

# week in review

In the city, state

## *Indians, conservationists hail Orme decision*

Interior Secretary James Watt on Thursday directed the Bureau of Reclamation to go ahead with plans for construction of the Waddell Dam alternative to Orme Dam and to approve Central Arizona Project water allocations to Indian tribes.

The news of the Watt's decision on the Waddell Dam alternative brought a sigh of relief from the Fort McDowell Indian Community and environmental groups that had fought the Orme Dam proposal.

The alternative calls for construction of a new Waddell Dam on the Agua Fria River, building Cliff Dam downstream of Horseshoe Dam on the Verde River and reconstructing Stewart Mountain Dam and raising Roosevelt Dam, both on the Salt River. The total cost is estimated at \$746 million.

"I am quite happy," said Joanne Enos, a Fort McDowell tribal council member.

Because of the decision, Enos said the community will proceed with its development projects, including the clearing of fields near the Verde River for jojoba and wheat planting.

The community had fought long and hard against the Orme Dam because it would have inundated 17,000 of the community's 25,000 acres, including most of the homes and all of the prime farm land.

Bob Witzeman, a spokesman for the Maricopa Audubon Society, said he is "delighted that Watt has chosen the non-Orme option."

"But we are greatly concerned because plan six contains the very destructive Cliff Dam, when in fact flood control could be provided at a small fraction of plan six's cost simply by installing a flood control outlet in the rebuilt Roosevelt Dam and flood-proofing the few structures still in the flood plain."

Bob Stump, a Democrat who has said he'll run as a Republican in the next election, said he remained convinced that Orme Dam is the best possible choice for flood control and should be built.

"Any other decision will come back to haunt us," Stump said.



Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., hailed the signing as an assurance the project will be completed "and that there won't be a big intrastate fight."

Rep. John Rhodes, R-Ariz., said he was "overjoyed" and was "in 100 percent agreement" with Watt's decisions.

Not all of the Arizona delegation was pleased by Watt's actions, however. Rep.

ASU .. 24

Oregon ..... 0

UofA ..... 13  
USC ..... 10

Notre Dame ..... 13  
Florida St. .... 13

Alabama ..... 13  
S. Mississ. .... 13

UNLV ..... 45  
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NAU... 17

UNev. Reno .. 34

displayed at Mesa Museum.

won by an unknown Frenchman.

Family Weekly  
Color comics  
Late news

# Sunday Tribune

Serving Mesa and the East Valley

50¢

Vol. 33, No. 254 A COX NEWSPAPER MESA, ARIZONA SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 11, 1981 168 pages

## Orme proves 'little' people can win



By MIKE TULUMELLO  
Tribune staff writer

Don't tell Carolina Butler one person can't make a difference in this complex, computerized, bureaucratic world.

Butler, a 47-year-old Scottsdale housewife, has had a cause for the past nine years: defeating the proposed Orme Dam, a half-billion dollar water project that would flood the Fort McDowell Indian community, a reservation populated by one of the smallest tribes in the world, the Yavapai.

At various times, the dam — proposed for the confluence of the Salt and Verde rivers northeast of Mesa — was advocated by virtually every major politician, business and farming interest in Arizona.

A mystique seemed to grow around it, with some even arguing the Valley's future depended on Orme. Undoubtedly, it became one of the most debated environmental, social and developmental issues in local history.

Butler was among a group of dissidents, people who argued there must be a better way to provide flood control and water storage. They spent thousands of hours of arduous research, persistent publicity-hawking and speaking in feisty defiance of those who said only Orme would do.

There was no compensation. Not a nickel, and at times, little to encourage them they would win.

Until now.

Political support for Orme has crumbled in recent weeks, and even the dam's most ardent backers concede the project appears dead.

Instead, community leaders have rallied around a plan that includes building a new Waddell Dam west of Phoenix to perform the same func-

Page A9: No Orme

Kimberley Williams, Dr. Bob Witzeman, Carolina Butler, Frank Welsh and Norman Austin wade in the confluence of the Salt and Verde Rivers, site of Orme Dam.

Photo by John Wainwright

# Crops for Dry Areas

The National Audubon Society's senior vice president, M. Rupert Cutler, has made what many would consider a shocking proposal. He proposes scrapping the Central Arizona Project, a vital water supply undertaking which is at last being achieved after decades of effort.

Cutler's argument is that it is folly — "insane" is the word he uses — to spend huge sums pumping water into an arid region where cotton growers will be among the prime beneficiaries. Says he: "There's no reason why the cotton industry can't move back to the Southeast, where there's a surplus water supply."

16 Scottsdale (Ariz.) Daily Progress Saturday, Dec. 12, 1981

## Group cites tax waste as main CAP complaint

By KEITH BAGWELL  
Progress Staff Writer

Opposition to the Central Arizona Project by the National Audubon Society not only is an effort to preserve eagles, but it is also an attempt to save taxpayers' money, the society's senior vice president says.

"Of all the taxpayers' subsidies of non-economical hydropork water projects, the National Audubon Society is citing . . . perhaps the one with the most far-reaching negative consequences is the CAP," said M. Rupert Cutler.

Cutler, who was in the Valley this week to speak to the National Association of Manufacturers, told the *Scottsdale Daily Progress* the CAP would destroy immediately many miles of the streamside habitat of rare wildlife species, dumping

water into "unnneeded reservoirs."

The CAP's diversion of Colorado River water now used by cities in the Los Angeles area will encourage Southern Californians to turn to other water sources important to fish and wildlife, he said.

He said Southern California already has plans to tap the waters of Northern California and Oregon that will affect "all of the wild coastal streams" in the area "and will result in the destruction of America's last specific salmon runs.

"And all because we didn't face up today to the fact that cotton and hay farming do not belong in the desert."

Cutler said there is plenty of water in Central Arizona for domestic and industrial use and that the CAP only "will subsidize cotton and alfalfa agri-business which (otherwise)

D4

Friday, December 11, 1981

The Arizona Republic

## Group urges dumping of CAP

### Cotton industry should leave West, Audubon Society says

By Mary A.M. Perry  
Republic Staff

The Central Arizona Project should be scrapped immediately, a National Audubon Society spokesman said Wednesday.

M. Rupert Cutler, senior vice president of the society, said the CAP just will add to unnecessary water projects that subsidize water costs for the agricultural community.

"Cheap water. That's why cotton is grown in the West, where water is so limited," Cutler said in an interview before appearing at the National Association of Manufacturers natural-resources committee meeting at The Pointe resort in Phoenix.

"There's no reason why the cotton industry can't move back to the Southeast, where there's a surplus water supply," Cutler said.

The CAP is typical of "bureaucratic waste" and the product of an "obsolete" federal group — the Bureau of Reclamation — Cutler said. He added that the bureau "opened up the West," but "their

job is done, and they should stop adding negative economic projects" to the national budget.

"We still need some water-development and flood-control projects, but the (Army) Corps (of Engineers) can handle those jobs," he said.

The first of Arizona's 2.8 million-acre-foot Colorado River allotment is scheduled to begin flowing through the CAP aqueduct into the Phoenix area in 1985 and into the Tucson area by 1989.

"It's so insane," Cutler said. "It takes energy to pump this (CAP) water up 2,000 feet into a desert area to support a water-consuming crop (cotton).

"Texas is looking at the Missouri River; California is looking at the Columbia River; everyone wants to bring water thousands of miles for agriculture when there's already enough for the urban community."

As former assistant secretary of agriculture during the Carter administration, Cutler ordered research on crops that have a low water consumption for use in the West, he said.

Some advances have been made with guayule and jojoba, rubber- and oil-producing plants that are drought resistant and grow well in arid climates, he said.

would have to relocate back East where it came from.

"If we make agriculture here (in Central Arizona) pay the going rate for water — the rate manufacturers have to pay — it wouldn't be here but in Kansas or Ohio or Louisiana or some other well-watered and more economically and ecologically sound location."

Cutler said the CAP has a negative cost-benefit ratio and one of the reasons is because it is being financed by federal government loans at 3 percent interest while the government must borrow money at more than 10 percent interest. It also uses considerable amounts of electricity to raise the Colorado River water more than 2,000 feet as it is transported across the state.

Before joining the Audubon Society in

August, 1980, Cutler was assistant Agriculture Secretary in charge of the U.S. Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service in the Carter administration and before that taught at Michigan State University.

He said the society finds Reagan's policies on environmental issues "unreasonable. And dead wrong, up and down the line, on energy."

The administration, basically, wants to rely on increased subsidies for nuclear power and for oil, coal and synthetic fuel development while cutting back on the country's modest programs to promote conservation and the use of renewable energy sources.

The society's position, Cutler said, is the

direct opposite, but is based on information collected from all available sources.

"We favor a policy that stresses conservation and reduces the importance of nuclear power, phasing it out by the year 2,000.

"By that year, 25 percent of our energy could come from renewable sources — solar, wind, biomass and hydroelectric."

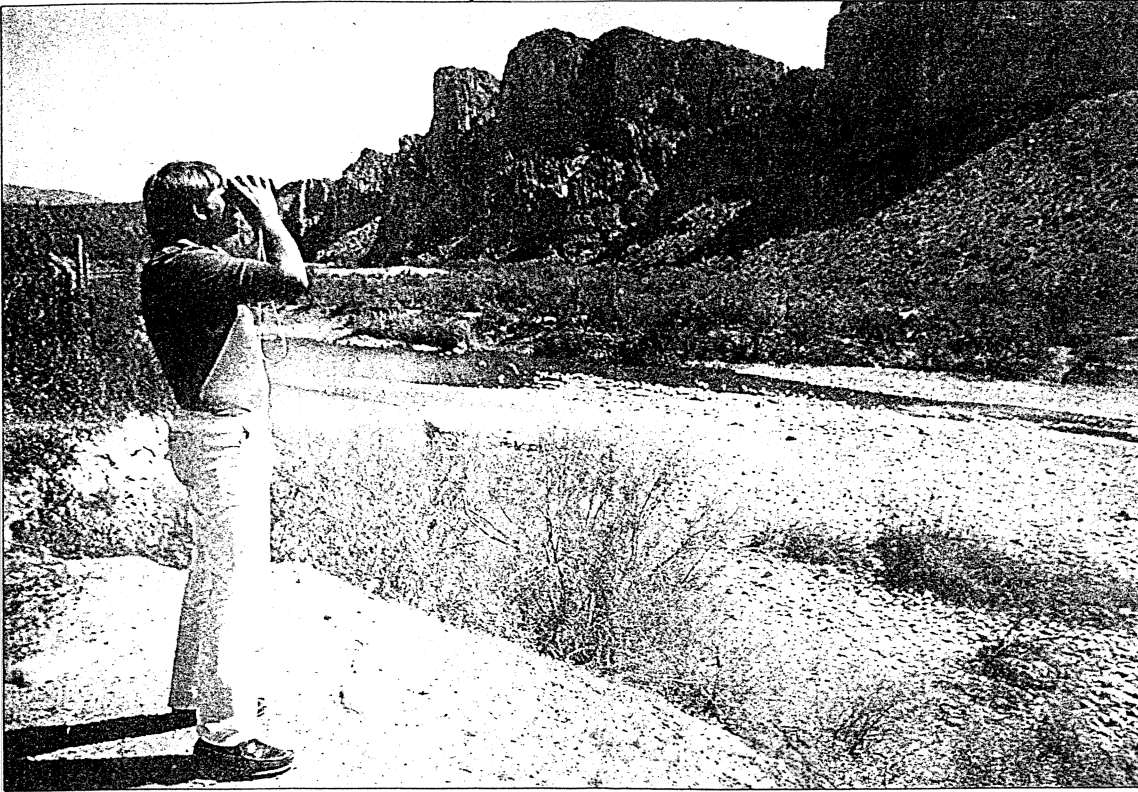
Cutler said current government energy policy is causing air and water pollution, the overcutting of timber, the overgrazing of range lands, and the destruction of wetlands.

"But the natural environment and the economy are interdependent. In the long run, there can't be a healthy economy unless there is a healthy environment support it," he said.

**NAS' Rupert Cutler hits the nail on the head about the CAP**

# Leisure

Mesa Tribune, March 14, 1982



Scott Burge scans the cliffs of the Salt River trying to catch sight of a bald eagle.

(President MAS)

Scott Burge, MAS President

Arizona Republic, Jan. 20, 1982

## The Colorado And The Future

Editor:

The recent review of Philip Fradkin's book on the Colorado River by *The Republic's* senior editor Frederic Marquardt was most enlightening.

Mr. Marquardt's statement that the southwest will not follow the ancient Sumerian civilization into oblivion is certainly backed up by the facts. Herman Kahn's 1979 "Arizona Tomorrow" study shows our present water supply is sufficient for a population larger than California's.

Yet, for decades, *The Republic* has told us we need the Central Arizona Project (CAP) because of our growing population and our groundwater subsidence.

Yet your editor still clings to that albatross, noting that we will take the water Southern California is now using. He declares that in addition the river will need to be augmented. Paradoxically, this would back up author Fradkin's point that the river is overused — a point Mr. Marquardt disagreed with! Kahn's figure allows for Arizona's full growth without river augmentation or the CAP.

The editor makes light of the author's criticism of federal subsidies for the river's development. He would do well to read the article by another *Republic* editor, Pat Murphy, entitled, "America's Downfall: the Generation of Gimme, Gimme," which decries subsidies.

CLEMENS TITZCK

(Past-President MAS) Phoenix

March 14, 1982 Mesa Tribune

# Preserving a treasure

Birdwatchers catch  
a glimpse of eagles  
nesting near river

STORY BY PAT McELFRESH  
PHOTOS BY PETER ENSEBERGER

**W**e stood in the afternoon sun on the sandy bank of the Salt River, not far from where 20,000 people put in afternoons of tubing.

I gazed intently at the 30-foot cliffs, trying to sight America's national symbol, the bald eagle. My guide was Scott Burge of Tempe, president of the Maricopa Audubon Society. He had told me that central Arizona was rich in this natural treasure, having at least seven or eight nesting pairs. We were searching for a nest spotted just a year ago by Dr. Charles A. Saffell, a Mesa physician and bird-watcher.

Our mission was prompted by 1982 being the Year of the Eagle and this week's designation as National Wildlife Week with the theme "We Care About Eagles."

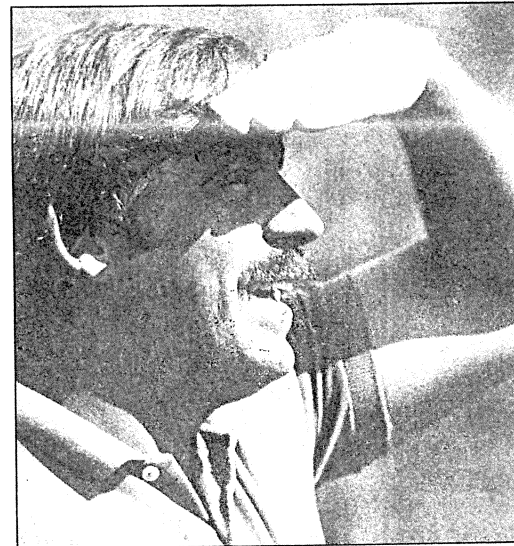
"There's the cliff," said Burge. "Now, I hope you don't tell anyone about this. We're trying to keep the location of the nest a secret so no one threatens the eagles by climbing near it." He added that wardens were guarding this nest and others in the Valley, armed with federal game protection laws to deter malicious activity.

Burge focused a 25-power telescope on the cliff's edge. Even then, the nest was difficult to spot. I finally saw it — six or seven feet of small branches across the cliff ledge.

"We know there are eggs in the nest and there's probably an adult on it right now," Burge said. "But I don't know if we'll see him or her. Sometimes they stay way down inside the nest. If the mate approaches the nest from the river with a fish, he's very secretive, staying along the edges of the cliff until he reaches the nest. So I won't say we'll see one today."

I held high hopes as we kept watch for the better part of a half-hour. There was a jolting false alarm when an Air Force jet veered out from behind the cliff line. We both pointed and yelled, "There!" only to laugh at what Burge called "a gas bird." "USAF species," I added.

At 29, Burge has been president of the county society three years. As we watched and waited, he told me there were a record 14 fledges (hatches) last year, compared to a previous high of seven in 1978. Since 1976, the banding of eagles has helped provide a better record of living and breeding habits, he said.



At top one of American's treasures, the bald eagle. Above, Scott Burge, president of the Maricopa Audubon Society.

Bob Omart, a vertebrate ecologist and professor of research in the Center for Environmental Studies at Arizona State University, supervises a field investigation team. Right now there are volunteers on nest-watch duties at this and five other sites. "There are two chicks at Barlett Lake, eggs in nests up on the Verde and at Pinal Creek, Horseshoe Dam and Fort McDowell," Omart said.

"We are attempting to get the eagle population marked so we can tell where it's coming from and what their nesting and breeding habits are," he said.

"One thing we've learned is that not every pair nests every year. It makes sense from an evolutionary standpoint. They mature every five or six years and to replace each adult pair, which lives between 10 and 15 years, would not require annual nesting."

He said it is assumed that eagles are monogamous and mate for life, but select new mates when the original one dies. "The adults have a tremendous commitment to breeding. They spend nine months at it, leaving about July and then returning intermittently until they start refurbishing the nest again in late October or early November."

"There is a 35-day incubation for the eggs. The birds usually start to fledge in late May or June. They hang around the area with the adults for five or six weeks as they learn to feed. Then they make large flights and finally disappear."

Every new eaglet in the "crop" is banded before it leaves the nest, the work done while the parents are away foraging for food. Some are given color bands; others are fitted with transmitters.

It is four or five years before a young eagle gains the distinctive white head that prompted its naming, so some eaglets are outfitted with "dirty T-shirts," pieces of greish cloth attached by light shoulder harnesses that fall off within a few months, but until then aid spotting the fledglings.

"The young tend to disperse shortly after they fledge. They apparently wander around until they are mature," Omart said.

Burge said one problem of the banding program is that the eaglets don't come back to breed for at least five years, so the studies will take years to be definitive.

The bald eagle is listed as endangered in 43 states, including Arizona. The Bald Eagle Protection Act was enacted by Congress in 1940, but their numbers decreased rapidly in the '50s and '60s. This was attributed mainly to the widespread use of pesticides, such as DDT, which drained off farmlands into streams, rivers and lakes and were absorbed by fish.

In 1976 a special consortium consisting of the Bureau of Reclamation, Arizona Game and Fish, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and volunteers from the Maricopa Audubon Society was formed to pool resources to preserve this vanishing species. The goal was to set up management policies for water and other natural resources that would not endanger the bald eagle.

Duane Rubink of Game and Fish said central Arizona has the only nesting population in the Southwest. "We feel that this is a resident population, the nests occupied from January through June. Most other winter birds are gone by March."

Referring to the field study, Omart said, "One of the things we want to do is go into areas where there aren't any eagles, assess and improve them so we can create new nesting areas."

"We believe they prefer to nest along free-flowing rivers. That's probably due to food availability. It's easier to catch a fish out of a river in the heat of the summer, when the young are just coming off the nest. In a reservoir, the water temperatures go up and the fish go deeper."

## Eagles

MT/TDN, Sunday, March 14, 1982 C9

Continued from page C7

Burge recalled the years when the Orme Dam project was fought by the Audubon Society because of its probable impact on the eagle habitat. As conservation chairman for Audubon, he testified in Washington many times on behalf of conservationist interests.

"It's a real treasure that we have here, and people should appreciate it," said Carolina Butler of Paradise Valley, a staunch foe of the Orme project because of its impact on the eagles, Yavapai Indians, recreational tubing, natural resources and historical sites.

I was still waiting, hoping to see one of these rare treasures. I alternately watched the nest area and scanned the adjoining cliffs. Cars and trucks roared by on the dirt road behind us, raising clouds of dust.

Suddenly Burge exclaimed, "There's an eagle! Coming over the ridge to the nest! It's on the nest now and it's an adult bald eagle," he said.

"I missed it," I shook my head. "See how secretive it was," he said triumphantly. "I was here in late May last year and thousands were putting into the river when this male came flying up the river with a fish in his

talons. No one saw him."

He focused the scope on the nest for me and I saw a white head bobbing up and down. Suddenly the eagle was up on the edge of the nest. It spread its wings and lazily leaned over the edge, swooping low to the left, then catching a thermal to veer to the right before it vanished into the camouflage of the cliffs.

"Oh, that was exciting, it was amazing!" I exclaimed. "It was gorgeous!"

It was a very successful sighting trip, we agreed as we trudged through the sand to the car. As we drove back to town, we both marveled that such an extraordinary natural resource was thriving in this desert environment, and so close to the biggest city in Arizona, the ninth largest metropolis in the nation.

Truly a treasure.

Turn to page 3, Eagles

# Cliff Dam is considered \$300 million boondoggle

Editor:

Your thought-provoking Cliff Dam editorial compels comment on who the winners and losers are in this \$300 million boondoggle.

The *winners* are the bureaucrats who must keep building things to keep their jobs, and Salt River floodplain landowners. The latter would receive windfall profits converting their riverbottom land into commercial real estate at the expense of increasing Valley residents' property taxes and destroying valuable open space and greenbelt potential.

The *losers* are urban Arizonans who would be forced to pay for this monumental hoax.

The dam safety hoax: Just \$7,500 would protect the Verde dams from the 1,000-year flood. A nationally recognized engineering firm told the bureaucrats \$11 million would protect from the worst possible "Noah" flood — less than 4 percent of Cliff's cost.

The flood control hoax: Installing a 25,000 cfs outlet in Roosevelt, when that dam is rebuilt for safety, would protect the Valley from both the 100- and 200-year floods and

keep open all of our 15 floodproof bridges — only 5 percent of Cliff's cost.

The water hoax: 99 percent of Cliff's water would go to agricultural users who would repay less than 1 percent of the dam's cost. Less than 1 percent of its water would go to cities who must pay 99 percent of this \$300 million.

The Rio Salado hoax: Cliff would disastrously shrink the floodplain to a narrow (50,000 cfs) channel, which would inevitably result in the conversion of the floodplain to a hideous concrete-and-asphalt, Los Angeles-style nightmare. Lost would be an expansive (150,000 cfs) greenbelt of grass, trees and lakes, and recreational open space for biking, riding, nature trails, ball parks, picnic ramadas, etc.

Upstream Cliff would inundate six verdant miles of beautiful flowing water which is critical habitat for two of the last 10 pairs of world's only desert-nesting bald eagles.

SUSAN AHEARN, Vice President  
Maricopa Audubon Society

## Outdoor notes *Arizona Republic*, March 18, 1982

### Regional Fish and Wildlife post filled

*Arizona Republic*, April 15, 1982

Michael J. Spear has been appointed director of the Southwest region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Interior announced March 3.

Spear, 40, joined the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1973 as director for planning and budget and has been an associate director since 1978.

■ **RECORD TROUT CAUGHT** — Moe Beck of Glendale caught a 5-pound, 4-ounce brook trout at Lee's Ferry on March 6, breaking the state record for brookies by 2 ounces.

The fish, which was caught with night crawlers and corn, measured 19 inches long and had a girth of 15.5 inches. The fish, a female, was full of eggs and in a spawning condition.

■ **AUDUBON OFFICIAL VISITS** — Rupert Cutler, senior vice president of the Audubon Society, recently visited a Forest Service cottonwood-planting site along the Verde River below Bartlett Dam.

The cottonwoods, which will replace ones killed or stunted by grazing cattle, will provide nesting and roosting sites for many birds when the trees reach maturity.

### Future Restrictions On Irrigation Argued

Editor:

Your editorial "Frosty Sun Belt" refers to National Audubon Society's President Peterson's speech before the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition.

Dr. Peterson alluded to the West's real water problem when he states: "We have built great cities and irrigated portions of the arid West, and now seek to find still more water for energy development. The day of reckoning is near." The obvious conclusion is that either cities, irrigation or energy will suffer from a possible, future water squeeze.

Irrigation, which consumes 90 percent of the West's water, is the obvious candidate. A third of the nation's farmland is not presently being used to grow crops and most of this, almost 100 million acres, is in the East and Midwest, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If the free market is allowed to operate, energy and water intensive

irrigated cropland will gradually decrease in the West. This production will shift back to the East where the crops can be grown by rainfall, as they were before Washington politicians and bureaucrats used our taxes to subsidize their shift to the West.

The Southwest will continue to provide the nation with vegetables, which are highly profitable and water thrifty — and constitute less than 5 percent of Arizona's irrigated cropland.

Water is not a limiting factor for population or industrial growth in the West. Herman Kahn's Hudson Institute report called "Arizona's Future" stated there is enough water already in Arizona to support 25 million. Likewise, energy development, because it has a higher valued economic use, will find its water in irrigated portions of the West.

SCOTT BURGE  
President  
Maricopa Audubon Society  
Phoenix

Saturday, September 25, 1982

# Additional funding for CAP assailed by coalition of conservation groups

By Ben Cole  
Republic Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Additional funding for the Central Arizona Project came under attack Friday from environmental groups that want the House of Representatives to vote on water-project funding before recessing.

The House Appropriations Committee has cleared a \$13.6 billion money bill for public works and atomic energy for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1. It includes \$162 million for the CAP.

If Congress fails to pass the bill before going home for the general election, the projects will go forward under a resolution continuing their 1982 appropriations until the 1983 legislation is enacted.

Russ Peterson, president of the National Audubon Society, told a press conference at the Capitol that "congressional foot dragging would result in two more months of continued construction of some of the giant pork-barrel projects such as the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway."

The conservation groups also noted that the bill carries funds for the Clinch River breeder reactor in Tennessee, which environmental groups are seeking to halt through court action.

The 24 environmental organizations in the Coalition for Water Project Review want lawmakers to vote before going home so their constituents will know their record on the water and nuclear projects.

The coalition's list of projects it opposes includes the CAP. The group said "the bill contains the following brand-new authorization for the Central Arizona Project: 'There is authorized to be appropriated such funds as may be necessary for construction of distribution and drainage facilities for non-Indian lands.'"

Reclamation Commissioner Robert Broadbent told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee he expects the cost of the distribution facilities to reach \$550 million, but the Senate provided a limit of \$300 million in its bill.

The Tribune, Thursday, June 23, 1983 B.

## Foes clash over Orme Dam alternative

By John D'Anna  
Staff writer

Prominent East Valley leaders endorsed the Plan 6 alternative to Orme Dam Wednesday, while others criticized it. One environmentalist vowed a court battle if the plan went ahead.

These views were expressed in Mesa at the third and last public forum held by the Bureau of Reclamation to gauge public response to the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal. Plan 6 includes raising Roosevelt Dam, strengthening Stewart Mountain Dam and building two new dams, Waddell and the controversial Cliff Dam on the Verde River.

Continued from page B1

trusions by man, they would have done so by now," she said.

Her presentation, along with those of several other environmentalists, drew scattered applause from the audience of about 60 persons.

On the other side, John Geib, senior planner for Mesa's Community Development Department read a letter from Mayor Don Strauch endorsing Plan 6.

"The city of Mesa concurs wholeheartedly with Plan 6," he said, adding that "the need to protect our homes and property is vital."

Milt Lee, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Rio

Persons wishing to address the bureau's five-member panel were allowed 10 minutes. The panel will accept public input through July 28, but it must be in written form.

Herbert Fibel, a 21-year Valley resident and president of the Maricopa Audubon Society, vowed to go to court to stop the building of the Cliff Dam.

Fibel said the dam would ruin vital habitats and nesting grounds for numerous species of birds — most notably the bald eagle — that depend on the present environment along the Verde River.

He also said the sole beneficiary of the plan would be the city of Phoenix, which would be able to allow more

building in the flood plain along the Salt River should the proposal be implemented.

"I resent the use of my tax money to help people build in a flood plain," he said.

Mary Cosaboom, a member of the Sierra Club and Wilderness Society, said the billion-dollar plan "is a complete waste of public funds." She also criticized a bureau proposal to let eagles "adjust" to their newly created environment.

"There is a sellout being made where the eagles are concerned. If the eagles were going to recover from in-

Please turn to Dam, B2

Salado Development District, a proposed recreational and business community along the Salt River, said the plan "will present unprecedented opportunities, and that we must take advantage of them and make them work for us now.

"The Salt River gave life to the Valley, now we should give life back to the river," he said.

Ramona Ortega-Liston, a spokeswoman for Arizona Rep. John McCain, read a statement from him endorsing the plan, saying it would be in the best interest of the people of his district.

Speaking on behalf of Salt River Project, Reid Teeples said his utility also endorsed the plan.

# Foes of dam proposal promise fight

By KEITH BAGWELL  
Progress Staff Writer

A draft of the environmental impact statement on a proposed \$1 billion, three-dam project to replace the Central Arizona Project's Orme Dam is complete and will be subject to public hearings in June.

Citizens Concerned About the Project and environmentalists, opponents of the proposal, say they will appear and be vocal at the hearings.

"We have solved our 'flood problem' with 12 bridges and if nothing more is done, they (federal and state officials) will proceed with a dam safety study," said Frank Welsh, an engineer with the citizens group.

He said the Valley has access to enough water that, if it was used at Tucson's rate, would supply New York City's population. Instead, he said, Valley urbanites waste water as agriculture soaks up the overwhelming majority, and rather unproductively.

"Central Arizona water is a subsidy for agriculture, which uses 89 percent of the water to produce 2 percent of the income. And most of its crops are surplus (nationally)," Welsh added.

The Valley's current groundwater depletion, he charged, would be unnecessary if Salt River Project was allowed to send its water outside of project boundaries. SRP became the country's first reclamation project in 1903 and now has two branches, a private water users association and a public electric utility.

Tim Henley, a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation civil engineer, said the Orme alternative proposal calls for construction of a new earthen-gravel Waddell Dam on the Agua Fria River for CAP water storage, a new earthen Cliff Dam on the Verde River between existing Horseshoe and Bartlett dams and additions to or replacement of Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River. Minor improvements to Stewart Mountain Dam on the Salt for safety assurance also is part of the proposal, he said.

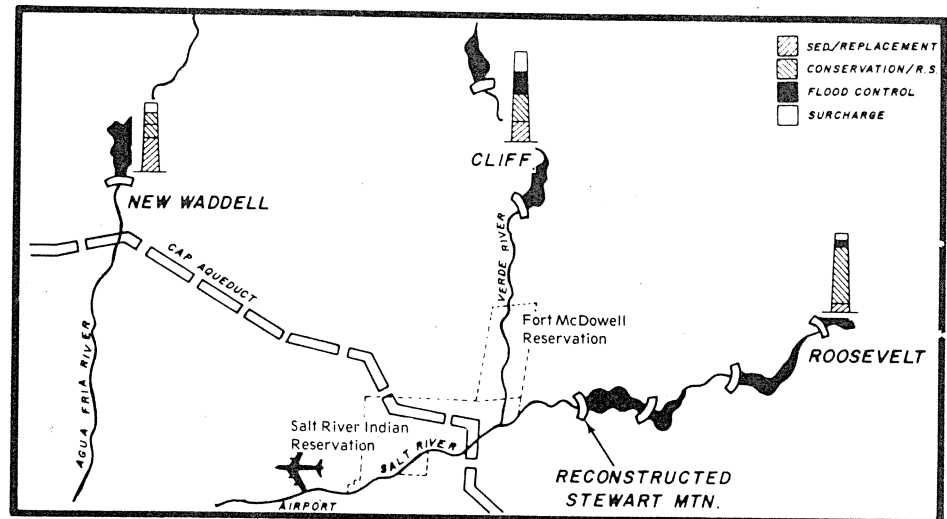
The new Waddell Dam, Henley said, would be built south of the existing version, creating a larger Lake Pleasant. The new dam is to be fitted with an electricity generator to offset partially the power use to drive pumps pushing CAP water to the Waddell reservoir, he said.

To the dismay of environmentalists, the proposed Cliff Dam would destroy the river habitat of rare Arizona Bald Eagles. Henley said plans call for construction work and later recreational uses to be restricted during eagle mating and nesting seasons.

Herb Fibel, Maricopa Audubon Society president, said, however, that the dam would destroy the handful of eagles that reside along the Verde.

"The eagles fish in running streams, not in lakes. They couldn't survive on lakes and would die or disappear," he said.

Fibel added that his group believes Cliff is an extravagant boondoggle to line the pockets of Valley developers.



"Cliff Dam is not necessary for flood control or water storage; it only would greatly narrow the Valley (Salt River) channel to allow much more development along it.

"The only benefit would be for developers and at tremendous public cost," he said.

Cliff would not flood homes as Orme Dam would have, Henley said. The new plan replaces the Orme proposal. Orme, at the Verde-Salt confluence, would have inundated most of the Fort McDowell Indian Community.

The proposed Roosevelt additions or replacement, however, would chase 300 to

350 homeowners, Henley said. Possible "mitigation measures" could reduce that number to near 50, he added.

Henley said public comments on the environmental impact statement will be accepted by the bureau until July 28. Public hearings are set for June 21 at 1 p.m. in the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors auditorium, 205 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix, and at 7 p.m. at Carl Hayden High School, 3333 W. Roosevelt St., Phoenix. There will be hearings June 22 in Mesa Community Center, 201 N. Center St., Mesa, at 7 p.m.

The target date for a final statement and U.S. Interior Department approval, Henley said, is December.



Saturday, December 31, 1983

## LETTERS

### Floodplain Development Defies Logic

*Editor:*

The Maricopa Audubon Society would like to reassure J.J. Casserly that we share with him a desire for practical, cost-effective, environmentally positive solutions to Arizona's water problems.

The society has long supported the Corps' Cave Buttes, New River and Adobe dams for protecting major portions of Phoenix from floods; the environmentally outstanding Indian Bend Wash; storing CAP water on the Agua Fria rather than at Orme; bona fide repairs to unsafe SRP dams, bridges and airport channeling; recharging surface water into the ground for later use; and to reduce evaporation, salinity, flooding and the groundwater overdraft.

For years, we asked that alternatives to Orme be explored due to its problems of cost, impact upon the Yavapai and destruction of irreplaceable river habitat and recreation.

A cost-conscious Washington and the 1978-80 floods brought many of these workable, common-sense solutions to reality. The Plan 6 proposal to store CAP water on the Agua Fria and legitimate repairs to Roosevelt and Stewart Mountain dams have never been opposed by us.

But the Cliff Dam part of Plan 6 has enormous economic, social and environmental problems, and the alternatives to that dam have not yet been studied. Just as we were told for years that there were no alternatives to Orme, we are now being told that there are no alternatives to Cliff.

Cliff Dam is touted for dam safety, water storage and flood control. But federal studies reveal

that safety could be had on the Verde for \$11 million without that \$300 million dam.

And Cliff would only yield a small amount of new water. By law it would go only to agriculture, not cities — and provide only enough water for 5,000 acres of crops in a state with 1,200,000 irrigated acres.

Phoenix solved its flooding with larger bridges, a channeled airport and a federal study showing that all private structures in the legal floodplain could be protected for \$20 million.

Installing a flood outlet while repairing Roosevelt Dam could narrow our 200,000 cfs floodplain to 150,000 cfs and avoid the "need" for Cliff. This would permit the Valley Forward-Corps-ASU 160,000 cfs Rio Salado version.

More dangerous would be the 55,000 cfs Rio Salado Development District version using the 300-foot high earthen Cliff Dam to "protect" the 50,000 people and their homes and businesses which they would place in "rescued" floodplain land. Neither plan protects its occupants from a flood larger than the 100-year event nor the possibility of the dams or earthworks becoming unsafe, silted or destroyed. Both forcibly relocate minorities and disrupt neighborhoods.

This metropolitan area has great promise for expansion due to land available both within the cities and in the outlying regions. It defies logic and good social policy to place intense growth in an area with flood liability when other suitable land exists.

SCOTT BURGE  
Maricopa Audubon Society  
Phoenix

## Programs

by Elaine Mayer

March 6, 1984, 7:30 P.M.

— Phoenix, Zoo

*The Bear in Arizona*, by Al LeCount, biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Mr. LeCount is a long time biologist with the Department and Arizona resident whose expertise on this subject should make the program most exciting.

April 3, 1984, 7:30 P.M.

— Phoenix Zoo

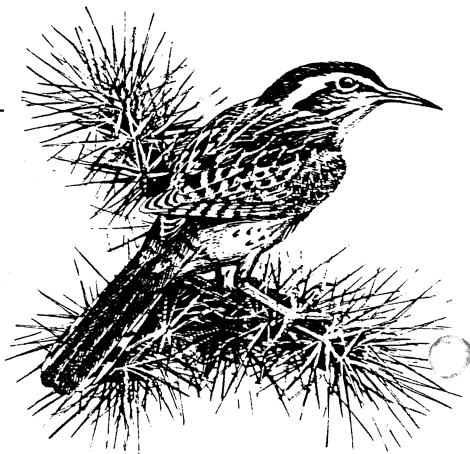
*Birds on Stamps*, by Anthony B. Anthony, publicity chairperson of the Society. Tony gives many programs to schools and libraries on the subject of wildlife on stamps. It should be very interesting.

May 1, 1984, 6:00 P.M.

— Spaghetti Company

*Annual Dinner Meeting*. Spaghetti Company, 1418 N. Central Ave. For reservations call Susan Ahearn 840-9446 or Herb Fibel 966-5246. Bring your four or five favorite slides and make the audience guess what they are or you tell them what they are about. Any subject related to Audubon will do. The annual election of officers of MAS will be held at the May meeting. Please indicate any recommendations for these positions to any of the Nominating Committee members:

Frank Baucom 838-1158    Jean McGrath 931-9444  
Glen Crane 985-8781



### Rocky Mtn. Regional Aud. Conference Boise, Idaho, May 15-21, 1984

The 1984 Rocky Mountain Regional Conference will take place at Boise State University. The mid-May timing is between academic sessions and at the peak of nesting activity at the nearby Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area. A wide variety of fun and informative field trips, including an all day float trip on the Snake River are scheduled. Addresses by Audubon regional staff and guest speakers, discussion groups, and workshops will concentrate on various Audubon subjects.

For registration details:  
Rocky Mountain Regional Audubon Office  
4150 Darley, Suite 5  
Boulder, CO 80303

Cover: MAS wishes to thank Susan Ahearn for the effective and pleasing cover and interior design changes of our new chapter newsletter. We hope you will like it. The next issue will return to the former, larger print size. The Cactus Wren, our state bird, was selected by the membership for the chapter logo and newsletter name. An Audubon chapter in New Mexico is now free to use the Roadrunner, their state bird. The Society wishes to thank member Myra H. (Styer) Messick for the cover of this issue and her field sketch on page 11. We also wish to thank all of the other wonderful artists, who have permitted the use of their artwork in our newsletter.

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January-February 1984

## Field Trip Schedule

February 22, Wed.

SALT RIVER. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at 83rd Avenue and the Salt River. Bring a lunch.  
Leader: Mike Carpenter (947-8641)

February 25, Sat.

BOYCE-THOMPSON ARBORETUM. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Arboretum, 10 miles past the Florence Junction on Highway 60. Bring a lunch.  
Leader: Rich Ferguson (993-7504)

March 10, Sat.

FLAGSTAFF. This trip will concentrate on the lakes around Flagstaff. In addition, to ducks and geese we should see Bald Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Denny's Restaurant at the intersection of I-17 and I-40. Please call Charles Babbitt if you plan to go.  
Leader: John Coons

March 14, Wed.

CANYON LAKE BOAT TRIP. Please make reservations early for this popular trip. Call Bix Demaree (992-2252) for further details.

March 17-18, Sat. & Sun.

ROCKY POINT (PUERTO PENASCO). Bob Witzeman will lead this weekend trip to the Sea of Cortez. This will be a great opportunity to work on shorebird and gull identification.

We urge you to obtain Mexican automobile insurance before crossing the border. You must also bring a birth certificate or passport. Motel accommodations are available in Rocky Point.

The trip will assemble at 8:00 a.m. each day in front of the Motel Senorial. Bring your lunch. Eating facilities are somewhat limited so you may want to bring some food. Notify the leader if you plan to go and for further information.

Leader: Bob Witzeman — 840-0052

March 28, Wed.

SUN CITY-YOUNGTOWN AREA. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Youngtown Pond at the Intersection of 113th Avenue and Connecticut Avenue.

Leader: Chuck Kangas — 931-6677

April 7-8, Sat. & Sun.

NEW MEXICO-LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN TRIP. We will travel to an area near Caprock, New Mexico, to look for the Lesser Prairie Chicken on its spring breeding grounds. We plan to stay in Roswell Friday night and leave for the Prairie Chicken site early Saturday morning.

If time permits we will spend Sunday at Bitter Lake NWR and Carlsbad Caverns National Park. For further information call Charles Babbitt — 957-1655.

Leader: Steve West

April 11, Wed.

ESTRELLA MTN. PARK. Meet at 7:30 A.M. at entrance to park. Bring a lunch.  
Leader: Herb Fibel — 956-5246

April 18, Wed.

SEVEN SPRINGS. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Microwave Towers at the junction of the Carefree Highway and the road to Bartlett Lake. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Pat Beall — 898-2157

April 25, Wed.

SUN CITY AREA. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Youngtown Pond at the intersection of 113th Avenue and Connecticut Avenue. For details regarding the area that will be covered contact the leader.

Leader: Chuck Kangas — 931-6677

April 28, Sat.

YUMA-IMPERIAL DAM AND MITTRY LAKE. We hope to find Clapper, Black and Virginia Rails. Least and American Bitterns are also possible. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Game and Fish Department office located at 3005 Pacific Avenue in Yuma. There are numerous motels and camping facilities in the area. For more details call Charles Babbitt.

Leader: Dick Todd

the Cactus Wren-dition

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**We change our newsletter from New Mexico's state bird (Roadrunner): MAS VP  
Sue Ahearn conceives the name "Cactus Wren-dition" (Arizona's state bird)**