



Box 25, Folder 4: FS - Speeches, 20 April - 19 October 1999. 1999

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Remarks of Mike Dombeck
Canton, Ohio, Rotary Club
Friday April 20, 1999

I am pleased to be with you today and to talk about the direction of the Forest Service.

I'm here representing the collective efforts of 30,000 dedicated Forest Service employees and partners as we mutually strive to protect, to restore, our natural resources through science, stewardship, and public awareness. I am excited and proud of our progress.

Before we get started, I'd like to recognize and acknowledge the conservation efforts of your own Congressman, Ralph Regula. For many years, often in the face of great adversity, Chairman Regula has been a quiet voice of reason for the balanced management of the Forest Service.

I'd like to outline for you our natural resource agenda with a particular focus on water and water resources. I will keep my remarks brief to allow for more time for dialogue and discussion.

As natural resource professionals, we often look askance at politics. Yet, this past November's elections brought glad tidings for conservation. Voters in some 125 municipalities and States approved budget initiatives to promote land and water conservation and to acquire open space. Citizens directed a staggering \$5 billion of their hard earned dollars be used for State and local conservation efforts. Through the democratic process of the ballot box, a clear and simple message has been sent. Americans want and expect clean water, healthy lands, and open space.

This kind of electoral commitment will help with pressing conservation issues such as the fact that forest fragmentation has doubled in 16 years and 7,000 acres of farmland and open space are being lost every day. There is an unrefuted correlation, loss of open space equals fragmented habitats and diminished forest tract size, land health is compromised. These facts demand action.

Our collective challenge as citizens, as natural resource professionals is to ensure that future forest management decisions are driven by the long-term interests of the land and the people that depend on it. This message was recently affirmed by the Committee of Scientists, a group of noted scholars in the natural resource field, who suggested that we:

1. Focus our planning efforts on the long-term sustainability of watersheds, forests, and grasslands and the ecological, economic, and social benefits they can provide.
2. More effectively link forest planning to budget and funding priorities.
3. Practice collaborative stewardship through use of diverse and balanced advisory groups and adaptive management based on well-designed monitoring.

We must demonstrate to Congress and the American people the imperative of making investments in the land. Many of you own or manage businesses. You well know that if you do not make investments in the equipment and infrastructure of your company, you will lose your competitive advantage. Similarly, we must make

investments in the health of the lands and waters that sustain us all. These investments may not yield year-end profits but dividends will be obvious when:

- Citizens turn on their faucets and drink cool, clean water, they will appreciate their investment in their national forests.
- Parents from the teeming urban centers of Ohio enjoy an afternoon with their children fishing on a lake on the Wayne National Forest.
- A small mill operator sends twice as much wood fiber to market from a single tree due to Forest Service research and development.
- A private landowner in Illinois bequeaths his child 20 acres of healthy, diverse and productive forestland through forest legacy conservation easements.

He will be thankful that today's investments will result in a natural resource legacy for his family.

You know what this is? A brand of bottled water whose advertisement celebrates the fact that the Blue Ridge Mountains in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest provide some of the cleanest and most pure drinking water in the area. I point this out because it speaks to the fact that the cleanest and largest amount of surface water runoff in the nation comes from forested landscapes. And, the purest of the clean water flows off of national forests.

A retired Forest Service employee offered me some advice not so long ago. He said, "just take care of soil and water and everything else will be OK." That counsel guides our approach to watershed management. I was thinking of Jay's

words last summer as I floated down the Potomac River with my daughter one weekend. Not so long ago, rivers such as the Potomac and the Cuyahoga, even some areas of the Great Lakes, were considered little more than open sewers.

By the time my daughter graduated from high school however, we significantly slowed the flow of point source pollutants into the Potomac and hundreds of other major rivers all across towns in Ohio because of the Clean Water Act.

Today some of the finest bass fishing in the east occurs on the Potomac River within view of the Jefferson Memorial. I'm told walleye fishing in the Cuyahoga is pretty darn good, as well. Not bad for a river whose claim to fame not so long ago was that it burned, it actually was on fire once before.

Within the next five years, over 65% of our forest plans, representing over 150 million acres of land, are scheduled for revision. In keeping with Clean Water Action Plan commitments and consistent with our mandates from the Organic Act of 1897 through the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water acts, watershed health and restoration will be the overriding priority in all future forest plans.

Our National Forests truly are the headwaters of America, supplying river systems, and recharging aquifers. They contain riparian, wetland, and coastal areas that are essential for the nation's water supply and prosperity. Our forested landscapes contain the coolest and cleanest water in the nation. In addition, our forests serve as reservoirs of biological diversity. For example, 181 of the 327 watersheds identified by The Nature Conservancy as

critical for the conservation of bio-diversity, are in National Forests.

In the State of the Union, President Clinton announced new initiatives to protect open space, benefit urban forests, and improve the quality of life for the 80% of Americans living in urban and suburban areas. The Forest Service will play an essential role in their accomplishment.

With proposed increases to our budget we plan to:

- Work with state agencies and others to develop conservation and stewardship plans for an additional 740,000 acres of non-industrial private forestland.
- Help states protect an estimated 135,000 additional acres of forestland through acquisitions and conservation easements.

- Include nearly 800 more communities in efforts to conserve urban and community forests.

Providing a steady supply of wood fiber remains an important multiple use goal of the Forest Service. Some would ignore increasing rates of national wood consumption and argue for a "zero-cut" approach to managing forests. Until we stop importing wood to meet the nation's demands from countries with more lax environmental restrictions than ours, I think this position is misguided. National Forests themselves should be a model for ecologically sustainable forest management.

Recreation will continue to be a major emphasis of the natural resource agenda. Increasingly, outdoor recreation is the way an urbanized society interacts with the natural world. In 1997, national forests accommodated more than 40% of all

outdoor recreation use on public lands in the United States. This use is forecast to increase dramatically over the next 50 years.

Our recreation strategy focuses on providing the American people the finest wildland recreation experience in the world. As part of that strategy we are using new technologies to assist in trip planning, expanded interpretive services, and seamless delivery of the myriad wildland recreation opportunities. We will strengthen our relationships with communities adjacent to forests so that they may more fully reap the economic benefits of tourism and recreation.

Wild places and natural areas are of increasing importance to a society that can afford to protect them. We are all too familiar with the battle between protection and development. A decade ago, the timber program on national forests ran up against a

buzz saw of changing social and environmental values in the Pacific Northwest. And just as surely as a river will find its floodplain, social values will prevail in such debates.

Most Americans value public lands for the sense of open space, wildness and naturalness they provide, clean air and water, and wildlife and fish. Other uses, whether they are ski developments, logging, mountain biking trails, or off road vehicles have a place in our multiple use framework. But that place is reached only after we ensure that such activities do not, and will not, impair the health of the land.

Let me leave you with some thoughts about natural resource stewardship as we enter the new millennium:

- This nation entered this century with leaders like Gifford Pinchot, and Teddy

Roosevelt. They elevated conservation to a new plateau, established national forests and parks, advocated the importance of protecting watersheds and wilderness.

- Fifty years later, a war weary nation found jobs, and economic vitality through its forest products.
- Today, as our prosperous nation grows and matures, our National Forests serve as a place of renewal for its people, a sanctuary for conservation of species, a source of water and other products within the ecological limits of the land.

This country is littered with failed agencies and businesses that could not or would not adapt to a changing environment. The Forest Service has and will continue its evolution of practice and support of the people's lands.

Finally, I close with the well quoted, but not often enough listened to, words of Aldo Leopold. "Examine each [land use] question in terms of what is ethically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise."

Thank you for this opportunity to share some thoughts on the direction of the Forest Service.

Remarks of Mike Dombeck
Copper River Delta
Shorebird Festival
3 May, 1999

Thank you for very much for asking me to be with you today to celebrate the wonders of the incredible Copper River Delta. You should know that this place is not without its peril for Forest Service Chiefs. None other than Gifford Pinchot was fired for his part in the controversy surrounding the handling of coal claims in the area. Let's hope that I can fare better than my earliest predecessor did in 1910.

The Delta is a special place – in many ways, the lifeblood of the community of Cordova. The Delta supports a world class commercial fishery, a growing sport fishery, subsistence harvesting, and is intimately integrated into the life-style and community of Cordova and Prince William Sound communities. Did you know that some of the finest restaurants in the lower 48 annually advertise when Copper River red salmon arrive on their menus?

Thanks

The concentrations of shorebirds in the area are truly one of the natural wonders of the world. What is most heartening is to see just how connected the community of Cordova is to the rhythm and hum of the biological panorama all around them. A special thanks to the many partners including volunteers and organizations such as the Cordova Chamber of Commerce, Prince William Sound Science Center, and Kelly Weaverling. These are the folks and organizations that make events such as this where communities can connect with the land so remarkable.

One person that deserves special mention for her years of service in making this conference a reality is Sandy Frost from the Cordova Ranger District. Sandy has been the primary festival organizer almost since its beginning and has done an outstanding job in building community and conservation partnerships.

Other partners that I would be remiss not to mention include Yale University, Ducks Unlimited, and the universities of Idaho, Washington, and Alaska.

I cannot begin to mention all of the incredible Forest Service employees whose work and research into fish and wildlife habitat relationships enrich our understanding of ecosystems and how they hum and tick.

- Work by folks such as Mary Anne Bishop of the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Cordova and Chris Iverson of the Alaska Regional office help us to understand the linkages between flyway sites including how many shorebirds and for how long shorebirds stay at the critical stopover areas.
- Cooperative fisheries research by people such as Dave Schmid (Cordova Ranger District), Ken Hodges (Cordova Ranger District) Gordie Reeves (PNW Corvalis),

Mark Wipfli (PNW Juneau) on Beaver pond productivity and nutrient inputs and processes enhances our understanding of fisheries habitat relationships on the Copper River Delta.

- The ongoing work between Bob Leedy (USFWS), Tom Rothe (ADFG), Dirk Dirkson and Barry Grand (USGS BRD) and Dan Logan (Cordova Ranger District) on developing interagency management plans for the dusky Canada Geese and other species serves as an example of collaborative research and application of research to management.
- I also would like to welcome Rick Cables, the new Regional Forester for Alaska. Rick comes to us from Colorado and brings 23 years of experience at many levels of the Forest Service. I know he will do a great job and encourage you all to visit with him. I'd also like to thank Jim Caplan for the great job he has done in acting as Regional Forester.

Introduction

What a great treat to be here in Alaska celebrating these incredible shorebirds! Shorebirds are among nature's most accomplished travelers. Thanks to the shorebird festival, Cordova is proudly known for its shorebirds! Today every child in town waits expectantly for the return of the shorebirds – AND – they understand the importance of the wetlands habitats that they rely upon.

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In order to complete these “immense journeys,” to use the title of Loren Eisley’s book, it is imperative that they have numerous stopover areas to feed. These areas most often take the form of wetlands. Unfortunately, more than half of all the previously existing wetlands in the United States are now vanished – lost to ditching, draining, diking, or other forms of development. In some regions more than 90% of wetland habitats are lost.

Forest Service managed lands all across the nation are uniquely positioned to contribute to the conservation and restoration of habitats for shore birds, migratory waterfowl, large ungulates, endangered species, and so on. What I would like to do today is share with you my vision for working with people to maintain and restore the health of our lands and waters.

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States approved budget initiatives to promote land and water conservation and to acquire open space. Citizens directed a staggering \$5-8 billion of their hard earned dollars be used for State and local conservation efforts.

Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service said, “we must everywhere always prefer results to routine.” Pinchot, along with Aldo Leopold, Bob Marshall, Rachel Carson and others emphasized the importance of helping communities develop a more harmonious relationship with the land and water that sustains us.

We are challenged to measure up to their legacy ensuring that the incentives that drive all aspects of our programs promote ecological sustainability.

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Proposed increases to our research budget will result in the agency producing a comprehensive peer-reviewed report in the year 2000 on how forest management activities can restore watersheds and fish and wildlife habitat, re-establish forest stand structure, reduce the risk of unnaturally occurring catastrophic fires, and otherwise restore ecological integrity. Research in this area of the country has always been important. Ever since the 1964 Alaska earthquake profoundly raised water levels in the Delta by 6-8 feet, a series of aquatic and terrestrial changes were triggered that continue to change the ecosystem. Fish, wildlife, and vegetative communities continue to be significantly affected today as a result of the earthquake. Research can help to understand how such natural and other human-caused disturbances affect ecosystem health.

We will protect the basic soil, water, and biotic resources of our forests and accelerate the restoration of forest and rangeland ecosystem integrity. To help accomplish these objectives, our proposed 2000 budget requests funding to:

Improve an additional 38,000 acres of terrestrial habitat.

7,000 acres of lake habitat.

1,100 miles of stream habitat.

Restore over 100,000 acres of aspen stands.

Work with state fish and wildlife agencies and others to complete additional 31 conservation strategies.

Slow the spread of invasive non-native species of fish, plants, and wildlife while increasing prevention efforts.

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- Good morning. I would like to begin by saying how proud and honored I am to be here, rededicating the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, the first Forest Service visitor center in the nation.
- Nationally, national forests are the number one provider of outdoor recreation in America.
- Recreation is the fastest growing use of national forests and grasslands, with over one billion recreation visits to national forests projected in the coming years.
- National forests provide ways in which an increasingly urban society can enjoy and appreciate the natural world. More and more people are visiting national forests and other public lands, to play and recreate, to spend time with families and friends, to experience a reconnection back to the land.
- National forests also offer an important economic dimension to many communities and regions, such as what the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area and this new center offer to Juneau and Southeast Alaska.
- First time visitors to Alaska, many arriving by way of commercial tour ventures, are in awe of the glaciers so much a part of the Tongass National Forest. I know that many local residents also have a deep sense of connection to this place and the landscape shaped by the Mendenhall.
- Since the early 1960s, when this visitor center was first built, much has changed in the Forest Service and some very important things have not.
- One thing that has stayed the same is our commitment to serving all our visitors in the best way we can, to help people learn about the land and how we relate to it.
- Another thing that has remained the same is our commitment to providing superior customer service. Visitors from all over the nation and the world come to see the Mendenhall and experience the many recreation opportunities on the forest. Our priority is to provide premier natural settings and quality experiences for all recreation users.
- We are also committed to ensuring that rapid growth of recreation on national forests does not compromise the long-term health of the land.
- The future -- we know that the demand for recreation opportunities on national forests will increase by 60% and that people will want a broader spectrum of services to enrich their visits.
- This new visitor center was developed to help meet that growth and to provide for those quality visits.
- I would like to thank the Alaska Congressional Delegation for helping make this happen.
- I too want to thank all the employees and contractors who labored long and hard to complete this visitor center -- and under some adverse conditions with occasional surprises during construction.
- You are to be commended for creating this legacy for generations to come. Thank you.

Ribbon cutting

- I am pleased to rededicate this facility to all visitors to further the understanding and enjoyment of glaciers and their ecosystems.

Donna, Steve Ambrose called to say you hadn't received the training videos. This won't be a problem. If you don't receive them prior to your trip, I will have the helicopter manager show them prior to getting on the helicopter at the airport (11 minutes). The helicopter operator conducting the flight has an excellent facility and uses a video system to provide the briefing required by the FAA. If you have any questions, please call (907) 586-8745. Ken

Kenneth C. Barnes
RASM/ Helicopter Program Manager
(907) 586-8745 kbarnes/r10
Region 10

>Heidi

The address for the Monday Creek Restoration Project is as follows:

Monday Creek Restoration Project
P.O. Box 129
New Straitsville, Ohio 43766

Heidi

> Jose A. Zambrana, Forest Supervisor, was the key individual assisting the Chief.
> He picked him up at the Columbus airport on Wednesday 4/21; spent the night in
> Columbus, drove the Chief to Athens, Ohio the morning of 4/22; drove the Chief
> to Canton, Ohio later on 4/22 and participated in the Eagle Scout dinner with
> him the evening of 4/22; spent the day with the Chief on 4/23 and returned him
> to the airport!
>
> Walter M. Grebeck, Supervisory Recreation Technician (by the way, he goes by his middle name MIKE and hates the name Walter) drove the Chief around during his tour of the Dorr Run area (and the Chief may remember that he shared half of his orange with Mike!!).
>
> Sharon Nygaard-Scott, District Ranger/Acting Public Affairs Officer assisted the Chief at the Haydenville all employees meeting and award ceremony. (All I
> did was sort of stay around close in case he needed assistance. I answered his
> questions about who was there and showed him where the coffee pot and refreshments were.)
> (Heidi - he doesn't have to thank me...he just called me and thanked me via the
> telephone!)
>
> Constance Roberts, Information Specialist, also kept a handler's eye on the Chief at the Haydenville site visit.
>
> The above folks are located at
> Wayne National Forest
> 219 Columbus Road
> Athens, OH 45701
>
>
> Elaine Kennedy Sutherland
> 614-368-0100
> Northeastern Station
> Delaware Forest Science Laboratory
> 359 Main Road
> Delaware, OH 43015
>
> Elaine's is a research scientist. Her project is titled
> "The Restoration of Mixed Oak Forest Ecosystems in Southern Ohio". NE - 4153.
>
> The Chief asked me about the Monday Creek Restoration Project (this is their official office title) also known as the Monday Creek Partnership and Monday Creek Restoration Committee. He met with them (about 10 - 13 individuals) at Haydenville and they gave a presentation at the Majestic Site!!
> I'm trying to get their mailing address. Unfortunately, they are all out of the office. Their office telephone number is 740-394-2047 and is located in New Straitsville, Ohio.
>
>

>
> Sharon Nygaard-Scott
> District Ranger
>
> IBM: snygaard/r9,wayne
> INET: snygaard/r9_wayne@fs.fed.us
> Phone: 740-592-6644
> FAX: 740-593-5974

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OK. Back to the Forest Service.

The opportunities in the coming months and years to maintain and restore watershed health are downright exciting. Within the next five years, over 65% of our forest plans, representing over 150 million acres of land, are scheduled for revision. In keeping with Clean Water Action Plan commitments and consistent with our mandates from the Organic Act of 1897 through the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water acts, watershed health and restoration will be the overriding priority in all future forest plans.

Our National Forests truly are the headwaters of America, supplying river systems, and recharging aquifers. They contain riparian, wetland, and coastal areas that are essential for the nation's water supply and prosperity. Our forested landscapes contain the coolest and cleanest water in the nation. In addition, our forests serve as reservoirs of biological diversity. For example, 181 of the 327 watersheds identified by The Nature Conservancy as critical for the conservation of bio-diversity, are in National Forests.

In the State of the Union, President Clinton announced new initiatives to protect open space, benefit urban forests, and improve the quality of life for the 80% of Americans living in urban and suburban areas. The Forest Service will play an essential role in their accomplishment.

With proposed increases to our budget we plan to:

Work with state agencies and others to develop conservation and stewardship plans for an additional 740,000 acres of non-industrial private forestland.

Help states protect an estimated 135,000 additional acres of forestland through acquisitions and conservation easements

Include nearly 800 more communities in efforts to conserve urban and community forests.

Proposed increases to our research budget will result in the agency producing a comprehensive peer-reviewed report in the year 2000 on how forest management activities can restore watersheds and fish and wildlife habitat, re-establish forest stand structure, reduce the risk of unnaturally occurring catastrophic fires, and otherwise restore ecological integrity. Research in this area of the country has always been important. Ever since the 1964 Alaska earthquake profoundly raised water levels in the Delta by 6-8 feet, a series of aquatic and terrestrial changes were triggered that continue to change the ecosystem. Fish, wildlife, and vegetative communities continue to be significantly affected today as a result of the earthquake. Research can help to understand how such natural and other human-caused disturbances affect ecosystem health.

We will protect the basic soil, water, and biotic resources of our forests and accelerate the restoration of forest and rangeland ecosystem integrity. To help accomplish these objectives, our proposed 2000 budget requests funding to:

Improve an additional 38,000 acres of terrestrial habitat.

7,000 acres of lake habitat.

1,100 miles of stream habitat.

Restore over 100,000 acres of aspen stands.

Work with state fish and wildlife agencies and others to complete additional 31 conservation strategies.

Slow the spread of invasive non-native species of fish, plants, and wildlife while increasing prevention efforts.

Recreation will continue to be a major emphasis of the natural resource agenda. Increasingly, outdoor recreation is the way an urbanized society interacts with the natural world. In 1997, national forests accommodated more than 40% of all outdoor recreation use on public lands in the United States. This use is forecasted to increase dramatically over the next 50 years.

Our recreation strategy focuses on providing the American people the finest wildland recreation experience in the world. As part of that strategy we are using new technologies to assist in trip planning, expanded interpretive services, and seamless delivery of the myriad wildland recreation opportunities that help families to reconnect with each other while they connect to the land that sustains them. We will strengthen our relationships with communities such as Cordova so that they may more fully reap the economic benefits of tourism and recreation.

Let me leave you with some thoughts about natural resource stewardship as we enter the new millennium:

This nation entered this century with leaders like Gifford Pinchot, Teddy Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold. They elevated conservation to a new plateau, established national forests and parks, advocated the importance of protecting watersheds and wilderness.

Fifty years later, a war weary nation found jobs, and economic vitality through its forest products. And today, as our prosperous nation grows and matures, our National Forests serve as a place of renewal for its people, a sanctuary for conservation of species, a source of water and other products within the ecological limits of the land.

This country is littered with failed agencies and businesses that could not or would not adapt to a changing environment. The Forest Service has and will continue its evolution of practice and support of the people's lands.

Finally, I close with the well quoted, but not often enough listened to, words of Aldo Leopold. "Examine each [land use] question in terms of what is ethically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends to otherwise." In this the 50th anniversary of Aldo Leopold's seminal work *A Sand County Almanac*, let us recommit ourselves to an invigorated national land ethic.

CHIEF'S REMARKS FOR IITF ANNIVERSARY GALA SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

5/27/99

*Provided by Dr. Ariel Lugo
Length: 10 to 15 minutes*

Salutation to the various dignitaries, particularly:

- Dr. Maldonado, President of the University of Puerto Rico;
- Dr. Petersen, Acting President of the University of the Virgin Islands;
- Dr. Buxley, President of IUFRO;
- George Gann, President of the Society for Restoration Ecology;
- Juan Ricart; President of the Puerto Rico Conservation Foundation

Dr. Lugo

Also:

- the heads of various Federal and State Agencies [probably including Daniel (Danny) Pagan, Secretary of the PR Department of Natural Resources and the Environment who the chief knows personally];
- scientists from various countries, the United States and Puerto Rico; and
- employees, family and friends of the Forest Service in Puerto Rico.

Note: Invitations went out to the PR Legislature, the President of the Senate with whom you met earlier, and the President of the House. So far, no confirmations.

REMARKS

I am happy to be here with you celebrating the 60th anniversary of the International Institute of Tropical Forestry. I congratulate the employees of the Institute, past and present, for the outstanding job they have done while making the Institute an

Dr. Frank W. Walther
effective and productive organization with a global reputation in

tropical forestry. *Because the island has been studied for so many years, it provides a showcase for restoration of tropical forests. Puerto Rico is now a model for the study of landscape dynamics in the tropics.*

I often quiz the employees of the Forest Service to find out how much they know about the proud heritage of our Agency.

For example, I ask which national forest is the only tropical

forest in the 192 million acre National Forest System? Of

course, everyone here knows that the answer is the Caribbean

National Forest! I also ask which of the National Forests has

been under formal protection for the longest time period? Again

the answer is the Caribbean National Forest, which was

designated as a public forest by the King of Spain in 1876. This

is also a well-known fact in Puerto Rico, because I know how

proud Puerto Ricans are of El Yunque. Few people know,

however, that the Caribbean National Forest is also an

Experimental Forest known as the Luquillo Experimental Forest.

This dual designation, which is unique in the National Forest System, was done in recognition of the importance of research for the management of tropical forests. Tropical forests are among the most complex forests in the world and we don't understand them as well as we do temperate forests. Therefore, sustainable management of these beautiful systems requires close cooperation between scientists and managers.

In a sense, the Institute and the Caribbean National Forest were ahead of their time in 1956 when they recognized the importance of research for forest management. Today, one of our main thrusts in the National Forest System is to increase the role of science in the management of ecosystems. In fact, when

I visited Secretary Pagán during my first visit to the Island, I was impressed by the attention he was giving to water and watershed values in the reforestation and forest conservation program of the Department. Again, I found common ground between the initiatives in Puerto Rico and the Forest Service's Natural Resources Agenda, which pursues the goal of valuing forests not only for commodities but also for the services they provide society, particularly in terms of water and watershed values. *and recreation values, - quality of life*

I commend the Institute for the partnerships and initiatives that it is developing in urban forestry. Urban forestry is another priority in our national agenda. *Urban forestry presents a* critical challenge to the Forest Service because of the demographic and land use changes taking place in the United States. An increasing number of people are moving to urban

P.R. has several of the oldest cities in the hemisphere. Urban forestry in a tropical context is an area of rapid development and you lead efforts throughout the tropical world.

settings and urban developments are surrounding many national forests. We must assure that these urban folks experience a healthy and high quality environment to live and work and that the urban expansion does not destroy our public lands. The establishment and conservation of urban forests is critical for the quality of urban life and to release pressure on public lands. They provide attractive environments for people and wildlife *bring a piece of nature to our concrete structures* and help mitigate the heat pollution, and water management problems of cities.

prepared to enter
It is good to see the Institute ~~faces~~ the new millennium with a program that--through restoration-- provides answers to the problems of tropical deforestation and at the same time focuses on urban forests where people are now concentrating.

The Dept of Agr. & FS are committed to P.R.
\$125,000 for sustainable Forest Mgmt in P.R. to complement the
\$10mm committed by Gov. Rosselló & Dpt of Nat. Res.

Page -- 7 of 7

Hilario
Note: You may want to talk about your initiative in the State and Private Forestry Program and the recent allocation to the IITF and CNF to mitigate the losses after Hurricane Hortense.

In conclusion, I'd like to point out that there is another question that I often ask for which the answer is IITF and CNF. The question is: Which units of the Forest Service have the highest proportion of Hispanics in their rosters? Both the CNF and the Institute are examples of the excellence of our Hispanic employees. The fact that the University of Puerto Rico is the host of the Institute is particularly important to us, because through this partnership, we can find ways of increasing the presence of Hispanics in the federal government. [Opportunity to announce the agreement that is about to be signed between the FS and the Government of Puerto Rico].

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Chief's Visit to Puerto Rico for IITF's 60th Anniversary Celebration
May 27 - 28, 1999

Current Issue Briefing Paper: **FY 99 Supplemental Budget for Hurricane Georges Recovery**

Hurricane Georges struck Puerto Rico September 21-22, 1998. Georges, a Category 3 hurricane, was the strongest storm to impact the entire island since San Ciprian in 1932. The hurricane caused extensive damage to the Caribbean National Forest, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry and state, private and urban island-wide.

This week Congress passed HR-1141, the FY 1999 Emergency Supplemental Bill. Included in the provisions of the act are \$5.611 million for repairs and restoration of damages in Puerto Rico: \$4,220,000 for the Caribbean National Forest and \$1.339 million for the International Institute of Tropical Forestry to restore damages and evaluate the effects of the hurricane on the island's rural and urban forests. Cost of repairs to facilities of the IITF is estimated to be \$339,000. The proposed assessment of storm impacts on forests island-wide and urban forest restoration is estimated to be \$1,000,000. President Clinton is expected to complete the Congressional notification procedures shortly.

Can Damage R

Chief's Visit to Puerto Rico for IITF's 60th Anniversary Celebration
May 27 - 28, 1999

FOREST SERVICE FY 1999 BUDGET REQUEST

Date: March 15, 1999

Topic: Initiative for Sustainable Forest Management in Puerto Rico

Issue: The Puerto Rico Sustainable Forestry Initiative supports diversified and ecologically sustainable forest management on all lands.

Budget History: FY 1998, FY 1999, FY 2000

Final, Enacted*, Estimate*

\$0, \$125,000, \$500,000

* Anticipated need, currently unfunded; source and mix of funds to be determined.

Key Points:

- In the past 25 years, Puerto Rico has lost more than 32% of its agricultural land to urban development. The 3.8 million inhabitants live on an island of some 2 million acres. The population density is 1,050 people, per square mile.
- Puerto Rico is pursuing an ambitious environmental agenda island-wide. The Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) is collaborating with other central government agencies including the Departments of Transportation, Education, and Agriculture, the Aqueduct and Sewer Authority, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners to carry out this agenda.
- The forestry agenda has three major components: to protect watersheds and provide for biological diversity through land acquisition; promote multiple resource forest management practices on public and private lands; and strengthen the ecotourism and forest products industries.
- In support of biodiversity, a Biological Corridor Law was passed this year in the Puerto Rico legislature to provide authority for the DNER to acquire critical lands necessary to buffer and connect State Forests.
- In support of sustainable forest management and reforestation, the DNER has a new legislative mandate to promote and implement conservation and protection of watersheds, state forests, natural reserves, wildlife refuges, private forest lands, and urban forests; produce, distribute, and plant nursery stock; and develop partnerships for the purpose of forest management on public lands.
- This legislative mandate also requires developmental action to establish wood enterprises utilizing native woods for art, furniture manufacturing, and fence posts. Another new legislative mandate is to develop strategies and mechanisms for developing and strengthening ecotourism in Puerto Rico.
- The enacted appropriation to the DNER allocates \$10 million per year for the next five years for these purposes.
- In order to contribute to this agenda, the USDA Forest Service will need additional funding to focus specialized state-of-the-art technical assistance, to transfer relevant technologies, and promote demonstration projects.

Chief's Visit to Puerto Rico for IITF's 60th Anniversary Celebration May 27 - 28, 1999

Significant Facts and Figures on Puerto Rico

Population Pressure:

- Human population: 3.8 million.
- Territorial area: 3,500 square miles.
- Population density: 1,000 people per square mile.

An average square kilometer in Puerto Rico has:

- 450 people.
- 182 cars.
- 1740 animals.
- 2.61 kilometers of roads.
- Emits 8,250 kg of air pollutants.
- 32 tons of toxic wastes per year.
- 341 tons of garbage annually.
- Could but does not recycle 170 tons of organic waste in that garbage.

Land available and conservation:

- The space available to the average Puerto Rican is 2,000 square meters of land.
- 283 acres if he or she lives in San Juan.
- Less than 5 percent of the island is under formal protection (about 100,000 acres).
- The average size of a natural reserve is 60 acres.
- **The National Forest is 28,000 acres, the largest property in the island.**

entire forest is an expt. forest

In spite of the above:

- Puerto Rico has an incredible biodiversity in its protected lands and even in private lands.
- About 40 percent of the island is forested.
- Some of the oldest and most sophisticated studies of tropical forests have been conducted in Puerto Rico, many with Forest Service support.
- Because the island has been studied so intensively and for so long, it provides a showcase for tropical forest management/conservation, including the restoration of tropical forests.

Urban Forestry and People:

- Puerto Rico has several of the oldest cities in the hemisphere.
- Some of these cities have been restored.
- The rate of land use change in Puerto Rico is extremely fast.

*Model of what/where
we will be 20-50
yrs from now*

Significant Facts and Figures on Puerto Rico, continued

Urban Forestry and People, continued:

- Puerto Rico is now a model for the study of landscape dynamics in the tropics and for anticipating the effects of urbanization on natural landscapes.
- Urban forestry in a tropical context is an area of rapid development and again leads efforts throughout the tropical world.
- Puerto Ricans represent a diverse ethnic background with roots based on Taino Indian, Africans, European and North American stock.
- The largest Hispanic university in the United States is the University of Puerto Rico, which graduates the largest number of Hispanic Ph.D.'s in the country.
- The University of Puerto Rico has 70,000 students and is the main collaborator of the Forest Service in the island.

60 yrs effort

Water Bodies:

- There are approximately 14,300 km of rivers and tributaries, which is equal to 75 times the length of the island.
- If we could put the 14,300 km of water courses together in a straight line, we could navigate all the way to Saint Petersburg, Russia or to Cairo, Egypt. Also, we could make two round trips from San Juan, PR to Washington, D.C.
- In an average year, the rivers of Puerto Rico discharge approximately 1.4 trillion gallons of water, sufficient to flood the entire island with 0.6 meters of water.
- The island of Puerto Rico has approximately 770 km of coast, 19 major lagoons and 33 major estuaries. Walking along the coast, there will be a major estuary or lagoon on the average every 15 miles.
- Puerto Rico is divided in four major drainage basins--the North Basin being the largest, draining more than half the area of Puerto Rico and with the longest rivers.
- The rivers of Puerto Rico are significantly damned. There are 36 major dams and more than 100 minor dams through all the rivers in Puerto Rico, except in Río Mameyes.
- Eleven of the major dams have lost more than 50% of their capacity due to high sedimentation rates.
- Densities as high as 69,000 shrimp larvae per 100 cubic meters of water and more than 3.7 million shrimp larvae migrating downstream has been measured in rivers east of Puerto Rico.
- 160,000 families live in flooding zones.
- 14,500 families live in high risk flooding zones.
- There are close to 70 USGS continuous water surface stations measuring water discharge from the major rivers in Puerto Rico.
- There are close to 40 USGS groundwater stations in the major groundwater basins in Puerto Rico.

Thinking like a Mountain

Mike Dombeck
Gila Wilderness, New Mexico
June 5, 1999

It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness? A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

With those words, 35 years ago, Congress created the Wilderness Preservation System. It was the vision of Howard Zahniser, the principal author of the Wilderness bill, that "we have a profound and fundamental need for areas of the earth where we stand without our mechanisms that make us immediate masters over our environment."

Of all of the natural resource management laws, the Wilderness Act remains my personal favorite. It has a soul, an essence of hope, a simplicity and sense of connection. Unlike the jargon filled tomes of most laws, in a very few words, the Wilderness Act says that what we have today is worth preserving for future generations. That in a world of compromises, insincere gestures, and half measures, there are lands and waters where we will not allow expediency to override conviction.

Wilderness heritage in the Forest Service runs deep. Passage of the Act was the result of a lifetime of work by such Forest Service employees such as Arthur Carhart and Bob Marshall. But it all began here when a young assistant district forester in the Albuquerque office pushed in New Mexico and Washington for the creation of the Gila Wilderness Area – finally succeeding in 1924.

Who would know that 25 years later, *A Sand County Almanac*, would condense Aldo Leopold's lifetime of accumulated experience into a work that today rivals Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* as one of the most influential books about the relationship of people to their lands and waters.

The National Wilderness Preservation System has grown from 9 to 104 million acres since 1964. National Forest Wilderness represents just over 1% of the land area in the United States. Nonetheless, it provides clean water and air, naturalness, habitats for endangered and non-endangered plants and animals, solitude, scenic beauty, economic benefits to communities through tourism and recreation. Wilderness can serve as a benchmark for determining our nation's environmental health.

I want to share with you our thoughts on the Forest Service's wilderness strategic agenda. But first, one last Leopold quote that speaks to our challenge as wilderness managers. Leopold used to personify the mountain as the sentinel of wild lands, suggesting, "Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of a wolf." He

admonished short-sighted people that have "not learned to think like a mountain." As wilderness managers, we must learn mountain-like thinking.

Curt Meine, whose wonderful biography of Leopold was published in 1988, says that Leopold and Arthur Carhard and others based their argument for wilderness preservation on a very basic desire – they wished to keep intact a place where it was possible to hunt, fish, and travel in frontier like conditions. According to Meine, that desire was premised on something "more enduring and universal."

By their efforts, they hoped to ensure that wilderness could continue to feed a culture's idea of freedom. In an earlier day it was the newness and abundance of the land that nurtured that idea. Now it would become the test of America's maturity whether it would have wisdom and conviction enough to preserve, to at least some extent, the fountain of its own inspiration, and by so doing continue to replenish itself.

In recent years, many others, and I have become concerned that our national commitment to the Wilderness Act has diminished and the resources to protect and manage the wilderness have not kept pace with our needs. Five years ago, my predecessor Jack Ward Thomas asked the question, "when I think of wilderness, I wonder who will be the next ones to step up, lead, and sacrifice for this precious resource? Who will see that the Wilderness doesn't get inched away from us, one compromise at a time?"

It was with Jack's words in mind that I commissioned the development of this wilderness strategy. It is a "work in progress" – not unlike our wilderness system. In other words, it is by no means complete. I expect it will have broad public and interagency review and involvement.

The agenda builds off of the Interagency Wilderness Strategic Plan (1995). Considerable progress has been made in implementing this plan, but significant challenges still face us. The agenda is an expression of the Forest Service's continued commitment and specific actions to meet the broad goals of that interagency plan.

Let's take the hard questions first. Should there be more wilderness? Ultimately, that's a decision for Congress and the American people to decide. The responsibility of the Forest Service is to identify those areas that are suitable for wilderness designation. We must take this responsibility seriously. For those forests undergoing forest plan revisions, I'll say this – our wilderness portfolio must embody a broader array of lands – from prairie to old growth. As world leaders in wilderness management, we should look to better manage existing, and identify potential new, wilderness and other wild lands.

The National Wilderness Preservation System can, and should, play a larger role in our efforts to address concerns of forest health and sustainability. Future additions to the Wilderness System may be targeted to enhance this role. We should pay special attention to potential wilderness that provide a broader array of representative ecosystems.

Second, management of existing wilderness should be coordinated by different wilderness area managers - eve, or perhaps, especially those in different agencies. I pledge within a year to bring together government and non-government interests to build trust among players and identify actions that can be successfully addressed through collaborative efforts. Wilderness requires collaboration; no one agency or entity is responsible for the whole system.

Third, I have formed a Wilderness Advisory Group of employees from every level of the organization and every region of the country, to highlight and advise me of wilderness needs. It's a long way from the backcountry to the beltway or from the woods to Washington. Wilderness will now enjoy a higher profile in national office issues.

Fourth, the agenda places a renewed emphasis on wilderness monitoring. Such monitoring takes place through long-term Forest Inventory and Analysis and Forest Health Monitoring programs, and with the help of other agencies such as EPA and the USGS Biological Resources Division.

Forest Service Research, the Recreation and Wilderness Assessment Group, and the interagency Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute will lead this approach, enabling us to better use wilderness as a baseline of comparison for determining our nation's environmental health. And along with acquiring better information about the condition of, and trends in, wilderness, we are also putting an emphasis on learning what society understands and values about this resource. Wilderness will be a major component in the upcoming National Survey on Recreation and the Environment.

Fifth, we are placing an added emphasis on the wilderness and recreation interface. The American people are welcome in their wilderness – however, as with all uses, use must occur within the limits of the land and the preservation of an area's wilderness values. We will provide a range of recreational opportunities in wilderness, from solitude to more social experiences, yet this will occur within the context of protecting resource conditions.

We are piloting this approach on the revision of the Mt. Hood National Forest plan, working with wilderness users and the public to address concerns about access to their wilderness. We are also partnering with other agencies, States, and private recreation providers to ensure the availability of quality backcountry recreation opportunities outside wilderness.

Sixth, I want every Forest Service employee to understand our wilderness stewardship responsibility and what it means to their jobs. I fully expect Forest Service employees with decision-making responsibilities for wilderness areas to possess wilderness expertise. All existing and future line officers should attend Wilderness Stewardship Training for line officers. The interagency Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center is directed to focus its offerings to meet the needs of our multi-disciplinary, diverse work-force.

Finally, this is my favorite part of my job! Wilderness management work occurs at all levels of the organization, with some of the most important tasks taking place on the

ground, the wilderness itself. Dedicated employees, cooperators, and volunteers are the lifeblood of wilderness stewardship, so without further delay, I'd like to acknowledge the winners of the 1997-98 National Wilderness awards, which were presented earlier today.

- Laura Burns, Ketchikan Alaska - representing the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness Ecosystem Inventory/Monitoring Crew
- John Allen, District Ranger, McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest
- Alice Cohen, Forest Education Specialist, Gila National Forest
- Eric Swett, Saco Ranger District, White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire – representing the White Mountain National Forest 1998 Trail Crew
- Jim Folsom, Wilderness Education Association, Sandish Maine - for his work with the White Mountain National Forest providing information for wilderness visitors from the Brickett Place Wilderness Information Center.
- Dr. William Hendricks, professor of Natural Resources at California Polytechnic, who received the wilderness management research, award.
- Dr. David Cole, researcher with the Aldo Leopold Research Institute, who received a lifetime achievement award for his sustained contribution to wilderness research.

These people bring honor to themselves, to the Forest Service and to the National Wilderness Preservation System, and it gives me great pleasure to recognize them today.

In closing, I would like to pay one last tribute to Aldo Leopold, the man whose vision and passion, we celebrate today. Leopold said, "there are two things that interest me: the relationship of people to their land and the relationship of people to each other." I believe that the respect we accord one another is reflected in the way we treat the lands and waters that sustain us.

Leopold understood that the same qualities that define a good land manager - patience, humility, study, and learning to listen rather than always talking - were more than a recipe for stewardship. In a society of fractured relationships and discordant debates, the same qualities defined our best and most lasting hope for learning to live in community with each other.

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Sixth, I want every Forest Service employee to understand our wilderness stewardship responsibility and what it means to their jobs. I fully expect Forest Service employees with decision-making responsibilities for wilderness areas to possess wilderness expertise. All existing and future line officers should attend Wilderness Stewardship Training for line officers. The interagency Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center is directed to focus its offerings to meet the needs of our multi-disciplinary, diverse workforce.

Finally, this is my favorite part of my job! Wilderness management work occurs at all levels of the organization, with some of the most important tasks taking place on the ground, the wilderness itself. Dedicated employees, cooperators, and volunteers are the lifeblood of wilderness stewardship, so without further delay, I'd like to acknowledge the winners of the 1997-98

National Wilderness awards, which were presented earlier today.

- Laura Burns, Ketchikan Alaska - representing the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness Ecosystem Inventory/Monitoring Crew
- John Allen, District Ranger, McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest
- Alice Cohen, Forest Education Specialist, Gila National Forest
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providing information for wilderness visitors from the Brickett Place Wilderness Information Center.

- Dr. William Hendricks, professor of Natural Resources at California Polytechnic, who received the wilderness management research, award.
- Dr. David Cole, researcher with the Aldo Leopold Research Institute, who received a lifetime achievement award for his sustained contribution to wilderness research.

These people bring honor to themselves, to the Forest Service and to the National Wilderness Preservation System, and it gives me great pleasure to recognize them today.

In closing, I would like to pay one last tribute to Aldo Leopold, the man whose vision and passion, we celebrate today. Leopold said, “there are two things that interest me: the relationship of people to their land and the relationship of people to each other.” I believe that the respect we accord one another is reflected in the way we treat the lands and waters that sustain us.

Leopold understood that the same qualities that define a good land manager - patience, humility, study, and learning to listen rather than always talking - were more than a recipe for stewardship. In a society of fractured relationships and discordant debates, the same qualities defined our best and most lasting hope for learning to live in community with each other.

Bill Hurst } retired
Jean Hassel } Regional Foresters
Bill Campbell)

Doe Campbell -
Ranger Here

Thinking like a Mountain

Mike Dombeck

Gila Wilderness, New Mexico

Junc 5, 1999

It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress [to secure] for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness? A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

With those words, 35 years ago, Congress created the Wilderness Preservation System.

~~It was the vision of Howard Zahniser, the principal author of the Wilderness bill, that "we have a profound and fundamental need for areas of the earth where we stand~~

~~without our mechanisms that make us immediate masters over our environment."~~

Of all of the natural resource management laws, the Wilderness Act remains my personal favorite. It has a soul, an essence of hope, a simplicity and sense of connection. Unlike the jargon filled tomes of most laws, in a very few words, the Wilderness Act says that what we have today is worth preserving for future generations. That in a world of compromises, insincere gestures, and half measures, there are lands and waters where we will not allow expediency to override conviction.

Wilderness heritage in the Forest Service runs deep. Passage of the Act was the result of a lifetime of work by ~~such~~ Forest Service employees such as Arthur Carhart and Bob Marshall. But it all began here when a young assistant district forester in the

serve as a benchmark for determining our nation's environmental health.

I want to share with you our thoughts on the Forest Service's wilderness strategic agenda. But first, ~~one last~~ Leopold quote that speaks to our challenge as wilderness managers.

Leopold used to personify the mountain as the sentinel of wild lands, suggesting, "Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of a wolf." He admonished short-sighted people that have "not learned to think like a mountain." As wilderness managers, we must learn mountain-like thinking.

Curt Meine's ~~whose~~ wonderful biography of Leopold ~~was published in 1988~~, says that Leopold and Arthur Carhard and others based their argument for wilderness preservation on a very basic desire – they wished to keep intact a place where it was possible to hunt, fish, and travel in frontier like conditions. ~~According to Meine, that~~

desire was premised on something "more enduring and universal."

By their efforts, they hoped to ensure that wilderness could continue to feed a culture's idea of freedom. In an earlier day it was the newness and abundance of the land that nurtured that idea. Now it would become the test of America's maturity whether it would have wisdom and conviction enough to preserve, to at least some extent, the fountain of its own inspiration, and by so doing continue to replenish itself.

*that we have become
complacent
that*

In recent years, many others, and I have become concerned that our national commitment to the Wilderness Act has diminished and the resources to protect and manage the wilderness have not kept pace with our needs. Five years ago, my predecessor Jack Ward Thomas asked the question, "when I think of wilderness, I wonder who will be the next ones to step up,

lead, and sacrifice for this precious resource? Who will see that the Wilderness doesn't get inched away from us, one compromise at a time?"

It was with Jack's words in mind that I commissioned the development of this wilderness strategy. It is a "work in progress" – not unlike our wilderness system. In other words, it is by no means complete. I expect it will have broad public and interagency review and involvement.

The agenda builds off of the Interagency Wilderness Strategic Plan (1995). Considerable progress has been made in implementing this plan, but significant challenges still face us. The agenda is an expression of the Forest Service's continued commitment and specific actions to meet the broad goals of that interagency plan.

Let's take the hard questions first. Should there be more wilderness? Ultimately, that's

a decision for Congress and the American people to decide. The responsibility of the Forest Service is to identify those areas that are suitable for wilderness designation. We must take this responsibility seriously. For those forests undergoing forest plan revisions, I'll say this – our wilderness portfolio must embody a broader array of lands – from prairie to old growth. As world leaders in wilderness management, we should look to better manage existing, and identify potential new, wilderness and other wild lands.

The National Wilderness Preservation System can, and should, play a larger role in our efforts to address concerns of forest health and sustainability. Future additions to the Wilderness System may be targeted to enhance this role. We should pay special attention to potential wilderness that provides a broader array of representative ecosystems.

Second, management of existing wilderness should be coordinated by different wilderness area managers - even, or perhaps, especially those in different agencies. I ^{will} pledge within a year to bring together government and non-government interests to build trust among players and identify actions that can be successfully addressed ^{That need to be addressed} through collaborative efforts. Wilderness requires collaboration; no one agency or entity is responsible for the whole system.

and a common understanding

Third, I have formed a Wilderness Advisory Group of employees from every level of the organization and every region of the country, to highlight and advise me of wilderness needs. It's a long way from the backcountry to the beltway or from the woods to Washington. Wilderness will now enjoy a higher profile in national office issues.

Fourth, the agenda places a renewed emphasis on wilderness monitoring. Such monitoring takes place through long-term Forest Inventory and Analysis and Forest Health Monitoring programs, and with the help of other agencies such as EPA and the USGS Biological Resources Division.

Forest Service Research, the Recreation and Wilderness Assessment Group, and the interagency Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute will lead this approach, enabling us to better use wilderness as a baseline of comparison for determining our nation's environmental health. [And along with acquiring better information about the condition of, and trends in, wilderness, we are also putting an emphasis on learning what society understands and values about this resource.] Wilderness will be a major component in the upcoming National Survey on Recreation and the Environment.

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Albuquerque office pushed in New Mexico and Washington for the creation of the Gila Wilderness Area – finally succeeding in 1924.

Who would know that 25 years later, *A Sand County Almanac*, would condense Aldo Leopold's lifetime of accumulated experience into ~~a work that today rivals Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*~~ as one of the most influential books about the relationship of people to their lands and waters.

The National Wilderness Preservation System has grown from 9 to 104 million acres since 1964. National Forest Wilderness represents just over 1% of the land area in the United States. Nonetheless, it provides clean water and air, naturalness, habitats for endangered and non-endangered plants and animals, solitude, scenic beauty, economic benefits to communities through tourism and recreation. Wilderness can

In closing, I would like to pay one last tribute to Aldo Leopold, the man whose vision and passion, we celebrate today. Leopold said, "there are two things that interest me: the relationship of people to their land and the relationship of people to each other." I believe that the respect we accord one another is reflected in the way we treat the lands and waters that sustain us.

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Chief's Honor Awards
Mike Dombeck, Chief, USDA Forest Service
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Patio
June 8, 1999 1:00 - 3:00p.m.

It is great to be celebrating the achievements of Forest Service employees. This month is full of celebrations. I just returned from New Mexico and the 75th Anniversary of the Gila Wilderness. Assistant District Forester, Aldo Leopold proposed this wilderness and wrote the plan which was approved by District Forester Frank Pooler in June, 1924, **forty years** before the passage of the Wilderness Act. Forest Service employees practically wrote the book on wilderness and wilderness management. Last month I was in Puerto Rico with Dr. Ariel Lugo to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the International Institute of Tropical Forestry. The Forest Service has also played a major role in tropical forest and Dr. Frank Wadsworth, who is in his **61st year** as a Forest Service employee, wrote the book on managing tropical forests. We've done the same with many programs. The people of the Forest Service are the best at the business of natural resource management, state and private forestry, and research.

There is a retired Forest Service Employee who we also honor with a special award today, Lloyd Swift Sr. Lloyd was the National Director of Wildlife Management until his retirement in 1963. He wrote some of the early chapters for the book on wildlife management for the Forest Service. Since retiring over thirty years ago, Lloyd has been an untiring advocate for wildlife and fisheries conservation, and an inspiration to many. We are establishing a new award in his name to honor wildlife and fisheries staff directors who have done exceptional work to advance conservation of species.

This week is National Fishing Week, and National Great Outdoors Week. Our partners in the fishing and recreation community are holding events here in the Nation's Capitol and across the country that celebrate successes and strategize and commit to resolve issues.

Yesterday morning I went fishing with 250 school children from Washington, DC. It was an excellent opportunity to bring together youth and teach them about the value focus on youth and teach them about water and about why natural resources are important to us all. I along with the agency heads from BLM and the Fish and Wildlife Service, and Undersecretary Jim Lyons made the ceremonial "first cast" to officially open National Fishing Week.

The same day I also attended a Forest Service Recreation and Wilderness Open House that brought together representatives from Capitol Hill and our partners with diverse industry and recreation interests. Thanks to all of you who have made these events winners.

Partnerships such as these are critical to implementing the Forest Service Natural Resource Agenda. Our efforts with watershed restoration, roads, sustainable forest ecosystems and recreation all depend on partnerships and collaboration at the local and national level, for success. I encourage you to take these efforts even further.

In addition to The Chief's Awards we celebrate today, Secretary Glickman presents his Honor Awards tomorrow. I am proud to say that the Forest Service will receive THIRTEEN of these awards - the highest honors bestowed within the United States Department of Agriculture.

The work of the Forest Service is as wide and varied as the needs of the public we serve. Whether you work at a ranger district or research station, or a Job Corps Center, or as an urban forest coordinator or a contract administrator, or in personnel or procurement, law enforcement the work each of you does contributes to our mission of Caring for the Land and Serving People. And you do it exceptionally well! Doing that job well requires exceptional people and the greatest quality you bring to this work is commitment - to a job well done, and to healthy lands.

Today we will honor Forest Service employees who have made outstanding contributions. We are proud of these outstanding men and women and their achievements on behalf of the Forest Service. Their accomplishments attest to the fact that public service is alive and well.

Their accomplishments include such things as:

- Finding solutions to regenerating hardwood ecosystems,
- Expanding markets for species western juniper,
- Promoting the use of fire to restore and maintain western ecosystems,

- Expanding science-based management of aquatic habitat and conservation of species,
- Visibly promoting the value of a multicultural workforce in our service to communities,

and many more achievements.

As we recognize these special achievers today, we are also celebrating what all 30,000 of us do to help us move aggressively into the Twenty-first century.

We are facing challenges and opportunities in the coming years with regard to our workforce. The most critical issues we are addressing are:

- Changing workforce and work
- Progress toward a multicultural organization
- Creating a positive work environment
- Accountability and financial management

Changing workforce and work

We live in an era of rapid change. Knowledge is increasing at an exponential rate compared with just 20 years ago. Adaptability, flexibility and focusing on the future is the key to success. Our workforce is rapidly changing. In 1980 our average age was 39 years. It's 45 now.

But the change is not that we have more older employees, but rather we have fewer young employees.

In 1980, we had almost 2,000 permanent employees age 24 and below. We have only 106 today! In 1980, we had about 5,000 employees age 25 to 29. Today we have 931. Forty-two percent of Forest Service employees will be eligible to retire over the next five years. The challenge and opportunity that this will bring must be addressed now.

The Human Resources staff is leading a workforce planning effort to identify and project skills and competencies needed in the near future to meet our natural, human, and financial resource program goals. We will address the voids in entry-level individuals. Over the next few years, we will make

investments to ensure a workforce that is capable of meeting the challenges and opportunities. We will maintain a workforce that is capable of meeting our primary goals of restoring and protecting the land, and providing goods and services within the capability of the land.

We need to develop skills to keep pace with changing times by continually training our current workforce and by hiring additional new skills. In my speech at last October's National Leadership Team meeting, I said we need to seek creative young people to help us meet our mission. Let me make it clear, we seek and need people of all ages, and that all of us, regardless of age, have a key role to play in assuring a legacy of healthy, productive land for our children and grandchildren.

Multicultural Organization

The demographics of America are shifting rapidly. With these shifts come changes in the way we deliver programs and services.

To maintain our leadership in the natural resource arena, we must have a diverse workforce and meet the challenge of being a multicultural organization. This is critical to our ability to provide the products and services that meet the needs of the people we serve.

We have made progress in diversifying our workforce, but there is much more we can and must do.

- In 1980, only 10 percent of our permanent workforce was represented by minority groups --it's about 16 percent today. We must do much better.
- Today close to 40 percent of our workforce is women, compared with 29 percent in 1980.

While these trends are in the right direction, we must intensify our efforts in the areas of recruitment, retention of our new hires, and equal opportunity for all.

We must also ensure that all leaders we select are equally skilled and committed to managing the natural and financial resources, and to developing our human resources to their fullest potential.

Our diversity is what makes us strong. A Multicultural Organization is our goal. I am re-affirming the goal of a Multicultural Organization as a key

national priority and policy for Forest Service leadership. We must continue to make progress in developing a workforce where our different cultures, values and experiences are sought and included in all aspects of our mission. I have recently commissioned a team to bring new focus to the work we began in the early 1990's under the banner of "Toward a Multicultural Organization." I am looking forward to the results and recommendations from this team and will keep you informed as this evolves.

Positive Work Environment

I've emphasized the importance of our leaders' roles in human resource management at all organization levels. Leaders are responsible for the work environments in their organizations. A positive work environment is an important part of nurturing healthy, high-performing people. It doesn't happen by accident.

Part of maintaining a positive work environment is resolving workplace concerns at the first opportunity. I'd like for all of you to know about two efforts in this regard.

- The Early Intervention Program was created and is already working in many places to provide an alternative, non-adversarial way to resolve any kind of workplace conflict. This process is available to both employees and supervisors as a means to resolve issues as quickly as they are identified.

As of this spring, all regions, stations and the area have an Early Intervention Program manager who can respond to requests for assistance. Take advantage of these services.

- In 1997, based upon the Findings of the Forest Service Continuous Improvement Process survey, you told us that Work Environment/Quality of Worklife and Work, Valuing Diversity and Family/Personal Life were among our strengths. I urge you to help us in determining whether these remain areas of strength and also where we must do better.

The next Continuous Improvement Process survey will begin in July. Please participate so we can track your experiences and make more progress to improve our work environment.

Closing

I'd like to close by emphasizing two over-riding priorities for all of us, Safety and Civil Rights. With all we do, in whatever setting, safety always comes first. Take personal responsibility for your own safety and those around you. No job is so important that we can not take the time to do it safely.

Each of us as federal employees have a moral and legal responsibility to uphold Civil Rights and to treat our co-workers with respect and in a professional manner. Each of us must demonstrate a commitment to equal opportunity for all. My admonition to you is to support one another and work together, smile and say please and thank you. Coordinate and communicate in a way that increases morale and efficiency.

I am proud to be associated with the Forest Service and I am proud of what you have personally accomplished and for what we are accomplishing together as an organization. I encourage you all to tell your story and tell it often. Money flows to things people want. People want clean water, healthy forests, fishable waters, abundant wildlife, beautiful landscapes and recreation opportunities. People want strong community relationships and diverse local economies.

Congratulations to the winners of the Chief's Awards and the Secretary's Honor Awards.

1999 CHIEF'S HONOR AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Chief's Stewardship Award

Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, Southern Research Station

"For excellence in watershed and air quality research and technology transfer in the southern Appalachian Mountains for over 60 years."

Chief's Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer

Larry Swan, Winema National Forest, Region 6

For the initiative and organization of a network of collaborative partnerships which resulted in a new industry based on the commercialization of the western juniper.

Steven F. Arno, Fire Sciences Laboratory, Rocky Mountain Research Station

For the development and transfer of methods for determining the role and appropriate application of fire in the restoration and maintenance of western ecosystems.

Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer (group), Southern Research Station

For outstanding achievement and innovation in technology transfer promoting scientifically based management of aquatic habitat and resources on forest and range lands.

Chief's Early Career Scientist Award

Emile Gardiner, Southern Research Station

For sustained productivity and exceptional promise for significant future achievement from research on oak ecophysiology and the regeneration biology of bottomland hardwood forest ecosystems.

Chief's Superior Science Award

Jim Barnett, Southern Research Station

For individual research in seed and seedling physiology that has significantly improved reforestation success and for team leadership in sustaining the long-term productivity of southern pine plantations.

Daniel Cullen, Forest Products Laboratory

For exceptional sustained productivity in biotechnology and in the molecular biology of wood decay fungi.

Ronald Nielson, Pacific Northwest Station

For outstanding advancement of the scientific understanding of vegetation dynamics at landscape to global scales and for its use in regional, national, and international assessments.

Chief's Ecosystem Management Award

Shortleaf Pine/Bluestem Ecosystem Renewal and Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Recovery, Quachita National Forest, Region 8

In recognition of the Shortleaf Pine/Bluestem Ecosystem Renewal and Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Recovery Program. This program is facilitating recovery of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and renewing the historic shortleaf pine/bluestem ecosystem on 155,000 acres of National Forest lands. Key activities include changes to forest management, changes in fire management, a wide range of research activities, and close work with the public.

Chief's Multicultural Organization Award

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas Multicultural Advisory Committee, Region 8

For outstanding contributions towards making the diversity of the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas a true celebration of the talents and perspectives employees bring to the workplace. The committee brought together the entire National Forests and Grasslands in Texas family in a way that everyone remembers and recognizes the contributions each person makes and demonstrated to our communities that we care for them.

Jane Kohlman, Forest Products Laboratory

For outstanding contributions in attracting students to careers in Forest Products Conservation Research.

Chief's International Forestry Award

Russian Far East Sustainable Forestry Group, Region 10

For outstanding contributions to a successful cooperative program with the Federal Forest Service of Russia and others in promoting sustainable forestry in the Russian Far East.

Chief's Labor-Management Partnership Award

Olympic-Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie Problem Solving Team, Olympic National Forest, Region 6

In recognition of success achieved by the Olympic/Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests Problem-Solving Team, in their use of Interest-Based Problem Solving as Union and Management partners, in reaching solutions on Forest consolidation and the organization of the Olympic National Forest.

Chief's Law Enforcement and Investigations Award

Special Agent of the Year

Special Agent Russ Arthur, Cherokee National Forest, Region 8

Agent Arthur is being honored for his interagency leadership at the 1996 Olympics, the depth of his investigative expertise, his recognition internally and externally as a key law enforcement resource, and his extraordinary dedication to his job. The award also recognizes his leadership in the convictions of numerous defendants obtained as the result of one of the largest interagency wildlife poaching investigations in the southeast, the conviction of nine defendants in a felony archeological resource case, and a number of substantial marijuana cultivation convictions and forfeitures.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Law Enforcement Officer Dennis Deason, Mark Twain National Forest, Region 9

Officer Deason is being honored for his outstanding accomplishments on his home District as well as other Districts that he was asked to cover due to vacancies, and for his valuable "can do" attitude and close relationship and involvement with his fellow employees on the Districts. He is also being honored for his training and support of new fellow LE&I employees, work with other local law enforcement agencies and community groups that led to a reduction in arson losses on the forest, and convictions obtained as a result of his enforcement work in a number of serious cases.

Chief's Outstanding Internal Communication Award

First Place

Southwest Colorado Public Lands Newsletter, Region 2

For excellence in sharing information with employees of the San Juan-Rio Grande National Forests and Bureau of Land Management San Juan Resource Area to build a spirit of cooperation and improve service to Colorado.

Second Place

Southwestern Region News, Region 3

For imparting a sense of "team" for over 30 years to the Southwestern Region's workforce and retirees by reporting actions defining national and regional priorities and by sharing employees' successes and innovations.

Second Place

Legislative Report for the Pacific Northwest Region, Region 6

For achieving its goals to keep leadership in the Pacific Northwest Region and Washington and regional employees who work with Members of Congress and their staffs informed about legislative agendas and concerns and to enhance their opportunities for building and improving relationships with regional congressional delegations.

Third Place

Snapshots--Ochoco National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Prineville District, Region 6
For its success in building ties between units of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in central Oregon and furthering a cooperative-working relationship through joint sharing of information.

Honorable Mention

Leadership Ledger Daily Newswire, Region 8

For giving Southern Region employees immediate, accurate feedback on leadership decisions that affect their work through daily publication during quarterly leadership meetings.

**USDA Secretary's Honor Awards
Forest Service Recipients**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

Carson Fisheries Team, Taos, New Mexico, Region 3

Donna L. Storch, Group Leader

For significant accomplishments in the Carson National Forest's fisheries program which will improve habitat for the Rio Grande cutthroat trout and experiences for thousand of anglers.

Group Members:

Charles B. Kuykendall, George Long

HEROISM

Edward Miller, Baldwin, Michigan, Region 9

For rendering aid to an accident victim by providing emergency rescue breathing for the victim until emergency medics arrived at the scene of the motor vehicle accident.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Harold H. Burdsall, Jr., Madison, Wisconsin, FPL

For lifelong achievements in mycological research.

Eric J. Gustafson, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, NC

For pioneering the use of spatial models to assess ecological impacts of alternative management practices on real and hypothetical landscapes.

Partnership Group, Cadillac, Michigan, Region 9

Gloria J. Boersma, Group Leader

For significant accomplishments in nurturing partnerships which enabled the Forest to complete mutually beneficial projects.

Group Members:

Alger J. Cline, Gordon L. Hasse, Darlene J. Hettel, Phillip W. Huber, Joseph B. Kelly, Patricia A. O'Connell, Carl A. Racchini, Chris M. Schumacher, Thomas R. Walter

John A. Youngquist, Madison, Wisconsin, FPL

For providing international scientific and research leadership in the promotion of sustainable ecosystems, conservation of forest resources, and environmental stewardship.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Stephen A. Bowman (Posthumous), Greeneville, Tennessee, Region 8

For the ultimate sacrifice in service to the American people while providing outstanding performance as a law enforcement officer.

Frank G. Koenig, Morgantown, West Virginia, Region 9
For resourcefulness, ingenuity, and advocacy in partnerships and rural community assistance.

Jane A. Schmoyer-Weber

John D. Gorman, Great Falls, Montana, Region 1

For excellence and leadership in fund raising, designing, building and operating the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in a true spirit of partnership.

Techline Team, Madison Wisconsin, FPL

Debra J. Dietzman, Group Leader

For ongoing preparation and dissemination of easily accessible information about current forest products research within the Forest Service.

Group Members:

John R. Dramm, Rodney Larson, Theodore Laufenberg, JoAnn H. Benisch, Mark T. Knaebe,
Karen K. Berton, Adele M. Olstad, Jackie Page, David R. Schumann, Kim Stanfill-McMillan, Russell S. Williams, Elaine B. McKinney **Natural Resources Conservation Service Group Member:** Edward Weber

REINVENTING GOVERNMENT

Fee Demonstration Implementation Team, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Region 3

Joe Meade, Group Leader

For implementation of the Forest Service's Fee Demonstration Program using innovative business practices and skills.

Group Members:

Lyle Laverty, Dave Heerwagen, Brent Botts, Greg Super, Linda Feldman, Thelma Strong, Floyd Thompson, Reed Gardner

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Kyle W. Lester, Manchester Center, Vermont, Region 9

For outstanding support to rebuilding partners' trust and accomplishing forest trail construction targets.

Manistique Recreation Team, Manistique, Michigan, Region 9

Brenda M. Madden, Group Leader

For leadership, dedication and commitment to providing quality Forest Service recreation experiences and facilities for the public.

Group Members:

Deniece Monroe, Lucille Winberg, Florestine Lockhart, Earl Porter

The United States Forest Service: The World's Largest Water Company

Mike Dombeck Chief of the U.S. Forest Service
Outdoor Writers Association of America Conference
Sioux Falls, SD
June 21, 1999

Introduction Presentation

Ø Forests are the headwaters of the nation. And as we near the 21st century, national and international tension and conflict over freshwater resources is increasing:

- Fish species and other aquatic resources are threatened with extinction from polluted or diminished water supplies. In the U.S. 35% of freshwater fish, 38% of amphibians, 56% of mussels are imperiled or vulnerable
- Billions of people worldwide lack basic water services
- Millions die annually from water-related diseases
- Agricultural production is constrained by a lack of irrigation water
- Groundwater supplies are consumed faster than they are replenished
- Dams, ditches, and levees fragment water-courses and alter the stream flow
- 75% of our nations' outdoor recreation is within ½ mile of streams or water body's
- 50 million people fish in the United States each year

Nationalism and economics often drove major wars of the 19th and 20th centuries. Without planning, cooperation, and forethought, wars in the 21st century may be fought over water and other resources. While the United States is relatively water rich, the western part of the nation - where most National Forests are located - is water poor. Increasing competition for limited water supplies is common to most municipalities in this the fastest growing part of the country.

In the next several years, hard decisions will have to be made about water and its allocation to agricultural production, urban development, and environmental protection. At the same time, the "water world" is becoming less stable. Many scientists note corollaries in climate change and increased severity and frequency of floods and length of drought over the last 25 years. In fact, our concept of what constitutes a 100-year flood is questionable given that such large events today seem to occur at five and ten year intervals.

Fresh Water: An Overview

Our earth is called the water planet for good reason. 70% of the earth's surface is covered with water - without it the earth would be a lifeless ball. Yet 97.5% of the water on the planet is salt water. Of the

other 2.5%, the vast majority is locked up in the vast ice caps of Antarctica and Greenland. The small percentage of available annual renewable water is unevenly distributed through time and space - so unevenly that we spend billions of dollars every year to move it from wet areas to dry areas or to store it in wet seasons for coming dry periods.

California illustrates the issue. Most of its rain comes in the winter months - little in the summer when agriculture and families need it most. The vast majority falls in northern California's National Forests, yet the greatest demand is in southern part of the state. National Forests comprise only 20% of the state's land but produce about 50% of California's runoff.

Nationally, forested lands comprise about one-third of the nation's land area and supply about two-thirds of the total U.S., runoff. National Forest lands are the largest single source of water in the continental United States.

Water and the National Forests

When most Americans think of the 192 million-acre National Forest System they may think of forest products, livestock grazing, mineral extraction, wildlife management, outdoor recreation and wilderness experiences. But the most valuable and least appreciated resource the National Forest System provides is water.

Due to topography, location, vegetation, and geology of the National Forest System - how it collects snow and rainfall and channels water to lower-lying communities - these lands have more influence on national water supplies, particularly in the West, than any other single entity. This makes National Forest lands the nation's largest and most important water provider.

The roots of the Forest Service are in watershed management. In the 1890's, visionaries such as Gifford Pinchot believed that we ought to value forests for their "effect on the climate and floods, rainfall and runoff, springs and erosion." The first Committee of Scientists, the National Forest Commission of 1897, recommended the establishment of 13 Forest Reserves for timber, water supply, and flood prevention. Watershed management is the oldest and highest calling of the Forest Service and a critical part of the Organic Act of 1897, which stated the purpose of federal forest reserves:

To improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber.

By 1915, 162 million acres of National Forests existed. At that time, there were few federal forests in the East because the public domain had already been transferred to private ownership prior to the advent of the conservation movement.

Between 1911 to 1945 about 24 million acres of depleted farmsteads and burned woodlands in the East were added into the National Forest System through the Weeks Act and placed under long-term management. Today, these thriving forests that support abundant fish and wildlife populations, represent one of our nation's greatest conservation and restoration success stories.

Forest management has come a long way since 1900. Consider:

- Wildfire commonly consumed an area the size of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware

combined each year.

- There were about 80 million acres of cut over forests that were either barren or lacked desirable tree species.
- The volume of timber cut nationally greatly exceeded that of forest growth.
- Reforestation was an afterthought. Aside from a few experimental programs, long-term forest management was not practiced.
- Massive clearing of forestland for agriculture continued into this century. For example, in the last 50 years of the 19th century, forest cover in many areas east of the Mississippi had fallen from 70 percent to 20 percent or less. From 1860-1910, settlers cleared forests at the average rate of 13.3 square miles per day - much of this land included highly erosive steep slopes.

The two main purposes for creating the National Forest System were to maintain abundant forest reserves and to supply abundant water. Over the past 50 years, the watershed purpose of the Forest Service has not been a co-equal partner with providing other resource uses such as timber production. In fact, watershed purposes were sometimes viewed as a “constraint” to timber management.

Relatively few of the National Forests thoroughly addressed their original watershed purposes through forest plans. Water was typically considered in the context of stream corridor management, fish habitat, and to some degree water quality. This despite the fact that in addition to fishing and water-based recreation, over 3,400 communities rely on National Forest lands in 33 states for their drinking water, serving over 60 million people. Assessment of the watershed conditions needed to maintain the ecological function of forests, provide drinking water for downstream communities, and enhance and sustain public forest values will be of paramount importance as we revise over 60% of our forest plans in the next few years.

We recently assessed the *marginal value* of water on National Forest lands to be more than \$3.7 billion per year. This \$3.7 billion does not include the value of maintaining fish species, many other recreation values, nor the savings to municipalities who have reduced filtration costs because water from National Forests is so clean. Nor does it account for the millions of visitor days where people are fulfilled by the simple act of walking beside a cool clear stream, river, or lake. Healthy watersheds that produce high quality water also provide for a long-term sustained yield of other goods, values, and services. Given the fundamental importance of water to all life on this planet it is arguable that the value of water is “priceless.” Who would have thought that today we would be paying more for this bottle of water than the cost of gasoline?

Getting Back to Basics

How will the decisions we make on the land today influence what we are remembered for one hundred years from now? That should be the question that guides every decision we make. What made Pinchot’s young Forest Service unique was a set of conservation values that were not always popular but were made in the long-term interest of land health.

Over time, our capacity to assist those who manage the more than 500 million acres of forests outside of the National Forest System has diminished. Our greatest value to society in the future will be to develop

and deliver good science on watershed conservation and then help people to develop a shared vision for managing healthy watersheds.

The cleanest and greatest amounts of surface water runoff in the nation come from forested landscapes. Mindful of this fact, a year or so ago, Jay Cravens, a Forest Service retiree, offered me some advice on stewardship. He said, “Mike, just take care of soil and water and everything else will be OK.” That sage counsel guides our approach to watershed management.

In keeping with that philosophy, the Forest Service is making the changes based on the following guidance: The Vice President’s Clean Water Action Plan commitments; Recommendations from the Committee of Scientists, charged earlier this year by Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman to improve the way the Forest Service does business; And consistent with our mandates from the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water acts, watershed health and restoration will be the overriding priorities in all future forest plans.

Future forest plans will develop strategies and document how we will:

- Work with other agencies, states and tribes to conduct assessments that will characterize current watershed condition and help inform decisions about management activities, protection objectives, and restoration potential of public lands.
- Maintain and restore watershed function, including *flow regimes*, to provide for a wide variety of benefits from fishing, to groundwater recharge, to drinking water.
- Provide for the protection, maintenance and recovery of native aquatic and riparian dependent species and prevent the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species.
- Monitor to ensure we accomplish our objectives in the most cost-effective manner, adapt management to changing conditions, and validate our assumptions over time.
- Include the best science and research, local communities, partners, tribal governments, states, and other interested citizens in collaborative watershed restoration and management, and
- Provide opportunities to link social and economic benefits to communities through restoration strategies.

All future forest plans will also prioritize specific watersheds for protection and restoration. Accomplishing these priorities will be linked to annual budget requests and employee performance evaluations. We will develop priorities for protection and restoration based upon:

- Past disturbance history. Emphasis will be given to protecting undisturbed watersheds and roadless areas and integrating these areas into plans to protect and restore the integrity of watersheds.
- Water quality and other water-related objectives.
- Restoration potential and sensitivity to disturbance.
- Biological diversity of native plants, fish, and animals and special designations such as Wild and

Scenic Rivers.

- Recovery of threatened, endangered, or other sensitive species.
- Potential to leverage restoration funds, partnerships, and the opportunity to work with interested and willing federal, state and tribal governments, communities, adjacent land managers, and owners.

Roads and Roadless Areas

Our interim suspension of road construction in roadless areas has helped to reduce the controversy in many of our forests. Our challenge is to make certain that the values that make these areas ecologically and socially important are considered and protected.

During the first round of forest plans, roadless areas were considered for their value as potential wilderness or opened to other uses. Over time, we have learned that unroaded areas have many other values beyond their potential value as wilderness or developed use areas. We must sustain and protect those other values such as:

- Source drinking water areas. (Areas, the source of drinking water)
- Reference areas for research to assess the health of developed lands.
- Areas of high or unique biological diversity.
- Areas where other unfragmented lands are scarce.
- Areas of cultural or historic importance.
- Areas that provide unique or important seasonal habitat for wildlife, fish, and plant species.

Protecting unroaded areas is not enough, however. If we wish to restore the health of our watersheds, we must address already roaded areas, too. Many roadless areas have become sanctuary's, areas of high biotic integrity where remnant populations of many native species persist. Ironically, roadless areas are often among the least biologically productive portions of the landscape - typically higher elevation with steep slopes, unstable soils, and often areas of low productivity.

Aldo Leopold once said, "recreational engineering is not so much a job of building roads into lovely places but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind." Watershed restoration cannot occur without the help of interested and willing private and state landowners. We know today that we cannot simply protect national forests, refuges, and parks and by extension hope to protect our natural resource heritage. Public lands cannot be managed in isolation of other federal, state, and private lands. From the forest to the sea, we must work in partnership with communities to link neighborhood creeks and tree-lined streets to the ocean-bound rivers, state parks and forests.

It is my expectation that the long-term road policy will significantly limit, if not eliminate costly new road construction in sensitive areas that can degrade water quality, cause erosion, imperil rare species, or fragment habitat. We will also move aggressively to close, obliterate, or otherwise decommission unauthorized and unneeded roads. We will need the help of Congress to maintain needed roads while

decommissioning others.

Protecting and Restoring National Assets

Forest Service managed lands are uniquely positioned to contribute to the conservation and restoration of habitats for fish, shore birds, migratory waterfowl, large ungulates and endangered species. National Forests and Grasslands are essential resting-places and habitat for many migratory species of fishes and birds that travel thousands of miles each year.

The top-down regulatory approach that defined the effective environmental protections of the 1970s and 80s is gradually giving way - perhaps sharing power is a more appropriate way to put it - with a different kind of movement. It is taking place outside of Washington, D.C. - where so often we confuse politics for progress. It is taking place in communities such as this all across the nation where loggers and environmentalists, ranchers and anglers weary of the controversy are sitting down in coffee shops, and leaning against the tailgates of pickups, in diners getting to know one another and learning that their differences need not define their relationships.

For too long, we have allowed the extremes to define our agendas. In places such as Kalispell, Montana, and in western Oregon where groups such as Flathead Common Ground and the Applegate Partnership demonstrate that if we focus on broad areas of agreement instead of the narrow areas of controversy, we can accomplish mutually agreeable goals on the land.

We are passing through the end of a tumultuous two decades in natural resource management. Litigation, new information, court ordered injunctions - all prompting great, and often overdue, change - but not without great social and economic disruption. This nation is founded on the premise that diverse groups, creeds, and races of people can come together in good will and resolve any challenge, no matter how daunting. Margaret Meade once said, "never doubt that a small group of dedicated people can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Such must have been the thinking of Defenders of Wildlife, the Montana Logging Association, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Intermountain Forest Industry Association in coming together to form *Flathead Common Ground*. This collaborative group has led to a jointly supported proposal to:

- Decommission 116 miles of old and unused roads to help grizzly bears.
- Restore many miles of stream.
- Burn 8,700 acres to improve deer and elk browse and regeneration for white bark pine.
- Harvest timber and treat vegetation on 633 acres.

Efforts such as these remind me of a wonderful quote by the writer Barry Lopez in his aptly titled essay, *Waiting on Wisdom*. He says,

Restoration work is not fixing beautiful machinery, replacing stolen parts, adding fresh lubricants, cobbling and welding and rewiring. It is accepting an abandoned responsibility. It is a humble and often joyful mending of biological ties, with a hope clearly recognized that working from this foundation we might, too, begin to mend human society.

Everyone needs water. Everyone needs clean water and all the benefits that flow from it. Watersheds and streams are the kidneys of our grasslands and forests. They are the barometers of the health of the land. By focussing on areas of agreement such as water quality improvement, maintaining stream flows, and allowing for the ecological processes that make our forests hum and tick, we can bring people together to restore the soil, water and air upon which we and future generations will depend.

Other Speeches

Home

Submitted by: Chris Wood

Modified: 6/24/99

The United States Forest Service: The World's Largest Water Company

Mike Dombeck Chief of the U.S. Forest Service
Outdoor Writers Association of America Conference
Sioux Falls, SD

Introduction

- Forests are the headwaters of the nation. And as we near the 21st century, national and international tension and conflict over freshwater resources is increasing:

- 50 million people fish in the United States each year
- Fish species and other aquatic resources are threatened with extinction from polluted or diminished water supplies.
- Billions of people worldwide lack basic water services
- Millions die annually from water-related diseases
- Agricultural production is constrained by a lack of irrigation water
- Groundwater supplies are consumed faster than they are replenished
- Dams, ditches, and levees fragment water-courses and alter the stream flow
- 75% of our nations' outdoor recreation is within ½ mile of streams or water body's

35% freshwater fish
 38% amphibians
 56% mussels

Major wars of the 19th and 20th centuries were often driven by nationalism and economics. Without planning, cooperation, and forethought, wars in the 21st century may be fought over water and other resources. While the United States is relatively water rich, the western part of the nation – where most National Forests are located – is water poor. Increasing competition for limited water supplies is common to most municipalities in this the fastest growing part of the country.

In the next several years, hard decisions will have to be made about water and its allocation to agricultural production, urban development, and environmental protection. At the same time, the “water world” is becoming less stable. Many scientists note corollaries in climate change and increased severity and frequency of floods and length of drought over the last 25 years. In fact, our concept of what constitutes a 100-year flood is questionable given that such large events today seem to occur at five and ten year intervals.

Fresh Water: An Overview

Our earth is called the water planet for good reason. 70% of the earth's surface is covered with water – without it the earth would be a lifeless ball. Yet 97.5% of the water on the planet is salt water. Of the other 2.5%, the vast majority is locked up in the vast ice caps of Antarctica and Greenland. The small percentage of available annual renewable water is unevenly distributed through time and space – so unevenly that we spend billions of dollars every year to move it from wet areas to dry areas or to store it in wet seasons for coming dry periods.

California illustrates the issue. Most of its rain comes in the winter months – little in the summer when agriculture and families need it most. The vast majority falls in northern California's National Forests, yet the greatest demand is in southern part of the state. National Forests comprise only 20% of the state's land but produce about 50% of California's runoff.

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Water and the National Forests

When most Americans think of the 191 million acre National Forest System they may think of forest products, livestock grazing, mineral extraction, wildlife management, outdoor recreation and wilderness experiences. But the most valuable and least appreciated resource the National Forest System provides is water.

Due to topography, location, vegetation, and geology of the National Forest System – how it collects snow and rainfall and channels water to lower-lying communities – these lands have more influence on national water supplies, particularly in the West, than any other single entity. This makes the U.S. Forest Service the nation's largest and most important water provider.

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The roots of the Forest Service are in watershed management. In the 1890's, visionaries such as Gifford Pinchot believed that we ought to value forests for their "effect on the climate and floods, rainfall and runoff, springs and erosion." The first Committee of Scientists, the National Forest Commission of 1897, recommended the establishment of 13 Forest Reserves for timber, water supply, and flood prevention. Watershed management is the oldest and highest calling of the Forest Service and a critical part of the Organic Act of 1897, which stated the purpose of federal forest reserves:

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- Wildfire commonly consumed an area the size of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware combined each year.
- There were about 80 million acres of cut over forests that were either barren or lacked desirable tree species.
- The volume of timber cut nationally greatly exceeded that of forest growth.
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- Massive clearing of forestland for agriculture continued into this century. For example, in the last 50 years of the 19th century, forest cover in many areas east of the Mississippi had fallen from 70 percent to 20 percent or less. From 1860-1910, farmers cleared forests at the average rate of 13.3 square miles per day – much of this land included highly erosive steep slopes.

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Roads and Roadless Areas

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Protecting unroaded areas is not enough, however. If we wish to restore the health of our watersheds, we must address already roaded areas, too. Many roadless areas have become *refugia* – areas of high biotic integrity where remnant populations of many native species persist. Ironically, roadless areas are often among the least biologically productive portions of the landscape – typically higher elevation with steep slopes, unstable soils, and often areas of low productivity.

Aldo Leopold once said, “recreational engineering is not so much a job of building roads into lovely places but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind.” Watershed restoration cannot occur without the help of interested and willing private and state landowners. We know today that we cannot simply protect national forests, refuges, and parks and by extension hope to protect our natural resource heritage. Public lands cannot be managed in isolation of other federal, state, and private lands. From the forest to the sea, we must work in partnership with communities to link neighborhood creeks and tree-lined streets to the ocean-bound rivers, state parks and forests.

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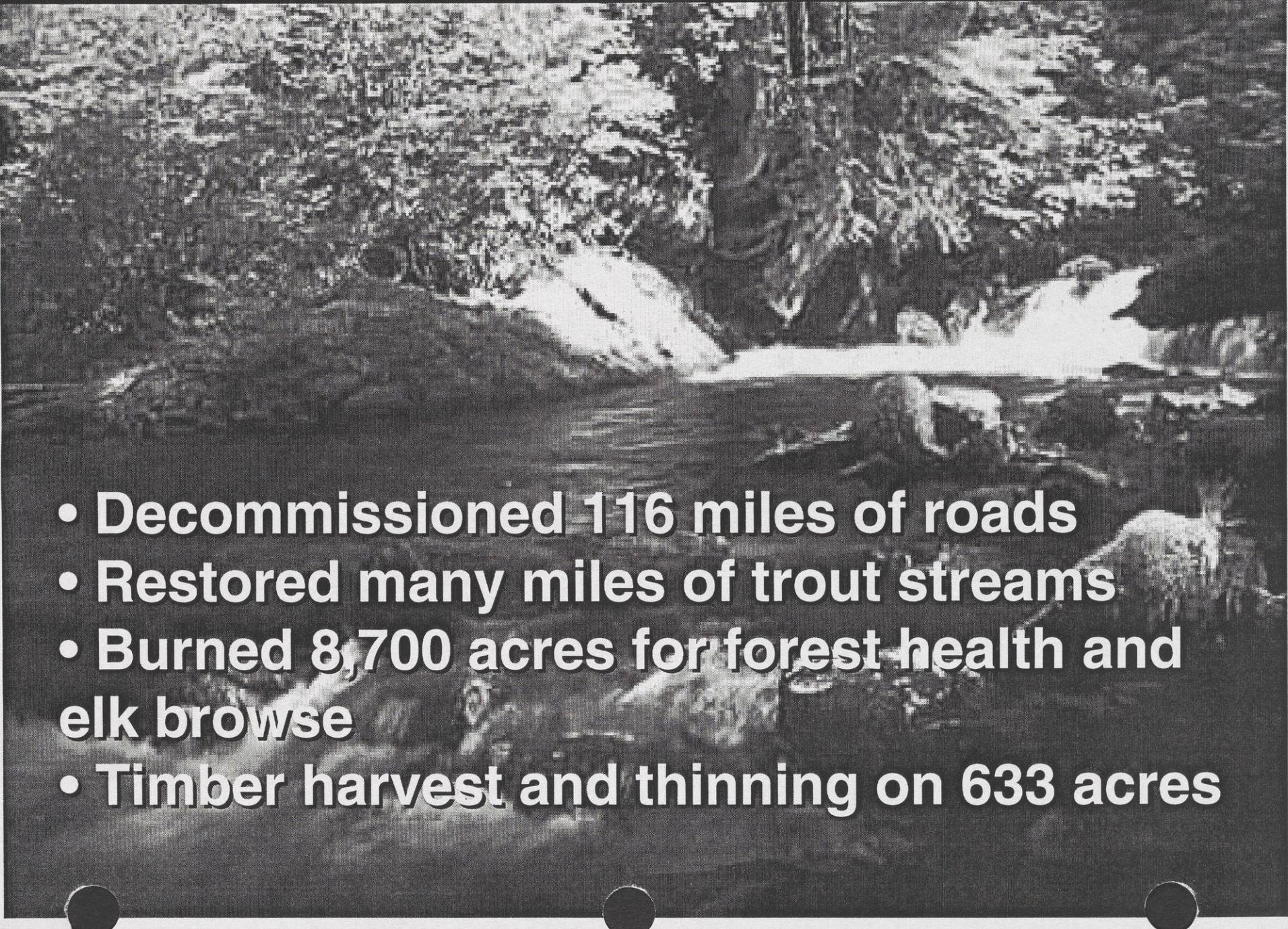
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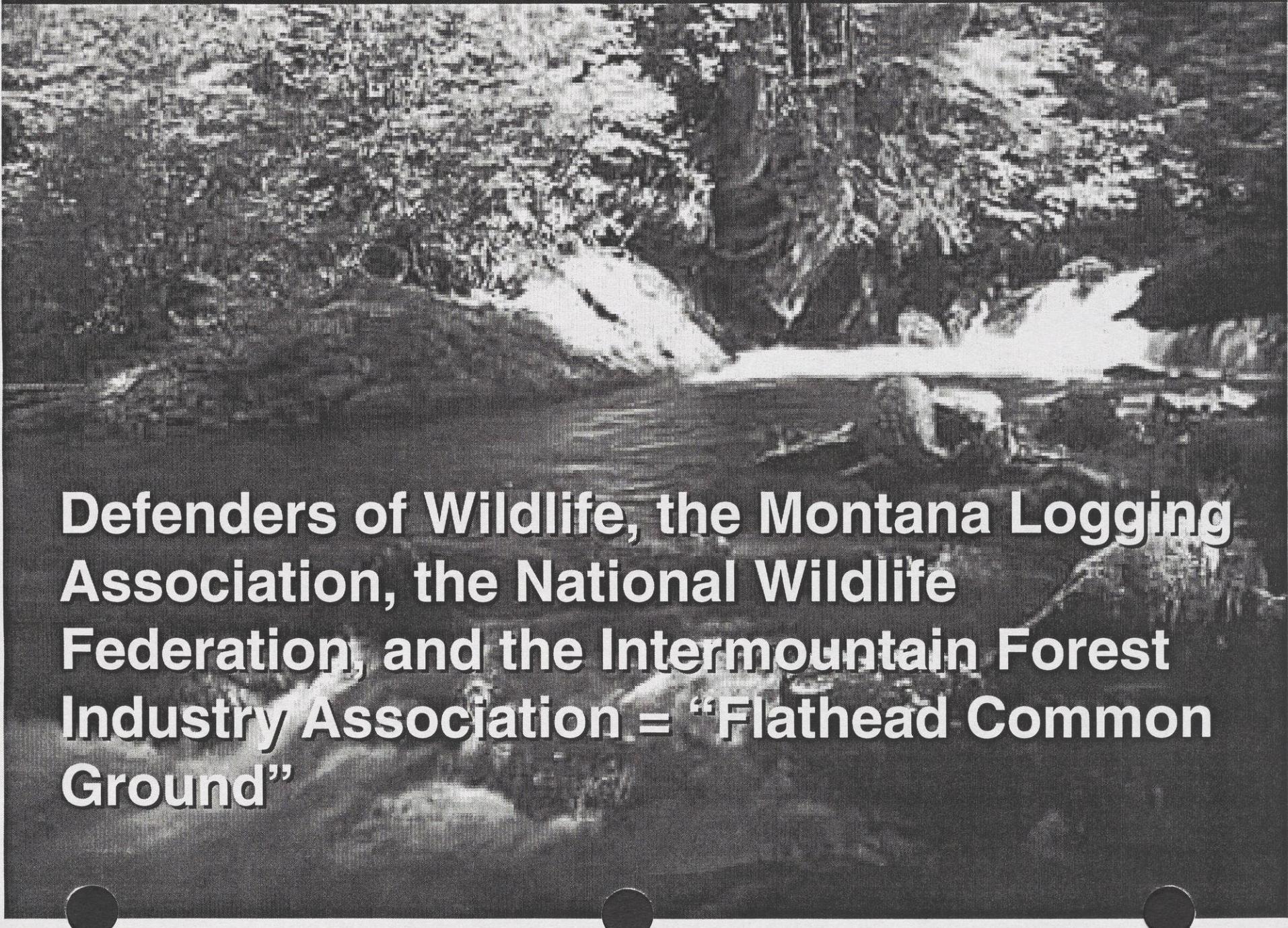
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Lakes and streams are the circulatory systems of our grasslands & forests. They are the indicators of the health of the land.



- Decommissioned 116 miles of roads
- Restored many miles of trout streams
- Burned 8,700 acres for forest health and elk browse
- Timber harvest and thinning on 633 acres

The USDA Forest Service & Water

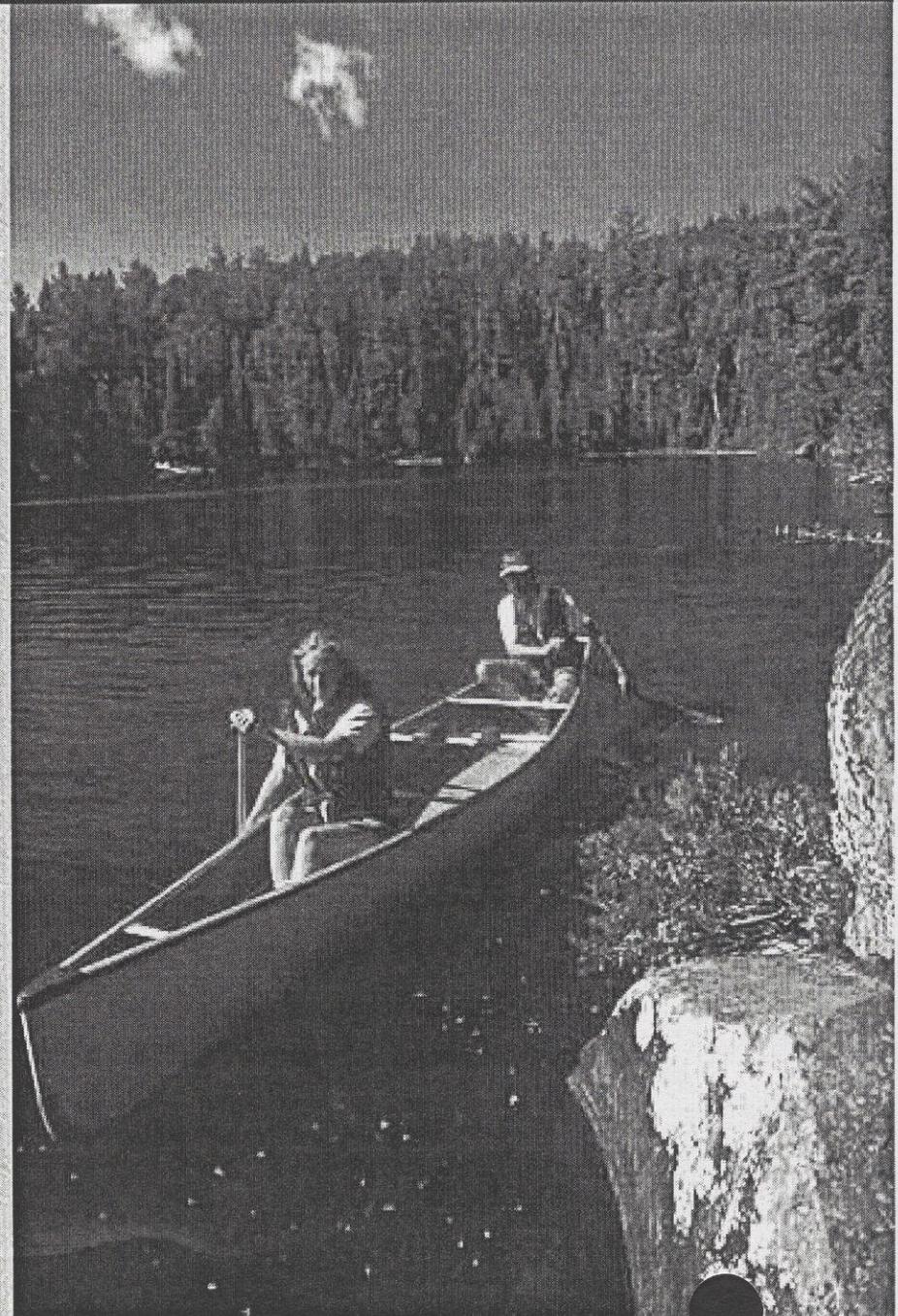


Defenders of Wildlife, the Montana Logging Association, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Intermountain Forest Industry Association = “Flathead Common Ground”

A New Approach to Effective Environmental Protection

“Never doubt that a small group of dedicated people can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

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*Sciofold
the only progress that really counts*

Large unfragmented landscapes are increasingly important

we lose 7,000 acres farmland by
of tracts of farmland doubled 24

The USDA Forest Service & Water

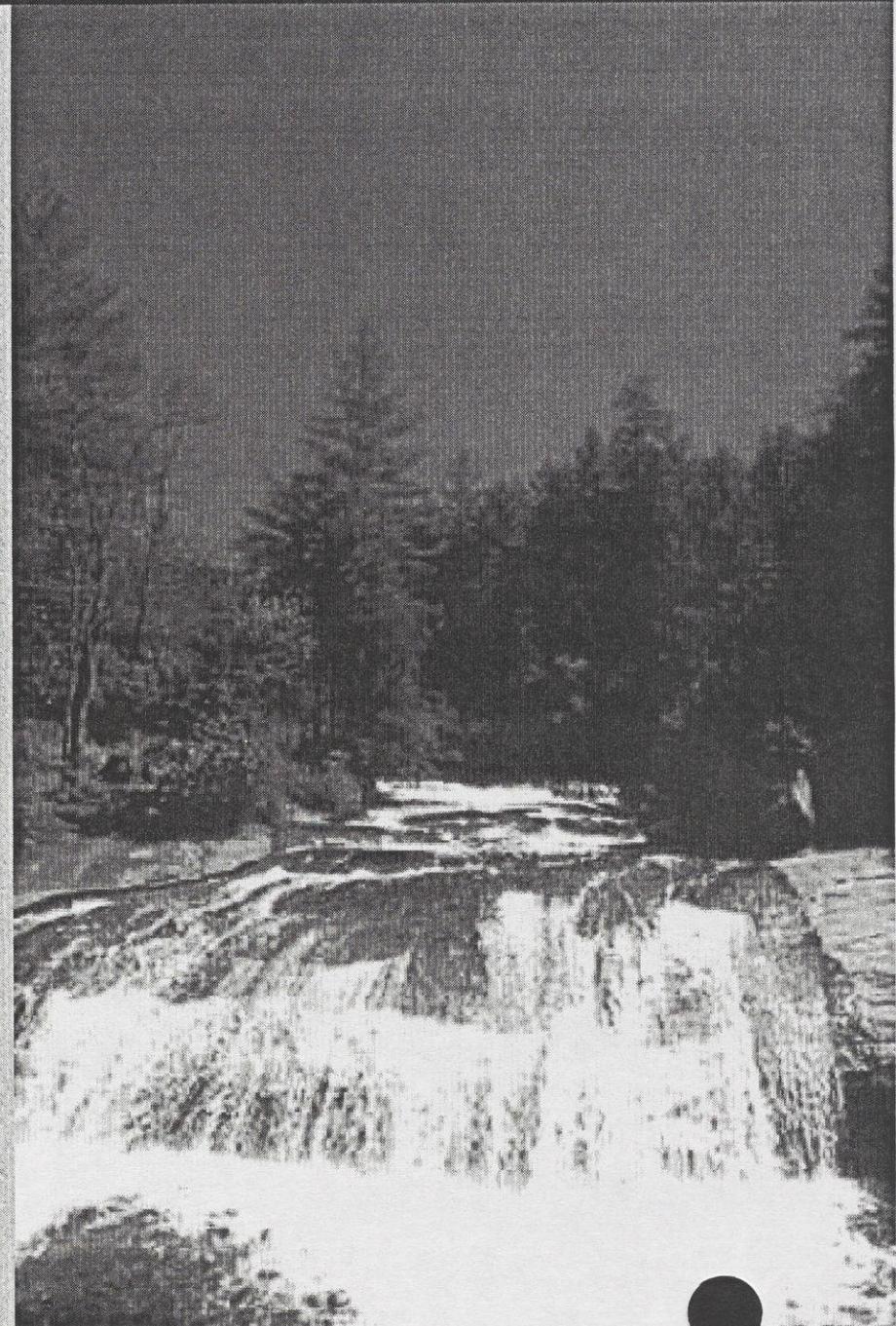
Protecting & Restoring National Assets

Forest Service
managed lands are
uniquely positioned
to contribute to the
conservation and
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wildlife habitats.

How will we do it. --- by working with people

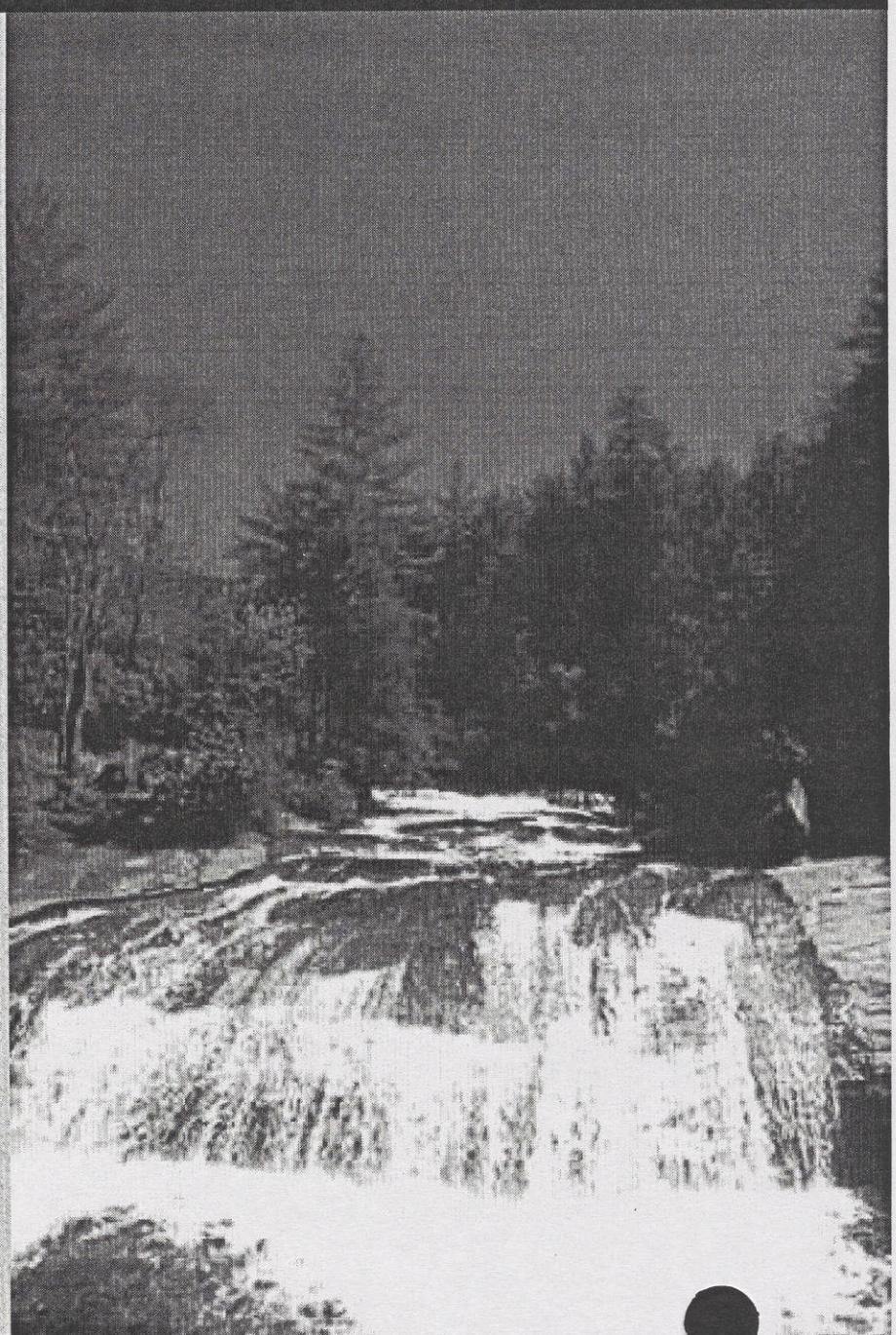
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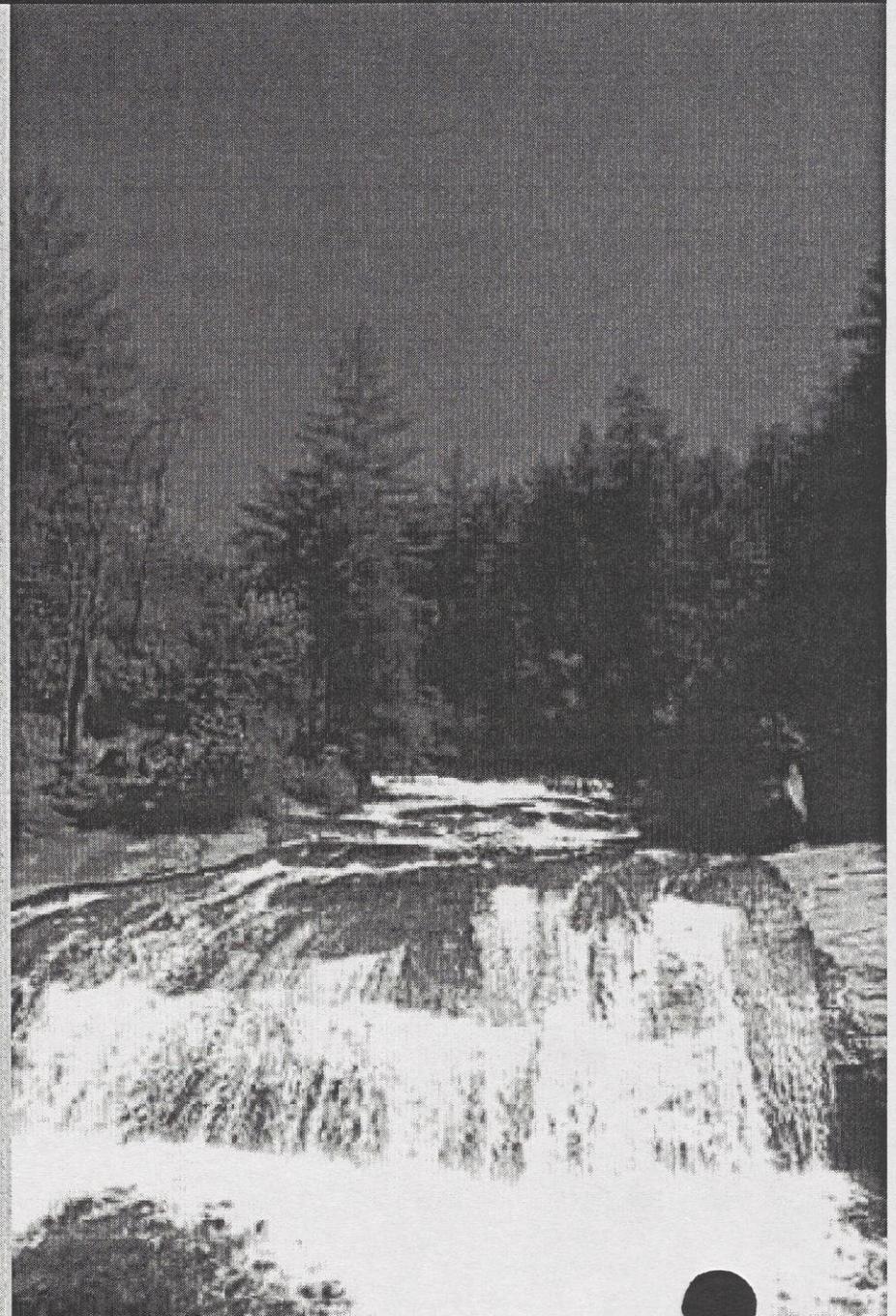
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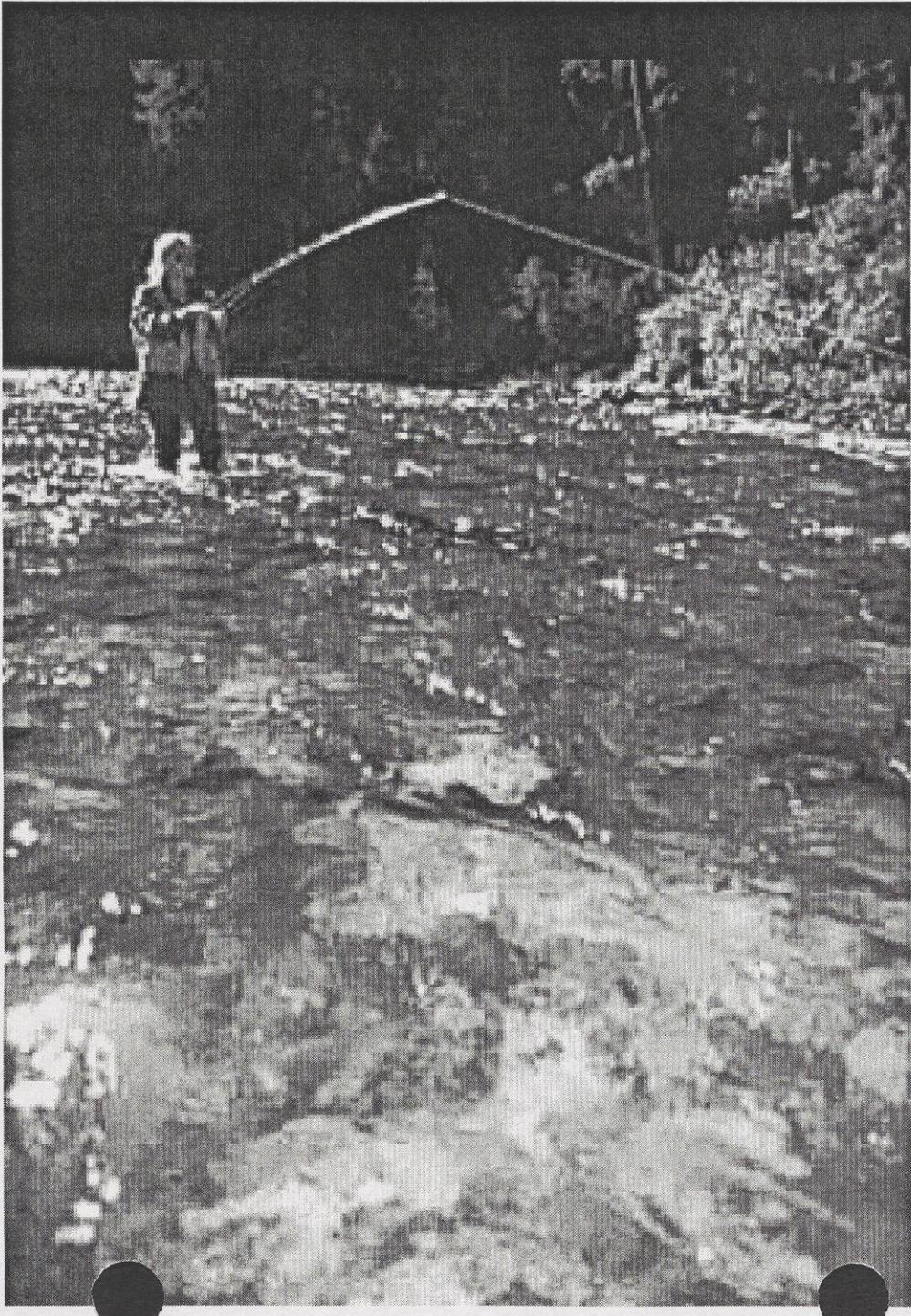
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- Protecting undisturbed watersheds and roadless areas
- Restoring the integrity of watersheds and water quality





The USDA Forest Service & Water

Getting Back to Basics ...

**Watershed health
will be the
overriding priority
in all future forest
plan revisions.**

*within the decade
65 Forest Plans = 150,000,000 acres.*

*New Planning Regs. based on
a recent committee of scientist
Report. We will be est. priorities*

Contributing billions of \$ to local economies

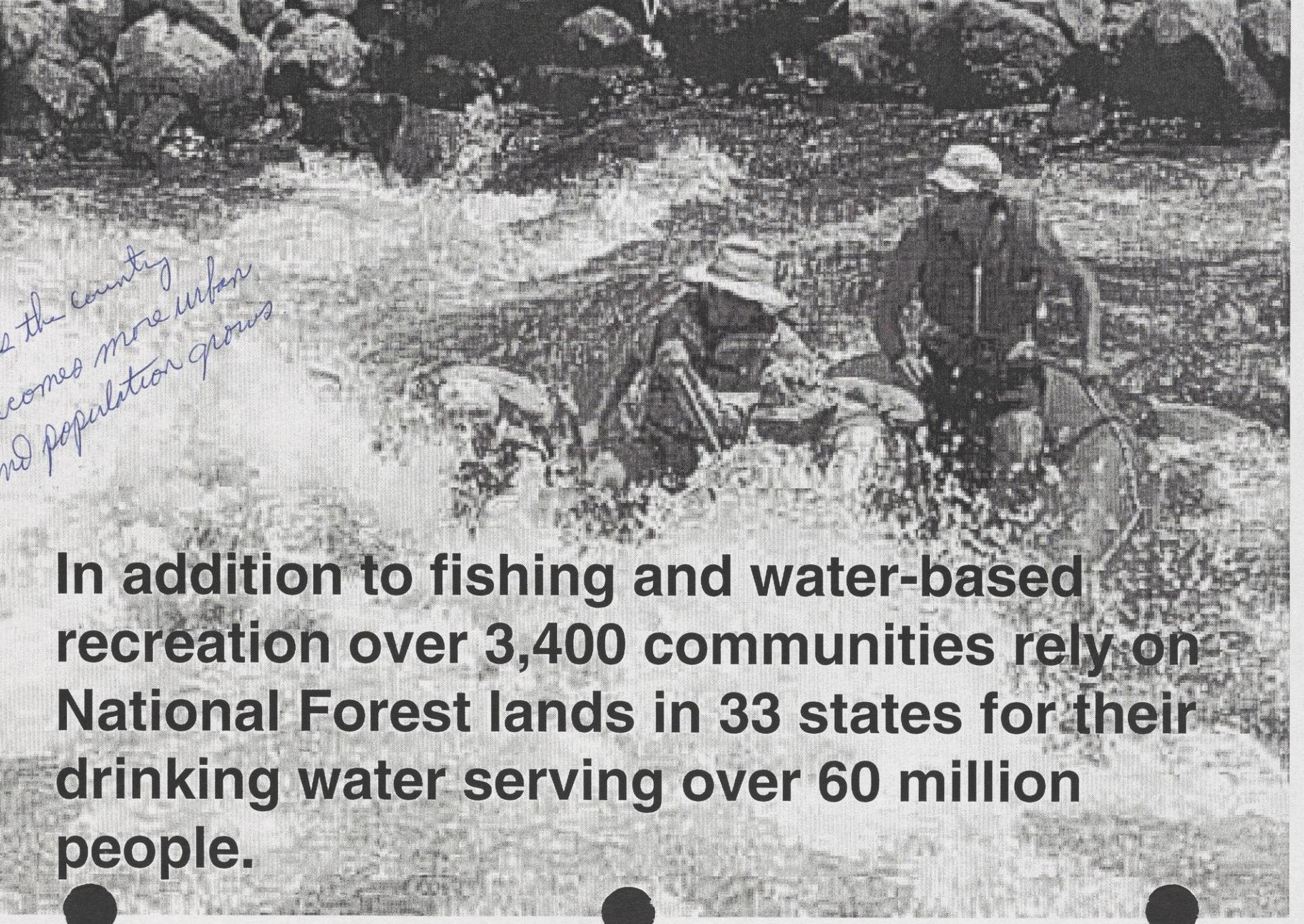
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The USDA Forest Service & Water

Plus water based recreation & tourism 75% of outdoor recreation occurs within 1/2 mile of water.

The marginal value of water from National Forest Lands is \$3.7 billion a year.

So what are we doing about it. . . . - Returning to our roots, getting back to basics.



As the country becomes more urban and population grows

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If there will be a resources issue in the next century it will be water. The intent is for water supply.

Jay Gravens

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The USDA Forest Service & Water

Today, these thriving forests that support abundant fish and wildlife represent one of our nation's greatest conservation and restoration success stories.

Appalachian
Forest Today
Story

Condition of Forests in 1900

Massive clearing of forest land in the East for agriculture.

America's settlers cleared forests at the rate of 13.3 square miles per day.

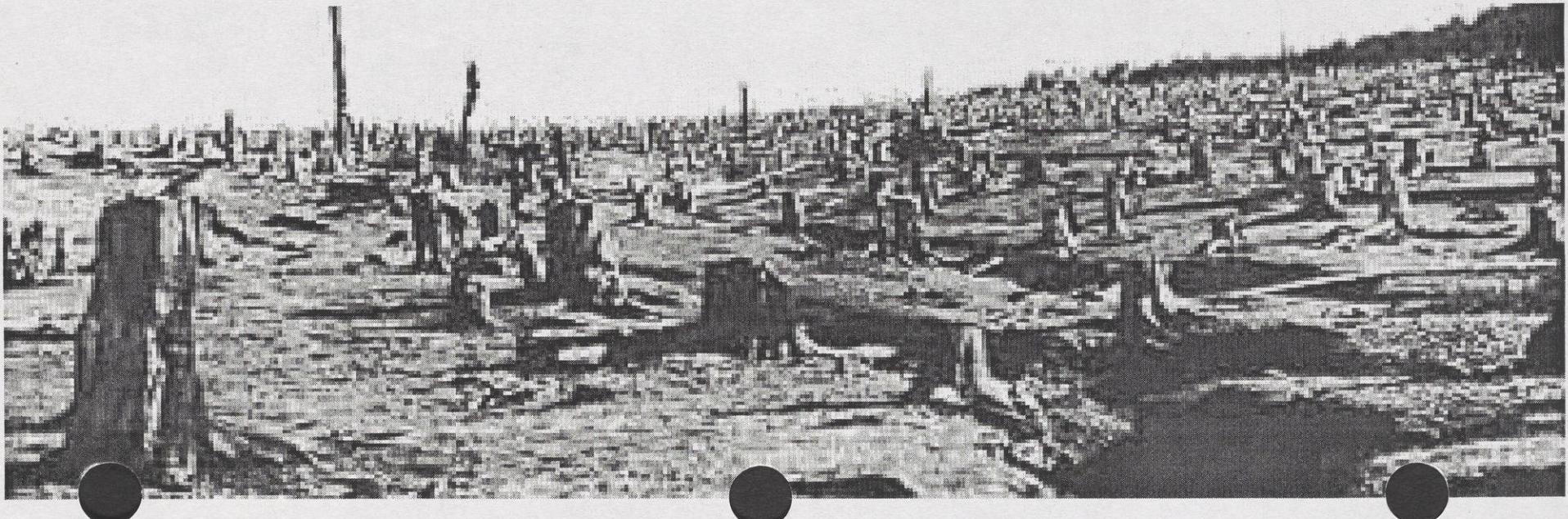


Next We moved into a restoration mode.

Condition of Forests in 1900

The volume of timber cut nationally greatly exceeded that of forest growth.

Long-term forest management was not practiced.

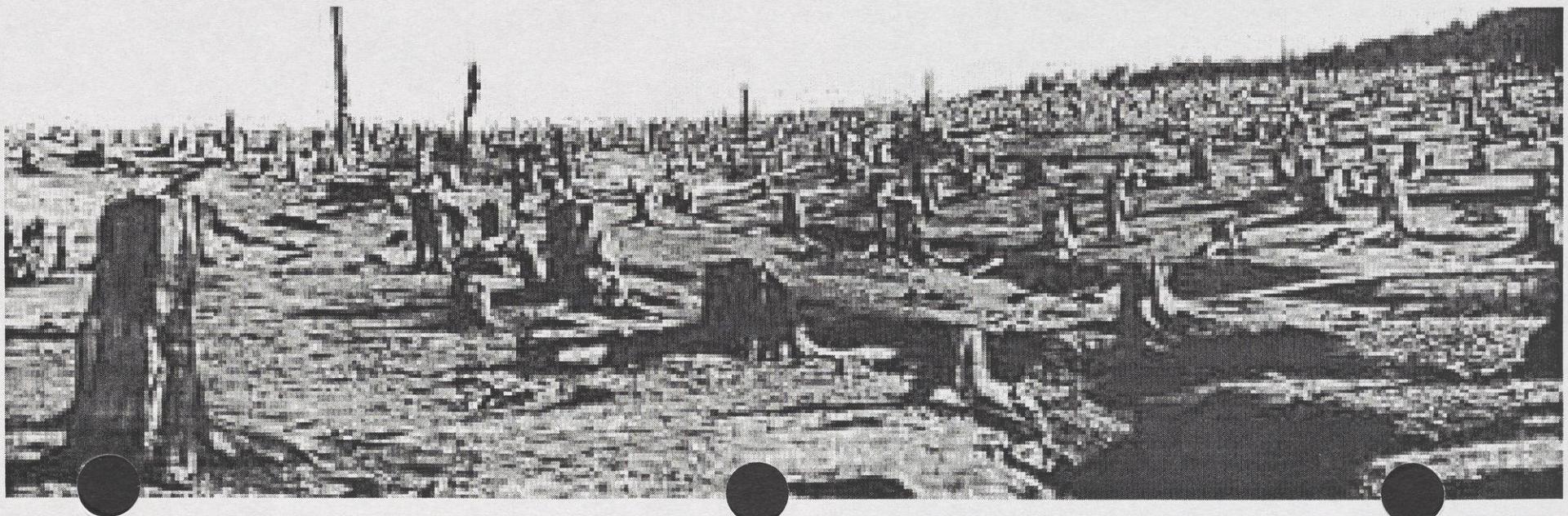


Condition of Forests in 1900

Wildfire commonly consumed 20-50 million acres annually.

*West Virginia
Maryland & Delaware*

About 80 million acres of “cutovers” were idle or lacking desirable trees.



Between 1911 - 1945 about 24 million acres of depleted farmsteads and burned woodlands in the East were added to the National Forest System through the Weeks Act.

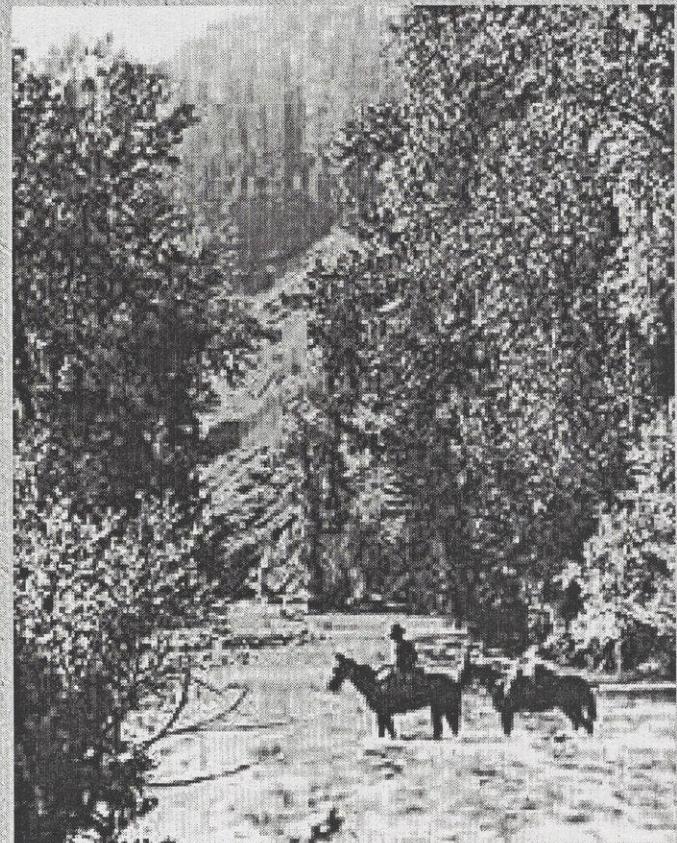


Deforest conditions of the turn of the this century

11

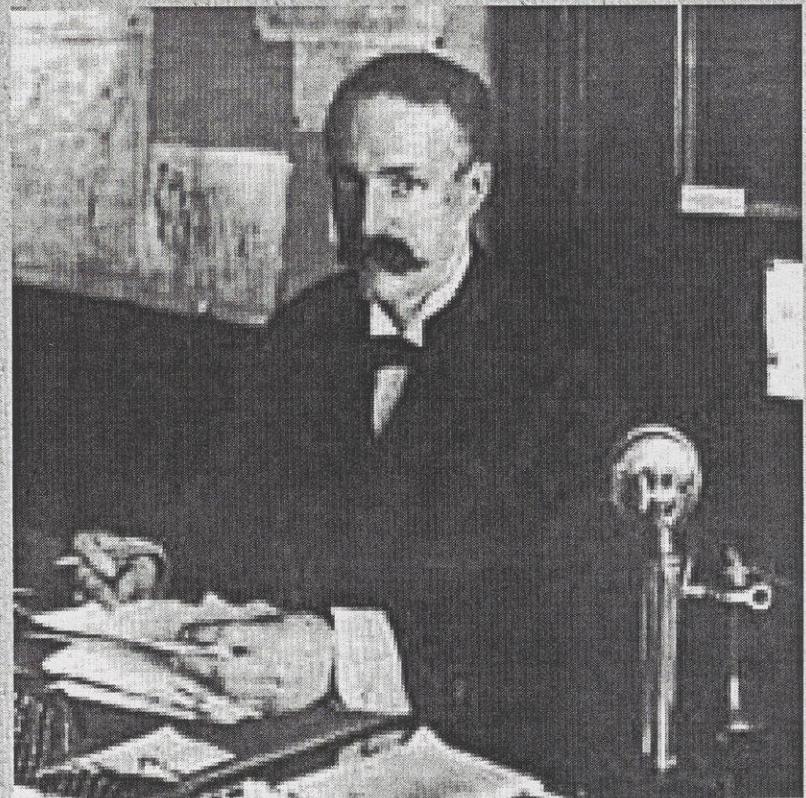
Watershed management is a critical part of the Organic Act of 1897, which stated the purpose of federal forest reserves:

“To improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber.”



The roots of the Forest Service are in watershed management

Gifford Pinchot believed that we ought to value forests for their *“effects on the climate and floods, rainfall and runoff, springs and erosion.”*
-- 1890s



Watershed health was a foundation of U.S.

Let's look at our most populous state - Calif. & its great rivers. American, Feather, Salmon, Smith, all begin or flow through Natl Forests. Trinity, Tule, Eel, King, Kern, Merced, Klamath.

The USDA Forest Service & Water

Due to topography, location, vegetation and geology of the National Forest System, these lands have more influence on national water supplies.



Let's look at History Watershed Mgmt. was the 1st & highest calling of the Forest Service.

15-80%

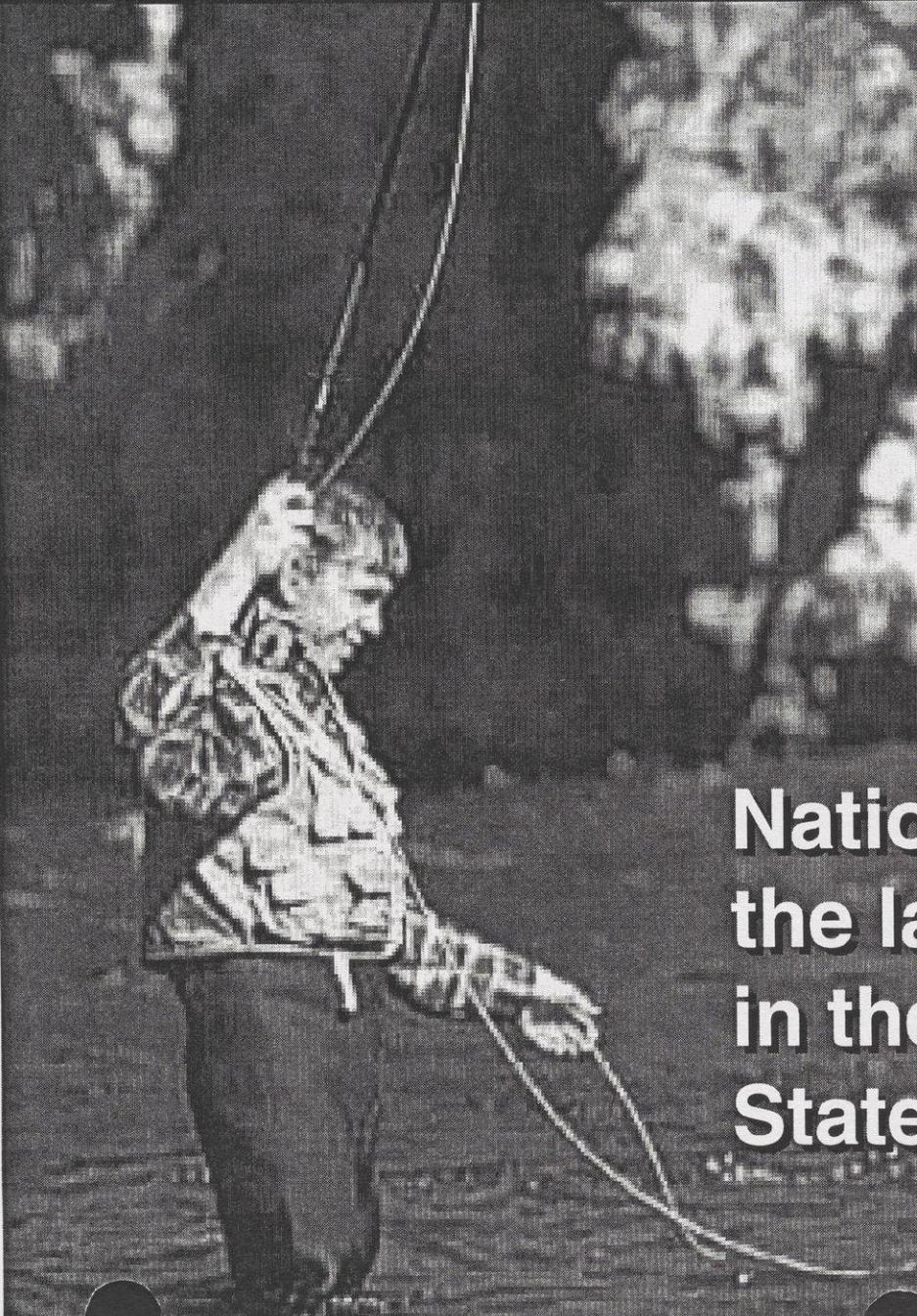
for comment, Ian Fosquin

The USDA Forest Service & Water

The National Forests & Water

The most
valuable and the
least appreciated
resource the
National Forests
provide is water.





All Forests = Cleanest water
in the U.S. flows off of our Forests.

**National Forest lands are
the largest source of water
in the continental United
States.**

National Forests are the headwaters of the Nation

80% of the streams ^{in U.S.} originate on our 155 Nat. Forests

Water abundance & Urban development don't match
in hot places like Scottsdale, AZ, Reno, Las Vegas (4)

The USDA Forest Service & Water

While the U.S. is
relatively water rich,
the western part of
the nation -- where
most National
Forests are located
-- is water poor.

Rainfall
30" x
East
Miss
15"-5"
west.



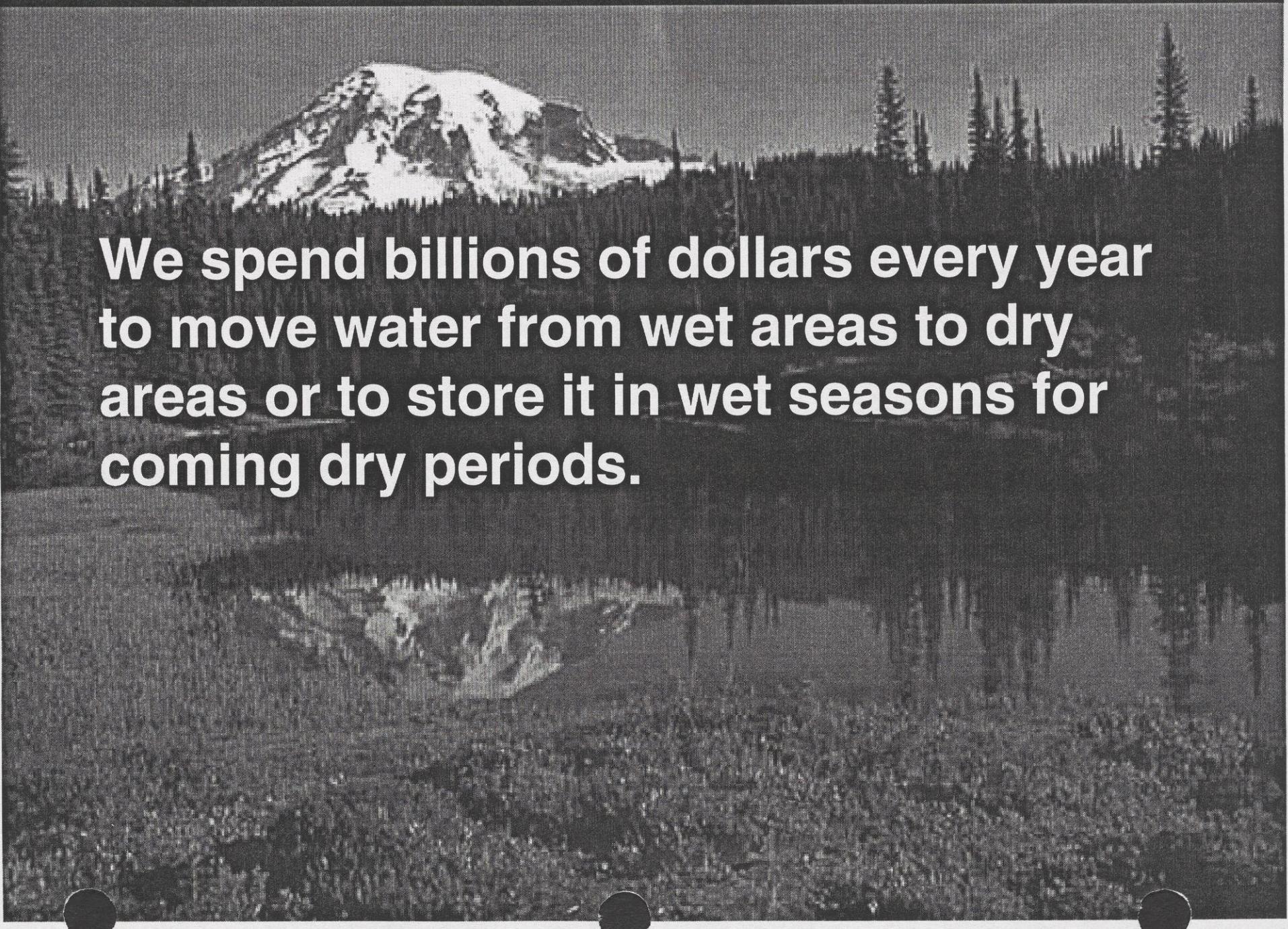
California

100,000,000 acres.

20,000,000 National Forests

5

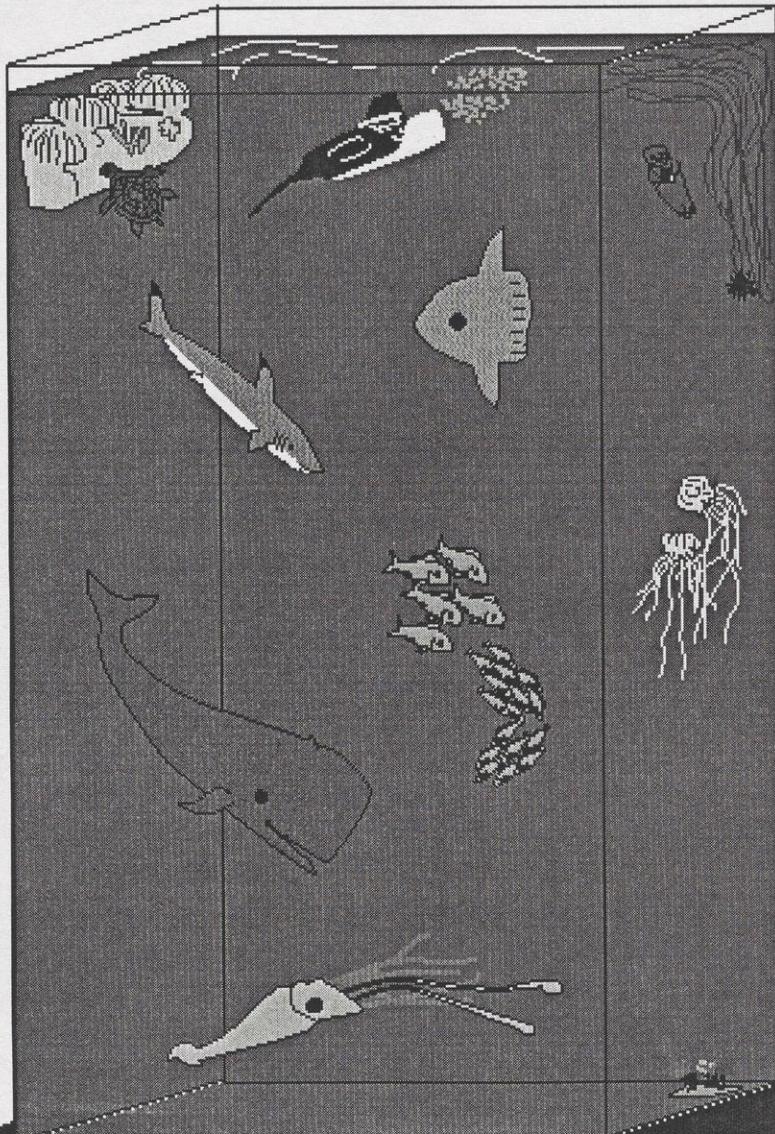
The USDA Forest Service & Water



**We spend billions of dollars every year
to move water from wet areas to dry
areas or to store it in wet seasons for
coming dry periods.**

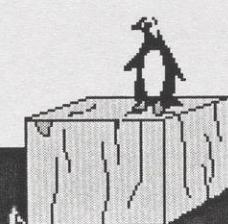
Oceans & Seas
97.5%

*Salt water
Unavailable for human use.
oceans*



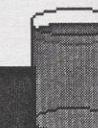
World Water Supply

Glaciers & Icecaps
1.73%



20% Great Lakes

Total Fresh Water
0.77%



$\frac{8}{10,000}$ %

Renewable Fresh Water
0.008%

water is not evenly distributed across the globe.

- Dams, ditches, and levees fragment water-courses and alter stream flows
- Millions die annually from water-related diseases
- Agricultural production is constrained by a lack of irrigation water
- 75% of our nation's outdoor recreation is within 1/2 mile of water
- 50 million people fish in the United States each year

- Fish species and other aquatic resources are threatened with extinction from polluted or diminished water supplies
- In the U.S. 35% of freshwater fish, 38% of amphibians, 56% of mussels are imperiled or vulnerable
- Billions of people worldwide lack basic water services
- Groundwater supplies are consumed faster than they are replenished

Smith River

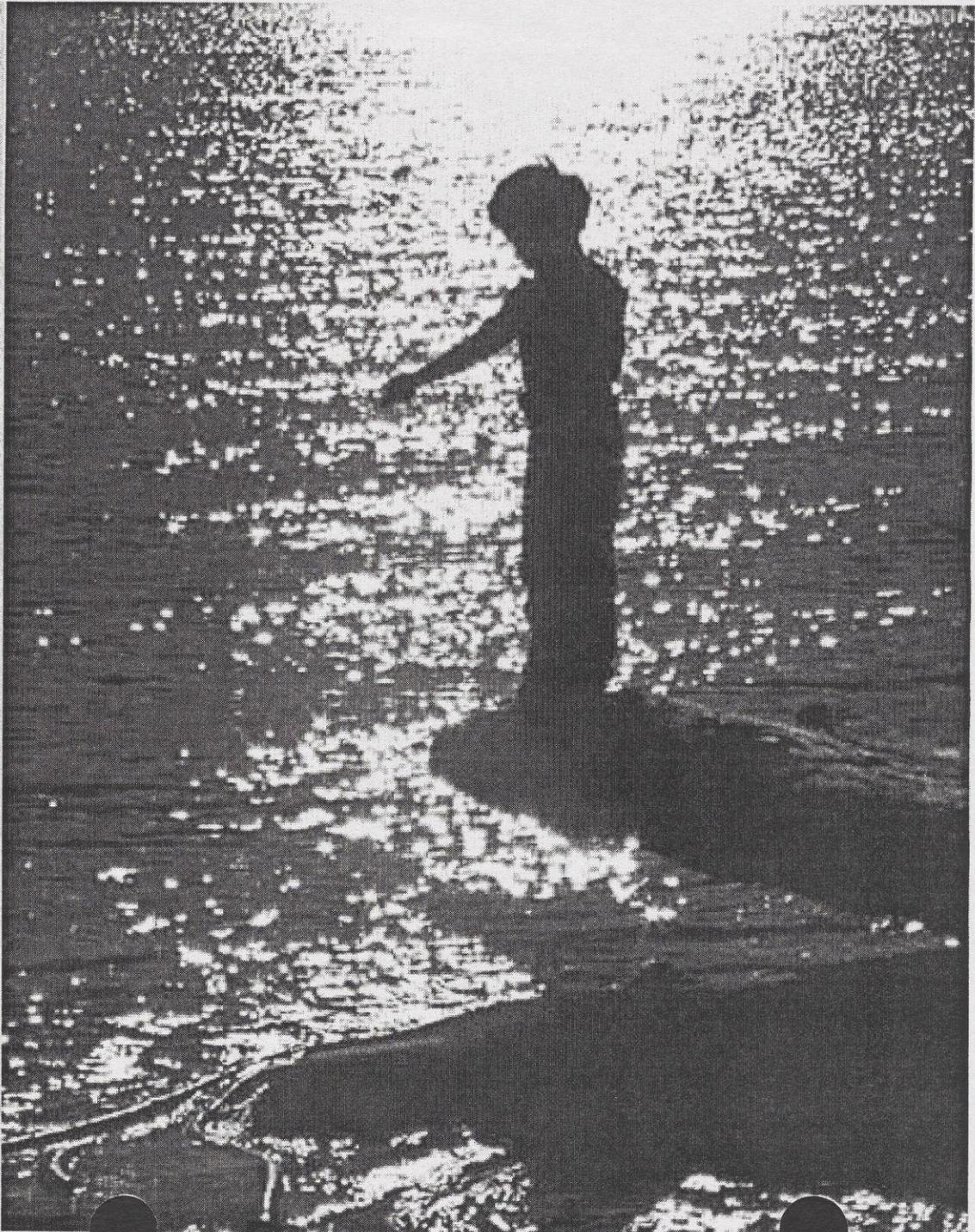
U.S. Forest Service: The World's Largest Water Company

*Water the
miracle
substance*

Chief Mike Dombeck
USDA Forest Service

Outdoors Writers Conference
June 21, 1999
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Whiskey is for drinkin' water is for fightin' over."



We can leave no greater gift for our children, show no greater respect for our forebears,⁸ than to leave the watersheds entrusted to our care healthier, more diverse, & more productive.

U.S. Forest

*Lakes &
Streams are the*
Service:

*We can leave no
greater gift
for our children:*

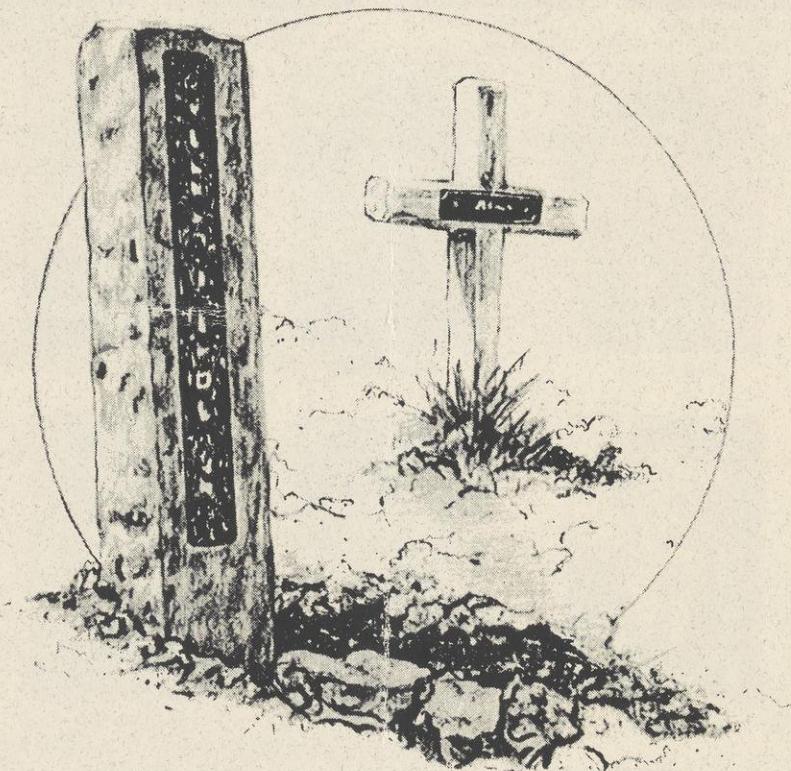
The World's Largest Water Company

Chief Mike Dombeck
USDA Forest Service

Outdoors Writers Conference
June 21, 1999
Sioux Falls, South Dakota



Mann Gulch Fire
50th Anniversary
August 5, 1999



Commemoration
Montana State Capitol
Helena, Montana

"Their crosses are quiet and a long way off... but quietly they are on every fire line..." Norman Maclean, *Young Men and Fire*



Robert J. Bennett



Eldon E. Diettert



James O. Harrison



William J. Hellman



Philip R. McVey



David R. Navon



Leonard L. Piper



Stanley J. Reba



Marvin L. Sherman



Joseph B. Sylvia



Henry J. Thol, Jr.



Newton R. Thompson



Silas R. Thompson, Jr.



- Presentation of the Colors Montana Army National Guard
- Invocation Reverend Stanton Tate
- Proclamation, City of Helena Mayor Colleen McCarthy
- Proclamation Montana State Representative Hal Harper
Montana State Legislature
- Messages from Montana's U.S. Congressional Delegation
- Montana Governor Marc Racicot
- Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck
- Northern Regional Forester Dale Bosworth
- Keynote Speaker Robert W. Sallee
- Unveiling of Commemorative Bronze

Master of Ceremonies - Duane Harp, Helena District Ranger
Helena National Forest

*With special thanks
to the following contributors...*

City of Helena
Helena School District
Helena High School - X-CEL students & faculty
State of Montana - Dept. of Administration
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MANN GULCH FIRE: They did not die in vain

Remarks

Mike Dombeck

Chief

USDA Forest Service

Helena, Montana

August 5, 1999

The Mann Gulch Fire left a profound mark on the history of our nation and in the community of wildland firefighting. Commemorating this historic and tragic event gives us a time to reflect on firefighting -- and to recognize how the Mann Gulch Fire dramatically changed that profession.

The Forest Service and other natural resource agencies are proud to employ some of the brightest and most experienced firefighting professionals as our leaders in the fire organization. These leaders have worked their way up the firefighting ladder with years of experience. They have dug line, jumped from airplanes into remote areas to handle initial attack, and planned and conducted prescribed burns to accomplish important natural resource objectives. Every year thousands of men and women commit their energy and time to fighting wildfires; as I speak to you this morning, there are literally thousands of firefighters on firelines across the nation. The equipment, safety measures and understanding of wildfire behavior that buffers these firefighters from potential disasters can be traced back to lessons learned from tragedies such as Mann Gulch.

The Forest Service has aggressively fought fire since its inception in 1905. However, early efforts were limited by technology, inaccessible terrain and lack of trained personnel. By 1940, the agency had a professional firefighting organization and an elite corps of smokejumpers who parachuted into remote fires; containing the fires until ground reinforcements arrived. Even today, as we seek to reintroduce fire into many areas and have a deeper understanding of the role of fire in promoting ecosystem health, the lessons of Mann Gulch loom large.

Mann Gulch severely shook the confidence of the firefighting profession. On August 5, 1949, thirteen firefighters died in Mann Gulch, overtaken by a wildfire. Twelve were smokejumpers. Never before had such loss of life been inflicted on the Forest Service's elite smokejumpers force. It's true that some 85 people died in 1910 when huge fires swept the Pacific Northwest-- but this was before the advent of a firefighting organization or smokejumping. Later fires, airplane crashes and accidents would incrementally take their toll on firefighter lives. But Mann Gulch was the warning bell within the Forest Service that even an effective firefighting force such as the smokejumpers was no match for the unpredictable fury of a wildfire. More precautions and safety measures were needed.

Subsequent investigations pointed out the crucial need for better understanding of fire behavior to anticipate and predict future fire "blowup"; and better firefighter instruction, safety practices and protection.

Two California fires claimed more lives in the 1950s -- 15 died on the Rattlesnake Fire in 1953 on the Mendocino National Forest; 11 died on the Inaja fire in 1956 on the Cleveland. In the wake of these and Mann Gulch, then-Chief Richard E. McArdle organized a 1957 task force to study fires and "recommend action to reduce the chances of men being killed by burning while fighting fire." The task force reviewed 16 fires that occurred between 1937 and 1956. Its findings became the basis for the well-known Ten Standard Fire Fighting Orders adhered to today.

One of the orders was based on the lesson learned from Mann Gulch --"know what your fire is doing at all times, observe personally, use scouts." Another key order, originating from that era, and still guiding the practice of firefighting today is: "Fight Fire aggressively, but provide for Safety First."

The world renowned Forest Service Fire Laboratory in Missoula was created in the wake of the Mann Gulch Fire. Its focus is research into fire behavior and developing safer firefighter gear and equipment. Fire behavior specialists are now standard members of all fire incident command teams. Firefighters come to the battle line equipped with fire resistant clothing, hard hats and reflective metal coated fire shelters that allow them to survive in burned-over areas.

The lessons learned from the Mann Gulch fire are clearly significant. We must not forget the great sacrifice these 13 men made in Mann Gulch. We must honor them by committing to continually stress the importance of safety, communication, and strict adherence to the ten

standard orders. These 13 young men did not die in vain in Mann Gulch; the lessons they have taught us are still with us today.

#

MANN GULCH FIRE: They did not die in vain

Remarks

Mike Dombeck

Chief

USDA Forest Service

Helena, Montana

August 5, 1999

*Jumped the
Mann Gulch
30,000 FS employees
not to mention*

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tribal state

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of fires

98% initial attack

*Tuesday
Monday 459 fires
that burned
a total of 19,608 acres*

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fire is a part of nature

clearing agent

like wind & water

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and other fires
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standard orders. These 13 young men did not die in vain in Mann Gulch; the lessons they have taught us are still with us today *and will be with us as long as humans people fight fire.*

#

4

Mike Dombeck, Chief of the Forest Service**Society of American Foresters 1999 Convention****Chief and Director's Breakfast****September 14, 1999****Portland, Oregon****Introduction: Forest Service and BLM**

I would like to thank James Coufal and Jim Brown for extending their gracious invitation to speak here today. I feel very privileged and honored addressing this body of skilled land managers, dedicated public servants, and stewards of America's private and public lands.

It is an honor for me to be here as you begin celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Society of America Forester's by Gifford Pinchot; first Chief of the Forest Service. In the closing days of 1900, a handful of natural resource pioneers sought professional and scientific criteria to manage America's forest lands. Their vision is our legacy. And, I would dare say that in this room are the next century's visionaries -- inspired people with tremendous wisdom and passion for using America's wild lands.

I am also pleased to recognize my good friend Tom Fry, director of the Bureau of Land Management. Although I am not as knowledgeable as Tom about recent BLM happenings, I have shared and spoken with many of you in the past when I served as the acting director and spent a few years as a staffer in BLM's Washington headquarters.

I believe both agencies are dealing with very similar challenges. We both juggle the demands associated with the public's heightened ecological awareness of its public lands, while supporting a continuation of forest products to America's markets. This is especially true here in the Northwest where our agencies have a similar land base, and where we share mandates under the Northwest Forest and Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plans.

Those mandates are nothing new. Modern land management is more like being a ship captain who can successfully navigate thorough a harbor of social, legal, and ecological complexity. On the other hand, without science and regulations, common standards of stewardship would not be possible. There would be no comparisons, no way to measure the health of the land both here or elsewhere in the world.

Pinchot recognized that land management requires standards. He knew that successful land management required the skills and knowledge of the best minds to develop and instruct the tools and techniques that build our science of land management.

The forestry profession in the United States developed and expanded as the result of public concerns and needs for forest benefits. The Nation's westward expansion and need for raw products and grazing lands had caused overcutting, overgrazing and overuse of public lands. Legislators, land managers, and conservationist all realized that the Nation's presumed endless resources could not withstand this consumption. The early legislation sought to bring balance to land management and established

national oversight on the nation's wild land.

The success of Pinchot and his young cadre of foresters is one reason we have the controversies today! Without successful conservation of public lands, national forests and grasslands, we would not have the large land base to debate over. There was a role for public forestry then, and there is one today. The natural resources profession in the United States has been shaped by land stewardship success, controversy, and by debate!

Yesterday and Today – The Long View, A Look Back

What are some of the successes of those foresters? Let's look at the state of America's forests in the 1900s--and how they are today.

- In the early 1900s, wildfire commonly consumed 40 to 50 million acres annually. Today wildfires consume only 2 to 4 million acres annually, even in severe fire years.
- A century ago, some 80 million acres of "cutovers" or stumplands were unstocked or poorly stocked – today, those have long since been reforested. Many contain mature forests, and others have been harvested again and regenerated to young forests.
- At the dawn of the 20th Century, the volume of timber harvested far exceeded forest growth. Since 1940, forest growth rates have exceeded harvest rates. Tree growth volume in 1986 was more than 3.5 times what it was in 1920.
- Just 100 years ago, large-scale disastrous flooding in the East was tied to clearing, over-cutting and wildfires. Today, Eastern watersheds have been reforested and the headwaters of many Americans rivers are now protected from over-harvesting by National Forests. In fact nearly 80% of all our rivers originate on national forests.
- A hundred years ago, forests were being cleared for agriculture at the rate of 13.3 square miles per day. Now, with the increase in farmland productivity, this trend has been reversed with many abandoned farms returned to productive forests.
- By 1900, many wildlife species were severely depleted or on the brink of extinction. Wildlife today has been a conservation success story. Wild turkey, Rocky Mountain elk, and many bird species, including our national symbol, the Bald Eagle, to name but a few, have made remarkable comebacks.

The natural resources profession in the United States has been a response to public needs. At the turn of the century, federal land managers restored productivity and health to denuded watershed lands in the West. After the Great Depression, the Forest Service was called upon to help restore millions of acres of farmland in the Midwest and East that had farmers had abandoned.

During World War II, we responded to the national need for forest products. Working with research, the academic community and timber industry, we developed the most efficient and ecologically sound forest regeneration systems in the world.

Now we're responding to increased public demand for amenity values. Tremendous urban growth, and renewed awareness of our natural resources have people looking to forests for watershed protection, biological diversity, ecological integrity and recreation. The challenge is to find ways to provide these

and still produce products.

As James Coufal, your president, pointed out last year in a *Journal of Forestry* column: "the public is more interested in the forest than forestry. Foresters are being asked not to be just managers and producers of forest products, but also curators of the rare, the fragile, the beautiful."

Future: So, what lies ahead?

There is growing public awareness that clean, pure water may not always be there when we turn the tap. Large watershed restoration projects are more than maintaining and stabilizing stream channels. Ecological integrity requires healthy riparian and upland vegetation -- that includes trees! Trees are key to watershed functions. We are applying additional attention towards the impact of timber contracts on the land down stream. Planners review the use of naturally occurring fires as a management tool. And we are working to develop markets and uses for the small-diameter trees that are thinned from overgrown forests.

In Oregon's Blue Mountain Ecosystem, we believe we can show a variety of both active and passive tools to accomplish fundamental restoration goals of clean, safe water and vigorous, healthy populations of aquatic and terrestrial species. These tools will provide restoration related jobs to communities as well as forest by-products. Here is an opportunity to address the millions of acres at risk for fire, endangered species, and exotic weeds.

This is why the Forest Service and nine other federal agencies have worked with Governor Kitzhaber and have signed a memorandum of understanding with the state of Oregon. Historically, we've depended on forestry professionals and we will continue to need your expertise. There's a lot of work ahead for reforesting areas that have been burned, logged, flooded, or which have experienced disturbances of any kind that require planting trees. We are also going to need your help when thinning overly dense forests, developing community plans, controlling noxious weeds, and so much more.

The Four Corners Sustainable Forestry Initiative, partially funded by the Forest Service, is an example of people coming together across traditional boundaries to manage forests and develop new ways to use small diameter wood products.

The standard timber sale doesn't help us in managing wood with low commercial value. Last year, Congress gave us authority to test an array of new processes and procedures through 28 stewardship contract demonstration projects. The intent is to promote local involvement to enhance social and economic health of communities as well as benefiting the long-term ecological health of the National Forests.

The Monroe Mountain Ecosystem Restoration Project, Fishlake National Forest, Utah, is another example. Instead of our staged, step-by-step approach to timber sales, this multi-year project treats all resources within the watershed at the same time.

On the Three Mile Ecosystem Restoration Project on the Custer National Forest in Montana, the Ashland ranger district is working with the Northern Cheyenne Indian Tribe and local agricultural communities. They are restoring healthy ponderosa pine and mixed grass prairie ecosystems across a 32,000-acre landscape. The project will use a variety of land management tools and will provide needed jobs.

Other challenges facing land managers will be more regional, without regard to political boundaries. With demands for products and services from Southern forests increasing dramatically in recent years, experts are uncertain if the South can continue to meet the demands without sacrificing future generations of forests. A joint, interagency team is studying all aspects of land management in the region.

Closer to home, the Forest Service is striving to put its financial house in order, and we are making great strides. Next month, a new financial system will be in place. By providing resource managers with reliable financial information, they will be able to make the best possible land management decisions. It will be a major step toward establishing performance-based land management.

Forest ecosystem restoration and improvement

Current funding mechanisms limit our flexibility to address integrated forest health needs. They deny us the ability to prioritize vegetative treatments on lands not suitable for timber production. This is because current appropriations and trust funds for vegetation management are tied to timber sales and necessary follow-up land treatments including reforestation and timber stand improvements.

The payments to states proposal is another area of controversy, particularly here in the Northwest. The challenge is to make sure rural counties have the funding they need for education, while freeing up timber harvest and thinning to serve as a tool in ecosystem health restoration and protection.

Politics: what about the public interest?

I'd like to read a quote to you:

"National forests are made for and owned by the people. They should also be managed by the people. The officers are paid by the people to act as their agents and to see that all the resources of the Forests are used in the best interest of everyone concerned. What the people as a whole want will be done. To do it, it is necessary that the people carefully consider and plainly state just what they want and then take a very active part in seeing that they get it." (Gifford Pinchot, 1907).

And finally, I ask that you each reflect on the following as you go about your professional tasks:

- Our collective roots - Forest Service, BLM, and SAF have been and are protecting America's land.
- Our success before the American people will be in those areas that we can come together on and make a difference.
- Land management debate is not limited to a selected few. All of us share in the discussion but in the end, the people will direct the decisions of their lands, their legacy.
- It is therefore our task, no it is our responsibility, to provide them with the best information and facts available to ensure responsible decision making

Pinchot went on to say in the same address, "*there are many great interests on the National Forests which sometimes conflict a little.*" A variety of public interests that conflict are making their voices heard --especially here in the Northwest! It is our responsibility as professional land managers to

balance conflicting views.

Last July, following a meeting with the Secretary of Agriculture, Stephen Ambrose, who chronicled Lewis and Clark's expedition in **Undaunted Courage** remarked, "The government does the people's work; the Forest Service does God's work." Well, all of us – Forest Service, BLM ...and you, the members of the Society of American Foresters – are truly doing spiritual work.

Contact: George Lennon

Modified: 9/21/99

Remarks of Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck
Building on Leopold's Vision: Conservation for a New Century
October 7, 1999

Visionary is a much-overused word. Most of us like to think of ourselves as visionaries. A visionary is able to look beyond life's urgent press of immediate business and focus on the truly long-term important things. Few single words lend themselves with more ease to the life and work of Aldo Leopold. Whether the issue was his evolving understanding of the role of large predators such as wolves, the importance of education, the imperative of wilderness, or extending a land ethic to economic and social issues, Leopold charted a course and defined a legacy that we struggle to measure up to more than half a century later.

Mindful of Leopold's ability to separate the important from the urgent, I challenge Forest Service personnel and others to get beyond the controversy du jour and to ask "what is it society will want from – value most about – the Forest Service in 50 years?" This is at root, a question of values. And frankly, discussions of values are difficult. So often, we cloak our discussions of the need for more wild places, old growth, ecologically sustainable timber harvest, and unfragmented landscapes, in thick Environmental Impact Statements that read as though a biologist were mimicking a patent lawyer.

If we have learned anything over the past decade, however, it's that difficult, value-laden issues don't become easier with neglect. They snowball out of control into courtrooms across the country. So, I'd like to talk for a few minutes about some important value-laden issues that I hope we can respond to with vision.

Consumption and Restoration

Everyone here should be well aware that timber harvest off National Forests has declined by about 70% -- from 12 billion board feet in the late 1980s to about 3.4 billion board feet today. Make no mistake. Although we did what was expected of us at the time, we were cutting too many trees for too long and it resulted in injunctions that led to public distrust and social and economic uncertainty. These facts lend context to what I want to say next.

Not long ago, an environmentalist colleague told me, "we'll be satisfied once we get the National Forest timber harvest down to about two billion board feet per year." Had he been asked a decade ago what the harvest level should be, he'd likely have said nine or seven or maybe even five billion board feet per year. But 3.4? No way.

Similarly, a decade ago, the timber industry likely could have settled for legislation that would have reduced harvest in the Pacific Northwest from five billion board feet to two or three. Both proposals were summarily rejected. Today, we harvest about one billion board feet.

These two examples speak to the dilemma we find ourselves in today. The debate over forest management continues to be driven by outdated models from a bygone era. We should be talking about the condition we want on the land. We should be talking about what we leave rather than what we take. The effect of applying yesterday's debate to a new era can have insidious effects.

- It can perpetuate distrust and division.
- It can stifle dialogue and consensus.
- It can compromise our ability to exert leadership on difficult conservation issues.

Changes in National Forest management in the past decade or more demonstrate the agency's reinvigorated commitment to ecosystem management and collaborative stewardship. What's missing, however, is the recognition that in the absence of a national consumption ethic, our land ethic only shifts our environmental problems to other lands governed by more lenient environmental protections.

For example, demand for the 8-9 billion board feet formerly harvested from National Forests did not disappear. It simply shifted to other places. Consider:

- The average size of homes in the U.S. grew from 1,520 square feet in 1971 to 2,120 square feet in 1996. Meanwhile family sizes have grown smaller.
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My point is that we rarely talk about these important – crucial – issues such as consumption. We are so busy highlighting our differences that it steals our ability to see that there are so many important conservation issues that truly need our collective and shared energy.

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Related to the issue of consumption is our own national commitment to conservation and restoration – what Aldo Leopold called the land ethic. Few generations of Americans have enjoyed the wealth and prosperity we take for granted today. Our challenge is to ensure that we make the necessary investments in maintaining and restoring our environmental capital so that it will continue to pay dividends for generations to come. Unfortunately, federal spending on natural resources and the environment as a percent of total domestic spending is half of what it was in 1962.

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Off -Highway Vehicles

In the interest of walking the talk, I'd like to take a few moments to address directly an issue of national significance that would be far easier to avoid – off highway vehicles.

Off highway vehicles are a legitimate use of most National Forests and Grasslands. They are, in fact, the only way many people can realistically enjoy our public lands. As baby-boomers age and society continues to urbanize, more and more people may turn to off road vehicles as their primary way of enjoying the great outdoors.

This growth in use carries with it potential for conflicts with others and conflicts with resource management. New and less expensive technology allows people to get to areas previously unreachable to motorized vehicles of National Forests and Grasslands. In the process, unplanned and unauthorized roads and trails may be created, sensitive wildlife habitat disrupted, erosion accelerated, and water quality degraded.

Driving for pleasure is a great American past time. More and more Americans are using forest roads to enjoy their public lands. And this is as it should be – National Forests and Grasslands are a birthright and every citizen should enjoy their presence, value, and multiple benefits. National Forests offer people from every walk of life 192 million acres of open land – without a single “No Trespassing” sign. What an incredible legacy!

Yet, we must also be mindful of writer T.H. Watkins’ admonition, “in natural regions, as in public libraries, we should not be allowed to do everything we can merely because we can do it.” As with all other uses of the National Forest System, our responsibility is to ensure that no single use compromises the basic integrity of the public’s soil, water, and biological resources.

Our long-term road policy will help us to provide managers with new analytical tools, and to better inform decisions about decommissioning, converting to trails, upgrading, and building new roads. It will also provide us with a forum through which we may work with communities of place and communities of interest to make site-specific decisions about individual roads and trails and other motorized recreation.

Our objective is to use open and public processes to provide for safe and efficient use of National Forests in a manner that does not compromise the ecological sustainability of the lands and waters entrusted to our care. We must ensure that off highway vehicle use will be managed to protect forest resources, promote safe access, and minimize conflicts among the various users of the forests.

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I invite communities of place and communities of interest to begin a dialogue. This issue will not get easier with neglect. We need the help of off road vehicle constituencies, state, local, and tribal governments, the conservation community, and all other who use and care about the land. Our challenge is to develop new partnerships, leverage new resources, and work together so that those who enjoy our forests using off highway vehicles may recreate and those that prefer the solitude and silence may enjoy high quality experiences as well.

Conclusion

I think about how one man, Aldo Leopold, shaped the past 50 years of conservation and wonder. Leopold lived his life and, as we have learned this week, raised his children, as “plain and simple members of the land community.” What an incredible understatement, such incredible humility! I look across the room and see so many people whose lives were directly or indirectly touched, influenced, or instructed by Aldo Leopold or one of his children. My own mentor in college, Dr. George Becker, eminent author of The Fishes of Wisconsin, took Leopold’s wildlife management course here at the University of Wisconsin in 1939.

I hope we can leave here today with the shared goal that in the coming 50 years our children’s children will celebrate those leaders who in an era that demanded tough choices, chose integrity over expediency; long-term values over short-term profit; the important over the immediate and urgent.

Remarks of Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck Building on Leopold's Vision:

Conservation for a New Century

October 7, 1999, Madison, WI. Visionary is a much-overused word. Most of us like to think of ourselves as visionaries. A visionary is able to look beyond life's urgent press of immediate business and focus on the truly long-term important things. Few single words lend themselves with more ease to the life and work of Aldo Leopold. Whether the issue was his evolving understanding of the role of large predators such as wolves, the importance of education, the imperative of wilderness, or extending a land ethic to economic and social issues, Leopold charted a course and defined a legacy that we struggle to measure up to more than half a century later.

Mindful of Leopold's ability to separate the important from the urgent, I challenge Forest Service personnel and others to get beyond the controversy du jour and to ask "what is it society will want from - value most about - the Forest Service in 50 years?" This is at root, a question of values. And frankly, discussions of values are difficult. So often, we cloak our discussions of the need for more wild places, old growth, ecologically sustainable timber harvest, and unfragmented landscapes, in thick Environmental Impact Statements that read as though a biologist were mimicking a patent lawyer.

If we have learned anything over the past decade, however, it's that difficult, value-laden issues don't become easier with neglect. They snowball out of control into courtrooms across the country. So, I'd like to talk for a few minutes about some important value-laden issues that I hope we can respond to with vision.

Consumption and Restoration

Everyone here should be well aware that timber harvest off National Forests has declined by about 70% -- from 12 billion board feet in the late 1980s to about 3.4 billion board feet today. Make no mistake. Although we did what was expected of us at the time, we were cutting too many trees for too long and it resulted in injunctions that led to public distrust and social and economic uncertainty. These facts lend context to what I want to say next.

Not long ago, an environmentalist colleague told me, "we'll be satisfied once we get the National Forest timber harvest down to about two billion board feet per year." Had he been asked a decade ago what the harvest level should be, he'd likely have said nine or seven or maybe even five billion board feet per year. But 3.4? No way.

Similarly, a decade ago, the timber industry likely could have settled for legislation that would have reduced harvest in the Pacific Northwest from five billion board feet to two or three. Both proposals were summarily rejected. Today, we harvest about one billion board feet.

These two examples speak to the dilemma we find ourselves in today. The debate over forest management continues to be driven by outdated models from a bygone era. We should be talking about the condition we want on the land. We should be talking about what we leave rather than what we take. The effect of applying yesterday's debate to a new era can have insidious effects.

- It can perpetuate distrust and division.

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Changes in National Forest management in the past decade or more demonstrate the agency's reinvigorated commitment to ecosystem management and collaborative stewardship. What's missing, however, is the recognition that in the absence of a national consumption ethic, our land ethic only shifts our environmental problems to other lands governed by more lenient environmental protections.

For example, demand for the 8-9 billion board feet formerly harvested from National Forests did not disappear. It simply shifted to other places. Consider:

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October 7, 1999

Chris Wood

Dombeck speech file *and* *Vision*

Remarks of Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck
Building on Leopold's Legacy: Conservation for a New Century
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*National Forest
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elements
acronym

OHVs are a legitimate use of most National Forests and Grasslands. They are, in fact, the only way many people can realistically enjoy our public lands. As baby-boomers age and society continues to urbanize, more and more people may turn to OHVs as their primary way of enjoying the great outdoors.

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*the eminent
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I hope we can leave here today with the shared goal that in the coming 50 years our children's children will celebrate those leaders who in an era that demanded tough choices, chose integrity over expediency; long-term values over short-term profit; the important over the immediate and urgent.

Secretary Glickman has just given us an excellent overview of the process used to develop this proposed regulation. I'd like to take a few moments to talk about some of the substance of our proposal and why it is important to those who are concerned about the future of our public lands.

Let no one forget that the Forest Service is a multiple use agency, providing a wide variety of goods and services to an ever-demanding public. We are rightfully recognized as the single largest provider of public recreation with over 800 million visitor days per year.

In fact, let me give you some astounding facts.

- Wildlife watching and fishing on national forests and grasslands contribute billions of dollars in revenues for communities
- Our timber program also provides over 3 billion board feet of wood for a booming economy, enough to build 200,000 homes (15,000 board feet per home)
- A portion of our nation's energy needs are met through energy leases in excess of 8,000 oil and gas leases and over 100 coal leases
- In addition, over 3,000 large mining operations take place on Forest *Nat. Forest* Service land
- We work closely with ranchers to ensure that the 8.1 million animal unit months of grazing on national forests and grasslands is done so in a manner that maintains the ecological health of the land
- The Forest Service administers some 34 million acres of wilderness area in the lower 48, more than any other federal agency
- Yet, we also administer some of the most heavily used recreation lands in America, national forests adjacent to teeming cities such as Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Denver

- The Forest Service manages 192 million acres of national forest and grassland, accessible to all Americans, free of "No Trespassing" signs
- Over 4,300 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 133,000 miles of trail
- 383,000 miles of road
- 74,000 special use permits
- Over 23,000 recreation facilities, including campgrounds, trailheads, boat ramps, picnic areas and visitor centers
- 2.3 million acres of fishable lakes, ponds and reservoirs
- Over 7,500 miles of scenic byways in our national forests provide visitors the much-anticipated spectacular views of fall color change each year

I mention all of this to set the context within which the proposed regulation will work. We must continue to look for ways to balance uses of public land, while providing for their long-term sustainability. Americans want their forests to look like forests. The proposed planning regulation serves as the departure point for Americans to shape the future of their forests for multiple uses.

Gifford Pinchot said, "There are many great interests on the National Forests, which sometimes conflict a little." A variety of public interests that conflict are making their voices heard. It is our responsibility as professional land managers to balance conflicting views. We make over 15,000 decisions each year. Of those, only a handful are challenged. The Forest Service ^{employs one} ~~is doing great work~~ and we will continue to move forward.

Furthermore, the proposed planning regulation builds upon a Forest Service legacy:

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- It continues the conservation tradition of Pinchot's "greatest good for the greatest number in the long run," and the land ethic embodied in *aldo* Leopold's "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community."
- It also builds upon the very legal foundations of the agency found in the *1897* Organic Administration Act's statement of purpose for the national forests. "No public forest reservation shall be established, except to improve and protect the forest within the reservation, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States..."
- And the direction given in the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act: "The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to administer the renewable surface resources of the National Forests for multiple use and sustained yield of the several products and service obtained there from."

Finally, it builds upon the foundation of forest planning experience established in the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

The proposed planning regulation creates a new vision by:

- Making sustainability the foundation for planning and decision-making.
- Reaffirming that these are the publics' lands by re-engaging the public in resource management issues for their national forests and grasslands.
- Creating plans that are more science based, and that have more involvement from the science community.

And,

- Creating forest plans that are living documents, more simply amended, revised and readily available to the public.

Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future. It includes three parts, like legs on a stool: ecological, economic, and social. But, it is upon ecological sustainability that national and community well being are based.

In the vision for the 21st century, the Forest Service becomes a convener, facilitator, and information provider in helping the stakeholders define the desired goals, outcomes, and issues; collecting and analyzing relevant information; and finding the solutions.

This vision defines a more active role for scientists and assures the appropriate use of the best scientific information. Scientists will be directly engaged in broad-scale information gathering and assessment, design and review of monitoring protocols, design and review of inventory strategies, and evaluation and interpretation of the best information.

Finally, the plans become living documents that are tied to the appropriate landscape rather than to artificial forest or political boundaries. They are dynamic documents requiring continuing dialogue with stakeholders and feedback through monitoring and adaptive management. The plans become a collection of decisions that guide future actions rather than weighty documents that sit on a shelf gathering dust. And, because they are easy to amend and revise, they stay current and useful.

I want to express my deepest thanks to all Forest Service employees, who by their dedication and perseverance are part of a defining moment for the Agency.

Recreation Exchange Luncheon

Oct. 19, 1999

Remarks from Mike Dombeck, Chief USDA Forest Service

It's a pleasure to be with you today to discuss National Forest System programs and policies. This "exchange" is a great idea. A place where we can come together in more informal settings and talk about an area of mutual interest—recreation.

Recreation is one of the four components of the Natural Resource Agenda. After making significant progress on the first three, it is now time (past time) to focus on recreation. Recreation is the program that touches the lives of Americans most directly and contributes 134 billion dollars to the gross domestic product. Recreation is so important that I have asked two of my senior leadership staff--Jim Furnish, Deputy Chief for National Forest Systems and Hilda Diaz-Soltero, Associate Chief to provide focus and accountability for the Recreation Agenda.

Accomplishment of the Recreation Agenda is based upon a theme of renewal. Renewal of special places on the landscape, renewal of community connections, education and a renaissance of involvement and trust. We have a preliminary Recreation Agenda, which we will be sharing at a "kickoff" Recreation Summit tomorrow. I brought copies of the draft Agenda here for your group and would like your evaluation of it. We would like to know what you think, whether it is on target, ways to improve it and particularly your thoughts on making it happen. The six key action areas of the Recreation Agenda include:

- Investing in Special Places, areas "loved to death" and planning for water based recreation;
- Doing market based research in order to provide vital services to people; *open up for DNR*
- Evaluating a "toolbox" of investment techniques for long term financial sustainability;

- Investing in natural resource conservation education and interpretation;
- Providing business opportunity and services for under served and low income people and;
- Access America - resources to improve our road system # for road

Two of the key areas that I would specifically like to address are funding for recreation programs and access.

When it comes to federal appropriations for the recreation program, there isn't a lot of news here, appropriations have remained relatively flat. With the balanced budget amendment, discretionary programs haven't had a lot of opportunity for increases.

There is a huge job to do, and the job is growing, not shrinking. We estimate that there is a 1.7 billion dollar deferred maintenance backlog of repair of federal facilities. We need innovative solutions to this tremendous need. I know that this group has a wealth of experience and business acumen. I hope that we can work together to devise some innovative solutions together.

We have a wide array of ``tools in our toolbox." We need to be creative, resourceful and smart in how we apply the tools. Accountability to the taxpayer means finding the right tool, for the right job for the long term. It means looking at creative and rational investment strategies to sustain recreation resources for the long term. We need to make smart choices, based on long term public interest and benefits, sound financial solutions and not on personal opinion. In the Recreation Agenda, I am calling for an evaluation of all of the investment methods we have to provide recreation facilities and services for the long-term.

We need to evaluate a multi-sector and multi-faceted approach to providing for the recreation resource. This requires us to sit down together and rationally figure out, what are the best approaches for the

long term. We need to define common principles, creative tools and strategies, and renew our trust and respect of each other. There is plenty to do and a role for all:

- There is a vital role for the public sector, financed through appropriated dollars, fees, and inter-governmental partnerships. We need to figure out the best use of the appropriated dollar. We have the authority to use challenge-cost share to expand the appropriated dollar for mutually beneficial projects. We need to evaluate the fee demonstration authority, where it has worked successfully. We need to work together so that federal fee incentives do not unfairly compete with private sector services. We need to evaluate pricing and fees, so that there still remains places on national forests without charges;
- There is a vital role for the private sector both in supplying existing and future facilities and services. We must work together to identify those opportunities and any needed authorities to allow long term investment.
- There is a role for the non-governmental and community service sector in providing services, products, education and volunteer service;
- There is a role for the individual in planning for the future and making a difference on the land.

The recreation job is huge, and we must work together to be successful. We must learn to respect each other's strengths and build upon each other's strengths. We can't squander our resources on perceived power struggles, personal agendas, political no-wins, or inefficient choices. There is too much work to be done, and the resources under our care are too precious to jeopardize.

Rebuilding trust with our private sector business partners is important. The private sector is a critical and valued service provider. We have had some rough times this past season with the evaluation of the Service Contract Act. This will be of particular interest to our concession campground permit holders and outfitters and guides in the audience. We were both concerned over the implications of the requirement to use the Davis-Bacon prevailing wages. Neither of us is interested in exploiting labor, and we were all concerned that we would not be able to continue to provide marketable and affordable camping. Through our negotiations with the Department of Labor, the Forest Service has received clarification of when our concessionaire campground permits are under the provisions of the Service Contract Act or where they are exempt. We have found that they could be exempt when:

- The Forest Service does not micro mange the operation. Instead we must define the quality of service or actions we are looking for and let the concessionaire determine how to provide that level of service.
- In general, we cannot require the maintenance of non-revenue generating sites. This would include such things as trailheads or vista points that are not an integral part of the campground. As with anything there will be gray areas as to what is in or out.
- There does not seem to be any intention, desire or will to have the Service Contract Act apply to outfitter's and guides.

I am committed to moving away from micro management to building professional business partnerships. Agreement of service expectations and responsibilities, but not exactly how it is done, should be the goal. A letter under Deputy Chief Furnish has gone to the field giving direction for implementation. I suggest you get with Ken Karkula, on the Washington Office Recreation staff if you have specific questions.

I am committed to working together on authorities and processes to make our job of working together easier. Our goal should be building long term viable partnerships in the interest of the American people. If you

have ideas on making our relationship and communication better I am interested to hear them.

Another important issue I would like to address is access. This is also a key focus of the Recreation Agenda. We must ensure adequate access to the National Forests for all Americans. Access is multi-faceted: maintaining access to and within the National Forests and the need for secure public rights-of-way; universal access and design to meet American's with Disabilities Act intent, and working toward cooperative management of the Forest transportation system.

Population pressure and new communities are rapidly developing around National Forest's, because of the open space and quality of life benefits associated with public lands. This land development pressure has the potential to limit some current access points into the forests. We must work with local communities, to determine critical access points for continued use by the public and residents. Local communities or the Forest Service must secure these rights-of-way before they are foreclosed by development. This is a critical reason for building strong community connections. Access for recreation opportunity often times does not follow jurisdictional boundaries. We must work with local communities, State governments, tribal governments to plan for the recreation "whole". Access is an important piece of the recreation infrastructure.

We have been making progress in universal access and design in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act, and all Americans are benefitting from these improvements. The more gentle grades to access facilities and trails are applauded by families with small children, aged, and urban people on a once-a-year hike that may not be in top physical condition. We need to continue the progress and target our improvements as part of the "package" to improve our special places.

Trail and road access to recreation opportunity is an important issue. We must establish forums for collaborative dialogue on management of access within and to the National Forests. I want to be clear that off-highway vehicle use is a legitimate use of most national Forests and

Grasslands. They are, in fact a significant way that many people can realistically enjoy our public lands. As the baby-boomers age and society continues to urbanize, more and more people may turn to off-road vehicles as their primary way of enjoying the outdoors. We must work toward finding the common ground where activities can be accommodated within the limits of the land.

We have choices on how to spend our resources--in legal maneuvering, in battling for each others special interest, or in producing benefits to recreation opportunity, to communities and for people.

I want to devote more of the Agency's resources in developing coalitions amongst trail interests to find the common ground. This needs to take place on the local level, working with the local line officers, the community, other key stakeholders, trail interest groups and individuals. The dialogue needs to address existing and future access and also how to take care of it the long term. We have hundreds of thousands of miles of both legally designated roads and trails to maintain. We must work together to secure future vital access to places and maintain the opportunities. It is a critical piece of the Recreation Agenda.

Finally in summary, I want to express my personal commitment to working together to build a strong recreation coalition of interests that will benefit the American people. We need your participation, ideas, expertise, and energy to make the recreation program truly great. We must find the common areas of interest and move forward together.



American Recreation Coalition

*Dedicated to the protection and enhancement of everyone's right
to health and happiness through recreation.*

OCTOBER RECREATION EXCHANGE

October 19, 1999

Special Guest:

Michael Dombeck
Chief, USDA Forest Service

PARTICIPANTS:

Catherine Ahern
Bruno Andreini
Benny Benjamin
Josh Bernadas
Michael Berry
Howard Briggs
Roger Brittan
David Brown
Denny Bschor
Gary Bushey
Harold Case
Don Clouser
Tom Cove
Derrick Crandall
Vern DeWitt
Don Dinan
Jim Duke
John English
Harold Fleishmann

American Recreation Coalition
Iowa State Snowmobile Association
Idaho State Snowmobile Association
California-Nevada Snowmobile Association
National Ski Areas Association
Washington State Snowmobile Association
Washington State Snowmobile Association
America Outdoors
USDA Forest Service
Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts
American Council of Snowmobile Associations
Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association
Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
American Recreation Coalition
Michigan Snowmobile Association
Hall, Estill, Hardwick
Michigan Snowmobile Association
Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Development Coalition
New York State Snowmobile Association

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October Recreation Exchange
Page Two

Jim Frye	Marina Operators Association of America
Jim Furnish	USDA Forest Service
Tom Gamili	Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts
Howard Geiger	Oregon State Snowmobile Association
John Griffin	Michigan Snowmobile Association
Ron Hambly	Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs
Carolyn Hayes	Virginia Snowmobile Association
Pete Hayes	Virginia Snowmobile Association
Stacy Henderson	American Recreation Coalition
Ronnie Hepp	Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association
David Humphreys	Recreation Vehicle Industry Association
Elza Inman	Michigan Snowmobile Association
Dale Israels	Michigan Snowmobile Association
Myrna Johnson	Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America
Christine Jourdain	American Council of Snowmobile Associations
Kurt Kennedy	Utah Snowmobile Association
Aubrey King	National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds
Edward Klim	International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Orv Langohr	Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs
Noel LaPorte	Michigan Snowmobile Association
Lane Lindstrom	Idaho State Snowmobile Association
Bob Linn	Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association
Tom Lively	Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts
Kay Lloyd	Washington State Snowmobile Association
Eric Lundquist	American Motorcyclist Association
Jim Lyons	U.S. Department of Agriculture
John Lyons	Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs
Terri Manning	Wyoming State Snowmobile Association
William Manson	Michigan Snowmobile Association
Sandra Mitchell	Idaho State Snowmobile Association
Wayne Mohler	Washington State Snowmobile Association
Illa Morton	Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association
Lowell Morton	Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association
Sylvia Mulligan	California-Nevada Snowmobile Association
Tom Myers	Michigan Snowmobile Association
Ken Nelson	American Council of Snowmobile Associations
Pat O'Brien	National Forest Recreation Association
Betsy Oilman	National Marine Manufacturers Association
Robert Osmun	Idaho State Snowmobile Association
Scootch Pankonin	America Outdoors
Howard Park	Bombardier Recreational Products

Suzanne Paul	New York State Snowmobile Association
Bill Pfaff	Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs
Greg Plummer	California-Nevada Snowmobile Association
Renee Prawdzik	American Council of Snowmobile Associations
Pat Pulann	Vermont Association of Snow Travelers
Kim Raap	International Association of Snowmobile Administrators
Steve Ralls	American Horse Council
Rolland Rhea	Indiana Snowmobile Association
Suzanne Rhea	Indiana Snowmobile Association
Marcia Rodriguez	Oregon State Snowmobile Association
Dwight Smith	American Association for Nude Recreation
Ken Smullen	Vermont Association of Snow Travelers
Greg Sorenson	Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association
Peggy Speiger	Oregon State Snowmobile Association
Melvin Stahl	Motorcycle Industry Council
Homer Staves	Kampgrounds of America
Ken Stewart	South Dakota Snowmobile Association
Dixie Stineman	Ohio State Snowmobile Association
Don Stineman	Ohio State Snowmobile Association
Duane Sutton	South Dakota Snowmobile Association
Roy Swander	Utah Snowmobile Association
Bill Townsend	Wyoming State Snowmobile Association
Kathy Van Kleeck	Motorcycle Industry Council
Ken Volker	Wyoming State Snowmobile Association
Larry Waddell	Idaho State Snowmobile Association
Jessica Wasserman	Manatt-Phelps
Bryant Watson	Vermont Association of Snow Travelers
Maelene Watson	Vermont Association of Snow Travelers
Susan Weaver	American Association for Nude Recreation
Ben Weeks	Wyoming State Snowmobile Association
Jack Welch	Colorado Snowmobile Association
Mel Wolf	Colorado Snowmobile Association
Glen Zemwalt	Utah Snowmobile Association



American Recreation Coalition

Dedicated to the protection and enhancement of everyone's right to health and happiness through recreation.

10/19

August 31, 1999

The Honorable Michael P. Dombeck
Chief
USDA Forest Service
P. O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090



Dear Mike:

We are delighted that you will be able to join us for our Recreation Exchange luncheon on Tuesday, October 19. The Exchange will provide an excellent opportunity for you to discuss National Forest System programs and policies in light of your recreation strategy, and to deal with such key issues as funding for recreation facilities and services, recreation access to the National Forests, communication with the recreation community, and implementation of the provisions of the Service Contract Act, among others. Recreation Exchange participants can be useful allies, and the program can be the catalyst for the creation – or renewal – of working partnerships.

Our Exchange group usually numbers between 35 and 40 and represents diverse interests ranging from the boating industry to outfitters and guides, from hiking and camping organizations to motorized recreation groups – and all of them are very interested in the management of our National Forests.

The Exchange will be held in the Cabinet Room at the Old Ebbitt Grill (675 15th Street, N.W.) and will run from noon until 1:30. You are welcome to speak at either the beginning or end of that period. We invite our guests to offer informal remarks at the start, followed by an open dialogue.

Mike, thank you for accepting our invitation. We think the Exchange will provide you with an exceptional forum for reaching out to the members of the recreation community and reinforcing your message that recreation is very important to the Forest Service.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Derrick A. Crandall
President

cc: Phil Janik
Jim Furnish

