

Q (Keep. Lots of science like art)

Wild Rockies Review
Box 9286
Missoula, MT 59807

Wild Rockies Review

Earth First!

Winter Issue

Vol.4, No 1 1991

Is This Where the Next U.S. Invasion Will Occur?



The Badger-Two Medicine Roadless Area
in the heart of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem

First Words...

In the 1950's Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas went on a pack trip into Wyoming's Wind River Range with the eminent biologist, Olaus Murie. Douglas in writing about the trip later in his book *My Wilderness: East to Kathadin* dwelled upon the impacts that private livestock were having on our public lands.

Douglas said of the abuse he saw: "The official destruction committed in the sacred precincts of this massive range (Wind Rivers) would be called VANDALISM if others had done it... I had long suspected that "multiple" use was a semantics for making cattlemen, sheepmen, lumbermen and miners the main beneficiaries. After they gutted and ruined the forests, then the rest of us could use them--to find campsites among stumps, to look for fish in waters heavy with silt from erosion, to search for game on ridges pounded to dust by sheep."

Though Douglas wrote these words nearly forty years ago, the vandalism of our public lands by the livestock industry still goes on. Ranchers tell us how they love the land, then they poison prairie dogs, shoot bears and coyotes, trap badgers, spray herbicides on native vegetation like sagebrush, trash our riparian zones, dewater our streams and allow their animals to eat forage that would otherwise support public wildlife on public lands. If this isn't vandalism on a grand scale, then what is? If any of us did what the livestock industry regularly does on our public lands we would be thrown in jail as criminals.

Public rangelands have a far higher value as depositories for biodiversity, watershed integrity, wildlife habitat and recreation than they have as feedlots for private livestock. Let's stop this vandalism, of our public domain.

George Wuerthner
Box 273
Livingston, MT 59047

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* The *Review* cheerfully accepts any and all contributions that further the Earth First! philosophy. Submit material by the 1st day of April, July, October, and January, or thereabouts.

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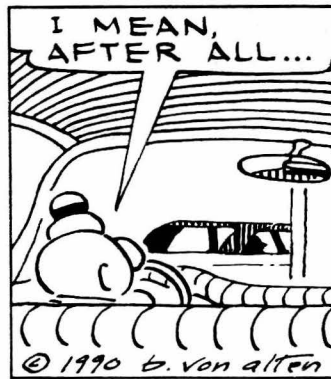
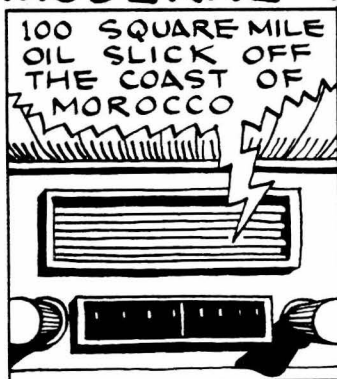
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Cover Photo:
Goat Mtn and Badger Creek
--J. Juel

This rag printed on 100%
recycled dead trees

MODERNE MAN



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Marlenee Clouds Yellowstone Vision

In a rare display of intelligence, the Federal Government has produced a draft document we can support, called "Vision for the Future: A Framework for Coordination in the Greater Yellowstone Area." Here at last is an attempt to treat the Yellowstone area as an ecosystem and area of global biological and geological significance and to coordinate the activities of the Park Service and Forest Service towards preserving of this amazing place. Goals of the document are 1) Conserve a sense of naturalness and promote the ecosystem concept 2) Biological and economic sustainability 3) Increased coordination amongst land-owners and managers.

This seems pretty straightforward and certainly worth supporting, at least in concept, Montana Eastern District Rep Ron "Fat wife and five ice-cream smeared kids on a snowmobile" Marlenee sees it differently. Rabid Ron is whipping ranchers, ORV chumps and good-old-boys and gals into a frenzy in an attempt to derail this thing. The feds are holding hearings around the region and conservationists dominated the initial hearings. Marlenee and like-minded fools in the Wyoming Heritage Society then began spewing blatant misinformation and actually bussing in confused bumpkins to crowd the hearings. Marlenee even formed a new hate group around this thing "People of the West". Most of these people have not even read the document, preferring to believe Marlenee's assertions that, if implemented, this thing will shut down all multiple-use activities and even take away private lands to lock the whole area up in a vast wilderness park. While this sounds great, such is not the intent of the document. It makes no land allocations nor does it change the missions of managing agencies. It does, however, suggest a more rational and biologically sound approach to public land management. That's it. Marlenee I'm sure realizes this, but loves to strut his obnoxiousness at hearings and is loath to pass up an opportunity to whip his supporters into a frenzy, thereby further polarizing land management politics and gaining more support from the Good-old-boy network. Remember, this is the man Bush has (reportedly) recommended as the next Secretary of Agriculture!!!

Again, this is a worthwhile, if imperfect, document. The Vision Plan actually says some of the things we have been pushing for years and would set an important precedent by recognizing the interconnectedness of different management entities. It would likely be incorporated into National Forest management through Forest Plan amendments. The Targhee N.F. in Idaho, with the most destructive timber program in the region (eight miles of clearcuts bordering Yellowstone Park), is considering incorporating the goals of the Vision Plan. This may be derailed due to rising, misguided opposition which arises mostly from Big Oil, Big Timber (the industry mostly, but also, I'm sure, the town) and the Farm Bureau. Looks like the Sagebrush Rebels have risen again to haunt the West and to foment discontent and divisiveness. These industry groups are using rural people as tools for their own gain by encouraging them to come to hearings and parrot false claims about the Vision Plan.

The final hearing on the Plan is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 24. It is bound to be a circus. I will be there and will report on the insanity in a future issue. Unfortunately the hearings have come down to a numbers game; who can turn out more supporters for or against the document. The hearings should be a chance to fine tune the vision, which needs a lot of work, but due to the controversy over it, this opportunity has been lost. You can bet the Marlenee cheerleaders will be there in force in an attempt to beat us on our own turf in Bozeman.

Marlenee, you will pay!!!

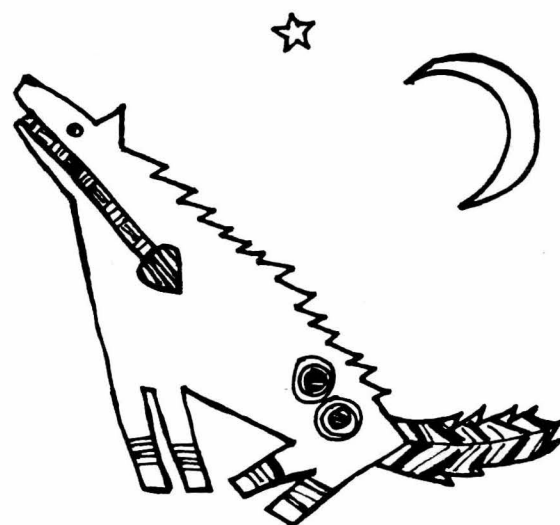
TIME TO PAY MARLENEE A VISIT

Rabid Ron has gotten away with too much shit for too long. He has
continued on page 7

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wolf action group



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Iraq my brains December 1990

No Compromise in defense
Of offense.
The resident President,
'comfortable with his decision',
is prepared.

Prepared
to spill blood
for oil.
Prepared
to waste lives
not his to waste.
Prepared
to take the consequences
Even to be
an unpopular president!

Public peace mandate
be damed.
To hell with Congress.
There's WAR to be had!

Any delay
may avert bloodshed,
give the public
time to think,
Allow desire for peace
to surface.
This we cannot afford.

Thrust our young people
bodily
into the grinding gears
of the War Machine.

Go ahead,
worry about your
nephew from Des Moines
deployed in the Gulf,
sweating bullets
on the bloody sand.
Then drive your Cadillac
to K-Mart
to buy plastic gizmos
made of OIL.

Stripped of its essential forest
Ravaged hillside bakes
Disturbed by seismic exploration
sleeping Grizzly wakes
Backed into the furthest corner
Cougar bears her fangs
From the strands of gleaming wire
Slaughtered Coyote hangs

But there will come a time
When the mountains have no name
And the highways crack and shatter into dust
There will come a time
When the rivers flow unchecked
And the machines of humankind are red with rust

There will come a time
When the trees no longer fall
Riven by the chainsaw's eager blade
There will come a time
When the wilderness returns
And the monuments of man will be unmade

There will be a place
Where evolution reigns
And steaming jungles team with life and sound
There will be a place
Of beauty and of grace
Where Redwood trees reach skyward from the ground

There will be a place
Unfettered by a fence
Where ancient rhythms still give life its meaning
There will be a place
Where vines and berries grow
On concrete towers now all cracked and leaning

There will come a day
When skies are clear of smog
And acid rain no longer sears the Earth
There will come a day
When the only log
Is one providing for another's birth

There will come a day
When the seas are free
Of oil, ghost nets, plastic, and pollution
There will come a day
When whales sing in the deep
Celebrating life and evolution!

Yes for this day we wait
In hopes it's not too late
To restore the Earth unto its former glory
Our place here we must earn
It's time that humans learn
That we are but a small part of the story

Pomes by R. Restless

"Serving People and Screwing Over The Land"

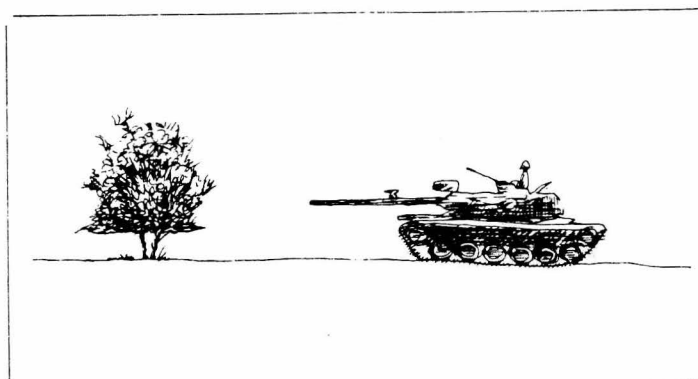
The Mallard and Cove timber sales in central Idaho's Nez Perce National Forest will carve up a huge chunk of roadless country into hideous mangy patchwork.

By obliterating 75% of Roadless area 1847 and 90% of Roadless Area 1921, the Forest Service is doing its best to sever the connection between the Gospel Hump and Frank Church/River of No Return Wilderness Areas.

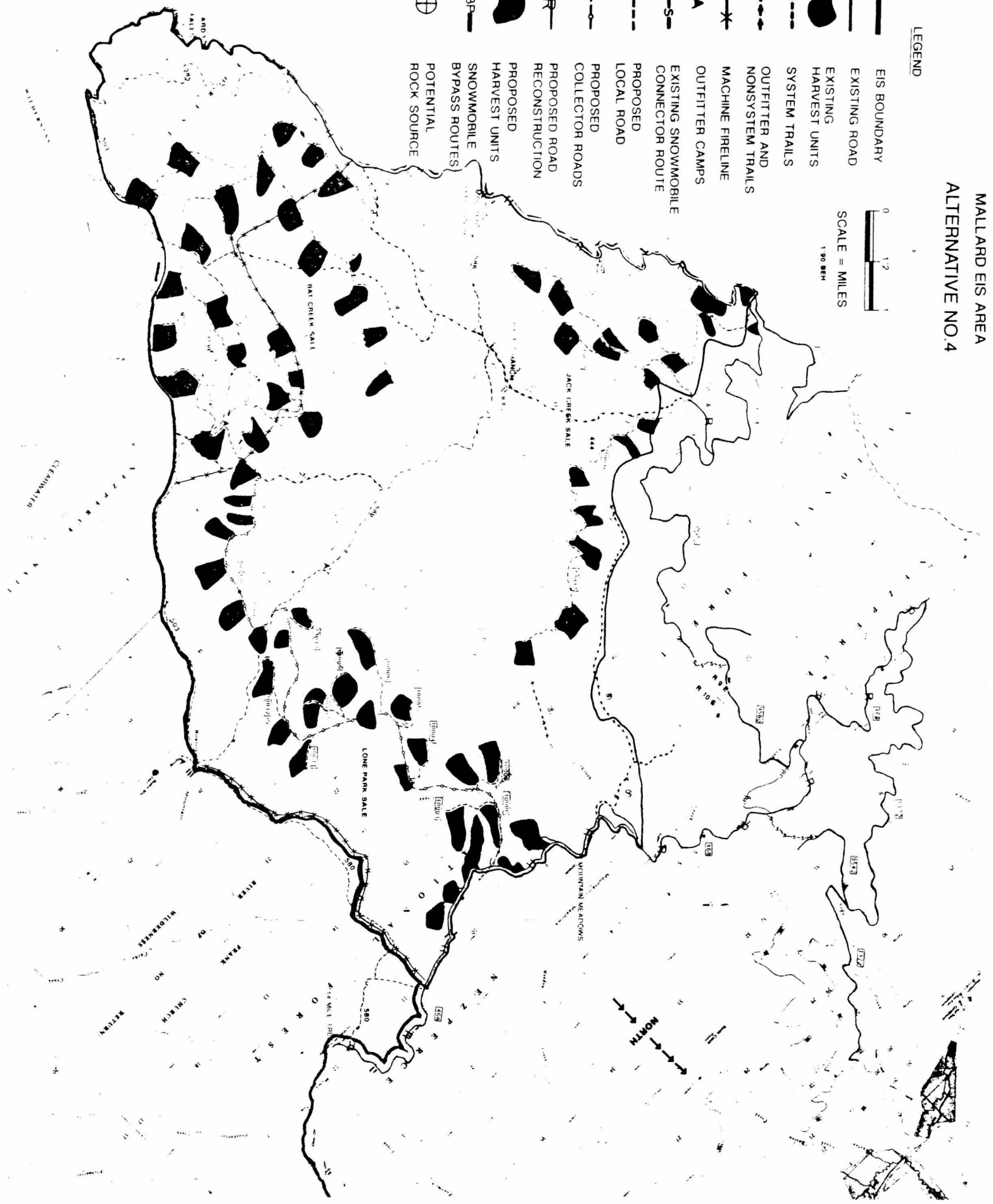
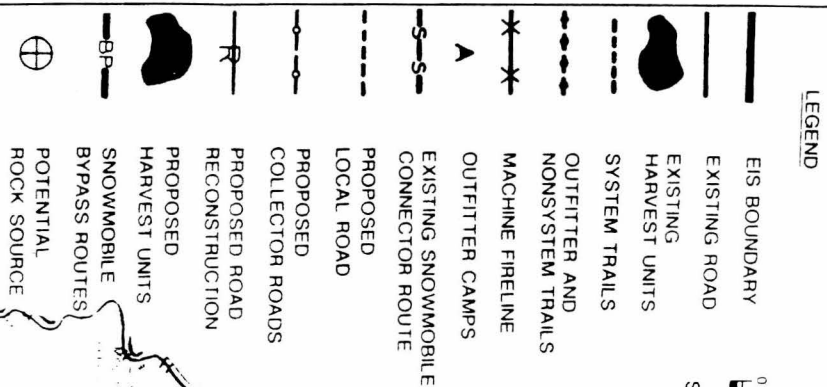
The Forest Service selected the alternatives with the largest timber harvest (a whopping 77 million board feet in all). The Freddies plan to batter water quality by building over 145 miles of roads (31 miles in steamside areas) fragment the ecosystem with scores of clearcuts, and generally trash the area.

Unless appeals by a local outfitter and the Idaho Sportsmen's Coalition hold back the slaughter, these sales will commence within a few months. We are printing maps of the sales to drive home the colossal scale of the planned destruction. The next page shows the Mallard sale, and pages 12 and 13 show the Cove sale (the two sales are contiguous; the east edge of the Cove map fits along the west edge of the Mallard map).

We hope that these maps will give our readers the information and motivation necessary to ensure that projects such as this do not proceed as planned.



MALLARD EIS AREA
ALTERNATIVE NO. 4



"Wolves in northwest Montana! Efforts are being made to restore them in Central Idaho and Yellowstone, too! How exciting! I'm glad we finally acknowledged our wrongs and are allowing them to live in the wilds of America. It's great we're becoming so environmentally aware."

Wolf Reality Check

This is the sort of response you would likely get from most Americans if you were to ask them how they felt about the Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan. It's the sort of response I would categorize as being prompted by blind faith. For if these people were to spend more time looking into matters they would likely be appalled at the sort of concessions being made on wolf recovery in the name of "fairness" and "compromise." And these concessions are being made by people in the agency who are responsible for the recovery and protection of the wolf (namely Ed Bangs of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Wolf Recovery Project leader for Montana), and by some of the conservation organizations representatives presently seen as the perceived spokespeople for wolf recovery advocates (namely Hank Fischer of Defenders of Wildlife).

Take, for instance, an article printed in the Missoulian (11/30/90) about wolves in NW Montana, which had a fitting subtitle of "On the trail to recovery?". In it was the announcement that Ed Bangs had recently received an additional \$298,000 for wolf recovery. "Great! Money that can be used to assist their recovery and protection. Right?" says the unknowing and excitable wildlife supporter. Wrong, says the Wolf Recovery Project leader. Instead, all or part of this money will go toward establishing another animal damage control agent in northwest Montana, a post that this money "will probably cover for four or five years." Holy deathtrap Batman, give me a break!

And that's only the beginning. Bangs goes on to say: 1) that wildlife managers, when discussing road densities in wolf recovery areas and their effect upon wolves, are leery that some environmentalists might use the road density issue to stop timber sales (God forbid we allow for something that protects both wolves and their habitat); 2) that all the new wolf litters in NW Montana except one include radio-collared pups so their movements can be monitored (wouldn't want to let the little juveniles out of our sight); 3) that "the state (Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks) is the best place for long-term management" (yeah, and let's talk about a wolf hunting season, too); and 4) there are provisions in the recovery plan whereby wolves can be moved to take the pressure off specific herds of game animals (no, you can't feed upon your natural prey base). Translated, this means more manipulation and more control upon an endangered wild critter with the sole intent of protecting the livestock and hunting interests of the State.

This manipulation and control of wolves, coupled with the reality of both the natural loss (disease, starvation, weather, etc.) and the cultural loss (the 3 S's--shoot, shovel, and shut up) represents a formidable number of obstacles in the way of real wolf recovery. Then, to add insult to injury, Defenders of Wildlife continues to push their compensation program as the next best thing to sliced bread.

Though Mr. Fischer will tell you that Defenders of Wildlife's wolf depredation compensation program removes the

only effective argument that livestock interests have for opposing wolf recovery in the Northern Rockies, others feel it sets a bad precedent. And on four intertwining counts, they're right.

First, the program's existence makes the statement, sometimes subtly, sometimes not, that livestock ranching is a necessity we must defend and wolves are a luxury we must justify--both with "environmentalist" dollars. Let me remind Mr. Fischer, Defenders and the rest of us that wolves, unlike domestic livestock, earned their right to be here merely by being native to North America, and thus no amount of money is needed to justify their presence.

Secondly, their program places the burden, or responsibility, of recovery on wolf advocates. By doing this, Defenders neglects to remember the fact that it was the livestock interests who blessed the grey wolf with its endangered status to begin with. This is analogous to making advocates of an endangered fish pay chemical companies for the pollution control measures needed to insure that those companies, which are spewing toxic waste into the waters, don't suffer economic hardship.

This misplaced responsibility also lets the federal government off the hook for having thus far done a pathetic job in assisting wolves in their return to the Northern Rockies. To this, Mr. Fischer has stated that we shouldn't wait for the federal government to do its job when we can do it ourselves. I disagree. Rather, we should be demanding that the USFWS and others do its job, which is to act upon the voice of the people. A reminder: In 1973, the American public, via the congressionally-approved Endangered Species Act (ESA), mandated the recovery of all endangered plants and animals--including wolves! Seventeen years later, almost no significant progress has been made on behalf of wolves (and it's not wolf advocates' fault). Now is not the time to let the federal government, whom we pay, off the hook.

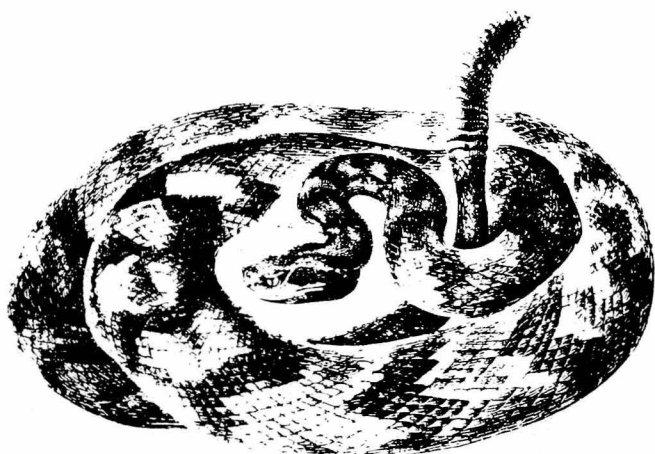
Lastly, wolf advocates have already shown our willingness to pay for wolf recovery through cooperation with the federal taxation program. Those taxes are meant to support such efforts as the implementation of recovery plans under ESA.

So the next time someone says to you that what we're doing with wolves in the Wild Rockies is great, consider bursting their bubble.

-- Tom Skeele



It is time Earth First! paid Marlenee a visit on his own turf in Eastern Montana. We don't have to put up with this crap. Contact Yellowstone EF! to get involved and we will pick a time and place to drop in unannounced at one of his offices. If anyone out there has information on when and where Marlenee may be in the state, let us know. If you have info on any incident where Marlenee has displayed his inability to serve the people efficiently or fairly, pass it on to us and we will compile an incident report to present to Congress and the public. And by all means visit Marlenee's offices any time you are in Eastern Montana! Let's Razz Rabid Ron!



RAZZ RON PLEDGE STUB

___I pledge to hassle Marlenee at every available opportunity to expose his vicious nature and inability to represent the people of Montana

__Include me in any plans to publicly protest against Mar
lenee

Name

Address

Clip and send to: Yellowstone EF!, Box 6151, Bozeman,
MT 59715

Yellowstone EF! Appeals Hyalite Timber Sale

Hyalite Canyon, a spectacular U-shaped glacial canyon which issues from the Hyalite Peaks into the Gallatin Valley near Bozeman, Montana, is the most heavily used recreation area in National Forest Region 1. Lower Hyalite has already been heavily logged and roaded by Plum Creek Timber and the Gallatin National Forest. Road density is 500% of that allowed in the Gallatin Forest Plan. Hyalite is also home to many species of wildlife and is particularly important to Elk. Bald Eagles, Grizzly Bears and Gray Wolves may inhabit Hyalite now or in the near future.

Despite all this the Gallatin has proposed logging 3 million board feet in Hyalite, much of it "salvage" from blowdowns. The logging would require 6 miles of new road and reconstruction of about 18 miles. Bozeman District Ranger Bob Dennee claims that plans to close several existing roads would offset the impacts of new road construction. But "closed" roads would remain open to some forms of motorized recreation, and Forest Service road closures have a history of ineffectiveness. Only one mile of road would be ripped and revegetated. Some of the logging would be directly adjacent to an inventoried roadless area in South Cottonwood Canyon and indeed, the Lousetown area proposed for logging is roadless, though not inventoried as such under RARE II. Naturally, clearcutting would be the primary harvest method. No biological evaluation has been prepared for this sale, nor has there been any consideration of impacts on Threatened or Endangered species. The area is considered by the Forest Service to be unoccupied by Grizzly Bears, even though occasional use by Grizzlies has been documented. Nor have the Freddeys considered cumulative impacts of adjacent Plum Creek clearcuts and roads, nor of the heavy increase in recreational traffic resulting from the winter plowing of the main access road now occurring.

This timber sale has generated quite a bit of local controversy, partly due to the importance of Hyalite as a recreational area, partly due to the large number of environmental groups based in Bozeman. A recent public meeting on Hyalite, organized by local conservationists, drew nearly 80 people. And now come the appeals, just when the Gallatin is changing supervisors.

Kick 'em when they're down, you bet! Yellowstone EF! is one of several appellants, including the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC), American Wildlands, and Montana Ecosystems Defense Council. Disappointingly, the GYC appeal offers the Freddie's compromise which would include some clearcutting!

Issues raised by Yellowstone EF! hinge on important issues raised in our 1989 appeal of the Gallatin Forest Plan. Cumulative Impacts, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Visual Quality are the main points of contention. All of these issues were raised in our Forest Plan appeal, but no decision has yet been issued by the Chief of the FS on this appeal. As usual, the FS is months late, while the public is required to do everything in a timely manner, or you are S.O.L. We may have to take legal action to force a decision on this appeal we worked so hard on and which now languishes in Washington. A decision by the Chief is likely to grant us at least some concessions, thereby freeing us from raising those issues every time the Gallatin proposes a project.

Meanwhile we are going to stop this timber sale. Help Yellowstone EF! keep watch over this important National Forest!

Bison, and Bureaucrats from Hell

Yellowstone National Park (YNP) straddles corners of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho in the midst of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. You can find the Park easily enough on a map — the raggedy square at the juncture of these three states. On the ground, the park boundary is well demarcated for vast stretches by mile upon mile of clearcuts, especially along the Targhee Forest boundary.

The bureaucrat's mind pictures the Park in very much the same way, an outline on the map and the boundary a line of clearcuts on the ground. The rest of the surrounding lands they categorize as private, wilderness, or "multiple use." Rarely does the "E" word escape the bureaucrat's mouth. The outlines of the ecosystem are too difficult to see, and to many, it is only the invention of a few wild-eyed environmental radicals disguised as conservation biologists intent upon interfering with their particular agency's agenda for the lands under its control.

Bureaucrats don't like the ecosystem idea. It makes them think too much and it takes them away from the simple commodity extract formulas of the agencies. Ecosystem means they cannot turn forests into tree farms, habitat into game farms and cattle allotments, and watershed into water production and storage components. Here is the underlying cause for the Yellowstone bison slaughters and resulting controversy, and here is where we need to start defending the intrinsic right of wild bison to be wild bison.

The controversy has been labeled many things by many groups and agencies. Depending on who you talk to it could be an anti-hunting, anti-cow, animal rights, states rights, brucellosis, public safety, or "cultural gap" issue. However, the heart of the issue and the critical basis of the controversy is the integrity of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and the issues must be addressed as such. Bison are shot because they are attempting to inhabit their entire ecosystem. It does not matter to the agencies that most of this land is historic range, or that it is mostly public land; the agencies simply invent justifications for the killing and hope nobody notices that the justifications are groundless.

The bureaucrats, as they have always done, are attempting to deny the legitimacy of the ecosystem, while at the same time systematically destroying it through clearcutting, abusive wildlife manipulation, and industrialization of the public lands (tourism, oil and gas, livestock grazing, *adnauseum*). The bison are under siege, as are the wolf and the grizzly bear. Add the overpopulation of ungulates such as elk and you have the wildlife picture for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Politics and Policy of Bison Control

After the March 1990 intervention, Montana state officials were reeling from the national outcry against the hunt. They didn't know what to do, so they did nothing; that is, they killed no more bison that year. It was clear to the state: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MDFWP) had to change policy. Not change it substantially, but enough to protect it from adverse public opinion.

To do this the state decided to shift the onus of bison control to the federal agencies, demanding that the National Park Service (NPS) and the Forest Service take more active roles in the bison kill, and take more of the heat as well. The result is the recently approved Interim plan for killing bison this winter. It calls for Park wardens to kill the cow bison; the Montana Department of Livestock (MDL) to capture the calves, cut their genitals off and sell them to the highest bidder at auction (to help pay for the murdering of their mothers); and MDFWP to continue sponsoring "hunts" of the bull bison. This new policy is termed a stop-gap measure because of the "desperate" situation the bison(?) have created. There is a long term plan being developed by the NPS, MDFWP, and USFS, but it is still two years away from completion.

Fund for Animals (FFA) filed suit in Federal District Court on the grounds the Interim plan violates the National and Montana Environmental Policy Acts, lost a request for a preliminary injunction, and are appealing to the Ninth Circuit court.

The State of Montana is trying hard to cover its ass by spreading misinformation on the threats to life, liberty, and property that bison pose. It is running a smear campaign against the animal to justify the state's bison eradication program.

The other agencies are more or less reluctant participants in the game, especially the FS.

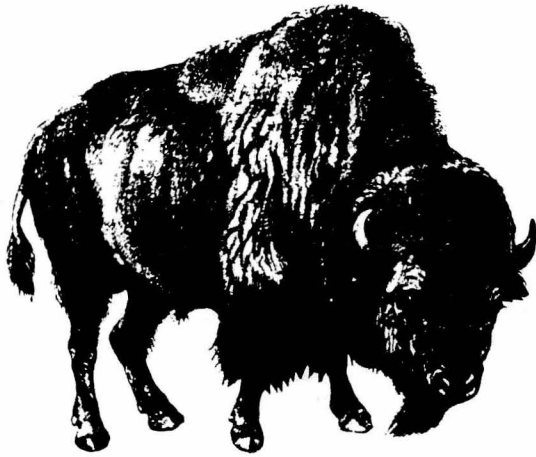
One of the strangest arguments the cattle industry and their MDL lackeys use is that of the "nuisance bison." On this line of reasoning, bison need to be controlled because they are, oh, I don't know, maybe giant prairie gophers or something. You know, a pest. MDL talks

grimly about the coming onslaught of bison up the Madison River, as if they are giant radioactive ants from a 50s sci-fi horror movie. Bureaucrats also list the "threat to human safety and property" that the bison pose, mostly because they knock down an occasional fence or two, and get ornery around people who harass them. They state that uncontrolled bison populations will overrun the state and destroy the cattle industry by tearing down fences and by generally just existing. This argument can be made about almost any large mammal, and in terms of crop and feed "depredations," elk are much more likely to cause damage. These arguments for bison slaughter are weak, and not worth much time.

Bison, Brucellosis, and Cows

The Siamese twins of Montana state agencies, MDL and MDFWP, claim that bison must be controlled because "the transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle could wipe out the





ranchers cash crop, ruin the fertility of the ranchers cows and bulls, and bankrupt families that have ranched outside of Yellowstone for years." Almost brings tears to your eyes, doesn't it? The simple truth is, however, that bison don't have to die to protect "rancher's livelihoods." As a matter of fact, brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle has never been documented in the wild. As a matter of fact, the bison are killed miles from the nearest cows, and months in advance of when cows may be present in the area. As a matter of fact, the bureau-fats don't even know how many bison carry the disease (many test positive for having been exposed, but this does not prove they carry the disease).

There may be some risk of brucellosis transmission from wildlife to cattle, but no one knows the actual risk. Instead of trying to determine what this risk might be, and rationally attempting to manage it in a way that would allow the bison to exist, MDL et al run around babbling like the Sen. Joe McCarthys of the wildlife world. What needs to be assessed is the proposal to vaccinate cattle thought to be "at risk" from brucellosis, and changing cattle allotments and grazing times (or just getting rid of the damn cows on public lands) to avoid contact with birthing bison and the fluids remaining on the ground after a birth or an abortion. The problem is that the ranchers would incur a greater cost if they had to take some responsibility for protecting their cattle from brucellosis, which cuts into profits and their rights as Americans to abuse wildlife and wildlands in the name of the almighty dollar and the sacred cow. By the way, it costs nearly \$1.50 a head to vaccinate against brucellosis.

The cattle people must be made to fend for themselves. The protection of their cows must be their responsibility. Vaccinate the goddamn things! They're all pumped up with crap anyway, so what's another shot or two?

The Big Hunter Thing

Some groups and individuals, including the big-hunter types and the FFA, are trying to make the bison control actions a hunting issue. The state itself declares that the bison shoot is really a control action. The NRA *et al* (the God, guns, 'n' greasy gobs of guts guys) are going crazy because this is the first "hunter rights" issue to come up in Montana. Meanwhile, the livestock lobby is rubbing its hands in glee at having made hunters into their "whipping boys" in the bison controversy. The hunting lobby already has, and will continue to make itself look cruel and

stupid by sticking its nose into this.

This controversy is also an opportunity to expose MDFWP's complete bias towards production of "shootable" commodity animals rather than ecosystem protection and natural diversity. Elk hunting is the big money maker for state game agencies, resulting in an underlying bias against the bison because they compete with elk for winter range. But elk also carry brucellosis. The bureau-fats figure that 1.5% of the northern elk herd may carry it, or around 2100 animals. Over 50% of the bison population is alleged to carry brucellosis, or approximately 1500 animals (a high side estimate). So do you detect something strange here? It couldn't be a double standard based upon bad science and a truly malicious cultural bias, now, could it? If you are at all familiar with the sportsman hard-on for killing elk you'll know this is a big reason for the hunting boys to want less bison, especially if you're the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and just spent millions buying ELK winter range on the northern side of YNP.

The arguments against free-roaming bison are so narrow-minded, profit-oriented, and anthropocentric that it's easy to get sucked in and argue them point for point. No matter how pissed off we get by the simplistic, greedhead reasoning of the bureau-fats and livestock interests, we must always return to the basic no-compromise demand: bison have an inherent right to exist, without fences and without imaginary restraining lines. Without bullets and without bullshit. Plenty of people are waiting in the wings to offer all sorts of compromises: purchasing winter grazing lands, and fencing that; selling off "excess" bison to reservations; developing birth control (yech) for the bison, ad infinitum. Out of a deep respect for biodiversity, and with a clear vision of wholeness for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, we must stand firm: Let the Bison Roam Free!

--Nancy, John, and Carla

What You Can Do

To express your outrage, contact one of the agencies involved with bison management. You have three to choose from: 1) Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Director K.L. Kool, 1420 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620; 2) USFS- Gallatin NF, POB 130, Bozeman, MT 59771; 3) Yellowstone National Park, POB 168, YNP, WY 82190-0168.

Points to mention: wild bison are an integral part of the GYE, and the agency's failure to recognize the park as a larger part of the ecosystem is an outrage and will not be tolerated!

Get on the Freddie's mailing list for bison stuff, like the upcoming DEIS, by writing to YNP.

Write letters to the governor of Montana: Stan Stevens, Governor, Office of the Governor, Helena, MT 59620.

Boycott the beef industry — don't eat beef! Livestock grazing may be the most ecologically destructive practice in North America today.

A couple of other suggestions on how to become involved are: — Read over Capt. Paul Watson's article about Canada's Wood Buffalo Park in the EF! Journal, November 1990 for inspiration. — Send money!!! People are poised to intervene in any control actions near West Yellowstone, MT and as always, it costs bucks to do this stuff, so send greasy dollars to: WREF! POB 7891, Missoula, MT 59807. — This campaign is in need of serious activists who would be willing to come to Montana possibly to intervene. Contact the above address.

Lost in Space...

WARNING! WARNING! DANGER APPROACHING DR. SMITH!

The Beaverhead National Forest, in what one official said was a response to both local and national concerns about the Animal Damage Control (ADC) program, will soon release an Environmental Assessment (EA) dealing with the ADC's annual request to do their thing on the Forest. The document, which will address predator control (read: coyote killing), is presently sitting on Forest Supervisor Ron Prichard's desk (not a place I'd like to spend a lot of time) waiting for his approval. Though nothing is for sure until said document is given the blessing of said Supervisor, we, the public, will in all likelihood be faced with the following three alternatives to comment on:

Alternative 1: the No Action alternative. This will likely state that no predator control activities would occur on the Beaverhead.

Alternative 2: the Preventative Control alternative. This will likely state that control (both lethal and non-lethal) could happen prior to the arrival of the hooved locusts on our public lands this summer, thus making the range virtuously vermin free before any losses are incurred. Though "priority" would be given to non-lethal control measures ADC would be able to enlist such lethal controls as calling and shooting, aerial

hunting, trapping and snaring. Certain timing restrictions would most likely be placed on some control measures. For example, bait stations would not be allowed when recreational use in an area is high.

Alternative 3: the Confirmed Losses alternative. This will likely state that no predator controls will occur until live-stock losses are confirmed by a federal official.

Again, I repeat, this is only a warning! The official EA may indeed vary from the above description. Even though ADC, as far as I'm aware, has never once been denied permission to refine its skills on the open range of the Beaverhead NF-- ADC's "wildlife biologists" killed over 4700 coyotes in Montana in 1989-- it could well be that by the time the EA is presented to the public the three alternatives will include a "No Action" alternative, a Get Livestock Off Our Public Lands alternative, and a Restore SW Montana Wildlands alternative. But don't count on it!!!

Write to Supervisor Prichard (Beaverhead National Forest, 610 N. Montana St., Dillon, MT 59725) and ask for a copy of the EA. If you don't want to be bored with official jargon, just write and tell him that you support the "No Action" alternative (But remember to say exactly what you want to see happen since the "No Action" alternative may well describe letting the ADC continue as they have in the past-ed.) for all the reasons you do. And remember, "ADC" is really an acronym for All the Dead Critters!

--Tom Skeele

RELAXATION ON THE FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

Nothing fragments wildlife habitat more quickly or thoroughly than roads. National Forest Plans generally set Open Road Density (ORD) standards upon which habitat effectiveness estimates are based. For instance, the Gallatin National Forest in S.W. Montana sets an ORD standard of .5 mile per square mile in critical Grizzly Bear habitat, which translates to an 80% elk habitat effectiveness index. While there should actually be no roads in Grizzly habitat, at least an attempt is being made to limit the number of open roads and their impact.

The Flathead N.F. in Northern Montana contains more critical Grizzly habitat than any forest in the nation, making up a large part of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. Excessive road density has been shown time and again to be a major problem for wildlife on the Flathead, especially at elevations below 5000 feet. Yet the Flathead has higher ORD standards than either the Kootenai or Gallatin N.F. and, worse yet, the Forest Service proposes to relax existing standards. A proposal issued in November would raise the ORD standard in a large portion of Grizzly habitat (66% of MS2) from 1 per square mile to 2. In addition, the proposal would eliminate any ORD standard in the area of existing timber sales and assign "use ratings" to roads, claiming lower impact on wildlife from roads which have less use. ORD's are geared only to Grizzly Bear habitat, ignoring the

needs of wolves, woodland caribou and many other wildlife species.

The Swan View Coalition successfully appealed a similar proposal in July, 1989, forcing the Forest Service to back off from raising ORD's. Now the Freddie's are back with basically the same raw deal. There is a comment period until March 1 on this proposal. Let's give them a piece of our minds. Write to:

Forest Supervisor
Flathead National Forest
1935 Third Ave. East
Kalispell, MT 59901

Demand the following:

- ORD standards of no more than .5 per square mile in grizzly and wolf habitat
- Equal treatment of all existing roads, no "use ratings".
- Consideration of ORD effects on wolves, cavity nesting birds, wildlife corridor retention, and elk outside of grizzly habitat
- Assessment of impacts of ORV use off-roads.
- ORD's for timber sale areas equal to those elsewhere
- Completion of the delinquent Travel Plan for the Flathead and tiering of ORD's to the Travel Plan.

Source: Swan View Coalition

--Randall Restful

Upper Ruby Alert

The Sheridan District of the Beaverhead National Forest in southwestern Montana has just completed its draft EIS on the Upper Ruby Cattle Allotment. New directions for public lands grazing may result if activists get involved in this particular allotment decision. It is under scrutiny from Congress as a result of the political connections of the livestock industry, so you can bet the Forest Service is under intense pressure to maintain the status quo. The ramifications may affect grazing on all federal lands.

BACKGROUND:

The 43,000 acre Upper Ruby Allotment is one of the largest livestock allotments on the Beaverhead National Forest. It is grazed by ten permittees, most of whom are worth millions. One permittee is the Von Trapp family of Vermont (Sound of Music Fame) and another ranch is owned by an insurance company. These people do not need subsidized public forage.

The last allotment management plan was completed in 1970 (the FS is supposed to redo them every ten years). At that time the FS sprayed much of the upper Ruby with the herbicide 2,4-D to eradicate sagebrush. Forage for cattle increased temporarily as a result of grasses replacing sagebrush. However, overstocking of livestock--and resulting overgrazing and fire suppression have allowed the sagebrush to reestablish itself, resulting in less forage. Unfortunately, cattle numbers have not been reduced accordingly.

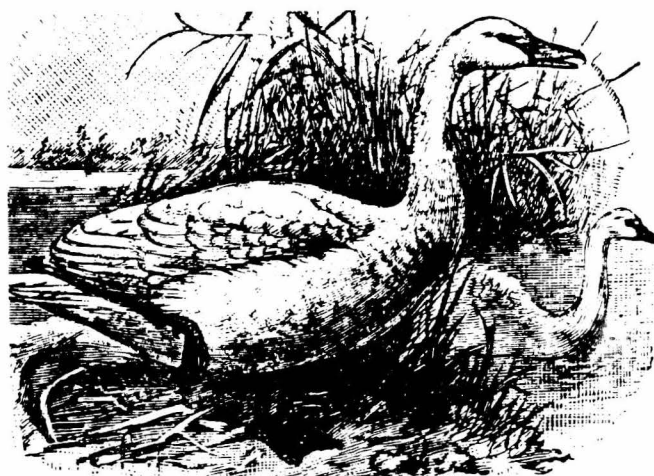
In addition, when the allotment was mapped in 1970, 27,860 acres were rated as primary range and the stocking rate was based upon this assumption. In other words they suggested that all these acres would be grazed by livestock when in fact much of it is too steep or too far from water to be used by livestock at all. In reality the number of cattle permitted to use the allotment is far in excess of the carrying capacity of the land. Overgrazing has severely damaged riparian areas on the Upper Ruby allotment. The Forest Service estimates that 70% are in poor to fair condition — which means they are trashed. Willow and aspen populations have plummeted and sedimentation of the Ruby River continues to degrade the river's fisheries. Seeps, springs and wet meadows are trampled to a pulp.

Controversy surrounds the management of the Upper Ruby; range activists pressure the Forest Service to do something about livestock damage while ranchers resist any reductions or changes in season of use. The Sheridan District ranger and his staff are committed to a livestock reduction. Their reward for this has been the circulation of at least three petitions to remove the District Ranger, and his life has been threatened. Some local range activists and their families have also been threatened.

FOREST SERVICE RESPONSE

Despite the political pressure, the Forest Service, to the credit of the Sheridan Ranger District Staff and some good people in the Supervisor's Office, is trying to improve management of these lands. The Draft EIS has lots of room for improvement, but it's still the best thing the Forest Service has ever done in assessing a range allotment, and it contains some federal agency firsts. For example, there is a No Grazing alternative and the document includes an economic analysis of the various alternatives.

The preferred alternative proposes a mere 44% reduction in cattle numbers. This is a brave move by the Forest Service and



quite a reduction given the political climate. However, it also proposes building 27 miles of fence, 16 water developments, plus improving the Upper Ruby River Road. These developments will cost over a million dollars. Over the next ten years, the Forest Service will only receive \$128,000 dollars from permittees in grazing fees. Of this \$128,000, half automatically goes back to the Forest Service to build range developments that directly benefit the permittees, so the net income to the U.S. treasury is effectively half of this number or \$64,000. This alternative does require a reduction in cattle numbers, but changes the adjacent Mt. Carey Cattle Allotment to sheep use to appease ranchers by increasing the AUMs still available to livestock grazing.

Inside sources tell me that Sheridan District staff recommended alternative D, which would have reduced cattle by 56%. It would have brought about recovery of most riparian zones within ten years. Alternative D was rejected because it was not considered politically feasible. The No Grazing Alternative was not given serious consideration because of classic Forest Service circular logic. The Forest Plan said the area could be grazed, although it never questioned whether grazing made any economic or ecological sense. But since the Plan did not preclude grazing, the forest service now maintains that some grazing must be permitted. The No Grazing alternative was the only alternative that had a positive net public economic value (estimated to be over \$300,000), primarily because there were no administrative, monitoring, fencing, or other costs. Wildlife numbers would increase resulting in a higher net value to the public, defined primarily as better hunting.

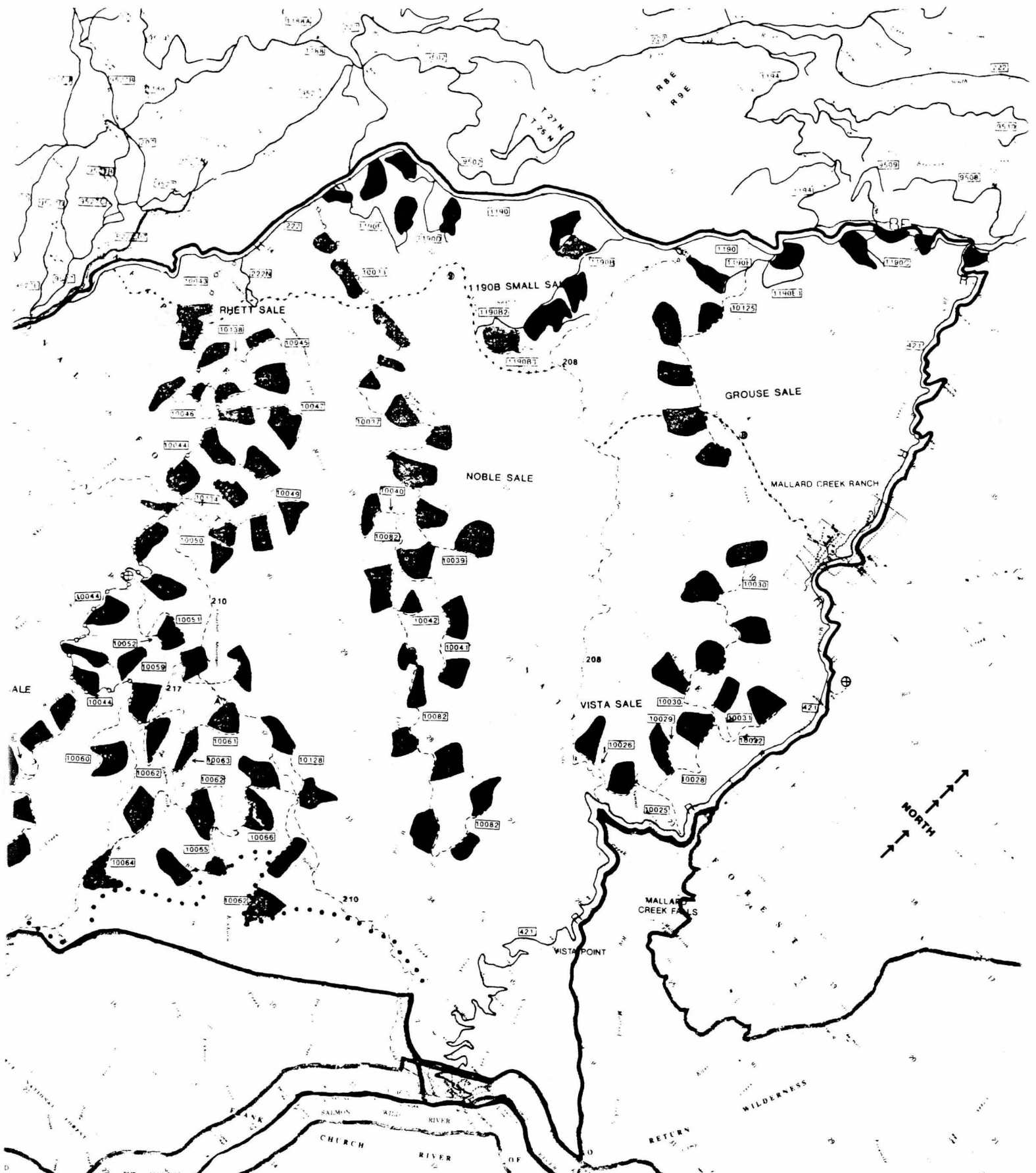
WHAT YOU CAN DO:

It is essential that activists respond to this grazing plan. It could set standards for many future range allotment management plans. Please take a moment to write the Supervisor, Beaverhead National Forest, 610 N. Montana, Dillon, MT 59725 and ask for a copy of their Draft EIS. The comment period ends March 4. If you don't have the time to get the Draft EIS or don't want to wade through it, please at least write the Beaverhead Forest and make the following points:

1) Thank them for attempting to correct a long standing problem. Give some encouragement. The Sheridan District staff has taken some real beatings from the local people and they

continued on page 18

See page 4 for explanation



STAND UP & SPEAK OUT

Ravaging The Helena National Forest

Yes, the sign over the door said Timber Resources, not Wildlife Biology. But I was still surprised by the conversation I soon found myself involved in.

She was a middle aged employee of the Helena National Forest. She was explaining to me that environmentalists are the least informed group in the country right now. "If we is doing everything so damn wrong," she asked "I want you to tell me why, if clearcuts is so bad, we got more birds and elk than we did?"

"More than we did-when?" I said. "Than before!" she responded, a bit tense and irritated by the fact that I did not possess this knowledge--or opinion.

Of course this an arguable point. We do now have more elk than at the turn of the century when the "sportsmen" of the day decimated the populations. Clearcutting is a tradition in the National Forest system and the Helena is certainly no exception. They are actively building upon that tradition this year.

John Mumma, Regional Forester for the Northern Region proposed a timber harvest of 17.3 million board feet (mmbf) on the Helena as the assigned target for 1991. The timber beasts at the HNF responded by added 8.7 mmbf, raising the total target to 26.0 mmbf. Last year the cut on the HNF totaled 5.4 mmbf, much lower than the targeted amount. They are desperately trying to make up for the "bad year" in one massive year of overcutting.

A startlingly high number of the slated sales are an obvious threat to crucial wildlife habitat and watersheds. The Freddies have decided, not surprisingly, that none of the sales warrants an EIS. Many of people disagree.

The Helena area is well known as a middle-of-the-road environmental warm-bed. The lack of a hot-bed atmosphere seems to have left the HNF Freddies feeling secure and smug, but people are waking up.

A group of the concerned (terrified?!) are attempting to resurrect the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition (HFCC). Presently the HFCC seems to be a handful of worried locals and representatives from the traditional "hunting/conservationist" organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, and the Prickly Pear Sportsman Association.

The forest needs help. And Soon. Most sales come due in March. In order to slow down the machine, many more people need to become involved. There is far too much work to do for too few people willing, or able, to do it.

If you can help out the HFCC, contact Mike Vashro in Helena @ 458-9454. They are crying for help and very open to new blood.

If you can offer energies towards the appeals process, contact TEKAIHAV @449-7702.

Back at the office of the Timber Beast, the middle aged Freddette demands "Why is clearcutting so bad? Tell me that! How else is we supposed to get timber off steep slopes? We've been doing it like that for years..."

As she babbles on, my mind wanders and I can not help but wonder what species have gone extinct while I am standing in this room and she is justifying her job.

--Tekaihav



The Kids Know

Dec. 14, 1990

Dear Sirs; Gov. Stan Stephens and K.L. Kool, Director MDFWP;

I am a school teacher and I read to my class about your planned Bison slaughter as part of your supposed Bison Management Plan. They, like me, were shocked to find out that you think you're God and have decided to decide who can graze on God's lands and who cannot.

We therefore have decided as a class we will make it our project to encourage as many people as possible to boycott Yellowstone Park this summer, refuse to eat products (especially beef) from Montana and boycott Montana itself if you continue to slaughter bison for the sake of the beef and sheep industry! We are also shocked at what you are allowing to happen to our forests and animals that depend on our old-growth forests.

We are requesting that you send us the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the long term plan for bison management. We want no restrictions and no control on the bison herds!

Sincerely,
Doug Moore
Defiance, Ohio

Bulletins

BISON WATCHERS WATCH BUREAUCRATS

—by Doug Olson

Dec. 14, 1990 at Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena

A room filled with bureaucrats, bozos, bison watchers, and bigots. All were as tense as an over-taught guitar string. Bison watchers wore their uniforms of ponytails, old jeans, and tattered shirts. The bigots and bozos wore their usual dumbfounded fearful expressions. The bureaucrats however, had a porcelain white glare, lacking any expression or emotion. They were there only to do a job. A dirty job they visualized as a clean execution of our nation's last wild buffalo herd.

A proposal was made to change the interim plan of the slaughter. The bozos and bison watchers scratched their heads when the porcelain whites said they had to read the changes and take public comments before rejecting it. "Denied as proposed, the interim plan remains!" barked the head white as he slammed his gavel like a guillotine slamming down on the head of a bison. A bison watcher jumped in his seat as he envisioned a bison head fall into a trophy bucket. "Now we will take public comments on the current interim plan" bleeped computer Kool Calvin. One of the quivering bozos spoke first: "I would like to shoot a cow more dan a bull. I thought it was the department's job ta protect me and my rights." "Thank you. Any questions from the commission?" barked the head white. Porcelain looks was the only reaction the bozo received.

Next was a dapper, overpaid attorney representing some politically crooked fund. We'll call him a bozo for now. He said, "Blah, blah, blah, blah." The whites moved their heads from their arms resting on the table to sit up straight. He spoke their language. "Blah, blah, blah," replied computer Kool. The bureaucrats only questioned this bozo to get pro bonos in the case he was bringing against them.

A bison watcher stepped up to the microphone next and the porcelain whi-

ties took to the elbow leaning rest position once again. "If F.W.P. wardens really believe that every bison is teeming with infectious microbes and every bit of urine and feces would spread the disease...then why in the world do we have people shoot and butcher the beasts, and spread around the blood, feces, and organs in the forest?" During the watcher's speech one of the commissioners smelled an organ in a bag. He exited slyly through the back door to circle around and warn the armed porcelain pawn overseeing the longhairs. As the watcher slipped his hand into the white surgical glove, the armed pawn suggested lovingly to leave the organ teeming with disease in the bag. Meanwhile the suspicious commissioner fearfully hid behind the wall at the back door.

Next was a bozo endorsing a quarantine or Yellowstone National Park. The bureaucrats once again had no questions nor comments. Only porcelain glares.

A small pregnant concerned citizen posed the biggest threat to the bureaucrats. She asked for a minute of silence to "reflect on what we are doing morally." The bureaucrats told her she couldn't use one minute of her five to reflect. They called on the next speaker, trying to bypass the emotionally distraught woman. Numerous sympathetic members of the audience objected verbally. The bureaucrats called for a five minute recess to figure out how to deal with one minute of silence. When they returned they let the woman observe her one minute, however they whispered the whole time.

Lastly the Gallatin National Forest supervisor spoke. He came directly from the cartoon gods. He proposed a plan to please "everyone", including the "aboriginal Montana hunter." He forgot one vital being to please, the very one it is his job to protect—the bison. So much for literate bureaucrats.

COME AND MAKE THE CONNECTION

This summer Wild Allan Mountain is leading a hike from the Continental Divide to the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. The tentative starting date is July 21. To join us on the 6-day, 35 mile trip, which follows the Bitterroot Divide through the Allan Mountain roadless area, contact us for details in June.

Partial trip participation is encouraged

Elevation will vary from 7000 to 9000 ft. Wildlife includes: moose, elk, deer, mountain goat, mountain lion, bobcat, black bear, golden eagle, pileated woodpecker, boreal owl, and goshawk. Vegetation varies from open grasslands to dense stands of spruce, fir, and lodgepole pine. Large areas have been burned over in the last 80 years and foot travel is easy along the open ridges. The southernmost stand of alpine larch occurs on Allan Mountain.

As we walk from east to west we will be looking for the sensitive plants *Mimulus primuloides* (primrose monkeyflower) and *Gentianopsis simplex* (hiker's gentian) in wet meadows, and *Penstemon lemhiensis* in open sagebrush grasslands.

For more information, contact: Wild Allan Mountain, Box 585, Conner, MT 59827.

WREF! LDF Wants Cash

Sometimes, WREF! has to challenge the law, and sometimes this costs money, so send it over. Various activists from the Wild Rockies, in addition to being subjects of a Grand Jury investigation, face charges associated with protests and actions directed at the Yellowstone Bison Slaughter, and violating federal closures during tree sits. The WREF! Legal Defense Fund helps activists pay for legal fees and fines associated with actions. If you would like to help out the Fund, send your money to WREF! Legal Defense Fund, Box 7891, Missoula, MT 59807.

ADC Budget Under the Gun

The 1992 federal budget proposal released by the Bush administration contains a 40% decrease in ADC's control budget. The budget also includes a slight increase in "research" funding, which ADC bureaufats claim will allow them to develop non-lethal control techniques.

The Office of Management and Budget originally recommended NO funding for lethal control, but ADC appealed, and 60% of last years' budget allocation was restored.

The well greased wheels of the livestock propaganda machine are already cranking up to restore ADC's full funding and protect their sacred cow and must be

rebutted.

What you Need To Do:

Call or write your representative and let him/her know that ADC is a terrible government boondoggle and a bloody waste of money.

Also write or call Rep. Jamie Whitten, Chair of the Sub-committee on Appropriations for Rural Development, Agriculture, and related programs. His will be the first of many committees to take up ADC's funding. Its crucial to keep ADC's budget cuts intact early in the process, if full funding is restored it will be difficult to cut again.

Stress in your communications that ADC is a huge waste of money benefiting a small number of ranchers, that ADC is an indiscriminate killing machine, and its policies are antiquated and not based on biological reality, i.e. they produce many dead animals but don't solve any problems. If you feel like it, encourage them to increase research funding for non-lethal control.

Addresses:

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Contact Tom Skeele, POB 6733, Bozeman, MT 59715, for a detailed packet on ADC. Please include at least 3 bucks to cover costs.

Badger Action Warning

The Badger-Two Medicine. Anyone in the Wild Rockies probably has heard of it and some of its issues. It is 115,000 roadless acres of Forest Service controlled critical habitat and biological corridor between Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness complex. It is also part of the overthrust belt, an area where ancient rock overlays more recent geologic formations. This ancient rock holds some small promise of satiating our culture's overbearing slavemaster, oil and gas addiction, and is now critically threatened.

Besides critical wolf, Grizzly, and ungulate habitat, the Badger is significant to other original habitants of this wild country, the Blackfeet Indian Nation. The Blackfeet hold treaty rights to the area which at one time was part of the reservation. One of these rights is access for religious practices. The Badger is a

sacred place for traditional Native American religion; a place of vision quests, and a reconnection to a badly ravaged culture.

To the blind eyes of the DC big-wigs calling for unbridled resource extraction, the Badger is a foreign nation inhabited by wolves, grizzly, and other remnant native cultures. Except this one is within US borders, and "easy pickin's." Now that the US of A's policy towards foreign nations recalcitrant to yield oil and gas resources has been clarified recently, it should come as no shock that the Badger is slated for full field oil and gas exploration as early as July 15, 1991. The Fred-dies are firmly committed to gutting the Badger with exploratory drilling and 20-plus miles of new road.

Propped up by the new energy crisis of the Persian Gulf war they view themselves as having a clear mandate to ravage the Badger for the slim possibility of a two week supply of natural gas. This despite overwhelming public opposition to the proposal, and non-mitigatable habitat damage.

I feel words failing me. I cannot seem to express my (along with many others) determination that this special, sacred area must not be violated. And that it will only come to pass over my dead or incarcerated body. Many feel the same.

This is not the return of Redwood Summer, nor another day of something or another. There are no scenarios to create, no heightened awareness or sentiment to create, for the most part it already exists. This will be committed and hardcore defense. We will be there. The only question is, will you?

The expected appeals and litigation may delay the need for field defense (they might even win), but they could be ready to roll up the Badger by July 15, 1991. If you're interested, contact WREF! and we'll send you all the info and details you can stomach.

There is no other place more important to defend.

--Bikini

...more on the Badger

Chief Floyd Heavy Runner of the Brave Dogs Society, a warrior society of the Blackfeet Nation, blasted federal officials for destroying Blackfeet cultural traditions in proposed plans to lease oil and

gas exploration in the Badger-Two Medicine area adjoining the Blackfeet Reservation.

Heavy Runner accused Forest Service officials of deliberately destroying sacred sites and Blackfeet cultural rituals to promote development in the mountains along the Rocky Mountain Front that join Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. In a letter to Lewis & Clark National Forest Supervisor Dale Gorman, Heavy Runner said "the United States has determined that the original Blackfeet culture can be sacrificed to oil and gas interests. Our use of the Badger for religious purposes exceeds 300 years." Citing the oral traditions of his tribe and a photograph of White Calf's band performing a Sun Dance in the area prior to World War I, Heavy Runner said "I find it unfortunate that officials of the United States can lie to the Congress and lie to the public...the Forest Service has resisted all of our efforts to force a genuine cultural impact statement over the course of the past year..."

Heavy Runner accused Gorman of making false statements. "Despite the fact that we provided irrefutable evidence to Mr. Gorman personally, that the area has historic use, Mr. Gorman has denied to the press that there is evidence of historic use."

The issue is a vital one, affecting how Forest Service policy must implement the laws regarding the National Register of Historic Places. Heavy Runner said, "According to the Forest Service, they have only towards the end of 1990 discovered the existence of the National Register '106' process providing for protection to areas such as the Badger." Quoting internal documents to the contrary, he also produced letters indicating the Forest Service's awareness of the implication of the law as early as September 1989. "Hence, our own report and correspondences are not published in the Final Environmental Impact Statement..."

The Forest Service had recently announced delaying the final draft of the EIS pending examining its compliance to the National Register of Historic Places. The final EIS is now available, however, from: Dale Gorman, Forest Supervisor, Lewis & Clark National Forest, Box 869, Great Falls, MT 59403.

Thanks to *The Missoula Paper* for this interview.

ROOM TO ROAM

--Phil Knight

*Muscles roll under silvertip fur
Her walk is both shuffling and sure
Searching for roots, grubs and berries
An occasional squirrel she harries.*

*Two playful cubs tag along
Growling a young Grizzly's song
Watching their mother for example
What she eats they're eager to sample.*

*She'll protect them as well as she can
From dangerous bears or from man
She'll teach them the ways of the hills
And encourage their natural skills.*

*But the cubs' very future is clouded
By mankind they are being crowded
Will they always find room to roam?
Will we leave them a wilderness home?*

*Mankind now owns most of the West
And it seems that our race will not rest
'Til we've plundered every square acre
Not a giver, always a taker*

*Can't we leave room for another?
For the Grizzly cubs and their mother?
For the wolf, badger, weasel and bear?
For all that grows wild out there?*

*'Cross the West the Bear once wandered
But her habitat's been squandered
By the creature that calls itself wise
And is but a fraction the Grizzly's size.*

*Wide country and wild she needs
For safety from vile human deeds
To roam unhindered and free
And pursue her own destiny.*

*This planet is not ours to ruin
We share it with feline and bruin
With trees, with insects, with birds
With creatures wonderful beyond words.*

Keep it WILD! Keep it GREEN! Keep it FREE!

*Open your eyes and see
We are playing a dangerous game
For the Earth's fate and ours are the same!*

When a Hearing Has No Ears

-- Mangler

Several Wild Rockies Earth First!ers attended the Long-term Bison Management Plan hearing in Bozeman. Instead, we found an informal "open house" staffed with the typical plastic faced and plastic brained armed-with-circular-logic representatives of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, an Parks, the National Park Service, and as the one and only non-agency lackey, a veterinarian and representative of the Montana Livestock Association. Although the interim plan, and the prospect for a "real" long-term plan sucks, that is not the point of this article.

Agencies are using open houses with greater frequency, and I don't like it. The informal atmosphere bites. Uniformed men and women stand around talking with one another, placing the onus on John Q. Public to approach agency reps and interrupt their conversations. Once recognized, one is instantly outnumbered by agency pukes. Questions or concerns fall only on the deaf ears of the two or three or four lackeys present to hear what was said. And since no minutes are taken, agencies cannot be held accountable for anything their reps say. A rep can answer a similar question differently depending upon with whom he/she is speaking, and no one is the wiser. Open houses eliminate the ability for all to benefit from the questions, concerns, gripes...aired by the public and the often inane answers given by the agency reps. The crowd no longer has the ability to put pressure on one rep or agency. Mob rule has been taken out of the process.

We should demand an end to this bullshit open house forum. The agencies know they have a good thing going, and it is up to us to stop it. I think we should turn the next open house into a spectacle they will not soon forget.

Oldman River to become Government Scum Pond?

The long struggle to prevent the destruction of the Oldman river in Southern Alberta is coming to a climax in 1991. The damn, already 70% completed, is scheduled for closing and filling this year after a dozen years of legal challenges and direct action by the Friends of the Oldman River and the Piegan tribe.

This project is a cultural, ecological, economic, health, and social justice disaster. The damn threatens over 300 historic and culturally significant sites of the Piegan people. Bull trout fisheries on the lower Oldman and Crowsnest river will be destroyed. The geological structure of the site and the construction standards for the damn raise serious questions about the safety of the damn if completed.

The riparian/floodplain Cottonwood habitat of the Lower Oldman will be obliterated. The dam is not even necessary from a water production standpoint. Water conservation and more efficient uses of existing irrigation capabilities could provide all the water needed in the area for the foreseeable future. The dam will only benefit approximately 300 operators. The Friends of the Oldman River and the Lonerider Society (a Piegan Warrior Society) are waging a desperate struggle to prevent the completion and filling of the dam. One Native American Activist is facing numerous trumped up weapons charges stemming from an effort to redirect the Oldman river into a historic channel away from the dam. They almost did it. If you would like more information (and there is plenty of it) or would like to help defend the Old man with your dollars or your derriere', contact:

Loneriders National Communication Network C/O

Friends of The Oldman

455-12 St NW

Calgary, AB T2N 1Y9

Sources: The International rivers Network, The Friends of The Oldman River, and The Lonerider Warrior Society.



continued from page 11

deserve a pat on the back for trying to do their job.

2) Suggest that the No Grazing alternative be given more serious consideration. It brings about riparian habitat improvements most quickly and at the least cost. It is the only one that makes a net economic return. Emphasize that these are national lands and should be managed for the national good and for biological diversity. They are not to be managed to provide subsidies to local ranchers.

3) Suggest that all pastures or allotments where no use is presently occurring (such as the Mount Carey allotment) should be closed permanently.

4) Question why the Upper Ruby Road should be improved merely to facilitate livestock transportation. Stock producers could use existing highways (albeit at a greater cost) to truck livestock. Improvement of the road would result in more recreational use, including additional hunter pressure which could include impact local game herds. Ask them to consider the impacts on wildlife of the improved access.

5) Ask the Forest Service to provide a rationale why the public should have to spend more than a MILLION DOLLARS (on range "improvements" and administration) to protect its lands from the abuse of private livestock when eliminating all grazing would provide greater net public benefits at little or no expense.

6) Suggest that all alternatives except the No Grazing alternative require extensive monitoring to ensure compliance with standards. Therefore in all other alternatives grazing should be conditional upon adequate funding for monitoring. No monitoring funds, no grazing!

7) Ask the Forest Service to quantify or at least analyze the additional ecological and economic costs associated with livestock grazing which include: a) greater downstream flooding due to watershed degradation resulting from livestock grazing; b) loss of late season water flows resulting from riparian, first order spring, seep, and wet meadow damage; c) degradation of fisheries due to water quality problems; d) the loss in biological diversity including impacts on insects (butterflies), small mammals, and song birds; e) loss of recreation values such as the sense of wide open space caused by fencing, spring development, and range development; f) displacement of wildlife due to the presence of livestock — for example, elk avoid areas used by cattle; g) impacts of predator control done in the name of livestock protection (a grizzly was killed within six miles of this allotment in 1984 because it had eaten a few sheep, coyotes are killed regularly, and four black bears were killed last year alone); h) top soil lost as a result of livestock grazing; i) the delays in the recovery of beaver and the resulting impacts to all the wildlife which benefit from beaver ponds.

—George Wuerthner

Same Old New World Order

A war rages now, with military forces engaged in the Middle East. Although the shooting has just begun in Iraq and Kuwait, this is a war that has been carried on for a long time. What is occurring in the Persian Gulf is a major battle carried out on behalf of an international circle of powerful, rich elite, waged to

promote their control of and profits from the Earth's exploitable resources. The victims of this aggression are not only people and traditional cultures, but also plants, animals, endangered species, biodiversity, and ecosystems--the very fabric of life on Earth as we know it.

Traditional, Earth-centered spirituality is being replaced by a pseudoculture, whose idols are money, power and control. The worship of profits above all else leaves no room for the ethics and morals which the leaders pretend to expound in their propaganda.

In the old ways, the Earth is seen as a garden to be tended and cultivated with care, or as a forest whose physical manifestations are hunted or gathered only if in accordance with the spiritual entities recognized by the culture. Land is not owned in the modern sense, but is cared for in regards to the grandchildren, the future keepers. When ultimate control is deferred to the Creator Spirit in its varied manifestations, then that One--the only One which can possibly comprehend the totality of existence and the intricacies of this harmonious web of life--governs the lives of all beings to the betterment and perpetuity of the higher order life systems. In those human cultures, rationality is not dominant, but is in necessary balance with emotion, intuition, and sensation.

On the other hand is our focus on the Gross National Product. Capitalism has recently been declared as the winner of the Cold War. The democratization of Eastern Europe was said to be signs of a "new world order" characterized by freer trade across national boundaries. Economies were to be henceforth governed by the free market, and higher standards of living therefore would be attainable by all. That the "new world order" must now be imposed by cruise missiles and cluster bombs betrays that it is not an order in the best interest of all. It is instead an order desired by Exxon, Mitsubishi, Dow Chemical, and their ilk.

The shooting war will run its course, and no doubt there will be later outbreaks as we have seen in such places as Panama, El Salvador, and the Baltic States. Here in the U.S., the shooting war will be replaced in the manipulated mass media by programmed violent T.V., crime, drug abuse, environmental degradation, and other symptoms of the takeover by the pseudoculture.

The protesters will leave the streets and the masses will be treated to "business as usual". That is, human and environmental exploitation on a global scale.

Whether or not the tide of global destruction can be turned depends greatly upon what we have learned about this same old "new world order" from the present Middle East war, given its status as an example of the extremes to which those shadowy figures will resort. Will we speak out against this pseudoculture of money, violence, and power? Will we commit to do with less--to use fewer of the consumer goods which fuels that greed monster? Will we find our spiritual selves, will we seek our own personal vision of unity with the Earth and then live that vision? Will we be willing to get beyond our own fears and self-indulgence to do what we know we must do (i.e., put our asses on the line)? We must commit to finding a way, because the alternative is to consent to future horrors greater than we have seen at Hiroshima, in Prince William Sound, the redwood forests, and in the Persian Gulf.

--Jeff Juel

Gallatin Chernobyl

Retiring Gallatin National Forest super Bobby Gibson left us a thoughtful going-away present: the Mill-Emigrant timber sale, also known as "son of son of Wicked-Snowbank." The original Wicked-Snowbank sale was successfully appealed by Montana EF! and others in 1987. Mill-Emigrant is its latest, and most hideous, incarnation.

This sale is no longer appealable. It has been signed off and all appeals denied. That means it's up to the "big guns" to sue on this one. Of course we know other avenues of resistance. And resist we must. Gibson approved what has been appropriately called the "Chernobyl Alternative". The sleazy dog signs off on this thing and retires, leaving the incoming supervisor to deal with it. I think we can safely call that a chickenshit move.

The most egregious infraction threatened by this sale is entry into two inventoried roadless areas, Chico Peak and North Absaroka, both of which are directly adjacent to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. 10.1 miles of road and 418 acres of demolition are planned for these areas!! THIS MUST BE STOPPED. If the Freddie's get away with this, it will give them a perceived carte blanche to every unprotected roadless area on the forest. The EIS for the sale does not even consider the possibility of wilderness designation for these two areas, brushing off the issue by saying they "were considered for wilderness recommendation during the Gallatin Forest Planning process." Well the goddamn Forest Plan didn't recommend Wilderness designation either! According to the sale Record of Decision, "A primitive, roadless recreation experience will be changed on approximately 3000 acres in the Chico Peak roadless area and 1500 acres in the North Absaroka roadless area."

This sale would require 21.2 miles of new road on a National Forest which has not even inventoried existing roads and travelways to check for compliance with their own Forest Plan. 1149 acres of virgin forest will be destroyed in 56 cutting units. A large percentage of this will be clearcut. The Gallatin cannot even meet Forest Plan standards for elk habitat effectiveness and visual quality, requiring Forest Plan amendments for both in order to justify this sale. What good is a Forest Plan if the Freddie's can dodge standards at any time via amendments? They justify all the road construction by planning to close all new roads plus another 19 miles of existing road. Thus, through black magic, they build over 20 miles of new road and still raise the elk habitat effectiveness in the Wicked-Snowbank subdivision. As usual road closures are assumed to be 100% effective, even though on-the-ground studies in the Flathead and elsewhere have shown this to be far from true. All new and old roads in the drainage will remain open to snowmobiles. There are already over 61 miles of open road in this beleaguered drainage.

As with the recently proposed Hyalite timber sale, the Gallatin Freddie's have chosen a highly popular recreation area to get their bloody logs from. The Mill Creek drainage is likely the most popular recreation area in the Livingston District. Do they have a death wish? Why this insistence on getting timber from the places people would be most likely to see the devastating effects? For one, they can't find much timber elsewhere. Also, I suspect they figure that if they can get away with large-scale clearcutting in these popular areas of the forest, they can do it anywhere. It shows utter contempt for the public, whom the Forest Service is supposed to serve.

Wildlife is treated with considerable disdain in the EIS.

Moose the Willow-eater, Black Bear the Healer, Bobcat the Quiet, Marten the Quick; all are dealt with only in terms of how many will be left for humans to kill. The EIS admits that moose populations may decline as a result of this mess. Indeed, human intrusion into relatively untouched portions of the forest cannot help but negatively impact all native wildlife. When has it ever done otherwise? Pine martens are dealt with in terms of arbitrary territories of 640 acres each with at least 160 acres of old-growth.

Right, each marten sticks strictly to a section and the furry little buggers are pleased as punch if they have a quarter-section of ancient forest left. To think the fate of such wise, ancient creatures is in the hands of cretins!! It makes me furious. No one knows what a pine marten really requires. To suggest that we can decide their needs for them is utter arrogance. Goshawks, an indicator species here, are given even shorter shrift. Without having a clue where goshawks nest in the area, the EIS states "Goshawks, *if present* (emphasis added), may abandon their nests if human activity or disturbance occurs in the vicinity of the nest..." Yet no negative impact on goshawks is anticipated.

Mill Creek supports a pure strain of Cutthroat Trout and is a major tributary of the Yellowstone. Yet the Freddie's admit this sale will dump up to 20% more sediment annually on these fish.

Grizzly Bears are not regarded as inhabitants of this area even though the Record of Decision admits that they do use the drainage. In fact, the adjacent roadless areas are designated MS2 Grizzly habitat. Yet the Freddie's have listed Mill Creek as MS 5, unoccupied habitat. A former district biologist was drummed out of the Forest Service because she insisted the area be considered Grizzly habitat. It was her assertion that Mill Creek is relatively important to Grizzlies, a Threatened species, and that this sale would hurt the bears. So they got a new biologist. The EIS admits "Grizzly Bear observations indicate that occasional use can be expected throughout the Mill Creek drainage..." and "future studies may indicate a need to adjust the MS2 line to accurately reflect grizzly bear habitat and use." In other words, they don't know how important this area may be to Grizzlies. But in the meantime they plan to trash it!

773 acres of old-growth forest are to be destroyed, lowering the old-growth percentage in the drainage from 25 to 20%, and ruining habitat for Goshawks, Moose, Pine Martens, Grizzly Bears, and many wilderness-dependent species which are not even mentioned in the EIS.

This sale is a piece of shit. We cannot let it go through. If we kill this one, it will likely be the last major timber sale on the Gallatin! Public pressure already killed the Tie Creek and Sourdough sales in the past few years and the Hyalite sale is on very shaky ground. HEY FREDDY ARE YOU GETTING THE MESSAGE?? "Sure, the message is we gotta sell some timber fast before the public finally forms a lynch mob." If the Freddie's do get away with this one it could signal another era of big, destructive sales. So, let's squash this one!

Contact Yellowstone EF! if you want to take part in a protest this spring at the Gallatin HQ in Bozeman. Let's give the new supervisor a taste of EF! medicine! Also, we have maps of the sale available. Contact Yellowstone EF! for a copy, and go see for yourself what may be lost.

--Randall Restless

Lost Silver - Fragmentation Of Roadless Habitats

The Swan View Coalition (SVC) successfully fought back the Lost Silver timber sale in 1987, when it was decided to include 13 MMBF of timber harvest and 5.3 miles of new road construction. SVC won a stay of the sale based upon its Forest Plan appeal arguments that the effects on the grizzly bear were not adequately addressed and that the Flathead cheated on the roadless area boundary. The stay of the timber sale expired with the Chief's 1988 decision on the Forest Plan appeal, but the two problems mentioned convinced the Flathead to prepare an EIS on Lost Silver.

The Lost Silver DEIS proposes a somewhat smaller sale of 8.1 MMBF and 4.4 miles of new road construction, but still proposes to road roadless areas, cut down old-growth forests, improve motorized access on 12.8 miles of road, and further fragment forest habitats already demonstrating reduced use by the grizzly. The proposed action selects the alternative which has a combination of the highest timber volume, the most miles of road construction, the most acres of old-growth and mature forest harvested, the most road building and tree cutting in roadless areas, and the most cutting of trees in essential bald eagle habitat along Hungry Horse Reservoir. The proposed action also results in the greatest risk to the remaining old-growth in terms of its effectiveness as a corridor for maintaining biological diversity, and the risk of fire and windthrow damage from nearby cutting units.

The sale area is located in the Doris and Lost Johnny Creek areas on the east slope of the northern Swan Range near Hungry Horse Reservoir and Dam. The area is classified as MS-1 (essential) grizzly bear habitat and Zone 1 (essential) wolf habitat. However, the area was abandoned as part of a study area because after two years the South Fork Grizzly Project failed to trap a single grizzly and only managed to photograph one by remote camera. The study area now is focused closer to the more secure Bob Marshall Wilderness further south.

The Forest Service's biological evaluation on the Anna-Lid timber sales (still under SVC appeal) acknowledged this suppressed level of bear use in the Lost Silver area but, as usual, could only "speculate" that displacement of bears from the northern Swan Range was caused by admittedly excessive open road densities and relentless "management activities" (a.k.a. timber sales) from 1976 - 1985. The evaluation's answer is to not defer the Lost Silver timber sale unless the South Fork Grizzly Project documents bears dispersing into the northern Swan. Fat chance of it, if the Forest Service doesn't allow them to!

In the face of the bear having 23,000 acres of spring and fall habitat drowned by Hungry Horse Reservoir and having most of what's left roaded and cut extensively, SVC has proposed a protection and reclamation project for the Swan Range. SVC submitted a proposal to the Forest Service during scoping for the Lost Silver DEIS. The proposal calls for no more roading of roadless areas in the northern Swan, and the ripping out of roads in numerous places which are serving to truncate the Range.

The bear is in a bad way in the northern Swan and needs your help. SVC's proposal has been incorporated into the Wild Rockies National Lands Act, and it is hoped that legislation will be introduced in Congress this year.

What You Can Do:

Please write the Flathead Forest Supervisor by February 18 at Box 147, Kalispell, MT 59901, and issue your objections to the Lost Silver timber sale and DEIS. Here are some suggestions:

1. Insist the Supervisor not build roads in either the officially inventoried roadless areas, or in the roadless area which was omitted from the inventory in order to exempt the area's superb old-growth



Peter Loco 91 war

(and the majority of Lost Silver's timber volume) from the roadless category. Biologists agree that roading an unroaded area, even if the resulting roads are closed, reduces the area's value to the grizzly. MS-1 guidelines require that Forest Service decisions favor the grizzly bear. Make it clear that roading roadless areas goes against MS-1 guidelines, period!

2. Let him know you support the SVC proposal and want Wilderness status for all roadless areas in the Swan Range. Remind him that the USFWS made this same recommendation to the Flathead for all of its roadless areas in 1983! Tell him you want existing roads ripped out of portions of the Doris, Lost Johnny, Wounded Buck, Graves, Wheeler, Quintonkin, Sullivan, Bunker, and Lost Creek drainages in order to protect the biological integrity of the northern Swan Range.

3. Insist that all timber sale and road construction activities be deferred until adequate reestablishment of grizzly bear use has been confirmed in the northern Swan Range.

Source: Swan View Coalition



REVISED PLAN SLAMS DOOR FOR GOOD ON GRIZZLY BEAR

With its recent revision of what's known as the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is promising to do the impossible: recover the threatened grizzly bear without recovering its habitat. Behind the paper wizardry lies the undeniable fact that land continues to be taken from the bear.

Historically in the lower 48, grizzly bears ranged from Mexico to Canada over most of the land area between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean. Some 100,000 grizzly bears have now been reduced to fewer than 1,000 and have been driven from all but 1 percent of their former range.

The Recovery Plan allocates 14 million acres to Recovery Zones in four of seven fragments of former range believed to still support grizzly bears. Estimates based on research conducted at the University of Montana indicate that 14 million acres of habitat may be grossly inadequate, even if it were consolidated into a single land area. Approximately 1,600 to 2,000 bears and 35 mil-

lion to 42 million acres of habitat may be necessary to allow a single population to exist over the long haul without suffering the negative effects of genetic inbreeding, which may ultimately result in the demise of the population.

The Recovery Plan deliberately restricts itself to Recovery Zones it acknowledges are too small to support bears in the long haul unless Canadian bears are kept along side or transplanted into the Recovery Zones. It is exactly this type of dependence on Canadian bears and the failure to protect and recover bear habitat that has allowed the southernmost tip of bear habitat to recede from central Mexico to the Rattlesnake area just north of Missoula. The answer to this problem is inescapable: protect American bears and bear habitat where you find them.

Even the meager amounts of habitat contained in the recovery Zones continue to be invaded by roads and human development activities that destroy bear habitat outright, render it less effective for bear use, or result in increased killing of grizzly bears. Given the best of scenarios and interim guidelines, programs being developed by public land managers will likely manage Recovery Zone bear habitat at only 70% of its historic effectiveness.

The Recovery Plan should chart a course that would recover habitat previously and currently occupied by grizzly bears, especially in areas that connect the now-isolated Recovery Zones. By reconnecting these fragments and expanding the proposed Recovery Zones, bears may once again be able to interbreed with other currently isolated subpopulations and be afforded ecosystems upon which they may truly depend.

The Recovery Plan is a smoke-and-mirrors show attempting to make a failure appear to be a success story. The Recovery Plan proposes recovery targets for the Northern Continental Divide and Yellowstone Recovery Zones, which, at best, represent the number of bears estimated to exist at the time the bear was listed as threatened in 1975. The Recovery Plan sets forth the premises that it is politically unwise to attempt to recover former bear habitat, and bear populations requiring genetic "transplants" can never be considered recovered. This leaves one with the unsettling conclusion that there really is no plan to truly recover the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states.

In order to afford the appearance of success, however, the Recovery Plan lowers the recovery targets for the Northern Continental Divide Recovery Zone, provides data to show they have been met, and removes the original requirement that at least three subpopulations be secure before delisting occurs. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee has initiated the delisting process for the Northern Continental Divide grizzly bear by preparing a draft conservation strategy for its management after delisting. While claiming that management after delisting would remain "essentially the same", the draft acknowledges that no agency will have the authority "to prevent another agency from approving an action regardless of effects on grizzly bears or their habitat".

This is how the treaty afforded the grizzly bear and its habitat under the Endangered Species Act is to be broken. The bear gets no more habitat and what has been reserved will be rendered less effective. As a reward, the protection of the Endangered Species Act will be removed and the bear will be left to face alone the very forces which brought it to the brink of extinction in the first place.

--Keith Hammer

Are You VHEMT?

The Voluntary Human Extinction Movement (VHEMT) is growing, and now has an "authoritative" voice, *These Exit Times*. What the hell is VHEMT?" you ask. Well, here are some excerpts from the Number 1, 1991 issue of *These Exit Times*.

"...As Volunteers (members of the movement) know, the hopeful alternative to the extinction of millions, probably billions, of species of plants and animals is the voluntary extinction of one species; *Homo Sapiens...us*."

"*These Exit Times* lets others know that we're not just a bunch of misanthropes and anti-social, Malthusian misfits, taking delight whenever disaster strikes humans. Nothing could be further from the truth. VHEMT is the humanitarian *alternative* to human disasters."

Sound like your kind of thing?

Their address is:
POB 86646
Portland, OR 97286-0646

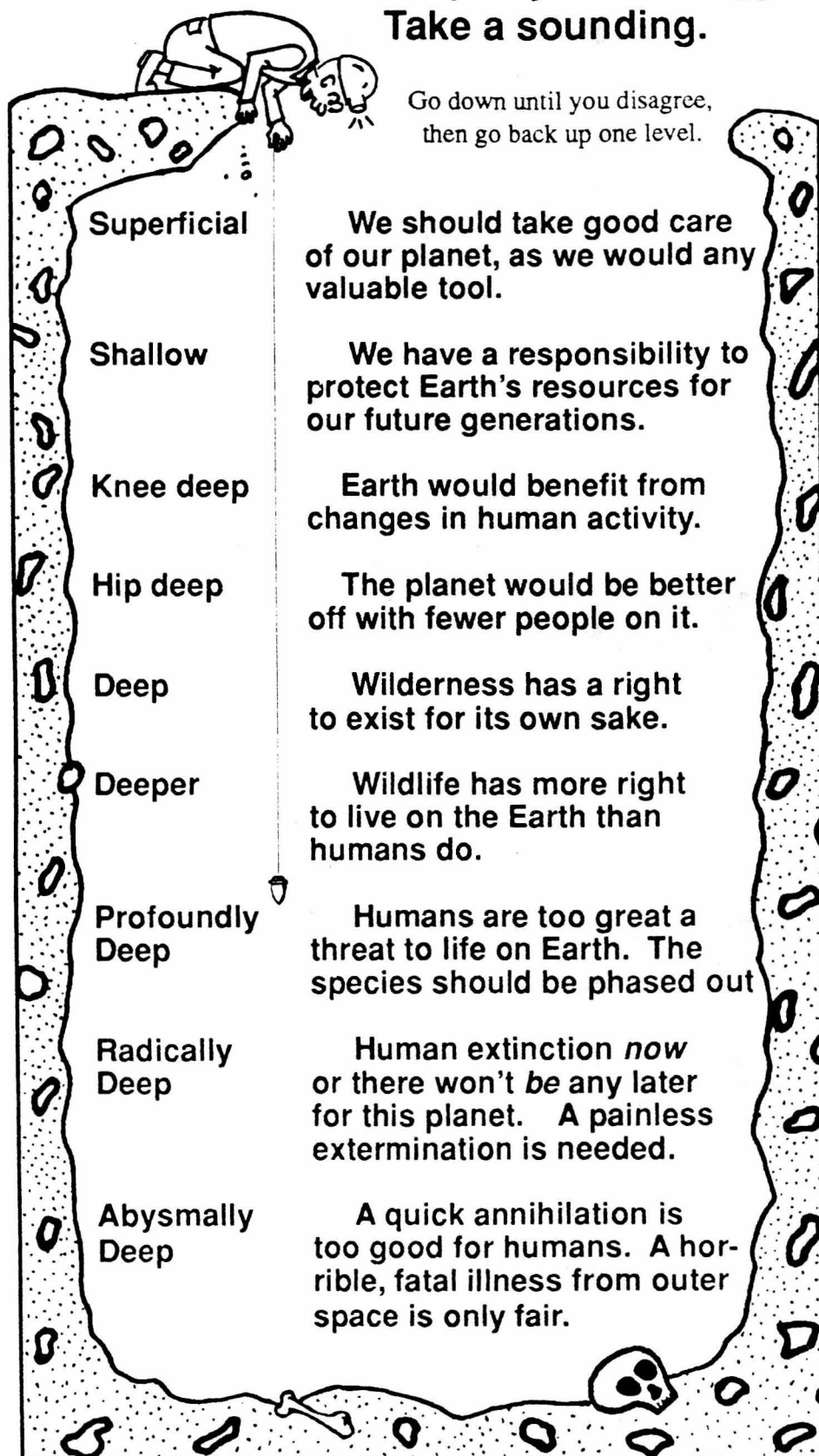
Activists Want Stuff

The Ecology Center in Missoula is looking for donations of your unwanted office equipment. You know, boring stuff like computers, filing cabinets, clipboards, copying machine, and other such things. We also are seeking subscriptions to environmental publications, or even better, last month's copy that you've read and are ready to get rid of. The Ecology Center is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, so you can write off donations. Contact us at (406) 728-5733, or 101 E. Broadway Rm 602, Missoula, MT 59802. Thanks!

ECO DEPTH GAUGE

How deep is your ecology?
Take a sounding.

Go down until you disagree,
then go back up one level.



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What do you think?

Orders for WREF! t-shirts have been, well, abysmal at best. We still have them, and will gladly sell you one or two. But what we would like to see is a brand new shirt design. So have at all you artist-o types! Go for the glory(?) of having your design chosen by an an esteemed panel of experts (drunks in a bar) as being worthy of representing the pride ("yeah, I'll be at the action if I get up in time") of the Wild Rockies.

Grassroots Activist Organizations:

Alliance for the Wild Rockies
Box 8731
Missoula, MT 59807
(406) 721-5420

Earth Awareness
Rankin Hall, U of M
Missoula, MT 59812

Friends of the Clearwater
Rt. 1 Box 14-C
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Badger Chapter
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Swan View Coalition
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Kalispell, MT 59901
406-755-1379

North Fork Preservation Association
Box 4
Polebridge, MT 59928

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WHAT'S SO FUNNY 'BOUT PEACE/LOVE,

UNDER- STANDING?



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