

Forest Voice

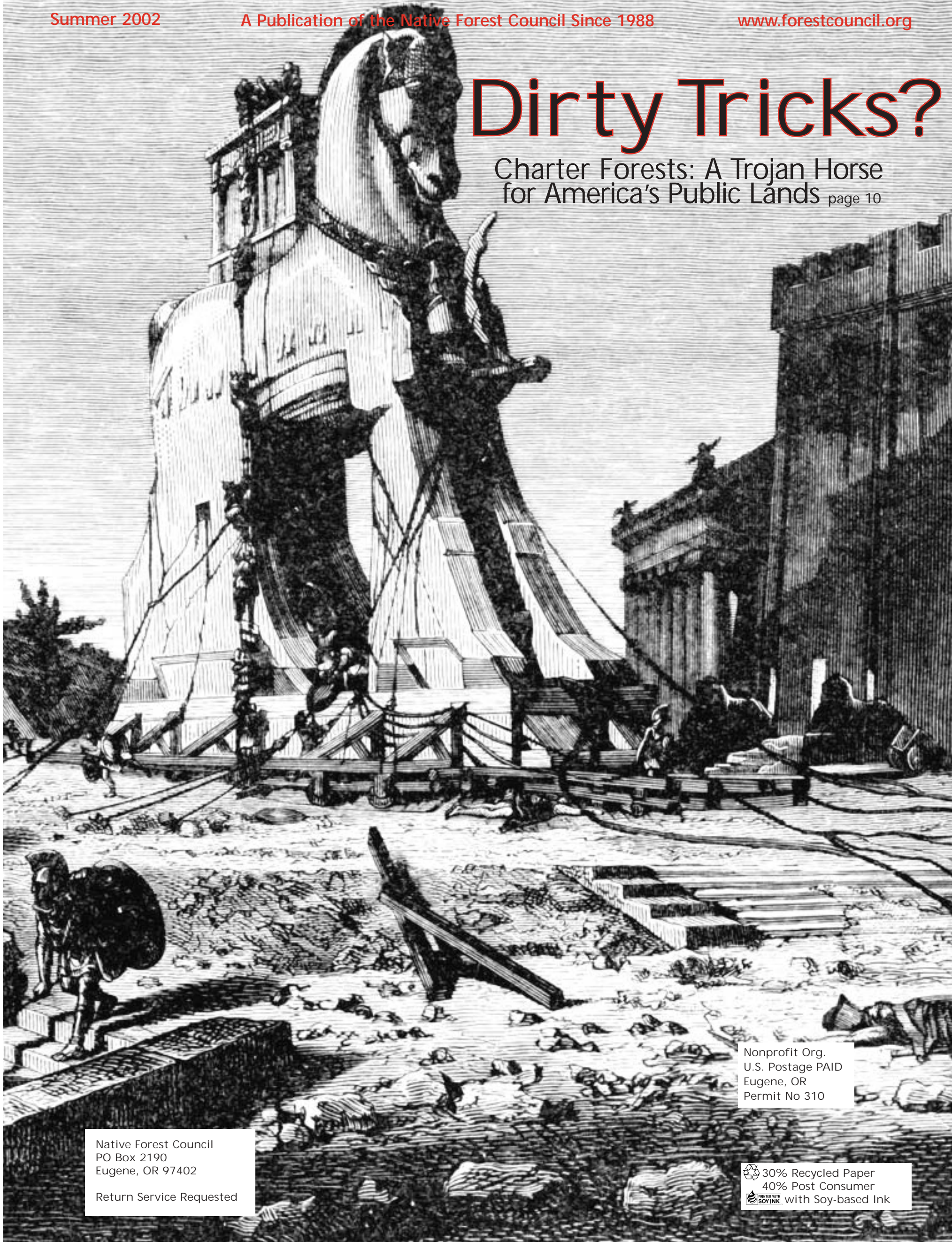
Summer 2002

A Publication of the Native Forest Council Since 1988

www.forestcouncil.org

Dirty Tricks?



Charter Forests: A Trojan Horse
for America's Public Lands page 10



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Forest Voices

An open forum for Forest Council members



Forest Voice

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Submission Guidelines
We welcome unsolicited submissions that address issues relevant to public lands protection and support the Native Forest Council's mission. If you would like us to return your work, please include a SASE.



Time for Forever Wild

I received a copy of *Forest Voice* from Tim Ream and decided to contribute. I am well aware of global problems with forests, water, air, etc. I'm sure I will enjoy your publication. I really liked your article on New York's Adirondacks and the Forever Wild clause in our constitution. You are right that we should have such a clause in our national constitution to protect all of our public lands. I want to participate in that effort.

-William Kanar, M.D., Plattsburgh, NY

Coyote Caretaker

Thank you for sending the *Forest Voice* for distribution. I also would like to comment on the article, "Subsidized Wildlife Killers" (Winter 2002). This subject is very important to me after reading *God's Dog* and *Don Coyote*. I am also the proud caretaker of a partially wild dog who resembles a coyote. I always worry when we hike out west, especially during hunting season. Thanks for keeping us informed of the wasteful situation. Please send more copies of your Winter 2002 issue. I will have no problem locating readers.

-Always, Tracie Hellwinckel, Knoxville, TN

Forest Voice Better and Better

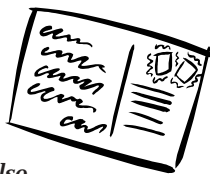
Tim,
Forest Voice just keeps getting better and better! Spring 2002 may be your best yet.

My personal congratulations, thanks and best wishes to:

- Matt Wuerker for that fabulous cover illustration! One picture is still worth 10,000 words.
- That wonderstaff shown in the photo on p.8, and especially to editor Wendy Martin, friend Ed Dorsch, and to Jenny Jackson for her insightful article on corporate power on p.14... ditto Jenny Jackson's article on campaign finance reform, p.15.
- Two super-heroes, Susan Cox and Helen Johnson in memoriam.
- And to you, founder, leader, conscience.

-Hugs, Harry Lonsdale

Editor's Note: Scientist Harry Lonsdale ran for U.S. Senate twice, nearly defeating Oregon's venerable Mark Hatfield in the 1990 race. Founder of Bend Research and the Campaign for Democracy, Lonsdale also sponsored the Great Oregon Spring Cleanup and the 1988 Oregon Rivers Initiative. The founding editor of Membrane Science, he has published more than 100 scientific papers and patents. Lonsdale is currently working with his campaign finance reform organization, hosting a talk show and completing his memoir.



Bush: Unmitigated Disaster

I hear the urgency of your appeal; Bush is an unmitigated disaster—for all of us. Oil exploration in the Arctic Wildlife Reserve will affect the people of the Yukon severely. Thanks for fighting the good and oh-so-important cause!!

-Sincerely, Karl Simmerling, Naramata, B.C.

We Are the Future

Excellent paper—I picked it up here at a used book store in Nederland, Colorado. I support all your perspectives and viewpoints. Truly, the Earth is under assault on all levels by the Corporate World Empire. The level of mind, spirit and being of these people is so wicked, so evil, so absolutely perverted, that there's simply no hope for them. We have to therefore take COMMAND and CONTROL of our own situations (as small or large as they may be), wherever we are, and make the best of our world. Sustainable/Organic Agriculture, Alternative Energy, the Green Deal, Civil Resistance Actions, forming Co-ops, etc., are what we all continue to support—there is no other alternative. WE ARE the future—this is how we overcome them.

-Jonas the Prophet, Nederland, CO

Don't Get Tired!

Don't get tired! Now, more than ever, redouble your efforts. A lot of thinking people are behind you. Keep me informed so I can stay on the butt of my congressman, Mike Rogers. My senators for the most part are with you! Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin! Stay BOLD and RESOLVED!

-Len Stuttman, Lansing, MI

Two Reporters Loved Last Cover

We loved the cover of the Spring 2002 issue of the *Forest Voice*. Outstanding! We are two reporters for the *Telegraph Herald* newspaper in Dubuque, IA, and we want to pass on our kudos to Matt Wuerker.

Also enjoyed and appreciated the brief by Tim Hermach, "Unilateral Support?"—well written and gets to the point. Can we obtain copies of the cover? I would like to give it as a gift to a friend who, like me, is a critic of the Bush administration's "environmental" agenda.

-Craig Reber and Mary Nevans-Pederson
Telegraph Herald, Dubuque, IA

Argument for Buying Out Grazing Leases

Something to think about re: enviro groups buying up leases instead of ranchers, a question you posted on the Stumps Net*, a venue where I choose not to join the debate, lest I be run out of town as (a) moderate, (b) a dreaded Democrat, (c) somebody who tends to look for workable solutions instead of unreachable idealistic ones.

That said, here's my chime in: If an enviro group is able to raise the money to buy up a grazing permit, I call that a step in the right direction (rather than a "pact with the devil," as so strongly put by my creatively-tongued sister Betsy). Why do I say that? Because until we can make the rules (which may be never) then we must play by them. And if the goal is to stop destructive grazing and its related water and habitat ruination, then the goal is achieved, is it not? And, frankly, rather than quibble about lack of purity of the process, why not revel in the little (and not so little) set-asides create by this creative (!) process. It's sort of hanging the fed policy by its own petard. Oh, you have to award the highest bidder so the government makes money? Fine. We'll outbid 'em.

Perhaps my capitalist side is a tad glaring on the issue, Tim, but, again, if you can beat them at their own game then it beats hell out of self-righteous noble breast-beating (a stance I tend to fear too many enviros prefer to embrace) and gets the basic job done, which is protecting the environment. Another way to put it: Better than nothing.

I'm afraid too many folks tend to choose "all or none, and the one honorable way or not at all." If the war, so to speak, is one of continuous battles, then why not chalk up a victory on our side and move to the next one. I could go on, but you get the idea. If I ever get to Eugene we can talk this over. I'm always open to good ideas.

Tim, keep up the good work.

-My best, Peter Toll

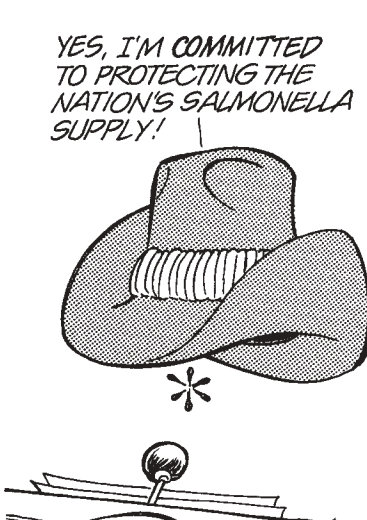
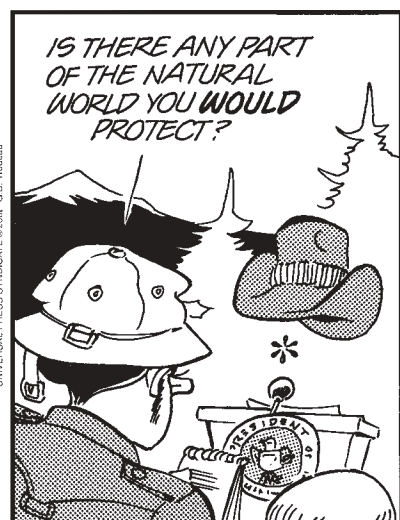
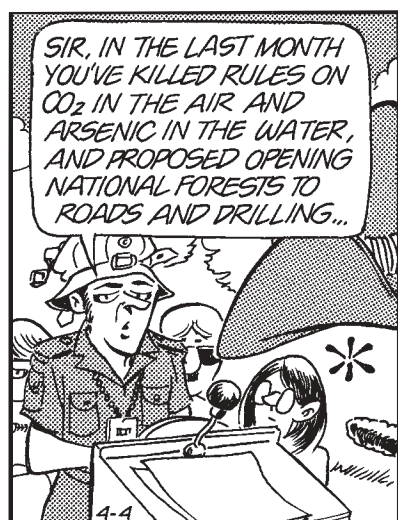
*You can sign up for Native Forest Council's e-mail newsgroup at www.forestcouncil.org

Mad As Hell

I do support your work—and I'm mad as hell about what's happening—but we are in our '70s, retired, on a fixed income and donating to our limit. Where are the "wealthy corporations" that care about our beautiful Earth?!? Please continue to drive for our survival and solicit the rich. I am frustrated beyond words about what is happening, but I can send only my positive thoughts and—yes—love.

-Lodie Fuller, Eugene, OR

Inspired? Angry? Impressed? Please write:
Native Forest Council, PO Box 2190, Eugene, OR 97402



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The Native Forest Council is a nonprofit, tax deductible organization founded by a group of business and professional people alarmed by the willful destruction of our national forests. We believe a sound economy and a sound environment need not be incompatible and that current public land management practices are devastating to both.

The mission of the Native Forest Council is to protect and preserve every acre of publicly owned land in the United States.

Maps on the back of this *Forest Voice* depict the remaining native forests in the U.S. A native forest is self-regenerating and has never been cut or planted by humans.

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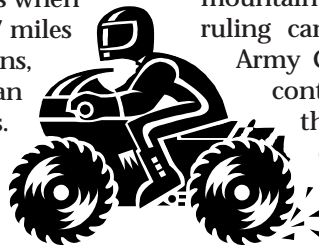
ANWR: Just a Red Herring?



The Senate rejected legislation that would open 2,000 acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling this April. But Alaska is not out of the red yet. The Interior Department is preparing to allow oil leasing on Alaska's North Slope, an even larger tract of virgin coastal land. Unlike ANWR, the 37,000 square miles within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPRA) would not require further congressional approval. With the focus on ANWR, NPRA has received little attention. The Bush administration is also encouraging drilling at more than 50 new sites in the lower 48 states, including the Rocky Mountains, and has ordered a task force to examine how to "streamline" the drilling permit and leasing process.

Employee Sues Forest Service to Block OHVs

In April, a U.S. Forest Service employee sued the agency and two superiors, claiming that the Forest Service should keep off-highway vehicles (OHVs) out of portions of Angeles National Forest. Robert Libershal, 23, was suspended for three days when he refused to replace signs permitting OHVs on 17 miles of back road in the forest. Before removing the signs, he spoke with co-workers, studied the forest plan and decided that the road was not open to OHVs. His supervisors claimed that he was misinterpreting Forest Service rules, and that the road in question was an interim route open to all kinds of vehicles.



Forest Council Attends NSTA Conference

For the third year in a row, we attended the National Science Teachers' Association (NSTA) National Conference as one of a handful of participants that wasn't sponsored by industry front groups. Groups like Project Learning Tree, Monsanto, Weyerhaeuser and Minerals Management Service were there in full force, handing out free "educational" material, videos and posters for science teachers from around the country to give to their students. We provided them with objective environmental resources, raised awareness about corporate-biased materials and recruited teachers to join our Honest Education Campaign. This year 13,000 teachers attended.

Private Interests Tighten Grip On Public Lands

This May, the House passed the *National Wildlife Refuge System Maintenance and Repair Act*, which includes a seemingly benign provision allowing concessionaires to maintain structures in exchange for using wildlife refuges. The law will give stores, campgrounds and rental businesses free rent on public lands and, in effect, private ownership of facilities in public lands.

Senate Energy Bill Falls Short

The Senate passed the energy bill this April, which was originally promoted as a vehicle for a variety of "green" causes. But amendments have stripped the legislation of much of its "green." Instead of reducing the nation's oil dependence and pollution by improving fuel economy of America's cars and trucks, it weakens fuel standards in the coming decade. Although the Senate's bill sets the first ever federal renewable energy standards and diversifies our electricity supply, it requires electric utilities to obtain only ten percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2019. Further compromises are likely in the upcoming conference to reconcile the Senate and conservative House bills.



Judge Blows Whistle on Illegal Dumping

In May, Charles Haden II, a chief U.S. District Judge in West Virginia, ordered the U.S. government to stop allowing coal companies to dump excavated dirt and rock from their mountaintop mining operations into streams and valleys. The ruling came just after the Bush administration rewrote the Army Corps of Engineers' clean water regulations to allow continuation of the long-standing practice. The judge ruled that the attempt was illegal, as was the Army Corps' routine dumping. The ruling prohibits the Army Corps from issuing new permits for the dumping, and could greatly reduce mountaintop removal mining.

Council Attends Mexico Reforestation Coalition

Forest Council President Tim Hermach was invited to attend the first meeting of an international coalition of religious leaders this May, joining forces to restore parts of northern Mexico devastated by logging (primarily by American timber companies). Native Forest Council will serve an advisory role as the fledgling organization's "environmental conscience."

Honest Education: Getting Kids in the Woods

Forest Council member and public school science teacher John Borowski led the first of his annual educational old growth hikes for high school students this May. Borowski takes the students into Oregon's Opal Creek (see story, p. 6, for more about *Opal Creek Wilderness*) to learn about the dense tree canopies, lush undergrowth and rich soils of the few remaining native old-growth forests in the Northwest. More than just fun, his hikes teach students about the interdependence of different species, watersheds and self-regenerating forests. The hikes are part of Native Forest Council's Honest Education Campaign. President Tim Hermach also came to speak with the high schoolers about public lands.

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Only strong, comprehensive, federal legislation, like New York's Forever Wild clause, will forever save America's mountains, forests, rivers and streams.

Greatness of the Whole

by Wendy Martin

As the old saying goes, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Yellowstone was America's first national park. But the park is the heart of a much larger ecosystem composed of seven national forests, all of which are threatened by industrial extraction.



A moose wades in a stream that starts in the Grand Tetons, an important part of the 18 million acres of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

In Yellowstone National Park you can find endangered grizzly bears, our nation's last wild bison herd, 50,000 elk and clear streams teeming with blue ribbon trout. But just beyond the park's boundaries, it's a different story: clearcuts, oil rigs, mining claims and cattle grazing in the seven national forests surrounding the famous park.

The Greater Yellowstone ecosystem is the largest remaining area of relatively undisturbed plant and animal habitat in the continental United States. Of the world's 10 major geyser fields, Yellowstone is one of the last that has not been damaged or destroyed by drilling. Eighty-one percent of Greater Yellowstone's 18 million acres is publicly owned, and 62 percent of that is national forest. Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks make up only 14 percent of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

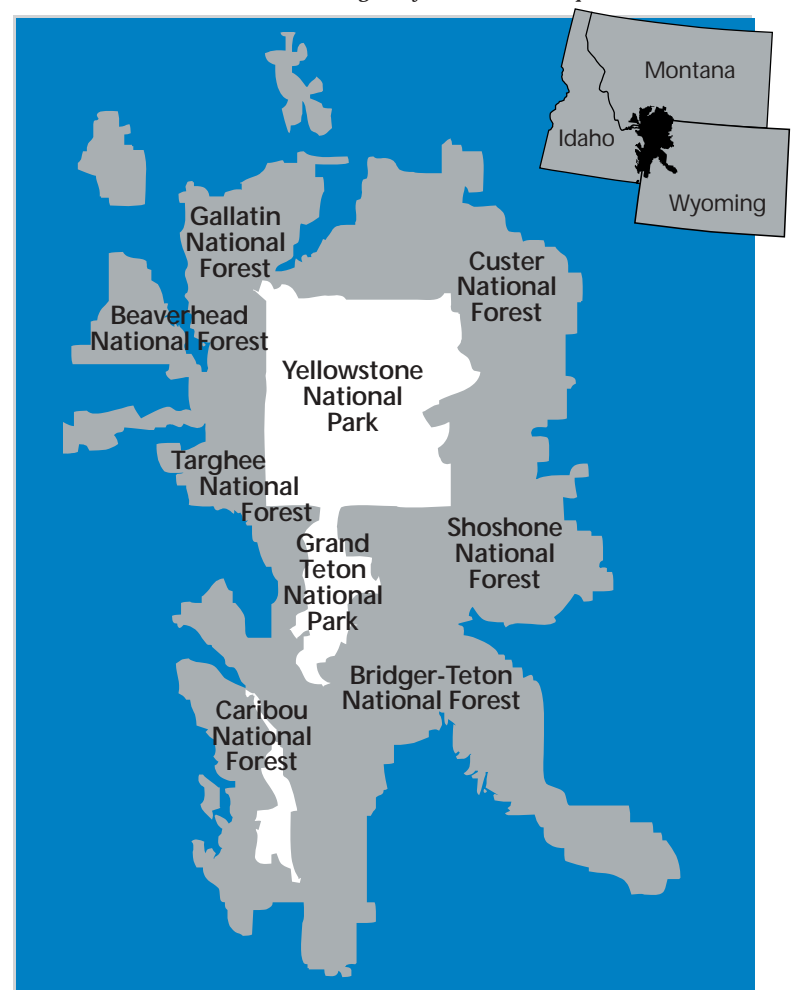
Yellowstone, America's first national park, was established in 1872 for preservation and "for the enjoyment of the people." Covering a volcanic basin, Yellowstone has more geysers and hot springs than anywhere else in the world. It is one of the last remaining strongholds of the endangered grizzly and the only place in the world where a wild bison herd has survived continuously since prehistoric times. The ecosystem has the largest concentration of elk found anywhere in the world, more than 300 species of birds, gray wolves, woodland caribou and anadromous salmon and trout. And the list goes on.

As a popular national park, Yellowstone enjoys the relative safety that status provides. But the seven surrounding national forests are less popular, and less protected, even though they are crucial to the ecosystem that makes Yellowstone such a special place. The surrounding forests include critical grizzly bear habitat, big game wintering range and blue ribbon trout spawning grounds. Extraction, grazing, development and urban sprawl threaten elk, deer and antelope migration patterns (largely unchanged since the last Ice Age) that are crucial to their survival. Extraction and grazing threaten the purity of three of the West's great rivers—the Colorado, Snake and Missouri—that originate in Greater Yellowstone. Undamaged watersheds also provide Yellowstone and the surrounding communities with protection from flooding along with clean water. Today, Greater Yellowstone faces a formidable threat: The Bush-Cheney energy plan. Created behind closed doors last year with Enron and other energy giants, it would pave the way for oil and gas companies to despoil an alarming number of our last wild places, including the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem, despite the fact that more than 90 percent of public land managed by the BLM in the Rocky Mountain states is already open to leasing and drilling. The Bush administration issued a record number of energy permits last year, opening millions of acres of public land to oil and gas drilling.

Yellowstone National Park and its inhabitants can survive only in conjunction with the seven national forests that surround them. Yet mining, logging, grazing and drilling, encouraged by the Bush administration, continue to despoil the surrounding forests on which the park depends for its wildlife's survival, water and greater ecosystem health. Unless we want to lose this national treasure, the time is long past to stop all extraction from the public lands surrounding Yellowstone National Park. ■

Greater Yellowstone

In addition to the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem includes seven national forests in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana that are ecologically crucial for the park.



Yellowstone National Park and its inhabitants can survive only in conjunction with the seven national forests that surround it.

Sum of the Parts

The boundaries of Yellowstone National Park have been a source of conflict since the park was established by executive order in 1872. The original borders, made along rigid lines of latitude and longitude, enclosed key geologic features but showed little understanding of the overall ecosystem. Over decades, the edges have been redrawn to reflect the area's watersheds, topography and wildlife migrations, but the condition of many of the park's attractions remain linked to surrounding national forests.

The phrase "Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem" is credited to Yellowstone bear researcher Frank Craighead's 1979 book, *Track the Grizzly*. Its use marked the first time that the three states, two national parks, seven national forests, various private lands and human communities were considered a working whole rather than separate, self-sustaining entities.

Bridger-Teton National Forest



Bridger-Teton National Forest is the second largest national forest outside of Alaska, encompassing 3.4 million acres of western Wyoming. From its mountain ranges spring the headwaters of the Green, Snake and Yellowstone Rivers.

Bridger-Teton has one of the most diverse populations of wildlife in the national forest system, with more than 1,000 species of rare plants and many big game species such as elk, deer and bighorn sheep. The Bridger-Teton also has 355 documented species of birds.

Unfortunately, this keystone of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem is at high risk for oil and gas development. More than half of the forest is already open to oil and gas leasing. Currently, 160 wells have already been drilled in the forest. Only three or four of these wells yielded commercially viable amounts—and those were not developed because it was too costly to extract.

Since 1997, the oil and gas industry has been fighting to gain access to a 370,000 acre area of Bridger-Teton that lies just south of Yellowstone National Park. Drilling here would be accompanied by a maze of roads, pipelines and wellpads that would impact this sensitive land and its abundant wildlife. In December 2000, after three years of research and an overwhelming 95 percent of public response in favor of keeping the area closed for leasing, the Forest Service recommended putting the area off limits to oil and gas development.

Under the Bush administration, however, the Forest Service is reconsidering its recommendation. Pending energy legislation would replace the local decision-making process with verdicts made by D.C. industry representatives—who would almost certainly open the area to drilling. The legislation would also allow industry to petition the Department of the Interior to reconsider past leasing decisions, which, under this administration, would also result in more oil and gas development.

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest



Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest is broken into nine separate areas that comprise approximately three million acres of southwestern Montana. The forest earned its name when Lewis and Clark met Sacajawea and the Shoshone near a huge rock, which the explorers' journals called "Beaver's Head." The name "Deerlodge" comes from a geothermal formation that resembled a medicine lodge and attracted many deer. In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt set aside the two forests, which the Forest Service combined in 1996.

Streams that feed the Missouri River run from stunning 11,000 foot peaks of the Rockies, cutting deep valleys into the lush landscape. Semi-arid grasslands build up to coniferous forests of lodgepole pine and Douglas fir and culminate in the peaks of the Bitterroot and Centennial ranges. More than 180 animal species thrive in this rich environment. Its national forest title, however, provides this "multi-use" area—and its many threatened and endangered species—little protection from logging, mining, grazing and an extensive system of roads and trails that further subdivide the already fragmented forest.

Custer National Forest

The timbered buttes and grasslands of Custer National Forest are scattered across three states: Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The Beartooth Mountains—massive blocks of Precambrian crystalline rock—provide habitat for mountain goats, moose, bighorn sheep, elk, white-tail deer, mule deer, mountain grouse, black bear, cougar, bobcats, an occasional grizzly and many other species. The forest houses one of the largest populations of Merlins (a small falcon) known in North America, as well as the largest known population of greater prairie chickens in North Dakota.

Like the other national forests surrounding Yellowstone, Custer is ravaged by livestock. Coal mining, oil and gas drilling have also occurred in the forest but no producing wells have yet been found. Another potential danger: The Stillwater Complex, a 26 mile block of rock in the Beartooth Mountains, contains the largest known platinum and chrome deposits and the second largest nickel deposits in the U.S. And according to the U.S. Geological Survey, at least "thousands of metric tons" of many metals "remain to be discovered."



Caribou National Forest

In Caribou National Forest something's missing: caribou. Southern Idaho has riparian, aspen and conifer forests that house 120 bird species along with waterfowl, moose, raptors and cutthroat trout, but there's not a caribou in sight, and probably never was. According to local lore, an infamous tale-spinning gold miner, Jesse Fairchild, gave the forest its name. Known as "Caribou Jack," the old prospector divided his time between searching for gold and concocting incredible whoppers about the Canadian caribou country.

Caribou National Forest now covers more than one million acres in southeast Idaho, with small portions in Utah and Wyoming. It was created in 1907 to help preserve wilderness land in an area marked by mining activity and westward migration.

Shoshone National Forest

Established in 1891, Shoshone is our oldest national forest. Its nearly 2.5 million acres make up some of the most raw and rugged country in the Lower 48, and represent the ideal of the expansive all-American West. Its huge swaths of roadless, untrammelled wildlife habitat make it one of our national treasures. Nearly 1.4 million acres, more than half the forest, is designated wilderness. From the high granite plateaus of the Beartooth Mountains, to alpine tundra, to volcanic mountains, Shoshone encompasses it all in high, jagged peaks, flat-topped mountains, plateaus and deep, narrow valleys and canyons. Hundreds of lakes and streams cross the excellent wildlife habitat.



Targhee National Forest

Targhee National Forest is a place of contrasts. The forest lies along the Continental Divide, at the uppermost reaches of the Columbia River Basin. Almost two million acres of semi-desert, sagebrush-dotted, arid rolling foothills coexist with timbered highlands and glaciated peaks that reach over 10,000 feet. One hundred ninety stream headwaters create an abundance of lakes, waterfalls and rivers that provide prime habitat for hundreds of species. Established in 1908 by Theodore Roosevelt, the forest is named in honor of a Bannok leader who was an advocate of peace and Indian self-reliance through maintenance of traditional hunting and gathering rights, which the Shoshone-Bannok tribe has maintained in the Targhee National Forest through the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868.



Gallatin National Forest

The two million acre Gallatin National Forest is rich in wildlife, scenic alpine vistas and rugged wildlands. The Yellowstone, Gallatin and Madison rivers, renowned for their blue ribbon trout, flow through the heart of the forest. Yellowstone's fault lines also run right through the forest's Rocky Mountains.

Gallatin's densely wooded valleys, rugged peaks that reach altitudes of nearly 10,000 feet, stratified volcanic and metamorphic rock and alpine meadows provide prime habitat for more than 300 wildlife species, including several threatened and endangered species such as the grizzly bear, the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon.

The Gallatin Petrified Forest is another fascinating feature of this national forest. Many of its stone "trees," between 35 and 55 million years old, were petrified in an upright position.

While approximately 75 percent of this national forest is roadless, Gallatin contains more than 135 miles of snowmobile trails. The Gallatin National Forest is currently preparing to revisit its forest plan, which contains proposals allowing the motorized use of hiking trails, a great threat to the forest's fish and wildlife populations. ■



1979 marked the first time the three states, two national parks, seven national forests, various private lands and human communities were combined in the phrase "Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem" as a working whole rather than separate, self-sustaining entities.

The Public Lands Series

With so many threats to our natural treasures and so many problems to solve, we feel it's equally important to celebrate and enjoy the splendor of our public lands. In every issue of the *Forest Voice*, we highlight a special part of public lands in the U.S. These aren't the only areas we believe should be protected. Native Forest Council is fighting for total preservation of all 650 million acres of national forests, BLM lands, national parks and wildlife refuges.

Past Features:

Spring 2002
Yosemite National Park

Winter 2001-2
Hart Mt. Wildlife Refuge

Fall 2001
Lewis & Clark National Forest

Summer 2001
Jack Morrow Hills (BLM)

Spring 2001
Everglades National Park

To obtain past issues, please contact our main office:
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Spokesman for the Land

by Wendy Martin

“I had to be a part of the protection movement because it’s part of my responsibility as a man,” says Hecocta. “As a person who lives on this land, I have to give something back to it.”

My bare stomach is burning. My bare back is freezing. Gazing into the fire pit, I watch the enormous pile of rocks glow, a brilliant orange red. A crescent moon smiles overhead. Opal Creek chatters behind me. All around me, the old-growth trees of the Opal Creek Wilderness stand tall.

Relics from the Santiam Indians have been found in the area, dating back 2,000 years. They camped at Jawbone Flats, held vision quests at nearby Whetstone Mountain and used the trails as regular trade routes. Ironically, this private forest is much more intact than the surrounding national forests.

Firelight flickers on the faces in the circle as we stand waiting in anticipation. Calvin Hecocta stands in front of the sweat lodge in his red and blue shorts, his back to the fire. He thumps his hand-held drum, as if to test it. Finally he walks to the mouth of the lodge, faces each of the four directions with hands in the air and enters, clockwise, to sit on the fir boughs closest to the door. After each facing the four directions, all 16 of us follow him in, one by one.

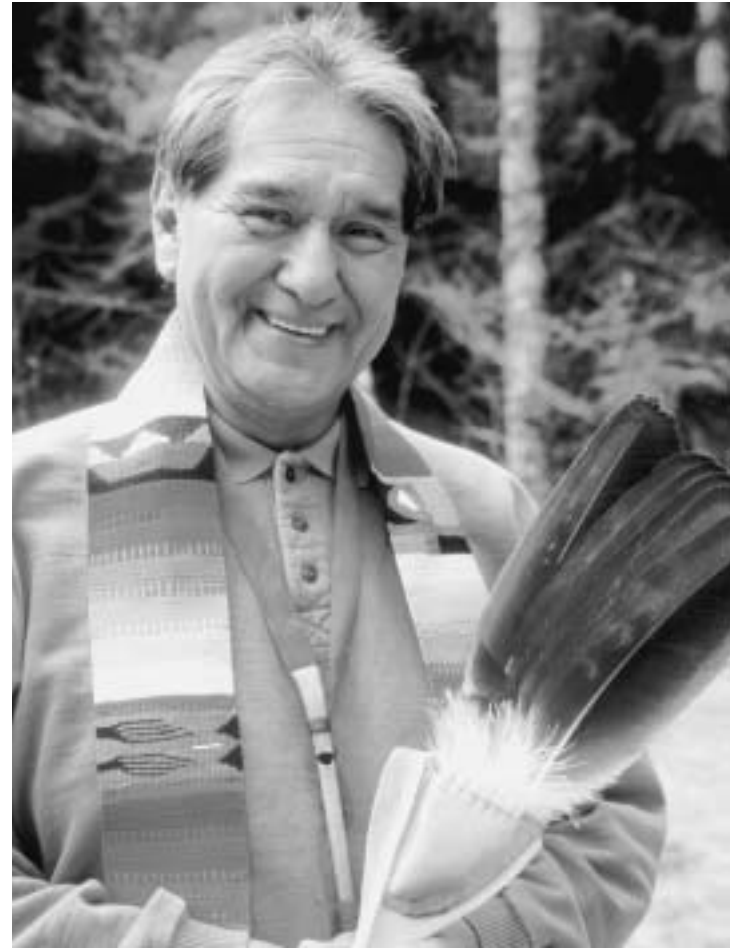
Since 1990, Hecocta (hay-cock-ta) has been coming to Opal Creek to lead annual land blessing and sweat lodge ceremonies. He invites people from surrounding communities to participate and to experience the beautiful virgin forest. “I like to try to develop spokesmen for the land,” he says. As a member of the Native Forest Council’s Board of Directors for twelve years, Hecocta is dedicated to saving our lands and spreading respect for the Earth. “Native Forest Council is the only group that consistently sticks with the philosophy I believe is right: no destruction of our lands,” he says.

I brought a list of questions, but Hecocta takes them from me before I can ask them. What does he think about U.S. politics? “Is there a word in English that combines ignorance and arrogance?” he says. Between musings, he picks up his guitar and strums. “I have to let you know right now that I have denounced my belief in the American philosophy of Manifest Destiny,” he says. “Me, the animals, birds, trees, all of us seceded from this country. You look at the last cover of *Forest Voice* and you see my President’s picture there. You see what his people are trying to do. I’m trying to pull the environmentalists together so that we can make a stand. As the people of this land we have to offer plans for the well-being of the society.”

Hecocta grew up in Beatty, Oregon, raised by his parents and his elders in the Numa tribe. “School began in the forest,” he says. “The forests and the rivers are the greatest classroom in the world. I was lucky enough to be raised right. To value the land and its people—all of them, not only humans.”

The patchwork clearcuts he could see from Oregon’s highways in the late sixties first moved Hecocta to begin fighting for the forests. He began speaking at logging and environmental conferences about ethics and responsibility to the land.

“His teachings force us to understand that we’re a part of everything,” says Dan Warner, a friend and participant who’s known Hecocta for more than a decade. Hecocta has taught Native American religion, philosophy and environmental ethics at Willamette University and Portland Community College. Some might call his methods unconventional: healing circles, trips to Opal Creek, sweat lodge ceremonies. “To teach about a country you have to get up and go there, roll around in the dirt, become a part of it,” he says. “Unfortunately, too many schools



Calvin Hecocta after leading his annual land blessing ceremony at Oregon’s Opal Creek in April 2002. Photo by Wendy Martin.

are not able, or willing, to teach that way.” Hecocta started Touch the Earth Environmental School in 1997. His classroom is the land, where he takes students from age two to 90 hiking and camping and teaches them a philosophy of caring for the land. “It is a means for children to learn other ways, songs and ceremonies,” he says. Hecocta also travels to local schools telling stories and singing about the land and his culture.

In addition to raising two children of his own, Hecocta lives in Portland, Oregon, helping disadvantaged Native American youth. “Learning about the natural world, natural healing and sharing of the world is something that we’re all responsible to do. I had to be a part of the protection movement because it’s part of my responsibility as a man,” says Hecocta. “As a person who lives on this land, I have to give something back to it.”

The heat is almost unbearable. It’s nearing the end of our fifth half-hour session in the sweat lodge, and my own breath scalds my legs. Between singing and prayer, Hecocta throws more water on the glowing rocks. I lie on my back on the prickly but minutely cooler fir boughs. I breathe deeply and laboriously. I came to Opal Creek to interview him, experience this place, return to my comfortable office and write his story on my computer. But I’m learning something about myself, too. A simple, but powerful message of connectedness. With every blast of steam, he burns the message in. With every song, the teacher teaches. ■

“A people without children would face a hopeless future. A country without trees is almost as hopeless.”

-Theodore Roosevelt



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-Full page Weyerhaeuser advertisement in *The Oregonian* newspaper



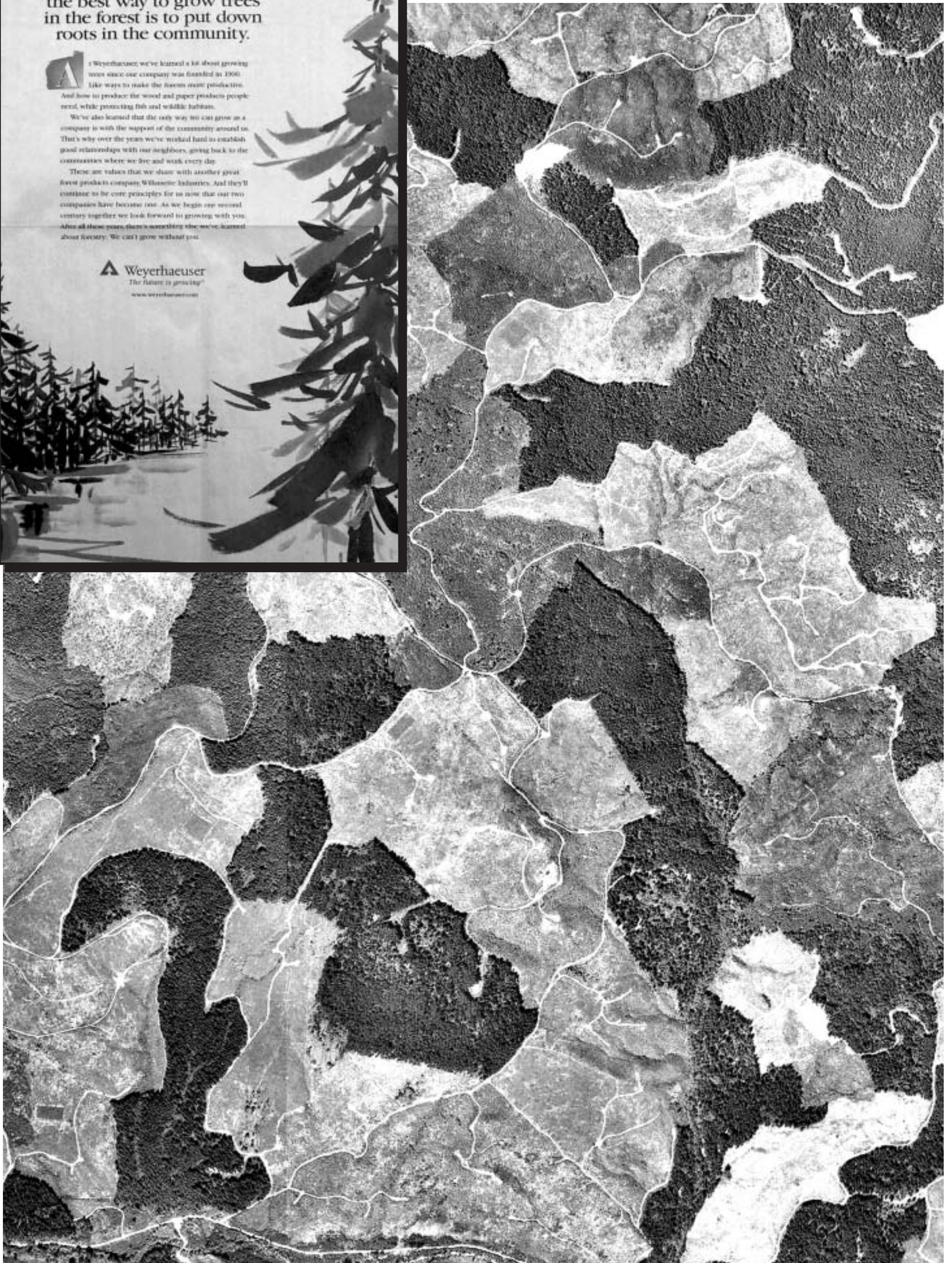
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These are values that we share with another great forest products company, Willamette Industries. And they'll continue to be core principles for us now that our two companies have become one. As we begin our second century together we look forward to growing with you. After all these years, there's something else we've learned about forestry: We can't grow without you.

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Satellite photograph of Weyerhaeuser clearcuts in Oregon

**Think Arthur Andersen did
a lot of shredding?**



Let's audit the Forest Service...



Maroon Bells and Maroon Lake in Colorado's White River National Forest.

Shredding your national forests

The government's looking into the Enron, Arthur Andersen debacle. But they should investigate another accounting boondoggle: the federal timber program. Forest Service bookkeeping is so bad the Government Accounting Office recently called it "totally unreliable." Below cost logging sales. Claiming trees are worth nothing other than money. Land swaps. It all adds up to clearcuts, dirty rivers and the end of what's left of our nation's natural treasures. It also adds up to more than \$1.3 billion every year. Who pays? We do. National forests belong to you. They take them. And you're forced to pay them for it.

Federal timber program: **bleeding red ink**

- Annual cost of federal timber program: more than \$1 billion every year
This figure includes only cash, not the loss of publicly-owned assets.
- Amount that revenue from non-destructive uses of forests exceeds logging: 30:1
- Workers required to produce one million board feet of timber in 1979: 5
- Workers required to produce same amount in 1990, thanks to automation: 3
- Value of a living tree, according to Forest Service accounting: \$0
- Value of a watershed, according to Forest Service accounting: \$0
- Decrease in logging on National Forests from 1988-96: 70%
- Increase in wood products jobs during the same time period: 1,000
- Amount of lumber and wood products provided by private lands: 96%
- Amount of wood exported as raw, unfinished logs from the U.S.: 50%
- Clean water provided each year by national forests: 173 trillion gallons
The consumption value of this water is an estimated \$3.7 billion per year. Water also provides other benefits.
- Amount of national forest jobs in recreation, hunting and fishing: 2.9 million each year
- Ratio of these jobs to those created by timber sales: 31:1
- Percent of U.S. landfills that is made up of wood and paper: 50%
- Value carbon sequestering national forests provide each year: \$3.4 billion
- Amount recreation on national forests contributes to the economy: \$111 billion
- Net amount Forest Service claims timber sales returned in 1997: \$354 million
- Percentage of costs that the Forest Service refuses to acknowledge to cities, businesses and domestic water users affected by national forest logging: 100%



Mt. Hood National Forest. Photo by Tim Hermach.



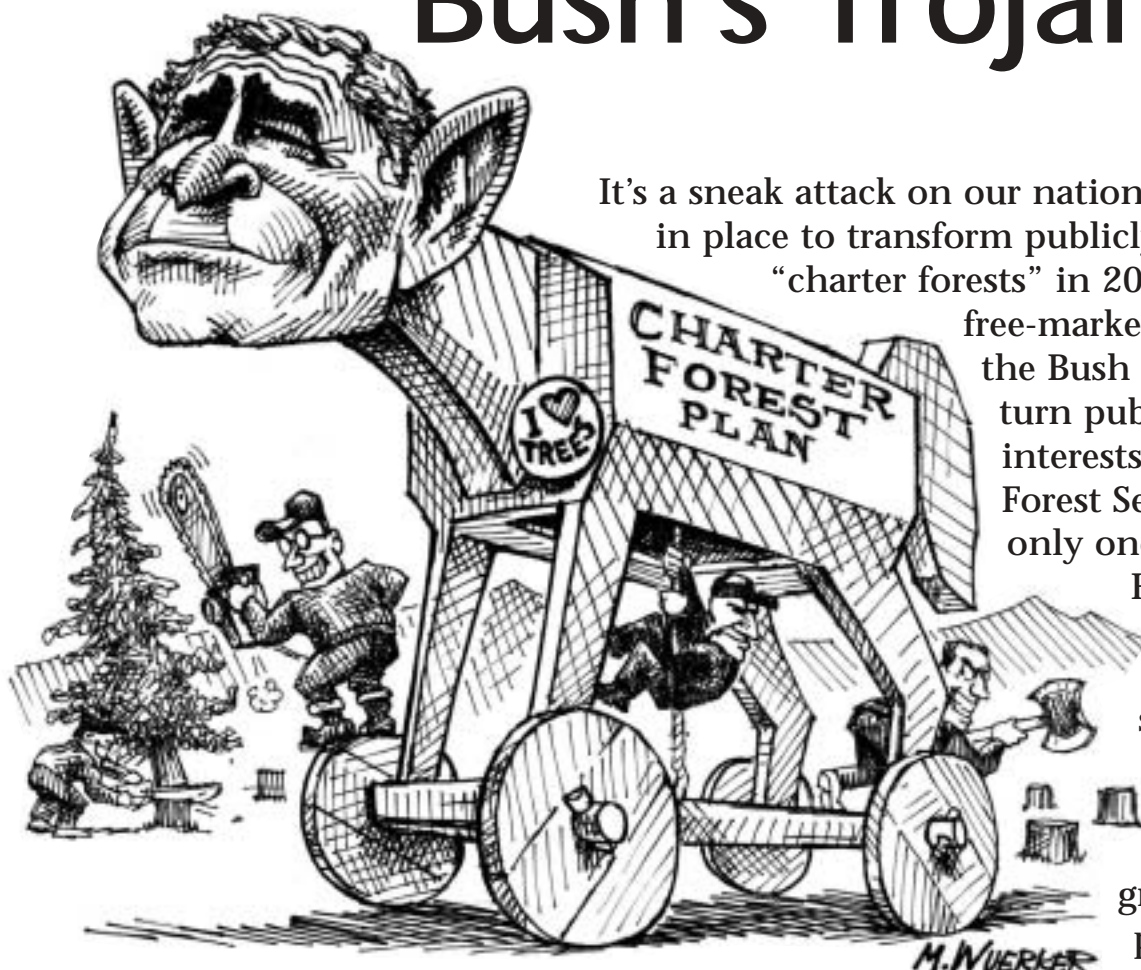
Minimally-processed logs bound for Tokyo, Japan.



Olympic National Forest. Photo by Michael Stewart.

Bush's Trojan Horse

by Bill Willers



It's a sneak attack on our national forests: Plans are in place to transform publicly owned forests into "charter forests" in 2003. Under the guise of free-market environmentalism, the Bush administration will turn public lands over to private interests. And clearcuts. The Forest Service says don't worry, it's only one or two forests for now.

However, as we've seen with the Northwest Forest Pass, rules that start as temporary trials often become permanent policy. Charter forest laws are perhaps the greatest threat facing our public lands today.

The Bush team is quietly advancing plans to turn over management of national forests to local industries.

The idea is nothing new, but thanks to Bush and proponents of "charter forests," the possibility that public lands won't remain public is greater than ever.

As media and citizens concentrate on the war against terrorism, the Bush team is quietly advancing plans to turn over management of national forests to local industries. The idea is nothing new, but thanks to Bush and proponents of "charter forests," the possibility that public lands won't remain public is greater than ever.

For more than a quarter century, industry has sought legal control over federal forests. Now, a cabal of libertarian economists has formulated a strategy that puts the people's forests into the hands of private powers—and out of the hands of the American people. Like the mythical Trojan Horse, the changes seem innocuous (even beneficial) on the outside. But beneath the surface lies a strategy for one of the greatest giveaways of public lands in our nation's history.

As federal agencies learned with their controversial "Fee Demo" program to charge citizens to use their public lands, the best way to introduce something people don't like is to start very small, tell everyone it's just a test, then gradually turn the "demonstration" into broad policy.

In its Department of Agriculture budget for 2003, the Bush administration seeks to transform one or more of our national forests into so-called "charter forests" by transferring authority from the U.S. Forest Service to locally controlled trusts.

Why? According to Mark Rey, Bush's Undersecretary of Agriculture (and former lobbyist for the logging industry), it would reduce costs. The goal of decentralization harks back to the "Sagebrush Rebellion" of the 1970s: An organized resistance by industry and local governments to wrest control of public lands from the federal government.

It was a classic "divide and conquer" strategy: Smaller governmental units would be easier for private interests to manipulate than the federal government, which was not only more powerful and representative of a wider range of interests, but also under closer scrutiny by the nation as a whole. A chief figure within the Sagebrush Rebellion, James Watt, became the Reagan Administration's Interior Secretary (he was later forced from office because of widespread opposition to his anti-environmental policies). Watt was also the mentor of Gale Norton, the present Interior Secretary.

The Sagebrush Rebellion failed to win its legal claim that the public domain belongs to the states. Federal lands remained federal. But the rebellion spawned the Wise Use Movement, which adopted the grassroots organizing approach of the very environmental movement it attacked, starting groups that wanted local control and were opposed to "big government" and "environmental extremists."

Wise Use, in turn, is giving way to free-market environmentalism. As the brainchild of libertarian think-tank economists, this new approach is presented with an air of academic respectability. But in every form that the initiative to privatize public lands has taken, decentralization of management and an increasing of local authority have been key.

The Forest Options Group, a self-described group of "industry, environmental, and Forest Service leaders" committed to the new free-market environmentalism, is little more than an

industry front group hiding under the guise of academia. Among the various new "governing structures" it suggests is a forest trust with "a trustee responsible for producing revenues for a beneficiary" and "a board of directors either appointed or elected by national forest permit holders."

"Permit holders?" We've seen this kind of local control by industry before. In 1934, the Taylor Grazing Act divided what are now our Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands into "grazing allotments" to be overseen by local "district advisory boards" consisting of the very livestock operators holding the permits.

As a result, native plant and animal life have been devastated and watersheds degraded. At the same time, U.S. citizens who actually own the land have subsidized the livestock industry, which pays rent at about one-ninth of current market rates. Over time, grazing allotments were associated with specific

livestock operators. As decades passed, permit holders came to think of the land as their own, even though the only thing they ever rented were grazing rights. Today the mere perception of ownership by a financially and politically powerful industrial interest has translated into a kind of on-the-ground ownership,

If a frog is put into a pan of boiling water, it will jump out. If the frog is put in a pan of cold water, which is then heated slowly to a boil, it will stay there. Situations that an informed population would not tolerate, if introduced suddenly and totally, are successfully advanced if done so in a stepwise fashion. And thus we get cooked.

so that now ranches are routinely sold with a selling point that the ranch has x number of acres of BLM land.

Bush's Charter Forest Plan applies the same strategy to forests instead of to rangeland. Same play, different actors. Dominant local industries would "own" the national forests for all practical purposes. As in the case of the grazing situation, time would intensify the perception of ownership and strengthen political and industrial alliances interested in perpetuating the existing arrangement.

A Greenwash Fog: Forest Options Group

According to its website, the "Forest Options Group" is composed of "people from a dozen states representing the timber industry, environmental groups, other user groups, policy experts and the Agency [Forest Service] itself." But the group is an industry-dominated collective, and the "environmentalists" involved are not who they claim to be. The country has a number of influential think tanks pressing for "free-market environmentalism," and industry is quick to include such organizations in its planning so as to justify a claim that it is involving "the environmental community." The Forest Options Group's website is a brief but valuable course in industrial strategy, as it is essentially a discussion of various management options that industry would like to see applied to the national forests, which it considers strictly in terms of profit-yielding industrial commodities. A principal stated goal of the group is greater management efficiency, an end to be realized by a "decentralizing" of the Forest Service. You can see its website at www.ti.org/2cfinal.html.

Privatization strategies such as the Charter Forest Plan have a powerful ally within the Bush administration in the form of free-marketer Terry Anderson, of the Bozeman, Montana based Political Economy Research Center (PERC). Anderson made a major impact with his 1999 publication of a Cato Institute Policy Analysis titled "How and Why to Privatize Federal Lands."

According to his proposal, public lands would be divided into transferable "share certificates" distributed equally among U.S. citizens. The mere prospect is frightening: nearly 650 million acres of public lands turned over to individuals and up for sale to the highest bidder. The poorest would quickly sell their shares, and the richest—including those "individuals" called corporations—would vacuum up "deed rights" with lightning speed. In short order, public lands would end up in the hands of the rich. Today, Anderson is the Bush Administration's advisor on public lands issues.

As the Charter Forest Plan has moved forward in the Forest Service, a different privatization scheme is being advanced within the Department of Interior. In November of 2001, Secretary Norton sent a memorandum to employees explaining her intention to compare efficiency of 3,500 federal employees to performance in the private sector. Like charter forests, it's a scheme that sounds good, but that has chilling implications.

If industry could be shown to offer a 10 percent cost advantage, then a position would be "outsourced" to the private sector. "This," she wrote, "is the start of a process to meet a larger goal of examining over the next five years at least half of commercial functions now being performed by Interior employees."

Public lands agencies have a long history of contracting to purely commercial enterprises, such as park concessions. But most of the services the federal government provides for public lands simply cannot be measured by the same yardstick as free enterprise. Managing natural resources, enforcing the law and regulating public lands use aren't going to show a profit on the books. These services are inherently governmental, but Norton has said she'll include them in her comparison with private enterprise, a radical shift in policy.

Imagine comparing the efficiency of your city's police department or fire station to a local business, and you'll get an idea of Norton's approach. Airport security has shown the results of privatizing what should be a governmental service. The natural drive of the private sector to maximize profit and reduce costs led to a system of monumental incompetence for the whole world to see on September 11. Privatizing maintenance, law enforcement, research and similar duties now carried out by federal management agencies would yield similar results (even if they maximize profits).

The Charter Forest Plan is currently being advanced with the suggestion that only a forest or two be slated for such designation. But we've seen the results of such suggestions in the past. The Recreation Fee Demonstration program, better known as "Fee Demo," requires citizens to pay merely to hike on national forest land—land we own and have supported with

our taxes for generations (in some cases, we've been forced to subsidize the destruction of these publicly owned resources).

Fee Demo began as a temporary demonstration. Then it was extended. Now, making it permanent is part of the Bush administration's budget. If a frog is put into a pan of boiling water, it will jump out. If the frog is put in a pan of cold water, which is then heated slowly to a boil, it will stay there. Situations that an informed population would not tolerate, if introduced suddenly and totally, are often successfully advanced if done so in stepwise fashion. And thus we get cooked.

In recent weeks, John Baden has been perhaps the most prominent advocate for the Charter Forest Plan. Baden is director of the Foundation for Research in Economics and the Environment (FREE), which, like PERC, is based in Bozeman, Montana. In widely distributed articles, he refers to federal management of public lands as "paternalistic," as if the federal government, so detested by free-marketers, had no relationship to U.S. citizens. He claims that "when Sagebrush Rebels advocated decentralization of federal land management in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the idea was repugnant to Greens....

These once radical ideas have become the norm among progressive, intellectually honest and successful environmentalists." Well—no, they haven't. Not only does FREE cloak itself in an "environmentalist" mantle; here it co-opts the "progressive" identity.

Baden uses the "commie card" to neutralize potential opposition. In a report by FREE, he writes that "a generation ago, many Greens had more than a tinge of pink. They were outraged that a bunch of libertarian economists had trespassed on their domain and claimed the intellectual, ethical and ecological high ground." In a recent *Seattle Times* column, he and co-author Pete Geddes, also of FREE, liken federal land management agencies to "bureaucracies reminiscent of Soviet-style enterprises [that are] ill-suited to commodity production. Whether producing trees, trucks or trousers, they rarely do well.... Forest trusts hold great promise."

They refer to Washington-based agencies as "Green platonic despots ruling from D.C." Calling for "a fiduciary responsibility to manage for the land's highest [cash] value," they report that "environmental quality is a luxury good [and the] West's attractive environment has tremendous and increasing economic value." For proof, they refer to a study indicating that for every one percent increase in income, the demand for environmental quality rises two point five percent.

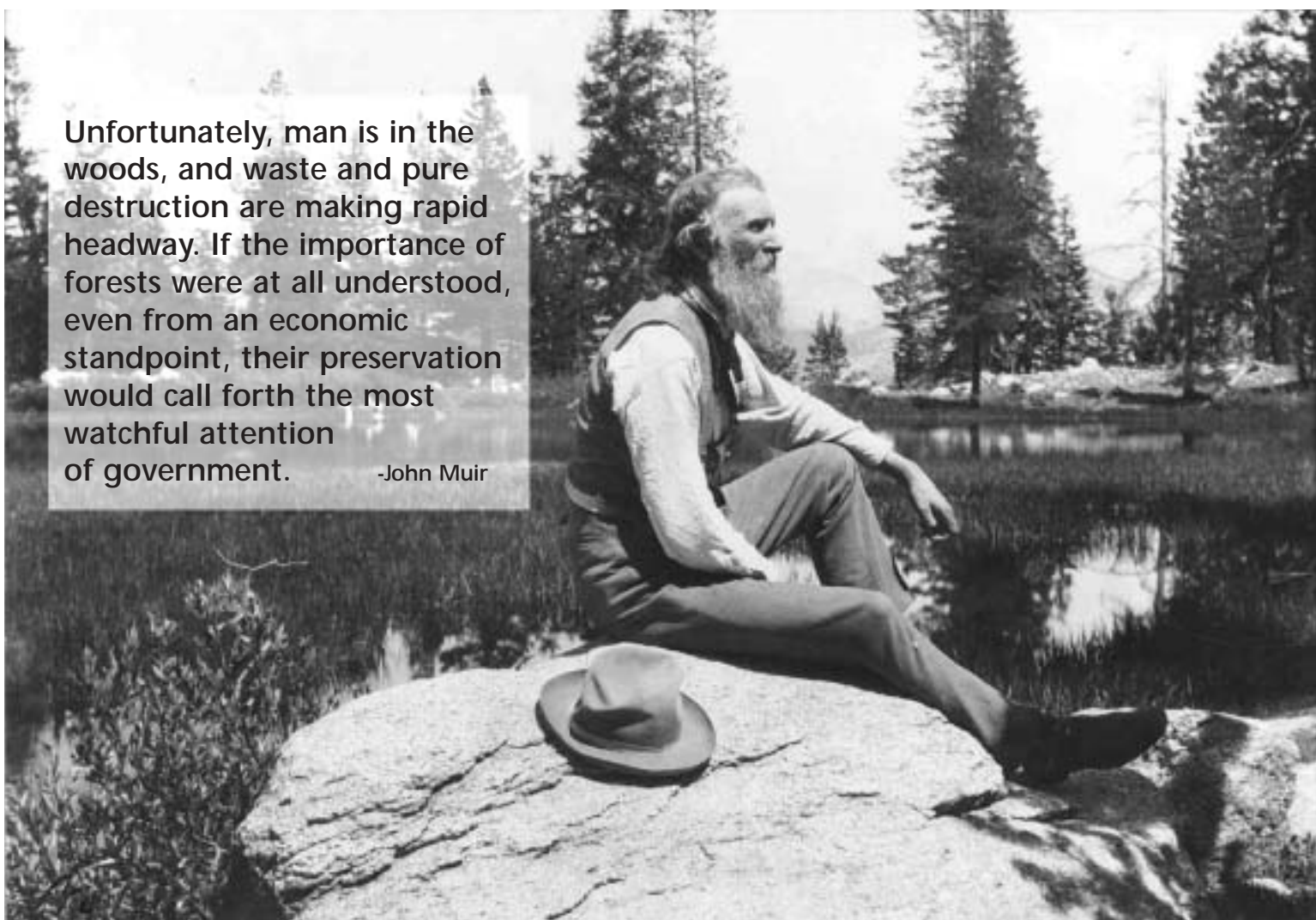
The Charter Forest Plan, which requires that land be managed for greatest cash yield, transforms nature into commodity. The people's forests would become mere production units. Producing what? Whatever yields the most cash: trees, scenery, minerals, game for hunters, jeep trails or family fun operations.

After generations of supporting these forests with federal taxes, citizens would quickly be transformed from "owners" to "customer/consumers," finding market-set price tags on every conceivable use. With its frank invitation for "the creative efforts of environmental entrepreneurs," the Charter Forest Plan sets the stage to transfer control of the people's forests from the larger representative government to private industry. ■

The Charter Forest plan sets the stage for a transfer of control of the people's forests from the larger representative government to private industry.

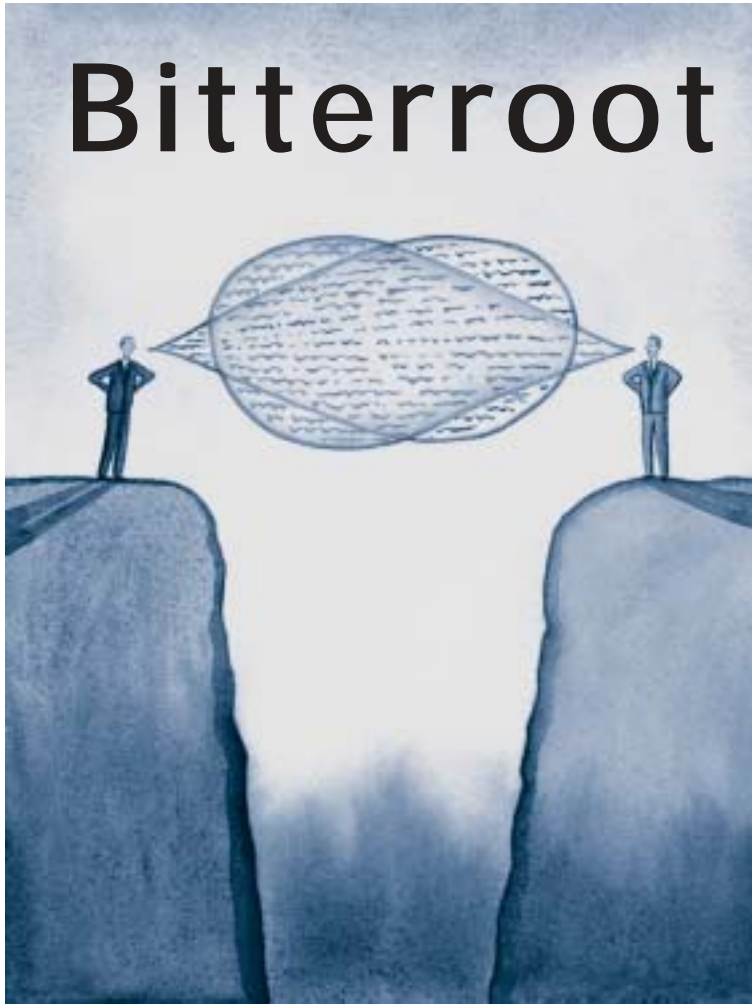
The Charter Forest Plan, which requires that land be managed for greatest cash yield, transforms nature into commodity.

Dr. Bill Willers is a Professor Emeritus of Biology at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and the founder of the Superior Wilderness Action Network. You can e-mail Bill at Willers@uwosh.edu.



Unfortunately, man is in the woods, and waste and pure destruction are making rapid headway. If the importance of forests were at all understood, even from an economic standpoint, their preservation would call forth the most watchful attention of government. —John Muir

Bitterroot Viewpoints



We do have sap on our hands. This has troubled us greatly. This was not an easy decision. It was not on a whim. It was a calculated trade-off, our best judgment under pressure.

The Bitterroot Deal: An Honest Discussion

by Len Broberg, Montana Chapter, Sierra Club; Larry Campbell, Friends of the Bitterroot; Mary Anne Peine, The Ecology Center

During the summer of 2000, stepping out of your front door in Missoula, Montana or the Bitterroot Valley felt like standing too close to a campfire. Your eyes would burn as you squinted through the thick haze, searching the white sky for any sign of relief. Exercise and physical labor were hazardous due to the smoke, and all public lands in the state were closed because of the tinder-dry conditions. There was nowhere to go, and nothing to do but wait inside for rain or snow. The fires burning in the Bitterroot Valley eventually scorched more than 300,000 acres. The Forest Service salvage logging proposal that followed two years later was the largest public lands timber sale in the country, and would ultimately cause almost as much turmoil in the region as the fires of 2000.

As soon as the fires began to subside, the Forest Service began putting together its proposal for salvage logging—a plan that the *New York Times* called “a national test case” for the management of burned forests. In response, local citizens concerned with the health of the land, impacts on wildlife and water quality and the protection of roadless areas began to organize. Quickly following the fire season, a coalition of groups based out of Missoula and the Bitterroot Valley began to plan a campaign to focus attention on true recovery and effective property protection. The end result of this effort was the Conservation and Local Economy (CLE) alternative, which proposed restoration through the removal of roads, stabilization of soils and thinning within 40 meters of structures, providing hundreds of jobs for local people. Parallel to this process, the Friends of the Bitterroot, Sierra Club and The Ecology Center proposed a Citizens Conservation Plan on July 24, 2000, for the protection of thousands of acres of uninventoried roadless areas across the entire forest, including some sites in the burned area. These roadless areas would later become a focus of the settlement.

In the summer of 2001, the Bitterroot National Forest proposed logging more than 180 million board feet of timber from more than 85,000 acres. The plan included the good (restoration), the bad (logging roadless land) and the ugly (misuse of science). We continued to press our restoration message to the media, the public and the Forest Service. We also built a coalition of groups (including Friends of the Bitterroot, The Ecology Center, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Native Forest Network, Center for Biological Diversity, Big Wild Advocates, and Sierra Club) to educate the public and persuade decision-makers that massive logging would damage, rather than recover, the forest. Fisheries, soils, fire ecology, wildlife and hydrology experts were consulted and brought on board. We inserted a pamphlet about fire in the West into newspapers across the region.

In large part, these efforts fell on deaf ears in the Forest Service, Montana government and the media within the region. The situation escalated into the fall and early winter of 2001.

In our last issue, journalists Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey St. Clair called this February’s settlement in the Bitterroot National Forest a “sell out,” explaining how environmentalists brokered one of the largest timber sales ever on public forest lands. Environmentalists who were there have their own point of view. Here are two different perspectives on the Bitterroot deal: The coalition who negotiated at the table and Matthew Koehler, Native Forest Network coordinator, who worked to stop the logging and educate the public but was not a part of the negotiations.

An activist from Friends of the Bitterroot was assaulted by angry loggers. The Governor of Montana called all environmentalists “obstructionists” in a public meeting in the Bitterroot Valley. The national media got our message, largely due to the efforts of Native Forest Network. However, the Montana public was not hearing our restoration message.

We prepared for appeals and litigation of the decision if the BNF failed to comply with the law and adequately protect the burned area. We retained the Western Environmental Law Center as legal counsel based on their outstanding record. The coalition began to explore our collective goals and positions. The following emerged as our goals: 1) protect all inventoried and uninventoried roadless areas, 2) protect native fish habitat, 3) provide local employment opportunities doing restoration, 4) gain true restoration and 5) minimize the damage on the ground by keeping logging levels low.

The coalition broadened when the USFS and Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey tried to short-cut public participation by skipping the appeals process. American Wildlands, The Wilderness Society and the Pacific Rivers Council, which had been actively opposing the sale, filed suit through Earthjustice to force the Forest Service to reinstate the appeals process.

In a preliminary injunction, Judge Malloy ruled that the Forest Service cannot bypass the administrative appeals process merely by having Undersecretary Rey sign the project decision. The government appealed Judge Malloy’s decision to the ninth Circuit. Very soon after, we were ordered into mediation by Judge Malloy with less than a week to prepare.

Judge Hogan, the mediator, has ordered the parties

Our coalition’s goals were to: 1) protect all inventoried and uninventoried roadless areas, 2) protect native fish habitat, 3) provide local employment opportunities doing restoration, 4) gain true restoration and 5) minimize the damage on the ground by keeping logging levels low.

not to divulge the details of the mediation process. Since Judge Hogan retains authority over implementation of the settlement, and since the potential exists for plaintiffs to approach him regarding violations of the settlement, we do not wish to risk discussing it any further.

We worked hard to get into the position to make this decision; we were given the opportunity, and we seized it. Inevitably, other interested citizens and groups were affected. It remains our conviction that we can only settle our own rights in these matters. We did not and do not presume to act for others. That is a matter for the courts.

We believe that we adhered substantially to four of the five goals stated above. What we traded to get some protection of uninventoried roadless areas and native fish habitats, as well as providing some local employment, was a much larger cut volume than we had first considered. Overall, the settlement reduced the timber volume by 69 percent and the area logged by 67 percent. It reduced the sale volume by about 121 million board feet and the area to be logged by about 30,000 acres. Although two-thirds of the project was held off, about one-third of the cutting was allowed to go ahead, and we waived our appeal and dismissed our lawsuits on those sales. The government also withdrew its appeal of the District Court’s decision that the government could not skip the appeals process. There was a risk that this favorable decision could have been overturned on appeal; the settlement eliminated that risk.

We stopped 88 percent of the cut in uninventoried roadless areas. Almost all the remaining logging in uninventoried roadless

areas will be within a half mile of the wildland urban interface, with constraints that prohibit logging the largest trees. We continue to believe that pulling the uninventoried roadless lands out of this sale is a victory with an administration that refuses to acknowledge the importance of inventoried roadless areas, let alone uninventoried areas. The majority of native fish strongholds were removed from the sale as well, with a 72 percent reduction of logging in bull trout habitat. Both these issues were governed by the opinions of experts in those fields familiar with the sale and the fish and roadless habitat at stake. There is no logging in inventoried roadless areas larger than 5,000 acres. There is no road construction in bull trout habitat or in any roadless areas.

We did fall short of achieving our restoration goal. We did not implement the CLE, which would have clearly reached this goal. We did gain some additional mitigation and restoration measures on some of the sales. We did allow planned restoration to go ahead.

It is true that we agreed to let about 55 million board feet of cutting occur on 15,000 acres of BNF land, greatly exceeding the Bitterroot's annual average cut of 10 million board feet a year, thus failing to meet our goal of limiting damage on the ground. We also did not permanently protect the two-thirds of the lands that were taken off the table—they can return again in the form of new timber sales as long as a completely new public participation process is completed. We do have sap on our hands. This has troubled us greatly, especially those who live in the Bitterroot and will see the damage every day around their homes. This was not an easy decision. It was not on a whim. It was a calculated trade-off; our best judgment under pressure. It was a collective decision that was not made, directed or disproportionately influenced by any one member of the plaintiff groups.

In short, we have mixed feelings about the results of this process. In this article, it was our intention to honestly present both the good and the bad that came from the settlement, from the perspective of local grassroots activists who sat at the table. We want others to learn from our experience. We invite discussion. History, the judgment of our peers and the fish and forests in the Bitterroot will tell us if we succeeded. These decisions are not to be made lightly, without thought and constructive reflection. We readily admit that our approach is not necessarily the template for action everywhere, every time. It is our hope that we did something good for the forests, fish and our neighbors in the Bitterroot. ■

The "Root" Cause

by Matthew Koehler, Native Forest Network

The campaign to stop the Bitterroot National Forest's massive logging proposal did not end when seven environmental groups and the Forest Service agreed to a "recovery" plan that included cutting enough trees to fill log trucks lined up for more than 100 miles.

Groups that were not party to the closed-door mediations—including the Native Forest Network, National Forest Protection Alliance and Wild Rockies Earth First!—have been busy monitoring the logging and preparing for future legal actions to stop the entire logging project.

Apparently, the plaintiff groups who signed the settlement felt more of the project would be stopped during the mediation process than from further court battles. Many of us adamantly disagree with that train of thought.

Obviously, it is critically important for the forest protection community to examine the lessons that can be learned from the

Bitterroot National Forest



The Bitterroot National Forest covers 1.6 million acres in west central Montana and east central Idaho, and is part of the Northern Rocky Mountains.



- 307,000 acres burned in the Bitterroot during the summer of 2000.
- From 1990-1999, the Forest sold 83 million board feet. This sale will at least double this amount in 3 to 5 years.
- This is the largest timber sale in U.S. history.
- The endangered bull trout and other species will be adversely affected by the "recovery" project.

Bitterroot settlement. The most important lesson is this: As long as some environment groups continue to support commercial logging on public lands we will never see our national forests protected and restored. It's that simple.

This fact became painfully apparent in November 2001 once The Wilderness Society, American Wildlands and their legal council, Earthjustice, got involved with the Bitterroot campaign.

The original coalition of groups working to stop the Bitterroot logging plan developed and advocated for the Conservation and Local Economy (CLE) Alternative—a model burned-area recovery plan that included no commercial logging, but still would have employed more than 800 local people restoring the Bitterroot.

The Wilderness Society, American Wildlands and Earthjustice did not support the CLE Alternative or our overall restoration vision for the forest. Rather, in an effort to distance themselves from groups opposed to logging on public lands, they repeatedly stated that they were not opposed to some salvage logging on the Bitterroot National Forest.

Obviously, these statements did not fall on deaf ears with either the Forest Service or the courts. It doesn't require the evil genius of a Mark Rey—a former timber industry lobbyist currently running Bush's Forest Service—to see a divide-and-conquer opportunity as clearly presented as this one.

It cannot be overstated: If situations like the Bitterroot are to be avoided in the future, we must band together to end all logging and all resource extraction on our public lands.

As in the Bitterroot, the "root" cause of the problem with the entire "management" paradigm on our national forests is the budgetary incentives the Forest Service has to log, mine, graze, drill, motorize and suppress fires.

More than 100 members of Congress currently support legislation that would end commercial logging on national forests and other federal land. Now is the time for environmental organizations that continue to support logging on public lands to take a long, hard look in the mirror and ask themselves why federal lawmakers are willing to protect and restore America's national forests, while they are not. ■

To read more perspectives about the Bitterroot deal, or to find a way to voice your opinion, visit www.forestcouncil.org.

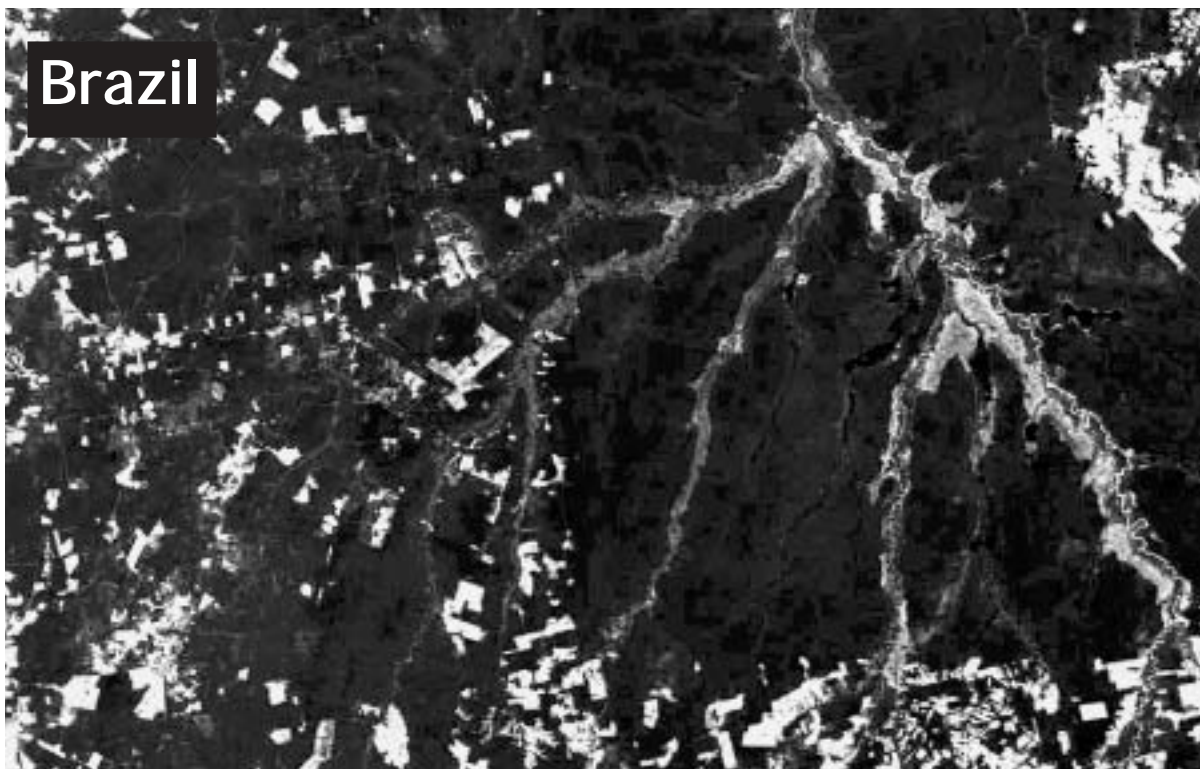
The campaign to stop the Bitterroot National Forest's massive logging proposal did not end when seven environmental groups and the Forest Service agreed to a "recovery" plan that included cutting enough trees to fill log trucks lined up for more than 100 miles.

The Bitterroot Saga

Summer 2000	Fires burn 307,000 acres of the Bitterroot National Forest.
February 2000	Forest Service releases a proposal to log more than 40,000 acres and remove 280 million board feet of dead and green trees.
December 2001	Forest Service decides to log 176 million board feet from 41,000 acres.
December 17, 2001	Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey approves the sale at the request of Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, eliminating the public appeals process.
December 18, 2001	Environmental groups file a lawsuit against the Forest Service for violating the Appeals Reform Act.
December 19, 2001	Federal Judge Donald Malloy issues a temporary restraining order to halt logging in response.
January 8, 2002	Judge rules that the Forest Service had violated its own laws and must provide an appeals process. The Forest Service appeals his decision.
February 2002	Judge Malloy orders a mediation session among all groups involved. He states that if the groups can not reach a decision he will make a ruling. Oregon Judge Michael Hogan facilitates negotiations.
February 8, 2002	After two days, the Forest Service and environmental groups agree on a plan: The Forest Service agree to log 14,000 acres and remove 60 million board feet. The public retains the right to appeal Forest Service decisions. The plaintiffs agree to not to contest the 14,000 acres of timber sales.



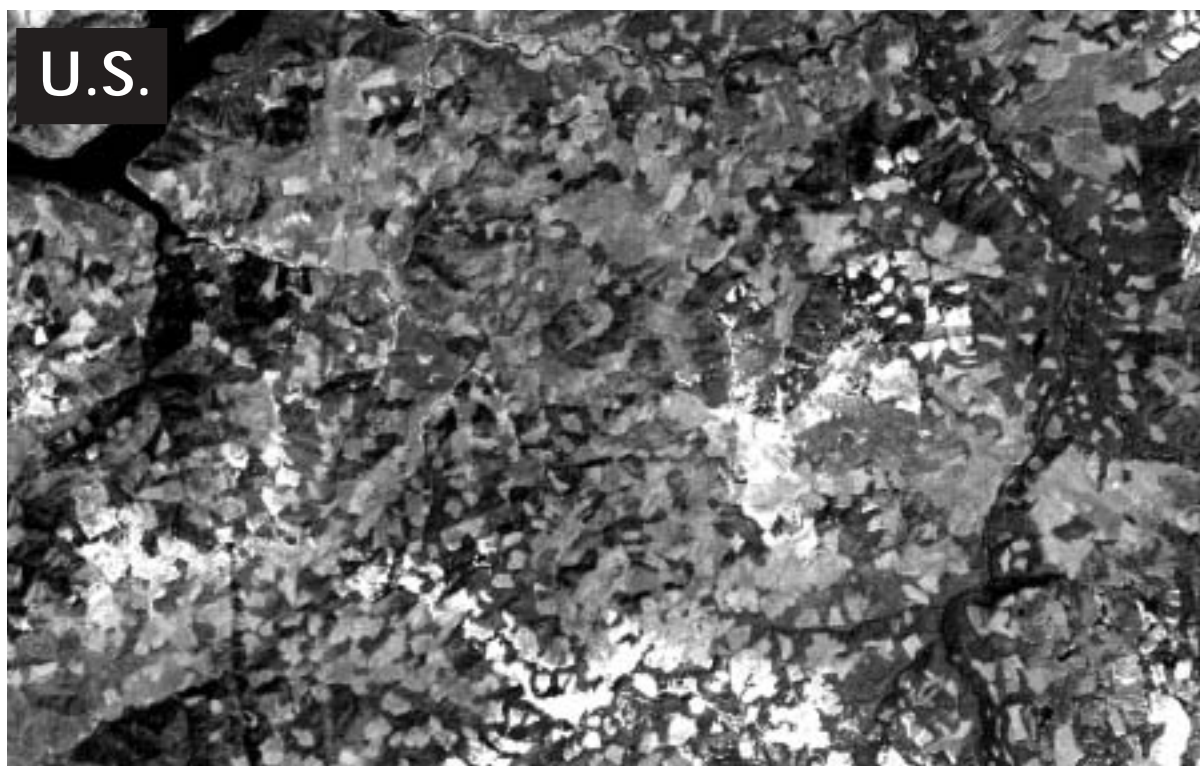
Green ponderosa pines cut in the Bitterroot. March 2002. Photo © Wild Rockies Earth First!



Brazil

Brazil's midwest Mato Grosso region, 2002. Dark areas are forest; light areas are clearcuts and roads.

Isn't it Time We Started Saving Our Own Rainforests?



U.S.

Oregon's west central Cascade Range, 2000. Dark areas are forest and waterways; light areas are clearcuts and roads. White areas are snow-covered peaks and often clearcuts.

The clear cut destruction of Brazil's rainforests has been the outrage of the American public since the media brought it to our attention. Yet the situation here at home is more urgent. While 85 percent of Brazil's rainforests remain intact, only five percent of U.S. native forests currently remain. And if we continue to surrender our public lands to industry, we can virtually ensure that a trip to Brazil will be our future generations' only chance to see native forest intact.

Little more than 100 years ago, our national forests were first opened to logging. Since that tragic decision, 40 million acres of national forest ecosystems have been clearcut. The worst part? We're paying them to do it. The destruction of our nation's forests, rivers and streams—a living life-support system that gives us clean air, soil and water—costs taxpayers billions annually.

The Forest Service admits that it loses \$1.2 billion managing the federal timber program every year, while Industry gets \$1.91 billion in subsidies. Our tax dollars are subsidizing the liquidation of our own public lands—at a net loss to the government, citizens and local economies. So who profits? Big corporations. It's time we stopped letting them liquidate America's most precious assets.

The solution lies in halting the export of unfinished timber and jobs overseas. It lies in passing mandatory recycling laws and developing markets for post-production wood-fiber products. It lies in stopping all commercial exploitation of national public land via legislation that will keep both trees and jobs at home.

Join Native Forest Council now.
Return the membership application on the back of this **Forest Voice** or check our website at www.forestcouncil.org.

Help us save America's last rainforests.
It's a lot cheaper than a trip to Brazil.

ZERO CUT.

ON PUBLIC LANDS

Solutions: Forever Wild

Public lands belong to U.S. citizens, not corporations. Forever Wild legislation will save what's left and restore what's been lost of our 650 million acres.

Most Americans believe that their publicly owned lands are protected. That our mountains, forests, rivers and streams have been preserved for the health and well-being of all generations. This is a tragic misperception.

Six hundred fifty million acres of national parks and forests, wilderness areas, BLM lands and wildlife refuges are under siege. Subsidized corporations are logging, mining, grazing and drilling our publicly owned lands to death. Worse yet, the government facilitates and even encourages this destruction of our last remaining intact ecosystems—vital sources of clean air, water, soil and genetic diversity. The ecological impact of this destruction is staggering. If accurate accounting is used, the economic impact is equally appalling. The American people are subsidizing the destruction of their own natural resources, and at a horrific net loss! It's time to reclaim our heritage, save what's left and restore what's been lost for our children, our grandchildren and ourselves. It's time for Forever Wild: total preservation of America's public lands.

The Forever Wild clause of the New York State Constitution has protected the Adirondacks and the Catskills for more than 100 years. Despite industry's attempts to dismantle it, Forever Wild—just two sentences in the Constitution—has preserved the state's pristine forest lands, leaving them in better condition than any of the forests in the West.

The New York Constitution says that state owned land shall be forever kept as wild and the timber shall not be sold or removed. Over a century later, not only is this amendment still in place, but it's been remarkably successful at warding off repeated attempts by the timber industry to open the Adirondacks to logging. At the national level, protection of our public land rests on simple legislation modeled after this state amendment.

Fighting for Our Public Lands

In 1988, a small band of Americans decided we simply could not stand by and let this destruction continue. We formed the Native Forest Council and adopted the policy of Zero Cut: no more compromises. While the public agreed with us, most environmentalists thought it was "radical" and "politically unrealistic," but we persisted, continuing to address the causes—rather than the symptoms—of forest destruction. Through education, inspiration, litigation and legislation, Zero Cut has become more widely accepted and respected, endorsed by members of Congress and mainstream organizations. Along the way, we've learned that mining, grazing and drilling pose problems as serious as logging. We've found the answer in Forever Wild: Total protection of America's national forests and parks, BLM lands and wildlife refuges. We are fighting for laws, court precedents and federal policies that ban logging, mining, grazing, drilling, motorized recreation and all other destructive activities on publicly owned lands. Once these precious few ecosystems are protected, we will work to restore what's been lost on our public lands.

We're facing an enemy armed with billions of dollars. But we are armed with the truth. We can win with a fraction of the funds industry spends on PR and advertising. A lean, efficient organization, Native Forest Council allocates 84 percent of our resources to fund critical programs. Your membership or gift will strengthen our fight for America's public lands.



Logging

Forty million acres of our most valuable trees have been clearcut since our national forests were first opened to logging approximately 100 years ago. Since that decision all but five percent of our nation's native forests have been cut.

Mining

By exploiting an 1872 law, corporations can take public lands for mining at a cost of \$5 per acre, make a profit and leave the toxic mess for the taxpayers to clean up. Acid mine drainage, cyanide and leached contaminants pose serious threats to both wildlife and humans. The cost is economic as well as ecological: More than \$231 billion in precious metals has been taken from public lands. And the cleanup costs are well over a trillion dollars—not bad for industry.

Grazing

Seven out of every ten acres of public land in the West have been subjected to the erosion, soil compaction and water pollution caused by grazing. It is a practice that has damaged an area equal to California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho combined. The government subsidizes the destruction through artificially low grazing permits, predator "control" and tax giveaways.

Oil and Gas Drilling

The Bush administration's attempts to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge drew attention to oil drilling on public lands. Sadly, it's nothing new. Right now, there are over 46,000 oil and gas leases in effect on 33 million acres of BLM land alone. And this number is growing.

Each of these four industries, as well as motorized recreation, demonstrates the same pattern of abuse. Politicians, whose campaigns are funded by industry, use tax dollars to subsidize the very industries that destroy publicly owned lands. Corporations benefit and the taxpayers lose their money, their heritage and a living life-support system that our forefathers wisely set aside in preservation for the benefit of future Americans. Forever Wild legislation will stop these activities on public land—forever. ■

"The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed."

Article XIV, Section I NY State Constitution, 1894

Forever Wild Legislation

- Will keep public lands public, protecting them from private ownership through leasing, land swaps or other transfers of ownership
- Will make the protection of nature the primary goal for "managing" our publicly owned lands
- Will prohibit destructive activities on our public lands, such as logging, grazing, mining and drilling in our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and BLM lands
- Will ensure that public lands are preserved for the benefit of all citizens, rather than destroyed at the taxpayer's expense for the profits of a few corporations
- Will make all 650 million acres of public lands remain Forever Wild

Adirondack State Park

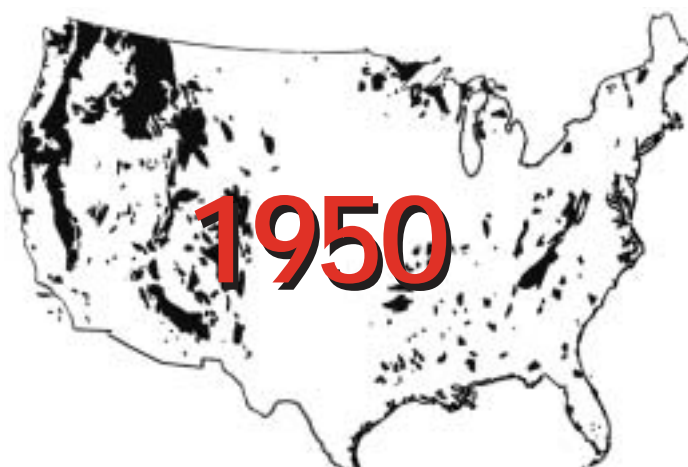
Protected by New York's Forever Wild Clause

- Is the largest park in the contiguous United States—almost the same size as Vermont and nearly three times as large as Yellowstone National Park
- Almost half is publicly owned forest preserve, protected by the Forever Wild clause
- Much of the forests are now more pristine than they were when the Forever Wild clause was written in 1895
- Is an example of what America's forests could be under national Forever Wild legislation



Adirondacks.
Painting by Frederick Ferdinand Schafer

Our Disappearing Native Forests



A native forest is a self-regenerating forest that has never been cut or planted by humans.

Myth: Public Lands Are Protected

National forests, grasslands and parks. Wildlife refuges. Wilderness areas. You want them to be there for future generations to enjoy as much as you do. As our nation grew over the past century, visionary leaders set aside nearly 650 million acres of America's precious natural assets, so that our most pristine mountains, forests, rivers and streams could be preserved. But today, politicians and corrupt corporations are liquidating these assets—at a net loss to the American citizens. Your public lands are under siege: clearcut forests, oil drilling, mining and needless overgrazing. It's all happening right now on public lands.

Myth: Industry Needs Public Lands

Destroying public lands for raw materials is like melting the Statue of Liberty for scrap iron. These assets are worth more living than dead. Less than four percent of the wood and paper we use comes from national forests. Public lands grazing produces just three percent of the nation's beef and uses 60 times as much acreage as private lands grazing. Drilling for oil on public lands would supply our nation's energy needs for only a few months. If preserved, America's public lands will continue providing clean air, water and soil—life itself. For our children and grandchildren. And all future generations.

Myth: Jobs vs. Environment

Public lands logging, mining, grazing and drilling are subsidized industries that operate at a net loss. The federal timber program costs taxpayers at least \$1.2 billion per year. Mining costs us \$3.5 billion per year. Grazing subsidies cost more than \$200 million per year. Through patents or land swaps, corporations can actually take our lands from us. But don't they create jobs? Very few. Recreation alone creates more jobs than all these extractive industries. So who benefits? Washington bureaucrats and their corporate masters. They destroy our resources. We pay for it.

Myth: There's Nothing You Can Do

People united under a clear goal can beat the odds. Thanks to conviction and refusing to compromise, Americans won the fight for civil rights and women's suffrage. We banned DDT and took on Big Tobacco. Today, Native Forest Council is fighting to make the "impossible" possible: protection for all public lands, without exception or compromise. We call it *Forever Wild*. The Council was the first to demand total protection for America's forests, and now, for all public lands. Join today, and you'll be joining thousands of others fighting for America's heritage: our public lands. Please take a moment to fill out the membership form below and send it in.

“Native Forest Council has done more to alert the nation's public, to nationalize and move the primeval, native forest issue forward, than any other organization I know of.”

-David Brower

Executive Director, Sierra Club (1952-64); Founder, Friends of the Earth;
 Founder, Earth Island Institute; Native Forest Council Advisory Board (1988 to his passing in 2000)

Join Now!

- \$35 Standard Member
- \$50 Supporter
- \$60 International Member
- \$100 Contributor
- \$500 Conservator
- \$ _____ Benefactor
- I'd like to make a monthly gift of \$ _____
- Bill my credit card
- Please deduct my monthly gift from my checking account. I'm sending a signed and voided check. I understand deductions may be stopped or adjusted at any time.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

My check is enclosed.
 Please bill my: VISA MasterCard Discover
 Card number: _____
 Exp. date: _____ Signature: _____

Planned Giving

Native Forest Council offers a variety of planned giving opportunities. Gifts of stock, real estate and other assets may offer tremendous tax savings for you and provide the Council with a greater net gift. If you are interested in planned giving or planning, contact Native Forest Council at 541.688.2600.

Mail to:

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 PO Box 2190
 Eugene, OR 97402
 info@forestcouncil.org
www.forestcouncil.org

I want to help get the word out. Please send a complimentary copy of the Forest Voice to:

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I want to give a gift membership of \$35 to:

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