



May 1994

# the Yellowstone Gateway Post

Yellowstone Country's only newsmagazine

## Madison River Memories

### Sixty years of change on a great trout stream

by Bud Lilly with Paul Schullery

*My dad introduced me to the Madison River in the summer of 1935, when I was ten years old.* We lived in Manhattan, where he was the local barber. One Sunday morning we got up early, piled into our 1934 Chevy, and went fishing. On many later trips, we went through Logan, up past the old Buffalo Jump, on through where we would hit the river. The first time, we drove quite a ways up into the Bear Trap Canyon, much farther than is allowed now. I don't remember much about the fishing on that first trip, but I do remember that the rattlesnakes were as thick as flies.

In fact, prior to World War II, the lower Madison was the only part of the river I knew existed. I thought the Madison flowed from the Bear Trap to Three Forks. And it was all the fishing anyone needed. Before the War, we would drive way up into the Bear Trap to a place called the Shadoan Cabin, which was quite a few miles up. It was spectacular and exciting fishing amongst huge rocks, in deep pools, with dangerous wading.

Our most memorable trips to the Madison before the War were during the salmonfly emergence. Whether in the Bear Trap or further downstream, there were great salmonfly hatches. One of my favorite memories, one that I think is representative of the fishing back then, is of a trip we made in 1939, when I was 14. As the local barber, my father knew everybody in the area, and had permission to fish from some of the biggest property owners, like on the McDonald and Darlington Ranches. Some friends of ours camped over there, and we went over one evening to have supper and share fishing. I would be the worst kind of behavior today, but in those days you kept every big trout and put them on a stringer to show them off.

These fish were caught with the actual salmonflies. As much as I might have preferred fly fishing when it was practical, we weren't troubled by too many refinements in tackle then, with so much live bait just hanging off the bushes. The river was usually off color at least a little bit, so live bait seemed the obvious choice anyway.

But I suppose my best memories of those big fish on the lower Madison are from the first years after the War. In June of 1946, just after I got home, I went fishing near the Greycliffs. Imagine yourself there, back then, with hardly any other anglers for miles. The salmonflies were dripping off the bushes, and you'd grab them as you needed them. You'd put two on the hook, with a big sinker a little ways up the line, and throw it out there and let it bounce along until something big grabbed it.

We caught a lot of big fish, up to a few pounds each, but the thing that stands out in my mind now, almost 50 years later, is one fish I never even got to look at. I was fishing along when something grabbed my bait and without hesitation swam to the other side of the river and parked itself near the far bank. I couldn't move it, even though I was using really heavy line, probably ten or twelve pound test. Whatever it was, it just stayed there until finally I pulled so hard I broke the line. There's no way of knowing how big a trout it was, but it wasn't uncommon in that period, particularly in the Bear Trap area, for a good fisherman to catch an eight to 12 pound trout.

Nostalgia is a complicated thing for those of us who've abandoned some of our old ways. Many of us have gotten pretty



A scenic stretch of Montana's lower Madison River. Bud Lilly photo.

### Coalition works to restore fishery on lower Madison

by Tom Anacker

A group of Montana citizens is working to minimize any negative effects of two Montana Power Company (MPC) hydroelectric facilities on the Madison River environment.

The Madison Coalition formed last fall to be involved in MPC's relicensing process for the Hebgen and the Madison Dams, both located on the Madison River. The MPC has filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to relicense nine hydroelectric projects on the Madison and Missouri Rivers. The application seeks a 50 year license to operate the nine facilities.

This relicensing process represents a rare opportunity to be involved in the decision as to how the hydroelectric facilities are operated in the future and their effects on the river environment.

The Madison Coalition consists of Trout Unlimited National, the Madison-Gallatin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and an association made up of river conservationists Bud Lilly, Dave Corcoran, Tom Morgan, Dave Kumlien, and the Winston Rod Company.

The Coalition's basic goal is to insure that the Madison River's biological, fishery, and recreation resources are given equal weight, as required by Federal law, with power concerns in determining whether a license for the two dams on the Madison is renewed. The Coalition is asking that any license renewal be conditioned with measures to protect and enhance the resources. The Coalition asks that MPC mitigate fishery problems caused by the dams, and also take steps to enhance the Madison's aquatic and riparian environments.

After detailed review of the MPC's application, the Coalition and Trout Unlimited organizations filed comments to the application in January, 1993. These comments focused on deficiencies in the MPC application, primarily the fact that ongoing studies were occurring which would significantly impact any relicensing decision. Additionally, further studies were requested on the Madison River below the Madison Dam, which forms Ennis Lake. It is a documented fact that the river water heats up in the lake, and in the summer months, makes the river downstream too warm to support fish. The requested studies would determine the long term and cumulative impacts the dam

# Grassroots



## Hanging on— in fantasy?

This winter, I've had the luxury of not working anywhere, and the resulting endless hours of time to fill. Some of it went to writing and skiing, much to staring out the window at magpies dining on the food I threw them and coyotes crisscrossing the fields near Henry's Lake. And then there were the long evenings watching stupid movies mailed faithfully to us by a person of great low taste who lives in L.A. I'd guess that we viewed nearly 200 movies, of which I liked maybe 15. I've spent most of my life without a television and when I wasn't watching a movie this winter, I watched shows I'd never seen before, like *Cheers*, *Murphy Brown*, *Saturday Night Live*, *David Letterman*, *Star Trek—the Next Generation*, and *Home Improvement*.

I've concluded I hate television more than ever before, and am thoroughly sick of movies.

There are so many recurring, trite, simplistic themes in both that six months of experiencing them was like having a full frontal lobotomy.

Sometimes, however, repetitive, boring, and base experiences can become like saying the rosary or reciting mantras until one achieves spiritual enlightenment. I turned the films and T.V. shows into background noise and pondered the state of a world so loyal to this type of entertainment.

Take the frequently occurring event in action pieces in which a person is hanging off the edge of a roof or cliff, dangling for minutes in normal time, even sometimes in movie time if the film is especially obnoxious. These people—some are good guys, others bad, others in pursuit of bad guys or their law enforcement partner etc., dangle for far too long. Even a first class weight lifter may not be able to duplicate their feats. It may be a woman dangling two 70-90 pound boys, one off of each arm for minutes, or a person mortally wounded (he dies not long after) holding on for minutes as he shouts loudly to his aggressor, and how about *Cliffhanger*? Stallone was good, but he finally let go of his climbing partner. In his case, if he were like everyone else in the other films, he would have dropped him long before he did—he was the only actor I saw dangling people who had muscles.

Is this believable? There is a part of the human condition that believes we can hold on longer than we can, that we have a reservoir of strength to help us hold on that will last a long, long, time. But it just ain't so—the adrenalin and will to live run out. How do we do this here in Island Park and West Yellowstone?

The heaviest, most impossible belief we are holding on to is that we live in a place of wilderness and freedom, a pristine place untouched by development, a place where the hunting is prime and the fishing ideal. It's a place, we still think, that will always attract people because it's so holy, so pure. We hang on to this fantasy as more and more land is subdivided and wildlife habitat destroyed forever, hold on to the fantasy as each year we catch fewer fish, as a rule, and fewer larger fish, and fish rod to rod with hundreds of other anglers where we once fished alone. We hold on to the fantasy when we hike all summer without seeing a grizzly bear or hearing a Ruby-crowned kinglet, without discovering a dense batch of morels or a clump of Calypso lilies, a toad or a frog.

In Yellowstone, many of us are unrealistic cliff and roof hangers, willing ourselves to not let go of a past that is gone, turned

into a present that does not fit our fantasies of living forever in a place that is pure and untouched. It's a Paradise Lost, and when we let go and see that, our grief may make us wish we had been the one's who dangled and fell before we saw it.

## Road closures

Many of us in Island Park are heartsick about the Forest Service's proposal to take some of our Paradise away from us by closing down nearly every one of the roads we use to get away from it all. Supposedly the closures are to protect the grizzly bear, but this doesn't wash with a lot of us since the roads are in Situation II habitat, habitat not used regularly by bears. Most of the areas they want to close off to public use could be shut down on a case by case, temporary basis should a bear use it.

It is important for everyone who uses these wonderful back country roads to let the Forest Service know how important they are.

## Post housekeeping

We published just two issues this winter for a few good reasons. First, I am writing a book and the manuscript is due this summer. Second, our staff was experiencing a multitude of life changes. Third, we were snowed in too much to go out and get copy and sell ads.

We will now publish from May through September.

All subscriptions will expire after the subscriber has received ten issues. New subscriptions will cost the same as they did when we ran an annual ten issues. This means that now subscription rates will actually cover mailing and handling costs!

# Letters

## Burke funny, Beale raunchy

From Betty Granger, Houston, Tx.

How I enjoyed Fred Burke's pieces on his experiences in the park, where I also worked as a young girl (in 1951). I hope you print more of them. Not only is he enjoyable to read, he has a well developed and clean sense of humor. My compliments also to George Beale's piece on cabin fever, although it is a little raunchy, which is the way many young folks write these days.

## Likes old timers' memories

From Gerald Fischer, Portland, OR.

I must say I greatly appreciate the articles you publish written by old timers, particularly Fred Burke and Irene Lackey, because I am an old timer, and I like memories. In today's miserable, violent, and disjointed world, I often wonder how people who live through it will survive their old age without pleasant memories, and I am glad I will be long gone, since I am now in my late 80's.

See letters, page thirty one

# Recycling: A Realistic Look

Compiled by Wayne Hendrix and the  
Post Staff

*The combined costs of pickup and processing easily outstrip the current value of recycled material. One economic factor that would make a huge difference would be an increase in the value of recyclable materials.*

*American cities and towns have increasingly looked to recycling programs as tools* to deal with the growing problems of how and where to dispose of refuse, and have often found that the economics of recycling works against them. Recycling most materials is a costly and cumbersome undertaking, at least at the beginning, and it's been difficult for many communities to recover the costs quickly.

First, there's the initial investment in extra trucks and sorting equipment and the cost of paying people to run them. Most communities with curbside collection use separate trucks for picking up recyclables and garbage, increasing their costs in labor and equipment.

Picking up recyclables costs more than picking up the same quantity of trash. And, most municipalities have only been doing it for a few years and haven't yet settled on the optimal methods. Publications that address the recycling industry are filled with articles on the merits of various trucking and sorting systems.

Also, garbage trucks can squash, or compact, what they collect. Most recycling trucks don't because compacting makes it difficult to sort the material later on. As a result, the recycling trucks fill up long before they've reached their maximum weight load.

Most municipalities collect their recyclable containers, jumbled together in one bag or bin, often with paper set out separately. These eventually make their way to a deconstruction factory called a Materials Recovery Facility or Murph.

There, recyclable materials are sorted, by machine or by hand, and sent on to brokers or directly to the factories that will reuse them. With their heavy machinery and their dependence on having to hand-sort materials such as paper, plastic and glass, Murphs are expensive to build and run.

The combined costs of pickup and processing easily outstrip the current value of recycled material. One economic factor that would make a huge difference would be an increase in the value of recyclable materials. Prices for recycled materials have been depressed over the last few years, because a global recession has led to lower prices for raw materials overall and because the increase in community recycling programs has flooded the market. But as recently as 1988, recycled materials fetched an average of \$100 a ton, much more than their current value of \$40 a ton. At those prices, even cities with plenty of cheap landfill space would find recycling attractive.

On a national scale, we're still far from running out of places to put our trash. But if the country doesn't yet have a national garbage crisis, there are some very serious local problems.

Some densely populated states, and in places like Idaho and Montana, where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is closing landfills it says are polluting the groundwater, are finding that their trash is becoming more and more difficult to dispose of. In those areas, recycling as much garbage as possible can be more cost-effective than trucking trash farther and farther away to be buried. On a national level, too, recycling is becoming more cost-effective as garbage disposal becomes more expensive.

New regulations from the EPA set strict guidelines on how and where landfills can be built. The price of sending trash to landfills is being raised because new landfills are costly to build in most communities, and because many old ones will be shut down. According to one recent estimate, roughly 20% of all the country's landfills may have to close under the new EPA regulations.

The regulations were designed to correct a serious problem. Until quite recently, most US cities and towns that didn't burn their trash simply dumped garbage out in the country, or on the "poor" side of town.

Makeshift landfills, especially wet ones, emit methane and other gases and can leach poisons into adjacent surface water and groundwater. New landfills minimize those hazards. They're built with strong liners to protect water supplies and are supposed to be covered daily with dirt to seal in their contents. Some of the methane produced can be captured and sold as fuel. New landfills must also be put in areas where the chance of leakage into groundwater is low.

EPA regulations should make landfills safer for trash disposal

than they were in the past. But even well-designed landfills will eventually begin to leak as time goes by.

Incinerators pose an even greater environmental risk. Old incinerators, many of which are still operating, belch all manner of toxic pollutants into the air. New incinerators are equipped with air-pollution control devices to capture emissions.

Nevertheless, the devices are not 100% effective, and even modern incinerators release some lead, mercury and other toxic substances. Moreover, all incinerators produce a highly toxic ash that must be buried in landfills, and that may eventually leak out of landfills into the environment.

Ultimately, landfills and incinerators pose environmental risks because of some of the things that go into them, such as toxic metals and hazardous wastes. Recycling, at least as it's currently practiced, will remove only a fraction of those hazards from the waste stream.

But recycling helps by minimizing the overall amount of trash that needs to be buried or burned and the number of new landfills and incinerators that need to be built. Whether a city faces a "garbage crisis" or not, there are both environmental and practical reasons for communities to try to recycle much of their trash.

## Materials That are Typically Recycled

Here is a list of materials often recycled in curbside programs, including how much each contributes to municipal solid waste, by weight, amount recycled — 1992 figures — and advantages of, and obstacles to, recycling each.

### Paper

38% of municipal solid waste; 38% recycled.

#### Advantages

Saves the most landfill space; reduces air and water pollution; many recycled-paper mills are being developed; abundant supply of newspaper and cardboard; new recycling plants can take magazines; cheapest of all materials to sort.

#### Obstacles

Weak markets for mixed paper; recycled paper is of lower quality than raw paper for some uses; cannot be recycled indefinitely; photocopy, laser-printed paper is hard to de-ink; de-inking plants are costly to build.

#### Overview

Recycling paper shows what can happen with a combination of market incentives and good technology.

### Plastic Packaging

3.6% of municipal solid waste; 6.5% recycled.

#### Advantages

Recycling reduces air pollution; recycling helps conserve oil and gas.

#### Obstacles

Packaging plastic is rarely recycled; only polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) are recycled in quantity; cannot be recycled indefinitely; generally not recycled into food containers; light weight makes pickup expensive; difficult to sort different types; automatic sorting equipment is expensive; some resins are difficult to clean adequately.

#### Overview

Plastics recycling is turning out to be the most difficult to implement.

See next page

## Recycling Realities

From previous page

### Container Glass

6.1% of municipal solid waste; 33% recycled.

#### Advantages

Recyclable containers make up 90% of discarded glass; can be recycled indefinitely; can be recycled into food containers; labels, food residues burn off in furnaces; steady markets for clear and brown glass.

#### Obstacles

Bottles break during sorting; broken glass is hard to reuse; must be hand-sorted by color; poor markets for green glass; often contaminated with unusable glass.

#### Overview

New uses and markets are needed for mixed-color and broken glass.

### Steel Cans

1.5% of municipal solid waste; 41% recycled.

#### Advantages

Recycling reduces pollution, conserves ore; can be recycled indefinitely; can be recycled into food containers; dirt and contaminants burn off in furnaces; easy to separate with magnets; steel mills are already set up to use scrap steel; strong market for recycled cans.

#### Obstacles

None.

#### Overview

If everything were as easy to recycle as steel, there would be no solid-waste crisis.

### Aluminum Cans & Foil

1% of municipal solid waste; 68% recycled.

#### Advantages

Recycling uses 94% less energy than virgin production; recycling reduces pollution, conserves ore; can be recycled indefinitely; can be recycled into food containers; dirt and contaminants burn off in furnaces; well-developed structure for collection and processing; strong market for recycled cans.

#### Obstacle

Light weight makes collection expensive.

#### Overview

The economics of energy savings have made aluminum the first large-scale recyclable and the most valuable recyclable material.

## The Problem with Plastics

Americans generally prefer plastic containers over other kinds: plastic is lightweight, tough and unbreakable. It has also come to symbolize our throwaway society.

There are strong environmental reasons to try to recycle plastics, which are made from refined by-products of oil or natural gas. Drilling for oil or natural gas produces huge quantities of contaminated mud and water, and refineries and petrochemical plants emit many noxious pollutants. An equal amount of "raw" material can be retrieved from household trash with only the minimal environmental impact that comes from operating collection trucks and sorting facilities.

Over the past several years the American Plastics Council, the industry's public relations arm, has spent an estimated \$20 million urging Americans to "Take Another Look at Plastic". The ads remind us that plastics make useful products such as air bags and bicycle helmets. The campaign also portrays plastic as easily recyclable.

Sadly, that isn't true. Recycling plastic is fraught with technical and economic difficulties. Due to those difficulties, recycling programs have targeted packaging rather than other kinds of plastic. But only about 7% of all plastic packaging is recycled today.

Plastics are bulky and cumbersome to collect. "We took plastics out of our recycling program because we couldn't afford to drive around with trucks with 45% of their collection capacity taken up by air," says Tom Klein, director of education and promotion for the Philadelphia Recycling Office. "Now, for the first time, recycling is costing less than trash collection."

Waste Management Inc., the nation's largest private trash-disposal company, calculates that plastics account for just 3% by weight of the recyclables it collects, but 30% of its recycling costs.

Even when plastic is recycled correctly, the result is less than ideal. Every time you recycle plastic, its polymers, the long molecules that give plastic its extraordinary properties, break down a bit. That means recycled plastic will always have somewhat lower quality than plastic made from virgin materials.

Another problem is that plastic can't be heated to thousands of degrees to vaporized contaminants, as can glass, steel and aluminum.

Even the regular contents of plastic packaging can make it difficult to recycle. While recyclers have gotten better at cleaning up used containers, it's still not possible to get all the contaminants out of certain plastics, especially HDPE. The material is somewhat porous and absorbs whatever is put into it, be it motor oil, milk or garden weed killer.

For this reason, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not permitted foods to be packaged directly in recycled plastic, except when the recycled material comes from soda bottles, for which the plastic is actually broken down into its constituent chemical parts and repolymerized.

The difficulty and expense of collecting, sorting and cleaning plastics might be worthwhile if the recycled material could be sold for a high enough price. But the only kind of plastic that now pays for its own recycling is PET. While PET containers make up only 4.5% of all plastic containers produced, they account for 36% of all plastics recycled. In 1992, 27% of all PET containers and 41% of all PET soda bottles were recycled, the highest recycling rate by far for any plastic.

PET is a natural for recycling. It comes largely from soda bottles, which are easy to collect and clean. Several states have "bottle bills" requiring retailers to take these bottles back, ensuring a steady supply.

PET can be recycled into many different kinds of products, including fiber insulation for sleeping bags and ski jackets, carpeting for auto trunks, and more soda bottles. And virgin PET sells for more than 60 cents a pound, expensive enough to ensure a market for its recycled form.

## Recycled or Raw?

Many analysts have compared the environmental impact of using raw materials, both in harvesting or mining materials and in preparing them for factory use, to the environmental costs of collecting, sorting and remanufacturing recycled materials. In almost every case, using recycled materials has substantial environmental benefits.

An analysis done by the Tellus Institute, a Boston environmental consulting group and think tank, found that a major benefit of using recycled materials is that it saves energy. Energy use is responsible for the depletion of nonrenewable resources, air pollution, and the generation of greenhouse gases that may contribute to global warming. Using recycled materials can make a huge difference in energy use in some cases, particularly in the recycling of aluminum. Recycling also reduces the environmental impact of obtaining raw materials in the first place.

The aluminum industry discovered the economics of recycling more than two decades ago, and tissue, cardboard and boxboard makers have used scrap paper for years. Recycling is built into the steel industry. One of the two major types of steelmaking furnaces must have 25% to 30% scrap metal to function properly. The other type runs on 100% scrap.

Nevertheless, most manufacturing industries are still geared to run on raw rather than recycled materials, driven by the relative abundance and low cost of virgin resources in the U.S. There are also government subsidies for some virgin materials, such as paper.

Factories have huge infrastructures designed to use virgin materials, and retooling to use recycled materials can be very expensive. For example, Union Carbide, Inc., one of the nation's major suppliers of plastic, had to build a new \$10 million factory to recycle bottles made from plastic that it had produced.

Virgin material often has another advantage over recycled: it has consistent quality. Recycled materials come largely from consumers who may not follow the dictates of their local recycling program. Contamination compromises the quality and marketability of glass, plastic and paper.

## Legislation's Role

As useful as private-sector initiatives have been, they haven't been enough for some materials. The next wave in recycling may be spurred by legislation. Over the past several years, 14 states have passed laws specifying a minimum recycled content for newspapers. Another 15 states have similar voluntary agreements with newspaper publishers.

Once publishers started shopping in earnest for suppliers of recycled newsprint, the paper industry responded readily. Since 1989, the industry has spent \$2 billion to triple the number of mills making recycled newsprint in North America.

See next page

## Integrating science and the arts

This summer Teton Science School is offering three adult classes that integrate the arts and sciences. Grand Teton National Park provides a spectacular backdrop for summer learning experiences! Included are:

*Starting a Field Journal* - June 28-30.

Taught by Hannah Hinchman, this course is designed for people who would like to record their encounters with the natural world. Designed especially for novices, basic drawing and field techniques will be combined with innovative methods for writing, mapping and exploring.

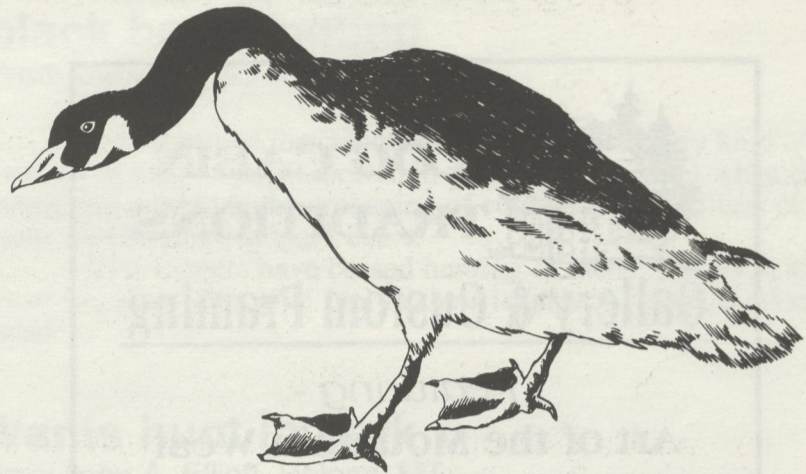
*Pathways: Integrating Art and Science*— July 23-29.

Based on a curriculum developed by the Teton Science School and the National Wildlife Art Museum, this workshop weaves art and science activities to create a new kind of environmental awareness. Participants will explore nature with a critical, scientific eye and create art forms that capture their visions of nature.

*The Illuminated Journal* - August 22-25

This course is an invitation to veterans of the creative field journal. Led by Hannah Hinchman, students will explore the varied habitats of Jackson Hole, and innovative ways to record those experiences in a natural history journal. The course is designed for those who have some experience in drawing, painting, or illustration.

For more information on fees, academic credit, financial aid and housing, contact Teton Science School, P.O. Box 68, Kelly, WY 83011.



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## Coalition works

From page one

has on the river, and identify feasible alternatives to cool the lower river to eliminate or reduce the thermal pollution problem caused by the dam and lake it creates. The thermal pollution problem is the area of highest concern in the operation of the two dams, since the 1950's, there have been four documented fish kills on the lower river. Additional concerns raised include flushing flows to improve habitat, minimum flow maintenance, siltation in the lake, and adverse impacts on aquatic life.

In August, 1993, the Coalition filed a Motion to Intervene in the relicensing process to obtain party status. Included in this motion was a request for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and a request for an adjudicatory hearing. The Coalition has been granted intervener status and an EIS had been required.

During the fall of 1993 and the early winter months of 1994, the Coalition participated in the public hearing phase conducted by FERC in preparation for the EIS. Hearings were in Bozeman, Ennis, and Helena.

The Coalition has retained expert consultants to assist in this process. Hydrosphere Resource Consultants of Boulder, Colorado, are looking at the thermal impacts on the lower river, flow issues, and a computer model that would predict river temperatures assuming the absence of the Madison Dam and the Ennis Reservoir. Professor Tom Power of Montana State University is looking at the economic value of the river and the economic feasibility of various alternatives that have been proposed to cool the lower river.

It is anticipated that FERC will announce the scope of the EIS soon. The draft EIS is scheduled to be published in the spring of 1995 and the final draft is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 1995. If FERC does not include appropriate studies of critical issues such as the thermal problem and impacts on insect life, the Coalition is committed to fund studies of these issues so they can be made part of the record. The Coalition will rely on its consultants throughout the process to ensure that a complete and thorough review of the issues is achieved.

The individuals who are part of the Coalition are donating significant time and energy to this effort, all for free.

All of the legal work provided to date has been donated, local biologists and other scientists have donated their expertise in analyzing issues associated with river impacts, analyzing the report prepared by MPC consultants and in assisting in the preparation of documents submitted to FERC. Even with this extraordinary volunteer support, this endeavor is very expensive. In order to sustain this effort through to its conclusion, additional financial support is necessary.

On the immediate horizon the Coalition needs to pay for consultant work, administrative expenses such as postage, telephone, and copying, and needs funds to support any necessary studies. The work it accomplishes will significantly effect the future of the Madison River for the next several decades. Donating to this effort will hopefully be a good investment in great fishing in the future. Please help by making your check or money order payable to the Madison Coalition and mail it to Bud Lilly, 2007 Sourdough Road, Bozeman, MT. 59715.

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**Madison memories**

From page one

touchy about bait fishing for trout, but those were different times with different rules. I'd love to see the quality of fishing come back on the lower Madison so we could try it with all the wonderful new fly fishing gear and fly patterns. We fished with live salmonflies early in the season, and we often used sculpin, which were deadly. We did do some fly fishing, but in those days you adjusted your methods to suit the circumstances, and had no twinges of conscience.

Times were much simpler, and the only goal was to catch a big one and then another. If fly fishing didn't seem practical, we'd sometimes start with a big gob of worms, fishing with it long enough to catch a big sucker. Then we'd cut the sucker into inch square sections, with the skin on so the hook could hold it. We'd weight the line with a heavy sinker, throw it into a big hole, and wait. If you didn't hang on the bottom, you weren't doing it right. Often, we'd use a fly rod, because if the bait is moving along in the current, your control is better with a fly line.

Fly fishing gave us plenty of great moments, too, as flies were developed to match the local insects. As a boy, when I wasn't fishing I was playing baseball on the local team. Once, around the Fourth of July in 1946, we had a great game in Ennis. One of the guys on the other team was Jack Scully, now one of the long-time fishermen and businessmen. He suggested that as soon as the game was over, we should go down to the channels just outside of town and do a little fishing. So about four o'clock, we went down and sure enough, the salmonflies were out. Jack had a new fly that I had never seen before—the Bloody Butcher. I didn't really understand dry flies at the time, and I'm not sure Jack did, but we used six of these and learned fast. The willows along the river had salmonflies hanging down like bunches of grapes, so we would cast as far under those branches as we could and then hold on. We didn't worry much about keeping the fly afloat, as it didn't matter to the trout. And that was what we thought of as a salmonfly imitation until we saw the Bunyan Bug.

Norman Means, a Missoula fly tier, had developed the series of flies he called Bunyan Bugs in about 1927. They were wood-bodied flies with horsehair wings. The bodies were painted various colors, including those of the salmonfly. They recently became famous all over again because they were mentioned in Norman Maclean's book, *A River Runs Through It*, when he describes his first look at one; "I took one look at it and it felt perfect." Well, the trout felt the same way. They floated beautifully, and the fish couldn't get enough of them. I know they are being tied and sold again now, and would like to see if they still feel perfect.

Even in the 1940's the Madison hadn't really been discovered by the visiting anglers. Most were locals. Another sign of the times was the way we looked at some of our fellow fishermen. My father referred to them as "BB's," short for Butte bastards. Apparently he didn't like to see people leave their neighborhood rivers and crowd his streams. The BB's, who of course had just as much right to fish where they wanted as we did, loved the Jefferson up around Whitehall land through the canyon, but sometimes they'd leak down into the Madison and make my dad furious.

It might interest today's fishermen, who deal with much more crowded conditions, to know that half a century ago, we didn't always welcome other anglers either. In *A Trout's Best Friend*, I explained that we were so spoiled we considered the river crowded if we saw even one other angler. My dad used to complain that he wouldn't fish the Gallatin on Fourth of July weekend because he "didn't want to break off the tip of my rod on somebody's else's ass."

We also fished down below Three Forks, where the Madison, Gallatin, and Jefferson Rivers form the Missouri, and I'd fish the Missouri at Trident all night for ling and bullheads. The ling were so terrible looking they made you feel like you were eating a garter snake, but the meat was very flavorful. It just took a lot of bourbon to get you to try one.

After returning to Montana, I attended Montana at University at Bozeman. While getting a pre-med degree, which took some time and effort, I found time to fish the Gallatin or the Madison from the Beartrap to the valley.

The fishing during that time was very good. I used the wet fly methods I had learned from my dad, and it didn't really take much skill to catch fish.

Over the years, the fishing has deteriorated on the lower Madison. The salmonflies disappeared from the river below Bear Trap Canyon, and the water temperature continued to rise. The warm water during the summer months through early September has made it a zero fishery compared to what I remember.

The dam creating Ennis Lake appears to be the major factor in altering the river ecology over the years. It is my hope that by lowering the water temperature a few degrees during the summer months, the fishing can be restored. Year round fishing on the lower Madison would provide many more miles of quality fishing on the entire river, from Hebgen Dam to the headwaters of the Missouri, and spread out the fishing pressure. It would also bolster the tourism-based economies of nearby communities.

*Bud Lilly used to own Bud Lilly's Trout Shop in West Yellowstone and now lives in Bozeman with his wife, Esther. See the article in this issue about the Madison Coalition, of which he is part, a group formed last fall to work at restoring the lower Madison fishery.*

## Letters

From page thirty one

### Yes, Big Sky is trashed

From John Riley, Big Sky, MT. and Palo Alto, Ca.

Yes, as you infer in your well written article on subdivisions, January, 1994, Big Sky is trashed, and I am part of that, since my family built a second home there. It's for sale now. I may make a profit on it. It was not intended for that purpose— it was to be a place of peace and quiet, an escape from California. Now Big Sky is as trashy, if no more so, than many places in California, and it is a damn shame they didn't put the zoning and planing law in place ten years ago.

### Good luck, Bud

From Sam Jones, Salt Lake City, Utah

Thank God that Bud Lilly and the others are going to take on FERC (as you reported in your January issue) and push for the restoration of the fishery on the Madison River below Ennis, one of the most beautiful and productive fisheries I have ever experienced.

Hydro plants, ranchers, and crop irrigators are taking valuable water that the fisheries and wildlife need, and wasting it. There is enough water to go around if we conserve it. Recreation is an important industry and gives more people pleasure ever year— water has to be preserved for fish and wildlife.

### Wetlands opponents all wet

From the Montana Audubon Council, Helena, MT.

This refers to the report, "Protecting Montana's Wetlands: An Overview of Montana's Section 404 Program," Montana Audubon Council, October 1993.

It is relatively easy to get permission to destroy a wetland in Montana. Based on a new report by the Montana Audubon Council, 99.5% of the state's wetland-filling applications are approved by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Despite the rhetoric on how horrible wetlands regulations are, a 99.5% approval rating indicates that we need more protection for wetlands — not less.

This 32-page report is well researched, thorough and well written. It looks at why wetlands are important, Montana's wetland resources, how the 404 program works, and how the 404 program is specifically protecting wetlands in Montana. It analyzes in detail why only 9 out of 1,756 Section 404 applications were denied between January 1, 1989, and August 31, 1993.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is up for reauthorization this year in Congress. There are several pieces of legislation that have been introduced to reform the 404 program, including a bill introduced by Sen. Max Baucus. This report will help insure that any discussions about Section 404 are based in fact -- and not anti-environmental rhetoric.

The cost of the report is \$4.00, including shipping. Contact the Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624.

### Regulate visitor numbers to Yellowstone

From Al Katz, Helena, MT.

The time has apparently finally arrived for the National Park Service to face reality— too many people are visiting Yellowstone and other parks, and it 's time to regulate their number.

Regulating the use of public lands— especially parks, seems almost anti-American to many. But it has to be done. The quality of a person's experience is most important. The traffic jams in the park, which your publication has so intelligently and humorously covered, are a real distraction to the visitors and wildlife. I would rather wait a year or two to get in the park and know I will have a quality experience than go through another five hour traffic jam, like the one I experienced with my disappointed guests last summer. And as for snowmobiling— why not plow the park and let everyone enjoy it year round?

Perhaps this would spread out the visitors more, and there are plenty of other places for snowmobilers to go.

### But—is anyone listening?

From Paul Schubert, Twin Falls, Idaho

Your paper always provokes my thoughts, but I think your January editorial on biopolitics and the Idaho Fish and Game Department was particularly brilliant, probably in part because your thinking is very similar to my own. I, too, have found that it is not good to compromise, better to solve problems head-on with new solutions that are not concessions to opposing weak and faulty views, but elegant solutions.

This biopolitical way of settling wildlife, fishery, and recreation issues is resulting in the loss of water, earth, and sanity needed to conserve resources. And you are right on about emotionally based, reactive coalitions. But is anyone listening?

### Montana foolish to allow black bear hunting

From Clyde Wylie, Auburn, N.Y.

I am appalled that Montana is still allowing any kind of spring hunting of black bear (reported in your January issue) when they can prove that it leads to the orphaning of cubs and to the killing of grizzly bears misidentified as black bears.

Anti-hunters have ceased hunting of many species in states all over America. This give fuel to their irrational belief that hunting is cruel.

### Wants hunt in park

From John A. Elliott, Helena, MT.

We all know how the buffalo was nearly exterminated a century ago. How different things are today.

In Yellowstone Park there are several thousand. And they, along with the elk, are creating problems. They're wandering across park boundaries, infecting livestock with brucellosis. In addition to that the bison are attacking not only livestock but humans as well. What to do about them.

Over 20 years ago the elk problem was so bad that the National Park Service brought forth a novel idea to control them. It seemed that regardless of how many elk were shot each fall, they came back in even greater numbers the next year.

The NPS proposed issuing 1,000 elk tags at \$1,000.00 a piece— the idea being that the hunters would go into the park and by killing off 1,000 of these beasts that the number of them coming across into Montana would decrease. The hunters outside the park could keep the herds in check. For some reason the suggestion was dropped.

It's a great idea. We should revive it. Issue 1,000 elk tags and in addition, maybe 500 buffalo tags—all at the same price of \$1,000.00 each. Confine the killing to bulls, of course.

Some of the "animal rights" groups feel that all you have to do is go "shoo" and bang pots and pans and the buffalo will gently go back where they came from. Not so. Some people tried it near West Yellowstone recently and were charged. The beasts had to be shot.

Actually this suggestion, if followed, would prove an economic boost to the border areas surrounding the park. Anyone who spent \$1,000 on an elk or buffalo tag would spend much on plane tickets, rooms and meals, and everything else—and in so doing would render a great service to the livestock industry of the area.

One question arises as to what to do with the animals after they've been shot. The hunter, of course, is entitled to his kill. These are details that can be worked out. I will say, though, that the taxidermists would have a field day with all these buffalo heads.

Comments anyone?

### Thanks for help

From Mary Maj, Island Park, Idaho

I want to publicly thank Ann Atchley, Margaret and Bob Hay and Dave Etwiler for their most generous assistance given to me after I had a snowmobile accident that pinned me in a creek for over two hours just outside of West Yellowstone. Ann and Margaret took me into the Lionhead Motel and provided me immediate personal care. Dave and Bob and other gentlemen retrieved my snowmobile and loaded it into my vehicle. Margaret and Bob then insisted on driving me home. As with many accidents we try to reflect back on the valuable lessons one can learn from a trial of sorts. The most valuable lesson I learned was of the unlimited generosity people like Ann, Margaret, Dave, Bob and others are so willing to provide...even to a complete stranger. I can never repay these people for their help but can only hope given the same chance I would be as caring and helpful to another in need. There were 4 gentlemen who originally found me and pulled me out of the creek. I don't know who they are, but hope they see this letter and know of my tremendous appreciation for their help. They saved my life.



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Cover photo: A hefty haul on the Madison, with artificial English tied flies during the salmon fly a hatch. Judge Jim Siefert, Ed Avery, Clarence Buckey, 1920's or 30's. Photo provided by Pat Barnes, taken by his father.



May 1994



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**Bud Lilly's Madison River Memories**

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**Pullout Map of Yellowstone**

**Yellowstone Park Memories**

**Realistic Look at Recycling**

**Moonbows**