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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Backup Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13671  
**Folder ID Number:** 13671-006

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**Folder Title:**  
[Outdoor Media Roundtable] 6/6/89 [OA 6264]

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<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 5, 1989

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR INTERVIEW WITH OUTDOOR MEDIA

DATE: Tuesday, June 6, 1989  
TIME: 1:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.  
LOCATION: Roosevelt Room

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST  
FROM: KRISTIN CLARK TAYLOR *KT*

I. PURPOSE:

To provide members of the Outdoor and Recreational media the opportunity to interview you on outdoor issues.

II. BACKGROUND:

You will spend approximately 30 minutes discussing your views on the outdoors with 13 members of the Outdoor media.

Since this is more of an outdoor writers group than an environmental group, the questions will deal primarily with issues like preservation of federal lands, protected wildlife, legitimate gun use and sport fishing issues. You should still expect a few sensitive environmental questions, possibly on issues like acid rain and ocean dumping. Suggested talking points on these issues will be reviewed during the pre-briefing.

This session will provide a good opportunity for you to reflect on your personal love of the outdoors. You might want to emphasize a theme you put forth during the campaign: the importance of protecting the land for our children's children and passing on our natural resources to future generations in better condition than the way we found them. It is important for this group to fully appreciate your personal love of the outdoors.

Other possible personal anecdotes: your walks with George P. through the Grand Tetons or your fishing trips with George Hommel or Ray Scott, both of whom will be present during this meeting. Mrs. Bush's brother, James Pierce, will also be present, representing SPORTS AFIELD.

Since the Clean Air legislation will not yet be announced, your language on this should be purposely vague.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

See attached list

Page Two  
Outdoor Writers Briefing Memo

IV. PRESS PLAN:

Closed press; on-the-record

V. TALKING POINTS:

To be provided by Office of Communications

Page Three  
Outdoor Writers Briefing Memo

Outdoor Media Roundtable Participants

June 6, 1989

Duncan Barnes, Editor of FIELD AND STREAM (circulation: 2 million)

James Billig, Editorial Director of FINS AND FEATHERS (circulation: 400,000)

Clare Conley, Editor of OUTDOOR LIFE (circulation: 1.5 million)

Derrick Crandall, President of American Recreation Coalition, environmental advisor during the campaign and frequent environmental writer

Bill Estes, Associate Publisher of TRAILER LIFE (circulation: 425,000)

George Hommel, avid outdoorsmen and friend of the President's

Boyd Pfeiffer, President of Outdoor Writers Association of America, and major Outdoor columnist

Angus Phillips, Fishing/Boating columnist for the WASHINGTON POST

James Pierce, Consultant to SPORTS AFIELD (circulation: 520,000)

Dave Precht, Editor of BASSMASTER (circulation: 550,000)

John Rasmus, Editor of OUTSIDE (circulation 300,000)

Ray Scott, President of Bass Publications and friend of the President's

John Viehman, Editor of BACKPACKER (circulation: 165,000)

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
FOR THE PRESIDENT  
OUTDOOR MEDIA ROUNDTABLE  
JUNE 6, 1989**

**Question: What is your assessment of the conditions of our natural resources, especially of our streams, lakes and coastal waters?**

I care very deeply about our natural resources -- as President of course, but as a fisherman and sportsman as well. One of the best trips I've taken was out to the Grand Tetons with my grandson, in 1987. That trip brought home the point that we've got to protect the land and water for our children's sake, and for their children's sake. I want to see our natural resources passed on to them in better condition than the way we found them.

As far as current conditions go, overall water quality has improved, but there are areas where work remains to be done. Pollution from point sources has been significantly reduced, but work is still needed to address water quality problems caused by non-point sources of pollution, such as agricultural run-off. Also of concern are concentrations of toxic materials in areas of our Great Lakes and estuaries.

We're working to improve this, but it's hard work that takes time.

**Question: We're very concerned about the effects of acid rain. What are you going to do about this threat, which is killing our fish and ruining our lakes?**

Over the last several months we have been in the process of drafting a significant proposal for renewal and revision of the Clean Air Act. This will include specific provisions for the control of acid rain. We have evaluated, through the Domestic Policy Council, many options on all aspects of Clean Air legislation, especially acid rain and air toxins. We expect to send a bill to Congress early this month.

**Question: We understand that you are supporting user fees in our national parks and a salt water fishing license fee. What is your position on this?**

First of all, we are not currently proposing any increase in national park fees. We're collecting about \$50 million this year, and we expect to collect the same in 1990 with the same level of fees.

The proposal for salt water fishing license fee involves a \$20 annual fee, and would only apply to those fishing 3 to 200 miles offshore. It does not apply to surf fishermen on the beaches or inland (these fishermen would be regulated by the States, if at all). Normal expenses for a single day of offshore fishing run \$100-200, so I don't think a \$20 annual fee is

burdensome. Especially when the money will fund marine research and conservation programs in the offshore areas -- this will directly benefit the fishermen on whom the fee would be imposed.

Of course, this proposal is not final and is subject to negotiation with the Congress.

**Question: Do you support the full funding of the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund?**

My administration has eliminated the proposal to cap the Wallop-Breaux fund for sport fish restoration. I believe that this is fund is vital to developing and restoring our fish habitat and fishing environments, and I support its funding in full. I believe these funds should remain for their intended purpose, not capped and shifted to other purposes.

**Question: The new federal fire policy was announced last week. Can you give us any details?**

The new fire management policy for federal lands was announced last week by Secretaries Lujan and Yeutter. It directs federal officials to suppress all natural fires in federal lands until individual fire management plans for the areas can be determined. This was a result of one of the recommendations of the Fire Management Policy Review Team established last year. All wildland fires will be declared either a "prescribed" fire (one limited by qualified personnel to a specific geographic area for specific objectives) or "wildfires" (a prescribed fire that exceeds its limits or a natural fire caused by lightning). All wildfires will be fought with appropriate fire-fighting action.

**Question: What is your policy regarding the federal purchase of public lands and parks?**

My budget proposal to Congress included a request to purchase \$206 million in proposed land under the Land and Water Conservation Fund involving both the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service. These purchases in over 25 states will aid parks, national forests, refuges, and public lands. Five projects included in this initiative which might of special interest to you are: the San Francisco Bay, Bogue Chitto (BO CHEETO) in Louisiana, ACE Rivers Basin in South Carolina, Lake Thompson in South Dakota, and Cape May in New Jersey.

We've got to improve recreational opportunities for those living in our cities while protecting our most valuable natural and cultural resources available. These purchases will do just that. This will be a major step toward protecting the quality of life for future generations, and enriching America's heritage of natural beauty.

**Question: There's talk that some of your appointees at Interior and Agriculture are very pro-development, because they used to work for James Watt. Do you support these nominees?**

Let's look at the quality of the people and their own record of good work in conservation and environmental matters. That's what matters to me, and I support my nominees.

**Question: Won't the Administration's crime package abridge the rights of legitimate gun owners?**

No, it won't. As a hunter and a sportsman, I feel very strongly about protecting the rights of law-abiding Americans to own guns. Nearly half of U.S. households own one or more firearms, and the overwhelming majority of these firearms are legitimately owned and responsibly used. I carefully considered options for addressing the question of what to do about so-called "assault weapons." As a result, the Administration's violent crime package places the emphasis on punishing criminals who use these particular guns, not law-abiding citizens who possess guns and use them responsibly.

Every single action in my plan is designed to further the goal of ensuring that citizens are safe in their homes and feel secure in their communities. As the law enforcement organizations have pointed out, achieving this goal calls for some action against assault weapons, which can give deadly criminals a tactical advantage against police in the war on crime.

The central theme of the violent crime package is that those who commit crimes with firearms should be held fully accountable for them. That's why the core of the plan involves strong measures to enhance our criminal justice system.

**Question: What was your rationale for focussing on gun magazines above 15 rounds?**

We focused on magazine capacity because a large-capacity magazine is the one characteristic shared by almost every "assault-type" weapon. We proposed to take action against only those magazines having more than 15 rounds, out of a desire to leave unaffected the guns that are used in hunting and sporting events. Getting these large-capacity magazines out of circulation is vital to protecting the lives of police officers who must fight criminals armed with semi-automatic pistols and rifles featuring these magazines. This proposal will not interfere with uses of firearms for hunting, other sporting activities, or self-protection. Moreover, it would not affect

the ability of those who now possess large-capacity magazines, or firearms featuring them, to continue to do so.

**Question: With summer here, what is being done to prevent a repeat of last year's pollution on the beaches?**

In the short run, the EPA has begun to enforce new legislation to track and manage medical wastes; has banned overboard disposal of plastics from U.S. ships; and has started a significant public education program on the problem of plastic pollution.

Summer beach pollution is a symptom of accelerating population growth and uncontrolled development in coastal areas. To attack these basic causes, EPA has also begun long-term actions to address pollution, toxics and protection of critical coastal habitats such as wetlands, estuaries, and near coastal waters.

**Question: You have set a goal of "No net loss of wetlands." How do you plan to achieve this goal?**

I have established an interagency task force on wetlands under the leadership of the Domestic Policy Council to examine means for achieving the no-net-loss goal. This group is undertaking a number of tasks, including recommending ways to revise the strengthen the existing executive order on wetlands.

As part of protecting our wetlands, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan will protect and improve 6 million acres for waterfowl and other wildlife in the U.S. and Canada. The goal is to restore a fall flight of more than 100 million birds. Wetlands contribute, among other things, to the breeding of birds and other wildlife -- and each year in this country nearly half a million acres of wetlands are lost to development of one kind or another.

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan has been operational for about a year, but is not very well-funded. The Administration supports the basic thrust of S. 804, Senator Mitchell's bill to provide additional funding. While the Administration has some concerns about the details, we plan to work closely with Congress over the next few weeks to develop a good bill that can be enacted in the near future. ((It is important to note that the Plan is a great example of federal, state and private cooperation to protect the wildlife and wetlands.))

We as outdoorsmen, fishermen and hunters, can be the conscience of our local communities when decisions affecting wetlands are made. One of the most deeply cherished values in this country is stewardship of our natural resources -- of our forests, streams, and wildlife. Wetlands are a part of this heritage and each of us must do our part to build a strong conservation ethic throughout the country.

**Question: What is your Administration doing about international environmental issues?**

We are and will continue to lead in protecting the global environment. Issues of priority to us are ozone depletion, global climate changes, hazardous waste exports, marine pollution and the loss of tropical forests.

We have called for an international phaseout of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons by the end of this century, provided that substitutes are available and as guided by the assessment process under the Montreal Protocol.

The U.S. also is playing a leading role on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to address the problem of global warming. Recently, in Nairobi, the U.S. offered to host a workshop next fall to begin work toward a climate convention.

We have recently proposed to ban all exports of hazardous waste, where agreements do not exist for their safe disposal.

**Question: Recently, EPA Administrator William Reilly intervened in the Two Forks Dam and Reservoir project permit process in Colorado. What is your position on Mr. Reilly's action?**

The Clean Water Act establishes a process for federal agencies, in concert, to evaluate projects with major environmental consequences. Currently, until July 15 a comment period is underway. Following that period, the Administrator will consult with appropriate officials as to the project and come to a decision. I respect the process that is now underway and do not think it appropriate to comment further at this time.

**Question: What is the current status of the Alaskan oil spill cleanup?**

**General:**

Coast Guard Commandant Yost is in Alaska right now, still working on the situation. We are committed to cleaning up Prince William Sound, and we will hold Exxon to its commitment of responsibility for the cleanup. This is not something that's going to just go away, and we're going to work hard to restore the environment as it was.

**Specific:**

With the oil spill extending from northern Prince William Sound to the Western end of Kodiak Island, logistics from Valdez are becoming more and more difficult. Thus, clean-up "spike" camps are being set up at Kodiak, Seward and Homer.

With the imminent arrival of the Harbor seals' pupping season, clean-up crews and equipment have been removed from oiled areas traditionally used for birthing.

The supertanker itself is nearly ready to leave its temporary repair site, and the potential for additional oil leaks

from the hull have been eliminated according to Coast Guard and Exxon officials. Exxon is conducting the approved test of the dispersant Corexit; the Coast Guard and other agencies are monitoring to determine its effectiveness in removing oil and any possible side effects.

**Question: Do you support the effort to "Save the Everglades"?**

Yes, I do. The Administration supports H.R. 1727, a bill to expand the boundaries and protect the natural resources of the Everglades. Under this bill, 110,000 acres will be added to the National Park System in South Florida, enhanced protection will be provided to the Everglades National Park, and a Federal/State partnership will be established for land acquisition. I endorse this effort, and support those who are working to protect the natural beauty and habitat of the Everglades.

**Question: What is your position on the spotted owl being designated as a "threatened species"?**

This is a tough issue, and I am looking to Secretary Lujan's leadership in this area. The Fish and Wildlife Service's yearlong study is about to begin on the matter, in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. I think we've got to let the process work, and it would be inappropriate for me to comment until the process is complete.

# # #

June 6, 1989

MEMORANDUM TO: DAVID DEMAREST  
KRISTIN TAYLOR

FROM: MARY KATE GRANT *MKG*  
SUBJECT: LATEST WORD ON OUTDOOR MEDIA BRIEFING

Regarding the changes made in the proposed questions and answers, here are the final answers after discussing them with the agencies involved:

1. Page 1 / water quality question

((EPA agrees that OMB's assessment of overall water quality as "improved" is okay, with specific concerns about local levels. Paragraph 2 should now read:))

As far as current conditions go, overall water quality has improved, but there are areas where work remains to be done. Pollution from point sources has been significantly reduced, but work is still needed to address water quality problems caused by non-point sources of pollution, such as agricultural run-off. Also of concern are concentrations of toxic materials in areas of our Great Lakes and estuaries.

2. Page 4 / wetlands question

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It is important to note that the Plan is a great example of federal, state and private cooperation to protect the wildlife and wetlands.

Sorry for the confusion.

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION**

FAX NO: 395-6899  
Conf. No: 395-4993

DATE: 6/5/89

TO: MARY KATE GRANT  
FAX # 456-6218

FROM: RON COGSWELL, OMB

PAGES BEING TRANSMITTED (including cover sheet) 7

COMMENTS: PER OUR PHONE CONVERSATION  
THIS AFTERNOON. LET ME  
KNOW IF THESE REVISIONS CAN  
BE INCORPORATED INTO THE  
PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING.  
THANKS, RON

\*\*\*NOTE: PLEASE CALL THE INTERIOR BRANCH, 395-4993, UPON RECEIPT OF FAX. THANK YOU!!!\*\*\*

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
FOR THE PRESIDENT  
OUTDOOR MEDIA ROUNDTABLE  
JUNE 6, 1989

*revised  
6/5/89 1:30pm*

Question: What is your assessment of the conditions of our natural resources, especially of our streams, lakes and coastal waters?

I care very deeply about our natural resources -- as President of course, but as a fisherman and sportsman as well. One of the best trips I've taken was out to the Grand Tetons with my grandson, in 1987. That trip brought home the point that we've got to protect the land and water for our children's sake, and for their children's sake. I want to see our natural resources passed on to them in better condition than the way we found them.

As far as the current conditions go, ~~overall, the assessment is mixed. In terms of general water quality, the states are reporting higher levels of toxins in our surface waters, in:~~

- o ~~About one-third of the monitored estuaries and coastal waters;~~
- o ~~one-seventh of the monitored lakes;~~
- o ~~and four-fifths of monitored Great Lakes shoreline.~~

We're working to improve this, but it's hard work that takes time.

*overall water quality has improved but there are areas where work remains to be done.*

Question: We're very concerned about the effects of acid rain. What are you going to do about this threat, which is killing our fish and ruining our lakes?

Over the last several months we have been in the process of drafting a significant proposal for renewal and revision of the Clean Air Act. This will include specific provisions for the control of acid rain. We have evaluated, through the Domestic Policy Council, many options on all aspects of Clean Air legislation, especially acid rain and air toxins. We expect to send a bill to Congress ~~early~~ <sup>later</sup> this month.

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management plans reviewed revisited

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*growth and development must be managed at the local level in order to ensure the long-term preservation of*  
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To help accomplish this, I support the basic thrust of S. 804, Sen. Mitchell's bill to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. While the Administration has some concerns about the legislation, we plan to work closely with Congress over the next weeks to develop a good bill that can be enacted in the near future.

*file PA take*

*details*

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6

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\* \* \*

*the expansion of Everglades National Park, for the purpose of restoring ~~natural~~ natural waterflows and stemming species losses in the Park. We advocate quick enactment of legislation (H.R. 1727) to authorize ~~the~~ acquisition of 110,000 acres for the expansion, provided it is broadened to also authorize other actions necessary to restore the natural waterflows. I strongly support the efforts of all*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 2, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST *DD*

FROM: MARY KATE GRANT *MKG*

SUBJECT: Outdoor media roundtable

I. SUMMARY

You will be meeting on Tuesday, June 6 with members of the outdoor media, for a question and answer session. Attached for your review are possible questions and suggested answers.

II. DISCUSSION

The group will include approximately a dozen writers and editors from such outdoor sports magazines as Fins and Feathers, Backpacker, Bassmaster, Field and Stream and Outdoor Life. Ray Scott and George Hommel will also be attending. Your brother-in-law, James Pierce, will be representing Sports Afield.

Since this is more of a sportsmens' group than an environmental group, the questions deal mostly with preservation of federal lands, protected wildlife, legitimate gun use, sport fishing issues, and the like. Since the Clean Air legislation will not yet be announced, the press office recommended the language on this be purposely vague.

A briefing memorandum on the event from the Office of Media Relations will follow on Monday.

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
FOR THE PRESIDENT  
OUTDOOR MEDIA ROUNDTABLE  
JUNE 6, 1989**

**Question: What is your assessment of the conditions of our natural resources, especially of our streams, lakes and coastal waters?**

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- o About one-third of the monitored estuaries and coastal waters;
- o one-seventh of the monitored lakes;
- o and four-fifths of monitored Great Lakes shoreline.

We're working to improve this, but it's hard work that takes time.

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# # #

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
FOR THE PRESIDENT  
OUTDOOR MEDIA ROUNDTABLE  
JUNE 6, 1989

**Question: What is your assessment of the conditions of our natural resources, especially of our streams, lakes and coastal waters?**

I care very deeply about our natural resources -- as President of course, but as a fisherman and sportsman as well. One of the best trips I've taken was out to the Grand Tetons with my grandson, in 1987. That trip brought home the point that we've got to protect the land and water for our children's sake, and for their children's sake. I want to see our natural resources passed on to them in better condition than the way we found them.

As far as the current conditions go, candidly, the assessment is mixed. In terms of general water quality, the states are reporting higher levels of toxins in our surface waters, in:

- o About one-third of the monitored estuaries and coastal waters;
- o one-seventh of the monitored lakes;
- o and four-fifths of monitored Great Lakes shoreline.

We're working to improve this, but it's hard work that takes time.

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