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Winter 1976

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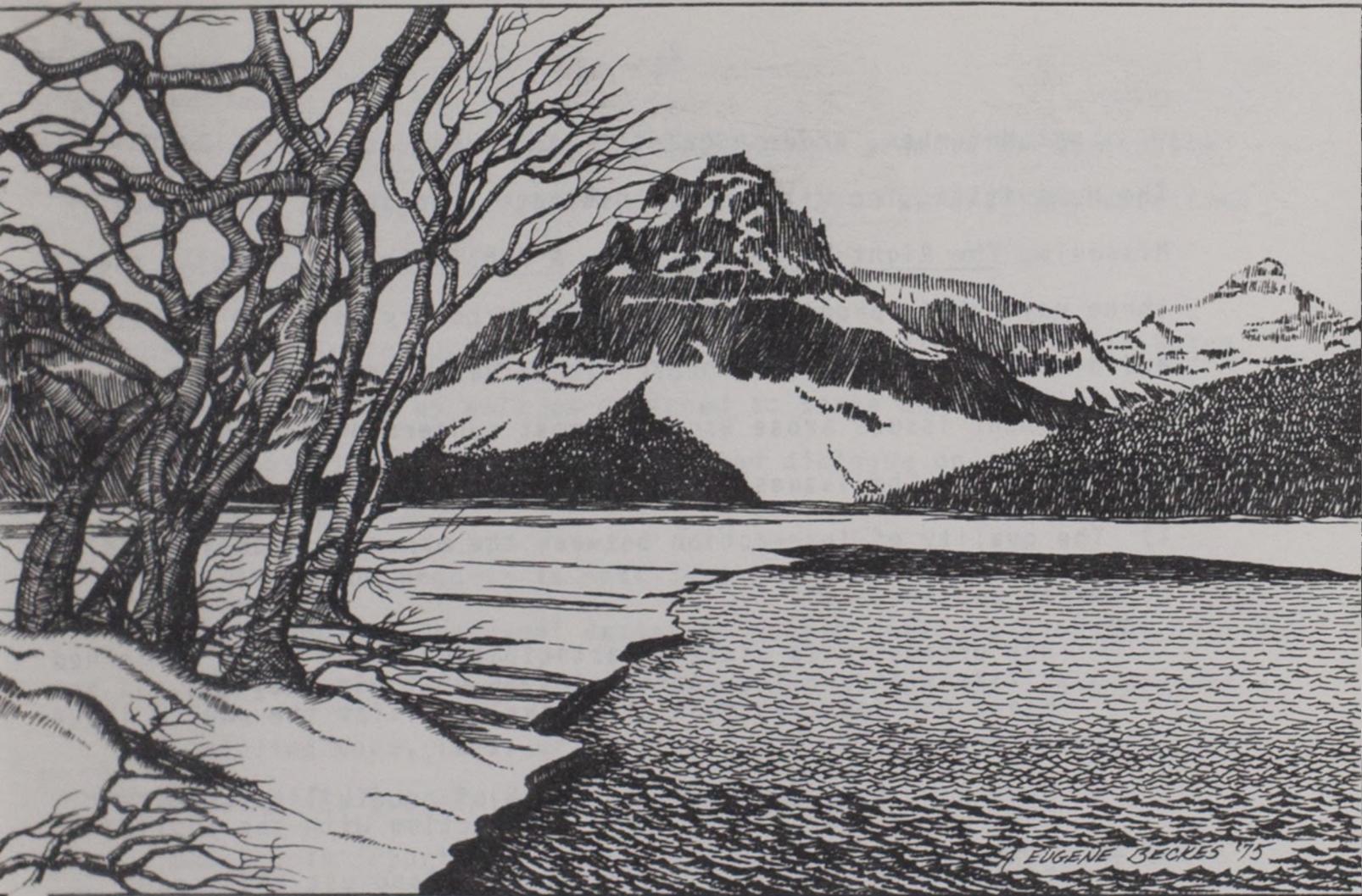
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Words on Wilderness

Winter 1976

One must have a mind of winter
To regard the frost and the boughs
Of the pine-trees crusted with snow;

And have been cold a long time
To behold the junipers shagged with ice,
The spruces rough in the distant glitter

Of the January sun; and not to think
Of any misery in the sound of the wind,
In the sound of a few leaves,

Which is the sound of the land
Full of the same wind
That is blowing in the same bare place

For the listener, who listens in the snow,
And, nothing himself, beholds
Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is.

Wallace Stevens

Last November, under a grant from the Montana Committee For The Humanities, The Wilderness Institute sponsored a conference in Missoula, The Right To Remain Wild, A Public Choice. During the three day public program, which included poetry readings on wildness and discussion panels with professional management people, a wealth of important issues arose as those most concerning the conference participants. The issues fall under three main categories:

1) The quality of interaction between the managing agencies and the concerned public.

- How effective is citizen participation? How might concerned citizens insure the representation of their feelings and how might the agencies more effectively utilize the public input they receive?
- How might agencies deal with lack of credibility and trust that often prevails in their interaction with the public?
- Do agencies currently operate with a land use bias, say towards ~~x~~ resource conservation, and how could this be balanced?
- Are there practical means by which agencies could utilize citizen groups for independent analysis in evaluation and allocation decisions?

2) The recognition that cultural values are at the root of our land use priorities, and that these values need re-examination.

- Should there be a responsibility for resource extractive industries to justify the need for their product?
- How do we integrate the quality and meaning of the "primitive experience" into our daily lives?
- How does our present natural resource consumption effect the future of wildlands?

3) Legal considerations.

- Should the environment be accorded the status of "legal standing" in our courts?
- How do we determine, and who speaks for, the rights of future generations?

The entire conference was designed to promote an atmosphere that would result in significant dialogue. We are very satisfied with the results.

Proposed Follow-up to "The Right To Remain Wild, A Public Choice."

Our follow up will be designed to serve as a reference and as a stimulus for further forums and dialogue on the issues raised in our conference.

The forum process is most important and simply does not occur often enough. The usual design of public meetings promotes only a situation of "confrontation," where one element of those present is demanding more, less, or different action from the other element - usually the professional manager. Although this type of public meeting is important and can be fruitful, we wish to show that another type of public meeting can be equally productive: a forum in which it is recognized that all those concerned, both professional managers and the interested public, inevitably share responsibility for our land use policy.

We feel there is a need to increase the availability of information that would be useful to citizen groups with an interest in addressing these and/or other public issues. It has been concluded that the widest and most effective way to share the results of our conference would be through distribution of 1) a printed document to be called, The Right To Remain Wild: A Public Choice; Proceedings and Ramifications, and 2) cassette tapes of selected talks and Gary Snyder's poetry reading.

The Institute has received additional funding from the Montana Committee For The Humanities for the project.

Wilderness and Civilization Special Course Offering

During the Fall Quarter the Institute sponsored a special interdisciplinary course, called "Wilderness and Civilization." Forestry School courses in wilderness management and ecology were combined with Philosophy courses in environmental ethics and an English course in American environmental literature to form a special program offering for seventeen credits at the undergraduate level.

The course was conceived to provide an educational opportunity especially appropriate to the University of Montana, to the wildlands of Montana, and to the investigation of the many sorts of problems of human participation in wild nature.

The first two weeks were spent traversing the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area and exploring several other wild areas; the Great Burn, the Gravellys, and the Sapphire Range, that are all presently unclassified. A ground of direct knowledge about wilderness and related management problems was established. All academic work and reflection sought roots in this essential beginning.

After returning from the backcountry, program participants settled into a discipline of classes, guest lectures, and work on projects that dealt with many practical problems concerning wildlands, such as an inventory of wild rivers and roadless areas.

The unanimous conclusion of all involved was the course's significance in broadening one's world view with regard to wild systems. A student commented: "I realize now the importance of wild country to America as a civilization. I was previously attending college majoring in Wildlife Biology as a means to a job. Now I am conscious of the fact that no matter what role I assume in the conservation

scheme, I need to do it because it needs to be done, not because it is a job." All agree that the Wilderness Institute should offer the course, or an expanded version of it, again next fall.

Field Studies

The field studies program at the Wilderness Institute is growing rapidly. This winter has provided time for the completion of five reports.

Dave Rockwell has finished the Idaho Falls District Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Study which was pursued under contract with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Idaho Falls District. The final report includes the following:

- evaluation of existing ORV impacts on North Menan Butte and development of an ORV management plan for the area.
- inventory of ORV use in the newly acquired portion of the Caribou Resource Area (including identification of elk-deer winter range), and recommendation for vehicle management.
- evaluation of potential and existing ORV conflicts in areas of high scenic and geological value and consequently, recommendations for management of adverse impact situations.
- use and demand information involving specific sites for a cross country motorcycle race course in the Big Desert planning unit.
- Environmental Analysis Report for a proposed cross country race course.

Andy Gibbs has also finished his BLM report on The Great Rift and its surrounding lava beds. This study will aid the Bureau and public in the planning processes necessary for the designation and management of the proposed 275,000 acre wildland preserve. Its

contents include a description of the geography, geology, wildlife, plant life, and watershed resources. Following the resource description are concepts and alternatives for management. This includes needs and methods for visitor use interpretation and management; and specific descriptions and suggestions pertaining to road access, sign, and trail systems.

The Hilgard and Monument Peaks are a quarter million acres of wildland in the Madison Range of southwest Montana; bounded on the north by the Spanish Peaks, and on the south by Hebgen Lake. Senator Metcalf included the Peaks in S.393. A small portion of the area was set aside for Wilderness study. Our study teams first visited the area in the summer of 1974. A land-use planner for the Gallatin N.F. called the area "the most complex piece of real estate in western Montana." We certainly can't argue with his statement. The diversity of terrain and landforms is outstanding. The Peaks are home for elk, moose, and the threatened grizzly. The jagged rocks and rolling subalpine savannahs offer dispersed recreational opportunities of unparalleled quality. On the other hand, land developers have been pursuing this area for several decades. Timber interests have their eyes on the tree-covered slopes; subdividers look longingly at the country in the Taylor's Fork; and Ski Yellowstone wants to build a year-round, large-scale resort on the flanks of Mt. Hebgen. Our report describes the wildland resource and addresses the potential resource use conflicts. We make several management recommendations which, we believe, will serve to mitigate these potential conflicts.

W.I. sent a study team into the Storm Lake area during the summer of 1975. It encompasses an eighty-five hundred acre roadless area adjacent to the northeast corner of the Anaconda-Pintlar

Wilderness Area. In general, the Storm Lake region is subalpine country. The jagged granite peaks of the Continental Divide dominate the landscape. The peaks combine with numerous small lakes and streams to portray some of the most magnificent high-country in Montana. Until recently, checkerboard ownership has made management difficult and Wilderness study impossible. Land exchanges have consolidated much of the territory in the hands of the Forest Service. The area receives light use by ORV's. The inventory stage of the Forest Service planning process is scheduled to begin in November, 1976.

A citizen from Gallatin County requested W.I. to do a development inventory of the North Absarokas. This report contains a basic catalog of use and developments within the areas. Contents incorporate descriptions of roads, logging sites, grazing areas and stock developments, past and present mining sites, private inholdings, ORV use, important wildlife habitat, and people involved with the area. Mineral exploration and prospecting is occurring in several sites within the area, though as yet, there is little active mining in progress.

These reports are available upon request from W.I.



"Although Thomas Jefferson argued that no one generation has a right to encroach upon another generation's freedom, the future right to know the freedom of wild country is going fast. And it need not go at all. A tragic loss could be prevented if only there would be broader understanding of this: that the resources of the earth do not exist just to be spent

for the comfort, pleasure, or convenience of the generation or two who first learn how to spend them; that some of the resources exist for saving, and what diminishes them diminishes all mankind; that one of these is wilderness, wherein the flow of life, in its myriad forms, has gone on since the beginning of life, essentially uninterrupted by man and his technology..." David Brower

Bureau of Land Management Primitive Area Studies

Members of the W.I. staff recently met with the Recreation Planner for the BLM Missoula District, to discuss the feasibility of conducting six primitive area studies. As a result, a proposal was submitted to the BLM State Office to fund a year study of these areas. Target date for initial steps is July, 1977.

Historic and Cultural Values of the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness

Do you know of any young person (preferably a woman), who would be interested in spending three to four months interviewing old-timers familiar with the Pintlars? Food, travel, and equipment will be supplied. Wages contingent upon further negotiation. Contact Dale Harris, W.I. office.

Wilderness Institute Hosts Workshop for University of Wyoming

In the spring, W.I. will be visited by students from the University of Wyoming as a part of their travel course in recreation management. The students will visit several areas in the northern Rockies. They hope to gain insight into specific management strategies as well as a deeper understanding of the possibilities and needs for a broader spectrum of roadless experiences. We look forward to an interesting and informative exchange on a "total roadless system."

Environmental Quality Council

The State Environmental Quality Council recently released their fourth annual report entitled, "Montana Environmental Indicators." The report presents baseline data by which planners and policy-makers can gauge the state's environmental health. W.I. assisted Dr. Bahls and EQC in compiling data on the wildlands of Montana. We were pleased to see that the EQC considers the degree of encroachment on our remaining wild land to be an important indicator of environmental health.

Finances

The School of Forestry continues to provide such services as office space, supplies, and copying. We have, in addition, raised (and spent) \$7,313.30 since the Fall newsletter. Funding sources include:

Montana Committee For The Humanities.....	\$1,004.00
Associated Students of the University of Montana.....	1,940.00
National Endowment For The Humanities.....	1,260.00
School of Forestry.....	2,400.00
English Department.....	130.00
Arkwright Conservation Fund.....	<u>579.30</u>
	\$7,313.30

A decision is pending on a \$8,850.00 request to A.S.U.M.

LITERATURE REQUESTS

To receive any of the following material provided by the Wilderness Institute as a public information service, mark the appropriate spaces, fold this sheet in thirds, stamp it and drop it in the mail. (Please include your return address.)

1. Wilderness Institute Statement of Purpose
2. WIRF
3. How to Use WIRF
4. Guidelines for Reviewing an EIS
5. Wilderness Act of 1964
6. Handbook on the Wilderness Act, Wilderness Society
7. Ten Lakes, Medora Bass
8. Middle Fork Judith, Andy Gibbs
9. Resource and Development Inventory--Lolo and Bitterroot N.F.
Kathy Jo Hanson
10. Cataract Creek - Cougar Peak, Bud Moore
11. Sapphires, Bud Moore
12. Warm Springs Creek, Bud Moore
13. Welcome Creek, Bud Moore
14. Blue Joint, Fred Swanson
15. Storm Lake, Jay Lawson
16. North Absaroka, Dave Snell
17. Off-Road Vehicle Study, Dave Rockwell
18. Great Rift Primitive Area, Andy Gibbs
19. Hilgard and Monument Peaks, Larry Akey
20. Potential Impacts of S.393, Robert Wambach
21. Wilderness and Civilization Course Compedium
22. Technology and Reality, Albert Borgmann
23. Towards a Viable Environmental Movement, Bill Bryan
24. Wilderness in America, Henry Bugbee
25. Poiesis of Place, Ray Hart
26. America Needs a Land and People Ethic, Bud Moore
27. On Wilderness, Gary Snyder
28. Planet Drum
29. Guide for Using Horses in Mountain Country, Bob Miller
30. Environmental Outfitting, USFS Nez Pierce National Forest
31. Horse Sense, USFS R-6
32. Risk Zoning, David Greist