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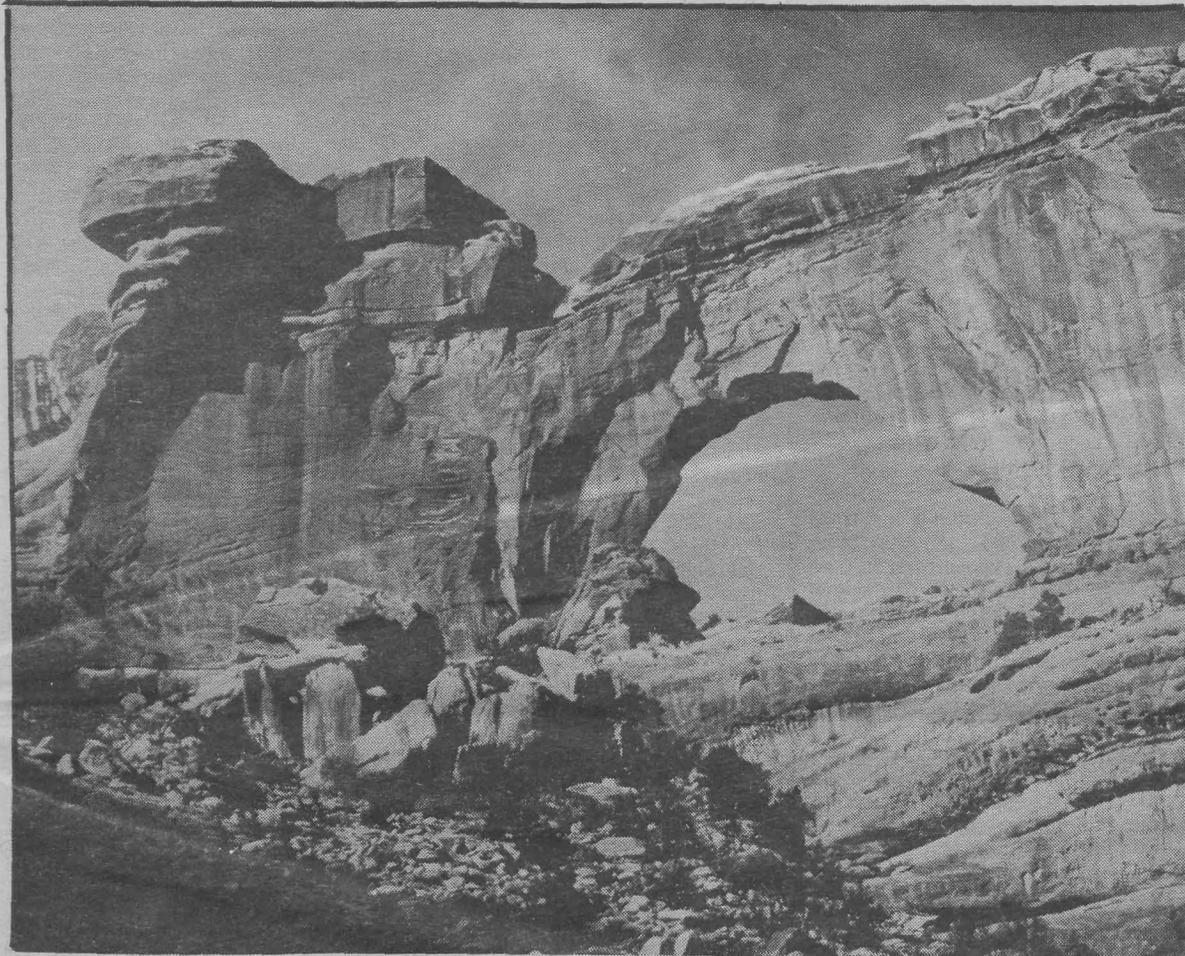
EARTH FIRST!

SAMHAIN EDITION

NOVEMBER 1, 1982

Vol. III, No. 1

SOMETHING ROTTEN IN UTAH:



Nevills Arch in Owl Creek Canyon, Utah. Photo by Rick Warnick.

THE BLM

by Clive Kincaid

The Bureau of Land Management's wilderness inventory of 22 million acres of public land in the state of Utah handed "Corporate America" a virtual carte blanche to the most scenic and mysterious landscape in North America.

Somehow, this wild public land that was once yours has been "sold down the river" to Exxon, Gulf, AMAX, Phillips, Chevron, Getty, Kaiser, Texaco, Tenneco, Cotter, Plateau, and other "All American" industrial giants by the BLM's indefensible inventory decisions.

The future of Utah wilderness could be forever crippled by this arrogant government deception. How did it happen? Why did it happen?

AN ANSWER

There is an answer; there was a motive; and there is overwhelming redundant proof!

Thousands of pieces of corroborating evidence now point conclusively to what really occurred in Utah. *There was a systematic and well-orchestrated prostitution prejudicing the subjective inventory of wilderness character with countless bits of extraneous non-wilderness data.* Wherever BLM managers were apprised of another resource value or private company interest that might conflict with a roadless area, either that area was conspicuously redefined in such a way as to eliminate the errant parcels, or it was dropped entirely from further review. The BLM has managed to defend its innumerable inconsistent boundary adjustments with the notion of purported flexibility or "gray areas" built into the inventory procedures themselves, and has spent thousands of manhours developing elaborate and detailed explanations to counter public challenges. As one Utah/BLM staff professional insisted privately but emphatically, "The Manager's deliberate scheme is to bury the public record in so much bureaucratic bullshit that no one will ever figure it all out."

At this writing no fewer than 60 instances have been discovered where otherwise arbitrary and inexplicable BLM boundaries mysteriously coincide with the presence and absence of other documented resources. Potential conflicts now rest conveniently outside the roadless area and no significant conflict remains inside the roadless area (yet the true roadless area encompasses both).

No, there is no single memorandum or paper trail evincing illegal actions on the part of the BLM. There is no "smoking gun." Yet, the preponderance of evidence steers away from coincidence and points to a deliberate systematic exclusion of wilderness lands.

Not unlike other types of legal construction, absencing the ability to prove literal *intent*, it may very well be possible to prove *effect*. And there is one fatal flaw in the Utah inventory that comes close to convincingly proving both. The Utah BLM decided that the very government procedures that they managed to bend so well in scores of cases were simply not "flexible" enough for their tawdry manipulations. There were a few large roadless areas sufficiently in the public eye that the Bureau was having difficulty carving them up; areas where it was really impossible to play fast and loose with the inventory procedures. The Bureau just couldn't bear not to clear away more of those unwanted troubles and maybe feather a few nests besides.

So what did the BLM do in Utah? Why of course, reformulate the offending rules—ask the Washington feds for an "exception" to the process; a little assistance to help the special circumstances in this special state. Not one of the other 10 western states needed "exceptional" treatment. From Montana to California, every other BLM office managed to work within the procedural framework imposed by government policy. Only the state of Utah seemed to have this peculiar wilderness problem.

So, the State Director of the BLM in Utah wrote two brief memoranda to Washington, D.C. which said, "We request that an exception be granted to adjust boundaries... due to the lack of outstanding characteristics (sic) in part of the unit. Each of these inventory units exhibit a high degree of character change... Portions of the units... clearly do not... (contain wilderness character)." "Portions without... (wilderness character) will be deleted." The Washington Office winced and grudgingly made the allowance—admonishing great care in utilizing this "variation from the general policy." So much for policy. BLM proceeded to butcher seven large roadless areas, justifying an average re-

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HO! For the San Juan

by Rich Warnick

"One vast continuity of waste and measurably valueless, except for nomadic purposes, hunting grounds for Indians and to hold the world together."

1861 newspaper report on San Juan County, Utah

Utah Highway 95, the two-lane blacktop that in the summer seems to bear nothing but Winnebagoes and boat trailers, cuts across from Hite Marina to Blanding and offers scenic views of far-off landmarks. You can see Jacob's Chair, the Cheesebox, Woodenshoe Buttes, the Bears Ears. What you cannot see, hidden below the line of sight and behind the pinyons and the junipers, are the hundreds of intersecting canyons that cut deep into the forested mesa. Here is Grand Gulch, within a mile of the road in places yet inaccessible unless you know the few trailheads that provide a way in.

The Gulch got its name from Mormon pioneers who had to detour around it in 1880, but today we seek it out in order to view the remains of the Anasazi culture which flourished here beginning around 200 C.E. There are numerous ruins of one and two-story dwellings, as well as uncounted small "granaries" high on the canyon walls which still contain thousand-year-old corn cobs. Rock art in a variety of styles reflects the changing culture of Basketmaker and Pueblo and still mystifies the visitor.

The scenic qualities of Grand Gulch are unique and impressive. The meandering main canyon has left many rincons, or abandoned meanders, since it began cutting into the Cedar Mesa sandstone around 20 million years ago. Natural arches have formed and are on their way to becoming natural bridges as the canyon stream erodes a short-

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EARTH FIRST!

Samhain Edition

November 1, 1982

Vol. III, No. 1

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Jackson Hole EF!, Mailing

Around the Campfire



The *Earth First!* newsletter was launched on November 1, 1980. It's appropriate that Samhain marked the beginning of this publication since November 1st began the old European pagan year. (See LaRue Christie's *Earth Religion* this issue). For its first year, the newsletter was only eight or ten Xeroxed pages stapled together but under Susan Morgan's sterling motherhood it had a punch and passion that lit a fire in the conservation community and found an audience far larger than what we had hoped for. When Susan moved from Breckenridge, Colorado, to Seattle, she took the paper with her. The second year of the *EF!* newsletter saw Pete Dustrud of Salt Lake City become editor. Pete put in long hours in the darkroom, over the light table, and at the typewriter to prove that *Earth First!* could put out a real newspaper. Pete also had the added burden of starting the *EF!* t-shirt and bumpersticker business.

As this publication begins its third year, we no longer call it a newsletter, but *EARTH FIRST! The Radical Environmental Journal* to reflect its more expansive outlook. We've been very pleased the last couple of months that many folks have sent in good material and we are looking forward to more submissions in the future. *EF!* is looking better and it is due to our artists, Marcy Willow of Eugene, Kathy Bogan of *High Country News*, Mad Jack of *No Fixed Address*, and Karen Tanner of Reno. With the help of all of you, your new editors (Bart, Wildcat Annie, and I) are beginning to get this monster under control.

In the last issue we began a tradition of reviving important conservation works from the past. We continue this issue with a 1927 wilderness inventory by Bob Marshall and an article on the destruction of the Salmon River Country from the 1936 *Living Wilderness*. Ned Ludd is again with us, presenting further ideas on closing roads from Hank Fonda.

Our main feature this issue, however, is the Bureau of Land Management (the Bureau of Leasing Management as Amanda de Los Volcanes from New Mexico calls it). Our emphasis is the BLM wilderness review and how it has been corrupted. This is nothing less than a national tragedy and although Clive Kincaid points out that the corruption of the wilderness review reaches its zenith in Utah, our correspondents remind us that it has been tossed into Exxon's lap from every corner of the shining

West from the beginning. Bart and I have been doing a little field work on the BLM inventory here in eastern Nevada and have found the BLM work to be appalling. In one case, the BLM drew a boundary along a "road" that the dirt-biking district wilderness coordinator couldn't find on his motorcycle. But Utah is the worst. I've been plowing through RARE II documents, BLM state inventory books, and other tragicomedies as part of our research for the *EF!* Inventory of Big Wilderness (which I reported on in the Mabon issue). I went through the BLM final WSA selection document for Utah this evening.

I'm a nice person, (or so my friends tell me). Ol' Doc Zoom tells me I'm *too* nice of a person—that's why I have an ulcer. I internalize my anger these days (probably because I wasn't a particularly nice person with my first ex-wife and I learned my lesson). But I didn't want to internalize my anger tonight. I wanted to externalize it on whoever the SOB was who was responsible for the BLM wilderness review in Utah. The man most responsible was a Carter appointee and a supposed friend of conservationists in his native Montana—Gary Wicks who served as BLM State Director in Utah during the Carter years. I remember a story told to me by Debbie Sease, the Sierra Club's BLM specialist in Washington, D.C. She was flying over the Book Cliffs with Wicks and asked him, "Now you tell me that *that* area is a WSA and *that* area right next to it is not. They aren't separated by anything. They look exactly alike. You tell me the one has wilderness characteristics and the other doesn't. Why?"

Replied Gary Wicks, "Because I say so."

From Clive Kincaid's article, it appears that it was because Exxon said so.

It just goes to show that sometimes you get shafted worse by the slimy liberal suppositories that pass themselves off as your friends than you do by honest earth-perverts like Watt and Burford.

Gawd, enough internalizing. Pardon me while I go kick over the Dempsey Dumpster out back of the Hotel Nevada. It's enough to make a nice person like me put on one of our black "Defend the Wilderness" t-shirts and do *something*.

—DF

Some of you—particularly in the East—did not receive your Lughnasad issue of *EF!* until far too late. We apologize. There have been a few snafus getting this operation back on schedule and figuring out our mailing list. We hope you got Mabon a little quicker and that this issue got to you only a week or two late. We think that all is functioning fine now. If you have any problems with receiving your copy of *EF!* please let us know.

—Wildcat Annie

As we were putting the final copy for this issue together to be sent off to the typesetters, a large box of files from the previous editor of *EF!* arrived in the mail. We couldn't help but browse through the many letters from Earth lovers around the country and some from across the seas. Doggonnit, but it's inspiring to know all of you are out there! We unfortunately came across several letters complaining about botched responses to mail orders and fouled-up subscriptions. And there were many fine submissions to the paper that were never used and probably never acknowledged. We are sorry about that. We hope that you like the new *EF!* and will give us a chance to prove ourselves. If you have a long-standing complaint, let us know.

We'll do our best to rectify it.

—DF

I'd like to make a special plea for more *EF!* regional reports and grassroots news. If you tried unsuccessfully in the past to have your local *EF!* information published in this paper, try again. As your *new* news editor, I want to cover what is going on in the radical environmental movement from Boston to San Diego, from Canada to Australia. I'd also like to encourage all of you to send in news items suitable for the *Nemesis News Net*—particularly *any* news about monkey-wrenching or militant action in defense of Earth *anywhere*. One of our main purposes is to present the news of the non-traditional Earth protection movement. We need your help to do that. Feel free to include black and white photographs or art work with your regional reports.

—B.K.



Letters

Dear *EF!*,

I am saddened by the wrenching split taking place among you in *EF!* but also a little exhilarated by the sparks.

The saving grace of *EF!* is its exciting whiff of anarchy which gives it its own volatile and vital lift.

Gary Snyder's sensitive and thoughtful letter is most sensible, but... it contains a schizo split: I liked his approving of *EF!*'s "breath of fresh air," (I much prefer 'whiff of anarchy') but I am amazed and even alarmed at seeing him equate a bulldozer to a human. *That* is really stretching credulity. I'd ask him: where would you put a handgun?

Hank Fonda's letter is tremendous. He hits the bull's eye, the very core of the issue. "We have allowed the ravagers to define violence." Beautiful. I'd go further than his merely "resisting the fascist fascists." I much prefer exposing the bastards by yelling and screaming and fist-shaking and print and poster and publicity, as *EF!* people are doing, as we've done here against the vulgar Bohemian Grove enclave.

I fully sympathize with Pete Dustrud's not wanting to feel "reduced from editor to graphic artist." He is fully entitled to defend his integrity and his pride. But... wasn't he really taking over editorial policy? And possibly changing it? Over to his?

Any editor can (and does; heck always must) load the editorial dice over to his own underlying philosophical values by using the mere power of what he puts in and leaves out. I run smack into censorship all the time.

Impartiality and objectivity are not only nonexistent; we needn't even worry about them. All we need to worry about is the purity, the truthfulness, the honesty, and the integrity of whatever value judgments we do decide to make. Presenting value judgments is profoundly the editor's chief responsibility (unless he's just pimping for advertisers, which is what most editors do). The ugly word for this same act is censorship, which is what mine enemies practice.

It almost looks to me, from this distance, not knowing any of you, like a series of molehill conflicts made worse by distance and probably the expense of communicating. I'd never heard of The Circle, and it seems to me they have every right to dictate editorial policy. It also seems to me that there is room in the *EF!* newsletter for *all* points of view. (I'll admit to my being annoyed by the image of beer guzzlers chomping down a wooded trail.)

Maybe we all have to bear and nurture our own little seeds of anarchy, our own little fire. . . . Out of all this maybe we'll all sharpen our tactics and points and make our goals clearer still.

—To Earth

Raymond Barrio

Dear fellow radicals,

I'm a federal wildlife biologist who heard about your group from other environmental magazine articles. How do I get involved? I'm one of those late 60s Vietnam veteran flower children that figured the only way to save the world was to work from the inside. It's harder than hell to be "in" with the bastards most of the time, but at other times it's really worth it.

Alaska

Dear *EF!*

Thank you, thank you for printing Bob Marshall's 1936 inventory of roadless areas. I've heard about it for years but was never able to find anything about it. Looking at what we had that recently and realizing what we've lost, makes me furious. It also makes me want to save even more than we've been asking for in wilderness. Colorado.

Dear friends,

Wow! Was that road-spiking idea in Dear Ned Ludd ever great! I know a lot of "roads" I'm going to take care of now. When I see how the plutocrats in industry and government are destroying our wild lands with impunity, I'm afraid that even the "radical" actions of *Earth First!* won't do any good. But with my hacksaw and rebar now, I can protect some special places for me. Thanks for continuing Ned Ludd and please give me more of the same.

Rebar Fred

Dear *Earth First!*

Recently I met someone on a hike that belonged to *Earth First!*. She was wearing a green t-shirt with your logo on the front. I am very interested in your movement, since I have read several of Edward Abbey's books.

Sincerely,
Salem, OR

Ed. Note: This should be encouragement to all of you to wear your Earth First! t-shirts when hiking (but don't wear them in bars in Hanksville, Utah.)

Dear Earth First!:

After reading the article in *Newsweek* about Earth First!, my immediate reaction was to write them for your address. Since I only received it today, obviously their reaction was not as immediate as mine.

In any case, although I've not been active, I'm highly interested in the environmental activities of the Southwest. I spend the bulk of my spare time backpacking and each time I hear of proposed industrialism in these and other areas, I feel sick. I want to do something, but the Sierra Club kind of leaves me cold and Haydukes' activities are a bit too radical. (Much as I admire him.)
—Albuquerque, NM

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Lengthy letters may be edited for space requirements. Be sure to indicate if you wish your name and location to appear. Send to PO Box 235, Ely, NV 89301.

Dear EF!

Tell me more! Any friend of Edward Abbey is a friend of mine! How can I help?

Thanks
Oklahoma

Earth First! In *Outside*

Over the past months, EF! has been getting considerable media coverage. Of special note were articles in *Newsweek* and *Audubon* magazines, and Dave's article in *The Progressive*.

Now *Outside* magazine will be doing a feature article on EF! in its December issue. Written by Stewart McBride, it has a number of color photographs and an interesting tale to tell. We have been treated to only a few bits and pieces of the article, but from what we've heard, we are anxious to read it.

So, look for the December issue of *Outside*. We'll try to find a copy here in Ely.

—B.K.

Wild Utah Editorial Comment

Clive Kincaid's slide presentation on the Utah Wilderness Inventory left me with a burning sense of outrage. The BLM in Utah surely has committed an unforgivable crime.

Now, the Utah BLM has made preliminary wilderness recommendations for much of the state via contrived mechanisms called "site specific analyses" (SSAs). Yes, the SSAs are based upon their outrageous inventory. (SSAs for the San Juan Country, San Rafael, and Desolation-Book Cliffs are due later on.)

Earth First! has responded, in turn, with our own proposals. Instead of playing a BLM game defined by thousands of acres, we are proposing millions of acres for protection in a series of "wilderness complexes." (This is apart from our Wilderness Preserves which are even more far-reaching.)

For example, in the magnificent Henry Mountains region the BLM is supporting wilderness

for only two areas totalling 97,000 acres. In sharp contrast, E.F. supports a Greater Henry Mountains-Little Rockies Wilderness Complex of around 800,000 acres.

Our complexes include wilderness study areas, non-selected inventoried roadless lands, lands that should have been inventoried, and lands that should be restored to a natural condition. Our management goal calls for phasing out non-conforming uses, closing roads, acquiring inholdings, throwing out invalid mining claims, etc.

At this time we have also proposed a Greater Escalante-Kaiparowits Complex of over two million acres, a Greater Dirty Devil-Fiddler Butte Complex of over 600,000 acres, and a complex of over 200,000 acres that includes lands adjacent to the southern end of Zion National Park.

We have a vision for Utah. We must make Utah a *National Issue*. We have set our sights above BLM's artificial rules and beyond their bogus inventory.

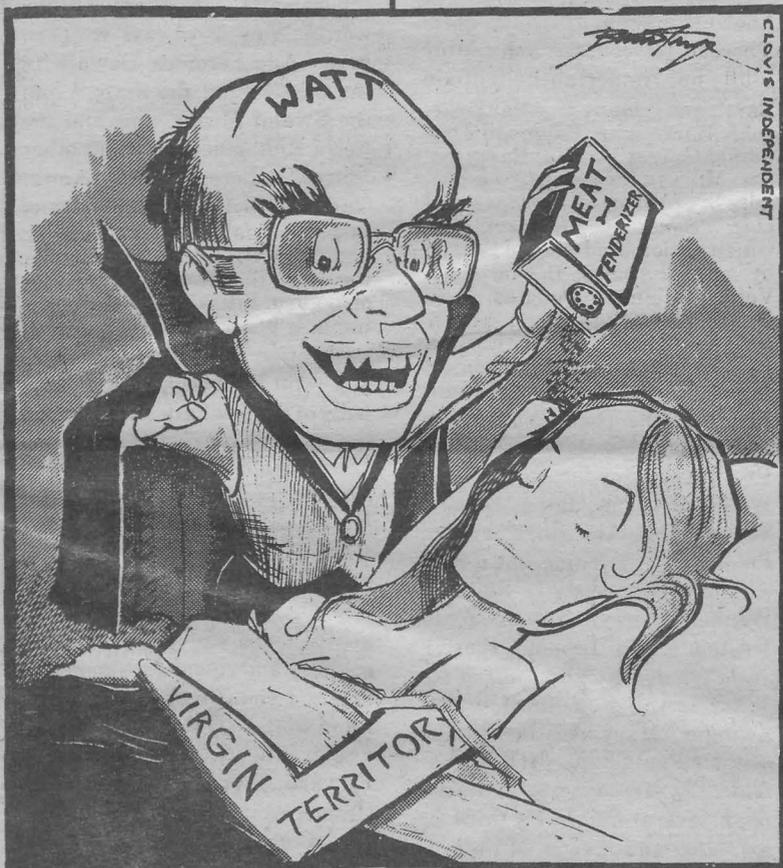
Our letter stated the following:

"Your wilderness process has been a steady march toward wholesale elimination. We urge you to look back at Bob Marshall's 1930s proposal for wilderness in southern Utah and realize that much of the country is still intact and deserving of a grand plan for protection. We fully embrace Marshall's vision for wilderness in the great southern Utah landscape."

There's a special place in the Henry Mountains where bison move among the aspen and you can gaze to the "far beyond." I long to see the sunset's glow from there again. And, with the sunrise, I will pledge to be steadfast in the struggle to save wild Utah.

—B.K.

MOVING?
SEND US
YOUR ADDRESS!



Cartoon by Burr Frye Reprinted by Permission.

—CAT TRACKS—

by Chim Blea

The Terror of Nuclear War

It is interesting that during the 25 years or so that the threat of total nuclear war has hung over our heads like Damocles' sword, we have paid serious attention to it only twice. The first time was during the Cuban Missile Crisis era when family fallout shelters were springing up in suburban backyards like beer cans after a beach party. The second time is, of course, now. Perhaps the massed human consciousness senses things in the air—in both of these cases the increased likelihood of nuclear war between West and East. The fact that so many people are concerned about WWII indicates that the chances for it are growing.

Many conservationists have become active in the effort to prevent the atomic conflagration and quite a number of environmental groups have made it one of their major issues, calling thermonuclear war "the ultimate ecological catastrophe." I certainly can't discount the horror of such a war. It would be the greatest disaster to befall the human race and civilization. I am concerned, however, with several things about the growing movement against nuclear war.

The popularly portrayed result of a major atomic war has Earth as a blackened cinder in the vastness of space. The few human survivors are cancer-ridden mutants waiting to die. Cockroaches and lichens are the only life forms surviving in the long term. This is buncombe.

Sure, if you're in Washington, D.C. or Omaha when the Rooskie missiles come down you're going to be fried. If you're downwind from Colorado Springs or Tucson you're going to die of radiation poisoning. Millions will die in the attack, and millions more will face horrible, lingering deaths from burns, starvation, radiation poisoning, other injuries, and psychological collapse. The infrastructure of society may break down. Chaos may be loosed upon the land. Civilized society could collapse. But awful as these results may be, they've been exaggerated by some of the best-known nuclear war opponents.

The bombs targeted to urban areas will be air blasts—maximizing death and destruction over the target but producing relatively little fallout. Ground blasts will be reserved for hardened missile and command sites. Such targets will produce nasty fallout plumes which will lay waste to parts of the country but they will be limited. It also must be stressed that fallout does mellow significantly after a relatively short period. The popular conception from *On The Beach* is rubbish. Even the threat of many atomic bombs wiping out the ozone layer and allowing excessive ultraviolet rays to reach Earth may not be as serious as once thought. Some current research has hopeful news on that score. Without downplaying its severe impacts, it must be said quite simply: it is possible to survive nuclear war between the USA and USSR without becoming a character in an H.G. Wells story.

We talk about how nuclear war would be a cataclysmic ecological wipe-out but most of the supporting evidence focuses on the impacts on human beings and especially on civilized human beings. Maybe it would destroy civilization. I personally wouldn't consider that such an ecological calamity. I am deeply concerned with the effects of nuclear war on the rest of life on Earth. But Earth may be more resilient than we think—if the duration of abuse is short. I don't think nuclear war is the worst ecological disaster imaginable. I think the continuation of industrial civilization is the worst ecological scenario, that that will destroy more species, ravage more land, and poison the planet more thoroughly than a major but brief exchange of nuclear warheads over the North Pole.

Not only does exaggerating the consequences of thermonuclear war damage the credibility of its opponents (it really is bad enough without exaggerating) but it creates a sense of hopelessness, of surrender. I am astounded by the people who tell me, "Well, if there's a war, I hope I'm sitting at ground zero. I don't want to survive." This weak-kneed attitude is caused by a fear of the unknown and by believing that



survivors will be staggering, starved monsters, their pain unrelieved even by heroin, on a glowing piece of charcoal.

This is my main concern with the exaggeration of the effects of nuclear war. Too many good people who should survive don't want to. Other people are planning to survive. These are people who won't learn anything from the war, who will want to recreate industrial civilization (read *Lucifer's Hammer*). Some of the rest of us need to be around to do whatever we can to prevent the recreation of industrial civilization. There'll be a lot of work to do in the early years after a war to insure that human beings do not regain their stranglehold on Earth, to develop a postwar society that can live on Earth without making it unlivable for everything else.

If you think nuclear war is likely, by all means work to prevent it (especially by opposing things like the MX missile which will cause more ground blasts and more radioactive fallout). But also be prepared to survive if and when it comes. If you aren't prepared to survive and do, you'll be a burden on your friends who have had the foresight to lay away food, tools, weapons, etc. in their retreats. By crashing in on them, you'll lessen their chances for survival.

If you want to delve further into this subject, read Bruce Clayton's *Life After Doomsday* (he has a Ph.D. in ecology) and take a look at *Survive* magazine. (It is written by the kind of survivalists about whom I am concerned but it has good information and may offer some evidence to counter the sense of hopelessness promulgated by some nuclear war opponents.)

Unrealistic?

Editorial Comment

Utah is not the only place that is plagued by the BLM's Wilderness program. Nevada also has its share of troubles.

Take the Winnemucca District, and the spectacular expanse known as the Black Rock Desert. One of BLM's possible alternatives is "all wilderness." Essentially the alternative represents the remnants of what should have been all wilderness but was whittled down during the inventory.

In this light, I was disappointed by one conservation group's newsletter concerning this region that said, "We feel that the alternative of all wilderness is unfortunately unrealistic."

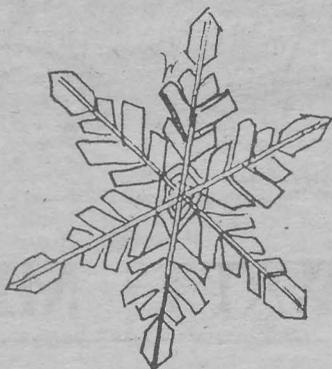
Webster's defines realistic as "rejecting the visionary." By that standard Earth First! is unrealistic and damn proud of it!

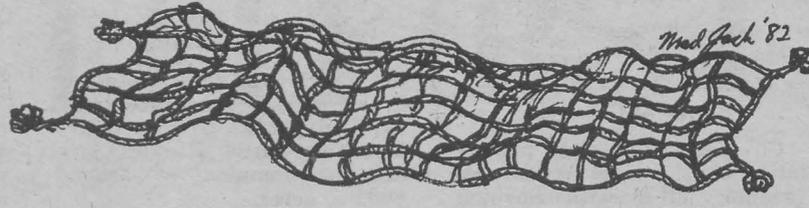
Earth First! has gone on record and challenged the Nevada BLM. We have proposed a "wilderness complex" for the Black Rock country of over 2 million acres. We stand by our proposal for the Black Rock Desert.

—B.K.

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For every gift subscription to *Earth First!* which you make before January 1, 1983, we will send you a Winter Solstice present: your choice of a monkey-wrench, bumpersticker, or 10 Silent Agitators. Be sure to indicate your selection with each gift subscription. What better way to brighten 1983 for someone than a subscription to EF?!





NEMESIS NEWS NET

edited by Bart Koehler

—Washington, D.C. —Reagan Signs Wilderness Bill—

Ronald Reagan, on Sept. 8th, signed an 8,840 acre Cumberland Island Wilderness into law. Obviously shaken by his first wilderness bill signing experience, Reagan gasped, "Gosh, I don't know if I can sign *that many acres* into wilderness again. I think I better take a nap." (The measure also includes 11,718 acres of potential wilderness.)

—Moab, Utah —Canyonlands Nuke Dump Debates

The war of words continues: —Former Interior Sec. Stewart Udall, "This is a national park. . . In normal times the Sec. of Interior would be leading the fight against this proposed dump."

—Ray Tibbetts, Grand County Commissioner and owner of uranium claims, "We dig uranium out here. Why not bury the waste here too?"

—Washington, D.C. Yates Freezes Development in Wilderness

Since the U.S. Senate wasn't moving fast enough to pass the "Wilderness Protection Act," Congressman Sidney Yates successfully tagged the following language to the House Budget Resolution: "None of the funds provided in this joint resolution shall be obligated for any aspect for the processing or issuance of permits or leases pertaining to exploration for or development of coal, oil, gas or geothermal resources on federal lands within any component of the National Wilderness Preservation System or within any Forest Service RARE II areas recommended for wilderness or allocated to further planning in executive communication 1504 (91st Congress) or within any lands designated by Congress as wilderness study areas."

The Senate later passed similar language with some weakening amendments that excluded some specific minerals and wilderness study areas in Colorado, New Mexico, the River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho and lands in Alaska. (These areas have specific mineral language in their enacting legislation.)

The budget language will be intact until new budget language is enacted.

—Washington, D.C. Wyoming Bill Stalled in Senate

After a series of maneuvers the Wyoming Wilderness Bill went up for a Senate vote. Despite an angry protest from Malcolm Wallop, Senator Howard Metzenbaum placed a "hold" on the measure. Metzenbaum was trying to force Wallop to bring the "Wilderness Protection Act" (with 54 co-sponsors) up for a voice vote. Wallop refused and Metzenbaum stood firm. The result—the bill remains grounded, at least until the Lame Ducks return.

—Monrovia, Liberia Wilderness Saves Villagers From Mining Disaster

Over 300 people narrowly missed being buried by a "devastating wall of rocks, mud and rainwater" by running into a dense woodland for refuge.

The huge mudslide crashed into the mining town of Nye Nye, killing over 30 people and burying alive over 100 sleeping villagers.

The mudslide was triggered when an iron ore mine on nearby high ground collapsed under the weight of the pounding rains.

—Washington, D.C. Ron Tells Republican to

"Shut UP!"

President Reagan's speech to a "Republican Candidates for Congress" rally in the White House was livened up by Gary Arnold's appearance.

Arnold, a candidate from Santa Cruz, California, stood up and shouted at Reagan, "We have Reaganmorts setting into the nation's body politic!" and "You have a small elite rich!"

Reagan was not impressed. He shook his finger at his fellow Californian and boomed, "Shut up!"

Outside the White House, a mob of reporters asked Arnold about his motives.

"To tell the Emperor he has no clothes on," he said.

—Las Vegas, Nevada Wilderness Seen as Mining Target

Directors of the American Mining Congress have urged Congress to open up our nation's wilderness areas to mining after next year.

The resolution said that President Reagan should reconsider "excessive acreages" recommended for wilderness. The statement also recommended opening up wilderness study areas for mining.

The American Mining Congress convention is held in Las Vegas every four years. The convention is closed to the public.

—Nixon, Nevada Judge Rules in Favor of Fish

A federal court judge ruled that water in Stampede Reservoir is for Pyramid Lake and should benefit cui-cui fish and Lahontan cutthroat trout—and not the people of Reno or Sierra Pacific Power Co.

It was a victory for the Pyramid Lake Piute Indians. The state of Nevada has appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

—Las Vegas
Reagan Visits Wayne Newton's Ranch
—No Comment.

ABBEY ON BOOKS —AND GURUS

A reading list for Nature Lovers, resistance fighters, wild preservatives, "deep ecologists" and regular working environmentalists—why not? The literature is immense and old as civilization; I have read but a small part of it myself. One could range across the world, from ancient China—the writings of Lao-Tse and his disciple Chuang—Tse—to the surviving fragments of certain pre-Socratic philosophers—Democritus, Heraclitus, Diogenes—to the sermons of St. Francis, and such modern Europeans as the novelists Knut Hamsun and Jean Giono, the historian Toynbee, the philosophers Spinoza (for his pantheism), Santayana, Heidegger, Naess. But for the sake of brevity I shall confine myself to American writers, some obvious, some little known:

Thoreau (of course); John Muir (dull but important); William Barttram; John C. VanDyke; John Burroughs; Raymond Dasmann; Garret Hardin; Barry Lopez; Murray Bookchin (see especially his *Ecology of Freedom*, and *Our Synthetic Environment*, which anticipated Rachel Carson by several years); Bernard DeVoto; William O. Douglas; Rene Dubos (but only in part, with major reservations); Loren Eiseley; Paul Erlich; William Faulkner (in *Woods, Go Down, Moses*); Colin Fletcher; the poets Walt Whitman, Robinson Jeffers, Robert Frost, Gary Snyder, Robert Bly, Wallace Stevens, James Dickey, Theodore Roethke, Jim Harrison, Peter Wild—to name but a few; Sigurd Olson; Wallace Stegner; Wendell Berry; Joseph Wood Krutch; Aldo Leopold (basic); Jack London (for his *Call of the Wild*); Annie Dillard, Ann Zwinger, Mary Austin, Rachel Carson; Paul Shepard; (?) Ehrenfeld (*The Arrogance of Humanism*); several others I'll think of too late; and Lewis Mumford,

who provided us, in such books as *The Pentagon of Power* and *The City in History*, with the best critique yet of our modern military-industrial culture—Mumford, in my opinion, is the one living American author who fully deserves the Nobel Prize for literature.

Ah well, many books. Of the making of books there is no end. I would like to close by reminding myself and others that writing, reading, thinking are of value only when combined with effective action. Those I most admire in the conservation movement are those who act: such men as David Brower, Mark Dubois, and the legendary Bulgarian brigand Georges Heiduk (to name but a few). Philosophy without action is the ruin of the soul. One brave deed is worth a hundred books, a thousand theories, a million words. Now as always we need heroes. And heroines! Down with the passive and the limp. Avoid the Swami Moonbeams and the Roshi Bubbleheads and all other "gurus" whether native American or imported, that swarm of fakes and fakirs who pander to and fleece the foolish, the gullible, the sick, the desperate. Be your own guru. Little is gained by gaping at a blank wall in a stupor of meditation. If it's enlightenment you want then seek out the company of those who do real work in the real world—e.g., cattlemen and shepherders; woodcutters; rangers and wildlife biologists; midwives, nurses and school teachers; farriers, bootmakers, gunsmiths, stone masons, veterinarians, carpenters, gardeners; astronomers and geologists; old soldiers and veteran seamen; and others I could name if I set my mind to it. Fraternally, Edward Abbey Oracle, Arizona

—Lander, Wyo. —Watt Misses Shot—

James Watt missed his one shot at an antelope at the annual One Shot Antelope Hunt held near the Continental Divide.

Upon his return to Lander, Watt reportedly took aim at the huge bronze antelope statue at the edge of town. He was restrained before doing any real damage.

—Washington, D.C. Lawmakers Oppose Federal Land Sales

During hearings before the House Public Lands sub-committee, lawmakers expressed doubts about selling federal lands to cut the national debt.

Concerns about the ability of states, counties, and towns to afford the land were voiced. One lawmaker worried that ranchers couldn't afford to pay for the lands they are currently grazing.

Subcommittee chairman John Seiberling clarified the problem with his typical wisdom, "Oh, someone could afford it—someone from Texas or some Arab would buy it up."

—Limestone, New York Allegheny State Park Threatened

Allegheny State Park will be crossed with new roads, logged for "old growth" hardwoods, and opened up for oil and gas drilling if state officials win out. Over half of the park would be timbered—out of some 65,000 acres of parkland.

In a counterproposal, N.Y. Earth First! has proposed that all roads in the park be permanently closed. An EF! spokesperson said, "If they don't have any roads, they can't do much damage."

—Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Video Games Unplugged

This country has banned the importation of video games because of an "undesirable effect on children" and noise pollution problems.

Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines have already banned video games from their lands and people.

EF! spokesmen have urged that U.S. citizens begin a movement to outlaw the games. As one EF!er stated, "Maybe then we could hear the jukebox again."

—Washington, D.C. Mt. St. Helens Signed

Ronald Reagan has signed a law designating a Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument of 110,000 acres. While most national conservation groups were happy with the measure, Earth First! members felt that a much larger area should have been granted protection.

President Reagan, on vacation again, could not be reached for comment.

AVAILABLE AGAIN!—The Famous "Watt Me Worry" T-Shirt
Get yours before Watt gets his! Only \$8 postpaid from Earth First!
Tan, blue or yellow—Specify if you want all cotton.



WATT? ME WORRY!

THE FOREST SERVICE ASSAULT ON BIG WILDERNESS

by Dave Foreman



Marcy

In 1924 the United States Forest Service protected nearly one million acres of the headwaters of the Gila River in southwestern New Mexico as a "Wilderness Reserve." During the next fifteen years the Forest Service set aside a total of some fourteen million acres to be preserved in its roadless condition. These old wilderness and primitive areas still form the bulk of the National Wilderness Preservation System today in the Lower 48 states. Conservationists applaud the Forest Service foresight of fifty years ago. Less well known is the tremendous assault by the Forest Service on large roadless areas during the same period. Not even ten years after creating the Gila Wilderness, the Forest Service sliced it down the middle with the North Star Road. In the late twenties and early thirties, the agency embarked on an ambitious road building program designed to "open up" vast tracts of wild land with highways and spur truck trails. In order to give modern-day conservationists greater perspective on the destruction of big wilderness during our century, *Earth First!* presented Bob Marshall's 1936 inventory of large roadless areas last issue. In this issue, we'd like to share two other important documents with you.

While recently rummaging through Bob Marshall's private papers in the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, I discovered a hand-written card entitled, "Wilderness Areas." It had two lists, one marked "1927" and the other "Future." Although I have seen no other reference to this card, it was obviously an early (1927?) inventory by Bob Marshall of Forest Service roadless areas over one million acres and what would be left in the near future if Forest Service road construction plans proceeded. The areas were calculated in sections and no states identified the areas. I have refigured the areas in acres and indicated the state of each.

We congratulate ourselves as a nation for our wisdom in preserving for all time the "vast" Central Idaho country in the two million acre River of No Return and million and a half acre Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Areas. But my parents were already here on this Earth when a wilderness expanse of *eight million acres* lay unbroken across the Salmon-Selway country. As you can see from Bob Marshall's figures, the Forest Service insouciantly destroyed this priceless treasure some fifty years ago. The first issue of *The Living Wilderness* (September, 1935) carried an eloquent report on this travesty and the further plans of the Freddie road-building program to lay waste to the remaining wilderness of Central Idaho, the Northern Cascades, and the Olympics. We are pleased to reprint the first half of that article in this issue of *EF!*. The second half (dealing with the Washington areas) will be presented in the Yule issue of *Earth First!*.

WILDERNESS AREAS

1927

Name	Acres
Central Idaho	7,668,480
Northern Cascade (WA)	3,435,520
Central Sierra (CA)	2,906,240
Flathead (MT)	2,360,960
Northwestern Wyoming	1,462,400
Olympic (WA)	1,440,640
Columbia-Rainier (WA)	1,356,800
Gila (NM)	1,327,360
Seven Devils (OR/ID)	1,203,840
Southern Cascade (OR?)	1,191,040
South Yellowstone (WY)	1,140,480
Boise-Sawtooth (ID)	1,130,240
Northeastern Utah	1,109,120
Prescott-Tonto (AZ)	1,106,560
Santa Barbara (CA)	1,097,600
Beartooth-Absaroka (MT)	974,080

Future

Name	Acres
Central Idaho	4,793,600
Central Sierra (CA)	2,350,720
Flathead (MT)	2,221,440
NW Wyoming	1,462,400
St. Joe-Clearwater (ID)	1,400,960
South Yellowstone (WY)	1,123,200
Prescott-Tonto (AZ)	1,106,560



THE SELWAY-SALMON RIVER WILDERNESS

"The Lolo Trail is no more.

"The bulldozer blade has ripped out the hoof tracks of Chief Joseph's ponies. The trail was worn deep by centuries of Nez perce and Blackfoot Indians, by Lewis and Clark, by companies of Northwest Company fur traders, by General Howard's cavalry horses, by Captain Mullan, the engineer, and by the early-day forest ranger. It is gone, and in its place there is only the print of the automobile tire in the dust.

"What of the camps of fragrant memory—Camp Martin, Rocky Ridge, No Seem Meadows, Bald Mountain, Indian Grave, Howard Camp, Indian Post Office, Spring Mountain, Cayuse Junction, Packers Meadows? No more will the traveler unsaddle his ponies to roll and graze on the bunch grass of the mountain tops. No more the 'mule train coughing in the dust.' The trucks roll by on the new Forest Service road, and the old camps are no more than a place to store spare barrels of gasoline.

"No more will the mountain man ride the high ridges between the Kooskooskee and the Chopunnish. 'Smoking his pipe in the mountains, sniffing the morning cool.'

"It is now but three hours' drive from the streets of Missoula to the peak where Captain Lewis smoked his pipe and wrote in his

journal: 'From this elevated spot we have a commanding view of the surrounding mountains, which so completely enclose us that though we have once passed them, we almost despair of ever escaping from them without the assistance of the Indians.' Only ten years ago it was just as Lewis and Clark saw it.

"So it is everywhere.

"The hammer rings in the CCC camp on the remotest waters of the Selway. The bulldozer snorts on Running Creek, that once limit of the back of the beyond. The moose at Elk Summit lift their heads from the lily pads to gaze at the passing motor truck. Major Fenn's beloved Coolwater Divide has become a road.

"No more can one slip up to the big lick at Powell for a frosty October morning and see the elk in droves. The hunters swarm in motor cars to the public campgrounds.

"And all to what end? Only a few years ago the great Clearwater wilderness stretched from the Bitterroot to Kooskia; from the Cedar Creek mines to the Salmon River and beyond. No road and no permanent human habitation marred its primitive nature. There it lay—the last frontier—an appeal to the mind of the few adventurous souls who might wish to plunge for weeks beyond human communication.

"The Forest Service sounded the note of progress. It opened up the wilderness with roads and telephone lines, and airplane landing fields. It capped the mountain peaks with white-painted lookout houses, laced the ridges and streams with a network of trails and telephone lines, and poured in thousands of fire fighters year after year in a vain attempt to control forest fires.

"Has all this effort and expenditure of millions of dollars added anything to human good? Is it possible that it was all a ghastly mistake like plowing up the good buffalo grass sod of the dry prairies?"

With these poetic words, Elers Koch summarized in the *Journal of Forestry*, of February, 1935, the rapid destruction of what eight short years ago was the heart of an eight million acre wilderness tract. He described eloquently the irreplaceable values which have been destroyed. Nevertheless, in spite of this terrific damage, there remains in the huge Selway-Salmon River country of Central Idaho, even in its greatly diminished expanse, the largest forest wilderness possibility in the United States.

Roughly speaking, this area is bounded by the Lolo Trail and the Lolo Pass roads on the North, the Bitterroot Valley on the East, the

Challis, Bonanza, Casto, Cape Horn truck trails and the Stanley Highway on the South, and a somewhat indefinite zone on the west running in general through Range 8 East of the Boise meridian. Within this vast forest wilderness are nearly three million acres which are almost free from mechanical developments, although here and there stub truck trails do enter for a considerable distance. The commercial values within this area are very slight. The fire danger is severe, but there is no evidence that a truck trail program will make any material difference in the total area burned. It is possible that the advantage gained by faster travel on truck trails will be largely offset by the drying up of the fuel which always occurs along openings in the forest, by the increased causes of fire which inevitably will come in on truck trails, and by the fact that a forest organization which gets into the habit of going everywhere by automobiles is inclined to become soft. So far as giving the automobilist a chance to see scenery of this type, there are many scenic highways through adjacent Washington and Idaho which make accessible to the motorist fully as beautiful country.

The Forest Service now has a very ambitious truck trail program for the entire half of this

wilderness which lies north of the Salmon River. If this program is carried out, it will leave the largest tract without roads less than 150,000 acres in size. South of the Salmon River, the Forest Service has set aside a million-acre primitive area, but it has already run one truck trail into it and is proposing to construct two more. In addition, an ambitious truck trail program has been proposed for a fringe of at least half a million acres more outside of the primitive area which should be kept in wild condition.

In summary, because this is the largest possible forest wilderness which can yet be saved, because in preserving it no important economic values will be locked up, because truck trails do not seem to furnish the solution of the fire problem, it is strongly urged that this area be set aside as a great wilderness and that all the Forest Service truck trail programs within it be abandoned. All who appreciate the wilderness and agree with this policy are requested to write at once to the Forest Service.

Reprinted from the
September 1935
Living Wilderness

DEAR NED LUDD

Closing Roads

by Hank Fonda



With Reagan's swinish cohorts in a feeding frenzy at Watt's trough, only personal acts of conscience can prevent irreparable damage to the Earth mother. Most exploitation of the life-systems requires a road, and there is no way that the death-machine can afford to constantly repair the road network (on public lands) if even a few hundred people across the country are making a spare time project out of trashing it. Roads are difficult and expensive to maintain, and especially so in many of the areas we want to save. Selected areas, such as *de facto* wilderness and roadless areas denied protection in the RARE II ripoff, can be protected by cutting the unsurfaced roads that are built and used in the process of exploitation.

Individuals can use the techniques described here, with simple, cheap tools, to prevent vehicle access to sensitive areas. You can prevent the testing that is needed to prove commercial feasibility for proposed developments such as drilling or mining. You can harass and render unprofitable an existing exploitive enterprise. Anyone who wishes to stop vehicles on an unpaved road should read the Sept. 21 *Dear Ned Ludd* column in *EF!*. A sharpened, 1/2" metal rod, driven into the wheel-ruts, is the simplest, quickest, easiest way to close a road. The angle-cut (hack-sawed) rod is too blunt to penetrate a shoe sole (even a sneaker), but a vehicle's weight forces it through the tire. The foot-long stakes are driven into the ground until the sharp end projects only about three inches. A simple "cap" (which is screwed together from plumbing pipe) fits over the sharp end to protect it from being blunted while driving.

But for a variety of reasons, you may want to employ additional methods of stopping traffic. For instance you might want to make the damage look like an act of nature (or at most, vandalism). You might want to prevent quick restoration of road usage; as each "road stake" is found it can be removed, whereas some of these techniques will require a major effort to repair. On occasion the money, equipment, and initiative to make the repairs will not come together, and it will be put off. *Even delay of destruction is a victory for those who seek to defend life.*

The well-known methods of cutting a tree across, or rolling a boulder onto, a road are of little value for our purposes. Trees can be cut out of the way, and the intruder suffers no loss. Trees can be of use on footpaths where dirt-bikes are a problem. Hikers simply step over, while the bike has to be dragged over the log(s). Of course the logs have to be placed in spots where dirt-bikes can't ride around the ends, and it has to be done in many places to present a real deterrent. A tree across the road might be effective in conjunction with another operation to delay motorized pursuit. Any boulder you can drag into the road, some 4-wheel driver with a winch can probably move out. But for those occasions where you feel that a big rock can be placed in a hard-to-remove position, the most useful tools for maneuvering big rocks and logs

are: a "come-along," rated 2 tons or heavier; 2 or more cubic chokers; 2 spud bars; a hydraulic (car or truck) jack; large and small rock chisels; and log-splitting wedges. You probably won't need all these tools on any one job, but with a tool kit like this you can do anything it is practical to do with hand labor. All these can be bought cheaply at flea markets, and anyone who works in a construction trade can easily obtain the bars, come-alongs, chokers, etc. . . . A "choker" is a length of cable with a loop in each end; one loop is passed through the other loop, with the cable wrapped around the load to be lifted or moved. Pulling on the free loop pulls the slack out, "choking" the cable tight around the load, hence the name. You will need at least two chokers and four is better. Just buy 50 feet of good, flexible 5/16" or 3/8" stranded steel cable and have it cut in four equal pieces where you buy it if possible; it takes a special cutter to do a neat job on cable. Now double the ends back to form a loop of about 6" diameter, then double cable-clip it. Cable clips can be bought in any hardware store and must be matched to the size of the cable they are to be used on; they can be put on with a wrench or vise-grip pliers. The come-along, or hand winch, can be attached directly to the object to be moved, or it can be used in conjunction with other tackle. You can use it to pull a rope or cable through blocks to multiply its rated power. The small reel on a hand-winch will only hold a few feet of cable, so you have to secure the load and get a new grip frequently. A logging chain is handy for this work; for one thing it acts as its own choker, since it has a fitting on each end that grips on any chain link it is slipped over. Steel carabiners are really indispensable for all rigging work, especially for use as "fairleads" (with the Teflon rollers is best) to lead cables and ropes over/around turns. Any library should have books that explain rigging and the use of tackle in detail; nautical books such as Chapman's have sufficient coverage of the subject.

"Spud" bars are just long, heavy duty pry-bars. You can make a really nice one cheaply by using a piece of heavy-wall, steel box tube. Cut a slot in the end of the box-tube, slip a piece of leaf-spring in the slot, and have a welding shop run a bead everywhere the leafspring touches the tube. Use the come-along to pull on the end of a log as a giant lever if even a pry bar won't do the job. The hydraulic jack is useful for raising something enough to get a bar or roller under it, and it can be used for "pushing" as described below. The rock chisels can be used to start blocks of fractured rock, as can the thicker splitting wedges.

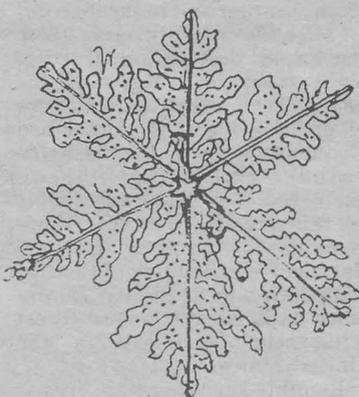
Undercutting a bank is only a little better than logs and rocks, as the rubble can usually be cleared out of the way, or driven over, with less trouble than it took to bring it down. However, it is possible to find conditions in which a modest effort applied to an unstable bank will fill up part of the road where there are no easy detours. Using the spud bar in the cracks of fractured rock is

sometimes feasible. After a bank is well undermined, a ditch across the top of the bank will help to bring it down; remain on the uphill side of the ditch and/or rope-off to avoid becoming part of the landslide! If after undercutting the bank and ditching across the top it still won't slide, you can lay a pole on each side of the bottom of the ditch. Lay the hydraulic jack on its side, between the poles, and jack them apart; they spread the load along the ditch and pushes the undermined bank off.

Much better than blocking the road is to *remove* part of the road-bed. This is especially effective on a steep hillside where more "fill" is hard to get and stabilize in place. One simple, small-scale way to do this is to ditch the natural water flow downward across the road. The best place is where a "cove" or watercourse crosses the road on a hill. Such a spot will often have a culvert or "waterbreak" to keep the run-off from washing out the road. You can dig out a water-break, creating a ditch across the road, which running water will deepen. If it is too narrow and shallow it is easy to fill with a log or two. If it is too wide it can be "forded." A pick, pry-bar, and long-handled, pointed shovel are about all the tools needed for such a job.

If the road has culverts, you can just stuff the uphill ends with rocks, etc. and dig through the road fill to expose the top of the culvert. If this is done at the beginning of a seasonal rainy period, most of the culverts will wash out, creating an excellent vehicle barrier. Or you can remove the culverts, using the come-along or a vehicle to drag them out. First dig all the road fill off the tops and free the ends enough to get a choker on them. Using pole A-frames and fairleads as necessary, get an upward pull on the end of the culvert, lifting it out of the road. Use the come-along or a vehicle to pull on the cable, through tackle as necessary, and then bend it when one end is free, leaving it half buried in the road.

continued in Yule issue



FOREMAN BIDS FOR NAT'L SIERRA CLUB BOARD

He's been talking about this for a long time. *Now*, it's official. Dave Foreman is seeking nomination and election to the Sierra Club National Board of Directors.

What better way to put some backbone into that outfit? What better way to re-align its priorities in a progressive step backward to the fighting vision of John Muir?

Only a few people are crazy enough to run for the position. Fewer still have as much expertise and experience in the realm of earth defense.

Foreman is ready, willing and able. But, you may ask, does he have appeal? You bet your engraved Sierra Cup he does!

Dave can eat *plain* yoghurt with one hand and *raw* steak with the other. He's been from a Marine Corps brig to the beaches of Topolobampo, Mexico. He's petted a rattlesnake, and has shaken Ronald Reagan's hand. He's a hard-ass and an old softie, and his mother still loves him.

Here's a sampling of his platform:

1. Sierra Club should take a more militant stand on environmental issues.
2. More of the S.C. budget should go to the Conservation Department, (especially more Assistant Regional Reps.) and to chapters and groups for conservation work.

3. Budgeting 1.8 million dollars for the new S.C. catalog and mailorder store, as Foreman put it, "Sucks."

4. S.C. should have a stronger commitment to political activity.

Foreman's background includes:

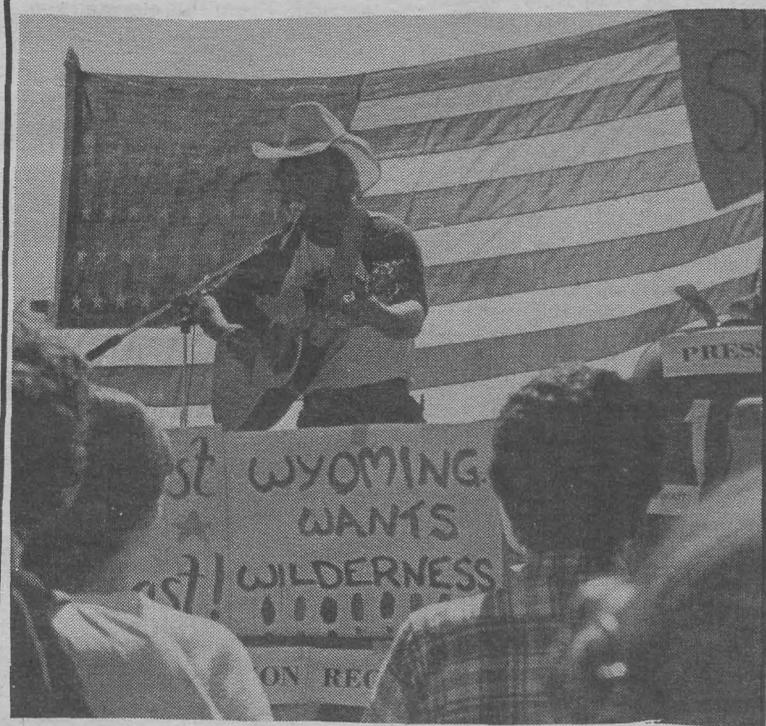
- Southwest Rep. The Wilderness Society
- Washington lobbying coordinator, The Wilderness Society
- Vice-Chair, Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
- Chair, New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee
- Board of Trustees, New Mexico Nature Conservancy
- Founder, American Rivers Conservation Council
- New Mexico Chair, Conservationists for Carter
- Founder, Earth First!
- Editor, *EF!* journal

Important Details
To qualify for nomination, Foreman needs 200 signatures. Only Sierra Club members can sign.

For petitions and a write-up on Dave contact:

B. Koehler, campaign chairman
Box 891
Ely, Nevada 89301

*Please return signed petitions to the above address by DEC. 10, 1982.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN—The Earth First! Road Show with Johnny Sagebrush, Cecilia Ostrow, Dave Foreman and the "Cracking of Glen Canyon Dam" movie will tour the West Coast the last two weeks of January. The Yule issue of *EF!* will have details. Contact your local *EF!* contact to help organize an appearance in your area.

EARTH RELIGION

HAPPY NEW YEAR

by LaRue Christie

What insanity is this? None at all. Still oriented as to time, place, and person, but oriented from an older perspective, Samhain (pronounced something like "soween," "sow-heen," or "sav-eeen") is the first day of the new year in ancient Earth Religions.

The rationale for choosing what is now November 1st as the first day of the year arises quite logically from the structure of these old religions. Almost all forms of Earth religion have in common the worship of a female goddess and a male god. In many forms, the goddess is worshipped as "first among equals," and the god is worshipped as her consort and counterpart. Male and female deities, have, in the past, been associated with both sun and the moon. Because the deity represented by the heavenly body has been known to "change sex" as the culture changed, understanding the images can become quite complicated. But the Earth is always female; thus, those who revere the Earth always worship the Goddess. In Celtic tradition, the goddess retires for the winter on November 1st, leaving the world under the reign of the Hunter God (who may also be called the Horned God, the Holly King, and the Lord of Misrule) until spring (Beltane) when She again emerges, fertile and nurturing, to bring all the world and its life forms under her benevolent rule.

Some forms of this belief system, having gained in symbolic sophistication over time, have persisted since the dawn of recorded history. Despite systematic persecution, they survive today and are consciously and openly practiced by the brave and the foolhardy. Many others revere the same concepts secretly or unconsciously. And almost everyone practices certain aspects of Earth religions without knowing the ancient and archetypal meanings of the rituals.

Samhain, literally "Summer's End," has always been a time of feast and celebration. It was the time when the old pastoralists selected the breeding stock they thought they could feed through the winter and slaughtered the remainder, salting away all that was not to be immediately eaten. All the harvest had to be gathered in by this time, too, because of the Pooka, a hobgoblin who delighted in tormenting humans and would destroy or contaminate anything left in the fields over Samhain Eve. A demon disciplinarian!

There must have been an uncertain nervousness, an anxiety, among the people about whether the food stored would be enough to see them all through the winter. In order to propitiate the winter spirits who rode the wind with the Hunter God, ritual sacrifice was observed. In even older times, there is much evidence that actual human sacrifice was performed. Such sacrifices may have served a practical as well as symbolic function. Some sources suggest that criminals or other unwanted, burdensome people in the tribe were chosen for the burning. Ritual and actual sacrifice had cathartic and realistic functions in ancient times and

was not thought so terrible where belief in reincarnation was absolute and universal throughout the majority of the world's religions. The custom of burning that which is unwanted survives into the present in England where an effigy of Guy Fawkes (a king's assassin) is burned, and in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where Zozobra ("Old Man Gloom," a 60-foot-tall symbol of anxiety and care) is burned in an elaborate ritual. The burning of Zozobra isn't Celtic in origin; it originated with the Mexican Indians, another culture which has at its roots the religious reverence for the Earth and Mother Nature. Bloodthirsty cries of "Burn him, burn him!" signal the beginning of a weekend long feast and party during autumn of each year. And each year he is reincarnated.

The Eskimos and Polynesians are known to have ceremoniously "recycled" people who were burdensome to the society because of physical or mental defect, age, or food shortage. In ancient Greece, it was considered only "good manners" to drink the hemlock when one became old and infirm. Death was not hated and feared among those peoples as it is today. It was considered merely a "passing through" to another plane of existence from which one might return. In some cases, the victim was greatly honored. Aging kings and heroes were sacrificed in some cultures, their blood spread on the fields to ensure future fertility. Such a rite might have been symbolic of impregnating the Goddess before her withdrawal into the underworld. Since the Goddess emerged every spring, just as the sun was reborn each morning after visiting the "other world" each night, the cycle of life and death was balanced for these peoples, even unto their deities.

Christians too believed in reincarnation until about the 5th century A.C.E. ("after the common era," meaning the same thing as A.D., anno Domini, without accepting the implication that time began when Jesus was born). However, the Church doctrine that Jesus was a scapegoat for the sins of those who confessed and repented, even upon the deathbed, relieved the sinner from personal responsibility for his behavior. That doctrine was contradictory to the belief in reincarnation which emphasized that social debts incurred in the present life would be paid in the future one. Since, if you were a cruel king or pope you might be reborn as a slave or pagan (literal translation; peasant), belief in reincarnation imposed a certain restraint on the exercise of power. During the Dark Ages, it was important to those who had power to be able to retain it, using whatever harsh means were necessary and later being absolved of sin by the clergy. The economic hard times made those in power choose between sharing more of their wealth with the peasantry upon whose labor they depended or forcing those peasants to continue their labors while having less to eat. The psychological and economic advantages of a belief system which allowed one to be forgiven for the harm one did to others, without having to repay the people harmed, are obvious. While Jesus taught that, in our

love for one another, we should be able to forgive one another's weaknesses and mistakes "seventy times seven," he never said that a third party could forgive the first party for harming a second party. Only a bureaucracy could come up with an idea like that.

The belief in reincarnation and the notion that each action produces its own appropriate reaction, no matter how long delayed, is important to the understanding of Samhain. This holiday was the time when the barriers between past, present, and future were minimal as the old year ended and the new one began, thus making one aware of how past actions affect the present and future. This concept is echoed in the Jewish Yom Kippur, a time of atonement for past misdeeds, which occurs just before Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Reincarnation also held that the souls of those who had died dwell on other psychic planes until they are ready to re-enter the plane of "life on Earth." At Samhain, the time of changing the seasons, it was believed that a passage opened between the planes of psychic existence to permit the Lady of fertility and nurturance to retire and rest for the winter and the Lord of animals, of the hunt, and of death to emerge. The image of the ruling spirits of winter is always harsh, demanding, awe-inspiring, and wild (i.e., not subject to mankind's wishes); these spirits delighted in tormenting humans who deserved it. Worse still, during the brief time when the passage between spiritual planes was open, communication with the spirits of those who had died became easier; thus one was subject to haunting by any spirit who held a grudge.

The feasting that took place on Samhain was not only in celebration of the "harvest home;" it was also Feile na Marbh (pronounced *faile na mah*), the Feast of the Dead, a way of welcoming beloved shades to the warmth and friendliness of the family again. It was necessary to propitiate mischievous spirits by offering gifts (treats), but the spirits could sometimes provide information about things to come.

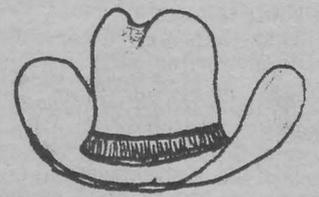
Divinatory rituals were very much a part of the Samhain celebration. Some might divine the identity of a future husband-to-be by the way that nuts jumped while being roasted in the fire. Or a girl might wash her nightdress in running water and hang it to dry before the fire on Samhain Eve to summon her future mate, who would enter and turn it over. In Ireland, it is still very much a custom to bake "barm brack," a dark loaf made with dried fruit and nuts and "articles of fate." It's thought that a ring found in a slice of barm brack predicts a marriage within twelve months, a pea means poverty while a bean foretells wealth, a stick indicates violence, particularly between life partners, and a rag promises the finder a life unmarried.

Fertility divinations have always been particularly important, as Samhain was an occasion of traditional and deliberate sexual freedom. It is practically mandatory to many practitioners of Earth religions that the "Great Rite" be actually or symbolically observed. Sexuality was once upon a time loved and revered as the holiest celebration of life, a sacramental act in honor of life. Sexual union symbolized the hierogamos (holy marriage) that took place between the Goddess and the God and produced all life in Earth, even the Earth itself in many creation myths. It was probably one of the major reasons why so much physical and economic force was needed to institutionalize Christianity as the *only* religious standard permissible and one which found sex to be evil.

The pagans (peasants) liked the teachings of Jesus, but they didn't find them incompatible with the traditions of the Goddess, who also taught and represented the principles of love and nurturance. So the people simply gave respect and reverence to both. Obviously, such plurality dilutes the power and authority of the priests of any religion. If the purpose of the (organized) religion is worship, then power isn't important and plurality is permissible. But if the purpose of the (organized) religion is power, then worship may be sacrificed in the interest of unity. Thus, the Church re-scheduled its day of reverence for departed saints, All Hallows Day, from May 13th to November 1st, making October 31st All Hallows Eve or Halloween. Now the pagans had to choose between Samhain or All Hallows, and both economic and physical sanctions could be applied by the priests and land barons against those peasants who chose incorrectly. Nevertheless, celebration of the holiday retained many of the traditional rituals of Samhain (giving gifts or treats to mischievous "spirits," bonfires, burning of effigies, divination) and most of the psychic quality that sensed a blurring of the barriers between spiritual planes and between time conceptions. In England, the Church patriarchs became so incensed that they abolished All Hallows holiday altogether and did not restore it until 1928 when it was thought that the old pagan associations were forgotten.

But the ancient beliefs and practices are tied to the Sun, the Moon, the Earth, the seasons, and the deepest and most profound concern of mankind—conscious awareness of life and death. The rituals of Earth religions continue into the present time, remarkably similar to the ancient ones. They are most often dedicated to gods whose names have changed, but the energies represented by the gods are archetypal to humankind and remain the same and recognizable, even through hundreds of name changes that have occurred over the centuries.

Many thanks to the following helpful sources: Janet and Stewart Farrar, *Eight Sabbats for Witches*; Marie-Louise von Franz, *Creation Myths*; Venetia Newall, *The Encyclopedia of Witchcraft & Magic*; G. Rattray Taylor, *Sex in History*; Charles Squire, *Celtic Myth and Legend, Poetry and Romance*; Doreen Valiente, *An ABC of Witchcraft Past & Present*.



Susannah Pass—A Movie Review

One of these weeks, if you're crazy enough to watch the 2 a.m. movie, you might get lucky and see an early-day Roy Rogers' movie called "Susannah Pass."

Roy was a game warden who lived in a fire lookout tower but still wore his white cowboy hat and fancy boots. Dale Evans was a fishery biologist (with a Doctorate Degree) working at a California trout hatchery. Bullet was a puppy, Trigger was magnificent, Buttermilk wasn't a star and Pat Brady hadn't brought his jeep into the movies yet. Ah yes, the Sons of the Pioneers played dual roles as the likeable town drunks in jail, and as Roy's assistant wardens and roommates in the tower.

Now, you may ask, what does this have to do with Earth First!?

Well, the villains were evil oilmen, led by a dastardly banker, and an ex-convict oil geologist. There was a vast oil reserve located underneath the hatchery pond. The bad guys used seismic blasts to kill the trout in an attempt to close the hatchery and take control of the oil reserves.

I could go on and on. The good guys rode horses and outran the truck-driving bad guys.

The owner of the hatchery couldn't swim and drowned when his evil banker-brother shot his boat full of bullet holes. Meanwhile the Sons of the Pioneers crooned their tunes.

There's much more to this classic flick. But the message at the end really grabbed me. As the sun set over California, Roy pulled his white Stetson off his head and said, "There's more to this hatchery than producing trout for fishermen. These fish are a part of the wonder of nature for one and all to enjoy and protect."

—B.K.

"I may be arrested, I may be tried and thrown in jail, but I never will acquiesce or submit to authorities nor will I make peace with a system which degrades woman to a mere incubator and which fattens on her innocent victims."

—Emma Goldman, 1916

EARTH FIRST! EARTH FIRST! LOCAL GROUPS AND CONTACTS

Caribou Does Big Death Scene by Reuben Ellis

Just when you think you have all the environmental angst you can handle, just when revenge and passion are rising up your esophagus like too much caffeine, just when the moral detritus of Reaganomics and the American lust for ever more expensive hag fish is washing up *your very own* pipes and flooding all over *your* bathroom floor. . . just as disenfranchisement is being sung in the epic mode comes more bad news from the northwest.

Rangifer Tarandus Montanus, the Selkirk mountain caribou is about to do the big death scene from Hamlet—for keepers. These caribou, which roam the wild, mountainous border of British Columbia and Idaho are the southernmost existing herd of wild caribou in North America. They are the *only* remaining caribou in the contiguous United States. And the latest count estimates the size of the herd at *fifteen*. Biologists now say that *Rangifer* is the rarest mammal in the United States.

Illegal hunting, automobile traffic, powerline corridors and clearcut logging continue to shrink the caribou range. The population continues to decline—by some estimates down 50% in the last few years. The Selkirk caribou is a California condor with large Bambi eyes. And you know what—this is where the story really takes a turn toward the ugly—the Selkirk caribou is *not* even included on the federal government's list of endangered species! That's right, our boys in Washington just hate long good-byes, so they're making the genocide of *Rangifer* short and sweet. The great ethical/moral sieve that directs our national land management policy is prepared to watch the demise of a great and important species.

You see, the Selkirk mountain caribou is a sort of barometer of wildness. Their presence is an indication of healthy wilderness. If they disappear, it means somebody screwed up, probably irrevocably. Part of the Selkirk Mountains of northern Idaho is currently under consideration for wilderness classification. Included is part of the remaining caribou range. Wilderness designation for all RARE II lands in the Selkirks and endangered species classification for *Rangifer* are urgent priorities if we want to do right by this animal.

We humans are getting a nasty reputation for greed and extinction. As a result, the caribou is in trouble. We are in trouble. Earth First!ers. . . take your cue!

For more information on the Selkirk mountain caribou and the many incompetents and douchebags trying to seal its fate write Star Rt. 1, Box 100, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805.

The Lee Metcalf National Preserve and Wilderness

Earth First! Montana has called for the creation of a **Lee Metcalf National Preserve and Wilderness** of about 925,000 acres in southwestern Montana, directly adjacent to Yellowstone National Park.

The proposal calls for two large wilderness units within the preserve, the return of all Burlington/Northern "checkerboard lands" to the federal government, acquisition of scenic easements for other private lands within the unit, a 5-year phaseout of the Big Sky Resort, revocation of the Ski Yellowstone Special Use Permit, Wild and Scenic River designation for the Madison, Gallatin, and Yellowstone Rivers, withdrawal from mineral entry for the entire preserve, designation of a "Scenic Highway Corridor," and a national system of "Wilderness Recovery Areas."

Howie Wolke, the EF! Wyoming/Montana Wilderness Coordinator said, "This is the only way to insure protection for this vital link in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Forest Service obviously can't do the job."

A spokesperson for the EF! Montana group added, "John Melcher has gone too far! His anti-wilderness bill and efforts to accommodate Burlington/Northern's every whim are an insult to the memory of Senator Lee Metcalf, a great conservationist. The Senator from Burlington/Northern is not representing the people of Montana. He has forced us to fight back."

Current threats to the wild nature of the area are numerous: logging, mining, road building, power corridors, commercial ski development, subdivisions, and other developments are all proposed or proceeding within the proposed preserve.

The **Lee Metcalf National Preserve and Wilderness** would include two wilderness units. The Gallatin Range unit would follow the boundaries drawn by the late Senator Metcalf (S.393) and generally supported by Montana citizens. The Taylor-Hilgard unit would also follow the S.393 boundary, but would also add approximately 50,000 additional acres, mostly in three areas: Mt. Hebgen, the Taylor Fork, and an area just south of Big Sky on lands currently "owned" by Burlington/Northern. The controversial Jack Creek area is included in the Taylor-Hilgard unit, and existing access to private ranches would remain open within the Taylor Fork addition.

Wolke also criticized other Montana conservation groups for their compromising positions. "The Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Madison-Gallatin Alliance, and Montana Wilderness Association are not willing to fight fire with fire. They're so busy trying to cut a deal with Senator Melcher that they've nearly given away the entire ballgame."

When asked about Earth First! plans in the future, Wolke said, "If necessary, we'll organize and carry out any level of civil disobedience necessary to protect the wild Madison and Gallatin ranges. Long live the Grizzly bear, the wilderness, and the will to resist!"

EARTH FIRST! LOCAL GROUPS AND CONTACTS

If you want to become involved with other EARTH FIRST!ers in your area, contact one of the folks listed below. If you'd like to start a local group of EF! or be a local contact, contact Tony Moore 316 E Spruce #2 Missoula MT 59801 (406) 728-5493.

AUSTRALIA

John Seed
Rainforest Information Centre
22 Terania St Lismore 2480
New South Wales, Australia

ALASKA

Tom Pogson
SR 20056
Fairbanks, AK 99701

ARIZONA

Paul Hirt
Box 40154
Tucson, AZ 85717
(602) 882-0830

ARKANSAS

Bill Coleman
924 N. Taylor
Little Rock, AR 72203
(501) 664-7127

CALIFORNIA

Arcata—Bill Devall
POB 21
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 822-8136

Fresno—Michael Bordenave
Sierra Assoc. for the Environment (SAFE)
3771 Circle Dr
W. Fresno, CA 93704
(209) 229-0272

Marin County—Tim Jeffries

22 Claus Circle
Fairfax, CA 94930
(415) 456-7433

San Francisco—Phillip

Friedman
2300 Ortega St.
San Francisco CA 94122
(415) 665-0794

San Luis Obispo—Jean C.

Gordon
1214 B Mill St
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Santa Cruz—Jean

Brochlebank C.
425 Washington #6
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(408) 426-9266

COLORADO

Boulder—Richard Ling
1020 13th #K
Boulder, CO 80302

Durango—Steve Rauworth

8593 Hwy 172
Ignacio, CO 81137
(303) 884-9864

Glenwood Springs—John

Flippone
POB 1091
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
(303) 945-2075

Telluride—Art Goodtimes

POB 1008
Telluride, CO 84435

CONNECTICUT

R. Neil Harvey
235 S Park St
Willmantic, CT 06226
(203) 423-2926

GEORGIA

Julia Heinz
378 Oakland Ave SE
Atlanta, GA 30312
(404) 525-2271

ILLINOIS

Prairie Grove Group EF!

Don Johnson
Woodside Farm
1841 S River Rd
Des Plaines, IL 60018
(312) 296-7960 or
Tim Byers
(312) 463-8045

KANSAS

Manhattan—Neil Schanker
1221 Thurston,
Manhattan, KS 66502
(913) 532-5866
Oskaloosa—Daniel Dancer
Sleeping Beauty Ranch
Oskaloosa, KS 66066

MAINE

Brunswick—Gary Lawless
POB 186
Brunswick, ME 04011
(207) 729-5083

Harrington—Charles Ewing

RD 1
Harrington, ME 04643

MARYLAND

Leonard J. Kerpelman
2403 W Rogers
Baltimore, MD 21209
(301) 367-8855

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor—Joe Onion
1201 White St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

MONTANA

Tony Moore
316 E Spruce #2
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 728-5493

NEVADA

Jomayne R. Stevens
65 Vine St
Reno, NV 89503

NEW JERSEY

Bob Ludd
246 Fawn Ridge
Mountainside, NJ 07092
(201) 233-7656(N) 624-7446 (D)

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque—Neil Cobb
3205 Campus NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
(505) 268-6352 (H)
(505) 277-6437 (W)

Santa Fe—Tom Callanan

815 Dunlap St
Santa Fe, NM 87501

NEW YORK

Troy—Ralph Meima
251 Liberty St
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 272-2496

Tully—Milton Bieber

Stevens Rd RD #1
Tully, NY 13129
(315) 696-8072

NORTH CAROLINA

Andrews—Hank Fonda
RT 1 Box 640B
Andrews, NC 28901

Star—Ron & Sue Correll

Star Farm Rt. 1 Box 78 A-1
Star, NC 27356

OHIO

Rik Thuesen
Antioch College
Yellow Springs, OH 45387 or
8483 Whitewood
Brecksville, OH 44141

OREGON

Corvallis—Lynn Cochrane
744 NW 27th
Corvallis, OR 97330
(503) 753-6486

Eugene—Greg Morris

2570 Jackson St
Eugene OR 97405
(503) 687-0085

Portland—Eileen Kay

4815 NE Flanders
Portland, OR 97213
(503) 236-7308 or

Melinda Lee

9945 SW Trotter Pl
Beaverton, OR 97005
(503) 646-0132

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia—Lisa Jo Frech
233 Plymouth Rd
Gwynedd Valley, PA 19437

TEXAS

Rio Grande Guides' Assoc.
Box 57
Terlingua, TX 70852

UTAH

Logan—George Nickas
422 N 400 E
Logan, UT 84321
Moab—Bob Phillips
POB 381
Moab, UT 84532
(801) 259-2059

Provo—Ken Wintch

1101 Elm Ave
Provo, UT 84601
(801) 377-2367

Salt Lake City—Spurs Jackson
POB 26221
Salt Lake City, UT 84126
(801) 355-2154

VIRGINIA

Alan Kinchloe
Rt. 1 Box 54A
Millboro, VA 24460

WASHINGTON

Olympia—Randy Weeks
1221 Bing St
Olympia, WA 98502

WEST VIRGINIA

J.R. Spruce
Box 222-A
RR 1
Ridgeley, WV 26753
(304) 738-2212

WYOMING

Nagasaki Johnson
Box 2617
Jackson, WY 83001
(307) 733-8054

(NOTE TO CONTACTS: Please check to make sure your address is correct. Send us your phone number if we don't have it.)

EF! State Wilderness Coordinators

The following people are coordinating EF! wilderness studies and comments to agencies in their respective states. As was mentioned in the last issue of EF! it was decided at the RRR that Earth First! should become more involved in the BLM wilderness review and RARE II wilderness bills. The EF! paper will maintain a file of all EF! comments so please send copies of your comments to us. If you'd like to coordinate BLM or Forest Service wilderness in your state for EF!, please let us know so we can list you. EF!ers who would like to help on this project should contact their state coordinator.

ARIZONA

Paul Hirt
Box 40154
Tucson, AZ 85717
(602) 882-0830

MONTANA

Howie Wolke
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Jackson, WY 83001
(307) 733-5343

NEVADA

Dave Foreman
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(702) 289-8636

NEW MEXICO

Dave Foreman
(temporary)

OREGON

Gregg Morris
2570 Jackson St.
Eugene, OR 97405
(503) 687-0085

WYOMING

Howie Wolke

UTAH

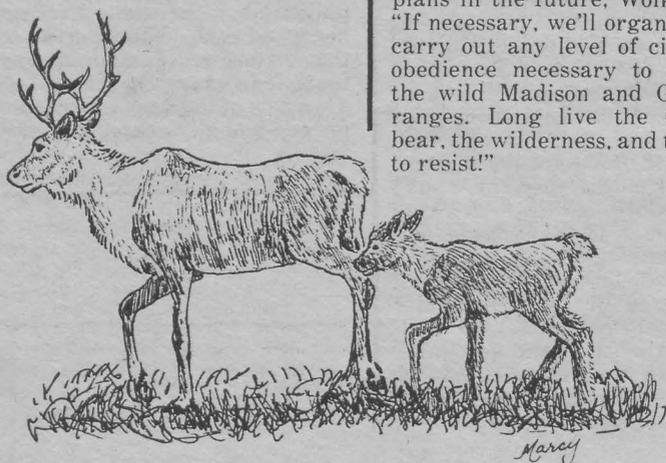
Bart Kohler
POB 235
Ely, NV 89301
(702) 289-8636

IDAHO

Dave Foreman/Bart Koehler

Note to Local EF! Contacts

Send us reports of your activities, issues, updates, and announcements of EF! meetings in your area. This is your space in EF! Use it!



THE BATTLE OF ELLIOT KNOB

—Paul Bratton

"The most important gathering in opposition to the invasion of our mountains since Stonewall Jackson kicked the Yankees out of McDowell."

That was how one participant described the May 2nd (1982) victory celebration when more than 50 residents of northwestern Virginia gathered on Elliot Knob. Some might call that an exaggeration, but others saw the local victory over the combined forces of VEPCO, the U.S. Forest Service, and the chemical industry as even more phenomenal than Jackson's rout of the Union Army from these mountains 120 years ago.

This time the battle wasn't fought with musket and cannon. Instead a dedicated band of rural residents had turned out with chainsaws and axes to defeat a Virginia Electric and Power Co. (VEPCO) plan to assault this highest peak in northwest Virginia with toxic chemicals.

For a year residents had opposed plans to aerial spray the two-mile long transmission right-of-way leading to the Knob. The rugged Elliot Knob area of the George Washington National Forest was allocated to non-wilderness under RARE II largely due to the presence of the power-line and public television relay antenna in the heart of the area. The objections of nearby residents, an administrative appeal, and even an offer to voluntarily clear the right-of-way were all rejected by VEPCO and the Forest Service.

However, all was not lost. During the opposition to this project and other Forest Service actions, a loosely knit band of mountain residents had come together under the name Appalachian Survival. Appalachian Survival was dedicated to defending a place and a way of life that is increasingly threatened. Soon thereafter Appalachian Survival became affiliated with Earth First!

With helicopter spraying scheduled for this summer, members of Appalachian Survival decided to take matters into their own hands.

On two spring weekends more than a dozen workers turned out determined to defeat the spray plan by the simple strategy of removing the spray targets. Tree species including maple, pine, and locust were cut and removed from the right-of-way. Low-growing plants like mountain laurel, blueberry, and bear oak were left to provide food and cover for wildlife as well as to inhibit future invasion by tree species.

Once the right-of-way was cleared, a public information campaign was carried out, culminating in the May 2nd celebration.

With reporters from local papers and radio calling the power company for a response to the action, VEPCO officials, after months of ignoring residents' concerns, were quick to quietly accept the manual clearing as removing the need for herbicide use on Elliot Knob.

Meanwhile the Forest Service took a "very dim view" of Appalachian Survival's action. George Washington National Forest spokesman Malcolm Cockerham announced there would be an investigation with possible trespass charges since the "cutting was done without any authority."

According to AS member and nearby resident Paul Bratton,

"There may have been a technical violation but this was only to stop more serious violations that would have occurred with the spraying." Opponents saw contamination of nearby streams, wildlife in the area, and those who depend on the wildlife for sustenance as likely results of the spray project.

Despite repeated requests, the Forest Service had refused to monitor water quality in the spray area. Nor would the Forest Service or VEPCO address public concerns about the possible dioxin contamination from a 1975 right-of-way spraying with 2,4,5-T, a major component of Agent Orange.

This time around VEPCO had planned to use Krenite, a relatively new chemical with little data available on its environmental effects.

The chemical's label carries these warnings: "Do not use on food crops. Do not allow drift or spray mist to contact desirable trees, shrubs or other plants, as injury may result. . . . Do not contaminate any body of water."

AS Toxics Coordinator Judy Price stated, "Neither we, whose lives are bound to these mountains, nor government agencies like the Forest Service, nor corporations like VEPCO, can know what effect the spraying of Krenite on this right-of-way may have on us in the future. We do not know whether it will be discovered that Krenite, or some contaminant or metabolite of Krenite, is persistent in animal flesh and carcinogenic. But we do know that we don't want our mountain to be used as a test site for toxic chemicals, nor do we wish to be guinea pigs for Dupont (who makes Krenite) or VEPCO."

In addition to stopping the aerial spray on Elliot Knob, workers were eager to prove that manual clearing provides a viable alternative to broadcast herbicide use. VEPCO had asserted that the spraying would cost \$1,700 compared to a cost of over \$5,000 for manual clearing.

The Elliot Knob action publicized the fact that manual workers could have earned \$30 an hour (or an obviously absurd \$100 per hour at VEPCO's figure for manual clearing) for the 50 man and woman hours required for the clearing. In the future agencies will be forced to produce more honest cost comparisons as they seek to justify their herbicide projects.

To contact Appalachian Survival write Alan Kincheloe, Rt. 1, Box 54A, Millboro, VA 24460.

NOTE: While digging through the EF! files of our former editor we came across this regional report from Virginia. It is a little dated but certainly worthy of your attention. Good Work, Appalachian Survival!

Greetings From Yellow Thunder Camp:

The strength of Yellow Thunder Camp has brought it nearly to the completion of its sixth season in the sacred He Sapa. Federal and state authorities, being unable to combat this strength have launched a new assault on the men, women and children of Yellow Thunder. The members of the camp have joined together and formed a tight fist to combat this latest wave of politically and racist motivated persecution. By sending our allies and supporters the following information, we are asking you to join this fist and stop this wave.

Consider:

- On August 14, 1981 a rural Rapid City man was taking pictures of the Camp from the ridge immediately overlooking the campsite. After being approached by two camp members, he drew and cocked a .45 automatic pistol and then drove away in an International Scout, S.D. license plate number AFZ-494.

- On August 17, 1981 camp attorney Bruce Ellison, after having made reports by phone, informed Pennington County Sheriff Mel Larson and Pactola District Ranger Craig Whittekiend of the U.S. Forest Service about this and other life threatening situations by letter.

- On July 21, 1982 a rural Rapid City man became belligerent, pointed and cocked a .357 magnum pistol at camp members. His gun arm was blocked, he fell back and the gun went off, killing the man within minutes. His license plate number was S.D. AFZ-494. His name was Clarence Tollefson.

- On August 3, 1982 James Lee Jones, who had blocked Tollefson's shot, was arrested for being a prison escapee from Colorado.

- On August 4, 1982 25 armed U.S. Marshalls and Deputy Sheriffs went into Yellow Thunder, searched it, and served subpoenas to almost all camp members to appear before a state grand jury to investigate the shooting and the "fugitives in Yellow Thunder Camp."

- On August 16, 1982 camp members appeared at the Pennington County Courthouse, gave out statements calling the grand jury a "witch hunt" designed to help the elections of the sheriff and the state's attorney and refused to testify.

- On August 17, 1982 Yellow Thunder Camp called for the resignation of Sheriff Mel Larson on the basis of criminal negligence and obstruction of justice for failing to investigate the August 14, 1981 Tollefson incident.

- On August 18, 1982 the grand jury was suddenly postponed for one month.

- On August 19, 1982 the sheriff and his chief deputy were subpoenaed by the camp to appear in federal court and explain why



the August 14, 1981 incident was not investigated. They finally admitted that they did not think it was important.

To meet this new attack, we are gathering seven movement lawyers, well versed in grand jury law, from around the country to come in and aid our court appointed attorneys. We are also hiring a special investigator to find out if there are any relationships between Tollefson and any law enforcement and intelligence agencies. To do this we need \$5,000. Please help by contributing to the Yellow Thunder Legal Defense Fund.

We also need your letters to call for the investigation of the above incidents. Please write the agencies listed below.

We are standing together against those local officials who are trying to destroy our way of life here at Yellow Thunder Camp. We ask you to stand with us.

—Russell Means

*Please make checks payable to the American Indian Treaty Council Information Center (for tax deductible contributions) and send your contributions to the Yellow Thunder Camp address: Yellow Thunder Camp / Lakota Nation/ via P.O. Box 9188 / Rapid City, South Dakota 57701.

Please write to the following to ask them to investigate the above incidents:

James Weaver, Chairman
Forest Subcommittee
1226 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Don Edwards, Chairman
Civil & Constitutional Rights
2307 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Clint Roberts
S.D. member of Congress
1009 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

James Abdnor
South Dakota Senator
4241 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Toby Moffett, Chairman
Energy, Nat'l Resources and the Environment Subcommittee
127 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Tom Daschle
S.D. member of Congress
439 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Larry Pressler
South Dakota Senator
2104 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20515

In addition, please write the following to investigate the above incidents, plus the Community Relations Service (CRS) of the Justice Department. Dennis Renault of CRS informed the camp on July 1 that a vigilante group had formed to disrupt the camp and then failed to do anything about it:

William French Smith,
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Director
U.S. Civil Rights Committee
Washington, D.C.

Watt Goes A Courtin' in NV

Sept. 20

The Honorable James Watt was forced to sneak in the back door of Bliss Mansion in order to be the "guest of honor" at a Republican Party fundraiser in Carson City.

Watt was to be the "star of the show" at a \$125-a-head cocktail and hors d'oeuvres affair, located across the street from the governor's mansion.

Instead, the show was stolen by some 50 protestors who sang anti-Watt songs from just outside the mansion's white picket fence. The spirited group also chanted, "Dump Watt," and "Watt's Wrong," to the dismay of the finely dressed observers standing on the front porch. Television cameras captured the scene, radio news reporters scampered about, and newspaper reporters busily scratched out interviews.

The loosely organized protest was a direct result of Watt's refusal to meet with a group of Nevada conservationists. Organizer Rose Strickland had sent Watt a letter asking for a meeting that would be "free of hostility." Rose never got a reply, so there she was holding a sign which read "Zap Predator Plutocrats —Not Predators," and telling a reporter, "We're here to make the point that Nevadans do care about clean water, wildlife and wilderness."

Charlie Watson, a long-time Nevada conservationist, wore his "Republicans for Wilderness" shirt to the event. He told another reporter, "Watt not only refuses to meet with the public, but his BLM agency is busy eliminating millions of acres of magnificent public lands from wilderness protection in Nevada!"

Watt refused to venture outside the white mansion to greet his welcoming committee. Furthermore, the Secretary (who was bedecked with a "Republican Necktie—subtly festooned with tiny elephants") did not invite the singing protesters in for champagne and caviar. He apparently was offended by placards that read "Jesus Saves—Watt Destroys" and "This Land Was My Land."

It was truly a grand scene for Nevada conservationists. As a finale the protesters, led by Johnny Sagebrush, marched around the mansion and sang "When the saints go marching in... Oh Lord, I want to be in that number—to see James Watt pay for his sins!"

As the diverse group of Nevadans drifted homeward in the coming darkness, a reporter asked Johnny Sagebrush about the protest. After noting that the group of Nevadans formed "the best singing group we've had" he added, "Out here in the West, we believe in giving a warm welcome to foreign dignitaries."

—B.K.



MOVING?
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NUCLEAR WAR AS AN ECOLOGICAL ISSUE

by Bill Devall

Book Review

Jonathan Schell, *The Fate of the Earth*, NY, Knopf, 1982, \$11.95 (paperback edition available in November)

Jonathan Schell calls us to think the unthinkable. The unthinkable is the possibility of nuclear war and the extinction of our species, *Homo sapiens*. Schell's essays, which were originally published in *New Yorker* magazine, have been criticized, discussed and praised by many commentators in the news media. The book has become a focus for debates concerning the bilateral nuclear freeze proposition on the November ballot in California and debates over disarmament and national defense.

There are many books now available on the social, economic and ecological consequences of nuclear war, but Schell is one of the first to thoroughly discuss the "second death," the extinction of our species. Nuclear war, says Schell, is not just another war, not just new technology applied to some goal. There can be no winners in an all-out nuclear war, only losers. Such terms as "limited exchange of nuclear devices" or "tactical nuclear war" are absurd. Death is the only victor. The nuclear peril, Schell asserts, "is rooted in basic scientific knowledge, which is likely to last as long as mankind does. . . . But in the presence of that peril opposite poles of response. . . . are possible, and the quality of the lives we live together is conditioned in opposite ways according to which response we choose. The choice is really between two entire ways of life. One response is to decline to face the peril, and thus to go on piling up the instruments of doom year after year until, by accident or design, they go off. The other response is to recognize the peril, dismantle the weapons, and arrange the political affairs of the earth so that the weapons will not be built again." (148)

The threat of nuclear holocaust is so immense, Schell argues, that many humans deny the threat or diminish the importance of it to maintain their own sanity. But the denial of the threat, is a form of "normal madness."

Among the difficulties we have in thinking about the threat of nuclear holocaust is the lack of historical precedent. Nuclear war is not just bigger warfare than ever witnessed in history, it is a different type of warfare. It threatens the extinction of all future generations of our species and our reflections on this "second death" require a kind of mental zen gymnastics. Politics as usual, thinking as usual will not suffice. Nor will rational assessment of the consequences of nuclear warfare help us much. There is too much uncertainty on the effects—immediate, short range and long range—to make any "scientific predictions." Yet, what would a wise and prudent person do knowing what little we do know about nuclear warfare from the experiences in Hiroshima and the atmospheric tests in Nevada and the South Pacific? Certainly we do not wish to experiment further with nuclear bombs. As Schell says, ". . . there are restrictions on experimenting with human beings; when the results might be injurious, laboratory animals are used instead. However, in investigating the properties of the earth we lack

even any recourse that would be analogous to the use of these animals, for if we have no extra, dispensable earths to experiment with, neither are we in possession of any planets bearing life of some different sort." (77)

Even if some humans escaped a "nuclear exchange" between superpowers, the planet may suffer such damage that future generations of humans could not live on the earth. Thus Schell argues that environmentalists should take up the issue of nuclear war as an ecological issue.

Schell says other threats to the environment are mere foothills to the Everest of the threat of nuclear war.

"Both the effort to preserve the environment and the effort to save the species from extinction by nuclear arms would be enriched and strengthened by this recognition. The nuclear question, which now stands in eerie seclusion from the rest of life, would gain a context, and the ecological movement, which, in its concern for plants and animals, at times assumes an almost misanthropic posture, as though man were an unwanted intruder in an otherwise unblemished natural world, would gain the humanistic intent that should stand at the heart of its concern." (111)

In the next paragraph, however, Schell says, "seen as a planetary event, the rising tide of human mastery over nature has brought about a categorical increase in the power of death on earth."

Thus Schell comes to the conclusion that many seminal thinkers have made, without crediting these thinkers. Schell dabbles at metaphysics and epistemology but his argument is not as strong as it could be if he had incorporated the work of Theodore Roszak, Lewis Mumford, Jacques Ellul and Marty Berman in his essays.

In Schell's analysis the earth is still a collection of natural resources which serve one species, *Homo sapiens*. He sees humans as the measure and measurer of all value on earth and ultimate holocaust is the extinction of this "favored species."

It is not that environmental/ecological philosophers have been misanthropic, but they understand the central ecological insight of John Muir, Aldo Leopold and other ecologists, that our species is only one species. What arrogance, says Muir, to give our species such semi-divine status.

Schell recognizes that human consciousness is important, but he ignores the issue of ecological consciousness, the person-in-Nature, not outside Nature, not observer of the planet.

The threat of nuclear war blows away Descartes' distinction, which underlies much of modern ideology, of the observer and the observed, the experimenter and experimented upon. Those who would use nuclear bombs would be trapped in the same atmosphere as those who are the intended victims.

Thus Schell suggests our awareness of and acceptance of the possibility of nuclear holocaust may open us to deeper appreciation of the quality of our lives and may lead us to "respect for human beings, born and unborn, based on our common love of life and our common jeopardy in the face of our own destructive powers and inclinations." Second, the peril may lead us to "respect for the earth. This

is nothing but the full realization of the ecological principle, according to which the earth's environment is seen not merely as a surrounding element in which it is more or less pleasant to live but as the foundation of human as of other life." Third, the peril opens us to "respect for God and nature, or whatever one chooses to call the universal dust that made, or became, us."

This respect for "God or nature" is the religious, spiritual understanding and comprehension of Earth as a sacred place. It is this religious dimension that Schell fails to explore in his book. Without the virtues of humility, restraint and modesty and without a dramatic reordering of our metaphysics, the threat and possibility, if not immediate actuality, of nuclear war, will be with us. Normal politics is not enough.

While Schell attempts to ask the question, "Who are we as a species and what is our proper role on this earth?" he does not address the issue of economic development as the flip side of nuclear warfare. If nuclear war is "logical" based on our usual assumptions that the ends justify the means, the application of science-technology as means, and war as politics then economic development is also "logical."

The rising species extinction RATE, not the possible extinction of our own species, is the primary concern of ecologists. The destruction of the Amazon forests and possible extinction of 20-25% of the TOTAL number of species on this earth as a result of "normal" economic development during the next 20 to 30 years is just as much of a holocaust as nuclear war.

Rather than reordering the priorities of the environmental movement to make the threat of nuclear war our primary concern, I suggest putting nuclear war in the deeper context of analysis of human mastery over Nature. Quite obviously the "logic" modernism is leading to a possible tragedy more immense than we can contemplate. Obviously, science-technology will not save us. We need to face up to the fact of *power* as the dominant motif of modern societies. With more and more power, greater and greater material affluence, why do so many people feel powerless, bored and anxious? And why do we take out our frustrations, desire for more power and our incredible violence on Nature?

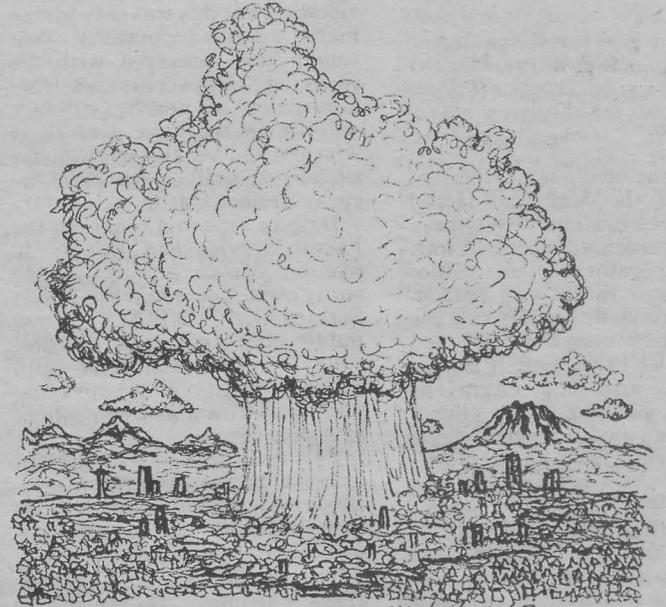
For Schell the victims of nuclear war are the potential future generations of humans. I suggest the equally important victims are the innocent species of plants and animals that would become extinct due to human violence in the name of either "economic development" or "national security."

Unless we assert that *Homo sapiens* is God's chosen instrument for bringing absolute death and destruction on the Earth, then we must assert that to engage in nuclear war is the greatest sin, not just the greatest error, humans have ever committed. Until we accept the deep ecological principle that Earth and all its species have intrinsic value and that Earth is a sacred place, then we will be guilty of the arrogance of humanism displayed in Schell's analysis of the nuclear dilemma as much as in the minds of those military leaders, politicians and scien-

tists whom he criticizes in his book.

The only assertion that we can make is this. Earth First! All else is humanistic ideology.

Prof. Bill Devall of Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA, is editor of the *Earth First!/Dream Garden Press* book, *Voices for Deep Ecology*, which will be released next year.



ENDANGERED SPECIES AND WILDERNESS PRESERVATION

by Dave Foreman

In the last issue of *EF!* we reported on the continuing decline of grizzly populations in the Yellowstone Park region. The outlook for the survival of the California condor is so dire that many are arguing that the condor should be allowed to die with dignity. The plights of the griz and condor are illustrative of the problems we are facing with endangered species. Peter Beard is right. The problem is not poaching, it is not too little scientific management. It is simply loss of habitat—wilderness habitat. The only hope for the preservation of natural diversity on Earth, the only hope for the survival of millions of species is to withdraw large areas of the planet's surface and atmosphere from all activities of industrial human civilization.

Perhaps we have devastated the habitat of the California condor to such an extent that it is beyond help. Perhaps not—but only if we are serious about habitat preservation for the condor. The Los Padres National Forest between Interstate 5 (Tejon Pass) and California State Highway 166 (Cuyama River) should be withdrawn as the Condor Wilderness Preserve. All highways, roads, powerlines, ski areas, human habitations, and other developments within the area should be abandoned and all human entry into the entire area prohibited, including overflights. Much of the area is still wild (San Rafael Wilderness, Sespe-Frazier roadless area, etc.) so this would not be a significant economic hardship. The preserve would provide a breeding range and give the condors the escape from human activity which they need. Around the million and a half acre preserve, large animal carcasses (horses, cattle) should be deposited in feeding grounds for the condor. These feeding grounds should be a square mile or two in area and closed to all human activity and entrance except for the trucks bringing in the dead horses and cattle.

Maybe this won't work either. But it seems to us to be the only hope for providing the necessary solitudinous habitat and

adequate food supply for the great vulture. Perhaps the problem with the condor is that they just don't want to survive if they have to do it in a human-dominated world (sort of like some of us would feel if we had to live the rest of our lives in Tokyo). It's time we allowed them their own corner of the world where they don't have to associate with us. (See the article "The Forest Service Assault on Big Wilderness," in this issue. There was a million-acre wilderness in this area only 50 years ago.)

The situation with the grizzly is similar. They don't like us. (Can you blame them?) The entire Yellowstone Park complex (including the surrounding national forest wildlands) of five to six million acres and the Glacier National Park/Bob Marshall Wilderness complex of some three and a half million acres should be managed primarily as grizzly habitat. Continued human activity in both areas could be allowed (everything from existing paved roads to backpacking—although some of the roads should be closed) as long as it is recognized that the bears come first. Where there are conflicts of any sort, the human activity should be eliminated. Some big chunks of both of these areas should be closed to all human entry and left for the solitude of the big bears so that there are places where they don't have to have any contact with Mark Twain's "damned human race." Furthermore, a program should be launched to return the grizzly to suitable habitats within its former range (Gila/Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas in New Mexico, Blue Range in Arizona, High Uintas in Utah, a new refuge in the Central Valley of California, Wild Missouri in Montana, and a large (several million acres) Great Plains National Park.

It is not enough to give mere lip service to preserving endangered species. We must recognize that all forms of life have *equal rights* to the use of Mother Earth and then we must be willing to damn the torpedoes of industrial glutony and do something about it.

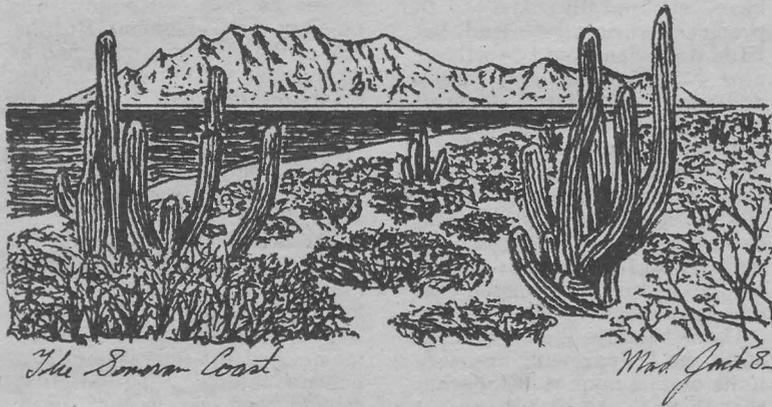
EARTH FIRST! TRIPS

It started snowing here in Ely in mid-September and we can't wait to spend our New Year's Eve with the Ospreys and Cardon Cactus along the wilderness Sonoran Coast in Mexico. If you are used to the Mexico where the land is beat to hell, where every living thing that has escaped being eaten is about to be eaten, or the Mexico where the snowbirds and movie stars play, then there is a surprise awaiting you along the Gulf of California. Not only is the northern Sonoran coast one of the wildest deserts in the world, it is also one of the wildest stretches of seashore in the world. On previous winter trips we have seen Desert Bighorn Sheep, Porpoises, Coyotes, many kinds of Seabirds and Shorebirds, not to mention dozens of Ospreys nesting in the Giant Cardon Cactuses (the big brothers of the Saguaro). The desert vegetation looks like something out of an Ed Abbey dream: Elephant trees, Palo Blancos, Organ Pipe Cactus, Senita, Limberbush, Giant Ocotillos, and other exotica. The few people are pretty wiry, too. They're Seri Indians. Our friend, Francisco,

SONORAN COAST

at a hundred and thirty-five pounds trashed two hundred and twenty pound Howie Wolke at arm-wrestling and we had to buy the beer all night. We'll make a brief stop with the Seris (they're world-famous woodcarvers) but we're after the wilderness: rocky coast, sandy beach, and coastal mountains; ocean sunsets and owl hoots; a lunar eclipse amongst the cactus. We'll leave Nogales on December 27 and return there (hopefully) on January 3. From a couple of remote dead-ends (calling them roads is charitable), we'll make short backpack trips into the unvisited wilderness. We'll also have time for lazing around on the beach, swimming with porpoises, or exploring the Cardon forest. All food (we'll buy some *camarones* and other *mariscos* locally) and Tecate, Carta Blanca, and Bohemia *cer-*

veza will be provided for your \$350 (cheap!). You'll need to buy a couple of meals on the way at sleazy cantinas or homey cafes. Your trip leaders will be (you guessed it) Dave "Bring'em Back Alive" Foreman and Bart "Senor Malo Taco" Koehler. You need proof of US citizenship (birth certificate, voter's registration, or passport) to get your tourist's card in Nogales. We'll even get insurance (burials are free). All proceeds from the trip (after gratuities) go to fund the work of Earth First! or get Bart and Dave out of the Hermosillo jail. Write us at POB 235, Ely Nevada 89301 for details. Hurry, openings for this great adventure are limited! (To prepare for the trip, read Ed Abbey's *Cactus Country* from the Time-Life American Wilderness series.)



Extra Copies of Earth First! Available

Spread the word about Earth First!. Contact us to arrange for extra copies of *EF!* to distribute locally. Everyone who has been getting extra copies of the paper needs to contact us and let us know how many copies to send you. (We don't have the previous records.)

Did you misplace a back issue of the *Earth First! Newsletter*? Are you a recent subscriber? Would you like to pass around back issues to drum up interest in *EF!*? You're in luck. We have a number of back issues beginning with the Dec. 21, Yule Edition. Here's a quick run-down on past articles:

YULE Dec. 21: 1981 *EF!* Road Show overview, tree spiking, *EF!* Preserves.

BRIGID Feb. 2: Oil and Gas leasing in Wilderness Areas, Dave Foreman's *EF!* article reprinted from the *Progressive*.

EOSTAR RITUAL Mar. 20 Nukedump in Canyonlands, Mardie Murie Interview, Glen Canyon Damn petition, Ned Ludd Books—what they're all about, Coors boycott.

BELTANE May 1: Little Granite rig and the Gros Ventre, Gasquet-Orleans (GO) Road, How seismic survey crews work, Jail: A Primer—preparing for civil disobedience arrest.

LITHA June 21: McKinley Grove Redwoods Threatened, 22 Things to do as an *EF!*er.

LUGHNASAD Aug. 1: Pete Dustrud resigns as Editor, RRR highlights, Rally for Redwoods and proposed dam on Dinkey

COMING IN THE YULE EARTH FIRST!

- ★ An Ed Abbey Christmas Story
- ★ Ultimate Wilderness Management
- ★ BLM Assault on the California Desert

AND...

A two-page map of the Earth First! Wilderness Preserve System

Creek, Little Granite Stakes Pulled—Again.

MABON Sept. 21: *EF!* and SAFE Crack Hetch-Hetchy, Environmental Strategy for '80s, "Road Spiking," Marshall's 1936 Roadless Area Inventory, Update on Little Granite

Let us know which back issues you would like. Send 50¢ for 1st Class postage for each newsletter, or appropriate 3rd Class postage for bulk orders.

GUIDELINES ON EARTH FIRST! WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

by Dave Foreman & Bart Koehler

Between us we have nearly 25 years experience coordinating and conducting wilderness field studies and developing conservationists' wilderness proposals through the Wilderness Act, mandate review of Parks, Monuments, Refuges and Forest Service Primitive Areas: RARE I and RARE II; BLM primitive areas before FLPMA and the BLM wilderness review since 1976. Bart received his master's degree in outdoor recreation resource management and planning from the University of Wyoming for wilderness studies on the Medicine Bow National Forest and Dave wrote a guide on "How to do a Wilderness Study," and prepared an accompanying slide show for conservationists.

Despite this background, we find that we are having to start over as we become involved in doing field studies and preparing wilderness proposals on behalf of Earth First!. There are essential differences between doing *EF!* recommendations and those for the Sierra Club or New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee. We'd like to share our ideas on how to do *EF!* studies and proposals with the rest of you.

Generally, there are two types of wilderness proposals with which *EF!* is involved: our Wilderness Preserve System and individual wilderness area recommendations in response to BLM wilderness studies and state RARE II wilderness bills. The Yule issue of *EF!* will feature a two-page map of our draft Wilderness Preserve System and we'd like your comments on it. The *EF!* Wilderness Preserves are not tied to an agency review but represent our ideas for setting aside large representative ecosystems as wild

natural areas. They may include all manner of non-conforming uses, intrusions, and developments, including towns, that would be removed. We are not concerned with the Preserves in this article, rather we'd like to develop ideas on how Earth First!ers should respond to the BLM wilderness review and RARE II wilderness bills.

When we were developing wilderness proposals for The Wilderness Society and other moderate groups, we felt somewhat bound by the arbitrary rules imposed by the Forest Service, Park Service, or BLM. We looked at past human intrusions and tried to exclude them. When we did include old jeep trails, range developments, minor timber cutting, etc., we argued that they were substantially unnoticeable, that they were fading, that they weren't significant impacts on the overall wilderness character of the area. Also, we considered competing uses. Did a particular area have mineral or energy resources, potential timber sales, potential range improvements, potential water developments, and the like? We often would exclude such areas to make our proposals "reasonable" and "defensible." Many times we would say, "Damn, if we could just close that road or include that old timber cut, what a terrific wilderness we could have!" Wilderness proposals from the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society and all the state wilderness groups represent compromises. They are calculated to be reasonable.

The role of Earth First! is entirely different. We are staunch defenders of wild country. We are interested in wilderness, period. We don't care if a certain area is a favorite ORV

playground. Those machines don't belong there. We don't care if there is high potential for oil and gas. The wilderness values take precedence. We don't care if there is an infrequently used but constructed dirt road separating two wild areas. It should be closed and the areas combined. Our role is to argue for maximum wilderness and to argue that wilderness is the highest of all resource values—no, it isn't a resource value, it is a moral value.

With this philosophy in mind, then, here is a suggested process for doing field studies and preparing wilderness proposals for *EF!* for either the BLM wilderness review or state RARE II wilderness bills. We have also busted through the shackles of agency jargon and are using our own terms such as "wilderness complex" and "wilderness recovery area."

1. The all-wilderness alternative either for BLM WSAs or RARE II areas should be your starting point. Include adjacent lands or other areas discarded in the RARE II inventory or the BLM WSA selection that were recommended by conservationists. Also review areas eliminated by conservationists in their efforts toward being "reasonable," or that were somehow "lost" during the process.

2. Look at the area and determine, apart from human intrusions or resource conflicts, what the "natural" wilderness unit should be. A "natural" wilderness unit is an entire mountain range, a vast desert basin, or a river system. Think hard about preserving the integrity, diversity, continuity, and expansiveness of the area. Pick out serious human intrusions such as paved roads or major gravel roads that

can serve as a boundary. Road boundaries are easily defined and enforced.

3. What about current human intrusions, like dirt roads within your area? Do they really serve an important purpose? Do they receive significant use? If not, recommend that they be closed. Are there non-conforming uses that can be phased out? If so, let the land be restored to a natural condition.

4. Are there adjacent roadless areas separated from each other only by dirt or gravel roads? How about closing the roads and combining the areas for a larger wilderness complex? Don't forget to check back to RARE I areas not considered in RARE II or BLM roadless areas tossed out earlier in the review.

5. Draw your boundary out to the limit of serious human use and activity. Past abuses can be included in "wilderness recovery areas." Propose that all roads and other intrusions in your area be closed and private and state lands acquired. When you present your proposal to the agency or Congress don't try to hide the intrusions. Admit them but argue that the wilderness values are paramount.

As further illustration, here are several examples of wilderness areas Earth First! is or soon will be proposing:

• **Wyoming Wilderness Bill:** When this bill is considered next year, *EF!* Wyoming will recommend that the Gros Ventre be combined with the Wind Rivers by closing the Union Pass road and including some past timber cuts for a two million acre wilderness complex.

• **The "Original" Gila Wilderness:** New Mexico *EF!*ers plan to propose that the North Star Road (a narrow, gravel state

highway) between the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas be closed along with several low-standard dirt roads on the peripheries of the areas to recreate a single one and a half million acre wilderness area.

• **Central Idaho Wilderness:** In Idaho we will recommend that the Magruder Corridor road between the River of No Return and Selway-Bitterroot Wildernesses be closed and a five million acre wilderness designated.

• **The Greater Escalante-Henry Mountains-Kaiparowits Wilderness Complex:** We have proposed a single wilderness of over 3 million acres by combining all BLM WSAs, Park Service and other wildlands from the Bullfrog Marina Road to Bryce Canyon and from the town of Escalante south to Lake Foul.

• **The Black Rock Desert Wilderness Complex:** We have proposed a single wilderness of 3 million acres to BLM in the fabled Black Rock Desert of Nevada by closing dirt roads and lumping WSAs.

This approach needs to be extended to wild lands in all parts of the United States. These are not flippant, off-the-wall proposals. They are serious and certainly are no more extreme than the no-wilderness howls being bellowed out by the mining, energy, and logging corporate fiends, ORV zealots, or your local Chamber of Commerce. Not only will our proposals offset the land-ripping extremists but they may encourage moderate conservation groups to come out with stronger, less-compromised proposals as well.

If anyone has questions, we'd be happy to try to answer them. If you'd like us to come to your area and help with the field work, let us know.

continued from page 1

duction of 35,000 acres on the basis of this exception." In each of the cases where BLM wielded this criminal "exception" scalpel it managed to simultaneously remove significant jeopardizing private interests.

Wild Lands Slashed

Mt. Ellen was a 156,000-acre area in the Henry Mountains. BLM field notes suggested that over 140,000 acres were roadless, but BLM only identified a 24,600-acre Wilderness Study Area. It is common knowledge that a major part of the deleted roadless area contains recoverable coal, and is controlled by AMAX Corporation (BLM was just beginning its coal suitability study). Tremendous public furor forced a reinstatement of 33,880 acres of the Blue Hills badlands; but BLM cited the new "exception" for the deletion of the remaining 55,000 acres (actually 80,000 acres—BLM never has cited accurate acreage figures). The new boundaries of the now 54,480-acre study area coincided precisely with the geological formation bounding the known recoverable coal reserves. This parsimonious reinstatement actually eliminated 11,000 acres of the roadless area claimed by Exxon in May, 1980 (just six months prior to BLM's decision); 16,000 acres claimed by Schauss Exploration in December, 1979; and 2,000 acres claimed by Homestake Mining in December, 1978. In the final BLM study area, only a few hundred acres with some 30-year-old noncorporate claims remained. That special "exception" was indeed a useful tool for defining "character change."

Mount Pennell is the sister-peak in the Henry Mountains and a 159,650-acre inventory unit. BLM could not acknowledge the wilderness character in Mount Ellen without also acknowledging Mount Pennell. But this area contained the magnificent Swap Mesa adjacent to the Capitol Reef proposed wilderness, and has long been coveted by the National Park Service. So BLM capriciously inventoried one non-existent road, refused to "cherry-pick" another, and by a magical leap of deceit of five air miles and ten foot miles, illegally divided the area dismissing 70,000 roadless acres surrounding and including Swap Mesa. Then BLM finally applied the new "exception" to delete the remaining 20,000 offending acres (actually 30,000+ acres) and reduced the true 130,000 acre roadless area to a 27,300 acre Study Area. The final boundary once again coincidentally approximated the geological formation containing the known strippable coal reserves and conveniently eliminated 42,000 of the 45,000 troublesome acres (the majority of which were around Swap Mesa).

This absurd administrative pencil line just happened to eliminate 11,000 acres claimed by Plateau Resources between 1975 and 1977; 23,000 acres claimed by Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation in March 1978; and over 33,000 acres claimed by Exxon Corporation between 1977 and 1980.

An additional 10,000 acres of Exxon claimholdings lie within the final Mount Pennell/Study Area. However, these extend up to 9,000 feet into the high mountain ridges. It would have been difficult if not impossible for BLM to eliminate all of the claims by arriving at some artificial boundary that was topographically different from the boundary next door on Mount Ellen. Unfortunately for BLM an isolated geologic feature in the

vicinity of the preferred study area, No Man's Mesa, had long been identified to the public as a potential outstanding natural area. It thus served as an anchor pulling the BLM boundary line even further south into the Exxon claimholdings. Nevertheless, the feds still managed to whittle a 130,000-acre roadless area down to 27,300 acres, and simultaneously eliminate 90,000 out of 100,000 acres of extraordinary resource conflicts.

Fiddler Butte was a 101,310-acre area adjacent to NPS proposed wilderness on the Dirty Devil in Glen Canyon. Once again illegally, and this time without even an offending road as an excuse, BLM capriciously divided the single roadless area in two and simply dismissed the eastern 45,000 acres as non-wilderness. Of the 56,000 acres remaining to the west, BLM identified a 27,000 acre study area, and deleted an additional 20,000 acres on the basis of that by now razor-sharp "exception."

Few people were aware that the entire eastern deletion resided within a geologic formation containing the hottest deposit of tar sands in Utah, called the 'Desert Tar Sands Triangle.' Although this did not escape public reaction, BLM has simply refused to deal with the issue. Adding insult to injury the BLM neatly managed through its "special exception" to also find enough "character change" in the western half to remove 13,000 acres of Cotter Corporation claims, 3,000 acres claimed by Fischer-Watt, Inc., and 5,000 acres of claimholdings held by Buttes Resources. Of the 24,000 acres of corporate claims in the original inventory unit and untold thousands of acres in corporate leases, only 50 such acres remained in the final Study Area.

Desolation Canyon was originally the largest BLM roadless area in the state (over 475,000 acres). The devious tricks used to fragment it included nicking off 82,000 acres by calling a pack-trail a road; identifying impassible boulder-strewn dry washes as roads; establishing a 40,000-acre roadless zone-of-influence around the magnificent Book Cliffs escarpment; and of course, by using the new "exception to general policy" to eliminate a final 50,000 roadless acres in two separate swipes.

But there is only enough space there to mention one "exception." BLM axed 20,000 roadless acres in the extreme north of the unit, claiming alternately that some of this offensive landscape was too flat and open (i.e., different in character?) and that some was too rugged and too steep (i.e., also different in character).

Along the edge of the roadless area in the vicinity of this deletion was a Getty Corporation oil and gas field. The geological formation defining the potential for further hydrocarbon discovery (the Thompson-Jack's Canyon deposit) just happened to correspond with BLM's "special exception/character change/too steep-flat" deletion.

There is an additional curiosity in the boundary of the deleted area. One might expect that the geologic change in the oil-bearing formations would generally be replicated in a topographic change of the landscape, and BLM's "exceptional" boundary followed such a topographic change for about 20 miles, with one divergence. A 2-mile segment of this boundary follows a north-south section line. What a coincidence! Getty Oil's unitized Peter's Point oil and gas lease follows the very same section line.

The Paria-Hackberry roadless area was originally 196,431 acres. BLM identified 148,584 acres as natural and roadless. But once again that was just too big an area to avoid all those trouble spots. BLM needed a 12,726-acre "exception" to kind of clean things up. The vast majority of the headwaters of the Paria River are siltrock/sandstone formations; ridge and canyon with sparse pine forests, eventually rising in 1000-foot cliff faces to the surrounding mesa tops thickly covered in pinyon and juniper. The forested mesa tops are an obvious character change. But why eliminate eight separate surrounding mesas from the roadless areas?

The BLM's draft Kanab-Escalante Grazing EIS, made public in April, 1980 shows a 100% coincidence between the "exceptional mesas", and mesas previously targeted by the same BLM office for chaining and seeding.

The 750,000-acre Kaiparowits is an area conservation groups have successfully fought to protect for decades. And yet BLM only identified two wilderness Study Areas, and finally added a third after a storm of public protest. Everyone was certain that King Coal caused the demise of the Plateau, but no one could figure out how. From a close review of the *Development of Coal Resources in Southern Utah EIS* (BLM, 1979), there emerges a clear picture of proposed coal development.

If one overlays the boundaries of all the Kaiparowits inventory units on this map, it is apparent that there is significant conflict with all 10 units. But BLM certainly could not eliminate the entire Kaiparowits. To do so might quickly discredit the wilderness program. After all the largest unit, Fifty-Mile Mountain, had even been historically protected by BLM for its recreational values. (It was one of those "high profile" units that BLM could not ignore.)

To make it a wilderness Study Area, BLM was going to have to "lock up" some existing coal leases. But luckily none of these particular leases were actual proposed mining areas having detailed or even preliminary mining plans. They might never be developed. So Fifty-Mile Mountain was not such a serious problem.

The second problem inventory unit was Mud Springs Canyon. Colorful and highly scenic, these badlands were adjacent to Kodachrome Basin State Park, named by Melville Grosvenor on a Na-

tional Geographic expedition to the unexplored region in the early 1920s. BLM would have an equally difficult time dropping Mud Springs Canyon. This roadless area was 10 miles from the nearest proposed coal mining area. The only actual conflict was with the proposed location of a new Denver & Rio Grande railroad line to carry coal trains north to Sevier. But because of the difficult grade that rail line would have to loop through the southeast third of the Mud Springs Canyon unit. There was no escaping the conflict. Well, Mud Springs Canyon did become a study area. According to BLM, 56,150 acres were roadless—yet only 38,075 are under study. Listen to BLM: "The solitude and primitive recreation characteristics are not present on 18,065 acres in the southeastern portion of the inventory unit. . ."

BLM conceded the wilderness values in Fifty-Mile Mountain and in a castrated Mud Springs Canyon, now that there were no longer conflicts with any proposed coal development. But the rest of the plateau simply had to go in order not to jeopardize the future of king coal.

Blatant Deception

What has emerged from a thorough investigation of all of the types of information easily available to the BLM but virtually invisible to the general public is a shockingly clear picture of what must have actually taken place: a total manipulation of the inventory to illegally protect every major, and innumerable minor, private interests. To be sure, coincidences do occur: once, twice, three times. That is the very definition of the word. But there is a point at which coincidence, repeated *ad nauseum*, ceases to be coincidence at all. It becomes instead correlative. It is doubly dubious when coincidence regularly occurs within the realm of an "exception to the general policy"—indeed a most delicate exception that is ultimately explained away by the government as a mere subjective interpretation not readily debatable by the public.

There is no debating a concrete fact such as a corporate leasehold. And it is precisely such facts which this "special exception" does systematically, rather than coincidentally, represent.

This is the fatal flaw. Exactly where BLM required the use of some vague "exception" to the Bureau's policies and procedures allowing it to circumvent public accountability for the process, it exercised some of its most blatant deception. It would seem difficult not to find in this alone, a deliberate intent to prostitute the wilderness program in Utah. As for effect, more than one million acres of your finest wilderness have thus disappeared and are now in the hands of corporate America.

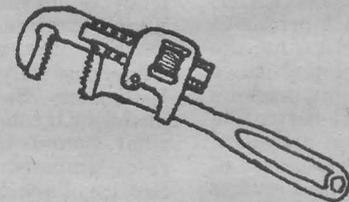
It is no wonder that Utah BLM State Directors have had unwavering praise for the "high professional standards" of their subordinates. They are expert prevaricators. They have put forward a masterful, and until now, extraordinarily successful deception. Hats off the petty government officials.

Utah wilderness be damned, as the Bureau's wilderness program marches inexorably forward to Secretarial Approval in a hastily advanced September, 1984 deadline.

The rest is up to you! It took six years to put Interior Secretary Albert Fall in prison for the Teapot Dome scandal. One wonders what will happen to those responsible for this bloody mess.

Editor's Note: Clive Kincaid worked as a resource professional for the BLM for five years. For 2½ years he was the wilderness specialist for the Phoenix Arizona District.

He has devoted over a year and 18,000 miles on washboard back roads examining the BLM inventory in Utah. He needs to contract with audio-visual professionals to complete an in-depth slide program to be shown to the public across the country. He is \$900 short of his goal. His efforts deserve your financial support. Please send your contributions to EF! and ear-mark them for Clive.



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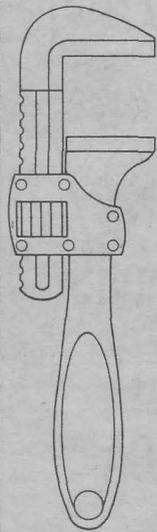
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er path for itself. In the Narrows, the stream has broken through the neck of a meander and flows through a slot in the rock about ten feet wide. The lower part of Grand Gulch, where it steepens and plunges into the deep canyon of the San Juan River, is a succession of pour-offs.

When Grand Gulch Primitive Area was designated in September, 1970, the boundaries were drawn rather narrowly to include only the 53 miles of main canyon that receive the most visitor use. Parts of several major side canyons are now included in Bullet Canyon and Pine Canyon Wilderness Study Areas. These tributaries have many outstanding examples of Anasazi art and architecture, and are presently used as access points for hiking into the Gulch proper.

Slickhorn Canyon meets the river about four miles upstream from Grand Gulch and gives its name to another large study area, although the mouth of this spectacular chasm lies in Park Service territory. The WSA includes Johns Canyon, and between the major canyons, Point Lookout Canyon provides a challenging and seldom-visited destination.

Two adjacent wilderness study areas, Fish Creek Canyon and Road Canyon, are divided by the old Mormon Trail, still used and called the Snow Flat Road on county maps. Archeological values are significant in this area with many substantial mesa structures besides the canyon cliff dwellings. As in Grand Gulch, there is rock art to be found.

True to its name, Fish Creek has a small population of small fish who survive in its permanent pools. The waterfalls and hanging gardens add scenic luster to the canyon in its middle section, while the upper branches are nearly impassable with boulder jams. The lower part opens up to a wide valley with groves of cottonwoods and large Anasazi ruins against the canyon walls. Tributaries of Fish Creek, Owl Creek and McCloyd Canyons are configured much the same as the main branch and boast many more ruins, pour-offs and hard climbing to their rims. Owl Creek Canyon has a tremendous natural arch, named Nevills Arch, which towers high above the streambed flanked by a row of tall spires.

Road Canyon WSA, which includes the upper section of Lime Creek, has recently been the scene of oil and gas exploration by Shell Oil. New drill holes have been sunk inside the WSA boundaries on an existing road and in Lime Creek Canyon.

North of Fish Creek, on the north side of Utah 95 and just south of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, Mule Canyon WSA exists as a remnant of the inventory unit which included Arch Canyon, whose scenic and wilderness qualities have caused an appeal of the BLM decision to cut it from the review process.

West of Natural Bridges National Monument and northeast of the highway, Cheesebox Canyon WSA provides plenty of isolation. Deep and narrow, Cheesebox Canyon blocks out the sun with 400 foot walls of Cedar Mesa sandstone, its floor scoured by flash floods. Few hikers come to this canyon, with its echoing solitude and few signs of man.

The mesas and buttes around Cheesebox and Hideout Canyons are and have been the scene of intense uranium mining and claim assessment activity.

Dark Canyon is perhaps the most spectacular canyon that exists anywhere outside a national park. Over 1,000 feet deep, subject to devastating flash floods, Dark is a vast world in itself that can scarcely be seen in a week. Two other canyons included in the primitive area, Bowdie and Gypsum, are shorter but no less isolated. The area is home to one of Utah's largest communities of desert bighorn sheep.

Unlike Grand Gulch, which has been intensively managed and patrolled in order to guard its large concentration of archeological sites, Dark Canyon Primitive area has been left pretty much alone by the BLM. No signs point the way in.

A journey up Dark Canyon is a special experience. The perennial stream runs through corridors of limestone, and its swimming pools provide the ingredient that makes summer backpacking a lot more fun than it usually is in the desert. Mile after mile, the layered canyon walls change their patterns. Youngs Canyon enters on the left as a beautiful waterfall. Petroglyphs mark the passage of ancient Indians. Farther up, in the forest, Ponderosa Pine grows in the canyon and Anasazi ruins can be seen on the ledges. When you eventually emerge, the groves of aspen come as a shock, reminding you of the elevation gain that came so imperceptibly one ledge at a time.

There are three more wilderness study areas in San Juan County, and these lie in the zone that surrounds Canyonlands National Park. They belong in the park and hopefully will get included one day. Butler Wash is a large area of Cutler Formation rocks which geologically is a part of the Needles District of the park. It has eleven inventoried

New Mexico and the Bureau of Leasing Mangement

by Amanda, Percy and Monty de los Volcanes

First we suffered devastating management (IMP) violations in our New Mexico wilderness study areas such as scarifying seismic testing in our beloved West Potrillo Mountains (because BLM was asleep at the wheel). Now we face bureaucratic games with all the rules against us. In May the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) decided that privately-owned subsurface mineral rights were more important than (and take precedence over) federally-owned surface rights (split estates). This ruling favored Santa Fe Mining and resulted in four New Mexico WSAs being dropped from wilderness consid-

eration along with about 20 Arizona WSAs (including the wonderfully pristine 130,000 acre Warm Springs unit near Kingman). The previous Administration had debated this same issue with the ruling in our favor. We are losing wilderness because Jimmy Watt and Ronnie Ray-gun have filled the solicitor's office with pro-development toadies of the corporate fat-cats. Not only are we losing four special wild areas in our state (the largest natural arch in NM is in one of them) but this outrageous travesty of justice could affect 20 additional New Mexico wilderness study areas (including the 100,000 acre El Malpais Instant Study Area which has already been recommended for wilderness designation by BLM). We will not allow our wild lands to be destroyed because of this bureaucratic nonsense! Earth Firsters, be sentinels. Watch for similar outrages in your own states. Rise up against them! The fat-cats back East cannot be allowed to have our precious heritage to exploit for their own greed and profit!

On a more positive note: Earth First! recently submitted its wilderness proposal to BLM in New Mexico in response to the statewide wilderness study program here. (Amanda thought some of the areas were really small but Digger explained the difference between a reserve and what we get into legislated wilderness. She still thinks they're too small. The EF! recommendations may be enlarged later in the process.) Following Earth First!'s lead, the middle-of-the-roaders submitted their proposal which wasn't a wholesale sell-out to BLM for a change. The proposal of the New Mexico BLM Wilderness Coalition (including the Sierra Club,

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New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, and Gila Wilderness Committee) did not drop any areas, did not reduce the size of any areas except for one, contained all the appealed intensive inventory areas, put back a few intensive inventory areas which BLM had dropped and which had not been appealed by conservationists, and proposed road closures and the combining of several individual WSAs.

BLM thought the EF! proposal was extreme, but they didn't know what to do with the NM BLM Wilderness Coalition's proposal. With the middle-of-the-roaders following the EF! lead we have a better chance of getting some good BLM wilderness designated. Work with the moderate groups like the Sierra Club in your state. Encourage them not to make any more sell-outs to BLM! Let's try to protect our wild lands with legislated wilderness. This may not be as much fun as Hayduke had but we may get results anyway. We need to show the corporate gatogordos back East, including Jimmy Watt and Ronnie Ray-gun, that we care about our lands. We want them to stay wild! No one shall exploit them with impunity! Being more militant and less compromising is the best way to insure that.

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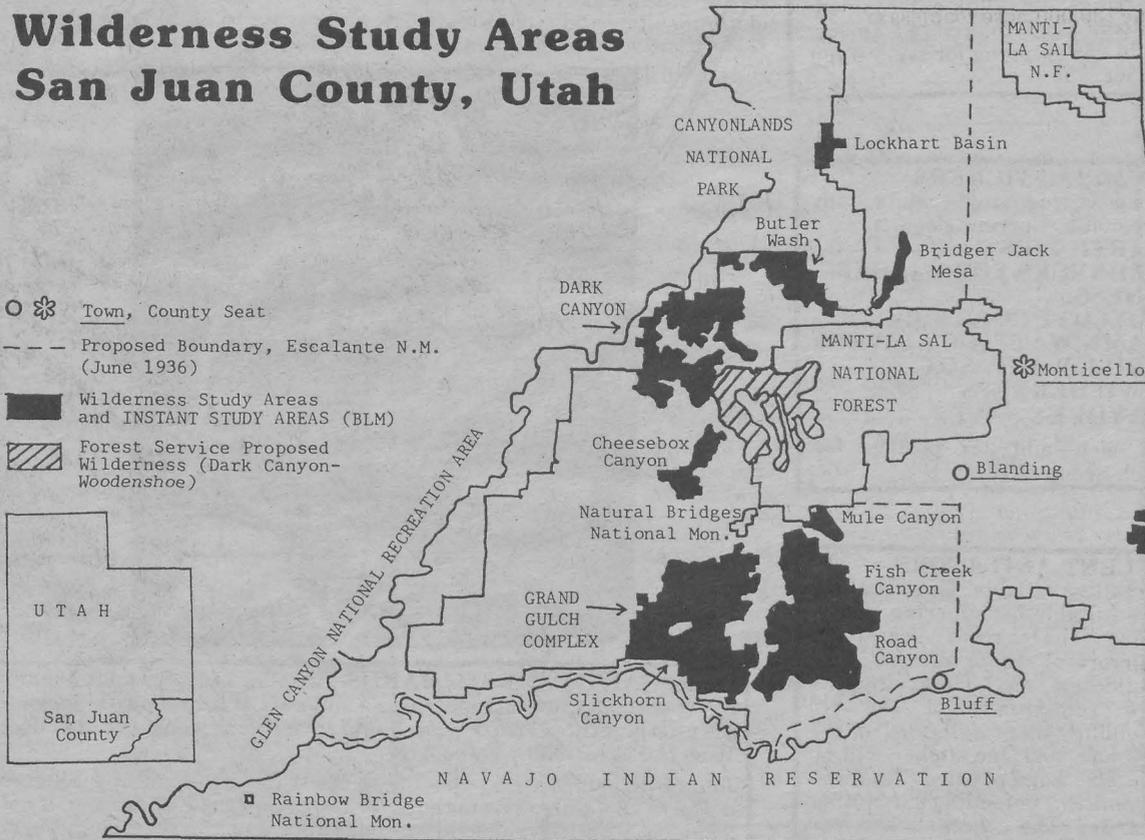
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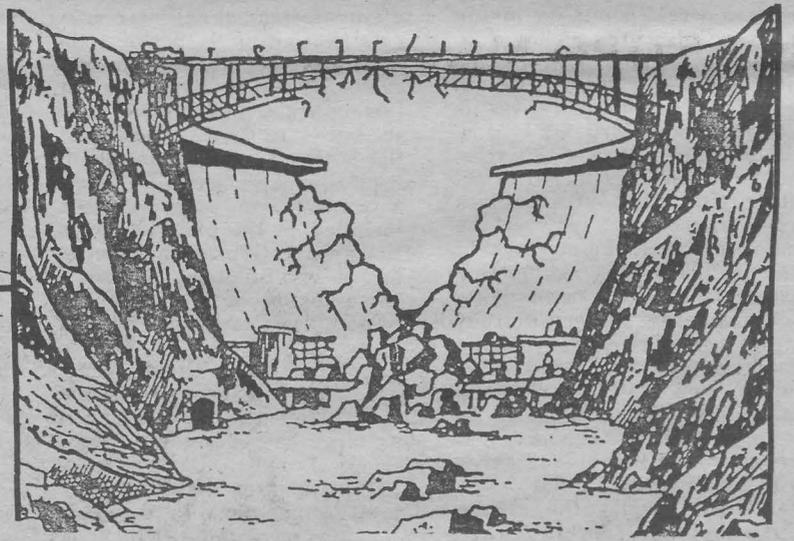
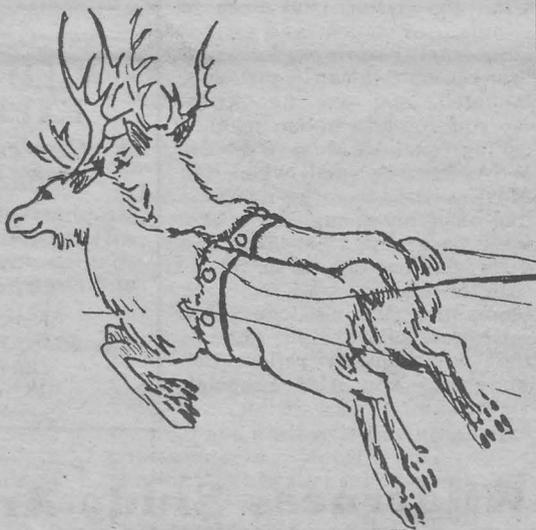
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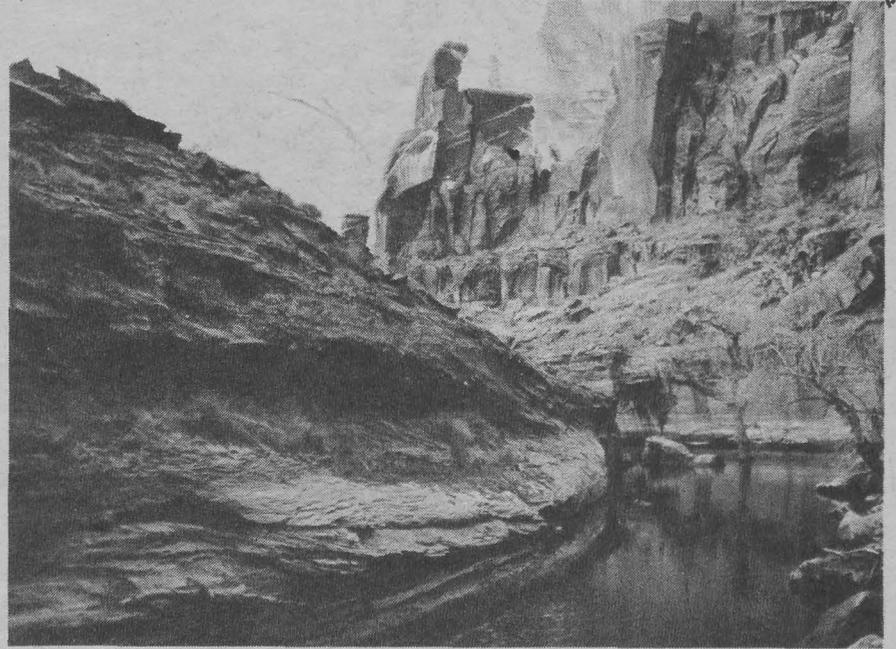
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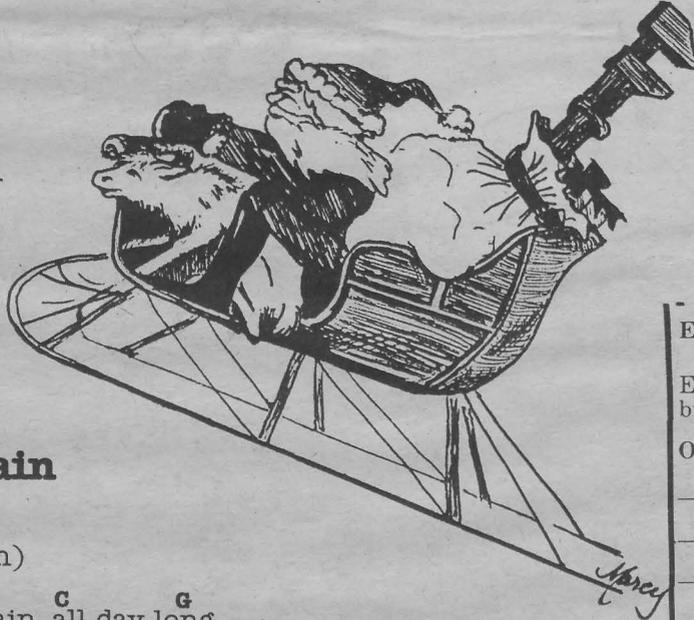
THE 1983 WESTERN WILDERNESS CALENDAR

Feast of Lanterns 6 1933 Highest known sea wave (112') recorded in Pacific 1957 Three Sisters Wilderness, OR+	7 1812 New Madrid Earthquake (most severe shock) 1951 Linville Gorge Wild Area, NC	8 1909 Congress kills Hetch Hetchy Reservoir 1972 1080 banned 1972 Nixon's ORV Executive Order (never enforced)	1986 Haley's Comet 9 1931 Bridger PA, WY 1942 Strawberry Mtn. Wild Area, OR 1953 Rawah Wild Area, CO+ 1971 San Fernando Earthquake, Los Angeles 1973 U.S. Court of Appeals rules against Alaska Pipeline	10 "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." -Benjamin Franklin, 1759	11 1911 Death Valley NM, CA 1916 Bandelier NM, NM 1957 Sen. Hubert Humphrey introduces first Wilderness bill	Hecate Day 12 1809 Charles Darwin 1982 Saguaro cactus kills David M. Grundman in self-defense
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(Words and music by B.N. Koehler—
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G Well, I've been thinkin' like a mountain, **C** all day long **G**

Well, I've been thinkin' like a mountain, all day long **G**

D The North wind kills my spirit

C Don't you know there's something wrong?

Well, there used to be some wolves here,
runnin' wild beneath the moon

Well, there used to be some wolves here,
runnin' wild beneath the moon

The green fire in their eyes
Was snuffed out all too soon

One time there were some grizzlies, high up on this hill

One time there were some grizzlies, high up on this hill

But the grizzlies are all gone now

And this hill is deathly still

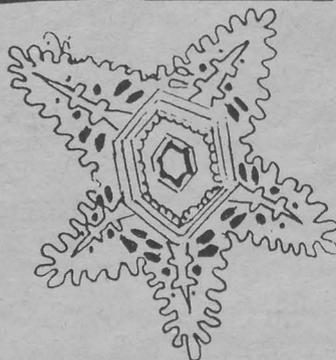
I've called out for their freedom, but no one wants to know

I've called out for their freedom, but no one wants to know

So, I pray for that old north wind

To cover me with snow

(Repeat first verse)



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