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[Watershed and Salmon Habitat Protection] [Loose]

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THE PACIFIC RIVERS COUNCIL

formerly THE OREGON RIVERS COUNCIL

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Katie McGinty
David Cottingham
Office of Environmental Policy
Old Executive Office Building
Room 286
Washington D.C. 20501
May 17, 1993

Dear Katie and David,

There are four important issues included in this letter regarding watershed and salmon habitat protection and restoration in the Pacific Northwest. In summary these are: 1) be extremely careful with funding "on the shelf" restoration projects, 2) real watershed protection must include two interconnected land management (and funding) components, 3) we have identified \$133 million in the Forest Service budget that can be reprogrammed for Fiscal 94 watershed protection efforts, and 4) we propose that Congress and the administration rapidly move forward to establish a long term Salmon Restoration Trust Fund to fund restoration projects.

First, there may be a desire to find immediate jobs in restoration by funding projects that agencies currently have "on the shelf." We urge great caution with these projects. Few within the agencies are well versed yet in ecologically sound watershed restoration. At best, while they may put people to work, many "on the shelf" projects will do little to protect or restore streams because they are poorly targeted. At worst, many will cause further harm. We propose that an interagency scientific review team (composed of USFS Research Station staff and others) be quickly established to review and approve those existing projects that can provide the best ecological benefits for the dollar.

The original stimulus bill had a significant number of dollars earmarked for watershed restoration in the Pacific Northwest. Despite our many requests however, we were not notified that the funds were in the package until the stimulus package was well on the way to defeat. Hence, we could not help apprise Northwest delegation members of the funds and potential benefits. If another stimulus package is put forward we ask you to consider reinstating funds to "secure" the key watersheds to protect the remaining healthier salmon habitat regionwide. Stimulus package money should be the funds used to initiate the more immediate "on the shelf" restoration projects, after careful review.

New Visions to Restore America's Rivers and Watersheds

offices also in Portland and Washington, D.C.

Second, it is vital to clarify an important distinction between watershed protection versus restoration. This distinction may affect both the land management and funding decisions to be made. Protection must be looked at as having two interconnected components: prevention of further impacts and reduction of threats from past human impacts. One component without the other is certain to prove hollow for endangered salmon, water quality and water quantity regionwide.

Therefore, we urge you to allocate funds to assess the threats and then to "secure" key watersheds as part of the protection package that may be implemented in Fiscal 1994, and to look at restoration efforts and funds as separate, longer term steps that should begin in fiscal 1995.

There is ample scientific evidence that simply preventing future timber harvest, road building etc. in key watersheds and riparian areas will not be sufficient to protect these vital areas. Even the best remaining watersheds are threatened with catastrophic sedimentation from landslides, chronic sedimentation and other impacts caused by forest roads, exposed clearcuts and other past developments. Therefore, after careful assessments, the key watersheds must also be "secured" in order to protect the areas - the existing threats must be diffused or eliminated.

To fully protect the key watersheds will require that they be classified as distinct new conservation units where the sole management goal is to maintain or restore watershed ecosystem health. Without this new management goal, the systems are certain to degrade over time. We propose that those key watersheds that require activities to "secure" the areas be classified as "Watershed Biodiversity Management Areas". Those watersheds that have not been impacted yet and that therefore can serve as benchmarks for research and monitoring in ecosystem health over time should be designated "Benchmark Watersheds". We urge you to include these new management units in any options being developed.

Third, we consistently hear that while many support a watershed and salmon habitat protection and restoration program, funds seem hard to find. We have identified at least \$133 million in the Forest Service Budget alone that could be reprogrammed to "secure" key watersheds in fiscal 1994 (see enclosed information). We should have BLM figures available soon. We estimated that \$157 million will be needed to "secure" key watersheds on the west-side and \$200 million will be required on the east-side. In our testimony before the House Interior Appropriations Committee we recommended that \$32 be appropriated in Fiscal 94 to begin the program to secure key watersheds on the west-side of the region. If additional funds are found, more can be done on the west-side and efforts can begin on the east-side as well. We believe that a legal, economic and ecological crisis of mammoth proportions looms just months away given the over 100 populations of at-risk salmon that could be petitioned for endangered species classification on the west-side of the region alone. The \$133 million we have identified should provide ample possibilities to fund at least the initial \$32

million we recommended. These funds can and should be allocated exclusively to the watershed "protection" program: to reduce or eliminate the threats to the remaining healthy salmon habitat regionwide.

Finally, we believe that riparian restoration, large woodjam projects etc. should be initiated only after completion of full watershed assessments and of the efforts to reduce or eliminate the threats to the remaining healthy salmon habitat regionwide. These longer term restoration efforts can be funded through a Salmon Restoration Trust Fund. The trust fund could be funded through "Salmon Restoration Stamps" sold to river users and allocated exclusively to watershed protection and restoration on federal lands in a process similar to the very successful Duck Stamp program. The Duck Stamp program produced about \$19.5 Million in revenues last year, with small overhead costs.

We propose that the Administration may want to include a proposal to establish such a fund in whatever package is proposed. There may be no better time to initiate the process to establish this program, and it will demonstrate that restoration efforts will not continue to be funded from the appropriations pipe line. We can provide you with more details on how we envision the program working. However, there are many questions to be answered and details to work out. Therefore, it may make sense to immediately request that CRS, OMB or another appropriate agency review the viability and options for such a proposal within the next 30 days.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Sincerely,


Bob Doppelt

Executive Director

Enclosures

**PROPOSED REPROGRAMMED FOREST SERVICE FUNDS FOR WATERSHED AND
SALMON HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION - FY 1994 BUDGET
PACIFIC RIVERS COUNCIL**

Attached is an outline of \$133,000,000 in Forest Service FY 1994 program budget funds which The Pacific Rivers Council believes should be reprogrammed to protect and restore key watersheds and salmon habitat on federal lands in the Pacific Northwest. This figure is more in line with the acute level of need for ecological restoration on national forest lands than the administration's current \$27.4 million for "Ecosystem Restoration".

* Under State and Private Forestry we propose that Forest Pest Management be funded only slightly higher than the FY 93 level. Many believe that more moist weather conditions across the country in 1993, and specifically in the Pacific Northwest, will substantially reduce insect related forest health problems in the coming year. The need to increase this program by the proposed 28% is unsubstantiated. In addition, funds targeted under this category for the Blue Mountains in Oregon are not clearly defined as to their ultimate use.

* Also under State and Private Forestry, we suggest that the Forest Management Utilization category, which the FY 94 shows as a 33% increase, remain fairly flat with only a slight increase over last year. This item had nearly a \$10 million increase from FY 92 to FY 93 for Forest Stewardship, with a large portion being in increased urban forestry. Though urban forestry is necessary, the watershed protection measures necessary in the Pacific Northwest to hang on to the 214 at-risk salmon stocks should take some priority.

* Under National Forest Systems some \$47 million are listed as potentially reprogrammed funds. We suggest the category Land Line Location actually be reduced from the FY 93 level. This reduction is justified since the actual number of timber sales continues to drop and is not project to rise significantly during FY 94.

* We suggest that Drug Enforcement be reduced by \$1 million, again underscoring the higher priority of the critical salmon situation in the Northwest.

* We also show the Timber Sale Administration category \$50 million lower than the FY 93 level, and \$28,000 below the proposed FY 94 level. We must take the position that all those forests showing chronic and consistent below cost timber sales must be eliminated. This reduction in the overall program is a reflection of the elimination in below cost timber sales for forests across the country which TSPIRS has shown a loss of at least \$200/acre over the last five years. We can no longer afford to subsidize these sorts

of on-going harvests at the risk of ignoring the critical watersheds and salmon in the Pacific Northwest. Our proposed additional reductions in the timber program are further enabled by cutting into the apparent \$58 million "buffer" included in the proposed budget for this account for flexibility in light of the Forest Conference.

* Also under National Forest System, we have suggested a funding level for Recreation which still reflects a slight increase in the FY 93 figure, but is \$10 million less than the proposed FY 94 figure. We must all realize that protection of the key watersheds will certainly benefit the overall prospects of the salmon, but at the same time there will be major benefits for recreationists using these areas of the national forests, as well. As secondary benefits, protection of these watersheds and riparian areas will result in better recreational fishing, better year-round stream flows for boaters, better water quality, and protection of the scenic qualities enjoyed by all who use these areas for recreation.

* It follows then that with an overall reduction in the Timber Sales Program, and other aspects of Forest Service activities associated with timber harvest, that the category General Administration should basically hold at the FY 93 level.

* Under the Construction account, we propose only a modest increase in Facilities construction, rather than the nearly 23% increase reflected in the FY 94 budget. The bulk of this \$12,000 reduction would come from Facilities Construction - primarily from road construction, with lesser amounts from research and other construction. It makes little sense to upgrade, replace or construct new Forest Service facilities when the Service as a whole is downsizing. It would more prudent to wait until the next budget cycle to see where shifts in personnel will occur over the foreseeable future.

* The FY 94 budget for Forest Road Construction is slightly lower (\$7,368 million) than the actual amount appropriated in FY 93. We urge that the FY 94 amount be reprogrammed by an additional \$18 million with specific guidance that no new roads be built in currently roadless areas, particularly the key watersheds in the Pacific Northwest which harbor the last vestiges of the salmon populations. We do not believe that the small reduction in the forest road construction budget can be justified by the claims of increased passenger car and recreational vehicle traffic on roads which formerly served primarily logging-related vehicles. If the roads are unsafe, or damaging to streams, they should be closed, removed etc. The agency must target its funds to address the current ecological crisis before it tries to expand public access. If we stop degrading the remaining healthy forests with new roads, the amount that remains will be more than adequate. We strongly urge

that the \$18 million reprogramming we have suggested should be used exclusively to reconstruct, repair, move and/or retire existing Forest Service roads in the Pacific Northwest which have been identified by scientists to pose the greatest immediate threat to the salmon due to chronic and catastrophic sedimentation of streams.

We note that the administration proposes to reduce the Road Maintenance budget by \$2.66 million, and does not include authorizing language or funds to continue the obliteration of roads from this account. These reductions are apparently justified by the need to make program reductions under the Administration's Cost Effectiveness Initiative. With some of the funds identified above, the Pacific Rivers Council strongly urges the Committee to maintain or increase the budget for this program in order that the agency may more fully address the urgent problems presented by poor road construction and maintenance in key watersheds of the Pacific Northwest and other regions. Road obliteration, or mere closure with stabilization where appropriate, must increase substantially, with priority given to roads in key watersheds and those that threaten aquatic habitat.

* We are also suggesting that International Forestry, which the Fy 94 budget suggests should be increased nearly 500%, should in fact be only doubled from the actual FY 93 amount. While international forestry is important and admirable, we can not save forests abroad by sacrificing species and forests at home. A 100% increase over last year's budget should prove adequate for this program.

SUMMARY: These proposed changes reflect an amount of \$133 million in the proposed FY 1994 which could be allocated to the protection and restoration of key watersheds and riparian areas in the Pacific Northwest. Over 200 salmon populations, along with many associated riparian species are at great risk of extinction if we do not act quickly.

NOTE: Additionally, though not reflected here, some of the Range Improvement Fund under the Forest Service budget could be allocated to watershed and salmon habitat restoration. The FY 94 request of \$47.7 million represents a \$3.26 million increase over Fy 93. This increase would most appropriately be spent restoring the damage that grazing on federal lands in the Northwest has done to streams and the salmon stocks.

Suggested Cuts in FY 1994 Forest Service Budget To Fund
Salmon Habitat Recovery

Program	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994 Request	Proposed Cut	New FY 1994	VS FY 1993
			(Dollars in Thousands)			
Research						
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Pest Management	\$57,205	\$40,605	\$52,241	\$11,000	\$41,241	\$636
For. Mgmt & Utilization	\$68,116	\$77,582	\$103,318	\$25,000	\$78,318	\$736
Total S & P For.	\$125,321	\$118,187	\$155,559	\$36,000	\$119,559	\$1,372
National Forest System						
Land Line Location	\$32,251	\$30,873	\$31,161	\$5,000	\$26,161	(\$4,712)
Drug Enforcement	\$7,073	\$9,555	\$9,633	\$1,000	\$8,633	(\$922)
Timber Sale Administration	\$263,745	\$219,033	\$186,793	\$28,000	\$158,793	(\$50,240)
Recreation Use	\$216,396	\$229,742	\$245,516	\$10,000	\$235,516	\$5,774
General Administration	\$303,786	\$305,941	\$308,657	\$3,000	\$305,657	(\$284)
Total NFS	\$823,251	\$795,144	\$791,760	\$47,000	\$744,760	(\$50,384)
Construction						
Facilities	\$81,056	\$87,440	\$107,432	\$12,000	\$95,432	\$7,992
Forest Road Construction	\$168,988	\$140,586	\$133,218	\$18,000	\$115,218	(\$25,368)
Total Construction	\$250,044	\$228,026	\$240,650	\$30,000	\$210,650	(\$17,376)
International Forestry		\$7,522	\$36,996	\$20,000	\$16,996	\$9,474
Total	\$1,198,616	\$1,148,879	\$1,224,965	\$133,000	\$1,091,965	(\$56,914)

Note: A portion of the Range appropriation and the Range Improvement Fund could be used for stream improvement, since grazing contributes to the problem.

[PACRIV2.wk1]

Scientists want timber be so cut on to protect fish

A letter to President Clinton urges that watersheds and fish species be protected and restored in any forest-crisis plan

By SCOTT SONNER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 100 scientists nationwide urged President Clinton to protect and restore watersheds with troubled fish species when he moves to resolve the Northwest timber crisis.

"The decisions that you make in the next 60 days are certain to affect Pacific salmon and water resources for decades to come," the aquatic ecologists, wildlife biologists and water-resource specialists said Wednesday in a letter to Clinton.

"Past approaches to watershed management have failed because they do not address the basic causes of degradation at the watershed or landscape level.

"As scientists, we encourage you to use this unique opportunity to set a new direction for the fisheries and water resources of the region — and indeed the nation," they wrote.

James R. Karr, director of the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Washington, delivered the letter to the White House and raised the concerns in meetings Wednesday with officials at the Environmental Protection Agency and the departments of Agriculture and Interior.

Initial feedback was "generally pretty positive," Karr said.

"I think everyone agrees the water resources, the salmon issue is already clearly on the table," he said in an interview. "My role is to reinforce from the scientific community the importance of including it."

"A great deal is at stake here."

Clinton has asked his Cabinet to report back by June 1 with a variety of options for protecting the Northwest's oldest forests and providing transition assistance to the region's timber industry.

In addition to the adverse impact on the threatened northern spotted owl, logging has taken its toll on water quality and spawning habitat of

troubled salmon populations in the region, Karr said.

Logging and road-building accelerates soil erosion, which fills streams with silt, he said. Harvests near streams eliminate shade trees needed to keeping the water from becoming too warm.

The National Marine Fisheries Service already has added three Northwest salmon species to the list of threatened and endangered species list and has been asked to review the status of several more.

While hydroelectric dams, irrigation and overharvesting have harmed the fish, Karr said logging roads are "one of the most important" contributors to poor health of streams.

"The slope instabilities that they create cause landslides and debris flows that basically destroy the passages," he said.

Marla Romash, spokeswoman for Vice President Al Gore and the White House Office on Environmental Policy, said Clinton has made it clear impacts on fish populations will be considered as government scientists craft options for Northwest forest management.

The "mission statement" to his working teams said long-term objectives should include restoration of spawning and rearing habitat for fish species considered to be "sensitive" or "at risk."

The American Society of Fisheries has identified more than 200 fish species at risk of extinction in Oregon and Washington.

THE OREGONIAN, FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1993

May 12, 1993

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear President Clinton:

We, the undersigned, applaud your efforts to resolve the Ancient Forest stalemate in the Pacific Northwest and, in the process, address the degradation of watersheds and fisheries resources. The fate of Pacific salmon — and of sustainable supplies of clear water, fiber, timber, fisheries, and productive soils — is inextricably linked to the future of watersheds.

We therefore urge you to use the ecological principles articulated at the April 2 Forest Conference to protect riparian areas and refugia on federal lands in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and northern California. In addition, we urge you to implement a comprehensive watershed and salmon habitat restoration program. These steps will prove vital to Pacific salmon and water resources throughout the region. They may also set precedents for similar applications to federal lands nationwide, an approach that will meet the spirit of your call to make government agencies work together.

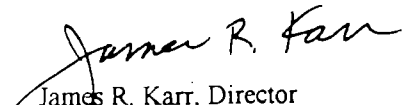
Specifically, we urge you to adopt policies with three essential components: (1) establish watershed-level refuges for at-risk species and protection of remaining healthy watersheds; (2) use ecological principles to protect riparian areas and floodplains; and (3) implement watershed restoration programs that include riparian reforestation and reductions in road-related sediment and other impacts. The first step in this effort will be protection of the few remnants of natural landscapes, especially the stream corridors, in the Pacific Northwest.

Watershed and landscape-level planning is central to a successful program — as is the need for action based on scientific principles rather than emphasis on procedural substitutes. Under your continuing leadership, your Administration can ensure that sound science is integrated with sound policy. Above all, we urge you to avoid the past tendency to ignore compelling scientific evidence in pursuit of short-term policy goals.

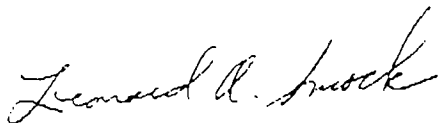
The decisions that you make in the next 60 days are certain to affect Pacific salmon and water resources for decades to come. Past approaches to watershed management have failed because they do not address the basic causes of degradation at the watershed or landscape level. As scientists, we encourage you to use this unique opportunity to set a new direction for the fisheries and water resources of the region — and indeed of the nation.

We would be pleased to assist you in this crucial endeavor.

Sincerely,


James R. Karr, Director
Institute for Environmental Studies
University of Washington, FM-12
Seattle, WA 98195

Over 125 scientists, primarily aquatic ecologists, fisheries biologists, and water resource specialists, have cosigned this letter. Their signatures follow (10 pages).



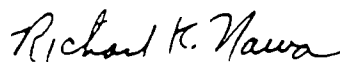
Chairman, Department of Biology
Virginia Commonwealth University



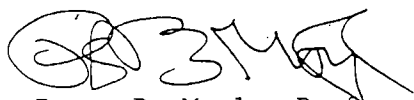
Nancy Reichard, Director
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Richard K. Nawa
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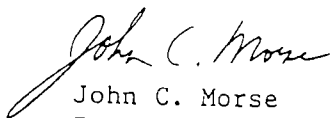
Peter B. Moyle, Professor
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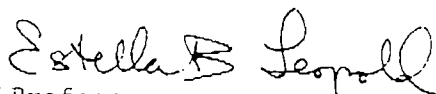
David L. Courtenanch, Director
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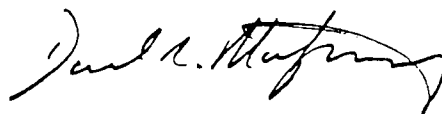
Edwin P. Pister
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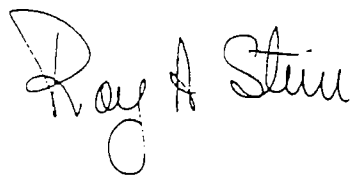
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Professor of Entomology and Director of
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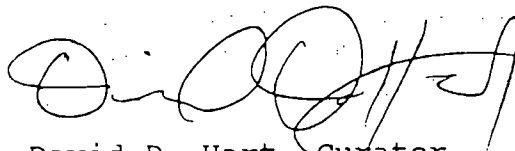
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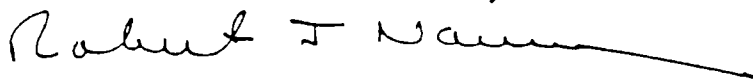
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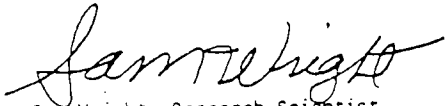
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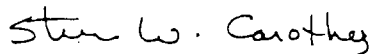
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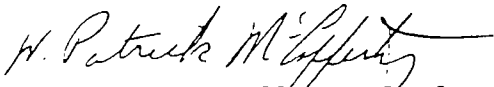


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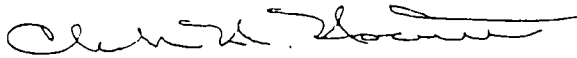
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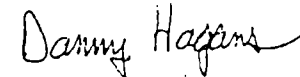
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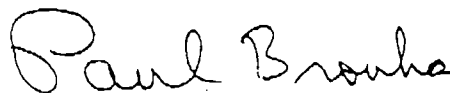
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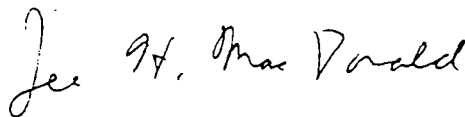
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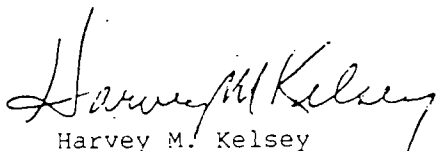
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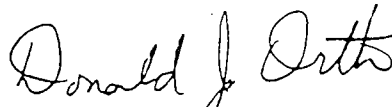
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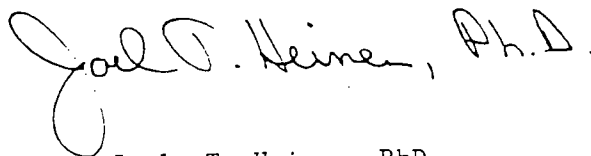
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Distinguished Professor Emeritus
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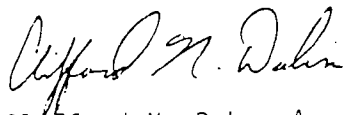
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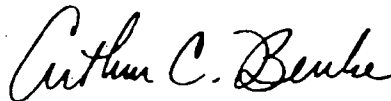
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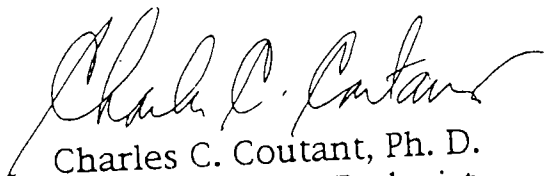
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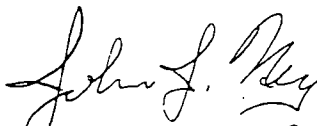
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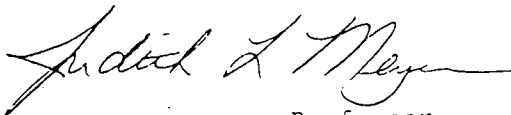
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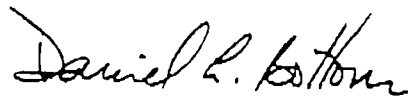
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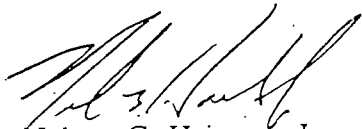
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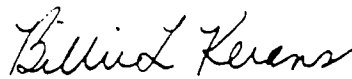
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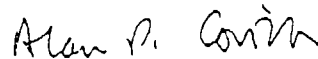
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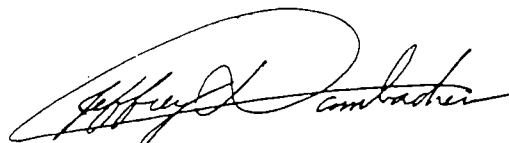
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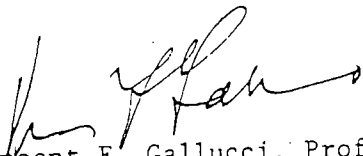
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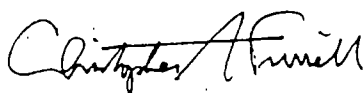
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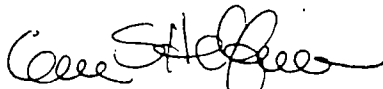
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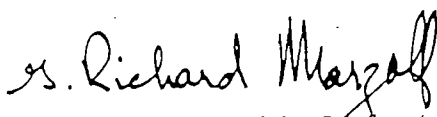
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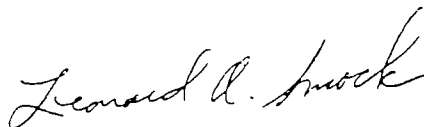
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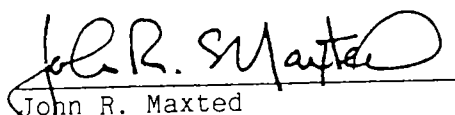
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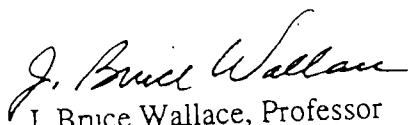
Chairman, Department of Biology
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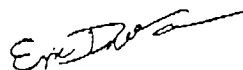
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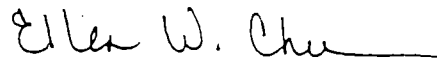
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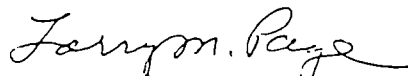
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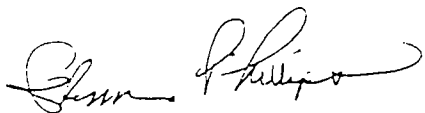
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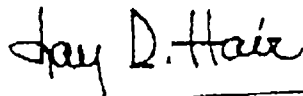
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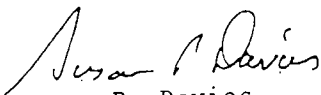
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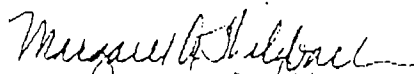
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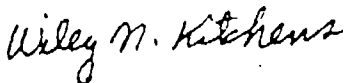
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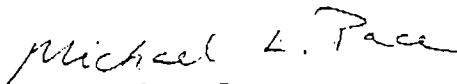
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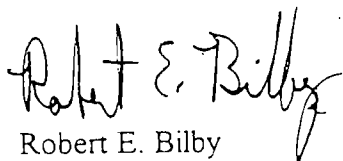
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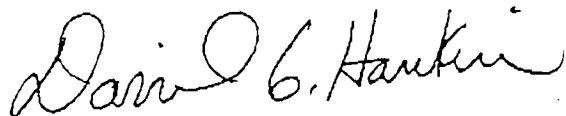
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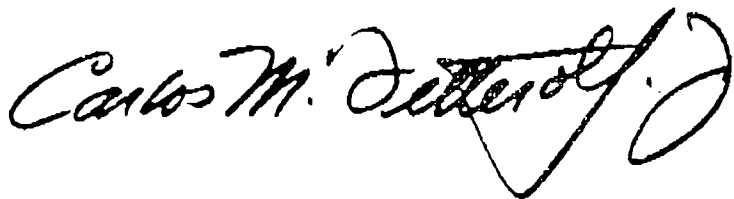
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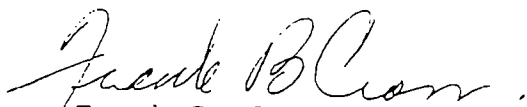
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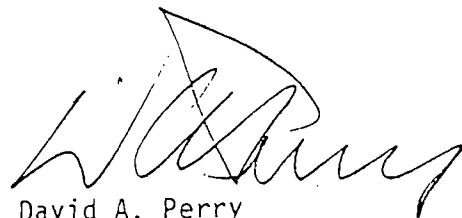
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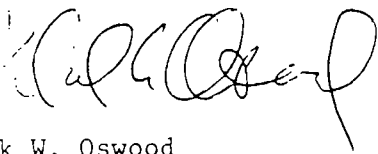
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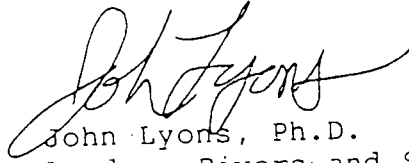
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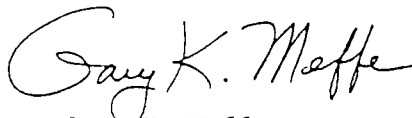
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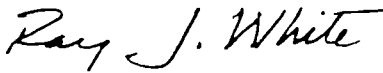
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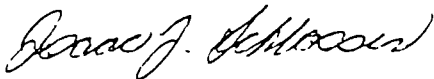
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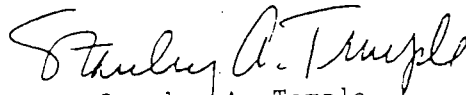
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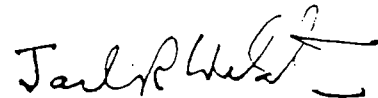
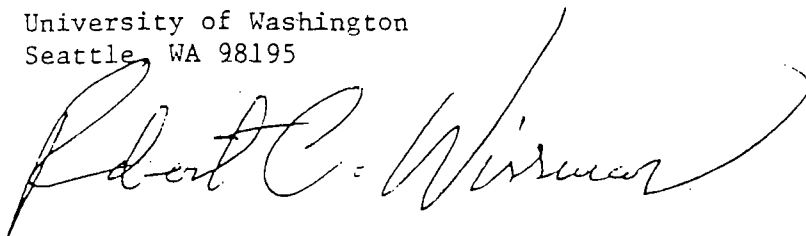


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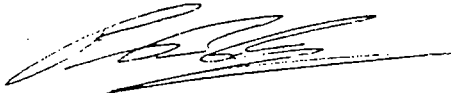
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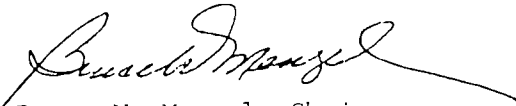
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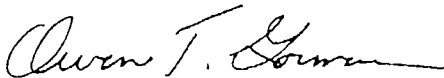
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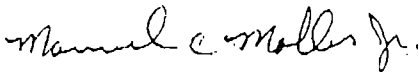
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THE PACIFIC RIVERS COUNCIL

formerly THE OREGON RIVERS COUNCIL

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Katie McGinty
David Cottingham
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Old Executive Office Building
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May 17, 1993

Dear Katie and David,

There are four important issues included in this letter regarding watershed and salmon habitat protection and restoration in the Pacific Northwest. In summary these are: 1) be extremely careful with funding "on the shelf" restoration projects, 2) real watershed protection must include two interconnected land management (and funding) components, 3) we have identified \$133 million in the Forest Service budget that can be reprogrammed for Fiscal 94 watershed protection efforts, and 4) we propose that Congress and the administration rapidly move forward to establish a long term Salmon Restoration Trust Fund to fund restoration projects.

First, there may be a desire to find immediate jobs in restoration by funding projects that agencies currently have "on the shelf." We urge great caution with these projects. Few within the agencies are well versed yet in ecologically sound watershed restoration. At best, while they may put people to work, many "on the shelf" projects will do little to protect or restore streams because they are poorly targeted. At worst, many will cause further harm. We propose that an interagency scientific review team (composed of USFS Research Station staff and others) be quickly established to review and approve those existing projects that can provide the best ecological benefits for the dollar.

The original stimulus bill had a significant number of dollars earmarked for watershed restoration in the Pacific Northwest. Despite our many requests however, we were not notified that the funds were in the package until the stimulus package was well on the way to defeat. Hence, we could not help apprise Northwest delegation members of the funds and potential benefits. If another stimulus package is put forward we ask you to consider reinstating funds to "secure" the key watersheds to protect the remaining healthier salmon habitat regionwide. Stimulus package money should be the funds used to initiate the more immediate "on the shelf" restoration projects, after careful review.

New Visions to Restore America's Rivers and Watersheds

offices also in Portland and Washington, D.C.

Second, it is vital to clarify an important distinction between watershed protection versus restoration. This distinction may affect both the land management and funding decisions to be made. Protection must be looked at as having two interconnected components: prevention of further impacts and reduction of threats from past human impacts. One component without the other is certain to prove hollow for endangered salmon, water quality and water quantity regionwide.

Therefore, we urge you to allocate funds to assess the threats and then to "secure" key watersheds as part of the protection package that may be implemented in Fiscal 1994, and to look at restoration efforts and funds as separate, longer term steps that should begin in fiscal 1995.

There is ample scientific evidence that simply preventing future timber harvest, road building etc. in key watersheds and riparian areas will not be sufficient to protect these vital areas. Even the best remaining watersheds are threatened with catastrophic sedimentation from landslides, chronic sedimentation and other impacts caused by forest roads, exposed clearcuts and other past developments. Therefore, after careful assessments, the key watersheds must also be "secured" in order to protect the areas - the existing threats must be diffused or eliminated.

To fully protect the key watersheds will require that they be classified as distinct new conservation units where the sole management goal is to maintain or restore watershed ecosystem health. Without this new management goal, the systems are certain to degrade over time. We propose that those key watersheds that require activities to "secure" the areas be classified as "Watershed Biodiversity Management Areas". Those watersheds that have not been impacted yet and that therefore can serve as benchmarks for research and monitoring in ecosystem health over time should be designated "Benchmark Watersheds". We urge you to include these new management units in any options being developed.

Third, we consistently hear that while many support a watershed and salmon habitat protection and restoration program, funds seem hard to find. We have identified at least \$133 million in the Forest Service Budget alone that could be reprogrammed to "secure" key watersheds in fiscal 1994 (see enclosed information). We should have BLM figures available soon. We estimated that \$157 million will be needed to "secure" key watersheds on the west-side and \$200 million will be required on the east-side. In our testimony before the House Interior Appropriations Committee we recommended that \$32 be appropriated in Fiscal 94 to begin the program to secure key watersheds on the west-side of the region. If additional funds are found, more can be done on the west-side and efforts can begin on the east-side as well. We believe that a legal, economic and ecological crisis of mammoth proportions looms just months away given the over 100 populations of at-risk salmon that could be petitioned for endangered species classification on the west-side of the region alone. The \$133 million we have identified should provide ample possibilities to fund at least the initial \$32

million we recommended. These funds can and should be allocated exclusively to the watershed "protection" program: to reduce or eliminate the threats to the remaining healthy salmon habitat regionwide.

Finally, we believe that riparian restoration, large woodjam projects etc. should be initiated only after completion of full watershed assessments and of the efforts to reduce or eliminate the threats to the remaining healthy salmon habitat regionwide. These longer term restoration efforts can be funded through a Salmon Restoration Trust Fund. The trust fund could be funded through "Salmon Restoration Stamps" sold to river users and allocated exclusively to watershed protection and restoration on federal lands in a process similar to the very successful Duck Stamp program. The Duck Stamp program produced about \$19.5 Million in revenues last year, with small overhead costs.

We propose that the Administration may want to include a proposal to establish such a fund in whatever package is proposed. There may be no better time to initiate the process to establish this program, and it will demonstrate that restoration efforts will not continue to be funded from the appropriations pipe line. We can provide you with more details on how we envision the program working. However, there are many questions to be answered and details to work out. Therefore, it may make sense to immediately request that CRS, OMB or another appropriate agency review the viability and options for such a proposal within the next 30 days.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Sincerely,

Bob Doppelt
Executive Director

Enclosures

**PROPOSED REPROGRAMMED FOREST SERVICE FUNDS FOR WATERSHED AND
SALMON HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION - FY 1994 BUDGET
PACIFIC RIVERS COUNCIL**

Attached is an outline of \$133,000,000 in Forest Service FY 1994 program budget funds which The Pacific Rivers Council believes should be reprogrammed to protect and restore key watersheds and salmon habitat on federal lands in the Pacific Northwest. This figure is more in line with the acute level of need for ecological restoration on national forest lands than the administration's current \$27.4 million for "Ecosystem Restoration".

* Under State and Private Forestry we propose that Forest Pest Management be funded only slightly higher than the FY 93 level. Many believe that more moist weather conditions across the country in 1993, and specifically in the Pacific Northwest, will substantially reduce insect related forest health problems in the coming year. The need to increase this program by the proposed 28% is unsubstantiated. In addition, funds targeted under this category for the Blue Mountains in Oregon are not clearly defined as to their ultimate use.

* Also under State and Private Forestry, we suggest that the Forest Management Utilization category, which the FY 94 shows as a 33% increase, remain fairly flat with only a slight increase over last year. This item had nearly a \$10 million increase from FY 92 to FY 93 for Forest Stewardship, with a large portion being in increased urban forestry. Though urban forestry is necessary, the watershed protection measures necessary in the Pacific Northwest to hang on to the 214 at-risk salmon stocks should take some priority.

* Under National Forest Systems some \$47 million are listed as potentially reprogrammed funds. We suggest the category Land Line Location actually be reduced from the FY 93 level. This reduction is justified since the actual number of timber sales continues to drop and is not project to rise significantly during FY 94.

* We suggest that Drug Enforcement be reduced by \$1 million, again underscoring the higher priority of the critical salmon situation in the Northwest.

* We also show the Timber Sale Administration category \$50 million lower than the FY 93 level, and \$28,000 below the proposed FY 94 level. We must take the position that all those forests showing chronic and consistent below cost timber sales must be eliminated. This reduction in the overall program is a reflection of the elimination in below cost timber sales for forests across the country which TSPIRS has shown a loss of at least \$200/acre over the last five years. We can no longer afford to subsidize these sorts

PACIFIC RIVER COUNCIL TELETYPE UNIT

of on-going harvests at the risk of ignoring the critical watersheds and salmon in the Pacific Northwest. Our proposed additional reductions in the timber program are further enabled by cutting into the apparent \$58 million "buffer" included in the proposed budget for this account for flexibility in light of the Forest Conference.

* Also under National Forest System, we have suggested a funding level for Recreation which still reflects a slight increase in the FY 93 figure, but is \$10 million less than the proposed FY 94 figure. We must all realize that protection of the key watersheds will certainly benefit the overall prospects of the salmon, but at the same time there will be major benefits for recreationists using these areas of the national forests, as well. As secondary benefits, protection of these watersheds and riparian areas will result in better recreational fishing, better year-round stream flows for boaters, better water quality, and protection of the scenic qualities enjoyed by all who use these areas for recreation.

* It follows then that with an overall reduction in the Timber Sales Program, and other aspects of Forest Service activities associated with timber harvest, that the category General Administration should basically hold at the FY 93 level.

* Under the Construction account, we propose only a modest increase in Facilities construction, rather than the nearly 23% increase reflected in the FY 94 budget. The bulk of this \$12,000 reduction would come from Facilities Construction - primarily from road construction, with lesser amounts from research and other construction. It makes little sense to upgrade, replace or construct new Forest Service facilities when the Service as a whole is downsizing. It would more prudent to wait until the next budget cycle to see where shifts in personnel will occur over the foreseeable future.

* The FY 94 budget for Forest Road Construction is slightly lower (\$7,368 million) than the actual amount appropriated in FY 93. We urge that the FY 94 amount be reprogrammed by an additional \$18 million with specific guidance that no new roads be built in currently roadless areas, particularly the key watersheds in the Pacific Northwest which harbor the last vestiges of the salmon populations. We do not believe that the small reduction in the forest road construction budget can be justified by the claims of increased passenger car and recreational vehicle traffic on roads which formerly served primarily logging-related vehicles. If the roads are unsafe, or damaging to streams, they should be closed, removed etc. The agency must target its funds to address the current ecological crisis before it tries to expand public access. If we stop degrading the remaining healthy forests with new roads, the amount that remains will be more than adequate. We strongly urge

that the \$18 million reprogramming we have suggested should be used exclusively to reconstruct, repair, move and/or retire existing Forest Service roads in the Pacific Northwest which have been identified by scientists to pose the greatest immediate threat to the salmon due to chronic and catastrophic sedimentation of streams.

We note that the administration proposes to reduce the Road Maintenance budget by \$2.66 million, and does not include authorizing language or funds to continue the obliteration of roads from this account. These reductions are apparently justified by the need to make program reductions under the Administration's Cost Effectiveness Initiative. With some of the funds identified above, the Pacific Rivers Council strongly urges the Committee to maintain or increase the budget for this program in order that the agency may more fully address the urgent problems presented by poor road construction and maintenance in key watersheds of the Pacific Northwest and other regions. Road obliteration, or mere closure with stabilization where appropriate, must increase substantially, with priority given to roads in key watersheds and those that threaten aquatic habitat.

* We are also suggesting that International Forestry, which the FY 94 budget suggests should be increased nearly 500%, should in fact be only doubled from the actual FY 93 amount. While international forestry is important and admirable, we can not save forests abroad by sacrificing species and forests at home. A 100% increase over last year's budget should prove adequate for this program.

SUMMARY: These proposed changes reflect an amount of \$133 million in the proposed FY 1994 which could be allocated to the protection and restoration of key watersheds and riparian areas in the Pacific Northwest over 200 salmon populations, along with many associated riparian species are at great risk of extinction if we do not act quickly.

NOTE: Additionally, though not reflected here, some of the Range Improvement Fund under the Forest Service budget could be allocated to watershed and salmon habitat restoration. The FY 94 request of \$47.7 million represents a \$3.26 million increase over FY 93. This increase would most appropriately be spent restoring the damage that grazing on federal lands in the Northwest has done to streams and the salmon stocks.

**Suggested Cuts in FY 1994 Forest Service Budget To Fund
Salmon Habitat Recovery**

Program	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994 Request	Proposed Cut	New FY 1994	VS FY 1993
	(Dollars in Thousands)					
Research	None					
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Pest Management	\$57,205	\$40,605	\$52,241	\$11,000	\$41,241	\$636
For. Mgmt & Utilization	\$68,116	\$77,582	\$103,318	\$25,000	\$78,318	\$736
Total S & P For.	\$125,321	\$118,187	\$155,559	\$36,000	\$119,559	\$1,372
National Forest System						
Land Line Location	\$32,251	\$30,873	\$31,161	\$6,000	\$25,161	(\$4,712)
Drug Enforcement	\$7,073	\$9,555	\$9,633	\$1,000	\$8,633	(\$922)
Timber Sale Administration	\$263,745	\$219,033	\$196,793	\$28,000	\$168,793	(\$50,240)
Recreation Use	\$216,396	\$229,742	\$245,516	\$10,000	\$235,516	\$5,774
General Administration	\$303,786	\$305,941	\$308,657	\$3,000	\$305,657	(\$284)
Total NFS	\$823,251	\$795,144	\$791,750	\$47,000	\$744,750	(\$50,384)
Construction						
Facilities	\$81,056	\$87,440	\$107,432	\$12,000	\$95,432	\$7,992
Forest Road Construction	\$168,988	\$140,586	\$133,218	\$18,000	\$115,218	(\$25,368)
Total Construction	\$250,044	\$228,026	\$240,650	\$30,000	\$210,650	(\$17,376)
International Forestry		\$7,522	\$36,996	\$20,000	\$16,996	\$9,474
Total	\$1,198,616	\$1,148,879	\$1,224,965	\$133,000	\$1,091,965	(\$56,914)

Note: A portion of the Range appropriation and the Range Improvement Fund could be used for stream improvement, since grazing contributes to the problem.

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Scientists want timber so cut on to protect fish

A letter to President Clinton urges that watersheds and fish species be protected and restored in any forest-crisis plan

by SCOTT SONNER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 100 scientists nationwide urged President Clinton to protect and restore watersheds with troubled fish species when he moves to resolve the Northwest timber crisis.

"The decisions that you make in the next 60 days are certain to affect Pacific salmon and water resources for decades to come," the aquatic ecologists, wildlife biologists and water-resource specialists said Wednesday in a letter to Clinton.

"Past approaches to watershed management have failed because they do not address the basic causes of degradation at the watershed or landscape level.

"As scientists, we encourage you to use this unique opportunity to set a new direction for the fisheries and water resources of the region — and indeed the nation," they wrote.

James R. Karr, director of the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Washington, delivered the letter to the White House and raised the concerns in meetings Wednesday with officials at the Environmental Protection Agency and the departments of Agriculture and Interior.

Initial feedback was "generally pretty positive," Karr said.

"I think everyone agrees the water resources, the salmon issue is already clearly on the table," he said in an interview. "My role is to reinforce from the scientific community the importance of including it."

"A great deal is at stake here."

Clinton has asked his Cabinet to report back by June 1 with a variety of options for protecting the Northwest's oldest forests and providing institution assistance to the region's timber industry.

In addition to the adverse impact the threatened northern spotted owl, logging has taken its toll on water quality and spawning habitat of

troubled salmon populations in the region, Karr said.

Logging and road-building accelerates soil erosion, which fills streams with silt, he said. Harvests near streams eliminate shade trees needed to keeping the water from becoming too warm.

The National Marine Fisheries Service already has added three Northwest salmon species to the list of threatened and endangered species list and has been asked to review the status of several more.

While hydroelectric dams, irrigation and overharvesting have harmed the fish, Karr said logging roads are "one of the most important" contributors to poor health of streams.

"The slope instabilities that they create cause landslides and debris flows that basically destroy the passages," he said.

Marla Romash, spokeswoman for Vice President Al Gore and the White House Office on Environmental Policy, said Clinton has made it clear impacts on fish populations will be considered as government scientists craft options for Northwest forest management.

The "mission statement" to his working teams said long-term objectives should include restoration of spawning and rearing habitat for fish species considered to be "sensitive" or "at risk."

The American Society of Fisheries has identified more than 200 fish species at risk of extinction in Oregon and Washington.

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