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Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act

Supporting Documentation

1. Outline of NREPA
2. Copy of H.R. 5944
3. Economic Impact Report
4. Business & Conservation Support
5. National Media Coverage

Prepared by:

**Wild Rockies Action Fund
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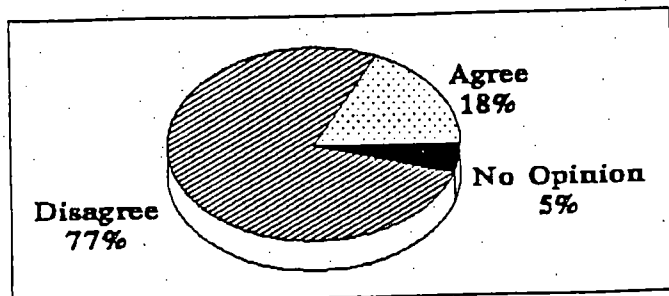
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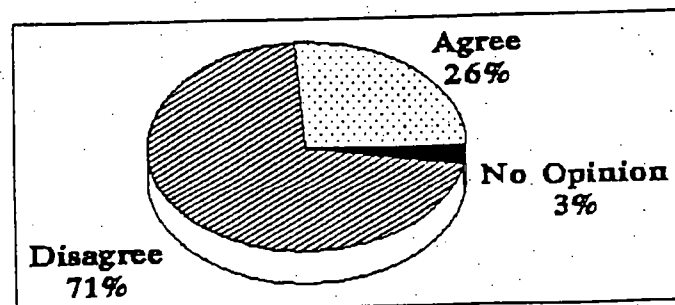


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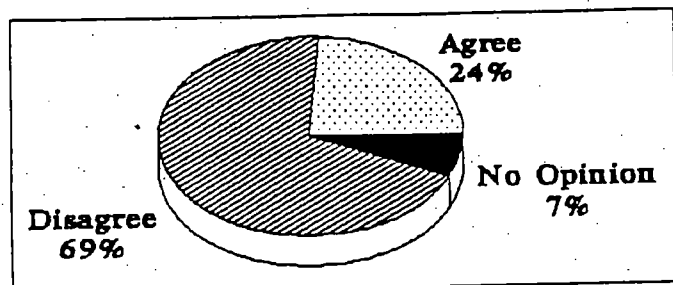
Forest Service Public Opinion Surveys in the Northern Rockies



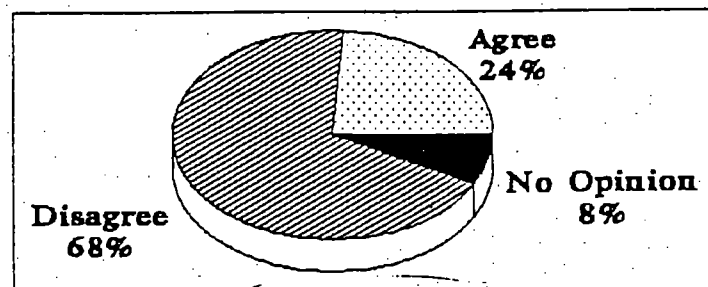
Lewis & Clark National Forest



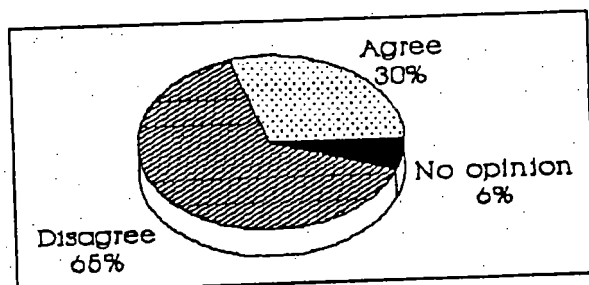
Kootenai National Forest



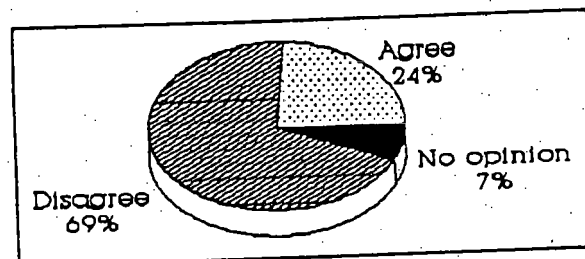
Beaverhead National Forest



Helena National Forest



Deerlodge National Forest



Gallatin National Forest

Forest should allow more timber to be harvested even if this means loss of scenery, wildlife and roadless areas.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The Timber Employment Impact of the
Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act
in
Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming**

by

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Economics Department
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59812**

September, 1992

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The research for the four studies covering the five-state region of the Northern Rockies which are summarized in this document was carried out as part of a larger project studying the transformation of the economies of the Rocky Mountain states away from primary reliance on extractive, natural resource industries. Support for this segment of the study came from the **Voice of the Environment**, the **Alliance for the Wild Rockies**, and the **University of Montana**. Of course none of these funding sources are responsible for the contents of the reports or the conclusions reached.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Timber Employment Impact of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming

1. Introduction

The primary public concern about protecting unroaded wildlands by prohibiting or restricting commodity production on those lands is the impact on local employment. The widely held view is that protecting the natural character of these landscapes will take desperately needed natural resources from industries that dominate the local economies. As a result, the local economies and local residents will be impoverished. Whatever may be the environmental advantages of such wildland protection, the local economic impacts are assumed to be negative and large. This presents local residents as well as the nation as a whole with a "tragic choice": They can preserve unique and valuable ecosystems only at the cost of seriously damaging the economic well-being of those living adjacent to these natural areas.

The analyses contained in four separate reports on the employment impact of protecting roadless areas in Idaho, Montana, Eastern Oregon and Washington, and Northwestern Wyoming shows that not only is this not the case but the opposite is more likely to be true: Protected landscapes are a crucial part of the economic base of the Northern Rockies and these high quality natural environments have provided ongoing vitality in the local economies of the Northern Rockies states despite the ongoing decline in employment in extractive industries. Further damage to that landscape through extension of roaded logging into the Northern Rockies' remaining wildlands threatens the region's economic future while providing very few current jobs.

2. The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act

Natural areas cannot be protected in a way that retains their natural wildland and wildlife characteristics if they become isolated islands cut off from other natural areas by intensive human activity. Such "island wildernesses" overtime will deteriorate and lose their ability to support healthy wildlife populations. Because of the need to link such natural

areas together and protect whole ecosystems, a more comprehensive approach to wilderness protection has been offered in the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA).

NREPA recognizes that the ecosystems that support unique wildlife populations in the Northern Rockies, including the grizzly bear, timber wolf, and caribou, are being fragmented in a way that threatens both these wildlife populations and the nation's premier national parks, Glacier and Yellowstone. To halt this fragmentation, NREPA proposes to protect virtually all remaining roadless areas in the Northern Rockies from road development and commodity production. It also seeks to rehabilitate crucial wildlife corridors linking roadless areas together. Finally, it seeks to protect riparian corridors along the region's major streams and rivers. In total, NREPA would protect about 20 million acres of wildlands and 1400 miles of wild and scenic streams.

The most often repeated objection to preserving all of these remaining wildlands is that it would cripple the economies of the Northern Rocky Mountain states by eliminating timber harvests that are crucial to one of the region's primary export industries. To critically analyze these claims, studies were conducted of the timber employment impact of extending protection to virtually all of the remaining roadless areas in the Northern Rockies states. Individual studies, each about 70 pages in length, were carried out for National Forest economic impact areas in Idaho, Montana, Eastern Oregon and Washington, and Northwestern Wyoming. This executive summary briefly presents the results. The individual reports are listed at the end of this summary.

3. General Conclusions on the Timber Employment Impact of NREPA

The remaining roadless areas of the Northern Rockies are far more important to region's economy left in their natural state than they are as sources of raw materials. The future vitality of the economies of the Northern Rockies states is tied to its ability to attract and hold people. One of its most important "resources" in doing this is its unique natural landscape and the wildlife and recreation that landscape supports.

Increasing amounts of economic activity in the state are "landscape-related" in the sense that that economic activity is supported and enhanced by the high quality natural environment tied to our wild landscapes. At the same time, as important as our extractive industries are, they will not be sources of economic vitality in the future. Extractive industry has been a declining source of jobs and income during the 1980s and this relative and absolute decline can be expected to have an ongoing negative impact on the vitality of the

Northern Rockies' economies. See Figures 1 and 2. The region's future hope lies in cultivating those economic forces operating to offset this decline. The natural amenities associated with the Northern Rockies' landscape represent such a positive economic force.

This is not merely wishful thinking or an academic hypothesis. The centers of vitality in the economies of the Northern Rockies region have been those areas known for their high quality natural landscapes and recreational opportunities: the Flathead Valley and the Bozeman areas in Montana, the Jackson, Cody, and Sheridan areas in Wyoming, the Coeur d'Alene, McCall, Sun Valley areas of Idaho, and the rural northeast corner of Washington, to name just a few. These areas have shown substantial economic vitality while their extractive economic bases have contracted. Clearly their economic vitality is not tied to extractive industry but, rather, to their attractiveness as places to live, work, and do business. It is these attractive natural amenities that need to be protected if the regions' economic vitality is to be enhanced. Sacrificing these economically important natural amenities in order to temporarily support an extractive industry in decline is the opposite of economic development. It is a prescription for ongoing economic decline.

4. Specific Conclusions about Timber-Related Job Impacts

If wilderness protection were to be extended to virtually all of the remaining U.S. Forest Service (FS) roadless areas in the Northern Rockies, about one-tenth of one percent of all jobs in the region would be directly lost due to reduced timber harvests compared to the timber harvest now planned by the FS. When the indirect and induced effects of these direct job losses are taken into account, the total employment impact would be the loss of about one-quarter of one percent of total employment. Of the over one million jobs in the region, approximately 1,400 would be directly threatened. With normal job growth as seen in the region over the last decade, this direct job loss would be made up in less than a month, about three weeks.

That is, the economic cost of preserving about 20 million acres more of wildlands than the FS or the region's political leaders support is the loss of the number of jobs typically created in any three week period.

The Table 1 below shows the distribution of these jobs across the various national forest economic impact areas in the Northern Rockies. The economic areas studied were those defined by the FS as directly affected by forest management activities on the national forests listed. Except for the towns of Boise, Great Falls, and Billings, no metropolitan counties were included. The economic impact areas are largely rural counties in the

Table 1

Employment Impact of Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act

National Forest	Direct Timber Jobs Lost	% of Total Employment Lost	Weeks of Normal Job Growth to Replace	Total of Direct&Indirec Jobs Lost	% of Total Employment Lost	Weeks of Normal Job Growth to Replace
MONTANA						
Lolo	80	0.16%	4	249	0.50%	12
Bitterroot	13	0.02%	1	33	0.06%	1
Gallatin	28	0.08%	2	82	0.23%	5
Helena	5	0.01%	0	20	0.02%	1
Beaverhead	28	0.38%	16	85	1.16%	48
Custer	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Deerlodge	6	0.02%	12	21	0.08%	42
Kootenai	17	0.14%	11	31	0.26%	20
Lewis&Clark	10	0.01%	0	29	0.03%	1
Flathead	21	0.03%	1	68	0.08%	2
Total Montana	208	0.06%	2	619	0.16%	5
IDAHO						
Clearwater	289	0.57%	17	577	1.15%	34
Id. Panhandle	213	0.37%	6	426	0.74%	11
Nez Perce	104	0.31%	10	208	0.63%	20
Boise	56	0.04%	1	113	0.08%	1
Caribou	15	0.01%	0	31	0.02%	1
Challis	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Payette	82	0.39%	16	164	0.79%	32
Salmon	26	0.17%	5	52	0.34%	10
Sawtooth	15	0.02%	1	30	0.03%	1
Targhee	12	0.01%	0	25	0.02%	1
All Idaho NF	813	0.16%	4	1625	0.31%	7
EASTERN WASHINGTON AND EASTERN OREGON						
Colville	117	0.63%	12	233	1.25%	24
Malheur	84	1.02%	22	169	2.04%	44
Umatilla	62	0.07%	2	123	0.14%	5
Wallowa-Whitman	37	0.16%	5	74	0.32%	9
Total: E.Wa. & Or.	300	0.21%	6	599	0.43%	13
NORTHWESTERN WYOMING						
Big Horn NF	9	0.04%	1	17	0.07%	3
Bridger-Teton	25	0.07%	2	49	0.14%	4
Shoshone NF	9	0.06%	2	18	0.13%	3
Total: NE Wyo.	42	0.06%	2	84	0.11%	4
TOTAL	1363	0.12%	3	2928	0.26%	7

SOURCE: Appendix A of the individual reports listed at the end of this Executive Summary.

Table 2

The Percentage of NREPA-Protected Lands That Are Suitable for Timber

National Forest	Percent of NREPA Protected Lands That Are Part of the Suitable Timber Base
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MONTANA

Lolo	30%
Bitterroot	22%
Gallatin	16%
Helena	15%
Beaverhead	12%
Custer	23%
Deerlodge	21%
Kootenai	22%
Lewis & Clark	13%
Flathead	20%
Total Montana	18%

IDAHO

Clearwater	45%
Id. Panhandle	50%
Nez Perce	36%
Boise	17%
Caribou	3%
Challis	3%
Payette	10%
Salmon	10%
Sawtooth	1%
Targhee	51%
All Idaho NF	21%

EASTERN WASHINGTON AND EASTERN OREGON

Colville	47%
Malheur	36%
Umatilla	32%
Wallowa-Whitman	21%
Total: E.Wa. & Or.	26%

NORTHWESTERN WYOMING

Big Horn NF	28%
Bridger-Teton	10%
Shoshone NF	8%
Total: NW Wyo.	11%

TOTAL	20%
-------	-----

Northern Rocky Mountains.

These employment impacts were estimated by using Forest Service data on the "suitable timber" acreage in current roadless areas. The impact of removing these acres from the suitable timber base on the annual allowable sale quantity and the long term sustained timber yield of the forest was analyzed. Forest Service estimates of the total direct, indirect, and induced employment associated with each million board feet of timber harvested were used even though they are based upon 1970s lumber mill and timber harvest technologies. These employment multipliers were then used to convert the reduced timber harvest to reduced employment.

It is important to keep in mind that these are **not** net job losses. These are the jobs that may be lost in the timber-sector. Offsetting these job losses are the on-going **gains** in employment associated with protecting the landscapes that have been the primary source of vitality in the economies of the Northern Rockies.

5. Why The Timber-Related Job Impacts Are Small

- a. **Most roadless areas in the Northern Rockies are not suitable for timber management and therefore are not part of the FS timber base.** The FS has found 80 percent of these roadless acres to be unsuited for timber management. That 80 percent can be put off limits to timber harvest with no impact on the wood products industry. See Table 2 for a listing of the percentage of the NREPA-protected roadless areas that are part of the suitable timber base.
- b. **The primary connection between national forest lands and the local economy often is not through timber harvest but through recreation.** Timber harvest from public lands often represents a very small part of the local economy. Tables 3 and 4 show this for Montana and Wyoming. In Montana, on six of the ten national forests, recreation and wildlife activities are responsible for over two-thirds of the national forest-related employment while timber harvest was responsible for less than a quarter of the forest-related employment. Overall, national forest timber harvests were responsible for less than one percent of total employment in the national forest counties.

In Wyoming, timber harvest is responsible for only six percent of forest-related employment and eight percent of forest-related income. Recreation and wildlife activities are responsible for about three-quarters of forest-related

Table 3

Montana National Forest-Related Employment: Timber v. Recreation

National Forest	Timber-Related Employment	Percent of Total Forest-Related Employment Timber-Related	Recreation & Wildlife-Related Employment	Percent of Total Forest-Related Employment Rec-WildLf Related
Lolo	407	43%	528	56%
Bitterroot	159	51%	147	48%
Gallatin	82	8%	880	90%
Helena	41	25%	110	66%
Beaverhead	71	17%	274	67%
Custer	12	3%	332	80%
Deerlodge	72	12%	405	68%
Kootenai	1037	70%	432	29%
Lewis&Clark	52	15%	278	79%
Flathead	1021	80%	255	20%
Total Montana	2954	43%	3641	53%
NF Timber-Related as % of Mt. Total				
Mt. NF Counties				
Total Employemen	378,440	0.78%		

Source: Gorte, Ross W., 1989, The Economic Impacts of Enacting alternative Wilderness Proposals for the National Forest in Montana, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, Table 18.

Table 4
Northwestern Wyoming National Forest-Related Employment and Income
by Source and Activity

	Saw Timber	Recreation Wildlife	Grazing Range	Other	Total
<u>Direct Employment</u>					
Bighorn NF	48	753	255	66	1108
Bridger-Teton NF	75	1275	83	49	1482
Shoshone NF	97	943	93	47	1180
Total: 3 NFs	220	2971	431	162	3770
<u>% of FS-Related Jobs</u>					
Bighorn NF	4.3%	68.0%	23.0%	6.0%	100%
Bridger-Teton NF	5.1%	86.0%	5.6%	3.2%	100%
Shoshone NF	8.2%	80.0%	7.9%	4.0%	100%
Total: 3 NFs	5.8%	78.8%	11.4%	4.3%	100%
<u>Direct Income (mill\$)</u>					
Bighorn NF	1.5	23.2	7.1	1.8	33.1
Bridger-Teton NF	0.9	6.9	1.0	0.5	9.2
Shoshone NF	3.5	22.5	2.4	1.3	29.7
Total: 3 NFs	5.9	52.6	10.5	3.6	72.5
<u>% of FS-Related Income</u>					
Bighorn NF	4.5%	70.1%	21.5%	5.4%	100%
Bridger-Teton NF	9.7%	74.3%	10.4%	5.6%	100%
Shoshone NF	11.8%	75.6%	8.1%	4.4%	100%
Total: 3 NFs	8.1%	72.5%	14.4%	5.0%	100%

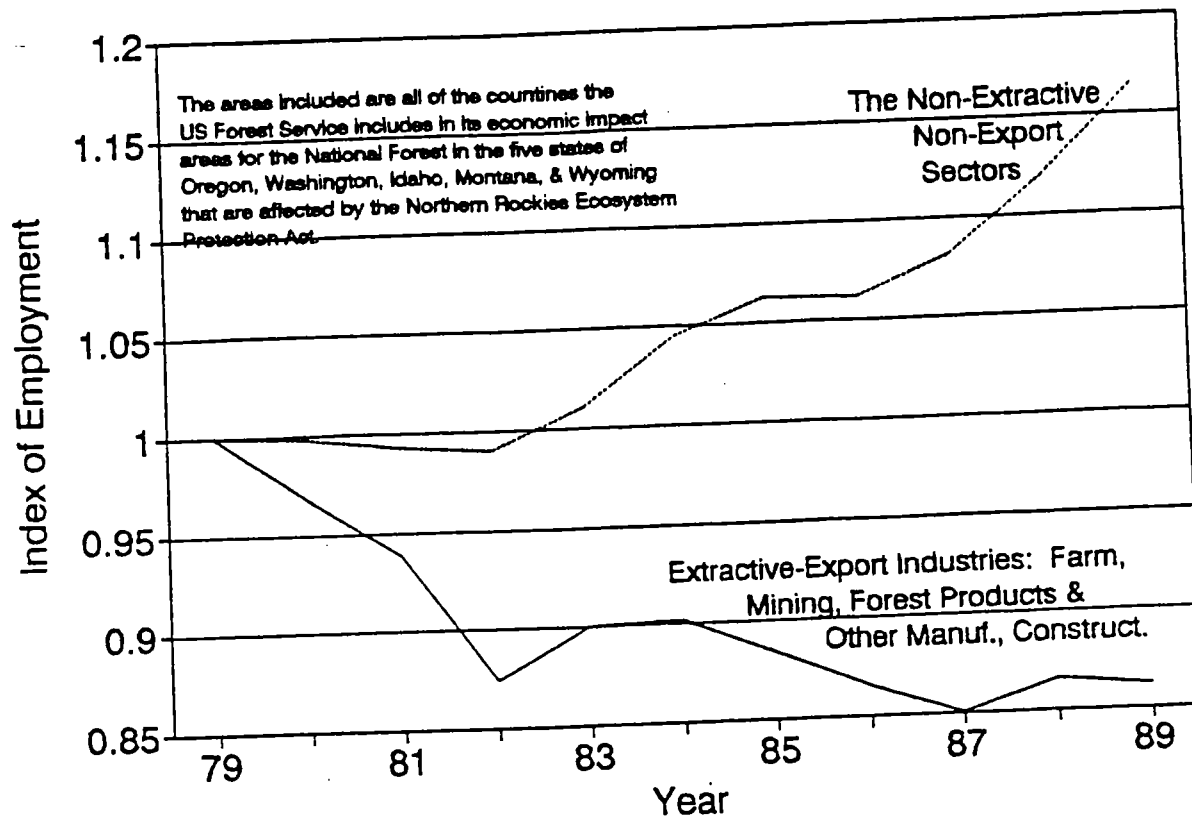
Sources for Table 4: The data on the Shoshone and Bighorn NFs came from the Draft Economic Diversity and Dependency Assessment, U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, November, 1990, Vol. 1, pp. 19, 27, 55. The data on the Bridger-Teton NF came from the Forest Plan FEIS, Appendix B, page 96-113.

economic activity. As a result, only one-tenth of one percent of income in the FS economic impact areas in Wyoming is tied directly to FS timber harvests.

- c. **Timber harvests have been a declining source of employment in the Northern Rockies.** During the 1980's the employment per million board feet of timber harvested declined by over 30 percent. Automation and shifts to less labor intensive products are reducing the employment potential associated with each thousand board feet of timber harvested.
- d. **Wood products and other extractive industries have been a declining source of jobs and income in the Northern Rockies' economies.** During the 1980s, employment associated with these industries was unstable and declining. Yet the non-extractive sectors were able to expand. As a result, the relative and absolute importance of these industries as a source of employment declined. See Figures 1 and 2. The fact that the non-extractive sectors of the Northern Rockies' economies were able to expand despite the collapse of the extractive sectors, dramatizes a vitality in those economies that is unrelated to extractive industry and has been operating to off-set the depressing effects of the extractive sectors. High quality natural landscapes are an important part of that vitality.
- e. **The FS has exaggerated the timber harvests that are actually possible within these roadless areas.** FS plans for these areas were drawn up on the basis of inaccurate timber inventory and site productivity data. Those plans ignored constraints on the spatial distribution of timber harvests. The FS simply assumed that it would be able to meet water quality and fish habitat standards but has found that it cannot. Old growth and endangered species protection were originally inadequately accounted for. As a result of these errors and inadequacies in FS planning, the allowable sale quantities the FS originally projected as coming from these roadless areas cannot and will not be realized. Almost all NFs in the region are now in the process of reducing actual sales to well below those projected in the forest plans.
- f. **Roadless areas are the most costly and least productive from a timber management point of view.** That means that most of these areas can be managed for timber only at substantial losses to the U.S. taxpayer. Congress and the Administration is putting increasing pressure on the FS to end such below-cost timber management. As a result, many of these roadless areas will have to be removed from the suitable timber base.

Figure 1

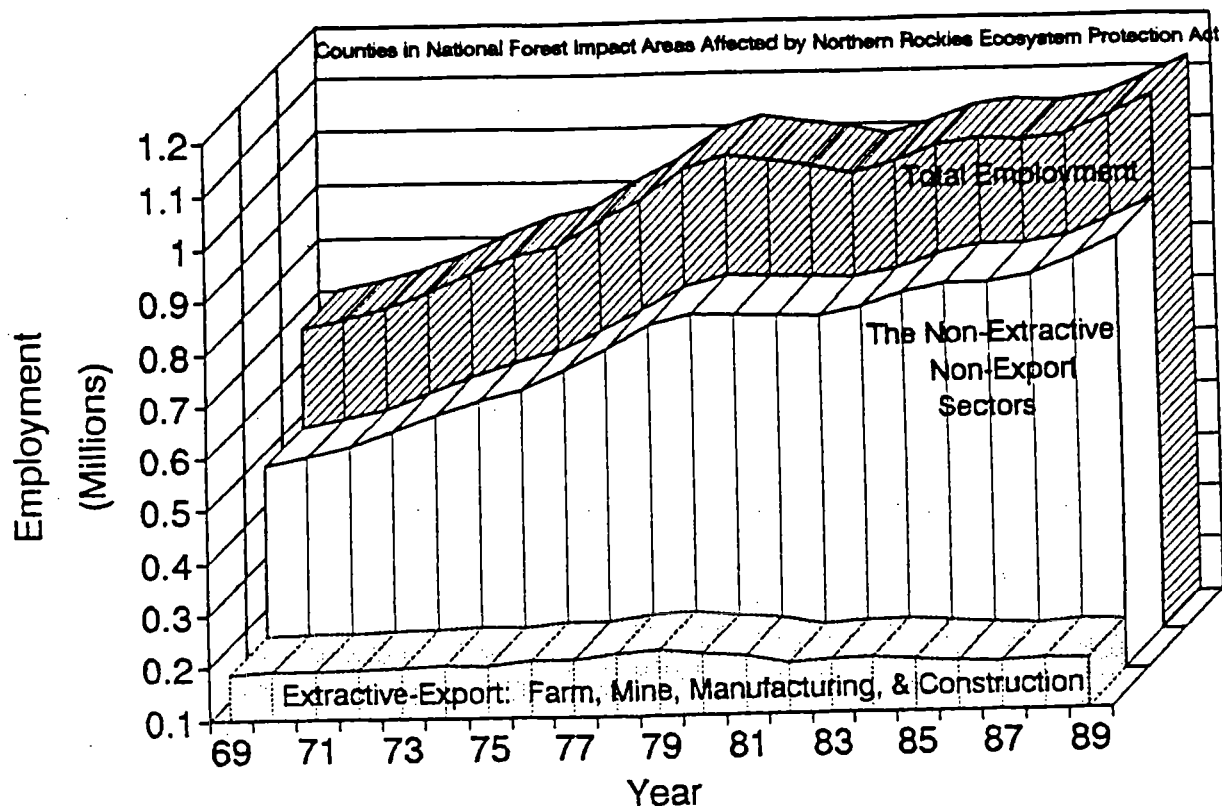
Extractive-Export v. Rest of Economy NREPA Affected National Forest Areas



Source: Regional Economic Information System CD-ROM data, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, county data aggregated to match U.S. Forest Service definitions of National Forest Economic Impact Areas.

Figure 2

Extractive-Export v. Rest of Economy NREPA Affected National Forest Areas



Source:

Regional Economic Information System CD-ROM data, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, county data aggregated to match U.S. Forest Service definitions of National Forest Economic Impact Areas.

6. Mitigation Measures to Offset Timber-Related Employment Losses

Although the employment impact of protecting virtually all of the remaining roadless areas in the Northern Rockies is likely to be positive and the timber-related job losses will be quite small, there are measures that could be taken to reduce the impact on the forest products industry. These include the following:

- a. A reduction in federally subsidized harvest of timber from public lands will automatically make the management of private lands for timber more profitably. This will lead to increased production from private lands that will at least partially offset the decline in harvest from public lands.
- b. The FS can avoid some of the losses associated with restricted harvests in roadless areas by more intensively managing the already roaded land base. To the extent that these areas are less expensive to manage for timber and more productive for timber, there will be net gains from such a shift in emphasis.
- c. Areas badly damaged by past timber harvest activities can be rehabilitated. Instead of focusing its management efforts on extending the reach of destructive harvesting techniques, the FS can focus resources on repairing the damage associated with past harvests. This would provide jobs that offset any decline in timber-related employment. NREPA specifically mandates such rehabilitation investments.
- d. Reductions in the export of raw logs would increase the timber supply to mills throughout the northwest. The shipping of logs to the Far East has, through displacement of supply, created restricted supplies throughout the region.
- e. Increased recycling of cardboard and paper can increase the supply of fiber available to both paper mills and lumber mills. Recycled paper can provide fiber to paper and paperboard mills, reducing their need to pursue round wood for raw material and protecting them against a decline in the supply of chips associated with a decline in lumber and plywood mill output.
- f. As lumber mill operations focus increasingly upon the production of the least labor intensive products using the least labor intensive production processes, only efforts to increase the labor content of wood products operations can protect wood products employment. There are wood products that are much more labor intensive. The log home industry is the extreme example. But

other "value added" operations are also possible including the production of more specialized products compared to the standard two-by-four or two-by-six stud. Some mills in region have already shifted this direction in pursuit of more stable markets.

7. Conclusion

The residents of the Northern Rockies do not face a tragic choice that forces them to choose between preserving their natural wildland heritage and impoverishing themselves. Protecting wildlands and enhancing their economic well-being are not only compatible objectives, but, more importantly, our economic future is tied to protecting the unique qualities of the natural landscape in the Northern Rockies.

The timber-related job loss associated with protecting almost all of the remaining roadless areas in the Northern Rockies is quite small because most of those roadless areas are not suitable for timber management and because the wood products industry has been shrinking in relative and absolute importance in the region for over a decade now. A few weeks worth of normal job growth in the national forest counties of the Northern Rockies will offset what small impact there is.

The economic future of the Northern Rockies is tied to what makes it unique: its spectacular natural landscape and the wildlife it supports. These world-class recreation, wildlife, and scenic resource will grow increasingly valuable as environmental sensibilities continue to develop and as more and more natural environments are degraded by industrial and urban development. The positive impact the natural landscape has upon the economy can already be seen in many of the region's "wilderness" counties which have become the sources of vitality for the region's economies.

To open the remaining unprotected roadless areas in the Northern Rockies to roaded logging would represent pure economic waste. These areas can only be logged at a loss to the federal government. Logging them will provide a few tenths of one percent to total employment in an industry that has been a declining source of employment and income. In the pursuit of these few jobs, we will permanently sacrifice the Northern Rockies' real economic base: the natural landscape that attracts and holds residents here while supporting them physically and spiritually in a way found in few other places in this nation. There is no compelling economic logic to roaded timber development of the Northern Rockies' remaining roadless areas.

Full Studies Conducted

1. The Employment Impact of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act in Montana, March 1992, 73 pp.
2. The Timber Employment Impact of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act in Idaho, June, 1992, 80 pp.
3. The Timber Employment Impact of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act in Washington and Oregon, August, 1992, 72 pp.
4. The Timber Employment Impact of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act in Wyoming, September, 1992, 56 pp.

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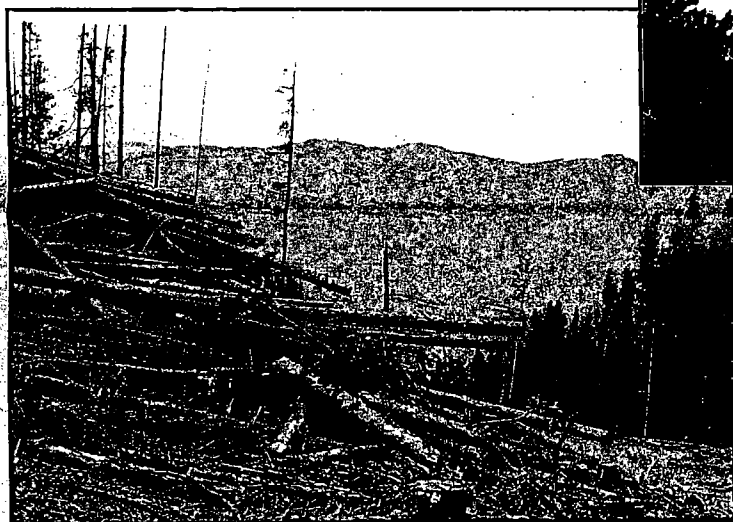
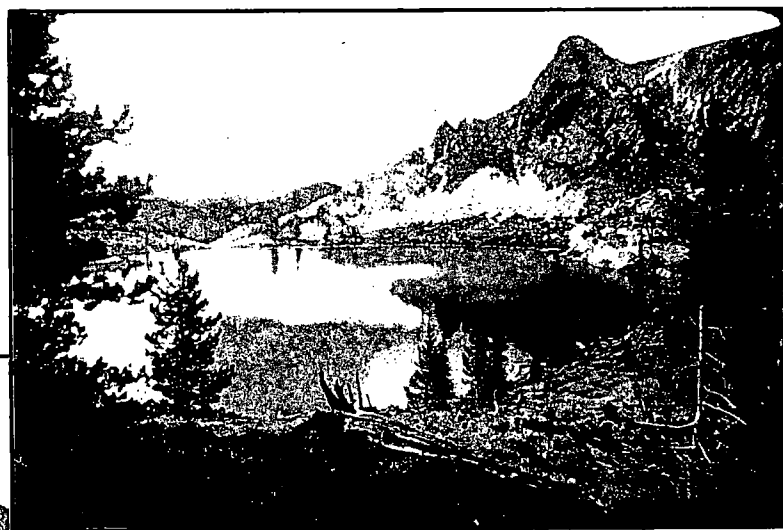
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The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act

Wilderness...



**...or
Clearcuts?**

The largest remaining tracts of native forest and biodiversity still thrive in the Northern Rockies, including free-roaming populations of grizzly bear, gray wolves, woodland caribou, anadromous salmon and trout, bald eagles, and a host of lesser known species. However, the federal government is giving away the development rights to our public lands to giant corporations that clearcut and mine our public lands for huge profits. The unique wildlife, rugged beauty and pristine landscapes in the Northern Rockies are the foundation of our quality of life and our economic base. They are the backdrop for our daily lives. The public urgently needs a plan to protect our ecosystems in the Northern Rockies and save our way of life.

Citizen Plan To Stop the Great Forest Selloff

The wildness of the Northern Rockies is in great danger. Reckless land management practices and unabated development are stripping the land of its trees, its water, its animals, its wild essence. The Wild Northern Rockies are teetering on the brink of a full-scale ecological holocaust.

To avert such a disaster, citizens have drafted the Northern Rockies Ecosystem

Protection Act (NREPA) for introduction in Congress. The Act heeds warnings from the scientific community: That without preservation of core ecosystem areas and essential biological corridors in the northern Rockies, longterm survival of the many unique wildlife populations is hopeless. Written by grassroots conservationists from throughout the region, NREPA incorporates biologi-

cal knowledge about ecosystem integrity and incorporates the newest economic data.

This comprehensive, ecosystem-oriented approach has attracted nationwide support with endorsements from over 320 organizations and businesses, and backing from world-renowned biologists, sportsman's groups, entertainers, outfitters and guides, and thousands of people across America.

THE FEDERAL PAGE

Wilderness Showdown Draws Near

House Panel to Weigh Montana Lands Bill

By Tom Kenworthy
Washington Post Staff Writer

One of the last great battles over western wilderness is heading for an uncertain climax on Capitol Hill as Congress nears adjournment.

At stake are 6 million acres of pristine, roadless national forest land in Montana, where politicians and voters have been squabbling for almost two decades over whether areas with evocative names such as Cowboy's Heaven should be permanently protected as federally designated wilderness or opened up to uses such as mining and logging.

Legislation apportioning those lands between wilderness and non-wilderness has passed the Senate and, in different form, a House subcommittee. But numerous hurdles remain in a fight that has split the environmental community, attracted the attention of celebrities from Hollywood and professional sports, and been complicated by election-year politics.

A key showdown could occur Wednesday, when the House Interior Committee takes up a version of the legislation adopted last week by the panel's subcommittee on national parks and public lands. The measure faces opposition from two flanks: some environmentalists and their House allies who say it is a giveaway to commercial interests; and legislators who say it tilts too much toward wilderness protection and goes far beyond a delicate compromise forged by Montana's two senators.

Based on past history, enactment of a Montana wilderness bill is unlikely in the waning days of this Congress. Only Montana and Idaho have failed to complete the wilderness legislation under the 1964 federal act setting up a national wilderness system, and in the past eight years eight different bills to resolve the Montana impasse have foundered.

The closest attempt was four years ago, when Congress passed legislation similar to that adopted this year by the Senate. President Ronald Reagan vetoed it, contributing to the reelection defeat of Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.).

BATTLE OVER WESTERN FORESTS

Debate over the fate of millions of acres of national forest in Montana has involved such disparate personalities as Rep. Peter H. Kostmayer (D-Pa.), actress Whoopi Goldberg and Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.).



KOSTMAYER

GOLDBERG

BAUCUS



THE WASHINGTON POST

This year, Melcher's replacement, Sen. Conrad R. Burns (R), negotiated a compromise with his Democratic colleague, Sen. Max Baucus, that was adopted by the Senate in June. The Baucus-Burns plan would add about 1.2 million acres in 27 separate areas to the state's 3.4 million acres of federally designated wilderness. Roughly 700,000 acres would continue to be studied for possible inclusion in the wilderness system. And nearly 300,000 acres would be placed in national recreation areas, which, unlike wilderness, permit motorized recreation. The remaining 4 million acres would be released for multiple use.

The version adopted by the House subcommittee last week would protect 300,000 more acres as wilderness than the Senate bill, which Burns says is unacceptable. Also troubling to Burns and the state's other Republican lawmaker, Rep. Ron Marlenee, are provisions dealing with the arcane areas of water rights and "release" language under which non-wilderness areas are opened up for resource development.

Unlike the Senate bill, the House version would reserve to the federal government rather than the state water rights in wilderness areas, a provision that also is opposed by the state's Democratic House member, Rep. Pat Williams, who says it could threaten the legislation because water rights are such a "visceral" issue in the West. And the House version would eliminate the Senate's "hard" release language opening up non-wilderness lands to commodity users, an aspect that environmentalists fear could eliminate the public's right to appeal in court U.S. Forest Service

decisions on which activities are appropriate within specific areas of individual national forests.

The subject of federal water rights is also a key issue for members of Congress who are deliberating on legislation designating 668,000 acres of wilderness in Colorado, a measure that passed the House yesterday and was sent to a conference committee with the Senate.

Further complicating the situation is the reelection battle between Marlenee and Williams, two veterans who are running against each other because Montana's two-member House delegation has been reduced to one seat by redistricting. Marlenee voted against the wilderness bill in subcommittee; Williams supported it.

Not only is the bill threatened by disagreements within Montana's congressional delegation of two Democrats and two Republicans, it also faces potentially fatal delaying tactics by a cadre of environmentalists and lawmakers who favor a far more ambitious and comprehensive approach to wilderness protection in the Rocky Mountain West.

Last week, Rep. Peter H. Kostmayer (D-Pa.) and several colleagues introduced legislation to create a 13 million-acre wilderness preserve stretching into five states: Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. Though Kostmayer concedes the measure has no chance of success this year, he is hopeful of killing the Montana wilderness bill so that next year Congress can begin considering an "ecosystem" approach to wilderness that would recognize endangered species' habitat needs across state lines.

Because all 6 million roadless acres in Montana would remain inviolate until a wilderness bill is passed, Kostmayer said, "It's better to have no bill than a bad bill."

Joining Kostmayer are several environmental groups, including the Montana-based Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Greenpeace. Most large national conservation groups such as the Wilderness Society and the National Wildlife Federation back the general thrust of the legislation moving through Congress, though they favor some changes.

Steve Kelly, president of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, said the Montana wilderness bill is "a political solution to a biological problem" that ignores habitat requirements of the continental United States' last great collection of wildlife, including grizzly bears, wolves and salmon. The legislation, he said, serves the "Forest Service and industry agenda."

The alliance and other opponents of the legislation have been joined by Hollywood stars and other celebrities who support the larger ecosystem approach to wilderness protection. Members of Congress have been inundated with appeals from Whoopi Goldberg, Woody Harrelson and the U.S. Olympic basketball team to kill the Montana bill.

The celebrity campaign has been so intense that one press aide to a key House member said he had "personally talked to Woody Harrelson and Glenn Close."

Wilderness Legislation Seeks Compromise

New concept of 'bioregion' meets old reality of environmental politics in Montana

By Brad Knickerbocker

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

MISSOULA, MONT.

WHAT'S often been called "the last, best place" — the northern Rocky Mountain region of Montana — is the focus of a classic political fight over the environment.

It involves millions of acres of pristine mountains, valleys, and streams now home to many species of wildlife, including the grizzly bear, which is listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. It also illustrates the challenges many areas across the western United States face as they shift from resource-based economies to other sources of jobs and income. And it is the first clear example of how scientists — and lawmakers — are changing their perspective on environmental matters from political boundaries to "bioregions" covering a number of states.

Montana is one of only two states in the West (Idaho is the other) for which Congress has yet to pass a comprehensive statewide wilderness bill.

"It's an issue that has divided my home state for over a decade," says Sen. Max Baucus (D). "More than any issue I've encountered in my 17 years of congressional service, wilderness has pitted neighbor against neighbor, Montanan against Montanan in our own civil war."

The dispute here has left about 6 million acres of national forest land in a kind of policy limbo: designated as "roadless areas" but not fully protected as wilderness, where logging roads or any other form of development are permanently prohibited.

Yet most Montanans (67 percent according to one recent poll) want the issue settled, and they want all sides — environmentalists, loggers, miners, and developers — to find a middle ground.

Senator Baucus believes he's found that spot in a bill that re-

cently passed the Senate and now awaits action in the House of Representatives. The Montana National Forest Management Act sets aside 1.2 million acres of wilderness. It protects another half-million acres as wilderness study or national recreation areas.

But the bill also opens up another 4 million acres of what has been de facto wilderness to potential logging, mining, and other development. This led 22 senators to vote against the bill on the grounds that a national treasure would be damaged.

Senator Baucus says the vast majority of those 4 million acres would never see the bulldozer blade of a Forest Service road-builder. And he insists that his "extraordinarily delicate compromise, extraordinarily delicate balance" provides strong protection for wildlife habitat, water quality, and the right of citizens to challenge any timber sale the Forest Service may approve.

That's dead wrong, says Mike Bader, executive director of the Missoula-based Alliance for the Wild Rockies and a former Yellowstone National Park ranger who specialized in back-country resource management.

"The bill is a perfect example of what's wrong with the way national forests are being managed," says Mr. Bader. "This is the only place where literally all the species that were here when Lewis and Clark came through are left because of the relatively large chunks of undeveloped land." Among the species are: wolves, bull trout, salmon, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, moose, lynx, bald eagles, wolverines, mountain lions, and bison — grizzly bears are the best known and most controversial.

There are differences of opinion over how many grizzlies roam the northern Rockies and (more important) how many breeding pairs it takes to sustain a healthy population. But wildlife biologists agree that the grizzly, which has lost all but two percent of its original habitat, needs large areas un-



PHOTOS BY ROBERT HARBISON, STAFF

WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM: Millions of acres of Montana wilderness are the focus of a political fight over their use.

touched by human activity to hunt and breed. Not only logging drives them out but also logging roads that open up bear habitat to hunters and recreationalists.

In a letter to Senator Baucus, University of Montana biology professor Lee Metzgar and a dozen other wildlife specialists said "current scientific information indicates clearly that further roading of key areas will doom the last remnant populations of large, sensitive mammals in the lower 48 states. Most of the remaining roadless areas constitute key areas and they simply cannot be released for conventional development without disastrous consequences."

"The critical factor with grizzly bears is loss of habitat," says Derek Craighead, who has spent years doing pioneering work tracking grizzlies by radio collar and satellite and whose father and uncle founded the Craighead Wildlife Institute. "Just the passage of this bill [the Baucus bill] would be the one single thing that eliminates grizzly bears in the northern Rockies."

Environmentalists see grizzlies as an "indicator species" showing the relative health of forests, and they favor another piece of proposed legislation — The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act sponsored by Rep. Peter Kostmayer (D) of Pennsylvania.

The bill covers portions of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington, adding more than 13 million acres to the wilderness system and designating 895 miles of river as "wild and scenic." It also connects the five major ecosystems of what environmentalists call the "Northern

Rockies Bioregion" with 2.4 million acres of corridors protected as special management areas.

Such corridors are needed because of "fragmentation of habitat into smaller islands with none of those islands able to support a viable population," says Lance Olsen, president of the Great Bear Foundation, a research organization

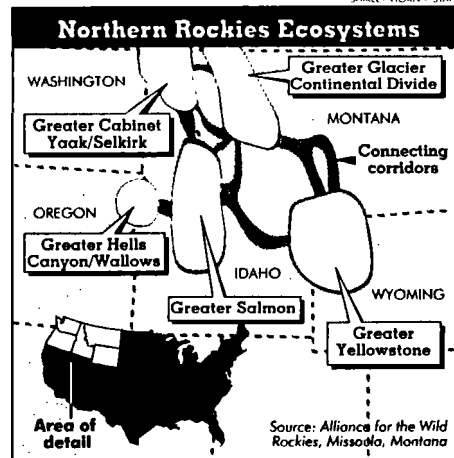
Montana has seen a 30 percent increase in productivity over the past decade due to automation and hence a decline in workers.

Thomas Michael Power, chairman of the economics department at the University of Montana, has studied the employment impact of the Kostmayer Wilderness Bill favored by environmentalists. If all roadless areas in the state were fenced off as wilderness, Professor Power says, the state would lose about 200 timber jobs (600 jobs when timber-related employment is added in). This is just 10 percent of the 6,000 new jobs added to the Montana economy annually in other sectors, he says, or the number "typically created in any five week period."

"Increasing amounts of economic activity in the state are 'landscape-related' in the sense that economic activity is supported and enhanced by the high quality natural environment tied to our wild landscapes," Power wrote. "Sacrificing these economically important natural amenities in order to temporarily support an extractive industry in decline is the opposite of economic development. It is a prescription for ongoing economic decline."

There is some question whether the Baucus bill will get a full hearing and vote in the House. Many see the issue as momentous. "We're at a point where we have to choose whether we want grizzly bears and wolves and wolverines or we don't," says wildlife biologist Derek Craighead.

■ One of a series of occasional articles on life in the US.



Source: Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Missoula, Montana



LONGTIME GRIZZLY BEAR RESEARCHER DEREK CRAIGHEAD: 'The critical factor with grizzly bears is loss of habitat,' he says.

The Wildest Bill on the Hill

Innovative legislation would preserve the Rockies as a bioregion

by Dick Russell

In the pristine Northern Rocky Mountains, often called "the last best place," wild rivers cut across terrain as unspoiled as when Lewis and Clark first explored it. Over 17 million acres of roadless public lands remain in the region; here is some of the only undisturbed habitat outside Alaska for rare species including the grizzly bear, gray wolf, woodland caribou, great gray owl, and westslope cutthroat trout.

In the lower forty-eight states, only 5 percent of the original virgin forest remains intact; much of that virgin land is in the Northern Rockies. Though roadless, vast stretches of this mountainous region have not been formally designated as wilderness by the federal government and therefore are technically available for logging and development. Private land holdings have now been cut over throughout the West, so lumber and mining interests are eager for the government to release some of these large tracts for potential development.

In recent years, Congress has passed a series of individual state wilderness bills in the West to deal with the conservation versus development question. These bills have provided permanent protection to selected areas, but they do not ade-

quately protect species who migrate or roam over state boundary lines; the state bills have also been written in ways that allow the U.S. Forest Service to sell off vast amounts of timber to private industry.

"For half a century," says former Representative Peter Kostmayer (D-Pennsylvania), "the federal government has subsidized the logging industry in the Rockies by selling timber from national forests at a price well below what taxpayers spend to manage it. This practice, though it has devastated the environment and wasted hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars, has long been promoted as the only means of 'protecting' the economic foundation of the region."

Now, however, an innovative bill under consideration by Congress proposes a new strategy for protecting these public lands: remove them from involvement in state political infighting—by making the Northern Rockies the property of the entire nation.

Last September, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA), the first congressional bill to attempt to manage these national forest lands in a "bioregional" approach, was introduced by Representative Kostmayer. The bill was written with much input from the Montana-based Alliance for the Wild Rockies. Three years in the crafting, it proposes a 14-million acre wilderness preserve that would cover portions of five states: Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. It would also designate 2.4 million acres of corridors through which wildlife could pass, 1,300 miles of federal wild/scenic rivers, and a new national park.

Mike Bader, a former Yellowstone Park ranger who formed the grassroots Alliance four years ago, says a new approach is needed, one that looks beyond state boundaries. He describes the aim of the NREPA

bill as "going way beyond the ice-and-rocks, scenic hiking areas concept, getting into ecological wilderness, all native species, functioning ecosystem." In the case of the grizzly, already listed as a "threatened" species, room to roam across state boundaries may be all that ensures its survival; having lost all but 2 percent of its original habitat, in Montana the grizzly is highly dependent on the wild lands adjoining Glacier and Yellowstone parks.

Reed Noss, a conservation biologist at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, is also a staunch supporter of a broad-scale regional and national approach, "because the amount of wilderness area in any given state is likely to be too small, too fragmented, and insufficiently connected to maintain a viable population of large carnivores like grizzly bears and wolves."

While the Kostmayer bill failed to advance, its reintroduction by one of the co-sponsors in 1993 is expected to fuel the controversy over how public lands are managed, as environmentalists are split between those favoring a bioregional approach and those more willing to compromise. Greenpeace's former executive director Peter Bahouth is in one camp. "If you fly over Mount Hood, for example, the effect [of the single-state management approach] is instinctively obvious—it's destruction. What are called wilderness bills are actually clear-cut bills; they simply set some areas aside to appease the conservation and recreation forces."

On the other hand, environmental groups such as the Wilderness Society, National Audubon, and Sierra Club would undoubtedly debate Bahouth's claim. They have lobbied diligently to save whatever acreage possible, in an arena fraught with difficult political tradeoffs. These organizations were involved in a recent dispute over wild forest

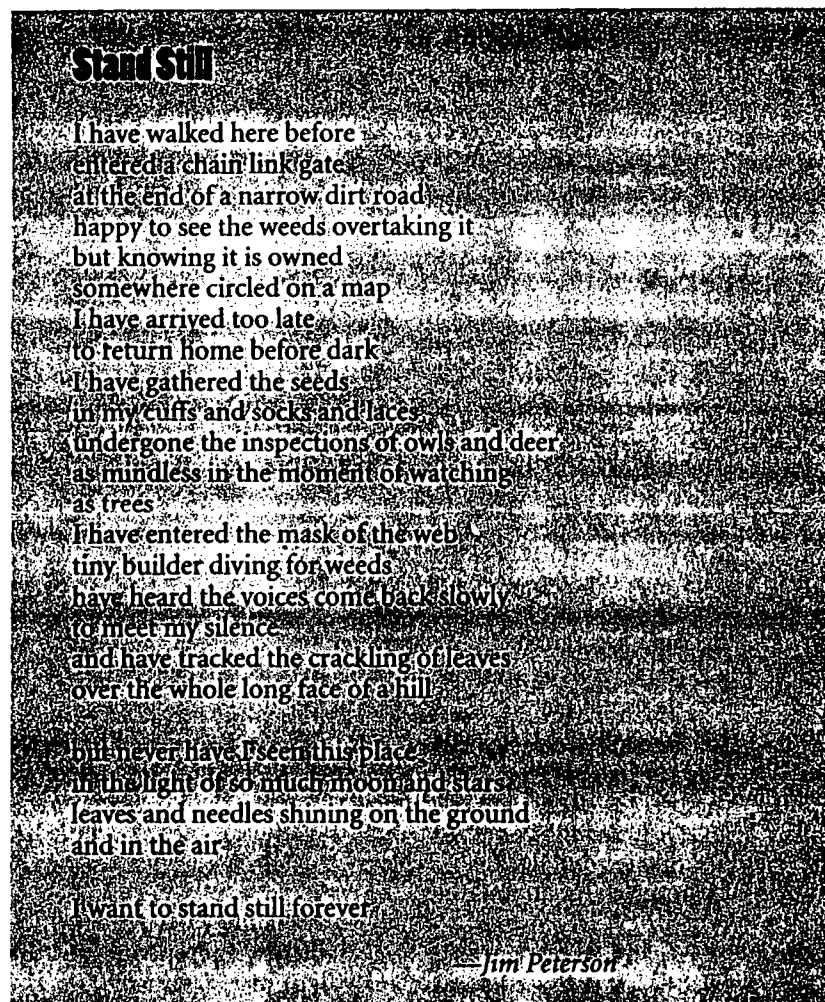
Dick Russell is a contributing editor of The Amicus Journal.

lands in Montana. A proposed state wilderness bill would have protected approximately 2 million acres while releasing 4 million more for possible development. After the House strengthened the original Senate version, environmentalists came down in support of it. ("Legislation is the art of the possible," the Wilderness Society's Michael Francis explained.) The bill died in October, when Montana Democratic Senator Max Baucus and his Republican colleague, Conrad Burns, failed to reach a compromise on key amendments.

Support for a bioregional approach to wilderness designation is growing. Asked about the effectiveness of bills such as the Montana act, Thomas Power, chair of the economics department at the University of Montana, declared, "The whole idea of statewide wilderness bills is just bankrupt." Power believes that state bills promote irresponsible behavior, by "encouraging the Forest Service to go out and put roads in areas so they can't be considered again [for wilderness designation]."

Power undertook a study of the effects of continued subsidies of extractive industries on land use; it suggests that further subsidies of industries such as logging and mining will have a very damaging effect on the economic future of the region. His results were underlined by a similar study from the University of Idaho. While timber-related employment constitutes less than 2 percent of the job base in counties bordering national forests in the Northern Rockies, overall economic growth has been relatively strong—precisely because of the region's attractive landscape. In Bozeman, Montana, for instance, recreation currently provides sixteen jobs for every one produced by logging.

But the timber companies remain politically powerful, and in Montana and Idaho, just as in the Pacific Northwest, they are running out of trees to cut on private lands. One reason the area is, for the most part untouched is its steep terrain,



Stand Still

I have walked here before
 entered a chain link gate
 at the end of a narrow dirt road
 happy to see the weeds overtaking it
 but knowing it is owned
 somewhere circled on a map
 I have arrived too late
 to return home before dark
 I have gathered the seeds
 in my cuffs and socks and laces
 undergone the inspections of owls and deer
 as mindless in the moment of watching
 as trees
 I have entered the mask of the web
 tiny builder diving for weeds
 have heard the voices come back slowly
 to meet my silence
 and have tracked the crackling of leaves
 over the whole long face of a hill
 but never have I seen this place
 in the light of so much moon and stars
 leaves and needles shining on the ground
 and in the air
 I want to stand still forever

—Jim Peterson

which is much harder to log than the low-lying forests of Oregon and Washington. The Forest Service is now offering timber on these steep mountainsides below cost, so that currently inaccessible areas once considered too costly to log are now of interest to companies like Plum Creek and Champion International.

Whether or not Congress will go beyond the customary method of allowing each state's legislators (and special interests) to dictate the terms of the state's wilderness bills is open to question. Most of the major environmental groups are theoretically in agreement with an ecosystem-wide effort, but do not believe it to be politically feasible—a mind-set that disturbs some. "The defeatist attitude really gets me," says conservation biologist Reed Noss. "If the compromises that a lot of the national environmental groups seem willing to make don't

maintain ecosystems and the more sensitive species, what good does it really do? Such a strategy is less than viable, biologically."

Indeed, the fight over the Montana bill clearly indicated an effort led by pro-timber senators to frame "release language" in a way that would undermine any future legal efforts seeking to block Forest Service timber sales. A multi-state arrangement would be, says economist Power, "a much more flexible way than leaving decisions up to Forest Service district managers."

Bioregionally based protection plans are already underway on a smaller scale in the Southern California desert and the Cascades Mountains; in view of these new approaches, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies hopes that the Kostmayer-sponsored initiative may yet, in the words of Peter Bahouth, "rewrite the conservation manual." •

The New York Times

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1992



Larry Mayer for The New York Times

The fight over the fate of the Crazy Mountains in Montana is part of a larger fight over nearly six million acres of wilderness. Paul Goligoski and his sons Joel and Brent watched a waterfall in the Crazies.

High-Altitude Land War in Big Sky Country

By TIMOTHY EGAN

Special to The New York Times

BIG TIMBER, Mont. — Beneath a sky bruised by thunderstorms, the Crazy Mountains rise from the high plains of central Montana, a battleground without landmark status.

To the Crow Indians, who live on a reservation just southeast of here, the Crazy Mountains are a sacred place for feasting and spiritual journeys. To the Brand S Lumber Company, the largest employer in Livingston, 30 miles to the west, the Crazies hold valleys brimming with potential 2 by 4's. And to weekend warriors from places like Bozeman and Billings, these mountains are a backyard playground.

The fight these three groups are

waging over the Crazies is but a skirmish in the grand struggle over Federal land in the Big Sky state. But it is typical of what is happening throughout Montana this summer as state residents and Congress try to settle one of

the biggest and most drawn-out wilderness battles of the 20th century.

Nearly six million acres, most of it in the alpine heights of the Rockies, are at stake. The area, larger than Massachusetts, is not just the forest home of grizzly bears, wolves, elk and dozens of other big animals; it also represents the dreams of people who moved to this state believing it to be, as they say here, "the last best place."

While copper used to fuel fortunes and political careers in Montana, these days scenery is the resource of consequence.

After a dozen years of furious argument over Montana's Federal lands,



OLYMPICS OPEN TODAY

The opening ceremonies of the Summer Games in Barcelona will reflect the political and ethnic realities of a new world order in sport.

Sports, page 31.

Continued on Page 6, Column 3

National Report

The New York Times

A High-Altitude Land War in Big Sky Country

Continued From Page 1

the state's senior senator, Max Baucus, a Democrat, introduced a bill last year that would designate 1.2 million acres as formal wilderness while freeing up four million acres for potential logging, mining, oil drilling and road building. Another 495,000 acres would be protected under special management, and 500,000 acres that were set aside in 1977 for study would remain pristine.

All six million acres are managed by the Forest Service, which has declared them off-limits to development pending the resolution of the wilderness debate.

In 1988, Congress passed a Montana wilderness bill involving much of the same land, but it was vetoed by President Reagan in one of his last acts in office. This year, the Senate passed its version of the bill by a 75-22 vote. It is now under consideration by several committees in the House.

The White House has deferred judgment on the new bill until a final version is ready. But recent polls suggest that the Bush Administration may have a tough time playing the Montana wilderness issue as a jobs-versus-environment debate — the tack taken by the Administration in the fight over old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest. In a poll conducted for the state's largest newspaper chain, Montanans approved of the wilderness bill by a 55 to 29 percent margin, with 16 percent undecided.

A Political Football

And when asked, "Should we protect the environment even if it means that people may lose their jobs," 57 percent of the state residents who were polled picked the environment, versus 36 percent who picked the economy and 7 percent who were unsure, The Billings Gazette reported.

The Crazy Mountains would not be protected under the bill — one of many aspects of the measure that may keep it bottled up in the House this summer. But House leaders say the boundaries are likely to be redrawn, expanding the protected area to include such popular sites as Cowboys Heaven northwest of Yellowstone National Park and part of the Crazy Mountains. Critics say that under the Senate bill, too much of the land that would be protected is "rock and ice," while prime forest land would remain open to logging.

The Montana wilderness bill may be about fish and forests, but more so than most Western land issues, it is tied up in politics.

After Montana lost a congressional seat as a result of the 1990 Census, two of the state's enduring political figures, Representatives Pat Williams, a seven-term Democrat from the western side of the state, and Ron Marlenee, an eight-term Republican from the eastern prairies, ended up running against each other. The wilderness bill is a central issue in the race to determine who will represent the largest congressional district outside of Alaska.

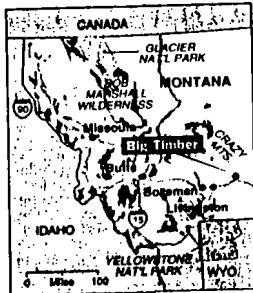
Mr. Williams has backed the bill with



Photographs by Larry Mayer for The New York Times

To the Crow Indians, who live on a reservation just southeast of Big Timber, Mont., the Crazy Mountains are a sacred place. To the Brand S Lumber

Company in nearby Livingston, the Crazy Mountains hold valleys brimming with potential 2 by 4's. Wade Barman fished in the Big Timber Creek.



The New York Times

Congress is considering whether to protect several wilderness areas in Wyoming.

some reservations. His support has alienated some of his conservationist allies who had urged him to fight to expand the boundaries of protected wilderness. Mr. Marlenee, who has prairie fairies and "fern feelers," has decided not to fight the bill, but he has also threatened to request a Presiden-

tial veto if too much wilderness is included in the final measure.

'Vignette of Primitive America'

Environmentalists, joined by a host of Hollywood celebrities who have recently made Montana into a sort of Malibu with mountains, are urging that the bill be killed unless more land is set aside. If no legislation is passed, they argue, the entire six million acres would remain pristine, protected by the cloud of indecision.

But the bill's backers contend that if Senator Baucus's bill dies in the House much of the land now under consideration for wilderness could eventually be opened to development.

Some of the environmental groups want to create a much larger wilderness area, covering several states — an area sometimes called the American Serengeti for its abundance of wildlife.

"Much of this area is still a vignette of primitive America," said Lee Metzgar, chairman of the biology department at the University of Montana.

Backed by recent economic studies, Mr. Metzgar and others argue that only a handful of jobs would be lost by introducing a much more ambitious bill that would set aside as much as five million acres of new wilderness in Montana and Idaho.

Timber Wants Truce

"If we lose the wilderness, we've lost our economy," said Mike Bader, executive director of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, based in Missoula, Mont. "The only way we can control our future is to hold on to our wild lands." While acknowledging that timber, mining and oil jobs have been disappearing, those opposed to more wilderness say there is room enough in Montana to give everyone a piece of the Rocky Mountain pie.

"We want to end the civil war over wilderness," said Russ MacPherson, a forester with the Brand S Lumber Company in Livingston. Rather than wait and risk losing more land to wilderness, an alliance of industry leaders is pushing for passage of a scaled-down version of the Baucus bill, stripped to about 700,000 acres of wilderness.

The company would like to cut timber in about 300 acres of the Crazy Mountains — a few months' supply of wood for a mill that employs 210 people. The company gets an ever-increasing share of its timber from private lands, so a large



"We want to end the civil war over wilderness," said Russ MacPherson, a forester with the Brand S Lumber Company.

new wilderness area would not kill its business but would make it harder to stay profitable, Mr. MacPherson said.

The Crow Indians also have a keen interest in how the wilderness lines are drawn. They want the Crazy Mountains to remain untouched.

"Those mountains are sacred to us," said Jerome White Hip, a cultural affairs leader with the Crows. "We use them for feasting and vision quests. We want to keep things as they are."

At the base of the Crazy Mountains, Big Timber, with 1,600 people, has the defunct look of a lumber town on a downslide. Though there is not much big timber left around here, signs in small shops support the industry, proclaiming: "No wilderness, no wolves, no Williams."

Ten years ago, clear-cutting and controlled burns were not common conversational topics, even in Montana. Not so this year, when the wilderness issue may determine who goes to Congress to represent a 145,000-square-mile district.

SECTION B

Sunday, June 7, 1992
The Seattle Times
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Northwest

Biologists fear loss of forests

Congress urged to reconsider measure that would open up more wilderness land

by **Scott Sonner**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When environmentalists in Montana look to the forests of the Northwest, they think of the "balloon effect."

"When you push down on a balloon in one part, what happens?" asks Mike Bader of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies in Missoula, Mont.

"It bulges up in another part, right?" he continues.

Bader said the forests of Idaho and Montana may fall victim to the "balloon effect" as more and more land is put off-limits to logging to protect the northern spotted owl in Oregon, Washington and Northern California.

"We will just be moving the problem into even more fragile and pristine areas," he said.

That's one of the reasons nationally recognized experts on grizzly bears are pleading with Congress to reject a Montana logging and wilderness bill they say could destroy an untamed ecosystem in the northern Rocky Mountains.

"This is much larger than Montana," said Lee Metzgar, former head of the biology and zoology programs at the University of Montana in Missoula.

"What is at stake here is the last intact fauna in the Lower 48

States — grizzly bears, wolves, lynx and otters," he said.

Metzgar, in town for a National Science Foundation conference, lobbied House staff members last week against the Montana National Forest Management Act of 1992.

The House Interior subcommittee on national parks and public lands has scheduled a hearing this week on the bill, which the Senate approved 75-22 in March at the urging of Montana Sens. Max Baucus, a Democrat, and Conrad Burns, a Republican.

The senators tout it as a compromise that could bring an end to a 15-year-old fight over 6 million acres of roadless lands by designating 1.2 million acres as wilderness.

But Metzgar and other critics complain that most of the proposed reserve is high-elevation, rocky terrain incapable of supporting wildlife.

More important, they argue, are the more than 4 million acres that would be opened to logging, mining and other commercial development.

"There are enormous pressures in the United States to go in and log forest land even when it shouldn't be logged," Sen. Albert Gore, D-Tenn., said in opposing

Biologists see measure as threat to Northwest wilderness, animals

MONTANA

continued from B 1

the bill on the Senate floor.

In addition to grizzlies, Gore said development could threaten critical habitats of big horn sheep, caribou and moose herds in the lush valley corridors from Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park to the Canadian border.

"Everything that was here when Columbus landed is still intact in the Rockies. If this bill is passed, that would be lost," Metzgar said in a recent interview.

"We are talking about the mammals of Yellowstone Park, our premier park, and Glacier National Park, being lost to extinction," he said. "Maybe not this year, or this decade, but in the future we can be certain it will happen."

Baucus, a friend of conservationists on many issues, maintains the 1.2 million acres is the best protection environmentalists can hope for, given opposition from President Bush and other Republi-

cans.

"The question is, do you want to protect some or none?" said Caleb Marshall, Baucus' press secretary. "Do you want to get what you can or do you want nothing. If you kill this bill, you get nothing."

"If you don't pass this bill, all 6 million acres are open to management plans that anybody wants to have on them," he said. "It makes no sense to approach this without regard to political reality."

John and Frank Craighead, world-renowned biologists who did pioneering work on Yellowstone grizzly bears in the 1950s, joined Metzgar and a dozen other scientists in first warning Congress last fall that the Baucus-Burns bill would "hopelessly fragment" the critical wildlife corridors.

Instead, they support a five-state plan, which would protect more than 13 million acres of forests and nearly 1,000 miles of streams in a series of ecosystems stretching from Wyoming into Oregon and Eastern Washington.

The scientists are working with the Alliance for the Wild Rockies and other environmental groups to

try to persuade the House Interior Committee to slow its scheduled action on the Baucus-Burns bill.

Mike Bader, the head of the alliance who researched grizzly bears as a park ranger at Yellowstone National Park, said the panel has taken three years to collect scientific data on the Northwest's old-growth forests and the northern spotted owl.

But he said the House is preparing to divide up the Northern Rockies' oldest forests without any formal testimony from scientific experts.

"The biology is very, very clear," said Metzgar, 51, who has been working 25 years as a wildlife biologist in Montana.

"There have been politicians who argue against us, but I have heard no scientific argument that disputes our assertions," he said. "The wildlands in the Northern Rockies are very close right now to being at the biological minimum that will permit the resource to exist."

"Part of the problem is that we as biologists ... have only recently realized how much land it takes to support the wildlife," he said.

Please see **MONTANA** on B 1

Nation/world

Montana's wilderness dispute could shape future U.S. policy

By Dan Baum
Special to the Tribune

MISSOULA, Mont.—More than 9,000 square miles of wilderness are up for grabs in Montana, and the election-year battle over how to manage them could determine who gets to say whether federal land should be developed or left untouched.

Two competing plans for the disposition of wilderness are under discussion in Montana.

One proposal, which has been introduced in the U.S. Senate, would keep wilderness designation under the control of Montanans.

The other, still waiting in the wings, is much wider in scope and would take away from the state the power to control its wild lands.

The disputed Montana wilderness, scattered in areas around the state, total about one-sixth the size of Illinois and is as unspoiled today as 500 years ago. The sites have been in legal limbo for more than a decade. They lack permanent protection under federal law but they also can't be logged, mined or opened to other development until Congress settles their disposition.

Wilderness is an official designation for areas that are roadless and protected from any mechanical devices except wheelchairs. The only way to enter wilderness legally is on foot or horseback; even mountain biking is banned.

About 51,000 square miles in the U.S. now are designated wilderness, in widely scattered patches mostly throughout the West and Alaska. Almost half again as much is de facto wilderness—unprotected but unspoiled.

The wilderness issue is as bitter as any in the West. Behind the immediate wrangles are two conflicting philosophies of how the nation should designate and manage its vast wilderness, lands that are at once environmentally precious, potential sources of jobs and wealth, and emblematic of the essential American character.

Opponents say the wilderness designation costs jobs by locking away valuable timber, grazing land and minerals needed to support traditional industries. Advocates say wilderness is crucial to protecting endangered species, wildlife habitat, tourism and the essential wild character of the American West.

Montana's congressional delegation has been trying for years to write a wilderness bill that would satisfy conservationists and the state's powerful natural-resource industries. Montana's two senators—a Democrat and a Republican—tried again this year, but their bill is meeting harsh opposition from many conservationists.

Prospects for passage of the Montana wilderness bill have been further complicated by redistricting. Montana grew too little in the 1980s to retain both its seats in the House of Representatives, and now its two congressmen—who are about as politically different as any two in Congress—are running against each other for the single seat that remains.

Both Reps. Ron Marlenee, a Republican, and Pat Williams, a Democrat, are trying to figure out how to approach perhaps the hottest political issue in Montana.

The state's two senators, Democrat Max Baucus and Republican Conrad Burns, introduced their wilderness bill in November. If passed, it would protect one-sixth of Montana's undesigned roadless land, set aside a bit for study and release the rest to development.

By tradition, Congress usually defers to the delegation of the state in which the federal lands lie, and the support of Williams and Marlenee would make the bill virtually unstoppable.

Among House members, Williams is one of the most amenable to wilderness, while Marlenee is a longstanding opponent. And neither supports the Burns-Baucus bill as it stands.

Williams said last month that the bill is dead if Burns and Baucus won't compromise. Marlenee is playing the outsider, charging Montana's three other legislators with cutting him out of negotiations.

"In this state, wilderness and politics are inextricable," said Marlenee's press secretary, Dan DuBray.

At the same time, lawmakers throughout the West are puzzling over an alternative proposal to save 21,000 square miles of wild country in a single stroke and take away the authority to designate federal wilderness from the delegation of the state in which it lies.

The ambitious plan, the brain-

child of a Pennsylvania congressman and a Montana conservation group, would protect hundreds of patches of unprotected roadless land in five Western states.

The plan, which hasn't been introduced in Congress, would expand by almost half the amount of protected wilderness in the U.S. and give authority to designate federal land to all Americans—not just to those who happen to live near it—says Michael Bader, executive director of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, the Montana conservation group that wrote the bill.

The group opposes the Burns-Baucus bill, but does not yet have sufficient legislative support for its alternative.

"The individual-state approach destroys wilderness," Bader said. "You can't be deciding on wildlife migration corridors, for example, on the basis of state lines. Nature doesn't work that way."

A national wilderness bill, he hopes, will inspire the crowded Eastern states, which don't have wilderness, to become involved in the debate.

"We need something big to capture the American people's imagination," Bader said.

The Atlantic chapter of the Sierra Club supports the bill, as do several chapters of the Audubon Society and the Wyoming chapter of the National Wildlife Federation. A host of prominent rock musicians, including Carole King, John Oates and the Grateful Dead's Bob Weir also stump for it.

Rep. Peter Kostmayer (D-Pa.) is the multistate bill's biggest proponent in Washington.

"We remain committed to introducing it at the appropriate time," said John O'Donnell, Kostmayer's staff member on the House Interior Committee. "But we have to have support or we'll get blown out of the water, and getting the support of the guys in the West is a huge undertaking."

Last month, opponents of the Burns-Baucus bill twice in one week occupied Baucus' office in Missoula, chaining themselves together with bicycle locks that police had to cut apart.

The following week, about 120 people marched on Williams' office here, demanding he support the multistate bill.

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Sunday, March 15, 1992

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Hastily drawn-up S 1696 should be dumped quick

By JOHN J. CRAIGHEAD

In the course of a long professional career, I was active in helping to envision and to formulate the national Wilderness Act, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Endangered Species Act. On several occasions, I testified before congressional committees on behalf of these landmarks of environmental legislation. It was testimony in support of good and visionary causes. Today, my role is reversed, and I must speak out against a very short-sighted, anti-environmental bill, S 1696, written in haste and under political duress — a so-called Montana wilderness bill that, if passed, will not serve the interests of the majority of Montanans, nor those of the nation.

It is ethically wrong because it violates the basic rights of our citizens to be able to work out their differences, no matter how long the course.

It is economically wrong because it sacrifices long-term social gains for short-term expedience.

It is ecologically wrong because this bill blindly rejects the last opportunity our citizens have for preserving the biodiversity of the Northern Rockies — the land Lewis and Clark explored less than 200 years ago — the land that now faces fragmentation, exploitation and politicization on a scale unheard of a mere half-century ago.

The public lands of the Northern Rockies belong to all the American people, not to the citizens of any one state or any one social or economic group. The natural resources of these public lands fall into two categories of use: extractive and non-extractive. The extractive resources are timber, minerals, graze land, gas and oil. The non-extractive ones are pristine landscapes, the mosaic of plant and animal life, the water, the soil and the basic ecological systems and biological processes that make the non-extractive, non-fragmented resource a living entity. Holistically, this living entity is biodiversity itself; and biodiversity thrives in interrelated ecosystems.

The Congress and the American people have, in the past, shown great vision and leadership in creating our national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges and wilderness areas as a means of protecting and preserving the non-extractive values that translate into beauty, science, enjoyment, philosophy, lifestyle and, for some, religion. They are the heritage of all Americans. They are the property of the many and not of the few as is sometimes asserted by special-interest groups.

On the other hand, the extractive resources of our public lands cannot be utilized and enjoyed equally by all citizens. They become the personal property of those few who have the power and resources to exploit them. Over time, these proprietary interests become accepted as vested in special-interest groups, such as loggers and miners.

We all recognize the need for both economic use and preservation on our public lands; the question is, where lies the balance? Certainly, a bill allocating approximately five million of six million unroaded acres to extractive use is not a balanced bill, nor is it a "wilderness" bill. It is a shameful give-away. This catering to special interests, with the resulting fragmentation of ecosystems, is especially unacceptable and unconscionable at a time in history when we clearly understand the necessity of preserving biodiversity and ecosystem structure. We need these large areas of near-pristine environment as reservoirs of undiscovered information, as ecological benchmarks, as keys to understanding both natural and manmade changes of the future and as sustainable economic assets when these uses do not threaten to degrade or destroy other values.

At this moment in history, thanks to satellite imagery, electronically digitized data and the computer's power to analyze and integrate digitized information, we are beginning to understand some of the complexities of biodiversity, and to examine and manage



resources holistically. For example, scientists can map and quantify the vegetation of entire ecosystems. We can do this at the species and plant community levels — the smallest categories of plant classification. We can satellite-locate and track animals throughout these ecosystems, determining habitat use and preference; and we can computer-superimpose on this biological base data relating to man's use or abuse of the ecosystem-wide resource. None of this was possible a decade and a half ago. None of this was even dreamable when Montanans began to delineate their wilderness system. At that time, an ecosystem was a vague concept, biodiversity a term uncoined, establishment of travel corridors between large ecosystems an embryonic thought, and concerns for genetic variation and viability largely confined to fruit-fly populations.

We scientists and professional environmentalists ask our lawmakers: What's the hurry? Why risk the biological integrity that has required eons of evolutionary development to become what we have today in the Northern Rockies bioregion? Why kill the possibility for ecosystem management when that newborn concept is so close to realization in the only suitable region remaining in the lower 48 states? Why disregard the visionary efforts of earlier Congresses in setting aside for posterity the ecologic cores of the three great mountain ecosystems: the Yellowstone, the Selway-Bitterroot/River-of-No-Return and the Northern Continental Divide? These ecosystems need to be fleshed out as functional, interrelated parts of a greater whole: the Northern Rockies bioregion. This should be the focus of all deliberations — to enact a wilderness bill praiseworthy in its consideration for the rights of all Americans, not simply the interests of extractive industry. I urge Congress to reject S 1696 and then prepare the setting for examining our remaining wildland resources in the light of modern biological concepts and state-of-the-art research techniques and the growing awareness of the sanctity of all life. We cannot re-create a lost species or restore a damaged ecosystem; therefore, we must enact wise environmental laws.

Retired ecologist John Craighead is the former director of the Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Montana and is founder of the Missoula-based Wildlife-Wildlands Institute. This commentary is adapted from testimony submitted to House National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee.

Forest for Sale: It's a Steal

By Robert Weir

THIS IS THE MILL VALLEY, Calif. Montana National Forest Management Act, which might be passed by the Senate any day now, would release four to six million acres of pristine Montana wilderness for "development" — road-building, mining and clear-cutting. Montana's Senators, Max Baucus, a Democrat, and Conrad Burns, a Republican, very quietly co-sponsored the bill. With such bipartisan support, the measure might appear uncontroversial. It is not.

A broad coalition of local and national environmental groups and wildlife scientists oppose this measure, which attacks the largest remaining old-growth forest in the lower 48 states. In this era of shrinking wilderness and increasing appreciation of the economic and esthetic benefits of preserving our last intact public lands, the plan insults not only Montanans but the American public.

The bill was introduced in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources at midnight on Nov. 20, 1991. With minimal review (the text had not even been written), the panel passed it, 20 to 0. It is now on the Senate consent calendar, meaning that a voice vote (with no record of how the Senators voted) can be called at any time. If the measure is enacted, taxpayers will once again subsidize at considerable expense the ruinous building of roads in old-growth national forests for the sole purpose of serving the logging and mining industries.

For example, the legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to trade and sell to the Plum Creek Timber Company more than 20,000 acres of national forest land, to be harvested at will. According to Senator Baucus's office, the measure will open for logging more than 98 percent of the timber suitable for harvest in the entire six million-acre region. This is a public land giveaway of scandalous magnitude, reminiscent of the James Watt era. Moreover, this measure would deny citizens' rights to challenge these "development" actions in court.

The bill's co-sponsors will likely claim that they are simply serving their constituents, providing jobs and bolstering the economy. Land would be clear-cut, as this is the most efficient way to harvest timber. The timber industry maintains that clear-cutting is ecologically sound because it simulates the regenerative cycle of a forest fire. Sadly, one need only fly over Oregon and Washington to see the folly in this theory. Years after clear-cutting, lands remain deforested, covered only by scrub and weeds. By contrast, in neighboring areas actually burned by a wildfire, ash and residues have enriched the soil and the forest is already coming back after only a few years.

When clear-cut forests are replanted, and if the replanting takes, the result is a tree farm, not a forest. Biologically impoverished monocultures replace diverse ecosystems; habitat for fish and wildlife is severely damaged or destroyed. Of many species, few remain. At the elevations covered in the bill, replanting is an iffy

prospect, and any regrowth would be extremely slow. The timber industry doesn't want to hear any of this.

Gone with the forests are the logging jobs. The corporations move on, telling the impoverished communities they leave behind to blame environmentalists ("You know, the spotted owl people"). Meanwhile, they often mill the wood in Mexico or elsewhere, using cheap foreign labor, and then export it to Japan, which would never consider clear-cutting its own land.

Exports further decimate the resource and eliminate jobs. The multinational corporations would do well to practice logging on a sustained-yield basis, but they don't because clear-cutting is much more profitable for the short term. These same companies can afford to contribute generously to Senate campaigns — including those of Senators Baucus and Burns — and they do.

The National Forest Service plays along with all this. Forest Service officials who have stood up for environmentally sound practices are fired or transferred. Those who assist timber and mining efforts are rewarded. The agency entrusted with protecting our national forests is quietly trying to put roads into the last large areas of primary forests before arguments can be heard in the for-

Will the Senate quietly approve a plan to clear-cut public lands in Montana?

ests' defense. The Baucus-Burns bill includes no specific language about road-building, but it is implicit: without access roads, the proposed development cannot take place. The bill would also do away with the normally required environmental impact statements. This is shady business.

Senators Burns and Baucus characterize their bill as a "compromise." This seems a misuse of the word when 98 percent of the harvestable timber in the national forest would be taken in trade for some proposed wilderness preserves. These preserves would be composed of lands, mostly rock and ice, that no one wants for timber, mining or recreation. Where is the compromise?

At stake is a biomass of a density equal to that of a tropical rain forest, and of similar importance to the planet's life-support system. Mass clear-cutting destroys lands and watersheds and causes desertification for many miles downwind. Fish and wildlife disappear. In Montana, private land has been heavily logged, and the companies now want the public land. And they want American tax dollars to finance them.

Why don't our elected leaders support development that is ecologically and economically sustainable? Clear-cutting public lands is neither. The timber barons and extractive industries have had their way with our national forests for long enough. Our ancient forests of the Northern Rockies don't belong to industrialists. They belong to the children, to the future, to the earth itself. □

Robert Weir of the Grateful Dead is author, with his sister, Wendy Weir, of "Panther Dream," a children's story about the African rain forest.

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The Dallas Morning News

Dallas, Texas, Sunday, October 4, 1992

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MOUNTAIN VIEWS



Special to The Dallas Morning News: Associated Press

Burton Pretty On Top, a spiritual leader of the Crow Indian tribe, uses a blanket, a fan of bald eagle feath-

ers and a sacred pipe to pray for the conservation of the Crazy Mountains in Montana.

Loggers, ecologists, Indians fight over future of Montana wilderness

By Bill Minutaglio
Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

THE CRAZY MOUNTAINS, Montana — Burton Pretty On Top is on bended knee before the snow-maned peaks that the Crow Indians call *Awaxaawipila*. The last time the lanky spiritual leader was here for a vision quest, a great evil stalked nearby and tried to force him away.

Now, the Crow holy man is on a prayer rug. He fills a bowl with sage and tobacco. He has a mug of water from nearby

Cottonwood Creek, a sacred pipe and a cedar box brimming with eagle feathers.

As wind howls inside a thin strand of aspens, he purifies himself by ladling dollops of sacred smoke over his head, his chest and arms. He prays — in the Crow tongue and in a loud, firm voice — that the mountains be protected.

"Some people see dollar signs," he says solemnly. "I see the Creator when I look at the Crazy Mountains."

Besides the Creator and Please see MONTANA on 25A.



Special to The Dallas Morning News: Associated Press

Russ MacPherson, a former Forest Service ranger, supports opening Montana public lands to loggers.

Montana wilderness at stake in development debate

Continued from Page 1A.

mountains of greenbacks, others see the Crazy Mountains as yet another battle in this century's biggest war over the vanishing American wilderness.

The decade-long conflict, centered in Montana, touches on the legislative and logging future for millions of public acres, including the Crazy Mountains. And it revolves around a massive checkerboard of federal lands that spreads across the entire western face of "the last best place" — as vichmen call Montana.

In these lush forests and mountain ranges are the few places in the Lower 48 that can truly be called pristine — the last natural refuge for the grizzly bear, elk and wolf.

Crow Indians such as Burton Pretty On Top view the conflict in spiritual terms — they seek to protect their most sacred lands from what they consider to be the evils of commercial exploitation. Allied with and against them is a staggering array of armies.

Loggers — from corporations such as Champion to smaller operations such as the Brand S Lumber Co. in Livingston — are eager to stake claims to towering lodgepole pines and larches.

Celebrities — including Harrison Ford, Goldie Hawn, Magic Johnson, Carole King and Bruce Willis — want to slow bills that would open that federal land to more logging.

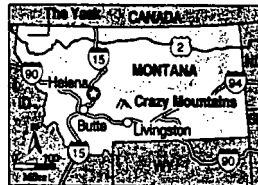
National and local environmental groups are squabbling over how aggressive they should be.

Meanwhile, Montana's Republican congressman — locked in a bitter battle for the lone congressional seat remaining after reapportionment — has charged some preservationists with being "prairie fairies."

"It really is a big battle. It is about the economy. It is about the last great ecosystem. It is about setting precedents for the rest of the country," says Mike Bader, head of a Missoula-based environmental group called the Alliance for the Wild Rockies. "There is something at stake here for all Americans."

Protective writer

In what may be the most remote valley in the Lower 48 states, critically acclaimed author Rick Bass has drawn the line — and he



The Dallas Morning News

eagerly leaps on any news about congressional legislation that for years has loosely become known as the Montana Wilderness Bill.

The Texan moved to the area known as The Yaak six years ago, and he has vowed to do all he can to defend his zone in the far northwestern quarter of Montana. He has watched endless attempts to create a bill that would govern public lands — and please all the warring factions.

"This is the last little valley in the country that is different from every other valley. It has twice the diversity of anywhere else, twice the richness, and it is up for sale," says Mr. Bass, who has been called one of America's finest storytellers and essayists. "When it is gone, there won't be another place like it."

Today, he has walked for several hours, deep into the heart of the forbidding Kootenai National Forest and far from the humble cabin he shares with his family. Every day of the week, Mr. Bass bushwhacks into these rolling, intimidating woods around Roderick and Grizzly peaks.

With a simple backpack containing notebooks, cookies and a

"Some people see dollar signs. I see the Creator when I look at the Crazy Mountains."

— Burton Pretty On Top, Crow holy man

canteen, he will hike up and down the hills and mountains, going 10 or more miles.

"Look at this," he suddenly says. He holds up an enormous pair of elk antlers he somehow noticed on the floor of a lodgepole pine forest.

It is discoveries such as this — as well as his sightings of elk herds, grizzly bears, wolves, moose and caribou — that have inspired Mr.

"This is the last little valley in the country that is different from every other valley. It has twice the diversity of anywhere else, twice the richness, and it is up for sale. When it is gone, there won't be another place like it."

— Rick Bass, author

Bass to wage what often amounts to a one-man campaign to save about 10,000 to 20,000 acres in his part of Montana.

The area is a fraction of the huge checkerboard of federal lands — and because The Yaak is so remote, so sparsely populated, it has received scant attention from the politicians and the environmentalists.

"There is not a wilder place in the Lower 48," Mr. Bass says. "The wilderness is anything but abstract. When we lose wilderness, it is like we have lost a mirror in which to see ourselves."

He trudges higher up one steep hillside south of Mount Henry and passes giant rocks tipped over by bears in search of bugs. He points out freshly made elk beds and aspens wickedly scarred by bear claws. He listens intently for the grizzly and fights his way through impossibly rugged acre after acre of naturally fallen timber.

"This is not a place for people," Mr. Bass says. "It's a Hilton for wild things."

Logging interests

The rushing, undammed Yellowstone River majestically cuts a course below a stand of tall trees — and winds its way immediately behind the sprawling, muddy Brand S Lumber mill on the outskirts of Livingston.

In recent years, the small town north of Yellowstone National Park has become something of a Glitterati Gulch for wealthy hippies, movie stars and literary luminaries such as Thomas McGuane.

The city is also home to many of the 200 millworkers that Brand S employs to turn the raw pine into smooth, neatly cut boards destined for shipment to homebuilders in the Midwest. The company — whose vice president carries a business card written in both English and Japanese — has been outspoken about protecting logging interests.

"What's happening right now is that the people who want more

wilderness in the state have made it an issue by bringing in Magic Johnson, Woody Harrelson, Glenn Close," says Russ MacPherson, a burly ex-district ranger for the U.S. Forest Service who now works for Brand S.

"I mean, Magic Johnson comes and speaks out for Montana wilderness. I wonder, what does he know about the issue?"

Mr. MacPherson also wonders whether the Crow Indians, the ones worrying that their vision quests will be defiled by loggers eager to get into the Crazy Mountains, really know the issues.

"I hope this doesn't sound racist, but when the Indians show concern over the Crazy Mountains, you have to just look back at what they do to their own land" on the Crow Reservation, east of Billings.

Meanwhile, he and other loggers interested in maintaining or increasing access to federal lands are staring down a well-organized cadre of environmentalists.

"As their movement became stronger, it also became much wealthier, more powerful," says Doug Crandall, the Brand S general manager. "They have a tremendous number of attorneys and lobbyists on their payroll."

Mr. MacPherson, for one, is pained by the battering he says his industry has taken.

"When I studied forestry, I never realized it would be like this," he says. "I never realized I would be painted as a villain. We are producing lumber that goes to American homes. That was the American dream."

'Bader factions'

In Washington, congressional aides to Democratic Rep. Pat Williams (his foe for re-election is Republican Rep. Ron Marlenee) frequently pepper conversations with mentions of "Bader factions."

The vaguely scientific-sounding term refers to Mr. Bader, a round-faced preservationist — and former

national park ranger — who has probably been the most outspoken opponent of development on Montana's public lands.

Four years ago, he helped found the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, an aggressive umbrella group that has tackled politicians, timber companies and even more mainstream environmental groups such as the Sierra Club. His efforts have made him the victim of venomous ire.

"People say, aren't you willing to compromise?" says Mr. Bader, sitting in a cluttered back room in the old building in Missoula that serves as Alliance headquarters.

"We have been compromising for 200 years. We are down to the last 5 percent of the original native forest and wilderness. Where do you go from there?"

The Alliance was formed in November 1988, shortly after President Ronald Reagan vetoed that year's version of the Montana Wilderness Bill.

This year, as usual, more hotly contested legislation has been floating through congressional committees.

Mr. Bader wants a bill that would link Montana's wilderness areas with those in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming under

"When I studied forestry ... I never realized I would be painted as a villain. We are producing lumber that goes to American homes. That was the American dream."

— Russ MacPherson, Brand S Lumber Co.

one "ecosystems protection act." He has promised to battle, for years if necessary, any bill other than his own.

"The politicians keep giving it away. Who pays for that? You, me and everybody else," Mr. Bader says.

Montana constantly dances on a double-edged sword, he adds. It has some of the few truly wild places left in the United States — but its isolated nature makes Montana easy to ignore.

"Because of our low population

density that translates into less power politically," says Mr. Bader. "We are ripe for the rape."

He bristles at criticism that Montana is being inundated with "outsiders" from the West Coast, people who have "discovered" Montana in the past few years — and have decided to unwittingly hurl themselves into serious environmental issues.

"That's nonsense. These celebrities pay their taxes; it's their land, too. For years this land was dominated by the Fortune 500 who had unlimited access to politics and the media," says Mr. Bader — who at one point even offers to put a visitor in touch with celebrity allies, including Carole King.

"Now, it's balancing out. These people have access to the media and lots of fans — and they have learned how to use it in a positive way."

Mr. Bader says he can use all the help he can get.

"I think this is a watershed issue. It comes down to the future of the Earth," he says. "It's that critical."

Crows' treks

For centuries, Crow chiefs have made treks to the Crazy Mountains for the spiritual journeys known as vision quests. Famous warriors such as Chief Plenty Coups, Two Leggings and Medicine Crow would take bedrolls, sacred pipes, tobacco and no food or water.

For four days they would fast and sometimes go "across the river," or into the Spirit World.

Several years ago, Burton Pretty On Top was driving toward Bozeman, and the Crazy Mountains came into view. Tears began streaming down his face. He decided to make the first of his own vision quests, just like the old chiefs.

Now, at the foot of the Crazy Mountains, he has finished his sacred ceremony. He gently lowers his eagle feathers back into the cedar box.

"When your ancestors still lived in Europe, we were using the mountains. We still have the golden eagle, the bald eagle, the moose, deer," he says. "I have seen a grizzly up here."

He rolls his weathered pipe deep inside the folds of an evergreen-colored cloth. He says he doesn't want environmentalists, Hollywood stars, Brand S loggers or anyone else trampling over his sacred peaks.

"I saw the Creator when I looked at the mountain," he says. "I have made the connection here."

REGIONAL

Bull trout may be added to endangered list



Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game photo

The bull trout is already extinct in half of its known range.

By Julie Titone
Staff writer

Like grizzly bears, they've been renowned for their size and reviled as predators.

Like spotted owls, their presence indicates a healthy ecosystem.

Like salmon, they return to their place of origin to reproduce.

They are bull trout. And they could follow those more famous Northwest animals onto the endangered species list.

The bull trout is already extinct in half its known range, according to the Alliance for the Wild Rockies.

"This is a native fish, and it's real important to us that it remain part of the landscape," says Mike Bader of the Missoula-based environmental group. "For another thing, the bull

trout is a prime indicator species. They're tied to clean, cold water ... If their populations are going down, it's a red flag warning that the quality of life in our bioregion is on the decline."

On Oct. 28, the alliance asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consider the bull trout for listing as threatened or endangered in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and northern Nevada. The petition also was signed by two northwestern Montana groups, Friends of the Wild Swan and the Swan View Coalition.

The listing process will take up to two years, if Fish and Wildlife decides there is enough of a threat to proceed with it.

State agencies have already acknowledged a serious problem.

They've banned or limited fishing for bull trout and are drafting management plans to reverse the species' decline.

There are many suspected culprits. Among them are drought, which dries up or warms streams; over-fishing and illegal fishing; dams that block migration, and imported fish species that compete with and prey upon bull trout.

The major problem, biologists say, is damage to spawning streams. Logging, road-building and land development have caused erosion and stream instability. Gravel where the fish lay their eggs is being smothered with dirt. Pools and undercut banks where they hide are disappearing.

The Intermountain Forest Industry Association has warned members that

endangered or threatened status for the bull trout could pose serious problems for them. If the species is listed, the Fish and Wildlife Service could stop federal timber sales that would harm the fish.

Last week, Montana banned the catching of bull trout west of the Continental Divide. In April, Washington did the same for its southwestern corner and anywhere east of the Cascades. Bull trout populations in the Pend Oreille River, Asotin Creek and Lake Roosevelt are among those considered at "high risk of being eliminated."

It's also illegal to keep bull trout caught on most North Idaho waterways, including any in the Priest and Coeur d'Alene river drainages.

Please see TROUT: B2

Government Protection Sought for Bull Trout

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 (AP) — Environmentalists have asked the Government to declare the bull trout an endangered species, making it eligible for special protection in five Western states.

They said that logging and development are destroying the places where the fish lives and breeds in cold mountain streams deep in the woods.

Three Montana groups asked the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service to grant the fish emergency protection under the Endangered Species Act in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and northern Nevada.

Declaring the bull trout endangered

would make it illegal to kill or harm the fish or its habitat. Loggers and developers could not intrude on land bordering the streams without a special permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service. To gain the permit, they would have to convince the service that their activity would not jeopardize the species.

The fish, which migrates more than 100 miles to spawn and typically weighs about 5 pounds, has disappeared from half its known range, including all of California, the groups said in a petition to the Government. The petition said 90 percent of the bull trout in Montana are at moderate or high risk of extinction. Eighty-three

percent fall into that category in Northern Idaho; 54 percent in Oregon.

The petition asked the Government to restrict activities immediately on more than 20 streams critical to the fish.

Like the northern spotted owl and the grizzly bear, the bull trout has been designated by the Agriculture Department's Forest Service as an "indicator species," signaling the overall health of forests.

"The indicator species are telling us that our ecosystem is falling apart," said Mike Bader, executive director of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, one of the petitioning groups. "Bull trout

are sensitive to water quality. When they die off, it shows the water is becoming polluted."

Mr. Bader asserted that people like Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan Jr. "are like bumbling surgeons who don't pay attention to the monitors on their patients."

"There are red lights blinking and sirens sounding," he said.

Georgia Parham, a Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman here, said Wednesday that the agency's Portland, Ore., office would have 90 days to decide whether the status of the fish should be reviewed. If it is, the agency would have a year to decide whether to list the fish as threatened or endangered.

The Endangered Species Act currently protects 700 plant and animal species, and 4,000 candidates are being considered for formal listing.

The petition said bull trout had been harmed by logging, road-building, cattle grazing, mining, poaching, overharvesting, dam construction, irrigation, pesticides and home building.

For example, Mr. Bader said logging had produced erosion that sent enough silt into rivers to smother newly hatched bull trout. He estimated that fewer than 10,000 bull trout remain, about 4,000 of them in the northern Rockies.

State fish and wildlife departments in Montana and Oregon have already identified bull trout as a sensitive species. A sharp decline in spawning areas prompted Montana officials to ban fishing for bull trout this summer.

In addition to Mr. Bader's group, the petitioners were Friends of the Wild Swan in Swan Lake, Mont., and the Swan View Coalition in Kalispell, Mont.

Middle Fork of the Flathead River, which drains wilderness areas and Glacier National Park.

Lake trout, an introduced species thriving in Flathead lake, could be devouring too many young bull trout.

There are lake trout in Lake Pend Oreille, though they haven't been identified as a major foe of bull trout, says Ned Horner, the state's regional fisheries manager. He suspects stream degradation is the reason redd counts in Pend Oreille tributaries were down this fall by as much as half of average years.

Biologist David Cross of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests says it would be unfortunate if the bull trout is listed.

"It would be a recognition that we've failed as managers to provide for it," he says.

However, he notes that a listing would generate a lot of interest in the bull trout, and that might shake loose more federal dollars to help them.

Cross would put the money into implementing a bull trout action plan that the Panhandle Forests adopted in 1991. Under the plan, land management rules will be written to protect bull trout in all phases of their lives, and in four major ecosystems.

But first, the Panhandle must find out how many bull trout are using which spawning streams.

Most of the St. Joe River system has been inventoried, but much of the Coeur d'Alene River drainage has not, Cross says. "Other drainages have not been looked at at all — the Pend Oreille, Priest, Kootenai, Little North Fork of the Clearwater."

Lack of information is a problem throughout the region. Washington biologists, charged with protecting 77 populations of bull trout or dolly varden, don't know enough about 42 of those to determine if the fish face extinction.

Public interest is necessary if the species is to be saved, conservationists say. Cross was impressed that 40 volunteers devoted a weekend to counting redds in St. Joe streams this fall.

Trout

Even on Lake Pend Oreille, the region's bull trout stronghold, the daily catch limit was lowered this year to 10 bull trout 20 inches or longer (or one bull, if a rainbow trout is also caught).

Lake Pend Oreille produced the record bull trout in 1949. It was a 32-pound whopper. Sandpoint anglers, like many in the region, are likely to all the fish dolly varden even though scientists consider "dollies" a separate, coastal species.

Some bull trout remain in tributary streams. Others migrate up to 150 miles, headed for rivers or lakes. They return to the streams to spawn in September and October. Unlike salmon, which die after spawning, bull trout can reproduce multiple times, though not necessarily every year.

Bull trout have teeth. And the older and bigger they get, the more likely they are to eat other fish. Bounties were offered on them to protect more popular sport fish. In a 1929 publication, Montana game officials called bulls "the cannibal of the trout family" and "a voracious enemy."

"People would catch them and throw them up on the bank," says Tom Weaver of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Now, he says, they're increasingly popular in Flathead Lake as a trophy fish, "as big and brutal as they look."

The Kalispell biologist is worried about Flathead's bull trout. For three years in a row, the number of spawning nests, called redds, has declined dramatically in streams that feed the lake's tributary rivers.

An unusual mid-season emergency bull trout fishing ban was instituted on Flathead Lake last July 6.

"Every single fish is critical at this point," says Weaver.

Plenty of young fish are leaving the streams, but aren't returning, he says. One reason could be damage caused by road-building. However, that can't be much of a problem in one tributary with low redd counts. That's the

Grateful Dead star attacks bill

■ **Forests:** Bob Weir says a Montana wilderness bill allows extensive logging and development.

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rock star Bob Weir of the Grateful Dead lobbied Congress against a Montana wilderness bill Monday, calling it a pro-development measure for the timber and mining industries.

"If you look at what's left of the forests in Oregon and Washington, it's really, really pathetic. That's why the logging has gone to Montana," Weir said.

"Logging used to be almost all of Oregon's economy but now it's only 10 percent. And it's not because of the spotted owl. It's because there are no forests to log there," he said.

Weir said he was visiting congressional offices with conservation leaders to try to whip up opposition to the proposed Montana National Forest Management Act.

In an opinion piece he wrote for The New York Times last week, Weir said the bill "attacks the largest remaining old growth forest in the lower 48 states," allowing logging and other commercial development across millions of acres of the Northern Rockies.

"My role in this affair is to bring attention to it and also bring dispirited environmental groups together so we have a broad coalition," Weir said in a recent interview.

"I've been there. I've walked the land. I've seen what's going on. There just comes a time when you can't sit back and let the big dogs eat," he said.

Sens. Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Conrad Burns, R-Mont., introduced the measure last year as a compromise in a decade-long fight over more than 6 million acres of roadless wild lands stretching from Yellowstone National Park to the Canadian border.

But the critics say only about 1.2 million acres would be permanently protected as wilderness, most of that rocks and ice along the tops of mountain ridges.

Several noted scientists — including world-renowned grizzly bear biologist Frank Craighead — have sounded off against the legislation as a threat to grizzly bears, gray wolves, elk and bull trout.

Aides to Baucus and Burns said

Weir is exaggerating the amount of land that would be logged as a result of the bill.

"The senators have received complaints and concerns from constituents on both sides," said Burns' spokesman Bryce Dustman. "This is probably as good a bill as you could come up with."

Mark Smith, Baucus' timber expert, said the Forest Service only has plans to log about 1 million of the acres. "These guys have basically resorted to smear tactics," he said.

Rep. Mike Kopetski, D-Ore., a fan of the Grateful Dead, said Weir's involvement in the issue is unlikely to sway any opinions on Capitol Hill, but he said it should have the effect of shining a public spotlight on the issue.

"People of note who have a following attract attention," Kopetski said in an interview. "What it usually does is ensure there is media coverage."

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved the bill unanimously just before Congress' Thanksgiving recess.

It is awaiting Senate floor debate on a part of the calendar normally reserved for non-controversial issues. But the proposal has been anything but non-controversial in Montana.

"The last thing this bill will stand is the light of day," said Weir, who was in town with the band for sold-out concerts in Landover, Md., Sunday and Monday night.



Bob Weir

"I've seen what's going on."

"Rather than this bill sliding through the Senate without any review, now we have a fight," he said, pointing to the efforts of the Alliance For the Wild Rockies, the Sierra Club and other groups mounting an offensive against the bill.

"What we are up against is greed. These logging companies have just got to get it into their heads that they can't enjoy those amazing profit margins for the rest of time. The industry has outgrown the resource," Weir said.

"I am not a qualified expert, nor are the senators who are offering this bill, I might add," Weir said.

"If we were to leave this issue up to the qualified experts, there's no doubt in my mind the right thing would happen. Unfortunately, that's not whose hands it is in."

Engle Register Guard
March 11th, 1992

MISSOULIAN 6/92

THE STARS SAY NO

WASHINGTON — Singer-songwriter **Carole King** was one of the people who staged a briefing Tuesday morning to outline their opposition to the Burns-Baucus wilderness bill.

King, an Idaho resident, said the most important message she could bring to Washington was that the issue is national, not regional. She has visited many of Montana's wildlands and wants to ensure their pristine state. "I've gotten a lot of personal sustenance in wilderness," she offered.

The singer also read from a letter from 45 entertainers enlisted to decry the bill. "As United States citizens," the letter read, "we have the responsibility to advocate for our public lands as adamantly as we do for endangered forests around the world."

King's cosigners included **Harrison Ford**, **Michael J. Fox**, **Goldie Hawn**, **Bruce Willis**, **Magic Johnson** and the entire cast of "Cheers."

Stormin' Norman

Gulf War's hero general is declaring war on Montana wilderness bill

By NED MARTEL
States News Service

WASHINGTON.— The Hollywood stars and professional athletes seeking the spotlight to kill the Montana wilderness bill have been joined by one backstage protester, retired U.S. Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf.

The general sent telegrams to Capitol Hill offices in early August "to express my concern for saving the last large intact, contiguous ecosystem in America's lower 48 states."

Schwarzkopf has refused to make any public appearance in protest of the six-million-acre roadless lands plan, according to a congressional source, and could not be contacted Friday. A spokeswoman for the Arlington, Va.-based Nature Conservancy confirmed he was attending a meeting of that environmental group's board, on which he has just accepted a seat.

"This is public land and belongs equally to all Americans," Schwarzkopf wrote in his recently-obtained missive.

"We should enact wise environmental laws and promote a bill that protects all of the lands and the interests of every American in order to sustain our habitats and the environment for future generations to come," he added. Schwarzkopf's letter echoed the sentiments of oth-

er celebrities, resoundingly chided by Montanans and Montana lawmakers as meddling.

The disclosure of the general's hushed involvement could broaden the appeal of the derided dissenters, the congressional source said. A coalition of actors, singers and sports stars have advocated neither the Senate-passed compromise nor the recent rewrite by Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mont., and Rep. Bruce Vento, D-Minn.

The Montana delegation has sniped at the intrusion of the glamorous in their debate of the nitty-gritty. Rep. Ron Marlenee, R-Mont., locked in a fierce campaign with Williams for the lone state seat in Congress, has gone so far as to accuse his opponent of "a celebrity sellout" in Williams' reworking of the bill's boundaries.

Williams, who could not be reached for comment, has distanced himself from any celebrity input. Indeed, Grateful Dead rock guitarist Bob Weir described Williams in an interview Friday as uncooperative to the effort to look at the region as an entire ecosys-



Schwarzkopf

tem rather than as parcels of parks and forests.

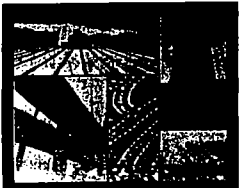
Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., said the outsiders' opinions are welcome but not pivotal. "I think they had an influence on those members of Congress who are not from Montana," he said. "But we know the state. We know the areas. We've hiked through them."

Sen. Conrad Burns took even greater offense to the challenge. "I do not claim expertise in performing arts and would never interject myself into a public debate over an issue relating to how performing arts are performed," Burns said in a statement.

But "Cheers" star Woody Harrelson said Burns contradicts himself by his admission that the lands are "public" and thus prone to national debate. "I suppose I'm not an expert," Harrelson said in an interview. "But if he's the expert we have to hear, then I think we're all in a world of hurt."

Harrelson admitted that he had not seen Montana's wooded expanses, but had studied the ramifications of loss of species habitat, a result he predicted if the bill's land were released for logging.

"It's such a blatant disregard for environmental values," the actor said. "We all pay tax dollars on the roads that are going to be plowed through these forests."



HABITAT

■ 'We had 2.2 million visitors in Glacier this year, and we've noticed a new trend. People are seeking more solitary areas ... than they used to. Grizzlies can't live on an island, so we must maintain habitat outside the park system where they can move freely. Bears just don't understand administrative boundaries.'

— Steve Frye, Glacier Park chief ranger



LOSING GROUND. For grizzlies like this Glacier National Park bear, more visitors and development of nearby wilderness areas are reducing their habitat.

Park Faces People-Bear Dilemma

Tragic man-grizzly encounter in Glacier Park highlights the animal's shrinking habitat

By Kathy Davis Kramer
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

WHITEFISH, MONT.

A RECENT tragedy in Montana's Glacier National Park dramatizes the challenges the park system faces in coping with more visitors, less funding, and a reduction in wildlife habitat.

This fall, one of the worst grizzly-bear attacks ever occurred in the park. One hiker and three bears died. This event highlights

the increasing number of human-bear encounters as grizzly-bear habitat continues to shrink in the lower 48 states. While day-hiking on the Loop Trail, about a half-mile below Granite Park Chalet, John Petranyi of Madison, Wis., was mauled to death and partially eaten by a female grizzly and her two yearling cubs.

Glacier Park Chief Ranger Steve Frye says Mr. Petranyi was "an experienced back-country hiker." He says the decision to destroy the bears, which were located by park rangers and shot eight days later about a mile from the attack, came after consulting state and federal bear experts on the subject.

Chris Servheen, grizzly-bear recovery coordinator for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Richard Knight, leader of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, were among the government experts who concurred with the park officials' decision to destroy the bears.

Mr. Servheen says, "We don't tolerate those types of aggressive bears. It's dangerous and it's teaching its cubs things and that's not the type of animal that we tolerate in grizzly habitat." He says he believed that the cubs were "a lost cause" and must be destroyed because "...they learn everything from the mother."

Investigation of the bears' car-

casses after they were shot gave no clue to the reason for the attack. The female was a healthy 300-pound grizzly and the cubs, at 75 pounds, were healthy and stable as well.

Since park officials have in the past opted not to destroy bears who have mauled hikers, this decision met with mixed reactions. Mr. Frye says park headquarters received numerous calls after the decision to destroy the bears.

"About 70 percent of the callers favored allowing the bears to live and about 30 percent wanted them destroyed," Frye says.

ALTHOUGH Glacier Park spokeswoman Amy Vanderbilt reported in local newspapers that all bear authorities agreed with the decision to destroy the bears, other reports indicate differently.

Charles Jonkel, longtime bear authority and director of the Ursid Research Center and the Border Grizzly Project, both private research organizations, says Frye telephoned him a day after the hunt for the bears had begun. "I told Steve that there was no historical biological evidence to support their premise that the bears would link killing the victim with feeding on him. Grizzlies do not have a predator-prey relationship with man.... I urged him to call off the hunt and leave the bears

alone. Destroying the bears was a biologically unsound decision.

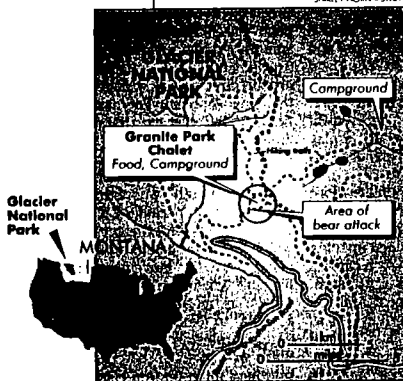
"The park is getting better about managing the bears, but this action was a step backward. I think park officials succumbed to political pressure," Dr. Jonkel concludes.

"I disagree," counters Mr. Knight. "I think bears are very smart and learn about new food sources quickly. There's no guarantee they would have preyed on people again, but it was best not to take a chance with human life."

Many bear advocates are concerned that this encounter is a bad omen for the grizzly. Mary McFarland, longtime resident of Whitefish, Mont., says, "When you have more people, you have more trouble. Years ago we never had problems in the park because the bears didn't run into people. They didn't like the human smell. Now there are so many people, the bears can't avoid them."

Some express concern that this incident foreshadows what will happen to the bears on a grander scale. If the grizzly isn't fully protected in the national park system, they reason, how will it survive in the remaining habitat areas outside park boundaries?

As grizzly-bear habitat continues to shrink, wildlife managers and environmentalists predict more human-bear encounters.



"We had 2.2 million visitors in Glacier this year," Frye says. "And we've noticed a new trend. People are seeking more solitary areas off the beaten path in the park than they used to. Grizzlies can't live on an island, so we must maintain habitat outside the park system where they can move freely. Bears just don't understand administrative boundaries."

Bears aren't the only problem. Tourists often fail to adhere to park rules or do not believe that the bears are dangerous. Park literature advises against hiking alone, being careless with food and fires, and approaching bears. But visitors in search of the great wildlife photo often do not follow park officials' advice.

Four hikers, who had been warned not to proceed on the trail because of the attack, failed to heed the warnings. They continued their hike and were blocked by a grizzly on the trail. They had to be airlifted to safety from the

would have obvious benefits for the grizzly.

Glacier Park Superintendent Gil Lusk says there are two options: Either give the bears more room or permit extinction by decreasing their habitat.

"The bears need a wider area in all directions," Mr. Lusk says. "Man-bear encounters will increase outside the park as well, if we don't do some long-range planning on a community level to include the bear."

Although some have criticized park management for not closing the trails to hikers, especially in places like Granite Park, where grizzlies are known to frequent the area, both Lusk and Frye say that park management strives to balance needs of both visitors and bears.

"We don't always know where the bears are," Frye says. "If we close trails, people get upset."

Jonkel counters by saying, "I have been warning agency officials and the public since May that this was a very unusual food year for bears. All summer I have asked them to do special things for the bear and be especially careful. In the fall, bears are feeding intensely, and dangers to man are high. In view of this, I can't imagine why the trail was open. This incident didn't have to happen."

Shawn Riley, wildlife biologist for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, says the recent grizzly killings in Glacier bring the known 1992 death toll to 12 grizzlies in the northwest part of the state. With the exception of one road kill and one bear killed by a train, the others were destroyed for being problem bears, that is, frequenting areas commonly used by humans.

Land development looms large as a contender for the bears' space. Whitefish, a community of about 5,000 less than an hour from the park, has been experiencing rapid growth. Real estate agents have doubled in number and housing prices have soared.

In addition, the Big Mountain Ski Resort, owned and operated by Winter Sports Inc., is moving on an aggressive plan to develop residential communities and a summer resort on the Big Mountain.

The Big Mountain is an integral part of the Whitefish Range, an area of diverse wildlife habitat and a key segment of the corridor grizzly bears use to move to and from Glacier National Park.

Frye sums up the dilemma, "I think the grizzly's future will be determined by our commitment to maintaining habitat outside the park system. We can't guarantee the bears will stay within our boundaries. Sustaining the bears is an achievable goal that requires long-term compromise and commitment. This doesn't come cheap. We must begin to accept the expense."

'We don't tolerate those types of aggressive bears.'

- Chris Servheen, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Granite Park Chalet. Such encounters inadvertently get people and bears killed. As Jonkel laments, "The bear always loses."

Mike Bader, executive director of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, a group of more than 200 organizations and businesses throughout the northern Rockies with a mission to protect the remaining wild lands by using an ecosystem approach, brought the grizzly-habitat problem further into perspective.

"This was another situation where there are too many people crowding into ever-shrinking bear habitat," Mr. Bader says. "We must consider closing large segments of bear habitat on a seasonal basis.... The bears are stretched to the limit this year with a food shortage. When managers know it's a poor food year, they need to be more flexible and make unpopular decisions to close areas for the bears. The grizzly is down to less than 1 percent of its original habitat in the lower 48 states and pressure on that area must be relieved if they are going to survive."

The failure of Congress to pass a Montana wilderness bill before it recently recessed has created an opportunity for Bader and his group. They support a bio-regional approach that calls for a 13-million-acre, five-state wilderness bill, which they will take to Congress next January.

"The people want our last, remaining wild places left wild," Bader says. Such an approach

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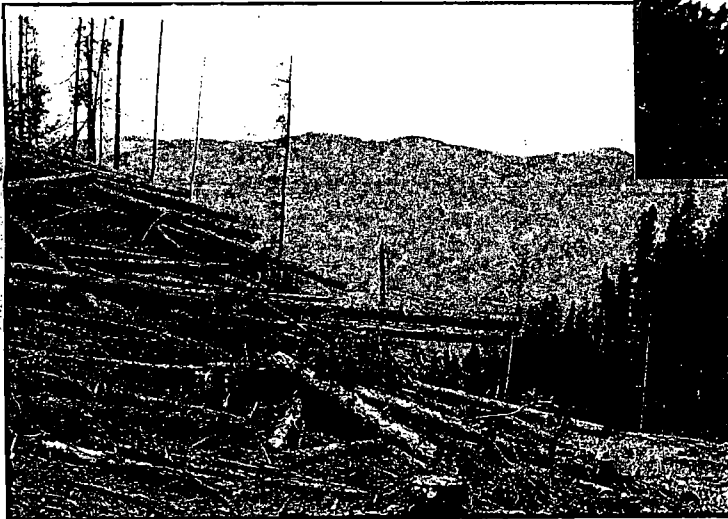
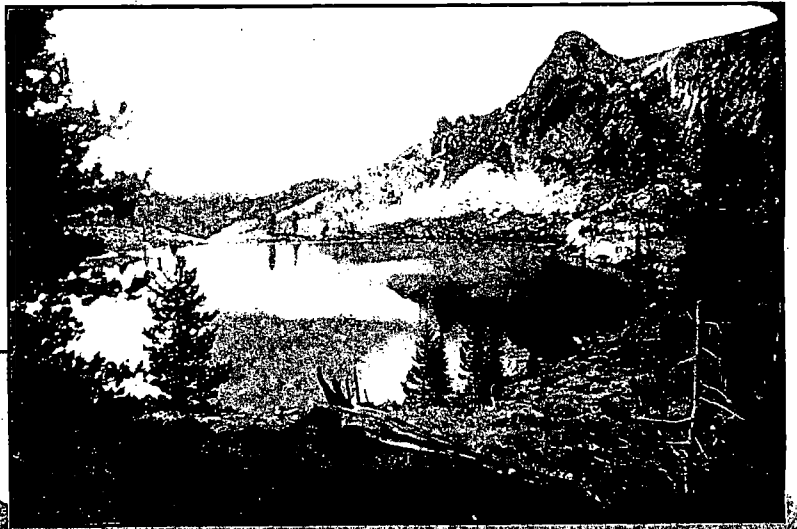
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The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act

Wilderness...



**...or
Clearcuts?**

The largest remaining tracts of native forest and biodiversity still thrive in the Northern Rockies, including free-roaming populations of grizzly bear, gray wolves, woodland caribou, anadromous salmon and trout, bald eagles, and a host of lesser known species. However, the federal government is giving away the development rights to our public lands to giant corporations that clearcut and mine our public lands for huge profits. The unique wildlife, rugged beauty and pristine landscapes in the Northern Rockies are the foundation of our quality of life and our economic base. They are the backdrop for our daily lives. The public urgently needs a plan to protect our ecosystems in the Northern Rockies and save our way of life.

Citizen Plan To Stop the Great Forest Selloff

The wildness of the Northern Rockies is in great danger. Reckless land management practices and unabated development are stripping the land of its trees, its water, its animals, its wild essence. The Wild Northern Rockies teeters on the brink of a full-scale ecological holocaust.

To avert such a disaster, citizens have drafted the Northern Rockies Ecosystem

Protection Act (NREPA) for introduction in Congress. The Act heeds warnings from the scientific community: That without preservation of core ecosystem areas and essential biological corridors in the northern Rockies, longterm survival of the many unique wildlife populations is hopeless. Written by grassroots conservationists from throughout the region, NREPA incorporates biologi-

cal knowledge about ecosystem integrity and incorporates the newest economic data.

This comprehensive, ecosystem-oriented approach has attracted nationwide support with endorsements from over 320 organizations and businesses, and backing from world-renowned biologists, sportsman's groups, entertainers, outfitters and guides, and thousands of people across America.

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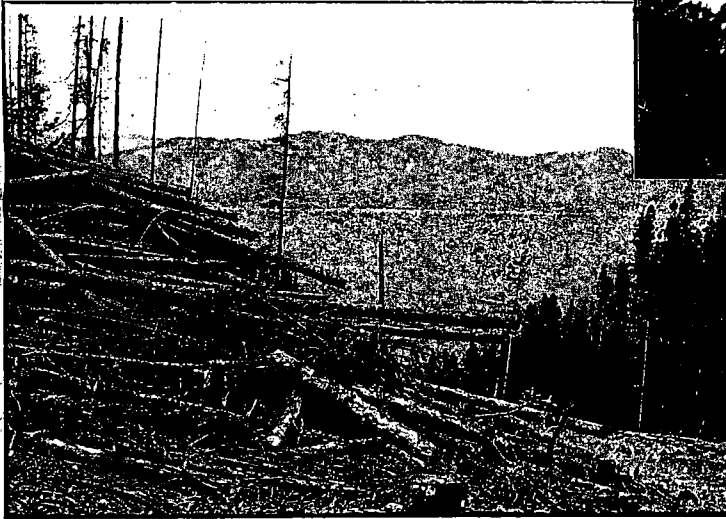
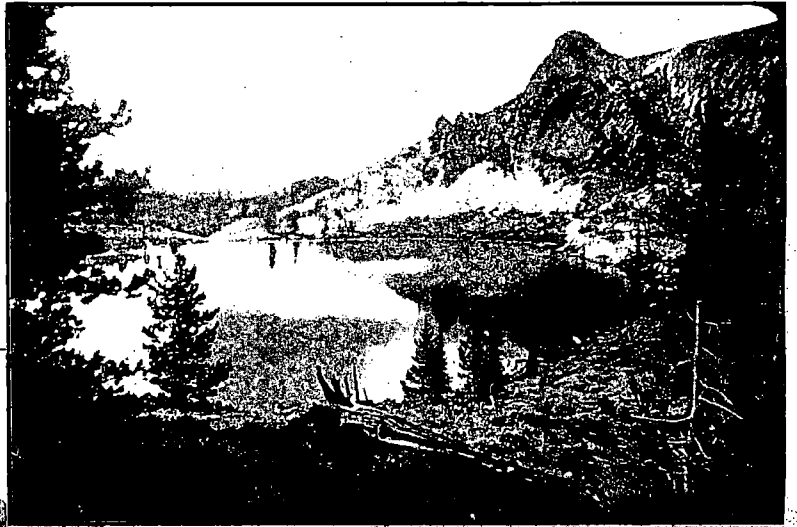
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102D CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5944

To designate certain public lands in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national park and preserve study areas, wild land recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 1992

Mr. KOSTMAYER (for himself, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. SIKORSKI, Mr. JONTZ, and Mr. WALSH) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs, Merchant Marine and Fisheries, and Agriculture

A BILL

To designate certain public lands in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national park and preserve study areas, wild land recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Northern Rockies
5 Ecosystem Protection Act of 1992".

Businesses Supporting the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act

A Wind Of Change, Bozeman, MT
 A-Z Home Inspection Service, Missoula, MT
 Accents West, Bozeman, MT
 Agora Markets, Longmont, CO
 Alverson Construction, Missoula, MT
 Andiamo!, Sun Valley, ID
 Anglers Afloat, Stevensville, MT
 Arbor Vitae Organics, Arlee, MT
 Artcraft Refinishing, Boise, ID
 Athlete's Foot, Bozeman, MT
 Azcam Enterprises, Bonner, MT
 Back of Beyond Books, Moab, UT
 Back Road Associates, W Roxbury, MA
 Backroads Bicycle Touring, Berkeley, CA
 Backwood Mountain Sports, Ketchum, ID
 Barbara's Party Rentals, Sun Valley, ID
 Baybutt Masonry, Ketchum, ID
 Bernice's Bakery, Missoula, MT
 Board Bin, Ketchum, ID
 Big Sky Chili, Missoula, MT
 Big Sky Cyclery, Missoula, MT
 Big Wood Electric, Hailey, ID
 Board of Missoula, Missoula, MT
 Body Basics, Missoula, MT
 Bozeman Bagelworks, Bozeman, MT
 Brashears & Sons, Ketchum, ID
 Brashears & Sons, Hailey, ID
 Burr Smith Construction, Hailey, ID
 Butterfly Herbs, Missoula, MT
 Byerly, Marble, Stone and Tile, Ketchum, ID
 Cactus Jacks, Ketchum, ID
 Cactus Records, Bozeman, MT
 Cal Wagstaff Excavating, Ketchum, ID
 Carlo's, Missoula, MT
 Casino Club, Ketchum, ID
 Cedar Mountain Packs, Darby, MT
 Century Amusement, Missoula, MT
 Circle I Fisheries, Ketchum, ID
 Colleen's Sewing Service, Ketchum, ID
 Columbine Market, Fort Collins, CO
 Community Food Co-op, Bozeman, MT
 Country Caboose B&B, Stevensville, MT
 Cozy Home Construction, Bozeman, MT
 Credence Furniture, Morgantown, IN
 Crystal Theatre, Missoula, MT
 D & G Tradesman, Helena, MT
 Dan Stevens Electric, Missoula, MT
 Davies-Reid Tribal Art, Ketchum, ID
 Delics Pizza, Bozeman, MT
 Dirksmeir Masonry, Ketchum, ID
 Downtown Bakery, Missoula, MT
 Earth Spirit Books, Missoula, MT
 Earhome Campworks, Missoula, MT
 Einstein's Britches, Missoula, MT
 Engelmann Designs, Ketchum, ID
 Englemann Inc., Ketchum, ID
 Erik's Furniture, Rancho Mirage, CA
 Expressions In Gold, Ketchum, ID
 F-Stop Camera & Video, Ketchum, ID
 Fact & Fiction, Missoula, MT
 First American Title Co., Mountain Home, ID
 Freddy's Feed and Read, Missoula, MT
 Ganesh Himal Trekking & Trading,
 Spokane, WA
 Good Food Store, Missoula, MT
 Gordon Webster Pottery, Ketchum, ID
 Green Lake Electric, Seattle, WA
 Griswold Co., Victor, MT
 Grizzly Hackle International Fishing Co.
 Missoula, MT
 Gypsy's Deli, Missoula, MT
 Heritage Research Center, Missoula, MT
 High Altitude Gardens, Ketchum, ID
 High Country Adventures, Helena, MT
 Home Window Cleaning, Missoula, MT
 Idaho Mudworks, Hailey, ID

Idaho Wine Merchant, Boise, ID
 Janet Dunbar Interiors, Sun Valley, ID
 Jan's Janitorial Service, Denver, CO
 Jenne Illustration & Design, Missoula, MT
 Jensen-Stern, Ketchum, ID
 Jill of Trades Enterprises, Boise, ID
 K and K Coffee, Ketchum, ID
 Kent Bros. Automotive, Missoula, MT
 Kent Photographs, Sun Valley, ID
 Ketchum Acupuncture Clinic, Ketchum, ID
 Kindred Chevrolet, Smithville, MO
 Kipland Vale, Inc., St. Cloud, MN
 Klass Silver Gallery, Ketchum, ID
 Knutson Massage Therapy, Park City, UT
 Lane Trucking & Warehouse Corp. NY, NY
 Lasche's Lawn to Lake, Polson, MT
 Latitudes Fabrics, Missoula, MT
 Les Bois Interiors, Boise, ID
 Lewis & Clark Trail Adventures, Powell, ID
 Mac Magic, Missoula, MT
 Machen Designs, Ketchum, ID
 Machine Technology, Beverly, MA
 Magic Mountain Music, Ketchum, ID
 Mammyth Bakery Cafe, Missoula, MT
 Marshall S. Ashcraft, Las Vegas, NV
 Miley Insurance Assoc., Ketchum, ID
 Missoula Psychotherapy & Counseling
 Services, Missoula, MT
 Mouahan Design Co., Sun Valley, ID
 Mountain Latitudes Bar, Ketchum, ID
 Mountain Moving Press, Missoula, MT
 Natural Stone Supply, Bozeman, MT
 New Era Bicycles, Missoula, MT
 Norris Woodworking, Missoula, MT
 Northern Lights Trading Co., Bozeman, MT
 Northwind Shirt Co., Whitefish, MT
 O'Brien Law Office, Missoula, MT
 Old Main Gallery & Framing, Bozeman, MT
 Old Town Cafe, Missoula, MT
 Open Road Bicycles, Missoula, MT
 Outfitters Supply, Columbia Falls, MT
 Pack Creek Ranch, Moab, UT
 Palouse Hills Willow Crafts, Pottlatch, ID
 Pangaea Expeditions, Missoula, MT
 Patrick Montgomery Chiropractic Clinic, Missoula, MT
 Pereira Landscaping, Hailey, ID
 Pet Pals, Bozeman, MT
 Positive Impact, Missoula, MT
 Pozzi of Idaho, Hailey, ID
 Primavera Plants & Flowers, Ketchum, ID
 Rethreads, Bozeman, MT
 Rising Wolf Expeditions, St. Ignatius, MT
 River Odysseys West, Couer d'Alene, ID
 River Run Gallery, Ketchum, ID
 Rockin Rudy's, Missoula, MT
 Rocky Mtn River Tours, Boise, ID
 Sagebrush Gardens, Stevensville, MT
 Sapphire Realty, Hamilton, MT
 Satellite Connection, Hamilton, MT
 Schroeder Construction, Missoula, MT
 Second Childhood, Missoula, MT
 Sewell's Selway Painting, Whitefish, MT
 Shear Prophecy, Missoula, MT
 Ski Tek, Ketchum, ID
 Sports Cove, Bozeman, MT
 Starke Flooring, Helena, MT
 Stasz Studio, Ketchum, ID
 Steve Snyder Photographs, Sun Valley, ID
 Stopol Log Homes, Hailey, ID
 Sturtevant's, Ketchum, ID
 Sullivan Delivery, Cedar Rapids, IA
 Summit Bike & Ski Shop, Bozeman, MT
 Sun Valley Florist, Ketchum, ID
 Sun Valley Garden Center, Ketchum, ID
 Sun Valley Paragliding School, Sun Valley, ID
 Tim Black Construction, Sun Valley, ID

Tim's Electric, Ketchum, ID
 Time Out Massage, Sun Valley, ID
 TJ's Drywall & Construction, Missoula, MT
 The Answering Service, Ketchum, ID
 The Backpackers Shop, Sheffield Village, OH
 The Butte Hill Bakery, Butte, MT
 The Fix, Bozeman, MT
 The Future Is Now Recycling, Cable, WI
 The Gallery, Missoula, MT
 The Kitchen, Ketchum, ID
 The Leaf and Bean, Bozeman, MT
 The Lennox Shop, Lambertville, NJ
 The Music Box, Hamilton, MT
 The Music Loft, Cedar Rapids, IA

The Outdoor Bookstore, Milltown, MT
 The Shirt Shop, Missoula, MT
 The Toy Store, Sun Valley, ID
 Third Street Antiques, Missoula, MT
 Toepfer Construction, Seattle, WA
 Tom Swanson Construction, Davenport, IA
 Tree City Herb Center, Boise, ID
 TreeCycle Recycled Paper, Bozeman, MT
 Tumbleweed Fabric & Design, Ketchum, ID
 Valley Car Wash, Ketchum, ID
 You and Eye Optical, Bozeman, MT
 Western Spirit Cycling, Moab, UT
 Whiskey Jacques, Ketchum, ID
 Wiethorn Construction, Ketchum, ID

Wild Horizons Expeditions, Darby MT
 Wild Oats Market, Albuquerque, NM
 Wild Oats Market, Aurora, CO
 Wild Oats Market, Boulder, CO
 Wild Oats Market, Denver, CO
 Wild Oats Market, Santa Fe, NM
 Wild Oats Vegetarian Market, Boulder, CO
 Wild Wind Records, Big Sky, MT
 Wildflower Bakery, Bozeman, MT
 Williams Sporting Goods, Cadillac, MI
 Wine Cellar, Missoula, MT
 Wood River Publishing, Inc., Hailey, ID
 Woody's Log Home & Crane Srvce, Ketchum, ID
 Zodiac Expressions of Sun Valley, Ketchum, ID
 Zweifel Art Glass, Ketchum, ID

Organizations

Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Missoula, MT
 Ancient Forest Chautauqua, Seattle, WA
 Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics,
 Eugene, OR
 Badger Chapter, Glacier/Two Medicine Alliance, Missoula, MT
 Biodiversity Legal Foundation, Boulder, CO
 Cabinet Resource Group, Troy, MT
 Citizens for Environmental Quality, Potlatch, ID
 Ben Cohen, Montana House of Representatives, Whitefish, MT
 Chief Floyd Heavy Runner, Heart Butte, MT
 Coeur d'Alene Audubon, Coeur d'Alene, ID
 Cold Mountains, Cold Rivers, Missoula, MT
 Countryside Preparatory School (Planet Patrol), Northridge, CA
 Continental Divide Trail Association, Bethesda, MD
 Craighead Wildlife-Wildlands Institute, Missoula, MT
 Crazy Beartooth Absaroka Snowy Pryors Bighorn Gallatin Group,
 Billings, MT
 Deerlodge Forest Defense Fund, Boulder, MT
 Devon Elementary, Devon, PA
 ecoLaw institute, Tahlequah, OK
 Ecology Center, Missoula, MT
 Environmental Center, Western Washington University,
 Bellingham, WA
 Environmental Research Institute, Moose, WY
 Environmental Resource Center, Ketchum, ID
 Five Valleys Audubon, Missoula, MT
 Flathead Greens, Kalispell, MT
 Forest Guardians, Santa Fe, NM
 Forest Reform Network, Dallas, TX
 Friends of the Bitterroot, Hamilton, MT
 Friends of the Clearwater, Lenore, ID
 Friends of the Rattlesnake, Missoula, MT
 Friends of the Wild Swan, Swan Lake, MT
 Georgetown Environmental Society, Washington, DC
 Glacier/Two Medicine Alliance, East Glacier, MT
 Great Bear Foundation, Missoula, MT
 Great Burn Study Group, Missoula, MT
 Greater Ecosystem Alliance, Bellingham, WA
 Greenpeace USA, Washington, DC
 Grizzly Bear Task Force, Bozeman, MT
 Headwaters Chapter Sierra Club, Bozeman, MT
 Hells Canyon Preservation Council, Joseph, OR
 Hornocker Wildlife Research Institute, Moscow, ID
 Idaho Environmental Council, Idaho Falls, ID
 Idaho Sportsman's Coalition, Boise, ID
 Institute of the Rockies, Missoula, MT
 Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning, Jackson, WY
 Jeanette Rankin Peace Center, Missoula, MT
 Kettle Range Conservation Group, Republic, WA

Kootenai Wildlands Alliance, Libby, MT
 Last Chance Audubon, Helena, MT
 Lighthawk, Santa Fe, NM
 Line Creek Protective Association, Red Lodge, MT
 Lolo-Clearwater Forest Defense, Missoula, MT
 Medicine Wheel Alliance, Huntley, MT
 Missoula Greens, Missoula, MT
 Montana Ecosystems Defense Council, Bozeman, MT
 Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center, Mount Shasta, CA
 Native Forest Council, Eugene, OR
 Nevada County Green Alliance, Grass Valley, CA
 Northwest Wyoming Resource Council, Cody, WY
 Ohio University Ecology Club, Athens, OH
 Oregon Natural Resources Council, Portland, OR
 Oregon Wildlife Federation, Portland, OR
 Pikuni Traditionalist Association, Browning, MT
 Pilchuck Audubon, Everett, WA
 Predator Project, Bozeman, MT
 Protect Our Woods, Paoli, IN
 Protect Glacier/Canyon Coalition, Hungry Horse, MT
 Resources Limited, Polebridge, MT
 Rest the West, Portland, OR
 Rock Creek Protective Association, Clinton, MT
 Rocky Mountain Film Institute, Missoula, MT
 Save America's Forests, Washington, DC
 Save Chelan Alliance, Chelan, WA
 Save the Yaak Committee, Missoula, MT
 Sandpoint Forest Watch, Sandpoint, ID
 Selkirk-Priest Basin Association, Priest River, ID
 Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter, New York, NY
 Sinapu, Lakewood, CO
 Siskiyou Regional Educational Project, Cave River, OR
 Smith River Alliance, Trinidad, CA
 Spokane Audubon, Spokane, WA
 Swan View Coalition, Kalispell, MT
 Ursid Research Center, Missoula, MT
 Utah Wilderness Association, Salt Lake City, UT
 Voice of the Environment, Hamilton, MT
 Watersheds, Mill Valley, CA
 Western Montana Wildlife Conservation Association, Missoula, MT
 Wide Net Environmental Institute, Sherman Oaks, CA
 Wide Network Environmental Think Tank, Sherman Oaks, CA
 Wild Allan Mountain, Conner, MT
 Wild Rockies Legislative Action Fund, Missoula, MT
 Wilderness Study Group, U of Colorado, Boulder, CO
 Wolf Action Group, Missoula, MT
 World Wide Film Expedition, Missoula, MT
 Wyoming Wildlife Federation, Cheyenne, WY