



Box 24, Folder 5: Scrapbooks, The Forest Service Years...continuing legacy, Vol. 9. 1998-2000

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1998-2000

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GEORGE MILLER

7TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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DANIEL WEISS
CHIEF OF STAFF

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
SENIOR DEMOCRAT

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

Mike Dombeck
Chief, Forest Service
Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

Mike

As the Clinton Administration comes to an end, I wanted to take a few moments to tell you how much I have valued your service, your attentiveness to issues of mutual concern and your friendship through these sometimes tumultuous years.

Many of us who have served in government during this period share a common belief in the need for a committed and practical government to involve itself in developing and defending policies to improve our environment and the quality of life of our fellow citizens. We have been given the privilege of holding positions of responsibility that have allowed us to change America for the better.

After 26 years of service in the Congress, I know that we can achieve little without dedicated friends in key positions in the Executive Branch, advocacy organizations and state and local groups. Working together, we have managed to accomplish much, if not as much as we might have hoped.

I deeply appreciate all you have brought to your service, and I particularly am grateful for your continued advice, encouragement and support--sometimes more publicly than at other times--which have been invaluable to me and crucial to our successes. Millions of Americans will live better lives, in a cleaner and more protected environment, because of your efforts. These are years you will be able to look back upon throughout your life as a gift to future generations.

Although we may not continue to work together in the same relationship in the future, I very much hope to be able to continue our policy "collaboration" in the years to come. And I wish you well in your future activities.

With best wishes for the holiday season,

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress

Rec'd ccu
DEC 20 2000

CO - Chris Wood
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December 13, 2000

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0507

December 13, 2000

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New York, New York)

Saturday, September 9, 2000

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

Waldorf-Astoria
New York, New York

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This year our nation is experiencing one of the worst wildfire seasons in memory. Extreme weather and lightning strikes have helped spark an estimated 250 fires every day. More than 6.6 million acres have burned already, and more than 35 large fires continue in nine states. We've all witnessed the tragedy of family homes destroyed, and admired the bravery of firefighters and citizens joining efforts to battle the blazes. I saw it firsthand in Idaho last month, and I'll never forget it.

Today I want to talk with you about important new steps we're taking to help communities recover and to ease the threat of fires in the years ahead. For months now, we've been mobilizing federal resources to provide firefighters and communities the tools they need to combat the fires. More than 25,000 federal, state and local personnel have been engaged in the effort. We provided \$590 million in emergency firefighting funds, and recently I declared Montana and Idaho disaster areas, making them eligible for more federal relief. But we must do more.

That's why I directed Interior Secretary Babbitt and Agriculture Secretary Glickman to prepare a report outlining a strategy to help communities recover from these fires, and to ensure that others are spared from similar tragedies in the future. Today I'm accepting the recommendations contained in this report and announcing the first steps we're taking to implement them.

First, saving lives and property is, and will remain, priority one. Our nation is blessed with the best firefighting force in the world. They're doing an extraordinary job in some of the most dangerous and difficult conditions imaginable. Some are finally returning home for well-deserved rest. But the fire season isn't over, and as long as the fires burn our firefighters will continue to receive our strong support to get the job done as quickly and safely as possible.

Second, we're launching new actions to help hard-hit communities recover as the smoke clears. Once the fires are out, the threat doesn't stop. Rain, for example, could trigger mudslides and dirty runoff threatens water quality. To help prevent further damage we've dispatched more than 50 rapid response teams to work with local communities to develop plans to repair damaged lands and protect precious water supplies.

In addition, we've just released nearly \$40 million for 90 restoration projects throughout the West. We'll also soon establish one-stop centers in Idaho and Montana, so that citizens can gain quick access to assistance from unemployment aid to small business loans. We want to make sure the help gets to those who need it right away.

Finally, we must continue to take a long-range look to diminish the threats from fires in the years ahead. For almost 100 years our nation pursued a policy focusing on extinguishing all wildfires. It was well-intentioned, but as a result, many of our forests now have an unnatural buildup of brush and shrubs. This excessive undergrowth fuels forest fires, making them far more dangerous and difficult to control.

Our administration has taken a new approach to protect communities and reduce wildfire risks by getting rid of the forest underbrush that has accumulated over the last century. We're reducing the risk of fire on more than 2.4 million acres a year -- a fivefold increase since 1994. We want to work with communities to expand these efforts, in an environmentally sensitive way, particularly in those areas at greatest risk of wildfire.

Today's report provides a blueprint for action -- immediate steps to deliver assistance to hard-hit communities, new measures to build on our efforts to ease the threat of wildfires nationwide. The report recommends an additional \$1.5 billion to carry out this strategy, and I'm committed to working with the Congress to secure this critical funding.

Throughout this wildfire season we've seen our fellow citizens come together to save lives and aid communities in need. That's the best of the American spirit. It's reflected in these new steps to help put out the fires today, help communities heal tomorrow, and help to reduce wildfire threats for years to come.

Thanks for listening.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 14, 2000

The Honorable Daniel R. Glickman
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Dan:

More than half of California's remaining giant sequoia groves, which contain the largest and many of the oldest trees in the world, lie outside Kings Canyon/Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks and within the Sequoia National Forest. I want to ensure that these majestic cathedral groves, which John Muir called "Nature's masterpiece," are protected for future generations to study and enjoy.

I would appreciate your review of this matter and your recommendation regarding whether appropriate stewardship for the sequoia groves warrants exercise of my authority under the Antiquities Act to extend permanent protection to objects of historic or scientific interest on federal land. As you know, legislative proposals have been introduced over the last decade, but not enacted, to provide permanent protection for the sequoias, and a number of others have proposed Antiquities Act protection for unprotected sequoias. Dr. Edgar Wayburn, Honorary President of the Sierra Club, mentioned this to me when I awarded him a Presidential Medal of Freedom last summer, and he also has written me about the subject.

As part of your review, please consult with appropriate members of Congress, as well as tribal, state, and local officials and other interested parties, and carefully consider their views in making your recommendation. I would also like you to draw on the scientific and management expertise of the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the State of California regarding sequoia groves located on their lands.

Please make your recommendation on this matter within sixty days. I will carefully consider your recommendation in the context of our ongoing efforts to protect our most valuable and unique lands for future generations to enjoy.

I look forward to receiving your guidance.

Sincerely,

Tim Chater

RON KIND
THIRD DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

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AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 1999

The Honorable Michael Dombeck
Director
U.S. Forest Service
14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Director Dombeck:

I recently read the September 6, 1999 edition of *Newsweek* which included a complimentary article regarding your directorship of the U.S. Forest Service. I commend you for your efforts.

As a "laid-back Wisconsin native" myself, I recognize the difficult and competing tasks that you face. And as a member of the House Committee on Resources, subcommittee on Forestry and Forest Health, I hope to work with you and the Forest Service to find a common balance between economic and environmental interests on our national forests.

Again, my best wishes for your continued success at the U.S. Forest Service. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Mike - keep up the great work.
You make us all very proud!
Ron Kind

Chief's Ofc

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

August 30, 2000

Mr. Mike Dombeck, Chief
 Forest Service
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Post Office Box 96090
 Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

Dear Mr. Dombeck:

I am pleased that you were able to participate in the recent dedication of the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center. Thank you for taking the time to join me for this special occasion. With the construction of this beautiful new facility, we have established another valuable tool in environmental stewardship. I am proud that I was able to secure federal funds to make it a reality.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,
 Robert C. Byrd
 Robert C. Byrd

RCB:asb

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 13, 1999

October 13, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

SUBJECT: Protection of Forest "Roadless" Areas

At the start of this century, President Theodore Roosevelt dedicated this Nation to the conservation of natural resources -- our land, our water, our wildlife, and all the other precious gifts nature had bestowed upon us. One of America's great central tasks, he declared, is "leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

In pursuit of that goal, President Roosevelt established new protections for millions upon millions of acres across America. His remarkable legacy includes 5 national parks, 18 national monuments, and dozens of wildlife refuges. Among his most notable conservation achievements were the consolidation of 65 million acres of Federal forest reserves into the National Forest System, and the creation of the United States Forest Service to ensure wise stewardship of these lands for future generations. In this effort, he was guided by Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service and a founder of America's conservation movement.

Today, the National Forest System has grown to 192 million acres of forests and grasslands in 46 States and territories. These lands provide a broad array of benefits to the American people. They support rural industries, sustain fish and wildlife, generate drinking water for 60 million Americans, and provide important recreation opportunities to an increasingly urban population.

Over the years, unfortunately, our Nation has not always honored President Roosevelt's vision. Too often, we have favored resource extraction over conservation, degrading our forests and the critical natural values they sustain. As the consequences of these actions have become more apparent, the American people have expressed growing concern and have called on us to restore balance to their forests.

My Administration has made significant strides in improving the management of our Federal forestlands. Beginning with the adoption of a comprehensive, science-based forest plan for the Pacific Northwest, we have sought to strengthen protections for wildlife, water quality, and other vital ecological values, while ensuring a steady, sustainable supply of timber and other commodities to support stable rural economies. The new forest planning regulation proposed last month represents another major step in that direction.

It is time now, I believe, to address our next challenge -- the fate of those lands within the National Forest System that remain largely untouched by human intervention.

more

(OVER)

A principal defining characteristic of these lands is that they do not have, and in most cases never have had, roads across them. We know from earlier inventories that there are more than 10 million acres of "roadless" area within the National Forest System, generally in parcels of 5,000 acres or more. A temporary moratorium on road building in most of these areas has allowed us time to assess their ecological, economic, and social values and to evaluate long-term options for their management.

In weighing the future of these lands, we are presented with a unique historic opportunity. From the Appalachian Mountains to the Sierra Nevada, these are some of the last, best unprotected wildlands in America. They are vital havens for wildlife -- indeed, some are absolutely critical to the survival of endangered species. They are a source of clean, fresh water for countless communities. They offer unparalleled opportunities for hikers, campers, hunters, anglers, and others to experience unspoiled nature. In short, these lands bestow upon us unique and irreplaceable benefits. They are a treasured inheritance -- enduring remnants of an untrammeled wilderness that once stretched from ocean to ocean.

Accordingly, I have determined that it is in the best interest of our Nation, and of future generations, to provide strong and lasting protection for these forests, and I am directing you to initiate administrative proceedings to that end.

Specifically, I direct the Forest Service to develop, and propose for public comment, regulations to provide appropriate long-term protection for most or all of these currently inventoried "roadless" areas, and to determine whether such protection is warranted for any smaller "roadless" areas not yet inventoried. The public, and all interested parties, should have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed regulations. In the final regulations, the nature and degree of protections afforded should reflect the best available science and a careful consideration of the full range of ecological, economic, and social values inherent in these lands.

I commend you, along with the Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, Jim Lyons, the Chief of the Forest Service, Michael Dombeck, and the entire Forest Service for your leadership in strengthening and modernizing the management of our Federal forests -- lands held by us in trust for all Americans and for future generations. With the new effort we launch today, we can feel confident that we have helped to fulfill and extend the conservation legacy of Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, and to ensure that the 21st century is indeed a new century for America's forests.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

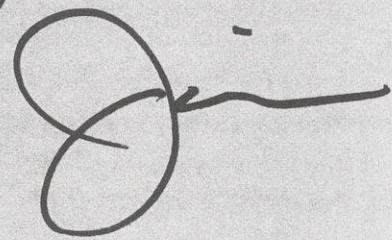
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

Mike —

10/7/29

So much is happening right now and so much progress is being made, we don't often have time to sit and listen. Your remarks today at the Leopold Conference were outstanding — both in substance and delivery. I've seen you grow in this job by leaps and bounds. Thanks for your partnership and leadership. Leopold would be pleased!

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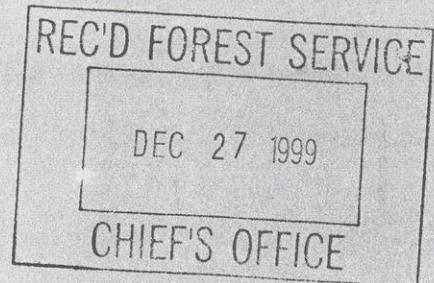




THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

December 17, 1999

Mr. Michael P. Dombeck
Chief of Forest Service
Dept. of Agriculture/Forest Service
Sidney Yates Building
201 14th Street, S.W., 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20250



Dear Mr. Dombeck:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts to help make this week both incredible and historic. The federal government, for the first time ever, has measured the satisfaction of our customers and told the world how we performed. This is an enormous turning point, and it puts real muscle on our commitment to deliver service as good as the best businesses in America. We will never be able to back down from that promise now. The American people are paying attention.

It took courage and leadership to make this happen — your courage and leadership, along with the other agency leaders who participated. I am so proud of my first team; individuals like you are showing others what is possible to make government work better and cost less.

Now, we are able to show that government can learn from its customers and perform better. Like businesses, we will use the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) every year to measure the success of our operations. The next index is scheduled to begin in August of 2000. Between now and then, we need to do everything we can to respond to what we have learned and improve our services. I know that by listening to our customers, we are going to raise the ACSI score so that a year from now, we can truly say we have met our goal — service equal to the best in business.

There is one opportunity I want you to seriously consider: expanding your use of the index to include additional customer groups. We did a tremendous job for the first time out; now that we know we can do this, we need to do more. We must talk to more core customer groups. The Social Security Administration (SSA) has already committed to add two additional sectors in addition to recent retirees. And like the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), we need to hear more from our toughest customers. We must continue to show that we are not afraid to ask how we are doing because we are absolutely, positively committed to service — just like you showed them this week.

Your efforts have been great, Michael. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Al Gore

AG/rar



May 14, 1998

Mr. Mike Dombeck
Chief, U.S. Forest Service
USDAFS
POB 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090
USA

Dear Mr. Dombeck,

As you may remember, about a month ago during your visit to Israel, you planted two trees in Segev Forest in the western Galilee. Later that day you dropped in on our GIS unit and during the explanation of our mapping project, I tried to print out a GIS map which shows the area where you planted the trees. Well I finally did make contact with the printer, and the map which I wanted to give you then is enclosed here.

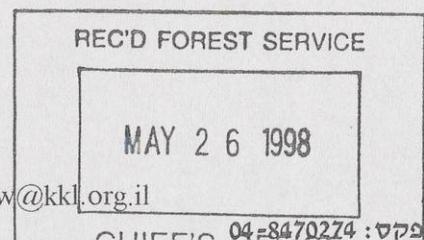
Please accept it with the best regards and compliments of everyone here at Israel's Forest Dept.

Sincerely,

John B. Woodcock
Forest Database Administration

cc.

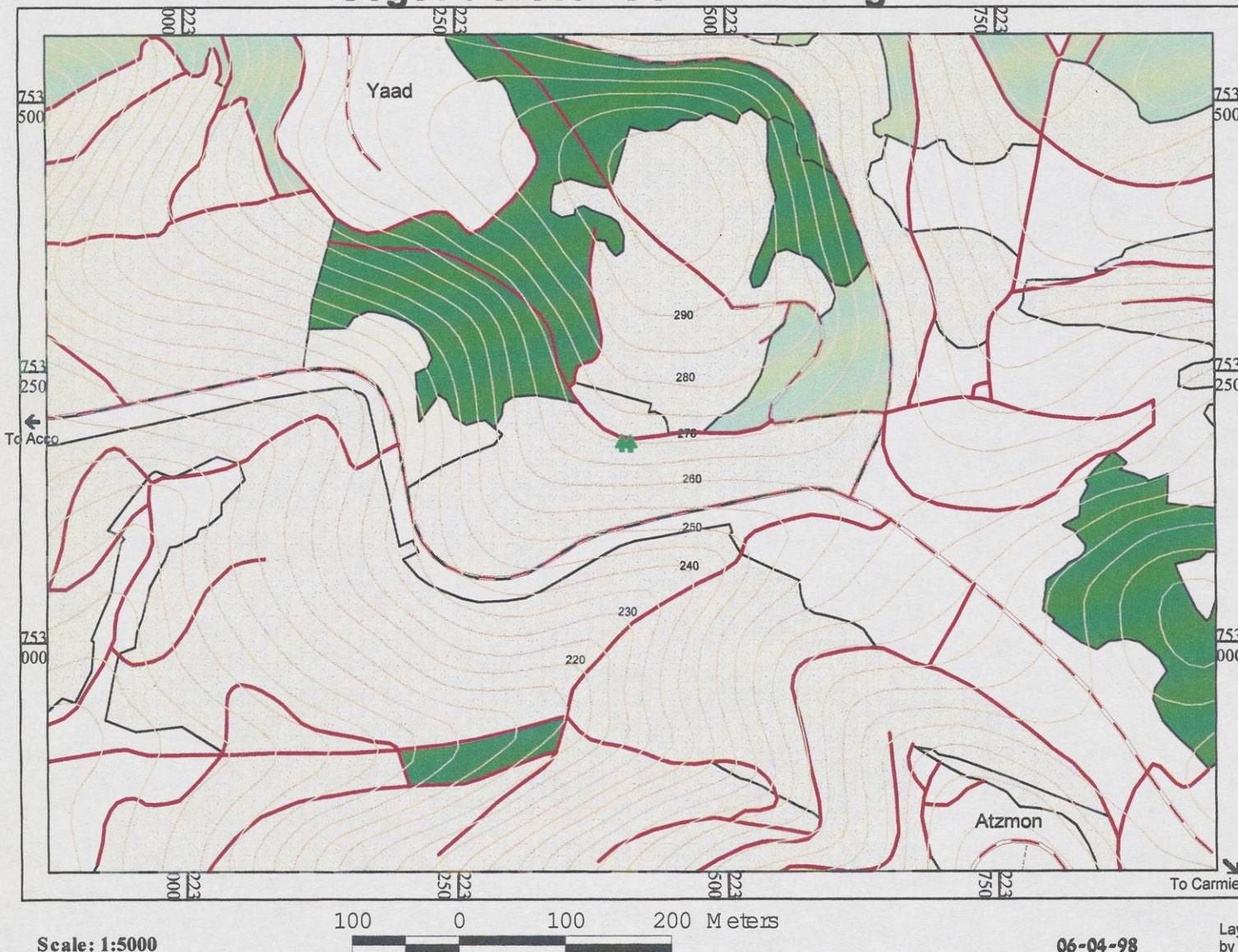
Dr. Menachem Sachs - Eshtaol



Segev Forest - USFS Planting



Forest Data
Management Dept.



Legend

- USFS Trees
- 5 m. Contour
- Roads
- Asphalt
- Dirt
- Paths
- Forest Stands
- Pines
- Other Conifer
- Euc/Olive
- Natural Forest
- Sparse Forest
- New Planting



Data Sources:
KKL Forest Dept.
Mapping Project

Layout created on ArcView
by John Woodcock

Sent to RF's
January 26, 1999

Part 1

TO: DISTRIBUTION (Title: Distribution list)

Part 2

I wanted to personally thank each of you again for sharing your concerns, thoughts, and ideas at our meeting last week.

With the press of routine business, it seems like a luxury to spend nearly 2 days together actually having fun and candidly discussing problems, opportunities and dreams. We need to do more of this.

As we approach the turn of the century, I want the Forest Service to be positioned and viewed by others as true conservation leaders with a strong land ethic. I encourage you to move ahead briskly, solve problems, bust through the bureaucracy, take the lead on issues, and err on the side of the land; and know that I will be solidly behind you and our forest supervisors. I keep on reminding myself: There is no constituency for process and bureaucracy, but people love the land and its bounty. Thank you for your leadership and friendship.

Conservation Roundtable
with
Chief Mike Dombeck
February 4, 1999
Board Room, Missoula Children's Theatre
Missoula, MT

Potential Participants:

Abelin, Doug - motorized recreation
Atthowe, Jack - Ravalli County Commissioner
Dexter, Barry - Simpson Lumber, Intermountain Forest Industries
Elsner, Smoke - Board of Directors and past president, Montana Outfitters and Guides Assn.
Fisher, Hank - Defenders of Wildlife
Gardner, Dick - Executive Director Idaho Rural Partnership Council
Gilels, Dori - Rock Creek Alliance
Jewell, Jeff - Ecology Center
Kington, Al - Independent Forest Product Assn.
Lieser, Ed - Montana Chapter Chair, Society of American Foresters
Milner, Doris - conservationist, Bitterroot Valley
Metzger, Lee - University of Montana
Peterson, Jim - Executive Director, Montana Stockgrowers Assn.
Rathbun, Ruth - Executive Director, Greater St. Joe Development Foundation
Russell, Janet - Native Forest Network
Senz, Gene - Friends of the Rocky Mountain Front
Sutherland, Kit - coordinator, Bitterroot Resource Conservation and Development Council
Thompson, Steve - stewardship contracting, Flathead Valley
Worf, Bill - Wilderness Watch

Worf Bill - Wilderness Watch