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Folder Title:
Forest Conference-Press of President's Plan

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/16/94

94 MAY 10 P 6 : 25

May 10, 1994

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KATIE MCGINTY *KM*

RE: FOREST PLAN

FYI... Additional positive press on your forest plan, emphasizing your balanced approach to this very difficult situation.

*Should I write
a thanx note
to Weyerhaeuser?
If so, please do it*

"Should I write
a thanx note
to Weyerhaeuser?
If so, please do it"

OPINIONS

The Olympian A9

SATURDAY, April 30, 1994

Editorial page editor: Mike Oakland / 754-5484

► **OUR VIEW:** THE FOLLOWING EARNED RECOGNITION THIS WEEK AS WINNERS AND LOSERS:



WINNER

Weyerhaeuser

President Bill Clinton inherited a thorny Northwest mess in the standoff between timber industry officials and environmentalists over the logging of public and private land. To his credit, the president has sought to find a balance. Yet his Option 9 timber management plan has been widely assailed by both camps. At the annual meeting of Weyerhaeuser Co., one of the nation's largest timber companies, chief executive officer Jack Creighton announced his support for Option 9. We salute Weyerhaeuser officials for having the courage to buck their own industry and throw their considerable weight behind this balanced approach to timber management.

05/06/93

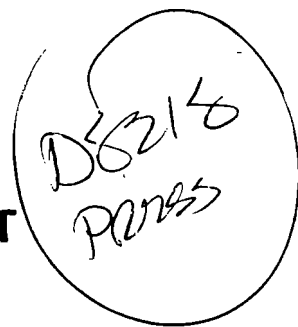
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
1849 C Street NW, 5660-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240



FAX COVER SHEET

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456-6224

Fax #:

456-2710

From:

MIKE DOMBECK

Title:

ACTING DIRECTOR

Phone #:

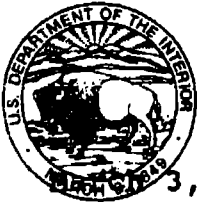
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(202) 208-5242Number of Pages Sent (including this cover page): 5

Message/Comments:

PER OUR CONVERSATION. WILL DISCUSS
WITH YOU TOMORROW AFTERNOON.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

March 3, 1994

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

To: Mike Dombeck

From: Twinkle Thompson

Subject: Jim Moorhouse interview with Roseburg, Or. News-Review,
re the President's Forest Plan

3/3/94

Spoke with Elaine Zielinski, Oregon's DSD for Lands and Renewable Resources. Yesterday she spoke with Lori Hennessey (BLM Oregon Public Affairs Chief) who is detailed to the White House to work on the President's Forest Plan. Lori felt it inadvisable to write a rebuttal to the newspaper. She knows the reporter who wrote the article. He would get his back up with a rebuttal and wouldn't let go, i.e. a one day story could become a saga, especially since Roseburg is a one paper town.

Attached is a suggested letter for you to send to Jim Moorhouse.

Also attached is information by Jim Moorhouse on how the article misquoted him, etc.

Mr. Jim Moorhouse
Bureau of Land Management
District Manager
Roseburg District Office
777 West N.W. Garden Valley Boulevard
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

Dear Jim:

I read the March 1 article in the "Roseburg, Oregon, News-Review," relating to your concerns about the President's Forest Plan. While I understand that people are often quoted out of context, I have some reservations about your statements.

Of particular interest to me were your thoughts about skill mix, the setting of clear objectives for the field people to achieve, and other issues such as right-of-way agreements. I regret your using this public method of expressing concerns at the district level. Certainly there are alternative opportunities available to you which would allow for discussion and resolution of your concerns. At any rate, I would appreciate your providing me with a written description of the issues with which you are concerned and how you feel they should be addressed in the Forest Plan.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mike Dombeck
Director

Meeting Report
Meeting with Douglas Timber Operators;
Roseburg News-Review Story, March 1, 1994

Setting: Regular meeting of Douglas Timber Operators; 18 members (my count) and Jeff Mize, reporter for News-Review. Round table breakfast meeting, informal discussion without podium, microphone, visual aids, etc.

Agenda: I was asked to speak about Jobs-in-the-Woods, watershed analysis, watershed restoration initiatives, outlook for timber sales, and changes between DEIS and FEIS.

Discussion, Remarks, Interaction:

First 15 minutes was a positive discussion regarding interagency efforts toward the jobs/restoration/analysis issues.

I declined to contrast DEIS/FEIS since I had not seen the FEIS until late the preceding afternoon and have never received (to this time and date today) any materials prepared for briefings held for media, interest groups, congressional staffs, etc. In fact, I received the table of PSQ's and "Summary of Changes Between Draft and Final EIS" from DTO itself at the meeting.

The news quotes themselves are largely accurate, but the context non-existent.

Direct Quotes:

"I guess I'm less than optimistic." Response to question about whether we could proceed to implement without further challenge. DTO, others, both industry and environmental have threatened litigation. I am not optimistic we can avoid litigation based on principle rather than merit.

"I'm suppose to get paid . . . etc." Both before and after the meeting, in visiting with friends and acquaintances I was asked how I maintained commitment and continued to devote effort to what they view as an unacceptable plan. The conversation was light and casual, and I replied in a like manner.

"I may get fired here, but . . . nonsense." As part of a vigorous discussion among members as well as Q and A with me, questions of riparian buffer impact on logging operability were raised. I stated that at one point early on we were advised to consider full log suspension. I responded I thought that was nonsense because of watershed impact from additional roading.

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PAGE 3

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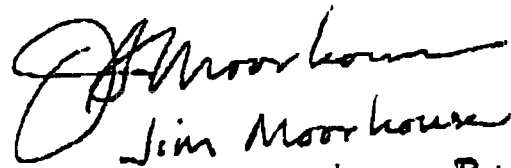
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Quote regarding timber sale offering:

We do not have timber sale plans completed to the point of offering immediately after the ROD is final. We have some developed as far as possible, but without the FEIS, ROD, and operating guidelines, they could not be completed. With the necessary plan decisions now made, we can proceed to completion, but it will still be some time before we're ready to offer.

Final quotes regarding RLO: There was expressed concern that review/approval of the RLO would be "as difficult as working through consultation with FWS" (questioner's opinion). I stated we would likely have to refer many actions through the RLO until we (and they) were comfortable with new regimes so that routine review would not be necessary.


Jim Moorhouse
DM - Roseburg BLM



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

July 22, 1993

Ms. Katie McGinty
Deputy Assistant to the President
Director, Office of Environmental Policy
Room 360, Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Clinton Administration Stance on Cherokee National Forest

Dear Katie:

In keeping with your discussion with Karin Sheldon, President of The Society, about alerting the Vice President to issues in Tennessee that might cause problems, she has asked that I update you on the appeal of the Cherokee National Forest Plan.

You may recall that Senator Gore spoke out vigorously for sound management of Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest that would preserve its rich biological diversity, protect its visual beauty and recreational opportunities and end timber sales-below-cost. Towards these goals, Senator Gore joined with Senator Sasser in a series of letters to the Chief of the Forest Service that took the side of conservation groups in their administrative appeal of the Reagan-era 1986 Cherokee forest plan.

While some site-specific concerns were resolved in a partial settlement in 1988, the Chief of the Forest Service in 1990 squarely ruled against the conservation groups on the central issues of timber sales-below-cost, biological diversity and visual beauty. Senators Gore and Sasser asked the Secretary of Agriculture to review and reverse the ruling, their request was denied.

Along with the Sierra Club, Tennessee Audubon Council, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, and Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, The Wilderness Society has filed a suit against the flawed 1986 Cherokee forest plan. The case is The Wilderness Society, et. al. v. Alcock, et. al., Civil Action No. 1:92-CV-1040-ODE (N.D. Georgia). The coalition is represented by the Southern Environmental Law Center.

On March 11, 1993, the conservation groups submitted our motion for summary judgment in the case. This brief presents our views on the issues to the judge and is accompanied by our factual and expert evidence. The next step is for the Department of Justice to file a defense of the Cherokee plan. This is due shortly.

If the government goes forward with the defense of the Cherokee plan, its position will be totally contrary to the views of Vice President Gore, as expressed repeatedly while a U.S. Senator. Moreover, the policies underlying the 1986 Cherokee plan on timber sales-below-cost and biological diversity appear to be sharply different than the positions taken by the Clinton Administration.

Some key facts about the Cherokee plan:

- The Forest Service concedes that the timber program on the Cherokee is "below-cost" and that it loses around a million dollars annually. The plan calls for a steady expansion of the timber sales over time and would result in roadbuilding into areas that are now remote and wild.

- The Forest Service recognizes the ecological richness of the cove hardwood forest on the Cherokee, a forest community with an extraordinary diversity of trees species, flowers and rare plants. Yet their plan calls for logging the bulk of the cove hardwood forest on a cutting cycle too short to achieve the natural benefits of this distinctive community.

- The forest attracts about nine million recreation visits annually, about as many as the nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Yet the plan expressly allows for the visual beauty of most of the forest to be substantially degraded by clearcutting and other timber activities.

Let me also add that public support in Tennessee for reforming these abuses continues to grow. Enclosed is a recent editorial from the Knoxville News-Sentinel that applauds reports that the Clinton Administration may end timber sales-below-cost on the Cherokee National Forest.

Here is the situation with the lawsuit. After filing the motion for summary judgment, we sent a letter to the government on March 31, 1993 explaining that the defense of the Cherokee plan appears contrary to Vice President Gore's expressed views and the positions of the Clinton Administration. The letter is enclosed, along with the letters from Senators Gore and Sasser. I would like to call your attention specifically to their letters of November 14, 1990 that addresses in detail the issues that are now in this lawsuit. In response to our letter, the government asked our further views about the nature of a settlement. Thus, we wrote them another letter on May 19 setting out suggested changes in the Cherokee plan and in Forest Service policies. This letter is also enclosed.

as you
know --
This is
very
dirty
for us
right
now.

This is the appropriate time for the Clinton Administration to signal to the Forest Service and the Department of Justice that the defense of the Cherokee plan must be ended, that serious settlement discussions must be undertaken and that major improvements must be agreed to. On June 7, the government wrote us that they would be agreeable to discuss a settlement but was unwilling to agree to any substantive change in future management. Thus, further direction is essential to help bring about a satisfactory resolution of this controversy.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Francis
Director
National Forests Programs

Enclosures

456-6224

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 14, 1990

F. Dale Robertson, Chief
U. S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 98090
Washington, D.C. 20090

Dear Chief Robertson:

As you know, we have been following with great concern the progress of the appeal by conservation groups of the land management plan for the Cherokee National Forest. The protection of this beautiful, rugged and popular national forest is a high-priority for those of us interested in the environment and the quality of life of Tennessee. Three years ago we urged the Forest Service to adopt a two-track process for the appeal, whereby issues of national policy involving timber sales-below-cost, biological diversity and visual quality would be forwarded to you for decision while more local issues, like the designation of special lands and the amount of clearcutting, would be negotiated at the regional level.

In this regard, we were pleased that all the parties to the appeal were able to reach an agreement in August 1988 that addressed the issues of protected lands, alternatives to clearcutting and other improvements. We understand that the issues involving national policy have now reached you for consideration and would like to share our views about the future improvements that are needed.

Please give consideration to the following points:

1. Timber sales-below-cost. The Forest Service agrees that the receipts from timber sales on the Cherokee fail to recover the costs to the federal government of making the timber available for sale. In recent years the Forest Service has lost in the neighborhood of \$1 million annually, according to the agency's accounting. However, the National Forest Management Act as passed by Congress in 1976 intended to limit uneconomic timbering in forests such as the Cherokee. Furthermore, in this tight fiscal climate, it makes little sense to subsidize timber production on public lands in the Southeast when the private lands provide far and away the vast bulk of the timber used in the region.

Along with taxpayer savings, this is also an important conservation issue. Timber sales-below-cost tend to cause the higher levels of environmental damage due to the construction of roads into remote, sensitive areas and the cutting on steep slopes and at higher

elevations that are involved with many of these sales. Thus, we urge you to remand the Cherokee plan with direction that timber sales-below-cost be ended according to the determination that the below-cost timber harvested produces economic loss for the Forest Service and is unsuitable for timber production. This would still allow for a modest timber program, with emphasis on high-quality sawtimber, with both greater economic efficiency and environmental protection.

2. Biological diversity. The 1976 National Forest Management Act also directed the Forest Service to provide for the natural diversity of the forest. The cove hardwood forest in the Cherokee is perhaps the most ecologically rich of the forest communities, particularly if it is allowed to mature into an old-growth condition. However, the plan calls for logging 58% of the cove hardwood acreage and will manage those lands on a cutting cycle too short to achieve the natural benefits of this distinctive community. Another major concern is that the high timber harvesting in the plan will result in a reduction of levels of hard mast food so vital to wildlife, including bear, turkey, deer and many non-game species. The Forest Service practice of replanting sites with pine further reduces mast production and degrades biological diversity.

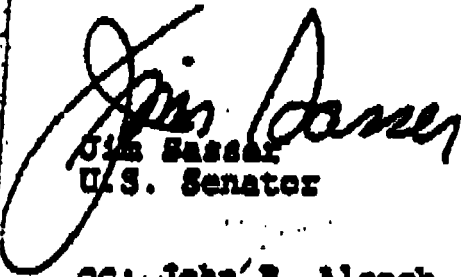
In the Southeast, blocks of undisturbed, mature hardwood forest are in increasingly short supply as private lands are developed and public lands are further fragmented with roads and clearcuts. In our view, the biological diversity of the Southern Appalachians would be greatly enhanced if the Forest Service would provide more late-succession, old-growth wildlife habitat; lengthen the cutting cycle and preserve from logging more cove hardwood forest; lessen pine-planting, and not plan for reductions in hard-mast production. We urge the Chief to direct these improvements in a plan remand.

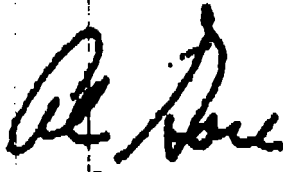
3. Visual quality. The NFMA also requires that the Forest Service protect aesthetics on the national forests. With a visitation rate rivaling the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Cherokee Forest is recognized for its great scenic beauty. Nonetheless, the forest plan expressly allows for 62% of the forest to be degraded by "modification" of the visual landscape from logging and road building. Protection of the forest's natural beauty must be a high priority. We urge you to remand the plan for a redetermination of visual quality objectives, based on the public's desire for pleasing views, with no further use in particular of the modification objective.

We believe that a remand from the Chief to address and resolve these three identified problems will result in much improved

management on the Cherokee, benefitting its users and the environment.
We stand ready to assist in any way.

Sincerely,


Jim Sasser
U.S. Senator


Al Gore
U.S. Senator

cc: John E. Alcock, Regional Forester
John P. Ramey, Forest Supervisor

A8 • The Knoxville News-Sentinel, Tuesday, May 4, 1993



The Knoxville News-Sentinel

A SCHOLAR JOURNAL PUBLISHED

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"Give light and the people will find their own way"

Stopping the cutting

■ Decision to limit harvest in national forests is much-needed corrective

We're glad that President Clinton has decided to scale back the timber harvest in our national forests.

Under plans announced last week, the U.S. Forest Service will end logging progressively in more than one-third of the national forests by 1998.

Included among the 62 forests where timber-harvesting will cease are East Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest and Western North Carolina's Pisgah and Nantahala forests, as well as Croatan and Uwharrie forests in Eastern North Carolina. Cutting in both states is scheduled to end in 1996.

The action is being made administratively through Forest Service chief F. Dale Robertson and will not need congressional approval.

The change is a needed corrective to previous policies. Under the Reagan and Bush administrations, the harvesting of the national forests exploded, with vast tracts in the Northwest virtually strip-mined of their trees.

Environmentalists have been raising concerns about Forest Service timber-harvesting policies for years, charging that the policies encourage clear-cutting and other environmentally unsound practices, degrade the land scenically and put fragile ecosystems at risk. They also claim that the U.S. Forest Service spends much more public money in managing and making the timber accessible than it receives for the sale of the timber.

Other critics note that timber interests overstate the economic impact of the jobs the industry creates. Sizeable portions of the old-growth timber in the Northwest is hauled directly to factory ships bound for Japan. While en route, the logs are processed in on-board sawmills and are offloaded at their destination as finished wood products. Thus, few American workers benefit either from the manufacturing work or from sale of the product.

Representatives in the timber industry predict the move will cost thousands of workers their jobs and drive up the price of paper products and lumber for construction. Their concerns are genuine, and environmental interests cannot afford to be cavalier about what they might otherwise view as a win.

The experience will be painful for communities that depend exclusively on the timber industry for jobs. The suffering of workers in these communities will be real, and the government must focus economic assistance and retraining to minimize the impact on timber workers and their families.

But that should not be allowed to overshadow the central fact: that the country does no one any favor when it sells off its resources at less than their worth.

If this is in fact a free-market economy, then the government should not be subsidizing either the timber industry or mining or ranching interests. While selling the nation's resources at fair market value may increase prices, it may also promote the wise and frugal use of those irreplaceable resources, preserving them for our future.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

: FAX COVER SHEET

PLEASE DELIVER TO:

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ORGANIZATION:

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1

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12-28-93

MESSAGE:

Stephanie from Peter

The Columbian, Sunday, December 28, 1993

Impatience growing on both sides of forest struggle

By SCOTT SONNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Another year will close in the Pacific Northwest without a predictable, long-term timber supply or permanent protection for some of the nation's oldest forests.

President Clinton, flanked by Vice President Al Gore and half of his Cabinet, promised both at an extraordinary conference in Portland last April.

And administration officials say they are making significant progress toward those goals.

But critics are growing impatient on both sides of the struggle that has pitted loggers against spotted owls for more than five years.

Conservationists say Clinton's preliminary management plan is illegal because it allows too much logging and doesn't provide the level of wildlife protection required under U.S. environmental laws.

"The more you read it, the more your alarm bells go off. It's illegal over and over again," said Brock Evans, vice president of the National Audubon Society.

They predict U.S. District Judge William Dwyer of Seattle will void the plan next spring and extend an injunction prohibiting logging across most the region's federal lands. That injunction has been in effect since 1991 when Dwyer found the Bush administration's harvest plans to be illegal.

"The new administration started the year with high hopes, hoping for change," said Tim Hermach of the Native Forest Council in Eugene, Ore. "But on the ground we've seen little change. Lots of slicked-up political rhetoric, but continuing forest destruction."

Timber industry leaders say the plan is illegal because it was secretly drafted in violation of open meetings laws. They say it doesn't allow for enough logging to

sustain Northwest sawmills and will cost the industry tens of thousands of jobs.

"Everything we feared that could happen to the timber-based economy in the Northwest, and the president hoped to avoid, is happening. And the worst is yet to come," said Dan Dutton, president of Stimson Lumber Co. in Portland.

'Tied up in litigation'

Both sides fear that what was billed as a magnificent compromise when Clinton unveiled it in July could end up being only another chapter in a series of courtroom battles over the fate of the only temperate rain forests in North America.

"It is still tied up in litigation and I suspect it will be tied up in litigation for many more years," said Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., a staunch defender of the timber industry.

"As inadequate as (Clinton's plan) is, it will not be able to deliver anything like the modest harvests it promises," he said.

Clinton's proposal would reduce logging on federal lands in the region to 1.2 billion board feet of timber — about one-fourth the annual average of the 1980s. It takes about 10,000 board feet to build a typical single-family home.

Administration officials moved this month to ease restrictions on private lands with spotted owls, but they say dramatic cutbacks in government harvests are necessary to make up for decades of excessive logging.

"The determination to ignore environmental realities is really what has led to economic difficulty in the Pacific Northwest," said Kathleen McGinty, director of the White House Office on Environmental Policy.

The Fish and Wildlife Service declared the northern spotted owl a threatened species in June 1990. That came after a court ruled that

an earlier decision under the Reagan administration against listing the bird was based on politics rather than sound science.

The Bush administration granted a rare exemption to the Endangered Species Act to allow some Oregon logging near spotted owls, but later abandoned the effort when environmentalists went to court arguing the White House wrongly politicized that decision.

Mollie Beattie, new director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said Clinton's restoration plans are being created "not only out of whole cloth, but in a very contentious atmosphere."

"Things had gotten so bad... the line we must walk between timber supply and the endangered species is a very, very thin one," she said. "So the process is sort of slow. But imminently, you will begin to see marked progress."

Mark Ray, vice president of the American Forest & Paper Association, says sarcastically that Clinton already has made good on one of his promises.

"The timber supply is predictable. It is zero. It is going to remain zero for some time," he said.

Tom Tuchmann, a special assistant to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt overseeing the forest plan, disagrees.

He said 1.2 billion board feet of federal timber has been sold and is in the so-called "pipeline," but that private contractors have decided to postpone harvests for a variety of reasons.

"If you had a chain saw, you could cut it today," Tuchmann said. "There is volume out there. We are doing everything we can to get more volume out there."

Nevertheless, he understands the apprehension.

"I would be impatient as well," said Tuchmann, a trained forester and former aide to the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee.

Clinton plan would ease NW logging limits

■ The proposal would focus on protection for the threatened birds in federal forests while loosening restrictions on state and private lands

By JOAN LAATZ
of The Oregonian staff

The Clinton administration Friday proposed relaxing logging restrictions near northern spotted owls on Northwest state and private lands, opting instead to focus protection for the threatened birds in federal forests.

The administration's proposal, announced by Assistant Interior Secretary George Frampton, would remove most restrictions from nearly all nonfederal land affected by logging limits aimed at protecting the owl. The proposal could potentially open up thousands of acres

of forest land to logging in Oregon, Washington and Northern California.

The relaxed rules could take effect in March, after an environmental impact study is done and public meetings are held.

"We're trying to honor the president's commitment to the people of the Northwest to end the gridlock that for too long has stalled sound responsible forest management policy in the region," said Katie McGinty, director of the White House Office of Environmental Policy, who joined Frampton in making the announcement.

Roughly 42 percent of Oregon's forest

THE CLINTON PLAN

■ **BACKGROUND:** A federal judge locked up new federal timber sales after finding that the government's timber management policies violated environmental laws. Those laws required the government to protect the northern spotted owl, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

■ **FEDERAL LANDS:** Last summer, the Clinton administration developed the

Northwest Forest Plan, called Option 9, that, if approved by the court, would set guidelines for logging and establish federal old-growth reserves for spotted owls.

■ **STATE/PRIVATE LANDS:** The administration proposes relaxing rules on nonfederal lands that would virtually eliminate most requirements for spotted owl protection on much of those lands.

The Oregonian



NEWS SUMMARY

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Communications

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 1993

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1993

ENVIRONMENT

U.S. Proposes Easing Curbs On Owl Habitat

By TIMOTHY NOAH

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — The Interior Department moved to ease restrictions on some private timberlands inhabited by the northern spotted owl, but it also pledged to enforce logging restrictions on other private acreage more aggressively.

The purpose of the new scheme is to coordinate the use of private lands with the forest summit plan announced in July by the Clinton administration. That proposal, which concerned mostly public lands, was geared toward reducing by 80% the timber harvesting on federal lands in the Northwest, while at the same time minimizing federal regulation of private forest land.

The new proposal, which is roughly the equivalent of a proposed regulation, would affect individual landowners as well as large companies such as Weyerhaeuser Co. of Tacoma, Wash., and Boise Cascade Corp. of Boise, Idaho.

The plan "clarifies and, in some areas, relieves the restrictions on cutting of private timberlands imposed by the Endangered Species Act on account of the spotted owl," said George Frampton, assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks.

However, considering that the Interior Department previously had what Mr. Frampton termed a policy of "official nonenforcement" toward many of the spotted-owl restrictions for private land, it's unclear whether the change would mean a net increase or decrease in logging.

Mr. Frampton said that he didn't know how many acres would be freed up for logging under the plan, but that it would be a "significant amount."

The plan isn't intended to recreate habitats for the northern spotted owl on private lands—most such habitats have disappeared through development or logging. Rather, the plan aims at using private lands to connect federal lands where the owl would be protected. The plan would provide 10 protected areas, or roughly half the previous number.

Mark Rey, vice president for forest resources at the American Forest and Paper Association, called the department's plan "a first step in evaluating whether they can make good" on the promise to reduce regulation of private timberlands. The proposal, he said, appears to call for less timber harvesting in Oregon and more harvesting in Washington state. He said he couldn't predict how it would affect harvesting in California.

APn 12/10 1206 Spotted Owl

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By SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Clinton administration moved today toward easing restrictions on logging near northern spotted owls on state and private lands in the Northwest, saying the forests most important to the bird are owned by the federal government.

The Fish and Wildlife Service will develop a special rule for non-federal lands to fulfill a pledge by President Clinton to ease logging restrictions, said Assistant Interior Secretary George Frampton.

"The vast majority of suitable owl habitat that remains in the region is on federal land," he said.

But Mike Francis of The Wilderness Society said the move could be detrimental to the owl because "what it does is restrict logging only in the known owl circles." He said it "probably ... is not going to help the owl out at all."

The proposed rule would prohibit commercial activities within 70-acre circles surrounding known owl nesting sites, Frampton said.

Outside those circles, no restrictions would apply across large portions of the landscape.

In several "special emphasis areas" most important to the owl's survival, logging would be allowed as long as 40 percent of the area retained tree cover.

"This special rule, if adopted, would enable companies and landowners to plan ahead. This rule is really a road map that will give landowners in the region a greater sense of certainty and predictability," he said.

Frampton also said the Justice Department will ask a federal judge in Seattle to issue an injunction to stop a planned timber harvest in prime owl habitat on Washington's Olympic Peninsula.

The owner of the 71-acre tract, Anderson and Middleton Logging Co. of Hoquium, Wash., has agreed not to challenge the injunction, he said.

The assistant secretary also announced the administration has a commitment from the Weyerhaeuser Corp. to develop a habitat conservation plan for the threatened owl that will cover 100,000 acres of the company's lands in southwest Washington.

Logging: 116 spotted owl

nesting sites would be at risk

land is nonfederal, with logging on private land accounting for half of the 5.7 billion board feet of timber logged in 1982.

Frampton said the administration's proposal would give state and private landowners more flexibility and certainty in planning future harvests. The proposal would ask landowners to voluntarily develop long-term habitat conservation plans for their lands that would protect a range of species while allowing logging to proceed. Such plans

Please turn to
LOGGING, Page A20

Continued from Page One

are already being negotiated with Weyerhaeuser Co., Frampton said.

A timber industry official in Oregon had reserved praise for the administration's plan, while environmentalists trounced it.

"The reaction of the forest industry depends on where your lands are," said Ralph Saperstein, vice president of the Northwest Forestry Association.

The plan calls for 10 areas of exception from the relaxed rules, totaling nearly 32,000 acres in Oregon and Washington, where stricter rules would remain in effect. Sixty percent of that land would still be open to logging, however.

Outside those areas, the new policy would remove logging restrictions except within 70-acre circles around known owl nesting sites, a dramatic change from the current guidelines, which require a minimum 500-acre buffer circle. In some areas of Oregon, loggers must now leave protective buffers of up to 2,000 acres if they don't want to violate the federal Endangered Species Act.

A 70-acre circle is not enough to allow an owl to survive in a nesting area, a federal spokesman in Portland acknowledged.

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“

The reaction of the forest industry depends on where your lands are.

Ralph Saperstein

”

but you can starve them to death," said Andy Kerr, conservation director of the Oregon Natural Resources Council. "Either way, the result is the same — extinction."

The administration is not getting soft on spotted owl protection, officials were quick to say.

In announcing their plans to begin the new rule-making process, they also announced they had asked a federal judge in Seattle for an injunction against a planned timber harvest in prime owl habitat on private land on the Olympic Peninsula.

"We will enforce the laws and regulations that exist," Frampton said. "But we are also committed to exercising our flexibility under the Endangered Species Act to achieve reasonable and balanced land use."

Easing logging restrictions on private land is possible, Frampton said, because of improved management of federal lands. Option 9, which forms the base of President Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan, provides sufficient protection for owls to sustain the species, he said. That plan is still being finalized and is subject to approval by a federal judge.

But environmentalists rejected Frampton's claim, saying the presi-

dent's plan doesn't go far enough in protecting owls or other species.

"Their conclusions seem to be at odds with federal reports ... that find nonfederal lands are important to the recovery not only of owls but many other wildlife and fish," said Paul Ketchum, conservation director of the Portland Audubon Society, which filed the petition to protect the northern spotted owl under the Endangered Species Act.

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The proposed areas in Oregon:

- 4,766 acres in the Oregon Coast Range from Tillamook north.

- 2,955 acres in the western and eastern slopes of the Oregon Cascades.

- 3,340 acres around the Rogue and South Umpqua rivers.

In Washington, the management areas would include 6,657 acres in the Cascades and all of the Olympic Peninsula.

The administration decided not to set up any special management areas on nonfederal lands in Califor-

nia, Frampton said, because state regulations there are doing a good job of protecting the owl.

Spotted owl accord breaks timber logjam

Environmental groups settle as U.S. vows to defend forests

By Scott Sonner
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration struck a deal with 12 environmental groups Thursday to allow logging in some Northwest forests that have been locked up under a federal court order protecting the northern spotted owl.

In exchange for release of the lands, the administration agreed to oppose any efforts in Congress to circumvent existing environmental laws or shield a long-term logging plan from future legal challenges.

"This is a good agreement, a constructive agreement," President Clinton said. "It reflects our commitment to end the gridlock, to replace confrontation with cooperation and to make every effort to move timber back to the mills."

The agreement with the National Audubon Society, the Wilderness Society and other plaintiffs in a protracted lawsuit is subject to the approval of U.S. District Judge William Dwyer of Seattle.

The Fish and Wildlife Service declared the owl a threatened species in June 1990, and Dwyer issued the logging ban in May 1991 when he found government timber harvests to be in violation of U.S. environmental laws.

The deal announced Thursday is intended to provide a small, interim supply of logs until Clinton's 10-year forest management plan goes into effect next year.

But like the comprehensive policy he announced in July, the pact drew criticism from the timber industry, labor groups and some more radical conservation groups in the Northwest.

"It's a sad day for the environment," said Tim Hermach, executive director of the Native Forest

Council in Eugene, Ore., which advocates an end to logging on national forests.

"We view with grave disappointment the action of the administration and 12 environmental groups for being so timid in agreeing to liquidate additional national forests instead of addressing the far greater volumes being exported unfinished every year from the export docks," he said.

The agreement would release for logging 83 million board feet of timber in national forests of Oregon and Washington inhabited by the threatened owl.

Industry leaders said it would provide little relief for tens of thousands of jobless loggers.

"The administration promised that throughout this process they would keep the industry going and provide adequate volumes. This is a very, very measly down payment," said Luke Popovich, a spokesman for the American Forest and Paper Association.

Clinton's 10-year plan would slash national forest harvests in the region to 1.2 billion board feet a year - about one-fourth the average of the 1980s. But it also would allow for some logging of old-growth forests.

A board foot is 1 foot square by 1 inch thick. It takes about 10,000 board feet to build a typical single-family home.

"No one is pretending this is a large volume of timber, but this is an important agreement," Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy said Thursday.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt added, "Far more significant than the volume is that we have secured from the environmental community a commitment to work with us and not against us in de-

Please see OWL, page B4

Sacramento

Bea

10/8/93

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of these.

Thanks,
Jennifer

USA Today 10/6/93

OWL DEAL: The Clinton administration and 12 environmental groups agreed to logging of 83 million board feet of timber in Northwest forests where rare northern spotted owls live. It's only enough wood for 830 typical homes. "No one is pretending this is a large volume of timber, but this is an important agreement," said Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy. The administration will oppose attempts to exempt logging from environmental laws or court challenges.



AP

ESPY: 'An important agreement'

Government in Logging Pact With Environmental Groups

NY TIMES 10/6/93

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7 (AP) — The Clinton Administration reached an agreement with 12 environmental groups today to allow logging in some Northwest forests that had been declared off limits under a court order protecting the northern spotted owl.

In exchange, the Administration agreed to oppose any efforts in Congress to grant exemptions from environmental laws or shield a long-term logging plan from future legal challenges.

"This is a good agreement, a constructive agreement," President Clinton said. "It reflects our commitment to end the gridlock, to replace confrontation with cooperation and to make every effort to move timber back to the mills."

Judge's Approval Needed

The proposed agreement with the National Audubon Society and 11 other environmental groups that had obtained the court order to block the logging must be approved by the Federal judge in Seattle who issued the injunction.

The Fish and Wildlife Service declared the owl a threatened species in June 1990, invoking legal protections for the owl's habitat in the dwindling ancient forests. The Federal district judge in the case, William Dwyer, ordered the logging ban in May 1991 when he found Government timber harvests to be in violation of Federal

environmental laws.

The accord announced today is intended to provide a small, interim supply of logs until Mr. Clinton's 10-year forest management plan goes into effect next year.

But like the management plan announced in July, the pact today drew criticism from the timber industry, labor unions and some conservation groups in the Northwest.

Four Oregon environmental groups that were not party to the agreement filed papers in Judge Dwyer's court earlier this week seeking to intervene in the case.

"The idea of clear-cutting ancient forests is not a solution to the problem," said Jim Britell, conservation director of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society in Port Orford, Ore. "It gives the impression that Clinton's plan is somehow O.K., when it's not."

Not even the groups that approved the new logging were entirely happy. One, the Oregon Natural Resources Council, said in a statement today it was "forced to negotiate" the agreement because of Administration officials' "overt threat to exempt the final forest plan from existing environmental laws."

The agreement would release 83 million board feet of timber, enough to build some 8,000 homes, for logging in national forests in Oregon and Washington inhabited by the threatened owl.

Form 1120-7
(January 1983)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLICITY RECORD

#1 of 2

Newspaper and Location	Section and Page Number	Date of Publication
THE OREGONIAN, Portland, OR	A1, 20	12-11-93
Submitting Office	Date Sent to WO-130	
OR-912, Oregon State Office		

Clinton plan would ease NW logging limits

By JOAN LAATZ
of The Oregonian staff

The Clinton administration Friday proposed relaxing logging restrictions near northern spotted owls on Northwest state and private lands, opting instead to focus protection for the threatened birds in federal forests.

The administration's proposal, announced by Assistant Interior Secretary George Frampton, would remove most restrictions from nearly all nonfederal land affected by logging limits aimed at protecting the owl. The proposal could potentially open up thousands of acres of forest land to logging in Oregon, Washington and Northern California.

The relaxed rules could take effect in March, after an environmental impact study is done and public meetings are held.

"We're trying to honor the president's commitment to the people of the Northwest to end the gridlock that for too long has stalled sound responsible forest management policy in the region," said Katie McGinty, director of the White House Office of Environmental Policy, who joined Frampton in making the announcement.

Roughly 42 percent of Oregon's forest land is nonfederal, with logging on private land accounting for half of the 5.7 billion board feet of timber logged in 1992.

Frampton said the administration's proposal would give state and private landowners more flexibility and certainty in planning future harvests. The proposal would ask landowners to voluntarily develop long-term habitat conservation plans for their lands that would protect a range of species while allowing logging to proceed. Such plans

Continued from Page One

are already being negotiated with Weyerhaeuser Co., Frampton said.

A timber industry official in Oregon had reserved praise for the administration's plan, while environmentalists trounced it.

"The reaction of the forest industry depends on where your lands are," said Ralph Saperstein, vice president of the Northwest Forestry Association.

The plan calls for 10 areas of exception from the relaxed rules, totaling nearly 32,000 acres in Oregon and Washington, where stricter rules would remain in effect. Sixty percent of that land would still be open to logging, however.

Outside those areas, the new policy would remove logging restrictions except within 70-acre circles around known owl nesting sites, a dramatic change from the current guidelines, which require a minimum 500-acre buffer circle. In some areas of Oregon, loggers must now leave protective buffers of up to 2,000 acres if they don't want to violate the federal Endangered Species Act.

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"The administration's proposal says you cannot shoot spotted owls,

but you can starve them to death," said Andy Kerr, conservation director of the Oregon Natural Resources Council. "Either way, the result is the same -- extinction."

The administration is not getting soft on spotted owl protection, officials were quick to say.

In announcing their plans to begin the new rule-making process, they also announced they had asked a federal judge in Seattle for an injunction against a planned timber harvest in prime owl habitat on private land on the Olympic Peninsula.

"We will enforce the laws and regulations that exist," Frampton said. "But we are also committed to exercising our flexibility under the Endangered Species Act to achieve reasonable and balanced land use."

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But environmentalists rejected Frampton's claim, saying the president's plan doesn't go far enough in protecting owls or other species.

"Their conclusions seem to be at odds with federal reports ... that find nonfederal lands are important to the recovery not only of owls but many other wildlife and fish," said Paul Ketchum, conservation director of the Portland Audubon Society, which filed the petition to protect the northern spotted owl under the Endangered Species Act.

The administration's proposal

THE OREGONIAN, Portland, OR Section/Page: A420 Date: 12/14/93 From:OSO-912 Page 2 of 2

calls for setting up 10 management areas in Oregon and Washington. There, stricter rules would remain in effect to provide protected corridors near federal forests that don't have enough habitat.

The proposed areas in Oregon:

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- 2,955 acres in the western and eastern slopes of the Oregon Cascades.

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The administration decided not to set up any special management areas on nonfederal lands in California, Frempton said, because state regulations there are doing a good job of protecting the owl.

THE CLINTON PLAN

■ **BACKGROUND:** A federal judge locked up new federal timber sales after finding that the government's timber management policies violated environmental laws. Those laws required the government to protect the northern spotted owl, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

■ **FEDERAL LANDS:** Last summer, the Clinton administration developed the

Northwest Forest Plan, called Option 9, that, if approved by the court, would set guidelines for logging and establish federal old-growth reserves for spotted owls.

■ **STATE/PRIVATE LANDS:** The administration proposes relaxing rules on non-federal lands that would virtually eliminate most requirements for spotted owl protection on much of those lands.

The Oregonian

LEVEL 1 - 2 OF 2 STORIES

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June 18, 1993, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A1

LENGTH: 946 words

HEADLINE: Logging Is Top Goal in Policy Memo;
Clinton Aides Outline Options for Northwest

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Tom Kenworthy, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Senior administration officials have recommended that President Clinton adopt a potentially explosive solution to the long-standing conflict over use of Pacific Northwest forests and protection of the northern spotted owl. The plan would maximize timber cutting within legal limits, permit some logging in owl reserves and be at least partially immune to court challenge.

That proposal -- known as "option 9" -- is the preferred choice contained in a 47-page draft memo to Clinton from a special committee convened after the administration's forest policy conference in Portland, Ore., in early April. It is headed by Kathleen McGinty, White House director of environmental policy.

The memo says that the overriding goal is to cut as much timber as possible while still complying with the nation's environmental laws. It calls for "front-loading" a 10-year harvest program with higher yields in early years in order to meet political demands of Northwest lawmakers, but acknowledges that some scientists involved in the plan would oppose that policy.

If endorsed by the president, the plan would further threaten Clinton's relationship with the environmental community. That relationship already is strained following White House abandonment in March of a plan to revise the use of federal lands for mining, grazing and timber production. Labor and the timber industry would likely be more satisfied with the forest plan.

Clinton is scheduled to review the recommendations over the weekend and announce a decision early next week so that Congress can act on it quickly.

In his campaign and during the April forest conference, Clinton raised expectations that after years of deadlock he might be able to end the Northwest's feud over logging its national forests. Previous Republican administrations failed to find a way to satisfy the timber industry, its workers and environmentalists who have used lawsuits over the threatened owl and other jeopardized species to slow the pace of logging.

All nine of the options prepared for the committee by a team of scientists would result in timber cutting far below average levels during the past decade, when pro-industry government officials accelerated the region's cut to as much as 5 billion board feet a year. No option can both comply with environmental laws and produce more than 2 billion board feet every year, the committee memo

The Washington Post, June 18, 1993

states, and all the options would entail an estimated 6,000 to 9,000 job losses in the timber and wood products industries.

Option 9 was developed on a crash basis at the very end of the staff review, and only after the scientific team had finished the first eight. Environmentalists charge that it was ordered by the White House to satisfy Northwest politicians eager for higher timber harvests.

Marla Romash, a spokeswoman for McGinty and Vice President Gore, said no "specific instructions" were given to the scientific team. But Romash repeatedly emphasized the administration's concern for the region's economy.

"This is not just about forest management," she said. "It's about dealing with long-term economic issues."

Gore's office said last night he was not available to comment on the committee's recommendation of option 9.

Option 9, the memo suggests, would yield an average annual timber harvest of 1.2 billion board feet over 10 years, but would provide 2 billion in the first year and 1.7 billion the second. The high harvests in the early years, the memo says, would help it gain political support in Congress, particularly from Speaker Thomas S. Foley (D-Wash.) and other Northwest lawmakers.

Although they were not provided details of the plan, representatives of some of the nation's largest environmental groups emerged from a Wednesday evening meeting with McGinty profoundly discouraged. Many are convinced that Clinton will back a plan that would violate his pledge at the forest conference to construct a solution that would be "scientifically sound, ecologically credible and legally responsible."

"This is war," said Brock Evans, a vice president of the National Audubon Society. "It's political science, not biological science."

Among the elements in option 9 (also known as the "unified reserve") are: A new emphasis on protecting key watersheds, rather than just locking up owl habitat into reserves, in order to also protect threatened fish stocks.

Some logging, through thinning and salvage of weakened trees, would be permitted in owl preserves in old-growth stands, a radical departure from earlier scientific studies that called for inviolate reserves.

Creation of 10 "adaptive management areas" of 50,000 to 500,000 acres that would be the sites for "intensive ecological experimentation and social innovation." The experiments would include some local control over forest management decisions, a key goal of conservative western groups.

At least some insulation of the plan from legal challenges in order to quickly get more timber moving through the pipeline in economically depressed communities.

The memo recommends that the fine points of this issue be worked out later, but strongly suggests provisions to prevent timber sale challenges under laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act.

The Washington Post, June 18, 1993

Such provisions, known as "sufficiency language," would have to be enacted into law by Congress. They would declare that any timber sales approved under the administration plan are sufficient to meet the requirements of environmental laws governing forest management and cannot be challenged under those statutes. The environmental community is vehemently opposed to that kind of waiver.

TYPE: NATIONAL NEWS

SUBJECT: U.S. PRESIDENT; ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT; ENDANGERED SPECIES; FORESTS; FORESTRY AND LUMBER INDUSTRIES; DOCUMENTS; PACIFIC STATES

NAMED-PERSONS: BILL CLINTON

ENHANCEMENT: OWL

* 6 PAGES 199 LINES *

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Timber Plan Brings Little Peace to Oregonians

For Logging Industry and Conservationists, Worries Over Old-Growth Forests Endure

By Tom Kenworthy
Washington Post Staff Writer

ROSEBURG, Ore.—In presenting his plan to overhaul the management of federal forests in the Pacific Northwest last week, President Clinton expressed the hope that it would end the region's drawn-out war over its old-growth forests and wildlife.

But here in the heart of one of the most timber-dependent counties in the United States, there is no immediate sign of peace.

Workers and executives in the forest products industry, which has sustained this area since the post-World War II housing boom began, predict that the administration's plan would only accelerate the economic tailspin that has closed five mills and cost Douglas County almost 1,000 of the 6,500 timber industry jobs that existed two years ago. The often-isolated members of local environmental groups worry that the "new forestry" techniques promised by the White House would amount to little more than, as one Oregon activist said, "clear cuts with a happy face."

Here, at least, Clinton seems to be the victim of raised expectations, of a bitter harvest from the seeds of hope he planted at his Portland forest summit in April. Then, the president spoke of "a balanced and comprehensive policy that recognizes the importance of the forests and timber to the economy and jobs of this region [and will] preserve our precious old-growth forests, which are part of our national heritage and that, once destroyed, can never be replaced."

But for those whose livelihoods depend on the massive Douglas fir trees cut from the nearby Umpqua National Forest and other federal lands, the president's plan represents a betrayal. The administration's proposal would allow an average annual wood harvest of 1.2 billion board feet over the next decade in forests that are home to the northern spotted owl and other threatened species. That figure is one-third of the average cut over the last 12 years.

"The impact is just crushing," said Roseburg Forest Products mill worker Darryl Middleton, a union activist who said he has watched the rate of family breakups and suicides climb in recent years as the legal battles over the spotted owl cut off new federal timber sales because of court injunctions. "It looks like it's just a plan to shut things down," he said.

Though no one can predict precisely the impact of Clinton's plan here, an accident of history and geography would likely mean the forests surrounding Roseburg would be particularly hard hit by the 3.7 million-acre system of owl habitats and stream preserves that would be established.

Because of Douglas County's isolation, timber harvesting on federal lands began later here than it did in many parts of the Northwest. As a result, this area has a far greater percentage of old-growth forests—those containing stands of trees older than 150 to 200 years old—

than most of the region, where much old growth already has been felled. Clinton's plan aims to preserve about 80 percent of the remaining old growth.

"So here we are today with a wonderful old growth resource base, and what was once a blessing is now a curse," said Allyn Ford, executive vice president of Roseburg Forest Products. The company, which employs 3,000 people in Oregon and whose plywood and specialty mills depend on old growth from federal lands, uses 500 million board feet of timber a year.

"They are talking about saving

old growth," said Ford. "Boy, do we have old growth."

For all the gloomy talk, Roseburg appears bustling and full of vitality, with few outward signs of its 12.5 percent unemployment rate. Located between Medford and Eugene on Interstate 5, Roseburg is a regional commercial and medical center with new subdivisions sprouting on its outskirts. Planning for the inevitable decline of its timber economy began more than a decade ago.

Like many places in Oregon and Washington, Roseburg is a mecca for California refugees and retirees. "We've had some success with

diversification," Douglas County Commissioner Doug Robertson said, including the addition of a boat manufacturing facility and an aluminum cable plant in the last three years.

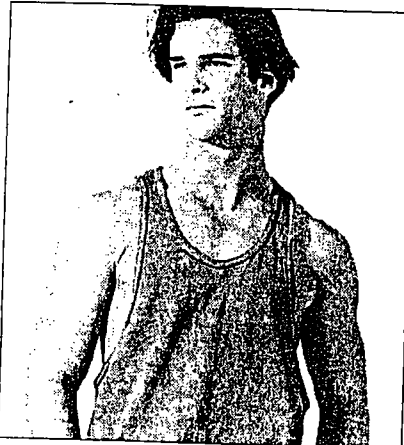
But because of the peculiar economics of timber country, even new manufacturers that offset the job loss in forest products end up providing far less tax revenue. More than half of Douglas County is owned by the federal government, primarily the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the county gets a generous share of all federal timber receipts in lieu of property taxes.

Of the county's budget of about \$95 million, roughly \$35 million comes from timber sale receipts paid by the federal government. Though the Clinton forest plan guarantee initially that the county gets 80 percent of the average received between 1986 and 1990 over 10 years the payments decline to 50 percent.

The loss of federal funds will affect every county service, including education, roads and public safety, said Robertson. "Our ability to meet Douglas County as a place with high livability will be diminished."

The sense of unease about Clinton's plan also extends to environmental activists who work throughout the 1980s to preserve the magnificent old forests of the Cascade and coast ranges, dwindled to 10 percent of the original old growth.

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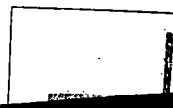
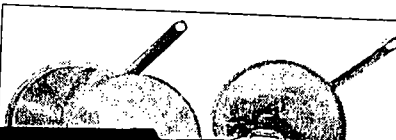
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Diana Wales, a Roseburg attorney and National Audubon Society activist who participated in the April forest conference, said she is troubled that the plan, rather than establishing sacrosanct reserves, will allow some thinning and salvage in owl habitat. And, she said, the establishment of 10 large areas for experimental forestry techniques also worries her.

"The Forest Service and BLM have a long history of saying, 'We did it wrong, now we know how to do it right; trust us,'" Wales said. "It would be wonderful if we could have timber harvest and habitat protected in the same place, but we are not better than God."

"There have to be some areas set aside that we don't mess with just in case we are not as smart as we think we are. . . . Science is wonderful and humans love to tinker, but we screw up a lot."

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 2 STORIES

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June 29, 1993, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A4

LENGTH: 957 words

HEADLINE: Foley Casts Doubts on Clinton's Northwest Timber Plan

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Tom Kenworthy, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Last August, after being repeatedly urged to do so by environmental activists in his eastern Washington congressional district, House Speaker Thomas S.

Foley (D) climbed aboard a twin-engine plane for an aerial view of the effects of logging on the Colville National Forest.

Once airborne, Foley fell asleep.

But now, as the Clinton administration is putting the finishing touches on its plan to end the Pacific Northwest's long agony over the threatened northern spotted owl and management of federal forests, Foley is fully alert and playing a pivotal role.

Foley's district is far removed from the wet coastal forests where the battle over the spotted owl has been waged for almost a decade. But he is firmly aligned with the coalition of organized labor and timber interests pressing for a policy that will allow the largest possible timber harvest.

So, as details of the administration's plan began leaking out, Foley sent an unmistakable signal to the White House last week, casting doubt on whether the proposal could be enacted in Congress. His view is that the administration's plan -- which would allow for an annual timber program of 1.2 billion board feet over the next decade -- would cripple the forest products industry in the Northwest.

"Many in Congress feel there has to be a plan which provides significantly larger than 1.2 billion board feet of allowable cut in order for any kind of forest products industry to survive on federal lands," Foley said at a recent news conference in Spokane.

Then, at a meeting between the Northwest congressional delegation and Kathleen McGinty, the White House director of environmental affairs, Foley blasted the administration for mishandling the run-up to Clinton's announcement of a forest plan. The administration, Foley charged, had allowed environmental critics to define the debate over a plan that would in reality lower timber cutting far below the levels of the mid-1980s.

"The speaker was very direct and exercised over this issue," one participant in the meeting said of Foley's approach with McGinty. "He got in her face."

Foley's view is that the Clinton administration's plan (known as "Option 9") is far more unfair to the timber industry and its workers than it is to the environmental community. Option 9, Foley said, would bring about a "radical, enormous reduction in traditional timber harvests."

But the administration's view, while sympathetic to labor, is that any plan it proposes must be legally defensible; a series of federal court decisions have held that the timber-cutting levels of the mid-1980s were flatly illegal.

Those levels, the courts have ruled, violated the National Forest Management Act and the requirements of the Endangered Species Act for protection of the owl. As a result, courts have halted all new timber sales until the federal government presents a forest management plan -- due on July 16 -- that meets legal requirements to protect the owl and other threatened species.

So far, environmentalist opposition to the Clinton plan has centered on concerns that it would allow some salvage and thinning of trees in spotted owl reserves, set up "adaptive management" areas in which local interests would influence forest management decisions, and perhaps insulate timber sale decisions under the plan from administrative appeals and court suits.

During briefings this past week with the scientists who devised the options being presented to Clinton, opposition from the environmental community began to soften. But at the same time, Foley and the timber industry seem to be digging in their heels, causing some consternation in the administration.

"It wasn't expected," one senior administration official said of Foley's comments last week, suggesting that the speaker's statements have not been particularly helpful in devising a solution that all sides can live with, if not love.

The industry, the official said, "is starting to discover how much our hands are tied and how we are not flimflamming them. The scientific effort is so well done that the chances of impeaching it are virtually zero."

Foley, for his part, is coming under heavy criticism from environmentalists in his home district who charge that he fundamentally misunderstands the Northwest's shift away from a timber-dependent economy. It was Foley, they remember, who scuttled a House Interior Committee vote on a forest plan last year by phoning several members immediately before the vote and urging them not to support the legislation.

"He does not understand the problem," said John Osborn, a physician who serves as president of the Spokane-based Inland Empire Public Lands Council. "You have forests that are biologically falling apart and you have communities that are facing a historic transition. What Speaker Foley is suggesting is that you continue overcutting in order to postpone the inevitable transition."

But there is another theory on Foley's actions: that he is protecting his fellow Northwest politicians by suggesting that Congress cannot pass the Clinton plan. According to this theory, Foley would rather have the administration impose its plan through administrative action -- and through a presentation to the courts -- than force a divisive fight in Congress that would leave Northwest lawmakers exposed to vicious political crosscurrents.

The Washington Post, June 29, 1993

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said on Friday that such an administratively imposed solution is a very real possibility.

"It's important to recognize that the president does have the option of simply selecting one of the alternatives, or one of the alternatives modified, and moving it back into the judicial system," Babbitt said. "That is a very live option at this point."

TYPE: NATIONAL NEWS

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON; FORESTRY AND LUMBER INDUSTRIES; FORESTS; ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT; HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

ORGANIZATION: COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST; NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT; ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

NAMED-PERSONS: THOMAS S. FOLEY; KATHLEEN MCGINTY; BILL CLINTON; BRUCE BABBITT

NEWS CLIPS

POST FOREST CONFERENCE

October 12, 1993

The attached clips are from **October 3 - October 8th**. The attached articles show response to last week's announcement of an agreement with the Plaintiffs and the previous week's Public Comment Hearings for the draft SEIS. The articles are from the following papers:

USA Today
New York Times
San Francisco Chronicle
Sacramento Bee
The Oregonian
Eugene Register Guard
Rolla Daily News (Rolla, MO)
Redding Record Searchlight
The Olympian
Seattle P-I
Vancouver Columbian

(PDRB) FILE "NEWS CLIPS: POST FOREST PLAN"

S.F. Chronicle 10/8/93

Deal to Allow Logging in Owl Country

Los Angeles Times

Washington

The Clinton administration took a key step yesterday to secure support for its long-term timber harvest plan for the Northwest, striking an interim deal under which logging would be permitted in some areas of Washington and Oregon that have long been off-limits.

Under an agreement reached with environmental groups, the Clinton administration will seek federal court approval to allow the sale of 83 million board feet of lumber from national forests that are the home to the endangered northern spotted owl. All the sales

would take place before early next year, when the administration's long-term forestry plan would take effect.

Twelve environmental groups that had fought timber sales agreed to let the sales proceed and promised not to initiate further litigation. In return, the administration agreed to oppose any efforts in Congress to pass laws that would prevent environmentalists from challenging elements of the administration's long-range plan in court.

Environmental groups, which won virtually everything they had sought from the negotiations, hailed the agreement, calling it a victo-

ry for citizens who will continue to have the right to challenge federal government decisions in federal court.

But timber industry representatives called the timber sales "a drop in the bucket" and added that they would be barely enough to keep a medium-size mill running for a year.

Beginning in 1994, Clinton's larger plan would limit logging on federal lands west of the Cascade Mountains to 1.2 billion board feet per year for the next 10 years — a figure representing a decline of roughly 75 percent from the lumber industry's peak harvests in the late 1980s.

Owl: 1 signatory protests

Continued from page B1
signing a stable, defensible timber supply."

Also under the agreement, the government will review some timber sales that have already been awarded to see if they could be modified - or potentially bought back - to minimize ecological harm to the region's oldest forests.

Any logging will be consistent with the forest policy Clinton announced in July. That means little if any clear-cutting would occur and full protection would be provided to streams and rivers.

In addition to the 83 million board feet of timber, Clinton said, an additional 140 million board feet outside national forests with spotted owls will be sold for harvest before the end of the year.

Another 1 billion board feet has already been sold and is available for harvest, Clinton said.

The Oregon Natural Resources

Council was among the 12 groups that entered the agreement. But its leaders issued a separate statement Thursday saying they were "forced to negotiate" because of administration officials' "overt threat to exempt the final forest plan from existing environmental laws."

The other groups signing the agreement were the Forest Conservation Council, Portland Audubon Society, Pilchuck Audubon Society, Headwaters, North Coast Environmental Center, Klamath Forest Alliance, Washington Environmental Council, Lane County Audubon Society and Seattle Audubon Society.

many miles of seasonal streams there are on federal land, and no estimate of buffers around wetlands was included in the original timber sale projections.

- More forest land may have to be set aside for the threatened marbled murrelet as new murrelet sites are found.

- Ten adaptive management areas earmarked for innovative management and public involvement probably won't be open to logging until citizen committees write plans for managing them.

- Protecting additional wildlife to assure a high probability that they will survive could increase substantially the amount of forestland set aside from logging.

CLINTON'S



Here are key findings in a new analysis of President Clinton's Northwest forest plan.

- Timber sale levels will drop sharply on most forests and by 85 percent on the Siuslaw National Forest.

- Half the forest lands available for logging over the next decade under the plan are at least 200 years old.

- The plan will produce less timber than earlier estimated — about 1.05 billion board feet annually, down from 1.084 billion board feet.

- Thinning previously logged stands in forest reserves will produce much less timber than estimated because most second-growth trees are less than 30 years old.

TIMBER SALES

Forest-by-forest timber sale levels under President Clinton's Northwest forest plan, compared with 1990, in millions of board feet.

National forest	1990	Clinton plan
-----------------	------	--------------

Oregon

Deschutes	27	18
Mount Hood	154	72
Rogue River	85	31
Siskiyou	119	27
Siuslaw	198	29
Umpqua	273	95
Wallowa	333	161
Winema	42	39

Washington

Gifford Pinchot	109	88
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie	45	13
Okanagan	14	7
Olympic	43	13
Wenatchee	83	35

California

Klamath	110	74
Mendocino	66	19
Six Rivers	129	24
Shasta-Trinity	92	87

BLM/Oregon

District		
Salmon	51	42
Eugene	49	40
Roseburg	85	20
Coos Bay	79	52
Medford/Lakeview	101	40

— 1990 sales level is the level allowed under each national forest plan and draft BLM plans, with owl protection added as proposed by the 1990 Interagency Scientific Committee, also known as the Jack Ward Thomas group.

Source: K. Norman Johnson, Sustainable Harvest Levels analysis.

The Oregonian

New study claims Clinton's proposal for NW forests is doubly flawed

The plan calls for continued heavy reliance on federal old-growth timber, but at levels too painfully unpredictable for regional mills

By KATHIE DURBIN
of the Oregonian staff

President Clinton's Northwest forest plan relies heavily on logging old-growth forests and won't guarantee Northwest mills a stable federal timber supply anytime soon, a new study con-

The goal of a predictable level of timber sales will be difficult, perhaps impossible, to achieve under Clinton's preferred plan and most other options, a scientific panel developed, says a team headed by K. Norman Johnson, an Oregon State University forest economist.

Johnson, an expert on national forest timber yields, served on the panel that developed the Northwest forest plan, known as Option 9. His new analysis, a follow-up to the plan itself, adds detail and documentation not available before.

At the April 2 Northwest Forest Conference, Clinton promised a plan that would "preserve a predictable and sustainable level of timber sales" without degrading the environment.

But a changing mission for federal forest management agencies — one that puts protecting threatened species and their habitat above producing commodities — creates uncertainties. And these uncertainties will "cloud the preparation of timber sales... for the foreseeable future," the analysis says.

New calculations show that Option 9 will produce 1.03 billion board feet of timber, less than the 1.094 billion board feet earlier estimated. But the report says the actual timber sale level could be even lower.

Jim Lyons, assistant secretary of agriculture, said timber sale levels in the plans were intended to be conservative estimates. "Predictability comes as we develop individual sale programs on each national forest," he said.

The analysis also reveals that the Clinton plan is for all practical purposes "an old growth logging plan and will remain one until more second-growth timber reaches harvest age in coming decades."

Most of the harvest in Option 9 over the next decade will come from forests over 80 years old, and close to 50 percent will come from forests over 200 years old, the analysis says. Mature and old growth forests "will remain the backbone of the harvest in the next decade."

On the four forests that will provide most of the timber — the Gifford Pinchot, Mount Hood, Williamette and Umpqua — "little other approach is possible given the age class distribution of the inventory," the analysis found.

Lyons said the administration never promised to protect all old-growth forests.

The real issue is the quantity and distribution of old growth across the landscape that is necessary to maintain the old-growth ecosystem, he said. "We feel Option 9 provides what is necessary to achieve that goal."

Until now, the administration has kept a tight lid on information about how the plan will affect individual forests. The new analysis reveals that timber sale levels will dwindle to a trickle on most forests west of the Cascades.

For instance, the "potential" annual sale level on the Siuslaw will plummet to 29 million board feet annually.

That's 15 percent of the level allowed under a 1980 northern spotted owl protection plan.

The analysis by Johnson appears

to confirm arguments from critics of Option 9 in both the timber industry and the environmental camps.

"It's totally consistent with what I was looking at yesterday on the ground," said Regna Merritt of the Oregon Natural Resources Council. She is doing her own analysis of how much old growth Option 9 protects on the Mount Hood National Forest.

"We've been saying that Option 9 is fatally flawed and unimplementable due to the sorts of things Norman Johnson raises in his memo," said Chris West of the Northwest Forestry Association.

"We believe there are options that weren't considered that could provide that stable and predictable timber supply."

The Clinton plan attempts to get more volume out of the forests by allowing thinning of younger stands in old growth reserves. But the analysis says little additional volume will be produced from thinning previously logged stands in reserves during the first 10 years because the stands are mostly less than 30 years old.

The analysis identifies a number of unknowns that make it risky to predict any particular level of timber sales under Clinton's preferred plan:

- Option 9 identifies 164 key watersheds where no logging or road-building may occur until watershed studies are completed, but no one knows whether some or all of those watersheds eventually will be open to logging. If logging were barred on all key watersheds, timber sale levels would drop by an additional 19 percent to \$49 million board feet.

- The amount of land set aside in streamside and wetland reserves may be greater than believed because no one knows for sure how

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Accord to allow some logging

■ **Old growth:** The deal frees 83 million board feet; the timber industry and some environmentalists disapprove.

By LANCE ROBERTSON
The Register-Guard

Environmentalists and the Clinton administration reached an accord Thursday to allow some old growth forest logging that's been blocked by a federal court order.

The deal would provide 83 million board feet of timber to Northwest mills this fall as a stopgap measure until President Clinton's new forest management plan goes into effect next year.

In exchange for environmentalists' agreement to allow the logging, the administration promised to oppose any efforts in Congress to shield future logging from legal challenges by circumventing environmental laws.

The administration also said it would re-examine all existing timber sales in Oregon, Washington and California to see if they adequately protect at-risk fish stocks and watersheds under Clinton's new guidelines. If they don't, the logging may be canceled or modified.

Timber companies could voluntarily return to the government any unlogged timber contracts within old growth reserves and key watersheds identified in the president's proposed plan.

"This is a good agreement, a constructive agreement," President Clinton said in a prepared statement. "It reflects our commitment to end the gridlock, to replace confrontation with cooperation and to make every effort to move timber back to the mills."

The agreement follows several weeks of negotiations between the White House and 12 conservation groups that won a lawsuit in 1991. The lawsuit forced the government to

halt most new timber sales until it could better protect the northern spotted owl, a threatened species, and other wildlife.

Clinton's forest plan, unveiled in July, attempts to meet the court's order and end a long-running stalemate over logging of old growth forests. Clinton's plan slashes historical timber harvests by more than 70 percent, allows some logging of old growth forests to continue.

U.S. District Judge William Dwyer of Seattle, who has jurisdiction in the case, must approve the negotiated agreement.

The deal was met with criticism Thursday. Turn to LOGGING, Page 6C

LOGGING Continued from Page 1C

from labor groups, the timber industry and several environmental groups that have filed a legal challenge in Dwyer's court to halt the logging.

"I'm calling today Black Thursday," said Jim Brittell of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society in Port Orford. "For environmentalists to permit logging of old growth we could have stopped just isn't right."

Brittell said a timber supply shortage could best be alleviated by halting the export of logs, chips, pulp and minimally processed lumber.

"The timber sales proposed for release are the kind of heavy-handed logging that destroyed the public's trust in the Forest Service and created the forest gridlock in the first place," said Roy Keene, head of the Public Forestry Foundation in Eugene.

Keene said many of the timber sales his group has surveyed would log trees up to 500 years old. He has proposed an alternative that would selectively thin trees from the forest understory, producing at least three times the timber volume agreed to by environmentalists.

Keene's group was not part of a legal challenge of the agreement.

"This represents less than 5 percent of the volume the president promised us," said Ross Mickey, spokesman for the Northwest Forestry Association. "We're very disappointed."

The 83 million also represents a fraction of the nearly 5 billion board feet of timber logged annually

in the three-state region. The timber industry says many mills will run out of logs and close in the next several months unless more federal timber is freed up.

Mickey also said the timber will never be logged because the administration hasn't taken steps to shut off court challenges.

Mike Draper, executive secretary of the Western Council of Industrial Workers, said the deal was "a slap in the face to forest products workers" and called the 83 million board feet of timber "meaningless small tokens."

Top administration officials, however, said striking a deal with environmentalists was just as important as getting some wood flowing to mills this fall.

"Far more significant than the volume is that we have secured from the environmental community a commitment to work with us and not against us in designing a stable, defensible timber supply," Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said.

Environmentalists who were part of the deal were less enthusiastic.

"The sale of old growth timber is an event that saddens us," said Art Farley, conservation director for the Lane County Audubon Society, one of the 12 plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

"Political reality forced a difficult decision," he said. "We can only hope that this agreement in turn

forces the administration to adopt a scientifically credible, legally adequate plan for managing public forests in the Pacific Northwest."

Environmentalists have rejected Clinton's proposed forest plan, saying it doesn't adequately protect at-risk fish, watersheds and old growth forests.

Jim Middaugh, spokesman for the Oregon Natural Resources Council, said he expects a number of timber companies to return high-priced logging contracts to the government because they can't afford to log them in today's poor lumber and plywood markets.

"This might be a case where timber industry economics and conservationists' goals may coincide," he said.

However, Mickey said it is "highly unlikely" timber companies would give back contracts to the government, unless they were allowed to trade them for "an equal volume and quality" of timber.

Babbitt and other administration officials clearly stated in letters Thursday that the agreement did not constitute environmentalists' acceptance of Clinton's forest plan.

The administration also said an additional 140 million board feet of timber outside spotted owl habitat may be offered for sale. The administration agreed to work closely with environmentalists to review those timber sales before offering them to the timber industry.

4A Thursday, October 7, 1993
ROLLA DAILY NEWS

Restoring public trust

It's time for change in the Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service has lost public trust. The need now is for credible change in the agency's leadership and a clear agenda of reform.

"Too many (people) view us as plunderers," says Jim Lyons, assistant secretary of agriculture, whose job is to oversee the Forest Service.

An even harsher view is held by Tom Collier, chief of staff for the secretary of Interior. Collier told Congress in August that the Forest Service's history of managing public lands in the Pacific Northwest "is one of shortsightedness and deliberate procrastination, and deliberate over-harvesting and deliberate indifference to recommendations by career civil servants, federal laws and the courts."

Deliberate indifference to the courts and the law is a serious charge, but hardly unique in the Forest Service record.

U.S. District Court Judge William Dwyer concluded in 1991 that the service had committed "a remarkable series of violations of the environmental laws." With the federal judges who have rendered similar decisions you "could field a baseball team," Collier told Congress. He then named nine judges who "all said the government was violating the law."

President Clinton's Northwest forest plan provides some of the best evidence of the service's poor record.

The plan calls for spending up to \$360 million to restore watersheds damaged by intensive logging carried out under Forest Service supervision. The expenditure is needed now, but wouldn't be if the Forest Service had done its job right.

The plan will also reduce Northwest logging on public land by up to 75 percent. That reduction is the smallest the administration believes will meet the law's requirement that timber sales not exceed what can be sustained in the long-run. In short, the Forest Service is responsible for

permitting years of excessive timber harvests.

Criticism is by no means confined to the Forest Service record in the Northwest.

Over 60 percent of all service employees surveyed in June said they think the agency is still relying too heavily on clearcutting in the national forests. An earlier survey completed in 1989 revealed deep rifts between the stewardship values held by rank-and-file employees and what they called an overemphasis that the service has on cutting down trees. These

President Clinton's Northwest forest plan provides some of the best evidence of the Forest Service's poor record.

workers placed almost equal emphasis on protecting watersheds, providing for recreation and conserving wildlife as they did on cutting trees. That's a stewardship approach consistent with the multiple-use values embodied in the laws governing national forests.

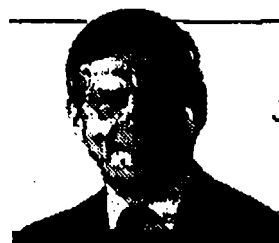
The service needs reform, not by passing new laws but through a clear mandate to enforce those already on the books.

A change in leadership is the starting point if such a mandate is to be believed by the public and the majority of service employees who want a return to professionalism.

The next step is for the service to manage its holdings for what they are intended to be — a national trust of healthy forests. That trust envisions indefinitely supplying new timber, protecting watersheds and wildlife and providing recreation for the people who own the forests. This ecosystem approach must replace the single-mindedness of clearing forests into

tree stumps to be replaced by industry tree farms at the sacrifice of all other values.

As with any trust, there needs to be an accurate account of assets. There isn't one on the national forests. In the Northwest, the president's advisers discovered the actual amount of



JAY D.
HAIR

standing timber is some 30 percent less than what the service had been advertising. In Oregon's Umpqua National Forest, a district ground survey shows timber volume is at least 20 percent below what service plans claim is there. A contractor for the service in Colorado has told Congress of two sets of Forest Service books, one with artificially high timber volume numbers used to set the annual cut, and another internal record with a lower, actual inventory.

The service and the public need to know what the trust assets are — beginning with a factual inventory of standing trees, of the status of replanted forests, of the conditions of watersheds and wildlife habitat. Past abuses cannot be repaired until we know how pervasive they have been. These surveys would make an excellent assignment for the president's National Service Program.

Above all, the public should demand that integrity be restored to the Forest Service. We all share in the responsibility to see that the forest trust from which we benefit remains intact for future generations.

Jay D. Hair has a Ph.D. in the study of animal life and has been president of the National Wildlife Federation since 1981.

Group wants spotted owl taken off list

■ The petition could force federal officials to reconsider the northern spotted owl's status as a threatened species in the state of California.

By Bobby Calvan
R-S staff reporter

Timber groups Wednesday petitioned the federal government to remove the northern spotted owl from the list of threatened species, citing scientific evidence showing at least twice as many owls in California's forests as previously estimated.

The petition filed by the California Forestry Association (CFA) contends that California's owl population was "grossly underestimated" when the owl was placed on the list three years ago by federal wildlife officials.

"I hope they will avoid playing a whole lot of politics and look at the new data," said Robert Taylor, director of wildlife ecology for the Sacramento-based forestry association. "It is different here than it is in Oregon and Washington."

The petition, addressed to Department of the Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, was filed in Washington, D.C., on behalf of Northern California timber interests.

Timber groups contend that the state's climate, forest characteristics and the different roosting behavior of owls in California's woods should merit the state a forest management plan all its own.

Government officials have conceded that conditions are indeed different in California, but have not decided if the state merits special consideration.

In particular, timber groups say the owl survives in larger numbers and in a wider range of habitat in California than in Oregon and Washington.

The Clinton administration, forced to revise its forest management plan by a federal judge, expects to complete the plan by Jan-

Deal may let timber sales start

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration struck a deal with 12 environmental groups today to allow logging on some Northwest lands that have been locked up under a federal court order protecting the northern spotted owl, congressional aides said.

The agreement, if approved by a federal judge in Seattle, would release 83 million board feet of timber for logging, said two aides speaking on condition of anonymity.

In exchange, the Clinton administration has agreed it will not seek legislation or take any other action that would exempt its forest policy from existing laws or insulate it from legal challenges, the aides said.

In addition, the government will review some timber sales that already have been awarded to see if they could be modified — or potentially bought back — to minimize ecological harm to the region's oldest forests, the aides said.

Administration officials briefed congressional staffers on the deal on Capitol Hill and the White House was expected to make a formal announcement later today.

The logging of the 83 million board feet will be consistent with the forest policy Clinton announced in July. That means little if any clear-cutting would occur and full protection would be provided to waterways.

*Redding, CA
Record Searchlight
10-7-93*

See OWL, A-12

Owl

Continued from A-1

uary.

"The Endangered Species Act has been used as a sledge hammer to cripple one of the nation's basic industries," said Dave Rutledge, chairman of the Shasta Alliance for Resources and Environment.

Environmentalists said Wednesday any review of the owl's condition would only reaffirm that it is being pushed closer to the brink of extinction.

"We're always eager to have a chance to demonstrate that Forest Service management has virtually destroyed habitat, not just for the northern spotted owl but for a whole host of other species," Richard Hoppe, a spokesman for The Wilderness Society, told The Associated Press.

According to CFA estimates, there are about 5,300 of the birds roosting within the state's forests — and perhaps as many as 8,500. Federal estimates put the population at under 1,000 pairs. But a spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said it is premature to rush to judgment.

"I don't think it's premature to review the question about delisting the northern spotted owl, but it may be premature to delist it at this time," said David Klinger, a spokesman for the agency's regional office in Portland, Ore.

Moreover, it is unclear whether the federal officials are willing to evaluate the status of the owl along state lines, said Klinger, noting that the federal wildlife agency has viewed the bird as a single contiguous population throughout California and the Northwest. The government has 90 days to decide on the merits of the petition.

If enough scientific and technical evidence exists, the government would have to launch a review process that could take up to two years, Klinger said.

As part of the federal wildlife service's periodic review of its species-protection lists, the status of the northern spotted owl would have to be reviewed by 1995.

Gov. Pete Wilson and others have urged federal officials to hasten the review.

"Increasingly, there are questions about the number of northern spotted owls in the forests of Northern California — as distinct from the Pacific Northwest. These questions deserve to be addressed by federal wildlife authorities in a

Owl pairs

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service estimates of
spotted owl pairs in 1992
and recovery plans

■ National forests 421

■ BLM lands 22

■ National parks 2

■ Tribal lands 37

■ State forestry Dept. 7

■ State parks 10

■ Private lands 414

Total 880

■ Oregon

■ National forests 1,164

■ BLM 608

■ National parks 8

■ Tribal lands 38

■ State Dept. Forestry 24

■ State parks 2

■ Counties or cities 1

■ Private lands 128

Total 1,971

■ Washington

■ National forests 488

■ National parks 64

■ Tribal lands 32

■ State Nat. Resources 43

■ State Wildlife 1

■ Private lands 45

Total 671

Three-state total 3,502

timely manner," said Terry Gorton, the governor's assistant secretary for resources.

A spokesman for the state Resources Agency, however, noted that the governor has not taken a position on delisting the owl.

Instead, said spokesman Andy McLeod, the state is only pushing federal wildlife officials to consider additional data.

Even if the owl is subsequently delisted, it would not necessarily exempt California from the Clinton administration's forest management plan.

"Would California be effectively pulled out of Option 9? That's a good question," McLeod said.

"Option 9" is the Clinton administration's preferred forest plan. It would limit timber harvests from federal forests to 1.2 million board feet annually. It would also provide \$1.2 billion in aid to communities hard hit by the logging cutbacks.

*Reading, CA
Record Searchlight
10-7-93*

Deal is cut to release NW timber

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration struck a deal with 12 environmental groups today to allow logging on some Northwest lands that have been locked up under a federal court order protecting the northern spotted owl.

"This is a good agreement, a constructive agreement and one that I fully support," President Clinton said today.

"It reflects our commitment to end the gridlock, to replace confrontation with cooperation and to make every effort to move timber back to the mills."

The agreement, if approved by a federal judge in Seattle, would release 83 million board feet of timber for logging in national forests of Oregon and Washington inhabited by the threatened bird, said a statement from the groups released by the Oregon Natural Resources Council.

Six of the sales totaling 15.9 million board feet are located in the Umpqua National Forest.

In exchange, the Clinton administration agreed it will not seek legislation or take any other action that would exempt its forest policy from existing laws or insulate it from legal challenges.

In addition, the government will review some timber sales that already have been awarded to see if they could be modified — or potentially bought back — to minimize ecological harm to the region's oldest forests.

The Oregon Natural Resources Council, one of the 12 groups, said in a separate statement today it was "forced to negotiate" the agreement because of administration officials' "overt threat to exempt the final forest plan from existing environmental laws."

The logging of the 83 million board feet will be consistent with the forest policy Clinton announced in July. That means little if any clear-cutting would occur and full protection would be provided to streams and rivers.

Two congressional aides said today that in addition to the 83 million board feet, the administration

Owl figures taking flight in California

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Fish and Wildlife Service says it is premature to remove the northern spotted owl from the U.S. list of threatened species in California, but acknowledges the bird is faring better there than in Oregon or Washington.

"It is a subject worth raising but we need to get a little further along," said David Klinger, spokesman for the USFWS, at its regional headquarters in Portland.

"Three years is not very long to reach a judgment that the species is out of danger," he said Wednesday.

The timber industry petitioned the agency Wednesday to drop the owl from the threatened list in California, claiming the population was vastly underestimated when it was granted federal protec-

See OWL, page 9

million board feet not covered by the federal court order on national forests in Oregon and Washington. Those sales would be offered before the end of the year.

Clinton's Northwest forest plan would slash national forest harvests in the region to 1.2 billion board feet annually — about one-fourth the average of the 1980s.

The administration must ask U.S. District Court Judge William Dwyer in Seattle to approve its request to release the lands for logging. Dwyer issued an injunction prohibiting the logging in May 1991 when he found government timber harvests violated environmental laws. Dwyer's order came after the spotted owl was declared a threatened species under the federal En-

NOTES REVIEW / ROSEBURY WIL 17/93 Umpqua NF

Owl

CONTINUED from page 1

tion in 1990.

"We've got a lot more owls than we originally thought, therefore the immediate danger in terms of long-term survival of the owl is not nearly what was thought," said Jim Sweeney, a biologist for the American Forest and Paper Association.

The California Forestry Association filed the formal petition, beginning a process that could take as long as two years.

The Fish and Wildlife Service already intended to look at the owl's status in 1995 as part of its regular five-year review.

Robert Taylor, a biologist for the forestry association in Sacramento, Calif., said his group estimates there are as many as 8,500 northern spotted owls in California — more than the 8,000 total the Fish and Wildlife Service estimates for the whole three-state region.

"Their habitat is, in fact, stable and likely to increase," Taylor said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service estimate of about 8,000 birds region-wide includes 3,602 breeding pairs — roughly the same number of pairs estimated when the owl was listed as threatened, Klinger said.

That includes about 960 pairs in California — 414 on private lands and the rest on national forests, tribal lands or other federal or state-owned lands, he said.

The number of pairs "is the more relevant statistic for owls because it implies reproduction," Klinger said. Many unpaired singles die each year and "their contribution to the overall population may not be great," he said.

Sweeney said the 8,000 individual spotted owls the industry has inventoried in California include about 2,500 pairs. He said the industry lacks the evidence to feel confident in asking the owl be removed from the threatened list in Oregon or Washington.

Spotted owls are believed to be heavily reliant on old-growth forests in the Northwest, while they more frequently are sighted in younger forests in California.

That's partly due to a difference in the kind of trees, with redwoods in California assuming old-growth characteristics at a younger age, and partly because less clear cutting of large acreages historically has occurred in California.

CFA President William Demmison said the association's study included privately owned forests that were not surveyed in original government studies.

He said his group hopes its study and petition will lead to recasting of the Clinton administration's management plans for Northern California forests.

Clinton has proposed slashing federal timber harvests in the three

states to about one-fourth the annual level of the 1980s, in part to help save the owl and other old-growth species from extinction.

The administration is scheduled to finalize the plan by January and submit it for the approval of U.S. District Judge William Dwyer in Seattle.

Dwyer banned logging across much the region in May 1991 when he found government logging plans were violating environmental laws.

Environmentalists said Wednesday any review of the owl's condition would only reaffirm that it is being pushed closer to the brink of extinction.

"We're always eager to have a chance to demonstrate that Forest Service management has virtually destroyed habitat not just for the northern spotted owl but for a whole host of other species," said Richard Hoppe, a spokesman for The Wilderness Society.

News Review
Roseburg, OR
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Clinton-Spotted Owl

APn 10/7/93 3:30 PM

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By SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Clinton administration struck a deal with 12 environmental groups Thursday to allow logging in some Northwest forests that had been declared off limits under a court order protecting the northern spotted owl.

In exchange, the administration agreed to oppose any efforts in Congress to grant exemptions from environmental laws or shield a long-term logging plan from future legal challenges.

"This is a good agreement, a constructive agreement," President Clinton said. "It reflects our commitment to end the gridlock, to replace confrontation with cooperation and to make every effort to move timber back to the mills."

The proposed agreement with the National Audubon Society and 11 other environmental groups that had obtained the court order to block the logging must be approved by the federal judge in Seattle who issued the decree.

The Fish and Wildlife Service declared the owl a threatened species in June 1990. U.S. District Judge William Dwyer ordered the logging ban in May 1991 when he found government timber harvests to be in violation of federal environmental laws.

The deal announced Thursday is intended to provide a small, interim supply of logs until Clinton's 10-year forest management plan goes into effect next year.

But like the comprehensive policy Clinton announced in July, the pact drew criticism Thursday from the timber industry, labor unions and some conservation groups in the Northwest.

"It's a sad day for the environment," said Tim Hermach, executive director of the Native Forest Council in Eugene, Ore., which advocates an end to logging on national forests.

"We view with grave disappointment the action of the administration and 12 environmental groups for being so timid in agreeing to liquidate additional national forests instead of addressing the far greater volumes being exported unfinished every year from the export docks," he said.

The agreement would release 83 million board feet of timber for logging in national forests of Oregon and Washington inhabited by the threatened owl.

Industry leaders said it provided only a little relief for tens of thousands of loggers left jobless since the Fish and Wildlife Service declared the owl a threatened species in June 1990.

"The administration promised that throughout this process they would keep the industry going and provide adequate volumes. This is a very, very measly down payment," said Luke Popovich, a spokesman for the American

Forest and Paper Association.

Clinton's 10-year plan would slash national forest harvests in the region to 1.2 billion board feet annually -- about one-fourth the average of the 1980s. But it also would allow for some logging of old-growth.

A board foot is 1 foot square by 1 inch thick. It takes about 10,000 board feet to build a typical single-family home.

"No one is pretending this is a large volume of timber, but this is an important agreement," Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy said Thursday.

Logging

APn 10/7/93 12:46 PM

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By SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Clinton administration will allow logging on some Northwest lands that have been closed to the industry by a federal court order protecting the northern spotted owl, environmental groups said today.

The plan, if approved by a federal judge in Seattle, would release 83 million board feet of timber for logging in national forests of Oregon and Washington inhabited by the threatened bird.

The Clinton administration also has agreed not to seek legislation or any other action that would exempt its forest policy from existing laws or insulate it from legal challenges, the groups said in a statement released by the Oregon Natural Resources Council in Portland, Ore.

In addition, the government has agreed to review some timber sales that already have been awarded to see if they could be modified -- or potentially bought back -- to minimize ecological harm to the region's oldest forests, the groups said.

The agreement was reached between the administration and the environmental groups.

The Oregon Natural Resources Council said in a separate statement today it was "forced to negotiate" the agreement with the administration because of "overt threat to exempt the final forest plan from existing environmental laws."

Administration officials briefed congressional staffers on the deal on Capitol Hill, and the White House was expected to make a formal announcement later today.

The logging of the 83 million board feet will be consistent with the forest policy Clinton announced in July. That means little if any clear-cutting would occur and full protection would be provided to streams and rivers.

A board foot is one foot square by one inch thick. It takes about 10,000 board feet to build a typical single-family home.

Clinton's Northwest forest plan would slash government harvests in the region to 1.2 billion board feet annually -- about one-fourth the average of the 1980s. The deal struck today is an attempt to get some timber moving to the mills on an interim basis until his 10-year plan is to go into effect next year.

The administration must ask U.S. District Court Judge William Dwyer in Seattle to approve its request to release the lands for logging. Dwyer issued an injunction prohibiting the logging in May 1991 when he found government timber harvests violated environmental laws.

AP Online

AP 10/07 01:16 EDT V0694

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WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Fish and Wildlife Service says it is premature to remove the northern spotted owl from its list of threatened species in California, but acknowledges the bird is faring better there than in Oregon or Washington.

"It is a subject worth raising, but we need to get a little further along," David Klinger said Wednesday from the service's regional headquarters in Portland, Ore.

"Three years is not very long to reach a judgment that the species is out of danger," he said.

The California Forestry Association petitioned the agency Wednesday to drop the owl from the threatened list in California, claiming the population was vastly underestimated when it was granted federal protection in 1990.

The northern spotted owl has come to symbolize the fight between environmentalists seeking to save old forests in the Pacific Northwest and the timber industry's effort to save jobs.

"We've got a lot more owls than we originally thought, therefore the immediate danger in terms of long-term survival of the owl is not nearly what was thought," said Jim Sweeney, a biologist for the American Forest and Paper Association.

Robert Taylor, a biologist for the forestry association in Sacramento, Calif., said his group estimates there are as many as 8,500 northern spotted owls in California -- more than the 8,000 total the Fish and Wildlife Service estimates for the whole three-state region.

"Their habitat is, in fact, stable and likely to increase," Taylor said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service estimate of 8,000 birds region-wide includes 3,602 breeding pairs -- roughly the same number of pairs estimated when the owl was listed as threatened, Klinger said.

That includes about 960 pairs in California -- 414 on private lands and the rest on national forests, tribal lands or other federal or state-owned lands, he said.

The number of pairs "is the more relevant statistic for owls because it implies reproduction," Klinger said. Many unpaired singles die each year and "their contribution to the overall population may not be great," he said.

Four activist groups file to block sales

■ Parting company with fellow environmental groups, they fear harm to watershed, wildlife and old-growth if the timber is cut

By KATHIE DURBIN

of The Oregonian staff

Four Oregon forest activist groups, warning of a "dangerous precedent," broke ranks with their fellow environmentalists Monday and filed papers to block the release of 50 timber sales from a federal court injunction.

The move came as plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the Forest Service neared agreement with the Clinton administration on release of 83 million board feet of timber.

In exchange, the administration will consider buying back some old-growth timber sales that contain important spotted owl habitat and promise not to back legislation that would shield new timber sales from legal challenges, according to Jim Middaugh, spokesman for the Oregon Natural Resources Council, one of the plaintiffs.

No date has been set for the administration and plaintiffs to go to U.S. District Judge William Dwyer and ask for release of the timber.

"The administration is engaged in a high-level game of political extortion, where the remaining ancient forests are being used as a bargaining chip, said James Monteith, president of Save the West in Portland and former longtime executive director of the Natural Resources Council.

Jim Britell, conservation head for the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society in Port Orford, said an agreement to release sales could be misconstrued as an endorsement of President Clinton's forest plan.

Other groups filing to intervene in the case are the Eugene-based Native Forest Council and Friends of the Breitenbush Cascades in Salem.

Administration sources in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is handling negotiations, did not return phone calls seeking comment.

The timber industry has scorned the agreement, saying the amount of timber under discussion is insignificant.

Mike Draper of the Western Council of Industrial Workers called it an attempt by environmentalists "to blackmail the Clinton administration into agreeing to shield President Clinton's forest management plan from lawsuits."

The deal also came under attack Monday from Roy Keene of the Eugene-based Public Forestry Foundation, which has sent a staff forester into the woods to review the Oregon sales that would be released.

Many of the sales are clear-cuts in stands 400 years or older, said the former logger, who works with people in the timber industry, public agencies and the environmental movement to encourage ecologically sensitive forestry.

"If this is the dawn of ecosystem management, then most of us would rather that the sun didn't shine," Keene said. "We're starting out Clinton's first cut in Northwest forests with old forestry in old stands."

For instance, the Highball sale on the Rogue River National Forest would log an area that according to the Forest Service's own documentation lies within the city of Medford's watershed, provides thermal cover for big game and is "fully suitable for spotted owl habitat," Keene said.

Middaugh said he would not defend the logging that would result if the sales are released. "I don't think any of the plaintiffs think of these sales as benign," he said.

The Olympian



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► TIMBER



"None of us supports the sadistic ravaging of a fragile ecosystem,"

— Rob Davis, The Evergreen State College student



"Buying off people with \$1.2 billion" won't gain support in the timber communities.

— Bill Pickell, president of the Washington Contract Loggers Association.

PRO

"We only need the political will to stand up to environmental extremists and their research accomplices inside and outside the Clinton administration."

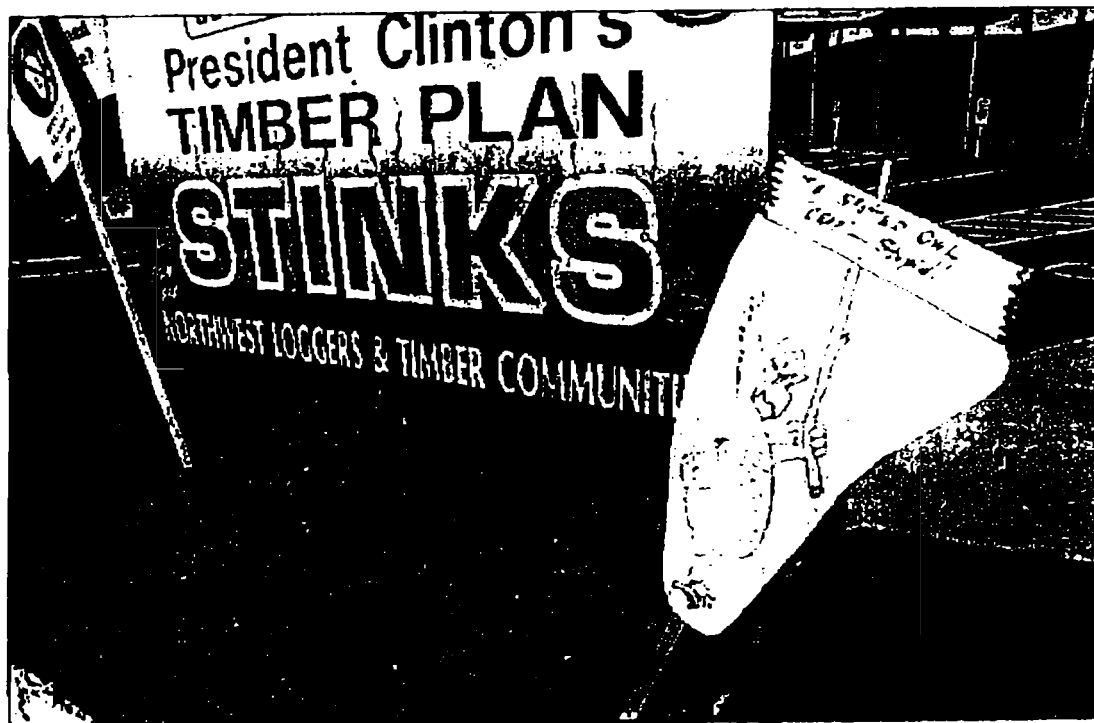
— Gus Kuehne, president of the Northwest Independent Forest Manufacturers.

CON

"Timber people had managed the forests well, we wouldn't be here today talking about the last 10 percent."

— Peter Lumsden, Seattle resident.

Clinton forest plan assailed



■ **Solution needed:** An administration official wants a plan everybody likes, but says that a consensus is not necessary.

By Bob Parlow

The Olympian

The point man for the Clinton administration at the last of three hearings on a plan to break the old growth forest dead lock told witnesses he hopes to find a solution agreeable to both sides.

"Many people think it's time to start managing our forests in the woods, not the courts," said Jim Lyons, assistant secretary of the Department of Agriculture, during a Friday hearing in Lacey.

But he said a consensus was not necessary to get a plan in place.

"We're not mandated by law to satisfy both sides," he said.

The Option 9 plan would allow 1.2 billion board feet of timber to be cut in the old-growth habitat of the endangered spotted owl. That is about a quarter of average harvests in the 1980s and is sure to cost timber jobs — how many is another matter of debate.

Environmentalists said Friday that the harvest is too much. Timber interests said it is too little to save many mills and jobs.

Click Willigan/The Olympian

SMELLY PROTEST: Pro-logging interests staked this protest sign in a box of manure at Friday's public hearing at Saint Martin's College in Lacey on President Clinton's Northwest logging plan.

Inside: Both sides fire off verbal salvos. A2

► **TIMBER**

Timber plan thumbed down

■ **Odd couple agree:** In a public hearing at Lacey, loggers and environmentalists join in rejecting Clinton's Option 9 proposal.

By Bob Partlow
The Olympian

Environmentalists and loggers may not agree on much, but a public hearing in Lacey Friday produced consensus on one matter — the Clinton administration Option 9 plan to solve the gridlock in the timber industry smells bad.

"President Clinton's Timber Plan Stinks!" read the sign on a huge, smelly box of manure outside the Worthington Conference Center at Saint Martin's College. It was put up by logging interests who want to cut more trees.

"As it stands now, Option 9 is a prescription for extinction," said Roxy Giddinger of the Tahoma Audubon Society.

Eighty-one people signed up to speak at the afternoon session of the public hearing, led by Jim Lyons, assistant secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

Lyons told reporters before the

hearing the administration hopes to have a plan ready to go by the first of the year. But without changes, most speakers said, it won't be any good.

The plan reduces the amount of board feet to be cut in spotted owl territory on the west coast to about 12 billion board feet a year. That's down from about 4.4 billion board feet a year in the late 1980s.

The proposed amount is too much for environmentalists bent on saving the remaining 10 percent of the old growth forest, and too little for an industry losing jobs because it can't cut federal timber.

The symphony of complaints was punctuated by the usual clanging of verbal cymbals from each side.

The forests can be managed well, said Gus Kuehne, president of the Northwest Independent Forest Manufacturers.

"We only need the political will to stand up to environment extremists and their research accomplices inside and outside the Clinton administration," Kuehne said.

"If timber people had managed the forests well, we wouldn't be here today talking about the last 10 percent," of old growth, countered Peter Lambros of Seattle.

"I'd like to compare the cutting

down of our ancient forests with the filling of the Grand Canyon with cement," said Josh Marks of the Western Ancient Forest Campaign.

"You haven't seen the pain," said Renee Lynch of Hoquiam, telling the panel of officials many timber workers couldn't get to the hearing.

The pain will not be eased with the \$1.2 billion in retraining money and money for timber communities Clinton has included in the plan, said Bill Pickell, president of the Washington Contract Loggers Association.

"Buying off people with \$1.2 billion" won't gain support in the timber communities, Pickell said.

With all the pleas from both sides, three people voiced the hope that the plan would at least be a foundation on which to build.

"If both extreme sides are opposed to Option 9, then maybe Option 9 has the balance I'm looking for," said Dan Snook of Long Branch, near Gig Harbor.

"We must go along with some plan," said Bob Barnes of Fort Vancouver Plywood.

"Both sides of this issue must strike a balance," said Eugene Davis, who works as a consultant with Fort Vancouver Plywood.

Clinton plan hit from both sides

By Bruce Rushton
The News Tribune

The arguments had all been heard before. At times, it seemed more a game of who-can-out-spin-doctor-who than a hearing about the future of Northwest forests.

And nothing got resolved at Friday's hearing called by the Clinton administration to gather public comment on the president's plan to preserve forests and timber-industry jobs.

Even before the hearing began at Saint Martin's College in Lacey, administration officials made it clear the president won't be making radical changes to the plan, which pleases neither environmentalists nor loggers.

Jim Lyons, assistant secretary of agriculture, told reporters the president plans to implement the plan as soon as legal requirements for public comment and official analysis are complete.

"We've laid our best shot on the table and this is it," Lyons said.

Still, Lyons insisted public testimony can make a difference. For example, testimony at an earlier hearing in Redding, Calif., may cause the government to revise logging quotas in Northern California, Lyons said.

The government hopes to complete the plan by the
TACOMA NEWS TRIB. Please see Timber, B3
10/2/93

Timber

Continued from B1

end of the year. Friday's hearing was called to satisfy laws that require opportunities for public comment on plans that could impact the environment. Present were officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior.

Mostly, they heard passionate complaints.

Environmentalists and representatives of the timber industry made it clear they hate the plan, sometimes in nauseating ways.

Those who want more logging set up a large box filled with manure outside the door of the meeting hall, attracting equal numbers of flies and reporters. Atop the manure pile sat pictures of Clinton and a large sign reading "Clinton's Timber Plan Stinks."

The passion continued inside the hall as more than 80 people waited their turn to speak.

For every environmentalist who said forests can't be replaced, there was someone from the timber industry who said quality jobs can't be replaced but trees can grow back.

One person compared the president's plan to filling the Grand Canyon with concrete. A spokeswoman for the paper-and-cardboard industry warned \$1.5 billion in payroll and benefits are at stake in Washington and Oregon. An environmentalist countered by saying the solution for that industry is easy: change the marijuana laws and use hemp instead of wood to make cardboard.

Judging from applause after each speaker, there seemed to be more environmentalists than loggers present.

Roxy Giddings of Parkland, who represented the Tahoma Audubon Society, received



Dean J. Koopler/The News Tribune

Michelle Marshall, right, of Aberdeen listens as Bill Pickell, manager of the Contra Loggers Association, argues with demonstrators Friday outside Saint Martin's College.

cut she saw while on a family vacation 40 years ago.

"We stopped, we stared and we listened — to nothing," Giddings said. "I felt like we'd come across a terrible accident where everybody was killed."

Peter Lambros, a University of Washington graduate student, said he's no extremist. All he wants is an end to logging, and that means no thinning of trees, no salvaging of downed trees and no more new logging roads.

"The argument that we should cut what's

Eugene Davis, president of a Eugene, Ore. engineering firm that is developing substitutes for wood in plywood manufacturing, was one of the few people who didn't blame the plan.

Davis said change is inevitable and both sides have to compromise. He urged officials to use the president's plan as a starting point.

"Option 9 may not be the perfect answer for either side," Davis said. "But it is t

Danger for 8 species

Helping animals
could cut logging,
the state says

By Ed Penhale
P-I Reporter

The state yesterday designated eight animal species as moving closer to extinction, a move that could lead to tighter logging restrictions on private and state timber land.

The biggest impact would be in the Loomis State Forest in Okanogan County, which accounts for a large part of the remaining habitat in Washington state for the North American lynx, a new addition to the state's threatened list.

A state listing of threatened or endangered has no direct connection to the federal endangered species program, although some animals listed by the state also are on the federal list.

But protection of species on the state list must be considered by the state Forest Practices Board when it considers applications for logging permits and some other activities on state and private forest land regulated by the state Department of Natural Resources.

In addition to the lynx, these species were moved onto the state's threatened list yesterday.

■ The marbled murrelet, a sea bird that nests in old-growth forests as much as 50 miles inland and is listed by the federal government as threatened;

■ Steller's sea lion, which also is federally listed as threatened; and

■ The western gray squirrel in oak and pine forests in

See SPECIES, Page A5



GILBERT W. ARAS/PI photos

Clinton's tree plan brings out debaters

By Rob Taylor
P-I Reporter

LACEY — Hyperbole flew yesterday as environmentalists and loggers waged verbal battles to push the Clinton administration's Northwest forest plan toward their starkly different visions for the future.

Both sides in the timber wars fired their heaviest artillery in the government's only formal hearing on the plan in Washington state.

The debate pitted environmentalist claims that Clinton's plan would "ravage ecosystems" against logger protests

that it amounted to waging "social genocide" against rural America.

Most witnesses voiced disappointment in the Clinton plan. It calls for reducing timber harvests in certain Pacific Northwest federal lands to 1.2 billion board feet per year from the 1980s rate of 4.5 billion board feet per year.

Jim Lyons, assistant secretary of agriculture, pledged to review the comments and try to improve the plan before offering a final draft by Jan. 1.

It would take effect next

See FOREST, Page A5



Karina Clarke, 7, left, relaxes by coloring with her sister Kaisha, 4, as she waits her to to speak at the hearing in Lacey on President Clinton's forest plan. Their father, Greg Clarke of Seattle, says Karina insisted on going to the meeting and speaking against cutting more trees. At left, Shane Henry of Oregon uses a sign on the head to express his sentiments about Northwest forests.

Forest: Strong opinions expressed at Lacey hearing

From Page 1

year if approved by U.S. District Judge William Dwyer, who has halted the harvest of federal old-growth trees in the Northwest until an environmentally acceptable plan is in place.

Tom Tuchman, an aide to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, insisted that the Clinton proposal, called option nine in government documents, is "a good plan, a balanced plan, and a plan that will work."

Dan Snook, a railroad worker from Longbranch, agreed. Thumb-

ing his nose at advocates on both sides of the debate, he said, "If the two sides are opposed to option nine, then maybe option nine is the balance we're looking for."

But almost everyone speaking at the Lacey hearing yesterday came to press their cause.

Outside, loggers posed for television cameras next to a tub of manure and a banner, "President Clinton's Timber Program Stinks."

For the occasion, Bill Pickell, general manager of the Washington Contract Loggers Association, abandoned his usual coat and tie

for jeans and red suspenders emblazoned with the word "loggers."

Advocates of the so-called "wise-use" movement wore T-shirts declaring themselves a "Clinton-free zone." One insisted that the endangered northern spotted owl is flourishing, seen even on logging trucks and high-rise buildings.

They attacked forest protection plans as bad science from politically correct scientists. And they bitterly decried their effect on some forest communities.

Barbara Mossman, a logger

advocate from Forks, criticized Clinton's plan as "a sin against God Almighty," and "social genocide of rural America."

Environmentalists lined the hearing walls with banners of their slogan, "So many trees, So little ancient forest," and "Clinton, Gore, Cut no more."

Continued logging of old forests is a "sadistic ravaging of a vital ecosystem," complained Rob Davis, a ponytailed student at The Evergreen State College.

Eric Antebe compared logging companies to drug pushers. "Automation is why we have no

Species: Belcher seeks more concern

From Page 1

Skamania, Klickitat, Chelan and Pierce counties.

Moved from the threatened list to the more serious category of endangered were:

- The western pond turtle, found mainly in Klickitat County;

- The Oregon silverspot butterfly, which is federally listed as threatened and is found mostly on the Long Beach Peninsula in Pacific County; and

- The pygmy rabbit, which lives in certain sagebrush areas of Eastern Washington and presents a threat to irrigation-farming interests.

The new state listings come amid efforts by state Lands Commissioner Jennifer Belcher to encourage the pro-timber industry Forest Practices Board to avoid legal battles with environmentalists — and resulting delays in

timber sales — by showing more concern for threatened and endangered species.

Belcher both administers the Department of Natural Resources and chairs the board, which sets the agency's forest-regulation policies.

"The more we get species listed as endangered, the more it is a signal to us that we have been doing something wrong," said Belcher.

The listing of lynx "is going to have a big impact on us," Belcher said. "Most of the lynx habitat that is left is on state land."

The Bellingham-based Greater Ecosystem Alliance would like to use the state listing of the lynx to protect the animal's habitat in the Loomis Forest. The organization already is negotiating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to put the lynx on the federal threatened species list and might sue if

it doesn't get its way.

State wildlife officials estimate that just 150 of the animals remain in the state. They roam several hundred thousand acres of high-altitude forests and meadows of north-central Washington.

The new listings, adopted by the state Wildlife Commission yesterday, came a week after state wildlife officials lost a state court battle to force the Forest Practices Board to better protect northern spotted owl habitat in state and private forests.

"They are really an early warning that we are abusing our environment," Wildlife Director Curt Smith said about the listings. "If we don't continue to move toward ecosystem management, we will see a continued listing of species in this state."

■ P-I Reporter Rob Taylor contributed to this report.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Saturday, October 2, 1993 A5

on Clinton's proposal

jobs in our forest communities, and clearcuts is why we have no salmon," said Brad Welman, a self-described avid fisherman.

Seven-year-old Karina Clarke melted the hearing officers with her lace-fringed green dress and her appeal, "I don't want people cutting down trees any more."

The hearing featured reruns of much of the last decade's debate.

Gus Kuebne, president of the Northwest Independent Forest Manufacturers, a group of mills, repeated his plea for opening

more forests to harvest on longer cutting cycles. Charlie Raines, chairman of the Sierra Club's Ancient Forest Campaign, argued against any logging in roadless areas and for acquisition of wildlife habitat. Each got only part of what he wanted in Clinton's plan.

Bob Barnes, manager of the Fort Vancouver Plywood Co. of Vancouver, called for both sides to make the best of the Clinton plan. "We're not any of us going to get everything we want," he said. "Change happens."

"We need to come out with a solution, once and for all."

► **TIMBER**

Group says Forest Service sabotaged timber inquests

■ **Whistleblowers:**
Reports of criminal activity have come from some 50 Forest Service employees, the group's legal director says.

By Carol Bradley
The Olympian

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Forest Service has systematically thwarted investigations of timber theft in national forests: slow-walking probes, destroying evidence and blocking testimony from eyewitnesses, a whistleblowers' group charged.

The Government Accountability Project outlined its accusations just days before a House panel plans to explore the circumstances that permit millions of dollars worth of publicly owned timber to disappear each year.

Evidence of criminal activity has come from some 50 Forest Service whistleblowers from the Pacific Northwest, who have flooded GAP with information during the past year, said Tom Devine, GAP's legal director.

"I think part of it has been an agency reaction to the (1991) court decision restricting timber har-

vest," Devine said. "When the court started cracking down on lawful harvest, the agency appears to have started winking at timber firms actually stealing old-growth trees from the national forest."

Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson has been asked to testify about the matter on Tuesday before the House Post Office and Civil Service subcommittee on civil service chaired by Rep. Frank McCloskey, D-Ind.

Robertson has acknowledged that up to \$100 million worth of timber may be vanishing from national forests each year. But he raised eyebrows when, asked by ABC's "Day One" this summer if he considered stealing timber a crime, Robertson described it instead as a "violation of contract."

In addition to the Forest Service chief, four other witnesses are expected to testify: Mike Nitsch, a special agent at the Gifford Pinchot national forest in Washington state and Forest Service veteran; Dennis Schrader, an agent with the agency's timber theft task force in Eugene, Ore.; Charles Turner, former U.S. attorney in Oregon; and Agriculture Department Inspector General Craig Beauchamp.

The hearing comes one day before a House-Senate appropriations conference committee is scheduled to discuss whether to establish a separate law enforcement agency to investigate timber theft.

And it comes amid reports that the Forest Service and the department it is a part of — Agriculture — reportedly are at odds over the issue of autonomous investigations. Agriculture spokesman Tom Amontree declined to confirm or deny reports that while the Forest Service is fighting attempts to broaden law enforcers' powers, Agriculture officials appointed by President Clinton support such a move.

Among GAP's claims that Robertson will be asked to answer are that Forest Service managers have:

- **Verbally approved** modifications allowing timber companies to cut up to 50 percent more trees than allowed by contract.

- **Barred** law enforcement agents from entering national forests without advance approval, even during sales.

- **Refused** permission to open investigations until weather damage had destroyed the evidence.

- **Destroyed** during the night evidence of timber theft that had been collected during the day

FOCUS: ENDANGERED SPECIES

Wildlife survey stirs debate

■ Would map habitat:
"People are cutting their trees because they are afraid owls will show up," a forestry association official says.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Landowners critical of the government's proposed national biological survey say they'd be better off not knowing what endangered creatures might dwell on their property.

But Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt says what they don't know could end up hurting them in the long run.

Babbitt announced even before he was sworn into office that he wanted to inventory all the plant and animal species in the country.

By listing and mapping the creatures, he argued, the government could do a better job of managing the lands and help head off the kind of emergency response that has forced dramatic logging cut-backs to save the Northwest's northern spotted owl.

Land rights defended

But many landowners and defenders of private property rights fear such a survey will bring only bad news to their farms, forests and swamps.

The discovery of a spotted owl, gnatcatcher, red-cockaded woodpecker or Louisiana black bear on their land could bring significant government restrictions aimed at protecting the species' habitat, they say.

"It may have a cataclysmic effect," said Rep. Jimmy Hayes, D-La., a loud critic of the survey.

In addition to an outright ban on some commercial activities, Hayes said financial institutions are reluctant to loan money to landowners in such cases unless they get some kind of assurance an owl or wood-

State animal list may restrict logging

The Associated Press

Seven animal species have been listed as threatened or endangered by the state, which could lead to tighter logging restrictions on state and private lands.

The list by the state has no direct connection with the federal endangered species program, although some animals listed by the state also are on the federal list.

But the listing of animals on the state list could lead to tighter logging restrictions on state and private lands.

Board of Natural Resources and Conservation for listing animals on the state list.

The board has a list of animals that are threatened or endangered by the state.

The board has a list of animals that are threatened or endangered by the state.

The board has a list of animals that are threatened or endangered by the state.

Western gray squirrel in oak and pine forests in Skamania, Klickitat, Chelan and Pierce counties.

Reclassified from threatened to less serious endangered.

Western pond turtle, found mainly in Klickitat County.

Dragon silverpout butterfly, which is generally listed as endangered and is found mainly in the Yakima River.

Yellow ribbon, found in the Yakima River.

Yellow ribbon, found in the Yakima River.

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Yellow ribbon, found in the Yakima River.

Yellow ribbon, found in the Yakima River.

Yellow ribbon, found in the Yakima River.

25 or 30 years instead of 50 or 60 years when they are supposed to die just fear," he said.

In addition to the threatened owl, the threatened marbled murrelet has wreaked havoc on Northwest loggers, West said. The coastal seabird hunts in the ocean but flies inland to nest in old growth.

"We know so little about the marbled murrelet and yet we are shutting down timber harvesting in a 50-mile swath along the coast," he said.

Panels back surveys

Two House panels — Natural Resources Committee and the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee — have approved legislation calling for the national biological survey.

The committees turned back amendments by Reps. Billy Tauzin, D-La., and Charles Taylor, R-N.C., that would have weakened the bill. But they may resurface if the bill comes to a vote on the House floor.

Kaleen Cottingham, supervisor of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, supports the idea of a national survey.

Since the 1980s, Washington has conducted a similar inventory of rare and threatened plant and animal species under its National Heritage Program.

"People concerned that knowledge is detrimental forget that landownership carries responsibility as well as rights," said Cottingham, who also serves as state forester.

"We would finally have some information rather than jumping in at some point of time in a crisis," she said in a telephone interview from Olympia.

"Had we known more about the owl, we could have changed direction of the ship. We would be in a better mode of managing than having to use the Endangered Species Act as a safety net."

pecker won't show up on the land.

"The value of property cannot go up, but it can go down under this scenario," Hayes said while grilling Babbitt at a recent congressional hearing.

"I disagree," the secretary replied.

"Good data will remove the uncertainty and in most cases values will go up," Babbitt said.

"An isolated discovery has very little impact," Babbitt said.

Not so, says Chris West, vice president of the Northwest Forestry Association in Portland, Ore.

"We in the industry took the tack that we wanted to do surveys so we

would know where the owls are, but as a result, there has been more impact than anyone ever thought," West said.

Owl survey backfired

The theory was that discovery of additional owls would help prove the bird was not quite so threatened and ease the protection standards.

"We thought we'd be blessed if we found owls on our ownership, but in fact it has been our death knell," West said.

"People are cutting their trees because they are afraid owls will show up. They are cutting them at

FUTURE FOREST



ALLEN THOMAS/The Columbian

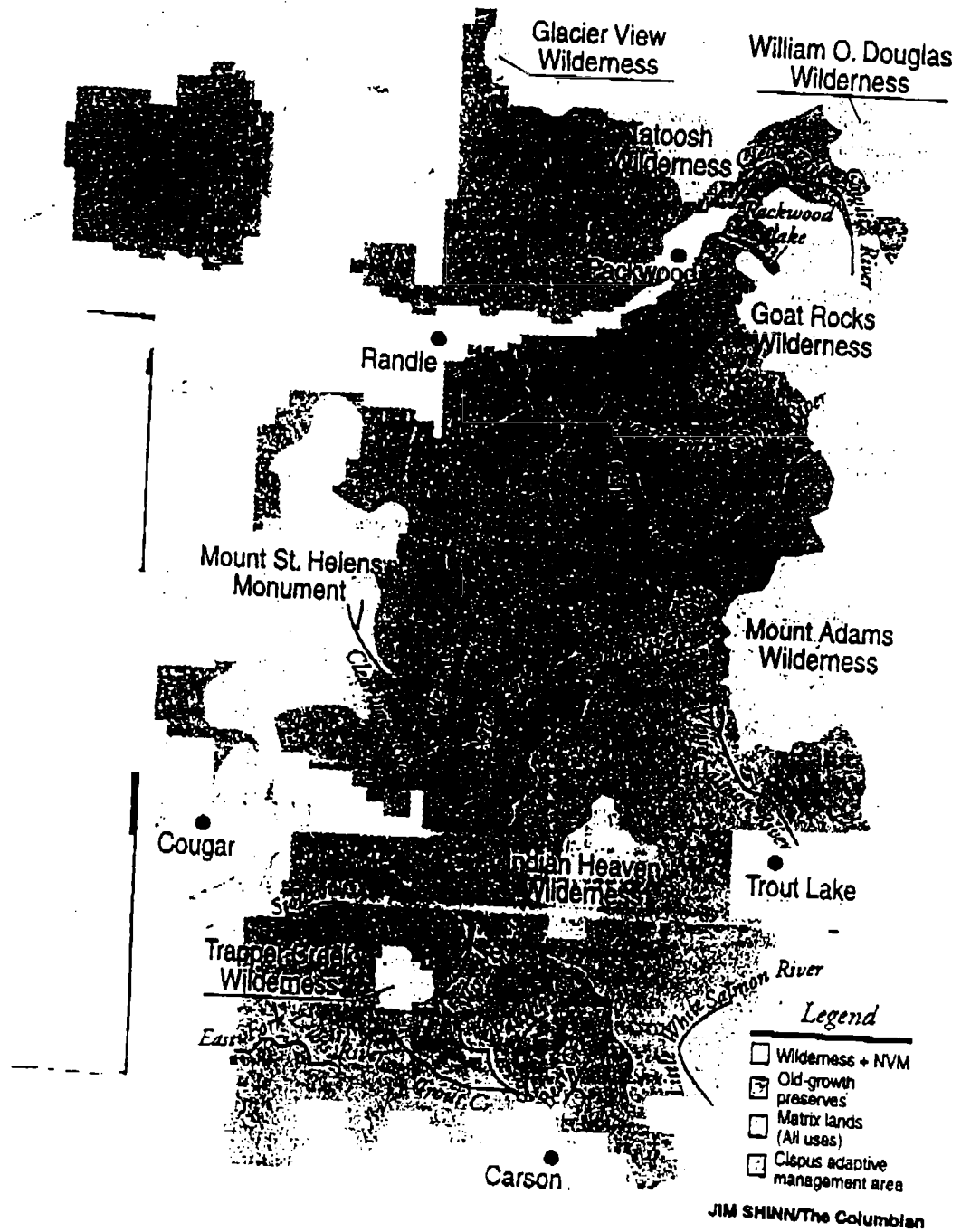
The North Lewis River is a priority stream for special protection.

Clinton proposal means big changes for Gifford Pinchot

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PAGE 1 OF 4

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Key watersheds designated

Clinton's proposal designated 162 "key watersheds" on federal forests in the three states.

"Tier 1" watersheds are important habitat for at-risk salmon, steelhead and bull trout.

"Tier 2" watersheds are important producers of water for other watersheds.

Ten key watersheds are in the Gifford Pinchot.

Tier 1 watersheds include the Wind, East Fork Lewis and North Fork Lewis rivers plus Packwood Lake and its associated streams.

Tier 2 watersheds include Siouxi Creek plus the White Salmon, Little White Salmon, North Fork Cispus, upper Cispus

and Clear Fork Cowlitz rivers.

A special analysis would be required for any significant activity such as logging or road construction in a key watershed. These watersheds will be the first priority in restoration programs.

"There's still a lot evolving on the key watersheds on how the analysis process will work," Dorn said.

Clinton's preferred option also proposes heavy protection for streams, even the plethora of tiny creeks which only flow a portion of the year.

Stubblefield said the no-logging buffers range from approximately 150 to 300 feet wide on each side of the streams.

In many cases, he said, the buffers are wide enough to overlap or leave slivers difficult to manage.

Double-checking under way

Dorn said Gifford Pinchot National Forest officials are reviewing the maps provided by Clinton's team.

Pinchot officials are checking the boundaries between land allocations to see if they are based on logical geographic features, he said.

Also under examination is whether the appropriate Gifford Pinchot watersheds are covered under the key watersheds program.

OLD-GROWTH RESERVES

(415,000 acres)

Seven large old-growth reserves are proposed plus three small reserves.

The southernmost reserve starts at the south Pinchot boundary and runs to the north and west to the Pinchot boundary near Swift Reservoir. This reserve is bounded by the Big Lava Bed on the east and the ridge between Canyon and Siouxi creeks on the west. It includes most - if not all - of the Wind River and Siouxi Creek watersheds.

A second large reserve includes much of the upper North Fork of the Lewis River watershed upstream of Swift Reservoir. It has a meandering boundary running from Pine Creek north to Bear Meadow, then east to Badger Peak, Dark Mountain and Summit Prairie to the Lewis River. It includes the Clear Creek and Quartz Creek watersheds plus a small portion on the south side of the North Fork of the Lewis River.

Other old-growth reserves are centered in the Snipes Mountain-Morrison Creek camp, Burley Mountain-Bluff Mountain, High Rock and Mineral Block area, plus the area between the west side of Goat Rocks Wilderness and Tatooch Wilderness.

Small reserves are proposed in the Peterson Ridge and Quartz Creek (Cispus River drainage) areas, and along the west side of Glacier View wilderness.

MATRIX LANDS (all uses)

(310,000 acres)

Among the large blocks of matrix lands are the southwest corner of the forest from the Siouxi Creek-Canyon Creek ridge south to the Gifford Pinchot boundary, between Indian Heaven and Mount Adams wildernesses north to Baby Shoe Pass, north of the Boundary Trail No. 1 to the Bluff Mountain-Burley Mountain reserve, Dry Creek and an area between U.S. Highway 12 and the High Rock old-growth reserve.

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By ALLEN THOMAS
The Columbian

The U.S. Forest Service toiled for years in the late 1980s to write new land-use plans for the Gifford Pinchot and other Northwest national forests.

Three months ago, President Clinton made much of that work moot when he unveiled his administration's proposal for resolving the Northwest old-growth forest dispute.

In late July, Clinton's Forest Ecosystem Management Assistance Team released documents totaling more than 1,000 pages, but almost no detail on the impact on individual forests.

Gradually, Gifford Pinchot officials are getting more and more information about how Clinton's preferred option applies to the 1.3-million acres straddling the Cascades between the Columbia River and Mount Rainier National Park.

Ted Stubblefield, Gifford Pinchot supervisor, said the Clinton plan retains parts of the 1990 plan, but also proposes large-scale land-allocation changes and greatly increases the buffers along streams.

If unchanged, Clinton's preferred option would reduce annual timber harvests from the 1990 plan level of 340 million board feet to between 80 million and 100 million board feet.

There are between 5,000 and 8,000 board feet on a typical logging truck load.

The 35 to 40 active purchasers of Pinchot timber from the 1980s already have dwindled to fewer than 20.

With reduced logging, the Pinchot's shift toward more emphasis on recreation, fish and wildlife is expected to accelerate.

Clinton's preferred option for the Northwest forests is by no means a done deal, said Fred Dorn, Gifford Pinchot contracting officer.

Comments on the option are being accepted until Oct. 28. Timber industry leaders already have filed several lawsuits against it, claiming among other things that Clinton's scientific team acted illegally by not creating the new forest policy in public sessions.

"It's a preferred alternative," Dorn said. "A huge amount of comment is expected. It will be a major task just to go through all the comments. The final proposal may be a blend of alternatives."

It likely will be 1994 before the admin-

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA

(142,900 acres)

In the upper Cispus River watershed south of Randle, the Cispus Adaptive Management area includes the east side of Juniper Ridge plus the Blue Lake Ridge, Hamilton Buttes, Wobby Lake and Smith Creek areas.

WILDERNESS/MT. ST. HELENS

(203,000 acres)

No changes in the boundaries of the Trapper Creek, Indian Heaven, Mount Adams, Goat Rocks, Tatoosh, Glacier View and William O. Douglas wilderness areas are proposed.

There also would be no change to the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

istration announces its final decision, and even that has to wind through a maze of judicial, and possibly legislative, hurdles.

For the Gifford Pinchot, the administration's preferred option establishes four basic land allocations.

They are:

OLD-GROWTH RESERVES: Technically called "late-successional reserves," this land category would encompass about 415,000 acres in the Pinchot.

There would be no scheduled logging, although salvage harvest plus thinning of

timber stands younger than 80 years old could occur.

Environmentalists have voiced opposition to the thinning and salvage provisions.

Stubblefield said the thinning is only to enhance old-growth characteristics, and not a loophole to allow logging.

MATRIX LANDS: A variety of uses would be possible on the 310,000 acres with this allocation.

Logging would occur in the matrix lands at varying levels. Areas designated primarily for timber harvest might have intensive harvest, while land designated for deer and elk winter range would have less.

Regularly scheduled timber sales would occur only in matrix areas.

CISPUS ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA: A 142,900-acre experimental area is proposed in the upper Cispus River watershed south of Randle.

Clinton's plan for Washington, Oregon and northern California has 10 adaptive management areas.

Located near towns most affected by reduced logging, the adaptive management areas are intended to bring together the community, Forest Service and timber industry, giving all a role in managing the ecosystem.

As new information becomes available,

the adaptive management areas would provide a place to implement that knowledge quickly.

WILDERNESS: Trapper Creek, Indian Heaven, Mount Adams, Goat Rocks, Tatoosh, Glacier View and William O. Douglas wilderness areas, plus the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, are unchanged.

WITHDRAWN AREAS: Areas removed from logging in the 1990 Gifford Pinchot plan remain off-limits. Among them are Big Lava Bed near Willard and Silver Star Mountain.

Medford, OR
(Jackson Co.)
Mail Tribune
(Cir. D. 29,310)
(Cir. S. 33,500)

JUL 5 1994

Editorials

Partners part

Applegate experiment fizzles

The Applegate Partnership, held up as a model of cooperation amid the battles over the nation's forest management policies, has instead become another victim of the fighting.

The partnership, created in 1992, brought together the factions in the timber wars — industry, environmentalists, federal agencies and neighbors — in an effort to develop a forest management plan for the 500,000-acre watershed of the Applegate River.

The goal was to create a plan that would both protect the forest and allow some timber cutting. It was held up by the Clinton administration as a model of cooperation between federal agencies and private parties.

But the model has come unglued. In June, the administration ordered its forest agencies to drop out of all public-private partnership meetings, citing concerns that the involvement might conflict with open-meetings requirements.

That concern came out of a lawsuit filed against the feds by the timber industry. The suit seeks to invalidate the Clinton forest plan because it was drawn up in private meetings involving some members of the public.

The Applegate Partnership suffered another blow earlier this year, when the Headwaters environmental group pulled out, citing a need "to have more flexibility." Seems the idea of compromise was just too confining for the group's tastes.

Now, with the loss of the federal agencies, the partnership is rendered impotent. The promise of cooperation rings hollow as the combatants dig in again. We have come a long way in this dispute, only to find ourselves back where we started.

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file w/ Forest
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Medford, OR
(Jackson Co.)
Mail Tribune
(Cir. D. 29,310)
(Cir. S. 33,500)

JUL 5 1994

Officials present regional relief

\$365,000 grant will help convert former timber mills to other uses

By **PETER WONG**
of the Mail Tribune

MERLIN — Officials took the first step today to prepare a former Miller Redwood Co. mill, and six former timber mills elsewhere, for other industrial uses that will create jobs.

U.S. Sen. **Mark Hatfield**, R-Ore., presented \$365,000 to Oregon Rural Development Initiatives Inc., which in partnership with private business will spend the federal grant on site assessments and preparations.

The money comes from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and is part of President Clinton's plan to ease the effect on the Northwest's economy of declining timber production from federal forests.

Five of the seven mill sites are in south-

western Oregon, which has been hit hard by mill closures. Two are in Josephine County.

The Miller mill is on 160 acres, less than a mile from the North Valley Industrial Park. Four-Ply Lumber Co. is on 20.3 acres in Grants Pass, next to a 32-acre industrial park.

"The loss of timber industry jobs has been a shock to the hard-working people in the Grants Pass area and to the Oregon economy," Hatfield said in remarks prepared for the ceremony this afternoon in Merlin.

"It is through private and public partnerships, like this mill site conversion project, that Oregon's timber-producing counties will come back."

The other sites are in Coquille, Drain, Myrtle Creek, Philomath and Sweet Home. An eighth site will be determined soon.

"While we cannot reasonably expect a rebound in the number of forest products jobs, this project prepares the way for other diversified industrial-wage jobs," said Gov. **Barbara Roberts**, who also took part in the ceremony.

Partners in the conversion project are Rural Development Initiatives, a nonprofit organization; PacifiCorp, the parent company of Pacific Power; **US Bancorp**; Oregon Department of Economic Development, and the Portland law firm of **Stoel, Rives, Boley, Jones and Grey**.

"We believe this project lays a very strong economic foundation for the future," **Diana Snowden**, senior vice president for Pacific Power, said in remarks for the ceremony. "But the real bottom line will be measured by the number of jobs reclaimed for these communities."

On⁷ national holiday, U.S. 812 salutes health of symbol

Salem, OR
(Marion Co.)
Statesman-Journal
(Cir. D. 56,215)
(Cir. S. 64,276)

JUL 4 1994

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 188

■ Saving the bald eagle offers clues on saving other species.

as we celebrate our nation's birthday.

Both occasions are something to celebrate. The Fourth of July is important for its historical significance and as a reminder of what this country stands for.

The eagle's comeback is significant for the story it tells about this nation's concern for the health of the environment.

Twenty-seven years ago the eagle was on the brink of extinction, with about 40 nesting pairs left. Saving our national symbol became a national crusade, six years before we had an Endangered Species Act.

We banned the pesticide DDT and lead shot. We forced changes in road building and other actions that could disturb the environment and the bird's habitat. We transplanted eagles from Alaska and hand-raised some of the young. We got tough on eagle-hunters.

Equally important, we got ordinary citizens drawn into the environmental movement.

By 1992, a census turned up nearly 3,750 pairs in the lower 48 states. Alaska has more than all other states combined.

The threat was past, but not the enthusiasm. Even today, bulletin boards at many churches, schools and offices announce the monthly or annual eagle habitat cleanup project.

Meanwhile, the zeal that got individuals and groups busy saving the eagle expanded to other creatures, and now the bulletin boards seek volunteers for a dozen other environmental protection efforts. Some critics of the Endangered Species Act and the bald eagle recovery plan doubt the effectiveness of the citizen effort and the benefit of the disruption that was inflicted on road building and other activities. They give the ban on DDT most of the credit for saving the eagle.

The criticism is partly right. DDT was a critical problem, but not the only one. The lesson of the eagle is not that a forest clear-cut, or a road, a dam, a golf course or a

The timing was perfect — and set up for maximum attention: The American bald eagle, our national symbol, is taken off the list of endangered species

pesticide is the cause of the destruction of species but that the threat to a species comes from a dozen sources of varying importance.

And the solution must involve a dozen different approaches.

What we also learned is that saving species one by one wastes time, money and energy and dilutes public resolve. The secret is to protect the environment that supports all of them.

Sen. Mark Hatfield wants Congress to consider nationwide coordination of species protection plans that are based on entire ecosystems. He wants the ecosystem effort to provide balance for human needs.

It's a commendable idea because it will show the importance of considering everything as part of the same web of nature and help us recognize the many different threats to this web.

Hatfield's concern for balancing human needs — a red-flag slogan to many environmentalists — is not an excuse to put jobs before species.

Society cannot tolerate short-term economic profit if the profit comes at the expense of a strand of the web, because humans rely on that web as much as the spotted owl, eagle or salmon.

Hatfield's approach must mean that we look for problems before they become problems. We wouldn't have idled fishing boats and rising power costs today if, a generation ago, we had built more and better fish ladders, known how to protect stream habitats and set responsible harvest quotas.

Lack of intelligent foresight has hurt humans and the environment elsewhere as well. We must be careful not to make the same mistakes today.

The answer is not to lock up our forests, rivers and rangelands to protect them but to learn how we can use them without killing them.

This can be done, and the Endangered Species Act — under attack by many in Congress — is still the key. The American bald eagle's success story can provide lessons for improving and shoring up support for the act.

The act must be upheld, but it can be made to work without the extremes and without the piecemeal efforts that have marked its history so far.

Seattle, WA
(King Co.)
Daily Journal of
Commerce
(Cir. D. 6,546)

JUL - 4 1994

⁸¹² Judge transfers timber plan

SEATTLE (AP) — A federal judge in Washington, D.C., has transferred a timber-industry lawsuit challenging the Clinton administration's Northwest forest plan to the Seattle court where environmentalists forced the government to develop the program.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson signed an order Thursday transferring the lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service to the court of U.S. District Judge William Dwyer in Seattle.

The procedural move was expected as a way to combine challenges to the forest-management plan from both the industry and environmentalists before a single judge.

Jackson refused to transfer two similar suits against the plan, saying Dwyer's court did not have jurisdiction, but did order them put on hold until the issues are settled in Seattle.

The Clinton forest plan was submitted to Dwyer in April, three years after Dwyer ruled the Forest Service had broken environmental and wildlife-protection laws by failing to adequately protect habitat of the northern spotted owl in national forests in Washington, Oregon and northern California. The owl is listed as a threatened species.

He issued an injunction effectively halting logging on millions of acres of federal forest until the plan was prepared. As it stands, the plan, known as "Option 9," would reduce logging to about one-fourth the peak levels of the 1980s.

Dwyer lifted the injunction last month, but not before environmentalists filed challenges against the new plan, contending it also fails to adequately protect the region's forest ecosystems.

The industry lawsuits before Jackson, meanwhile, challenged the plan on grounds that the administration broke federal open-meeting laws in preparing it.

Jackson ruled in March that the government had broken the open-meeting laws, but refused to issue an injunction to stop the government from proceeding with its plan.

Now, both the industry and environmentalist arguments will be before Dwyer.

He has scheduled oral arguments for Sept. 12. Parties to the lawsuit have agreed Dwyer can rule on the issues by summary judgment, rather than hold a full-blown trial.

THE Applegate PARTNERSHIP

Portland, OR
(Multnomah Co.)
Sunday Oregonian
(Cir. S. 408,126)

JUL 3 1994

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

alliance of loggers and tree huggers in Southern Oregon trying to solve their own timber problems find fragile compromises and difficult barriers

By KATHIE DURBIN

Eighteen months ago, some folks with a history of mutual suspicion met on Jack Shipley's deck high above the Applegate River.

It was time to talk about what they shared: a fierce love for their Southern Oregon valley.

Dwain Cross, owner of a logging company in Ashland, fretted about federal logging restrictions.

Chris Bratt, a member of Headwaters, an environmental group, wanted to protect the old-growth forests and roadless areas in the Applegate watershed.

Brett KenCairn, a community organizer, suggested a model for sustainable forestry — one respectful of the forests and the family-wage jobs dependent on timber.

Their host was Shipley, an independent oil and gas producer and humanitarian who zips around the West in his Cessna. He wanted to talk about fire. Forest fires had raged through the rugged mountains rimming the watershed repeatedly since 1987, and conditions appeared ripe for more.

After a tentative start, the group met weekly. It called itself the Applegate Partnership and eventually invited officials from the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to sit in. It even had a button designed with the group's logo: The word THEM — with a slash through it.

The unlikely alliance kept its fragile experiment in consensus-building private at first. Then in early 1993, President Clinton discovered it.

It was soon being touted as a model for resolving natural-resource conflicts throughout the West: taxpayers, industrialists and government officials working toward mutual goals. Applegaters were besieged with requests to speak, give tours and grant interviews.

But 10 days ago, the federal government suddenly pulled out of the Applegate Partnership, an action that may threaten the experiment in grass-roots democracy.

On June 24, a delegation of government attorneys and Forest Service officials visited Southern Oregon and told Applegate lead-

ers that federal employees would no longer be members of the partnership.

The government is wary of violating the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which requires any officially sanctioned group that includes federal employees to act like the government, for example by holding open meetings and following formal rules governing membership and record-keeping.

The federal government is skittish after losing a lawsuit brought by the timber industry, which argued that the Clinton forest plan was developed behind closed doors. The Interior and Agriculture departments fear that further violations of the act could imperil the entire Clinton forest plan.

The decision confused and frustrated members of the partnership. The Applegate Partnership, which has always held open meetings, is "in the intensive care unit," said Sharla Moffett of the Southern Oregon Timber Industry Association. The partnership

Kathie Durbin writes on the environment for The Oregonian.



BOB ELLIS/The Oregonian
Idyllic setting in Applegate suits the quiet effort to find solutions to the natural resource management.

■ **CALIFORNIA:** The Quincy Library Club in the Northern Sierras is another regional alliance trying to develop its own solutions to resource management issues, but with a twist: It excludes federal agencies from the table/ E4

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had worked closely with the Forest Service and the BLM in designing a model timber sale and planning watershed restoration projects.

"The federal government manages 70 percent of the land," Moffett said. "They have the money, they have the land. How do we fit into that?"

The government's withdrawal from the Applegate Partnership underscores a harsh reality for the consensus group process: Finding common ground among warring camps in the rural Northwest is a perilous task. Suspicion is ingrained. Legal and political barriers to progress are formidable. Producing tangible results can take years.

Headwaters withdrew from the partnership earlier this year because of conflicts over forest reform, but it still supports the consensus group process.

The Oregon Natural Resources Council plans to challenge a partnership project designed to restore the health of frayed forests and protect old-growth hardwoods while producing some timber for area mills.

And timber-industry officials are realizing that the partnership offers no quick fix to their economic woes. Under Clinton's Northwest forest plan, it will be years before much timber is sold in the Applegate River area, no matter what the partnership does.

Those discouragements aside, people are still talking. Connie Young, a third-generation farmer with a deep distrust of environmentalists, first attended the Applegate meetings to keep an eye on them. She soon became a believer.

The group's tangible achievements are almost secondary, says Young. She remembers the long

years when the timber wars festered across the valley and log-truck drivers packed guns.

Now, she says, there is peace — and a growing trust.

"I was very suspicious," she recalled. "I said, 'They're probably going to take over our property and water rights.' ... They have

changed my mind on a few things, like conserving water and being more frugal.

"But the biggest accomplishment is seeing these people sitting down and listening to each other."

The shaky fate of the Applegate Partnership casts doubt on whether the White House can implement a key but vaguely defined part of its Northwest forest plan. Under the plan, consensus-building groups modeled on the Applegate Partnership were to help guide management of 1.5 million acres of federal land in 10 areas, including the Applegate Valley.

Applegate still offers lessons for those struggling to bridge the natural-resources gulf that has divided much of the West.

For embattled federal natural-resource agencies, the idea of bringing adversaries together to find solutions is seductive. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has pinned much of his hope for Western grazing reforms on consensus groups.

But in the past year, both the promises and the pitfalls of the process have become more apparent.

On the positive side, these exercises in geographic democracy force adversaries to face each other — not as abstract foes but as people who share concerns about the piece of land they call home.

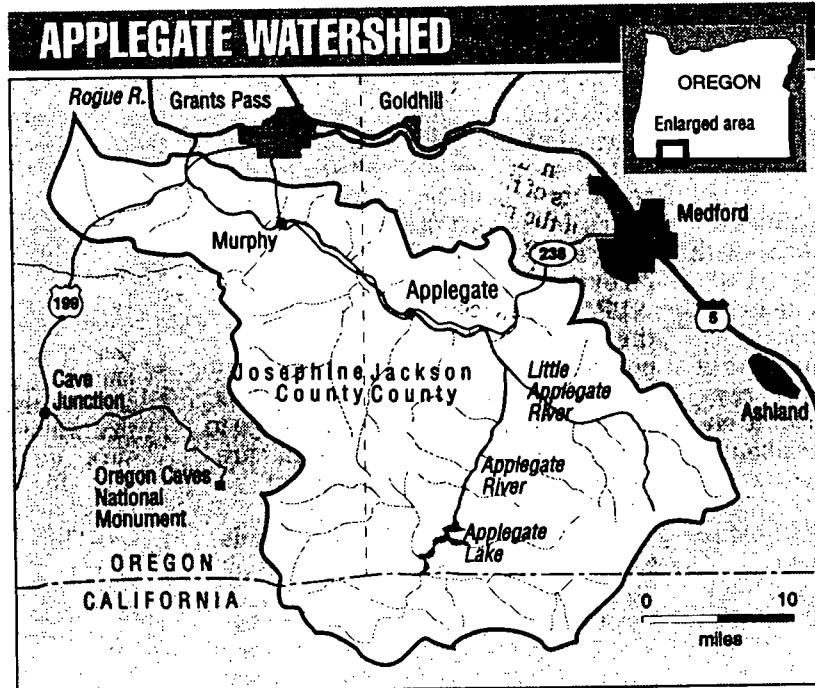
"If you lock the door and keep the local people inside long enough, they will come out with an answer," says Bill Coates, a Plumas County, Calif., supervisor who helped start a successful alliance in the Northern Sierras called the Quincy Library Group.

The groups have an easier time when everyone

Please turn to
APPLEGATE, Page E4



BOB ELLIS/The Oregonian



Applegate partners (from left) Chris Bratt, Jack Shipley, Sharla Moffett, J.D. Rogers and Thomas Lavagnino at the Applegate River. The consensus group has had its ups and downs, but members say the bonds they've formed have kept them talking.

The Oregonian

Applegate: Major environmental groups keep distance

■ Continued from Page E1

agrees on a common public goal, like developing a new trail, restoring a stream or reducing the risk of catastrophic forest fires.

But when financial interests are at stake, things get more complicated.

Environmentalists say timber and ranching groups will rush to the table to protect profits and economic viability. Citizen activists, on the other hand, may not be able to make the same time commitment.

"The environmental law requires public involvement," said Andy Kerr, executive director of the Oregon Natural Resources Council. "The question is, do you empower a group with a direct financial stake to make decisions?"

As a matter of principle, the council does not participate in such efforts. Kerr believes that government-sanctioned consensus groups are, by definition, designed to co-opt environmentalists. In most cases, he argues, it is the success of environmentalists that forced the other side to the table in the first place.

Government agencies also are forced into a new role by relinquishing some control when citizens take a personal interest in public lands.

Forest ranger Su Rolle says she made the transition because she believed in the Applegate process. "I can't go back to thinking that because I'm the ranger, I'm in charge," she said.

"I did everything my president asked of me. I sat down with my local environmental community. We spent two months hammering each other."

Nadine Bailey

But Nadine Bailey, a logger's wife from Hayfork, Calif., wonders if the government is truly prepared to share power.

Bailey, president of California Women in Timber, started a consensus group soon after Clinton's Northwest Forest conference last year. The alliance proposed a five-year project that would put jobless loggers back to work in the woods restoring streams and cutting fire-

breaks on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Bailey invested a lot of political capital persuading skeptical loggers and millworkers to get involved. Now she feels disappointed by the administration's slow response.

"I did everything my president asked of me," she said. "I sat down with my local environmental community. We spent two months hammering each other."

Tom Tuchmann, who heads Clinton's Office of Forestry and Economic Development, said the Hayfork group just got ahead of the funding curve. He helped find \$100,000 to launch the Shasta-Trinity forest plan.

But Bailey says the help will come too late to put much money in loggers' pockets this year because most of the work must be done before the fall rains.

Coalitions are fragile, she says. "You can keep them together only so long. When the criticism comes that you haven't produced anything, instead of saying the government screwed up, the coalitions fall apart and then you fall back into old patterns of blame."

The Applegate watershed, a 30-mile-long valley of green meadows, fire-scarred forested slopes and snow-capped peaks, covers 496,500 acres, extending from near Jacksonville into Northern California.

It is home to about 12,000 people — an eclectic mix of wealthy movie stars, back-to-the-landers, farmers and loggers, survival-

Forest. It involves obliterating roads and setting controlled fires in areas with a lot of dead wood.

The bulk of logging will target younger trees, damaged trees and large dead snags. Most timber will be removed by helicopter, and most of the commercially valuable old ponderosa pines will be left standing, while old-growth madrone — a hardwood tree once regarded as an expendable trash tree — will be retained to promote biological diversity.

The partnership has endorsed a proposal to set aside part of the Rogue River National Forest for traditional American Indian forest practices.

And it helped valley farmers secure a grant to build a new headgate for an irriga-

ists and small-business owners.

Federal land within the watershed has been heavily logged. Fire suppression has altered the mix of conifer species in the forest leaving it more vulnerable to fire and insects.

Environmentalist Chris Bratt calls the Applegate the neglected and overcut "hole in the doughnut" surrounded by the Kalmiopsis and Wild Rogue wilderness areas.

In March 1993, just before the Northwest Forest Conference, Babbitt visited the lovely green valley for a presentation on the group's philosophy. Afterward, he proclaimed it the wave of the future.

"I may be witness today to a very important beginning," he said at an impromptu news conference near the bank of the Applegate River. "It's important to know there are a few places on this battlefield where people have put down their weapons and started talking to each other."

When the Clinton forest plan was unveiled a few months later, it called for "Applegate Partnerships" across the Northwest.

Now that plan is in limbo. And so is the future of similar consensus groups.

"It's an idea that was spread around the map without too much thought," said Richard Hart of Headwaters. "The partnership has a personality that comes from its members. Everyone has an agenda, but partnerships have to have an identity where those agendas can meld."

The Applegate Partnership has endorsed its first project on the Rogue River National

tation ditch. The old one was killing fish, but farmers couldn't afford to replace it.

Connie Young said other farmers warned her, "You're just getting into a group you won't be able to handle. They just want information from you."

Now, she says, they tell her, "We're sure glad you're representing us."

"When things get too nitty-gritty, people all back up a little," Bratt said. "We stay away from issues like putting roads in roadless areas. We're here to talk about a future condition of the forest that is ecologically sound. Hopefully the streams will come back for the fish, and hopefully we'll still have one of the most beautiful forests in the world."

California's timber industry shares a common

Industry, ecologists aim for local solutions to allocating resources

By KATHIE DURBIN

QUINCY, Calif. — Like its counterpart, the Applegate Partnership just north of the California border, the Quincy Library Group is trying to bring harmony in its own back yard in the Northern Sierras.

Eighteen months ago, Bill Coates, Plumas County supervisor, and Tom Nelson, forester for Sierra Pacific Industries, walked up Main Street and broke bread with attorney Michael Jackson, Quincy's bearded, self-described "environmental terrorist."

What flowed out of that get-together may hold the answer to the fate of Western forests. But unlike the Applegate Partnership, the Quincy group did not invite federal forestry officials to sit as equals at their experimental bargaining table. Indeed, what brought timber owners and environmentalists together was their mutual frustration with the U.S. Forest Service. They felt they had no say in their own future.

The people of timber-dependent Quincy are supporting a forest recovery plan developed, remarkably, by an environmental group, Friends of the Plumas Wilderness.

The plan, which covers a vast area of the Northern Sierras, calls for a five-year moratorium on logging of old-growth and roadless areas and extensive salvage logging to reduce the fire risk. It also calls for setting aside a wide buffer along the Feather River, a tributary of the Sacramento and home to a spring chinook salmon run.

The Clinton administration touts the Quincy plan as a model of what consensus groups can do but has stopped short of funding it. The forest plan will cost at least \$16 million annually for five years.

Local Forest Service officials are less enthusiastic about the group, seeing it as citizen involvement run amok.

"We have been involved with the Quincy Library Group for almost one year," Leonard Atencio, supervisor of the Lassen National Forest, wrote in an agency memo circulated last January. "This group is not going to be easy to work with."

The Quincy folks aren't daunted by the criticism. With \$55,000 raised from the communities in the Northern Sierras, 40 of them stormed Washington in February, lobbying lawmakers and buttonholing Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas. Jackson even pitched the proposal directly to President Clinton when he visited Sacramento. The blitz and politicking paid dividends. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Rep. Wally Herger, R-Calif., endorsed the group's plan.

Earlier this month, the House Appropriations Committee adopted a budget note directing the Forest Service to work with the Quincy group to implement the plan with-



CAROLYN COLE/Sacramento Bee

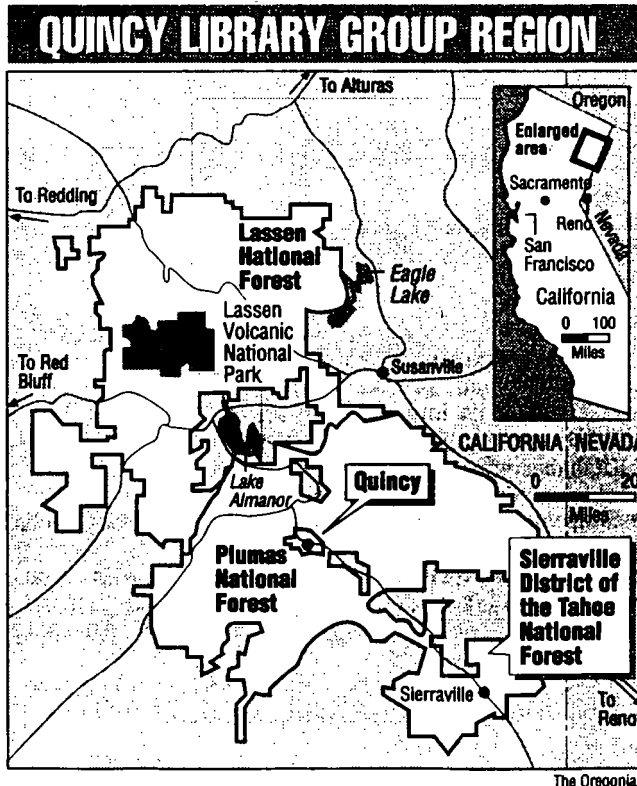
Michael Jackson and Carolyn Blum of the Quincy Library Group chat with friends. The Quincy alliance is developing a forest plan for the Northern Sierras independently of the U.S. Forest Service.

in the existing budget.

Rose Comstock, who joined the group to represent the logging interests, said, "I've told the (Plumas National Forest) supervisor, 'You work for me, you are letting my lands fall apart, you are destroying a piece of my future generation's livelihood.'"

Tom Nelson of Sierra Pacific Industries says his company's stake in the Quincy forest plan is obvious: It operates three sawmills in the Northern Sierras, providing 800 jobs.

Nelson also serves on the California Board of Forestry. He knew by last year that change was inevitable in the Northern Sierras. In January 1993, the Forest Service said it would stop the clear-cutting and protect the remaining large trees on all na-



The Oregonian

tional forests in the Sierras for the next two years to avert a lawsuit by the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"The overriding objective is to have some certainty," he said. "You don't have to know a lot about our business to understand that we make boards out of logs."

Jackson is the Quincy Library Group's impresario, chief lobbyist and most tireless

opponent

■ ■

The overriding objective is to have some certainty. You don't have to know a lot about our business to understand that we make boards out of logs.

Tom Nelson,
Sierra Pacific Industries

”

promoter. The bullet holes in his office window bear witness to the heat he has taken in his years as an environmental warrior challenging the timber industry and the dam-building utilities.

Yet some fellow environmentalists are suspicious of Jackson's efforts to broker a deal with Sierra Pacific and the Forest Service. "The environmental movement is so young it underestimates its own influence," he said. "They're afraid they'll be overwhelmed by the superior money and influence of the extractive industries."

At a forest activists' conference in Ashland in February, consensus groups were hotly debated. Jackson sounded combative: "My card as an environmental terrorist is about to be revoked. The loggers in my community want me to tell you the following things: 'Clear-cutting was wrong. Thank you for your help. It's gone now, and we're glad.' The loggers in my community want to tell you that the streams were silting. They knew they were silting because they fished there. They didn't design those sales."

Jackson believes the Quincy plan may keep 400,000 acres of the national forests roadless forever. He counts that as a win.

County Supervisor Coates believes that rural communities are the experts when it comes to solving their natural-resource conflicts.

Like other timber-town officials, Coates once pushed the Forest Service to sell as much timber as possible. But after the California spotted-owl guidelines were announced, he began to see the environmentalists' plan in a new light.

"Rural areas were getting beaten up badly in the national arena," Coates said. "The national leadership of the timber industry has not been particularly perceptive and farsighted, so rural communities needed their own strategy."

His is to prevent the exodus of middle-class jobs and families, and he believes a profound shift from federal decision-making toward local control is happening throughout the West.

"You have to have someone who understands a snow plow and a school, a hospital and the wildlife, and the connections between them," he said. "That can only be done by the local people involved."

Timber policy hurting schools

The Northwest Forestry Association has resorted to a hypocritical ploy in pitting the northern spotted owl against the state's schoolchildren.

The timber industry has embarked on a disingenuous public relations campaign to use the depleted state school construction fund, generated by sales of state-owned timber, as an excuse to sink their saws into more of the taxpayers' trees.

On Thursday, State Lands Commissioner Jennifer Belcher announced a 60 percent increase in the amount of timber the state will sell next year, ending — for the moment — three years of steeply declining sales. But the state is not out of the woods yet on timber sales versus school construction.

The association's ill-chosen message is that by shrinking the allowable timber cut to protect wildlife such as the owl, the state Department of Natural Resources is denying new classrooms to schoolchildren.

In fact, timber companies themselves are contributing to the lack of money for new schools. They are holding hostage \$400 million worth of trees they've already bought from the state — at 10 percent down — but have chosen not to cut. Instead, they are speculating with the public's timber, awaiting higher lumber prices. They, unfortunately, are allowed 27 months from time of purchase until they must harvest and fully pay for the trees. Meanwhile, new classrooms wait.

Nevertheless, some educators, among them the Washington State School Directors' Association, seem to be falling for the industry line. The school directors would do better to focus their energies on building public support for creating new sources of revenue for school construction rather than demanding studies be done of the economic effects of DNR's wildlife protection plans. Those plans are here to stay.

it's been 30 years since the industry has cut so few of the trees it already owns. So it's just not the industry's inability to buy more trees that is causing kids to go without classrooms; it's also the industry's unwillingness to cut the trees it already has at its disposal.

The unexpected stockpiling of state trees by the industry (which is cutting trees on small, private plots instead) has cost the school construction fund \$42 million this year.

But even if the industry cut all of the state trees it has purchased, there are not enough trees in the state's woods to pay all the school construction bills over the long haul. Because of the unhappy convergence of an explosion in school-age population and aging buildings, the construction fund is expected to have a \$278 million shortfall over the next two years.

Furthermore, the madcap mowing of state forests in the high-rolling 1980s depleted a large amount of the age class of trees the DNR raises for schools. As a result, it will be 20 to 30 years before significant amounts of trees will be available to pay for school construction.

With this slump now on the doorstep, Belcher is right in urging the state to find another permanent supplemental source of funds to pay for classrooms.

Yet both the Legislature and the timber industry are trying to force the DNR to continue to cut at the high rate they became accustomed to in the 1980s, even though wildlife protection requirements make it clear that this level of harvest is not sustainable.

If the timber industry is sincerely worried about the lack of classrooms for the state's children, it can put its money where its mouth is: Cut the trees it already owns so the state can get its cash, and support a rule change to require timber companies to pay the state the full amount they owe the moment they buy the trees.

The state may get a little less money that way, but it would be worth it to regain control over its cash flow and bring some stability to the construction program.

Seattle, WA
(King Co.)
Seattle Times/
Post-Intelligencer
(Cir. S. 510,290)

JUL - 3 1994

Allen's - P. C. B Est. 1888

Even though the industry this year will cut only 320 million board feet of the 800 million board feet of state timber it now holds, it claims a tree shortage exists in the mills. If so, it's partly one of the industry's own making. The fact is that



Dan Newton, a Sun Studs forester, is proud of the work done on company lands that were ravaged by wild fires near the east fork of Frozen Creek in 1987.

A VOICE IN THE FOREST

Forester Dan Newton lends reason to an emotionally heated debate

Story by **JEFF MIZE**
Photos by **CHRISTIAN MURDOCK**

North Umpqua District Ranger Ned Davis sat uneasily in the right front corner of the room, looking more concerned as each minute passed.

The first public meeting for the Little River Adaptive Management Area was not going well. Officials from the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management were trying to build cooperation among the timber industry, environmentalists and area residents.

Some audience members were less than receptive. They denounced the effort as the touchy-feely portion of Option 9, the Clinton administration's forest plan. A few stormed out the door. The meeting, intended to break down barriers, seemed to be having the opposite effect.

Suddenly, a look of relief swept across Davis' face as Dan Newton's 6-foot, 6-inch frame rose. Davis didn't say much, but his body language whispered an inaudible "thank you" at the sight of someone who could bring cool reason to what was becoming a hotly emotional evening.

Newton, a Sun Studs forester and small-woodlands owner, quietly reminded the audience the federal officials in the room didn't write Option 9. Collaborative processes can work, he said, but it takes time before people can move past their suspicions and doubts.

He went on to make a basic yet important point: Given the complexity of different environmental laws, is it really possible to fully comply with the law?

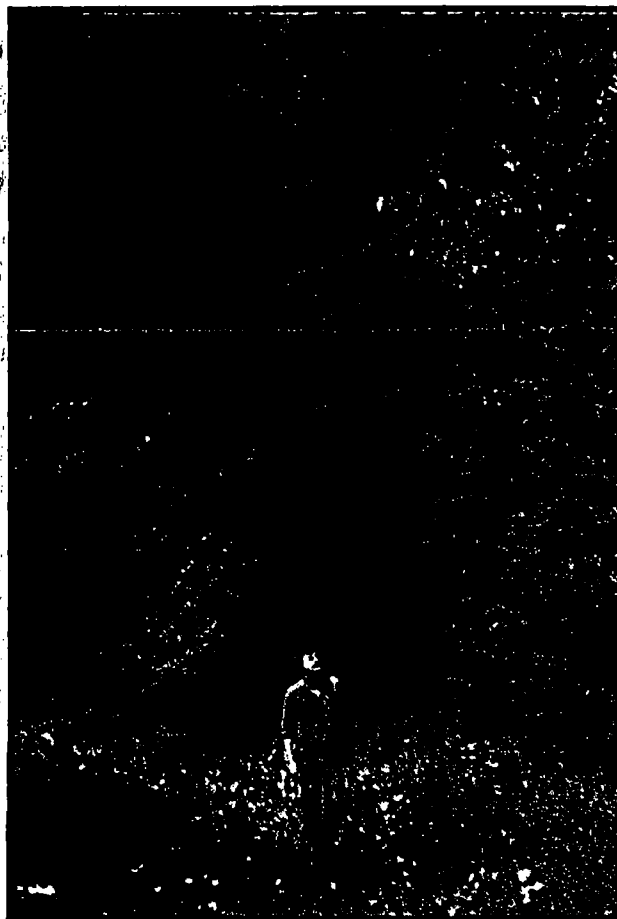
Those brief comments made at an April meeting near Glide accurately reflect Newton himself. Informed and articulate. Focused and concise. Diplomatic and nonconfrontational.

Mike Cloughesy, forestry extension agent for Douglas County since 1987, said people expect Newton to be extremely vocal because of his height, but appearances can be misleading.

"He listens a lot more than he speaks, and I've never seen him lose his temper," he said. "He's a very logical person and has a tremendous grasp of science."

Newton, 39, was trained as a forester at Oregon State University, but his duties have gradually shifted toward the political arena.

"A lot of it stems from just a very strong belief that forestry is good for society and that it's just very impor-



Newton walks through some more mature forests on Sun Studs land.

"That's what we call ourselves when we get our feet dirty."

Cloughesy said Newton always has been willing to give his time to educate people on forestry issues.

"Whenever we needed somebody to help on a project, we would call Dan," he said. "And if he couldn't do it, he would find someone who could."

If it has to do with forests in Douglas County, Newton seems to be involved, whether it be the Douglas Project, the Clinton's administration's now abandoned 4(d) proposal or new stream-protection rules for private lands.

"It's easy for a PR guy to say we should consider an alternative to clear-cutting. It's politically expedient, but it doesn't answer the question of how you're going to maintain a healthy forest."

Dan Newton

sociation on the committee that drafted the stream rules. He's a firm supporter of an open process in which different groups attempt to find solutions to complex problems.

"I spent probably 40 days on the process," he said. "As the time went on, good information backed by data replaced rhetoric."

Bill Arsenault, president of the Douglas Small Woodlands Association, credits Newton with being a primary reason for finding middle ground on the stream rules.

"I think he gained a lot of respect because of his knowledge," he said. "Dan has very strong opinions and holds them, but he also gives a basis for those opinions."

Newton would prefer to shape solutions in meetings instead of slugging it out in the courts or the press. But when all else fails, he's not afraid to take a hard line. In May, he became the only Douglas County resident to be a plaintiff in the timber industry's lawsuits challenging Option 9.

"It's just a shame it had to come to this," he said the day the lawsuits were filed.

The Clinton forest plan was developed behind closed doors by a group of scientists who were not interested in considering other opinions, Newton said.

"Their agenda was pretty well-known before they were selected," he said. "I don't think it's particularly productive to point to individuals in the process. I think the process is what was flawed."

Forest

CONTINUED from page D1

With the coming of Option 9 and other logging regulations, the public's perception of forestry has changed. Foresters have gone from being the good guys who work with Smokey Bear to the bad guys in collusion with the timber industry.

Newton is eager to defend his profession and to stake out unpopular views, including unwavering support for clear-cutting to promote regrowth of Douglas fir.

Fires or clear cuts are essential to maintain healthy forest ecosystems, Newton said. Without disturbance, other species eventually will dominate the forest because Douglas fir needs light and open areas to grow.

A hundred years ago, fire played a destructive but necessary role in promoting Douglas fir regeneration, Newton said. Today, loggers with chain saws can have the same effect.

"Disturbance in the forest is a political curse, whether it be a fire in Yellowstone or a timber harvest in the Northwest," he said. "I don't believe logging exactly duplicates fire, but I believe it comes close enough."

Newton said his biggest concern is the timber industry will "throw in the towel" on clear-cutting. The alternative - partial cutting - exposes the forest to more heavy equipment as loggers make repeated trips into an area to remove a few trees.

'I don't believe logging exactly duplicates fire, but I believe it comes close enough.'

Dan Newton,
Forester

"It's easy for a PR guy to say we should consider an alternative to clear-cutting," he said. "It's politically expedient, but it doesn't answer the question of how you're going to maintain a healthy forest."

He takes issue with some widely held beliefs, including that logging has devastated Northwest salmon runs. But Newton doesn't argue that timber harvesting is environmentally benign.

"Logging changes the environment temporarily," he said. "When you tweak an ecosystem, populations will change. Some will increase. Some will decrease."

Newton picked up some of his views from his father, a forest ecologist at OSU. While growing up in Corvallis, Mike Newton managed several tree farms. Forestry was a hobby as well as an occupation.

"We spent a lot of weekends regenerating land that has been let go to brush by the former owners," Newton said. "The idea of manipulating forests to improve production

became very intriguing."

Today, Newton manages several wood lots in Douglas County with his parents. His efforts earned him the Douglas Small Woodlands Association's "Tree Farmer of the Year" award last year.

He also was named the Society of American Foresters Umpqua Chapter's "Forester of the Year" in 1990.

Cloughesy said he first met Newton at OSU when Mike Newton was one of his professors.

"He knows more about controlling competing vegetation ... than anyone I have ever met - except his dad," he said.

Newton started working for Sun Studs in the summer of 1976 setting chokers and planting trees while he was earning a forestry degree.

"I needed the money," he said. "I was a sophomore in college and broke."

As Sun Studs' silviculturist, he is responsible for growing trees on 80,000 acres of company land in Douglas and Coos counties, including site preparation, planting, vegetation management and thinning.

Newton's profession carries over to his personal life.

"Most of my friends are foresters," he said. "I like to talk shop."

Newton has passed down his fondness for the woods to three children.

"If you call the Newtons on the weekends, chances we'll be out in the forest somewhere," he said. "The Umpqua National Forest is a treasure."

Roseburg, OR
(Douglas Co.)
News-Review
(Cir. D. 20,729)
(Cir. S. 21,156)

RUL 3 1994

3 of 3

Loans will help rural firms

812
■ The initial financing is expected to create about 269 new jobs.

By Dave Collins
The Statesman Journal

The federal Rural Development Administration has approved the first-ever loans for small, rural businesses in Oregon under President Clinton's Forest Plan.

Businesses in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties will get \$1.5 million and those in Josephine and Jackson counties will receive \$2 million under the program, which is designed to help expand and start small rural companies.

The RDA awarded the money last week to the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, which serves Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties, and the Southern Oregon Economic Development District, which serves Josephine and Jackson counties.

"It's very attractive to get this financing right now," said Debbie Wright, loan manager for the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments. "It's very difficult to find financing from traditional sources for certain types of business expansions and start-ups."

Both organizations will use the money to establish revolving loan funds. The initial financing from the program is expected to create up to 50 jobs in Linn, Ben-

Loans for small rural businesses

Counties	Amount of loan	Estimated number of jobs it will create
Linn, Benton, Lincoln	\$1.5 million	50
Josephine, Jackson	\$2 million	219
Marion, Polk, Yamhill	\$1 million	40

Source: Rural Development Administration and Farmers Home Administration

Debra A. de Yampert/Statesman Journal

ton and Lincoln counties and up to 219 jobs in Josephine and Jackson counties.

Companies can expect to get the loans within 60 days of applying, if they qualify.

"We think it's really going to help out," said Keith Miller, coordinator of the Linn County Business Development Center. "For (new) small businesses, it's difficult to get banks involved unless there's a two or three year track record."

Another \$1 million in loans is expected to be awarded by the RDA within the next several days to the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, which serves Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties.

Please see **Loans**, Page 5B

Loan program has owners of small businesses scrambling

By Dave Collins
The Statesman Journal

Rural business owners say they think the federal Rural Development Administration's loan program will be a big help for people who want to start or expand their small companies.

George Willard, who is trying to expand his Albany wholesale automobile business and move it to Lebanon, already has applied for some of the \$1.5 million that is being made available to small rural businesses in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties.

"It seems that everybody is enthused about it," said Willard, 54, of Albany, a dislocated timber worker who started the one-man business three years ago. "The bank wouldn't loan me anything because they were afraid I couldn't make the payments."

Several small business owners said the federal program, offered through President Clinton's Forest Plan, is needed because it is difficult to get a loan to start a business unless you have a two-to three-year track record of running a company successfully.

"We're pleased beyond words," said Brenda Jungwirth, 44, co-owner of a 10-employee manufac-

turing company in Brownsville. "We're appreciative and we hope that the process is one that small rural business owners can access it in a timely way."

Jungwirth's company, Terra-X, makes products such as wreaths and bouquets from material found on forest floors. She and her partner, Kim Scott, are planning to expand the business because sales are increasing steadily, but they have not decided whether to apply for the federal loans.

Larry Emmons, who runs a small cabinet-making company in Aumsville, said he did not think the loan program would help workers such as himself because it is hard to compete against large, mechanized production companies.

But he said the program may be a boost to owners of other kinds of small business.

"It would be nice if you have the right kind of business," said Emmons, 53, who has run Emmons Cabinet Shop for 27 years. The company employs five people. "Personally, I don't think it would work in this kind of business."

Salem, OR
(Marion Co.)
Statesman-Journal
(Cir. D. 56,215)
(Cir. S. 64,276)

JUN 27 1994

Loans/Object is more jobs

Continued from Page 6B

A total of 40 jobs is expected to be created in those counties.

Which businesses will get the loans has not been decided. The two organizations that received the money last week are accepting applications and will distribute the funds on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments will begin accepting applications this week even if the money is not formally awarded, said Ray Teasley, economic development program manager for the council.

The loans are limited to small businesses in cities with populations under 25,000. Companies in Salem, Albany, Corvallis, Medford, Grants Pass and Ashland are not eligible.

Businesses can receive up to \$150,000 in loans, but they are required to contribute some of their own money. A loan awarded to a company cannot exceed 75 percent of the cost of their expansion or start-up.

Motels, hotels, farms and agricultural production businesses are not eligible.

The organizations administering the loans will set the terms.

For example, the Oregon Cascade West Council of Governments will loan the money at the prime rate, which currently is

7.25 percent. The council also is contributing \$271,310 from its existing loan funds to the program.

The Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments will loan the money at 1 percent below the prime rate.

The duration of the loans will depend on the characteristics of each business.

The money is from the RDA's Intermediary Relending Program, which is administered statewide by the Farmers Home Administration, or FmHA.

"It's highly needed in these communities," said Ken Durrell, district loan specialist for the FmHA. "There's a big need for capital for either start-up or trying to expand."

The program is part of the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative portion of President Clinton's Forest Plan. The initiative is designed to provide economic relief to timber-dependent communities in Oregon, Washington and Northern California that are being impacted by federal logging restrictions.

The initiative includes \$16 million for loans to small rural businesses in the three states during the 1994 federal fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

JUN 26 1994

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

7
Babbitt
pushes for
'friendly'
species act

BY SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration is trying to clear the road to renewal of the Endangered Species Act with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's promise to landowners he'll enforce it in a "user-friendly" way.

And the usual critics on both sides of the debate over wildlife protection and private-property rights say the administration is finding some success.

"They definitely are trying to defuse all the criticism they have been receiving. But we're looking at this as a positive move," said Bruce Lovelin, executive director of the Columbia River Alliance based in Portland.

Lovelin is among those who say the act isn't working. His alliance represents industrial river users who stand to feel the economic sting of salmon protection in the Pacific Northwest, including shippers and irrigation farmers.

The dwindling salmon runs, even more than the northern spotted owl, will serve as a lightning rod in congressional deliberations as the 21-year-old act comes up for renewal next year.

PLEASE SEE *Endangered* ON B 2

Administration pushing a new, 'user-friendly' Endangered Species Act

Endangered

CONTINUED FROM B 1

Babbitt and Commerce Undersecretary James Baker, who oversees the National Marine Fisheries Service, announced the new focus last week.

In an effort to minimize the social and economic effect on decisions related to the act, the new strategy will increase the number of members on recovery planning teams to include representatives of state agencies, commercial enterprises, private individuals and organizations.

In addition, the approach will provide independent scientific peer review of listing and recovery decisions. It also requires that recovery plans for endangered species be completed within 30 months of the

date the species is listed.

The American Forest & Paper Association and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America are among those who have been highly critical of the act, and welcomed the news.

"It signifies that the administration understands the devastating impact the ESA has had on tens of thousands of working men and women, including thousands of timber-dependent workers and their communities," said Sigurd Lucassen, president of the AFL-CIO-affiliated union.

Other longtime critics of the act aren't so sure.

"What the administration is really saying is, 'Here's a shoulder to cry on but we still can't give you a leg to stand on,'" said Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., who called the changes "just

fluff."

"This is no more than posturing by the administration in an attempt to pull the teeth from those of us who want to change the Endangered Species Act. Well, this is one old saw who will keep his teeth."

Chris West, vice president of the Northwest Forestry Association in Portland, has been living with the spotted-owl controversy for a decade.

"We are encouraged that they recognize there are major problems with the act and the way it is being implemented and some significant changes should be made," West said.

But, he added: "We are wondering if this is an attempt by the administration to circumvent some of the legislative proposals that have

been started to amend the act."

The Interior Department news release announcing the "user-friendly" approach included endorsements from Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass. — chairmen of the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over the Endangered Species Act.

"If implemented properly, this reform package should produce better conservation decisions that cost society less and win more public support," said Baucus, leader of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Environmentalists are leery of some of the changes, especially if they result in economic concerns taking precedence over scientific evidence in formulating plans to save endangered species.

But most conservation leaders welcomed the offensive as rein-

forcements for a battle many fear privately they are losing.

"It looks like the administration has begun to understand it needs to be out front and active on this reauthorization effort," said Jim Owens, head of the Western Ancient Forest Campaign.

"From what I can tell, there's fairly effective organized opposition to the Endangered Species Act. Every time there has been a vote that has had any sort of effect on the act, the administration has not been there."

Pamela Eaton, who oversees the act for The Wilderness Society, says Babbitt is right to get more people involved in recovery plans for troubled species.

"But we have to make sure in trying to make the act work better for people, we don't make it work worse for species," she said. (7)

Four who feel impact of logging cutbacks talk about Clinton's

8/20/90
ANDRE STEPANKOWSKY • THE DAILY NEWS

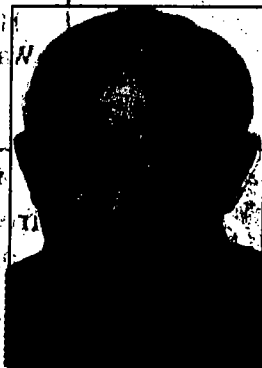
Call it luck. Call it foresight. But if Ben "Tom" Thomas Jr. hadn't looked into logging Alaska nine years ago, he'd be idle now.

That's because the Gifford Pinchot National Forest has sold little timber in recent years and will sell a fraction of its former volume under President Clinton's Northwest forest plan.

The forest once supplied two-thirds to three-quarters of the timber cut by the family's contract logging business, once one of the largest in Western Washington.

"I could see the handwriting on the wall. But I wouldn't have believed people would be this foolish," said Thomas, 52, referring to the 80 percent drop in timber volume that would occur under the White House plan. Thomas is one of four people who talked about the plan's effect on the Gifford Pinchot.

His company shut down its Woodland operations two



Ben 'Tom' Thomas Jr.

years ago and moved to Kodiak Island. It formerly employed 100 people locally.

"I know there are miles and miles of rotting and decadent stands of timber that are going to waste," Thomas says, scanning a map of the Clinton plan's effect on the Gifford Pinchot. "Is it our heritage to let our old-growth timber fall to the ground and rot?"

Thomas, 52, acknowledges that sometimes forests have been mismanaged — and perhaps cut too fast.

"No one would suggest we do things as we did them in the '40s," Thomas says, recalling days when forests were cut to the very edge of creeks and there was little concern about erosion.

He believes there is a bigger issue involved in the forest debate than spotted owls.

Plan carves up the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.
PAGE A1

"Environmentalists don't want you to log timber in Washington, mine coal in Kentucky or drill for oil in Alaska. All natural resource industries are getting hammered. This country will not survive if you do not utilize its natural resources."

Environmentalist Bob Pearson is going back to college under a federal retraining program for displaced timber workers.

Pearson, 40, of Packwood, is studying computer science at Centralia College. He qualifies because he's a laid-off U.S. Forest Service employee.

"I have never considered myself any different from anyone else who lives and works in Packwood," a timber-dependent community on the northern edge of the Gifford Pinchot, Pearson says.

"The jobs I have had (in fire control and wildlife habitat mapping) have been affected by the decline in timber harvest. I'm facing the same kinds of things they are. Because of the downsizing in timber, I will have to move."

Nevertheless, Pearson believes the Clinton plan won't adequately protect species that need old-growth

forest plan

and mature forests, citing a recent report by three university biologists who concluded that the spotted owl may already be doomed.

The Gifford Pinchot's old-growth forests have been heavily logged, roaded and fragmented, and significant remaining chunks are left out of Clinton's system of old-growth preserves, Pearsons says.

"So much of the outside land has been completely cut over. We always focus on the Forest Service land as if that's 100 percent of what we started with. . . . We're debating over something that has long since passed dealing with in a balanced way. When we fight over this fraction that's left, it bugs me."

In 1990, Skamania County had about 900 logging and sawmill jobs. Today, it has 195.

Large in mass but small in population (9,200), the county is almost entirely within the Gifford Pinchot, its traditional source of jobs and public revenue.

"Skamania County has been nominated as the green

Allen's P. C. 111
W. 1st Ave. and
1st St. will

3 If any communities were

Spence says the Clinton plan may have been "inevitable"

"I think logging should be spread over a broader land base. I am concerned about the rate of harvest on private lands. They are probably being cut too intensely, and the federal lands are definitely not being cut enough."

812



STEVE DUIN

812

Kupillas campaign no can of corn

WASHINGTON — The last time Sue Kupillas felt this suffocating heat, she was a teen-ager, trapped inside the corn cannery in Fruitland, Idaho.

The cannery was as good as the summer jobs got on the Idaho-Oregon border, where she grew up. To make a little extra, she worked the husker. The corn that came down the chute and into her lap was fresh off the blades of the cutting machine, and the dead birds and diced mice that came with it kept her mind off the sweat and the noise.

On the second visit to Washington of Kupilla's congressional campaign, the 2nd District Democrat knows she can handle the heat. "I've decided, crazy as it seems, that I'm suited to this business," she said Friday.

She has grown comfortable asking for money. She didn't hesitate to press House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash., about prospective committee assignments on Agriculture and Interior. In the interest of saving time, Kupillas even followed up on Foley with a fund-raising request.

"I was so blunt about it," Kupillas said, "that he was kind of amused." Because he didn't have his checkbook handy, the Jackson County commissioner gave him some free advice: "I told him I wasn't going to cave in to Washington politics. I'm too old to be swept away by the glamour of that. I'm going to represent the 2nd District."

Not long ago, the district's current rep — the globe-trotting Bob Smith — signed a letter on behalf of Kupillas' Republican opponent, state Sen. Wes Cooley, R-Powell Butte.

Smith argued in the letter that Kupillas was another Democrat in the mold of Larry Tuttle, former head of The Wilderness Society, and that Kupillas could be expected to march lock-step with the Clinton administration.

If that were true — and not just another sign of Smith's advancing years — Kupillas would have had a far easier time making the rounds in Washington.

The Eagle Point rancher is no fan of Clinton's timber plan, arguing that it has the same basic flaw as his health care proposal.

"It wasn't a public debate, it was a closed forum," Kupillas said, lifting her voice above the clatter of the Republican political rhetoric. "I object to that. It's an uncomfortable position for me to be in, but the administration needs to know how I feel about natural-resource issues. It needs to be abundantly clear to my caucus, too. My politics don't follow party lines."

Kupillas doesn't buy into the argument that overgrazing on Oregon's range lands has contributed to the salmon crisis, and she won't surrender any of the state's ownership of water issues to the bureaucrats inside the Beltway.

"If this becomes a federal issue, you'll have people from Massachusetts and New York making decisions about the distribution of Oregon's water," she observed.

All that said, Kupillas' rural perspective fared surprisingly well in this urban jungle. She is an impressive candidate — a persuasive moderate — and she's growing on the Democrats on Capitol Hill.

If she is to join them, Kupillas needs to make as good an impression east of the Cascades, where Cooley's grouchy conservatism scored in the Republican primary.

Because Cooley is midway through his Oregon Senate term, he has an intriguing fund-raising edge: Lobbyists are all too aware that if Cooley loses the congressional race, they'll have to deal with him in Salem.

"Almost every lobbyist I've talked with has brought that up," Kupillas said. "A lot of groups are in a box. No one is in jeopardy if I'm to lose."

Except, of course, the voters, who only get to chip in in November. "I think I can win because I have the right ideas on the issues," Kupillas said. "I have a record. I can paint that picture. I'll stand up for all the votes I've taken. I have nothing to apologize for. I don't have any skeletons or a shady past."

There wasn't much that felt like shade inside the Fruitland corn cannery. Kupillas still remembers the August night in the early '60s when she took her place at the husker only hours after returning from a European art tour of Madrid, Paris, Salzburg and Athens.

In Greece, Kupillas saw the birthplace of Western civilization. Does Washington strike her as its final resting place?

"There's still room here for debate," Kupillas said. "There's still room to represent rural areas. The new class of Congress, particularly the women, are not here to make a name for themselves but to address the issues."

"People want to cut to the bottom line. It's a response to the cynicism of people who say they can't do it. They have to take something home to prove they can."

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PINCHING THE PINCHOT

White House logging plan would drastically chop forest's production

ANDRE STEPANKOWSKY THE DAILY NEWS

"**C**ougar Creek." "House Rock." "Swamp." These are the names of long-ago Gifford Pinchot National Forest timber sales that former Woodland contract logger Ben "Tom" Thomas Jr. remembers as if his company cut them yesterday.

The first included a big road project that opened up the Ape Caves near Mount St. Helens.

The second held so much old-growth timber that it kept a single cutting crew busy six months and produced three times as much wood as a typical sale of its size.

The third, relatively small in acreage, contained timber so immense that it yielded 60 one-log truck loads.

Such Paul Bunyan-scale logging is passing into history on the Gifford Pinchot.

Once the second largest timber-producing national forest in the na-

tion, the "GP's" role in supplying Southwest Washington's

wood basket is going to shrink drastically under President Clinton's Northwest forest plan — if it survives court muster.

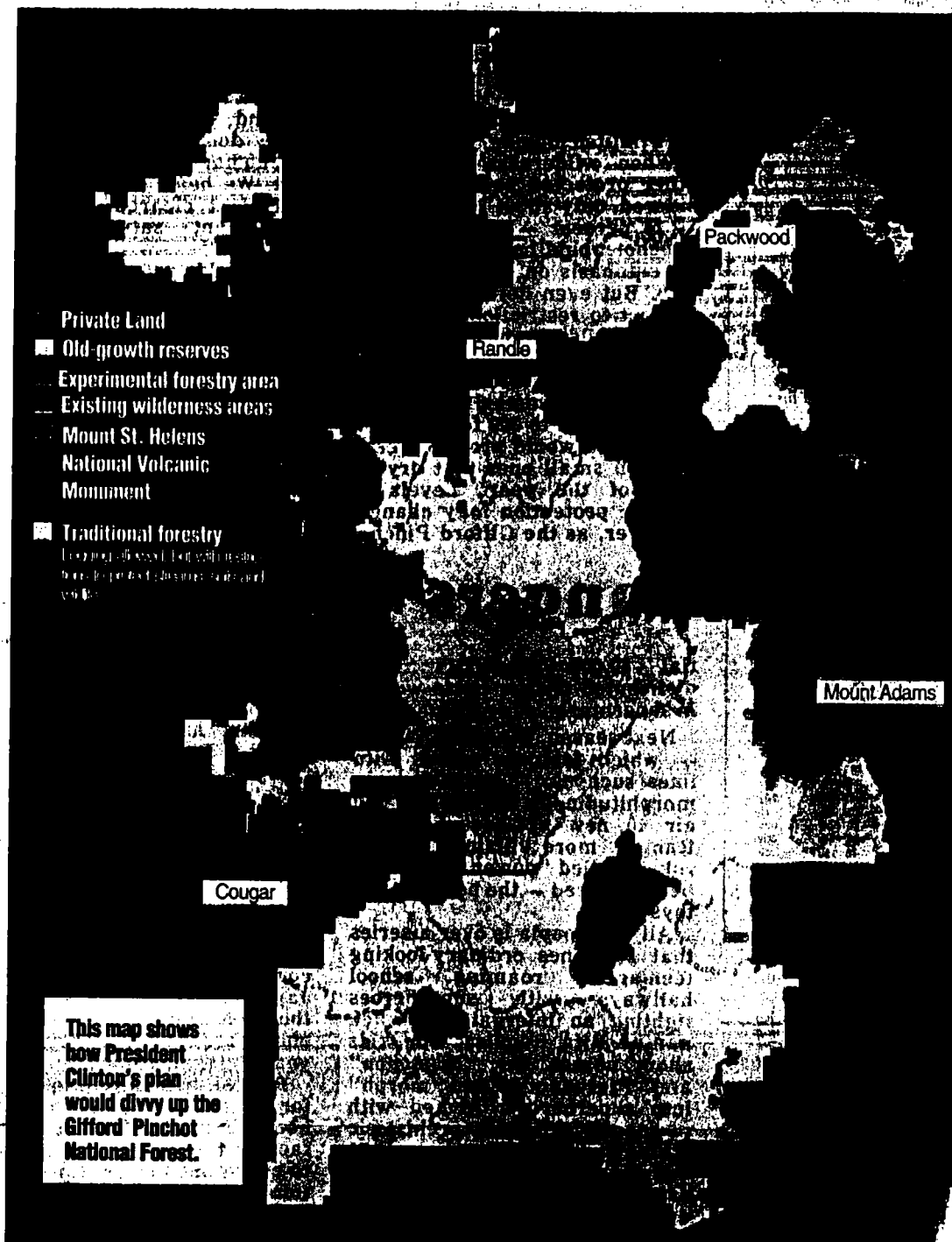
The 1.4-million-acre forest blankets the Cascade Mountains from Mount Rainier to the Columbia Gorge, is crossed by 12 major rivers and is dappled by glacier-covered peaks. It has abundant wildlife, including the largest concentration of Roosevelt elk in the nation. And since the 1950s, it has been intensely logged.

Under the Clinton plan, GP logging levels will drop at least 75 percent compared with the 1979-88 average. The forest's reduced timber sales program will support 750 to 1,100 jobs — far fewer than the estimated 3,000 jobs it generated in the 1980s. The greatest losses are expected in Skamania County.

Clinton's plan represents a radical shift in federal land management, focusing more on ecosystems and wildlife and less on logging. The idea is to protect a whole range of species — spotted owls, marbled murrelets, salmon and more than 1,100 terrestrial

Four veterans of the Gifford Pinchot offer their views of past, future: Page B1

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Pinchot From Page A1

species closely associated with large ancient forests.

On the Gifford Pinchot, the shift will mean fewer clearcuts, more thinnings, less logging and fewer logging roads. The cutting that is done will often have ecological objectives — to hasten the creation of old-growth conditions or to prevent catastrophic fires, for example.

"You'll see more variety in the landscape . . . You'll see more standing trees instead of open areas. You'll see a lot of corridors running through the area as stream buffers . . . The forest will be more natural looking and more diverse looking," says Ron Jackson, natural resources staff assistant for the Gifford Pinchot.

Under the Clinton Plan, about 450,000 acres or 32 percent of the forest will be dedicated to old-growth forest reserves, although less than a quarter of that area (106,000 acres) actually is old growth.

About 145,000 acres or 10 percent would be dedicated to a special "Adaptive Management Area" for experimental forestry with limited logging.

When wilderness areas and other protected areas are considered, only about 200,000 acres — 14 percent — of the Gifford Pinchot would be managed with an emphasis on timber production. But even here it would be subject to restrictions meant to protect wildlife and prevent soil erosion.

Across all these land-use designations, some 616,000 acres of buffers up to 300 feet wide on each bank would protect creeks — even small ones that dry up part of the year. Levels of stream protection may change, however, as the Gifford Pinchot

completes mandated watershed management plans.

The Clinton plan would save about 169,000 acres, or 85 percent, of the 198,000 acres of old-growth forests remaining on the Gifford Pinchot. Previous management plans had called for logging all but 94,000 acres.

In the so-called old-growth reserves, trees over 80 years old will be retained. Younger stands will be manipulated — through pruning, thinning and snag creation — to accelerate the creation of old-growth conditions.

This is one of the most controversial aspects of the plan: While environmentalists want these areas kept inviolate, the Forest Service says managing them is the best way to rapidly get them functioning as old-growth forests.

"That's the basic debate. Do we manage them or don't we?" said Lauri Hennessey, spokeswoman for the White House's Office of Forestry and Economic Development in Portland.

"We don't hear that people want no harvest and no management. We hear people say they don't want clearcuts and they don't want salmon habitat destroyed."

Some old-growth forest is protected because it was fragmented into small groves with lesser ecological value, Hennessey said. She added that younger stands won't be big enough to log for another 10 to 20 years, creating a gap that the agency can fill only with some old-growth sales.

"If we rely on just younger stands there would be nothing to log."

Forest plan 812 documents destroyed

■ **Logging:** The Forest Service chief is accused of sanitizing the record.

By LANCE ROBERTSON
The Register-Guard

Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas ordered the shredding of internal documents produced by scientists crafting President Clinton's Northwest forest plan, according to federal court records.

The destroyed documents apparently included informal correspondence, such as computer-generated electronic mail or messages, and draft reports, such as early scientific assessments or opinions of whether the amount of logging in the proposed Clinton plan would harm fish and wildlife.



Jack Ward Thomas

Says he ordered shredding

"He (Thomas) has sanitized the administrative record, making sure that no embarrassing or dissenting opinions see the light of day," said Andy Stahl, director of the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics. "If chief Thomas' behavior violated the law, punishment is in order."

The document-destruction order apparently occurred before Thomas became chief of the Forest Service last December.

It remains unknown whether the shredding could jeopardize Clinton's new forest-management plan, which is the subject of at least a half-dozen lawsuits filed by environmentalists and the timber industry.

It also is unclear exactly what documents were shredded, whether they were important or if they were potentially damaging to the government's chances of win-

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ning another lawsuit. Earlier this year, Clinton unveiled a final plan that slashes historic logging levels by 80 percent in the federal forests of Western Oregon, Washington and California.

No one at Forest Service headquarters in Washington, D.C., including Thomas, or at the U.S. Office of Forestry and Economic Assistance in Portland, could be reached for comment Tuesday evening. The Register-Guard obtained the court records from Stahl's group after the federal offices had closed for the day.

The document shredding was revealed by Thomas himself in a three-page affidavit filed in a Seattle federal court where most of the lawsuits are being consolidated.

According to the affidavit, Thomas said he instructed scientists to keep only "formal correspondence," reports from outside contractors, raw data, final species viability assessments and peer reviews of draft segments of the final Clinton plan.

But he said other "discarded documents" not of that nature were shredded because of fears that the information would leak out as the team worked in the U.S. Bancorp tower in Portland.

Early disclosure of the information could "negatively affect communities" or create "the opportunity for unfair economic advantage or manipulation of affected markets if the information were obtained by only one or a few individuals," the affidavit said.

Thomas did not become chief of the Forest Service until December, more than six months after a scientific

team began working on a plan for managing the Northwest's federal forests. Clinton named Thomas, formerly the Forest Service's senior wildlife biologist living in La Grande, to head the multi-agency effort following the president's April 1993 forest summit in Portland.

Stahl, however, accused Thomas of trying to hide any embarrassing or potentially damaging information from environmentalists seeking to overturn the Clinton plan in U.S. District Court in Seattle.

There now is no way to judge from the official administrative record how much dissent team members expressed, or whether some scientists offered information showing the Clinton plan didn't put enough forests off limits to logging.

"What he's (Thomas) done is cooked the administrative record to make sure it is a sparkling-clear record," Stahl said. "That's totally improper, especially for an administration that's under court order to produce a scientifically credible plan."

U.S. District Judge William Dwyer has scheduled a September hearing on the lawsuits challenging the Clinton forest plan. He twice has rejected previous government efforts, saying the plan didn't protect enough forests, fish and wildlife.

Stahl said it is important to have a record showing the "free flow of ideas." Otherwise, "the judge and we, the public, won't have any idea how the got from A to B to C to D. Essentially, that's the kind of paper trail that's now been denied to the public."

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Seattle Post-Intelligencer
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Timber industry targets land set for school trusts

By Rob Taylor
P-I Reporter 812

Log-hungry timber companies and their allies are deploying a new weapon in Washington's timber wars: framing the conflict as owls vs. schools.

The timber industry, having lost repeated battles for federal trees, has turned to demanding more timber sales from state "school trust" lands, which are managed to produce cash for school construction.

The industry's message: By shrinking timber sales to spare wildlife, the state is taking classrooms away from schoolchildren.

Jennifer Belcher, state commissioner of public lands, says the sales decline is necessary to comply with environmental and wildlife-protection laws. She calls for other taxes or revenue to help build and renovate schools.

With some school interests joining the push for more sales, a showdown is imminent. "It's just a matter of time," says Bob Nichols, executive policy assistant to Gov. Mike Lowry.

The debate involves hundreds of millions of dollars in school-construction money every biennium from logging on more than 2 million acres of

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Timber: Industry pits 'schools vs. owls'

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~~forested state lands.~~ Most of the land is held in trust for construction of new buildings for schools, while other trusts benefit counties, universities and the state Capitol.

The issue gives the timber industry leverage it hasn't had in years. Schoolchildren evoke broader sympathy than loggers and millworkers. The state has legal mandates to protect fish, wildlife and water quality, but it also is directed by law to maximize sustainable revenue for the trust beneficiaries.

The state Board of Natural Resources, which oversees management of state lands, will discuss the "schools vs. owls" issue next month and likely will direct Belcher on how to proceed in September, says Nichols, Lowry's representative on the board.

For timber production, the state land has come to overshadow federal forests in Washington. The U.S. Forest Service formerly devoted about 50 percent more land to commercial timber, but wildlife protections have decimated federal sales.

Still, state sales have been depressed by many of the same wildlife conflicts - mainly safeguards for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets, both listed as threatened

under the Endangered Species Act. In recent years, up to half the state's planned timber sales have been abandoned to protect threatened or endangered wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources says.

That has helped shrink state sales to about 370 million board feet this year, roughly half the 1990 level, though revenue has fallen less because prices rose.

Industry has protested. Some mills desperately need state timber to survive the next three or four years as federal sales partially recover from a near shutdown, says Bob Dick, Washington representative of the Northwest Forestry Association.

Dick says Belcher has cut sales far more than necessary. When his complaints were ignored, he tried another tack. "We put the word on the street" that schools "ought to be concerned."

Some are. David Thorud, a member of the board and dean of the University of Washington's Forestry School, questioned whether school-trust lands are properly managed and called for an outside audit. The Quillayute Valley School District, based in Forks, threatened to sue for more money, hence more timber sales. And the Washington State School Directors Association, a group of school board

members, demanded a study of the economic effect of wildlife-protection plans.

Belcher opposes Thorud's audit and defends current policies. She says buyers are stockpiling state timber, which can be held longer than most private purchases. And because they can defer paying 90 percent of their purchase price until the timber is cut, their delay cuts school-trust revenue.

The lands commissioner predicts state sales will start to recover next year. The state is finding more stands to cut without harming owls or murrelets. It also is developing a habitat plan for 80 percent of state forest land. Belcher says that will make harvests more stable and predictable.

Regardless of the harvest rate, Belcher says timber revenue is unlikely to meet the needs of growing state school systems.

School enrollment will have doubled over the 15 years ending in 1999, and buildings are aging. Over the next two years, state school-trust revenue is expected to fall short of school construction needs by \$278.7 million.

Belcher says she plans to propose next year an unspecified "supplemental fund" to augment trust-land revenue for schools.

Thorud doubts that will pay off. "Tax dollars are going to become increasingly scarce," he says, which "will bring increased demand by beneficiaries for robust revenue production from forest-trust resources." (12)

Forestry official 812 defends shredding

By LANCE ROBERTSON
The Register-Guard

A scientific team crafting President Clinton's Northwest forest plan shredded only unimportant, discarded paperwork that was generated by up to 600 people working on the effort, an administration official said Wednesday.

The shredding was not ordered to hide potentially damaging or embarrassing information, as alleged Tuesday by a Eugene-based group of Forest Service employees, said U.S. Assistant Agriculture Secretary James Lyons.

"It was garbage," said Lyons, who oversees the U.S. Forest Service and much of Clinton's forest policy. "It was literally the garbage and wastepaper and predecisional information you can hardly characterize as important."

U.S. Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas, who headed the scien-

tific team before becoming the agency's chief last December, said in a federal court affidavit that he authorized the shredding of certain documents generated by his team as it crafted Clinton's forest plan last year.

The Eugene-based Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics on Tuesday accused Thomas of trying to "sanitize" the official administrative record of his team's work in an effort to hide important information that could jeopardize the Clinton plan, which has been challenged in federal court by environmentalists and the timber industry.

Andy Stahl, director of the group, called Thomas' actions a "serious breach of ethics" and demanded a congressional inquiry.

At least one congressman thinks

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SHREDDING

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that might be a good idea.

The shredding is "outrageous," said Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore. "It convinces me they have something to hide," he said, adding, "These scientists want to make policy decisions in secret."

DeFazio said that after Clinton's final forest plan was unveiled early this year, he repeatedly asked the administration for "any and all documentation" showing how scientists developed the environmental impact statement Clinton used to make his decision.

"I guess their response to that request was to shred the things I asked for," DeFazio said.

But Lyons and other administration officials said Wednesday that Thomas specifically ordered his team to keep all important information. More than two dozen boxes of documents preserved by Thomas' team have been available for public inspection for a year at a federal office in Portland.

The shredded paperwork includes informal memos, computer-generated calculations, notes from brainstorming sessions and other documents.

Lyons said that if the information

hadn't been shredded, it would have been discarded and recycled because it wasn't important.

"I'm satisfied the team preserved the records necessary for anyone to get a clear idea of the process and how certain decisions were made," Lyons said. "It is clear there's not been any violations of ethics or any illegal activity here."

Lyons said he's "disappointed" with the attacks on the character of Thomas, the first wildlife biologist to head the agency. Thomas has proclaimed that his main goal would be to "tell the truth and obey the law."

"I have no question about Chief Thomas' integrity or character," Lyons said. "It's a totally unfounded allegation. It's making a mountain out of a molehill."

Thomas could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge William Dwyer has set a September hearing on at least four lawsuits challenging Clinton's forest plan. He twice has rejected previous government plans, saying they didn't adequately protect forests and wildlife.

Federal agency members bow out of Applegate

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

The three federal agency members of the Applegate Partnership board will resign next week.

Their resignations at the July 6 board meeting are the result of growing concern in the Clinton administration over the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972.

The timber industry has challenged the Clinton forest plan, saying it violated FACA rules because

private citizens participated in creating the plan. The Clinton administration sent a memo this month to forest agencies, ordering them to stop participating in public-private partnership meetings.

While the remaining board members say the Applegate Partnership will continue, they acknowledge the loss of direct Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management involvement will be a major blow to the project.

Ironically, the project to manage forests in the

Applegate River watershed was touted by the administration as the national model of cooperation between private citizens and government agencies.

"The federal members will have to withdraw from the partnership," said board member John Lloyd, assistant district manager for resources in the BLM's Medford District. "We will no longer be board members."

In addition to Lloyd, federal agency members on the 9-member board include Applegate District Ranger Mary Smelcer and Bill Rose, a fire official

Applegate

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added. "But we should have a good understanding. That helps communications tremendously."

Federal government employee Su Rolle, who serves as a liaison between the agencies and the partnership, will retain her post, but will not be able to attend the meetings, Lloyd said.

"We can go to the meetings on an intermittent basis and make presentations when asked," Lloyd said. "But we can no longer be regular participating board members."

The partnership is trying to assess the implications of the action, said Jack Shipley, who founded the Applegate Partnership. Shipley talked by phone Wednesday to Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas.

"He (Thomas) told me he was hoping to get some form of clarification soon," Shipley said.

"It would effect us, definitely," he said of the loss of direct agency participation. "But there are lots of activities going on in the watershed that will continue regardless of whether agencies are there or not. This is not the death knell for the partnership."

Shipley, although stressing the good relationships between the partnership and the agencies, was frustrated by the move.

"The very thing we've been trying to do is keep an open public dialogue," he said. "Now they are saying it's unlawful? Something is out of whack here."

The partnership is considering a class-action lawsuit to retain agency participation, said board member Bret KenCairn, co-founder of the Rogue Institute for Ecology and Economy.

"The partnership is not going to just roll over," he said.

Like Shipley, he said the partnership's work will continue.

"The partnership is working,"

he said. "The paradox is the environmental community at the regional and national level is pushing for strict interpretation of FACA because they don't trust rural communities to handle the power of participation responsibly."

Partnership

in the Ashland Ranger District.

Included in the law is a requirement that meetings of federal agencies either be closed to public participation or equally open to all members of the public.

"I'm really disappointed," Lloyd said. "This (community participation) is the way we should be doing business. We should have a close working relationship in communities we live in."

"That doesn't mean we should be dictated to," he
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Wildlife agency director reflects on his tenure

■ Marvin Plenert, set to retire next month, has won praise even from his critics for his strong handling of controversies besetting the agency since he took over in '89

By KATHIE DURBIN
of The Oregonian staff

When the government offered him a chance to retire early with a bonus, Marvin Plenert didn't hesitate long before he said yes.

The past 5½ years have been the longest of his life.

As regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the plain-spoken Kansan with the sandy hair, pug nose and wide smile has occupied one of the hottest of all hot seats in the federal bureaucracy.

Insiders say that since his arrival in 1989 he's been the unsung conscience of an agency that's squarely in the eye of countless storms over logging, grazing, stream protection, irrigation, mining, resort development and other activities that affect fish, wildlife and native plants.

"I don't know whether I caused them or what, but it all started about that time," Plenert, 59, mused a couple weeks before his retirement.

His six-state region, encompassing Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, Idaho and Hawaii, is by far the busiest in



Sometimes it takes a court order to get us where we are. We very seldom act without a crisis.

Marvin Plenert

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Ret re. : har dling scandal was first task

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the nation. Two hundred species native to this territory have been added to the nation's list of threatened and endangered species during his tenure, not counting 160 native plants in California and 186 in Hawaii added as a result of out-of-court settlements.

During his tenure, Plenert has presided over the listing of the northern spotted owl, the marbled murrelet, the California gnatcatcher, the Mohave desert tortoise and the Delta smelt.

Those listings have triggered titanic debates over logging in the Northwest, grazing and off-road vehicle access in the Southwest, development in Southern California and Las Vegas, irrigation in the California's Central Valley and water quality in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River delta.

During that same period, Plenert's office decided not to list the bull trout, fisher, lynx and western pond turtle.

Plenert made tough calls on management of federal wildlife refuges. He signed the order evicting the private, all-male Order of the Antelope from the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge and took heat from Lakeview ranchers for approving a plan to remove cattle from the high desert reserve.

Plenert also took on waterfowl hunting clubs in Southern California, ordering a phase-out of a controversial feeding program that violated the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. He's lost track of how many times he's been sued — by all sides — but he doesn't take it personally.

With so much to do, he said, "Sometimes it takes a court order to get us where we are. We very seldom act without a crisis."

It is a measure of Plenert's integrity that even the agency's critics praise the man.

"While these are trying times in the resource management arena, you have helped guide us through

some treacherous waters," Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., said in a congratulatory letter to Plenert this week. "You have always acted with the public interest in mind and with absolute professionalism."

"During the dark ages of the Bush regime, which wasn't good for wildlife or wildlife managers, Marv made some tough and good calls," said Andy Kerr, executive director of the Oregon Natural Resources Council. "On murrelets and owls he did things that while biologically correct were politically difficult."

But Kerr added, "If he'd been good all the time he couldn't have kept his job. It's a political job, and he was dancing a dance with a hostile administration."

"We were allowed to do our job under both administrations," Plenert insists. "I never had any constraints as long as I used biology. We've never lost a lawsuit based on biology."

Challenges began early

Plenert arrived at an agency demoralized by scandal. A federal judge and a congressional General Accounting Office audit had blasted the Reagan administration for heavy-handed political tactics, including forced reassignments and suppressed scientific evidence, that interfered with the service's ability to do its job.

During the Bush administration, under Director John Turner, the agency began to repair its professional reputation but soon found itself vilified in spotted owl hearings around the region.

During the infamous God Squad hearings of 1992, Plenert and Bureau of Land Management regional director Dean Bibbes found themselves adversaries as the Bush administration tested a little-known clause in the Endangered Species Act that may allow federal projects to go ahead even if they could sentence a species to extinction.

Plenert and his staff spent two

years on development of a spotted owl recovery plan that won respect even from skeptics in the environmental movement — but never was adopted.

The Clinton administration came in with a determination to make the federal natural resource agencies work better together — and to avert future listings of individual species where possible by preserving the ecosystems that support them.

Agencies in the Northwest are working together better than they ever have as they try to implement President Clinton's Northwest forest plan, he said.

Cooperation and conflicts

Yet he admits there is a limit to that cooperation. The Fish and Wildlife Service is supposed to work on behalf of wildlife. The activities of other agencies — and sometimes his own — can conflict with that mission.

The key, Plenert says, is to get ahead of the curve.

"If we can get our regulatory requirements noted early, if we can get invited to the table before millions of dollars are spent, maybe we can alter projects in the early stages."

That's happening now with timber sale planning. Plenert has hired 15 new biologists who will help the Forest Service and BLM design sales that comply with the Clinton forest plan.

In Southern California, the agency has worked with developers to find room for the California gnatcatcher in the fast-disappearing coastal sage-scrub ecosystem.

Even after a court ruling that overturned the listing, Plenert said, the cooperative relationship continues.

Under Plenert's leadership, the region embarked on a land acquisition program that allowed it to add nine new units to the refuge, including the Tualatin River Refuge near Portland.

Future issues

Plenert leaves plenty of unfinished business for his successor. Michael Spear comes to Portland from Washington, D.C., where he served as assistant director for endangered species, wetlands restoration and environmental contaminants.

Water allocation issues are simmering in Nevada and in Oregon's Klamath Basin, where the federal government is trying to figure out how to undo environmental damage caused by large irrigation projects approved by Congress early in the century.

The service faces increased scrutiny over an arrangement that allows pesticide use on cropland on two Klamath Basin wildlife refuges.

And waterfowl still are dying in California's Tulare Basin, where selenium leached from the soil contaminates open evaporation ponds in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Plenert's agency is responsible for enforcing that law, but he said the Bush Justice Department declined to prosecute irrigators who maintain the ponds despite persuasive evidence that they were killing birds. Whether the Clinton administration will get tough remains to be seen, but Plenert said arresting farmers won't really solve anything.

"Our role should be to stop the problem," he said. "Can we retire the lands that produce the selenium?"

In the Pacific islands, development is placing intense pressure on bird populations. Only 12 Hawaiian crows remain in the wild. After getting sued by the National Audubon Society the service embarked on a program to salvage eggs for captive breeding of the endangered bird.

In fact, after 33 years in the wildlife field, Plenert is convinced that the pressures of development is the greatest threat to the survival of fish, wildlife and natural places. 8/2

812 Timber industry takes loss in court

BY ERIC PRYNE
Seattle Times staff reporter

The timber industry's courtroom campaign against President Clinton's Northwest forest plan has suffered a significant tactical setback.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson of Washington, D.C., yesterday transferred the industry's main lawsuit challenging the plan to U.S. District Judge William Dwyer of Seattle, who since 1989 has issued a

series of forest rulings generally favorable to environmentalists.

When industry groups filed their legal challenges to the Clinton plan with Jackson rather than Dwyer this spring, lead industry lawyer Mark Rutzick called Jackson's court "a more favorable forum" for timber interests.

Chris West, spokesman for the Northwest Forest Resource Council, lead plaintiff in the cases, called Jackson's decision disappointing. Industry groups may appeal, he said.

The administration had asked Jackson to transfer the industry cases, arguing all legal challenges to the plan should be heard by Dwyer. Environmentalists have filed five lawsuits in Dwyer's court against the Clinton plan.

Lauri Hennessey, spokeswoman for the Clinton forest-policy office in Portland, said Jackson's ruling "prevents a legal quagmire. ... It's defi-

PLEASE SEE *Timber* ON B 2

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Industry may appeal move to Dwyer court

Timber

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nitely good news."

The Clinton plan would include 70 percent of the older, unprotected federal forests in Western Washington, Western Oregon and Northern California in reserves. Logging would drop to less than one-quarter the level of the 1980s.

Timber interests say that's too little. Environmentalists argue it's still too much.

The Clinton plan affects 19 million acres of Forest Service land and more than 2 million acres in Oregon under the control of the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management. The industry case Jackson transferred to Dwyer concerns only the Forest Service lands.

Jackson retained jurisdiction over two lawsuits involving the BLM lands. But he noted the issues are similar to the Forest Service case and said he doesn't plan on doing anything with the cases until Dwyer rules.

West of the Northwest Forest Resource Council said Jackson's decision to hang onto the BLM cases is significant because "no matter what

happens in Judge Dwyer's court, the issue isn't going to be over. ... We think this shows the gridlock continues."

The industry strategy is to tie up the Clinton plan in court indefinitely, in hopes that Congress will step in.

Dwyer blocked almost all logging on national-forest lands for three years, ruling in 1991 that the Forest Service hadn't complied with laws requiring protection for the northern spotted owl and other wildlife. The Clinton plan was produced in hopes of satisfying Dwyer.

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Clinton-Babbitt plan a disaster for forests

By Alexander Cockburn

SAN FRANCISCO — The full disaster President Bill Clinton and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt represent for America's ancient forests is now becoming clear. It has taken a Democratic administration to arm-twist the leadership of major environmental groups into signing the articles of surrender.

Our story starts in the aftermath of the Forest Summit on April 2. Experts gathered in Portland to formulate a White House plan. They worked under fierce constraints. Babbitt had already promised Northwestern timber towns that the administration would work for the speedy release of at least 2 billion board feet. (The average annual cut through the 1980s in the Northwest was 4 billion board feet.) But the plan would also have to satisfy William Dwyer, the federal judge who enjoined timber sales in spotted owl habitat in federal forests until the U.S. Forest Service comes up with a logging plan in compliance with the law.

Eight options were set forth by the teams in Portland. Even the most voracious of them would generate less than a billion board feet per year. The Babbitt schedule could not be met by legal means.

Then, under frantic prodding from Babbitt and the White House, a ninth option was thrown together, which duly became the Clinton plan.

Politically driven and formulated in haste, Option 9 is deeply flawed. Jeff St. Clair, conservationist editor of the Portland-based Forest Watch publication, wrote: "The plan represents a significant defeat for environmentalists: No permanent and inviolate reserves; no prohibition on clearcutting in roadless watersheds; 40 percent of the remaining unprotected old growth is subject to commercial harvest; no ban on raw log exports; fewer restrictions on private

lands; more intensive cutting in the forest matrix (i.e. the land between the reserves); and increased cutting on forests east of the Cascades."

The supposed annual cut under Option 9 across the next decade would be 1.2 billion board feet, but St. Clair and others reckon that the plan actually permits an annual yield twice that. There are 5 million acres of unprotected old-growth forest west of the Cascades, and Option 9 schedules 2.3 million of those acres for logging.

At first, the environmental leadership was openly hostile. National Audubon's vice president, Brock Evans, said the plan was political science, not biological science.

Babbitt and the White House began to play hardball. They hinted that unless environmental leaders softened their stance, the administration might give Congress the nod to develop "sufficiency" legislation, making Clinton's plan immune to legal challenge.

In 1989, Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., and the Northwest delegation in Congress used the "sufficiency" weapon to suspend environmental law, thus freeing up 7.7 billion board feet in 13 forests.

The environmental leadership began to buckle. Carl Pope, executive director

of the Sierra Club, called Clinton's plan a sound option. Evans changed trains and declared Option 9 "a shaky victory."

On July 22, in a meeting in Portland, lawyers from the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund met with the 12 plaintiffs in the suit against the Forest Service that caused Judge Dwyer to enjoin logging on spotted owl terrain.

In the confidential meeting, as several

participants later described it, lawyers advised the plaintiffs — among them the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, some Audubon chapters and the Oregon Natural Resources Council — not to try to fight the Clinton plan.

They were asked not to go before Judge Dwyer to block interim releases of timber pending final approval of the plan. The quid pro quo: With the good faith gesture to the Clinton administration, environmentalists would head off the threat of 'sufficiency' legislation.

It worked. In an Aug. 3 press release, the White

house jubilantly claimed that under a pact struck with the environmental leadership more than 2 billion board feet could be released to the timber companies this fall. (For their part, the timber companies are unimpressed and have filed suit challenging the secrecy with

which Option 9 was formulated. They scent weakness and want it all.)

Down at the environmental grass roots, the capitulation by their leaders has provoked angry questions: Why support a devastating plan? Why bow to the White House's "sufficiency" blackmail when pro-timber company legislators will certainly try to make enormous prospective cuts on public lands in Montana, Idaho and Alaska immune to legal challenge anyway?

With the famed forests of the Northwest, there's at least a chord of national interest and sympathy to be plucked.

There's always been a tension between the grass roots and the mainstream environmental movement's leaders, who strike deals and make compromises in the corridors of power.

This latest surrender may yet provoke a mutiny. By the end of the first week in August, despite enormous pressure, Oregon Natural Resources Council was still holding out, still reserving its right to go before Judge Dwyer and challenge the plan.

As Mitch Friedman of the Northwest's Greater Ecosystem Alliance puts it, "If there's to be a nightmare of attrition in ancient forest 'reserves,' we should at least delay it as long as possible and go down fighting."

"Moreover, the specter of Patty Murray (the junior senator from Washington) and Babbitt working with Hatfield, Dicks and Foley (members of Congress from the Northwest, all fiercely pro-timber industry) to gut forest protection laws would certainly help correct the public's perception about us winning the ancient forests battle."

"If our 'friends' are going to betray us, let's make them do it openly."

■ Alexander Cockburn, a columnist for the Nation, lives in the Lost Coast of Humboldt County, Calif. Copyright 1993 The New York Times.

Readers ask about Nunn, Dole and Perot

It's time for more questions from readers. This week they are answered by hand because the computer that usually provides the answers was knocked out by the heat.

Q: Why is Sen. Sam Nunn sticking a knife in President Clinton's back?

A: He's suffering from dog-in-the-mangeritis, a disease that infects presidential wannabes in the Senate. Nunn caught it from the late Sen. Henry Jackson, who did a hatchet job on Jimmy Carter when the Georgia Peach took office.

Q: I want a sex offender locked up longer. I realize it will cost more money, but I want to keep my neighborhood safe. What should I do?

A: Vote for Initiatives 601 and 602 and burn down the offender's house.

Q: What's wrong with Sen. Bob Dole?

A: There is nothing wrong with Sen. Dole. He is exactly what he seems to be — a typical long-term officeholder. It is not his fault that many years of living exceedingly well off the public teat have made him arrogant and resistant to change. When he and his wife were both on government welfare, they were pulling down about a quarter-million a year in salary and benefits. His idea of drastic change is to take off his brown shoes and put on his black shoes.

Q: What do you think of court cases where two sets of parents are battling over custody of children?

A: The first thing that is obvious is that things have changed since Solomon's time. If a judge ordered that the child be cut in half today, the litigants would demand that it be cut in half.

Q: Does Ross Perot know how to fix



Henry Gay





WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Southeast Region Office
713 E. Bowers Rd
Ellensburg, WA 98926-9341
(509) 925-6131

Description of proposal: Sale of State Timber, LOWER SEDGE

Timber Sale, Application No. 52216

Proponent: State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources.

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: Parts of Section 30, Township 12 North, Range 15 East, W.M., Yakima County.

Lead agency: State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

☐ There is no comment period for this DNS.

☐ This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from _____

_____. Comments must be submitted by 3-26-93.

Responsible official MICHAEL N. NAYLOR

Position/title Assistant Region Manager Phone (509) 925-6131

Address 713 E. Bowers Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Date

2-12-93

Signature

There is no agency SEPA appeal.
1/22/92\lowsedge.dns

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THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Kelso Gillenwater, *Publisher*

John Komen
Editor

Janet Brandt
Managing Editor

Tacoma, Washington

Established 1883

EDITORIALS

Balanced approach to owl preservation

The Clinton administration continues to live up to its pledge to seek balanced solutions to the Northwest's thorny spotted-owl controversy.

The timber industry won't find it easy to live with Option 9, the administration's preferred approach to managing timber harvests and protecting the endangered northern spotted owl in the region's federal forests. Environmentalists think the plan, which would reduce annual federal timber harvests, doesn't go far enough.

While Option 9 awaits court approval, the administration has now moved to promote a promisingly flexible approach to another facet of the spotted-owl issue: harvests on privately owned forest lands.

The Interior Department proposed on Dec. 10 a "special rule" that would shift most of the burden for spotted-owl preservation to federal lands. While the rule would ease owl-related logging restrictions on most state and private lands, it would also require strict owl protection in 10 special-emphasis areas considered crucial to the owl's survival in Washington and Oregon.

The new approach would cause the loss, or "incidental taking," of some spotted owls or their habitat. But Interior scientists believe the Option 9 strategy on federal land, combined with the special-emphasis areas on private land, would be adequate to preserve the species.

The Endangered Species Act permits incidental takings if plans are in place to protect the overall species. In short, the administration is using the act creatively to help private and state forest owners without unduly endangering the owl. That is particularly welcome in Washington, where state and private forest acreage is twice that of the federal government.

The administration is also using the act to encourage landowners to develop voluntary management plans aimed at preserving entire ecosystems, not just individual species. Partly in response to the special-rule proposal, the Weyerhaeuser Co., has committed to work with the government to develop a habitat conservation plan for a 100,000-acre portion of its St. Helens Tree Farm in Southwest Washington. Other timber companies are likely to follow suit.

The proposed special rule could be stalled by legal and environmental challenges. But this new initiative, along with Option 9, remains the best hope of breaking forest gridlock in the Northwest.

SPLITSVILLE?

Environmental groups, 'tree huggers' find themselves at odds over Clinton forest plan

By KATHIE DURBIN

A rift has opened in the Northwest ancient forest movement that won't quickly heal.

The anguish was palpable in a Portland State University lecture hall the weekend before Thanksgiving, as about 125 veteran forest activists gathered to vent their frustration with the 20-year-old movement's apparent loss of a defining vision.

James Monteith and Andy Kerr, comrades-in-arms in the forest wars since 1974, found themselves on opposite sides of a divisive debate over what has come to be known as the "deal of shame."

The deal in question was the agreement plaintiffs in the most important spotted owl lawsuit made last summer with the Clinton administration. They agreed to review timber sales blocked by U.S. District Judge William Dwyer and try to find some they'd be willing to see released from a federal court injunction.

Although a negotiated agreement was reached, no request has yet gone forward to Dwyer.

Everyone agrees that the timber volume identified for release is insignificant. It may end up being less than 50 million board feet — about 1 percent of the 5 billion board feet of federal timber sold annually in the Northwest during the high-roller days of the 1980s.

What's significant is the role into which this deal cast longtime forest-preservation advocates.

"The political strategy of permanent protection has been our goal for 20 years," Monteith reminded his audience. Acquiescing to the logging of any amount of old-growth forest amounts to capitulation, he said.

For the Clinton administration, getting environmentalists to agree to release some timber for Northwest mills was a largely symbolic goal. The administration sought to show that it could bring adversaries closer together.

But Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and others didn't just ask nicely for the plaintiffs' cooperation. They told national environmental groups the administration would support a rider, a provision releasing some timber from the injunction by congressional fiat, if the plaintiffs in the Dwyer case didn't go along.

Tom Collier, Babbitt's chief of staff, confirmed in an interview with *The Oregonian* in October that Babbitt would have recommended a rider to President Clinton if the environmentalists had refused to show "a good-faith effort."

What the deal showed instead, its many critics say, is that the movement has lost its nerve.

"The rider was our opportunity to turn around and face the tiger and fight to win," Monteith said. "I don't sense that Babbitt is through with us, through with working us over to see what else he can get out of us."

Monteith, the Oregon Natural Resources Council's longtime executive director, left

two years ago to help found the Western Ancient Forest Campaign and recently started a new group, Save the West.

"I have to refuse to accept this notion that we've lost the ability to defend against riders," said Lou Gold of the Siskiyou Project at the Nov. 20 showdown. "The ability to go to court and win means something only if we can defend against riders."

Some activists said the 12 environmental groups that are plaintiffs in the case had no right to give away old-growth forests.

"The forests aren't ours to bargain away," said Asante Riverwind, an activist in the Blue Mountains of Northeast Oregon. "They belong to the species who live there."

"I want an agreement that no one will ever do this again," his partner Karen Coulter said. "We have to all be acting with the same goal to be strong."

Kerr, conservation director of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, called the decision to negotiate on the release of sales "the most difficult piece of political calculus I've ever been involved in."

But he defended the deal as the lesser of two evils, saying he didn't know whether the environmentalists could have won a fight against a rider in the current political climate. And he argued that conditions environmentalists attached to release of the sales, like increased protection for stream corridors, may save more forests in the long run.

On one level, this acrimonious debate was between idealists and realists over the new bottom line in the old-growth preservation campaign. A lot of old growth has been logged since this war began in the early 1970s. How much of what's left should be protected? Is it still politically realistic to fight for all that remains?

Is it the movement's role to accept political reality or, as one speaker said, to change political reality?

No one in the movement likes Option 9, Clinton's preferred plan, because it allows about a quarter of the remaining unprotected old-growth forests to be logged, it sanctions entry into some roadless areas for logging and it even permits salvage logging and thinning of younger stands in the old-growth reserves it sets aside.

Still, the plan undeniably moves the forest-protection agenda forward, reducing logging sharply and committing the administration to protecting large amounts of old growth for its own sake.

Can environmentalists make the case that Option 9 is ecologically unacceptable? That argument will almost certainly be fought out in the courts — but will it sell in the court of public opinion?

On another level, the opening rift is a symptom of the movement's increasing dependence on foundation funding, professional lobbyists and a litigation-driven strategy.

It didn't start out this way. It started out with volunteer activists taking a stand against what they believed to be environmentally destructive logging in their own

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The forests aren't ours to bargain away. They belong to the species who live there.

— Asante Riverwind,
NE Oregon forest activist

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SPLIT: Money co-opts an idealistic movement

■ Continued from Page C1
back yards.

When there was less money but more passion, said longtime activist Michael Donnelly, the movement believed it could accomplish anything. Money has made the movement cautious, pragmatic and willing to compromise, he said.

At bottom, though, this conflict was set in motion last November, when voters evicted George Bush and Dan Quayle from the White House and replaced them with Bill Clinton and Al Gore.

Many grass-roots activists believe that this new "friendly" administration has co-opted their movement by winning symbolic concessions that weaken their position with Congress and the American public.

"I miss George Bush," Kerr confessed as he took his lumps from forest warriors he has worked with for 20 years over his part in the deal.

Those in the know wore big buttons bearing a likeness of Larry Tuttle, ONRC's executive director, and the question: "Disagreeable ass or rising star?"

The question referred to a writer's description of Tuttle, who stubbornly tried to minimize damage to the forests and the movement during the protracted negotiations.

Tuttle was bucking not only the administration, but also his own lawyers from the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, who urged their clients to make the deal.

"Unreasonable pressure was put on the plaintiffs to follow the advice of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund," Tuttle said in his only comment of the night.

The movement to save the ancient forests

clearly is at a crossroads. Will it dissipate in endless appeals and litigation of the final forest plan over technical, even arcane scientific issues? Will it gain new resolve from this internal crisis? Can it still attract money and support from around the country?

The prospect of the Clinton forest plan has brought a divided timber industry together. Industry groups have filed lawsuits right and left even before the adoption of a final plan. Industry giants like Georgia-Pacific Corp. and alliances such as the Oregon Forest Resources Institute have launched sophisticated regional and national advertising campaigns touting their newfound environmental awareness.

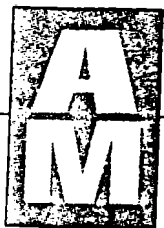
Clinton's effort to resolve the forest conflict has had the opposite effect on the loose alliance of forest activists that calls itself the ancient forest movement. In Portland and in the corridors of Washington, D.C., intense political maneuvering is the order of the day. But in lonely outposts scattered across the Northwest, where the environment can be hostile for people who want to save trees, there's anxiety, anger, even despair.

Tim Hermach, founder of the Native Forest Council, says it's time for forest activists to borrow a page from the timber industry and stand firm.

"Bill Clinton today is between a rock and a sponge because of what we say and how we say it," he said in the sternest speech of the evening. "They're our forests, they're our trees. Why are we on the defense? It's time to draw a line and say, 'Mr. Clinton, we're not moving. We're a rock, too.'"

Can the movement still draw that line? Does it want to?

SATURDAY



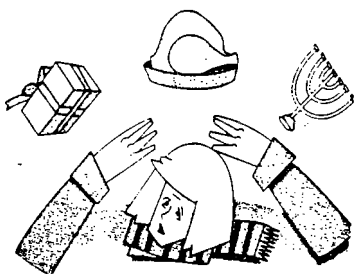
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PORTLAND,
OREGON

35 CENTS

The Oregonian



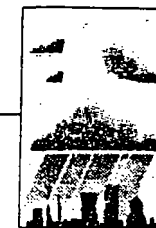
◀ **WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS COOKIES?** When holiday stress starts to ratchet up, just bail out/ **LIVING, C1**



◀ **STARK RAVING MAD:** The theater production of "Comfort and Joy" might see legal action/ **ARTS, C6**



▲ **BLAZERS BEAT LAKERS:** Jerome Kersey stars in a 117-99 victory at home/ **SPORTS, B1**



WEATHER

Cloudy and breezy Saturday with some showers. High 48, low 38.

A2

Clinton plan would ease NW logging limits

The proposal would focus on protection for the threatened birds in federal forests while loosening restrictions on state and private lands

By **JOAN LAATZ**
of The Oregonian staff

The Clinton administration Friday proposed relaxing logging restrictions near northern spotted owls on Northwest state and private lands, opting instead to focus protection for the threatened birds in federal forests.

The administration's proposal, announced by Assistant Interior Secretary George Frampton, would remove most restrictions from nearly all nonfederal land affected by logging limits aimed at protecting the owl. The proposal could potentially open up thousands of acres

of forest land to logging in Oregon, Washington and Northern California.

The relaxed rules could take effect in March, after an environmental impact study is done and public meetings are held.

"We're trying to honor the president's commitment to the people of the Northwest to end the gridlock that for too long has stalled sound responsible forest management policy in the region," said Katie McGinty, director of the White House Office of Environmental Policy, who joined Frampton in making the announcement.

Roughly 42 percent of Oregon's forest

land is nonfederal, with logging on private land accounting for half of the 5.7 billion board feet of timber logged in 1992.

Frampton said the administration's proposal would give state and private landowners more flexibility and certainty in planning future harvests. The proposal would ask landowners to voluntarily develop long-term habitat conservation plans for their lands that would protect a range of species while allowing logging to proceed. Such plans

THE CLINTON PLAN

■ **BACKGROUND:** A federal judge locked up new federal timber sales after finding that the government's timber management policies violated environmental laws. Those laws required the government to protect the northern spotted owl, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

■ **FEDERAL LANDS:** Last summer, the Clinton administration developed the

Northwest Forest Plan, called Option 9, that, if approved by the court, would set guidelines for logging and establish federal old-growth reserves for spotted owls.

■ **STATE/PRIVATE LANDS:** The administration proposes relaxing rules on non-federal lands that would virtually eliminate most requirements for spotted owl protection on much of those lands.

Please turn to
LOGGING, Page A20

The Oregonian

Logging: 116 spotted owl nesting sites would be at risk

■Continued from Page One

are already being negotiated with Weyerhaeuser Co., Frampton said.

A timber industry official in Oregon had reserved praise for the administration's plan, while environmentalists trounced it.

"The reaction of the forest industry depends on where your lands are," said Ralph Saperstein, vice president of the Northwest Forestry Association.

The plan calls for 10 areas of exception from the relaxed rules, totaling nearly 32,000 acres in Oregon and Washington, where stricter rules would remain in effect. Sixty percent of that land would still be open to logging, however.

Outside those areas, the new policy would remove logging restrictions except within 70-acre circles around known owl nesting sites, a dramatic change from the current guidelines, which require a minimum 500-acre buffer circle. In some areas of Oregon, loggers must now leave protective buffers of up to 2,000 acres if they don't want to violate the federal Endangered Species Act.

A 70-acre circle is not enough to allow an owl to survive in a nesting area, a federal spokesman in Portland acknowledged.

"The assumption is they'll either move on or die," said Phil Carroll of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "because 70 acres is not enough to keep them alive."

At least 116 spotted owl nesting sites would be at risk under the new rules, he said. Shooting or otherwise intentionally killing northern spotted owls would still be illegal.

"The administration's proposal says you cannot shoot spotted owls,

“

The reaction of the forest industry depends on where your lands are.

Ralph Saperstein

”

but you can starve them to death," said Andy Kerr, conservation director of the Oregon Natural Resources Council. "Either way, the result is the same — extinction."

The administration is not getting soft on spotted owl protection, officials were quick to say.

In announcing their plans to begin the new rule-making process, they also announced they had asked a federal judge in Seattle for an injunction against a planned timber harvest in prime owl habitat on private land on the Olympic Peninsula.

"We will enforce the laws and regulations that exist," Frampton said. "But we are also committed to exercising our flexibility under the Endangered Species Act to achieve reasonable and balanced land use."

Easing logging restrictions on private land is possible, Frampton said, because of improved management of federal lands. Option 9, which forms the base of President Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan, provides sufficient protection for owls to sustain the species, he said. That plan is still being finalized and is subject to approval by a federal judge.

But environmentalists rejected Frampton's claim, saying the presi-

dent's plan doesn't go far enough in protecting owls or other species.

"Their conclusions seem to be at odds with federal reports ... that find nonfederal lands are important to the recovery not only of owls but many other wildlife and fish," said Paul Ketchum, conservation director of the Portland Audubon Society, which filed the petition to protect the northern spotted owl under the Endangered Species Act.

The administration's proposal calls for setting up 10 management areas in Oregon and Washington. There, stricter rules would remain in effect to provide protected corridors near federal forests that don't have enough habitat.

The proposed areas in Oregon:

- 4,766 acres in the Oregon Coast Range from Tillamook north.
- 2,955 acres in the western and eastern slopes of the Oregon Cascades.
- 3,340 acres around the Rogue and South Umpqua rivers.

In Washington, the management

areas would include 6,657 acres in the Cascades and all of the Olympic Peninsula.

The administration decided not to set up any special management areas on nonfederal lands in Califor-

nia, Frampton said, because state regulations there are doing a good job of protecting the owl.

Endangered Species Act I: our only tool

BY MELANIE J. ROWLAND
Special to The Times

SOME people believe that saving endangered species should take a back seat to promoting short-term economic gain. But even these people, in the interest of being politically correct, disguise their views by purporting to suggest "improvements" to the Endangered Species Act. Tod R. Hamachek and the Washington Roundtable fall into this category ("Endangered Species Act failing its mission," *Seattle Times*, Nov. 21).

The Roundtable — whose members are the CEOs of the biggest corporations in the state, such as Boeing, Microsoft, Weyerhaeuser and U.S. Bank — would like the government to adopt a system of priorities for protecting species. Federal managers should have authority to let some species go extinct and concentrate on saving a few. That way, the argument goes, we would have a better chance of saving those that are most important.

The Roundtable's proposal is no real change at all. For years the government has had a priority system for recovery efforts. Priorities are assigned to species based on criteria such as degree of threat facing the species, recovery potential, genetic distinctiveness and degree of conflict with economic activities. However, a Government Accounting Office study found that usually the system is not followed. Why? Because Congress (read "politics") steps in to change funding priorities, and because despite the official system, the government gives priority to species with high public appeal, like the bald eagle.

The Roundtable apparently would be pleased to learn of government's responsiveness to public opinion: Hamachek was dismayed that under the Endangered Species Act, "the bald eagle is presumed to be equivalent, in the scheme of things, to a toadstool or a lesser fungi."

The irony is that while the toadstool or the fungus might actually be more important than the bald eagle to the ecosystem, and might receive a higher score in the priority ratings, the government ignores these lowly plants and other less-attractive species and concentrates on the eagle. In 1991, listed bird species received an average of \$1.1 million dollars — an average due in large part to millions spent on five species — while amphibians (frogs, snakes, and other creatures with low public appeal) received \$18,000 each. We already are doing what the Roundtable proposes. But are we saving the most important species? Probably not. And there's the rub: Who decides which species are important?

The Roundtable's recommendation is a red herring that diverts attention from the real causes of rising extinction rates: relentless human population growth and our ever-increasing consumption of resources.

There is little doubt that the Endangered Species Act, by itself, cannot stem the tide of declining species. Hamachek is correct when he says we are losing ground every day. Humans are leaving less and less of the planet to the millions of plants and animals upon which our own long-term well-being depends. But it is the prevailing "growth is always good" ethic, — an ethic that most Roundtable members likely share — and not a failure of the Act, that is primarily responsible for species extinctions and declines in other indicators of ecological health.

To conclude that the Endangered Species Act has failed because species are continuing to go extinct is like saying Harborview Medical Center's trauma unit has failed because people are still dying in auto accidents. Emergency care is only one part of society's answer to injuries caused by auto accidents. The other parts — driver education, drinking-and-driving laws, seat belts and air bags, to name a few — aim to

prevent injury. Even with this comprehensive system, people are still dying, yet no one thinks Harborview has failed.

In contrast, the Endangered Species Act is pretty much all there is when it comes to saving species. It is a wonder the Act has had *any* successes. The law steps in near the end, when habitat destruction, low numbers and loss of genetic variety make recovery the least likely and most costly. Moreover, even with recent increases, the average annual federal budget for implementing the Act in the last five years is well under \$40 million — less than half what the government spent to repair the Mercer Island floating bridge.

Another of the Roundtable's recommendations — to delay protection until entire species are threatened, rather than subspecies or populations — would assure even more failures and more cost. It also would eliminate protection for popular animals like the peregrine falcon, gray wolf and Florida panther.

So let's stop talking about "improving" the Endangered Species Act by abandoning efforts to save unappealing species, or those that business deems "too expensive" to save. Instead, in the short term, give the Act some decent funding, leave politics out of the priority system, and keep healthy species from slipping toward extinction by protecting their habitat.

In the long run, nothing will work if we don't curb human population growth and resource consumption. If the Roundtable's influential members want to make a real contribution to the future of *all* species, including our own, they can step up and be leaders in the way we do business.

Melanie J. Rowland is an attorney and a visiting scholar at the University of Washington's Institute for Environmental Studies. She is also a member of the Washington Environmental Council's board of directors.

Endangered Species Act II: and it works

BY CHUCK LENNOX
Special to The Times

WITH modern technology, a natural landscape that took millennia to evolve can be transformed in matters of days or weeks. Species once abundant beyond imagination can be brought to the brink of extinction in a few short years. Unfortunately, the process does not work so quickly the other way. Restoring degraded ecosystems and rebuilding several depleted populations requires a very long-term effort.

Some critics of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) have been very impatient for dramatic success; they decry the small number of species that have fully recovered and been delisted. Their narrow focus on full recoveries, however, misses the larger picture. What that larger picture reveals is that in two decades, many substantial accomplishments have been made. Species that would likely have been lost altogether have been given a real chance of survival. Others are clearly on the road to recovery.

The success of the Endangered Species Act can be found in every part of the country. The Pacific gray whale, hunted at the turn of the century to near extinction, has recovered to its historical levels and is being considered for delisting. The black-footed ferret, once thought extinct, has been reintroduced into the wild in several locations in the Great Plains as the result of a highly successful captive-breeding program under the ESA. In New York State, four of their five endangered wildflowers are considered to be either improving or stable. In Florida, the American alligator and brown pelican have both recovered. And, the red wolf has been reintroduced into several areas of the Southeastern United States. Without intervention of the ESA, these plants and animals would surely have gone the way of the passenger pigeon.

Here in the Northwest, the Idaho population of endangered woodland caribou has increased three to four times the number estimated when the animal was listed in 1983. In Oregon, the population of the Columbia white-tailed deer has been improving due to increased protection as a result of the establishment of a national wildlife refuge. In Washington, bald eagle breeding pairs have increased from 103 in 1974 to 398 in 1990, the third-highest total in the lower 48 states. Evidence of the gray wolf returning to the Cascades has been increasing on a regular basis. Residents of the cities of Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane have witnessed the return of the peregrine falcon in increasing numbers after a disastrous decline in population throughout the West due to pesticide poisoning.

Like an emergency room, the ESA only handles cases which are, by definition, in grave danger because of our actions. The success of an emergency room is measured by whether the patient's condition is stabilized or improved so that, with further care, recovery is possible. Using this measure, the ESA has been an effective safety net: Under its protection, 238 threatened and endangered species — 41 percent of all species listed in the United States — are in stabilizing or improving condition.

The ESA is a strong but flexible law that protects and recovers species while also allowing for economic development. When critical habitat is designated for the recovery of a species, areas can be excluded based on potential economic impacts. During the reintroduction of endangered red wolves in coastal North Carolina,

special rules were adopted to alleviate the concerns of people living in the area — including allowing farmers to shoot wolves that attack the livestock.

Predictions of economic disaster resulting from endangered species conservation do not reflect reality. Properly implemented and enforced, the ESA can successfully balance economic need with conservation needs. Contrary to claims by ESA opponents, the Act has seldom resulted in the blocking of a project. Of the more than 120,000 federal actions reviewed under the ESA between 1973 and 1991, less than 1 percent were found to jeopardize a listed species, and only 34 were canceled due to species conflicts. The remarkable thing about the Endangered Species Act isn't how many controversies there have been, but how few.

When compared with other public expenditures, we have invested minimal dollars in the protection of our endangered biological heritage. For example, the money appropriated in 1991 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect and recover endangered species throughout the United States was:

- Less than the Agriculture Department's Beef Promotion and Research Board spent in 1992 on advertising to promote the consumption of beef;
- Less than it costs to build 1 mile of urban highway;
- Less than *half* the value of the salary and bonuses awarded in 1992 to the CEO of the Coca-Cola Company, and
- Less than what Washington, D.C., residents spent on Domino's Pizza that year.

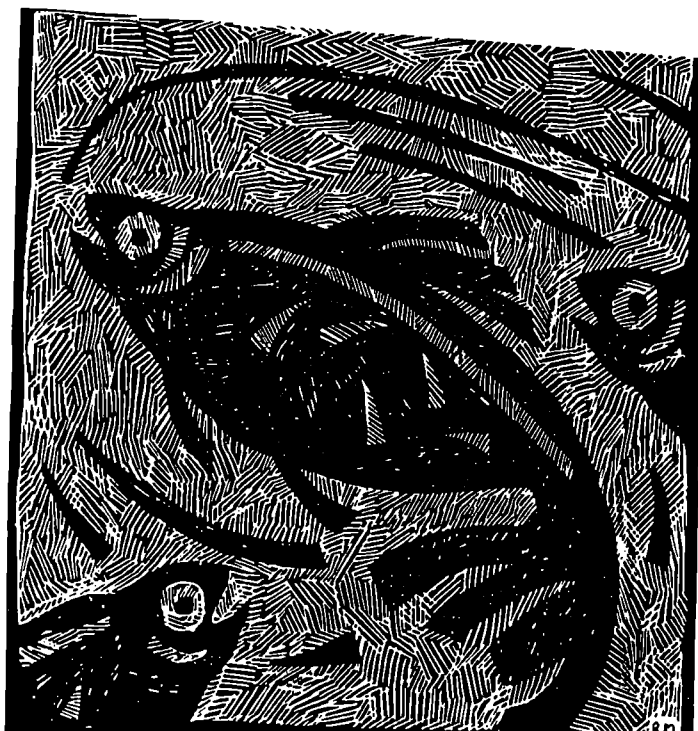
The extinction of species is something we cannot afford. Forty percent of all prescriptions written today are either based upon or synthesized from natural compounds. Unfortunately, only 5 percent of known plant species have been screened for their medicinal values, although we continue to lose many species daily throughout the world.

Of the estimated 80,000 edible plants in the world, we depend upon only 20 species — such as wheat and corn — to provide 90 percent of the world's food. Wild relatives of these common crops provide a genetic reservoir to develop pest- and disease-resistant strains. In the 1970s, genetic material from a wild corn species in Mexico was used to stop a leaf fungus that had previously wiped out 15 percent of the U.S. corn crop.

Some wild species are harvested commercially thus contributing directly to local and regional economies. Commercial and recreational salmon fishing in the Pacific Northwest provides 60,000 jobs and \$1 billion annually in personal income. This industry is in trouble as salmon decline due to habitat degradation from dams, clear-cutting and overgrazing along streams.

What species might we lose today that could have provided critical medicines, vital food crops or support an important industry? The cost of maintaining the biodiversity of our planet is very economical when compared to the exorbitant cost of extinction. Biodiversity, once lost, cannot be restored. Extinction is too expensive.

Chuck Lennox is chair of the Endangered Species Act Coalition of Washington, which represents 100 individuals and 16 groups with over 80,000 members working for the strengthening of the Endangered Species Act during the current reauthorization process. For more information, contact the Coalition at (206) 720-4928.



RICHARD MILHOLLAND/OP-ART

The Olympian
Monday, December 27, 1993

Endangered species list a lengthy, tortuous route

■ **Backlog:** It can take months or years for a species to achieve a designation due to 3,600 cases awaiting examination.

By Ken Miller

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON -- How do species wind up on the endangered species list?

Depending on how urgent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service views the situation, it can take a few months or several years.

Here's a look at how the process works, with a glossary of terms and phrases unique to species conservation:

While the government may recommend a species for listing as endangered or threatened, private citizens or organizations can petition the government to list a species. In the case of a private petition, the government has 90 days to decide if the nomination merits investigating.

Assuming it moves ahead, the government then has one year to decide if listing is warranted. During that year, regulators may hold one or several public hearings in the area where the species is found.

Because of the tremendous backlog of about 3,600 species awaiting detailed studies, species are put on waiting lists on the basis of how much is known about them and how grave their situation is. This is where most species get clogged in the system.

If there is enough proof to warrant protection, a species is listed as "endangered," meaning it faces extinction, or "threatened," meaning its plight isn't as severe but it faces the possibility of future extinction without protection.

Under current law, the decision on whether to list a species must be made solely on the basis of biological information — as opposed to whether listing might have economic impacts. Threats include the loss or reduction of its habitat; overuse of habitat for commercial or recreational purposes; disease or predation; or competition from "alien species" taking over its territory.

While economics is not considered in listing a species, the law allows for economics to be weighed in deciding how to help a listed species recover.

A major contributor to the decline of many species has been the failure of government agencies to consult with the Fish and Wildlife

Service on how their actions — such as construction of a dam or a highway — might affect a habitat.

These "Section 7 consultations," named for the chapter in the law that requires them, have often been ignored in the past. The most spectacular example is the lack of communication between the U.S. Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service over how logging in the Pacific Northwest would affect the Northern spotted owl.

While Section 7 consultations require federal agencies to show their actions won't harm endangered species, private landowners had no such options until 1982, when Congress created "habitat conservation plans" (HCPs), which allow developments to continue while still protecting species. The issue first arose when the snail darter slammed the breaks on the Tellico Dam project in Tennessee in 1978.

The Department of Interior is just starting to actively pursue HCPs to balance needs of landowners and endangered species — there are fewer than 30 in place but dozens more awaiting approval. The plans allow private parties to work with local officials to protect habitats in conjunction with the FWS.

The first HCP was created 10 years ago to protect the Mission blue butterfly and San Bruno elfin butterfly while allowing development on San Bruno Mountain outside of San Francisco.

Once listed, a species is eligible for several protective measures designed to prevent "takings," a catch-all term for killing, hurting, trapping, collecting, hunting, shooting, capturing, harassing or any other activity that affects the species.

The law gives no preference to so-called "higher species" such as whales, wolves or bears over the hundreds of insects, birds, clams or plants awaiting listing. Some species are listed faster than others if they're in more danger.

After a species is listed, the government must review its status every five years to determine whether it should be upgraded (such as from endangered to threatened) or downgraded or, in rare cases, "delisted." While most species that have been delisted were removed because they went extinct, a few were removed after recovering.

Just as individuals or groups can petition the government to list a species; they can petition the government to remove one, usually because they believe the species has adequately recovered or because it was improperly listed in the first place.

Was ington spec'es on the protected lists

The Olympian

Here is a capsule look at the mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and insects in the state found on the federal list of threatened (T) and endangered (E) species:

■ **Grizzly bear** (T): Listed in 1975, the grizzly bear once ranged from the Arctic to central Mexico. Loss of habitat and poaching has reduced its range by more than 98 percent. Probably less than 50 grizzly bears in the state.

■ **Woodland caribou** (E): Listed in 1983, the caribou population is pegged at 60-70 animals living in northeast Washington, British Columbia, Idaho and Montana. Numbers are stable but vulnerable to road kills, poaching and habitat loss.

■ **Columbian white-tailed deer** (E): Population estimated at 600-800 in lower Columbia River area of Washington, compared to about 400 in 1967. Also rebounding in Oregon. Originally listed in 1967 due to poaching and habitat loss. U.S. Fish and Washington Service considering change in status to the less serious "threatened."

■ **Northern sea lion** (T): Unlike California sea lion, the Northern sea lion populations continue to decline. Population estimated at 200,000, primarily in Alaskan waters.

■ **Gray wolf** (E): Once found throughout North America, the gray wolf was decimated by trapping, shooting and anti-predator campaigns, leading to listing in 1975. Probably less than 25 in state, but fairly numerous in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

■ **Bald eagle** (T): Listed in 1978, bald eagle status improving with seven of 11 recovery zones in the state meeting or exceeding goals for nesting pairs. Biologists counted 444 occupied nests in 1991, a 10 percent increase from 1990. Range includes North America to northern Mexico. Threatened by reduced prey, loss of nesting and roosting trees, poaching, powerlines and pesticides.

■ **American and Arctic peregrine falcons** (E, T): Only one known peregrine falcon pair in the state in 1975, which was five years after listing. Active pairs sighted statewide in 1991 totalled 17. Major threats include pesticides, poaching and powerlines.

■ **Aleutian Canada goose** (T):

Listing improved from endangered to threatened in 1991 as population increased from 790 in 1975 to more than 7,000 in 1991.

■ **Marbled murrelet** (T): Listed in 1992, this robin-sized seabird numbers less than 5,000 in the state. Range includes the coastal areas from northern California to Alaska. Status declining from loss of old-growth nesting habitat, drift nets, oil spills and nearshore development.

■ **Northern spotted owl** (T): Listing in 1990 touched off furious debate over management of ancient forests in Pacific Northwest. Owl range stretches from southwest British Columbia to northern California. Population is unknown but about 700 activity centers have been identified statewide.

■ **Brown pelican** (E): Condition improving with 7,613 brown pelicans seen along the Washington coast in 1991, a 34 percent increase in one year.

■ **Western snowy plover** (T): Several thousand birds live in the coastal sandspits of Washington, Oregon and California, but only 20-30 breeding pairs at two coastal sites in this state. Both state sites publically-owned and protected. Development of beach habitat and human disturbance key threats. Listed in 1992.

■ **Green sea turtle,** Leatherback sea turtle and Ridley sea turtle (T,E): All three species were listed in 1978. They rarely come ashore, but are seen in waters off the Washington coast. Populations unknown, but believed to be declining from habitat losses, gill nets and long-line commercial fishing.

■ **Sockeye salmon** (E): Listed in 1991 after only four Snake River sockeye returned to their spawning grounds, once home to tens of thousands of fish. Hydroelectric dam construction in the Columbia River basin a major cause of decline.

■ **Oregon silverspot** butterfly (T): Listed in 1978, the butterfly lives in saltwater meadows of Oregon and Washington's Long Beach Peninsula. Numbers rangewide fluctuate from several hundred to several thousand, but no silverspots were seen during the 1991 state survey.

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Counting the endangered

Plants make up by far the largest proportion of species on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species list. Species listed as endangered are at greater risk of extinction than those listed as threatened.

Group	Endangered		Threatened		Both
	U.S. only	U.S. & foreign*	U.S. only	U.S. & foreign*	
Mammals	37	19	6	3	65
Birds	57	16	8	5	86
Reptiles	8	8	14	4	34
Amphibians	6	0	4	1	11
Fishes	52	3	30	6	91
Snails	7	0	6	0	13
Clams	40	0	2	0	42
Crustaceans	9	0	2	0	11
Insects	13	1	9	0	23
Arachnids	3	0	0	0	3
Subtotal for animals					379
Plants	291	7	63	9	370
Totals	523	54	144	28	Grand total: 749

*These are species found in both the U.S. and adjacent countries. This column does not include species that are found only in the U.S.

The Olympian
Monday, December 27, 1993

Species, societal conflicts increase

■ **Overwhelming numbers:** Experts see public support waning as increasingly exotic species clamor for protection.

By Ken Miller
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — The Endangered Species Act spent its formative years cutting its teeth on such win-win causes as saving whales, the American bald eagle, falcons, pelicans, turtles and manatees.

A product of the '70s, it flourished in the environmental heyday of the era, becoming the arrow of choice in the conservation quiver.

It grew stronger in its teens, venturing beyond protecting fuzzy, charismatic creatures to boldly stand between extinction and the likes of the Arkansas fatmucket, the lyrate bladderpod, the New Mexican ridge-nosed rattlesnake and the threespine unarmored stickleback.

The Endangered Species Act's 20th anniversary Tuesday is a landmark for the world's foremost conservation law. But for a growing number of conservatives and property-rights activists, the spunky little law has mutated into a grotesque, menacing, dangerous tool for extremists to rob landowners of the right to use their property.

Enacted as the nation watched some of its most magnificent species collapse to near extinction, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was designed as a conservation convalescent home where species would be stabilized and then recover to where they could fend for themselves.

Instead, it has become a triage room, where hopeless species are sorted out from those that have a chance to be rescued. By the time most species meet the ESA, they are in crisis.

While just four species have recovered sufficiently to be removed from the list of more than 760, 3,600 more are jammed in the pipeline, awaiting rulings on whether they should be listed as threatened or endangered.

The law's accomplishments over the past 20 years are legion. But many say those victories amount to the low-hanging fruit of the plant and animal kingdoms. The more difficult tasks ahead are certain to pit the interests of often-ignoble endangered species against the economic interest of humans.

"There has to be a concurrent conservation of life and economic development," Harvard entomologist E.O. Wilson told a gathering of reporters recently before leaving

for Japan to pick up the International Prize on Biology.

"ESA needs to be kept as it is," said Wilson, whose recent book, "The Diversity of Life," examines biological diversity and endangered species.

As Congress considers opening up the law for its five-year checkup, Wilson joined the chorus calling for a new emphasis on "multispecies protection" of broad "ecosystems" rather than juggling overlapping habitats unique to single species.

A good start, he said, are endangered-species "hot spots" such as the Hawaiian rainforests and the Edwards Aquifer in Texas, home to a variety of controversial species that compete with urban areas for a limited supply of water.

"Even if not a single job were created, wildlife would be worth conserving," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Mollie Beattie told the Natural Resources Council of America earlier this month. Beattie's department oversees most endangered species issues, with marine species under the jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Species that don't create jobs and aren't cute and cuddly are often critical components in the web of life and serve as invaluable indicators of what is going on in our environment," she said. "When we see the snails and the mussels and the lichen in trouble, it is often a signal that the ecosystems upon which we depend are unraveling."

Beattie and other ESA defenders downplay the law's interference with development and other conflicts, claiming only 33 developments were stopped due to endangered species problems from 1979-1991. Further, they say the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to rule the ESA was used to deprive property rights in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Critics say it is what looms ahead that frightens them. Coupled with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's new National Biological Survey, created to inventory U.S. plants and animals, they say overzealous environmentalists will use sweeping ecosystem plans and a beefed up ESA to trample on property rights.

Experts on both sides of the issue say overwhelming public support for the law means it will survive. The big question is whether it will be expanded, as conservationists and Babbitt hope, to include not single species but "multispecies ecosystems."

"We want to spend more of our resources in the field helping recover species and less time in the courtroom fighting over listings," Beattie said.

► ENVIRONMENT

Conservationists misread lock on legislation

■ **Clinton election portent:** They underestimated the strength of property-rights activists and others demanding equal rights for people with wildlife.

By Ken Miller
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — A year ago, still light-headed over the election of Bill Clinton and Al Gore, the environmental community set out first to fill high government posts with their own troops and then fortify the nation's environmental laws.

There seemed no better time: Most major environmental laws are up for review in this Congress, including a 20-year-old Endangered Species Act frayed by years of crisis management.

When Clinton appointed Bruce Babbitt, high priest of the conservation movement, as secretary of Interior, environmentalists

swooned. When Babbitt plucked Wilderness Society boss George Frampton as a top deputy, beefing up the Endangered Species Act was just a question of how much they dared demand.

Things could hardly be more different today. A bloody October House floor fight over Babbitt's banged-up National Biological Survey left conservationists shell-shocked.

Endangered Species Act supporters grossly misread the strength of property-rights activists, who vowed October's rumble was merely a peek at what's in store in 1994.

Rep. Billy Tauzin, D-La., chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Navigation, led the charge for property rights in demanding landowners be compensated if environmental policies deprive them of the use of their land.

Babbitt created the NBS to catalog the nation's plant and animal life and to avoid disasters such as the northern spotted owl meltdown in the Pacific Northwest. By

knowing where species are, Babbitt said, landowners would have fewer run-ins with federal regulators, who in turn could protect species before it's too late.

But Tauzin, the fourth-ranking Democrat on the House committee that oversees the Endangered Species Act, joined others in charging the NBS is another way for extremist "eco-cops" to lock up private land by drumming up bogus endangered-species claims.

Tauzin said the property-rights arguments in the NBS debate will be aimed at the Endangered Species Act if sponsor Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass., and others don't incorporate humans into endangered-species decisions.

"My goal is to retain and strengthen our nation's strong commitment to species preservation, while at the same time recognizing the need to consider the economic and sociological impacts of preservation actions," said Tauzin, who has his own version of the ESA pending in this Congress.

Studds, who after the bruising NBS fight

with Tauzin warned ESA supporters that the law could be in trouble, is rethinking when to risk bringing the bill up in 1994 and opening it to what could be wholesale revisions.

Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., is in no hurry to schedule action on ESA. Baucus and his committee are deep into reauthorizing such environmental laws as the Clean Water Act and Superfund before turning to ESA and the expected brawl akin to that in the House.

Babbitt is taking advantage of the delays to forge "habitat conservation plans" with landowners such as forest giants International Paper (red hills salamander and gopher tortoise) and Georgia Pacific (red-cockaded woodpecker) to show how species can be protected without invoking the economically painful provisions of the law.

Babbitt spokesman Bob Walker said Babbitt sees no rush to reauthorize the law this year, and observers agree the delays will strengthen Babbitt's hand by allowing him to showcase such landmark

agreements as the plan in Southern California to protect the California gnatcatcher while still allowing development.

Bob Irvin, senior attorney on the Baucus panel, told loggers in Montana recently that an ESA bill by Baucus includes provisions for financial rewards to landowners who work with the government to protect species on their land.

"The fight over the Biological Survey was very revealing in terms of how members of Congress feel about ESA and related issues," said Environmental Defense Fund attorney Michael Bean.

"It was a somewhat sobering awakening to the depth and breadth of negative sentiment about endangered species and conservation issues," Bean said, adding the October fight will help ESA supporters rethink their plan for 1994.

Most important, Bean said, recent events prove the need for environmentalists and property owners to join the Interior Department in finding settlements and avoiding the need for ESA's stiff penalties and fines.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT • 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Time for a change?

■ Northwest division:

Before the spotted owl decision, the Endangered Species Act was popular in the Northwest.

By John Dodge

The Olympian

When it comes to public perception of the Endangered Species Act, there are the "pre-owl" and "post-owl" eras in the Pacific Northwest.

Before the northern spotted owl was listed as a threatened species in 1990, the 20-year-old environmental law had few detractors.

"I think it was seen as a real great thing -- a law to help save animals like the bald eagle and the whooping crane," said Melanie Rowland, a Seattle attorney and visiting scholar at the University of Washington Institute for Environmental Studies.

Fast forward to 1993 and the act is at the center of a regional debate over protecting species and preserving jobs that rely on timber, fish and cheap hydroelectric power.

"I can't think of any region of the country more impacted by Endangered Species Act listings," said Bill Jacobs, executive director of the Washington Forest Protection Association, a timber industry group.

Listing the owl as threatened played a role in bringing timber harvesting in old-growth federal forests to a virtual standstill. State and private timberlands have been affected, too.

The specter of salmon species receiving Endangered Species Act protection could lead to major changes in how the water in the Columbia River basin is allocated for irrigation and power production, not to mention potential cut-backs in commercial and recreational salmon fisheries.

But not everyone agrees with critics of the federal act that it has been abused and misused in the case of the northern spotted owl.

"I think it was appropriately used," observed Kaleen Cottingham, supervisor of the state Department of Natural Resources. "Sometimes you have to hit people over the head with a 2-by-4 for them to see the consequences of their actions."

"I view the Endangered Species Act like the warning light on your car's dashboard," Cottingham said. "The key is to do enough preventative maintenance so the light never comes on."

Inside: Environmentalists underestimated opposition **A2**

On the list: Species protected in the state **A2**



CAUGHT IN THE ACT: The Endangered Species Act protects a variety of creatures, including the American bald eagle. But protection for the northern spotted owl has created a split in the northwest.

Dick Milligan The Olympian/File

Impatience grows over lack of forest policy

Timber-supply struggle has lasted for five years with no end in sight

BY SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Another year will close in the Pacific Northwest without a predictable, long-term timber supply or permanent protection for some of the nation's oldest forests.

President Clinton, flanked by Vice President Al Gore and half of his Cabinet, promised both at an extraordinary conference in Portland last April.

And administration officials say they are making significant progress toward those goals.

But critics are growing impatient on both sides of the struggle that has pitted loggers against spotted owls for more than five years.

Conservationists say Clinton's preliminary management plan is illegal because it allows too much logging and doesn't provide the level of wildlife protection required under U.S. environmental laws.

"The more you read it, the more your alarm bells go off. It's illegal over and over again," said Brock Evans, vice president of the National Audubon Society.

They predict U.S. District Judge William

Dwyer of Seattle will void the plan next spring and extend an injunction prohibiting logging across most of the region's federal lands. That injunction has been in effect since 1991 when Dwyer found the Bush administration's harvest plans to be illegal.

"The new administration started the year with high hopes, hoping for change," said Tim Hermach of the Native Forest Council in Eugene, Ore. "But on the ground we've seen little change. Lots of slicked up political rhetoric, but continuing forest destruction."

Timber industry leaders say the plan is illegal because it was secretly drafted in violation of open meetings laws. They say it doesn't allow for enough logging to sustain Northwest sawmills and will cost the industry tens of thousands of jobs.

"Everything we feared that could happen to the timber-based economy in the Northwest, and the president hoped to avoid, is happening. And the worst is yet to come," said Dan Dutton, president of Stimson Lumber Co. in Portland.

Both sides fear that what was billed as a magnificent compromise when Clinton un-

veiled it in July could end up being only another chapter in a series of courtroom battles over the fate of the only temperate rain forests in North America.

"It is still tied up in litigation and I suspect it will be tied up in litigation for many more years," said Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., a staunch defender of the timber industry.

"As inadequate as (Clinton's plan) is, it will not be able to deliver anything like the modest harvests it promises," he said.

Clinton's proposal would reduce logging on federal lands in the region to 1.2 billion board feet of timber — about one-fourth the annual average of the 1980s. It takes about 10,000 board feet to build a typical single-family home.

Administration officials moved this month to ease restrictions on private lands with spotted owls, but they say dramatic cutbacks in government harvests are necessary to make up for decades of excessive logging.

"The determination to ignore environmental realities is really what has led to economic difficulty in the Pacific Northwest," said Kathleen McGinty, director of the White House Office on Environmental Policy.

The Fish and Wildlife Service declared the northern spotted owl a threatened species in June 1990. That came after a court ruled that an earlier decision under the Reagan administration against listing the bird was based on politics rather than sound science.

The Bush administration granted a rare exemption to the Endangered Species Act to allow some Oregon logging near spotted owls, but later abandoned the effort when environmentalists went to court arguing the White House wrongly politicized that decision.

Mollie Beattie, new director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said Clinton's restoration plans are being created "not only out of whole cloth, but in a very contentious atmosphere."

"Things had gotten so bad . . . the line we must walk between timber supply and the endangered species is a very, very thin one," she said. "So the process is sort of slow. But imminently, you will begin to see marked progress."

Mark Rey, vice president of the American Forest & Paper Association, says sarcastically that Clinton already has made good on one of his promises.

"The timber supply is predictable. It is zero. It is going to remain zero for some time," he said.

Tom Tuchmann, a special assistant to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt overseeing the forest plan, disagrees.

He said 1.2 billion board feet of federal timber has been sold and is in the so-called "pipeline," but that private contractors have decided to postpone harvests for a variety of reasons.

"If you had a chain saw, you could cut it today," Tuchmann said. "There is volume

'The new administration started the year with high hopes, hoping for change. But on the ground we've seen little change.'

TIM HERMACH

Of the Native Forest Council

out there. We are doing everything we can to get more volume out there."

Nevertheless, he understands the apprehension.

"I would be impatient as well," said Tuchmann, a trained forester and former aide to the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee.

"I have worked on this issue myself for six years and I'd like to get a solution as soon as possible. But let's not take short cuts. Remember, we took over under a court injunction," he said.

Clinton's plan is a balanced one that provides needed protection of the forests without ignoring an industry dependent on wood, Tuchmann said.

"It isn't all things to all people and therefore there are people who are going to be unhappy. Everybody has very strong feelings about the purpose of national forests. It is our responsibility to take that input and put it in a sensible policy," he said.

A 'stealth' campaign by timber industry

Timber-company executives are leaning on prominent nontimber people to join a group called the Citizens to Protect the Pacific Northwest and Northern California Economy. The group has also sent out 1.5 million form letters, asking people to send in signature cards if they agree with the group's goals.

The group wants Congress to end the federal court injunction that now blocks timber sales; to offer a predictable timber harvest for the next three years; to test new forest practices before mandating them and to insulate private forest owners from some regulatory threats.

The letters don't ask for money. They want names. The industry has put up the \$1.5 million to send out the letters and run TV ads that call for more logging. But the ads say

they are sponsored by the Citizens to Protect the Pacific Northwest and Northern California Economy.

Many of those in the group seem to be there just for show. Even its honorary Washington state co-chairman, when asked of its goals, could not say what they were: "I haven't been brought up to date on what their agenda is going to be."

"They" are the forest-products industry. That industry is important to this region's economy and has every right to campaign for public support. But it should do so under its own name.

To hire a press agent to cook up a campaign, pay all that campaign's bills and then claim that the campaign "was founded by more than 100 prominent community leaders in Oregon, Washington and Northern California" is too crafty by half.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Friday, December 10, 1993

Cut in owl protection is forecast

Private, state timber to benefit, critic says

By Rob Taylor
P-I Reporter

The Clinton administration is planning to greatly increase the amount of logging allowed near spotted owl nests on most state and private lands in the Pacific Northwest, an environmental activist said.

The Interior Department scheduled a news conference for today concerning owl protection on state and private land. Officials declined to disclose details.

Mike Francis, a public lands lobbyist for The Wilderness Society, said the administration briefed him on the plan last week. As described to him, Francis said, the plan would free for harvest more than 90 percent of the timber that is currently off-limits because of spotted owls on most nonfederal lands.

At the same time, the plan would tighten logging curbs on nonfederal lands in a few "special emphasis areas" most important to the owl's survival, Francis said.

While some details could change, any relaxation of owl protections would be welcomed by timber landowners in the region. The industry has estimated that the curbs currently bar harvest on 254,000 acres of timberland in Washington.

The plan appears consistent with the administration's desire to assert that it has promoted economic activity that doesn't harm wildlife.

But such a plan is likely to draw fire

See **TIMBER**, Page C2

Timber: 'Special emphasis areas' selected

From Page C1

from environmentalists. Francis argued that it would fail to meet the legal requirements for protecting birds, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The Clinton administration "is still worshipping at the same altar as the previous administration," Francis charged.

Administration officials mapped "special emphasis areas" on the Interstate 90 corridor in the Washington Cascades, the Olympic Peninsula, a Columbia Gorge corridor, and parts of the southern Oregon Coast Range and its link to the Cascades, Francis said. In these areas, he said, nonfederal landowners would be asked to maintain standing timber on 40 percent of the land.

Elsewhere, he said, protected timber around each spotted owl nest would shrink dramatically, to 70 acres from the more than 1,000 acres that has been protected for more than two years.

According to Francis, the administration believes that protection of owl habitat on federal land is so complete that the bird needs safeguards only on selected other landholdings. Most of the special areas, he noted, are drawn to connect blocks of federal habitat.

Francis, however, argued that broader protection is needed on private and state land because the administration's plans for federal lands are inadequate. He also contended that the plan would leave little incentive for most landowners to draft federally approved plans for spotted owl conservation.

Current federal owl protection guidelines have been controversial. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service withdrew the guidelines in the face of an industry lawsuit, but kept them alive by saying they remained its best thinking on what would harm the owls and risk violating the law.

Biologists complain the owl circles provide limited long-term benefits. In fact, some have worried that they encouraged multiple landowners to race to cut timber down to the legally permitted maximum.

Today's announcement is due to be made in Washington, D.C., by George Frampton, assistant secretary of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, together with officials from the White House and Justice Department. They are expected to announce plans to conduct an environmental impact statement evaluating the proposal, government sources said. That process would delay a final proposal until February.

◆
*News of South
King County, greater
Seattle and the state*

SOUTH KING COUNTY EDITION LOCAL NEWS

THE SEATTLE TIMES SECTION B THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1993

New timber coalition to join forest debate

Three-state group will challenge Clinton plan

BY ERIC PRYNE
Seattle Times staff reporter

The timber industry has prominent new allies in the fight over the Northwest's federal forests.

A new three-state group, Citizens to Protect the Pacific Northwest and Northern California Economy, has formed to work for a "fairer, more comprehensive" solution to the long-running dispute.

Among those on the list of 60 founding members, released this week, are Boeing chairman Frank Shrontz, Seattle University President Father William Sullivan, and state Labor Council President Rick Bender.

The timber industry instigated formation of the new group and is bankrolling its \$1-million to \$1.5-million budget, said Don Brunell, Washington co-chairman and president of the Association of Washington Business, the state's chief business lobby.

"If this industry goes down, the spinoff effects on the economy will be enormous," Brunell said.

The group says its formation is an attempt to inject new voices into the debate over the region's forests, which has been dominated so far by timber interests and environmentalists. It plans to solicit support through television and radio ads and direct-mail appeals.

Federal court injunctions arising from environmentalist lawsuits have blocked almost all new timber sales on federal forests in Western Washington, Western Oregon and Northern California for 2½ years.

The Clinton administration unveiled its proposed solution this summer — but it's not the answer, said James Bethel, another co-chair and dean emeritus of the University of Washington's College of Forest Resources.

"It's biased on the side of reducing the area of land allocated to the production of timber products," he said.

Clinton's plan would put about 60 percent of the region's remaining older federal forests in reserves, reducing logging to about one-quarter the level of the 1980s. The proposal has drawn fire from both timber interests and environmentalists.

The new group wants Congress to settle the dispute, an alternative administration officials so far have rejected.

Other Washingtonians on the list of founding members include:

- Paul Schell, Seattle port commissioner and former mayoral candidate.

- Charles Pigott, PACCAR chairman.

- Thomas O'Leary, Burlington Resources chairman.

- John Clute, Gonzaga University law school dean.

- Three newspaper executives: Seattle Times president Mason Sizemore; (Spokane) Spokesman-Review publisher William Stacey Cowles, and Longview Daily News publisher Ted Natt.

ISSUES

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Endangered Species Act failing its mission

BY TOD R. HAMACHEK
Special to The Times

JUST a few weeks ago, a University of Washington graduate student found grizzly bear paw prints south of Interstate 90, in the Cascade foothills. The first such sighting in nearly 25 years, the tracks were found on the Kowpowsin Tree Farm. Once again an endangered species and timber harvesting will clash over the same piece of land. This latest episode underscores how unpredictable the Endangered Species Act is, and how it continues to impact our state well beyond the spotted owl decision.

Too many endangered species, too few dollars to save them and severe economic dislocation are three reasons the Endangered Species Act must be reformed. Congress must give federal officials the authority to set priorities — or we risk losing more species to extinction and exporting more American jobs abroad.

While the Endangered Species Act is often called America's most powerful environmental law, this doesn't mean that most species are actually being saved. Unfortunately, the act's reputation is due more to its uncompromising regulatory standards, and the costs they impose, than its success in protecting endangered species.

Biologically, the act is failing

If the act was succeeding, the health of protected species should be improving. Yet, most officially listed species are closer to extinction now than when they were originally listed. Four times as many listed species are *declining* as are *improving*.

And, regrettably, some species, like the Palos Verdes blue butterfly and the dusky seaside sparrow, are gone forever.

If the goal of the act is to preserve species for future generations, we must sadly conclude that the Endangered Species Act is failing.

The list grows exponentially

One of the problems with the Endangered Species Act is the ever-increasing number of animals and plants we try to protect. The law assumes all species are created equal and deserve equal protection — a bald eagle is presumed to be equivalent, in the scheme of things, to a toadstool or lesser fungi.

In 1992, about 668 species were listed as *threatened* or *endangered*. Early this year the list grew to 728 species. Since then the federal courts have forced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to begin listing over 400 additional species. By the end of this year, the number of listed species will total 1,128 — a 69 percent increase in one year. This is faster than the rate of increase for the federal deficit and health care costs combined.

The rate of listing species will only accelerate further. For example, another 3,100 species are on a *waiting* list to be studied to see if they qualify for listing.

Moreover, dozens of well-intended environmental groups are pursuing litigation in federal court to force the

listing of hundreds of other species. Just a few weeks ago, the Oregon Natural Resources Council threatened to challenge President Clinton's proposed Forest Management Plan unless 83 species of clams, snails and slugs are protected.

But, here is the problem: presently there are no recovery plans for almost one-half of all listed species. And for those species having plans, many will never be fully implemented. Too many listed species, too little federal funding, and a failure to set priorities and manage accordingly, explain why the endangered species program is falling further behind.

The costs are staggering

To list most or all of the 3,100 species on the waiting list will cost tens of billions of dollars in new federal spending. It is estimated, by the Interior Department's own Inspector General, that it would take \$8.1 billion to recover just 300 listed species. None of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Top 10 priority endangered species were in the Top 10 list of "most expensive" species receiving the majority of funds. The reason for this misapplication of funds is simple: Endangered Species Act priorities are driven by environmental litigation, not by good science or good management.

Beyond the direct cost to taxpayers are the economic costs imposed upon society as a whole. The spotted owl decision locked up 8.2 million acres of timberland in the Pacific Northwest, costing our state's economy about \$1.6 billion annually and from 24,500 to 32,500 jobs.

With the listing of the Red Fish Lake sockeye salmon late last year, the entire Columbia River Basin now faces sanctions. The impacted area includes about 90 percent of Eastern Washington.

In addition to salmon, all water-dependent eco-

nomic activity — including electrical generation, agricultural irrigation, inland shipping and sports, commercial and tribal fishing — is at risk. The price tag is now in the hundreds of millions of dollars and may exceed a billion before we even have a final recovery plan.

It's time to manage the crisis

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has called the collision between regional economies and species listings "train wrecks." He and President Clinton have said they want to avoid future "train wrecks," but they have also said that they do not want to amend the Endangered Species Act.

One lesson learned from the Washington Roundtable's study of this issue is that the act now provides the trains and the railroad tracks and no means to properly direct all of the traffic.

The Endangered Species Act vests great power in the hands of environmental plaintiffs. Yet, litigation is a poor way to manage any program, much less one designed to rescue endangered species from the brink of extinction. Money spent on lawyers is money not spent on saving species. Judges are limited to reviewing the case in front of them, typically involving a single species. Judges are not allowed to consider the relative welfare of all species nor can they ration the limited resources available to save them.

Given the federal deficit and the ever-expanding list of protected species, federal agencies will never have the staff and funding to reduce the backlog in listing reviews, to designate all necessary habitats and to formulate all required recovery plans. Like it or not, someone must begin to set program priorities — or else we will see many more "train wrecks" than have occurred to date.

Some species may be beyond saving and some may be

candidates for extraordinary efforts. Program managers, not federal judges hearing a particular case about a single species, are best able to see the "big picture" and to allocate resources where the most good can be accomplished.

In short, the Endangered Species Act needs to be reformed to give federal managers the clear authority to allocate scarce resources to save the highest priority

species. Once a species is listed, the law should give these same managers the mandate to weigh biological and economic concerns together in all subsequent decisions on how to best save the species.

Federal land use regulation will not work

Some have called upon Congress to pass new federal legislation requiring *ecosystem management* as a means to maintain *biodiversity*. More often than not, the advocates of this approach are seeking a new law that will overlay on top of the Endangered Species Act. This approach will only cause more regulatory uncertainty, not less.

From a scientific perspective, *ecosystem management* implies that scientists have all the answers and could manage Mother Nature if we would only let them. From a regulatory perspective, it implies that the federal government is best able to govern land uses on state- and privately-owned lands.

Biologists readily admit that they have *identified* roughly 1.4 million species — but believe they will someday identify somewhere between 10 and 80 million species thought to exist on the Earth. These scientists understand even less about how these species interact in their natural environments. Many scientists worry out loud that we lack the knowledge to manage ecosystems well.

The federal government has shown no greater ability to manage ecosystems than state and private land managers. The U.S. Forest Service's forest plans have been a source of controversy — and administrative and judicial appeals — that outstrips even the Endangered Species Act.

Congress should consider providing incentives, not regulations, to maintain biodiversity and ecosystems. In Washington, state and private land managers are using adaptive forest management practices, experimenting with various "new forestry" techniques. Our state's forest practices regulations, which govern state and private timber lands, are the toughest in the nation — and exceed those that apply to federal lands.

Save the Endangered Species Act

Many would demand that decisions in every phase of the listing and de-listing process be based *solely* on the rigors of biological science. The Washington Roundtable agrees that only good science can tell us if a species should be listed. However, one very important point is missed altogether: placing more plants and animals on a computer list of endangered species doesn't "save" them from potential extinction.

For example, once a species is listed, the federal government must decide what should be done to protect that plant or animal. These "next steps" are what actually save species — and these steps will inevitably clash with economic realities. Scarce tax dollars and other resources must be prioritized by someone. Economic impacts to landowners unfortunate enough to own impacted lands, and to workers at risk of losing their jobs, must be mitigated.

It's ironic that many opinion leaders call for a "managed health-care system." Yet, we see little support for managing the endangered species program by establishing a clear set of priorities.

If Congress fails to improve the act, we will not avoid the ever-increasing number of regulatory "train wrecks" and the heavy costs they will impose on our regional economy, not to mention the lost-forever species that did not receive the priority treatment they deserved.



Tod R. Hamachek, CEO of Penwest, chaired the Washington Roundtable's Environmental Committee which recently completed a yearlong study of the Endangered Species Act. This article is excerpted from that report.

Report available

The Washington Roundtable is composed of 35 chief executive officers from Washington's major corporations, as well as three citizen members. The Roundtable's 28-page report on the Endangered Species Act is available by writing to Washington Roundtable, 1001 Fourth Ave., Suite 3313, Seattle, WA 98155.

Raise grazing fees

Republicans in the Senate have managed to block legislation to make long overdue increases in grazing fees and improvements in environmental protections on federal range lands. The legislative route thus blocked, the Clinton administration should not hesitate to take the administrative route.

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt had proposed in August a three-year plan to raise the monthly fees charged ranchers who graze their animals on public lands. Due at least in part to complaints from Western lawmakers that the hikes were too steep, Congress was given a shot at working out a compromise. A rate increase smaller than that proposed by Babbitt passed the House of Representatives by a 3-to-1 ratio. But a Republican filibuster in the Senate — supported by Washington Republican Sen. Slade Gorton — killed the compromise increase.

Indeed, in killing that compromise, Gorton and others may well have wounded the very ranchers they sought to protect from fee increases. Not only is the administration now free to impose fee increases greater than those in the compromise legislation, it likely will impose provisions shortening the duration of the permits and refusing renewal of permits to ranchers who won't meet tougher environmental standards.

Babbitt should waste no time in

implementing a grazing fee increase and more stringent federal control on water use and environmental protection.

The giveaway of use of the taxpayers' lands at a fraction of the market value to well-heeled ranchers has gone on long enough. The sweetheart deals that allow largely corporate leasees to pick the public pocket is shameless protectionism. An estimated 10 percent of the permit holders control about half of the federal grazing lands. Only 12 percent of the permit holders are listed as small operators.

Among the top 500 permit holders are Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., the Mormon Church, a Japanese conglomerate, the Nature Conservancy and some of the America's wealthiest families.

The Senate action was no case of vox populi, the voice of the people expressed through their elected representatives. Instead, sound public policy was taken hostage by a small band of Republican rustlers.

The American public voted for change in the presidential election; a change from business as usual. A good sense of the public will is clear in those election results. Taxpayers should get a fair price for the use of their lands. Senate Republicans have stymied that. It is up to the Clinton administration to say "getalong little gridlock," and take legitimate executive action to impose higher fees.

Forest plan wrong on pulp, paper impact

By ANDREW ELSBREE
and BOB COCHRANE
Citizen View

The Clinton Forest Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) assumes there will be no change in the pulp and paper industry as a result of the plan.

That assumption is wrong. The pulp and paper mill communities of Oregon and Washington are at serious risk.

James River and other pulp and paper companies, in formal comments to the Administration's Interagency DSEIS Team, point out that we will be impacted profoundly. Here's how:

- The Forest Plan will reduce availability of wood fiber to pulp mills in this region by 32 percent.
- Log and chip imports, market pulp, recovered paper for recycling and wood from private lands won't make up the deficit.
- Pulp mills will close — as many as eight to 12 mills in the Northwest, according to the American Pulpwood Association. That's one-third the total number of existing pulp mills. A number already have shut down permanently: Weyerhaeuser at Everett,

Wash.; ITT-Rayonier at Hoquiam, Wash.; Alaska Pulp at Sitka, Alaska; Simpson at Eureka, Calif.; Gaylord Container at Antioch, Calif.; and Simpson at Anderson, Calif.

- Wood fiber costs will stay non-competitive. Fiber comprises from one quarter to one half the cost of paper-making, depending on the paper grade. Reduced harvests already have driven chip prices in the Northwest to twice as high as competitors in other regions. The new Forest Plan will only exacerbate the problem.

• Using recovered paper for recycled fiber is already underway. And, even though the industry uses all the recovered paper it can collect, recovered paper will never substitute completely for virgin fiber. James River has the largest recycling facility in the west at Halsey, Ore. The facility uses 450 tons a day of used office paper collected from three western states to make recycled pulp for new products. This process provides only 6 percent of the pulp for our mills in Camas and Wauna, Ore., and 51 percent for the mill at Halsey.

- Pulp and paper companies are developing their own fiber farms.

James River has fast-growing hybrid cottonwood trees on 8,500 acres in western Oregon and Washington. But this pulp fiber source accounts for only 5 percent of the fiber used at one mill. Opportunities to expand fiber farms are limited because of the high cost of land.

- Current government policy and economic trends are not favorable to redirecting export chips to domestic mills. Exporters traditionally have received higher prices for exported chips than what domestic users could pay.

In addition, there are a number of economic factors affecting the pulp and paper industry which the Forest Plan DEIS and FEMAT reports didn't consider:

- The pulp and paper industry is in an unparalleled cost-price squeeze. Product prices are down. Chip costs for paper-making have doubled.
- Pulp and paper is an energy-intensive industry. The Bonneville Power Administration has announced double-digit rate increases.
- Pulp and paper continuously makes environmental technical process changes — changes which cost mills millions of dollars every year.

Clearly, our industry is at risk. If we can't get fiber to make paper products, our mills and converting plants will shut down. Our jobs will go away, and so will our support for the Northwest businesses and industries: real estate, health care, insurance, retail and utilities. All businesses, from manufacturing to retail to services, will feel the pinch of a scarce and expensive fiber supply.

We can do better than the Clinton Forest Plan. We can call upon our Northwest congressional delegation to introduce legislation for an interim plan. The plan would allow scientific review of the current federal management plan to identify a pragmatic transition to reduced harvest levels. The review would permit both the administration and the forest and paper products industry to assess accurately what is really needed in terms of environmental protection, and also prevent destructive impacts on an entire regional economy. And this needs to be done soon.

Andrew Elsbree is vice president and Camas mill manager for James River Corp., and Bob Cochrane is president of Local 5 Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers.

Daily World, Aberdeen, Washington, Sunday, November 14, 1993

LETTERS

Flawed science crucifying timber towns, companies

Editor, *The Daily World* —

On Friday Sept. 17, NBC Evening News with Tom Brokaw aired a special entitled "Insider Report" on the northern spotted owl.

NBC investigated reports on all the owls that have been located since the listing and how well they are doing in managed (logging allowed) forests.

The report focused on Northern California and stated that the "assumption that the spotted owl is at serious risk may not be entirely true."

The representatives from the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society admitted that the owls were doing better than was originally believed.

THE REPORT acknowledged that 5,000 jobs had already been lost in Northern California due to spotted owl restrictions. The news story ended by stating, "It appears that the politics of environmentalism got in the way of careful science..." when it came to the spotted owl.

Closer to home, the marbled murrelet has become the weapon of choice for the environmentalists. At a recent meeting of the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service that was designed to explain actions related to the murrelet, the same "science" was employed.

We know next to nothing about the bird. We do know that it ranges from California to Japan. We know there are hundreds of thousands of the birds in Alaska and many thousands more in British Columbia. We know they spend most of their life at sea and nest up to 50 miles inland using trees, cliffs, etc.

So-called experts determined the marbled murrelet to be rare and declining. From their highly questionable science came a listing of "threatened species." The Forest Service was forced to shut down timber sales within the bird's habitat.

Mayr Bros. Logging Co. in Hoquiam owns a forest service timber sale (part of which is felled and bucked), which has been determined to be in murrelet country.

Eighteen trees that needed to be felled for access to the already downed timber held up the show for a year and a half. Several hundred thousand feet of downed timber lay rotting because of environmental science. This same science has stopped logging of Mayr Bros. remaining timber sales resulting in 50 workers being laid off.

THE ENDANGERED Species Act is being used to hammer us to death. If HR2520, the interior appropriations bill, passes as it is now, the act will become a tool to shut down virtually all industry which is dependant upon natural resources through the formation of the National Biological Survey.

This new agency will be funded by \$160 million in taxes and empower the federal government to send agents to any piece of land in the country to search for endangered species.

The future looks grim for the people of the timber industry. True science and common sense will eventually prevail, but not until the silent majority of common people become fed up enough with the greed and corruption of the federal government to force a change.

ROGER KAIYALA
Hoquiam

► **TIMBER**

Industry raps Clinton's plan

■ **Lumber shortage:**
Harvest bans have raised the price of lumber 50 percent mill owners say.

By Carol Bradley
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's Northwest forest plan is a trail of broken promises, strewn with jobless workers, empty sawmills and rising lumber prices, the timber industry charged Wednesday.

Five months after its unveiling, no new timber sales have occurred in federally owned spotted owl forests in Washington, Oregon and northern California. The shortage of wood has triggered a 50 percent increase in the cost of lumber over four months, adding \$3,000 to the hard costs of building a 2,000-

square-foot home and causing a "severe effect" on housing costs, J. Roger Glunt, president of the National Association of Home Builders, said.

Glunt and representatives of other industry and labor groups urged the president and Congress to limit legal challenges to the plan in hopes that logging could resume more quickly. The federal judge who issued an injunction halting logging in spotted owl forests has given the administration until March 31, 1994, to adopt a final plan aimed at saving the owl and other imperiled species.

Despite assurances to the contrary, "it is clear now that the government will not sell 2 billion board feet of new timber in 1993, or 200 million board feet of timber or even 20 million board feet of new timber in 1993," said John Hampton, president of Willamina Lumber Co. in

Oregon and chairman of the Northwest Forest Resource Council.

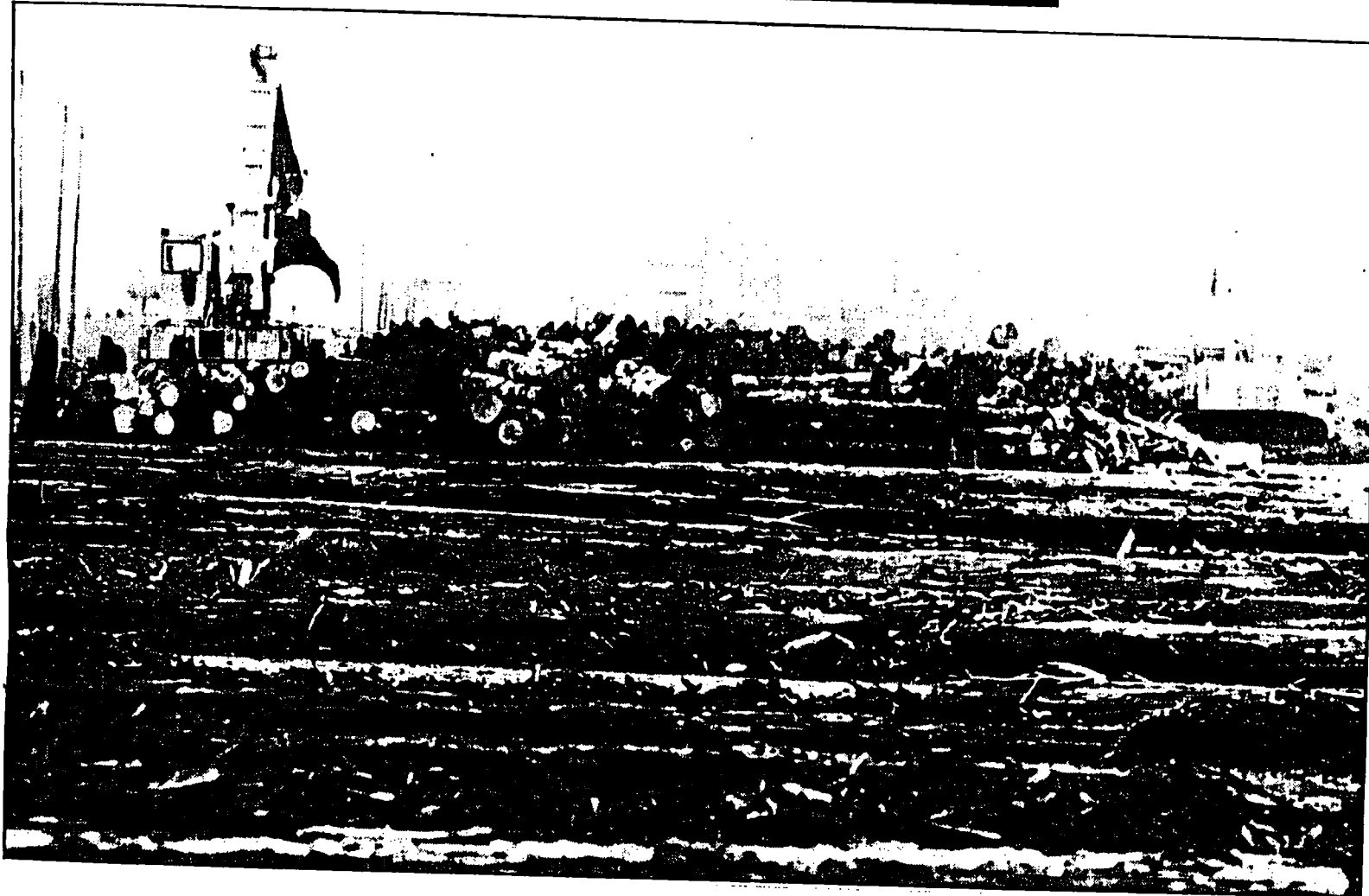
A spokesman for Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said the 2 billion board feet in question referred not to new timber, but to timber that had been sold to private companies and not yet harvested.

"Things look pretty encouraging," the spokeswoman, Mary Helen Thompson, said. "Talk between scientists and the industry are continuing and progress is being made. It's far too early to throw in the towel."

Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, D-Wash., agrees with the administration that waiting out the process is the smartest move.

"The first and most important thing is for the injunction to be lifted," Unsoeld said in a recent interview. "As slow as it appears to the public, it's faster than anything Congress could do."

Port log shipments hit zero in November



Logs once covered this yard at the Port of Grays Harbor, but inventories have dwindled drastically this year. Last

month, the log inventory went up, but no logs were shipped out for the first time since at least 1981.

DAILY WORLD FILES

'The whole thing's catching up with us'

By Cheryl Reid
Daily World writer

No logs were shipped from Port of Grays Harbor docks last month.

That hasn't happened since at least 1981, according to Leonard Barnes, the Port's director of operations.

"It's been a trend that's been going on all year," Barnes said. "It was just a matter of the market, vessel rotations and the (spotted owl) set-sides."

While no logs left the Port terminals or ITT Rayonier's Moon Island dock, Weyerhaeuser shipped 11.3 million board feet of logs during November, according to Barnes.

"There's an imbalance right now," said Mike Flanagan, log sales manager for ITT Rayonier. "There are large inventories overseas and high stumpage prices on the West Coast, Washington in particular."

Flanagan predicts a slow start to overseas sales next year, but expects "a little pickup of activities as the inventories work out. ... It just takes a while to work out these imbalances."

Flanagan also said local sawmills are

getting more aggressive in going after logs.

"That will pick up logging activity — not necessarily export activity, but logging," he said.

The Port is scheduled to ship a little more than 8 million board feet in December, according to Barnes, who noted that "it appears that the Japanese market is starting to slowly come back."

Flanagan said Rayonier is "starting to get inquiries from Japan," but there have been "no sales yet," this month.

November likely won't mark the last time log exports hit rock bottom, he said.

"The whole thing's catching up with us."

The decline in log exports is bad news for the Port, bar pilots, longshoremen and the entire Harbor, Barnes said.

"It's a spiraling effect and it hits us all and it comes in different ways and shapes."

Reliance on private timber for export since export restrictions have been placed on state timber is having a big impact on the Port, according to Barnes.

"It's not a good situation. We have a lot of state timber around us that used to

be exported."

He also blamed worldwide market conditions and said other countries are now filling the role once firmly held by the Harbor.

"It's a shame because we have a resource around us here that's growing and thriving. We should have a balance between domestic needs and export needs. You can't have all of your eggs in one basket."

Likewise, the Port has been pushing to diversify its cargoes and reduce its dependence on log exports.

Port docks saw 17,830 metric tons of diversified cargo last month. The average has been about 19,000 metric tons per month, Barnes said.

Meanwhile, the Port's log inventory, which has been down considerably all year, was up in November from the month before.

That was due to some arrangements the Port made to handle domestic logs from other log suppliers, Barnes said.

Port inventory for November was at 14.6 million board-feet, compared with 17.45 million board feet for the same month in 1992.

'Marked progress' promised on timber crunch

□ *Decades of excessive logging have left little room for compromise, says new Fish & Wildlife director.*

By Scott Sonner
Associated Press writer

The new head of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service says the Pacific Northwest soon will begin to see progress in the Clinton administration's attempts to resolve the forest crisis.

Fish & Wildlife director Mollie Beattie said President Clinton is taking longer than expected to implement a forest plan because decades of excessive logging have left little room for compromise.

"Our progress on this has been difficult largely because it's the first time we've ever done anything like

this," she said. "Things had gotten so bad ... the line we must walk between timber supply and the endangered species is a very, very thin one."

"So the process is sort of slow. But imminently, you will begin to see marked progress," Beattie promised.

Clinton convened a Northwest forest conference in Portland in April and unveiled his comprehensive logging strategy in July.

He said it would be submitted to a federal judge in Seattle for approval before the end of the year. But admin-

istration officials later sought a court extension and now intend to complete the long-term plan next spring.

Beattie, who has been on the job less than three months as the first female director of the service, is former deputy secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

She said the attempt to provide maximum protection for the Northwest's old-growth forests while still allowing for some logging "is new to everybody."

"We are creating this effort in the

Northwest not only out of whole cloth but in a very contentious atmosphere. It's a contentious atmosphere that necessarily develops when you're fighting over the last of two very important things," she said last week in a meeting with members of the Regional Reporters Association.

"It is going to take a while to develop these plans. They are tremendously detailed. They need to provide both parties with certainty. That

See PROGRESS, A-10

Impatience grows over lack of forest policy

Timber-supply struggle has lasted for five years with no end in sight

BY SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Another year will close in the Pacific Northwest without a predictable, long-term timber supply or permanent protection for some of the nation's oldest forests.

President Clinton, flanked by Vice President Al Gore and half of his Cabinet, promised both at an extraordinary conference in Portland last April.

And administration officials say they are making significant progress toward those goals.

But critics are growing impatient on both sides of the struggle that has pitted loggers against spotted owls for more than five years.

Conservationists say Clinton's preliminary management plan is illegal because it allows too much logging and doesn't provide the level of wildlife protection required under U.S. environmental laws.

"The more you read it, the more your alarm bells go off. It's illegal over and over again," said Brock Evans, vice president of the National Audubon Society.

They predict U.S. District Judge William

Dwyer of Seattle will void the plan next spring and extend an injunction prohibiting logging across most of the region's federal lands. That injunction has been in effect since 1991 when Dwyer found the Bush administration's harvest plans to be illegal.

"The new administration started the year with high hopes, hoping for change," said Tim Hermach of the Native Forest Council in Eugene, Ore. "But on the ground we've seen little change. Lots of slicked up political rhetoric, but continuing forest destruction."

Timber industry leaders say the plan is illegal because it was secretly drafted in violation of open meetings laws. They say it doesn't allow for enough logging to sustain Northwest sawmills and will cost the industry tens of thousands of jobs.

"Everything we feared that could happen to the timber-based economy in the Northwest, and the president hoped to avoid, is happening. And the worst is yet to come," said Dan Dutton, president of Stimson Lumber Co. in Portland.

Both sides fear that what was billed as a magnificent compromise when Clinton un-

veiled it in July could end up being only another chapter in a series of courtroom battles over the fate of the only temperate rain forests in North America.

"It is still tied up in litigation and I suspect it will be tied up in litigation for many more years," said Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., a staunch defender of the timber industry.

"As inadequate as (Clinton's plan) is, it will not be able to deliver anything like the modest harvests it promises," he said.

Clinton's proposal would reduce logging on federal lands in the region to 1.2 billion board feet of timber — about one-fourth the annual average of the 1980s. It takes about 10,000 board feet to build a typical single-family home.

Administration officials moved this month to ease restrictions on private lands with spotted owls, but they say dramatic cutbacks in government harvests are necessary to make up for decades of excessive logging.

"The determination to ignore environmental realities is really what has led to economic difficulty in the Pacific Northwest," said Kathleen McGinty, director of the White House Office on Environmental Policy.

The Fish and Wildlife Service declared the northern spotted owl a threatened species in June 1990. That came after a court ruled that an earlier decision under the Reagan administration against listing the bird was based on politics rather than sound science.

The Bush administration granted a rare exemption to the Endangered Species Act to allow some Oregon logging near spotted owls, but later abandoned the effort when environmentalists went to court arguing the White House wrongly politicized that decision.

Mollie Beattie, new director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said Clinton's restoration plans are being created "not only out of whole cloth, but in a very contentious atmosphere."

"Things had gotten so bad . . . the line we must walk between timber supply and the endangered species is a very, very thin one," she said. "So the process is sort of slow. But imminently, you will begin to see marked progress."

Mark Rey, vice president of the American Forest & Paper Association, says sarcastically that Clinton already has made good on one of his promises.

"The timber supply is predictable. It is zero. It is going to remain zero for some time," he said.

Tom Tuchmann, a special assistant to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt overseeing the forest plan, disagrees.

He said 1.2 billion board feet of federal timber has been sold and is in the so-called "pipeline," but that private contractors have decided to postpone harvests for a variety of reasons.

"If you had a chain saw, you could cut it today," Tuchmann said. "There is volume

'The new administration started the year with high hopes, hoping for change. But on the ground we've seen little change.'

TIM HERMACH
Of the Native Forest Council

out there. We are doing everything we can to get more volume out there."

Nevertheless, he understands the apprehension.

"I would be impatient as well," said Tuchmann, a trained forester and former aide to the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee.

"I have worked on this issue myself for six years and I'd like to get a solution as soon as possible. But let's not take short cuts. Remember, we took over under a court injunction," he said.

Clinton's plan is a balanced one that provides needed protection of the forests without ignoring an industry dependent on wood, Tuchmann said.

"It isn't all things to all people and therefore there are people who are going to be unhappy. Everybody has very strong feelings about the purpose of national forests. It is our responsibility to take that input and put it in a sensible policy," he said.

EDITORIALS

Balanced approach to owl preservation

The Clinton administration continues to live up to its pledge to seek balanced solutions to the Northwest's thorny spotted-owl controversy.

The timber industry won't find it easy to live with Option 9, the administration's preferred approach to managing timber harvests and protecting the endangered northern spotted owl in the region's federal forests. Environmentalists think the plan, which would reduce annual federal timber harvests, doesn't go far enough.

While Option 9 awaits court approval, the administration has now moved to promote a promisingly flexible approach to another facet of the spotted-owl issue: harvests on privately owned forest lands.

The Interior Department proposed on Dec. 10 a "special rule" that would shift most of the burden for spotted-owl preservation to federal lands. While the rule would ease owl-related logging restrictions on most state and private lands, it would also require strict owl protection in 10 special-emphasis areas considered crucial to the owl's survival in Washington and Oregon.

The new approach would cause the loss, or "incidental taking," of some spotted owls or their habitat. But Interior scientists believe the Option 9 strategy on federal land, combined with the special-emphasis areas on private land, would be adequate to preserve the species.

The Endangered Species Act permits incidental takings if plans are in place to protect the overall species. In short, the administration is using the act creatively to help private and state forest owners without unduly endangering the owl. That is particularly welcome in Washington, where state and private forest acreage is twice that of the federal government.

The administration is also using the act to encourage landowners to develop voluntary management plans aimed at preserving entire ecosystems, not just individual species. Partly in response to the special-rule proposal, the Weyerhaeuser Co., has committed to work with the government to develop a habitat conservation plan for a 100,000-acre portion of its St. Helens Tree Farm in Southwest Washington. Other timber companies are likely to follow suit.

The proposed special rule could be stalled by legal and environmental challenges. But this new initiative, along with Option 9, remains the best hope of breaking forest gridlock in the Northwest.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Wednesday, December 22, 1993

Timber industry's campaign concealed in forest of rhetoric

By Joel Connelly
P-I National Correspondent

With a \$1.5 million budget for TV ads and mailings, the forest industry is making a final push to persuade Congress to let loggers cut more national forest timber.

The industry is aiming to demonstrate public support, but it is going about it with a stealth campaign.

Mailings carry no mention that timber companies are behind the campaign. People are asked to endorse a vague, generalized statement. Prominent executives and civic leaders are listed on the letterhead as "founding members" of a citizens' committee, but many are unable to describe its

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objectives.

The committee is called Citizens to Protect the Pacific Northwest and Northern California Economy. And the industry is hoping that 100,000 people in a three-state area will return cards endorsing its goals.

If that happens, say forest products companies, lawmakers will sit up and take notice.

"In theory this would generate sufficient interest on the part of the Northwest's congressional delegations to seek an equitable solution to the timber situation," said Richard Long, vice president for corporate communications at Weyerhaeuser.

But critics argue that forest companies want people to endorse policies they don't understand.

"I'm wondering whether people they've signed up have followed this issue very closely and know what they're doing," said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

The industry-sponsored effort has aired TV spots created by the Los Angeles-based public relations firm of Winner Wagner. The ads depict Appalachia-like conditions in Northwest timber towns.

The campaign also has mailed 1.5 million letters to homes in Washington, Oregon and northern California. It asks people to endorse what it calls an interim federal policy that "fairly balances environmental, social, and economic concerns."

Between 55,000 and 60,000 people have sent in cards since the campaign was launched five weeks ago.

The industry's campaign has attracted attention at the White House. It was discussed in a recent environmental issues paper sent to President Clinton. He returned the memo with a keep-me-posted note in the margin.

Industry spokesmen are less than clear when asked what exactly they will ask Congress to do.

And those who have lent their names to the campaign also seem of several minds on forest policy. Some endorse the Clinton administration's Option 9, which would allow very limited cutting on federal lands. Others want much more logging.

"I have talked to several people on their letterhead and gotten entirely contradictory opinions on what they are doing," said Murray.

Differences are evident among people who signed up — after being asked by industry leaders — as "founding members" of the Washington branch of Citizens to Protect the Pacific Northwest and Northern California Economy.

The endorsers include Seattle Port Commissioner Paul Schell, Seattle University President William Sullivan, Boeing Chairman Frank Shrontz and Washington State Labor Council President Rick Bender.

"I support Option 9," said Schell. The port commissioner signed up to be part of what he called "a paper organization" out of concern that lawsuits will block logging that would be allowed under Clinton's plan.

Weyerhaeuser Chairman Jack Creighton, who recruited Schell, said: "We need to demonstrate support for President Clinton's actions on a grass-roots basis." He argued that Congress must break the logjam of timber sales held up in federal court.

But Bender said he opposes Option 9 and wants Congress to allow more timber cutting than proposed in Clinton's plan.

A letter from Willamina Lumber Co. of Portland, recruiting supporters in Oregon, indicates an intent to undermine the Clinton administration's plan.

"Option 9 is massive environmental overkill. It is totally unnecessary to manage these lands with restrictions on sustained-yield timber output as proposed by the Clinton administration," wrote Willamina President John C. Hampton.

The letter outlines a Citizens Action Plan, saying: "It would exhort people in the Northwest and northern California to improve on his (Clinton's) plan, Option 9, i.e., that 'we can all do much better' in protecting both jobs and the environment of the region."

Creating citizen groups to demonstrate support is a much-tested tactic of the industry.

During the mid-1970s, for instance, timber companies deployed four-wheel-drive clubs, snowmobilers and even rockhounds in trying to hold down the size of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area.

In British Columbia, faced with mounting protests against clearcutting, the industry has lavishly funded a supposedly community-based organization called the Forest Alliance of B.C.

"The timber industry realizes its clout alone is pretty limited," said Schell.

But the clout of Schell and other "founding members" is equally limited in Citizens to Protect the Pacific Northwest and Northern California Economy.

"I haven't been brought up to date on what their agenda is going to be," said James S. Bethel, dean emeritus of the University of Washington forestry school and an honorary co-chairman of the Washington branch of the group.

Bethel said he hopes Congress will take timber issues out of the courts. But he is unsure what the industry group will ask Congress to do when lawmakers convene next month.

Bender, a fellow founding member, said: "The first phase of the effort is to build membership. I don't know what the second phase is going to be."

In his letter to potential supporters in Oregon, Hampton wrote: "No committee involvement on your part will be required: No time commitment is necessary, nor is any funding requested. Industry will fund the entire program itself."

The American Forest and Paper Association is paying for the media campaign and mailings. The association has levied a man-

and Wall Street bond houses, the Los Angeles firm ran the 1981 campaign to defeat the "WPPSS Initiative" on Washington's ballot. The measure sought to halt skyrocketing costs of Washington Public Power Supply System nuclear plants by requiring public votes before WPPSS could sell additional bonds.

The initiative was approved in a landslide but later overturned by the courts.

The current campaign came out of President Clinton's forest summit in Portland last April, said Scott Fitz-Randolph, executive vice president at Winner Wagner. "One of our suggestions was that you really have to make sure that the larger community of this region, not just the forest companies, understand the issue and express themselves."

But critics say the industry is using people — particularly big-name endorsers — to serve its own political ends. "It's unfortunate that people at that level would sign on because of peer pressure without knowing what it is all about," said State Lands Commissioner Jennifer Belcher.

Environmental groups have addressed pointed letters to several of the "founding members."

"We believe that you may not be fully aware of the agenda that is put forward under your name," leaders of several environmental groups wrote last week in a letter to Shrontz.

Environmentalists also have used prominent citizens in campaigns in the past. They formed a citizens' group called Americans for Alaska in the late 1970s to campaign for more national parks there. Its titular leaders were a prominent conservative, former New York Sen. James Buckley, and liberal Cathleen Douglas, wife of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

The timber industry is keeping cards close to its chest on the next phase of its campaign.

Another round of TV and radio ads is likely near the time Congress convenes on Jan. 25, 1994. But the exact approach to Congress "has not been specifically defined," said Carol Raulston, vice president of the American Forest and Paper Association.

There's a chance — if the industry doesn't get its desired display of support — that Citizens to Protect the Pacific Northwest and Northern California Economy will be axed by its creators.

"By the end of January it will have accomplished its mission or run its course," said Weyerhaeuser's Long.

■ P-I Reporter Rob Taylor contributed to this story.

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— Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

datory dues increase on timber companies across the country.

Masterminding the campaign for the timber industry is Winner Wagner, known for its fights against antinuclear initiatives in Washington and other states.

With a \$1.2 million war chest supplied by nuclear contractors

Endangered Species Act must work better for nature as well as for communities

By SLADE GORTON

The Columbian's Oct. 11 editorial, "Preserving rare species dependent on context," about the Endangered Species Act Procedural Reform Amendments of 1993 failed to tell readers what the amendments would do for the people of Washington and the Northwest. U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, D-Ala., and I introduced this legislation because amending the act will achieve a balance for all impacted species, including people.

The Columbian is correct when it said that the Endangered Species Act is important; nonetheless, it is not perfect. The act must be made to work better both for the troubled species it is designed to save and, certainly as important, for the people whose lives are impacted by what the government does in the name of the environment.

The Clinton administration has publicly admitted that, because of the Endangered Species Act, the administration could do no more for the Northwest's timber communities than its currently proposed plan.

Since 1989, the year that marks the beginning of spotted owl-related timber supply problems, more than 3,000 people in the sawmill and timber industry have lost their jobs in Washington alone. In the entire Pacific Northwest, the figure is more than 16,000.

These figures do not include the dramatic job losses in mills that are operating at 75, 50 or 25 percent of their previous capacity. Nor do they include the three, four or five other jobs that are supported by each of these high-paying manufacturing jobs.

Under our amendments, biology will remain the sole basis upon which threatened or endangered status is determined for a species. The significant change to the listing process is to require a blind peer review of the data used in listing if requested by any member of the public. Given the economically disastrous impact of a species listing, it is essential that the science used is the best available.

Next, our bill adds to the act an entirely new section related to development and implementation of a recovery plan for a listed species. After a species is listed as threatened or endangered, the government would be

required, first, to establish a biological assessment that considers the significance of the species, its geographic ranges and the practicality of its recovery; second, to assess the social and economic impacts of listing and the attendant conservation measures that may be required; and third, to assess the intergovernmental impacts on local laws and regulations.

Our amendments also would require development of a wide range of alternatives. These options must range from no federal action to intensive federal management of the species and/or its habitat. The government must explain the option it chooses, report the status of the species to Congress every two years and thoroughly review these plans every five years. These common-sense requirements do not gut the act by any stretch of the imagination; they improve it.

Among the most important changes, our bill would require that non-federal agencies and private individuals bear burdens under the act no more onerous than those imposed on federal agencies. Our bill would provide access to the consultation process set out in the act for non-federal agencies and individuals.

There is no more fundamental right in the Constitution than the Fifth Amendment's protection against the taking of private property without just compensation. One added section would require the federal government to pay individuals the fair value of the loss imposed by governmental actions under the Endangered Species Act.

This provision is especially important to the families whose lifetime investments are being destroyed by act. I hope those who oppose this provision will try to understand the trauma of having the bottom ripped out of a family's financial security.

Finally, our bill would amend the act to give the government the ability to enter into cooperative management agreements with states, local governments and willing private parties that control critical habitat affected by the act. These agreements must promote conservation of the species and also provide for a public comment period. After approval of such an agreement, the bill suspends the listing, critical habitat, recovery planning and consultation requirements for activities by a party to the agreement.

Many hard-working people, their families and communities depend on our fixing the Endangered Species Act. For these people, as well as for the species the act protects, this is a fight we must win.

The Columbian, Wednesday, November 17, 1993 **A9**



Slade Gorton, a Republican, is Washington's senior U.S. senator.