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**Folder Title:**  
Forest Conference-Regional Community Economic Revitalization Team

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DATE: December 13, 1993  
TO: John Podesta  
FROM: Mike Schmidt, Domestic Policy Council  
RE: Presidential Statement for the Administration's Northwest Forest Management Initiative

Will - let's  
weave this into  
the Tuchman

Carol Rasco suggested I contact you for your assistance with an Administration policy initiative. This Tuesday and Wednesday (December 14-15), members of the Regional Community Economic Revitalization Team are meeting in Seattle to finalize their Strategic and Implementation Plans. This group was established by the Administration's Northwest Forest Management Initiative as a part of its Economic Adjustment Initiative for rural timber communities in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California. The Economic Adjustment Initiative is being headed by Bob Nash, Assistant Secretary, USDA, with assistance from other relevant agencies, the Domestic Policy Council and the National Economic Council.

announce-  
ment, and  
weave  
the  
Tuchman  
announcement

→ We would like to send a Presidential message/statement congratulating the Revitalization Team members for their hard work in finalizing strategic and implementation plans for delivering economic assistance to rural communities in the region. Their efforts truly represent reinventing government at the ground level -- the Team is composed of the various federal agencies involved in providing economic assistance, with a specific charge of working together to coordinate and better leverage limited federal economic assistance. The Team will also be working closely with state and local officials, Tribal Nations, the business community, and labor.

into the  
attached  
ROTUS  
letter.

I have attached some draft text of a Presidential message for your review/approval. Is it possible for something like this to be approved by Wednesday morning, so I can fax it out to the meeting in Seattle? Please give me a call at X2165 if I can answer any questions or help you in any way.

Call

Mike Schmidt  
(a very nice & totally  
cooperative guy) and  
work this out w/  
him. See me if  
you have questions,  
or just run /  
over if you  
want. The

December 14, 1993

Dear  
Group,

I would like to congratulate the Regional Community Economic Revitalization Team on the finalization of the Economic Adjustment Initiative's Strategic and Implementation Plans. You have taken an important step toward our shared objective of providing economic relief to timber communities as soon as possible and encouraging long-term economic development and diversification.

Your efforts over the next few years represent the true frontlines of reinventing government. By asking federal agencies to work together, with input from state and local officials, Tribal Nations, businesses, and labor, I believe we can make a real difference to the economic health of rural communities in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California. I have every confidence that you will live up to the challenges that this initiative presents.

Thank you for your help in this important effort, and again, congratulations.

Love,  
- POTUS

Will - I talked to Denis  
Hayes today - The "Citizens for  
the NW Economy" state  
groups are 100% funded by  
AFPA, w/ PR mat 's by  
Winter Wagner, the <sup>Beverly Hills</sup> firm doing  
Ward Valley. More on this  
soap opera -- stop by.  
Bottom line (For your eyes  
only --): An editorial in the  
Seattle Paper is the

next few days will  
expose all

- C2

12/14

December 13, 1993

**MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN PODESTA**

**FROM:** PETER YU, NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL  
MIKE SCHMIDT, DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

**SUBJECT:** A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FOR THE FOREST  
MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

**ACTION PROPOSED**

As a part of the Administration's Northwest Forest Management Initiative, we would like to send a Presidential Message to a December 15 meeting of the regional federal agency and state representatives working on the initiative. The Message, a draft of which is attached, would congratulate them on completion of Strategic and Implementation Plans for providing economic adjustment assistance to rural timber communities in the region.

**BACKGROUND**

As part of the President's Forest Plan for the Pacific Northwest, the Administration proposed a 5-year, \$1.2 billion economic adjustment initiative designed to encourage economic development and diversification in the rural communities affected by changes in federal harvest levels. With the cooperation of Congress, the Administration secured fully 90% of the FY1994 funding for the Initiative. As a first step in fulfillment of the Initiative, twelve Departments and White House offices entered into two memoranda of understanding, agreeing to cooperate in the implementation of the Initiative. The memoranda established a Multi-Agency Command based in Washington D.C., a Regional Community Economic Revitalization Team (R-CERT) based in Portland, Oregon, and a State CERT for each of the three affected States -- Washington, Oregon, and California.

**REASON FOR THE MESSAGE**

These teams have now completed the first substantive step in the implementation process: preparing and approving Strategic and Implementation Plans to guide their actions over the coming years. These plans will serve as the basis of interagency and federal-state-local cooperation and coordination, and

should greatly facilitate and accelerate economic development in the region. Moreover, these plans represent a concrete example of "reinventing government."

Given the importance of this initiative to the economic health of this region, we feel it is appropriate that the President send his congratulations to the team that will be responsible for implementing the Initiative on a day-to-day basis.