; to Rawlins for a meeting on the vast Red Desert, and to Casper for a final hearing on the Green River development.

It was there in Pinedale that I went to see one of Wyoming's grand old men of conservation. It was he from whom I got much of my inspiration and conviction as a young and aspiring man. And it is to Carroll Noble that I can always go back to renew my faith and regain the strength of my dedication.

The meeting and the parting were sad. For my dear old friend has been dealt a crippling blow. Where once we stood physically, amongst that small band of concerned citizens, and fought battles of land and water and wildlife, now he is with me only in stout spirit.

The assembled crowd sat in the meeting place at Pinedale to hear the discourse on Wyoming's need to dam and divert the Green River. And as I listened in amazement to an aroused citizenry, I could not help but think of Carroll. A life-long resident of the Upper Green River country, he had long since recognized its true worth—undeveloped. He had begun long ago to fight for the now world-famous Bridger Wilderness Area. He had promoted and pushed for a wild and scenic river designation on the Upper Green River. He had cried out in anguish at the exploiting of marginal timber resources in a marvelous setting.

And now he was being vindicated, for his fellow citizens who had once scorned and rejected his philosophy were paying him honor. Not directly, but indirectly, by their statements that the Upper Green River area was far more valuable to them and to their fellow countrymen just as it is.

Some of them were moved only by the threat to their own little domains. But many others who have spent their lives in the area, and others who came to lead simpler lives in this magnificent setting, were speaking from the heart. They spoke in the style and the manner of Carroll Noble.

I sat in the back row to listen and to observe at the first meeting of the Red Desert Study Committee. These were men, gathered at Rawlins on one edge of this rich, natural area, to discuss its fate. How shall it be managed in the best interest of all people?

And I could not help but recall a journey to Washington only a few short years ago. Senator Gale McGee had obtained an audience with then Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall for Carroll and I. We went to plead the case for an open and unrestricted range for pronghorn antelope and wild horses. It was an old story to Carroll. He had fought for the rights and welfare of wild horses on the desert before. He and others had worked for legislation to prevent the herding, harassing and capturing of wild horses by means of aircraft or ground vehicles.

Our pleas were unsuccessful. Special interests, afraid they might lose an advantage, were quietly at work throughout the West. Our project was lost in a greater political machination involving land ownership and management, grazing fees, and others. We may yet have our day in the people's court.

As I sit and write, I am listening to WILDLIFE SERENADE. The bugling of bull elk, the trumpeting of great, white swans, and the chorusing of coyotes ring out. A WILDLIFE SERENADE is an authentic recording of sights and sounds in Grand Teton Country. These thrilling sounds are out of the pages of history when colorful mountain men came to harvest the furs.

Carroll Noble was literally born into this historic time. His life has spanned much of the Old West, not too much different from that of the mountain men. But while his physical life has been spent in this past era, his spiritual life is far ahead of his time. Only now are his contemporaries coming to appreciate what he has long observed.

I am humbled to have been included in this great man's endeavors. I am proud to be numbered amongst his circle of friends.



Wrapped in ermine robes of winter, the Tetons are as majestic as during those heady days of summer.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

Since the demise of the Jackson Hole Villager, I find myself the subscriber to High Country News, much to my delight. Because I have moved, please change my address. Do let me know when the subscription is about to expire, as I most certainly want to continue to receive HCN.

High Country News is much more interesting to me than the Villager. This is not to imply that the Villager did not have appeal. It most certainly did, and all of us enjoyed it thoroughly. But High Country News is far better, and I will try to tell you why.

The quality of your photographs is excellent. I know very little about how a newspaper is printed, but I do know you can have a fine screen or a coarse one. You use a fine screen, so, of course, the photographs are extremely clear. I feel this is very important for a newspaper that specializes in outdoor life. What better way to describe it than to show it clearly. But, you do more

than that.

You have a staff of great journalists, who have the ability to set down on paper the feelings of people who like the outdoors. When the facts are the important thing, such as the Glenwood Canyon dilemma, you give the facts. But when feelings and senses are the important thing, your staff gives prime importance to them, in a style that has sadly vanished from cold, big-city journalism. News paper syndicates and chains could learn much from HCN.

I read every word by Tom Bell. I happen to like his style, and admire his ability to paint vivid pictures with words. But not long ago, a female member of your staff wrote about forsaking putting up storm windows for a leisurely roam of the outdoors before winter filled the air. This article captured the imagination of other members of the family, including one who last visited Lander in 1920. Then, as now, you are the western terminus of the C&NW Railroad, and, in the summer of 1920, the end-of-track was occupied by a private railroad car. One of the occupants, my Mother, is an avid reader of HCN.

Thank you for keeping us in touch with the Rocky Mountain West throughout the year. Kindly change the mailing address as indicated above, and let me know when I should renew my subscription.

Very truly yours,
H. E. Price
Miami Shores, Florida

Editor's Note: All of us here on the staff greatly appreciate your most kind words. I guess if there were any way to express our feelings about how we write, it would be that we believe in what we are doing. We don't feel our newspaper is a masterpiece of journalism - we hope to do better. But whatever we do, we will certainly try to keep the homely touch and give vent to our true feelings. We look

forward to bringing you enjoyment of our great West, and other areas of interest.

Gentlemen:

Reference your issue of Nov. 20th with all the articles on snowmobiling; I should like to make a few comments.

Considering the noise these machines make, I have serious doubts the operators ever see any wild game. They are bound to have scared them all away.

Personally, I consider riding a noisy snowmobile a strange way to enjoy the solitude of the wilderness areas of our national parks and forests.

So now I hope you will devote some space in future issues to snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. These two activities will take you over any depth of snow (no plowing is needed) anywhere and one can go through many more interesting areas where no snowmobiler can follow.

In short, please feature snowshoeing and cross-country skiing for people who really love the West and its wilderness areas.

Sincerely,
Edward R. Ettlinger
Highland Park, Ill.

Editor's Note: We can certainly agree that snow machines are a noisy bane in the back-country areas where snowshoers and cross-country skiers go for solitude. Snow machines in the hands of a few have also caused serious trouble in game wintering areas, and during hunting seasons. However, most snowmobilers we know are responsible, legitimate users of our open spaces. They enjoy areas now available to them that were an impossibility only a few years ago. Snow machines have opened up a whole new world of winter adventure for a multitude of good people. They are also concerned with those who act irresponsibly and who are bringing mounting criticism (Continued on page 3)

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Guest Editorial



Man VERSUS environment? - or Man WITH environment?

by Lawrence Higby

The problem of man in relation to environment is encountered in many diverse settings. The case in point involves modern technology VS environment. Instead of cooperating WITH environment, man has gone against.

I have just traveled the new interstate highway, 1-80, between Walcott Junction and Laramie. This new piece of highway cuts many miles from the Laramie-Rawlins route. It also takes many acres of land which is fenced with antelope-tight fence (NOT game-tight, so the traffic hazard still exists). It also costs millions upon millions of taxpayer's money.

I can well imagine the armchair planners looking over their maps and self-righteously ridiculing the original routing of the old road and the Union Pacific railroad. These take a long loop, 20 miles and more to the north and adding many miles to the trip. Now I enjoy maps. A good topographic map of an interesting piece of country is only a little less thrilling reading than a racy novel, to me. I can well imagine the processes by which these armchair planners checked their maps and found a much more direct route—seemingly practical in terms of topography. However, a thorough investigation of such an expensive and significant project should surely include such things as WHY the old timers, with slow, difficult transportation, went so far out of their way. This information would lead to obvious ADDITIONAL factors which should be considered over and above the topography. A cursory examination of well documented Wyoming history would have given the answer—as would the simplest questioning of local residents. As a matter of fact, they didn't even have to ask. Every resident volunteered vociferously and voluminously why this road would not work in winter. I have just observed first hand why this is one of the most expensive mistakes of our current Wyoming times.

WHY did the Union Pacific R. R. and all the old timers go so far around? The answer is simple—winter weather. It is said that Wyoming has two seasons—August and winter, so this leaves a pretty short using season. The old route follows the middle of the valley, at the furthest point from the wind-blown, storm-pounded Elk Mountain-Medicine Bow Forest area. Even it is ferocious in the winter storms.

Why did the engineers and planners choose to ignore this obvious fact? First, the subconscious feeling of superiority. Man with his modern technology and equipment is superior to the environment, and can therefore act in OPPOSITION to the environment. Now, obviously

this can be done on lesser things—a small hill, or even a large river. But JUDGEMENT is that composite process by which all factors are weighed and workable compromise decision reached.

This particular decision is not workable. Therefore, very poor judgement is indicated.

Why do I offer this harsh opinion? Because right now, in only late November, with almost NO winter yet by local standards, this road was almost closed. Many cars and even large trucks were stalled and off the road. Numerous pieces of snow removal equipment were working feverishly. The underpasses, which are the lifeline to the local residents—both 2 and 4-legged—were drifting in as fast as heavy equipment could remove the snow. This condition will become impossible. In a short time, there will be no more room to put the snow pushed out—and no room in many cases for rotary plows.

I, along with many other old Carbon County residents, had offered dire predictions when I first heard about this route. It's debut was even worse than my worst fears. Laramie residents offered even worse reports, that the road has been closed "More than it's been open" even in the short month or so it has been opened! Even if exaggerated, it seems that accurate statistics would show a dismal record—and with real winter not yet upon us!

What is the serious factor in the weather which cannot be dealt with by even the most modern technology? ...WIND and drifting snow. So, "Modern equipment IS available?" What good is it if visibility makes the front of a car invisible from the windshield? Or what good is it if huge drifts fill in so close behind the equipment that traffic is stopped only minutes after the plow has passed? Just getting this fabulous equipment through doesn't help much.

Small matter that the cuts through the hills seem to me to be poorly planned—worse snow planning than on older roads. Or that the grades and hills climbed seem worse than necessary: for example, a short detour through Rattlesnake Pass would have eliminated much hill climbing, & NO worse weather. I am not an engineer, and perhaps THOSE reasons are valid.

The larger error in judgement of the environment is glaringly obvious to the greenest traveler.

Even worse, ADEQUATE WARNING HAS BEEN RECEIVED REPEATEDLY.

The dangers of "bucking" the environment instead of cooperating WITH it, in this particular context, are evident in previous mistakes. The complications of Beaver Rim Road between Lander

and Rawlins are well known—tho the snow conditions there are a fraction of the Elk Mountain conditions. Avalanche bridge over the Glory slide on Teton pass is a classic fiasco.

WHY haven't these "educated, qualified" planners learned their lesson? The environment has been exerting its force since the beginning of time. It is inevitable that an exaggerated feeling of omnipotent importance, which leads to ignoring and combatting the environment, will lead to tragedy. Real JUDGEMENT is demanded.

The sequel? I returned via the OLD highway, which is BAD in dead winter, and there was not one speck of snow, ice, slush or moisture!

The lesson? An expenditure of countless millions of TAXPAYERS money, and of time-loss, equipment and property loss, not to mention the potential of many lives.

The answer? This will have to be a summertime road—and it is a beauty.

JUDGEMENT? We must speak out and force our public officials to be accountable for their actions. They must apply judgement before using the public and the environment for guinea pigs. In the meantime, the antelope and local residents, both of whom have learned to cooperate with their environment, are stranded—cut off by a fabulous monstrosity buried in snow.

Soapholes...

is discretionary. In exercising this authority, the Interior Department has the responsibility, indeed, the duty, to develop an adequate record upon which to make a decision. The lands and the resources thereon are the public's. Once disposed of, they are lost forever to the public. When local BLM officials or, for that matter, any person assert that adverse environmental effects will result from a classification action, we believe that Washington officials, far removed from the problem, have a duty to at least investigate the assertions and not ignore or dismiss them out-of-hand. If, as you assert, the record is not definitive enough about the wildlife impact or the pollution effect, then we believe it is incumbent on the Department to improve the record in order to resolve the issue. Moreover, to disregard the potential adverse pollution effects simply on the ground that the State fish and game agency would be "deeply sensitive" to this issue abrogates your statutory duty and responsibility to ascertain the facts from the State water pollution control agency and the Federal Water Quality Administration who should be even more "deeply sensitive" to this issue."

Photo by Del Owens

High Country News—3
Friday, December 18, 1970



Winter snows softly remold the mountain features of the Snowy Range in southeastern Wyoming. These are part of the Medicine Bow Range.

Letters...

of the overuse of these machines. So legislation is being promoted to protect the interests of the innocent and curb those who would ruin the sport for all. There are also areas in which snow machines are being restricted for one reason or another.

We certainly are advocates of the wilderness philosophy with its quiet, solitude and unmarred beauty. In fact, we are often accused by some of being too zealous and wanting to "lock up" the country so machines of any kind cannot be used.

Somewhere in between is a happy medium where ear-splitting snowmachine activities can proceed day or night, and where, far removed, the snowshoer can proceed unmolested in his personal enjoyment.

No one on our staff owns a snowmobile. (We couldn't afford it if we did want one.) But we do not deny our many, responsible snowmobiling friends their chance to enjoy some of our vast country -- winter or summer.

We do want to feature more articles and issues on snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, backpacking, canoeing, and other activities where man is not dependent on machines. We would welcome personal interest stories and articles, preferably with some photos, on these activities.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed, please find my check for two subscriptions to High Country News.

The value of your newspaper to the cause of conservation in Wyoming is great. The potential, I am sure you are aware, is even greater when one considers

that many Wyoming residents are not aware of your existence. I hope this unfortunate situation can be corrected in the near future, before it is too late. If I can be of assistance in this regard, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Bill D. Thyrt
Cheyenne

Editor's Note: Thank you for your kind words. We hope to someday be THE voice of conservation and the environment in the Rocky Mountain Region. In the meantime, you can help us. We need many more readers so we can build our circulation and thereby get more advertising to pay our costs.

Editor:


In your newspaper, you often refer to a magazine, "Wyoming Wildlife," which is available through your state department of conservation. Can you give me the place I would write to subscribe, and also the subscription rate? Thanking you in advance, I am.

Miss Sharon Ann Letz
239 South 68th St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214

Editor's Note: WYOMING WILDLIFE is an exceptionally well done, monthly publication of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. For Miss Letz and our other readers who might be interested in the magazine, write Wyoming Wildlife, Box 1589, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001. The subscription rate is \$2.00 per year, or \$5.00 for three years.

(Please turn to page 4)

*Christmas
Joy*



May all the good
of this holiday season
be yours...
yours to have,
yours to share.

Pinedale,
Wyoming

Paul Allen, Realtor



Photo by Jim Tallon

Letters...

Editor:

"Ah, the inconsistency of Man!"

In one of your recent issues I read with loud "hurrahs" the story by Marge Higley on paper pollution. Great! I cheered. Now we're getting somewhere on this paper over-population.

So I, too, joined the paper pollution parade. Sure, the salespeople have been looking askance at me when I say "Don't wrap it, I'll take it like that" . . . "Don't put it in a sack, I'll take it like it is!" But I've been working on this paper pollution problem.

However, suddenly this evening I realized the truth of the "inconsistency" bit. Therefore, I'm returning the sack in which Mother received her latest "High Country News"!

Couldn't the paper be rolled--or just folded--or something?

It's a great paper, anyway. It's the best, most involved environmental newspaper I've seen. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Marie H. Harrison

Editor's Note: 'Nuff said! You've made a telling point. However, postal regulations require some kind of covering

for all newspapers mailed outside of the state. All of our Wyoming readers receive a plain paper, without wrap or sack. We will try to do something about the other.

Editor:

We have a vacation every time the paper arrives.

Charles A. Patrick
Macomb, Ill.

Editor:

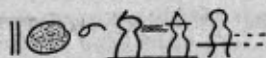
In your November 20 issue, Verne Huser's column "The Wild World", in which he states "Persecution of predators is big business in Wyoming, especially among sheepmen", was a perfect rebuttal to the article on page 5 titled "Coyote Control Program Announced". The level of the people sponsoring this ecological obscenity is well brought out by two statements of the "program coordinator". Although "the contest is designed for sportsmen using sporting methods of hunting", we read a few paragraphs later that "coyote hunters can use snowmobiles or airplanes to run the animals down". I just can't think of a more "sporting" way to get one's perverted jollies than mowing down defenseless creatures from an airplane.

If the good ranchers of Sweetwater County succeed

in decimating their coyote population, it would be ecological justice to have the county's range land ruined by rodents. Or, how about a rodent-borne plague?

Sincerely,
Robert C. Michael
Box 369
Questa, N. M.

Editor's Note: Thanks for your comments. We hoped some of our readers would note the disparity between the two articles.



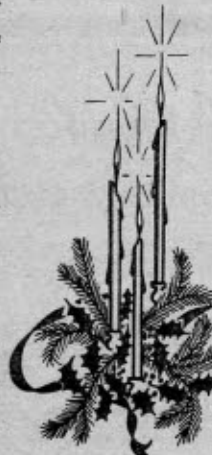
Oregon Wants Scenic Rivers

Oregon citizens recently voted 2 to 1 for a Scenic Waterways Bill. The bill will limit developments on all of the Minam River and parts of the Rogue, Owyhee, Illinois, Deschutes, and John Day Rivers. Other rivers may be added by the governor.

The November election also saw the Oregonians reject a proposal to limit land zoning. The zoning measure would have required elections before any area could be zoned. In effect, it will mean that after Jan. 1, 1972, the governor can zone any county that has not been zoned.

Seasons Greetings

We're all aglow with hopes of holiday enjoyment for our friends and patrons. Our "Thank You" is warm and sincere—Serving you is our pleasure.



HUSKY Super Stop
South of Lander Wyoming on Highway 287

Outdoors Omnibus

by
Jim Tallon



RESOLUTE ABOUT RESOLUTIONS

Ordinarily, I never make New Year's resolutions. But this season I'm taking on a set of what might be called "outdoor resolutions." And I plan to make every effort to adhere to them. However, to do that I am limiting the number of said resolutions to one-half dozen, and that is five more than I can concentrate on at any one time. So here's hoping.

First of all, I promise faithfully that : I WILL TRY NOT TO MAKE ANY FUTURE PARTYBOAT SKIPPERS AND PARTYBOAT SECOND SKIPPERS MAD AT ME. This in itself will prove quite an undertaking since most -- not all mind you, just most -- seem perpetually mad, and you can't always find what they're mad about. However, I've found that just the sight of light tackle causes many a skipper to want to chew up the mizzenmast in anger. I believe the thinking here is that a meat fisherman is a happy fisherman. So, for a starting place I'll leave my light saltwater gear at home. As restitution should I waver from the resolution, I hereby promise that I will write, "I will never again bring any reel smaller than a 5/0, or a rod that bends, or any line lighter than 90-pound test aboard this boat," on the boat's blackboard 100 times, if the skipper doesn't mind me erasing the up-to-the-minute fish count.

Speaking of numbers, resolution two is a promise for personal safety. I WILL NOT FISH WITH A STRANGER UNTIL I HAVE SEEN HIS BACKCAST 1,000 TIMES. Even with my staunch standard like that, he'll probably hook me on the 1,001st cast, as everyone gets me sooner or later. I have been stabbed more times than a dartboard in an Irish pub. I have had my clothing ripped and shredded. I have had new fishing hats snagged and yanked overboard, never to be seen again. I have had rods jerked out of my hands. I have had it! It doesn't matter, fly, plug, spinner, even baited hooks have been buried in my . . . often embarrassing places.

For resolution number three, another safety factor: I PROMISE I WILL NOT GO SHOTGUNNING WITH PARTIES OF MORE THAN THREE HUNTERS, COUNTING MYSELF. You see, it seems the fourth hunter never knows where I'm working. Spent shot falls on me, or suddenly an opening is blown in the horseweeds in front of me, or hunter number four fires both barrels so I can get full benefit of the muzzle-blast and my ears ring for the next several hours. Worse of all, everyone in the parties get to play the fourth-hunter role, except me. I do wish they would include me as it should ease the tension while expecting a load of number 7 1/2's in the back.

Resolution number four: I WILL NOT LET A FISHING BUDDY NET MY FISH WHEN WE HAVE A BET GOING. This is self-explanatory. But let me comment that I have figured out how several fishing compadres get a reputation for being superior fishermen . . . at least when you compare them with the anglers whose fish they net.

Number five is pretty clear, too: I WILL NOT PITCH MY SLEEPING BAG CLOSER THAN 20 FEET TO A CAMPFIRE. Late last fall I loaned my heavy bag and in turn had to borrow one for a campout. I mean, a \$60 bag. Two fellow campers were to catch up with us on the second night so I built a pitchy-pine, popping big campfire which served primarily to pinpoint our location in the woods. The fire cracked merrily. A glow appeared about waist-level from inside the bag. I spotted it because I had my head in out of the cold and though foggy, I had my eyes open. But in the half-sleep mental state, it took a couple of minutes for what was happening to sink in. Fortunately, my canteen was stashed near the bag and I doused out the hot ember, leaving a neat, blackedged hole about the size of a silver dollar in the borrowed, expensive sleeping bag.

My final resolution for 1971 is : I PROMISE NOT TO USE FISH STRINGERS ON LONG NYLON CORDS UNLESS THEY ARE TIED SHORT. One day last summer I trout-fished with an expeditor who wastes no time on the job and none fishing, either. He cranked up his start, high-horsepowered outboard and shot the gas to it all in one motion. About the eighth performance I didn't get my long-corded stringer into the boat fast enough. Five, lovely, large rainbows met a fate worse than hamburger . . . in the prop.

Now that I look back on these resolutions, with the exception of number one, I won't have to work very hard to keep them. I've a bunch of faces permanently ingrained in my feeble memory to remind me. I shouldn't have said that. Now, I'm wondering if my ingrained face has caused anybody to make New Year's resolutions.

Omnibus Bill Under Fire

Senator Frank Church (D-Idaho) says he intends to introduce legislation which will eliminate the "pork barrel" system for the Corps of Engineers. He wants to dismantle the omnibus rivers and harbors bills. Church says he thinks each project of the Corps should

be considered separately and on its own merits. By doing so, he thinks many of the questionable projects would come under closer scrutiny. It would also force a closer look at environmental problems posed by many projects.

Thoughts from the Distaff Corner

by Norma R. Hentges

PEACE

Greetings, from the heart of the forest, where all is quiet and the creeks are still. The snow lays heavy on the pine bows and the benediction of the forest joins in silent prayer with the snow-blanketed mountains. Here, nature gives forth tranquility and makes all earth a garden.

Though all else changes, Christmas remains. Memories run heavy back to the Christmas' of my Childhood. The open hearth with the glowing fire. The family Bible next to the kerosene lamp, both sitting on a red and white gingham table cloth. The huge, freshly cut, pine tree, decorated with strings of popcorn and cranberrys, then lighted with candles.

Then, as now, we gave thanks for the birth of the Christ child and for the gifts so precious to our life: health, happiness and friendship. Like our Indian brothers we gave thanks too, for earth, sky and the Great Spirit.

As we go from this year into the next, we will vow to hold all the things precious to us with reverence and to keep them free and clean.

None of us travels this path alone, we are all held, one to another, by a destiny called Brotherhood. To all my fellow man: may PEACE be the gift God grants to you this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Bicycling Gains Advocates Each Year

More than 63 million Americans are riding bikes this year, according to the latest figures from the Bicycle Institute of America.

Cycling fans have found that it is easy to become part of the outside world on a bicycle, noticing things they missed as they whizzed by in a car—simple things like children eating sticky candy, squirrels in trees, paint-peeling houses and the smell of new mown grass.

In South Dakota a small group of men, women and children who meet semi-monthly have found their happiness on bicycles. Organized as the Dakota Hostlers they ride some 25 miles at every meeting.

As Hostler President Bill Carlson puts it, "I love to get outdoors and move at my own speed, away from the big trucks and fast automobiles." Carlson, an August graduate of the University of South Dakota, frequently attends bicycling events in other states. At the second annual centurion ride (100 miles) in Rochester, Minn., Carlson was beat out (six miles!) by another Dakota Hostler—a 62-year-old cyclist.

Sioux Falls jeweler, Vern Kruse, is Dakota Hostler's Vice-President. He enjoys riding but is more excited about the 15 pounds he lost and the other 20 he "redistributed."

"Bicycling is great for the middle-aged spread," Kruse says. "Besides that, it's a family sport."

Kruse has ridden 350 miles to Wisconsin twice. He and his wife Emily take their bicycling seriously, as do most Dakota Hostlers. They ride to work daily and take their younger children on Hostler rides. Cycling to work posed some problems for the Kruses but they quickly found solutions. Mrs. Kruse wears slacks to ride and changes at work. He leaves a dress coat

at work. Although it isn't essential, most Hostlers own professional bikes with 10-15 speeds and "rat traps," a metal contraption that encircles the toes so the cyclist pedals up as well as down.

"A serious cyclist does not own a girl's bike," Kruse says. "They are not as solid because the triangular build is ruined."

In existence less than a year, the Dakota Hostlers is affiliated with the American Youth Hostel Association (AYH), an expanding organization composed of people interested in traveling "under their own steam"

AYH membership means a lot to the avid bicyclist. Among other benefits, it offers at minimum cost, companionship and information.

Each AYH member is welcome at nearly 100 hostels in the United States. At any one of the hostels he may bed down for under \$2 nightly. These "bicycle hotels" vary from an old farm house with volunteer house parents to modern complexes. The essential ingredients are boys and girls dorms and a common room.

All the hostler needs is a sleep sack, a membership card, eating utensils and the willingness to do one small housekeeping chore nightly. A sleep sack is easily made from a sheet and pillowcase and is necessary to protect the blankets for the next traveler's use.

Although North America is a bit behind Europe, AYH's membership in the U.S. — has nearly tripled since 1959 and the Association is now working for the development of three cross-country hostel chains. Strategically placed hostels, about 300 miles apart, will form links in a three-tiered network of hostels.



Environmental Act in Action

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 is beginning to flex its muscles according to the Wildlife Management Institute. In a landmark decision, a federal judge in Arizona has issued a preliminary injunction halting vegetation clearance along the Gila River by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The decision is the first handed down against a federal agency under the much ignored act.

The project would involve clearing about 3,100 acres of trees and brush from about 54 miles of river banks. Similar vegetation clearance of dubious value reportedly is proposed for some 2,000 miles of streams in the Gila system. Conservationists say the action would destroy critical wildlife habitat.

U. S. District Court Judge James A. Walsh ruled that the Corps was obliged by the act to study possible environmental effects of the project and submit its findings and alternative plans designed to minimize damage for review by the Council on Environmental Quality. The

Corps argued that the 1969 act does not apply to the project. Many conservationists replied that it was Congress' intent in passing the act to have it apply to all federal programs which effect environmental quality. The Gila River decision supports this view.

Environment Gets Lawyer

The American Trial Lawyers Association has named a Cheyenne lawyer, Arthur L. Garfield, to direct a state-wide legal campaign against environmental violations in Wyoming.

The association has requested the lawyer to find out how willing state and other public officials are to sponsor or support legislation on environmental matters.

The information will be made available to the public.

When contacted in Cheyenne, Garfield said he was new at the game but wanted to learn. He said he had already had one environmental matter in Rawlins called to his attention. He welcomes any information on environmental problems.

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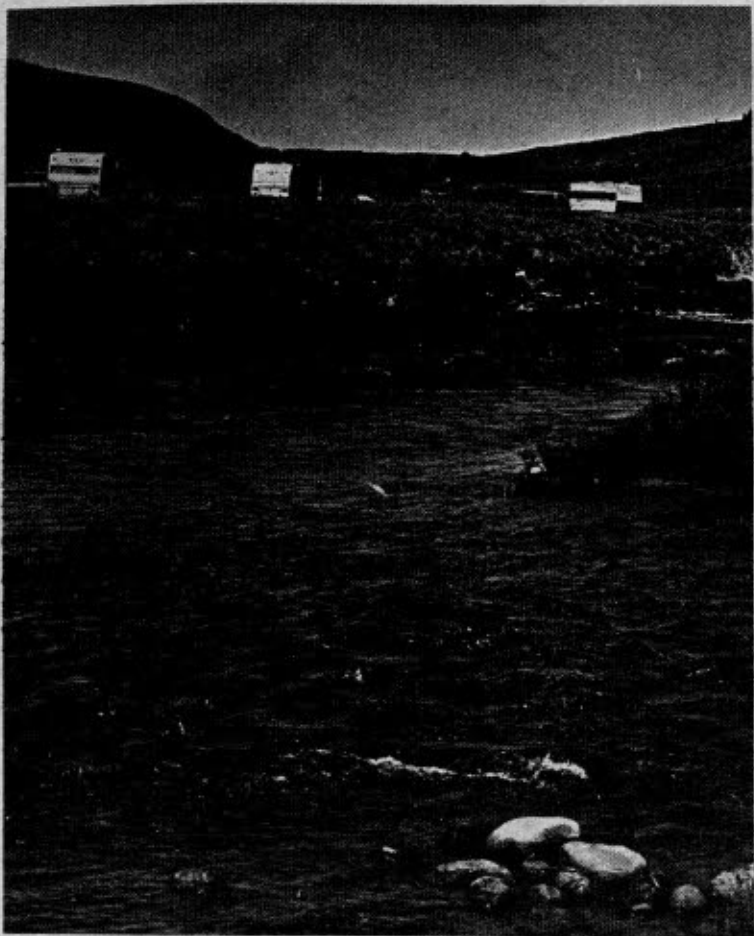
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WYOMING OUTDOORS

Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, Inc.



Wyoming's Upper Green River is a mecca for thousands of recreationists. This stretch of the Green River would be inundated by waters at the head of a proposed, 25-mile long reservoir. This blue-ribbon trout stream is considered to be a top candidate for one of the nation's scenic river designations.

League of Women Voters Comment on Proposal

The following statement was prepared by the League of Women Voters of Wyoming in response to a request for comments by the Wyoming State Engineer's Office. This is the first of a series of statements which will be reprinted for the benefit of our readers. Those already in hand are in opposition to, or are critical of, the development plans and alternatives as presented in the report, "Water and Related Land Resources of the Green River Basin, Wyoming."

In future issues, additional statements will be presented. Opportunity will be afforded those favoring development if they wish to present statements to the editors.

By Mrs. William Maxwell, President, Cheyenne

The League of Women Voters of Wyoming welcomes this opportunity to comment on the final report of the State Water Planning Program on their studies and proposals for water resources development in the Green River Basin. We commend them for arranging meetings to hear the public view. Because of study and action on water resources since 1956, League members have become aware of the many alternatives presented to the governmental agencies, the scientific community and the concerned citizen on water resources planning. The League has searched for ways of identifying all values of water before making any final decisions on water development plans. The League of Women Voters of Wyoming is now studying available information on alternatives and choices of State water planning. We would like to comment on some of the concepts that the League is utilizing in its study which may be pertinent to those judging the State Water Plan for the Green River Basin.

1. There is an increasing awareness among our members of the relationship between total environment and water resources development and

management, a concept along with all alternatives. Because of the involvement of interstate waters in the Green River Basin, we would hope that the State would pay special attention to the effect of any decisions on water quality.

2. The League feels that now is the time to develop new ways to evaluate water resource projects. Mrs. Donald Clusen, Vice President and Environmental Quality Chairman, League of Women Voters of the United States, in her statement to the National Water Commission, said, "Economic efficiency is no longer acceptable as the sole measure. If the cost/benefit system is retained, more value on the cost side should be assigned for benefits foregone and aesthetic values lost when projects are constructed. There is both a national interest and local-state-regional interests in developing rivers vs. leaving them in their natural state. Enhancing the nation's material wealth may be of lesser importance than fulfilling the desires of the people of the nation; enriching entrepreneurs may be of less importance than preserving irreplaceable aesthetic and recreational values for the public en-

joyment."

There is a great interest shown by citizens of Wyoming and other States in the Wild and Scenic Rivers category for the Upper Green River. Due to the recent authorized study of the Upper Green as a scenic river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, this neglected alternative in the State Report should be considered along with other plans for water development. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the federal agency doing the study, should be included in all State planning efforts.

3. In your recommendations, you proposed the need for development of goals and economic feasibility studies. We see the need for clarification by the State on these points: a) We would like to have the goals for State development clearly delineated in the near future. It would seem that establishment of these goals is essential for being able to evaluate criteria for their attainment by water development projects. Is water development the only method for attaining these goals? b) Economic feasibility studies are essential for evaluating the possible effects of any project to the State. We should, however, again highly recommend that this information be made available in an easy to understand form to the citizens of Wyoming. They have a right to know who will receive the benefits and who will pay for the costs of any development projects.

4. We have said nationally that the League would like to take the construction agencies out of policy decision making, in other words separate the planning function and the construction function. This might be a consideration of the State when they plan what organization will be given the responsibility to administer the construction of water development projects in Wyoming.

5. Our members feel that in order to be able to evaluate any single river basin development plan, we must consider the total picture. We recommend that the State place highest priority on their own recommendation #1, thus recognizing the interrelationship of Basins and their needs, and completing the total Water Planning Program before any water development plans are authorized or financed for the Green River Basin.

6. Finally, the League of Women Voters of the United States believes that citizen involvement in policy decisions must be increased. Not only must agency personnel and elected officials participate in water resources planning but also the public or the concerned citizens of the State.

"We do not mean by 'the public' the uninformed, uninterested man in the street whom we see being questioned by the polltaker. Between the elected or appointed officials and the unaware citizens are many professional and lay men and

women with sustained interest in water resources and related land use."

We urge the State to consider and utilize the role that non-governmental organizations can play in the "never ending" process of citizen education. The State is again to be commended for holding these public hearings on the Green River Basin and making their report available, for valuable feedback can only come from

the willingness of State agencies to supply information. We have suggested areas where more information is needed to provide an educated public. We hope the State officials through news releases and other means will provide a CONTINUOUS source of information on their water resources planning for stimulus of the evaluation by the citizens of Wyoming.

Wyoming Department Wants Consideration

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission went on record during their December meeting asking for wildlife consideration before projects are launched in development of the Green River Basin.

In a statement prepared by the seven-man commission, they called for careful evaluation of the various projects contained in the water development plan for the Green River and asked that consideration be given to fish and wildlife. In their words, "The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission recognizes that certain projects of this plan would have detrimental impacts on

irreplaceable fish and wildlife resources. Each project should be judged on its own merit and if determined to be in the best public interest then every effort must be made to minimize this impact and to mitigate losses where they cannot be avoided."

In other commission business, the members voted to oppose legislation proposed by the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. The proposed bill would require payment of grazing fees by the Game and Fish Commission for deer and antelope on privately owned lands on an animal unit per month basis.

Montana Department Files For Recreational Water

The Montana Fish and Game Commission has approved a department recommendation to file for rights on unappropriated water on portions of 12 separate streams. When the notices have been duly filed in counties involved, Montana's fish will have their first legal water rights, according to Art Whitney, chief of fisheries for the fish and game department.

Authority to file for minimum stream flows for

fish life, in certain streams, was provided by House Bill 450, sometimes referred to as the "Blue Ribbon Stream Bill". The bill was introduced during the last legislative session by Representative Jim Murphy of Kalispell.

Streams involved include: portions of the Bighole, Blackfoot, Flathead, Gallatin, Madison, Missouri, Smith and Yellowstone Rivers; Big Spring Creek near Lewistown and Rock Creek near Missoula.



Land in the Soapholes area of Wyoming is highly alkaline desert. Irrigation water carries salt into the Green River. The public land shown here is now in contention. Ranchers want it for private irrigation while conservationists say the environmental effects are too great to allow it to go into private hands. (See story from front page.)

Study Says Forest Service Needs Overhaul

The U. S. Forest Service needs a major overhaul which will decrease its emphasis on timber production and permit public participation in decision-making, according to a select faculty committee of the University of Montana.

The committee found the Forest Service preoccupied with timber production, archaic in organization, inadequately staffed and weak in research.

Looking particularly at the Bitterroot National Forest in southwestern Montana the committee found that --

“multiple use management, in fact, does not exist. . .

“Consideration of recreation, watershed, wildlife and grazing appear as afterthoughts . . .

“the management sequence of clearcutting-terracing-planting cannot be justified . . . (and)

“a clear distinction must be made between timber management and timber mining.”

The committee report was released by Senator Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.). He requested last December that an “outside professional group” from the University, which is located in Missoula, make a study and recommendations regarding Forest Service policy.

In remarks prepared for Senate delivery today (Wednesday) Metcalf said:

This is a report which was originated by concerned members of the public and produced by experts at their own expense . . . It focuses upon what had been considered the primary defense of clear-cutting -- economic efficiency. The report disputes the common assumption that clear-cutting, in the way it has been used in the past, is the most profitable method of timber harvesting. It concludes that we are not just dealing with questions of natural beauty, wildlife, and pollution, however important those may be, but with the fundamental processes of forest economics.

“The Forest Service is constantly pressed by the Administration for greater lumber output to meet national needs. Industry pressures for more cutting are enormous. But the agency may be too willing to accede to these pressures ‘from above.’

“I might add that this report embodies the finest example of public interest and involvement in an environmental issue. The people of Montana took the initiative in making their own concerns known; a local newspaper, The Missoulian, printed a series of outstanding articles on the problems, and the faculty members of the University of Montana devoted countless unpaid hours to the study, discussion and analysis of the issue. On behalf of the other members of the Montana Congressional delegation -- Senator Mansfield, Congressman Olsen, Congressman Melcher and myself -- I want to thank the people of Montana who made

this report possible.”

The University committee, headed by Dr. Arnold Bolle, dean of the School of Forestry, said, “It appears inconceivable and incongruous to us that at this time, with the great emphasis on a broad multiple-use approach to our natural resources -- especially those remaining in public ownership -- that any representative group or institution in our society would advocate a dominant-use philosophy with respect to our natural resources.

“Yet it is our judgment that this is precisely what is occurring through the Federal appropriation process, via executive order and in the Public Land Law Review Commission’s report. It would appear to us that at this time any approach to public land management which would de-emphasize a broad

multiple-use philosophy, a broad environmental approach, broad open-access approach, or which would reduce the production of our public land resources in the long run is completely out of step with the interests and desires of the American people. What is needed is a fully funded program of action for quality management of all of our public lands.”

Members of the Select Committee, in addition to Dean Bolle, were:

Richard W. Behan, Associate Professor of Forestry; Gordon Browder, Professor of Sociology; W. Leslie Pengelly, Professor of Wildlife; Thomas Payne, Professor of Political Science; Richard E. Shannon, Professor of Economics, and Robert F. Wambach, Associate Professor of Forestry and Associate Dean.

New Timber Study Slated on Roding

MISSOULA, MONTANA-- Can we log and still have elk in Montana? How do elk react to logging and road building? Will they move out, perhaps never to return? Or will they return shortly after the road builders and loggers leave the forest?

Answers to these and other questions about elk and logging are currently being sought by a team of researchers from the University of Montana, Montana Fish and Game Department, and the USDA Forest Service. The answers to these questions will be important to Montana’s elk hunters and loggers alike--for they will provide the information needed to make elk management and timber harvesting as compatible as possible.

In Montana, forested public lands provide a significant part of the year-round habitat required by elk. These forested lands are managed to provide a variety of benefits to people including grazing, timber harvesting (logging), wildlife, recreation, and water. Sometimes conflicts develop between the uses. During the past 4 or 5 years, land managers, sportsmen, and wildlife biologists in Montana and other western states have become increasingly concerned about the possible adverse effects of logging, road building, and increased access upon elk populations.

To provide sound, well-documented evidence, a long-term study was started last summer to evaluate the effects of logging and roads upon the food, cover, and behavior of elk. A steering committee has been established to assure the financing and continuity of the study. Committee members are Howard Foulger, Chief, Division of Range and Wildlife Management, USDA Forest Service, Missoula, as chairman; Dr. Robert F. Wambach, Associate Dean,

Forestry School, University of Montana, Missoula; Wynn Freeman, Chief of Game Management, Montana Fish and Game Department, Helena; and Dr. James P. Blaisdell, Assistant Director, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah.

The actual studies are being directed by a Research Committee headed by Gene Allen, Fish and Game Department, Bozeman. Others on the committee are Dr. Robert Ream, University of Montana; Dr. L. Jack Lyon, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Missoula; and Jack Schmutz, Forest Service, Missoula.

A variety of studies and methods are being used to obtain the necessary information. In some areas, elk are being tapped and equipped with small radio transmitters. After release, their locations can be determined by sound and aerial tracking. In other areas, special surveys of unlogged areas were made last summer to determine the present behavior, productivity, distribution, and vegetation types used by elk. Later, after logging has been completed, these surveys will be repeated to determine any changes in elk behavior that may have occurred. At specially located checking stations, hunters are being questioned about the details of their hunt to determine what effect increased access has had on hunter behavior and elk harvests.

From these studies, the researchers hope to determine and describe the seasonal environmental requirements of elk, especially the type of cover required by elk during the hunting season. They also hope to determine the influence of roads, logging, and people in modifying the environment and behavior of

(Please turn to page 13.)



Clear-cut timbering and the roads needed to get the timber out make irrevocable changes in vast areas of the national forests. Recent studies question both the economic and environmental costs of such timbering. These photos are of the Fish Creek area on the Teton National Forest, Wyoming.



Area of Action Green River

The State of Wyoming wants comments on its plans for development of the Green River and transbasin diversion of water from the Green River to the Platte River. Those plans are reported in some detail in this issue of the paper. It is imperative that people make their wishes known. It is especially important for Wyoming people to comment. Dams on the Green River and diversion projects will have enormous impacts on the environment. Economic costs to taxpayers for state-wide bonding could be substantial. Send your comments before Jan. 15, 1971, to Frank Trelease, Jr., Water Planning Program, State Engineer’s Office, State Office Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

Salmon River

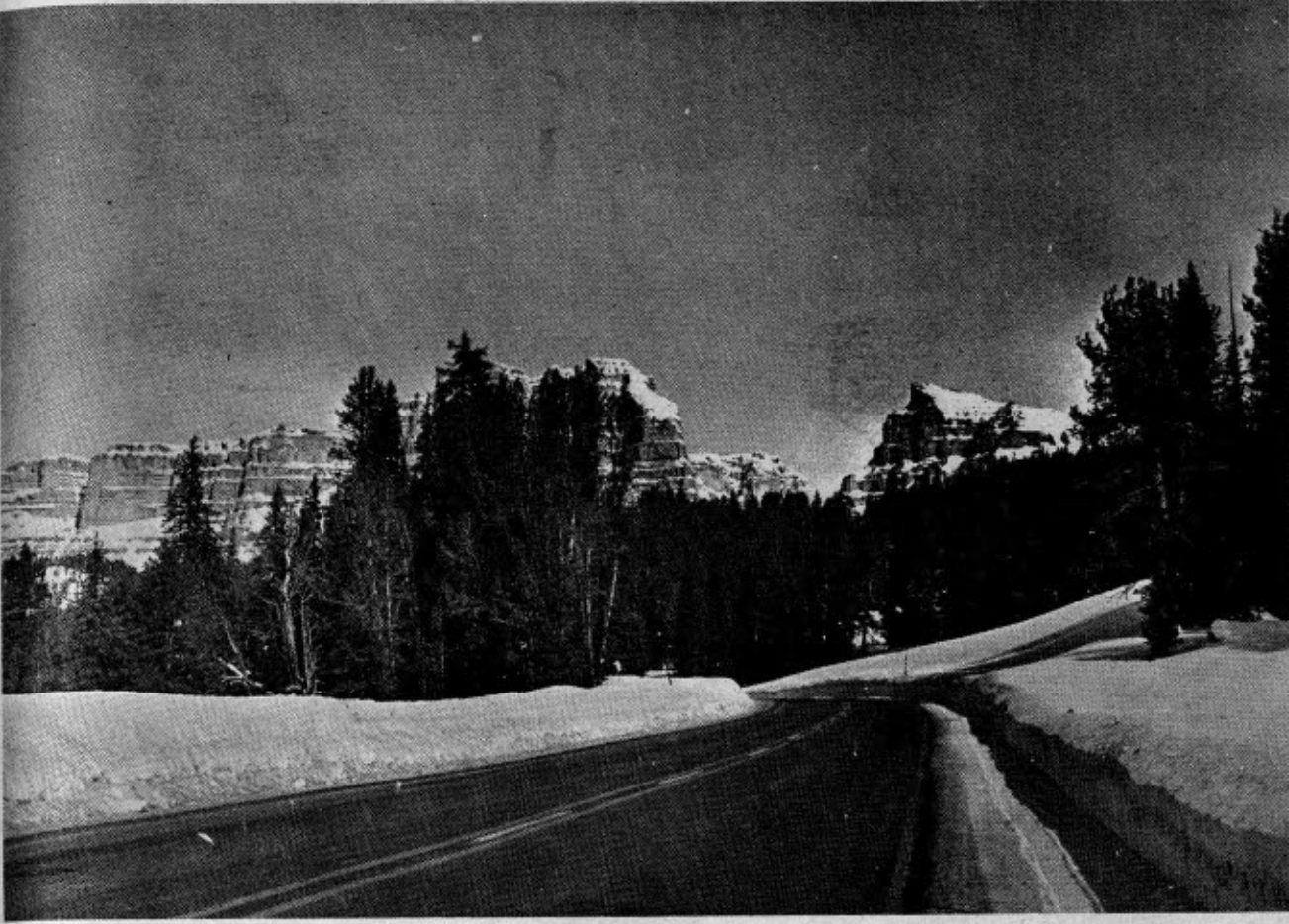
The U. S. Forest Service would like to have public comment on developing management plans for the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Management of this wild river may set the tone for others to be designated in the future. Write to Wes Carlson, Supervisor, Challis National Forest, Challis, Idaho 83226.

Water Pollution

Citizens can help clean up the nation’s waters. If you are concerned, follow the steps outlined here:

- (1) If you think there is pollution emanating from sewage, then you can take a sample in a sterilized quart glass jar to a college or high school and see if they will run a coliform test. If the coliform test results in counts in excess of 2,400 in 100 c.c. of water, then the water is polluted. If you can see solid sewage in the water, then it is polluted. You should photograph the discharge point.
- (2) If you think the water is polluted by industrial wastes, then take a sample home and place a goldfish in it. If the goldfish dies, the water is polluted. There are more complicated ways to discern the chemicals, but this is an effective and quick method of determining pollution.
- (3) A report of any pollution together with all pertinent information, should be made to the nearest office of the Army Corps of Engineers and/or the United States Coast Guard and/or United States Attorney’s Office. A copy of the information furnished should be retained by you.





WINTER

SCENE



Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

If angels now should (lo!) appear
To sing Christmas songs down here,
The smog and smoke
Would make them choke!
What's happened to "Midnight Clear?"

Top water officials of both the United States and Canada believe water will someday flow from the north to the arid regions of the U.S. The topic was recently discussed at the National Water Resources Association annual meeting at Las Vegas. Most discussion of moving the water involves its transfer from Canada into the Colorado River.

Dr. Gilbert G. Eade, speaking before the Washington State Medical Association, said air pollution not only has an adverse effect on environment but also can change the weather. Dr. Eade said air pollution from pulp and paper mills in the Puget Sound has increased rainfall from 10 to 30 per cent.

Montana's air pollution control director has said that state should spend more than twice as much as it has been on its clean air program. Benjamin F. Wake said the National Air Pollution Control Administration indicates Montana's total expenditure (including federal funds) should be \$281,000 with a staff of 35, including local people.

Two Oregon state senators have urged the imposition of a license fee on polluters. They suggested as examples that a lumber mill owner might be required to pay \$5,000 a year, and a farmer might be licensed at \$20 an acre to burn straw.

Scientists say the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus walked, faces a grim fate unless immediate steps are taken to protect its 77 square miles. The Israelis are dumping thousands of tons of fertilized soil, industrial wastes, and sewage into the historic lake.

A U. S. Public Health Service doctor, John J. Hanlon, said a nonsmoker of cigarettes was exposed to the risks of smoking simply by living in New York City or other big cities. Dr. Hanlon, deputy administrator of the government agency's environmental health service, told a news conference that people living in the cities have up to 10 per cent greater risk from lung cancer. He spoke at the 24th Clinical Convention of the American Medical Association in Boston.

A group of international experts on population problems has asked the U. N. to create a World Population Institute. The purpose of the institute would be to coordinate and concentrate the efforts of nations in dealing with population problems.

An editorial in the Boise, IDAHO STATESMAN says Congress is expected to act on legislation to permit leasing of federal land for the use of geothermal energy. The editorial says, "The energy in the heat inside the earth could be an important source of electric energy. It could offer less severe pollution problems than other sources, particularly the burning of fossil fuels."

Albert Brooke, Jr., vice chairman of the Federal Power Commission, said the energy demands of a sophisticated and mechanized civilization has put a nearly impossible burden on the nation's coal, fuel, and oil reserves. He told a meeting of utility commissioners that environmental concerns have only complicated the problem.



All God's creatures have their place in the scheme of things. This beautiful buck deer needs clean air, good food, and the open space required for well-being. We can give thanks to the Creator for the awakening of people to the dangers we have brought on the good Earth.

Snowmobiling in Dakota Offers Great Variety

PIERRE, S. D. --Whether its racing or just plain "family fun," South Dakota has it for the snowmobiler this winter.

Highlighting the 1970-71 snow season will be a cross-state safari and a Governor's Cup Snowmobile race with a \$1,000 first prize.

The two events, while quite different in nature, are expected to draw participants from a 10 state area, according to Junior Chamber of Commerce and snowmobile association spokesmen, who are separately sponsoring the two events.

The safari, sponsored by the State Snowmobile Association, is a family event. It will begin at Watertown, S.D. and end in the Black Hills, an approximate 400-mile trip, starting on Feb. 21. The trip will take five days and two additional days will be spent in the Hills.

The race, sponsored by the Pierre, Mobridge and Aberdeen Jaycees, will begin at Pierre Jan. 8. The tour takes the racers into Mobridge on the 8th. From there they will leave the morning of the 9th and head for the finish line at Aberdeen, thus kicking off the silver anniversary of the Snow Queen Contest. Here, Phyllis George, Miss America 1971, will crown the new South Dakota Snow Queen.

Safari participants will meet in Watertown and registration will be required according to a state snowmobile association official, sponsors of the safari. The safari is strictly a family outing giving everyone a "chance to see the scenic wonders of South Dakota in the winter time," a state snowmobile association spokesman said.

First prize in the Governor's Cup races is \$1,000; second, \$500; third, \$250; fourth, \$125; and fifth, \$75. In

addition to these main prizes, other cash awards may be made according to race officials.

The schedule for the cross-state safari that will cover nearly 400 miles is: Feb. 20, assemble at Watertown, headquarters at Drake Motor Inn at the junction of US-212-81; Feb. 21, stop at Redfield; Feb. 22, stop at Gettysburg; Feb. 23, stop at Faith; Feb. 24, stop at Belle Fourche; Feb. 25, stop at Lead-Deadwood; and Feb. 26, 27 spend in Black Hills. The evening of Feb. 27, there will be a State Snowmobile Association banquet with the time and place to be announced.

Assembly point for racers for the Jan. 8-9 races will be in Pierre. Entry fee is \$50.

After the first 80 entries approximately 70 percent of all other entry fees will be returned in prize money. Entry blanks can be obtained by writing Box 1248, the Aberdeen Jaycees, in Aberdeen, S. D. Engine limit is 440 c.c.

Those wishing further information on the cross-state safari may write the South Dakota Snowmobile Association, Box 67, Rapid City, S. D. 57701.

Two other major snowmobile events in the state are the Whetsone Valley Snowmobile Derby races, oval and Le Mans with an A.S.A. sanction to Milbank, S. D. and Deadwood's Winter Wonderland Snowmobile races in the Black Hills, March 6, 7.

Wyoming Lands Are Classified for Use

The U. S. Bureau of Land Management has issued a final notice classifying some 120,000 acres of public lands in Big Horn, Goshen, Natrona and Fremont Counties for multiple use management.

BLM State Director Daniel P. Baker said the lands will be closed to agricultural entry and to sales as isolated or rough and mountainous tracts. Most of the lands will remain open to mining location, mineral leasing, livestock grazing and other forms of use, such as sale or lease to State or local government.

The largest area classified includes 112,000 acres in northern Big Horn County. Six areas, totaling 13,780 acres, contain outstanding recreational values and for that reason the classification will close them to mining location, Baker said. They include the Pryor Mountain

Wild Horse Range and Devils Canyon in Big Horn County; the Table Mountain Wildlife Unit in Goshen County; Fremont Canyon in Natrona County; and the Natural Bridge and South Pass Historic Mining Area in Fremont County.

Legal descriptions of the lands involved, along with related documents, are available for public inspection at BLM offices in Worland, Lander, Casper and Cheyenne.

The classifications shall become final upon expiration of a 30-day period for administrative review by the Secretary of the Interior. BLM previously provided a 60-day period for public comments on the classification actions.



Wolves Get Protection

An order has been issued to prevent the indiscriminate taking of timber wolves on the Superior National Forest, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

Forest Supervisor Craig W. Rupp said the action was taken in an effort to save the last remaining breeding population of wild timber wolves in the contiguous United States. The timber wolf is a designated endangered species.

Due to the rarity of the animal, prices for "souvenir" pelts on the tourist market reportedly have skyrocketed. "This new market," Rupp remarked, "may result in diminishing the species to a point beyond which it cannot recover." Heavy trapping is reported as a result of the flourishing new demand for pelts. Two valuable research animals - one with a radio transmitter collar and the other with tags - have been taken by wolf exploiters. In another instance a researcher was able to buy back and release a trapped research animal at the going "tourist rate" of \$100.

The order, Rupp said, is an interim measure while the U. S. Forest Service and the state of Minnesota develop a plan whereby the wolf will be protected.

Chief of the U. S. Forest Service, Edward P. Cliff in Washington, D. C. and Superior National Forest Supervisor, Craig W. Rupp in Duluth, Minnesota are receiving many letters expressing appreciation for their forthright action in the matter.



Wyoming has 20,000 miles of streams and 210,995 acres of lakes with abundant trout population in each.



Cross-country skiing in the Colorado Rockies and throughout the West can be an exhilarating

experience. Here, breath-taking beauty greets the hardy adventurers.

Clearcutting questioned . . .

McGee Says Policy Needs Study

CODY, Wyo. - Sen. Gale McGee, D-Wyo., told the Wyoming Outfitters there was vital need for "an independent and objective evaluation" of timber management policies in the National Forests of Wyoming.

Without such a study, said McGee, the problem of whether or not clearcutting

should be practiced in high mountain forests cannot be finally settled. And he questioned whether the U. S. Forest Service could make such an evaluation itself because of its "dominate emphasis on timber cutting rather than timber management."

McGee cited a recent study by the University of Montana

on clearcutting in the Bitterroot National Forest which, he said, "questioned the basic argument that clearcutting is necessarily the most economic or profitable way to harvest timber."

Considering the expense of regenerating the forests in high mountain areas, McGee himself questioned "whether or not the long-range costs of clearcutting may not well exceed the short-range gains made by the timber cutters."

The Democratic lawmaker also saw "a basic inconsistency at levels much higher than the Forest Ser-

vice."

"Why, for example, if we are in such a serious need for timber do we export vast amounts of Pacific Northwest timber to Japan?" he asked. "Why, in June, did the Administration issue a directive to increase timber cutting in the national forest to meet what it termed 'swings' in demand?"

"We deserve answers to these questions before we knuckle under without a word of protest to the increased cutting on our important recreational land," McGee said.

Senator Announces Clearcut Hearings

Senator Frank Church of Idaho has announced he will hold hearings on management practices for federal public lands early next year. He is chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

Church said he had received numerous requests for such hearings. "These requests cited considerable evidence to justify charges that some of our present management practices are

detrimental to the environment and economy," he said.

The senator said one purpose of the hearings will be to "bring into the open" implications of "clear cutting" on the national forests, to "determine if this management practice is in the public interest."

Road building practices on public lands and the impact of mineral prospecting and exploration will also be discussed.

Lake Tahoe Basin To Be Protected


A grant made recently by the U. S. Forest Service to the Nevada Division of Forestry will help assure resource planning and environmental protection on State and private lands within the Nevada portion of Lake Tahoe Basin.

Robert McBride, Assistant Regional Forester in the Forest Service Regional Office at Ogden, Utah, announced that \$12,500 in general forestry assistance funds will be made available to the State Forester for

Fiscal Year 1971. The Forest Service and the State Forester will jointly plan the program so that technical assistance to the State Forester can be effectively used to coordinate wild land development activities on State and private lands in the Basin.

Mr. McBride explained that enforcement of development regulations as stated in the Nevada Forestry Practices Act is important if environmental protection of the Tahoe Basin is to be assured.

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THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

I went to Washington, D. C., a couple of weeks ago to work with the Coalition Against the SST, a group of conservation and environmental groups of concerned citizens that are fighting the development of the SST. While I was in the nation's capitol, I talked with Senators Clifford Hansen and Gale McGee about the SST (and about other matters as well).

Now, you may ask "What has the SST got to do with the wild world that this column is supposed to concern?" And my answer is "Everything!"

Have you ever seen a bull moose placidly feeding in a beaver pond when a sonic boom hit? Have you seen the mis-managed national forest crying for funds to do the kind of job that needs to be done? Have you seen the naturalist program in Grand Teton National Park dry up and blow away due to lack of funds?

As I flew back to Washington, I once again landed at O'Hare Airport in Chicago. You used to be able to fly directly from Salt Lake City or Denver or St. Louis to Washington, D.C., but since the new airport was built just outside of Washington, (Dulles International Airport) most of those through flights have stopped. Why?

Dulles is at least a half-hour from the heart of DC, and no one heading for the nation's capitol wanted to waste that much time. Consequently, almost all planes were still landing at National Airport only ten minutes from Capitol Hill. So the FAA passed a ruling that only those planes from within a 500-mile radius could land at National; all others would have to land at Dulles.

What happened, of course, is that now almost all planes are routed through Chicago (495 miles from Washington, D. C.), and O'Hare Airport is constantly congested. And I had to realize—as I flew to Washington to fight the SST—that the SST would increase the congestion, the air pollution, the noise, the time consumed at the airport.

You see, the SST will carry only 65% as many people as the presently operating 747's. The SST will carry them faster, but with the increased airport congestion—without comparable increase in passenger carrying capacity—the SST will actually slow down the whole process of flying from one city to another.

And what about the sonic boom problem as the supersonic transport nears the landing area or takes off? Planes landing at Dulles would bombard millions of people every few minutes. But the proponents of the SST say it will only fly at supersonic speeds over the ocean (what of ocean travelers, or fishermen, of those who sail?)

However, to make the SST economical for Boeing to build—even with the fact that the American taxpayer is footing 87% of the bill to develop the SST—at least 300 of the big planes must be sold. In order to sell 300 planes, they will have to be used over land (not enough would be needed to carry the few people rich enough to fly at supersonic prices).

So eventually the SST would have to be used over land. What land? Over the areas where few people live, areas like Wyoming, over national parks and national forests. Not many moose and elk and grizzly bear write to their Congressmen.

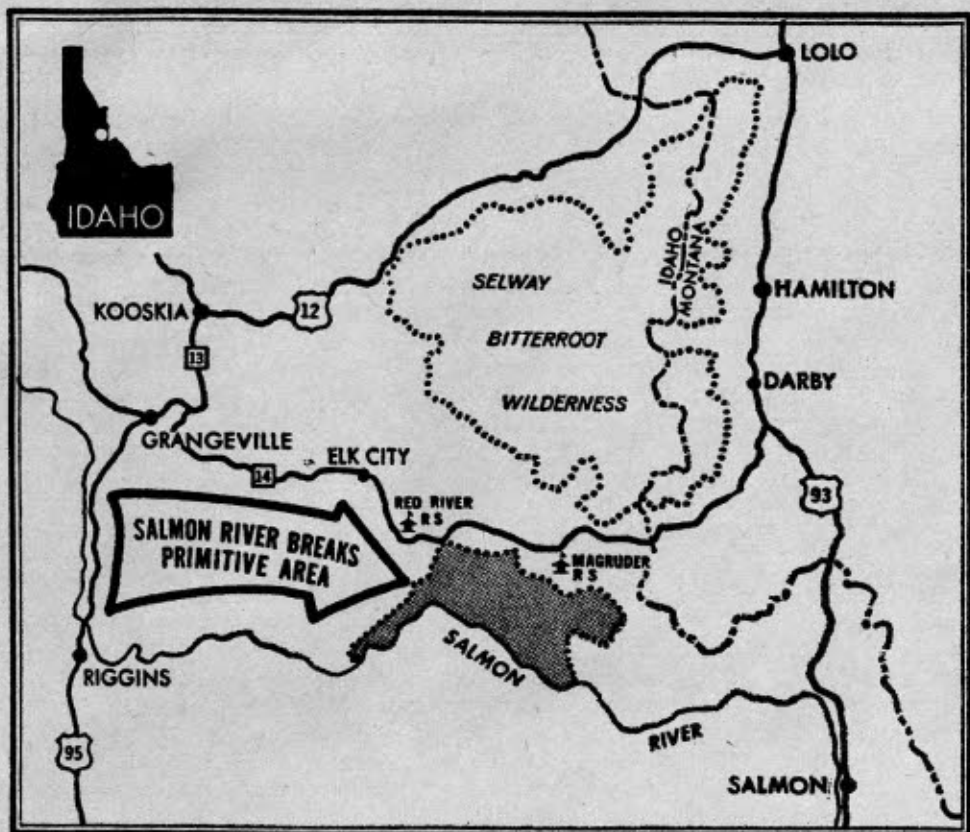
Recent medical research suggests that sonic booms may be responsible for prenatal birth defects, but President Nixon is willing to overlook that factor for the prestige that developing the SST will bring to the United States (never mind the environmental factors).

Nixon has been advised to forget the SST by 15 or 16 of his economic advisors, by the White House Office of Science and Technology, by his Council on Environmental Quality, by his special panel on the SST. No one wants to except the President and a few hundred Boeing engineers who face unemployment—and the President isn't listening to the people. (The majority isn't silent; the government is deaf.)

What happened to free enterprise? Why should the Federal Government (that's you and me in tax dollars) support an environmentally degrading project that will make a profit for those who own stock in or work for Boeing? What are the total long-range environmental problems? We don't even know; yet we are willing to spend more on the SST (\$290 million) during the next fiscal year than we are on the development of urban mass transportation (\$202 million) or on air pollution control (\$106 million) or on consumer protection (\$85 million).

Our Wyoming senators wisely voted for the Proxmire Amendment to remove SST funds from the Transportation appropriations for next year, but since the House voted for the SST funds and since the Conference Committee compromised on \$210 million for the SST, the battle still rages with Senator Gaylord Nelson, the top environmentalist in the U. S. Senate, pledging a filibuster to prevent passage of the whole Transportation Appropriations Bill as long as the SST funds are included.

I say thanks to Senator Gale McGee and to Senator Cliff Hansen for their vote against the SST. And I thank whatever gods there be for fighters like Gaylord Nelson. May he win his battle in the U. S. Senate, for if he does, the environment of the Planet Earth will be the real winner—and Wyoming is part of the Planet Earth so we'll win too. Guess I'm just selfish.



MAP INDICATES location of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area north of the Salmon River. Study of the area is getting under way by the Forest Service.

Wilderness Hearings Slated

A round of public hearings on proposed wilderness areas is underway in Idaho. The U. S. Forest Service has just concluded five public meetings on the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area. The official public hearing is expected to be held in the fall of 1973. The meetings were to obtain public sentiment on proposed boundaries.

Public hearings on the Sawtooth Primitive Area are scheduled for early 1971.

The Idaho Primitive Area, which lies south of the Salmon River Breaks, is now being

studied. The Forest Service hopes to hold hearings on it in the fall of 1973.

The main Salmon River from North Fork to the mouth is also being studied for wild and scenic river designation. Public meetings on the river boundary proposal are expected to be held early next summer.

Studies of all primitive areas must be completed by Sept. 3, 1974. The Forest

Service has studied or is now in the process of studying 34 national forest primitive areas for possible inclusion in the wilderness system.

Wilderness is considered a resource of the forests in both the Multiple Use Act and the Wilderness Act. It is recognized along with timber, grazing, mining, and others. The wilderness resource involves recreation, wildlife, watershed, soils, and grazing.

Wilderness Lovers Can Enjoy Sounds

Most visitors to Jackson Hole and Yellowstone National Park seldom get a chance to savor the unique sounds, as well as sights, of these great areas. Now, they may sit in their own living rooms and enjoy fine music and the voices of nature.

"A Wildlife Serenade" is an inspiring experience for those who love the wilds. The long-playing record takes the listener on a complete tour of the world-renowned valley, Jackson Hole.

Coyotes chorus, bull elk bugle, trumpeter swans sound their clarion call, and many other animals give voice to their own distinctive cries, calls, and utterings. In the background is music performed by the Jackson Hole Fine Arts Orchestra under the direction of George Hufsmith. It was he who wrote "Teton Mural", the first and only symphony written for and about Jackson Hole, and featured in the music of the record.

The recordings of more than a dozen species of birds and animals were made by Don Redfean, manager of the Jackson Hole National Elk Refuge. He spent more than a year getting the sounds on tape.

Skip Mahony, a Jackson radio announcer, spent about 100 hours placing sounds in continuity and fitting in the music and narration. He is the narrator for the record.

Jackson artist Keith Fay did the painting of a bull moose beneath the Tetons for the cover jacket. The record can be purchased from Fay's

Happy Peasant Gallery in Jackson.

hear the Sounds of Grand Teton country!



ELK BUGLE
COYOTES HOWL
SWANS TRUMPET...

and many more in a Wildlife Serenade

an LP Album
Produced and
Recorded in
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Jackson Hole, Wyo. 83301

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Roads Open In Tetons

Many miles of roads (119) are open to public travel in Grand Teton National Park. The roads provide winter access for visitors of many interests.

Park Superintendent Howard Chapman said, "photographers may get some excellent winter and wildlife pictures. Moose range the wet bottoms and are numerous in the area between the Snake River Overlook and Jackson Lake Lodge."

"In addition to the wildlife, the park provides an abundance of subjects for the photographer seeking winter scenery shots."

The roads provide access to snowmachine areas; however, the machines are not allowed on the plowed roads.

Fluffy snow the first week of the snowmachine season provided less than ideal conditions but 70 machines ventured over the snowfields. Park Rangers report that the snow has set up a little but it is still quite soft.

All owners of snowmachines and snowplanes must acquire a Grand Teton registration sticker and be registered with the state prior to operating within the park. Park registration stickers are available at the Moose Visitor Center or from any Park Ranger in the Colter Bay area.

Timber Roads a Malignancy?

from Montana Outdoors

By Richard Weckwerth

Persons who look down on Montana's western mountains for the first time have a number of surprises. One of the most startling is the multitude of roads that are visible from an aerial vantage point. Like the spreading branches of a malignancy, roads probe into almost every cranny of the mountains and make access easy to what was wilderness but a few years ago.

Do you realize there is approximately one mile of road for every 1.5 square miles of land in the Hungry Horse and Coram Ranger Districts of the Flathead National Forest?

Presently there are logging roads situated in almost every major drainage on both sides of Hungry Horse Reservoir and the South Fork of Flathead River from the Hungry Horse Dam to Bunker Creek with the exception of the Upper and Lower Twin Creeks. As of 1969, there were 617 miles of roads located in the Coram, Hungry Horse, and Spotted Bear Ranger Districts. The Coram District leads with 279 miles, the Hungry Horse District has 274 miles, and the Spotted Bear District has 64 miles. Present plans call for an increase of existing roads in the Spotted Bear District. The most important of which, in the interest of game management, will be the Dean Ridge and Bunker Creek roads.

These three ranger districts encompass a total of approximately 1,075,832 acres or 1,681 square miles. On the basis of 617 miles of roads for the 1,681 square miles of forest habitat, it means there is one mile of road for every 2.7 miles of land.

Presently, the Spotted Bear District, which is the largest of the three districts in the drainage with a total of 537,243 acres, has the least amount of roads. This is partly due to the fact that approximately fifty percent of this district is within the boundary of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Logging activities near Spotted Bear did not develop on a large scale until the 1960's.

The area drained by the South Fork of the Flathead River has long been regarded as one of the finest wilderness elk hunting areas in Montana. Up to the late 1950's the Spotted Bear vicinity was the hub of outfitter activity with numerous base camps and campgrounds located in the area. Pack strings embarked from Spotted Bear for destinations in the roadless and wilderness areas.

The coming of the 1960's saw road construction starting in the Spotted Bear area. Now roads extend well beyond the Spotted Bear Ranger Station up Bunker Creek on the main South Fork. Another road extends up the Spotted Bear River to Beaver Creek, a distance of over nine miles. Both of these roads are accompanied by spur logging roads. These road systems allow vehicle travel to reach points much nearer the wilderness area as well as provide extensive access to prime game habitat. Future plans also call for extensions of these roads to reach logging sites

on both forks of Bunker Creek and to Dean Ridge on the Spotted Bear River.

With the advent of these roads much of the recreational activity is now based at Meadow Creek on the South Fork of the Flathead and Beaver Creek on the Spotted Bear River.

What effect will these roads have on the big game populations? It is a known fact that grizzly bears are wilderness creatures and are not compatible with human beings, e.g. the demise of the grizzly in the plains and foothill areas of Montana. Elk are also subject to disturbances of the same type. We have observed that one snowmobile will cause elk to retreat farther up the mountain or to more secluded wooded areas on the winter range.

Several snowmobile trips were made to Spotted Bear and each time a larger number of elk were observed on the trip to Spotted Bear than on the return trip to Coram two or three days later. Traffic and human activities during the summer also disturb elk, especially during the calving season when they are most secretive in their habits.

Roads also improve hunter success and increase hunter pressure. When they are located in key areas where an elk migration may occur during the hunting season they may disrupt the migration pattern or put heavy hunting pressure on the migrating elk because of ease of access.

The results become quite evident in the case of Bunker Creek and Spotted Bear drainages. The 1969 hunting season was the first after the road was opened up Bunker Creek. During the period from 1957-1968 never more than five percent (and usually one or two percent) of the total South Fork elk kill

was checked from the Bunker Creek area, but in 1969 over eight percent of the elk checked from the South Fork drainage came from the Bunker Creek drainage. During the period before roads were built in the Spotted Bear drainage the average number of elk killed in the drainage comprised eighteen percent of the total number of elk killed in the South Fork. In the period after the presence of a road this percentage increased to an average of slightly over twenty-two percent.

With the future plans calling for new roads and road extension in the Spotted Bear area, the future for elk, grizzly bears and goats does not look bright. Study efforts will continue to be made to evaluate the effects of the road systems on elk, goats, and grizzly bears of the areas. Closing of the roads to the general public use would permit logging and minimize stress on game animals.

Timber Roads . . .

(Continued from page 7)

Montana's elk. Such information is essential to develop sound management directions to make timber harvesting as compatible as possible with elk management.

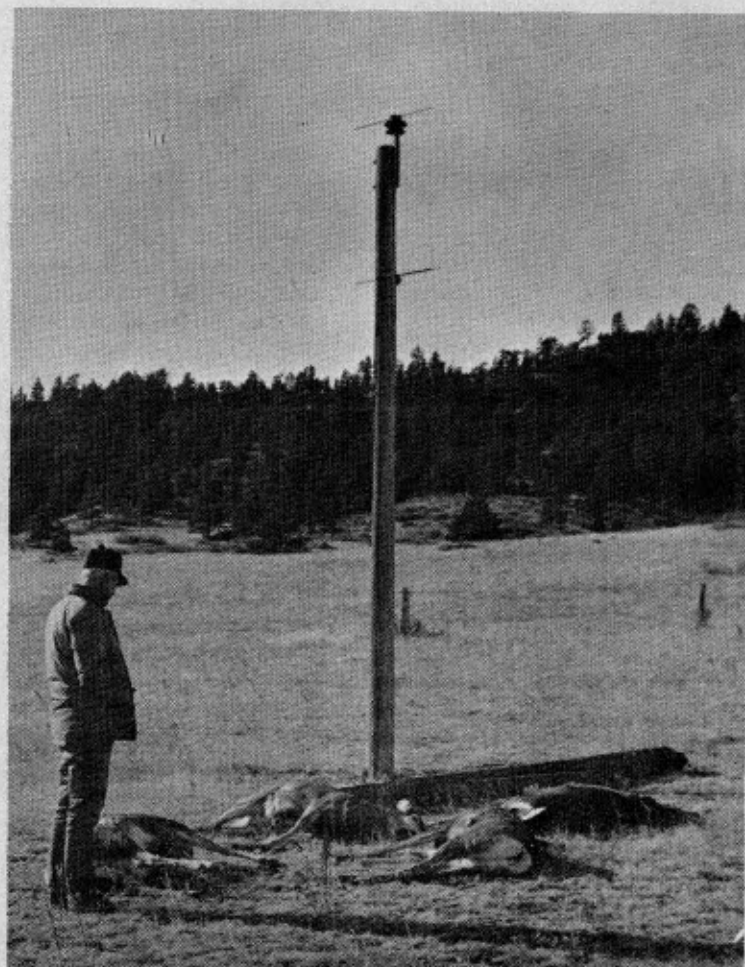


Photo by Wyo. Game & Fish Dept.

Four deer, electrocuted by a downed high-tension wire near Wheatland, are inspected by Deputy Game Warden Bob Brown. The three bucks and a doe were apparently standing under the wire when winds broke the pole and caused the wire to fall across the animals.



Christmas Gun

If you are presenting your son with his first rifle or shot gun this Christmas, be prepared to carry your share of the responsibility.

Most boys and some girls receive that very special gun somewhere between the ages of 13 and 16. Most of the gifts they have received up until this time, have been items that they can experiment or work with themselves. The rifle or shotgun is a different matter.

Learning to properly handle and fire a weapon is not like learning to ride a bicycle. Bicycle training may result in bruised knees or torn trousers. But gun safety and handling is serious business. It can be deadly business with improper supervision or no supervision at all.

The most common mistake that parents make is letting their new gun owner develop early practice and safety habits with other youngsters, who also may have received a gun for Christmas. Without adult supervision, one of these practice sessions can turn into a nightmare—one that you, as a parent, caused. Remember that guns have been playthings to young boys. They have developed certain habits with toy guns that have to be broken when they handle weapons that can kill. They do not learn the correct way to handle a rifle or shotgun from another new shooter.

Teaching is a Personal Thing

I have always believed that the first series of training sessions a boy receives in gun safety and handling should come from his father or a close relative. Firearms training is a personal thing. It can develop or enhance a lasting relationship between boy and father; boy and grandfather or boy and uncle. Of course, group marksmanship and hunter safety courses have a very definite and useful place, too, but only after personal, individual instruction.

The father, grandfather, or uncle who has the privilege of introducing a young boy to a basic American heritage—shooting—has the responsibility of knowing the hows and whys of correct practice and safety procedures. Without a keen insight into the basic workings of a rifle or shotgun, the teacher may lose his pupil.

For example a youngster should learn from his teacher a little bit about the history of firearms. He should learn the mechanics and principles of his weapon what makes it tick. He should know how to take it apart...how to clean it. Only after he has a respect for his gun, what its capabilities are, and what he can do with it, should they venture into the field.

Target practice can be fun when a safe practice range is selected and proper targets are used. A range with a good backdrop is essential. Official paper or cardboard targets are cheap and can be purchased in a sporting goods store. Blue Rock or clay pigeons for shotgun practice are also available in most towns. Old cans, bottles, street and highway signs make poor targets.

A checklist of points to stress in your practice sessions are 1. clearing the chamber of bullets or shells 2. proper loading 3. testing the safety 4. pointing the gun in a safe direction 5. how to use iron sights 6. various shooting positions 7. Teach BRAS...Breathe, Relax, Aim and Squeeze the trigger.

If you develop the above foundations to gun safety and handling with your boy, you can take pride in knowing that he will always respect his weapon, his safety and the safety of others. Your personal touch makes the difference, at first.

After his initial development you may want to enroll him in a good hunter safety course. For information concerning this course contact: Dick Keeney, Hunter Safety Coordinator, Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, Box 1589, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001, or a similar official in your own state.

Park Open to Snow-goers

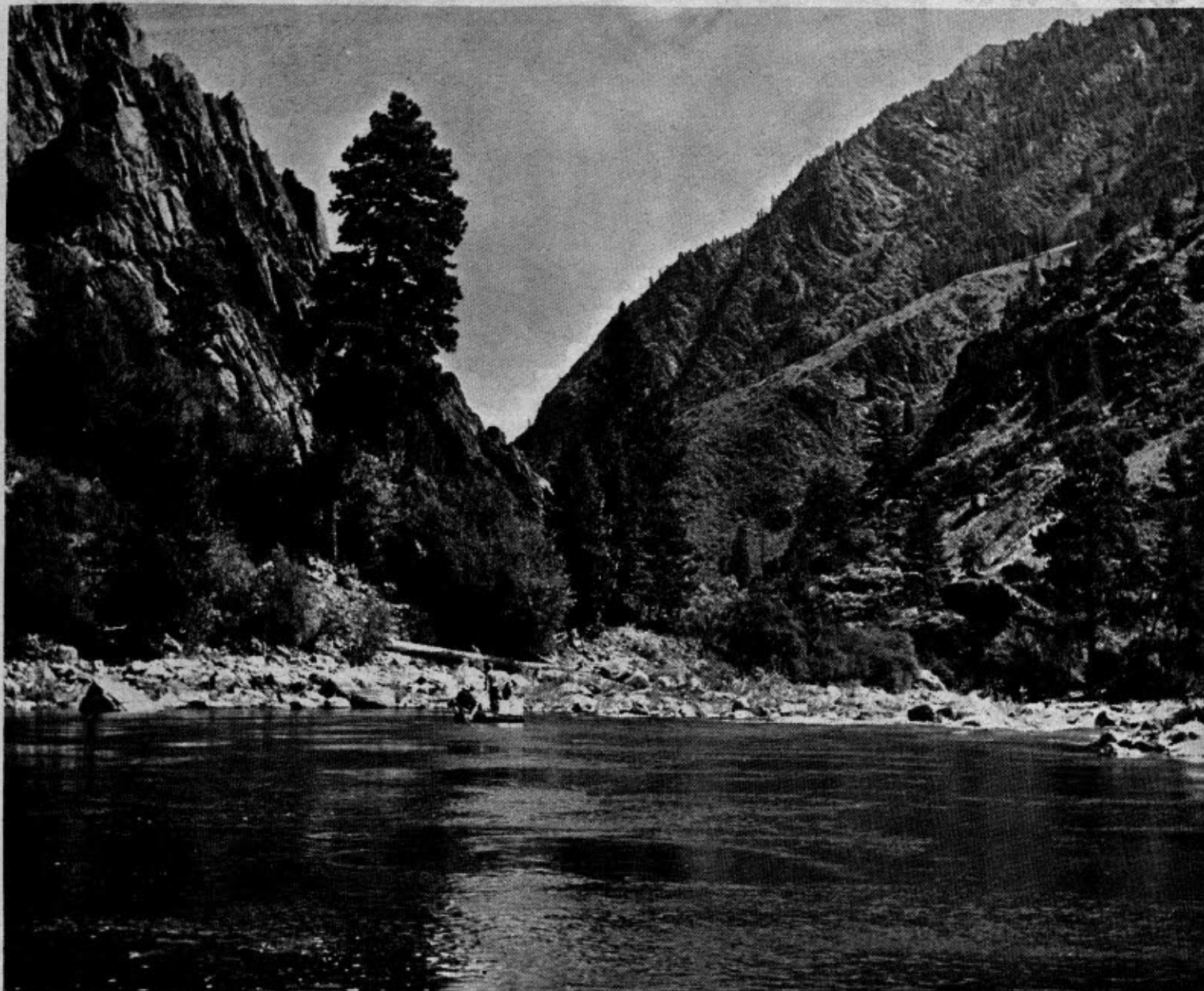
Yellowstone National Park will open to snowmobiling Saturday, December 5, Superintendent Anderson has announced. Anderson said the snow conditions throughout the park were not the most desirable for snowmobiling because the snow is so soft and fluffy. He also pointed out that snowmobilers must stay on the roadway of unplowed roads.

Anderson warned snowmobilers of possible avalanche conditions on Sylvan Pass between the East Entrance and Lake, and Dunraven Pass between Tower Junction and Canyon Village. He said the two

passes occasionally develop severe avalanche conditions and the park officials should be contacted before traveling these routes.

The all season road between Gardiner, Montana, and Cooke City, Montana, will not be open to snowmobiling.

For their own protection Anderson said visitors are required to register as they enter the park and check when they leave. Complete snowmobiling regulations may be obtained at all park entrances or by writing the Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190.



Boaters on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, Idaho, reach an impassable canyon. One of the nation's first wild and scenic rivers, the

Middle Fork is already feeling increased people pressure.

Photo by Ernie Day

Wild River Getting Use

One of the nation's first wild rivers is already getting increased concentrations of people. Boat traffic on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho almost doubled in the past two years. The Forest Service said 3,028 persons in 741 boats were counted at the Little Creek guard station. In 1968, only 1,549 persons were counted. The river was designated a wild river last year.

The Forest Service says increased use of the river has resulted in some problems. Officials say they feel the stream can handle more people but better regulation will be necessary.

In 1969, one patrol boat operated on the river and collected 2,633 pounds of garbage. However, Dan

Poole, president of the Wildlife Management Institute, reported he thought the river looked better now than it did 12 years ago. Poole floated the river last summer, along with Regional Forester Vern Hamre of Ogden Utah.

Hamre said he could see a need for a better system to get more even distribution of use. As more traffic plies the

river, the lower reaches suffer problems of crowding. Boats tend to pile up as they reach the lower end.

Phil Schneider, northwest field representative of the National Wildlife Federation, said he could see future need for restraints. He said if the quality of the area was to be maintained, there may have to be restrictions on use.

The cutthroat trout fishery

in the river is considered to be fragile. John Woodworth, Idaho Fish and Game Director, says the river cannot maintain heavy fishing pressure.

Management plans for the wild river are still being worked out. Wes Carlson, Challis National Forest Supervisor, said he was looking to the public for comments and suggestions.

Pesticide Law in Effect

Effective January 1, 1971 New York State will enforce the most stringent controls in the nation for persistent and highly toxic pesticides, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The

regulation was made under provisions of the state's Environmental Conservation Law passed this year by the N. Y. legislature.

The restriction will ban ten pesticides from the state and

impose stiff limitations on the purchase, sale, and use of some 60 others. Those banned include DDT, bandane, BHC, endrin, mercury compounds, selenites and selenates, sodium fluoracetate (1080), strobane, toxaphene, and DDD, TDE.

Environmental Conservation Commissioner Henry L. Diamond said that the department will strictly enforce the rules and regulations and that no pesticides will be permitted to be sold, purchased, or possessed if less dangerous alternatives are available. Commenting on the ten pesticides for which there is no approved use, Diamond said that the only exception will be when the Commissioner of Health certifies there is a public health emergency. He said that the department will work with universities, the chemical industry, and pesticide users to develop licensing procedures and dispose of existing pesticide supplies.

Spear Fishing Is Popular

Fishing through the ice with spears proved so popular during the past winter that the fish and game commission has given approval to another spear fishing season on some Montana waters. Spear wielding fishermen can test their skills December 3, 1970 through March 31, 1971 in the following waters:

In northwestern Montana, Echo Lake will be open to the spearing of northern pike and non-game fish; Lake Francis, near Conrad, and Pishkun and Split Rock Lakes near Augusta and Choteau will be open to the spearing of northern pike and non-game fish. All waters of fishing district 6

that are open to angling will be open to the spearing of walleye pike, sauger, northern pike and non-game fish. All waters in fishing district 7 that are open to angling will be open to the spearing of walleye pike, sauger, northern pike and non-game fish.

Fishermen will have to check 1970 fishing regulations to determine which waters are open to angling in fishing districts 6 and 7. Fishing hours and legal limits as shown on the regulations apply also.

Decoys, live or artificial, are often used by pike spears to bring the predatory fish within range.

Under Montana's regulations artificial decoys may be used, or live, non-game fish decoys may be used where live fish may legally be used for bait. Fishermen must consult current fishing regulations to determine where live non-game fish may be used for bait. Cottus or sculpins may be used state-wide.

Spearing is usually done from the confines of a very dark ice shanty or tent. The novice spear fishermen will find that light refraction adds an element of confusion to spearing. Objects within the water not only seem smaller, but they are not where they appear to be.

Fishing for Cisco A Rare Experience

The most unique fishing expedition an enthusiast will make in his lifetime is a winter trip to Bear Lake in southeastern Idaho.

Like the swallows of Capistrano, these fish return each winter to a one to two mile stretch of rocky beach on the east shore . . . and are found nowhere else in the world. In late January and early February, large schools of these small silvery fish swim back and forth in one to ten feet of water close to the shore.

Thousands of fishermen gather to scoop up the Cisco, often called the Bear Lake Sardine. Nets used to catch these fish may not exceed 18 inches across any portion of the hoop and the mesh should not exceed 1/4 inch. Limits are 50 fish.

Methods of catching the Cisco vary from year to year, depending on the weather. If the lake freezes over, a hole must be cut through the ice. A sagging net with an eight to ten foot handle is dipped deep into the water through the hole.

If the water is open, fishermen usually wade out from the shoreline to hip-boot depth, wait for a school to pass. Then move the net into the approaching school. One or two dips frequently yields a limit.

Cisco rarely grow larger than eight inches or weigh more than two ounces . . . good eating with white meat that is said to be one of the most palatable of all fish. Regardless of the method of cooking, once a person has caught and eaten Cisco they will be back for more. Each year more and more men, women and children brave the weather at Bear Lake to net the peaked-nose Cisco, a fishing feat that is fast becoming a wintertime sensation in southeastern Idaho.

Trappers Go For Beaver

LINCOLN, Nebr. --

Trappers put out their beaver sets on December 1, as that season open across the state and rounded out Nebraska's trapping activity. Seasons on mink and muskrat have been open since November 15.

Nebraska trappers can take beaver through February 28 in all but the southwest portion of the state, where the season closes on January 3. Besides the shorter season, other restrictions in the southwest include a prohibition on taking of beaver within 100 yards of the Platte, North Platte, South Platte and Republican rivers.

Last year, trappers took some 8,300 beaver, and the pelts yielded an income of approximately \$84,000. The muskrat harvest totaled more than 62,000 pelts and \$54,200, while some 3,700 mink pelts taken yielded nearly \$24,000.

In all, 12 species of furbearers yielded more than 103,000 pelts worth some \$248,700 during the 1969-70 season.

Texas Caves Are Things of Beauty

Some of the most magnificent and overlooked natural beauty in Texas is found in caves and caverns.

In most cases it is seen and enjoyed only by spelunkers, that small percentage (approximately 200 now active in the state) of the population which make a hobby of exploring subterranean splendors.

There are, according to Austin spelunker W. H. Russell, about 2,000 recorded caves in Texas. Of these, only seven are open to the public. Yet, says Russell, they are outstanding examples of the state's caves. Four are located on, or very near, interstate highways, and all are easily accessible.

The seven are Cascade and Century near Boerne, Longhorn near Burnet, Wonder Cave in San Marcos, Natural Bridge near San Antonio and New Braunfels, Inner Space near Georgetown, and Caverns of Sonora near Sonora.

The man who says, "When you've seen one cave, you've seen them all," would probably say the same about women, and obviously he would know little about either. Texas' public caves are strikingly different.

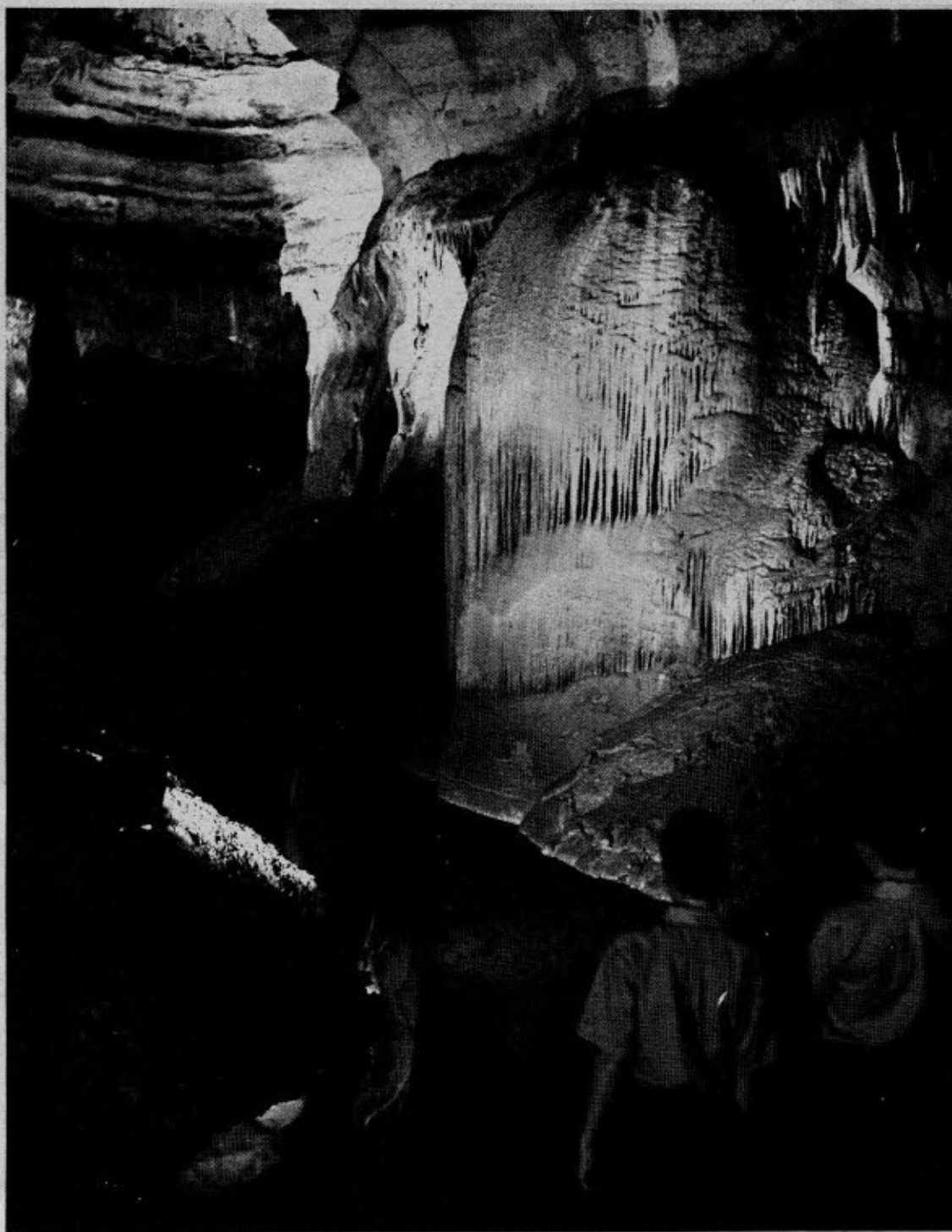
Cascade Caverns, discovered about 1840, is the state's most active public cave. Caves are described as "dead" or "alive" depending on whether or not the formations are still growing. A live formation has water dripping on it and "grows" from the minerals left by the

evaporating water. In Cascade the water, in many cases, doesn't drip, it runs. Here formations that under most conditions take hundreds of years to form are growing at a much faster rate. A formation in the shape of a lizard has developed in the last two years.

Century Caverns, formerly "Cave Without a Name," is relatively short in length. It features several unique formations, huge rooms and an underground river that can be viewed and photographed. A cluster of grapes, Mary and the Christ Child, a leaning totem pole, and giant bacon strip formations set Century apart from its sister caves.

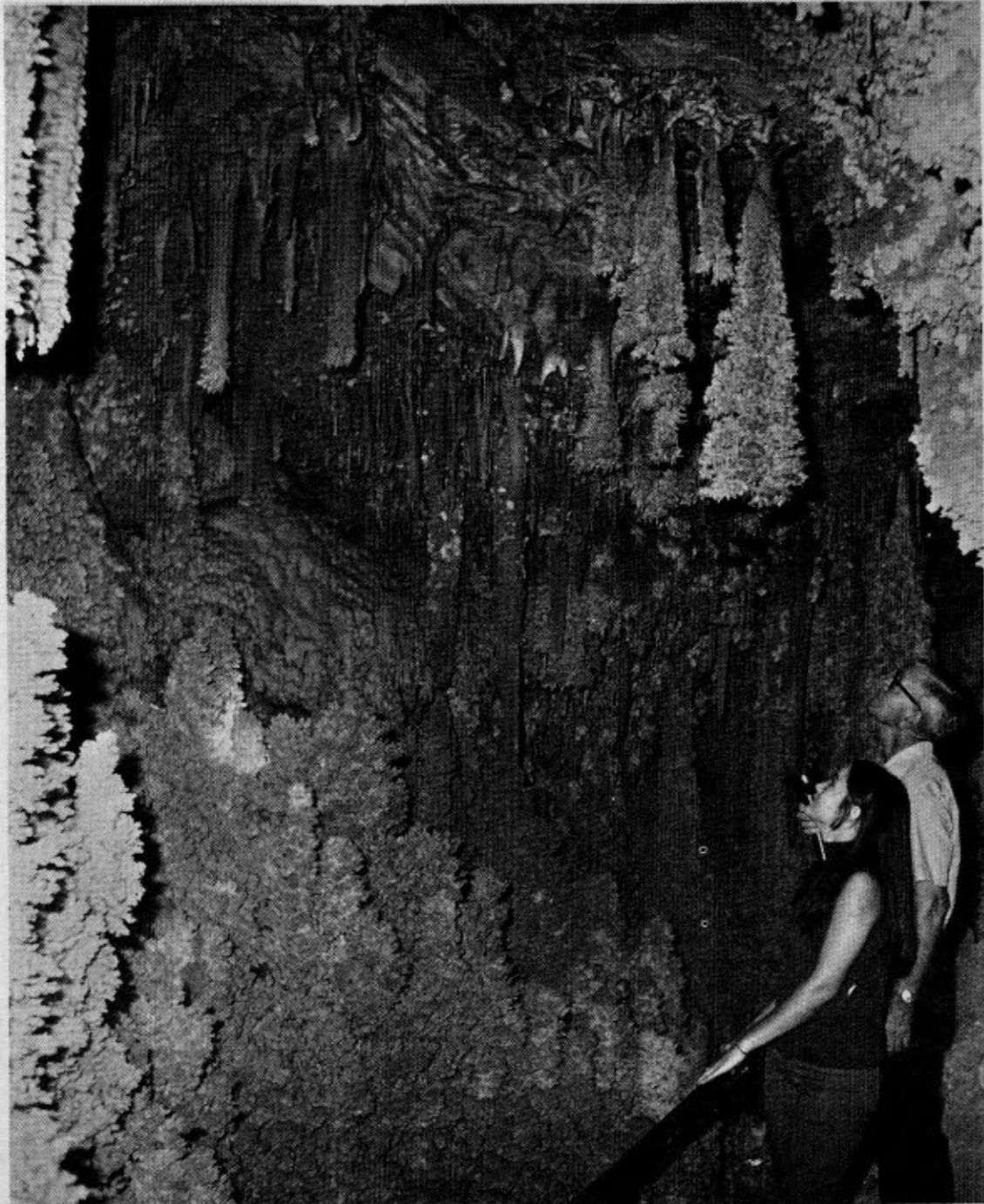
Longhorn Cavern has over seven miles of charted passages, two miles of which are covered on a guided cavern tour. There is evidence that it has been in use for hundreds of years. At one time it was even used as a night club. Trademarks of Longhorn are its Hall of Marble, Queen's Watchdog formation and Hall of Diamonds (calcite crystals).

Wonder cave is the nation's only completely dry-formed faultline cave attraction. It was created by earthquakes thirty million years ago. Being dry formed, the cave does not have the water-formed formations associated with the other Texas caves. It does, however, provide an interesting view of the Balcones



An underground river, flowing cool and crystal pure, is one of the attractions of Century Caverns, near Boerne, Texas. The river mysteriously emerges from the earth, flows for several hundred yards and disappears. Attempts to trace the stream have been futile.

Photos by Texas Tourist Div. Agency



War Clubs are among the unique formations found in caverns of Sonora. The cavern, located just off Interstate Highway 10 in west Texas, features an unmatched profusion of delicate formations.

Falt Line and the displacement that took place when the fault occurred. Flint nodules encased in limestone were torn apart by the quakes and you may now view the matching pieces, separated by ten feet or more, in the opposing walls of the cave.

Natural Bridge Caverns, discovered in 1960, offers visitors an olio of vast rooms and varied formations. Developers have taken pains to preserve the cavern and its formations just as they were when found. Walkways and lighting have been constructed to complement its natural beauty, and there is only one set of stairs on the whole tour. The cavern's largest room, the Hall of the Mountain Kings, is 350 feet 00 feet wide and 100 feet high. The state chairman of the Texas Speleological Association chose the cave for his wedding site because, in his opinion, it is "the most spectacular in the state."

The most recently discovered cave in Texas is Inner Space Caverns near Georgetown. Running under Interstate Highway 35, it was discovered in 1963 when a highway department core driller struck the cave during footing explorations prior to construction of Interstate Highway 35. Besides its collection of formations, Inner Space has proven a "gold mine" for archaeologists. Remains of prehistoric elephants, glyptodon, a rare species of the peccary, bat species formerly unknown to the scientific world, giant sloth, dire wolf and extinct forms of the horse, camel and sabre-

toothed tiger have been found in Inner Space. Visitors may view a 13 1/2 foot long elephant tusk which has been partially uncovered and left for display. Two woolly mammoth teeth, weighing 15-20 pounds have been found and are shown with other bones.

Caverns of Sonora provides visitors with an awe-inspiring adventure. The caverns' array of stalagmites, stalactites is so vast that veteran guides make new discoveries on each trip through the cavern. Translucent and phosphorescent formations range in color from pure white through shades of gray, faint greens and blues, pale rose, bright oranges and deep browns. So profuse and delicate are these formations that in portions of the cave it is impossible to walk off the tour trail without breaking floor formations. A past president of the American Speleological Society termed the caverns as "the most indescribably beautiful in the world. Its beauty can't possibly be exaggerated -- even by Texans."

Tours of the seven caves take from 30 minutes to an hour and a half. Admission ranges from \$1-\$2.50 for adults and 50¢-\$1.50 for children. Picnicing and camping facilities, gift shops, and other attractions are often located adjacent to the cave sites.

Complete information on the caves may be obtained from the Texas Tourist Development Agency, Box 12008, Austin 78711.

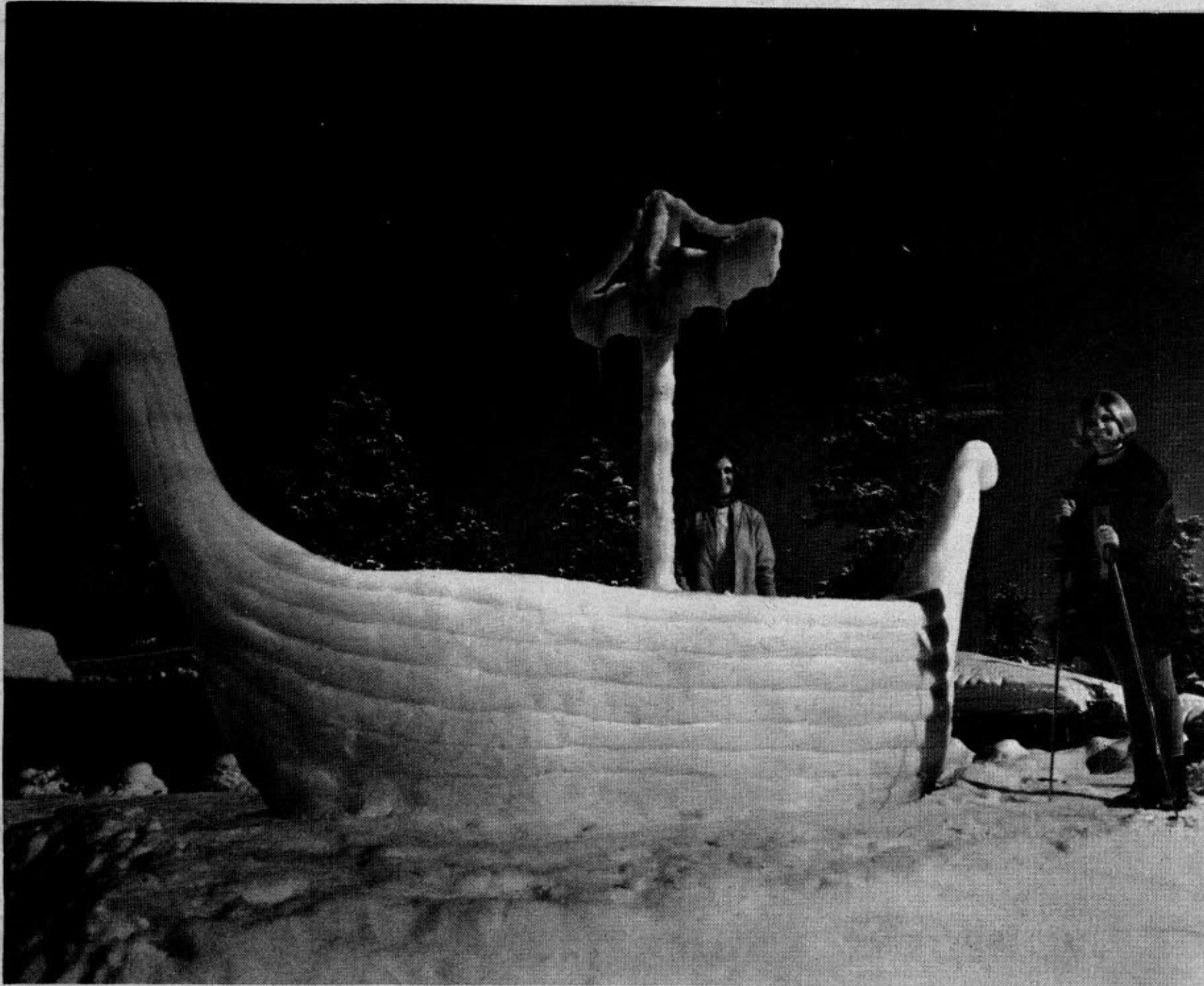


Photo by Idaho Dept. of Commerce and Development

Snow sculpturing is one of the fascinating highlights of the annual McCall, Idaho, Winter Carnival.

Idaho Winter Carnival Set

Sequestered by pine-clad mountains wrapped in an ermine snow, McCall on the bank of Payette Lakes in central Idaho celebrates the winter season with a unique winter carnival.

Before a snowflake ever falls on this mountain community, the planning has already begun for the three-day event, which in 1971 will be staged February 5-6-7.

Snow sculptures will again highlight the event with an all-out community endeavor . . . ranging from ambitious groups projects to family ventures.

The landscape will be transformed into a winter wonderland with more than half a hundred fantastic snow sculptures which only the imagination can dream up . . . from storybook characters to giants in history . . . from western American to lovely Grecian goddesses. People from many states plan a winter vacation in Idaho, just to attend the winter carnival at McCall.

Elaborate plans are underway for the 1971 event which will feature a torch-lite parade of skiers and snowmobilers. Weaving serpentine through the town, a variety show, sanctioned WSA snowmobile races, topped off with theatrical performances at the Alpine Theater and dancing including a Winter Carnival Ball.

Green River Dams Opposed . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The State is advocating construction of one or more reservoirs in the Green River Basin, putting additional thousands of acres of land under cultivation, and diverting anywhere from 39,000 to 93,000 acre feet of water from the Green to the Platte River. The reservoirs would be for storage deemed necessary for the ambitious project.

The proposed Kendall Reservoir would be on the Green River, northwest of Pinedale. It would cover approximately 12,000 acres and inundate 25 miles of blue-ribbon trout stream. It would also flood out the willow bottoms which constitute the winter range for about 700 Wyoming (Shiras) moose. This one area is one of the largest concentration areas for moose in the world. There is no way of replacing the area to provide for the moose.

The particular stretch of river to be flooded is part of the section being considered for national recognition as a wild or scenic river. At the present time, it is being used by thousands of recreationists from across the country.

A proposed dam on the New Fork River southeast of Pinedale would flood some 8,000 acres and 12-18 miles of excellent trout stream (depending on size of reservoir.) It would be far less damaging than the Kendall Reservoir but would

still result in extensive environmental destruction.

A Lower Green Dam would be built on the main Green River, just above Green River City. It could enhance recreational values but result in losses of mineral values.

The State plan proposes several different alternatives for development. Some of the alternate plans include the use of large, natural lakes such as Fremont and Boulder. These would be regulated in such manner as to result in fluctuation of the water level.

State Water Planner Frank J. Trelease, Jr., pointed out that under all the alternatives, considerable acreages of new irrigation would be possible. He said development of the Seedskadee Project under the Bureau of Reclamation's Fontenelle Reservoir could result in irrigation of 57,000 acres.

Citizen reaction was almost unanimously in opposition to development that would require building dams. As was expressed in headlines of THE PINEDALE ROUND-UP, "Were you listening Mr. Bishop . . . 'We don't want No damn dams here' ". The paper is a weekly published in the heart of the area where dams are proposed.

THE ROCK SPRINGS DAILY MINER, in a front-page story, summed up the feelings of Green River Basin residents. It said, "Pinedale residents, 250 strong and

unanimously opposing all dams on the Upper Green River in Sublette County, in a public hearing Tuesday night at Pinedale High School said they prefer their potential \$5.5 million hunting and fishing income, by the year 2000, to the \$153,000 annual hay crop for which the proposed dams would provide irrigation water."

The Casper hearing brought out residents from other parts of the state. The League of Women Voters presented a statement questioning certain aspects, and asking for a state-wide water plan before development was initiated. (See statement reprinted in this issue.)

Dr. Kenneth Diem, a University of Wyoming zoology professor from Laramie, questioned many aspects of the development plan. He cited facts and figures which questioned the feasibility of the proposals. He said dams in the Green River Basin "have costs to Wyoming which exceed any benefits."

Tom Bell of Lander, executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, called for a new look at water storage facilities. He said possibilities for storage in Flaming Gorge Reservoir need to be re-examined. He also criticized plans for development of additional irrigated lands and the use of high quality water on marginal projects with

poor soils and extremely short growing seasons. He said later now stored in Fontenelle Reservoir should be used for municipal and industrial uses rather than for development of the Seedskadee Irrigation Project.

Both Diem and Bell called for a reappraisal of opportunities to sell excess water to downstream users.

Editor's Note: In following issues of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, statements concerning the Green River Development Plan will be presented. The paper will accept comments for publication either for or against the proposals so that our readers can be fully informed. We also intend to editorialize at length.

Capitol Geese Are Attraction

PIERRE--While a free meal is part of the attraction, the hundreds of Canadian Geese that make Capitol Lake, South Dakota, their home each winter are probably lured to the lake by the 90 degree water.

The Capitol Lake flock which dwindled to less than a dozen this summer is now back up to strength, nearly 1500 of them. In majestic numbers, these geese glide in low over the Capitol, assured by an inner instinct that here is safety.