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### Ecologist urges total-cost studies before resource use

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ECOLOGIST URGES  
TOTAL-COST STUDIES  
BEFORE RESOURCE USE

MISSOULA--

Dr. Alfred G. Etter urged greater attention Wednesday night to the total costs of such projects as the proposal to divert water from the Columbia River to the Colorado River Basin.

An ecologist with the Defenders of Wildlife at Aspen, Colo., Dr. Etter discussed "Dilemmas of Development" in a lecture at the University of Montana Music Recital Hall. The lecture was the fifth and final address in the Business and Science Lecture Series at the University.

"The eventual cost of the threatened diversion of water from the Columbia River to the Colorado River Basin," Dr. Etter emphasized, "would involve the loss of nutrient and fresh water outflow into the Pacific Ocean, a loss which would affect production at fisheries. A similar detrimental effect on fisheries is already observable in the Gulf of California as a result of the damming of the Colorado River."

Dr. Etter mentioned the Columbia River water-diversion proposal as one example of the seeming shortsightedness of such programs.

"Future costs of current resource use and development," he explained, "are largely ignored in current planning. Future generations will have to pay for our mistakes as we are paying for the mistakes of generations which preceded us."

The speaker said he feels such developmental projects should be planned on "a level of use in harmony with the natural ecological balance achieved by an uninfluenced nature."

Another misuse of resource availabilities, Dr. Etter indicated, has resulted in "the \$30 million being spent to control the erosion of beaches at Miami, Fla."

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Dr. Etter said such erosion has always taken place, but before the damming of streams draining the Appalachian Mountains nature accommodated for sand loss by natural replacement.

Excessive and unnecessary costs also are involved in "restoring the grassless deserts of the Southwestern United States after the deserts have been denuded by overgrazing," he added.

Dr. Etter, who received his doctorate from Washington University at St. Louis, Mo., in 1950, spoke at UM as part of a series of activities marking the 50th anniversary of the UM School of Business Administration this year.

The lecture series has been supported by grants from the S & H Foundation, which is sponsored by the Sperry and Hutchinson Co., and the Missoula Chamber of Commerce.

Series coordinator has been Dr. George J. Brabb, a UM professor of business management.

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