

Tempe Daily News, April 30, 1985

## Political activists carry Audubon banner

From staff reports

John James Audubon, the founding father of the sport of birdwatching and the inspiration to generations of wildlife painters, was born 200 years ago in Haiti.

Audubon's legacy as both artist and naturalist is being commemorated with special exhibitions of his work in New York City, Louisiana and South Carolina, in addition to the issuance of a 22-cent Audubon postage stamp.

In Arizona, his legacy left its stamp seven years ago when the fight to preserve bald eagles' nesting area on the proposed Orme Dam site on the Salt River was won, in part by work done by the Maricopa Audubon Society.

Audubon still loomed so large as a popularizer of birds and their behavior 30 years after his death in 1851 that the fledgling bird-protection movement took his name for their own.

The National Audubon Society since has grown to 550,000 members, with more than 500 chapters nationwide, including one in Maricopa County.

There are perhaps 20 million birdwatchers in the United States today, according to the Audubon Society, ranging from the casual kitchen-window observer with a backyard feeder to the zealot who will travel to Patagonia, South America, for a rare sighting.

But more than looking at the birds, the Society is looking out for their welfare. And that includes some politicking that would have astounded the otherwise apolitical John James.

During a Washington news conference in March 1983, nine environmental groups, including the Audubon Society, attacked President Reagan's conservation policies and accused the administration of having "anti-environmental bias."

Russell W. Peterson, president of the National Audubon Society, used even blunter language, calling Reagan and his top aides "ecological illiterates."

In the national struggle to preserve birds' nesting and wilderness areas, Arizona has not been excluded.

In 1979, then president of the Maricopa Audubon Society Robert Witzeman testified at a Washington hearing and called for Congress to halt funding of the Central Arizona Project.

Today, a need for the 40-mile Rio Salado Project through the Salt River bed has been challenged by the Audubon Society, which operates strictly with volunteers and does not have an office. A recorded message is available by calling 829-0486. For membership information, call Pat Beal at 893-2157.

Scottsdale (Ariz.) Daily Progress Tuesday, April 30, 1985

## Critics blast Plan 6 as wasteful, greedy

The proposed Plan 6 array of new dams and dam improvements is a costly and wasteful taxpayer subsidy of dangerous floodplain real estate development, taxpayer and environmental groups charged today.

At a meeting of Gov. Bruce Babbitt's Plan 6 Financing Task Force, environmentalists with the Maricopa Audubon Society lambasted the plan's proposals for building an earthen Cliff Dam on the Verde River northeast of the Valley and raising Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River east of the Valley.

Those two projects would cost \$640 million, more than half of the total \$1.1 billion cost of Plan 6.

The society's Robert Witzeman charged the dam and dam improvement are for the sole purposed of making the proposed \$1 billion Rio Salado Project development possible, not for flood control or dam safety.

Herb Fibel, society president, charged the proposed use of federal Safety of Dams Act funds for part of the work may be illegal and will be fought by the local and national societies "with all our resources."

"We will not roll over and play dead . . . the Safety of Dams Act funds are to be used only for repair of dams that really need repair."

He cited a quotation by Wesley Steiner, state Water Resources

Department director, that Cliff Dam is needed only to reduce Salt River flows through the Valley to make possible a greenbelt of parks and lakes and commercial and residential development under the Rio Salado plan.

Frank Welsh, executive director of the taxpayer group Citizens Concerned About the Project, charged the \$3.2 billion Central Arizona Project, of which Plan 6 is an accessory, will return less in economic benefits than its costs.

The Carter administration, he said, estimated CAP will return 58 cents for every \$1 invested in it while an economics professor who studied the project estimated CAP will return 38 cents for every \$1 invested in it.

Central Arizona, Welsh said, has enough water without CAP, which is to bring Colorado River water by aqueduct 370 miles to three central Arizona counties, to support a population of 10 million.

Agriculture, he charged, will be the prime CAP beneficiary as it consumes 89 percent of the state's water. Yet, he said, farming provides only 3 percent of the state's income and has declined to the ninth largest industry here.

Also, he said, three-fourths of the crops grown in Arizona are those the federal government pays farmers not to grow in the other parts of the country.

# CAP-funding talks must consider eliminating Cliff Dam, groups say

Eagles' nesting places would be endangered, conservationists warn

By MARY A.M. GINDHART  
Arizona Republic Staff

The search for a compromise on Cliff Dam, which would destroy a nesting spot for desert bald eagles on the Verde River, barely had begun Wednesday when environmentalists complained that the deck was stacked against them.

Representatives of the Maricopa Audubon Society and the Sierra Club said they would not participate in negotiations unless state officials agreed to consider scrapping plans for the dam.

State officials are seeking the cooperation of the two groups in studies of local funding for Cliff and other dam projects in the Central Arizona Project's Plan 6, because federal officials have warned that any opposition to the projects would threaten federal funding.

"I'm interested in learning and would be happy to participate if there is a chance from the beginning that no Cliff would be built," said Rob Smith, Southwestern regional representative for the Sierra Club. "But there is no need for us to participate if the end result is that we are labeled 'unreasonable' because we oppose Cliff."

Jack Pfister, general manager of the Salt River Project, said that if there was no way to negotiate a compromise on building Cliff, both sides would be wasting their time.

## **The Sierra Club, like the Arizona and Nat'l. Wildlife Federation, has been a vital cog in the CAP dam opposition**

"I'll just report to the governor that the other side is not willing to talk," he said.

There was no resolution of the dispute at Wednesday's meeting of the Cliff Dam Environmental Subcommittee of Gov. Bruce Babbitt's committee studying Plan 6 local funding, but the two sides agreed to discuss the issue further at a session next month.

The National Audubon Society and Maricopa Audubon Society have promised to sue to stop the construction of Cliff Dam because it would harm the eagles. The groups also contend that the dam is not economically justified and is no longer needed for flood control because of flood-proofing carried out since floods of 1978-80.

Instead, they view the purpose for the dam as primarily to narrow the Salt River flood plain for the state's \$1 billion Rio Salado Project, a proposed development of private homes, businesses, resorts and public parks in and along the river through the Phoenix area.

"I seriously doubt there could be any mitigation that can change our position," said Herb Fibel, president of the Maricopa Audubon Society. Fibel will make a presentation for the society at the subcommittee's July meeting.

June 20, 1985

The Phoenix Gazette ☐

# Environmentalists, dam backers fail to agree

By Mike McCloy  
The Phoenix Gazette

Environmentalists and state water leaders sparred briefly Wednesday over Cliff Dam, agreeing only to meet again July 8.

"If we're here only to consider how Cliff can be built, I think we're wasting our time," Herb Fibel, spokesman for the Maricopa Audubon Society, said.

He spoke at a subcommittee meeting of Gov. Bruce Babbitt's Cost Sharing Committee on the Central Arizona Project.

The panel, headed by Salt River Project General Manager Jack Pfister, was named last month when Fibel threatened to sue the governor over a plan to send more than \$300 million in local funds to Washington to speed construction of Cliff Dam and other dam work related to the CAP.

→ Rob Smith, Southwest representative of the Sierra Club, joined

Fibel in requesting that Pfister's committee consider a cost-sharing proposal that does not include Cliff Dam.

"If all we're doing is mitigating a predetermined Cliff Dam, that's loaded," Smith said.

Neither he nor Fibel agreed to participate in further discussions, but both said they would present their concerns when the subcommittee meets again at Salt River Project headquarters.

The environmental groups are concerned about bald eagles nesting on a hillside that would be inundated by the Cliff Dam reservoir if the Verde River impoundment is built in the next decade as proposed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also is concerned about the impact of Cliff Dam on the endangered eagles, and has been consulting with Reclamation since last fall on ways to limit damage to the species.

# \$1 billion Rio Salado threatens eagle nest

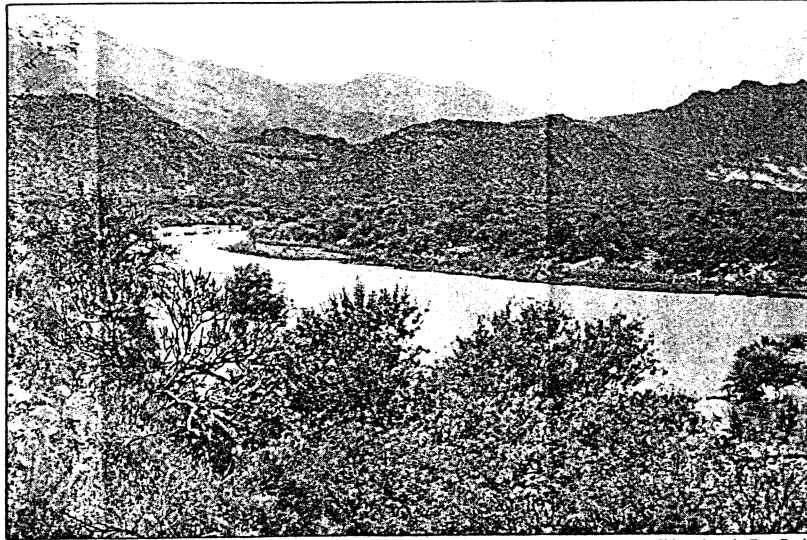
From Page 1C

camping, hiking, nature observation, picnicking, roller skating, jogging, soccer, fishing and tubing. An island would host an international exposition focused on water and its use, along with a hotel, high-density housing and a water museum.

The lakes, Bermuda grass and other water uses would gobble up 21,000 acre-feet of water annually by the project's 25th year. That is enough to support the daily needs of 100,000 people. But planners say the supply will be low-quality ground water or sewage waste water, not drinkable water.

Rio Salado's advocates compare it to San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, San Antonio's River Walk and San Diego's Mission Bay. They say it would fight urban sprawl and air pollution that are choking Maricopa County, and would unite north and south Phoenix, giving the city an identity it has never had.

They suggest it will help preserve the wilderness, by giving people a place to play in the city.



Citizen photos by Tony Davis

Cliff Dam would back up the Verde River to keep floodwaters from washing through Rio Salado.



ROBERT WITZEMAN

"You don't build Rio Salado and they'll go down the river tubing, disturbing the environment with beer cans," said Timothy Bray, executive director of the Rio Salado Development District.

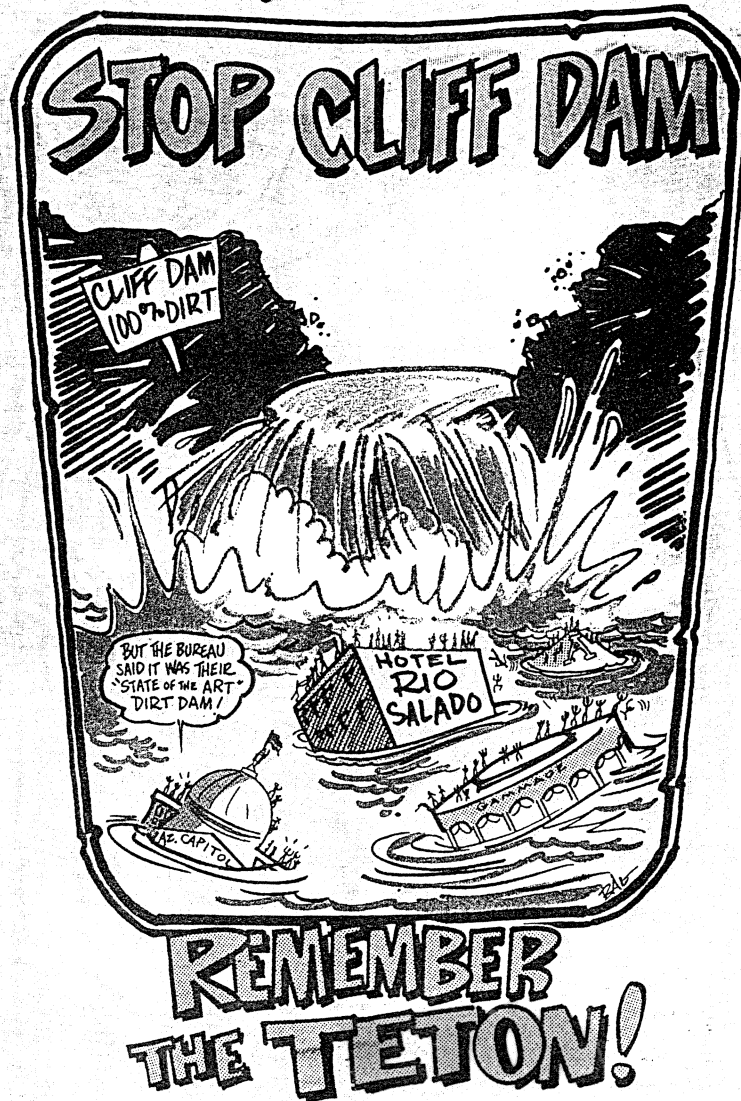
Teton" reads the shirt. A building marked "Hotel Rio Salado" is floating around the watery re-

mains. Like Idaho's Teton Dam, whose collapse in June 1976 killed 11 peo-

ple, the 333-foot-tall, half-mile-long Cliff Dam will be earthen. The Bureau of Reclamation's Steven Mag-

One of Witzeman's answers to this is a T-shirt. On it, water whistles through an earthen dam that is split in two.

"Stop Cliff Dam; Remember the



Tuesday, July 9, 1985

## Cliff Dam plan criticized; compromise sought

By MARY A.M. GINDHART

Arizona Republic Staff

Environmentalists, including Gov. Bruce Babbitt's brother, attacked the proposed Cliff Dam east of Phoenix on Monday but agreed to meet with state officials to see whether a compromise is possible so the dam can be built.

The environmentalists want to protect the two nests of the endangered desert bald eagle on the proposed dam site and prevent the devastation of one of the last remaining stream flows in Arizona. They also question the need for Cliff Dam to provide flood control.

Charles Babbitt, vice president of Maricopa Audubon Society, said the state's "most precious resource" would be destroyed if the dam was built because its lake would wipe out six miles of wildlife habitat along the Verde River.

"The public is being sold a bill of goods," he

said. "There is no way, in my opinion, to successfully replace the habitat upstream as is proposed. We could end up with a tiny, little, artificial cottonwood forest that in no way bears a resemblance to the thriving healthy habitat now there."

Babbitt and Audubon President Herb Fibel spoke Monday to the environmental subcommittee of a panel named by the governor to study how to use local money to speed completion of the Central Arizona Project's Plan 6 dam projects, which include Cliff Dam.

The subcommittee, headed by Salt River Project General Manager Jack Pfister, agreed to discuss possible solutions to Cliff Dam's environmental problems with the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and the Wilderness Society.

Pfister's subcommittee is trying to find a way to deter the Audubon Society's threat to

sue to stop the dam because of the eagles.

Cliff Dam is under study by the federal government and is the only dam in Plan 6 not yet approved. It would work with a modified Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River to provide flood control through the Phoenix area.

Fibel argued that since larger bridges have been built across the Salt River and communities and power lines have been relocated from the riverbed, Cliff Dam no longer is needed for flood control. Instead, he said, the dam would only allow development closer to the river as part of the \$1 billion Rio Salado project.

"I say once again that the flood-control aspect of Plan 6 in general, and of Cliff Dam in particular, are today spelled R-I-O-S-A-L-A-D-O," he said. "All other justification that existed have either been eliminated entirely or otherwise resolved."

C-6 Wed., July 10, 1985 ○ The Phoenix Gazette

## Babbitt's brother fights local funds for Cliff Dam

By Mike McCloy  
The Phoenix Gazette

Gov. Bruce Babbitt's brother Charles has joined environmentalists opposed to spending local money on Cliff Dam.

"I think we're being sold a bill of goods," Charles Babbitt, vice president of the Maricopa Audubon Society, said this week.

Speaking to the environmental subcommittee of the Governor's Cost Sharing Committee on the Central Arizona Project, Babbitt criticized the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's proposal to plant cottonwood trees upstream from the proposed Cliff Dam on the Verde River.

"This is a sorry substitute" for a plan to wipe out six miles of Verde River flow between the present

Horseshoe Dam and the downstream Cliff Dam site, he said.

The governor appointed the subcommittee, headed by Salt River Project General Manager Jack Pfister, after Maricopa Audubon Society President Herb Fibel threatened to take legal action against any cost-sharing deal that includes construction of Cliff Dam.

The governor has requested a resolution by Labor Day to send \$310 million to Washington, D.C., to speed federal construction of Plan 6, a CAP-related package that includes Cliff Dam and New Waddell Dam, and modification of Roosevelt and Stewart Mountain dams.

Fibel and Charles Babbitt joined Alma Williams of the Sierra Club and Jim Norton of the Wilderness Society in opposing Cliff Dam.



Scottsdale (Ariz.) Daily Progress Friday, July 26, 1985

## Environmentalists threaten suit

# Cliff Dam assailed at hearing

By KEITH BAGWELL  
Progress Staff Writer

The \$636 million Cliff Dam of the Plan 6 addition to the Central Arizona Project lacks clear legal authority and the Maricopa Audubon Society will go to court if it is not deleted, a member said Thursday.

Scott Burge, the society's conservation committee chairman, said its review of all CAP documents of the last 40 years show no legal authority for the state to include Cliff Dam in CAP funding and if it is made part of the project the society "will tie it up in the courts for years."

Burge's comments came during the only public hearing on a state plan to provide the federal government with \$310 million of "up-front" money to complete the \$4.6 billion CAP on a faster schedule than the U.S. Interior Department now has.

Most of a state Capitol audience of about 50 attacked the plan, created by Gov. Bruce Babbitt's Plan 6 Financing Task Force, which conducted the hearing.

Most criticism was leveled by environmental group members and opponents of the proposed \$1 billion Rio Salado Project in the Salt River bed that needs Cliff Dam to be built as planned.

The task force's plan aims to complete the CAP by 2002 instead of 2008 and assure that all of Plan 6's features are included in its funding.

The CAP is a 333-mile aqueduct system to take

Colorado River water from near Lake Havasu City to Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties.

Its \$1.55 billion Plan 6 adjunct includes:

— Cliff Dam, a new earthen dam on the Verde River northeast of the Valley that would flood the habitat of rare bald eagles.

— A \$595 million New Waddell Dam on the Agua Fria River northwest of the Valley.

— A \$319 million addition to Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River east of the Valley.

Arizona up-front money for Plan 6 is to be provided by:

— The Central Arizona Water Conservation District (\$175 million), a Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties body that collects property taxes to pay for CAP and is to get its Plan 6 money by selling excess electric power.

— The Maricopa County Flood Control District (up to \$60 million), which collects county property taxes for flood control projects and is to raise them for its Plan 6 money.

— Salt River Project (\$50 million), to get its Plan 6 money from water sales.

— The city of Phoenix (\$25 million), to get its Plan 6 money from water sales.

Burge charged that SRP's proposed contribution under the Safety of Dams Act is not authorized as planned and Phoenix' proposed contribution for water rights violates state water law and the state's Kent Decree, which governs Verde and Salt rivers water.

"The Audubon Society is trying to be reasonable . . . we will let you have it all (Plan 6) but Cliff . . . the most destructive part," Burge said.

Herb Fibel, society president, said it opposes Cliff Dam as "bad environmentally and unjustified economically . . . if you are not going to get me for taxes, you'll get me for higher water and electricity rates."

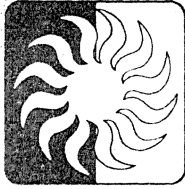
Arlene Phillips, a south Phoenix resident who said she would be displaced by the Rio Salado Project, said Cliff Dam's "main purpose is to make Rio Salado possible . . . I oppose using tax dollars for dams to help developers.

"I've lived there for a long time and I've never been flooded. You ought to use all this extra money for housing, jobs and other improvements for the poor."

South Phoenix resident Joyce Ward said, "I'm sick of paying higher taxes — first for CAP, then for Cliff Dam, then for Rio Salado. How long can we keep on paying higher taxes?"

Babbitt told his task force that it is to make its final decision on the \$310 million Plan 6 proposal at its meeting Aug. 15.

The proposal then is to be used by the state's congressional delegation for negotiations with the Interior Department for final approval or rejection of a form of the plan, he said.



# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## EDITORIALS

### EAGLES SAFE

## Sensible Move On Cliff Dam

**T**HE decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to approve construction of Cliff Dam was a reasonable determination based on prudent safeguards for a nearby nest of bald eagles.

The \$377 million dam would offer the Valley greater flood control and provide Phoenix with 16,000-acre-feet of water annually.

Interior Secretary Donald Hodel is expected to give final approval to build Cliff.

The Audubon Society, Sierra Club and other environmental groups are now threatening to sue the federal government to halt the project.

That is nothing new.

In fact, traced over the years, environmental opposition reaches out to grasp more and more straws in the wind of public opinion.

These groups opposed the original concept of Orme Dam at the confluence of the Salt and Verde rivers, claiming it would have destroyed scenic stretches of river.

When most people rejected that argument on the grounds the Salt and Verde were their rivers, too, the environmentalists groped for other preservation positions.

They reached out in economic and political opposition. Finally, they embraced the Yavapai Indians and insisted the dam would harm their lands and a cemetery.

The Audubon Society and the others are now trying more of the same. Their object is to stop the dam — the majority, local approval be damned. Their opposing views are a matter of

political and other convenience, not necessarily an environmental defense.

They have now embraced two eagles, cost-effectiveness and in-stream flows in opposing the Rio Salado Project. Cliff Dam would protect the big development — which they term a real-estate developers' ripoff of the public — from floods.

The environmentalists thus consider themselves the economic, social, political and preservation experts on Cliff Dam.

Yet, the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation have announced costly, long-term steps to protect the eagles.

The federal government has done everything it can over the past five years to allow for environmental objections. So has the local community. Orme Dam was abandoned.

However, the threatened court suits clearly indicate the environmentalists will never be satisfied. They aim to bury Cliff — no matter what the majority, local view is.

It is now incumbent on Gov. Bruce Babbitt and his advisory funding committee to offer an upfront funding proposal on Plan 6 to the Arizona congressional delegation and the Interior Department by the end of this month.

As agreed from the beginning, the full plan — offering greater local water storage and flood control — must be pursued with state unity.

The environmentalists may stall the building of Cliff Dam but, in doing so, they will have harmed some of their credibility and good will among the public.

And, in the end, they will lose.

**How wrong they were!** ↗

**Enviros in D.C. bring out the heavy armor: Charlene Daugherty (NAS), Ed Osann, (NWF), Peter Carlson (EPI), and many others**

The Arizona Republic

Friday, August 23, 1985

# National coalition formed to lobby against Cliff Dam

By ANNE Q. HOY  
Republic Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Seizing on congressional concern over costly Western water projects, four national environmental groups Thursday vowed to lobby against construction of Cliff Dam on the Verde River northeast of Phoenix.

The National Wildlife Federation, the Environmental Policy Institute, Friends of the Earth and the National Audubon Society have formed a coalition to oppose federal funding for the dam and plan to educate their members of its environmental and economic costs.

The national groups, which claim a combined membership of 5 million, join Arizona environmentalists who have threatened to take the issue to court to stop the building of the dam, which, they say, would harm bald eagles and destroy six miles of the scenic Verde River.

Renewed opposition to the \$385 million dam was spurred by last week's release of an environmental assessment that cleared the way for building Cliff Dam even though it acknowledged that the reservoir created by the dam would harm the breeding habitat of endangered bald eagles.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed the environmental-impact study for the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation, which has proposed building Cliff Dam as part of the Central Arizona Project's \$1.7 billion Plan 6.

In its report, the Fish and Wildlife Service said the loss of a

nesting site could be offset by habitat improvements elsewhere along the Verde and Salt rivers.

Calling the environmental-impact study "window dressing," Charlene Daugherty, legislative director for the National Audubon Society, said, "The eagles can be saved by not building Cliff, and we will work toward that end."

Ed Osann, director of the water-resources program at the National Wildlife Federation, said the National Coalition to Stop Cliff Dam will focus on persuading Congress to deny funding for the dam.

The environmentalists want Cliff Dam eliminated but do not oppose other parts of Plan 6, which calls for construction of one other dam, New Waddell, and the modification and repair of two others.

"As far as we are concerned, there should be no commitment of federal funds to Cliff Dam at all," Osann said. "Given the outstanding natural values and natural beauty of the site and the availability of an alternative, I am confident we can make a very persuasive case with the Congress.

"I think this has all the attributes of a major, national dam fight in the great tradition of Western dam fights."

Osann said Congress will be told that Cliff is essential to the proposed Rio Salado project to turn the Salt River bed into a residential, business and resort area.

He said plans to include a stadium as part of Rio Salado will

*Continued from A1*

be pointed out to members of Congress from cities that have had to fight to save their National Football League franchises.

"We would rather see the Arizona eagles stay where they are and not have to make way for the Philadelphia Eagles," he said.

Fiscal conservatives, critics of Western water projects and environmentalists will be lobbied to oppose the project, Osann said.

"I think there's a reservoir of political support for us to draw upon," he said.

Peter Carlson, director of Western water resources for the Environmental Policy Institute, said Cliff is of "dubious worth" and would cause "irreparable harm to valuable river and wildlife resources."

— Dam, A2

*Intends to Continue Society's Political Activism*

# New Audubon Leader Favors Fight Over Flight

By MARY ESCH, Associated Press

SILVER BAY, N.Y.—The new president of the National Audubon Society, Peter A. Berle, admits he is not much of a bird watcher, but leaders of the society say that is not crucial.

"Berle may not know the difference between a snowy egret and a great egret," said Chris Wille, editor of the new Audubon Action tabloid. "But he's certainly no babe in the woods when it comes to leading the good fight. I get the impression he'll be a real scrapper."

Berle, a former New York state assemblyman and environmental commissioner on Aug. 1 took the helm of the Audubon Society, leading its new emphasis on political activism and global issues.

**Challenged N.Y. Governor**

"He's an activist, A-No. 1," said retiring Audubon President Russell W. Peterson. "As I understand it, he was fired as environmental commissioner by Gov. Hugh Carey, because he challenged Carey on political and environmental issues. That's the kind of person we want, who would be willing to do that."

Peterson, 67, credited with transforming Audubon into a powerful lobbying group during his six-year tenure, retired to devote his full attention to writing, teaching and working on the issues he calls most critical: preventing nuclear war and stemming the world's population explosion.

The changing of the guard at Audubon comes at a time when other major environmental groups also have new leaders, including the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, the Environmental Defense Fund and the National Wildlife Federation.

**Manager for Managers**

Some editorials have criticized environmental groups for choosing business people, corporate types as their new leaders," editor Wille said. "They say we've left our roots, become a mellow mainstream movement. But our response is, we've matured—we have a nearly \$30 million budget, 175 sanctuaries, 250 professional staff members, regional offices in every state. We need people who can manage professionally."

Berle managed a staff of more than 2,000 and a budget of nearly \$1 billion as New York's environmental commissioner from 1976-79. His staff and that of the state Health Department uncovered the toxic waste disaster at Love Canal.

As an assemblyman from 1968-74, Berle led the floor fight to establish the nation's most comprehensive land-use controls for the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park. His Manhattan law firm handled the landmark environmental litigation that stopped Consolidated Edison from building a plant along the Hudson River in the mid-'70s. More recently, his firm won a class-action suit in which Union Carbide Corp. agreed to fit about 2,000 Long Island homes with filters because of pesticides in their water.

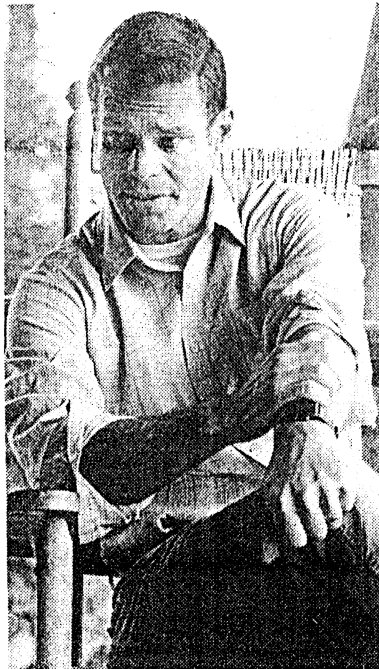
Berle, lean and athletic with a lopsided, boyish grin that makes him look much younger than his 47 years, divides his time between a Manhattan apartment and the family's 175-acre farm near Stockbridge, Mass.

**Active Family**

"It's subsistence farming," said his wife, Lila. "We cleared our own land, grow our own food, beef, poultry, wool." She said the family, with four children from 15 to 22 years old—two of whom are at Harvard, Berle's alma mater—spend their leisure time on activities such as rafting, backpacking, cross-country skiing and canoeing.

His goal for Audubon, Berle said, is to continue building its activist role at the local, state and national level.

"In the long run, I think we're going to see some major changes in the organization of the American economy," Berle said. "The smoke-stack industries are on their backs, the strong dollar and lack of investment have put us way



Associated Press

Tough activist Peter A. Berle, above, now heads the society named after famed naturalist John James Audubon, below.



and put their purple tents up. I don't think that's true. I think there's an increasing understanding that you don't have a choice between environmental issues and economic ones, that they're intrinsically linked. . . . you might save on specific environmental control programs here and there, but you'll wind up paying for them in terms of increased public health costs and so on."

Peterson transformed the 500,000-member organization into a powerful lobbying group during his tenure. It is the nation's second-largest environmental group, behind the National Wildlife Federation.

"My most important contribution within Audubon was to make it more of an activist group—what I was hired to do," said Peterson, rocking in a wicker chair on the boathouse porch of the YMCA's conference center during the society's biennial convention on the shore of Lake George. "We made one hell of a change."

"And the second thing I take credit for is getting Audubon to face up to global issues like overpopulation and nuclear war."

Audubon now has computerized lists of activists by congressional district. Its new tabloid, Audubon Action, is more issue-oriented than the richly illustrated Audubon Magazine. It has an expanded office in Washington, D.C., with staff members recruited for their expertise in environmental fields.

**Training Activists**

"We raised a million dollars one year that all went into a citizens' mobilization campaign," Peterson said. "We now bring groups to Washington several times a year for a week's training on how to be better activists."

"I built the annual income from grants and contributions to \$6 million. That's a sixfold increase over six years."

Some have criticized the society, Peterson said, for neglecting its traditional work of protecting wildlife and its habitats, in favor of new issues.

"That's not true," he said. "Today, we put 60% of our resources into wildlife work. The ecological staff for 29 years varied between one and two full-time people. It's grown to 24 in the last six years. The work to save the California condor is by far the largest project of its kind we've ever carried out."

Educational projects also have increased, he said, with a new youth program called Audubon Adventures and a children's television series starting on public television in November.

Peterson, of Wilmington, Del., helped develop Dacron fiber as a chemist for DuPont before he became Delaware governor and, later, president of the Council on Environmental Quality under the Richard M. Nixon and Gerald R. Ford Administrations.

**Attacks on Reagan**

A Republican himself, Peterson has battled the Reagan Administration over matters of environmental policy. He said he feared Audubon members would be offended when he started calling Reagan and former Secretary of the Interior James Watt "environmental illiterates."

Instead, he said, the members were overwhelmingly supportive, and the year after Reagan was first elected in 1980, Audubon raised \$1 million for lobbying in Washington—compared to about \$80,000 in previous years.

In a farewell speech to about 800 members at Silver Bay, Peterson enjoined the activists to "think globally while acting locally."

"We must give the birds primary credit for our mission," Peterson said. "They taught us, with some help from people like Roger Tory Peterson, Rachel Carson and Aldo Leopold, about the interconnectedness of all life with the air, the water and the land."

"But we must bear in mind," he said, "that all our work can be nullified overnight by nuclear war, or over the next decades by rampant population growth."



THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC September 3, 1985

# Cliff Dam: The battle



Michael Ging/Republic

An eagle circles its nest on the banks of the Verde River, which a coyote (lower right) crosses between Horseshoe and Bartlett dams. It is feared that the proposed Cliff Dam would ruin this habitat.



## Sides gird for congressional fight over place where eagles dare

By MARY A.M. GINDHART  
Arizona Republic Staff

The battle over the proposed Cliff Dam northeast of Phoenix pits environmentalists against the builders of federal water projects but ultimately may be decided by congressional opponents of water projects in the West.

National environmental groups have banded together to lobby Congress to stop Cliff's construction. They want to block funding for the dam, which will be sought from Congress for the first time next year as part of the annual appropriations request for the \$3.7 billion Central Arizona Project.

Cliff, which is one of the CAP's Plan 6 dam projects, has drawn the wrath of environmentalists because they

believe it is designed only to benefit Phoenix developers and would destroy a scenic stretch of the Verde River and threaten bald eagles, an endangered species protected by federal law.

"I get discouraged and ask, 'Why am I fighting a system with such a narrow, self-serving viewpoint?'" said Scott Burge, a member of the Maricopa Audubon Society. "Then, I remember that these people are wrong. Cliff Dam is not worth fighting for, but it is worth fighting against. We have the facts on our side. They have the politics."

Ready to join in the fight are congressional representatives from the East and Midwest who have argued that federal money should not be spent to subsidize U.S. Bureau of Reclamation water projects

that benefit only Western states.

"Arizonans are keenly aware of how the federal largess benefits them at the expense of the rest of the country," said Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Metzenbaum has been relentless in his opposition to funding for construction of Western water projects at below-market interest rates. He is considered a formidable foe.

Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt said he worries about having "to fight the Cliff battle in Congress, where the Metzenbaums are waiting for us, lurking for any chance to cut off our funds."

Rob Smith, representative for the Southwestern

regional division of the Sierra Club, said, "(Support for Cliff) should be a national embarrassment for our governor (Babbitt). There is no good reason to build this dam, and to suggest federal money should be used is unbelievable."

Arizona's congressmen, however, have no choice but to handle what former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall describes as the political "hot potato" of Cliff Dam as they negotiate for a local funding deal with Congress that would ensure completion of Cliff and other Plan 6 projects by 1998.

"My best guess," one longtime Arizona water official said, "is that plans for Cliff will be strung out until it,

— Cliff, B2



Arizona Republic, July 2, 1983

## Flooding Was Avoidable

Editor:

The flooding on the Colorado River is a terrible tragedy, resulting in human suffering and major property loss — and it could have been avoided. How fitting that the Bureau of Reclamation has just concluded its hearings on Plan Six, claiming flood control as justification for building Cliff Dam and Raising Roosevelt Dam, when in fact these dams have nothing to do with flood control.

Evidently, residents along the Colorado believed that the magnificent dams above them were adequate protection from flooding and built their homes and businesses on the riverbanks. Will we as residents of another river valley fall prey to similar fantasies and build in the floodplain of the Salt River?

(MAS Past President) CLEM TITZCK  
Phoenix

Arizona Republic, May 25, 1984

## Eagles May Protect Against Foolishness

Editor:

Your Cliff Dam-Rio Salado editorials may be overlooking something. Arizona's highly endangered population of desert-adapted bald eagles could be the protectors of a great many endangered Arizonans.

First are the 36,000 Valley newcomers who would unwittingly purchase homes in the Rio Salado development deep in the Salt River floodplain. Next are the hundreds of businesses which would also be located in that unpredictable and dangerous floodplain.

Earthen dams can be designed or operated incorrectly, become unsafe, silt-in, or burst. Even with Cliff in place, major portions of that real estate extravaganza would be devastated by a 200-year flood such as occurred here in 1891.

The Cliff Dam eagles would also prevent the destruction of close-knit, established communities of Hispanics and blacks living in south Phoenix. The adjacent luxury condos, hotels and golf courses of that posh real estate development would force them from their homes either by increased property taxes or eminent domain.

The eagles would save the endangered Arizona taxpayer \$1 billion in taxes for funding a real estate venture which uses taxpayers' money to divert Valley growth from safer, less costly regions. The endangered federal taxpayer would be spared \$350 million for a pork-barrel dam.

These eagles would prevent countless Valley residents from being endangered by the collapse of one of the highest earthen (dirt) dams in the U.S. The 338-ft.

earthen Cliff Dam, just 40 miles upstream of the metropolitan area, would be built by the same federal dam-building agency, the Bureau of Reclamation, which has had such a bad record with the very few earth dams it has built of this height.

Rio Salado endangers the rational coexistence of a community with its desert environment. It plans to use more water than a city of 100,000 upon its thousands of acres of Bermuda grass and ornamental lakes — and that's more water than Cliff Dam creates!

This comes at a time when laws are being proposed to limit grass and lakes in our desert. Bermuda grass is essential to keep the project's soft, sandy riverbottom berms and miles of artificial dikes, channels and excavations from washing out.

Recharging the Valley's ground water by the carefully planned release of wastewater or Salt-Verde waters could allow our dry Salt River to once again be vegetated beautifully and naturally. This would also reduce reservoir evaporation, water salinity and ground-water pumping costs.

Floodplains are great for recreation, open space and as natural greenbelts, but clearly communities should not be endangering thousands of their citizens with intense residential and commercial floodplain development.

Perhaps it will be the eagles which will save the people from their foolishness.

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