

FOIA MARKER

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Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
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Folder Title:
Forest Summit - Heather Ross Comments - February 28, 1993

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February 28, 1993

To: Katie McGinty
From: Heather Ross
Subject: Forest Summit

You will recall that your original memo regarding the Forest Summit went to Bo Cutter. Bo passed it on to me, and I have been keeping him informed of the progress of your group. He would like to follow up with you on the question of how you see the risks of Presidential involvement and asked me to make an appointment with you for first thing Monday for that purpose. As I haven't been able to reach you since he and I spoke Saturday afternoon, I am leaving you this note instead. Can you please give me a call when you come in Monday; Bo and I will come up to see you directly.

cc. Bo Cutter

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 26, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR KATIE MCGINTY

FROM: HEATHER ROSS

SUBJECT: Forest Summit

The work that has been done by the transition team and Tom Collier is impressive, as is the interagency group you have put together. These are thoughtful people doing a careful job -- the difficulty is that the task they have carefully thought through is so daunting. The question that arises is whether it is wise to put the President out in front on this one -- raising the profile, the expectations, and the ante in terms of precedents on something which is not top of his agenda and has substantial risks.

It may not be the eye of the needle to bring this off as a clear-cut success, but it sure is close.

- the court must be willing to accept this intervention in its well-advanced process
- the working group must come up with a first-ever integrated (across federal agencies) forest management plan in 60-90 days
- the Congress must pass within 30-60 days after receiving this plan an unusual one-page bill mandating its adoption on an interim basis until administrative procedures advance to the point where it can stand on its own
- the widely-divided parties must come together quickly in near unanimity for this sequence to work

The best chance of making it work is to throw large resources at it. The first of these, of course, is the President, and the attraction of having him is obvious. However, part of his value is in signaling major attention and finance, which must then be delivered. This means, as you pointed out yesterday, some appreciable, tailored assistance to affected communities. This runs counter to Bob Reich's determination to handle worker dislocation in an omnibus way, and sets a costly stage for really big adjustment efforts, like NAFTA and defense conversion, coming up. The focussed regional aspect could also

come back to haunt us -- a lot of regions would like Presidential succor for their particular hurt. If a Presidential solution is available, it is almost certainly an expensive one.

Perhaps Bruce Babbitt and Mike Espy could handle this. As one of the objectives of the exercise is to reestablish agency credibility, this would certainly be a direct route. While the President's involvement might be seen as paralleling the Economic Summit, the discussion of yesterday was pretty clear that this is not really the case -- the affected parties want to see this as an ongoing process with a specific resulting action, not a one-off event. Putting the President on the line to make this sustained process work makes me uneasy.

You are a lot more knowledgeable about this than I am, and you have had dealings with the President on it. If he wants to do it, that is certainly the right decision, as long as he is aware of the challenges/risks. In light of the extraordinary security measures for the Endangered Species Committee out there last year, those risks might include personal safety, particularly if he participates in the forest/logging community visits you are considering. In the end, the best judgment on all of this will be yours.

ETS - done on the 26th

no start mandated reg of the ^{SAT on the} 26th

SAT needs to undergo reconsideration in light of
BLM D.

fract in BLM D & normal printing

will announce BLM D this week.

We had info to the Conference not good.

leak // surprise

60 days ~~to~~ by June 1. will have it. we need
just.

Today used decision on BLM
notes from Kevin bottom line better.

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