

Roadless canyon wilderness endangered

CHIEF JOSEPH'S HOMELAND THREATENED: Less than 100 years ago Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce tribe called the Wallowa Valley home. Many of them wintered in the big canyon country north of Enterprise, along Joseph Creek, where Chief Joseph was born.

Today, nearly 30,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land still remains as wild as it was when Chief Joseph roamed these pristine canyons. This unique, undisturbed area is critical winter range for Rocky Mountain elk and is the last undeveloped area along Joseph Creek.

A local northeastern Oregon conservation group, Maintain Eastern Oregon Wilder-

ness (MEOW), have proposed that the Joseph Canyon roadless area be protected as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Until recently the forest service has had the foresight to save this spectacular area. But now their outlook has changed, MEOW says, and the future of the roadless wilderness area is apparently in jeopardy.

The north slope stands of timber, critical to elk for thermal cover during winter, are marginal timber sites at best. MEOW organizers claim that plans are being made to build roads into the area and log these marginal stands at a net cost to the taxpayer. Rather than manage the area for the resource it produces best (elk), this plan would result in loss of elk habitat as well as further erosion of the local economic base.

Other wildlife and watershed values are high in the Joseph Canyon roadless area. Black bear are found in timbered areas and cougars are not uncommon. Mink, muskrat, beaver, river otter and racoons make their homes along the larger streams, most of which support steelhead and resident trout.

By E.G. WHITE-SWIFT
Of the Emerald

Golden and bald eagles are abundant in the area. Goshawks, Cooper's hawks and sharp-shinned hawks nest in the conifer thickets along Swamp and Davis Creeks. Blue grouse, ruffed grouse and chukars are numerous. Great grey owls are currently subjects of research on the Wallow-Whitman forestland.

If you are an Eagle Cap Wilderness fan or have enjoyed the Joseph Canyon roadless area, this is the time to become involved, as the forest service will be making their decisions soon.

For the forest service viewpoint, write Al Oard, Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, P.O. Box 907, Baker, Ore. 97814.

For the Maintain Eastern Oregon Wilderness viewpoint, write MEOW, "Winding Waters Chapter, Route 1, Box 157, Enterprise, Ore., 97828 (426-3096).

EPA WITHDRAWS FROM KAB: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Russell Train notified Keep America Beautiful recently that the agency was withdrawing from the organization's national advisory council.

Train's announcement was prompted by a recommendation from Roger Strelow, EPA's assistant administrator for air and waste management. Strelow had recommended that "EPA should withdraw immediately from participation in KAB until



and unless its position of lobbying in opposition to beverage container legislation is reversed."

EMERGENCY 1080: The old red, white, and blue Army wants to use the chemical compound "1080" to kill ground squirrels at Fort Ord, Camp Roberts and Hunter-Liggett Military Reservations in California to combat an alleged threat of bubonic plague.

Use of this dangerous toxicant and other poisons on federal lands was banned by executive order in 1972. The Army is seeking an emergency exemption from that order, although no cases of the plague have been reported at the bases.

The Army contends that because of high squirrel populations, inevitably there will be a plague. However, environmental groups say the Army had not seriously considered alternative measures to deal with the problem and have requested that the Army prepare an environmental impact statement before any program is undertaken. They fear that if the use of a restricted chemical, in this case Compound 1080, is allowed, it might trigger a flood of requests from agricultural interests to reinstate widespread use of the poison.

HIKES PLANNED: The Obsidians, outback-packers from way back, are planning two hikes this weekend. A six-mile hike about Bear Mountain south of Eugene will be led by Obsidian Lee Hatch Sunday. Also Sunday, the Obsidians are planning a spur-of-the-trail hike somewhere in the upper-Mohawk Valley. As they drive through the valley, they will find the trail that "looks good" for the weather.

The Sierra Club is planning a 17-mile hike Sunday into the Hardesty Mountain and June Mountain areas. Call 686-5014 for more information.

SOLAR CELLS CHEAPER: At noon on a sunny day, an array of solar cells a little more than one square foot in area can generate about 10 watts of electric power — enough to operate a small TV set.

Once installed, the cells produce essentially free electric power, but the high initial cost prevents them from being generally competitive with other forms of energy.

The Energy Research and Development

Administration (ERDA) recently announced a 26 per cent drop in the cost of solar cells, from \$21 a watt to \$15.50, over a six-month period. ERDA's goal is 50 cents a peak watt by 1986.

ERDA also announced plans for installing 60 kilowatts of solar cells on a remote island to supplement the existing power station at an existing facility. The location for the test has not been chosen yet. The solar system will be integrated with the existing system to measure the capabilities of solar under field conditions.

ELECTRIC FENCE FIRES — Illegal electric fence controllers are being sold throughout Oregon reports the State Department of Forestry. These illegitimate devices are responsible for forest and grass fires in the state because of their overly long electrical impulses.

Nineteen fires resulted from the fences in 1975 on lands protected by the forestry department. In addition, 60 electric fence-caused blazes were reported to municipal and rural fire departments that same year.

The only legal electrical fence controls are those authorized by the Underwriter's Laboratory, the Canadian Standards Association of the Factory Mutual. It is against the law to sell any controls without the approval of one of these organizations, however, they are being found on the shelves of department and farm stores throughout Oregon.

Persons using unauthorized fences may be charged for fire control costs if the fence starts a blaze spreading to state-protected lands, asserts Leo Wilson, department of forestry fire prevention director.

Council accredits Social work degree

A University program leading to a bachelor's degree in social work was recently accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Granted through November, 1977, the accreditation is the initial one for the program, which is newly identified as a separate degree offering in the Wallace School of Community Service and Public Affairs (CSPA).

According to Carmelita Thomson, visiting assistant professor in CSPA, there are approximately 25 designated social work majors, "but many more students are enrolled in work classes."

The program, which Thomson described as designed to train students in "the helping professions," includes courses in casework methods, group work methods, child welfare services and community organization, as well as research and field experience. It employs four full-time faculty members plus "adjunct instructors who teach one or two classes," Thomson explained.

Nunc aut nunquam*

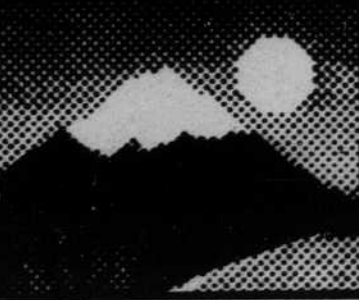
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