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The Northern Forest Forum

Working for Sustainable Natural & Human Communities

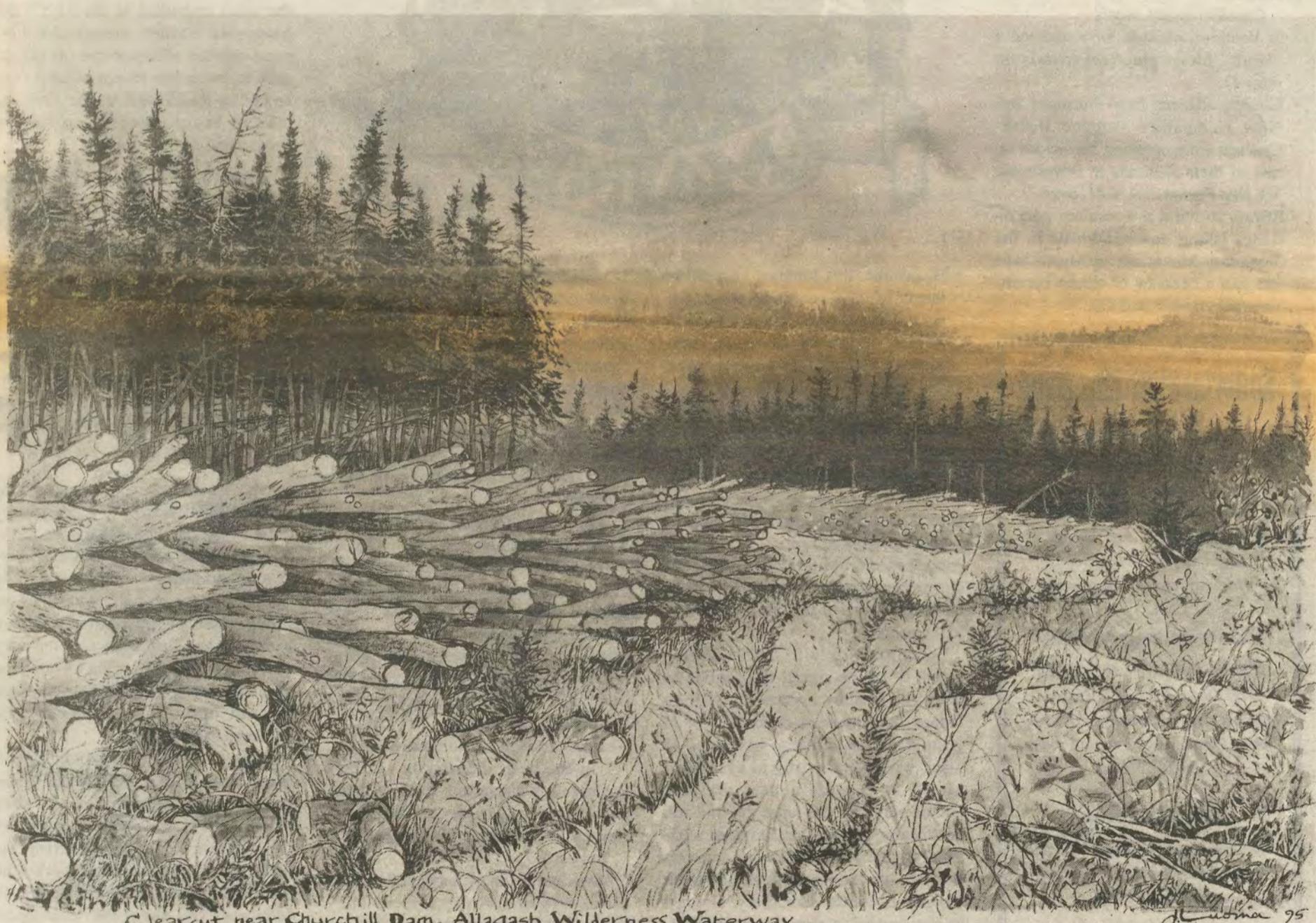
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Winter Solstice 1995

Volume 4 No. 2

Maine Citizens' Referendum to Ban Clearcutting Makes 1996 Ballot

*Petition Drive Nets Over 50,000 Signatures of Registered Voters
Fishermen, Hunters, Snowmobilers, Mill Workers Want Healthy Forests
(See Page 3 & Back Cover)*



Clearcut near Churchill Dam, Allagash Wilderness Waterway
— trees at back right are 500 ft. from the river.

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Healthy Forests for Maine's Future Referendum

To Restore Forest Health We Must Restore Political Health

1996 will be the year the Northern Forest region finally engages in honest, freewheeling dialogue and debate over forest policy.

Sure, defenders of the status quo will continue to spend millions of dollars trying to mislead the public.

Sure, many elected and appointed officials will continue to try to thwart efforts to restore democratic and ecological health to our natural and human communities.

But, the public is fed up with liquidation clearcuts, herbicide spraying, and the exclusion of concerned citizens from the policy-making process. The public rejects the lies, the distortions, the obstruction, and the threats from the defenders of an indefensible status quo. Citizens throughout the region are reclaiming the democratic process so that we can develop ecologically responsible forestry policy that will facilitate forest rehabilitation. (Note: we humans don't "restore" forest health; we can, however, remove the human-caused impediments to natural healing processes.)

Consider recent events.

- In Vermont, citizens have rejected a "Draft" forest plan (*see article on page 4*).
- Earlier, citizens from Vermont and New Hampshire stopped Boise-Cascade from spraying herbicides on one of their clearcuts in Brunswick, VT (*see Forum, vol. 4 #1, page 7*).
- Efforts to build a woodchip port on Sears Island and windmills in the Boundary Mountains of Maine have run into a buzzsaw of citizen opposition (*see pages 9 and 21*).

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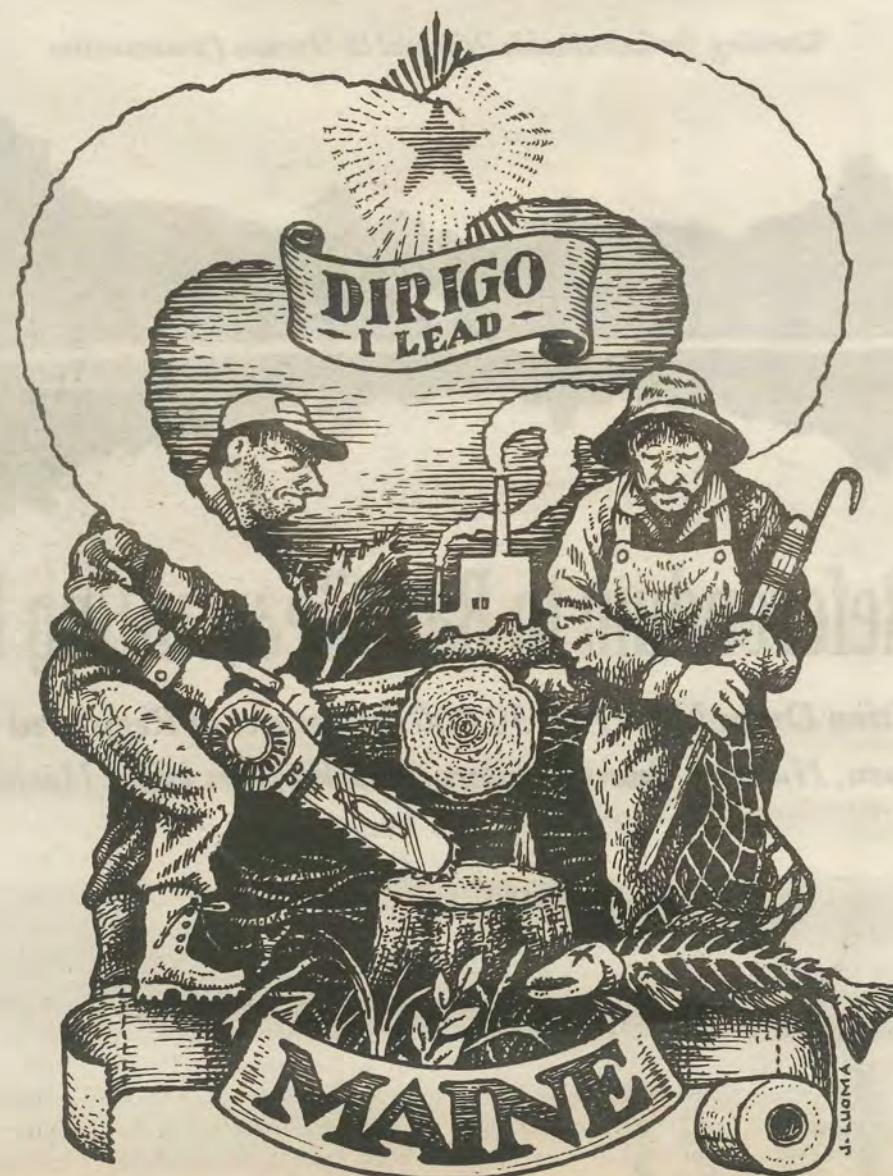
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Meanwhile, this summer, citizens the length of the Connecticut River welcomed the Conte National Wildlife Refuge, despite the customary disinformation campaigns of selfish special interests (*see page 6*).

Most exciting of all is the support Maine voters have given to placing the Healthy Forests for Maine's Future Referendum on the ballot in November 1996. For years, every effort to protect forest health has been killed by the powerful timber industry and their friends in the Maine Legislature. The November Referendum will take power out of the hands of the few and return it to the people.

Approximately 55,000 registered voters in Maine signed the petition to place the Healthy Forests for Maine's Future Referendum on the ballot. For 20 years concerned citizens have tried to work within the political system of Maine to end the abuses of large landowners and the large cut-and-run contractors. Every effort has been sabotaged by the powerful special interests of the large landowners. Fed up with this perversion of democracy, alarmed by the worsening global ecological crisis, Maine citizens decided to go directly to the people. On Election Day 1995, tens of thousands of voters fed up with the industrial forestry lined up to support the Healthy Forests for Maine's Future Referendum. Support came from loggers, foresters, hunters, fishermen, snowmobilers, and parents. Residents of milltowns and timber-dependent communities signed the petition, often citing fear that their children won't have jobs—or a forest to recreate in.

You can count on the Forest

Liquidation Lobby—a/k/a Maine Forest Products Council, Maine Forest Service, and Paper Industry Information Office et al.—to wage a disinformation campaign that will outspend the pro-referendum forces by ten, fifty or even 100 times the amount of money available to forest defenders. (And they'll claim that the referendum is the work of well-financed, elitist tree-huggers from away.)

Industry strategy assumes that a short-sighted public will fall for industry assurances backed by threats of economic blackmail. But the public believes what it sees. And what it sees is pictures of huge clearcuts—images of ruined ecosystems and special places lost. In forestry, a picture is worth a million dollars, and forest defenders have hundreds of pictures of massive clearcuts throughout Northern Maine.

In the past, industry has always succeeded in subverting forestry initiatives by bankrolling the state legislature and the governor (*see Forum, vol. 3 #4, pages 6-7*). The members of this "convenient" alliance have stifled honest debate of forestry issues. They understand that they cannot win an honest debate; their only hope is to prevent debate.

The Healthy Forests for Maine's Future Referendum will demolish that strategy. There will be debate. There will be photos of clearcuts. Citizens are no longer intimidated by the purveyors of industrial forestry myths; they are speaking up in unprecedented numbers.

Healthy debate is the foundation of true democracy. But how do we rescue our political system from powerful special interests that thrive on secrecy and

lies? It's at least a three-step process. Consider the case of RESTORE: The North Woods. On pages 29-31 of this issue we present quotations from critics of RESTORE followed by responses (both direct and indirect) to the hysterical attacks of the critics.

Step 1—An Idea is Proposed: Over the past three years, this thoughtful, hard-working—and fearless—group has proposed: listing the Atlantic Salmon as endangered; studying the impact of possible wolf restoration in the Northern Forest; conducting a feasibility study of a 3.2 million acre Maine Woods National Park.

Step 2—Subvert Public Dialogue: Defenders of the status quo—that has driven the Atlantic salmon to near-extinction, that drove wolves from the region a century ago, and that prefers township-sized clearcuts to healthy, productive forests—immediately launched vicious attacks on RESTORE. These attacks, coming from all sorts of establishment groups (*see Forum, vol. 4 #1, page 29*), had one thing in common: they offered no substantive critique of the ideas embodied in the RESTORE proposals. Rather, the attacks were mean-spirited efforts to cut off discussion, to intimidate decent citizens from engaging RESTORE in the give and take of healthy debate, to subvert democracy.

Step 3—The Real Discussion Begins: With the passage of time, the more responsible, more respectful, more thoughtful elements of Maine society—inspired by the provocative allure of RESTORE's ideas and repulsed by the rhetoric of the RESTORE-bashers—are now speaking up in support of Salmon, Wolves and the Maine Woods National Park. Even many critics of these proposals are staunchly defending RESTORE's right to offer these proposals.

It's ironic that the nasty attacks of the RESTORE-bashers—most notably those by the Executive Director of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine as part of his fundraising campaign for SAM (he personally collects 12.5% of all funds raised by this method)—have backfired and helped inspire the very sort of debate SAM sought to suppress. That's the funny thing about truth. Once it's out of the bottle, it can't be crammed back in again.

The truth about industrial clearcuts is out of the bottle. Clearcuts kill soils, streams, birds, salamanders, microbes, jobs and the way of life we denizens of the Northern Forest most cherish. So, while the industrial clearcutters send forth their public relations people to "educate" you about the "ecological benefits" of deforestation, believe your eyes; listen to your heart; and join in the effort to promote forest rehabilitation and eliminate clearcutting.

Maine voters love the Maine Woods! In November 1996, the underdog Healthy Forests for Maine's Future Referendum will win approval because citizens of Maine understand that the only way to restore forest health and democracy in Maine is to act directly.

—Jamie Sayen

Referendum to Promote Forest Rehabilitation & Eliminate Clearcutting Makes Maine Ballot for 1996

Healthy Forests for the Future A Citizen's Campaign

by Jonathan Carter, Chairperson
Healthy Forests for the Future Campaign

On November 7th, approximately 55,000 Maine citizens signed a petition which will place the question, "Do You Want Maine To Ban Clearcutting And Set Other New Logging Standards?" on the 1996 ballot.

At many polling places around the state voters were standing in line to sign the petition. The diversity of signatories was remarkable—not simply environmentalists.

There were hunters who have seen the deer yards destroyed and their favorite hunting grounds liquidated (one hunter told how he was unable to track a wounded deer across the brambles and stumps of a clearcut). Anglers were angry because their favorite hole had been silted, thermally altered, and hydrologically disrupted. Snowmobilers complained of hitting stumps and having their scenic routes wasted. Indeed, there were many loggers and foresters anxious to sign because they clearly realize that present forest practices are undermining the future of their chosen vocation.

What was even more astounding was that in the mill towns the positive responses to the petition were overwhelming. The people who work in the mills realize that their jobs are on the line. When the forests are gone, where will the required fiber come from?

In the last 15 years we have witnessed numerous attempts to promote forest health and productivity and to stop the clearcutting. Study after study, bill after bill, have spawned thousands of pages of documents and offered up a wide range of recommendations. And yet, nothing has been done to stop the ecological disaster. In those same 15 years over 2,000 square miles of forest have been clearcut and several million acres have been cut below scientifically advocated stocking levels. The people of Maine are rightly frustrated and angry at the inability or unwillingness of the politicians to stop the corporate loggers from continuing this massive deforestation.

The "Initiated Bill to Promote Forest Rehabilitation and Eliminate Clearcutting" was created through the collective wisdom and knowledge of loggers, foresters, woods products manufacturers, sportsmen and women, environmentalists, and concerned citizens. It is based on the most up-to-date scientific data and principles of ecosystem forestry.

The bill is an attempt to stop the hemorrhaging, to replace unsustainable forest practices with standards that will start the process of restoration while at the same time permit the forest industry to continue to prosper, but not at the expense of the prosperity of the future. It simply eliminates wholesale forest destruction which hurts Maine residents, including loggers, and threatens Maine's widely supported environmental quality.

What specifically will this bill accomplish?

1. It eliminates the practice of clearcutting and sets minimum standards for trees to be left after a harvesting operation, differentiating between softwood, hardwood, and mixed stands.
2. It reduces soil nutrient depletion by requiring that slash, which contains most of a tree's nutrients, be left in the forest as a source of fertilizer for the next generation of trees.
3. It allows maximum fiber extraction of one-third the volume during a fifteen year period. This is equal on average to the cumulative growth.
4. It eliminates the creation of openings in the canopy greater than 1/2 acre.
5. It encourages diversity in terms of tree species composition, age class, and size class.
6. It eliminates practices that convert Maine's forest into an herbicide- and insecticide-dependent monoculture tree plantation with no genetic diversity and little biodiversity.



The Great Northern Forest of Maine, or at least what's left of it. Over 2,000 acres of Maine have been clearcut since 1980; according to industry, this is sustainable forestry. According to over 50,000 registered voters of Maine, this should be outlawed. This photo of Hurricane pond near Kibby Mountain on S.D. Warren land is one of two postcards the Sierra Club has produced to educate the public about industrial forestry. To get your postcards, contact the Sierra Club Northeast Regional Office, 85 Washington St., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Tel. 518 583-9166. Send one to your Congressperson. Photo © John McKeith.

This Initiative applies only in the L.U.R.C. jurisdiction, which consists of all of the unorganized townships. This is where almost all of the unsustainable forest practices are being carried out by huge out-of-state, absentee multinational corporate landowners. For the other parts of the state, we hope to see these standards or something like them adopted on a town-by-town basis through local ordinance.

This bill does not stop forest harvesting. This bill does eliminate major unsustainable practices, which if allowed to continue unabated, will result in the disappearance of our forests and the thousands of forest-related jobs that depend on a healthy forest. This Initiative is not an attempt to legislate good forestry, because this would be an impossible task. However, this Initiative will eliminate the worst practices and promote the restoration of our forests. At the same time, it should promote the economic vitality of the forest products industry, which has seen a 30% decline

in jobs in the last ten years. Increases in employment would occur as a result of more labor intensive selective cutting, professional forester supervision, the potential for higher value woods products jobs, and improved habitat resulting in higher quality recreational possibilities (hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, canoeing, etc.).

Judging from the phenomenal response signature collectors received on election day 1995, we are optimistic that on election day 1996, Maine will become the first state to eliminate clearcutting and set new logging standards which will promote restoration and ensure forests for the future. Our success can not be taken for granted. **Industry has already mounted a slick and expensive campaign of distortion.** We need your help. Please send a contribution to: Forests for the Future Campaign, 620 Back Rd., N. N. Portland, Maine, 04961.

Initiated Bill to Promote Forest Rehabilitation & Eliminate Clearcutting

Ed. Note: The following is the partial text of the Maine Referendum to Promote Forest Rehabilitation and Eliminate Clearcutting.

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA Sec 685-A, subsection 12 is enacted to read:

12. Forest management standards. Notwithstanding subsection 5 or any other provision of state law to the contrary, all timber harvesting activities within the commission's jurisdiction must comply with the following minimum standards.

A. Clearcutting is prohibited.

B. In a 15-year period, timber harvesting operations may not result in the removal of more than 1/3 of the volume on any acre, on a basal area basis, of trees of commercial species greater than 4.5 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground.

C. Following a timber harvesting operation, the postharvest stand of trees of commercial species must meet residual basal area requirements using one of the following alternative methods.

(1) Considering trees greater than 4.5 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground, the residual basal area of the postharvest stand must meet the following minimum requirements.

(a) Sixty-five or more square feet residual basal area per acre where the preharvest stand was a hardwood stand;

(b) Seventy-five or more square feet residual basal area per acre where the preharvest stand was a mixed wood stand.

(c) Ninety or more square feet residual basal area per acre where the preharvest stand was a softwood stand.

(2) Considering trees greater than one inch in diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground, the residual basal area of the

postharvest stand must be calculated using the following formula: $S + T = R$

In this formula, S is the average number of trees of commercial species per acre in the postharvest stand one inch to 4.5 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground as a percentage of 1000 trees per acre; T is the average residual basal area for trees of commercial species greater than 4.5 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground as a percentage of the minimum residual basal area requirements for the postharvest stand listed in subparagraph (1) for hardwood, mixed wood, or softwood stands; and R must equal 100% or more.

D. After a timber harvesting operation is completed, a healthy, well-distributed stand of trees must remain, with minimal damage to individual trees. The diversity of tree species, tree sizes, and tree age classes of the standing trees in the remaining stand must be maintained to the maximum extent possible.

E. Timber harvesting operations may not create single openings in the forest canopy greater than 1/2 acre in size, except for land management roads and other roads.

F. All trees harvested must be delimbed at or near the cutting site. Slash must be left in the woods. Slash that is larger than 3 inches in diameter must be disposed of so that no part of the slash extends more than 4 feet above the ground.

The commission may impose, by rule or by permit condition, more stringent requirements for timber harvesting in protection and development districts. The minimum requirements set forth in this subsection may be exceeded upon issuance of a variance by the commission upon a showing of undue hardship and otherwise pursuant to criteria set forth in subsection 10.

Sec. 76. Effective Date. This act takes place on April 1, in the year following passage.

Public Roasts Draft Interim Report of Vermont's FRAC

Legislators Stay Home While People Press for Proactive Forest Policy

by Andrew Whittaker

On the evening of November 27, members of Vermont's Forest Resource Advisory Council met in St. Johnsbury to take public comment on their interim draft report to the legislature. If Council members were expecting the 60 or so people in attendance to ratify the report's assertion that all is just about well in Vermont's forests—except of course for underfunding of current use and a few other aberrations—they must have experienced something close to shock as speaker after speaker to the sum of 24 challenged—not to say ridiculed—the report's minimalist conclusions and offered suggestions for more proactive forest policy addressing fundamental issues.

Perhaps the expectation was that its northeast corner being the bastion of conservative Vermont, it was a good place to begin review of a process which never was intended as a challenge to the status quo. But the locals who turned out communicated grave concern about the future of Vermont's forest tradition and sent FRAC a message that change is necessary to preserve it. Speakers offered both concrete policy options and observations of proper ethical foundation for culture and governance.

Some Stayed Home, Nursing Prejudices

Several things did in fact go as expected: not one of the Northeast Kingdom's legislative delegation bothered to attend, nor did the local daily, the *Caledonian Record*, bother to cover the meeting. Undoubtedly both will continue to assert—with the slimmest of validation—that locals do not desire regulation of forest practices and that we have no problems in the woods. In fact, although the *Caledonian* did not bother to cover the meeting, it did editorialize on November 29 in its usual know-nothing vein on the wisdom of the FRAC report and Vermont's chief forest industry lobbyist (whose gender they misidentified while also misspelling water quality and inventing a Forest Resource Advisory Committee). What the lobbyist had to say, of course, was that we need to base policy on science and avoid regulation for the sake of regulation.

What the majority of citizens speaking to FRAC had to say, however, was much more topical and relevant. Former state senator Doug Kitchel, who was active in bringing the question of clearcutting to the state level, said he had looked in vain for some "positive aspect" in the report but found it had not addressed current failure of the water quality AMPs and other existing logging statutes. Kitchel remains in favor of the "local option" to regulate clearcuts pending comprehensive reviews by FRAC leading to a state regulatory framework. He said that FRAC's work to date has failed to match the urgency felt in individuals and communities of the area.

Other speakers expanded on the

failure of the AMPs (Acceptable Management Practices, the voluntary guidelines that protect those who use them from liability in event of a sedimentary discharge into state waters) and the need for silvicultural standards around which might be created positive incentives for good and disincentives for poor management. Peter Everts, a forester from Barnet, said he witnesses "90% non-compliance" with the AMPs, and in later conversation said he has heard that the word is out in Maine that Vermont is the place to go to cut wood.

Several spoke in favor of severance taxes to limit liquidation cuts; others were more exacting. Lloyd Gierke, a retired timber contractor, drew applause for his proposal that clearcuts be banned unless biodiversity issues are properly addressed; that no cut be allowed without an adequate harvest plan, a filing of intent-to-cut and follow-up inspection; that high overhead operators be bounced from business and that harvests be limited to 30% of stand volume with adequate canopy closure. He summed up current management as "no way to run a forest." Another applause-winning proposal was for a referendum akin to Maine's seeking outright bans on clearcuts and herbicides in forestry. (Vermont does not have ballot referendums.)

Herbicides, Clearcuts & Ethical Foundations

Other critics did take FRAC to task for failing to discuss proposed and possible use of herbicides on clearcuts in

Essex County. Bloomfield resident Sherry Belknap urged that "common sense prevail" and that Vermont as a matter of policy refrain from allowing the use of herbicides on clearcuts. He stated that herbicides are a step toward monoculture with negative impact on water, wildlife, and overall forest resiliency, as in the potential for aggravated spruce budworm outbreak. Daisy Goodman of Stratford, NH noted that collecting signatures for petitions against spray proposals had been "no problem" both sides of the Connecticut River; spraying is simply not supported by the public which, she said, is "100% against it."

Those who took on clearcuts spoke of limits to forest resiliency. Barbara Alexander of Craftsbury urged that FRAC "find courage and get serious" about regulations to protect those "balances that simply won't recur once the woods are clearcut." Regulations, she concluded, should be standards of which Vermont and Vermonters can be proud.

Penelope Newcomb suggested the need for a broader ethical footing in considering how we impact the land. Ownership, she noted, is a convention, and does not confer the right to harm the land by cutting excessively or spraying toxics. Let us understand the functions of nature, she urged, while reminding the audience that we must pay attention to "the way our increasingly depressed children react to being alive," particularly when they see "adults running society in a misguided

way." She repeated an earlier suggestion to FRAC that a forest policy aimed at sustainability must address and incorporate its underlying principles instead of taking the approach of FRAC's benchmarks which set forth technical parameters (which one other commentator said "don't seem to lead to much.")

Carol Irons of Derby and Walden noted that "until the last 300 years we had sustainable harvests." Our focus she said should not be "a quick buck for this or the next generation" but the needs of seven generations; to achieve that, "we have a lot to do to improve." "Spraying is a poisoning of the earth," she stated, "can they [the paper companies] keep the effects on their land? You cannot affect one form of life without affecting all life forms in the area." "It is time," she concluded, "to take care of people and Earth together."

NOTE: Chairman Darby Bradley ended the November 27 meeting by saying, in light of all the criticism FRAC had received, the body, which will take written comment until December 15th, would appreciate specific recommendations on what to do. Based on the public testimony given in St. Johnsbury, we offer the following as a list of measures that are supported and supportable and should be considered by FRAC. If you would like to support these or other ideas, come to FRAC meetings, write your legislators, and get connected with other activist citizens working to achieve positive forest policy. (See "Vermont Citizens Form Forestry Roundtable")

- Limit the size of clearcuts. Discuss the ecological and silvicultural principles on which to do so, and do it now.

- Ban herbicides as a silvicultural tool in the treatment of clearcuts.

- Institute an inclusive Vermont Forestry Roundtable composed of the broad cross section of forest stakeholders to explore issues of sustainability, to develop Vermont Standards for Silviculture and to develop a comprehensive economic strategy for creating employment through holistic approaches to the forest. Use models of participation that achieve full participation of all interested parties and that will lead to broad support of the Standards.

- Create a framework of positive incentives for good management and disincentives for liquidators using the Vermont Standards for Silviculture. Implement a progressive severance tax that effectively removes all profit once harvest exceeds acceptable stocking (drops below the "C" line) and encourages harvests to reach the "A" line. Require adherence to the Vermont Standards in Current Use programs. Expand AMPs to include consideration of biodiversity and soil; use a system of licensing of foresters and loggers; adherence to the AMPs should be a condition of licensing: you don't follow common sense, you're out of business.

- Examine current attitudes toward enforcement of water quality violations; strengthen judicial, public and agency awareness of legal and biotic issues in logging.

For more information on FRAC contact Charles W. Johnson at the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, 103 S. Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671; 802-241-3652.



FRAC claims that AMPs are followed about 90% of the time. Some observers of current forestry practices suggest the compliance rate may be closer to 10%. The rutting pictured here occurred in a clearcut in Lowell, VT. Photo by Jeff Parsons.

In the Wake of the Storm ~ Salvage Logging in the Adirondacks?

Some Insights and Lessons From the Adirondack Blowdown of 1995

by Michael DiNunzio

Loss of property and even human life is sadly an all-too-common occurrence in the wake of severe storms. But ecological values are not normally lost in such storms, despite the misperceptions of the general public. Armed with these misperceptions, however, the public often demands actions which are in themselves environmentally damaging.

Ironically, ecological losses are much more likely to result from attempts to "tidy up" or "tame" the landscape after floods, fire or wind have long past. So the task of preventing such secondary, truly catastrophic, damage often falls to those of us who work on behalf of wildness. Insights gained from the still-unfolding saga of the Adirondack windstorm of last July can inform and, hopefully, enhance our effectiveness in this work.

Early on the morning of July 15, 1995, a "gust front" packing winds of up to 100 knots, along with embedded tornadoes and powerful downdrafts called "microbursts", caused extensive damage on trees on about one million acres of public and private forest land in northwestern New York State. Five people were killed by falling trees and branches and several others were injured. The most severe impacts were centered in and around the Five Ponds Wilderness/Oswegatchie River Area in the west-central Adirondack Park.

According to a report on the storm drafted by an Ecological Assessment Committee convened by New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), windstorms of this type can be expected to affect any particular Adirondack site approximately every 400 years. Two documented windstorms, one in 1845 and one in 1950, exceeded the severity of last summer's storm. Windstorms play an important ecological role in Adirondack forests that exceeds the role of fire, which occurs about every 300-500 years on sites dominated by mixtures of pine and spruce trees, and about every 1,000-2,000 years in pure hardwoods. Although fire is important in shaping natural communities in some limited areas of the Adirondacks, widespread fires have largely resulted from the activities of humans and none have been shown to be the result of previous windstorm damage, or to have had their effects seriously enhanced by wind-thrown.

Soon after the 1995 windstorm passed, some state officials indicated that they were contemplating the use of extreme measures in response to the perceived threat of wildfire in the blowdown. For example, the Conservation Commissioner is reported to have said that the state constitution might have to be "waived" to allow the salvage of timber on the Forever-Wild Forest Preserve. Another high-ranking DEC official began using what can only be described as scare tactics to generate public fears about the danger of wildfire. He went so far as to say that the blowdown could result in a conflagration that would spawn giant fireballs



Blowdown on an island in Lake Lila in the western Adirondack Park. Damage from the windstorm of July 15, 1995 covered about one million acres of public and private land, centered around the Five Ponds Wilderness and the Lake Lila Primitive Area. Photo ©Gary Randorf—Adirondack Council.

capable of leaping interstate highway 87, otherwise known as the Northway. Unsuspecting firefighters, he added, would instantly be incinerated if the fire they were fighting burned into a "jackpot" of jackstrawed blowdown. Meanwhile, a detailed report was being readied for submission to the President to substantiate the need for federal aid. In the midst of all this hype and hoopla, some cooler heads prevailed and, to its credit, the Department formed a diverse advisory team called the Storm Working Group to provide public input. Part of the input they provided consists of some of the facts surrounding a similar Adirondack windstorm forty-five years ago, although they failed to reflect upon the shameful series of events which took place in the wake of that storm.

In 1894, New Yorkers amended the state constitution to ensure that the publicly-owned Forest Preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill regions would be kept "forever wild". Specifically, timber on the Preserve cannot be sold, removed, or destroyed. With this amendment, the people of New York officially recognized and protected the non-commercial values of undisturbed wildlands. One would think that such language is unambiguous. In fact, the amendment is often touted as the strongest wildland protection law in the world. But that law hasn't always stopped people intent on skullduggery.

On November 25, 1950, a "blowdown" hit the Adirondacks that stands as the most damaging storm of record for New York State. At least 400,000 acres of forest suffered greater than twenty-five percent damage. Sixty percent of the damage was on state land. Following that storm, a great hue and cry went up from some quarters in support of a massive salvage operation, largely in the name of fire prevention. An ulterior motive for many pro-salvage forces was the prospect of opening more roads into the Preserve, to provide the access they felt would be impossible if they could not drive directly into the deepest recesses of the forest. A highly

questionable opinion of the state attorney general indicated that damaged timber on the Preserve could be removed to lessen the danger of wildfire, but that the legislature needed to authorize the sale of such timber. The legislature eagerly complied, and ultimately about 100,000 acres of the Preserve, roughly one-quarter of the blowdown area, was salvaged by prime contractors. Horror stories abound concerning the "salvage" of undamaged trees by loggers trying to capitalize on their new-found access to state lands. But the most damaging effects of "Operation Blowdown" are likely to be attributed to the eighty-six miles of previously closed truck trails which were reopened, and the more than twenty miles of new truck trails that were constructed.

Needless to say, the environmental community was asleep at the switch during the early 1950s, for the salvage was not challenged in the courts. Interestingly, less than 600 acres of forest burned in the Adirondacks during the six years following the 1950 blowdown. Many factors contributed to this situation, but the most important by far was the decision to close parts of the Preserve to avoid fires caused by campfires or cigarettes.

In general, a permit from the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) is required before clearcutting more than twenty-five acres on private land in the Adirondack Park. In wetlands, the jurisdictional threshold is lowered to three acres. Only a handful of such permits have been granted in the past two decades. And those permits were exceptionally well-crafted to ensure that environmental degradation was minimized. But the current situation, wherein more than 500,000 acres of private "working forests" were affected by the blowdown, presents a dilemma for Agency members.

Concerned about facilitating salvage on the Park's private forests, the APA instructed its staff to draft a "general permit" to allow clearcutting in storm-damaged tracts. Unfortunately,

the Agency did not require site visits to verify that such damage did, in fact, take place. And they set no upper limit on the total number of acres which could be clearcut. To make matters worse, they defined "damage" to mean more than one out of every three trees blown down, having lost a significant portion of its crown, or classified as not being "wind firm". The specter of tens of thousands of Adirondack acres possibly being clearcut under the terms of this general permit is both daunting and sobering.

As of this writing, both the APA general clearcutting permit and the State's response to salvaging on the Preserve are unsettled issues. Nonetheless, New York's environmental community stands united against salvaging on the Preserve. And the Adirondack Council continues to work with state officials and others to help close the loopholes in the general permit that could lead to environmental abuses on the Park's private forest lands.

Regardless of how the Adirondack situation plays itself out, we must all address the larger issue of mounting appropriate responses to natural events such as floods, wildfires, and windstorms. We have made significant headway in this regard by educating the public about the role of fire in the natural environment. And construction in flood plains is finally being exposed for its foolishness. But when the winds howl and trees fall, the general public and many public servants often revert to the timber-based mentality that promotes salvaging all that "wasted" wood, even when it lies on totally protected wildlands.

It's up to us to shed some light on the values of a "let it rot" philosophy in wildlands, including the values of natural nutrient cycling and enhanced diversity of forest communities following windstorms. And the Adirondack blowdown of 1995 is a great opportunity to apply these concepts to the benefit of the entire Great Northern Forest.

F&WS Recommends Establishment of Conte National Wildlife Refuge

Excerpts from Letters on the Conte

Compiled and annotated by
Andrew Whittaker

The US Fish and Wildlife Service issued its final plan for a package of programs for the Connecticut River watershed in November. Known as the "Conte Refuge," these programs have been touted as a new model of ecosystem management by some, a serious threat to snowmobiling by others, and something somewhere in the middle by most.

We thought readers of the Forum might save their eyes and let us do some excerpting from the fine-print public commentary on the Refuge. What follows is just that.

Who Supported What?

The USF&WS offered five options for public commentary, A through E, A being "do nothing," on up to a traditional refuge as proposed in E that would emphasize the Service's role in acquiring and protecting land. The option that was adopted, with some revision, was D, which had lower land protection goals than E and stressed partnerships with existing organizations and landowners to achieve education and land protection goals.

The Forum was—and is—in favor of blending the structure of D with the higher land protection goals of E. Many other groups and individuals concurred.

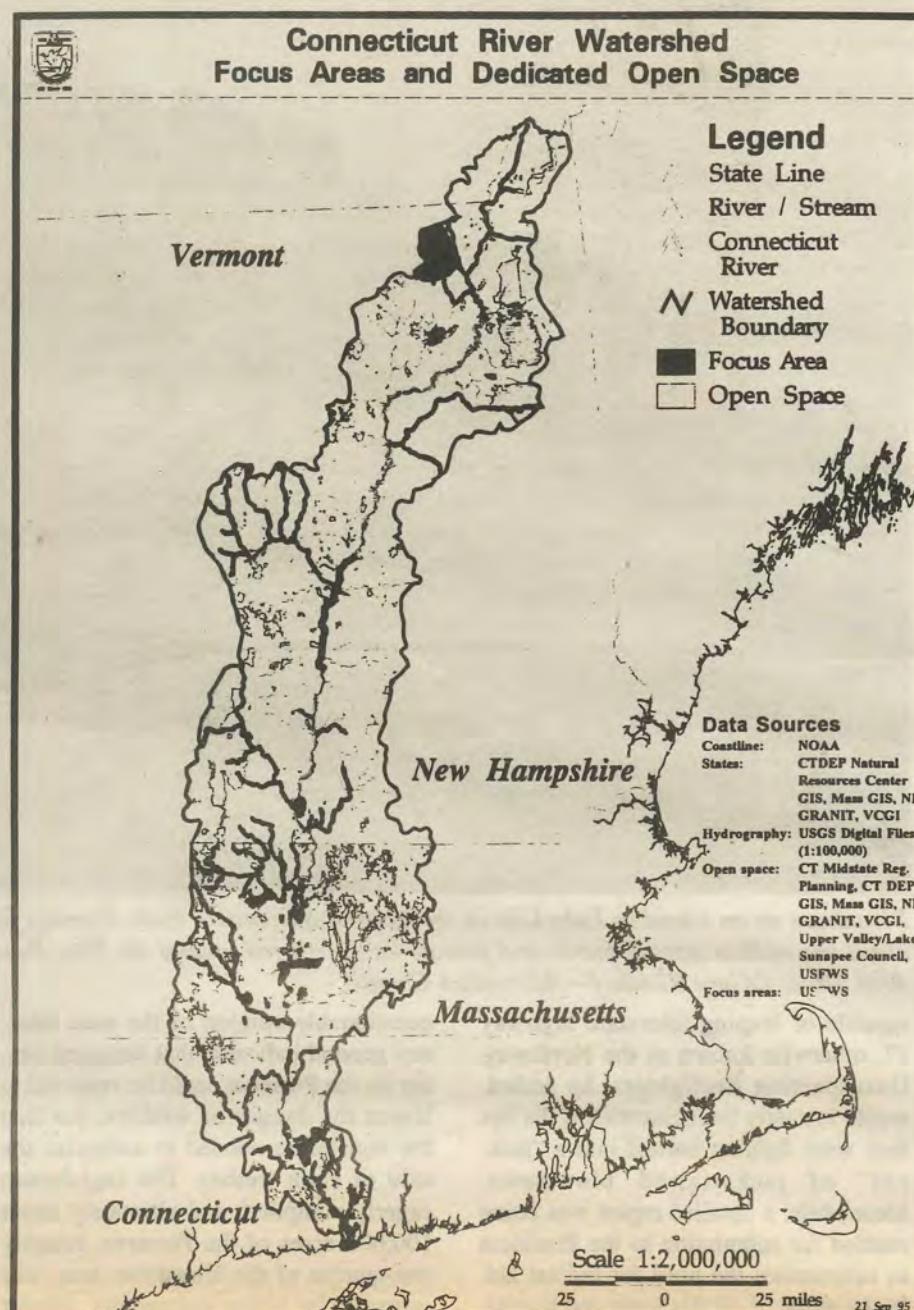
Another fairly typical response advocated D but also urged inclusion in "Focus Area" status of a favorite, local area. Taken together, this latter category of response amounted to a substantial number of people or groups actually advocating expansion of D. We wonder, if the Service had evaluated responses that way, might we have seen expanded land protection goals?

Many corporations and industry groups supported "B" and "C," often citing federal budget cutting and the desire to limit government as premises. We include the comments of one lobbyist who, however, saw the "do nothing" option as a "compromise."

New Hampshire Rivers Council: "...the Council would like to see some of the land protection goals of Alternative E incorporated in Alternative D. Specifically, Alternative E includes protection of 77,685 acres of forest uplands compared to 21,485 acres in Alternative D.

"We feel protection of those forest uplands is important for maintaining the unique and mostly undeveloped character of the headwaters as well as maintaining the many unique species that make their home in those forest (sic). Management of those forest uplands should include sustainable timber harvesting, wildlife habitat management, and recreational use where appropriate."

Associated Industries of Vermont, William Sayre: "At a time when the federal government is attempting to reduce our nation's massive debt through reductions in expenditure and reprioritization of government pro-



Relationship of Special Focus Areas to existing dedicated open space in the Connecticut River Watershed. Figure 3-11 of The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Final Action Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, October 1995.

grams, expending an estimated \$16.6 million over fifteen years is simply too much money for such a low priority. The [AV] Task Force can, however, support Alternative A as a compromise."

"...the arrogance of the presumption that without the Service or 'conservation interests,' the forest land will be permanently removed from the resource base, is plain and simple hyperbole.... History as (sic) shown that as long as the growing and harvesting of trees are not taxed punitively, the forest resource base in fact expands."

Response of Public Officials

Many lawmakers and public officials, from New Hampshire particularly, felt compelled to oppose the Conte. Several insisted on public opposition as the basis of their own bias, despite demonstrated and reasoned support for the Conte. Here are Vermont's Vince Illuzzi, State Senator of Essex-Orleans and New Hampshire's Ray Burton, (who submitted comments twice, once as Grafton County Commissioner and once as Governor's Councilor). The Senator's comments contain many errors of understanding of his own district and the Service. Several are subtle and we challenge the reader to find them all. We follow with the supportive comments of the County Commissioners of Massachusetts's Hampshire County, who provided an example of a current threat to the river's

ecology and what can result from positive action.

Vince Illuzzi: "I am concerned about potential implications of your service's actions relative to activities that will be allowed in the Connecticut River watershed. The Northeast Kingdom of Vermont heavily depends on tourism, including snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, hiking, four-wheeling and other such activities. In addition, Essex County and other counties... heavily depend upon logging and related business activities.... Simpson Paper Company [Gilman, VT] must have access to raw wood so that it can continue to manufacture high quality paper products.

"A copy of a memorandum from the executive director of the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers suggests that motorized recreation will not be an allowed use in the Connecticut River Watershed of the Conte... Refuge. This is clearly unacceptable and will destroy the economy of Northern Vermont and New Hampshire."

[Errors: The Service cannot issue blanket regulations in the watershed such as a ban on motorized recreation; most timber owners in Essex County already ban four wheelers on their land; Simpson does not utilize local pulp; in general, the Service has no plans to proscribe timber harvests on any lands it does acquire outright.]

Ray Burton: "I strongly urge option A: do nothing. . . . We don't need another layer of government to further restrain and inhibit common sense use of this valuable river in this valley. . . . The message is also very clear from those who earn their living along the river that they are very sensitive to and treasure highly the goal of keeping the river clean and on balance are doing an outstanding job of protecting the river just as it is."

Hampshire County Commissioners: "All too often local communities are prepared to act to protect the environment only to be thwarted by a lack of money or technical expertise. The vision represented by the Conte Refuge Act . . . will enable states and communities to plan and to act on their best instincts."

"Despite warnings about the dangers to children and pregnant women from eating game fish contaminated by heavy metals, fishing is a growing recreational activity in the watershed. Efforts to improve stream and river quality by protecting and restoring riparian habitat . . . should be targeted to the levels suggested in Option E."

"A local outdoors magazine reports in a front-page article that since the closure of Yankee Rowe nuclear plant that the Deerfield River's temperature has dropped 2°, that areas . . . are freezing during the winter that had not done so since the plant's opening, that water hatching insects are far more numerous, and that the number and diversity of fish have also increased."

Agriculture

Many in the farming community expressed concern over potential impacts on agriculture. Some supporters of the Conte urged that the Service make formal recognition of the cultural and economic importance of agriculture to the Connecticut Valley while the Service responded that its actions would have small impact on farming and only on the lands of cooperating landowners.

One farmer saw opportunity in the Conte for heightened dialogue around issues of agriculture and conservation. Another regretted the amount of public dialogue already occurring.

Winnie Levitre, Guildhall, VT: "Perhaps the planning of an educational center would provide the opportunity for 'conversation and dialogue' between the many factions who have so emotionally become involved in the Refuge Plan. Issues of mutual concern between the farmer, the environmentalist, the consumers and the public, with the assistance of a skilled facilitator, could be discussed so that all understand each other better. If the Conte National Refuge is here to stay, we need to work together as communities and regions, rather than be split by emotions, perception and misinformation."

New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation, Kenneth Marshall: "In fact, if only property owners with over ten acres had been allowed to participate in the [planning and comment] process from the beginning, the comments in the public record would have

Continued on Next Page

Maine Low-Impact Forestry Project Showcases Sustainable Practices

by Mitch Lansky

Ed. Note: This article was previously published in SWOAM News, December 1995.

On October 14th, the Maine Low-Impact Forestry Project sponsored a demonstration of low-impact forestry equipment and high-volume, high-value forests at the woodlot of Mel Ames in Atkinson, Maine. More than 30 people attended, including woodlot owners, foresters, environmentalists, and media. Viewing well-managed forests and low-impact equipment seemed to create a sense of common ground for this diverse group.

With low-impact forestry, the logger uses narrow, permanent woods trails, as well as smaller roads and yarding areas. Trails are narrow enough so that there can be crown closure of larger surrounding trees, leaving forest soil in shade or partial shade. Low-impact techniques lead to less damage of soil, roots, and residual trees. When wood is removed more gradually, the forest can continue to develop in height, volume, and complexity.

The Woods

The demonstration took place on part of Mel's 600 acres of woods that he has managed for nearly half a century. There were large hemlock, oak, spruce, and other trees with a basal area ranging from 100 to more than 200 square feet per acre. By managing conservatively, he has allowed an average volume of around 15 cords per acre in 1960 to rise to more than 35 cords per acre today. Yet, from what he has cut, he has been able to support his large family (with eight children, now grown with families of their own).

The quality of the wood has improved so that sawlogs make up 65% of the total volume, and some of that volume includes high-value veneer. Mel, who is "retired," only needs to cut three cords a day (in the morning) to make an average of \$300. His woods average more than a cord per acre per year of growth—and some of his better sites average up to three cords per acre per year of growth.

This compares favorably with the very best yields expected from "intensive management" based on clearcuts, planting, pre-commercial thinning, and herbicide spraying. The difference is that the "intensive management" yields wood with big growth rings, lots of knots and taper, juvenile wood, and shorter fibers—all inferior for both paper and lumber. And the investments in early-stand management do not pay off for many decades. Mel's early "investment" cuts more than broke even, and now they are paying off hand-



Sam Brown describes how he practices low-impact forestry with his tracked Dion forwarder at the October 14 Low Impact Forestry Project demonstration in Atkinson. In the center foreground is a cameraman from Bangor TV-5. Photo by Mitch Lansky

somely.

The Machines

Participants got to view four different woods-harvesting machines. First was Mel's small 1970 International tracked skidder. With this narrow machine, Mel has been able to minimize the size of his skid trails and minimize damage to residuals. The next machine was a 4-wheel-drive tractor with a Farmi winch, which also is small and maneuverable.

Gary Shaw demonstrated a forwarder made from an old 2-wheel-drive International tractor with a loader, trailer, and radio-controlled winch. Gary openly acknowledged the drawbacks of this prototype design. As a professional logger, Gary is using the equipment much harder than it was designed to be used. He admitted that he can cut more wood in a given time with a skidder, but, he said, there is no comparison when it comes to the quality of the job. A forwarder does far less damage.

The last machine was Sam Brown's tracked Dion forwarder. Some of the drawbacks of the previous machine were corrected with the Dion. Both the forwarder and the trailer are self-propelled on tracks. There is no dragging and less rutting of the ground.

The participants were impressed by a display of the radio-controlled winch and Sam's self-releasing snatch blocks, which he used to winch logs around obstructions:

At each stopping place, the participants engaged in lively discussions. One theme came up repeatedly. It is difficult to compare the economics of logging with conventional equipment to the use of lower-impact equipment because the goals of the operations are often different. Forwarders may not do as rapid a job at forest removal, but they do a much better job of forest retention with minimal damage. Forest removal can be seen as a form of capital depletion, rather than real income. Mel Ames has demonstrated that with conservative forestry practices, he can allow forest capital to increase and end up with higher-level, higher-valued "interest" (annual growth per acre). The benefits are not just to the landowner. The woods are aesthetically pleasing and capable of supporting species that prefer mature-interior forest. Mel, for example, has a family of pine martens living in his managed forest.

For more information, contact Mitch Lansky, Low Impact Forestry Project, HC 60, Box 86, Wytopitlock ME 04497.



Conte Refuge

Continued From Preceding Page

been much different than what was actually attained. Property rights is a key issue with all farmers and landowners and they get upset when they hear people who don't own much land and open space make statements to the effect that it's okay for the landowners to pay the mortgage and taxes on the land, but they shouldn't have the right to keep the public from using it in any way the public decides is appropriate."

Economics and Private Enterprise

Many respondents to the Conte Plan were concerned that Refuge status for conserved lands would limit snowmobiling and wreak havoc with the snowmobiling economy of northern Vermont and New Hampshire. Some promised that such towns as Island Pond would become tumbleweed ghost towns should the Conte go through. One respondent from northern Vermont, however, saw potential economic good from ecological restoration. Stan Swaim of East Burke, Vermont attended a public meeting in St. Johnsbury on the Conte and had this to say in his written comments afterwards:

"Days before the meeting I had returned from fishing the Green River in Utah where management by, and policies of the federal government had resulted in a world class fisheries and a twenty mile section of the river brought to the area about thirty million annually. The contrast of this with the Conn. R. watershed makes a very strong statement against the nearly unrestrained control of the river by private enterprise. The most glaring example was the destruction of the salmon runs by the construction of dams over a century ago. Today nonpoint pollution from logging and agriculture continues to destroy the river habitat for wildlife. . . . The Connecticut River has to be considered a national treasure and responsibility."

Vermont Citizens Form Forestry Roundtable

On December the 19, at 7:00 PM the Vermont Citizens Forest Policy Roundtable will be hosting a forum for citizens to express themselves and learn about industry plans for using herbicides in silviculture in the Essex County area. The meeting will be held at the Brighton Town Hall in Island Pond, Vermont.

This is the first formal event organized by the Roundtable. Members have come together to articulate a message of carrying inner ethics into forest policy. Barbara Alexander of Craftsbury Common is a key organizer of the group, which includes a cross section of Vermonters and which hopes to achieve what watershed organizations have done for watershed issues. Barbara says the group is developing a slideshow presentation to inform the wider public of current forest practices and will be hosting a winter forum on harvest practices which, members hope, will draw people from across the Northern Forest region to discuss positive alternatives to industrial models.

For more information, to join the resource list, or become an active member, please call Barbara Alexander at 802-586-2288 or Andrew Whittaker at 802-748-8043.

Maine Woods Watch

by Jym St. Pierre



The Maine Woods is the greatest remaining wildland east of the Rockies. However, today this region is under siege. Maine Woods Watch is devoted to documenting the good, the bad, and the ugly affecting the Maine Woods today, with an emphasis on opportunities for citizen action to protect and restore the essence of the region, its wildness.

• **Power to the People:** Official certification is pending, but it appears volunteers collected enough signatures on election day to send to a statewide vote next year a referendum to stop clearcutting and promote rehabilitation in the big woods. (Contact Green Institute, 620 Back Road, North New Portland, ME 04961.) Suddenly the forest products industry has stepped up its public relations efforts to convince voters it is managing our forests sustainably. New reports on forest harvest levels suggest otherwise, but widely divergent spins are being placed on the forest inventory data. As forestry analyst Lloyd Irland wrote in the October 1995 **Northern Logger**, "Defining how much inventory Maine has is straightforward; defining how much it needs is not. But the figures alert us to the fact that fundamental supply/demand balances are changing."

Another citizen initiative, this one on campaign financing reform, also is expected to be on the ballot statewide in 1996. (Contact Maine Voters for Clean Elections, PO Box 7692, Portland, ME 04112.) Campaign reform to level the playing field is needed not only at the state level, but inside the beltway. Forestry industry trade and lobbying associations continue to pull out all the stops to pursue, as one group put it, "political redress for industry's earlier political setbacks." At the national level the American Forest & Paper Association (AFPA), the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA), and others are working overtime on private property rights, endangered species, and clean water and clean air legislation. Ernest Stebbins, executive director of the NHLA, has told his members that "Politics will be the driving issue until the election of '96. We'll be putting aside some other areas we've been working on in order to...help assure that candidates friendly to the forest products industry receive all the support we can provide."

• **This Land is Your Land:** A three-year effort, led by Maine Coast Heritage Trust, successfully raised \$292,000 to buy 163 acres along the east bank and an easement on 108 acres along the west bank of legendary Grand Lake Stream. The protected lands, acquired from Georgia-Pacific Corporation, have been turned over to

the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. The National Park Service, in cooperation with Parks Canada, is getting public input on a management plan for nearby St. Croix Island. The international island hosted the first European settlement on the Atlantic north of Florida when Sieur de Monts and Champlain overwintered in 1604-5. (Contact Acadia National Park, PO Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04609.)

The first section in Maine of the new International Appalachian Trail was brushed out and dedicated in November on Mars Hill. IAT planners aim to complete the 434-mile long footpath connecting Mount Katahdin in Maine to Mount Jacques Cartier in Quebec by April 2000.

The White Mountain National Forest lost \$3 million on below-cost timber sales from 1992-94 according to a new report by the U.S. General Accounting Office. With over seven million visitors a year now, the WMNF has become more important for tourism than as a wood basket. (Contact The Wilderness Society, 45 Bromfield Street, Suite 1101, Boston, MA 02108.) To save money elsewhere in the federal budget Congress wants to slash funding for the Stewardship Incentive and Forest Legacy programs from \$25 million to \$7.5 million. Maine has a major Forest Legacy project waiting in the wings, but if only \$3 million is allocated nationwide, the state's share will be insufficient. (Contact Natural Resources Council of Maine, 271 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330.)

Congress is also considering selling some national parks, even though the American people want more, not fewer, parks as evidenced by swelling visitor numbers. The proposed 3.2-million acre Maine Woods National Park and Preserve continues to spark widespread public discussion. RESTORE: The North Woods, which has put forth the park concept, ran a Maine Woods Visitor Center in Bar Harbor this summer and fall. People from around the world visiting the center learned about the proposal. (Contact RESTORE, 7 North Chestnut Street, Augusta, ME 04330.)

• **There Goes the Neighborhood:** Plenty of proposals are floating around for uses of the Maine wildlands that may not be what Thoreau had in mind. A few examples: The State of Maine has received rezoning approval for a special waste landfill in Township 2 Range 8 near Lincoln. Moosehead Wildlands, Inc. wants to establish a 28 lot residential subdivision in Tomhegan Township. A concept plan for a 41 lot cluster subdivision is being readied by Gardner Land Company for a series of pristine ponds in Township 7 Range 11

near the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the Big Reed Old-Growth Reserve. A consortium of energy companies is moving ahead with plans to move natural gas from offshore near Sable Island, through Maine to the rest of New England. Two other natural gas pipelines into Maine have been proposed by competitors, one in southern and one in western Maine. (Contact: Land Use Regulation Commission, Station 22, Augusta, ME 04330.)

• **Smells Fishy:** After studying the issue for two years, federal fisheries agencies believe the Atlantic salmon in seven Maine rivers should be listed as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act. Where thousands used to swim up these rivers each year, fewer than 120 salmon have returned this year. A broad spectrum of fisheries and environmental groups has endorsed the proposal. However, Maine's governor and congressional delegation are trying to head off listing. Letters supporting listing can be sent before December 28, 1995, to Fish & Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035, and National Marine Fisheries Service, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

Muskellunge have invaded the St. John watershed. Fish as large as 25 pounds have been caught in Baker Lake. Biologists worry this exotic species will harm native brook trout populations. However, anglers argue that bass, brown trout and rainbow trout were all introduced to Maine lakes and streams, landlocked salmon have been artificially stocked in areas far from their original habitat, and other exotics, such as crappies and walleyes, ought to be brought in. Fishing is particularly hurting in Moosehead Lake; a coalition of locals wants stocking of more brook trout as well as salmon and dwarf whitefish.

Homo sapiens have been fishing here for millennia. A fish weir discovered on Sebasco Lake has been dated to be nearly 6,000 years old. But as the number of anglers after brook trout has more than doubled in recent years, many areas have become overfished. New regulations for 650 of Maine's 1,471 brook trout waters go into effect January 1. The stricter rules are to give the trout a better chance to reach spawning age and to provide more trophy fish.

Conservationists have been pushing for deconstruction of the Edwards Dam on the Kennebec River. The owners of the dam have admitted finally they cannot afford to upgrade the hydropower facility and build the fish passage they earlier proposed. A new study confirms that pollutants behind the dam would pose no major environmental problems

if the structure is removed. (Contact the Kennebec Coalition, 271 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330.)

• **Predators & Prey:** Thousands of people, young and old, hunters and non-hunters, turned out to watch the Wild Sentry program in Maine in late September. Wild Sentry presented demonstrations on the fables and facts about wolves in communities from Portland to East Millinocket. Despite clear evidence that viable populations of timberwolves could exist in Maine with minimal impact on hunting, timbering or grazing, the big bad wolf mythology persists. The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine has been circulating anti-wolf petitions. Conservation groups are circulating pro-wolf petitions. (Contact Maine Wolf Coalition, RFD 6, Box 533, Augusta, ME 04330 or RESTORE, 7 North Chestnut Street, Augusta, ME 04330.)

Reports of mountain lions, another important animal at the top of the food chain, continue to pour in. Two videotapes of large, cat-like critters photographed in Maine this fall have been ruled inconclusive by state wildlife biologists.

Over 1,270 moose were legally put out of their earthly misery this hunting season, but an unprecedented number were shot illegally in what wardens called the worst ever moose hunt. Roughly half as many moose collide with cars in Maine each year as are shot. That leaves about 22,000 wandering carelessly around the state. In November, a moose that wandered too close to a dam in Skowhegan on the Kennebec River was swept over but lived to walk away from the wildwater ride.

The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine continues to sight itself in its own crosshairs. This fall a majority of the SAM board resigned in an effort to force out executive director George Smith. They are still tracking him, wounded and limping, through the metaphorical woods as the new year approaches. In an effort to divert attention he scheduled a Sportsman's Congress in December to try to put angry hunters back onto the trail of conservationists.

• **Profits Boom, Taxes Sag:** Many forestry corporations continue to enjoy record breaking profits. Third quarter earnings included Boise Cascade \$119 million, Bowater \$88 million, Champion International \$236 million, Georgia-Pacific \$325 million, International Paper \$328 million. After years of little capital investment here some of those profits are being pumped back to Maine papermills finally. Madison Paper, a joint venture of Finnish Myllykoski Oy and The New York

Times Company, is the latest to announce a substantial project, a half billion dollar expansion of its mill in Madison. The Prime Minister of Finland even traveled to Maine to tour the Madison facility. International Paper, Georgia-Pacific, Fraser, and James River each had previously announced that plant upgrades are planned. However, according to the state economist, while the paper industry is prospering, Maine is not sharing through higher tax revenue because companies have been saving up investment tax credits. Meanwhile, the U.S. Justice Department has started looking into possible anti-competitive practices in the newsprint industry because of skyrocketing prices and concerns of price-fixing.

In other forest news, Stone and Webster started commercial operation of its \$65 million Virgin Pulp Substitute recycled fiber plant in Auburn. International Paper has been dropped from the Council on Economic Priorities' annual ranking of worst polluters in the U.S. IP's mill in Jay has been discharging in a big way, but the Maine Supreme Court ruled in October the town will have to decrease pollution fines levied under its local ordinance from \$394,000 to no more than \$62,000. A worker safety program developed by labor and management at several Maine papermills, including Great Northern Paper (a Bowater subsidiary) and S.D. Warren (a Sappi subsidiary), is being adopted nationwide by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Champion International has contracted to buy 30,000 acres of forest land along the Machias River from the Hearst Corporation. At the same time, Champion lost round one of its \$100 million local property tax dispute. The company may appeal.

Otis Specialty Papers (a Rexham subsidiary) is completing a new \$1 million products development lab at its facilities in Jay, but has had to curtail hours and layoff about 40 employees at its mill due to soft demand. S.D. Warren (Sappi) has been shutting down paper-making machines in its Somerset mill at alternate times this fall due to sluggish market conditions. Still no word on Scott Paper's plans for the company's mill in Winslow since it was announced Scott would merge into Kimberly-Clark. No news either on James River's intent for its Old Town plant, but it is likely to feel some of the \$640 million in company-wide cuts JR wants to achieve over the next three years.

In the first half of 1995 exports from Maine were way up for both pulp and paper (49%) and lumber and wood products (46%) over 1994. The National Wildlife Federation estimates that about 2,000 jobs are lost because of raw log exports, most of which go to Canada. Effective September 28, a new state import/export notification law went into effect. Log and woodchip exports from the proposed Sears Island cargoport continue to be extremely controversial. Organized labor voted to oppose the project unless the unprocessed wood exports were dropped. The cargoport has run into other troubles lately too: the EPA said Sears Island was a preferable location rather than mainland Mack Point, but the Army Corps of Engineers has forced the Maine Department of Transportation to redesign the port so that it would use

piers instead of solid fill.

The Maine Low-Impact Forestry Project, the brainchild of small woodland owner Mitch Lansky, sponsored a demonstration in Atkinson to showcase alternatives to industrial strength forest practices. The Maine Board of Pesticide Control passed over a citizen's petition to ban aerial pesticide spraying. Governor Angus King told paper industry representatives they need to expedite ending the discharge of dioxin in our waters. The Maine Paper Industry Information Office has expanded with the hiring of a manager of environmental affairs as well as a new director of communications. Maine Public TV is featuring the Maine Woods in two new programs, "High On Maine" (broadcast December 3, 7 and 10) and "Quest" (broadcast January 2 and 7).

sawdust. To promote the 500 plus secondary wood products producers in the state a new trade group, the Maine Wood Products Association, has formed this fall. (Contact MWPA, PO Box 1155, Greenville, ME 04441.)

• **Marketing Maine:** Entrepreneurs have long been exploiting images of the Maine Woods. L.L. Bean, for instance, has sold thousands of Baxter State Parkers through its catalog and stores. And Poland Spring has advertised its bottled waters as representing the purity of Maine's wilderness aquifers. Indeed, the State has registered "Maine Made—America's Best" as a trademark. However, some of the latest schemes to cash in on the good name of Maine make you wonder. The microbrewery craze sweeping the country has generated several new local brands that seek

in the public and private sectors.

• **Come Up and See ME Sometime:** For five centuries folks have been traveling to Maine looking for a good time. The first few hundred years they were mainly interested in finding the golden city of Norumbaga. As with everything, Hollywood transformed the idea into the sexier named OZ. Well, OZ seekers, your time has arrived, though there have been some modifications. Bring your alpine equipment and a taste for hip nightlife. OZ, the eighth peak opened to downhill skiing at Sunday River resort in the Mahoosuc Mountains along the New Hampshire border, is the latest stroke of marketing genius from Les Otten. Over the past decade and a half Otten has invested almost \$100 million to build Sunday River into a real estate developer's golden dream with hundreds of condominium, town house, and hotel units, as well as lifts and slopes attracting well over half a million skiers a year. Plans call for further expansion which will bring the resort butting against nearby public lands. For now, Otten is determined to repeat his ski resort magic at recently purchased Sugarbush in Vermont and Attitash, Bear Peak and Cranmore in New Hampshire.

While Sunday River has boomed, Saddleback resort near Rangeley has languished. A long-standing disagreement still simmers between Saddleback owner Don Breen and Appalachian Trail advocates. The AT traverses Saddleback Mountain through one of the last unprotected parcels along the entire 2,150 mile corridor. Les Otten could be everyone's white knight if he were to take Saddleback off Don Breen's hands, quickly strike a deal to sell an expanded Appalachian Trail corridor to the Park Service, and run Saddleback as the quiet member of his family of resorts where rat racers could go to escape the glitz and nightlife of his other mountain theme parks. And he could probably finance the deal with change from his cupboard petty cash fund.

Tourism is now a \$2.75 billion a year industry in Maine. It puts dinner on the table for 76,000 Mainers and generates \$210 million annually for state government as well as another \$110 in local revenue. An emerging new strategy for state tourism promotion will encourage visits to inland areas. But the ambivalence of Mainers about folks from away is legendary. As communities on the edge of the big woods struggle with their mixed emotions, opportunities abound to take advantage of global tourism trends. Governor Angus King insists that during a recent trip to Japan he convinced a high-end magazine to do a major feature on Maine by dazzling the editor with stories of fly-fishing in the Maine wilds. Travelers around the world are anxious to come to the fabled Maine Woods, but not to see clearcuts. It is increasingly clear that the highest and best use of many areas of our forests is as reserves for preservation of biodiversity, scenic beauty, and wildlands recreation. Editorial trends are often a bellwether. Among the numerous editorials showing up lately, for instance, was one in the conservative *Aroostook Republican* arguing that "Tourism can boost local economy."

Jym St. Pierre, RESTORE: The North Woods, 7 North Chestnut Street, Augusta, ME 04330, (207) 626-5635.



• **Wood You, Could You?:** Pulp and paper get most of the publicity, but a lot of the action is in the secondary wood products industry these days. Vic Firth Manufacturing of Newport (formerly Banton Precision Woods Products) is doing a booming business in high quality drumsticks. Its sales of peppermills are nothing to sneeze at either. Forster Inc. (a Diamond Brands subsidiary), the world's largest maker of wooden spring clothespins, is consolidating production and put its Wilton plant up for sale. Brunswick Technologies Inc. is teaming with University of Maine scientists to develop a stronger, lighter alternative to plywood made from woodwaste and fiberglass. Holy Peat Inc. is setting up plants in Crystal and Houlton to make wood pellets for fuel from woodchips and instant consumer appeal by evoking some of the best known mountains and rivers of Maine's wildlands, including Katahdin, Carrabassett and Allagash. No one has been more bold about selling Maine than Governor Angus King. First he convinced the legislature to endorse his idea to issue a Katahdin Credit Card to raise a bit of money for land protection, though no cards or funds have appeared yet. More recently he persuaded the Maine Chamber of Commerce & Industry to form a partnership called Maine & Company which is supposed to attract new business investment to Maine. Because of the overlap with King's political supporters in business, the Maine & Co. initiative blurs the lines as much with the King reelection campaign as between economic development efforts

Concerns Raised About Boundary Mountain Avian Studies

by Pamela Prodan

After gaining the Land Use Regulation Commission's (LURC) approval this past August to rezone 25.7 miles, or about 20 peaks' worth, of Maine mountaintop ridges for development as a wind farm, Kenetech Windpower, Inc. filed its 1994 spring and fall avian study reports with the agency in September. The reports, on nocturnal songbird migration, were prepared for Kenetech by Northrup, Devine and Tarbell, Inc., of Portland, Maine, and were submitted in compliance with one of the conditions of LURC's August approval.

In designing the studies, Kenetech retained Dr. Paul Kerlinger, then Director of Research, Cape May Bird Observatory for the New Jersey Audubon Society as a study advisor. Maine Audubon Society representatives also helped with planning. Both studies delve into the question of the occurrence of migrating songbirds in the vicinity of Kibby Range, one small part of the planned sprawling complex. Presumably, the site specific data obtained would be used to further evaluate whether wind turbines located on Kibby Range would cause an adverse impact on migrating songbirds.

I asked Professor Herb Wilson, an ornithologist in the Department of Biology of Colby College, Waterville, Maine, to review the studies and tell me what he thought of them. Professor Wilson hiked Kibby Mountain recently and is doing avian field research this winter not far from the Boundary Mountains region. He said, "I have read both reports and have found some sloppiness and misleading inferences in the two reports..." What follows includes a sampling of comments provided to me by Professor Wilson in response to specific parts of the reports:

About Kenetech's conclusion in the spring report that there is little likelihood that the ridgelines would be used by foraging or resting migrants, Professor Wilson remarked:

The authors acknowledge that songbirds migrate in broad fronts. The migrants stop when forced to by inclement weather, lack of energy or forest habitat. To use the references

cited to claim that songbirds use traditional stop-over sites (like shorebirds, for instance) is inappropriate. From my own observations, I would doubt that the Kibby Mtn. area is any different from the rest of old-growth Northern Forest. The claim that "energy-rich food resources are not known to be abundant" is true only because no one has done a study of the insect fauna of the area. The authors have made a rather convoluted argument to show that the Kibby Mtn. area is not an important migratory stop-over area based on the fact that nothing is known of the food resources.

Kenetech used a marine surveillance radar to monitor migrating birds. Data was collected by "sub-sam-

pling." In other words, at least two three-minute samples were taken during each full hour of radar operation and extrapolating from these sample numbers, Kenetech came up with a count for how many radar targets passed through the radar viewing area while the radar was in operation. Professor Wilson comments with regard to the fall migration numbers:

Radar tracking was done for only 14 nights, five hours per night, during the period between August 22 and October 4. This period spans 43 days. To gain an estimate of the fall flight, we would need to triple the 118,621 birds [that Kenetech counted]. This estimate will be conservative because they did not count during the early hours before

dawn when migration is reduced although still occurring. Furthermore, they ended their study far too soon. Sparrow migration continues well into October. The second highest total of migrants they found was on October 1, near the end of their observation period. Therefore, it is possible that in excess of 400,000 songbirds migrate through the radar viewing area.

Ceilometers were used to observe the occurrence of low-altitude flights over the ridgeline. Ceilometers are basically two light beams and they were set up to intersect at an altitude of 200 feet. The researchers found that 63.2 percent of the birds observed in the ceilometer beam were at or below the 200-foot high intersection of the light beams. Since 17.8 percent of birds sighted in the radar were reported to have flight paths toward or in the vicinity of the ridgeline, if you accept Professor Wilson's estimate of 400,000 total fall migrants, you have an estimated 45,000 birds that are likely to encounter a turbine on just that one ridgeline surveyed. In Professor Wilson's words, "The potential impacts to me are staggering."

The 1994 nocturnal migration studies appear to be headed for the trash bin as far as LURC is concerned. According to a November 22, 1995, letter I received from the LURC staff member now working on the Kenetech project, there is only one item in the current Kenetech file. That is a letter from Kenetech's attorney confirming a November 28, 1995 meeting between Kenetech representatives and LURC staff, to review requirements for submission of an application for final development plan approval. With no plans on LURC's part for formal review and consideration of the studies in its decision on Kenetech's final development plan, Kenetech could deftly sidestep ever facing any determination as to what the potential impacts on birds could be from their proposal.

Pamela Prodan is the Maine attorney representing the groups and individuals appealing LURC's decision to rezone the mountain tops from protection to development zones and approve Kenetech's preliminary development plan.

Provocative Winter Reads for the Northern Forest Dweller

On the cusp of a new century should we be optimistic or pessimistic about the environment? A torrent of books and articles on both sides has been flowing lately. For instance,

- "Ooops! Our Forefathers Didn't Plan for Much Protection of the Northern Forest: Will We?" by Norman Boucher in **National Wildlife**, October/November 1995. Concludes economic and ecological diversity is our only hope, but that no one is sure how to get it.
- "Wild Woods," by Stephen Gorman in **Sierra**, November/December 1995. Bad news is Maine's forests are being felled at an unsustainable rate; good news is pressure is mounting for more permanently protected land.
- "The Other Logging Dispute Rages in the Forest Primeval in New England," by Susan Seager in **The New York Times**, November, 21, 1995. Is the forest fine or in decline?
- **Losing Ground: American Environmentalism at the Close of the Twentieth Century**, by Mark Dowie, MIT Press, 1995. Argues the environmental movement is courting hopeless irrelevance because its national leaders are too white, polite, elite, male and enamored of beltway politics.
- **A Moment on the Earth: The Coming Age of Environmental Optimism**, by Gregg Easterbrook, Viking, 1995. Easterbrook so desperately wants to be hopeful he skews the data.
- **The Dying of the Trees: The Pandemic in America's Forests** by Charles E.

Little, Viking, 1995. Little desperately wants to be hopeful, but is driven to despair.

- **Hope, Human and Wild: True Stories of Living Lightly on the Earth**, by Bill McKibben, Little, Brown, 1995. Optimistic plea for living well by living softer in the Northern Forest and elsewhere. Features many of the characters regularly encountered in **The Northern Forest Forum**.
- "The Great Green East: Lands Everyone Wants," by Carl Reidel and "Is Forest Management Harming Songbirds," by Eddie Nickens both in **American Forests**, Autumn 1995. Reidel thinks McKibben is too hopeful. [Ed. Note: I think McKibben has moved beyond the despair of Reidel and Charles Little to show us that however dismal things are ecologically and politically, there are important things we all can do; there is reason for hope.] Nickens documents bird declines but suggests balance can save the day.
- **Maine's Golden Road: A Memoir**, by John Gould, W.W. Norton, 1995. Hopelessly optimistic, Gould excuses all, even fifty-mile long clearcuts.
- **From Cape Cod to the Bay of Fundy: An Environmental Atlas of the Gulf of Maine**, edited by Philip W. Conkling, MIT Press, 1995. Offers the ironic hope that eye-in-the-sky technology may convince our kids to fix our down-to-earth overharvesting mistakes.

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How Can Communities Gain Control of Their Resources Again?

A Conversation With Donella Meadows

Some say economics is a form of brain damage. The Forum believes it is essential to de-mystify economic terminology if we are ever to move toward sustainability. We who live in the Northern Forest are fortunate to have amongst us Donella Meadows, an internationally respected proponent of sustainable economics. We asked her to explain what "economic growth", "the global economy", and "free markets" really mean to global ecosystems.

Donella Meadows teaches environmental studies at Dartmouth College and writes a nationally syndicated newspaper column, "The Global Citizen." In 1972, in collaboration with Dennis Meadows, Jørgen Randers, and Bill Behrens, she wrote *The Limits to Growth*, a challenge to prevailing assumptions about economic growth and resource use. The book created a furor and is still being "refuted" by growth proponents. In 1993 three of the four original authors published a follow-up, *Beyond the Limits: Confronting Global Collapse; Envisioning a Sustainable Future*, which updates their earlier work and challenges all human cultures to re-direct their values away from unrestrained growth (of population and material consumerism) on a finite planet and toward the development of sustainable institutions that promote and protect a high quality of life for all. After Mitch Lansky and I conducted this interview with Professor Meadows on a lovely October afternoon, we attended her "Environmental Ethics" class in which her students turned the tables on us and grilled us for two hours about wildlands protection, industrial forestry, and grassroots activism.

—JS

Jamie Sayen: What is economic growth? Why do politicians of all parties always promise economic growth? Why is it the universal mantra?

Donella Meadows: I wish I knew. Why do we let them get away with that? Why don't we ask them "Growth of what?" and "Who is getting it?" and "Who is paying the cost of it?" and "How long can it last?" How did this become our national religion—growth, growth, growth—without asking what's growing? It's really crazy to say we want growth, but we aren't going to ask any of the hard questions about who's getting the growth or what's growing or whether it's possible for that growth to be sustained by the environment. How did we get to that mass hypnosis about the religion of growth? I don't know. I'm often astounded at the things people will give up in order to get growth.

JS: Can you give a brief idea of what it is in their terms that is growing?

DM: We have to start deconstructing the word "growth". I think what the politicians usually are talking about is GDP (gross domestic product) or GNP (gross national product) per capita or total. In the *Atlantic Monthly* this month, there's a cover article called "If the Economy is Up, Why is America Down?" It takes the GDP and shows what a stupid measure it is because it combines good things and bad things. When you have train wrecks and big hospital bills, the GDP goes up. When we save electricity with efficient light bulbs the GDP goes down.

JS: When I get cancer, it's good for the economy.

DM: Right. Precisely. Any great tragedy—Hurricane Andrew was supposed to be one of the great things for our economic growth because we had to rebuild all those houses. So the GDP is clearly a nutty measure, and yet, I think that's basically what the politicians are talking about when they talk about growth, though they are not very precise, and I think if you stopped them for one moment and asked them, you would find they don't know what they're talking about.

That's something I recommend. In New Hampshire we see all these politicians leading up to the Primary. They're hanging out in our back yards, and saying growth, growth, growth. I think we ought to just systematically ask "Growth of what?" "What do you mean?" "Why are you in favor of it?" And then



Donella Meadows

you'll find they're blubbing idiots on this subject.

GDP is strictly the measure of the amount of money that is flowing through our lives. It's not a measure of anything physical. It's the amount of money we spend in a year as a nation, or earn in a year.

That's one definition of growth—GDP, money flow, the bigger the better, kind of a national religion. From an environmental point of view, it doesn't matter really whether money flows or not; money is fictitious; it has no direct influence on the environment.

What's important from an environmental point of view is the actual amount of energy and materials that we're taking from the Earth and using and transforming and throwing back to the Earth in a degraded form. That's the kind of growth—of physical throughput—that's unsustainable in the long run. That cannot keep getting higher and higher and higher and higher. There's a limit to how much lumber and food and water and so on the Earth can provide, and there's a limit to how much waste and pollution we can throw back.

JS: And the GDP and GNP have no way of subtracting the negatives, nor can they measure the using up of capital as opposed to the spending of biological interest.

DM: Right. The other crazy thing about the GDP, of course, is that it's measuring the flow, but it doesn't tell you whether that flow is emptying the tub out of which it's flowing, or whether it's being renewed.

There are absolute limits to physical throughput. There's only so much that can be supported. If you go over, you don't just sort of pull things down a little bit, you can crash things. You can destroy resources utterly. You can create deserts where there were forests. Or you can create ecosystems that no longer function because they are missing huge numbers of species that will never come back. There are some real catastrophes possible in pushing physical growth beyond its physical limits.

Herman Daly has made a really fine distinction. He talks about growth as physical swelling—pushing more stuff through our lives. He talks about development as increasing the quality of our lives. Increasing quality may or may not mean more stuff going through our lives. It may very well mean less—less packaging, less junk mail, less miles of commuting. More efficient light bulbs which would mean less electricity, but the same amount of light. From a development/quality point of view, negative growth might be a good thing. This is something that does not penetrate the political dialogue.

JS: It doesn't lend itself to five second sound bites?

DM: Probably that's one of the problems. Another problem is that there are great vested interests that want us to use more oil, more electricity, more plastic, more paper, because they're the people who sell the stuff. Even if there were time in the sound bite, they wouldn't want us to question growth.

JS: Next big question: Why do we hear so much about the global economy today, and what is it?

DM: I'm really not the person to explain to you why people think it's such a good idea to globalize, because, just as I think it's a nutty idea to grow for the sake of growing—growth isn't really the purpose of life—globalization isn't the purpose of life either. Why is this such a hot topic? One reason is economic limits to growth within nation-states—that is, the size that a corporation can be, the size of a market, the amount of plastic you can sell. The biggest companies, if they had to stay within the United States market or the European market, or the Japanese market, couldn't grow any more because they are selling all the plastic or paper that people want. The only way the companies can go on growing is to start moving into other markets.

JS: China, Russia.

DM: Yes, or US to Europe and vice versa. They're also eating each other's markets. The general idea is that every company has to grow. They are structurally forced to grow because of this casino called the stock market, where you have people betting on growth and winning if companies grow. The casino gambling feeds back to reward corporate executives or to punish them if they don't grow. So, the CEO's job and million dollar salary are on the line every quarter if that corporation doesn't grow.

There is a strange set of cultural institutions, all of which are designed around growth—the idea that money should grow, that investors should get more back than they put in, and that the purpose of the company is to get bigger. If the company can't get bigger because it only has 260 million people to sell to, then it has to find two billion people to sell to.

Now they have the technical possibility to do that. Really, only over the last 20 years have they had the possibility, in terms of information and in terms of real cheap oil after the collapse in the 1980s, to move capital, labor, factories, products, pieces of products, anywhere in the world, keeping it all coordinated through a big information system. One piece of the Toyota gets made in Indonesia where the labor is cheap, another piece gets made in Tokyo where the technology is high, and another piece gets made in the United States where the final delivery will be. They couldn't do that 20 years ago, physically or informationally. But now they can, and that's why globalization has broken out; it always wanted to go that way and now it can.

JS: Is this somewhat like a Frederick Jackson Turner frontier thesis, only this is an economic frontier: as long as the United States still had untapped markets we didn't really have to worry about globalization so much, but once we've tapped those markets, that frontier has been met and it's time to explore other markets?

DM: Yes, I think so. That, and the fact that we also have reached limits of a lot of our own resources. So we have to go all over the world to get the metals and the oils. Although typically, economies have always had to do that, before they could do it by colonization. But that got socially unacceptable so now they do it by financial colonization.

Mitch Lansky: What you're talking about is a kind of logic, which, if you follow it, leads to a conclusion that once limits are met to how big they can expand globally, then the next thing they can do is to start swallowing other companies.

DM: They're already doing that.

ML: That's the only way to keep growing.

DM: That's the appearance of growth. In that case there's no real physical growth going on. You could

say that's a benign process from the point of view of the Earth, but, of course we know that a lot of people get badly hurt in that process.

ML: It also has to do with how much political power these companies have versus how much power the countries have that are supposed to regulate them.

DM: That's a good point. That's a third reason for globalization: it has allowed companies, and especially banks and financial institutions, to go outside the regulatory bounds of nation-states. So anti-trust laws, all kinds of securities and exchange laws on the proper way to treat people's investment monies, environmental laws, all can be escaped if you can move yourself anywhere in the world. You can go where the standards are lowest, or where there are no standards, like the Cayman Islands, if you're a bank, and then you can do any irresponsible thing you want.

Then growth and globalization become primary drivers behind the unsustainable rates of cutting in most of the forests in this country, and in other countries. Every time a company swallows another company, somebody has gone into major debt—billions, hundreds of billions of dollars of debt—in order to buy the company. In the 1980s, in particular, that debt was financed by junk bonds which have something like 50% per year rates of interest—huge rates of interest because they were risky bets.

So these new companies have enormous interest payments to make, and there's only one way to make those interest payments, and that's to grab every resource possible on the one hand and fire as many workers as possible on the other hand.

In that sense, this abstract game on the high financial level, moving ownerships around and doing things on the stock markets is felt right back down on the land, in the forests and agricultural fields, fishing, most of the physical resources. It really hits communities and the Earth and people's jobs, all because they're playing a high stakes game with dollars or francs or marks off in some investment bank somewhere.

JS: So, in the Northern Forest, where we've got about 10 million acres owned by multinationals headquartered from away, decisions whether to cut or not to cut, how hard to cut, are not being made locally by the people who know the land. And decisions to stay or go...

DM: Or to liquidate those assets so you could pay off a big debt that you took on because you just bought a new company...

JS: Or downsize, which is a euphemism for firing people, all these decisions are out of our hands.

DM: Precisely. They're not only out of our hands, they're not only made without even looking at the physical reality of the forests, or the communities, or the workers, but they're made for a goal—growth forever—that's totally insane. It's not a human goal.

There's no real value in it. It's so that some corporate executives can have power over more corporate assets than they used to have. They have a bigger salary than they used to have. The driving force is ego, power, and the accumulation of wealth in money terms, not in real wealth. I mean, forest is real wealth, but dollars in the bank are just fictitious.

JS: But the people who are doing this are going to say, whether it's whaling or forestry or whatever, "But of course we want to sustain the resource that we earn our incomes from. We aren't in the business of liquidating forests, driving whales to extinction."

DM: I don't hear them saying that, not very many of them. They know better. What I hear them saying—especially if they're being honest and not being in their corporate persona on a stage somewhere—is: "We are in a trap. We are being driven by the system to do things that make us sick to our stomach. We are the ones (especially the middle management) who have to fire our best friends. We are the ones who watch the communities we used to live in disappear in terms of their economic base. We are the ones who have to munch up the forest in ways that we know are irresponsible, and we can't help it because we have to pay that 50% junk bond."

I have a friend who's a manager of a small ball-bearing plant right near here. It got acquired by a big company and then it got acquired by a bigger company, and so on. It has gotten acquired three times in the last ten years. It's now owned by a multinational steel company. And he said, "I've had personally to re-buy the value of my company three times in ten years *for no reason*." What that re-buying meant was putting out product at a higher and higher efficiency, with fewer and fewer people, with less and less environmental quality, cutting every possible corner they could cut, in order to get more money. Three times the value of that company had to be earned by the output of that company. We can say the mines and forests and soils are being asked to do that too, and certainly the fish—that's what's driving the collapse of the fisheries.

JS: And yet, aren't the politicians are saying the reason for the need to grow is to create jobs?

DM: But of course we know that's bullshit. (*General laughter*) That's just what they say. They know that's bullshit.

JS: I joke with a neighbor who has created about ten jobs in the community over the last decade that he's created more jobs than the entire Fortune 500.

DM: Probably by thousands, if you count negative jobs. (*Laughter*) Again, just like saying we need growth, "We are doing this for jobs" is just what they say. Why do we let them get away with it? Why do we let people say ridiculous things over and over and not even snicker?

JS: I'd like to bring this back to the community level. A Northern Forest community would like to live in an ecologically and an economically sustainable manner in a way that meets the basic needs of the members of the community, whether human or non-human, and which can also meet those needs for future generations. Given that we are in this global economy, and the goals of the communities are at odds with the momentum and goals of the global economy, how do you go about doing this?

DM: We can't do it within the global economy. NAFTA and GATT are just the new rules created by the people who are chasing these will-o-the-wisp goals, to make it easier for them to do it. NAFTA and GATT are the final stake in the heart of sovereignty. They allow the multinational corporations to trud over any community or nation's preferences. Any time a community or nation says "no, you shall not do this here," NAFTA and GATT allow the company to say that's an unfair restraint of trade and sweep the local law away.

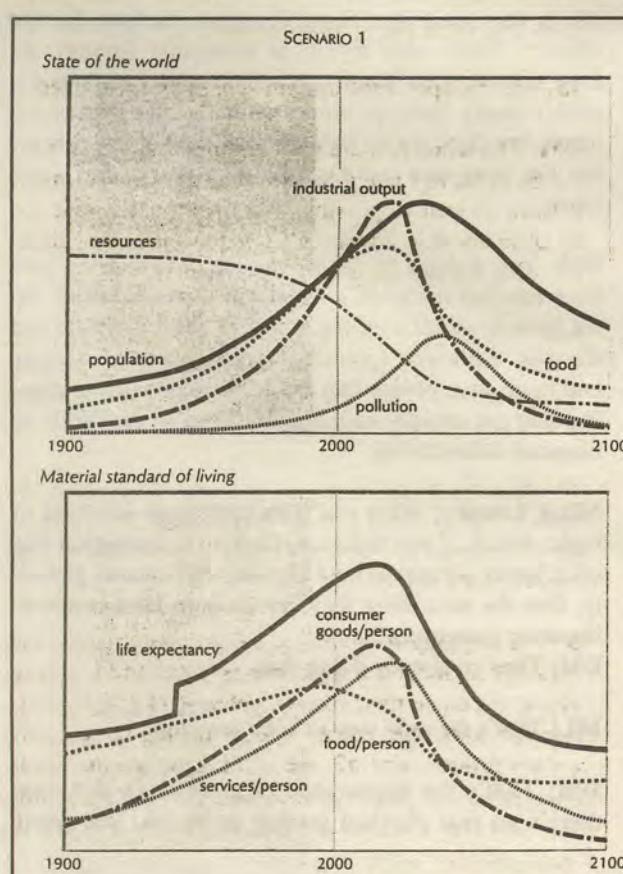
JS: So instead of having to locate the least common denominator country that will allow a corporation to get away with the most, with NAFTA and GATT the corporations can now do this anywhere and object to environmental regulations as restraint of trade.

DM: Or labor regulations, or anything. It's always a disaster in a system when the rules of the game get in the hands of a very few people, because they just can't resist the temptation to write rules of the game to satisfy only themselves. That's what's happened here. This is the final world-wide grabbing of the rules of the game. You and I can't go to the new World Trade Organization and say there ought to be environmental law. We don't even have standing. People don't count.

This is not just affecting people in the Northern Forest. I was just in Hungary; I've just been talking to people in Indonesia and Thailand and Costa Rica, all of whom are seeing the same things happen to them—huge forces that they don't even understand, that are driven by the exchange rate between the Costa Rican colones and British pounds and the desire of a banana company to pay off its junk bond. People are finding they're losing control over their own resources and their own long-term viewpoint over how those resources should be managed.

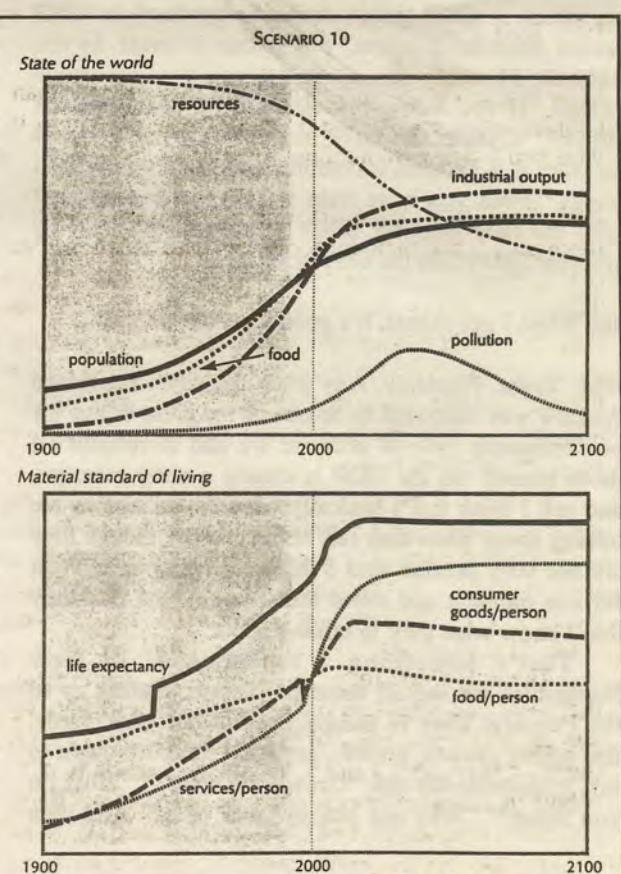
When you're paying 50% interest, your time horizon is about one week. Communities have generational time horizons, just by the fact that they're run not by the needs of money, but by the desires of people, and people care about children and grandchildren. I just was at a meeting in which everybody was saying "How can communities get control of their resources again?" How can they participate in the decisions that affect them? Whether those are about how fast to log the forest or what kind of jobs are really viable in this community?

I don't know the answer. The only answer I know



In Beyond the Limits, the authors offer several "scenarios" of what the future might look like under various assumptions. On the left is "Scenario 1", which assumes that global policies toward population, growth, and pollution will not change. The authors write: "The world society proceeds along its historical path as long as possible without major policy change. Population and industry output grow until a combination of environmental and natural resource constraints eliminate the capacity of the capital sector to sustain investment. Industrial capital begins to depreciate faster than the new investment can rebuild it. As it falls, food and health services also fall, decreasing life expectancy and raising the death rate."

To the right is "Scenario 10" which assumes that world society adopts profound changes in population, growth, and pollution policies in 1995. They write, "In this scenario population and industrial output per person are moderated... and in addition technologies are developed to conserve resources, protect agricultural land, increase land yield, and abate pollution. The resulting society sustains 7.7 billion people at a comfortable standard of living with high life expectancy and declining pollution until at least the year 2100. (From: Beyond the Limits, pages 132-133 and 198-199.)



is as much as possible to separate yourself from that global system. Not need anything from it, and not be dependent on giving anything to it. Creating some self-sufficiency on some national—or community preferably—level. That's not easy to do. You know, I know, all those people who've tried to live that way know. You can only go so far in that direction. You still need oil. You still pay something to an international oil company. But you don't need to buy sneakers made for pitiful wages in Indonesia.

ML: Responding to what you were saying about how difficult it is to disconnect, we have a problem with what Ivan Illych called the "radical monopolies" of things like automobiles such that our lives are designed around them. The roads are separating us from where we shop, where we work, where we live, so that there's no possible way to get there except by car.

DM: Especially in rural areas like here. I have a Honda because it gave me the best gas mileage I could get at the time. It's ten years old. I've just been told it has terminal rust. I'm going to have to buy a major piece of capital equipment which will get rusted out because we have judged as a society that it's better to go fast on winter roads and put salt everywhere than to slow down or stay home. And, of course, I still need to buy that damn oil—for which I pay probably one-tenth of what I should pay, if you count its full costs to society. The best I can get is a 50 mile per gallon Honda. I know they can make 100 mile per gallon cars, but I can't get one. And there's no mass transit here.

ML: Getting back to what you were saying, there's the attempt to decouple from the global economy, but at the same time there are attempts, such as Richard Grossman's, to look at the corporate charters to see if something could be done to limit the power of the corporations that way. And then there are the powers of democracy to regulate them.

DM: Three strikes and you're out—ought to apply to corporate crime too, shouldn't it?

I think everyone should work on whatever level they can, from private consumption to corporate charters, because no single person can work on all levels and all levels need to be worked on. I work sometimes with the big corporations because I want them to foment their own revolution. I want them to get as scared as I am about the collapse of resources around the planet, and to see that the large corporations don't even know what's in their own best interest. If they started acting in what's their own long-term best interest, if they could get out from under the junk bonds long enough to focus, they could change their own system. There are people in the corporate sector who I can have intelligent and useful conversations about that.

ML: You've raised a really interesting point. You said "in *their* best interests" as if the corporation were an individual.

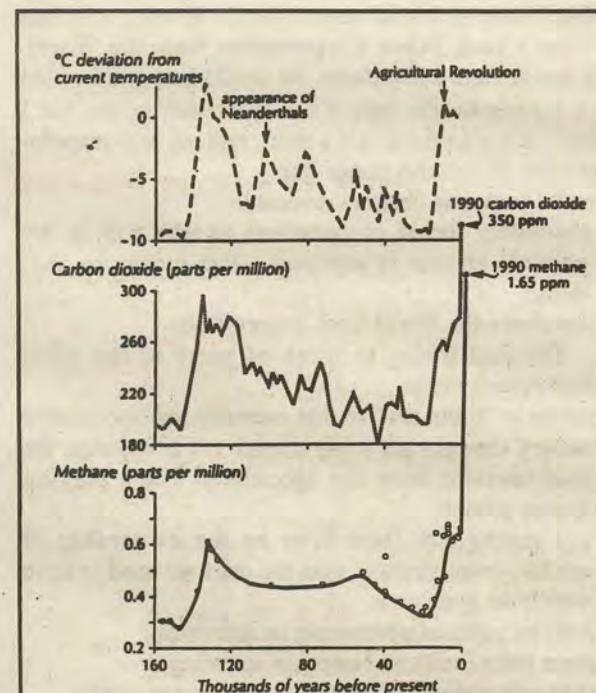
DM: Well, I'm talking to people...

ML: Right. There's the corporation that's bigger than people, and there are the people who work within it who also live in communities.

DM: That's why I said there's a difference between these people and their corporate persona. When they're off the record, they're people. They have children. They love nature, and they're worth talking to. But, if they have to be the corporation, they can only be concerned about that next interest payment, and they are un-talk-too-able. They're trapped. They're in a tighter straight jacket by far than either you or I in terms of what they are free to do.

In fact, it really would cause you great hysteria to hear corporate executives talk about how totally unfree they are to do anything because of their competitors, their customers, the regulators, the bankers, the suppliers, and so on. And, it's true. They feel like they are in prison. They can hardly turn around.

The only thing they can really do—I keep telling them—is to restructure their prison. If they insist on staying within the rules of the game as they are now, there's nothing they can do. They're just going to contribute in a massive way to the destruction of the Earth and of human society. But if they start asking "How should this system really work?", then they have



Greenhouse Gases & Global Temperature Over the Past 160,000 Years

Ice core measurements show that there have been significant temperature variations on Earth (ice ages and interglacial periods) and that carbon dioxide and methane levels in the atmosphere have varied in concert with global temperature. Recent concentrations of these greenhouse gases have soared much higher than they have been since long before the appearance of the human species. —From Beyond the Limits, page 98.

power. It's always the case that your big power is to (a) choose carefully what game you're going to play, and (b) keep working to make the rules of that game work for your real purposes and for the ongoing health of the planet.

ML: Organisms change the environment that they are in, and they like to change it in ways that favor them, and when you have a single organism—the corporation—changing the political and ecological environment to suit it, that destabilizes the whole system.

DM: They don't realize. They have no real sense of how powerful they are. I'm astonished at how un-powerful these people feel.

JS: According to the growth economy system, the free market will correct all problems, including environmental problems. What's the free market system, how free is it? Why isn't it doing a better job of correcting environmental problems?

DM: Well, the free market is part of the same religious gobbledegook. The free market cannot begin to solve environmental problems. The free market can do one and only one thing. It is a really neat tool, but it's like a chisel, it can just chisel. It can't saw, and it can't pound nails. What it can do, in the short-term, it can allocate investment and production and so on among the short-term interests as represented in the market. It does a nice, neat, cute job of that.

It can't look ahead. It can't take into account any human value that isn't measured in money. It has a systemic bias to give all of nature a value of zero, because any time you can get away with that you get more profits. Anybody who can value nature, or human beings, or communities, or anything at zero, doesn't have to pay for what is taken from that zero-value entity. When you lay a person off, if you had to pay for that person's life to go on, you wouldn't lay that person off. If you had to pay for the continued health of the forest, and keep putting money back into the forest as you take value out of it, then we'd have something like full cost accounting, which would help the market work even in the long-term.

The market tells deep, big lies every day about the prices of things—systematically. It's not an accident. For years and years economists have said we should charge the full cost of pollution or the full cost of depleting the resource. But it has never happened because there's such a strong incentive for it not to happen.

JS: But isn't there a limit to this? Suppose our system said, "Fine, we'll pay for the clean-up of the pollu-

tion", that still doesn't get at the qualitative issues such as what is the dollar value of a sunset? Or a healthy child? Or a clean river? We can say, "Well it costs us a hundred dollars to run this body of water through the purification system," but we can't say what we've lost in terms of systemic integrity, not to mention the pleasure of the fish that are swimming in it.

DM: That's what they all say. They say, "We can't do that therefore we won't do it at all, and we'll just keep zero as our value." It's a great cop out. The truth is, socially, we could put a price on the integrity of a community. We could put a price on the ecological value of a standing tree. We could say that tree standing right there is worth \$500,000. It's as arbitrary as zero, but it's probably closer to right. The thing is, we are doing it; we are putting a value on it: zero. We could choose any other arbitrary value we wanted to.

But I wouldn't do that, frankly. There are two ways to go at this. One is to try to fix the market so that it will do the social and environmental things we want it to do. The other is to say, "The hell with the market, that is not the tool with which to do that job." The market is only a chisel and over there the job is sewing, so we need a different tool. The trouble is that for some reason our culture is chisel-happy and we only want to use that one tool. Then we get into all these impossible discussions about how to make that tool work.

ML: There's a saying when your only tool is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.

DM: Exactly.

ML: In my book [Beyond the Beauty Strip] I suggest it is inappropriate to use markets and money as measuring sticks for social and ecological values. Those need social and ecological measuring sticks.

One point you didn't hit on in talking about the inefficiency of the market to deal with ecological and social values is that the free market isn't free.

DM: Never has been, never will be. We have a two-year business school here at Dartmouth, and I like to joke with the professors that they spend the whole first year teaching the students all the glories of the free market, and then they spend the second year teaching them how to subvert it—how to get around the anti-trust laws, how to externalize costs, and so on.

And then once you get the market forces buying the democratic process, then there's no hope for either a free market or a free democracy—the market will destroy the nation and itself.

ML: (*Incredulously*) Do you think that's a possibility. (*General laughter*)

JS: My neighbor who grows organic broccoli is undersold in the local supermarket by broccoli grown 3,000 miles away because water was diverted to grow it, there are tax breaks for using chemicals...

DM: The oil is vastly underpriced...

JS: The transportation system is heavily subsidized.

DM: The laborers were paid nothing... And that's why I'd go as far as I could in fixing the market and making it work as well as possible, but for the important decisions in society, I wouldn't use the market at all. It's not what the market is for.

ML: When you were saying "What's the price of a sunset?" I was laughing inside because there are economists who do that. They do surveys that ask "What would you pay for the sunset?"

JS: The Forest Service puts a dollar value on visitor days to the national forests. They make use of this to rig the books to show that below cost timber sales make money for the public.

ML: I'm going to defend the corporations right now. You talked about the high interest rates and the necessity to liquidate their forests, yet when I talk to corporate foresters, they say #1, we're making the decisions on the ground, and #2, we can't liquidate our forests because the markets can't absorb it. We have a limit, and that limit is what the market will bear. Isn't that wonderful to know? (*Laughter*)

JS: If reforming the market really isn't the way to go then what are the ways to go?

DM: I don't know. I just try everything I can. I think, again, number one is not to let your own life be ruled by market decisions, except where they're really appropriate. I can assure you after 25 years of doing that, it's possible. You can do a lot of things that everybody tells you are economically crazy, but that, in fact, are the most intensely sane things you could possibly do.

Next, we are gripped by this hypnosis, by this religion, this totally irrational public discourse, which never gets questioned—about growth, about creating jobs, about the market solving all our problems, about technology solving all our problems. I think you just debunk that every chance you get. You snicker at it, ridicule it, ask really probing questions and expose it. It's a little bit of Emperor's New Clothes work that's got to be done.

The old paradigm has got to be challenged. That's hard work because you get accused of being a communist, or a tree-hugger, or any other name they can think to call you. Once you start really poking at the national religion, you can get some harsh feedback. People are really scared.

JS: Politically you also lose your standing in the debate if you ask those questions.

DM: And if you try, as I do, to publish in major papers, you get crowded out if you start to question the religion of growth. We have freedom of speech for about everything except this one subject—growth.

JS: So you've had some columns suppressed?

DM: Yes. There are fewer and fewer free papers. Some of them are still pretty good, but fewer all the time, because the same thing's happening in the newspaper industry as in any other—companies swallowing each other up, getting more distant, more powerful, more conservative. It's the same phenomenon happening to every kind of product and service.

ML: The important point that you brought up, which is we're trying to solve problems and we're dealing with the local manifestations of the problem, but we're not allowed to talk about the major forces that are causing that local manifestation. If the people dealing with all the little problems combined and said, "Let's deal with the bigger problem," there might be a chance, but it's out of the game rules. The environmental groups will say, "We're not opposed to growth, we just want to regulate it." It's a very frustrating situation.

DM: I don't think there's a right or a wrong in terms of how much you play within the system or how hard you challenge the system. I get mad at some of the national environmental organizations because I think they play too much footsie with the powers that be. But that's their role, actually. Somebody has to do that, but not everybody should. Somebody has got to be out there on the edge lobbing hand grenades at the basic belief system.

The more centrist (and rich and powerful) environmental organizations do keep putting information out to me about what's happening in the corridors of power. They're not challenging what's happening. But that allows them to be there and get the information. Sometimes I use my Ph.D. and professorship for the same purpose—to look respectable and try to get into a position to speak truth to power.

ML: Well, maybe you need a Ph.D. to challenge the economic message that says the laws of physics do not apply to economics and the laws of biology do not apply to economics. Somehow the free market will overcome all those obstacles like gravity...

DM: And the second law of thermodynamics...

JS: The current economic system rewards selfishness and views concern for others as irrational.

DM: In the short term.

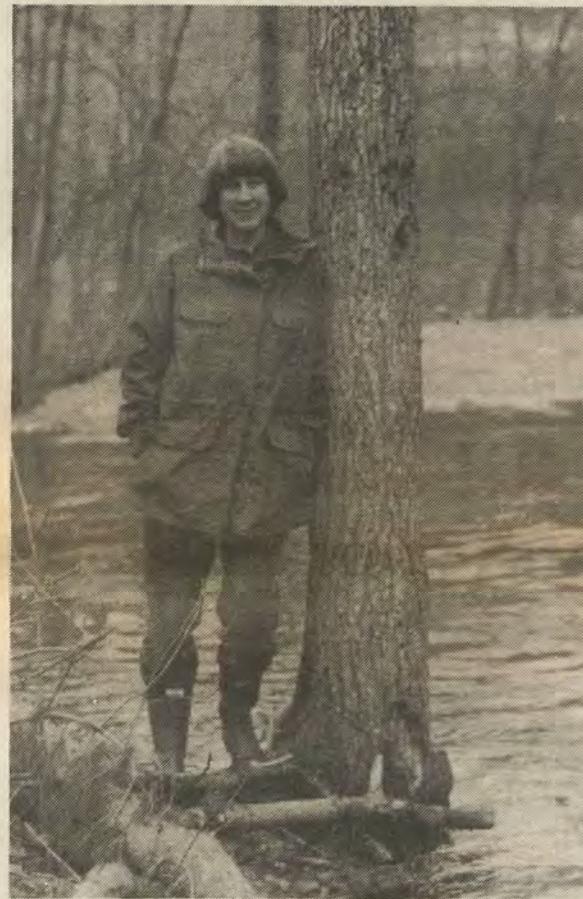
JS: How do we challenge this kind of myth and restore the concept of community, family, future generations, and the rights of others?

DM: I have a friend named David Korten who has written a book *When Corporations Rule the World*. He has in there a manifesto. He would hate it if I called it a manifesto. He says it's a discussion guide, but I take it as a manifesto. It's a short, radical, and unapologetic list. It contains things like:

- make corporate charters revocable;
- absolutely forbid corporations to take part in the political process in any way—with money or anything;
- shut down the World Bank immediately.

I'm just trying to think of some of the more inflammatory items;

- put on a "Tobin tax" so that currency and speculative money changes get a big enough tax to separate the true investor from the speculator who's playing money games;
- put strong anti-trust laws on the ownership of media—even stronger than the ones we used to have which are gone now;
- prohibit political advertising on television;
- place strict limits on campaign spending;
- strip corporations of their fictitious human rights;
- set a graduated tax on capital gains so that if you held the investment a long time you don't get taxed very much, but if you've only held it a short time, you get a huge tax. Again, it's to stop the casino end of the investment market, to make the market do what it was originally intended to do;



Exterminating Resources Is Utterly Rational

Ecologist Paul Ehrlich once expressed surprise to a Japanese journalist that the Japanese whaling industry would exterminate the very source of its wealth. The journalist replied, "You are thinking of the whaling industry as an organization that is interested in maintaining whales; actually it is better viewed as a huge quantity of [financial] capital attempting to earn the highest possible return. If it can exterminate whales in ten years and make a 15% profit, but it could only make 10% with a sustainable harvest, then it will exterminate them in ten years. After that, the money will be moved to exterminating some other resource." ...

The market players who are busily exterminating resources are utterly rational. What they are doing makes complete sense, given the rewards and constraints they see from the place they occupy in the system. The fault is not with people, it is with the system. An unregulated market system governing a common resource inevitably leads to overshoot and the destruction of the commons. Only political constraints of some kind can protect the resource, and those political constraints are not easy to attain.

—from Beyond the Limits, pages 187-188

- worker and community buyouts whenever a plant is to be sold or merged, and real help with getting capital to do that;
- tax shifting from goods to bads. Replace employment, income and property taxes with resource extraction and pollution taxes;
- take corporations off the welfare roles;
- make intellectual property patented for the shortest possible time, after that information should be free;
- very strong regulation on advertising;
- close the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund.

If you want the complete list, read the book.

JS: What about the distinction between the price of something vs. the cost?

DM: That should be fixed. Externalities should be internalized. I'm all for fixing the system as much as possible. But I'm more for releasing ourselves from being hypnotized by that system. Somehow I think we've got to touch our internal quality assessment mechanisms which I think we all have. Quality—not quantity, not numbers, nothing to do with numbers—that says: "This is sacred. This I love. This shouldn't be put in dollar terms. This is more important than that. I don't care what your god damned price system says."

Oil is an ephemeral resource that we're only going to have for a hundred years. Those molecules which nature made over millions of years are irreplaceable, and we should use them for the most profound, careful uses we can. We shouldn't do trivial things with those oil molecules. If we valued oil properly—which has *nothing* to do with markets—we'd probably use it entirely for chemistry because those molecules are really special. We would not just burn them and make CO₂. The market may or may not ever tell you to do that. I don't care what the market says. I know that's the right way to use that resource.

JS: You've spoken about your faith in humans to respond to values to get away from the tyranny of this free-market-growth-at-any-cost economy, and an image came flashing into my head: a forest has the potential to regenerate itself if we remove the impediments to that natural regeneration. Essentially, what you're saying is that the human soul and the human community have those same resilient and restorative qualities if we remove the institutional obstacles.

DM: Yes, and I can also give you a long lament about how easily manipulated people are and what stupid decisions we all make every day. That's true too. The class you are about to meet with is wrestling with this question right now. Can you trust people or can't you? What is human nature? Who are people? You can't answer that independent of their culture. Independent of the large forces that shape those people.

I think there could be cultures, there have been, and are, and will be cultures that bring forth peoples' loving, caring, long-term, valuing, cooperative instincts. We do have those instincts along with stupid, short-term, greedy, combative instincts. The society can play on and bring out any of those. It's clear what our own society plays on and brings out.

In a society that's trying to get you to be competitive and avaricious and dissatisfied with yourself and scared to death of others, it's very hard to stay loving and to keep your quality sense about you. You get so many powerful signals every day that reach down to the gonadal level and tell you to use your crocodilian sub-brain to make decisions.

I don't know how you change a culture. I don't know how cultures happen. I only know that what I try to do myself is go to the little pockets in this culture which bring out the best parts of me. I am not strong enough to keep bringing the best parts out of me when I'm in an atmosphere of hate and short-term avariciousness. I lose myself. I can't find myself sometimes when I'm surrounded with people who are coming out of the worst sides of themselves. Then the worst side of myself comes out. They get mad; I get mad. Everybody is stuck. I feel terrible about myself afterwards. I just know that I have to keep myself centered in a different culture.

You know, unplug the TV, #1, easy. And then seek out the really wise people, meet them, get as many of them around you as you can and work from there. That's what I do. I can't tell you that's going to change the world, but it's what I know how to do.

Allagash Journal

Something More Than a Week in Something Less Than a Wilderness

Text & Drawings by Jon Luoma

The car is in the lot, the key is under a tire. Good-bye, good riddance. Let's get down the slope, past the family loading coolers into their tin powerboat at the dock, into our own loaded plastic canoe bobbing there, and onto Chamberlain Lake. One hundred and twenty or so miles to go, but all Cathy and I care about on this fiercely hot July afternoon is getting away from the road and the car, out of the boat and into the lake's cool water. Paddling can wait.

Why must these 100-mile camping trips always begin with a humiliating 200 mile drive? At the very least we ought to begin by driving the car off a bridge, or into a conveniently-placed compactor or used-car lot. There would be real independence and self-reliance! Instead, we start forced into the typical, lowest-common-denominator 20th century human condition: bored, supine, enveloped in sweaty vinyl, staring ahead at flickering, transient images on a pane of glass, sucking sugar-water from an extruded-aluminum can and fossil fuel from deep beneath the Arabian desert or the Arctic Sea. Chaos, devolution, waste, entropy—he absolute opposite of self-reliance.

But certainly this water feels good—it's our first taste, our first submersion in, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. The car is in its natural habitat: a parking lot, and we are, for a few days, in what used to be ours: free under the sky and the stars.

Back into the tippy canoe and onward into the expanse of lake. It's too late in the day to paddle far; we pass a few inhabited campsites and find an empty one. Just in time: a sudden thunderstorm roars in and chops the lake into slaty-blue and white shards. We set up a tarp and the stove. Later, I entertain Cathy by throwing a rock with a rope attached (for hanging the food) firmly and snugly into the crotch of a big birch tree, and then performing amusing, futile stunts with various projectiles and lashed-together sticks in an attempt to get it down. *Reporter Sullies Wildlands with White Plastic Rope Visible for Several Miles.*

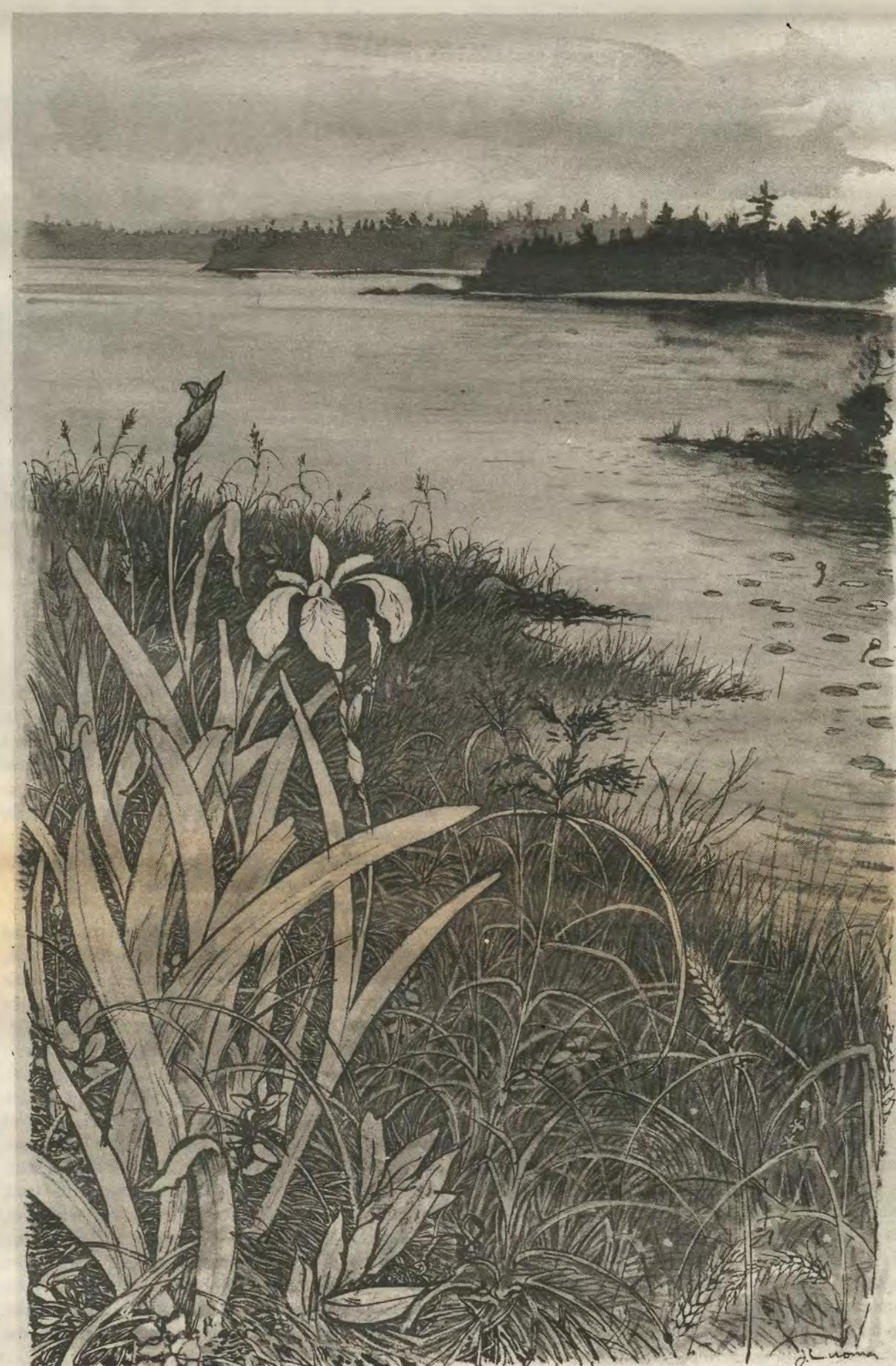
It gets dark. Into the tent.

II

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway was established in 1966 by the Maine Legislature—which was, under pressure from large landowners, heading off plans for federal acquisition. (Half the acquisition price did, however, come from federal funds.) In 1970, the Waterway became a National Wild and Scenic River—the first to be state-administered. For those who paddle its entire length, as we are, the Waterway is about half lake (the southern half) and half river (the Allagash River itself). Chamberlain Lake, 14 windswept miles long, is the largest of the Allagash lakes. It and Telos Lake, to its south, are the only Waterway sections on which powerboats of all sizes and shapes are permitted and two of them are trolling around in the distance now like sleepy bees. On most of the rest of the Waterway, only canoes with motors up to ten horsepower are allowed.

On the opposite shore, we can see the roofs and docks of Nugent's sporting camps—one of the few inholdings along the Waterway's undeveloped shoreline. The State of Maine owns only the land 500 feet back from the water line; although the Waterway proper, in theory, extends for a mile on either side of the water, most of that property remains in the hands of large corporate landowners. According to the official brochure, "timber harvesting operations on the privately owned commercial forests [in the one-mile zone] are conducted in accordance with management plans approved by the State. This control zone is intended to protect the natural character of the Waterway without unduly infringing upon the forest industries of Maine." There are also a few parcels of Maine Public Reserve Land, large and small, which border the waterway and provide wider public ownership.

In 1986 legislation mandated a "visual protection plan." Allagash country is mostly low, flat country, but



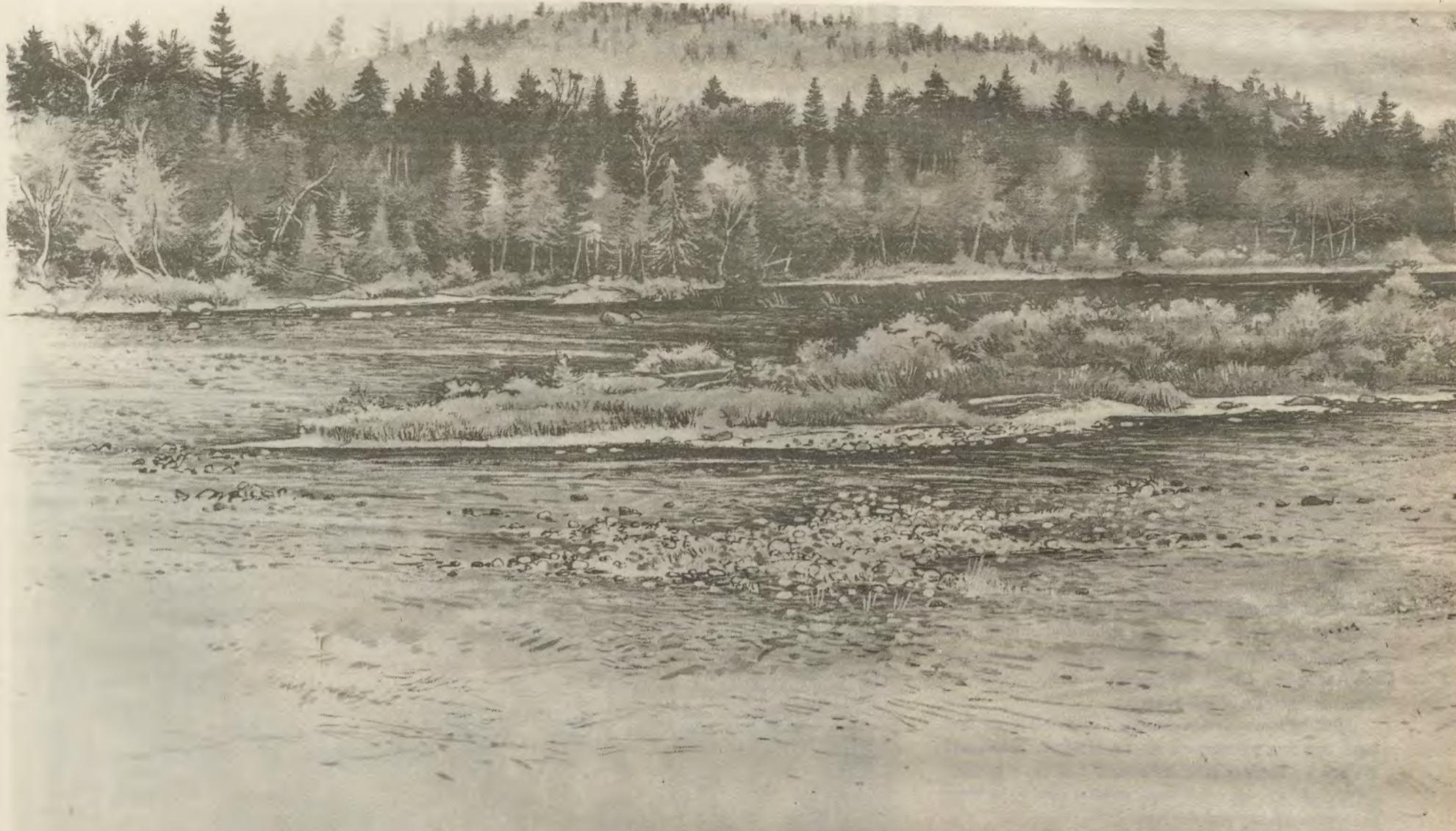
on hillsides north of Churchill Dam (i.e., along the river), within the "control zone" and visible from the water, clearcutting no longer takes place. In areas within the control zone which *can't* be seen from the water... well, who knows? We can't see them, but we are familiar with the notorious aerial photographs showing immense clearcuts running right up to the 500-foot boundary. As we paddle northwest up the lake in the early morning heat, along a wall of cedar and fir and ledge, a mile-wide clearcut could be 500 feet away... behind those trees... 500 feet away from that pair of loons, from that deer taking a morning drink. To suspicious minds, such as ours, this knowledge imparts a slightly surreal quality to the surroundings: are we exploring a wilderness or only the *appearance* of one?

Somehow the rope and rock mysteriously popped free this morning, loosened in the night by squirrels or the local deities; we paddled off with a clear conscience. Onward, past bays and marshes and campsites

with motorboats lolling on their pebbly beachlets. Katahdin is supposed to be visible behind us, perhaps 30 miles away, but because of typical summer ozone haze, we can't see a thing beyond the flat, blue, paper-cut-out shoreline. Westward, mistward, mythward.

At the head of Chamberlain Lake is a grassy bay, rimmed with bleached stumps and snags reaching up like old bones. Across this bay runs a decaying log trestle holding two curlicues of rusty railroad track: the remains of the Eagle Lake and Umbazooksus Railroad, which hauled 125,000 cords of pulpwood per year out of the Allagash and into the maws of paper manufacturers in the 1920s. Further north, on Eagle Lake, two steam locomotives and their associated ironware are settling—all too slowly—into the duff and the forest floor.

The trestle marks the beginning of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway's only non-motorized zone: the side trip up Allagash stream to Allagash Lake. We slide under the trestle and its two neon orange mark-



ers—past a moose sloshing in the grass and a bald eagle trolling above—and slip into the mouth of Allagash Stream, full of dappled gravel bars and overhanging “Spanish moss” (*usnea lichen*). We pull out the brand new ash setting pole and clumsily struggle to push the canoe up the stream, as well as onto many bars and banks and into many shrubs and downed trees. The canoe would much prefer to go the other way.

We hop out and start to wade, dragging the boat across shallows, up rips, between rocks, over drops and jagged ledges. And under a bridge, under a Ford Bronco, past several fishermen who are too kind to say much as we grunt by hauling a canoe full of noodles and dried cheese sauce.

It is six miles to Allagash Lake, but, thankfully, Little Round Pond intervenes. Just before it is Little Allagash Falls, a sharp, tidy drop over a huge slate slab. We dump our cheese sauce at the campsite on the pond and rest our battered shins.

A fantastic red sunset hangs in the sky forever, and beneath it the silhouettes of three moose—calf, cow, bull—browsing the waterweeds against the incandescent pond. To see this, we fetch from an inland campsite the group that had clattered in earlier, pulling four aluminum canoes onto the small beach below the falls. We had imagined that one place, at least, on the Waterway where we'd find solitude would be while humping our canoe up this low-water stream, but other hardy folk are equally foolish or determined.

III

We are making our very first trip onto the Allagash Waterway, after 20 years of canoeing in Maine. An unexpected free week cropped up, a serendipitous omen; we thought: what the hell. Ordinarily, Cathy and I wouldn't be caught within a day's paddle of the place; our impression has been that, at this time of year, the Waterway is infested, alive, positively buzzing, with swarms, hordes, clouds of aggressive, annoying, intolerable... humans: camp groups, fishermen, scouts and scoutmasters, beer-guzzling, lawn chair-toting rusticators; anyone and everyone who has heard and dreamt the great, romantic dream of the pristine northern riverland lying remote and untouched in the far northeastern corner of the East's last remaining Big Woods.

That dream of wilderness, of wildness, which Thoreau said would save the world. The Allagash is a very good place to ask the question: when Americans want wilderness, do they want the real thing, or is it

good enough to set up a recreational preserve, complete with wildlife and visual plan, which provides a pretty good imitation? And then call it a Wilderness Waterway? Through the pleasure of this trip, the question gnaws: is looking wild, feeling wild, most of the time, wild enough?

Speaking for myself—as we bundle the gear and attempt an early start Little Round Pond looks pretty good: a small liquid eye in the Acadian Forest. Beyond the water, I can see for at least a mile to the east, and what I see looks pristine and wild to me: low cedars, scrawny fir and tamarack stretching to low hills in the distance. It looks like Canada, like near-tundra, like snow geese, like the farthest wild places of my imagination. So many parks and preserves are mountainous; this unusual, low, slightly dreary landscape seems rich, subtle, and suggestive. Later, looking at a map, I see that this particular view is out over a small chunk of state-owned Public Reserve Land. I know that somewhere beyond those tree-covered hills is a road, a skidder, a whole-tree harvester, a truck, a paper mill—and, ultimately, a highway, a city, my house, my neighbors, my town, my government, my daily life. But the suggestion, in this quiet vista, of things bigger, older, more mysterious and long-lived, puts our artifacts in their place and reminds me of their source. Although some of this wild feel is in my imagination, the bigger, the realer, these wildnesses, the better.

We want to believe in (not to mention visit) untrammeled, artifact-free wildlands. In a fine book written last year, (*Allagash: Maine's Wild and Scenic River*, Down East Books), Dean Bennett describes the natural history and surroundings of the Waterway in great detail, while scarcely mentioning its road, its bridges, its crowds, or other human impacts. In a sense, the Allagash is still “unspoiled,” is still a place of “spectacular whitewater, pristine lakes, old growth forest, and rare plants.” But the truth is also more complicated as well, both because of the 10,000 folks who visit—drive to—the Wilderness Waterway each year, and because of the circumstances and compromises of its inception. The Waterway is over-crowded, over-fished, over-logged, over-motorized, over-camped, and all too trammeled. After 30 years of official existence, it could use a second look, could perhaps be brought closer to its “Wilderness” name and to its higher potential.

We plod upstream, banging our canoe and our ankles on the rocks scattered like hard candy in the streambed. This seems—in our dreamy imaginations, again—a pioneer experience. Lewis and Clark did this.

As sometimes happens, difficulty is stimulating and makes achieving a goal more exciting and satisfying. From a piney bluff I catch a glimpse through the trees of what must be Allagash Lake: an opening ahead, a glimmer of water. The stream flattens, and twists between bedrock hummocks and sandbars. We hop into the canoe, out onto the lake.

Allagash Lake lives up to its billing—it is remote (for these parts). No boat launches, no roads. No powerboats, no floatplanes, no motors of any kind—no junk—allowed. The perfect place for patriotic Americans—which we are—to celebrate the Fourth of July—which this is. We paddle down the windy lake, past rock outcroppings, marshy coves, archipelagos of wooded islands and ledgey islets. We observe the holiday by finding our own personal islet and sprawling on it, lazing, reading, baking in the sun, circumambulating, fending off turns. We cool off in the water and then bake some more.

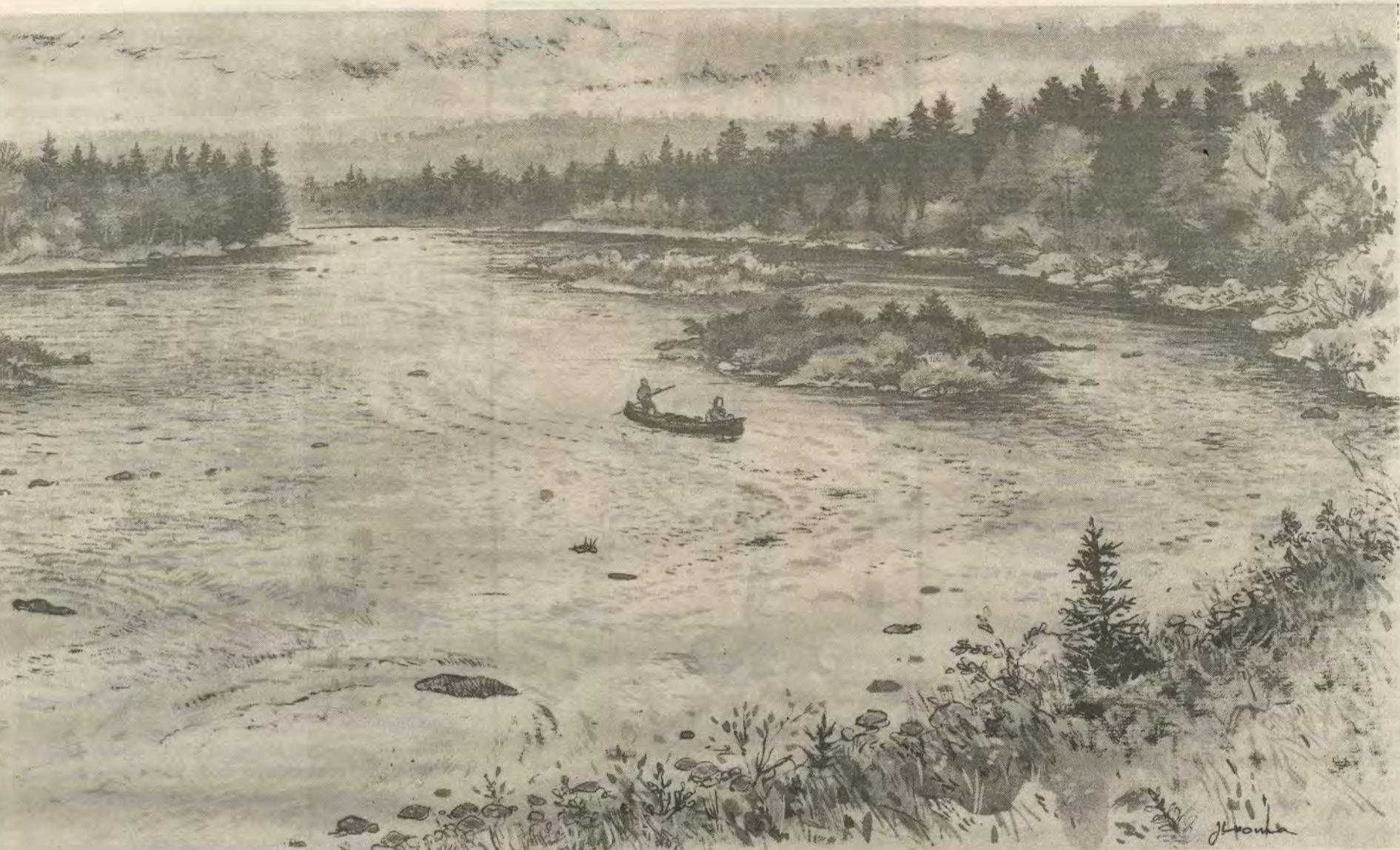
Three canoes crawl along the far shore, paddles catching the light. The sun sinks toward Allagash Mountain and its fire tower. Scorched and windburnt, we stalk a few ducks and deer in a nearby marsh and return to camp.

IV

This morning, lying in the tent, I hear a distant, weird, repeated booming roll across the lake from the north. Sounds like guns: border skirmishes with Canada. More likely, it's related to mechano-industrial wood-fiber inhalation, or pulpwood harvesting—the sounds of clumsy mechanical dinosaurs lumbering through the underbrush, stalking their prey. Inescapable, even here; the buzz of one chainsaw rips right through the gentle dream of a silent, non-motorized reserve.

Although Allagash Lake is worth a longer stay, our plan this trip is to rejoin the throngs on Chamberlain Lake and the main Waterway. On the way out, we check our islet and the enormous speckled olive-green loon's egg we'd found on the rocks just inches above the water; as we'd feared, it had been pecked open during the night.

Near the outlet, we pause for a last look at the lake and the first swim of the day, dragging the canoe onto an enormous sloping bedrock ledge. Almost immediately, a wake and a canoe appear near the shore opposite: those guys must be paddling awfully fast! We throw on some clothes; Ranger John Metcalf speedily pulls up to our ledge in his canoe complete with gas tank and motor, (he's the only authorized motor-man).



Metcalf, one of the more happily-employed persons in Maine, gives us the weather forecast: southerly (ozone) winds are predicted *ad infinitum*. We'll be blown down the Allagash. Out on the lake, a camp group in canoes is crossing toward us like a dozen bobbing, multi-colored Christmas lights. We say a hasty farewell and shove off into the stream, descending in an hour the obstacle course of the past two days, leaving innumerable smears of new green paint among the older yellow, red, or aluminum ones.

In no time we are standing on Lock Dam partway down Chamberlain's east shore. Thoreau stood here; Thoreau, the first great party-pooper amid the great, big party of American boosterism and busy-ness. Thoreau was likely the first white person to look less than happily, to look askance, at this dam (maybe at any dam); in 1857, 16 years after lumbermen built it in order to redirect Chamberlain Lake's outflow he wrote:

The result of this particular damming about Chamberlain Lake is that the headwaters of the St. John [River] are made to flow by Bangor [on the Penobscot River]. They have thus dammed all the larger lakes, raising their broad surface many feet, thus turning the forces of nature against herself, that they might float their spoils out of the country.

...The wilderness experiences a sudden rise of all her streams and lakes, she feels 1,000 vermin gnawing at the base of her noblest trees... The Anglo American can indeed cut down and grub up all this waving forest... but he cannot converse with the spirit of the tree he fells—he cannot read the poetry and mythology which retire as he advances. He ignorantly erases mythological tablets in order to print his handbills and town meeting warrants on them.

We carry over the dam and put in at a metal culvert regurgitating the remaining fragment of Chamberlain Lake's northward outflow into a tiny short stream winding through blue flag and grasses. The stream empties into the first, southern bay of Eagle Lake, a wide wild kettlehole of coves, marshes, and inlets. The late afternoon sun rakes the fields of marsh grass and several deer and moose feeding there. The wind blows us, drifting, almost on top of a bull moose feeding chin-deep in the brown water; an enormous cloud of flies rise from his back each time he submerges. We steer a course to lee, and make landfall instead on Pillsbury Island, Thoreau's northernmost campsite on the Allagash. There's a campsite named after him; we pull in alongside two other canoes and dump our stuff in a vacant campsite "cell". Somebody's fishing off a rock; two kids splash in near-

by pools. The haze has socked in. We lie on a ledge and watch, through binoculars, the flat, red sun drop into the mauve sludge.

Just before dark, a yearling moose strolls through Thoreau, causing commotion and a flourishing of fingers and cameras. The moose defoliates a gray birch sapling on the shore. A hummingbird lands on the branch above my head.

Lights out.

V

We have already seen more deer on this trip than on any other; before breakfast, I try to paddle across, into the wind, to the mainland shore where two more are sipping and browsing. Someone told us the timber companies claim to be doing canoeists a favor by clearcutting to the 500 foot boundary and forcing wildlife to the water.

According to Dean Bennett, the Waterway's three remnant scraps of old-growth are all on or near Eagle Lake. None are bigger than a few acres. One is on the mainland southeast of Pillsbury Island, and has pines "three feet in diameter and up to 130 feet tall—among the tallest in Maine." Another old-growth byte on the lake's Pump Handle peninsula consists of three acres of century-old maple and beech. Tattered virginity.

But we like Eagle Lake; it is big, and empty (once we get away from its one crowded spot), and full of coves, spits, and barrier beaches. Again, it deserves a leisurely exploration, but instead we paddle purposefully off, north into the heat. So far, one cloudless day has followed another, and we no sooner leave one swimming spot than we begin looking for the next. Cathy is just about to jump out of the boat—nothing in view but the shimmering frying pan of the lake—when—of course—a fat wake appears and zips our way. It's pushing a big twin-engine powerboat, an official-looking olive-clad figure, and two unofficial-looking girls. Sun glints on his badge. At the last moment, the Ranger cuts the motor and his wake tears under us and circularly onward into every corner and loon nest-infested cranny of Eagle Lake. He knows exactly who we are—must have spoken by radio with Metcalf. We are a green pushpin on a long map.

What cometh so quickly soon goeth with equal speed, and the little, self-contained cyclone of noise and power moves off to roil some other silent spot. We paddle on up the big lake under the big sun, stopping at wide gravel beaches, following a trail to a bouldery lookout. No big clearcuts in view, I must admit. The wind picks up; we hardly need to work. We're blown

past the ranger cabin, off Eagle Lake, into the Thoroughfare, on scudding, good-sized waves. This narrow, grassy slot is alive with mother goldeneyes, common mergansers, and hooded mergansers trailing broods of exquisite, gemlike ducklings. When startled, the mergansers scoot away on top of the water like tiny Keystone cops. We also pass a loon on a nest: head down, beak open; angry, red, unreadable, prehistoric eyes.

A modern logging bridge crosses the Waterway here. A truck crosses, and we can follow its plume of dust rising from behind the trees. Mixed use, mixed feelings.

The Thoroughfare empties into Churchill Lake, our final lake before the river begins. We grab an empty campsite near the inlet, having been warned that camp groups tend to pile up at the two large outlet sites, nearer to Churchill Dam and Chase Rapids. Another Allagash commonplace, we've been told, involves weary paddlers at day's end, heading for an empty campsite, only to be overtaken at the last moment by a guide in a motorized canoe towing his 'sports' to the chosen spot.

So we pull in at a wide, semicircular beach, where a Maine Conservation Corps crew, has draped black plastic over the eroded bank and covered it with rip-rap. Their tents are pitched in the trees at a site across the cove—also rip-rapped—although, Ranger Evinrude told us, the crew is working elsewhere this week.

Two motor canoes cruise up the lake toward Churchill Ridge. Too many feet and too many keels have crawled across these bluffs and these waters. Too many nature-lovers have made them their own. It's been suggested that motors be banned on the Waterway in July and August, peak camping season, while allowing them in spring and fall for fishermen. Seems reasonable. But what to do about logging and bridges is another matter; we can still see one end of the Thoroughfare bridge behind us, and an occasional truck growls by and sends a beige cloud into the hazy sky. Churchill Lake is beautiful, but a bit tired and worn; it could use a vacation. Cathy curls up with a book while I wander up the beach pockmarked with craters from many gathered stones.

VI

At Churchill Dam we pile our gear on the gravel road that connects Ashland and Ripogenus with Daquam, Quebec. Another party is unloading dry bags, coolers, and one drugstore fishing rod, still in its plastic-wrapped card, from an outfitter's van. (Many

groups begin trips here.)

The water below the dam is low. Where's the spectacular whitewater? Answer: a ranger, in overalls, pull-starts an adapted chainsaw to crank open the gates. The dam is opened for a few hours each morning, and we'll be "flushed", as they say, down the river.

A portage service is available here: for ten bucks your duffel will be hauled by pick-up to a point below the worst rapids. I've sworn not to do this, and complain to the ranger. How can it be called a Wilderness Waterway when lackeys (and money) can remove the risks? She's sympathetic, but discloses an astonishing fact: half the canoeists (up to 200 per day—where do they all camp?) who pass this point *have never been in a canoe before*. Without the portage service, a corps of rangers would be required along the rapids to rescue swamped paddlers and pick up oreos and underwear. Of course, the proper riposte is that such paddlers should learn their stuff somewhere else; leave the wilderness whitewater to those who've worked up to it.

Perhaps, though, this is an academic argument; Churchill Dam itself is hardly a wild appurtenance. (It was specially rebuilt as part of the 1966 Waterway purchase.) Without it, Allagash whitewater would exist only during spring run-off. Churchill Dam, in fact, needs repairs, and the Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation is saving money to make them. Subversive elements would prefer to abandon these repairs. Why not? Let it crumble: let nature take its course.

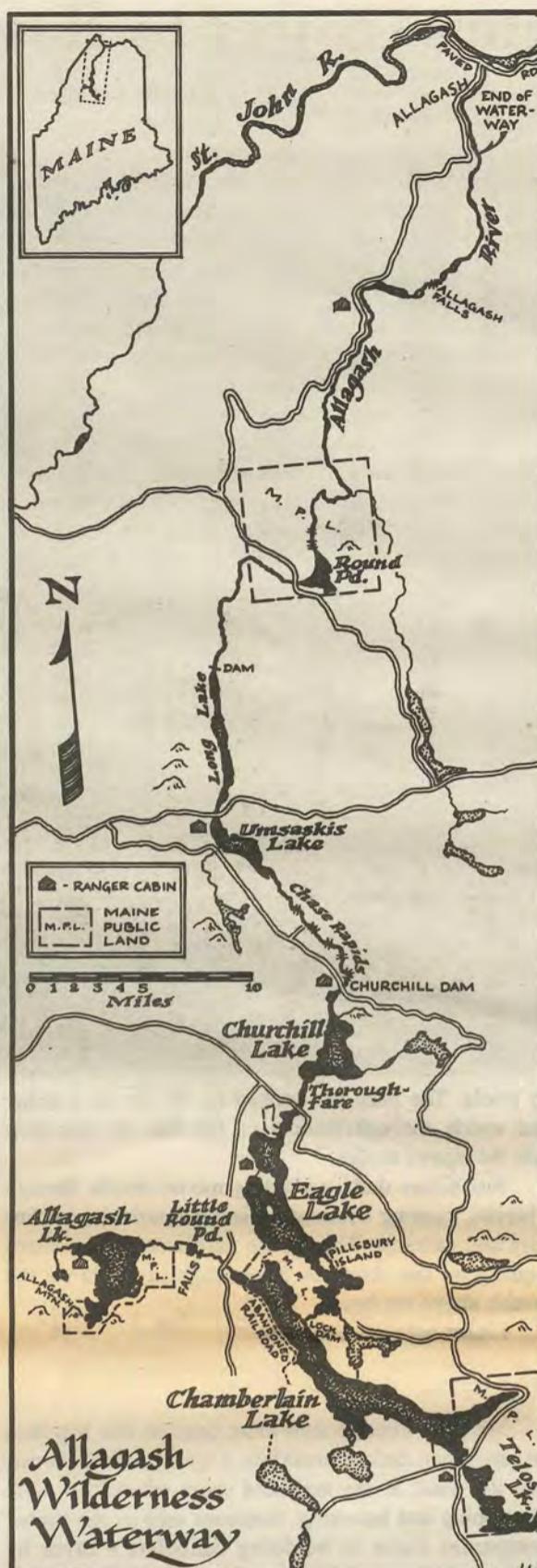
Despite this bluster, Cathy and I decide that, when in Disney World, do as the Mouseketeers do: our baggage disappears around the corner in the pick-up. Before following, we take the opportunity to snoop beyond the beauty strip: just up the road, out of view of the dam, Great Northern has cleared a series of strip cuts right down to the 500-foot line. These cuts, separated by narrow bands of spindly, wind-blown fir and spruce, are legal under Maine's Forest Practices Act of 1989, which allows clearcuts of up to 250 acres. The openings are filled with slash, skidder tracks, raspberries, and heaps of rotting softwood, inexplicably left behind. (Herbicide spraying is permitted within the Waterway's one-mile control zone "with notification".) Beyond these cuts is an older, larger clearcut from before the Act: still an immense moonscape of shrubbery, deadwood, and seedling trees. Why should there be any clearcutting at all in the one-mile "control" zone?

A pick-up truck with Massachusetts plates stops for directions—joyriders, 60 miles from anywhere, from nowhere. Retreating to the safety of the beauty strip, we clamber into the empty boat and skitter off down the waves. The ranger has told us we're lucky: it's Fourth of July week, but we are traveling between big camp groups. Two days ahead and three days behind are several large parties: campsite-gobblers, run-amoksters, food-fighters. Somehow, our timing couldn't have been better.

These rapids are bigger than we thought; Cathy, in the bow, is seesawing up and down in the haystacks. But no problem—the waves cover most of the rocks, and all we need to do is keep the canoe pointing downstream. The warm air, warm water, leafy trees are disconcerting: we usually paddle whitewater in April or May, with ice on the banks, dirty snow in the bare woods.

A kayaker is emptying her swamped boat in the shallows; the rest of the party is bunched up in a shore eddy below. Too soon, we reach our gear at an old abutment and scoop it into the canoe. The rips become riffles, then a wide marsh, then Umsaskis Lake. Favorable winds push us downstream, up the lake, toward impressive cliffs on the eastern shore. Like Little Round Pond, Umsaskis Lake feels wild: windy, empty, clean, undisturbed. The Ledges campsite is occupied, but there's a free "cell". We clamber up the rocks for a view. Our neighbors are trying to ignore us; we're trying to ignore them. I know from the map that a bridge and a ranger cabin are just out of view at the lake outlet; a conversation eventually confirms my suspicion that our companions, a couple from New Jersey, have just put in: two days ago they paddled the mile from their car to this campsite.

This grumpy attitude is unworthy, uncharitable. But we can't help our disappointment; by this point, we feel we should be achieving, for our efforts, a sense of penetration into the "wilderness" of the Wilderness



Waterway. Instead, access points at convenient one-day intervals remove the sense of "deeper" wilderness. But I work at not being a snob: the lake is beautiful, the swimming a delight, the views from the cliff magnificent. After dinner, the nearly full moon glows in the west and I sit above it's scattered reflections until dark, watching the stars come out.

VII

Below Umsaskis, the final three days of our journey take on the coloration of other trips; our universe narrows to a wide, shallow river winding between walls of mossy trees. Picking the route becomes an issue; the channel is sometimes hard to find. Everywhere the water seems to be two inches deep; we stand up, peer ahead, double our distance by following ephemeral currents from one side of the river to the other. Plenty of loons, sandpipers, goldeneyes, mergansers. Plenty of gravel bars, riffles, hummocky grass islands. A huge bald eagle glares at us from a pine, saunters disdainfully off. Three Canada geese stand frozen at the shore as we drift by ten feet away.

The sun has disappeared—almost a welcome change, although after the light-filled lakes the river is now gloomy and gray. Periodic squalls rake us; we paddle through one intense rainstorm, soaking wet, while raindrops pound the river's surface into a tabletop drenched with diamonds. Another bridge, another fine campsite looking across a lake at a wild vista, trolling fishermen, and another sporting camp. Another

spectacular thunder-and-lightning storm.

On our final night, we stop early at a particularly wild-feeling spot. The dreariness here is part of the charm: the wind, the rain, the gray clouds rolling over the hills, the river valley ancient and craggy, the skinny trees that seem to grow out of solid bedrock or a single tenuous inch of wind-blown pine needles. This is a purely northern scene, completed for us by a moose stepping from the forest into the molten silver water.

The grayness, even the sadness, suits this place and suits my mood. The undeveloped river, still flows past its banks as it has for thousands of years. We have flowed along with it, as others have, for thousands of years as well. Although there is a gravel road somewhere behind our campsite, tonight it is just a line on a map, not a fact I can see or hear. It might never have been, along almost everything else I've ever known.

A single yellow canoe creeps down the river, pursued by another rain cloud. The raw wind lashes our tarp, floods our dinner, chases us into our soggy tent, into our last outdoor dreams.

VIII

Up in the dim dawn, we tumble our half-empty, soggy packs into the canoe and set off into the river mist. Other campers are still asleep; we pass drawn-up canoes, motors, lawn chairs. A merlin cocks an eye at us from a snag. At Michaud Farm ranger station, a ranger with clipboard flags us down, captures our vital statistics. The river valley widens, becomes "riverine floodplain" forest of silver maples and elms. It's still early. We reach the iron-gray rocks above Allagash Falls, 40 feet of shuddering froth, with a large campsite on its east bank. We portage around the smell of hotcakes and sizzling bacon.

Past a knot of battered, red, upturned canoes, and the falls' outwash sweeps us past a tree full of chattering cedar waxwings; past chattering kids in aluminum canoes poling up the Allagash River after having come down the St. John. More power to them. Eight miles of winding, of route-picking, of scuffing our hull on the river bottom, brings us to the end of the Waterway at Twin Brook rapids—a signboard separating the protected from the up-for-grabs. Like good athletes, our momentum carries us beyond the official finish line for a few miles.

Houses. Another sign. Unload the gear on the grass; tip the water out of the boat; stare one last time at the river. Up the hill, up the road. Somehow our car has found its way here, has followed its masters... or is it the other way around?

Later, at home, the newspaper tells us about Pyotr Plonin, of Ivanovo, Russia, who with a friend is attempting to drive a horse-drawn gypsy cart around the world, across the U.S. "The horse is the key to people's hearts," he says. He could just as well have been speaking about the canoe. "We hope to remind automobile drivers," he says, "that the slower you are going, the farther you are reaching."

Amen.

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Management Plan to be Updated

Maine's Bureau of Parks and Recreation will be updating the Allagash Wilderness Waterway's 1973 "concept plan" over the next six months. This process, which will involve an advisory committee of interested parties and one public hearing, tentatively scheduled for northern Maine in March or April, will result in a new, updated Allagash Management Plan.

The updated plan will "clarify cooperative management objectives" with private landowners for the one-mile "control" zone, will "establish priorities for additional acquisition of lands," and may also address issues of motors in summer, increased snowmobiling in winter, and wilderness issues in general.

Send letters, comments, suggestions to:
Herb Hartman, Director
Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation
State House Station 22
Augusta, Maine 04333
(207) 287-3821.

Northern Forest Authors Object to Review of Their Book

To the Editor:

We appreciate the attention given our book **The Northern Forest** in John Davis's review. However, we feel the review does both this journal's readers and the book a disservice by judging the book on Davis's narrow ideological criteria, rather than on its own terms.

The heart of the problem emerges in the review's sixth paragraph: Davis states that "Undoubtedly, Dobbs & Ober undertook [their] task with an agenda—as do almost all writers, including this reviewer. Their agenda, if I read them aright, involves trying to convince the public to support improvement and maintenance of the working forest." We're puzzled that Davis feels he must guess at our agenda, since we state it quite clearly in the book's opening pages: we wrote the book to illuminate the lives of the people who live and work in the Northern Forest. We undertook not a mission of persuasion, but a task of discovery: How do these issues affect the people who live here? What are their lives like? What are their hopes and anxieties and frustrations? We stuck rigorously to that mission for three years. We had no political agenda; nor did we set out to "convince the public to support improvement and maintenance of the working forest." To the extent we argued for such intelligent use at the book's end (or implicitly in the material we discovered and conveyed), we did so because it followed logically from what we found.

Davis, however, admits a specific agenda; and it's clear he judges our book primarily by whether it supports a wildlands agenda of setting aside large portions of the region for bioreserves. This criterion, and his apparent conviction that our book's message is somehow antithetical to the goals of the wildlands movement (it isn't), leads to some stark misreadings.

For instance, Davis writes that we "offer no sustained critique of the industries and types of exploitation that are diminishing our natural heritage"; that we would "uphold the status quo while favoring minor reforms"; and that we "seem content to keep the Northern Forest relatively intact ... yet ecologically impoverished." It's true that we don't mount a Mitch Lansky-style indictment of the industry. (We didn't need to; Mitch already had.) We chose instead to show readers what we found and let them draw their own conclusions. And

frankly, it's hard to imagine how someone could read the material that deals most directly with the forest products industry (Chapters 8 and 9, parts of which were excerpted in the previous issue of **The Northern Forest Forum**) and conclude, as Davis did, that we consider the status quo acceptable. In these chapters we show quite clearly the harm that industrial forestry often inflicts; we quote environmentalists, loggers, foresters, and other Northern Forest residents as they criticize the industry; we reveal the fallaciousness of some industry advocates' assertion that staying within a "timber budget" constitutes sustainable forestry; and we show—

again, through the eyes of those who know the forest best—the fundamental incompatibility between present corporate and societal priorities and forest health. This hardly constitutes an argument for the status quo.

Yet it seems we followed the wrong "agenda" to please Mr. Davis. "A good agenda," he informs us in paragraph eight, "would give central place to publicly owned and protected ecological reserves." Mr. Davis's disappointment in our approach leads him to ignore even that material concerning such reserves—the book's first section, which deals with the Roberge brothers of Berlin, N.H. and their support of the

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge. This material, which dominates the first third of the book, illuminates what seems to us a rather vital lesson for those who advocate such reserves: that Northern Forest residents will indeed support such reserves, if they are meaningfully involved in their formation. Yet Davis leaves it unmentioned.

Finally, Davis seems both annoyed and perplexed about our "persistent skepticism" toward "any but the most autochthonous environmentalists," and suggests that we would have better spent our time profiling "heroes" of the wildlands and ecosystem recovery movement. Again, he seems unable to accept our focus on the people who live and work in the region. We have great admiration for many of the activists Davis refers to; indeed, the book closes with a passage taken from an essay that Michael Soule, one of the wildlands movement's leaders, wrote for **Wild Earth**, the journal edited by Mr. Davis. But these and other environmental advocates have already found a healthy voice—in the pages of **Wild Earth**, of **The Northern Forest Forum**, in the press, and in the region's environmental organizations. We focused instead on residents of the Northern Forest who are unaffiliated with environmental organizations or other groups because we felt their voices and perspectives were missing from the debate. We feel their voices are missing still. This is partly their own fault. But it is due as well to the unwillingness of some environmentalists to grant the region's residents a significant role—a resistance expressed rather disturbingly by Davis's suggestion that environmental activists are somehow more worthy of attention. We found in the citizens of this region an environmental ethic as deeply rooted as that held by any environmentalist—and one made complex, and sometimes full of contradiction, by the fact that *these are the people who are actually trying to do the work of balancing use and conservation*. They don't always do it perfectly; but they're out there doing it. They of all people should be given a "central place" in the discussion over what to do with this forest.

We'd like to thank the **Forum** for giving us the space to respond, and for conducting an ever-fascinating and highly productive discussion of Northern Forest issues.

Respectfully,
David Dobbs & Richard Ober



The Northern Forest by David Dobbs and Richard Ober profiles both large and small logging contractors in the region. Photo by Ron Paula—courtesy of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Davis Responds to Dobbs & Ober

I thank the authors of **The Northern Forest** for responding to my review of their book. I thank the editor of **The Northern Forest Forum** for inviting me to respond to their response.

I found myself in substantial agreement with their assessment of my review of their book. They are at least partly right in saying "it's clear he [that's me] judges our book primarily by whether it supports a wildlands agenda..." I readily confess: I view life through ecological lenses, primarily, and only secondarily or tertiary through editorial lenses. Looking at their book strictly as an editor, I'd say it's good; but looking at it as a resident of this region, I'd say it accedes too much to the status quo. That is, Dobbs and Ober have a different—not altogether, but largely dissimilar—vision of the future Northern Forest from the vision wildlands proponents hold; and, obviously, I count myself as a wildlands proponent.

Even though I believe the authors and I agree on much, and where we don't agree, the differences are probably unresolvable (based as they are on different fundamental premises), I'd like to try briefly to persuade them and other readers that their book could have been more forthright.

First, I challenge their implicit suggestion that loggers are among "those who know the forest best." Would that it were so! I fear many loggers could not identify all the trees they (indirectly, we) are felling, let alone the processes they (again, partly at the behest of us consumers) are truncating and the organisms being killed.

Second, I contest their assertion that before publication of their book environmentalists had been heard but "residents of the Northern Forest who are unaffiliated with environmental organizations or other groups" had not been. One could reasonably claim the oppo-

site—and, in large part, it's our own fault. As Dobbs and Ober rightfully show in their book, environmentalists have generally not been good at making their voices heard by the larger public. Mostly, we've just been preaching to the choir. Thanks to **The Northern Forest Forum**, and groups like RESTORE: The North Woods and the Adirondack Council, however, we are beginning to bridge the communication gap.

As to whether Dobbs and Ober's book will serve well the Northern Forest, I suspect at one level it will, but at a more fundamental level it may not. Likely it will help maintain "the working forest" and the one species ostensibly dependent on that. It probably will not help bring about recovery of natural forest and the many species dependent on that.

John Davis edits **Wild Earth** (POB 455, Richmond, VT 05477).

Property Rights ~ An Abenaki Perspective

by Tomas Obomsawin

Telling the history of the destruction of the Northern Forests from an Abenaki perspective to a non-Abenaki or non-“Indian” can be very difficult. No one wants to hear harsh, unpleasant things about one’s collective past. But if environmentalists are going to radically change the way the Northern (and all) forests are being destroyed and exploited, then the root causes of this destruction and exploitation have to be confronted with courage. These root causes are a product of the history that has occurred since the invasion of our country. Keep in mind that this invasion took place consistently over a period of more than two hundred years.

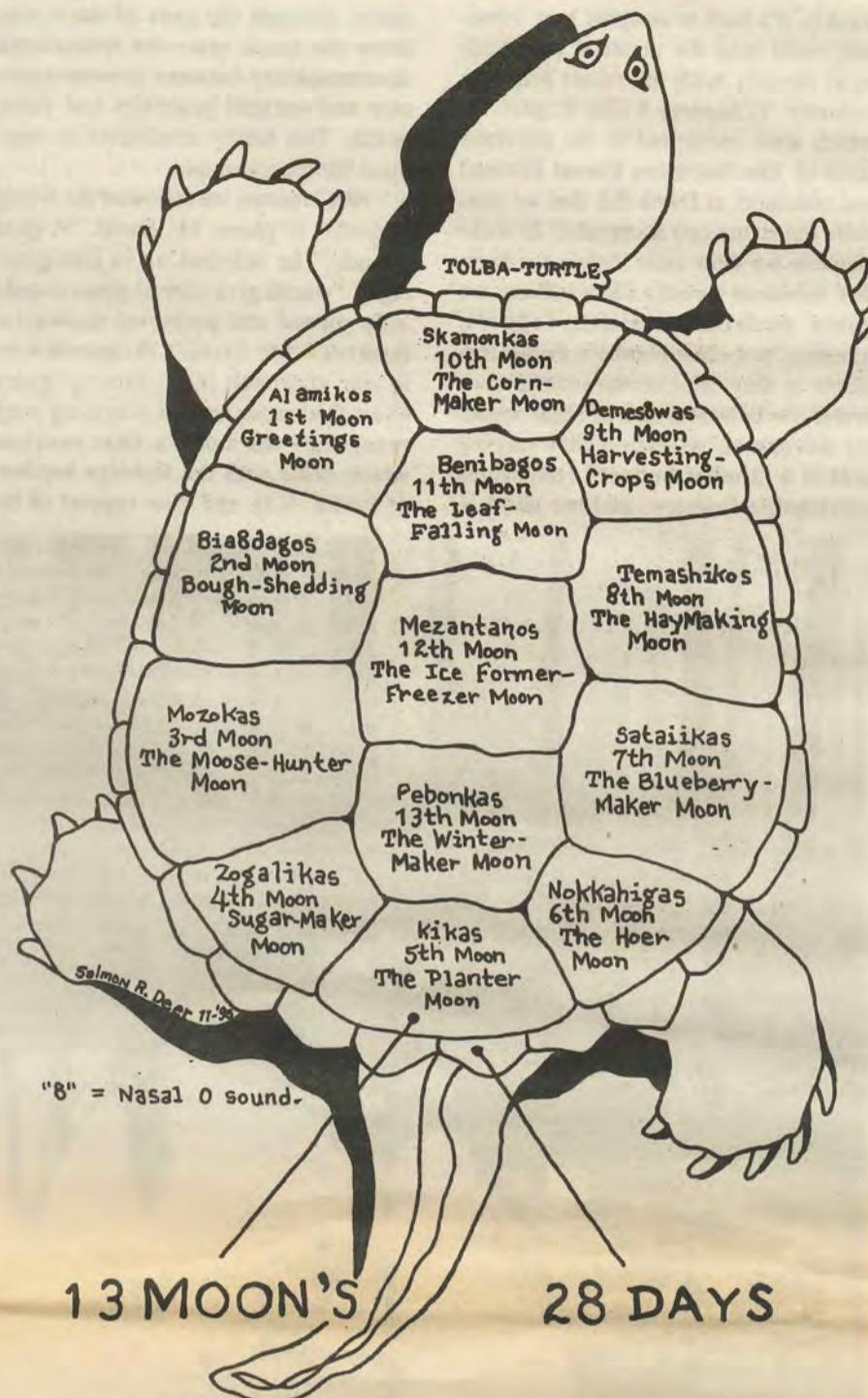
Today, the northeastern American public is much more aware that our people have been here in the Northeast for at least 10,000 years by archaeological evidence. The first widely known contact with our people was in about 1000 AD by the Celts/Norse/Vikings. This small group of northern Europeans were quickly absorbed into our culture and our gene pool. Our oral tradition tells of individuals periodically being born with green or blue eyes and red or blonde hair.

Early European adventurers and settlers, whose countries had long since cut down their own ancient forests, viewed the forests of North America as a “howling wilderness” full of commercial potential. But to us it is our common mother and she is to receive the highest degree of respect you would accord your own natural mother. She provided every possible thing we could ever want or need and still there was plenty left to share with every other living creature in our universe. Caribou,

and many other species of fauna and flora now extinct in the Northern Forests, thrived in our homeland. The forest floor was covered with a certain type of moss that caribou eat. Well established trails and waterways could take you anywhere you wanted to go. Even after a major rainstorm, the water ran crystal clear in our maize of river watersheds.

The first so-called settlers who invaded our land did not fare well and could not penetrate our Northern Forests. A curious thing about these “friendly settlers” was that a great many of them were in the military or militia. Forty years after the “Pilgrims” landed, our surviving southern relatives in Connecticut and Massachusetts were either massacred or converted to Christianity—and thereby—controlled. While Christianity was being forced on our southern relatives by the English and Dutch, our people to the north and east had been lulled into the Catholic Christianity by the French Jesuits.

Although we accepted the humanitarian principles of the religion, none of us accepted that the Kings and Queens of Europe were our Kings and Queens nor did we accept their forced jurisdiction. Many of our people grew to respect these men of God and would take their advice and leadership. Just as many however, knew that we were being deceived by the Jesuits and other men of God who were in essence working for the Kings and their corporations. Still, by the year 1700 the Northern



Forests of our homeland were intact and impenetrable.

There isn’t enough space in this article to cover all the significant historical events that took place in the first hundred years of our invasion and occupation by Europeans. The key reason that this invasion and occupation is not viewed as such in American history is the concept of land ownership.

The King of England believed he had a right to own any land that his corporate agents could find. The King licensed corporations (sometimes called companies) to establish a base of operations for other corporations. One of the first such corporations established in our territory was called the “Massachusetts Bay Company, Inc.” This corporation eventually became the State of Massachusetts. Other corporations were called plantations or towns, counties and cities.

Nine years after the landing of the Pilgrims, a group of English subjects applied for and received a license for a land company (corporation). The invasion was perfectly legal according to the King’s law. It was cleverly disguised as a land purchase. A “friendly” meeting was called for by the corporate executives inviting the principal leaders of the communities that inhabited the land that they planned to invade (purchase). Our leaders were given many “presents” including alcohol. To show us that they had good intentions and they were truly our friends they proposed to draw up a

document that would celebrate and record this great friendship that we were about to enter into.

At this point I would like history to speak for itself. The accompanying document—the Wheelwright Deed—contains the essence of historical events happening at the time of its signing. It identifies the names of the Massachusetts Bay Company (corporation) executives who would later apply to the King of England for permission to establish a Province/Colony called New Hampshire, the location of principal Abenaki villages and the names of the chief or spokespersons for each region. In this document, English executors from the Massachusetts Bay Company refer to our principal men as Sagamores. The Abenaki word that the English were trying to pronounce was *Sôgmô*, which means “most respected spokesperson or leader”.

If, while reading this document, you feel that you could use an attorney to help comprehend exactly what it is saying, try to imagine my ancestors, who could neither read, write nor understand English, listening to someone read this document to them. Periodically someone would interpret the part about liberty to hunt and fish or the payment of one coat per year and perhaps pour another glass of rum and drink to the King’s health.

This was indeed a very friendly event but don’t forget it is legally supposed to be our words that are being

written from our own mouths when we allegedly traded, bargained and sold the tract of land that would become the State of New Hampshire. If you carefully trace the boundaries of this deed you will find an almost exact description of the southern section of the present day State of New Hampshire from the Atlantic ocean to Concord and between the Piscataqua River and the Merrimack River.

In the first paragraph of this document, mention is made of “our enemies, the Tarratens”. I’m not clear on the origin of the word “Tarratens”, but the reference is to the Abenakis inhabiting the regions in our northern territory that the English were not yet familiar with and had no control over. The majority of Abenaki people was extremely opposed to any invasion or encroachment of our territory. Through the propagation of their gospel English settlers influenced some Abenaki leaders who in turn influenced their respective communities to become Christian “Praying Indians”. This was true of Passaconaway of the Penacook community of the Abenaki Nation. The “Gospel” of the Church of England was translated into the Abenaki dialects of Narragansett, Wampanoag, Pequot, Nipmuc and others.

Relatively few Abenaki communities accepted the conditions of being “Praying Indians”. One major incentive for becoming a “Praying Indian”, however, was that if a particular “Indian” community accepted Christianity as taught by the Church of England they would not be considered “enemies” of the King of England and subject to arrest, imprisonment, torture and death. The myth was that we could live in peace as brothers and share this great and beautiful country of ours with the newly arrived and uninvited corporate representatives of the—God approved and authorized—King of England.

The majority of us however understood well what the English were up to. The deforestation of Massachusetts and Connecticut were well under way and word had spread to every corner of Abenaki country. Even after surviving one devastating virus after another our people valiantly fought off and resisted this invasion of our country.

Once the area was “cleared” of its Abenaki inhabitants, the surrounding forests were “clear-cut” as far as they were capable going. After all, the (enemy) Abenakis hide behind all of those huge trees out there, and entrepreneurs could turn an enormous profit by harvesting all that prime virgin forest lumber. These first Europeans, often called, adventurers and pioneers, could reap enormous fortunes by processing the “natural resources” that were abundant in our country at that time.

Accounts of “heroic” acts of bravery and courage fighting off the dreaded and feared “Indians” are often totally false. Our Country was under a long drawn out, strategically planned, aggressive invasion. Of course our people fought back. Once we had experienced the deceit, cruelty and disregard by—in this case—the English, we fought back with all the resolve of a truly strong nation of people. In every battle that took place on a toe to toe level our warriors defeated the English

mercenary settler corporations.

Even with the pacification of some of our communities the Europeans could not penetrate our country without sustaining heavy, if not complete, defeat. The territory that Wheelwright and Wentworth allegedly bought through the deceitful 1629 Wheelwright Deed was by no means safe for settlement outside of a few military block house settlements. This greatly frustrated the CEO who held the title of Royal Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, Inc.

A number of years after the signing of the Wheelwright Deed, the Governor decided to place an order to a particular warehouse in Boston for several wagon loads of blankets that were infested with smallpox. A meeting and celebration was arranged between the Governor and his other executives and the principal men of the Christianized Abenakis at Penacook (now Concord, New Hampshire).

At these mock displays of friendship with our Christianized leaders, many gifts were bestowed. Most of them were the annual token deed payment of a minimal amount of commodities that many of our people became dependant on such as steel knives, axes, pots and other tools that we found very useful. Alcohol was one of the first such commodities that our people became addictively dependant on. A valuable cache of furs could get enough alcohol to completely inebriate an Abenaki trapper for days, weeks or months. Needless to say the cash value of the furs was profoundly higher than the value of the alcohol, and a great profit was enjoyed by the clever Englishman who would swindle the dumb Indian in this way.

The last sentence of the first paragraph of the Wheelwright Deed "Reserves the liberty to plant our corn as usual, hunt and fish as usual" in order to give the signatories of the Deed an illusion of peace. Under this illusion, the signers of the Deed often inadvertently served as spies, informants and guides to the ever increasing number of corporate ventures (military invasions) into our remaining untouched country. You will notice that we apparently allowed several provisos and conditions that would allow the continued expansion of corporate development (whenever they saw fit). According to this document, we encouraged each and every other English person to come and enjoy the same benefits and privileges that could be obtained by buying into this deed. We apparently wanted more English Settlement and put ourselves on notice that we are also going to be, from now on, under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Bay Company, Inc. until these "gentlemen" could form their own Governing corporation.

And to prove that we were getting such a good deal we stated again that we were to have "free liberty" to hunt, fish and plant. Lastly, we apparently demanded that the yearly payment for the "purchase" of millions of acres of our land be one ordinary coat.

Since Wheelwright and Wentworth went through such "great Paines and Care" to assure us that we had made the best possible deal, we were to pay them two bushels of our "Indian Corn" annually. In addition we wanted them to know that they had absolutely free access to any and all sorts of minerals, timber and any other valuable "natural

resource" that they could find in the part of our country that they had allegedly purchased. I guess we just wanted to make sure that they could turn an enormous profit and enjoy decadent privileges like the Kings and Queens and other privileged classes of European society.

Still, invading someone else's country can be very risky to life and limb of the perpetrator, a risk that the governors and ruling class assuredly did not want to take. For this reason the military/settler armies were generously manned by English subjects who were incarcerated in England's prisons. These people were hardened criminals, cheats, con artists, murderers and other social outcasts of the day. The King of England once explained that it was a way to "Drain ye Filth" from British society.

These were the people our ancestors dealt with on a regular basis. Sometimes working as agents for the merchant corporation, these historically proclaimed heroes plunged into our territory and negotiated trade with us. Nevertheless, we were allegedly happy to assure these English gentlemen that they would not be disturbed or molested while they were busy clearcutting our forests and depleting them of game animals or forcing us to relocate so that they could occupy and claim our ancient village sites to build their towns and cities on.

Even though these duped leaders of our people could not have possibly understood the intent of this document, they each apparently made some sort of mark or totem sign which purportedly closes the deal legally. And if this isn't enough, a memorandum is added notifying us that yet another company (corporation) by the name of Laconia was about to embark on yet another adventurous invasion deep into our remaining territory farther up the Merrimack and Pemigewasset River watershed.

Shortly after the signing of the Wheelwright Deed, Passaconaway and his community were nearly wiped out by smallpox. The survivors fled north to join others who had been exiled from their territories. One of the surviving families from this region took refuge in the Jesuit mission village of St. Francis de Sales, near the mouth of the Anasigunticook, or St. Francis River. The family name was Monatock. Through the years, some of the families changed their names to better fit in with the mission and its community. This particular family name became Laurent. For hundreds of years, members of this family traveled back and forth annually to their prior home territory. One member of this family finally remained in his original territory. His name is Steven Laurent and he lives in the Intervale section of North Conway, NH. He is my great-uncle, and contrary to popular belief, he is not the last of the Abenakis in that region.

One of the things this deed shows is the basis of the fundamental—God-given—right to own land that does not really belong to you and the right to exploit this land for profit and enjoyment of this profit. And as you might expect, one of the first things done to this newly acquired purchase was its near-total deforestation, at a healthy profit, of course. After this was done, it was time to move on, or in this case, north to the Northern Forests.

Text of the Wheelwright Deed

Below is the text of "Wheelwright Deed" as recorded in: *Provincial Papers, DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS, relating to the PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, from the earliest period of its settlement: 1623-1686*. Published by authority of the legislature of New Hampshire. Volume 1. Compiled and edited by Nathaniel Boughton, D. D., Corresponding Secretary of the New Hampshire Historical Society. Concord: George E. Jenks, State Printer. 1867. The introductory note appears in the 1867 volume.

[NOTE. The famous Wheelwright Deed, which has been pronounced a forgery by Hon. James Savage, the distinguished antiquarian of Boston, and the late John Farmer, Esq., of Concord, bears the date May 17, 1629. Hon. Chandler E. Potter, who has devoted much attention and research to the subject, maintains the validity of the deed. But whether the deed be a forgery or not it forms a portion of our history; - is the basis on which rests the grant of several townships in the State, is recognized in various ways, in our public records, as genuine; and therefore I deem it proper to give it a place in this first volume of our Provincial History. The deed is recorded in the office of Recorder of Deeds, at Exeter, of which the following is an exact certified copy. - Ed.]

Indian Sagamores to Wheelwright and Company.

Whereas wee the Sagamores of Penacook, Pentucket, Squamscot and Nuchawanick, are inclined to have ye English inhabitt amongst us, as they are amongst our countrymen in the Massachusetts bay, by sooth means wee hope in time to be strengthened against our enemys, the Tarratens, who yearly doth us damage, likewise being perswaided yt itt will bee for the good of us and our posterety &cct. To that end have att a general meeting att Squamscot on Piscataqua River, wee the aforesd Sagamores wth a universal consent of our subjects doe covenant and agree wtin the English as followeth: Now Know all men by these presents that wee Passaconaway, Sagamore of Pennacook, Runawitt, Sagamore of Pentucket, Wahangnonawitt, Sagamore of Squamscott and Rowls, Sagamore of Newchawanick for a compitent valuation in goods already received in coats, shurts, and victuals and alsoe for ye Considerations aforesaid doe (according to ye Limits and bounds hereafter granted), give, grant, bargaine, sell Release, Rattafe and Confirme unto John Wheelwright of ye Massachucets baye Late of England, A minister of ye Gospel, Augustin Story, Thomas Wite, William Wentworth and Thomas Levitt, all of ye Massachusetts baye, in New-England to them, their heires and Assigns forever, all that part of ye maine Land bounded by the River of Piscataqua and the River of Merrimack, that is to say to begin att Newchewanack falls in Piscataqua River aforesaid and soe down said River to the falls att Pentucett aforesaid and from said Pentucett falls upon a North west Line twenty English miles into the woods, and from thence to Run upon a Streight Line North East and South West till meeets with the maine Rivers that Runs down to Pentucket falls and Newchewanack falls and ye said Rivers to be the bounds of the said Lands from the thwart Line or head Line to ye aforesaid falls and ye maine Channel of each River from Pentucket and Newchewanack falls to the maine sea to bee the side bounds and the maine Sea betweene Piscataqua River And Merrimack River to be the Lower bounds and the thwart or head Line that runs from River to river to be ye upper bound, Togather with all Lands within said bounds, as alsoe the Iles of Sholes soe Called by the English, togeather with all Profits, Advantages and Appurtenances whatsoever, to the said tract of Land, belonging or in any wayes appertaining. Reserving to our Selves, Liberty of making use of our old Planting Land, as also free Liberty of Hunting, fishing and fowling, and itt is Likewise with these Provisoes following, viz:

First, that ye said John Wheelwright shall, within ten years after the date hereof sett Down, with a company of English and begin a Plantation att Squamscott falls In Piscataqua River aforesaid.

Secondly, that what other Inhabitants shall come to Live on said tract of Land Amongst them from Time to Time and att all times shall have and Enjoye the same benefitts as the said Whelewright aforesaid.

Thirdly, that If att any time there be a number of People amongst them that have a mind to begin a new Plantation Exceede in Lands above ten English miles Squaire, or such a Proportion as amounts to ten miles square.

Fourthly, that ye aforesaid granted Lands are to be Divided into Townshipps, as People Increase and appeare to Inhabit them, and that noe Lands shall be granted to any pticular pson, but what shall be for a Township and what Lands within a Township is granted to any Particular Person to be by vote of ye major part of ye Enhabitants, Legally and orderly settled in said Township.

Fifthly, for managing and Regulating and to avoide Contentions amongst them, they are to be under the Government of the Colony of the Massachusetts (their neighbours), and to observe their Laws and orders until they have a settled Government Amongst themselves.

Sixthly, wee the aforesaid Sagamores and our subjects are to have free Liberty (within the aforesaid granted tract of Land) of ffishing, fowling, hunting and Planting, &cct.

Seventhly and Lastly, every Township within the aforesaid Limits or tract of Land that hereafter shall be settled, shall Paye to Passaconaway, out Cheife Sagamore, that now is and to his successors forever If Lawfully Demanded, one Coate of Trucking Cloath, a year and every year for an Acknowledgement and alsoe shall Paye to me John Whelewright aforesaid, his heires and successors forever, If Lawfully Demanded, two bushells of Indian Corne a year, for and in Consideration of said Whelewrights great Paines and Care as alsoe for ye Charges he have been at all to obtain this our grant, for himself and those afore mentioned, and the Inhabitants that shall hereafter settle In Townships on ye aforesaid granted Premises. And wee the aforesaid Sagamores, Passaconaway, Sagamore of Penecook, Runawitt, Sagamore of Pentucket, Wahangnonawitt, Sagamore of Squamscott, and Rowls, Sagamore of Newchewanack, doe by these Presents, Rattafe and Confirme all ye afore granted and bargained Premises and Tract of Land aforesaid (excepting and Reserving as afore Excepted and Reserved, and the Provisos aforesaid fullfilled), with all the meadow and marsh grounds therein, Togather with all the mines, minerals of what kind or Nature soever, with all the Woods, Timber and Timber Trees, Ponds, Rivers, Lakes, runs of Water or Water Courses thereunto belonging, with all the ffreedom of ffishing, fflowling and Hunting, as ourselves with all other benifits, Proffits, Privileges and Appurtenances whatsoever thereunto, of all and any Part of the said Tract of Land, belonging or in any wayes Appurtaininge unto him, the said John Whelewright, Augustin Storer, Thomas Wite, William Wentworth and Thomas Levitt and their heirs forever as aforesaid. To have and to hold ye same As their own Proper Right and Interest without the Least Disturbance, molestation or Troble of us, our heires, Executors and Administrators, to and with the said John Whelewright, Augustin Storer, Thomas Wite, William Wentworth and Thomas Levitt, their heires, Executors, Administrators and assignes, and other the English that shall Inhabit there, And theire heires and assigns, forever shall Warrant, maintain and Defend. In Wittnes whereof, we have hereunto sett our hands and seals the Seventeenth day of May, 1629. And in the ffifth year of King Charles, his reigne over England, &cct.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered In Presents of us:
Wadargoscom, Passaconaway, Mistonobite, Runawit, John Oldham, Wahangnonawit, Sam'l Sharpe, Rowls

Memorand'm: on ye Seventeenth day of Maye, one thousand six hundred twenty and nine, In the ffifth year of the Reigne of our Sovereign Lord Charles, King of England, Scotland, Ffrance and Ireland, Defender of ye ffaith, &cct. Wanangnonawit, Sagamore of Squamscott, in Piscataqua River did in behalfe of himselfe and the other Sagamores aforementioned Present Delivered Quiet and Peaceable Possession of all ye Lands mentioned in the within wrten Deed, unto the within named John Whelewright for the ends within mentioned, in Presents of us, Walter Mele, Governer, Geo. Vaughan, Facktor, and Ambros Gibins, Trader for ye Company of Laconia: Richard Vines Governer, and Richard Bonathan, Assistant of ye Plantation of Sawco, Thomas Wiggin agent, and Edward Hilton Steward of the Plantation of Hilton's Point and was signed, sealed and Delivered In our Presents.

In Witness whereof, wee have hereunto sett our hands the day and yeaere above Written.
Richard Vines, Walter Neale, Richard Bonathan, Geo. Vaughan, Thomas Wiggin, Ambros Gibbins, Edward Hilton

River Ecosystems & the Northern Forest: What's the Connection?

by Geoff Dates
Science Coordinator
River Watch Network

"The objective of this act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters."

- Federal Clean Water Act

"Streamside forests are crucial to the protection and enhancement of the water resources of the Eastern United States."

- David Welsch, U.S. Forest Service

Put those two statements together and you have some pretty clear policy guidance on how we should manage the Northern Forest: manage it, in part, to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of our waters. This article is about why and how streamside forests are important to rivers, why our current system for assessing the health of our rivers is inadequate, and what a healthy forest-river interaction looks like.

River Ecosystems: Some Basics

A river ecosystem is a complex web of inter-relationships among physical, chemical, and biological factors. Rivers are high energy ecosystems. The flowing water is constantly changing the landscape carrying materials away from places where the current is fast (erosion) and depositing it in places where the current is slow.

The physical characteristics of the river form the foundation for the biological community. Examples include gradient, current velocity, temperature, depth, water clarity, and bottom composition. These characteristics combine to create habitats:

- Shallow, fast moving, rocky bottom areas known as *riffles*.
- Deeper, slower moving sandy and gravelly bottom areas known as *runs*.
- And deep, slow moving muddy-bottom areas known as *pools*.

The river is a living community of critters focused on getting food, getting oxygen, finding cover, maintaining position, or getting sunlight. Food comes from riverside vegetation, smaller living organisms in the water column or on the bottom, and dead and decaying organic material flowing downstream. Oxygen comes from the water mixing with the air and from plants that produce oxygen as a by-product of photosynthesis. Cover comes from undercut banks, boulders, and large woody debris in the stream channel. Maintaining position requires physical adaptations and relatively stable flows. Sunlight comes from above and is critical for plant life. The amount that reaches the organisms



that need it depends on the shading provided by riverside vegetation, and the depth and clarity of the water through which the light must travel. The extent to which it reaches these organisms determines how much food is produced in the stream.

The river is also a very complex chemical "soup" within which life exists in the river. Water chemistry is affected by the chemistry of rain and snow falling in the watershed and by the geology of the watershed itself. It's also affected by the organisms in the water and by human activities in the water and in the watershed. Examples include dissolved oxygen, nutrients, pH, and others.

These physical, chemical, and biological characteristics are bound in a complex relationship which is often characterized as "dynamic equilibrium." "... ecosystem stability is achieved by a dynamic balance between forces contributing to stabilization (e.g. debris dams, filter feeders, and other retention devices; nutrient cycling) and those contributing to its instability (e.g., floods, temperature fluctuations, microbial epidemics)." (Vannote)

The next section examines the role of the forest in maintaining this equilibrium.

The Role of the Forest In the River's Health

Streamside forests provide a number of crucial functions for the rivers that flow through them.

How You Can Get Involved In River Monitoring

River Watch Network (RWN) is a non-profit organization that provides organizational and technical assistance to groups and schools wishing to carry out river monitoring and protection programs. RWN helps groups design and carry out monitoring programs that address specific river protection goals and answer specific questions about the river.

Both Vermont and New Hampshire support volunteer lake and river monitoring programs. Both states have provided funding and technical assistance to groups working on projects to reduce "non-point" pollution.

If you're interested in starting a river monitoring effort, contact River Watch Network at (802) 223-3840. A Program Organizing Guide (\$10) is available that will help you understand what's involved.

- **Forests are a source of food.** Many aquatic organisms (small and large) feed on leaves, needles, twigs, stems, and other plant material that drops into the river. These "shredders" and "gathering collectors" are the beginning of a downstream progression of food. At each step, other organisms reduce the food to smaller and smaller particles that other animals downstream filter from the water column. In small upland streams, as much as 75% of the food base for the stream may come from the forest canopy.

- **Forests moderate stream temperatures.** Small headwater streams (abundant in the Northern Forest) are easily warmed by direct sunlight. A forest canopy protects the stream from direct sunlight during the hot summer months and keeps the stream relatively cool. This is critical to the survival of organisms that are sensitive to high temperatures or to fluctuations that occur in unshaded streams.

- **Forests remove pollutants from surface runoff.** Forests effectively filter out sediment (and attached nutrients) which can destroy habitat and smother eggs and larvae. They remove and store dissolved nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus, which can trigger excessive biological activity causing instability in the system.

- **Forests are a source of cover.** As a tree falls into or over a stream, it changes habitat conditions. It may create cover for fish to hide under. It may create a pool by damming the stream. It may create attachment surfaces for aquatic insects to feed from or lay their eggs on. Streamside forests, as they mature, provide this "large woody debris" to the stream.

Finally, the streams in parts of the Northern Forest are as close to their natural condition as streams in the Northeast get. They provide a useful reference point: how healthy stream systems work where human influences are minimal. Without this reference, we have no standard against which we can evaluate conditions in more developed

areas. We have no way of defining desirable (though not necessarily achievable) end states. And then we have no idea of how close we are to achieving the objective of the Clean Water Act.

Assessing and Managing the Health of Aquatic Ecosystems

"In most cases, by the time changes in [environmental] conditions are detected, substantial insult to the ecosystem has already occurred." (Cairns)

That statement sums up the major problem with the way we assess and manage rivers. For the most part, we currently judge the health of our rivers by taking measurements of various river characteristics and comparing the results to "water quality standards." These are state regulations that describe water quality goals, and the water quality conditions needed to achieve those goals. The goals are typically expressed in terms of *human uses and values*. Then, the standards describe the water quality (mostly in terms of characteristics of the water column such as bacteria, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, etc.) needed to support those uses. For example, they state how many bacteria are acceptable to maintain swimming as a river use.

Yet, a river is much more than human uses and values. A river is more than bacteria, dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, turbidity, and other constituents in the water column. The problem is that state water quality standards don't really describe or protect ecological integrity, as we've defined it above.

There's a good reason why our monitoring and water quality standards don't really protect ecological integrity: it's extremely complex and difficult to describe, monitor, assess, and regulate the web of inter-relationships we described above. Individual water column characteristics are inherently variable—they change daily, seasonally, from year to year.

Continued on Next Page

Army Corps Sends Maine Back to Drawing Board Over Sears Island Woodchip Port

by Ron Huber

Dismissing the arguments of Maine's resource agencies, the US Army Corps of Engineers turned down all of the Maine Department of Transportation's design alternatives for the Sears Island woodchip port in mid-November, sending the MDOT scrambling to cobble up a new alternative that could meet the Corps' concerns.

Maine's Department of Inland Fish & Wildlife and Department of Marine Resources had each sent the Corps critiques of the joint US Fish & Wildlife Service/Environmental Protection Agency/National Marine Fisheries Service assessment of the project's impacts, dismissing the federal agencies' concerns over the port's impacts to upland and marine species and habitats as "inflammatory", and "exaggerated and unsupported".

The Corps disagreed, telling John Melrose, Commissioner of Transportation that the state agencies' arguments were "misinterpretations of Federal regulations and policy." Citing the three agencies' unanimous opposition after more than 13 years of analysis of the issue, and emphasizing that "the Corps gives great weight to the comments of NMFS, USF&WS, and EPA", the Corps ordered the state to significantly reduce marine and other impacts before resubmitting their proposal. The state is now working on a design that would have the entire 345,000 square foot wharf suspended on piles above the bay, connected to the island by a rail and road bridges.

But pilings may not be enough to make the project pass muster. Citizen

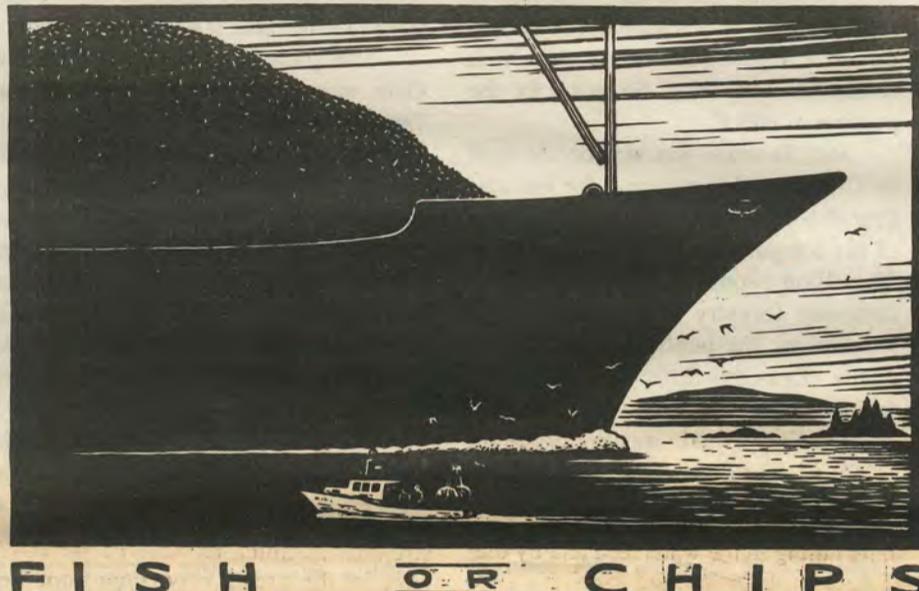
activists and at least one federal resource agency (NMFS) say the port's purpose and design have changed so dramatically since the publishing of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that an additional supplemental EIS needs to be created. This could set the project back for years.

Woodchips for Sears Island Port?

A Delaware-registered subsidiary of a Connecticut corporation has received an initial rebuff in its efforts to build a woodchip mill in Mattawamkeag. Railroad tie maker Aroostook & Bangor Reload Inc. reorganized last August as Aroostook and Bangor Resources, is seeking waste discharge and Site Law permits from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to build a woodchip mill near the junction of the Canadian Atlantic

and Maine Central railroads. A chipmill at this site would be positioned to profitably export woodchips from central Maine through the proposed Sears Island port on Penobscot Bay.

A&BR, a subsidiary of Permatreat, Inc. of Connecticut, was forced in late November to withdraw its application for a Permit By Rule exemption for the two permits after the DEP noted that the chip mill would be located on a sand and gravel deposit, thus likely to have significant environmental impacts from its discharges. The company is expected to reapply. A new public notice would be required, however. To be notified of further developments on this issue, contact: Maine DEP, Bureau of Hazardous Materials & Solid Waste Control, State House Station #17, Augusta, ME 04333. For more information, contact Coastal Waters Project, POB 1811, Rockland, ME 04841. Tel. 207-596-7693.



River Monitoring

Continued from Preceding Page

"In-stream variability means that even accurate laboratory numbers can be expected to fail to represent the actual in-stream concentrations. [This] suggests that agencies that place a premium on analytical accuracy may be misstating their confidence in making environmental management judgments . . ." (Ongley)

The implication of this statement is that managing our waters by assessing individual water column characteristics is missing the big picture.

So, monitoring is shifting toward measuring, estimating, and observing indicators of the ecological processes at work such as stream channel dynamics, aquatic insect communities, and assessments of habitat quality. These assessments look at complex communities and physical conditions that integrate this variability to provide a "bottom line" picture. They attempt to answer questions like: Will habitat conditions support a healthy cold water fishery? Have human activities changed the downstream aquatic insect community? Is sediment degrading spawning and nursery gravel beds?

The State of Vermont is especially committed to this type of assessment. Its Water Quality Standards include designation of certain waters as "High quality waters that have significant ecological value." Yet, the Standards don't define what this means and don't describe the essential indicators (other than turbidity, bacteria, color, taste tem-

perature, dissolved oxygen, and odor in the water column). New Hampshire's Water Quality Standards are even more focused on water column constituents.

Many volunteer monitoring groups are focusing on habitat and ecological integrity indicators as they work on restoring their streams. They are carrying out habitat assessments, studies of aquatic insect communities, pollution source inventories, studies of polluted runoff impacts, etc. And the information they produce is being used increasingly by state agencies in their assessments of rivers. Both Vermont and New Hampshire have used this information in their recent assessment of the Connecticut River and in their biennial reports to Congress.

So, in light of our changing view of assessment and management of our waters, how should we manage and assess the Northern Forest's waters?

Managing the Forest To Restore and Maintain Aquatic Ecosystems

A basic management goal for the Northern Forest should be to restore and maintain the critical ecological services that forests provide for aquatic systems. That means maintaining adequate buffers along streams and employing harvesting and road-building procedures that protect these functions. The U.S. Forest Service recommends buffers consisting of three zones: 1) a zone of undisturbed forest adjacent to the stream to provide shading, a source of food, and large woody debris; 2) a zone of managed forest where trees are harvested to remove stored nutrients, and 3) a runoff control zone where surface flows are dispersed. Both VT and NH have guidelines to reduce polluted runoff from forestry activities.

Finally, as we make decisions about

Eel Grass, Sears Island

hard to be lonely
in the lushness of eel
grass, feeling the ocean's
ebb and flow —
hard to know
want or hurt or
waste, here below
the sun, the sky,
the water's
edge of grass and
mud and
moving with
the moon —
hard to know
the hearts of men, those
who would fill and spill
and kill all below
their own shallow
depth of heart, their
line of sight —
hard to know these
hearts,
hard to be alive,
hard to survive
in the face of their
rush toward riches,
toward death.

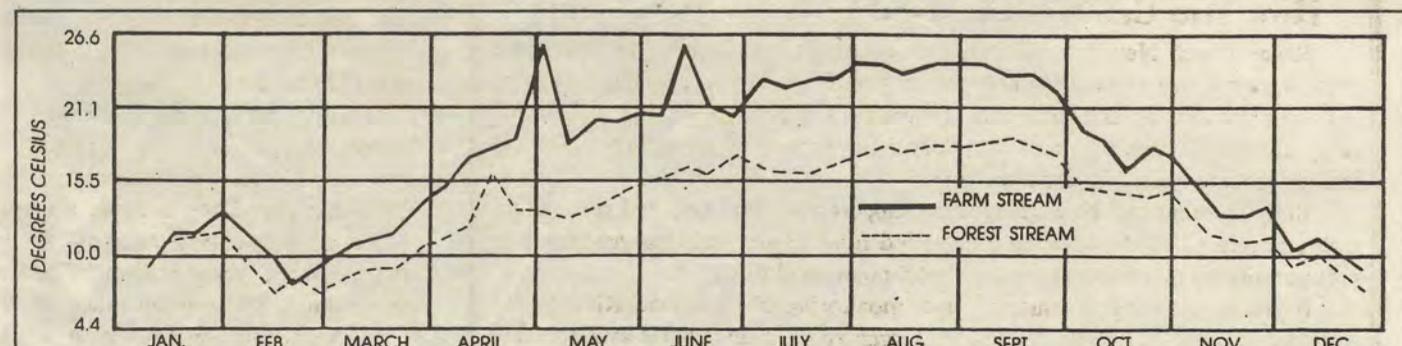
—Gary Lawless

the fate of the Northern Forest, agencies and volunteer groups should cooperatively assess and monitor the waters in the region. We need to know whether forest management activities are having an impact (good or bad) on these waters. And we need to focus on biological and habitat assessments to tell us how we're doing in meeting our goal of healthy forest and aquatic ecosystems.

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WEEKLY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR THE FARM AND FOREST STREAM



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SUSTAINABILITY ~ Today, *du Jour*; Next Year, *de Jure*

by William Butler

Increasing attention to the question (if not the definition) of forest sustainability is ominous—the topic once was inadmissible. There could be no debate; only a few malcontents, mostly non-foresters, raised an outcry. Now we have four separate symposia sponsored by groups both inside or captive of forest industry. What happened? Maybe *murder will out* is true.

Most striking is that the industry, state government, and foresters' bodies are acting as if they sense the first paper mill closing. Industry insiders spoke of it at the Commission on the Decline of Maine's Paper Industry, reported here in several issues of Vol. 3. Of course, the first mill shutdown will trigger a wild flap. Meanwhile, leaders ignore the absence of jobs in the industrial forest. Following the forest liquidation that began in the 1960's, the cut is now focused on small non-industrial holdings and the Diamond-Occidental land.

APA

Who is discussing this? For one, the American Pulpwood Association, a subset of the AF&PA industry group of forest and paper companies. At their Dixville Notch, NH meeting, the APA proclaimed its sustainable forestry initiative (SFI), for approved practices with, hold your hat, expulsion of those not complying after 1996. Truthfully, their literature describes sustainable forestry as "an emerging concept." I would be more impressed had they begun in about 1950.

On the panel Kent Wommack of The Nature Conservancy discussed how sustained-yield forestry might differ from sustainable forestry, and said that sustainable forest management is as much a social process as a technical problem. Tom Colgan of Wagner Forest Management presented the idea of forest management as a profitable investment for the longer term, such as that of John Hancock's 450,000 acres in the

Most striking is that the industry, state government, and foresters' bodies are acting as if they sense the first paper mill closing... Of course, the first mill shutdown will trigger a wild flap. Meanwhile, leaders ignore the absence of jobs in the industrial forest.

northeast. Tom, and later, Henry Whittemore of Hancock, were not prepared to put a number on how much the lands appreciated under this scheme, ultimately a critical point in deciding whether they will be liquid assets only if clearcut.

Charles Levesque, late staff director of the NFL Council, carried on by recommending a book, *Getting To Yes*, as a guide to reaching consensus, if not consent. The subtitle is "How to win without giving up anything." Typically, Charles closed with, "Never compromise your interest; give ground only on your position." Levesque's answer to the question, "Was sustainability intended as a consequence of the NFL Council?" was, "No." So much for the purpose of NFLC.

Joel Swanton was sent on the road by Champion-International for the past year to listen to what the public thought of his company. He recognizes that the 70 million people in the northeast put company forestry in a fishbowl. His conclusion: the public's perception is reality. (Does this differ from where PR usually starts?)

The final speaker was Eric Johnson, editor of *Northern Logger & Timber Processor*, with 14,000 readers, 2,500 members. The *NL&TP* is the New England house organ for APA. Johnson made a pitch for his pulpwood contractor members who will have to implement whatever are the practices of the SFI; the contractors want the dollar cost of implementing these practices up front, the company wood buyer prefers the contractor to swallow the costs. Johnson favors the sustainability initiative, saying that loggers don't doubt that timber can be sustained. He pointed to clearcuts on Route 2 in northern

Vermont as looking bad to tourists and a PR disaster. His question is can SFI convince the public that industry has turned a corner?

SAF Convention

A different setting was the November 1 convention of the Society of American Foresters in Portland, Maine. Attendance at this last item on the program exceeded expectations. Introductory remarks linked silviculture to long-term forest health and productivity, and acknowledged that sustainability seems to imply a regulated forest (a series of single-aged blocks) if all-aged management is neglected.

The panel consisted of Richard Gale, who teaches sociology at Eugene, Oregon, and three Ph.D.'s in forestry: John Marshall, Univ. of Idaho, David M. Smith of Yale, and David Loftis of USFS, southern research. The topic was given as "Sustainable Forest Practices and Production Silviculture". The degree of tension between the paired terms was apparent as soon as Gale began. His opening thrust was *Sustained What? For Whom? and Why?* He laid bare the economic nerve of his rural community—the best logs still are trucked away for export to Japan. In a vigorous talk, Gale spoke of resource mining approaching a crossroad in about eight months, possibly followed by real forest management.

Three silviculturists versus one sociologist? You may wonder who won. The answer, I think, lies in the choices of all three to explain what can go wrong with intensive forest management. They agreed there can be a decline in forest production when short-term (30 or 40 year) clearcutting cycles are continued. One might think that the

arguments implied that sustainability is not achievable in this style. What they didn't say is as important as what they said. The did not feel impelled to address sustainability issues other than problems associated with single age management.

The issue of sustainability is really the issue of clearcutting.

Questioned that his modeling was unduly simple and neglected all-aged stands, Marshall said increasing complexity was beyond the reach of this method. David Smith, sainted Yale professor of silviculture, both defended *production silviculture*, (his term), and admitted its failures in a on-the-one-hand—on-the-other style that leaves the argument dangling. At one point, Smith asked rhetorically if timber harvesting is mistaken for silviculture. Was this intended as a resounding criticism of what has been done to Maine by professionals?

One commenter from the floor skeptically observed that sustainability is the Class A trick word of the century. Loftis chided the assembled professionals for insisting that they must clearcut, as though it were the only tool in their kit. The moderator contributed an anecdote about a "nameless" company forester who told his students a nice stand of all-aged Ponderosa pine would be clear felled, rather than cut selectively, because "it went into the computer easier that way."

The Maine Forest Products Council, perhaps fearing the release of USFS inventory data in the next week put on a jerry-built press conference at the SAF convention. They were, however, denied any appearance of an endorsement—the SAF president disavowed any support by his group, and the society's logo was removed during the press conference.

The industry paper was done by Ron Lemin and Lloyd Irland. Lemin worked in the industry-funded Cooperative Forestry Research Unit at Orono; Irland, a former Yale professor, was the government official in charge of the budworm-spraying air force and state economist, and is now a consultant on forestry matters.

Although Lemin and Irland were asked whether inventory levels are sufficient to maintain current and projected cutting, and to what extent new management practice will affect the inventory outlook, their report carefully skirts the question. They state that their work is not a technical document presenting a series of graphs and charts, but provides "a context for understanding the inventory data."

The "key findings" are given as the result of modeling to the year 2025. Note this "modeling" is not based on the USFS resurvey now at hand. If the report is bland, at least it admits that spruce in Washington and Hancock counties "may be the one exception." In February of 1995, Irland was quoted in the *Bangor Daily News* saying, "I don't think there's any question we are in a tough situation. ...I keep wondering when we will see enough market pressure to force downsizing (in the forest-products industry.)"

Another sign of fear and loathing among the Forest Products Council is reported in the *Ellsworth American*



Clearcut near Long Pond, southwest of Katahdin Ironworks Forest, Maine, near Greenville. Photo © John McKeith.

alongside the account of the RC&D symposium. The Lemin-Irland company report was brought to the paper by Bob Cope of Champion and John Cashwell of Seven Islands, who objected to the USFS release of inventory data for Washington and Penobscot counties, stating that a fairer picture required that the complete statewide inventory accompany the regional data. Cope is the woodlands manager whom St. Regis brought from Washington state to guide the liquidation of their 760,000-acre Maine forest, my dooryard. One might wonder why John Cashwell is worried about the numbers—his company has been *Certified* by Scientific Certification Systems as being an exemplar of sustainable management.

Referring to the Lemin-Irland report as a “rosier forecast for the state as a whole” than the USFS 10-year survey results, the paper’s piece is headed “Harvest of Trees Exceeds Growth.” Quoting the USFS data, reporter Mary Anne Clancy lists excess of cut over growth in Washington county for fir, spruce, and hemlock, with growth of fir 53% of cut, and, far worse, spruce growth 34% of the removal rate, hemlock growing 63% of removal. For Penobscot county, fir removal equals growth, spruce growth is only 57% of removal rate, with hemlock growth 56% of cut.

Down East RC&D

The SAF forum was fruitful, but it failed to quantify important questions and left things about as unresolved as a theological—or economic—argument. The next round, on 4 November, was produced by the Down East RC&D forestry committee (I am a member), titled *Sustainability / Numbers & Perspectives*. The numbers are for Washington and Penobscot counties which contain 3.8 million acres—83% forest with sizable forest industry holdings (Champion, Georgia-Pacific, and Diamond-Occidental). The data were presented by John Peters, leader of the USFS forest inventory group, which is completing the decennial survey following the 1980-82 effort. The figures are “preliminary” in that the calculations for these two counties are completed, while those for the other 14 counties are not. The numbers reported show changes in areas of forest and wood volumes by species. These data on wood volumes grown and removed are the fundamental balance sheet for sustainability.

The RC&D symposium featured three points of view on sustainability. Charles Gadzik, director of MFS and recent manager of the Milliken land in Washington County, spoke lucidly of intense public scrutiny of the forest as “very sobering news for Maine’s forest industry.” He characterized the new USFS survey as a “quality calibration point,” which may reflect on the doubted integrity of previous samplings, on which point I have reported.

Mitch Lansky stated the defining criteria as, “Sustain what, at what level, from where, for how long, and for whose benefit?” His premise was that certain aspects of the status quo, including the problems for rural communities of log export, Canadian woods workers, mechanization, and excessive cutting are not worth sustaining. “We can do better than that,” he said.

Next to speak was Joel Swanton of

Champion whose company, like others in the paper industry, endorses the AF&PA sustainability initiative. In a surprisingly forthright talk, he admitted there are problems. He showed curves of spruce inventory declining until about 2020, when the fruit of “intensive” management will turn the tide. I believe that Swanton (and Champion) sense that 2020 is a long way ahead. He promised more reporting to the public as this case unfolds.

Although the RC&D program was covered by a **Bangor Daily News** reporter, no account appeared, even a week later. I was told by the managing editor that the USFS data were unreliable. Only an editorial ran, quoting Charles Gadzik’s questions:

- “Can we indefinitely sustain Maine’s current harvest levels?”
- “Can we indefinitely sustain the current harvest levels of all species and products?”
- “How should we account for [changes in regional supply and demand] while doing regional wood supply analysis?”
- “Will harvesting preserve the biological integrity of Maine’s forest ecosystems?”

The editorial concludes that the public’s desires will determine what sort of policies Maine has in the future, provided residents start by asking questions.

Council on Sustainable Forest Management

Five days after this meeting, Maine’s sustainability council again picked up its tentative working definition, (*see Forum*, vol. 4 #1, page 24). This time they deferred to Roger Milliken’s entry. Roger inherited the 100,000 acre Baskahegan Lands in Washington County. This land was once managed by David Smith of Yale, but more recently by Charles Gadzik. “Roger’s argument” restated the rambling wish list of the previous discussion and added this strange axiom: “By definition it balances the landowner’s objectives with the needs of the greater society.” (This recalls Engine Charlie Wilson’s famous statement “What’s good for General Motors is good for America.”) Milliken was supported by Don Tardie of Fraser Paper, but Izzy McKay, a consulting forester, wanted the landowner reference in the original first sentence. (Izzy told me her family owns a Wisconsin paper mill and 600,000 acres.) A new council member, Harry Dwyer of Livermore Falls, forester and woods operator, proposed that they define SFM and then see if it fits the landowner’s objectives. The last tentative draft reverts to “achieving a balance, etc.”

Remarkably, Mac Hunter, conservation biology professor at the University of Maine at Orono, and Charles Gadzik alluded to log export as a SFM factor; Hunter saying it was beyond the group’s purview. Gadzik allowed that it was an issue the council was not in a position to oppose. Tardie, whose company is Canadian, said we are now a Third-World country in Canadian eyes. Gadzik repeated there would be no consideration of workers’ comp rates, taxes, or exports. Izzy started on workers’ comp, but was rebuffed. Somehow, despite this discussion, log exports, imported Canadian labor, mechanization, and workers’ comp, and



The issue of sustainability is really the issue of clearcutting. Aerial view of clearcut hillside on S.D. Warren land near Kirby Mountain, Maine. Photo © John McKeith.

other topics were put in the list for future discussion.

The appearance of Gov. King, in Orono also on University business, first led council members to press for more appropriated money for MFS personnel. This request didn’t get past the barrier—the state is short some 40 million, and King skillfully turned this aside. He said that he had been impressed with the forest regeneration he had been shown, but understood there was a 30-year lead time on regrowth. For the meantime, he wants a real report on sustainability, even if it shows an unpaid bill on the forest account, like unmaintained bridges on the highway account.

Aware of the obvious tendency to draft voluminous report sections on members’ specialties, the Governor pointedly said he wanted not a 300 page report, but something short and useful. (One may conclude that given the process and people, it is not intended that he receive such a product.) Peter Triandaillou of James River asked if the Gov. planned to raise limiting log export in other forums. King asked for a paragraph in the report on the extent of this loss. He would also accept discussions of tax breaks on machinery, ratio of softwood/hardwood conversion, and export of wood chips.

Following King’s departure, drafts on soils, stream protection, and value-added were belabored. Triandaillou would have it that lumber, because of value added, is what we should grow. He is dead wrong by a factor of five or so, compared to his mill’s tissue. To this observer, soils, water, wildlife are not

beyond the scope of this study, but, given available time and paper, are best subsumed in the overall topic.

If the reader doubts that such a diffuse process can reach even an understanding of where the forest is, or can lead to concrete improvement, be encouraged that the Council on Sustainable Forest Management is charged to recommend changes in the Forest Practices Act. Lloyd Irland, in a report done for the state on the Sears Island chip port puts it more forcefully:

“Some process to control total consumption of wood in the Maine forest will probably be necessary, perhaps sooner than we think.”

William Butler, for 50 years a woodsman in Maine, lives in Aurora when he is not hobnobbing at yet another forest conference.

Clearcut Calendar Available

“Clearcut 1996: The Great Northern Forest”, a calendar for 1996, replete with photos of some of your favorite clearcuts in the Northern Forest region is now available from: Sierra Club, Northern Forest Campaign, 85 Washington St., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, tel. 518 587-9166, and RESTORE: The North Woods, POB 440, Concord, MA 01742, tel. 508 287-0320

Age Structure is Crucial For Sustainable Forest Management

Issues and Challenges for the Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management

by Mitch Lansky

The Council's draft definition of sustainable forest management (quoted below in bold) implies the necessity of managing for the presence of a significant component of older age classes in Maine's forests.

"Sustainable forest management enhances and maintains the biological productivity..."

Biological productivity is affected by many factors, but if soil productivity declines, one can assume that over the long term, biological productivity will decline. This suggests a problem with widespread reliance on shorter rotations and whole-tree harvesting. Federer et al (1989) concluded that "the combination of leaching loss and whole-tree harvest at short (40-year) rotations apparently could remove roughly 50% of biomass and soil Ca in only 120 years." The "leaching" here refers to the effects of acid precipitation.

Likens et al (1978) estimated that a 110-120 year rotation would not lead to serious consequences for long term soil productivity and sustained yield of forest products. This estimate, however, does not take into consideration the important role of large dead wood as a source of nutrients, organic matter, and biological activity (see Maser 1994). Even 120 years is insufficient to manage for any quantity of large dead-downed wood, especially if the stand is regenerated from agricultural areas or clearcuts (see Publicover's discussion in NHFRPAR for references).

"and diversity of Maine's forests..."

In the New Hampshire Forest Resources Plan Assessment Report (NHFRPAR), Patrick McCarthy elaborates on this issue, stating that, "Sustainable forestry preserves the elements of forest diversity—genes, species, natural communities, and landscapes—and the ecological processes that create and maintain them." (McCarthy 1995).

Old forests contain unique features that are not present in young forests, such as: large old trees, large-diameter dead standing and down wood, pit-and-mound forest-floor structure, and multiple canopies due to gaps and uneven age classes. These features form important habitats and allow for ecological processes that are essential for maintaining biodiversity (see Maser 1994). These features create microsites for a wide range of seedlings, herbaceous plants, fungi, invertebrates, birds, mammals, amphibians, and lichens. Steve Selva (1989 and 1993) has found a direct correlation between stand age and lichen diversity.

Publicover, in the NHFRPAR, concluded that in the pre-settlement forest, stands with old-tree components represented the majority of the landscape for both spruce-fir and northern hardwood types (III-31). Catastrophic disturbance patterns were many centuries apart,



Old forests contain unique features that are not present in young forests, such as: large old trees, large-diameter dead standing and down wood, pit-and-mound forest-floor structure, and multiple canopies due to gaps and uneven age classes. These features form important habitats and allow for ecological processes that are essential for maintaining biodiversity. Photo © John McKeith

allowing the development of multi-aged stands dominated by small-gap creation. Old-growth is now rare (III-85), and late-successional forests of most types including spruce-fir are scarce (III-93 and III-95) when compared to the pre-settlement forest. Red spruce, hemlock, and tolerant hardwoods are in decline in younger age classes, but balsam fir, red maple, and poplar are on the increase. Some wide-ranging species (such as wolves, cougar, wolverine, or lynx) associated with large-contiguous forest blocks (III-97) have been extirpated or are rare.

To assure sustainability of habitats and species:

- the habitats must be large enough to maintain viable populations of all the associated native species;
- the habitats must be large enough to sustain the largest expected disturbances without loss of the associated species; and
- there must be replacement stands in the landscape situated where they can be recolonized from existing stands of that type.

This implies that old-growth and mature forests cannot exist as mere tiny islands in a sea of short-rotation forestry.

"while assuring economic, environmental, and social opportunities that balance landowner objectives and society's needs..."

Forests managed for short-rotation tend to have smaller-diameter trees, less height, more taper, bigger growth rings, more juvenile wood, and more knots. They also create landscapes with large proportions of stands with openings, seedlings, saplings, and pole-sized trees. Is this what meets society's needs?

- What type of forest produces the highest-quality, large-diameter logs desired by saw mills?
- What type of forest produces trees suitable for plywood, veneer, doors,

windows, and molding?

- What type of forest produces the highest quality fiber for paper, with the longest fibers and least extractives?
- What type of forest provides the highest-quality water?
- What type of forest is most desired by tourists, hikers, and campers?

The answer is a well-stocked forest managed for larger, older trees and a diversity of species. Thus, even when we consider economic, environmental, and social opportunities, forests with older age-classes are still essential.

Landowner objectives may be to maximize present income, but some landowners confuse income with capital depletion. A growing school of economic theorists now recognizes that the stability and diversity of natural systems, such as forests, represent "natural capital" that must be maintained or increased if society is to be sustained (see, for example, Jansson et al 1994).

Short-rotation, whole-tree harvests that deplete soil nutrients and organic matter, simplify stand structure, and fragment mature, interior forest stands may create the appearance of income for today's landowner, but this is at the expense of declines in today's biological diversity and tomorrow's productivity. Such practices thus deplete natural capital.

"for this and future generations."

The Maine Supreme Court in 1908 ruled that:

"We think it a settled principle, growing out of the nature of a well-ordered society, that every holder of property, however absolute and unqualified may be his title, holds it under the implied liability that his use of it shall be so regulated that it shall not be injurious to equal enjoyment of others having an equal right to the enjoyment of their property, nor injurious to the rights of the Community."

In other words, with ownership

comes certain privileges, but also certain responsibilities. Air, water, and wildlife do not belong solely to the landowner on whose land they happen to be at the moment. They are part of the public commons. Damage to this commons or to the quality of abutting lands constitutes a takings. Natural capital depletion is also a takings from future generations. Old forests are part of this natural capital.

Landholders are temporary stewards. They have responsibilities to this and to future generations to maintain and enhance natural capital, including biological diversity and soil productivity. They do not have the right to damage these resources because these resources do not fully belong to them.

Challenges

I have established that forests with older age classes are crucial for truly sustainable forestry. This leads to some challenges for the Council:

1. Determine the minimum age of recovery required to develop all the habitats expected in older forests. Estimates for this run from 225 to 350 years (see Lansky 1995a, and NHFRPAR pgs. III-30 and III-85).

2. Determine what percentage of the landscape should have these older stands. What percentage should be in replacement stands that can be recolonized by these older stands? (see Lansky 1995a for discussion on this).

3. Publicover in the NHFRPAR cites evidence (pg. III-30) that "some aspects of pre-settlement stands could be partially emulated even in managed stands, including species composition, gap-phase regeneration, and dead wood retention." What forms of management would best reach these objectives and maintain interior forest habitat as well?

Continued on Next Page

The Environment: No Laughing Matter

by Mitch Lansky

Heard any good environmental jokes lately? Well, I haven't. Maybe it's because I live in Wytopitlock, but I have never heard of any comedians or humorists who have an abundant repertoire of environmental jokes. The exceptions, perhaps, are those who make jokes about environmentalists. If it turns out that my perception coincides with reality, I would not be surprised. The "environment" is not very funny.

One of the problems of environmental humor is that the "environment" is an abstraction. Indeed, no one can really define the "environment" without using other abstractions. Abstractions aren't funny. That's why Emmanuel Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* is not a popular source of guffaws to the comic crowd. And that is why "biodiversity" will never be a topic to set audiences clutching their sides in uncontrollable spasms of laughter.

What really gets people giggling are particular events that happen to specific people. Often these events are non-conforming to expected outcomes or to social norms. People laugh at someone slipping on a banana peel. People think it is funny if someone tries to, but cannot, prevent the eruption of a loud and smelly fart in a crowded auditorium. Discomfort around sex seems to be an infinite mine for jokes.

Environmentalism, however, deals with cumulative impacts. Banana peels, from the environmental perspective are not funny. The production of bananas entails: the destruction of Central American rainforests, the creation of monoculture plantations, the exploitation of workers, the spraying of pesticides, and the wasting of energy during shipping over long distances. The peels end up in landfills.

The cumulative impact of farts, especially from termites and cows, is increased global warming. While an individual may be embarrassed because he farts in a crowded auditorium, a corporation is not embarrassed when its paper mills or chemical plants stink up a neighborhood. Corporations are not easily embarrassed. Indeed, corporate spokesmen try to convince the public that they should like the stench because it is the "smell of money."

Sex, while funny on the individual level, is strongly associated with procreation. The cumulative impact

of procreation is overpopulation. Not funny.

Often environmentalists are bearers of bad news. They tell us that when we buy, use and throw away our cars, refrigerators, or televisions we are wasting resources, polluting air and water, destroying wildlife habitat, and condemning future generations to a miserable, impoverished existence. We don't want to hear this. We have been promised since childhood that the world would get better and better through the magic of modern technology. Advertisers are continually telling us that without these microwaves, VCRs, computers, deodorants, pesticides, and other gadgets and chemicals our lives will be incomplete.

If we are unfulfilled or socially inferior without buying items that cumulatively degrade the "environment," this presents us with an uncomfortable dilemma. People do not like being uncomfortable. It is for this reason that we are, apparently, endowed with a "logic circuit breaker," or LCB.

The LCB allows us to ignore obvious conclusions. For example, if our society continues to grow in population and per capita consumption we will eventually meet limits—even if we import our minerals, oil, or timber from elsewhere, and put our garbage on barges to be dumped elsewhere. The Earth can only supply so much resources and absorb so much waste before the systems we depend on start to break down. Infinite exponential growth on a limited planet is, obviously, impossible. Yet our whole society is geared to such growth as being inevitable and necessary. Indeed, such growth is considered to be the cure to every social ailment—from unemployment and poverty to mental illness and crime.

To even suggest slowing down, let alone stopping or reversing these obviously unsustainable trends, is not considered funny; it is considered heresy. Even many "environmentalists" will deny that they are opposed to growth. They are for "environmentally acceptable" growth—minimizing or mitigating the undesirable side effects. Few people want to be perceived as "extremists." You just don't joke about such sensitive subjects.

Bad news usually isn't funny; except to those devoted to "black" or "gallows" humor. This is a type of humor that verges on despair. Like other humor, it relies on surprise, but in this case, the listeners expect

to hear bad news and are surprised to hear it. The punch line for this type of humor is that corporations are more callous, governments more corrupt, and the public more apathetic than anyone imagined.

I must confess that I indulged in this form of humor a number of times in *Beyond the Beauty Strip*. For example, I used the quote from senators Leahy and Rudman that "The current land ownership and management patterns have served the people and forests of the region well," under a photo of a clearcut that stretched to the horizon. I also suggested that large, irregularly-shaped clearcuts may be attempts to communicate with extra-terrestrials since such cuts made little sense ecologically, socially, or economically in the long run. Very few of the published reviews of my book suggested that it contained any humor. In fact, one reviewer stated that the book was "angry."

Obviously, there is a segment of the public so jaded by years of television that they do not know when to laugh except when there is canned laughter in the background. This is not available with the written word. I therefore propose that for environmental humor to prosper, we must use existing forms that everyone already knows to be funny.

For example, we all know that a statement such as "Why did the chicken cross the road?" is the prelude to a joke. An environmental joke based on this form might be, "How did the salamander cross the road?" The answer, of course, is that the salamander could not cross the road. Its habitat was fragmented, and there was an inevitable decline in biodiversity.

Another funny joke goes, "How do you stop a skunk from smelling?" The answer is that you hold its nose. Turn this into an environmental joke and you get, "How do you stop a pulp mill from stinking?" The answer to this is that aside from shutting it down (which would destroy jobs and the local tax base) reducing odors in pulp mills is very expensive and very complicated and there isn't room enough here to get into all the details. I'm not even sure if it's possible.

My final example of a potential environmental joke is to use the old theme of the stranded salesman. A salesman was driving down a remote rural road one stormy night when his car engine died. Fortunately, he spied a farmhouse nearby. He knocked on the door and was answered by an old farmer.

"My car died down the road. Could I stay the night here until I can get help in the morning?" inquired the salesman.

The farmer invited him in but warned him: "Sleeping space is kind of scarce here, but you can sleep in this bed here with my young wife. But I don't want you gettin' her pregnant, so you got to wear this condom."

The salesman assured him it was not needed. "I'm a pesticide salesman. Because of all the pest-control demonstrations I've done for farmers, I've been exposed to numerous chemicals that have rendered me impotent."

The farmer grabbed his best suit and urged the salesman to put it on. "If you are going to be impotent, you might as well dress impotent."



Age Structure

Continued from Preceding Page

What would do least damage to the soil and residual stand. What would help keep more money in the local economy? (see Lansky 1995b for suggestions).

4. Determine what percentage of annual growth can be harvested without interfering with a forest's ability to increase in volume and complexity and without interfering with essential ecological processes.

5. Inform the public that a forest has a carrying capacity. Management cannot be based solely on demand or projected demand if such demands exceed carrying capacity. At some

point, society has to adjust to the carrying capacity of its forest, soil, and ocean ecosystems if we are to truly have "sustainable management." Part of sustainable forest management, therefore, may have to be management of demand for raw resources (see discussion in Lansky 1995c).

Conclusion

Maine's sister Northern Forest state, New Hampshire, is already grappling with the issues of forest age classes and biological diversity as integral components of strategies for sustainable forest management (see NHFRPAR). Maine's Council on Sustainable Forest Management has an opportunity to build on this work and determine more specifically what applies to our part of

the northern forest. Tackling these issues would send a message to the people of Maine that the Council is, indeed, involved in a serious examination of sustainability. We would be convinced otherwise if the Council set criteria such that, by some wonderful coincidence, current industrial-scale management just happens to be "sustainable."

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Maine Wolf Coalition President Responds to SAM's Anti-Wolf Campaign

Ed. Note: The following article, written by John Glowa, President of the Maine Wolf Coalition is excerpted from the "Maine Wolf Coalition Newsletter, Volume II, Issue 4, Fall 1995. The MWC "Statement of Purpose" reads: "The purpose of the Maine Wolf Coalition is to support wolf recovery in Maine through research, education and protection." Its address is: MWC, RR2, Box 533, South China, ME 04358-9232. Reprinted by permission.

The Maine Wolf Coalition would like to welcome the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine to the wolf debate. Recently George Smith, Executive Director of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, distributed a letter and an anti-wolf petition to SAM members. We appreciate the attention that SAM is focusing on the wolf issue. We look forward to increasing opportunities to provide the people of Maine with the facts about wolf recovery. As noted in our first newsletter, MWC was founded and will operate on the principle that, whether one supports or opposes wolf recovery, it is critical that the public be involved in the decision-making process. All people must be informed so that public policy decisions can be based upon facts, not upon unfounded rumors, assumptions, innuendoes, fears or political biases.

It must be absolutely clear the MWC members and non members alike that our organization is neither anti-hunting nor anti-trapping, but pro-wolf. We all share a desire to preserve our very precious Maine environment and way of life. Allowing the wolf to return will make Maine all the more special, and will result in a win-win situation for wolves and for Maine. Below are Smith's comments about wolves and MWC's responses.

Smith: "Once the wolf arrives, as an Endangered Species, it will become the top priority for protection and management. All other species will suffer"

MWC: The eastern timber wolf is presently a federally endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has no plans to reintroduce the wolf to the Northeast and in fact, intends to delist it throughout its entire range in 1998. Now the wolf receives very little state money for research, education, or management. Game species receive the vast majority of funding. State money for wolf research will come from the

Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund (ENWF) and the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund (MOHF), money specifically targeted for nongame wildlife management. State ENWF revenues have increased some 400 percent annually due to the success of the loon license plate. The state is establishing a new lottery game to fund the MOHF, which, interestingly enough, both the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine and the Maine Audobon Society supported. The Maine Wolf Coalition collected petition signatures and testified before the legislature on behalf of the MOHF. We strongly urge that the state use a reasonable portion of these funds for wolf research and education.

Smith: "I don't need to tell you that Maine cannot stand another predator to feast on deer, moose, and domestic animals. Coyotes are already taking a terrible toll."

MWC: According to the MDIF&W [Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife], at least as many deer are killed illegally as are killed legally. If all of the more than 24,000 deer registered by hunters in 1994 were killed legally, an equal number were victims of poaching. This is more than ten times the 1,500 to 2,000 deer and moose combined that would be taken by a recovered population of 100 wolves. While on the one hand, Smith bemoans the status of Maine's deer herd, Edith Cronk, SAM's president, says about the 1995 deer season, "I think it's going to be a great year. There seems to be a good population of deer." The MDIF&W concurs with Cronk: "Maine deer hunters should find trophy-sized bucks in good supply during the 1995 hunting season."

Smith fails to mention the beneficial impacts on prey species through predation by wolves on diseased and otherwise unfit animals. Likewise, he overlooks wolf predation on beaver, which cause considerable damage by flooding roadways and valuable timber. He also does not mention the likely benefits to Maine's economy through wolf-related ecotourism. Predation on domestic animals in Maine would likely be minimal, due to sparse human and livestock populations in areas likely to be recolonized by wolves. Less than one percent of the 7,000 farms in Minnesota's wolf range suffer predation by wolves each year. Wolf recovery in Maine will likely result in a decrease in the number of coyotes. A wildlife biologist has estimated that wolf

recovery in Yellowstone Park will result in a decrease in coyote populations of 40-70 percent.

Smith: "The introduction of wolves will conflict with present wildlife management practices in Maine. Wolves require large roadless areas (empty square miles) closing the north woods to sportsmen. We'd even have to give up shooting coyotes because they appear so similar to wolves."

MWC: There is absolutely no basis to the claim that Maine's woods would be closed to sportsmen, and Smith has provided no supporting evidence. In recent years, radio collaring and tracking of wolves have shown them to be very adaptable to man's activities, including timber harvesting, if we simply allow them to live. Any negative impact of road density on wolf recovery is the extent to which it facilitates killing of wolves by humans. In fact, wolves frequently use logging roads as an easy means of getting from place to place. There is absolutely no basis to the claim that coyote hunting will be outlawed and no evidence presented to support this claim.

Smith: "The arrival of wolves in Maine would even jeopardize our moose hunt, because moose are a prime target of wolves. The Endangered Species Act might require us to leave the moose for the wolves rather than harvest some for our own use..."

MWC: As already noted, the USF&WS plans to delist the eastern timber wolf in 1998. Maine's moose population is unofficially estimated at 20,000 to 35,000 animals. Five hundred and ninety-nine moose were killed in collisions with motor vehicles in 1993. In response to increasing numbers of moose/vehicle collisions, and with the support of SAM, the legislature increased the number of moose hunting permits so that in 1996, 1,500 permits will be issued. Hunters are already registering some 1,300 moose annually (more are being killed illegally). Wolf recovery in Maine will likely benefit the moose herd as diseased and otherwise unfit animals (animals that are not likely to be taken by hunters) are culled by wolves.

Smith: "The feds have already spent over \$10 million putting wolves in Yellowstone National Park. There is a federal plan to reestablish wolves in at least three states. Maine could be next."

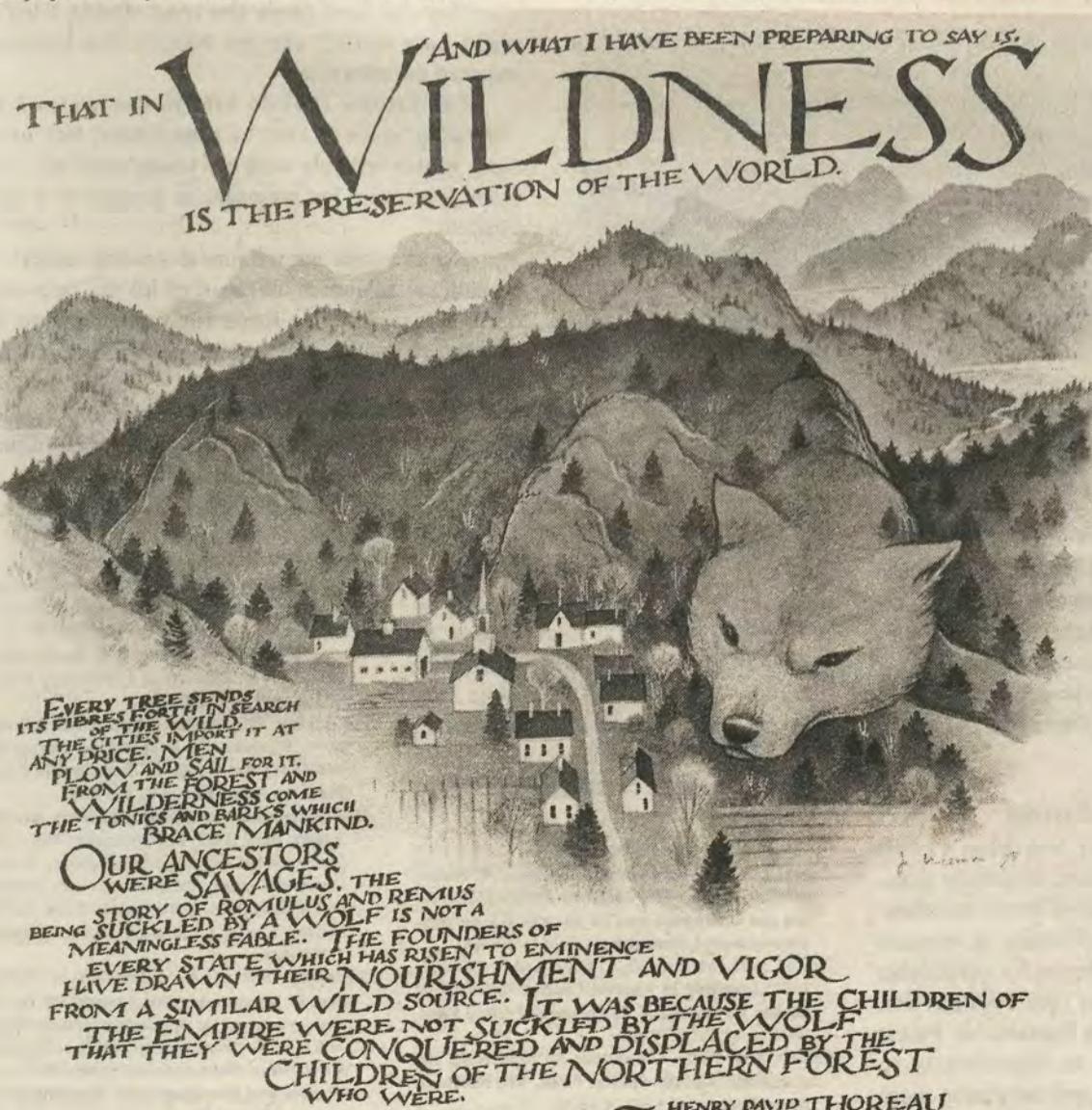
MWC: The federal plan is the Recovery Plan for the Eastern Timber Wolf. Based upon criteria for delisting, if wolf populations continue to do well in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin (the three states alluded to but not mentioned by Smith), the eastern timber wolf will be delisted. There is no federal proposal to reintroduce wolves to Maine.

John Glowa resides in South China with his wife Joanne and his son Joe. John is an employee of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Who's Afraid of Free Speech?

Bridge building is often not an easy task. A year or so ago, I contacted a well-known sportsman's organization asking to meet with its members in hopes of beginning a dialogue on the wolf issue. My requests went unanswered. Some time ago I wrote an editorial for a well-known outdoors newspaper, in support of a wolf study. They refused to print it, citing a lack of space. The same newspaper later failed to print a letter to the editor I had written in response to an article rife with misinformation about wolves. Late last year I asked to present wolf information at a sportsman's exhibition and received no reply. I recently asked the same group if MWC might purchase booth space at their 1996 exhibition and as yet have received no response. Bridge building can only occur if both sides agree to come together somewhere in the middle.

—Excerpted from: "From Our President: Bridges or Walls?" an editorial in the Maine Wolf Coalition Newsletter, Volume II Issue 4, Fall 1995.



The Debate Over RESTORE: Make Up Your Own Mind

As I noted in my editorial this issue, a healthy democratic society thrives on vigorous debate. One group in the Northern Forest region—RESTORE: The North Woods—has done more to inspire constructive debate than any other group. As the following quotations from a variety of sources will attest, people are talking about the issues raised by RESTORE. Sadly, most of the opposition rhetoric appears designed to stifle healthy dialogue. The disinformation and scare tactics of the RESTORE-bashers have backfired, and have provoked rebuttals from many corners of society. The result is wonderful. Finally, we are enjoying a vigorous debate. Hopefully, more thoughtful critics of the ideas of RESTORE and others will join in the debate and replace the abusive rhetorical excesses of the "bashers."

—JS

On Atlantic Salmon Protection:

"SAM [Sportsman's Alliance of Maine] has officially opposed the listing of the Atlantic Salmon on the endangered species list [as requested by RESTORE: The North Woods]. . . .

"SAM's letter . . . stated . . . If we thought for a moment that Atlantic Salmon were endangered we would be the first to speak up to protect this magnificent fish from extinction. . . ."

—Sportsman's Alliance of Maine Newsletter, May 1994

"Collectively, the information summarized in this Status Review suggests that the . . . unique Atlantic salmon populations in the Sheepscot, Ducktrap, Narraguagus, Pleasant, Machias, East Machias and the Dennys Rivers are in danger of extinction."

—Status Review for Anadromous Atlantic Salmon in the United States, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, January 1995

"RESTORE: The North Woods is an outside group of preservationists who want Atlantic Salmon listed as endangered. . . . Their radical agenda would have a substantive negative impact on our outdoor heritage and traditions. They are without credibility. . . .

—Sportsman's Alliance of Maine Newsletter, May 1994

"The potential ramifications of listing [the Atlantic salmon] have been good for the overall program. It has focused a lot of attention on the species and on the program, particularly, I think, when we really need it. It has made a lot of people aware of Atlantic salmon who, four or five years ago, did not know nor care if they existed. It's brought about some federal funding for the program at a point when we were drastically losing state funding and support. It's produced funding on the federal level to initiate some of the programs that are truly going to benefit salmon in the future. All of a sudden, during the past two years [since RESTORE petitioned to list the species], we have people with whom we never dealt almost falling over themselves to see what they can do to help save the salmon."

—Edward T. Baum, Maine Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission, quoted in *Wild Steelhead & Atlantic Salmon*, Summer 1995



"Just about the entire Washington County [Maine] economic base . . . are in the crosshairs if the Atlantic salmon is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. . . .

"This threat was precipitated by the actions of a group known as RESTORE: The North Woods. . . .

"We can neither afford nor allow our economy and our culture to be destroyed by federal bureaucratic fiat based on questionable science and a preservationist agenda. . . .

"We must rise up and tell RESTORE and the feds that they will not be allowed to destroy our economy and culture. . . ."

—Jon Reisman, Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy, University of Maine at Machias in *The Downeast Coastal Press*, October 31, 1995

"As the federal government studies the need to list salmon in several Maine rivers . . . as threatened or endangered, [communications director, Andrea Maker] said Champion [International paper company, a major landowner in Washington County], will not oppose such a listing. . . ."

—Corporate Challenge News, October 1995

On Wolf Recovery:

"A Massachusetts group, RESTORE: The North Woods, is aggressively trying to introduce wolves to Maine. . . .

"I don't need to tell you that Maine cannot stand another predator to feast on deer, moose, and domestic animals. . . .

"The introduction [sic] of wolves would conflict with present wildlife management practices in Maine. . . . We'd even have to give up shooting coyotes because they appear so similar to wolves.

"The arrival of wolves in Maine would even jeopardize our Moose hunt, because moose are the prime target of wolves. The Endangered Species Act might require us to leave the moose for the wolves, rather than harvest some for our own use. . . .

"SAM will lead the fight to stop the wolf at our door. Enclosed you will find a Stop the Wolves Petition. I ask you to fill this petition with signatures of your friends and family. . . .

—fundraising letter to members from George Smith, Executive Director, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, October 1995

"The restoration of timber wolves in Maine is being pushed by

RESTORE: The North Woods, a Massachusetts-based conservation group. The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine is pushing in precisely the opposite direction: SAM is asking members to collect signatures to demonstrate public opposition to the plan.

"But a good case can be made for bringing the wolf back to Maine, from which *canis lupus* disappeared a century ago.

"Returning the wolf to Maine would help guarantee the species' survival, and it would help keep the state's moose herd in check. Moreover, because wolves need large tracts of wild land to survive, establishment of a wolf population here would aid the cause of everyone who wants to protect wilderness in the Pine Tree State.

"Perhaps SAM should rethink its opposition."

—editorial, *The (Brunswick) Times Record*, September 27, 1995

"Last month, the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine began circulating petitions in opposition to re-introducing the wolf to Maine. . . .

"When [SAM] says, 'Maine's wildlife resources cannot stand another predator,' ask how Maine's moose, deer and caribou survived for centuries in spite of the constant presence of wolves, mountain lions and Native American hunters.

"While I respect SAM for many of its missions, in this case, SAM is really saying that Maine hunters wish to be treated like selfish children, unwilling to share the bounty of nature with anyone but themselves.

"Native American hunters in the Far North, who have lived alongside the wolf for centuries, who depend on hunting for much of their food, call the wolf a 'brother.' If wolves extinguished the game these people need to feed their families, surely they would hunt them to extinction. But they don't—and never have."

—Douglas Watts, *The Maine Sportsman*, December 1995

"Last month, as a part of a tour of East Coast communities, we had the opportunity to present fourteen programs in Maine that addressed the behavior and natural history of the gray wolf. More than 3,300 people attended these programs. . . . The audiences, which included many sportsmen and women, displayed enthusiasm for the return of wolves to the northern forests of Maine. It is therefore with consider-

able surprise that we have read recent newspaper articles in which the idea of wolf recovery has been lambasted by the 'leadership' of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM).

"As a wildlife biologist and an educator, what we find most disheartening is the misinformation in the comments from SAM. . . .

"We encourage the people of Maine to learn the facts about wolves and assess for yourselves whether the pleasures outweigh the pain. But above all, do not let yourself be fooled and misled by an anti-wolf lynch mob mentality."

—letter from Pat Tucker and Bruce Weide to the editor, *Moosehead Messenger*, September 26, 1995

On the Proposed Maine Woods National Park:

"Today 'RESTORE: The North Woods' announced its plans for a 3.2 million acre Maine Woods National Park. . . . [RESTORE's] proposal makes room for wolves and other wildlife, but not for Maine people who live in that region. . . .

"While heat is generated resurrecting the old, tired 'jobs versus the environment' debate . . . and that's what it will become . . . the real work of bringing landowners, residents, campowners, guides, wildlife biologists, environmentalists, and recreational business interests to the planning table . . . will continue here at Maine Audubon as it has since we began our work on our Northern Forest Project," said Thomas Urquhart, executive director of Maine Audubon.

—news release, Maine Audubon Society, June 7, 1994

"[Henry David] Thoreau was an early proponent of 'national preserves' in such wild places as the Maine Woods. . . .

"Now, RESTORE has taken up the idea and proposed the establishment of a Maine Woods National Park. . . .

"RESTORE is right—and even if it isn't, let's not shoot the idea down before it has a fair hearing, at least. I'm not at all sure the idea will be so badly received, even among the private landowners, the paper companies and the mill towns that the conventional wisdom says will oppose it so.

"The conventional wisdom, as so often is the case, may be wrong."

—George Neavoll, *Maine Sunday Telegram*, June 12, 1994

"The [proposed Maine Woods National Park] would be the death of the Maine Woods for us—the death of hunting and trapping, timber harvesting, jobs, access, and our outdoor heritage. . . .

—fundraising letter, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, October 1995

"The proposed park would actually be a park and *preserve*, guaranteeing public access for traditional recreation. The entire area would be open to hiking, camping, canoeing, rafting, fishing, and most other recreational uses. Hunting, trapping, and snowmobiling would continue in the preserve portion,

as they do in other national preserves. The size and location of park and preserve areas would be decided by the public during the study process." —RESTORE editorial, *The (Brunswick) Times Record*, July 28, 1995

"We at the Fin & Feather Club look upon RESTORE's proposal [for a Maine Woods National Park] proposal the same way we would regard a thief in the night, or a con-man. They talk about access, but they would erect gates and charge a fee. They would destroy roads, and would not permit snowmobiling, hunting or trapping. . . ." —letter from Jimmy Busque, Millinocket Fin & Feather Club, to the editor, *The Katahdin Times*, September 26, 1995

"In considering where to go on the trails, my thoughts turn to how wonderful it would be for hikers if the proposal for a Maine Woods National Park were a reality. It would be marvelous, too, for cross-country skiers, snowshoers, kayakers, canoeists, mountain climbers—all who delight in self-powered outdoor recreation.

"Of course, many others would also benefit: fishermen; naturalists; the watchers of loons, eagles and falcons; and those who simply want a refuge from our noisy, gadget-filled, money grubbing civilization. And the national park proposal now being put forward would even allow regions for snowmobiling and hunting."

—Lance Tapley, *Maine Running & Fitness* magazine, October 1995

"Here we have another minority group of back-to-nature activists with grand ideas about recreating the Garden of Eden. Without invitation, they intend to take over, direct, and control a large portion of this state, not to mention the lives of Maine people.

"No thanks, RESTORE. We can get along nicely without your national park and preserve. We don't need it. We don't want it. We won't have it. And I think you'll find that out."

—Tom Hennessey, *Bangor Daily News*, February 11, 1995

"There's a tendency to dismiss the proposal by RESTORE: The North Woods for a 3.2 million-acre Maine North Woods National Park as a mere flight of fancy by some granola-crunching environmentalists. . . .

"Yet, just because the initial idea came from away doesn't mean the idea itself should be rejected out of hand. . . .

"[G]ive RESTORE credit. By coming up with a bold idea, they have sparked a healthy debate on the future of the North Woods. . . .

—editorial, *The Piscataquis Observer* (Dover-Foxcroft, Maine), August 23, 1995

On RESTORE: The North Woods

"Launching a major attack on the Massachusetts group called RESTORE: The North Woods, SAM [Sportsman's Alliance of Maine] has issued a statement to Maine's outdoor writers saying, 'This group's agenda is anti-hunting, anti-trapping, and anti-Maine. They must be driven out of Maine, and now.'

"[RESTORE] is driving Maine's agenda and that must stop," said SAM's Executive Director George Smith.

'SAM is now battling them on every front, and we intend to win.' . . .

"Two months ago [Smith] moderated a discussion at Boise [Cascade paper company] in which Michael Kellett, RESTORE's Executive Director, tried to defend his organization's agenda. . . .

"Kellett and his cohort, David Carle, are smart. Boise workers challenged Kellett all day long, but he effectively turned back every challenge. I could sense their justifiable concern that this group could cost them their jobs and outdoor traditions and their frustration that this group—with just 100 members in Maine—could so effectively drive our public agenda to suit their special interests," reported Smith. . . . —front-page story, *SAM News*, May 1995

"Strident, hyperbolic rhetoric is all too common in the political arena, and after Oklahoma City the need for more reasonable discussion of political difference should be clear to all.

"So it was dismaying to read in the May issue of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine newsletter an attack on a fledgling conservation group, RESTORE: The North Woods, that was anything but restrained. . . .

"If SAM would take a deep breath for a moment, it might realize that this is not the most effective way of countering a group with which it obviously has many differences.

"RESTORE is a feisty, anti establishment group whose tactics break sharply from most traditional conservation groups, including the Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy—and SAM. . . .

"It has also acted lawfully, using established channels. It is nothing like the guerilla group one might have inferred from SAM's rhetorical extravaganza.

"One need not agree with RESTORE's entire agenda, or even any part of it, to realize it brings a legitimate voice to discussion of environmental issues. Facts and good arguments should decide this contest, not verbal brickbats."

—editorial, *Kennebec Journal*, May 9, 1995

"I wish this entire nonsense would just go away, but the RESTORE crowd, like wolves, are also well skilled and will efficiently kill our traditions if we let them. Make no mistake, these are not stupid people that we are dealing with. They are great at promoting and selling this idea and they are getting quite a following"

—Jim Gorman, president, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, *SAM News*, August 1995

"What is it about RESTORE: The North Woods that drives the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) into a frenzy? . . .

"[B]y declaring war on RESTORE, has SAM legitimized the group? After all, SAM is a powerful and recognized leader in state politics—so anything which worries SAM must also be powerful, and ultimately recognized, by the state's political leaders. . . .

"[SAM director George] Smith, widely recognized as a top state lobbyist, will be up against a well-financed group of politically experienced intellectuals. . . .

"[RESTORE Maine Director Jym] St. Pierre, meanwhile, is certain his organization will continue to see its support grow.

"People are not used to what RESTORE is doing, which is standing up and speaking the truth, quite frankly," he said.

—*The Maine Sportsman*, September 1995

"WHAT YOU CAN (MUST) DO

"1) Circulate the enclosed petitions to stop wolves and the Maine Woods National Park. . . .

"2) Rush a special donation today to help SAM pay for this campaign against RESTORE. . . .

"I'll be reporting your response to SAM's Board of Directors at its November meeting, at which time the Board will decide whether or not to continue this campaign, based on your response.

"Of course, we won't give up this battle. But the amount of time and financial resources we are able to pour into this campaign depends on receiving a contribution from you now."

—fundraising letter to members from George Smith, Executive Director, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, October 1995

"Once an organization with the potential to rally tens of thousands of residents who respect and would preserve Maine's outdoor traditions, [Sportsman's Alliance of Maine] has squandered its vigor, spirit and credibility pursuing agendas peripheral to its primary mission. . . .

"The latest SAM initiative, petition drives to stop the reintroduction of wolves in Maine and block the creation of a Maine Woods National Park, are trumpeted by [executive director George Smith] as necessary to counteract efforts by RESTORE: The North Woods to do both.

"The ring, however, is hollow. . . .

"RESTORE wants institutional clout. It's using the petitions to energize and attract support. SAM is going in the other direction. It knows it's slipping. As an organization, it is trying to hang on by rallying sportsmen against an external threat, RESTORE, that at

the moment is insubstantial. Unfortunately for SAM, its real enemy is within."

—editorial, *Bangor Daily News*, September 29, 1995

"During the month of August the [Millinocket Fin & Feather Club] kicked off its campaign against RESTORE: The North Woods, according to club officials. Over 200 sportsmen groups and officials have been contacted to form a strong coalition to fight RESTORE. . . .

"Bumper stickers that read: 'Keep Maine Free—No RESTORE for ME' are now available for purchase from the club. The money collected is being used to finance the campaign."

—*The Katahdin Times*, September 19, 1995

"RESTORE: The North Woods has opened its new Maine Woods Visitor Center. . . .

"It's interesting," [Ron Gelinas of Millinocket] said of the RESTORE display and informational materials. "He's been showing us pictures of clearcuts, and it isn't a pretty sight."

"An employee of Great Northern Paper, Gelinas said he is upset at the amount of clear-cutting going on near where he lives. He said the RESTORE literature is 'worth reading' . . .

"What I like is that this is a small group that knows what it wants," said [one visitor]. "Despite its small size, I think this is the environmental group that is moving the agenda in Maine."

—*Bangor Daily News*, August 28, 1995

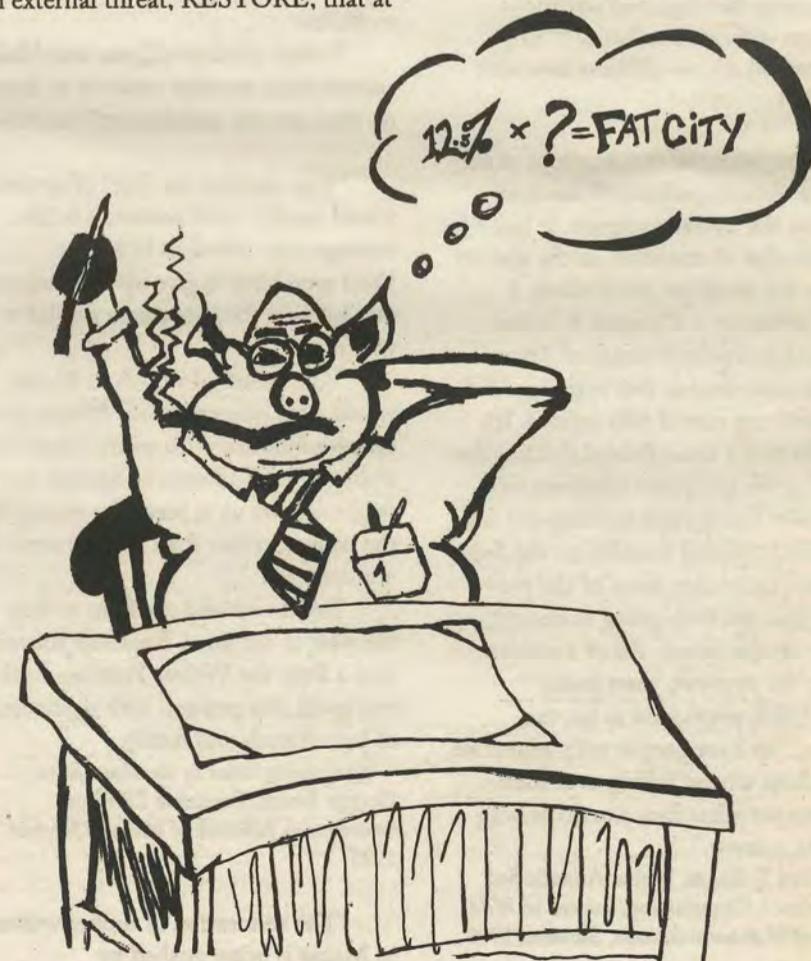
The Real Bottom Line:

"I don't think I've ever asked you for a donation to a more important cause. I suggest that this is important enough for you to make the largest donation you've ever given to SAM or any other group.

"Now is the time to put your money on the line. . . .

"Whatever the amount of your contribution, \$25, \$50, \$100, or even \$1,000, we'll put it to work in this all-out campaign against RESTORE. . . .

Continued on Next Page



Widespread Poaching in Maine Prompts Stricter Penalties

by Jamie Sayen

Roberta Scruggs reported in the August 13, 1995 *Portland Press Herald* that Maine has adopted one of the nation's toughest anti-poaching laws in response to alarmingly high poaching rates in the state.

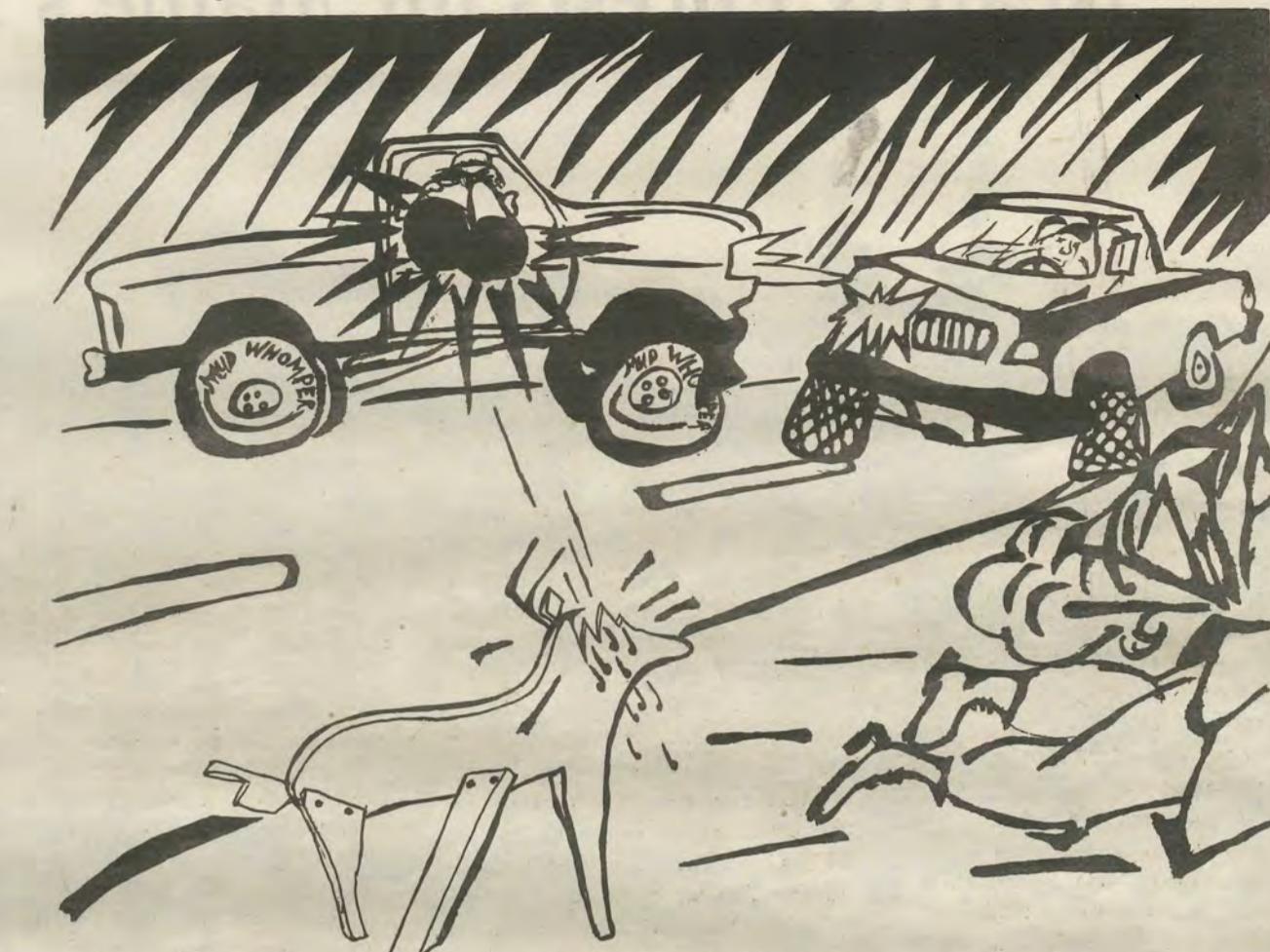
Major Dan Tourlette of the Maine Warden Service estimates that one deer is poached for every one that is legally killed in Maine. He identifies three categories of hunters: 10 percent are "hardcore poachers who enjoy killing and often profit from it"; 10 percent would never violate wildlife laws; and 80 percent who will break the law "if the right opportunity presents itself."

"We're hearing from legislators and from sportsmen that they want action taken—criminal action taken," said Matt Scott, deputy fish and wildlife commissioner. "So we're trying to do that."

Maine's game wardens have been using decoy deer for the past decade which have caught over 1,000 hunters shooting at them. Warden Lt. Pat Dorion of Greenville told Scruggs that the decoys are so convincing that sometimes wardens can hardly take cover before a hunter takes a shot. Sometimes, he said, hunters are almost bumping into each other in their eagerness to shoot at the decoy. On one occasion, he said, 23 of 25 passing cars "showed real serious interest" in shooting.

Studies show poaching is an "opportunistic" rather than an economic crime; poaching goes up when the economy is healthy and down during recessions.

Scruggs cited a 1992 Oregon study that showed that, contrary to conventional wisdom, poaching is not primarily done by a small handful of hard-core, repeat offenders. The study compared a group of convicted poachers with a control group of randomly selected hunters. "The scary part," says Michael Bickler, a hunter education official in Oregon, "was we found the control group was very similar to the violator group." Four-fifths of the violators admitted they had hunted from a vehicle; two-thirds of the control group said they had done the same, and half of the control group admitted to having done this



more than once.

The survey found that 57 percent of the control group had shot across a road; 17 percent had engaged in night hunting; 18.6 percent had hunted out of season; 38.6 percent had hunted with someone else's hunting license (a figure even higher than the violators' group). Another discouraging finding of the survey was that violators had participated in hunter education programs as frequently as the control group.

The Oregon study discovered that the most effective deterrents to poaching are: confiscation of equipment (including pick-up trucks), mandatory loss of license for two years; and large fines. Least effective in combating poaching are: more media coverage of wildlife issues; printing names of violators in newspapers; and mandatory ethics classes for violators.

The new, stricter Maine regulations reflect the Oregon findings. In the past, Maine game wardens could revoke hunting or fishing licenses for a year

and slap a \$1,000 fine and a three-day jail sentence for conviction of poaching. The new law mandates license revocation for a minimum of a year (longer for hard-core offenders) for the following offenses:

- 1) Hunting bear, deer or moose out of season;
- 2) Hunting under the influence of alcohol;
- 3) Illegal night hunting;
- 4) Abuse of another person's property while hunting or fishing;
- 5) Hunting bear, deer or moose after having killed one; exceeding the bag limit; buying or selling meat illegally;
- 6) Illegally hunting, possessing, buying or selling wild turkeys;
- 7) Introducing fish into inland waters without a permit;
- 8) Taking or possessing sport fish (trout, salmon, togue and black bass) whenever the violation involves twice bag and possession limits;

9) Taking fish by jigging illegally;
10) Importing live bait fish or smelts;
11) Buying or selling freshwater sport-fish;
12) Taking fish by explosive or poisonous or stupefying substances.

To report a poacher, Operation Game Thief has set up a confidential, toll-free number: 1-800-ALERTUS.

Illustration Credits

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RESTORE Debate

Continued from Preceding Page

"We need funds immediately to continue our petition drives against wolves and the [Maine Woods] national park. And we have risked a lot of money to send you this package of material, which is expensive. We did it with confidence that you will respond."

—fundraising letter to members from George Smith, Executive Director, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, October 1995

"[SAM Executive Director George] Smith acknowledged that he receives a 12.5 percent commission on the profits from any SAM fundraising efforts. The commission amounted to about \$8,000 last year, he said."

—*Bangor Daily News*, September 26, 1995

Local Control

"We hope some small measure of comfort can be taken from Great Northern Paper's recent declaration that its lands are not for sale. While that resolve may be true now, who knows what the future holds."

—editorial, *The Katahdin Times*, December 12, 1994

"[CEO Arnold M.] Nemirov said Bowater [owner of Great Northern Paper] will also look at selling tracts of land that are not important in feeding its mills. 'We have 3.7 million acres of timberland, and my position is that Bowater doesn't need every last acre to manage our businesses,' the CEO said. Each of the corporations divisions has been asked to make recommendations on future sales. Great Northern owns more than 2 million acres in Maine."

—*Bangor Daily News*, September 18, 1995

A Citizens' Referendum on Healthy Forests for Maine's Future



Photo © by Stephen Gorman

For years there have been efforts to enact meaningful regulations to restrict the worst forest practices and to encourage sustainable timber harvesting in the Maine Woods. Every time the powerful forest industry has killed those efforts. In 1989-90 the Maine state government enacted a Forest Practices Act and put into place regulations that were supposed to ensure that we would have healthy and productive forests. Sadly, the Forest Practices Act has failed to stop ecologically destructive and unsustainable forestry activities. Meanwhile, the damage to our forests has continued. During the past fifteen years over 2,000 square miles of the Maine Woods have been clearcut.

Finally, Maine citizens have a chance to send a strong message that we want healthy forests!

Well over 50,000 voters have signed petitions calling for a statewide referendum to stop clearcutting and promote forest rehabilitation in Maine. Your help is needed with the Healthy Forests for Maine's Future Referendum. There will be a well-financed campaign by those special interests opposed to this citizens' initiative.

Please return the coupon below and get involved in this exciting opportunity to protect our forests for the future.

Important Facts to Know about the Healthy Forests for Maine's Future Referendum

Environment

1. The Healthy Forests Referendum will prohibit clearcutting on the 10 1/2 million acres of forestland in Maine's unorganized areas where most clearcutting has been occurring.
2. The Healthy Forests Referendum will help protect forest soils from overexposure and compaction and reduce erosion which results in depleted soils and silting of streams and lakes.
3. The Healthy Forests Referendum will conserve wildlife habitat and preserve biological diversity.
4. The Healthy Forests Referendum will help diminish ecologically and economically damaging flooding by reducing runoff from clearcut areas, particularly in the spring during snow melt.

Economics

1. The Healthy Forests Referendum will benefit loggers and forest-based communities by shifting away from forest practices that are undermining the long-term economic viability of our forests.
2. The Healthy Forests Referendum will help move Maine away from unsustainable rates of timber harvesting and toward production of higher quality trees.
3. The Healthy Forests Referendum will promote selection harvesting which means more jobs for loggers and foresters.
4. The Healthy Forests Referendum will enhance recreational activities increasing the economic return for the tourism industry. (Who wants to fish, snowmobile, or camp in a clearcut?)

Summary

The Healthy Forests for Maine's Future Referendum is based on sound principles of scientific forest management. It offers important economic and environmental benefits by protecting our forests from a multiple use perspective. It does not represent more, but better, regulations. It preserves home rule in our communities because it applies only in the half of Maine in unorganized areas. The Healthy Forests Referendum will not stop harvesting, however, it will curtail the worst abuses. Good forest management cannot be enforced by regulations, but the Healthy Forests Referendum will encourage and reward sustainable forest practices.

YES! I want to help stop clearcutting and promote forest rehabilitation in Maine.

— I would like more information about the Healthy Forests for Maine's Future Campaign.

— Enclosed is a contribution to the Green Institute for _____ to support this important work.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please return to: Green Institute, 620 Back Road, N. New Portland, ME 04961