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Volume XIII, No. 1

January, 1975 76



The Attack On Clean Air

The National Chamber of Commerce is a strange institution. I can't get it together in my own mind that they can very accurately represent the smaller units in towns and cities across the country. The NCC made itself visible to the environmental community as one of the most active enemies of federal land use legislation. Now they are going after clean air!

I know that sounds unlikely (like being against 'motherhood') but the Clean Air Act has had a lot of people worried since it became law in 1967 -- the electric utilities for example, and polluting industries generally.

For the would-be polluter, the part of the law which has the most sting -- espec-

ially under our clean blue Western skies -- is the so-called "non-deterioration clause" which states as national policy that cleaner-than-average airsheds shall remain cleaner-than-average.

The present flap is caused by the fact that Congress wants to substantially add to the "non-deterioration" language in the Act. Until now the "non-deterioration" idea has been hung on a few words in the Act's preamble:

Sec. 101 (b) The purposes of this title are ---

(1) to protect and enhance the quality of the Nation's air resources . . .

Beyond this simple phrase, however, the
(continued on page 4)

Youth Council Opposes Subsidy

Coal gasification is a risky business, and mercifully will remain so, thanks to the efforts of Reps. Dick Ottinger (D-NY) and Phil Hayes (D-Ind.), who led the floor fight on Dec. 11, to strike sections 102 & 103 of HR-3474 - the Energy Research & Development Administration authorization bill.

Section 103, tacked onto the bill by Henry "Scoop" Jackson, (D-Wash.) in committee, without public hearings, provided funds for 6 billion dollars worth of 90% federally guaranteed loans for the construction of coal gasification & oil shale plants.

The principle beneficiaries of this section, (principle lobbyists as well), would have been Wesco (a coal gasification consortium eager to start work near Four Corners) and Tosco, an oil shale consortium in Colorado.

The principle losers would have been the United States public -- called upon to subsidize a high risk big business venture devoted to scraping up remnants of fossil fuel, rather than research & development of permanent alternative energy sources.

However, opposition to the bill did not spring only from distaste for band-aid programs or unwillingness to subsidize big business.

Though relatively unheard throughout the debate, the Indians have the most compelling objection to federal subsidies for coal gasification plants: They'd have to live with the thing.

Both Wesco & El Paso Natural Gas Co. have planned to build a total of 6 gasification plants on the Navajo Reservation. Their plans are currently at a standstill. They were counting on Section 103 of HR-3474 to help them out in initial financing.

Costing a billion dollars apiece, the plants would produce 1.5 billion cubic feet of gas a day, consuming 25,000 tons of coal a day. That means that roughly 57,000 acres of Navajo grazing lands would have to be stripmined.

The Navajo Indians are opposed for three reasons, which they see in a larger context of corporate exploitation of Reservation lands. 1) The proposed project would des-

stroy strip-mined land and the air within a 13 mile radius of the proposed plants. 2) the proposed project conflicts with a long-cherished dream of an irrigation project 3) The influx of outsiders would destroy Indian sovereignty on the reservation.

These objections are voiced most eloquently by the National Indian Youth Council, (NIYC, 201 Hermosa N.E., Albuquerque, N.M., 87103) directed by Gerald Wilson and John Redhouse. Set up in 1961, the Council is fighting an uphill battle to eliminate corporate exploitation of Indian lands, and discrimination suffered by Indians. They do so by means of scientific research, litigation and community organization, which alone entails a massive literacy campaign.

The NIYC reports that lead and mercury would be emitted from the proposed plants in sufficient quantities to require the evacuation of all families living within a 13 mile radius of the plants. These toxic emissions would cause permanent damage to all flora and fauna in the surrounding vicinity.

Furthermore those 57,000 acres of grazing land which would supply the coal would be 57,000 dead acres after the stripmining process. Reclamation of arid lands, according to the National Academy of Sciences, is virtually impossible, due to the staggering costs of importing enough water and fertilizer to entice a plant to grow on a desert strip mine.

In the Treaty of 1868, the Navajos were promised an agricultural project. The NIYC reports that:

"The project will eventually be a 110,000 acre agricultural project to be owned and operated by the Navajo tribe. It will grow a variety of crops for both human consumption and animal grazing. It will also benefit approximately 30,000 Navajos through direct employment and in secondary food processing industries such as canneries, cooperative stores and a food-marketing and distribution system."

However, one gasification plant alone would require 10,000 acre feet of water annually. It seems impractical to suggest that the San Juan River would supply enough

(continued on next page)

Don't
Tread
On Me!



A thorny, controversial, and profound law of the land -- the Endangered Species Act of 1973 -- was the subject of a symposium held on Dec. 4 and 5 in Albuquerque. The symposium was sponsored jointly by the Society for Range Management and the Society of American Foresters to help the land managers of millions of acres of public land understand what the law requires of them in protecting the endangered, rare, & threatened plants. The audience -- a heady mix of ranchers, taxonomists, foresters, range managers, cowboys and administrators -- listened soberly as botanists, lawyers and other administrators described the law and the proposed list in detail.

The interpreters of the law stressed that it is designed to protect "critical habitat" not individual species. Thus, a plant is endangered if it is so in all or a significant part of its range; if a plant is common in California but rare in New Mexico, it can be protected here. The proposed list, which now includes about 2000 species for the continental U.S., lists only 41 endangered species in New Mexico. The list, being compiled by the Fish and Wildlife Service, is still open to review, and any citizen can petition the Secretary of Interior for inclusion of a species. California, with an active Native Plant Society, has 700 or so species listed.

The law makes it illegal to "take" an endangered plant, that is, to "harass, harm . . . or collect" whether knowingly or not, punishable by fines up to \$10,000. Furthermore, the law requires all federal agencies, and indeed, projects receiving federal money, to take affirmative action to ensure that their actions "do not result in the destruction or modification of habitat" of endangered species. It remains to be seen how this far-reaching mandate will be enforced, but it should lend another dimension to public hearings on federally funded projects.

---Melissa Savage

Subsidy Opposed (from page 2)

water for coal gasification and the agricultural project.

A boom town of 50,000, predominantly outsiders, is expected to mushroom up along with the construction of the plants. NIYC fears that

"it is doubtful that these people will subject themselves to the traditional laws and customs of the Navajo Tribal Courts...increasing already serious social problems such as alcoholism and suicide."

In view of the massive repercussions the Navajo Indians would have suffered from the passage of Section 103 of HR 3474, the dangers of subsidization of big business and the signal foolhardiness of meeting an "energy crisis" with desperate salvage of remaining fossil fuels rather than attempts to develop permanent pure alternative energy sources; we can breathe a temporary sigh of relief over the demise of Section 103.

Also voted down was Section 102, which would have authorized a joint *in situ* oil shale project (between Occidental Petroleum and the U.S. Government).

However, the bill, even divested of Sections 102 and 103, is still a disappointing affair: billions for atomic energy and very little for solar and geothermal energy.

---Mary Beth Bliss

The Rio Grande Sierran

Published monthly by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscription rate for non-members is \$2 per year.

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The Attack... (from page 1)

intent of Congress was developed in committee reports and hearing records surrounding the passage of the Act. The idea was aired again during a court case which culminated in a Supreme Court decision that let stand a lower court decision in favor of "non-deterioration" (the New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water and the Rio Grande Chapter were active in that case).

Congress wants to elaborate on the "non-deterioration" idea by adding an amendment to the Clean Air Act. The amendment (Subtitle C -- Prevention of Significant Deterioration) would mandate the identification of 'Class I' and 'Class II' (and in some versions of the amendment, 'Class III') airsheds. Class I air is the cleanest.

Of crucial importance to the Southwest is the tie-in of Class I air and wilderness areas, wildlife refuges and national parks and monuments. The amendment calls for mandatory maintenance of Class I quality in these areas.

Enter the National Chamber of Commerce -- which has launched a campaign with two totally false propaganda planks: (1) that the Class I designation will bring economic growth to an absolute standstill on 66% of the Nation's land (2) that the amendment is a veiled "no-growth" federal land use bill.

In an "Action Call" newsletter, characterized by truly wonderful excesses of language, the NCC accuses the relevant committees (the Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution of Senate Public Works and the Subcommittee on Public Health and Environment of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee) of "drafting the most insidiously deceiving federal land use control bill imaginable." This widely distributed "Action Call" goes on to say:

A national policy of economic "no growth" would be bad enough, in the view of most progressive businessmen, if it developed as a result of a great national debate on the merits of the issue. But, to have it come in the back door as the accidental result of some perhaps well-intentioned but severely misguided attempts at 100% pure air is little short of a disaster.

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The strange premises of this attack are showing up in the media across the country. An article entitled 'State Could Choke on Clean Air' appeared in the Gallup Independent written by the manager of the Gallup/McKinley Chamber of Commerce:

Gallup, of course, would be blacked out -- no fireplaces, no automobile exhaust, no new housing to disrupt the view of those who already have theirs, no more . . . no more. The extremes are so frightening that they surpass all understanding.

The National Chamber of Commerce is not alone. The electric utilities are in it too. Many state governors recently received a communications kit from the "Electric Utilities Clean Air Communications Plan". Dr. John Bartlit of the New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water, in his own letter to the same governors, calls the information in the kit "misleading to the point of irresponsibility".

Closer to home, Dr. Martin Fleck, environmental consultant for the Public Service Company of New Mexico, speaking to a gathering of the Union County Farm and Livestock Bureau in Clayton on November 8th, continued the theme and prompted another retort from Dr. Bartlit. Writing to the president of the Public Service Company of New Mexico, Dr. Bartlit said:

As an engineer, I object to the technical inaccuracies in Dr. Fleck's presentations. He reportedly "clears the air" by explaining that "the EPA is now working on proposals which would prevent any industry from coming into the area which would lead to 'the degradation of the air'". You, of course, are well aware the non-degradation proposals would permit even a new 1000 megawatt coal-fired power plant with scrubbers to come into the area. (Reference: "An Analysis of the Impact on the Electric Utility Industry of Alternative Approaches to Significant Deterioration" by EPA and Federal Energy Administration, Oct. 1975).

Fortunately, some state governments have shown plenty of resistance to the raid on the "non-deterioration clause". In a detailed four page letter to Senator Domenici,

(continued on page 9)



Kaiparowits * * * * * ANNOUNCING * * * * * Bumper Sticker & Button Contest

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KAIPAROWITS

--PARKLANDS OR INDUSTRIAL PARK?

This fact sheet has been prepared to help you prevent the conversion of YOUR national parklands into a national sacrifice area.

In June of 1973, Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton rejected the application of Southern California Edison to construct the Kaiparowits Power Project, stating, "The Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, which includes Lake Powell, is a unique national asset. The scenic beauty of its rugged Southwest landscape, coupled with the clarity of the air in the vicinity, are national assets of major importance, worthy of protection for the enjoyment of future generations of Americans." Subsequently, a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on the project was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, and the final impact statement will be completed in February, 1976. Shortly thereafter, the present Interior Secretary, Thomas L. Kleppe, will decide whether to reverse the Morton decision and authorize construction of the project.

WHAT IS KAIPAROWITS?

The \$4 billion Kaiparowits Power Project consists of 1) a 3000-megawatt coal-fired electric generating station (6000 and even 9000 megawatts at this site are considered future possibilities), 2) four underground coal mines which would supply 12 million tons of coal per year to the plant; 3) 1460 miles of extra high voltage transmission lines to carry the power to users in southern California and Arizona; 4) limestone quarry to produce 237,000 tons of limestone annually for dust abatement and pollution control equipment; 5) 67 miles of new paved highways, 6) a new town for an eventual population of 15,000.

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS?

Air Pollution

Should we permit higher pollutant concentrations in our national parks than will be permitted in industrial areas of California, Japan, Czechoslovakia, Canada and Russia?

The project contemplates 99.5% particulate control and 90% SO₂ control. Even if these figures represented the actual operating efficiencies, 12 tons of fly ash, 53 tons of SO₂ and 250 tons of NO₂ would be emitted daily. All of this adds up to reduction of visibility from the current 85-100 miles to occasionally as low as 15 miles over Bryce and Grand Canyon national parks and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

Coal is transportable; scenic vistas are not, and a mechanism is available by which to protect the air quality of our parklands. The Environmental Protection Agency has set up three air quality classifications: Class I would allow no significant deterioration; Class II would accommodate industrial development such as Kaiparowits; Class III would allow degradation of air quality up to federal standards. Unless the Interior Department requests Class I status for our parks, thereby precluding construction of a power plant on the Kaiparowits Plateau, brown haze beyond what is legally accepted in Los Angeles and Tokyo will blanket the parks of the region.

Water

Surface water - The utilities have contracted with the Bureau of Reclamation for use of up to 102,000 acre-feet per year of Utah's share of Colorado River water. Only half of this amount will be needed for a 3000-megawatt power plant, but the utilities are reluctant to release their rights to the remainder, indicating future plans for additional energy development in the Kaiparowits area.

The Colorado River is widely recognized as overappropriated, and the State of Utah will soon have committed all of its entitlement under the Colorado River Compact. Utah has a choice of using the remainder of its allocation for agriculture, municipal and industrial use or energy development, but there is not enough water to satisfy all these uses. The choice appears to lie with energy development, a choice which commits Utah's water to production of electricity for export out of the Colorado Basin.

Groundwater - The DEIS neglects to address the impact of deep well withdrawal of groundwater for the proposed new town, and the resulting depletion of the area's groundwater resources.

Water contamination - The project will increase the salt concentrations of the Colorado River by about 2.1 milligrams per liter which will result in an additional \$200,000 damage annually to downstream users for each milligram per liter increase in salinity. Large quantities of trace element fallout from the plume will eventually drain into the Colorado River. Of particular concern are arsenic, titanium and mercury. Investigators with a National Science Foundation study anticipate 40% of the plant's mercury emissions will end up in Lake Powell. Thus, after one year of plant operation, the mercury content of Lake Powell will have increased by 33%, and levels of mercury in some fish species already exceed FDA standards.

Coal

The DEIS does not consider the alternatives of leaving the coal in the ground for future use as a source of complex hydrocarbons or until improvements are made in synthetic fuels technology.

Here, as elsewhere, the processing and conversion of the coal involves enormous waste. Over 800 million tons of coal lie within the immediate mine area, of which the plant would utilize 420 million tons during its lifetime; the remainder will probably never be recovered due to various extraction problems. Twenty-five per cent of the mined coal will never reach the boiler due to loss in washing and sorting. Of the coal burned, only 35% of the resulting heat is actually converted to electricity. Long distance transmission to Los Angeles and Phoenix results in additional losses

so that a generous estimate indicates that 10% of the energy in the coal arrives at the load centers in the form of electricity.

Vegetation and Wildlife

Populations of most game animals, large raptors and numerous other species would be reduced over a 100-mile radius. The transmission systems would create a major intrusion into otherwise natural landscapes and habitats. The Arizona Game and Fish Department writes that "Perhaps the most potential detrimental aspects of the proposed Kaiparowits project in Arizona would be the effects on wildlife habitat caused by the construction of transmission lines." This concern is based on the fact that "1,900 miles of new access roads would be required along the proposed transmission system rights-of-way: 870 miles of permanent and 1030 miles of temporary roads" (in the Arizona Strip alone).

Of particular interest at the plant site is a stand of ancient junipers. Although members of the species seldom survive to the age of 400 years, this area contains many specimens over 600 years and one tree is over 1400. In addition, of the 841 plant species in the project area, 42 are threatened or endangered.

Socio-Economic Impact

Boomtown effects associated with energy development have been well documented in such areas as Gillette, Rock Springs, Fairbanks and Valdez. The "Gillette syndrome" -- vast increases in divorce, depressions, drunkenness, death and delinquency -- occurred over a ten-year period in Gillette, Wyoming, and involved a population increase of 121%. According to the DEIS, the population of Kane County, which is now 2,700, will increase to 12,116 in the space of 10 years, an increase of 450%.

Problems that have faced other boom areas now face the tiny towns of Kanab, Tropic, Cannonville and Henrieville -- problems arising from trying to accommodate overflow population from the project's new town. These problems include trying to provide transportation, educational and life support systems before income from tax revenues generated by the project starts to come in.

A native of southern Utah writes:

"The areas of Kane and Garfield Counties most likely to be impacted by the project are still in much the same shape culturally as they were when they were settled over 100 years ago. The distance to any significant urban center, the stability of the population, and strong, continuous, homogeneous religious heritage have preserved these communities as their founders intended them to be... Instead of living directly on the land to be farmed, settlers established small central communities and traveled to their land each day. The life of the community centered on the Latter Day Saint Church. The church provided religious instruction, education, the complete social life of the community, and a very recognizable political and educational authority, but the separation is quite thin...and almost all the community still identifies ultimate authority on the ward bishop and stake president. While the structure of the community has provided a stable and useful family environment for over a century, its strength really lies in preserving the homogeneous nature of the community and in maintaining its isolation. The arrival

of large numbers of outsiders into the area suddenly will not only provide a new religious and ethnic mix totally foreign to the experience of most local residents, but will also shift political power totally away from traditional residents.

"If the project is implemented, will this mean more jobs for those now unemployed and more prosperity for local residents? Jobs in the construction phase of the project will be for those with skills, in many cases highly complex skills like heavy equipment operation and carpentry. Even for those in the area with such skills, the jobs will probably not be available. There seems little doubt that construction jobs will be union jobs... Most all the people in southern Utah that have skills useful in the construction field do not belong to any trade union. This means that the contractor probably won't be able to hire local people even if he wants to.

"Local businesses are by and large small and certainly unable to handle the influx of population which will descend on the area. Hence, close behind the construction workers will arrive the large chain stores and discount houses. The effect of this competition on local businesses is predictable: with the capital behind a regional and national outlet the locals will be undersold and driven out of business."

Regional Impacts

Within a 250-mile radius of the Kaiparowits Power Project site are eight national parks, 26 national monuments, three national recreation areas, two national historic sites and one national memorial -- one-fifth of the acreage administered by the National Park Service. The area also contains three Bureau of Land Management primitive areas, several National Forest units, numerous state parks, Indian reservations and sacred grounds, and de facto wilderness areas such as the Escalante canyons.

Facilities to produce 14,000 megawatts of coal-fired power are currently in operation or under construction in the Four Corners region and Nevada. 8,915 megawatts of additional electrical generating capacity is currently planned for southern Utah in close proximity to the areas listed above: Kaiparowits - 3000 mw, Intermountain Power Project - 3,000 mw, Warner Valley - 500 mw, Garfield - 2000 mw, and Emery Unit - 415 mw. The cumulative impacts of all of these plants would go far beyond what is expected from Kaiparowits alone.

A major land use question is involved in this issue: is the region more valuable as an industrialized energy center or as a recreational area of nationally significant scenic and natural values? The Interior Department, which has responsibility for protection of national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges and recreation areas, also has responsibility for controlling the development of energy resources on federal lands. The decision as to which is the highest use of southern Utah's public lands should be reflected in the Department's decision as the will of the American people rather than the interest of the utilities.



IS THE POWER REALLY NEEDED?

Whether the power is needed in San Diego, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and in Arizona, becomes more questionable daily. Energy growth rates in these load centers are in a downward trend because of uncertainties about the economic consequences of investing in unsaleable power. 18% of Kaiparowits' generating capacity remains uncommitted. Salt River Project, which had been a participant in the project until last summer, withdrew because of doubts about need in its service area.

In its comments on the DEIS, the Environmental Protection Agency criticized the Statement's projected increases in per capita power consumption and peak demand as placing too much emphasis on past growth rates, stating, ". . . past growth rates represent a time when electrical energy was considered to be abundant and cheap, and was used inefficiently and wastefully. Since readily usable energy sources are very limited, it is obvious that energy consumption cannot continue at past growth rates." EPA went on to recommend:

"Consideration should be given to including in the final EIS an independent study of projected energy needs for the market areas of Arizona and Southern California. Such a study would consider the limited supply of energy resources, the rising costs of energy development, conservation practices that will become necessary, and the limited carrying capacity of the market areas. The study cited in the EIS, which was conducted by FEA (Federal Energy Administration), cannot be considered "independent", since energy forecast data were supplied only by the participants."

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative siting -- The DEIS looks only at 14 sites in the immediate vicinity of the Kaiparowits Plateau, and of these only one was seriously considered, with cursory examination of three other nearby sites. It fails to give serious consideration to the possibility of utilizing Kaiparowits coal in already industrialized locations in Utah, Arizona, Nevada or California.

Alternative energy sources -- Discussion of meeting legitimate needs from other energy sources is limited to one sentence each on oil and gas, nuclear power, geothermal and solar.

Conservation -- In its comments on the DEIS, the Environmental Protection Agency observed:

"The American people are willing to practice conservation in their daily lifestyle if it will mean less air pollution, according to a survey done for the Federal Energy Administration by the Opinion Research Corporation. Methods of conservation included turning off electricity 5 hours a day (47% agreed), paying \$300 for additional insu-

lation in the home instead of \$70 a year for more electricity and fuel (67% would spend \$300 on insulation), and turning down the thermostat to 65 degrees in the winter rather than spend \$70 for additional electricity and fuel (73% opted for turning down the thermostat). An FEA summary of the survey pointed out that Americans would rather see areas which presently have clean air kept clean rather than permit a pervasive air pollution in all parts of the country. Most of the people surveyed (94%) felt that areas that now have clean air should be kept as clean as they are now. These data have important implications in terms of giving further consideration to the alternative of energy conservation." (emphasis added)

In a recent speech Roger W. Sant, assistant administrator of the Federal Energy Administration, stressed the following points: (1) It is easier to avoid creating pollution in the first place than it is to create it and then clean it up. (2) Energy conservation is by far the least expensive new energy we are going to find.

If the 3.5 billion to be spent on the Kaiparowits Power Project were to be spent on insulation in the utilities' market area, more energy would be saved than the Kaiparowits Project would produce annually. This also represents a savings of 55 million barrels of oil per year, which, using Sant's figures, translates into homeowners' savings of 94.5 million per year.

A meaningful national energy conservation program must be developed before new energy production facilities such as Kaiparowits can be justified.

THE KAIPAROWITS PROJECT IS A WASTE OF MONEY, A WASTE OF ENERGY AND A WASTE OF SIGNIFICANT SCENIC RESOURCES THAT THE NATION CAN ILL AFFORD. THIS WASTE CAN BE PREVENTED! ACT NOW!!

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

1) Write to the Hon. Thomas L. Kleppe, Secretary of the Interior, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.

--State in your own words why you are opposed to the project.

--Ask for a through, independent analysis of need for the electricity in the areas to be served by the project.

--Ask for complete consideration of alternatives.

--Request that a full regional impact statement be prepared before authorization of the Kaiparowits Project.

THERE'S MORE



2) Send copies of the above to your Congressional Delegation and to the President of the United States.

Honorable _____
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Honorable _____
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

3) Write letters to your editor. Letters to the editor serve not only to alert other people to the problem, but to influence decisionmakers.

4) If you are able to make a financial contribution, you may do so by sending a check:

Tax-deductible contributions can be made payable to the Frontera del Norte Fund of the Sierra Club Foundation, 338 East DeVargas St., Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Non-deductible contributions may be made to Sierra Club, 338 East DeVargas St., Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Please indicate on the check's memo line that it is a contribution for Kaiparowits activities.

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS FACT SHEET OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Sierra Club, 338 East DeVargas St., Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 (505) 982-4349.

RIVERS & LETTERS!!

LETTERS ARE NEEDED in support of the 'Citizen's Alternative' (one of several proposals for wild and scenic river status for the Dolores River in Southwestern Colorado). On January 3, 1975, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was amended mandating study of 29 rivers -- 12 in Colorado. The Forest Service, BLM and the State of Colorado studied the Dolores this last year and have recommended some degree of protective classification for 105 miles of the river. The State of Colorado recommended that 140 miles of the river be so classified.

A three year study by the Wilderness Study Group of the University of Colorado is the basis for the 'Citizen's Alternative' which calls for "wild", "scenic" or "recreational" protective status for 250 miles of the river.

A well financed and well organized development-oriented group, headed by former representative Wayne Aspinall, is at work trying to defeat any sort of protective status. Thus the urgent need for a counterforce -- and your letters!

Write: Don Bock, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Mid-Continent Region, Box 25387, Denver Federal Ctr., Lakewood, Colo. 80225; with copies to Senators Floyd Haskell and Gary Hart (Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510) and to Congressman Frank Evans (House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515).

For further information write to Ms. Sally Ranney, Wilderness Society, 4260 East Evans Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80222.

Do it!!

the Attack... (from page 4)

Governor Apodaca put the State of New Mexico strongly in favor of the "non-deterioration" amendment.

Even with such formidable allies, it is fair to say that the non-deterioration idea and the non-deterioration amendment are in trouble. We need, at this time, to keep the letters pouring in to Senator Domenici thanking him for the excellent work he has done for us thus far, and urging him to keep up the fight for the non-deterioration idea. It is equally important that copies of the letters be sent to the rest of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation (for Senators Domenici and Montoya the address is: Senate Office Building, Washington, D C 20210, and for Congressmen Lujan and Runnels the address is: House Office Bldg., Washington, D C 20215.)

---Don Campbell

Other newsletters

The Sierra Club National News Report, published weekly, is a bargain at \$10/yr. If you're interested in being the most knowledgeable environmentalist on your block, write: National News Report, Sierra Club, 530 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94108.

The ORV Monitor, published by the Environmental Defense Fund, bi-monthly, \$6/yr., write to: 2728 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704. Sample copy available free on request. A strong environmental viewpoint on the ORV "menace", much news on ORV related legislation and research.

Coming in February --

Several fascinating articles on various subjects by Brant Calkin!

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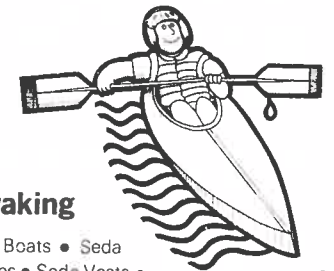
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BASE CAMP
121 WEST SAN FRANCISCO
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Trouble From A Bottle

That flower of planned obsolescence -- the non-returnable bottle -- which has prospered and spread like a weed across the landscapes of America in its amazingly short history since 1957, is being tamed from another quarter.

Under the authority of the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965 the federal Environmental Protection Agency has published guidelines in the Federal Register called "Solid Waste Management Guidelines for Beverage Containers".

The guidelines would affect the handling of beverages in federal offices and institutions which make up a whopping 2 to 4 % of the national market. They are a giant step in the right direction requiring a 5¢ deposit on all non-returnable containers, and are regarded as a foot-in-the-door to ease the way for national "Bottle Bill" legislation similar to the famous Oregon bill.

The beverage manufacturers have rolled out their expected and weary dog and pony show in order to preserve their vested interests and the absurdities of the status quo, and letters are needed to counter their sound and fury.

Write in support of the "Solid Waste Management Guidelines for Beverage Containers" by January 12th to: Mr. Sheldon Meyers,

January's Eco-pornography

A reading of the paragraph below from the November New Mexico Miner newsletter will uncover an anti-wilderness, anti-park statement.

NATION'S MINERAL POLICY NEEDS OUTLINED BY MINES BUREAU DIRECTOR - America is entering a "state of perpetual emergency" with respect to mineral supplies, the Director of the Interior Department's Bureau of Mines has warned. Dr. Thomas V. Falkie cited OPEC-like groupings of foreign producers of key commodities like copper, bauxite, iron ore, phosphate, and mercury -- groupings which could trigger market disruptions causing economic and social hardship in the United States. He also counseled against trends toward government over-regulation of domestic mineral-producing operations, and especially against Federal land designation practices that place large acreages off-limits to prospectors before the land's potential for mineral development can be assessed. To remedy such conditions, Dr. Falkie said national mining and minerals policy should reaffirm the principle of multiple-use management of public lands, which would uphold recreation, natural beauty, and wildlife values, as well as mineral extraction. *(emphasis ours)*

Solid Waste Management Program, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D C 20460, then treat yourself to a refreshing something out of a returnable bottle!

5512 Update

House Bill 5512, the so-called Game Range Bill, which amends the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 barring the transfer of any unit of the NWRS from the Fish and Wildlife Service to any other agency, and which sailed through the House with a 340 to 10 vote, has now gone over to the Senate side.

The Senate has behaved itself beautifully so far. The full Senate Commerce Committee approved the bill without dissent. The Committee even adopted a strengthening amendment striking the language allowing joint management for the three game ranges, thus placing management solely with the Fish and Wildlife Service. FWS will continue to use the services of other agencies in specialized areas such as oil and gas leasing (where allowed), but under FWS supervision.

It wouldn't hurt to write to New Mexico's Senators urging the passage of 5512 when it gets to the Senate floor. The address is Senate Office Building, Washington, D C 20510.

South San Juan Wilderness

The Sierra Club and 16 other conservation organizations are proposing a 216,000 acre South San Juan Wilderness in the spectacular mountains that straddle the Continental Divide near the Colorado-New Mexico border. The area is part of one of the largest unprotected wilderness tracts in Colorado.

Conservationists hope their efforts will result in the first wilderness proposal to emanate from the Forest Service's current roadless area review program.

The Forest Service plans public meetings on alternative ways to manage the 700,000 acre South San Juan Planning Unit, which includes four contiguous roadless areas. The areas -- Chama-South San Juan, Blanco River Divide, Sand Creek and V-Rock -- are among the 191 in Colorado inventoried by the Forest Service in 1971-72.

The area is one of jagged peaks more than 13,000 feet high, U-shaped glaciated valleys, rugged canyons and volcanic spires. It supports bald eagles, peregrine falcons, cut-throat and other trout, mountain lions, ptarmigan and elk. It is popular for backpacking, horseback trips and hunting.

"For more than 10 years the South San Juans have been one of the choice areas on Colorado conservationists' lists for wilderness classification," Sally Ranney, the Wilderness Society's Colorado Wilderness Coordinator, points out.

The San Juan Planning Unit spans three National Forests and two states, and includes, besides the vast South San Juan proposal, the Cruces Basin roadless area in the Carson National Forest. Although the South San Juan Wilderness Proposal is entirely in the State of Colorado, one of its convenient access points is just north of Chama and it is used by many New Mexicans.

Letters supporting the 216,000 acre Citizen's South San Juan Wilderness Proposal should be sent to: Harold Bond (Study Leader), San Juan Nat'l. Forest, Durango, Colorado 81301.

Request also that (1) the Citizen's Proposals for the South San Juans and the Cruces Basin be included in the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement (2)

that your letter be made a part of the record.

If you have an interest in following the fate of these proposals more closely, you may want to request that your name be added to the mailing list to receive notice of the public meetings affecting the Planning Unit and/or wilderness.

A twelve page booklet on the South San Juan Proposal has been published by the Wilderness Society. For a copy contact Sally Ranney, The Wilderness Society, 4260 East Evans Ave., Denver, Colo. 80222.

Wilderness Workshop

The Big Bend National Park Wilderness and Rio Grande (Texas) Wild and Scenic River Workshop will be held the weekend of Jan. 17-18 in San Antonio, Texas, to develop conservationists' strategy and form an ad hoc committee to further the wilderness & wild and scenic river designations. The Workshop is sponsored by the Sierra Club, the Texas Committee on Natural Resources & the Wilderness Society.

For further information contact Wes Leonard (616 De Leon, El Paso, Tx 79912, Tel. (915) 584-7730) or Dave Foreman (PO Box 38 Glenwood, NM 88039, Tel. (505) 539-2645).



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Do you ever get tired of saving the desert? Do you ever yearn to do battle in exotic places and far off lands -- with villains who never set foot inside New Mexico -- who have nothing to do with energy or coal or copper or 'nukes' or timber or BuRec or the New Mexico State Legislature? Well, here's your chance to take a shot at the tuna fishermen out of San Diego -- probably the only chance you're ever going to get.

To: THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of porpoise continue to die needlessly in the nets of tuna fishermen; and

Whereas, porpoise have been celebrated through the ages for their playful, gentle ways, their superior intelligence, their loyalty to one another, and their benevolence toward man; and

Whereas, the traditional role of the porpoise in marine ecosystems is being violently disrupted with unknown consequences; and

Whereas, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 provided for the immediate reduction of porpoise mortality and serious injury incidental to commercial fishing operations & directed the National Marine Fisheries Service to implement programs to achieve this goal; and

Whereas, scientific experts agree that a comprehensive research and development program and an effective regulatory effort are needed if mortality levels are to be reduced;

We, the undersigned, urge you, our elected representatives, to take all actions necessary to insure a prompt and comprehensive solution to this critical problem.

It is specifically requested that Congress immediately appropriate adequate funds to support the necessary regulatory and research and development programs, and that Congress remain firmly committed to the stated goal of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, to reduce porpoise mortality and serious injury rates to "insignificant levels approaching zero".

Signature

Print Name and Address

Please return all petitions, even if only partially completed, to "PORPOISE PROJECT", c/o The Sierra Club, 530 Bush St, San Francisco, California 94108.