Clinton vs. Foley

House speaker is furious at plan to protect Northwest forests

by Paul Koblentz

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As President Clinton unveiled his plan earlier this month for protecting the tall, old trees and declining species in Northwest forests, he disturbed a big bear on the trail. Democrat Thomas S. Foley, the longtime congressman from Washington state and, since 1989, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, initially no one was pleased with Clinton’s plan to find a way to repair ancient ecosystems while saving as many jobs as possible in an industry that depends on cutting down trees.

But few on Capitol Hill fumed as vocally as Foley. He coupled his emphatic criticism of the plan with a thinly veiled threat to defeat the Endangered Species Act when Congress considers it later this year.

Consequently, Clinton has decided to implement his plan administratively, avoiding the Congress and Foley. Clinton dropped parts of the plan that would require new legislation, and therefore Foley’s cooperation.

“Foley was saying, ‘Don’t make me an accomplice,” says the Sierra Club’s Bill Arthur in Seattle, a longtime Foley-watcher. “He didn’t want to deal with it.”

“The president has made a commitment to telling the truth and obeying the law,” says Vic Sher, with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. “But the speaker, for purely political reasons, has rejected each of those goals.”

To Foley, the Endangered Species Act is flawed because it doesn’t prescribe the right balance between the environment and the economy, and not just in Northwest forests. He also bristles at the idea of requiring the protection of all species, without limitation. “There are people who are vitally interested in the protection of fish, the spotted owl and the marbled murrelet, but there are a whole series of minor species involved here as well. The act doesn’t make any distinction between them.”

Foley’s threat to weaken the act plays well with the folks back home in Spokane, one of the most conservative cities in America, but is not very relevant to the debate. In fact, courts have shut down logging in Northwest forests pursuant to other federal laws, notably the National Forest Management Act, which Foley played a key role in writing. His rhetoric on the Endangered Species Act sounds like recent statements from Republicans like Sens. Bob Packwood of Oregon, Slade Gorton of Washington and Larry Craig of Idaho.

Environmental groups, which have employed the act in their fight to restore and protect species and pristine areas across the country, would not easily give up such an important tool without a bloody fight.

As James Monteth, a former director of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, who battled Foley over forest issues for two decades, says, the outcome of such a battle may be the end of a tough-as-nails Endangered Species Act.

“Or,” Monteth suggests, “it could be the end of Tom Foley.”

It is likely that Clinton was surprised by Foley’s strong reaction to the president’s plan for the Northwest forests. First elected in 1964, the Spokane, Wash., Democrat has succeeded chiefly through cautious, shrewd manipulation of members and rules — not by being a bully. His bulky 6-foot-4 frame belies a gentle, avuncular manner and an arclitude and thoughtful intellect.

As his hometown newspaper, the Spokane Spokesman-Review, put it last year, Foley employs “quiet statesmanship” to get his way.

But now Foley is dug in for battle with the president. When Clinton aides continued on page 8
Dear friends,

New this summer

New intern Amy Fisher, originally from Wisconsin, might be described as a woman who'd like to run with wolves, considering her great passion for them. During her senior year at Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., from which she graduated, Amy analyzed differences between wolf-track sizes in Minnesota and Canada. Each week she tracked the elusive canines in freezing temperatures and knee-deep snow, she says, although the only wolves she actually saw were at the Calgary Zoo. She concluded that Minnesota wolves are generally smaller than Canadian wolves, because of either the stress of living in the states or the stunning effects of coffee.

After graduation, Amy worked as an intern at the Four Corners School of Outdoor Education in Monticello, Utah, where she learned about rafting the San Juan River. She also learned about cooking for large groups of participants, all of whom emerge ravished from river-running.

Wild Outs

Those living in and near Boulder, Colo., can make a substantial contribution to the Research Fund while buying their next year's supply of food at Wild Outs Community Market this Wednesday, July 28. The store will donate 5 percent of its sales for the day to the High Country News Research Fund. Wild Outs is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and board member Michael Ehlers and publisher Ed Metcalf will be on hand for much of that time. Wild Outs, as organic food market, gives a benefit each month for a non-profit group.

Dedication

In spring 1991, JCN intern Emily Johnson fell to her death in a climbing accident outside Moab, Utah. On Friday, July 10, her family and friends will dedicate a grotto behind the JCN office to Emily's memory. The planting of flowers and dedication will take place at 5 p.m. at the newspaper's office (119 Grand Ave.) followed by a potluck dinner.

Visitors

Subscribers Alice Gould of Lafayette, Colo., came through to see what her former town looks like. Alice lived in Paonia in the 1930s, when her husband practiced medicine here. Joyce McKinney and Michael Suzi, a conservation biologist, both of Santa Cruz, Calif., visited JCN after attending a meeting on grizzly bears in Colorado's San Juan Mountains.

Subscribers Heather and Rick Knight of Fort Collins, Colo., visited after attending the Society for Conservation Biology meeting in Arizona. They described Paonia as an "Andy Griffith kind of town." Rick is on the wildlife biology faculty at Colorado State University.

Subscribers Beck Buchanan and Harva Lou of Golden, Colo., visited. He works for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and may retire early - "We're not building dams anymore, you know." Harva Lou is a former Forest Service employee.

At Burtlet, a physiologist at the University of Colorado, Boulder, told us he had just given his "Anaphylactic, Population and Energy" talk for the 1,013th time. In this latest version, he told his Sierra Club audience that the U.S. was adding 2.7 million people a year at 900,000 jobs per year. Al's guess is that something has to give.

Also passing through was a veteran

of Colorado's oil slate days - Mike Siegel, now a consultant in Washington, D.C.

David Yudica of the Environmental Defense Fund in California and Ann Maest, a governor from Boulder, not only visited, but brought stuff some Paonia coffee. Other June visitors were David Lakes, an attorney and seven-year sub-

scriber from Portland, Ore., Thomas Bell, who tops him with 10 years, and who

teaches economics at the University of New Mexico, Albuquereque, and Loretta Lohman of Littleton, Colo., a water resources consultant, who brought with her a Scottish family touring the West.

Not all visitors found us at home, as the following message, printed on a paper plate taped to the door, shows:

"Deove all the way from Chicago and found you closed on July 5. Just thought I'd say hello and tell you that High Country News is the most eagerly awaited mail I get." It was from Paul and Denise Cznarczek of Burbank, Ill.

Readers also bring us news. Bill Cunningham and Karen Arnold of Ogden, Utah, told us about their duck, which they took to the doctor when the gorpom-headed pet stopped preening and started sinking. The diagnosis was a sinus condition, and the treatment was successful. Parchment Press in Ogden has just published Cunningham's book, Rocky Mountain Town, about modern-day mountain men.

Gary Sprung, longtime member of the western Colorado High Country Citizen's Alliance, told us of an innovative agreement between his group and the Gunnison County Stockgrowers' Association. It calls for higher grazing fees, better land use, and formal training for grazing permit-

teees. More details in the next issue.

Pamela resident Opal Harper brought her guests, Ruth and Chuck Powell of Fort Collins, Colo., by. The Powells are long-time sub-

scribers.

Laura and Charles Lethby of Albuquerque, N.M., hiked into the office after their planned trek on nearby Grand Mesa was cut short by the still deep snow.

We gave office tours to Curt Ayling of Vermillion, S.D., and Jenny McGraw, Ric Everoole and her daughter, Jessie, 2, of Timnath, a town of 185 people near Fort Collins. Jack Roberts of Carbondale, Colo., came by to talk about salmon restoration in the Northwest and the need for environmentalists to "aim for the jugular."

Michael Gerrard, an attorney, tells us he has drafted a new rule requiring that every brief filed with the appellate divi-

son was at Colorado State University.

continued on page 14
**WESTERN ROUNDUP**

**Wolf plan brings praise and howls**

In what one wolf advocate described as a "monumental event," the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a draft environmental impact study July 1 that calls for bringing wolves back to Yellowstone and the Gros Ventre region in central Idaho. But some environmentalists say the plan could hurt more than help wolves.

The agency wants to capture 30 wolves in Canada and release them next year. Its goal is viable populations of 10 breeding pairs or approximately 100 wolves in each of the two areas.

Because "experimental" populations do not receive full protection under the Endangered Species Act, federal managers and ranchers will have greater flexibility in controlling problem wolves. Federal biologists will monitor the reintroduced wolves with radio telemetry and move them if they start killing domestic livestock or too many wild ungulates. Ranchers can harass wolves in a "noninjurious manner" or even kill wolves caught attacking livestock.

The proposal has drawn mixed reviews. Wyoming Republican Sens. Malcolm Wallop and Alan Simpson characterized the proposal as the best they could hope for in a pro-wolf political environment. Wolf advocates say the plan is a step in the wrong direction.

Wolves are naturally colonizing in Yellowstone and central Idaho, he pointed out, and the proposed plan would remove all wolves in a 25,000-acre area from Endangered Species Act protection.

"Reintroductions are costly, manipulative, and ultimately result largely in failure," Bade said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will conduct public hearings on the draft EIS Aug. 25 in Bozeman and Missoula, Mont., and Dillon, Colo. The public comment period runs through Oct. 15. For more information, to send comments, or to receive a copy of the EIS, contact Ed Bangs, Grey Wolf Project Leader, P.O. Box 4017, Helena, Mont., 59601 (406/449-5202).

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**Jury convicts two of spiking trees in Idaho**

Two former Montana men will be sentenced Aug. 13 for spiking trees in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest in 1990. They are the first people convicted under a federal tree-spiking law.

John Blount, 32, now of Masonville, Colo., and Jeffrey Fairchild, 26, of AsWand, W. Va., were convicted July 1993 of willfully destroying government property.

The jury found that Blount and Fairchild asked her to mail the letter to warn loggers about the dangerous spikes, which can cause serious injury when a chainsaw touches one.

Other witnesses included Blount's former girlfriend, Genaueer Bidhair, who said Blount and Fairchild planned the monkey-wrenching in her Missoula, Mont., home.

Tracy Stone-Manning, director of the Five Valleys Land Trust in Missoula, testified that Blount and Fairchild asked her to mail the letter to the U.S. Forest Service warning the trees were spiked when she was a student at the University of Montana.

She said she mailed the letter to warn loggers about the dangerous spikes, which can cause serious injury when a chainsaw touches one. While prosecutors tried to tie the case to Earth First!, Stone-Manning said most Missoula-area activists oppose spiking.

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**FIRE HELL**

**Burn that dozer**

The Montana Oil Journal didn't find a special "mush" issue of the Missoula-based Wild Roses magazine very funny, especially since the Earth First! paper seemed to advocate burning drilling equipment.

Lewa and Clark Nais and Fire Supervisor Ed Parson of Dola (Mont.) also missed the joke. "I would not set these as idle threats. There are experiences in the past when dozers would come out of these," he said.

AP's review, "Burn that Dozer," makes witty reference to lighting fires to protect fire threatened wild areas. "If the winds go in Montana's Badger-Two Medicine, the flames must go up." The article laments and belittles "the richness of nature's beauty..." It concludes that the paper advocates violence in "monstrous... We're not doing anything like that. We're running a newspaper."
Tourism wages create squatter camps

Jackson, Wyo. — Bridger-Teton National Forest officials kicked several camps off federal land for living in the forest while working this spring.

Although the Forest Service has backed away from an announced policy of evicting all working campers, its tough stance has sent shivers through the service industry here in Wyoming.

The evictions are backed by regulations that designate areas in national forests for recreational use. Rules prohibit using the land for residency, which means you can’t camp while working.

“There’s going to have trouble trying to find workers,” said Repass after being evicted from Jackson Hole’s seasonal employee campground this week. Service workers “ain’t going to stuff their money into an apartment this big,” she said, holding her hands slightly apart.

“Some of the finest campsites are taken up for that type of use. Some of the folks who come out for a recreational experience have no place to go,” added her father, Andy.

The enforcement marks a reversal from past practices, said Gene Smalley, law enforcement officer for the Jackson Ranger District.

In the past we’ve allowed people to stay 10 consecutive days as long as they moved a mile” after that time, Smalley said. But the forest has become overcrowded with semi-permanent campers, and trash is building up, he said. “It’s become unacceptable.”

Evictions are being enforced because of “the sanitation problems we’re experiencing and the truth that’s being left and the fact we have such a tremendous amount of people looking for alternative housing,” Smalley said. “Some of the finest campsites are taken up for that type of use. Some of the folks who come out for a recreational experience have no place to go.”

The enforcement brought a cry of complaint from County Commissioner Dale Barbour.

“Thar’s crazy,” she said. “How can they do that?” Barbour has promoted the construction of an employee campground but said her plan is more expensive than she thought.

“I haven’t given up on that,” she said. “The problem is finding money. The cost for a (one-tent) campsite is between $9,000 and $9,500. That blew me away.”

Barbour said her proposed seasonal employee campground at the site of the old county dump south of Jackson would have cost $600,000. She said she is still pursuing other options on BLM property.

“Employers are unsettled at the prospect of a summer without help. It affects us big time,” said Annie Noville, manager of Jackson’s Mini Marts. “I hired three people who come up here (camping) in the summer. They now have no place to live. They’ve been chased out of here. I don’t know how much more they can take.”

But the Forest Service’s Smalley said the lack of sanitation is intolerable.

“We find human feces left with no effort to dispose of it or bury it,” he said. “Then their toilet paper blowing in some of these sites.”

“Concerns us when we have it upstream of one of the highest recreation areas in the country — the Snake River Canyon,” said Forest Service spokesman Scott Fitwilliams. “It’s just too damn dangerous.”

“Our concern is for the use of water. It’s the most dangerous feces there is;”

“We’re human. We’re not uncivilized,” countered Nate Adams, 18, who had planned on camping while working here this summer. “We don’t have to go into what human feces do to water. It’s the most dangerous feces there is.”

“We’re human. We’re not uncivilized,” countered Nate Adams, 18, who had planned on camping while working here this summer. When the need arises, “we’ll dig a hole,” he said.

“We always keep our camp clean;” Adams added. “We’re not hurting Jackson; we’re just doing something to keep ourselves alive.”

“I think we keep making us leave (camp sites) we’re going to leave Jackson,” Repass said.

“It’s an interesting social problem for the valley,” Smalley said. “I think it’s a situation where the various agencies and citizens’ groups need to sit down and discuss in earnest some possible alternatives.”

Angus M. Thuermer Jr.

Angus M. Thuermer Jr. is editor of the Jackson Hole News.
Santa Fe puts out the unwelcome mat

SANTA FE, N.M. — It seemed a perfect match as upscale magazine that feeds on Americans’ love for adventure and outdoor recreation had found a seemingly upscale city that is sheltered by the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

But two years after the magazine announced it was moving to Santa Fe, it’s still not clear when it will actually move. Last winter the magazine abandoned a potential site near bridges where they have sold.

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At first, Santa Fe’s reception to Outside was positive, for the magazine would bring several dozen jobs. And Outside said exactly what the city has to offer: mountain views, culture, history, a creative atmosphere and small, seemingly manageable size.

But during the first few issues, the magazine picked its first preferred site, in a residentially zoned neighborhood amid the typical New Mexican pinon-juniper habitat. Outside said it was needed a zoning change to commercial, and local residents, living in homes, often costing $250,000 and occasionally $2 million, objected.

They said they were concerned about the impact of increased vehicle traffic in the area. They also expressed concerns about noise and visual intrusion.

“We understand the need to bring small, acceptable businesses to Santa Fe, but we’re not sure that the city is prepared to handle the increase in traffic and noise,” a resident said.

But opponents of the move were not discouraged. They said they would continue to fight to keep the magazine out of Santa Fe.

“We’re committed to protecting our community from this type of development,” said a local resident.

The magazine’s move was a done deal, planner Gorman said, “I wouldn’t dare comment on that yet.” — Tony Davis

Tony Davis is a staff reporter for the Albuquerque Tribune.

BLM decides: Not every acre needs a road

Opponents of motorized recreation have won a battle, if only temporarily, in the mountains of Colorado.

The Bureau of Land Management gained title in May to the 4,164-acre King Mountain Ranch between Vail and Steamboat Springs, creating a 12,600-acre block of land that is currently managed for non-motorized recreation.

However, the BLM planned to manage the area as it does most of the rest of its lands. Anybody and everybody of age 16 and older can get in there to manage the land,” said another adjoining ranch owner, Vern Albertson. “The BLM is not really wilderness. However, environmentalists have said it is important to keep the land intact and not subject it to further development.

Hastings eventually won agreement from the agencies that manage the area, and the BLM has agreed to manage the area as it does most of the rest of its lands. Anybody and everybody of age 16 and older can get in there to manage the land,” said another adjoining ranch owner, Vern Albertson. “The BLM is not really wilderness. However, environmentalists have said it is important to keep the land intact and not subject it to further development.

For more information call Mike Mattice, the BLM area resource manager, Mike Mattice. He said the BLM was very gung-ho to punch roads ... but in reality it’s a difficult concept to implement.

Mottice said the King Mountain Ranch helps meet the public’s demand for areas that are more difficult to get to but can still get in there. He said the BLM is planning to manage the area as it does most of the rest of its lands. Anybody and everybody of age 16 and older can get in there to manage the land,” said another adjoining ranch owner, Vern Albertson. “The BLM is not really wilderness. However, environmentalists have said it is important to keep the land intact and not subject it to further development.

The BLM promised a non-motorized area would be in place within two years. Proponents of recreational vehicles have already protested any road closings.

“This is not a big deal, planner Gorman said, “I wouldn’t dare comment on that yet.” — Tony Davis

Tony Davis is a staff reporter for the Albuquerque Tribune.

HOTLINE

Hydropower developer backs off

A company that planned to pursue hydroelectric power on open-space lands near Boulder, Colo., has withdrawn its proposal in the face of stiff opposition. Peak Power’s decision is a victory for the city of Boulder, which fought the proposal ever since a state energy board ruled on the plan in the Federal Register (48, 6/25/93).

To block construction, Boulder filed a competing hydroelectric application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. By law, the two projects are considered to have preferential treatment to municipalities. Thus, in late April, at a meeting of the nonprofit Coalition for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies, Sierra Club members in San Francisco and the American Federation of Peak Power’s supporters urged them to reconsider the project. Peak Power, which has tried its best to find another use, has a plan that is more environmentally friendly, but it is not clear if the project will be feasible.

The writer reports for the Vail Trail.

Hotline - Snowmobilers cross the line

Still angry that Congress shut them out of a popular snowmobiling area on Idaho’s Targhee National Forest in 1984, snowmobilers promptly broke the law. Targhee Supervisor Josee Carroll says his agency issued 25 citations to snowmobilers for riding into the Jedediah Smith Wilderness since 1990. And that represents only a fraction of the thousands of violations, he said, the Targhee Sierra Club wants to give a helping hand by threatening to the condemn the land. The threat made Hastings, a former Colorado Resident, living in homes, often costing $250,000 and occasionally $2 million, objected.

We understand the need to bring small, acceptable businesses to Santa Fe, but we’re not sure that the city is prepared to handle the increase in traffic and noise,” a resident said.

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Medicine men and MDs attack Four Corners illness

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The death toll from the Hantavirus infection now stands at 23 people, including 12 Native Americans. As medical investigators and health agencies continue to work toward halting the epidemic, many people wonder when it will end.

No one knows exactly when it began, but in mid-May reports surfaced here about a “mystery flu” that had killed more than a dozen. As news of the deadly disease spread over ensuing weeks, so did fear and discrimination.

Because the mysterious illness struck down its victims quickly and appeared to be concentrated near the Navajo Nation, some press reports tagged the disease as a “Navajo Mystery Flu” and a “death bug.”

Reports of racial discrimination began to pour in to tribal officials as summer camps, shop owners and restaurants turned away Navajos, the people who might be carrying the disease. Tourists began canceling reservations for summer vacations in the Southwest.

But as medical experts, epidemiologists and traditional medicine men began to sort out the clues, it became apparent that the illness had nothing to do with ethnicity.

After more than 100 of the world’s best medical investigators descended to the region to collect tests and collect specimens, a new strain of Hantavirus had been identified as the culprit, said Dr. Bruce Tempest at Gallup Indian Medical Center when several young and otherwise healthy Navajo people died within days of becoming sick with symptoms that looked like fever, headache, muscle aches, eye irritation and coughing.

The cluster of deaths was first noticed by Dr. Bruce Tempelt at Gallup Indian Medical Center when several young and otherwise healthy Navajo people died within days of becoming sick with symptoms that looked like fever, headache, muscle aches, eye irritation and coughing.

26,000-square-mile Navajo reservation became the 17th victim when she died on June 22 after being flown to University Hospital in Albuquerque. As medical investigators worked to pinpoint the exact cause of death, they received the experimental drug ribavirin, which doctors are using to treat the illness.

Hospital officials said she was the second patient in three days to be admitted for Hantavirus treatment with ribavirin, which is also used to treat AIDS patients.

State and federal health officials say there is no evidence the virus is transmitted by humans. No family members or health workers have contracted the disease.

“Tulips used to come over and talk to me, but not anymore. Some are even too scared to get out of their cars. I was hoping it would get better in a little while,” said Bernice Martin, standing in front of her black pickup where her Navajo dolls waiting on some wood- en boxes were displayed.

People pull over the road to ask how close we are to the Navajo Reservation,” said Nita Davis, owner of the Vogi Ranch, a bed and breakfast between Grants and Gallup, N.M. “I need to be really proud to say ‘only one-quarter of a mile,’ because they responded, ‘Wow, neat.’ Now, all I hear is a ‘thank you’ and a click.”

In early June, Navajo Nation President Peterson Zah told health officials that he was consulting Navajo medicine men for answers to the illness.

“Western medicine has its limits,” Zah said. “We’re calling on our Navajo medicine people to help us define what is causing these deaths.”

Many Navajo elders and medicine people blame the loss of traditional Navajo ways for the random deaths. One elder, Nelson Drummer of Indian Wells, Ariz., told the Navajo Times that “there is a lack of respect for the elderly and the people, ceremonies are being desecrated and commercialized, and youth are increasingly involved in tantric rituals.”

“It’s like there is a hole in the sky and bad things are going through it,” said Ernest Becenti, a traditional healer from Church Rock, N.M. “It’s like the world has a hole in the roof, which they call the same layer: that we caused with satellites, rockets, jet planes, pollution and war. These things are responsible.”

Donald Jackson, a medicine man from Deenbehoi, Ariz., said, “Sometimes in this life, sickness comes as a punishment. Earthquakes, tidal waves, natural disasters and (things like) this disease are warnings to do right by the Earth.”

Noting that many people, particularly young Navajos, have lost their traditional Navajo ways, he said, “People who still follow the old ways are not being harmed because they know how to pray.”

Until the illnesses and deaths end, the Navajo people and other residents of the region will continue to mourn the loss of their relations and worry about their loved ones. Many will also pray for protection using traditional ceremonies.

“I am praying to end this sickness,” said Ernest Becenti, “I offer the Earth white cornmeal in the morning, yellow cornmeal at noon and black cornmeal at midnight. I am defending my people just like I did in World War II.”

Lola Begay of Huerfano, Ariz., wondered how things can be made right again.

“In the Navajo way, danger of this magnitude is not supposed to affect us because the Holy People protect us. What have we done wrong to deserve this?”

— Valerie Tallman

Valerie Tallman, a Native American journalist, free-lances from Bishop, Calif. Patrick Guthrie, a reporter with the Albuquerque Tribune, contributed to this story.

HOTLINE

Clarence Smith

Unlike ordinary flu, Hantavirus resists conventional treatment in its later stages. Often it kills with frightening swiftness, sometimes killing its victims within days after symptoms appear.

Many of the victims succumb to Adult Respiratory Syndrome, which swells the lungs, fills them with fluid and causes the victims to asphyxiate.

The two youngest victims were Navajos, a 13-year-old girl who collapsed at a graduation dance, and a 19-year-old track star who had just lost his 21-year-old fiancée to the mysterious illness. The disease claimed its 18th victim last week.

The virus has caused an epidemic of fear that is hitting both Native and non-Native Americans’ businesses in the Four Corners region.

In the scenic high desert that makes up the Navajo and Hopi reservations, the summer swarms of tourists have dwindled sharply. In June, motel managers reported business was off 20 percent to 50 percent. Park rangers say visits have dropped since summer.

“Tours used to come over and talk to me, but not anymore. Some are even too scared to get out of their cars,” said Bernice Martin, standing in front of her black pickup where her Navajo dolls waiting on some wooden boxes were displayed.

People pull over the road to ask how close we are to the Navajo Reservation,” said Nita Davis, owner of the Vogi Ranch, a bed and breakfast between Grants and Gallup, N.M. “I needed to be really proud to say ‘only one-quarter of a mile,’ because they responded, ‘Wow, neat.’ Now, all I hear is a ‘thank you’ and a click.”

In early June, Navajo Nation President Peterson Zah told health officials that he was consulting with Navajo medicine men for answers to the illness.

“Western medicine has its limits,” Zah said. “We’re calling on our Navajo medicine people to help us define what is causing these deaths.”

Many Navajo elders and medicine people blame the loss of traditional Navajo ways for the random deaths. One elder, Nelson Drummer of Indian Wells, Ariz., told the Navajo Times that “there is a lack of respect for the elderly and the people, ceremonies are being desecrated and commercialized, and youth are increasingly involved in tantric rituals.”

“It’s like there is a hole in the sky and bad things are going through it,” said Ernest Becenti, a traditional healer from Church Rock, N.M. “It’s like the world has a hole in the roof, which they call the same layer: that we caused with satellites, rockets, jet planes, pollution and war. These things are responsible.”

Donald Jackson, a medicine man from Deenbehoi, Ariz., said, “Sometimes in this life, sickness comes as a punishment. Earthquakes, tidal waves, natural disasters and (things like) this disease are warnings to do right by the Earth.”

Noting that many people, particularly young Navajos, have lost their traditional Navajo ways, he said, “People who still follow the old ways are not being harmed because they know how to pray.”

Until the illnesses and deaths end, the Navajo people and other residents of the region will continue to mourn the loss of their relations and worry about their loved ones. Many will also pray for protection using traditional ceremonies.

“I am praying to end this sickness,” said Ernest Becenti, “I offer the Earth white cornmeal in the morning, yellow cornmeal at noon and black cornmeal at midnight. I am defending my people just like I did in World War II.”

Lola Begay of Huerfano, Ariz., wondered how things can be made right again.

“In the Navajo way, danger of this magnitude is not supposed to affect us because the Holy People protect us. What have we done wrong to deserve this?”

— Valerie Tallman

Valerie Tallman, a Native American journalist, free-lances from Bishop, Calif. Patrick Guthrie, a reporter with the Albuquerque Tribune, contributed to this story.
Colorado’s wilderness inholding battle has spread to the town of Telluride.

The U.S. Forest Service is attempting to trade developer Tom Chapman out of his 240-acre wilderness inholding in the West Elk Wilderness near Paonia by giving him 105 acres of federal land near the Telluride Ski Area.

The agency says it’s a fair trade and the only way to save the spectacular West Elk development. But Chapman’s potential new neighbors in Telluride say the deal would “fool the federal treasury and set a precedent that could put wilderness across the West at risk.”

The controversy started last summer, when Chapman brought helicopters and chainsaws into the wilderness to begin construction of a $1 million log cabin. He said he would turn his old mining claims into a luxury subdivision, built around a $2 million log cabin he planned to sell during hunting season and walk across the land trade in mid-June, Chapman told the Aspen Times, “I would immediately move to finish the house and sell it during hunting season and walk away from the whole thing.”

According to Farny, his 147-acre ranch across the road from Chapman’s land trade in mid-June, Chapman told the Aspen Times, “I would immediately move to finish the house and sell it during hunting season and walk away from the whole thing.”

The Gunnison National Forest in 1991 for $1.6 million. That would give Chapman an estimated 700 percent profit. News of the deal has infuriated other real estate agents, spawned radio debates and letter-writing campaigns and led to offers Dunn adds that the complaints from environmental groups have yet to take a position.

The Forest Service is appraising the Alta Lakes subdivision in a valley adjacent to the proposed land trade in mid-June, Chapman told the Aspen Times, “I would immediately move to finish the house and sell it during hunting season and walk away from the whole thing.”

“The U.S. Forest Service is appraising the Alta Lakes subdivision in a valley adjacent to the proposed land trade in mid-June, Chapman told the Aspen Times, “I would immediately move to finish the house and sell it during hunting season and walk away from the whole thing.”

Meanwhile, Chapman got an early start on construction in the West Elk Wilderness this summer. And when the Forest Service asked for public comment on the land trade in mid-June, Chapman simultaneously sent area newspapers and environmental activists photos and videotapes of helicopters and workers putting up the first floor of his massive log-cabin.

If anyone “jumps” into the middle of his negotiations with the Forest Service, Chapman told the Aspen Times, “I would immediately move to finish the house and sell it during hunting season and walk away from the whole thing.”

— Steve Hinckley, HCN staff reporter

The Gunnison National Forest will accept public comments on the proposed land exchange through Aug. 2. Contact Robert Storch, supervisor, GMUG National Forests, 2250 Highway 50, Delta, CO 81418 (303)874-7691.

Wilderness inholding swap riles town

Tom Chapman

The West Elk Wilderness as seen from inside Tom Chapman’s $1 million log cabin

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Landowner targets Montana refuge

Private homes could spring up in Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Montana. By a 2-1 vote, the Beaverhead County Commission approved a landowner Kathy Rahn’s proposal to create five 10-acre lots on 307 acres within the refuge. This comes after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved the property last year and offered Rahn $200,000. Rahn said he wanted 85 million. He also remitted down a $600,000 bid from the Conservation Endowment Fund, a local group that has helped remove other private land from the refuge: “I sill don’t know what he really wants,” says Dan Gasden, refuge manager at Red Rock Lakes.

He adds that Rahn owns land in one of the most visible and fragile areas of the refuge if a conservation-minded buyer can’t be found, the agency says it may condemn the private holding. President Franklin Roosevelt did just that 60 years ago, when he took 7,000 acres of private lands to create the preserve for trumpeter swans. For more information on Rahn’s proposed development, contact Ralph Maginnis, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 2546, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225.

Hotline

Was the killing deliberate?

Jerry Kysar, the man who says he mistakenly shot a wolf near Yellowstone National Park, knew what he was doing when he pulled the trigger, a Boone, Mont., man said federal investigators. But Kysar denies it. Last September, Kysar said he thought he was shooting a coyote when he killed a 33-pound wolf. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials did not pursue civil charges against him. But Walt Eisenstein says Kysar told him in April, “I knew damn well what I shot when I shot it.” Reports the Jackson Hole News, Kysar said Eisenstein’s report “don’t make sense. If I was going to make a statement I wouldn’t make it in public.” Eisenstein says the only one to claim Kysar shot the wolf knowingly. According to a federal report, investigators received similar tips from an anonymous source during their investigation. Terry Groez, assistant regional director for law enforcement with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver, says Eisenstein’s information is not enough to reopen the case.

Photo furnished by Tom Chapman showing construction work in June.

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Briefed the delegation on the president's plan in late June, they encountered not the friendly giant who keeps himself above the fray, but an angry and formidable foe. By several accounts, he burst into anger at the forest plan's unveiling in his second-floor capitol office on Wednesday, June 23. His first target: Clinton forest adviser, Katie McGinty.

An observer said Foley made it clear that Clinton should protect more jobs and fewer critters. He said lichen on old-growth trees in the rainy Northwest was getting more protection from the administration than people. The observer said Foley lashed out at McGinty and then went into a diatribe against the Endangered Species Act.

A week later, according to The New York Times, Foley erupted again, this time in a meeting with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. "The meeting was extremely intense," Babbitt told the Times' Tim Fagan. "The speaker was very cantankerous. He said, 'This is an unbalanced result, a bad result, and I'm just very unhappy about it.' I told him that the president cannot duck this decision."

Foley says those accounts are exaggerated. "It's not my manner to be discourteous or to be aggressive with people. But I was emphatic in my viewpoint," he says.

The face-offs with McGinty and Babbitt were more than differences of opinion on forest policy. Foley was ired by the administration's "spin" on the issue. Although Clinton tried to paint his plan as worker-friendly, it was not, Foley insisted during an interview.

It was so obviously misleading to claim "that the administration had chosen an option that expanded or maximized the timber cut," he says. "In fact, the plan reduces timber operations by 80 percent from historic levels. It means huge job losses in communities; it comes close to meeting the goals of people who want to end timber operations."

From a historical perspective, Clinton's forest initiatives are extraordinary because he is willing to grapple with this ecological crisis rather than deny its existence. Clinton's plan would protect ancient forest reserves, streams and the controversial, threatened northern spotted owl. Some jobs would also be preserved, but not in the numbers were in the 1980s, when previous administrations' forest policy promoted clearcutting. He is offering a $1.2 billion package to help timber communities weather the blow, although a good chunk of that money has already been earmarked for the Northwest.

This economic crunch has been a long time coming. During the 1980s, the Reagan and Bush administrations, with the help of Western congressmen from both parties, inflated the timber harvest far beyond the forests' ability to replenish themselves.

In 1986, a record 5 billion board-feet of timber were cut from national forests and another 1.1 billion from Bureau of Land Management land in Oregon and Washington.

Environmentalists charged that at least some of the logging that the agencies had allowed violated the law, and they went to court. The courts agreed with them.

In 1991, Federal Judge William Dwyer in Seattle found that the government had committed "a remarkable and deliberate refusal" to comply with laws protecting wildlife. He issued an injunction barring further logging in old-growth forests.

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TOM FOLEY IN FARM COUNTRY

The Clinton Forest Plan in Brief

Tom Foley in farm country

The president's preliminary plan "for a sustainable economy and a sustainable environment" is brief at seven pages. Released July 1, it calls for:

- 1.2 billion board-feet cut each year on forests containing northern spotted owls;
- $1.2 billion in new funding over five years to offset economic upset caused by the plan. (Clinton says the forest plan will directly affect 6,000 jobs in 1994, but create more economic upset caused by the plan. (Clinton says the forest plan will directly affect 6,000 jobs in 1994, but create more)
- no-logging zones established around sensitive streams and in some watersheds in an effort to save salmon
- domestic milling encouraged by eliminating a tax subsidy for timber companies that export raw logs;
- acceleration of timber salvage cuts and other management techniques on the east side of the Cascade Mountains to restore the health of forest ecosystems;
- release of timber sales stopped by court injunction;
- creation of special management areas to test experimental harvesting techniques.

Reaction to the Clinton plan was swift. Environmentalists objected to provisions allowing limited logging within the forest reserves set up to protect the spotted owl and other wildlife. The timber industry predicted logging cutoffs would eliminate close to 30,000 jobs and create more grief in the courts. Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Or., told the Bellingham Gazette: "This looks like an economic development plan for lawyers."

— BETTY MARNON

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growth forests until the government developed a science-based plan for obeying the law.

The Bush administration seemed gadgeted and confounded by the timber, with agencies often in conflict over what to do. Although Judge Dwyer blocked timber sales throughout the spotted owl’s range, the harvest in 1991 still exceeded 3 billion board-feet.

The Reagan and Bush administrations could not have abused Northwest forests without help from the Northwest delegation... As The Oregonian reported in 1990, political pressure applied by members of the Northwest delegation to quash the pace of logging was a fact of life for the Forest Service during the 1980s—until the northern spotted owl emerged on the political scene.

That could have been, critics say, because Foley was an advocate of the failed federal policies. He had been chairman of the House Agriculture Committee from 1975 to 1981, when it wrote key legislation for regulating national forests. But the problem was not in the writing of that legislation, it was in the administration’s flowing of its laws and in the less-than-rigorous oversight from Congress.

First elected to Congress in 1964, Foley belonged to a generation of politicians who saw the forests as timber, whose purpose was to provide jobs to local communities. If any environmental value, the went, it was not a consideration. Now issues in Congress value the forests for their function as a, no longer as big tree farms harvest. Yet Foley—as well members of the Northwest delegation—find the past present—and reluctant to embrace this new idea.

Foley is anti-environment, the Sierra Club’s Bill Siemiatycki says. “This summer, Foley as speaker accentuated the interests of en-vironment and the timber industry. In example, he made certain that most forest bills were acceptable to several groups. Above all, he avoided controversy when the the House floor.”

Foley is political to the right-minded Democrats on forests. He is in step with timber workers in his district.

Any discord between the speaker and the president now would be ill-timed for Clinton, whose success as president will be measured in large part by the outcome of upcoming battles over the budget and health care, welfare and campaign finance reforms. He cannot expect to push those bills through Congress without an alliance with the speaker.

Few other politicians in Washington, D.C., have greater clout than Tom Foley. As speaker since Jim Wright left in disgrace in May 1989, he has consolidated power despite complaints from Democratic House members who found themselves marginalized. Foley dubs it “Foley’s House bank.”

Environmental groups say they believe Foley has a big job. “I am very, very much interested in the protection of the environment,” Foley says. “I have sponsored clean air and clean water legislation. In the time I have been a committee chairman, majorly leader and speaker, I have seen the greatest advances in environmental legislation and protection, the greatest expenditures of public resources, the greatest acquisition to reserves and parks, and in each case I have supported that acquisition and protection.”

Osborn charges that Foley is “now the pocket of the timber industry, a charge the speaker denies even though the industry has been an important contributor to his political campaign.

During the 1980s, Foley was the leading recipient among House Democrats of political contributions from the timber industry, according to a 1990 Associated Press report. Between 1982 and 1990, Foley collected $55,661 from the industry. Only Sens. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., and Howell Heflin, D-Ala., received more. Each of the latter three were noted for decidedly anti-environmental slants on natural resource issues.

In 1992, he received contributions from political action committees affiliated with forest and lumber firms, such as Walworth with $9,000; Stamford, while Osborn’s was $1,100. And, from the not-so-liberal National Rifle Association came $14,840.

It was not the Endangered Species Act but another law that led to the logging in Northwest forests. That law is the National Forest Management Act, and a series of coincidences had thrust Foley into the position of guiding it through Congress.

A former law school professor at Spokane’s Gonzaga University, Foley got a political boost when he served an aide to his last Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash. Then in 1974, 10 years after his election to Congress, a rash of retirements and election defeats among House Democrats put Foley in contention for the important job of chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. That committee oversees the Forest Service and regulates farm commodities, so it members typically viewed timber as a commodity to be harvested the same as sugar or cotton.

In 1975, a huge block of “Watergate baby” Democrats was determined to thwart a number of the aging, conserva-tive House chairman. One of these was W.R. Poage of Texas, 75 years old and highly conservative. Foley opposed the...
Northern spotted owls have provoked a national debate over the surviving ancient forests.

To the east, in the rain shadow of the Cascades, only 20 inches of precipitation falls each year. Nevertheless, those forests too are in an ecological crisis and could soon be at the center of yet another national controversy.

Dying trees mark the forests in eastern Oregon and Washington, and scientists call the 14 million acres of east side forests an ecosystem unraveling. The Forest Service estimates 6 million of those acres suffer from nearly a decade of drought and bug infestation as well as historic over-cutting and fire suppression.

The result is a huge buildup of dry wood that could fuel catastrophic wildfires. Bruce Dunn, a forester for R.Y. Timber Inc., in Joseph, Ore., told the Oregonian the buildup of fuels could create a fire "that makes Yellowstone look like a marshmallow roast." Fires burned 45 percent of Yellowstone National Park in 1988 (ICN, 8/15/88).

To John Osborn, a doctor and president of the Inland Empire Public Lands Council in eastern Washington, the forests are a dying patient in desperate need of treatment. "The answer at this point is to move the patient to the intensive care unit," he says.

Many people agree with Osborn's diagnosis, but prescriptions for treatment are another matter. The Forest Service wants to cut diseased timber and use controlled burning. But some environmentalists cite the agency's historic mismanagement of fire and say salvaging logging could cause massive erosion and destroy wildlife habitat.

Political pressures sharpen the debate. Local communities see salvaging sales as a way to keep a dwindling federal timber stream flowing into mills. The timber industry wants to cut the biggest trees because they are worth the most money, rather than cut thick stands of small trees to improve forest health.

"We don't have a timber supply problem," Dwayne Vaagen, an eastern Washington sawmill owner, told the Spokane Spokesman-Review. "We have a timber availability problem."

The Northwest's most powerful politician, House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash., also has gone to bat for timber communities during the forest debate. "We have mills on the east side on their knees," says Foley spokesman Jeff Biggs, "People are unemployed and underemployed."

Critics charge that salvage logging is an excuse for getting the cut out. With east side timber sales tied up in court, the timber industry wants to compensate logging trees on the dry east side.

East side salvage logging should be called "the watered-down allowable cut," charges Roy Keene, director of the Pacific Forestry Foundation in Eugene, Ore. "When the cut is pushed down in one place, it pops up in another. This time the cut has mushroomed in the form of salvage logging, candy-coated for the congressional committees with ecological phrases like fire-prevention or forest health."

While many environmentalists agree with the Forest Service that some level of salvage logging could benefit forest health, they are worried the agency will push salvage logging at the expense of fish and wildlife.

The Forest Service currently exempts salvage sales from citizen appeals, though it is working on new regulations that will likely reverse this policy (ICN, 5/17/90). Some environmentalists fear these new regulations will not be in place in time to help them ward off environmentally damaging salvage sales. Others, like Bill Arthur, Northwest director of the Sierra Club, say even with the ability to appeal, local groups may be overwhelmed by a surge in new salvage sales.

National Wildlife Federation forester Rick Brown says he is disappointed in Clinton's Northwest forest plan because it calls for increased east side salvage sales to compensate for diminished west side logging. He also says Clinton's plan relies heavily on experimental management and monitoring practices.

A report released in May says there is no time to lose on the east side. Rep. Foley and Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., asked a team of 113 scientists, led by Forest Service ecologist Richard Everett, to write an Eastside Forest Ecosystem Health Assessment. A summary report says blanket prescriptions to restore forest health will not work and that future management must mimic the historical effects of fire, big infestation and disease. The full five-volume report, to be released later this summer, is expected to contain specific logging alternatives and forest health recommendations.

Scientists and politicians are impressed with the Everett analysis. Foundation director Roy Keene, who is also a forester, calls it state-of-the-art forest science, and Clinton has directed the Forest Service to develop an east side strategy based on it.

When released, the Everett report will be the latest attempt to get a handle on Oregon's Blue Mountains and Washington's northeastern national forests. Keene says the agency's Blue Mountains Ecosystem Restoration Strategy, released in January, is already too old and not specific about where and how it will manage salvage sales.

"The health problems on the east side forests are a moving target," says Keene. "Anything that grabs big trees that are still alive is counterproductive.

Keene says east side forests show signs of healing themselves after a wet winter and may not need to be cut as extensive as the Forest Service says.

The Forest Service estimates healing forests could employ more than 20,000 people with full funding. The agency has requested almost $250 million over current budget levels for three years to implement its plan. But Congress is considering funding only $25 million for forest health on the entire east side in the 1994 budget proposal. A resolution must come soon, says Northwest Forestry Association spokesman Chuck Burley, because if it drags on, "everybody's going to end up losing."

But environmentalists have threatened lawsuits if the Forest Service pushes east side timber sales. The Natural Resources Defense Council has pressured the Forest Service since June to review all sales that would affect wildlife species dependent on mature stands and roadless areas on the east side.

NRDC attorney Nathaniel Lawrence says a number of east side species, including the pilated woodpecker, northern goshawk and American white stork, are threatened by the Forest Service plan to log 1.5 billion board-foot over the next three years.

"The agency simply hasn't done the homework to justify that type of logging," says Lawrence. "We've told them, 'What you're doing is illegal. You're going to have to do what you did on the west side - develop a viability study.'"

The legal threat has forced the Forest Service to put on hold virtually all timber sales on 10 east side forests while it negotiates management reforms with NRDC.

Environmentalists fired another warning shot in June by filing a petition for federal protection of wild chisou salmon runs in the Columbia River Basin in eastern Washington. Thousands of people who rely on the $1 billion salmon industry in the Northwest depend on salmon spawning habitat in the east side forests, says Gles Spain, regional director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations in Seattle.

"Without healthy forests, you can't have healthy salmon," says Spain. "People and some scientists fear that salvage logging will further erode fish habitat.

Spies says agencies must protect entire watersheds if they are to avoid federal salmon listings that will dwarf the impacts of the spotted owl listing."

--- Greg Peterson, HCN intern ---

To order copies of the Eastside Forest Ecosystem Health Assessment executive summary, contact Paul Barlow (503/326-7128). For copies of the full report, expected in late July, write to Portland Habilitation Center Inc., PWN Publications, 2700 SE Malawill Dr., Milwaukie, OR 97222. For copies of the Blue Mountains Ecosystem Restoration Strategy, contact the Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute, 1401 Gileser Lane, La Grande, OR 97850. For copies of the Northwest Washington National Forest Health Proposal, contact the Wenatchee National Forest, Public Affairs, P.O. Box 811, Wenatchee, WA 98807.
House speaker is furious at plan...

continued from page 9

...move," according to Politics in America 1992. "He even gave Poage’s nomination speech. But when Poage was beaten, the insurgents promoted Foley over several more senior members of the panel."

At the same time, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its famous Monongahela decision banning clearcuts in national forests. To get around that decision, the timber industry asked Congress to legalize clearcutting, while environmentalists demanded stronger legal protection for fish, wildlife and forest habitat.

Congress delivered... for both sides. The result was the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Foley’s suggestions are all over that law. differing versions of the bill raced through the House and Senate, environmentalists favored the Senate bill, while the timber industry supported the one that emerged from Foley’s House committee. Differences were to be resolved in a conference committee, and Foley was head of the House conference. Jim Weaver, an Oregon Democrat in the House, was a member of Foley’s committee and sat at his elbow at the conference meetings.

"He tried to be even-handed in conference," Weaver says. "He could have been a lot tougher on environmentalists."

Foley persuaded the conference committee to adopt what’s known as Section 6K, a provision that legalized timber sales in which the government loses money. Foley saw these so-called below-cost sales as vital to the timber-based economies of regions where trees grow slowly, as in most of the Rockies. Those are the same sales that the Clinton administration last spring promised to halt.

Charles Wilkinson, the environmental expert at the University of Colorado, recalls that Foley remarked on the House floor during deliberations that a ban on below-cost sales "would have bared (timber harvesting) in great portions of the national forests." In the years since 1976, Wilkinson said Foley "has certainly been pro-timber. He’s been very influential in keeping the cut up."

Now, as President Clinton tries to reduce the cut, he needs the approval of Tom Foley but of Judge Dwyer. But don’t expect Foley to be out of the picture for long. When the Endangered Species Act comes up for reauthorization, Foley could push for changes—changes that would place limits on the types of species that could be protected, or make it harder to protect species if doing so might cost too many jobs.

"Even the act’s strongest supporters believe we need to take a look at economic consequences at an earlier time," burnt says. "I think the act needs to have some element of review so that other values in addition to protection of species can be considered."

"Foley is making mischief in the forests, he can and by acme accounts is already effectively derailing efforts to restore salmon in the rivers. Those efforts have been carefully laid out by the Northwest Power Planning Council, which considers them necessary to bring back salmon decimated by dams on the Columbia River. Dams provide cheap power to aluminum plants in Foley’s district and throughout the Northwest. A bill that would spend $7 million to improve salmon passage through John Day Reservoir, a major fish killer on the Columbia, is going nowhere in Congress, even though the power counsel gave the measure its highest priority. For this, the Sierra Club’s Arthur blames Foley. "The plan is not being implement-ed," Arthur says, "and Tom Foley is standing in the way of that."

Paul Koberstein writes frequently for High Country News from Portland, Oregon. This story was paid for by the High Country News Research Fund.

Judge Dwyer gets forest plan

With little fanfare, the Clinton administration presented its detailed plan for restoring Northwest forests to Judge William Dwyer in Seattle July 16. The government said its printers didn’t have enough time to make copies of the 1,500-page document available to the general public until July 23. Dwyer agreed to the extension, extending the deadline for public comment until Oct. 30.

The document includes a draft environmental impact statement and a plan for complying with various environmental laws. In May 1991, Dwyer blocked new timber sales in national forests that contain spotted owl habitat. Those injunctions were due to expire in August, but in April of this year Dwyer extended the expiration date to Dec. 31, 1993.

The injunctions will remain in place until then unless Dwyer lifts them. He could do so if he determines that the Clinton plan complies with the law.

Dwyer’s next step will be to present the plan to a committee of scientists who will determine if it meets scientific requirements spelled out by law.

Two government scientists last week suggested that the plan might fall short of the legal requirements to protect species of snails, clams and slugs. Terrence Frest and Edward Johannes, private consultants in Seattle who helped develop the plan, said in a letter to Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson that it wasn’t scientifically credible and expressed "serious reservations" about its legality.

Frest and Johannes were among more than 100 scientists the administration had consulted; they were the first to publicly criticize the plan. Jack Ward Thomas, a Forest Service biologist who headed the administration’s Forest Ecosystem Management Working Group, has refused to comment.

Our main concerns were that we were supposed to recommend a scientifically credible plan," Frest said in an interview. "Political concerns interfered with us and are undermining the process."

Frest and Johannes told Robertson that the administration’s preferred “Option 9” was the worst possible for species preservation and the most generous for logging interests among the options under consideration. In particular, they said the plan would provide uncertain prospects for cryptogenic devils and ancient vegetation, rare snails that prefer the forests’ dump floes.

For copies or to comment by Oct. 30 on restoring Northwest forests, write Interagency Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Team, P.O. Box 3033, Portland, OR 97208.

Tom Foley thrives in a very Republican district

Despite Tom Foley’s heavy

Tom Foley thrives in a very Republican district.

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The hub of the 5th District is Spokane, a banking and farm products marketing center. With a population of 177,600, Spokane is Washington’s second largest city. According to Politics in America 1992, it is one of the most conservative large cities in the United States. It has a sizable aluminum industry that takes advantage of low-cost hydropower from federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Foley won re-election in 1992 with 57 percent of the vote, defeating Republican John Snoosland. In 1990, he had won with 69 percent of the vote; in 1988 with 76 percent. His biggest victory was 1972, when he took 81 percent of the vote. His narrowest margins were 53 percent in 1964 and 52 percent in 1980.

— P.K.
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WATERWATC HI OF OREGON, a non-profit organization working on Western water issues, seeks to fill the following positions for our Portland office: PROJECT COORDINATOR: Duties: Policy/legal analysis, administrative procedures, negotiations, some litigation. Must have law degree and 2-5 years experience, be strong advocate and good negotiator. $26,000-$28,000, benefits. Closing date: Aug. 9, 1993. POLICY ADVISOR: Duties: Policy development, research, writing, participate in administrative procedures. Qualifications: Law degree or five years or experience in environmental law/salary. Salary $26,000-$28,000, benefits. Closing date: Sept. 1, 1993. Send resume; one legal and one non-legal writing sample; three references with phone numbers to Jeff Curtis, Executive Director, 921 SW Morrison St., Suite 438, Portland, OR 97205. WOMEN/PEOPLE OF COLOR ENCOURAGED TO APPLY. (13x3)

145-ACRE RANCH FOR SALE: Luxurious meadows, timber, trout stream, private national forest access, 2 cabins, 180° view of West Mountain. $54 miles southwest of Colorado Springs, I-25, 295, 97056. Terms: $70,000 or best offer. (13x3)

Marvellous Old 1890's mansion on 114 acres right on Colorado River in enchanting canyon, waterfall, fish, swimming, lake, tennis court, Tennis Club, 63852-2960. (3x18)

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY CATALOG for remote homes. Solar electric, wind, hydro-electric generators, wood-fuel kit units, compost toilets and more. $2.50, refundable with order. Yellow Jachle Schre, Box 608, Lewis, CO 81027. (1x1 1-4)

"OUTDOOR PEOPLE AD-Venture" lists 60-70 descriptions of active, outdoor-oriented stints and tips competes across various $5,000, $1200. Outdoor People, Inc., P.O. Box 609, Gantry, NC 28705. (7x5-6x)

BUILDING A HOME? Think poured adobe! 1-2 day workshops in September and October. Consulting also available. Write Adobe Alternative. CVR 240, Momb, UT 84532. (3x15)

A New Paradigm for Western Environmental Policy: Insights and Innovations from Environmental Writers sponsored by The Foundation for Research on the Environment and the Economy (FREE) of Bozeman and Seattle FREE's 1993 seminar with writers features Don Snow of the Northern Lights Institute, Darin Provenzale of Montana, and Tim Wolf and Steve Brown of New Mexico. Writers will meet with environmental economists and analysts to explore innovation models for Western environmental policy and society. The seminar, involving fourteen participants, runs August 27 to August 30, 1993, in Big Sky, Montana. Lodging, meals, and round-trip airfare are provided to participants by FREE. A $250-500 stipend will be awarded for articles exploring the conference theme. Established environmental writers interested in attending this program please contact Tim O'Toole at FREE, 525 S. 1910 Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715 (406-585-1777). Send $250-500 sundry cultivating the issues you would like to address and a brief brochure. Sample articles are welcome.

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ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

The National Park Service has decided to manage 21 Southwestern parks and monuments that protect and interest Anasazi culture in a single "eco-region." Previously, the agency managed the area from three regional headquarters, in Salt Lake City, Denver and Santa Fe. In a 33-page report, the regional managers outline how communication, resource preservation and tourism planning could be coordinated.

FRANCIS SWIFT

WANTED: RISK-TAKING POETS

Boulder, Ariz.'s first poetry festival in 1979, cowboy poet and Grey Ranch manager Drum Hadley doffed a black hat. Hadley, in turn, and festival director August Shaefer, says there's no telling what he'll do this time. The Aug. 6-7 festival features readings, panel discussions and a no-audition performance contest for cash prizes. This year's theme, "Old Heart in the New Country," looks at "the people who were here first," featuring Native American, Hispanic and rancher poets. The festival will explore how the groups relate to the modern world and what they take from their traditions to deal with it. Aside from the get-toting cowboy, poets include bilingual performance poet Juan Felipe Herrera and famous Migrant-
to-Los-Robbis. Fresno's Alarcon, whose translation of Aztec incantations, Sono Poems, won an American Book Award, will lead a workshop on "Mesoamerican Poetics: The harmony of self and nature." The performance contest, in which participants perform their "voic arts," is "laughable," Shaefer says. "We make it sort of camp," she says. Contact the Bozic Poetry Festival, P.O. Box 1320, Boulder, CO 80303 (303/442-5003).

Writers' Rendezvous

Boise State University hosts a second annual rendezvous for Western writers and artists at Shore Lodge in McCall, Idaho, Aug. 19-21. Featured writers include James Welch of Montana, Kent Anderson and Curt Conley of Idaho and Paul Honnold of Utah. Workshops led by Robert Whitley, Clay Morgan, Mary Chapman Blum and Daryl Jones, will focus on a number of writing techniques and perspectives as well as the West's energy crisis as a hotspot for writing and publishing. For more information about the rendezvous, contact Katya Hays at 800/553-6586, ext. 4002 in Idaho, or 804/224-7047, ext. 4002 outside the state.

GET ON THE STUMP

Two Oregon residents want to stump — drawings, photographs, essays, poems, paintings and any other depictions — to turn into a compendium on the subject. "What started as a tongue-in cheek idea for a guidebook to the biggest stumps in the Northwest has blossomed into a fully-fledged anthology," says Dennis Morgis. With partner Scott Greena, a free-lance writer, Morgis envision a collage that portrays the stump as both image and symbol. They've collected some material but want more from women, Native Americans, and Canadians writers and artists. The League of Wilderness Defenders, a non-profit activist group, is sponsoring the project, and profits will support local groups active in stump preservation.

Send submissions by Aug. 31 to Stump Central, 810 NE 30th, Stumptown, OR 97211 (503/232- 4205).

DOWING LESS WITH LESS

Since the crashing of the president's economic stimulus package, the National Park Service must do without the $40 million it expected this year. As a result, many parks will make do with fewer staff at a time of record park use, according to The Wilderness Society. In a recently conducted survey of 17 popular national parks affected by closed, the Washington, D.C.-based group examines how cutbacks will damage visitor and interpretive services in such popular places as Glacier, Rocky Mountain, Zion and Yellowstone national parks. "We've been nickel and dimeing our national parks for too long, but now much of the damage was invisible to the average visitor," says Karin Sheldon, national parks. "We've been nickel and dimeing our national parks for too long, but now much of the damage was invisible to the average visitor," says Karin Sheldon, The Wilderness Society, 900 17th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20006-2396.

CONSERVATION-BASED DEVELOPMENT IN THE RAIN FOREST

Cooperative Strategic Plan, contact the planning department of the National Park Service's Rocky Mountain Regional office in Denver, 12795 W. Ahmadia Parkway, P.O. Box 25179, Denver, CO 80225-0287 (303/696-2000).

RECREATING WESTERN CULTURE

The Foundation for Research on Eco-
nomics and the Environment, FIREX, is offering an expenses-paid weekend in Big Sky, Mont., for environmental writers with creative ideas about environmental policy in the West. From Aug. 27 to Sept. 1, about 14 people chosen by the organization will look at recreating a Western culture and economy that diverges from the tradition of dependence on extractive resources. The organization holds what chairman John Boden calls a "classical liberal per-
spective" in the tradition of Jefferson and de Tocqueville, with a skepticism about large-scale organizations such as the govern-
ment. Baden, who teaches economics at the University of Washington, says the event focuses on environmental writers rather than traditional policymakers because writers aren't locked into existing structures.

Seminar leaders include New Mexico author Steve Bedio, and writer and teacher Tom Wolf. For more information on participating in the program, contact Tim O'Brien at FIREX. 525 S. 19th, No. 1, Bozeman, MT 59715 (406/585-1776).

NEW Bearings

Both the environmental and the business communities see conservation and development as mutually exclusive: We can either develop a piece of land or preserve it. The organization EarthFirst is Portland, Ore., challenges that belief in a gracefully written and carefully conceived strategic vision called New Bearings: Conser-
vation-Based Development in the Rain Forest of Home. It argues that the tension between the excesses of industrial development and the "saves the planet" movement, which EarthFirst calls a "modern science" approach to conservation, Earthfirst argues that the answer lies in building on the cultural and economic traditions of local communities, "because local people cannot afford to see their environment as an object to be exploited or saved." The booklets says that the goal of local people — long term - economic prosperity — is inevitably bound up with our goal, the conservation and reclamation of ecosystems. It then describes how EarthFirst applies its princi-
ple to two temperate rain forests; the greater KITepe ecosystem in British Columbia, Canada, with its Native Ameri-
can population, and Willows Bay in south-
west Washington, with its non-Indo pop-
ulation.

For a copy, contact EarthFirst, 1230 NW Front Ave, Suite 470, Portland, OR 97209, 503/272-6323.

I believe we should make our initial contact through the tall, prosperous earthing in the headress.

High Country News — July 26, 1993 — 13
THIS "TAKINGS" CASE WAS NOT SO SIMPLE

Dear HCN,

This is a response to the article on "takings" litigation written by Florence Williams, "Landowners turn the Fifth into sharp-pointed issue," (HCN, 2/89). I am a member of the Friends of Oregon, a nationwide-based nonprofit land-use planning organization, is a party to Dodd v. Hood River County, an Oregon takings case under consideration.

The article introduced the Dodd litigation by noting that it arises from "rules that seem neither fair nor just." That's quite an indictment of Oregon's 20-year-old statewide land-use planning program.

The Dodds were Texas residents who bought land in Oregon in 1983. They planned to build their retirement home on the forested property, which is located in Hood River County, in the Columbia River Gorge. According to the article, after Tom Dodd left his Texas job in 1988, the couple "found out that their land had been "re-zoned" as a new zone because of fire hazard:"

They would not be allowed to build a house on the forested property, which is now considered to be a "fire hazard" zone. According to the article, the Dodds were told that their property had been "re-zoned" as a new zone because of fire hazard.

No one had bothered to tell them that their land would be "re-zoned" as a new zone because of fire hazard. In truth, the Dodds never had the right to build a house on their land.

The Dodds also complain that they purchased the land for $30,000, but that their residual value of the land would have been governed by a county's expert forester that logging activities on the property would produce $600 if they logged the property. But whose responsibility is that? A new county's expert forester that logging activities on the property would produce $600 if they logged the property.
By chasing ever-narrowing demographics — those who read and have lots of money — newspaper publishers, this critic said, could ignore the moment the erosion of their once broad base.

"Fatal but not serious" also applies to the West's land grant universities. These public universities were created after the Civil War to inform and educate those who work the land. The charters of the University of Arizona, Utah State University, the University of Wyoming, Colorado State University and the others require them to educate rural people in the classroom, do research on land-related issues, and drive extension offices and areas through extension services and its county agents.

Until several decades ago, the system was one of the reasons we had a strong rural way of life. Today, the land grants are in shambles. They have narrowed their base and become part of a rural fortress erected in reaction to the urbanizing urbanization of the rural West. The noisiest rampart of this fortress is the West Use movement. The land grants are quieter members of the fortress. Their role in this reaction is to help the West protest that it's still part of a Norman Rockwell painting.

To achieve this promise, the land grants ignore most Westerners. If you are not a sheep rancher, row-crop farmer, fruit grower or milk producer, or a 4-H kid, forget the land grants.

The alienation is understandable. The thus-far inexorable forces of environmentalism and urbanism have created bitter divisions in the West. The modern environmental movement is made up of people who have been removed from the land for at least one generation. We have returned to rural areas full of isolation, and have been horrified by much of what we found.

"We had thought," to steal a metaphor from Theodore Roosevelt, that cow's give much the way they givel milk. Instead, we learned that the land was being butchered for its ores, wood, meat. The preservation drive we then launched led the producers and land grants to line up against the West's new residents and the region's emerging environmental values.

T he preservationist/producer battle persists today. And while it rages, the West is being lost, piece by piece.

I came upon one last piece in late June, while driving from downtown Colorado Springs on U.S. 24 to Salt Lake City along U.S. 40. A leg of corn stood in a field, and my walk took me up a side road along a small creek broadened by silt and mud. Abandoned fences and outbuildings made it clear that this valley was once a ranch.

But today the irrigation water is gone, sold to an upstream user. Weeds cover what once were irrigated meadows, and on every few acres sits a house trailer that was being butchered for its ores, wood, meat. The preservation drive we then launched led the producers and land grants to line up against the West's new residents and the region's emerging environmental values.

W eek two later, I was in Jackson, Wyo., part of a panel of defenders and critics of the land grants. The audience was the crews of the college of agriculture and the heads of the extension services at the West's land grants, as well as 100 or so other interested people.

"The West's major challenges now lay in land use, rural sprawl and ready-and-easy suburbanization. It's a problem they should be on top of, for it's their constituency and their land base that is disappearing. But agricultural colleges and extension services are so bound up with the conservative rural society that they cannot even study land use and land planning. The more wildlife and contributed less pollution and sediment to the stream than does the collection of trailers and other mechanisms aid the land grants, and the rural electorate and the members of the land-grant boards, too.

Walt's hostile reaction made me think that the University of Wyoming was determined to deal with the West's problems. I was even more encouraged by Professor Brad Box, a range scientist and former head of the School of Natural Resources at Utah State University. Box is so radical — far from it — but he delivered a report on the land grants that had some in the audience squirming. The Box report's first paragraph set the tone:

"If they (the land grants) ignore public concern for new issues and listen only to their traditional client groups, they will find themselves increasingly at odds with the people Land Grant Universities are supposed to serve. If they refuse to acknowledge or are insensitive to societal changes, they will become irrelevant."

Box and his committee, which was appointed by the dean of agriculture, did more than write a report. As academic insiders the committee knows that the land grants are like Samson — giants whose hair is short and whose heads are bound to the Western establishment pinata.

The report says: Agricultural Colleges have placed most of their effort in maintaining ties with their traditional funding sources — commodity groups and production agriculture. Finally, the land grants, like other academic institutions are paralyzed by their academic structure. According to the report:

Academic departments and individual faculty tend to work within, and get their rewards from, their respective disciplines. There are few rewards for interdisciplinary or integrative research.

"Poultry science, viticulture, and genetic engineering have their uses. But by themselves, they are unlikely to help guide rural land subdividing or the fight against public lands and endangered species. Solutions to these problems will require a mix of social science, physical science and the liberal arts. Unfortunately, professors who engage in such interdisciplinary research usually can't get funding. And if they do figure out how to finance their work, they often endanger their careers."

The University of Wyoming, Colorado State University and Utah State University are attempting to beat down these barriers by creating or strengthening interdisciplinary schools. But change will not come quickly.

S igns of change are welcome and hopeful. But they are late. One reason for their lateness is that environmentalists have ignored the land grants, leaving them free in turn to ignore the West's environmental issues. To the environmental movement, the land grants were not nearly as important as the U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Reclamation, with their immense influence on the ground. Cleanups and mines and dams are far more immediate than education and research.

Now it is clear that we cannot preserve and manage the land without first building a just and equitable society. To create that society, we need new institutions, such as the network of grass-roots and natural environmental groups that has been created over the past several decades. But the Western University institutions may be unable to help settle and develop this region. Without the land grants, and the rural electric co-operatives, and the livestock associations, and the other once-progressive Western organizations, the West can never be saved.

For a copy of the report Managing Transitions: Western Agricultural Colleges and Public Lands, by the Western Council of Administrative Heads of Colleges of Agriculture's (CARA) Committee on Public Lands, write to Prof. Thadis W. Box, Gerald Thomas Professor of Agriculture and Range Sciences, Box 30003, Dept. MTC, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003-0003.

For a chapter on the report at land grant universities, see Unexamined Scholarship: The Land Grant Universities in the Inland West, by Ed Marston in Water, Management: Springer-Verlag, the Halo Effect, 1992.
How to get there from here

by Auden Schendler

I was hitchhiking out of Minnola, headed for North Dakota. An 18-wheeler stopped to pick me up. As I climbed up into the cab, I asked the driver where he was headed, partly to find out, and partly to use the time to assess the man for alcohol fumes or insanity. But by the time I was up the ladder and into the cab, the truck was already rolling.

The first hour or so of the ride was filled with benign conversation, until I commented on how the events in eastern Europe seemed to be repeating the events of the early 20th century. The driver’s eyes lit up as he apparently took my statement as an invitation.

“And you know,” he said, “that’s all predicted in the Bible.”

By Bettie I was hearing about the arrival of the anarchists in Berkeley in 1969. By Box Elder my driver was wildly waving a can of Joe Weider’s quick weight gain protein powder, while shouting that God had to exist because: “If this is the universe, then what’s beyond it? And what’s beyond that?”

By Billings I was fighting off condemnation. Though spiritually baltered, I commented on how the events in eastern Europe seemed to be repeating the events of the early 20th century. The driver’s eyes lit up as he apparently took my statement as an invitation.

“And you know,” he said, “that’s all predicted in the Bible.”

“OK,” I smiled.

We never stopped and it took three and a half hours to get to the junction of Highway 15 to Sandy, some 90 miles. Worse, this man was making a mental collection of license plates by state, and for each out-of-state car he was compelled to inventory his catalog from the beginning, out loud: “Florida ... hmmm ... let’s see ... Alabama ... Alaska ... Arizona ... Arkansas ... etc. ... “ ... no - no Florida.” If it was an in-state car, he made up things that the first three letters on the plate might represent: “EFT ... egg ... flavored ... toothpaste ... TRD ... Tender. Red ... uh ... dinosaurs.”

I felt I had to respond positively to these creations. By the end of the ride, though, my gums had turned to tight-lipped silence.

As a rider you often end up supporting bad humor or reaffirming people’s strong though frequently biased convictions and theories about life. You have no choice: by hitchhiking, you have signed an unwritten contract to become the world’s most perspicacious person. I recall smiling nervously when a truck driver told me that driving is a game. “If you crash, you lose.”

Quillen’s Quiz

Where in the West are you?

by Ed Quillen

Wonder where you are? A regular map isn’t much help is determining whether you live in a traditional Western town, a “lifestyle” community, or something in between. Answer these questions about your town, defined here as one where you usually shop and get your mail. After adding up the scores (they’re in brackets after each answer), you’ll be able to place your town on a cultural atlas of the Mountain West.

1. Your town’s move and shaken informally meet at:
   A) A smoke-free establishment featuring vegetarian cuisine (30)
   B) A WPA American Legion, Elks or Moose Hall (10)
   C) One of its own garage, retail store, pharmacies, cafe, etc. (20)

2. The most influential church in your town is:
   A) Roman Catholic or Latter Day Saints (20)
   B) Fundamentalist, Evangelical, Buddhist or New Age (30)
   C) Mainstream Protestant, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, etc. (10)

3. The daily lunch special at your town’s “local” cafe is most likely to be:
   A) Mexican food (20)
   B) Meat and potatoes (10)
   C) Mesquite-grilled fish (50)

4. When people in your locale meet, they:
   A) Embrace (30)
   B) Shake hands (10)
   C) Organize? Here? (20)

5. The most recent improvement in your telephone service was:
   A) Digital switching (10)
   B) Proposed or actual elimination of party lines (50)
   C) Cellular telephone service (30)

6. The major drug of serious drug users is:
   A) Alcohol (10)
   B) Cocaine (30)
   C) Marijuana (20)

7. Who would be most likely to hold a concept in your town:
   A) Garth Brooks or Wynonna Judd (10)
   B) Jimmy Buffet or Don Henley (30)
   C) George Thorogood or Hank Williams, Jr. (20)

8. The major source of money coming into town is:
   A) Tourism (20)
   B) Wellness and reengineering (20)
   C) Mines, mills or factory (10)

9. The most influential organization in town is:
   A) Organized? Here? (20)
   B) An advice coalition fighting a dam or power plant (30)
   C) Rotary, Kiwanis, Farm Bureau or Lions (10)

10. The busiest time of the year is:
   A) Week after Christmas (30)
   B) Community festival (10)
   C) Day before elk season starts (20)

11. If you’re walking around town, you use:
   A) Broad sidewalks (10)
   B) Dedicated bicycles, pedestrian and skateboard ways (30)
   C) Alleys and ditch banks (20)

12. The permanent vehicle for your town is:
   A) Best-est old pickup (20)
   B) Station wagon or mini-van (10)
   C) Jeep Cherokee or mountain bike (30)

13. The heart of your town is:
   A) The exit ramp (30)
   B) Plaza or square (20)
   C) Downtown (10)

14. The biggest issue facing your area is:
   A) Pollution or an increase in great white sharks (10)
   B) Consolidation (30)
   C) Exodus of young people (20)

15. Houses you visit are heated by:
   A) Wood, heaps coal or propane (20)
   B) Passive or active solar systems (30)
   C) Fuel oil, natural gas or stoker coal (10)

Scoring: Add the points for the items you checked.
120-190: Your town is still very traditional.
200-240: It’s still traditional, but change is beginning.
250-340: They’re coming! Watch the rising real-estate values.
400-500: L.A. fast. 

Auden Schendler is a free-lance writer and Denver Post intern. He lives in Salida, Colorado.