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words on wilderness

Volume 7
April, 1977

Published twice a year by the Wilderness Institute



To Our Readers . . .

For the Wilderness Institute, as the format of this newsletter and the contents of its articles indicate, the past eight months have brought rapid change and growth. More people than ever are active in the Institute's work, and the scope and quality of our varied activities are similarly on the increase. It is our hope and intention that with the publication of this newsletter we will further expand our support base through closer contact with those on our mailing list. We would like to hear your criticisms and suggestions concerning the projects discussed here, and hope some of you will be able to offer us new sources of information relevant to our work. Depending on reader response, we may include a Correspondence column in future newsletters, featuring comments of general interest to the wilderness-oriented community. Whatever your thoughts on wilderness or on the Wilderness Institute are these days, we would appreciate hearing them, and we thank you for your continued interest and support.

Montana Regents Recognize WI

On October 29, 1976, the Montana Board of Regents formally established the Wilderness Institute as an affiliate of the School of Forestry at the University of Montana. The move came in response to our request for official recognition by the University system, and promises a number of future benefits to the Institute and to the wilderness-oriented community in general.

A slight increase in funding will provide us with a stable operating base and release us from some of the annual pressure to raise money. In addition, formal recognition will encourage the continued expansion of the Institute's programs, enabling further improvement of services to citizens of Montana and the Pacific Northwest region.

WI Applies for TV Series Research Grant

Last November the Wilderness Institute applied to the National Endowment for the Humanities for an \$82,500 grant to perform the research and development work for a public television documentary series on frontier women and their relationships to wilderness. We expect to learn of the outcome of the grant proposal any day now, and all signs point to its being a favorable one.

The project, titled "Wilderness Women," would involve the researching and writing of two pilot scripts and six subject papers for a series of hour-long dramatic biographies about nineteenth-century women on the western frontier. Each program will include a dramatic reconstruction of the life of an historic woman, followed by a presentation of the historical and philosophical implications of that life.

The series is conceptually designed to reach a broad national audience through prime-time public television. National interest in wilderness, women, and western history are the basis for wide audience appeal, and the historic content of the series will make it a valuable contribution to the educational audio-visual market.

Personnel for the research and development phase of the project will include three co-directors: historian K. Ross Toole, producer/writer Annick Smith, and wilderness

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Conference Proceedings Published Last Fall

The 161-page proceedings of "The Right to Remain Wild, A Public Choice," a three-day conference sponsored by the Institute and held at the University of Montana in November, 1975, were published and distributed nationally last fall. A limited number of copies are still available to interested members of the public at the Wilderness Institute.

Edited from over 50 hours of taped transcript by staff members Philip Crissman, Tom Daubert, and Dale Harris, the proceedings include panel discussions on the wildland evaluation and public participation phases of the land planning process, as well as on the philosophical and practical value of wildlands to mankind.

Cassette tapes of the conference's poetry reading by Pulitzer Prize winner Gary Snyder are also available on loan from the Institute, and reel-to-reel tapes of the entire conference can be obtained at cost from the Montana Committee for the Humanities, 322 Turner Hall, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana, 59812.

Mission Mtn Wilderness Proposal Developed

A project which began last fall in the "Wilderness and Civilization" program recently culminated with the completion of a boundary and policy guideline proposal for a Wilderness on the west slope of the Mission Mountains. The project report, developed at the request of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, includes a proposal for the research and development of the area's management plan to be conducted by the Wilderness Institute.

If passed by the Tribal Council, the project would lead to the designation of a 77,000 acre land preserve on the Flathead Indian Reservation, contiguous to the federally administered Mission Mountain Wilderness Area. It would be the first such designation on Native American lands.

A group of students, coordinated by WI staff member Sharon Hosford and Dr. Robert Ream, Executive Director of the Institute, conducted field work and library research, and interviewed BIA and Forest Service profes-

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Mission Mtn Proposal . . .

sionals as well as residents of the reservation last fall. This winter they reviewed aerial photographs and maps, and took one last look at the Missions by airplane, before delineating a wilderness boundary proposal. Suggested objectives of the area, along with policy guidelines, were written after the group followed similar research procedures.

Study team participants found their work predictably exciting, because, as one student said, "it involved starting from scratch on a wilderness proposal." Because the preserve will not involve federally owned lands, for example, the objectives and policy guidelines accompanying its designation have not been limited to those included in the Wilderness Act.

The project grew out of an idea originally proposed at a WI Board of Advisors meeting nearly a year ago. Board member Doris Milner discussed the need for a Missions wilderness proposal, and suggested one could be developed jointly by WI, the Tribal Council, and tribal member Thurman Trosper, former president of the Wilderness Society.

Wilderness and Civilization Program Offered Again

During fall quarter 1976, the Wilderness Institute again sponsored and organized a special interdisciplinary curriculum focused on the theme of "Wilderness and Civilization." Thirty-five students and five professors participated in the unique program, which began with an 11-day trek through the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Along with individual courses in Forestry, English, Philosophy, and Humanities, the program featured numerous guest lectures and poetry readings, as well as a wide variety of student projects. One student organized a "Wilderness and Civilization" art exhibit, which was on display for a week at the University of Montana library. Others worked in groups on field projects with which they are still involved, such as the Rattlesnake and Mission Mountain studies reported on elsewhere in this newsletter.

Materials from the "Wilderness and Civilization" program have been assembled into a compendium which is available for public review at our offices. The document includes class descriptions, a copy of the comprehensive final exam, student and faculty evaluations of the program, and selected student journals, papers, and projects, as well as photographs taken throughout the quarter.

Planning for next fall's program has already begun.

words on wilderness

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Management Plan Review Under Way

In cooperation with the Forest Service Recreation Unit of the Northern Region, the Wilderness Institute is now conducting "Project '77," a review and consolidation of assumptions, decisions, and resulting visitor restrictions featured in management plans for Primitive Areas and Wilderness west of the Mississippi. The project was proposed by Tom Kovalicky, Special Areas Forester for Region 1, Recreation and Lands Division.

The final product--scheduled for release this coming summer--will be a document displaying the similarities and differences between various agency approaches to Wilderness management. Thusfar we have contacted 100 agency offices requesting copies of management plans for classified Wilderness within National Forests and Parks, and within Fish and Wildlife Service lands, as well as for Primitive Areas administered by the BLM. And the response has been overwhelming--without exception, land managers have expressed keen interest in viewing copies of the final document, indicating the potential utility of Project '77 is indeed great.

We feel land managers can share and learn management principles faster if existing data are made more visible. In this way the Project '77 report will act as an information bank, and should facilitate the initiation or revision of management plans. Furthermore, because copies of the report will also be available at the Wilderness Institute as reference material for interested citizens, it should assist in familiarizing the public with the official methodologies of Wilderness management.

Backcountry Symposium Planned for Next Year

In preparation for a major symposium tentatively planned for the 1977-78 academic year, the Institute is currently conducting a nationwide literature search on the topic of Backcountry. Because a complete information base is essential to the success of any conference, readers with pertinent information are encouraged to direct us to additional source material.

Increasingly, plans released by land managing agencies reveal a trend toward the establishment of areas which are roadless and slated for dispersed recreational use, but for which management options excluded by Wilderness are nevertheless retained. Our symposium will provide an organized response to the consequently growing concern that the land planning process does not include consistent policy and management guidelines for such areas judged ineligible for Wilderness consideration.

The conference will feature guest speakers from land managing agencies as well as conservation groups, but its exact content and structure are still undefined. Reader suggestions concerning its scope and format are most welcome. We are also interested in your thoughts on the best time of year for such a conference, as well as an indication of your interest in attending.

Staff members Dick Fichtler and Darrell Schulte are coordinating plans and information gathering for the Backcountry symposium; readers with input may contact them in care of the Wilderness Institute.

Wilderness Women . . .

expert Robert Ream, Executive Director of the Wilderness Institute. Other staff will include producer/writer Beth Chadwick and WI's Assistant Director, Dale Harris. In addition, a number of nationally known writers and researchers, including A. B. Guthrie, Jr., Dorothy Johnson, Wallace Stegner, Robert Athearn, T. C. McLuhan, Margaret Murie, George Bluestone, and Michael Roemer, will act as historical and media consultants.

Summer Field Study Program, 1976: Research in 6 Roadless and New Study Areas

Fifteen undergraduates participated in last summer's Field Study Program, under the guidance of Larry Akey, acting Assistant Director, and three work/study students. A five-day workshop prior to field work, and several day-long specialized sessions throughout the summer, provided the training necessary for the implementation of the studies.

Recreation Inventories: Participants conducted campsite and trail inventories in two roadless areas, Storm Lake and Flint Range, both in the Deerlodge National Forest. In the Storm Lake area, for example, a three member study team inventoried 29 campsites along the area's trails. Recreational inventories also formed part of the work conducted in the Bean Bacon roadless area in Idaho (see below).

Much of the data from these studies was converted into a code-a-site format currently used by the Forest Service. The system uses edge-punch cards to record and store site information in five categories--description, soils, terrain, vegetation, and human impact--along with schematic drawings of the sites. It provides a standard system of campsite evaluation, and its versatility facilitates the handling, analyzing, and comparing of large volumes of data. The code-a-site forms from our recreational studies have been distributed to the Forest Service personnel involved, and a report on recreational use and facilities of the Storm Lake area is now in the final draft stage.

Timber Cruising: At the request of conservation organizations, two study teams gathered timber data in the Elkhorn New Study Area south of Helena and in the Scotchman's Peak NSA north of the Bull River Valley. Wilderness Institute staff had previously been instrumental in the collection of such data for Dr. Robert Wambach's report on the potential impacts of S.B. 393.

Several on-site workshops were held during the summer in both study areas, to train participants in timber cruising field methods. Their data is currently being analyzed by Larry Akey, now a graduate student in Forest Economics at the University of Montana, and the results of these studies will be distributed to agencies, conservationists, and interested citizens.

General Resource Study: One study team conducted a general resource inventory on the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn roadless area, one of the nine areas in Senator Metcalf's Wilderness Study Bill (S.B. 393). A two-member team spent most of the summer hiking throughout the area, and their report, now in the final draft stage, concentrates on ownership patterns within the area, on the area's major resource values--including wildlife, timber, water, and recreation potential, on the multiple use policies now governing the area's management, and on the results of interviews with users.

Backcountry Management Plan: Another study team, led by staff member Dick Fichtler, continued research on the Bean Bacon area in Idaho, one of three contiguous areas which total 235,000 acres. Forest Service planning for the three areas has been continually delayed, and Fichtler decided to concentrate his research on the Bean Bacon, which he had determined to be the one area with the least potential use conflict and the most recreation potential. The Bean Bacon runs along 17 miles of the St. Joe River, still under consideration for Wild and Scenic River classification.

The study team conducted trail and campsite inventories, interviewed a wide variety of users, and consulted agency files, in preparation for the development of a backcountry management plan for the area. The plan, which Fichtler hopes will have a "positive effect on a piece of country I care about," is now in the final draft stage.



Great Rift Contract with BLM Completed

The second phase of a BLM contract for planning work on the Great Rift Primitive Area in Idaho has been completed. As we reported in our last newsletter, Andy Gibbs, of the Wilderness Institute, last summer developed the Environmental Analysis Report (EAR) for the Great Rift, and coordinated the public participation phase of the land planning process for the BLM. As part of his work, Gibbs wrote the interpretative brochure used to familiarize citizens with the Great Rift and with the agency's plans for it. He also compiled a slide show for presentation at public hearings, and catalogued public comments for agency review.

Subsequent changes in BLM policy--which came as a result of 1976 passage of the BLM Organic Act--have delayed additional planning on the Great Rift, however. The agency now has the authority to designate its lands under the National Wilderness Preservation System; since this option had not been seriously researched, the Idaho Falls District is now awaiting further direction relative to the new law before continuing with the Great Rift program.

Field Studies Training Program Expanded

The Wilderness Institute's Summer Field Study Program began to mature during the spring and summer of 1976. Ever-increasing student involvement and interest in WI activities, coupled with similarly growing interest from outside the University community, have since led to a restructuring of the program in order to involve more people and produce reports of improved value.

This year, training of potential study team participants will take on new and important emphasis. Throughout spring quarter, the Institute will sponsor a training workshop, "Field Research and Inventory of Wildlands," which will familiarize participants with the purposes and techniques of wilderness field studies. The workshop will be open to all interested persons, and those seeking to conduct studies during the summer will be required to have attended.

A number of roadless areas are currently under consideration for field work this coming summer, but no definite decisions have yet been made. We expect to have a study team in the Rattlesnake backcountry area (see Rattlesnake article), and are hopeful we will be continuing our work on the west slope of the Missions (see Missions

--continued on next page, column 2

WI Collecting Data on Rattlesnake Backcountry

Throughout the winter the staff of the Wilderness Institute has been collecting information on dispersed recreational use and on the cultural and historic values of the 70,000 acre Rattlesnake backcountry area which is adjacent to Missoula. The work represents a continuation of student projects begun during last fall's "Wilderness and Civilization" program.

Currently, we are conducting a series of telephone surveys with two sample populations--one for the general Missoula public and another for the student body of the University of Montana--to determine characteristics of recreational activity in the Rattlesnakes. These and other facets of our research to date will form part of

Staff and Office Grow; WI Funding Sought

The current academic year has seen an increase in Wilderness Institute staff and office space.

In addition to our Executive and Assistant Directors, we now have a full time secretary, five work/study students, and a central staff of fifteen volunteers who manage the daily activities of the Institute. Approximately sixty undergraduates currently participate in a variety of projects and programs, and we project a further increase in involvement during spring quarter.

Considering such growing interest in WI, it was significant that during Christmas vacation we moved to a new office complex which now affords us nearly four times as much working space. The move has improved our ability to function as a tightly knit group, and has greatly facilitated our services to the wilderness-oriented community.

Support in the form of office space provided by the School of Forestry therefore continues to play an obviously vital role in the existence of the Wilderness Institute. In addition, since the publication of our last newsletter the following funds have been received and spent:

ASUM (Assoc. Students of UM) Supplemental Allocation	1,136
Arkwright Conservation Fund	850
School of Forestry	4,738
Miscellaneous	1,082
	<u>total: \$7,806</u>

The following monies are included in proposals still pending:

our preparation for a summer field study in the area.

A student research team will attend a training workshop (see Field Study 1977 article) throughout the spring to receive instruction in campsite inventory techniques and user studies. This summer the study team will conduct field work in cooperation with a proposed dispersed recreation research project directed by Drs. Robert Ream, Stephen McCool, and Riley McClelland, all of the UM School of Forestry. Use patterns, trends, conflicts, and impacts will be monitored to provide baseline information for Forest Service planning purposes, and to learn more about the spectrum of dispersed recreation problems on forested lands other than Wilderness.

Minimum Impact Seminar Held

The Wilderness Institute sponsored a free seminar series during winter quarter which dealt with methods of minimizing human impact on the outdoors. Held at the University and co-sponsored by the Campus Recreation Program, the series was taught by Tom Kovalicky, Special Areas Forester for Region I of the Forest Service.

The seminar was designed for people interested in increasing their awareness of proper attitudes and techniques when involved in wilderness recreation activities. Weekly lectures concerned such subjects as how users can reduce their impact on trails and campsites and proper methods for disposal of human waste in the backcountry.

1977 Field Study Possibilities . . .

article). Preliminary data collection in preparation for summer field studies has begun on a number of additional areas, including the Great Burn New Study Area, Colter-Shields and String of Pearls roadless areas, and the Ibex and Engels planning units in the Kootenai National Forest; our final selections will be from among these. We are also tentatively planning to have one study group serve as a river team which would spend the summer exploring various river inventory techniques on several waterways in Montana.

Arkwright Conservation Fund	850
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	9,429
National Endowment for the Humanities	82,500
ASUM	12,993
The Wilderness Society	3,000
Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station	13,496
	<u>total: \$122,268</u>

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