

Working for Sustainable Natural & Human Communities

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'No Jobs on a Healthy Planet'

The Maine Forest Service & State Planning Office Economic Impact Study of Ban Clearcutting Referendum 'Proves' Maine Economy Will Collapse if Citizens Vote to Ban Clearcutting and Protect Maine Forests

➤ Mitch Lansky & Spencer Phillips take us Beyond the Myths of the State's Biased Economic 'Study' (See pages 9-14)

➤ Michael Phillips Profiles 'Local Economy Towns' (See pages 16-17)

Vermonters Say 'NO' to Herbicide Spraying

➤ See page 4

Herbicide Project Appeals NH Spray Permits

➤ See page 5

Maine Timber Industry Sabotages LURC Plan

➤ See page 7

NH Forest Resource Plan Released

➤ See pages 18-19

Paul Bofinger Retires - A Forum Interview

➤ See pages 21-25

A2A - Adirondacks to Algonquin

➤ See page 29

The Anguish of Governor King - Should I Lead or Continue to Play Politics?

It's a shame our politicians don't aspire to be leaders anymore. No one epitomizes this more than Maine's Governor Angus King. The ultimate TV-packaged candidate is pursuing economic demagoguery instead of courageous leadership with respect to Maine's downward-spiraling timber economy—an economy dominated by a paper industry that has overcut its lands, caused unemployment for thousands of its workers over the past decade, and has refused to invest in Maine's ancient mills to keep them competitive (because industry understands just how degraded the industrial forest of Maine really is).

The state of mind in "conventional politics" is so disconnected from reality that anyone proposing a conversion from this failed status quo to an ecologically sustainable economy that is diversified, relies on adding value locally, and is owned and controlled by citizens of Maine is dismissed as a crank. Any politician who would speak necessary, but unfashionable, truths risks political oblivion.

Angus is far too clever to risk oblivion. He plays it "smart" and turns every branch of government into a handmaiden of industry. He is unfazed by the political corruption his administration has practiced routinely:

- The Governor and staff meddled in LURC staff work on behalf of the now-bankrupt Kenetech corporation to help it build a lot of windmills on remote, wild mountains in western Maine.

- King unsuccessfully attempted to do an end-run around environmental laws and the Environmental Protection Agency on the issue of building a cargo port on Sears Island.

- His administration has winked at the violation of LURC protocol by timber industry representatives to evade zoning and the public process that ended in March (see a report on the latest LURC scandal on page 7).

- King politicized the Council on Sustainable Forest Management by pressuring it to work double time to come up with recommendations on sustainability in time to defeat the Ban Clearcutting Referendum. But, in the end, the result was the same: the timber industry blocked meaningful action, Governor King's political appointees from industry could provide no leadership, and the whole sorry mess finally collapsed with a whimper in July with little to show for its efforts.

- The King Administration has colluded with the timber industry to deceive the public and defeat the Ban Clearcutting in Maine Referendum (see the January 12, 1996 memo to King outlining a strategy for government and industry to defeat the referendum, reprinted on page 8).

- And now we are hit with the involuntary taxpayer-subsidy to the timber industry in the form of an incompetent economic study conducted by the Maine Forest Service (MFS) and the State Planning Office (SPO) that purports to "prove" that the Referendum will cost jobs. Actually, despite the unreliability—and fundamentally dishonest approach—of this "study" the only thing it really proves is that perpetuation of the status quo will continue to cost jobs (see articles that expose the flaws of the MFS/SPO study on pages 10-13).

This study is so poorly designed, so biased in industry's favor, and so full of unsubstantiated claims and assumptions that it's "findings" are meaningless. But the meaningless "facts" and assertions of the study are damaging to public discourse. The public is hearing only the very frightening lie that "The referendum will cost 15,600 jobs." The truth is that those jobs were lost in the past decade because of industry profit-taking and refusal to invest in the state's aging mills, not because of any environmental initiative. The MFS/SPO economic study is an embarrassment; it could not pass peer review by independent economists living outside the state of Maine.

There is a common thread to these abuses of power: Governor King, along with most politicians and large corporations, is utterly contemptuous of the public—a public, ironically, that currently adores him. But, there is a price to pay for this irresponsible behavior. The astronomical popularity ratings of the King of Maine seem to have blinded him to the fickleness of public affection. Remember President Johnson's landslide victory in 1964; Vietnam finished him off by 1968. Nixon's landslide in 1972 couldn't head off impeachment. After the Gulf War in 1991, President Bush's approval rating was even higher than King's current ratings.

King is playing a dangerous game; relying on his TV-soundbite charm, the massive bankroll of his industry allies, and the resources of the Government of Maine, he is gambling that his dreams of occupying a US Senate seat or even (gasp) the White House will come true if he continues to place public resources at the disposal of economic plunderers.

But soundbites, collusion, agency malfeasance, and evasion of real crises won't cause these problems to go away. King's strategy is a prescription for disaster as he squanders an opportunity to address a crisis before it spirals out of control. The economic weakness of Maine's timber economy will not be papered over by slick TV ads that spread disinformation about the Referendum.

Even if King Paper is able to kill the Referendum, the shortfalls in spruce will remain; the jobs will continue to disappear; and industry will continue to invest elsewhere.

When historians sum up King's reign, they may recall another Monarch's infamous remark: "Après Moi le Déluge." King Louis Quinze and King Angus the First appear to have much in common.

Governor King is unable to provide true leadership because he has no overarching vision of a healthy environment, a sustainable economy, and a just society. His style of leadership is to lock negotiators in a room and tell them to come up with a deal before he lets them out. He offers them no guidance, no vision, no leadership—just threats.

Governor King has a golden opportunity to lead Maine into an era blessed with healthy natural and human communities with ecologically sustainable regional economies that genuinely benefit the citizens of Maine. He could creatively lead the way to greater value-added manufacturing of forest products, instead of fiddling while industry exports 2,000 jobs a year in the form of unprocessed logs. He could creatively promote a much more locally-based, small-scale economy that is diversified and does not depend so heavily on one industry. He could aggressively promote sustainable resource management, such as the Low Impact Forestry practiced by Sam Brown, Mel Ames and others, and



preached by Mitch Lansky and the Forum. He could promote honesty in government, punish corporate abusers of public resources and public trust. And, he could champion informed citizen activism and participation in democracy, instead of working overtime behind closed doors to disenfranchise the very folks he and his cohorts ridicule for trying to practice the civic virtue they were taught in high school.

Most of all, Governor King could use his unprecedented popularity to promote an understanding of the limits of physical and biological reality. He could insist that all human activities must respect these limits (not because an ideologue said so, but because there simply is no escaping the limits of reality).

This approach to governing has its risks; industry and special interests will wage war on any politician who behaves responsibly. But, who knows? Maybe the public would embrace a politician who was a leader, who spoke and acted honestly, and who addressed the core problems facing us today in a forthright and fearless manner?

What a novel experiment that'd be.

—Jamie Sayen

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—H.D. THOREAU

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The Northern Forest Forum is published six times a year by The Northern Appalachian Restoration Project
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NARP Incorporates as Tax Exempt Corporation

In June the Internal Revenue Service notified us that the Northern Appalachian Restoration Project is officially recognized as a non-profit corporation with the tax-exempt status of a 501(c)(3) organization. This means that contributions to NARP and The Northern Forest Forum are now tax-deductible.

To support the many projects of the Northern Appalachian Restoration Project and The Northern Forest Forum, please make checks payable to NARP, POB 6, Lancaster, NH 03584.

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Mollie Beattie 1947-1996 - A Remembrance

by Brendan J. Whittaker

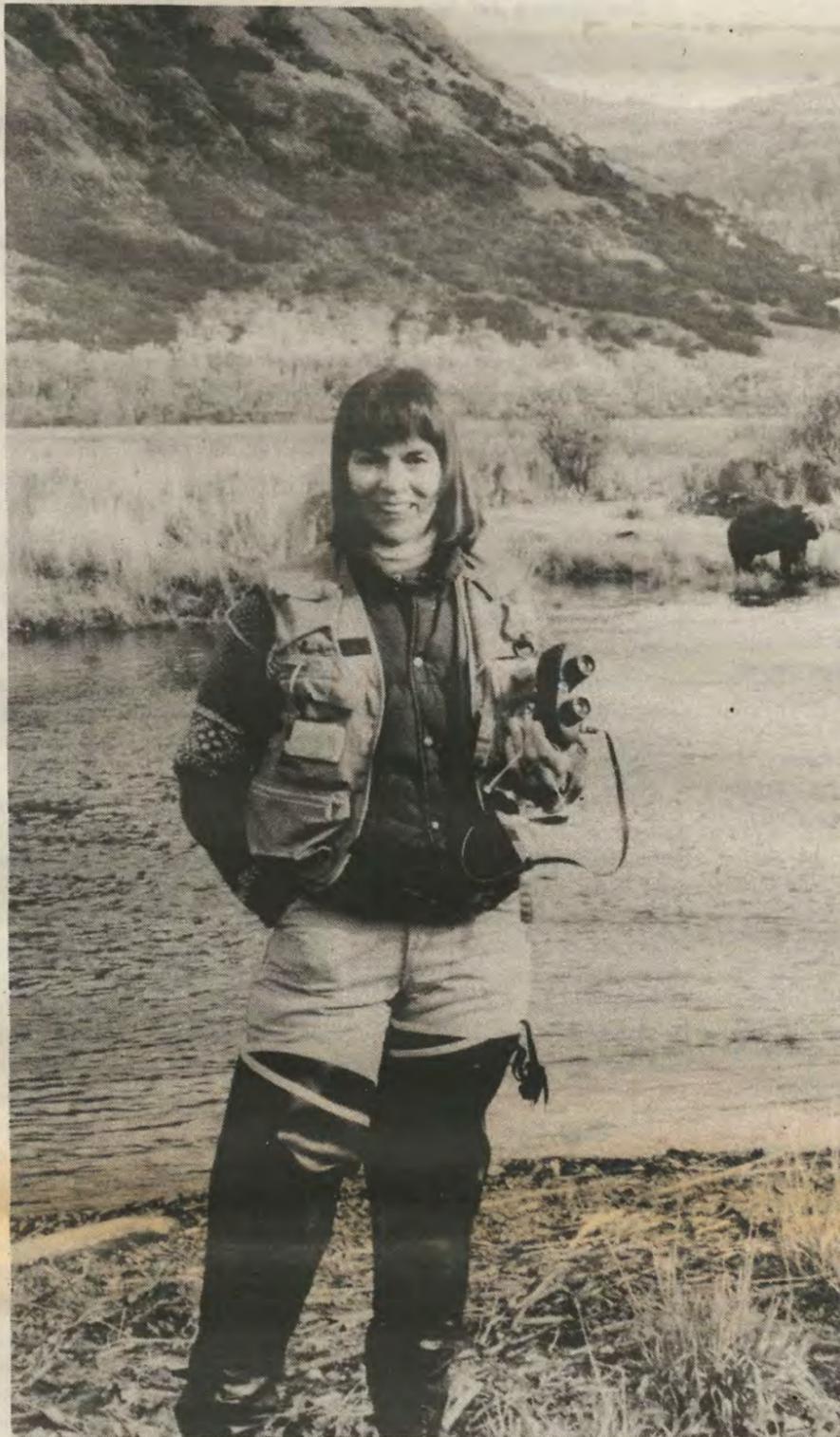
Several hundred people gathered the day before the Fourth of July this past month in a New England white village church in Grafton, Vermont to celebrate Mollie's life, her career, and her being. She died on June 27 at age 49, after a valiant year of fighting brain cancer. It was the same church in which she and her beloved husband Rick Schwolsky married, many years before.

Mollie's life was celebrated in the church that day. There were tears, laughter, and abundant stories. Her husband Rick, her relatives, her close friend and fellow forester Jane Difley of the Vermont Natural Resources Council, Senator Patrick Leahy, former Vermont Governor Madeleine Kunin, her Vermont physician, people from the hospital staff, a professor from her time at Harvard's Kennedy School, all shared memories of Mollie. I was deeply privileged to be asked to share thoughts from Vermont's environmental community. This was followed by friends, speaking informally and from their hearts.

Many recalled, one in a poem an admirer had written, a story which is already Mollie-legend: the release by Mollie for the gathered crowd and the TV cameras in July 1995 of the eagle she had named "Hope" from the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland to celebrate the de-listing of the bald eagle from "endangered" to "threatened". The bald eagle as a species is returning to the lower forty-eight states, as we who live near the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge know, and it was during "Mollie's Watch" at Fish and Wildlife that its recovery from DDT and other human assaults was celebrated.

A couple of my own memories of this grand person, who before going to Washington had majored in philosophy at a Roman Catholic college, received a masters in forestry at the University of Vermont, and a masters in public administration from Harvard, had been commissioner of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, deputy secretary at the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and subsequently the executive director of the Richard A. Snelling Center for Government.

One is the book *Working With Your Woodland* (1983, University Press of New England) which she wrote with forestry and colleagues Charles Thompson and Lynn Levine. In that book the three of them lay to rest that



Mollie Beattie, in Alaska. Photo © Walter Steiglitz.

phony term "selective cutting" which not a few professional foresters themselves, to their shame, still use. Correct, of course, is "selection cut", which takes lots of skill and understanding to accomplish in a forest stand over the years. Mollie Beattie was a good forester, a constant critic of a simplistic sound-bite "forestry", heard all too often, which states, for example, "growing a forest is just like growing corn."

Mollie cut right through that nonsense.

Another memory was Mollie's keynote evening talk in October 1994 to a large national gathering of "Women in Conservation" held at Lake Morey, Vermont. Mollie's story of what it is like to be immersed in "the belly of the beast", as she termed the political process in Washington, was profoundly moving. At that time, and subsequently during her three-year stint during the

Gingrich revolution, Mollie was point person in defense against bitter, vile attacks, not only on the federal Endangered Species Act, the restoration of the timber wolf to the Yellowstone ecosystem, and conservation-oriented federal fish and wildlife refuge policies in general, but on herself as a person, her beliefs, her vision. It was a beautiful message to those women professionals in environmental work. It was a sermon really, in the classic style of the prophets of Scripture. I will never forget that evening.

Those of us who knew her will never forget Mollie Beattie. She was, and remains, a blessed inspiration to so many engaged in conservation battles. She nudged us often with her humor—among her last words, as shared by her Vermont doctor: "Tell them all (at my funeral) to make sure they all go see (the movie) 'Babe'!" She inspires us still with her courage, honesty, skill, and toughness. May she now, finally, rest. In peace Mollie, in peace.

Postscripts: First, two of her former bitterest critics in Congress, Representative Don Young (R-Alaska) and Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) have introduced legislation to name an eight-million acres wilderness in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) after Mollie.

Second, at the gathering on July third in Grafton, a speaker identifying himself as a writer for outdoor sports magazines told us that he perhaps was the only one at that gathering who didn't know Mollie personally, and had never met her, but that he had come that day because he firmly intended to tell her true story to the hunting and fishing magazine national readership.

Third, as the Yellowstone wolves continue to prosper, "Hope", through her species continues to soar. For all of us here, and for generations yet unborn: Thank you Mollie!

Brendan J. Whittaker has just retired as Director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council's Northern Forest Project. He formerly served as Secretary of Environmental Conservation, now the Agency of Natural Resources, under Governor Richard Snelling (1977-1985), and he was a member of the Northern Forest Lands Council.

Wolves of America Conference in Nov.

Defenders of Wildlife presents a Wolves of America Conference this November 14-16 in Albany, NY. The conference is described as a "forum on biology, management and recovery." For more information, please write:

Defenders of Wildlife
Wolves of America Conference
1101 14th St. NW Suite 1400
Wash., DC 20005
Or call, (202)-789-2844, ext. 334

Proceedings of 1994 Eastern Cougar Conference Available

The "Proceedings of the Eastern Cougar Conference, 1994" is now available through the American Ecological Research Institute—AERIE.

Comprised of over 20 individual papers presented at the landmark 1994 conference at Gannon University, the Proceedings is softcover, 245 pages in length, and includes four full color cougar photographs and several beautiful pencil sketches. There are, in addition, several invited papers that readers will find quite interesting.

The Proceedings sells for \$24.95 per copy. This includes postage. Those who attended the conference may purchase a copy for the discounted price of \$19.95, including postage. Prices are in USA funds.

We also offer bulk/dealer discounts and are interested in hearing from anyone who would like to display and sell this attractive publication in their bookstore or gift shop.

Checks and money orders should be made payable to: Jay Tischendorf—AERIE, and sent to:

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Maine Media Watch

A new newsletter published in Verona, Maine has undertaken the task of monitoring the quality of environmental reporting in the state's media. The latest issue looks at coverage of the Ban Clearcutting Referendum by Maine Public Radio and the Bangor Daily News. The goal of **Greenfire Media Watch** is to promote better coverage of environmental issues to bring the wider public up to speed on the serious issues affecting planetary health today.

Contact **Greenfire Media Watch** at RR2 Box 370 Verona ME 04416 tel. 207-469-2126

Vermont Herbicide Hearings Demonstrate Effective Democracy

by Andrew Whittaker

On June 26 and 27, the Vermont Forest Resource Advisory Council's panel on herbicides conducted two days of hearings into the proposed aerial herbiciding of paper company clearcuts in Essex County. The two days of scheduled testimony by proponents and opponents occurred in Island Pond, a prototypical Northern Forest community eminently suited for the debate over forest practices which the hearings signified. While last year at this time ideologically inspired opponents to the Conte Refuge were suggesting that towns like Island Pond might dry up and blow away with such conservation measures, area residents this year articulated a conviction that conservation is actually key to the region's future.

The Case for Spray

Champion International has taken the lead in proposing an extension of aerial spraying from Maine into Vermont, although it was Boise Cascade's plans for a 180-acre spray in Brunswick, Vermont that initiated public opposition last year. On the first day of hearings, Champion's witnesses, including a battery of Monsanto spokespersons, sought to establish that economic need for softwood and economic efficiency of herbicides justify spraying. Monsanto's people sought to assure panel members that their product poses minimal risk to the public and environment.

University of Maine's silvicultural research professor Maxwell McCormack, also a Monsanto technical specialist, testified on the integral role of brush control in forestry and the general impracticality of alternative means of softwood release from the so-called competing vegetation. McCormack reiterated his belief that herbicide treatment is a "soft" approach that works with forest ecology to achieve higher productivity.

Richard Carbonetti of Albany, a Vermont representative on the sunsetted Northern Forest Lands Council and a land manager for Landvest, spoke on the economic importance of large landholdings to northeastern Vermont. Terming aerial spraying "limited, judicious and warranted" Carbonetti also drew analogy to agriculture, suggesting that the widespread application of atrazine and annual "clearcutting" of corn is a more worthy target of public concern than silvicultural use of herbicide.

Cross Questioning

At the close of their day before the FRAC panel, the Champion-Monsanto tautology appeared more or less intact: a gap in softwood supply exists, Champion exists to plug it, Monsanto has a safe herbicide that will allow them to do so efficiently, at no appreciable toxicological risk to society. Champion's contributions to the local economy and biodiversity protection plans were icing on the cake.

The frosting did, however, begin to melt a bit under cross-questioning. Most significant, perhaps, was the admission by a Monsanto ecotoxicologist that habitat impacts apart from toxic effects on organisms are not part of chemical testing. Cross questioner and *Forum* editor Jamie Sayen quizzed the Monsanto representative who stated that there are no known toxic impacts on salamanders (the species under discussion) to which Sayen replied, "I'm not referring to toxicity; what I want to know is what are the impacts on salamanders of removing vegetation and drying out their environment."

Asked by panelist Hub Vogelmann whether there isn't an inevitable downside to herbicides, researcher Max McCormack had to stop to think, eventually suggesting that the product could be cheaper. Public reticence that necessitates an educational effort by users is a further burden. McCormack also resisted the notion that spraying produces a monoculture, somewhat jocularly pointing out that "spruce/fir" is two species and therefore not a monoculture. At several times the professor stated that after initial suppression, affected vegetation re-colonizes sprayed sites. McCormack said he has no concerns about the increased albedo of herbicided clearcuts and does not believe that the positive contributions of early successional vegetation outweigh the drawback of competition with softwood.

Drawn out on his views about local economy, Richard Carbonetti shifted ground when queried how herbicide programs would procure local benefits, with most of the dollars generally spent on outside contractors. Carbonetti responded that "we're in a global economy" and that any economic activity will percolate benefits to localities. He stated that it is difficult to find and employ local people to do manual thinning. He also lamented that "not in my backyard" sentiment was driving overly-vocal opposition to spraying.

Day Two: Opposing Testimony

Strategy of those opposed to spraying was to challenge the architecture of the pro argument by addressing forest practices that have driven spray proposals, the relation of such intensive management to ecology and community concerns, and the potential impacts of glyphosate, its surfactant and other chemicals.

A slate of witnesses from Essex County opened testimony with a barrage of criticism for the way paper companies have brought the softwood gap on themselves. Sherry Belknap, selectman of Bloomfield, likened past harvest practices to "hogs at the trough in that what wasn't consumed was driven into the ground, exported or sold to other mills."

The main thrust of his testimony was to establish the water quality impacts logging has had in the major drainages of Essex County. If soil is moving into streams from clearcuts, isn't it likely that it could carry herbicide with it? "The natural origin of water is a right, and should not be [threatened] by an economic gap analysis," he stated.

Lloyd Gierke and Brendan Whittaker, both of Brunswick, weighed in as gray champions of a forestry based on a return to fundamentals of silviculture. Gierke, a retired jobber who has worked on Champion lands, stated that "the clearcutting which set the stage for herbicide itself has significant ecological impact." The expected shortfall in softwood supply is a "perceived gap;" he said in seconding Belknap's observation that softwood from the area was exported and non-strategic to paper making. "Don't open this Pandora's box," he concluded, "let Vermont be the unsprayed control in this experiment."

Whittaker, retiring from the Vermont Natural Resources Council this summer, started his career as Essex County forester in 1959. At that time, he said, his supervisors told him not to believe the conventional wisdom that spruce and fir can only be managed on an even-aged basis. There are alternatives in management, he stated, and they begin with respect for and integrity of soil, water and other fundamentals of forest ecology. Herbicides, he said, are a step in the opposite direction.

Testimony by Jeff Parsons of Lowell and Karen and Kevin Coffey of Irasburg developed the theme of the unique ecology of Vermont's extreme northeast corner and the contributions intact forests make to watershed integrity. Parsons has worked extensively in the Yellow Bogs of the Nulhegan drainage and notes that the woods here form a disjunct boreal forest characterized by populations deserving of special protection. Parsons is also member of the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council and made note of the statutory charge to VPAC to guide Vermont on a policy of overall reduction on reliance on pesticide.

Stan Swaim and Carol Westinghouse, both of Burke, Vermont, offered two views on how spraying would affect people and businesses in the immediate area. Westinghouse is organizing a network of Vermonters with chemical sensitivities. A significant proportion of the population suffers from acute sensitivity to often minute quantities of man made chemicals. This has raised questions of how chemicals behave in the environment, how they interact with one another and their increasing ubiquity. Aerial spraying of herbicide would be an unwelcome and additional restriction on the lives of these people, she said.

Swaim owns and manages a cross country ski business and is also a fly fisherman. He noted that he and his wife stopped vacationing in Maine after the woods surrounding a favorite fishing spot were sprayed and suggested that vacationers in Vermont might do likewise. Swaim reiterated earlier comments that herbicides are another element in deteriorating forest practices that create a bad image in the eyes of visitors. "It's not the logging itself," he emphasized, "but the way it's being done."

Tom Obomsawin and Mali Keating also spoke from a cultural perspective, that of the Abenaki indigenous to northern Vermont. Obomsawin vilified the "cultural absurdity" of adding herbicides to two centuries of forest abuse. Keating developed the view that humans and nature alike depend on cooperation for survival. The creator, she said, "has made us all brothers and sisters, the four races, the insect, the fish, the birds: in order for us to survive we must follow the balance of nature. Science says we can have a greater yield if we kill off these species but Nature relies on [their] cooperation."

Conclusion

Several other witnesses capped off the list of reasons not to spray. Clarence Boston of Brattleboro, a licensed pesticide applicator and agricultural consultant in apple orchard management, has used glyphosate and observed that it has a negative impact on the balance of predator and prey species. He suggested that Champion was stepping on the pesticide treadmill with its planned use of herbicide, and urged re-consideration. So too did Carmine Murray of Island Pond, who testified from the Brighton town plan which, in recognizing the importance of a pristine forest setting to the local economy, specifically mentions and discourages herbicide use in forestry. (Island Pond is situated with-

Continued on next page



June 26 Herbicide Hearings in Island Pond, Vermont: The FRAC panel (seated, facing audience) takes notes as Jamie Sayen (standing left) asks a Monsanto representative (wearing white shirt, standing right) about the impacts on salamanders when their habitat is removed by a clearcut and then sprayed with herbicides. Neither Monsanto nor Champion had an answer. Max McCormack of the University of Maine-Orono and Monsanto is standing far right. Photo © Gustav W. Verderber.

NH Division of Pesticide Control OKs Boise Cascade and Champion Permits for Aerial Herbicide Spraying in '96

by Daisy Goodman

To no one's surprise, the NH Division of Pesticide Control has once again granted permits to Boise Cascade and Champion International for aerial herbicide spraying in northern New Hampshire. The two companies plan to spray a combined 4,000 acres in the Indian Stream, Hall Steam, Perry Stream, Connecticut River, Dead Diamond River, Megalloway River and Androscoggin River watersheds.

The decision to issue two special permits was made by Pesticide Control Director Murray McKay after review of the applications by a number of agencies, including the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Public Health (Health Risk Assessment), Department of Environmental Services, Department of Resources and Economic Development, and the State Entomologist. Approval by these agencies will be the focus of an appeal by the Herbicide Project of the Northern Appalachian Restoration Project.

Herbicide Project to Appeal

NH legislation Pes 202, amended on 2-25-93, allows that "any person aggrieved by {a} decision of the Division may file with the {Pesticide Control Board} a petition for appeal." The Pesticide Control Board is the adjudicative body, to which evidence is presented. An oral hearing before the board is part of this process. According to the Chair of the Pesticide Control Board, Steven Taylor, no decision by the Division of Pesticide Control has been contested since the appeal process was amended. The Herbicide Project has the dubious honor of being the first community-based organization to question a decision made by the Division Director. Hopefully this appeal will only be the first in a long line of actions to force the Pesticide Control Division to consider community concerns about pesticide application in its decision-making process.

Pes 202 requires that a Petition for Appeal be filed with the Board and the Division of Pesticide Control within thirty days of the decision—in this case, August 7th. After that date the Division of Pesticide Control has twenty days to provide a record of the action to the petitioner, and a formal hearing is scheduled. At the hearing, witnesses are called, evidence presented, and cross-examination may occur. An appeal challenges the Division of Pesticide Control's approval, not the actual permit applications or the permittees, so Champion and Boise Cascade are not automatically included in the process. It is likely that the companies will request to intervene.

According to several agency representatives, decisions by the agencies were primarily based on herbicide product information furnished by Monsanto to the Division of Pesticide Control, including studies on which EPA licensing was based. The research involved is at least ten years old, and industry-funded rather than independent. Current independent research on the implications of aerial herbicide application of concern to the reviewing agencies rebuts Monsanto, Boise and Champion claims that herbicide products are benign additions to forest ecosystems, are harmless to fish and wildlife, are an acceptable forestry management tool,



Daisy Goodman cross-examines Champion and Monsanto representatives at the June 26-27 Herbicide Hearings at Island Pond. Andrew Whittaker is seated. Photo © Gustav W. Verderber.

and that aerial application of herbicides is precise and can be adequately regulated to ensure that contamination of surface water, riparian areas and wetlands does not occur. In fact, a visit to herbicide-sprayed areas in northern New Hampshire with a company spray plan shows clear evidence of herbicide drift into supposed "no-spray areas", including both tree damage and mortality.

The Special Permits (SP-075 and SP-076) are contingent on a number of conditions. Conditions 2-8 are concerned with protection of water quality, including specification of buffer zones. Some of these conditions were violated last year, even by admission of Champion employees—but so-called monitoring by the Division of Pesticide Control failed to catch these violations. Since Division Director McKay claims that it is possible to spray "on a dotted line", and approval of applications is based on this assumption, it would be risky for the Division to identify examples of pesticide drift or even human error leading to overspraying. Monitoring is done by the companies, and by the Division of Pesticide Control, both of which have a vested interest in the success of the industry's spray program. No independent monitoring has been done to date and Champion and Boise Cascade gate roads and limit public access during spraying. If the spray program goes forward, independent monitoring *must* be allowed, regardless of company claims of private prop-

erty rights.

The Petition to Appeal must be approved by the Pesticide Control Board. It is not clear whether, if the right to appeal is recognized, the Board will allow spraying to occur while the matter is under appeal. To do so would make a mockery of the appeal process—why appeal something that has already happened? However, Division Director McKay, while saying that "I see your point" on this issue, has indicated that he would not like to see company spray schedules jeopardized. It's time for people to speak up and let Mr. McKay and the Pesticide Control Board know that we don't owe Boise Cascade and Champion any favors—aerial herbicide spraying is a dangerous and destructive practice which should not be allowed. If the bureaucratic pesticide "control" machine requires an appeal of their decision to allow spraying, a *legally mandated process*, this right must be respected as more than an exercise in legal argument. Letters to the Pesticide Control Board, c/o Steven Taylor, Department of Agriculture, 10 Ferry St. Concord, NH 03302-2042 would be useful to drive this point home. Please write now.

Submission of public comments to the Pesticide Control Board are encouraged as part of the appeal process. In addition, under Pes 202, any party having an interest in the matter, which includes all of us, is entitled to request to be heard by the Board. "The person shall be allowed to be heard if the board determines that the testimony the person proposes to give is relevant material, not duplicative of other testimony, and necessary to a fair and just proceeding". I encourage *everyone* to participate in this hearing, at least by submitting written comments. If there is sufficient interest, we can request an open public hearing.

August 5 Pesticide Hearing in Groveton

Additionally, the Pesticide Advisory Committee to the State legislature is required to hold four public hearings around the state. One of these hearings is scheduled for August 5, at the Groveton Public Library, from 7-8:30. Please come to this hearing if possible to let the advisory board know that the public is opposed to aerial application of herbicides. Numbers are necessary even if only to expose how *little* public input is acknowledged in the pesticide permitting process.

The Appeal process is important, but it is only the beginning of a long struggle to eliminate these chemicals from the land and water. Any resistance to the pursuit of unlimited profit by multinational corporations is up against the regulatory momentum of a government philosophy entitled "What's Good for Champion is Good for New Hampshire". Fighting three billion-dollar corporations, the Division of Pesticide Control, and five other State Agencies is heartbreaking and infuriating. The information and support network developed by community members and activists both locally and continent-wide is crucial for our emotional and political survival. I personally deeply appreciate the resource sharing and friendship that has come my way and continues to during this process. Thank you.

For More Information: The Herbicide Project (603) 922-5544.

VT Herbicide Hearings

Continued from preceding page in Brighton.)

Caroline Cox of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticide wrapped up testimony against spraying by presenting her research into the herbicide proposed for use, glyphosate, and its surfactant, POEA. Having looked at both clinical and field data, Cox disputed notions of product "safety" claims and developed the case that forest management by herbicides presents risks of direct toxicity to plants, animals and people and indirect habitat effects on forest dwellers from fungi to birds and mammals. Vermont, she said, has the option to choose a "sustainable forestry that maintains the long-term productivity and health of Vermont's forest ecosystems and citizens."

By the end of their day of testimony, opponents to

spraying had constructed their own tautology: herbicides are "necessary" only in a narrowest sense that disregards the impact of forest practices on future forest productivity, integrity and local economy; herbicides carry risks not desired by citizens. Culturally, the proposal to spray is neither supported nor acceptable.

Evidence that the opposing arguments carried the day was suggested by Champion's reluctance to offer rebuttal to most of them. While Monsanto representatives took umbrage to several pokes at their product, they also could mount no defense of Champion's forest practices nor counter assertions that herbicides are a further degradation of forest ecology. Local commitment proved a potent foe of mere economic motivation.

Cox also observed the "real proof of vibrant democracy in Vermont" that the herbicide hearings demonstrated. This view was seconded by a member of

the audience, which exceeded fifty souls both days, and expressed its enthusiasm for arguments against spraying by breaking into frequent applause on the second day. Waving her hand across the gymnasium full of people conversing in 2s, 3s, and 4s at one break in the action, she nodded to me and said, "This is what Montpelier should be like, Montpelier should do this too."

What the case of herbicides has demonstrated is that people do not "disbelieve" in government, any more than they "disbelieve" in industry. The broad cross section of people desire public policy which strikes balance and offers communities an avenue to express goals held in common. Economic drives will remain blind unless connected to and upholding community desires. And this is the larger meaning of the controversy over herbicides and forestry in Vermont.

NY Legislative Session Ends - Some Good News for the Adirondacks

by John Sheehan

In mid-July the Adirondack Council released the following breakdown of budget, bond act, and legislative bills affecting the Adirondack Park that passed both houses of the New York State Legislature at the end of the 1996 session. The session was painfully slow in reaching a conclusion, but was an unprecedented success for environmental initiatives, especially in the Adirondack Park. Many of the environmental programs funded by the Governor's bond act and the Environmental Protection Fund will result in economic benefits to Adirondack communities as well.

Trust Fund:

\$100 million total

Land/Open Space/Watershed Protection: An additional \$7.5 million for land acquisition (\$24 million to \$31.5 million) for land statewide.

Small Projects Category: More than half of the lands identified as potential acquisitions in the Adirondack Council's 2020 VISION research series Volume III ("Realizing the Recreational Potential of Wild Forests") fall into this category of land because they can provide access to landlocked public Forest Preserve, navigable rivers, and water bodies not off-limits to the public. The addition of this category within the EPF allows the state to negotiate and purchase these small parcels without going through the two- to three-year process of adding them to the Open Space Plan and gaining Legislative approval for them. That process has led to the loss of many similar opportunities in the Adirondacks over the past decade because private buyers were able to act more quickly than the state and foreclose opportunities to protect these lands for public use. (Funded through the Open Space category listed above.)

Massawepie Mire: This massive, sensitive wetland complex on the St. Lawrence/Hamilton County border contains ten lakes (nine undeveloped, one with a Boy Scout Camp). The Nature Conservancy is working to place a conservation easement over 3,600 acres. The state intends to acquire the easement from the Conservancy. The transaction would prevent further development of the parcel while providing public access and enough money for the scout camp to be rebuilt with the proceeds from the sale of the development rights on the rest of the land. (Funded by the Open Space category above.)

Staff Positions: The original proposal by the governor paid for dozens of staff positions at the Department of Environmental Conservation. Those expenditures have been eliminated from the EPF and placed back in the general fund where they belong. (Funded by the governor via the budget's general fund.)

The Sweep: The governor's plan called for any unspent EPF money to be swept into the general fund at the end of the year. That provision has been eliminated.

State Agency Compliance: The governor's proposal called for using part of the EPF to clean up environmental problems at state agencies that had been violating environmental laws and



Funding for land acquisition approved in this legislative session will enable the state to move more quickly to protect land inside and outside of the Adirondack Park that otherwise might be acquired by a developer. Photo © John McKeith.

procedures. Previously, agencies had been expected to pay for these clean-up costs from their own capital budgets, rather than diminish the EPF. This provision has been eliminated.

The Clean Air, Clean Water Bond Act: \$1.75 billion

Lake Champlain: \$15 million for clean-up of phosphorous pollution as required by a 1993 agreement with Vermont and Quebec. Projects include sewage treatment facility upgrades and erosion/runoff control. A boundary drawn through the center of Lake Champlain forms the eastern border of the Adirondack Park in Essex and Clinton Counties. The Lake Champlain drainage basin (all lands where the rivers and streams eventually run into the lake) encompasses more than one-third of the Adirondack Park.

Essex County Landfill: As part of a \$175 million solid waste program, Essex County will receive enough money to deal with its landfill crisis and avoid the planned importation of up to 500 tons per day of out-of-Park garbage into its landfill in the Town of Lewis by a private hauler. The governor said he took a "dim view" of the Essex County plan and instructed the DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency to review it carefully after the two agencies had initially allowed the scheme to move forward. Neither has issued a permit for the increased tonnage. The County's landfill operation permit currently allows 95 tons per day, which is more than adequate to handle all of the trash generated inside the county's borders.

Other Adirondack Landfills: A \$50-million plan (part of the same \$175-million project discussed above), the state will reinvigorate the 75 percent grant/25 percent zero-interest-loan program for Adirondack communities to cap and close their out-of-compliance municipal landfills. Closure costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars threaten to vastly increase property taxes in many Adirondack towns. While other rural towns will be eligible for funding, landfills inside the Adirondack Park will

be given priority.

Water & Sewer: As part of a \$790-million Clean Water Program and a \$355-million Safe Drinking Water Program, communities now dumping raw sewage into Adirondack rivers can qualify for grants to build or upgrade sewage treatment facilities. As part of \$400-million Safe Drinking Water program, communities required for the first time to filter and treat drinking water coming from lakes and reservoirs will be able to obtain grants to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Open Space: Roughly \$150-million for land acquisition and conservation easements statewide. Working forest (commercial timberlands) easements will provide cash payments and proper-

ty tax breaks to owners of large parcels of land who agree to sell development rights to the state. Easements allow lands to remain undeveloped, yet available for commercial harvesting, so they still provide jobs in the wood-products industry. The price to the state is always lower than outright purchases for addition to the "Forever Wild" Forest Preserve, although some parcels in the Adirondack Park are being offered for direct sale to the state, which would then become Forest Preserve.

Adirondack Park Agency

Staffing: While the governor's budget called for reducing the APA's staff positions from 64 to 50, the governor decided to retain all of the positions that are currently filled (eight) to keep the Agency from returning to a pattern of long delays in responding to requests for permits and information; to avoid losing key research and legal staff positions; to avoid losing enforcement capabilities, and avoid losing crucial regulatory personnel. The move leaves the total personnel count at 58. Cost of the restoration: \$400,000 of the \$500,000 initial cut.

Other Bills

Willsboro Town Beach: A parcel of land at the tip of Willsboro Point has been purchased by The Nature Conservancy for use by the Town of Willsboro (Clinton County) as a municipal park and beach. The town will sell its current park (this required Legislative approval) to a developer, after deed restrictions are in place to limit the amount and type of development on the parcel.

John Sheehan works for the Adirondack Council out of its Albany office.

Adirondack Heritage Forum & Family Conference Scheduled for October 4-6

The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks is sponsoring "Adirondack Heritage: Preservation and Economic Development", a forum and family conference at the Sagamore Historic Adirondack Great Camp, Raquette Lake on October 4-6, 1996. The conference is part of its forum series "Adirondack Northern Forest: A Common Stewardship."

The conference will feature Elizabeth Watson and Adirondack regional leaders who are advancing heritage as an environmental and economic stimulus in the Adirondacks. Panel discussions will be combined with field trips which offer immediate examples of heritage at work. Tours of Great Camp Sagamore and environs, Camp Uncas, and Raquette Lake aboard the W. W. Durant are scheduled. Families are welcome; programs for youth are included.

Elizabeth Watson has roots with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Land Trust Alliance, the Countryside Institute, and many regional organizations where she works for watershed protection, greenways and heritage areas. She has written: "Heritage touches the hearts and minds of residents seeking an improved quality of life." Heritage discovers and explores personal and community relationships, connecting past and present, a force for unifying a community. It may help to keep revenue in the region.

In recent years, New York State heritage programs have emerged through the State Urban Cultural Park Program, as have dozens of private sector initiatives around New York and the nation. One is the Champlain Valley Heritage Network, an alliance of many organizations working to improve tourism, environment and community development in New York's Champlain Valley. Other partnerships are at work in the central Adirondacks, including Sagamore, the Adirondack Museum, and the W.W. Durant steamboat on Raquette Lake.

The conference is supported in part by the Northern Forest Alliance New York Caucus, The Camp Fire Conservation Fund, Inc., The Niagra Mohawk Foundation, and Underhill Foundation.

For registration, contact The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, POB 951, Schenectady, NY, 12301; or call 518-377-1452.

Timber Industry Meddles in LURC Plan Revision - May Have Violated Law

by Jamie Sayen

The latest timber industry scandal in Maine may be a violation of state law—but don't worry, the state wouldn't dream of prosecuting the timber industry honchos who broke the law. At the July 10 meeting of LURC (Land Use Regulation Commission) three of the six members of LURC said they had been contacted by paper industry representatives who attempted to persuade LURC to alter a proposed revision of zoning policies four months after the public comment period ended on March 1.

This blatant attempt to circumvent the public process of LURC illustrates: (1) timber industry contempt for the law; (2) industry contempt for the public; and (3) that the era of goodwill between the timber industry and mainstream environmentalists announced by Maine Audubon Society Director Tom Urquhart and Governor Angus King on June 14 (when the Anti-Referendum Deal was announced) has lasted less than a month. This raw power play illustrates—yet again—that the large landowners cannot be trusted.

Two-Year Plan Revision

For more than two years LURC and its staff have been revising the agency's comprehensive plan covering policies for logging, recreation, and recreation and business development for the 10.5 million acres of the unorganized territories—essentially the northern half of Maine.

The public comment period closed on March 1 following numerous public hearings and meetings. Just before LURC met on July 10 to review the plan that emerged from this extensive public process, the large landowners made a final effort to influence the commission. Si Balch of Boise Cascade visited Commission chairman Stephen O. Wight the night before and presented him with a six page industry memo drawn up by Boise, Champion International, International Paper, Bowater, Seven Islands, and S.D. Warren (SAPPI of South Africa). That same day Robert Cope of Champion contacted commissioner Malachi Anderson, and a day earlier Commissioner Stephen Mason, a logging contractor in Greenville, was contacted by Bowater forester Dan Corcoran.

The landowners' memo urged LURC to:

- Delete elements of the comprehensive plan protecting parts of the forest and lakes for tourism.
- Delete a section that would have permanently protected parts of the region from development.
- Delete or substantially revise (read "gut") a proposal to establish a new panel to help LURC members deal with issues pertaining to the unorganized territories. Industry claimed that the panel would have "too much power and is too diverse." If established, industry wanted it to be composed largely of representatives of landowners—much the way LURC is constituted.
- Eliminate a zoning category that could preserve forest lands and prohibit its development. According to industry,



there's already enough protection.

Violation of the Law

At the July 10 LURC meeting, Jeff Pidot, an assistant attorney general who advises LURC, stated that the timber companies may have broken the law by lobbying commission members outside the public record. Commission Chairman Wight said the industry representatives knew the record was closed.

Pidot stated at the meeting: "The problem is not just a technical violation of law. It was orchestrated." Pidot explained that average Maine citizens have no way of knowing what the landowners recommended or if any of the "suggestions" influenced the commissioners—several of whom have close ties with the timber industry. Pidot said that if LURC was in any way influenced by this illegal lobbying, LURC should reopen the hearing record and allow the public an opportunity to comment.

The state has decided not to prosecute; instead, LURC has rewarded the law-breakers by doing industry's bidding; and to "compensate" for this flagrant abuse of power, LURC will probably accept another suggestion from industry to reopen the public process. This hollow gesture merely forces the public to be victimized again by a meaningless hearing that then provides LURC the cover it needs to complete granting industry's Christmas wish list.

Arrogance of Power

Si Balch justified his actions on the grounds that the comprehensive plan has undergone substantial reworking since the end of the comment period. "Whole new sections have been added [by the commission] that have not been through a public hearing process," he told the *Bangor Daily News*. "As responsible landowners we thought it was important for commissioners [to hear our concerns]."

Dan Corcoran was also unapologetic: "I don't regret being helpful to the commission."

Did Industry Influence LURC?

Chairman Wight conceded after the meeting that this latest industry power play could (in the words of the *Bangor*

Daily News) "reinforce perceptions that LURC listens far more carefully to the timber industry than to others who live, work, or play in the unorganized territories." Wight asserted, however, "We did not take up anything on that list."

Catherine Johnson of the Natural Resources Council of Maine said this is untrue. She stated that LURC voted 5-1 to zone land under "Management-Natural Character" only when nominated by the owner; this is consistent with the landowners' requests, and it overturned a 5-1 vote in March which reserved the right to create such zones for the Commission. "You have to wonder why the vote was completely reversed," Johnson said. "The natural character zone is LURC's best tool to create large areas that are off-limits to development."

LURC Credibility in Dumper

On July 14 the *Maine Sunday Telegram* editorialized: "Henceforth, landowner approval will be needed to use the zoning rule. Therefore, there will be no real rule—and LURC's credibility is in the dumper."

Bill Nemitz of the MST wrote the same day: "First, LURC proved the 'radical' environmentalists behind Maine's clear-cutting referendum are right on at least one point—there is too much behind-closed-doors smooching going on between our state government and Maine's big paper companies.

"And second, it's getting harder by the day to accept Gov. Angus King's repeated assurances that the paper companies can be trusted without the nagging feeling that we're kissing our largest natural resource goodbye."

But, at least one wag saw a silver lining. "I wish LURC ran the IRS," he told the *Forum*, "because then they would ask me if I wished to pay my taxes this year."

Cracks in Eco-Industry Marriage?

When Governor King announced the Anti-Referendum Deal on June 14, everyone present hailed the agreement as a new day in productive, trusting collaboration between industry and the mainstream environmental community.

Skeptics of that weak deal were unimpressed at the time. Now, even Maine Audubon Society and NRCM are wondering out loud if industry can be trusted about anything—especially the Anti-Referendum Deal.

At the June 14 press conference, MAS Director Tom Urquhart purred, "You get more through cooperation." After the LURC scandal broke, his director of policy, Sandy Neily admitted industry had undermined efforts mainstream environmentalists have made to work cooperatively with industry on conservation issues. "When there's this kind of intense attempt to only advance their own agenda, I'm concerned that they haven't gotten the partnership message." Cynics suggest that MAS hasn't figured out what partnership with industry really means: "What's mine is mine; what's your's is mine."

Apparently columnist Nemitz has figured this out: "With the paper companies, Gov. King and mainstream (squirm) environmental groups trashing this November's clear-cutting referendum as a threat to the state's economy, who among them can now guarantee their 'alternative' proposal isn't a threat to Maine's forest?"

The *Sunday Telegram's* editorial ominously noted: "The industry memo also reveals its true feelings about forest reserves, the creation of which is an integral part of the "Compact for Maine's Forests" [known to readers of the *Forum* as "The Anti-Referendum Deal"] that the industry so recently helped negotiate. Such reserves, the memo says, "threaten the productivity of Maine's forest resources and the production of fiber."

LURC meets again on July 31. Meanwhile, the lawyers will be having a field day, while MAS and NRCM watch helplessly as their "partners" from industry: (1) sabotage the LURC process; and (2) collude with the Governor to prevent or delay a special legislative session to pass their Anti-Referendum Deal before the November 5 vote on the Ban Clearcutting in Maine Referendum. Meanwhile, industry lies about the Referendum bombard us every night on the TV.

Ban Clearcutting in Maine Referendum Updates

by Jamie Sayen

In late July the Maine Supreme Court dealt a blow to supporters of the Anti-Referendum Deal, the so-called "Compact for Maine Forests" when it ruled that the Legislature cannot pass a "fadeaway" bill—a bill that only goes into effect if the Referendum is defeated on November 5.

This leaves Governor King and supporters of the Anti-Referendum Deal a difficult choice: either call a special session of the Legislature and place a competing initiative on the November 5 ballot (the course preferred by the Natural Resources Council of Maine and the Ban Clearcutting Campaign), or abandon the Anti-Referendum Deal (a course favored by much of the timber industry).

If the "Compact" is placed on the ballot as a competing referendum, Maine voters will face three choices on November 5: yes to Ban Clearcutting; or yes to the "Compact", or no to both. If neither alternative wins 50%, a special election would be held on the initiative receiving the greater support.

Prior to the Supreme Court's ruling, it appeared that Governor King would call a special session. As of July 24, it is far less certain. Much of industry is opposed to the competing initiative approach, and King has a habit of doing industry's bidding.

If King decides not to call a special session, the "Compact" is effectively dead. If the "Compact" falls apart, will NRCM join the Referendum campaign?

The Anti Referendum Compact does not eliminate clearcutting; it does not set science based standards for sustainable harvesting (although it promises to do so—with industry retaining veto power, of course); it does not stop overcutting; and it does not curtail toxic herbicide spraying. Implementation of the Compact does, however, rely in the good faith and integrity of the timber industry.

Recent timber industry abuses of power—especially the violation of the LURC public process (see page 7)—have infuriated NRCM and are certainly not helping to build trust between the parties to the "Compact."

The next three months will be a real donnybrook, and that industry will break the record for political spending on a referendum issue in Maine held by the Maine Yankee proponents in 1987 at \$2.6 million. Already the clearcutters have raised over \$2 million and spent \$1.8 million at a time when campaigns usually have spent only one-fifth or one-quarter of their total expenditures. Look for the Clearcutters to spend \$6-10-million to deceive Maine voters about clearcuts, forest health, and jobs.

State-Funded Economic Impact Study

On July 3 the State Planning Office (SPO) in cahoots with the Maine Forest Service (MFS) released its "Economic Impact of the Citizens Initiative to Promote Forest Rehabilitation and Eliminate Clearcutting." To no one's surprise, the MFS/SPO "study" claims that passage of the Referendum will wreak economic havoc with Maine's economy. Actually, as the memo from Susan Bell to Governor King (shown on this page) dated January 12, 1996 makes clear, the "results" of the study were written before the study was commenced.

A day earlier, January 11, 1996, Charles Gadzik, Director of the Maine Forest Service, had submitted a memo to Governor King outlining the "Current Strategy to Defeat" Gadzik wrote: "The two strategy options . . . are to pursue an outright defeat or to raise a competing measure. The ACF [Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry] committee [in the Legislature] appears to be very willing to work with industry and the Administration to facilitate the best strategy."

So, when the SPO/MFS economic impact study makes the dramatic claim that passage of the Referendum will cost 15,600 jobs in Maine in the first year, don't look for objective research to back up the claims. On pages 10-14 Mitch Lansky and Spencer Phillips, economist for The Wilderness Society expose

the biased and flawed aspects of the economic study that Maine taxpayers paid for. Here are a few of the most egregious errors of commission or omission in the "study":

- The study only consulted with economists known to be hostile to the Referendum.
- The study is riddled with unfair comparisons. For instance, it compared the cut allowed by an unjustifiably narrow interpretation of the Referendum against a theoretically sustainable cut derived from highly dubious computer projections.
- It assumes that jobs will be lost if the cut is reduced; in fact there is no correlation between jobs and level of harvest (see pages 12-14).
- It predicts a significant rise in the price of stumpage and takes the position that this is a bad thing. While mills may not rejoice at being forced to pay landowners a fair stumpage rate, landowners and loggers should rejoice. SWOAM (Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine) ought to endorse the Referendum in light of the economic report.
- The study ignores job loss in the mills and woods due to mechanization and corporate profit-taking.
- Predictions that investment will decline if the Referendum passes fail to explain the significant decline in paper industry investment in Maine since 1980. There was no Referendum to blame. The Referendum quite possibly could be an important attraction to investment. Investors in healthy communities would be attracted to a Maine that has abolished the worst excesses of industrial deforestation.
- The study did not assess the past, present and future costs of ecological degradation and other nega-

tive impacts of the status quo.

Although the MFS/SPO study is both dishonest and incompetent, it offers some interesting insights into the current economic situation:

- Maine is a net importer of spruce-fir pulp. This means that current mill capacity already exceeds the ability of the woods to provide fiber sustainably.
- Maine is a net exporter of spruce-fir sawlogs. It exports approximately 475,000 cords a year unprocessed, while processing 800,000 cords in-state yearly. That's a lot of value-added jobs exported by the clearcutters.
- The study admits that stumpage is only 6.4% of the price of papermaking. Even if we believe the study's inflated estimated rise in the price of stumpage, the price of paper would only rise one percent. That seems a rather modest price for consumers to pay to assure an end to clearcutting in Maine.

Ban Clearcutting Campaign Needs Financial Support

The Ban Clearcutting in Maine Campaign cannot compete with the billion-dollar multinational corporations in spending. However, even a modest media campaign that shows photos and video footage of the catastrophe in the Maine woods will be sufficient to counter the multi-million dollar campaign of shame by the clearcutters. The truth is always a bargain. If you are interested in helping the financially-strapped Ban Clearcutting Campaign, send as large a check as you can afford to: Ban Clearcutting, POB 2218, Augusta, ME 04438, or call: 207-623-7140. The salamanders and soil microbes will thank you.

① Be sure I'm there
② Call to Evan
③ Hold in meeting
JAN 18 1996

STATE OF MAINE
Office Of The Governor

Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor

Susan J. Bell
Policy & Legislative Analyst

DATE: January 12, 1996
TO: Governor Angus S. King
FROM: Susan J. Bell *SJB*
RE: Initiated Bill to Promote Forest Rehabilitation and Eliminate Clearcutting
CC: Kay Rand, Dennis Bailey, Chuck Hewett

Attached you will find several pieces of information regarding the Initiated Bill, including:

1. The referendum language in a letter written to me from Chuck Gadzik
2. A briefing memo to you from Chuck Gadzik
3. Talking points developed by Bill Vail regarding the Maine Forest Products Council and P-110's efforts
4. The Constitutional language regarding competing measures on the ballot
5. Your Executive Order creating the Sustainable Forest Management Task Force
6. Membership of the Task Force.

Sandy will be rescheduling the meeting with Ron Lovaglio and Chuck Gadzik where several decisions need to be made:

1. The division of responsibility for speaking on this issue. Chuck Gadzik on the technical forestry aspects and you or Bailey on your position
2. The increased focus and need for an outcome from the Sustainable Forestry Task Force.
3. The overall strategy or approach for the issue, i.e. oppose the referendum while not supporting the status quo regarding traditional forest practices; not getting framed as supporters of corporate America; and being environmentally sensitive.

Document3 / SB / Jan-12-96

Phone: (207) 287-3531
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Preliminary Results of '95 Inventory of Maine's Forests Reveal Major Shifts in Forest Structure

by Mitch Lansky

In my last article I showed how there has been a major decline in spruce-fir growing-stock volume from 1982 to 1995, with much of the decline occurring in smaller diameters (5 to 9 inches). Hardwood volume, in contrast, increased, but not enough to make up for the big softwood declines. In this article I discuss what changes happened to forest type and forest structure.

The data reviewed here is still "preliminary" (subject to change). The US Forest Service rewrote some of the 1982 data to be more comparable to 1995, due to changes in assessing stocking. We still do not have access to information regarding the composition of the forest by basal area or volume per acre. But the data reveal some profound changes none-the-less.

By the end of the Civil War, red spruce was already overtaking white pine as the number one source of lumber in Maine. By the turn of the century, paper companies had discovered that spruce, because of its long fibers, it is desirable for pulpwood. It is no accident, therefore, that three maps coincide: the spruce-fir forests, industrial ownership, and the unorganized territories. After a century of industrial stewardship of this resource, how is it doing?

Forest Type

Spruce-fir, which made up half the acreage of the commercial forest in Maine in 1971, is no longer the state's primary forest type. This distinction now goes to northern hardwoods. From 1982 to 1995, spruce-fir declined by more than 1.5 million acres (from 7.56 million acres to 6.02 million acres). In 1971, according to the US Forest Service, there were 8.38 million acres of spruce-fir. This represents a 28% decline in area in a 24 year period.

The northern hardwood type, in contrast, increased from 4.89 million acres in 1971 to 5.53 million acres in 1982 to 6.42 million acres in 1995. The aspen/birch type increased from 0.97 million acres in 1971 to 2.07 million acres in 1982 to 2.25 million acres in 1995 (graph 1). This shift is going on, apparently because of the combination of spruce budworm and heavy cutting that removed spruce-fir and left hardwoods and hardwood regeneration.

Forest Structure

The US Forest Service classified stands as seedling/sapling (dominated by trees less than 5 inches in diameter), poletimber (dominated by trees 5-9 inches for softwoods or 5-11 inches for hardwoods), and sawtimber (dominated by trees over 9 inches for softwood and over 11 inches for hardwoods). To be classified, the stands have to have at least 10% of full stocking.

Between 1982 and 1995, there were major declines in spruce-fir poletimber stands and minor declines in spruce-fir sawtimber stands. In contrast, there were increases in seedling/sapling stands in spruce-fir, northern hardwoods, and aspen/birch types. Industrial foresters are often proud to point out their regenerated new forests. Seedling/sapling acreage increased by

1.18 million acres from 1982 to 1995, so that one-quarter of all acres are seedling/sapling. There are lots of regenerated stands to be proud about.

Surprisingly, the percentage of sawtimber stands in the state increased slightly to around one-third of forest acreage—mostly due to increases in hardwood sawtimber acreage. Spruce-fir sawtimber declined by 300,000 acres. Spruce-fir poletimber stands, however, declined by 1.71 million acres. There are three major explanations for this decline: maturation to sawtimber without equal recruitment from seedling/sapling stands, spruce budworm (mortality was highest in poletimber stands dominated by fir), and heavy cutting.

The maturation of poletimber to sawtimber explains why heavy cutting in sawtimber did not lead to acreage losses as large as one might expect. The latter two causes either removed enough spruce-fir to shift the balance to hardwoods or regenerated stands dominated by hardwoods.

Spruce-fir seedling/sapling acres increased by only half a million acres (hardly balancing out the losses in sawtimber and poletimber). It is therefore likely that some of the increases in seedling/sapling acreage of the northern hardwood type (0.4 million acres) and the aspen/birch type (0.3 million acres) were due to conversion from spruce-fir (graphs 2 and 3). Since a certain percentage of the seedling/sapling type matured into poletimber during the 13 years from 1982-1995, one can safely estimate that considerably more than 100,000 acres a year were converted to young forests by clearcuts and other means.

Regional Differences

As with trends in volume, there were big differences in changes of forest structure by region. Indeed, the three counties that showed the biggest drop in volume of spruce-fir, Aroostook, Piscataquis, and Somerset, also showed the biggest shifts towards seedling/sapling acreage. These are also the counties that had the most clearcuts (as determined from satellite photos).

In Aroostook County, an incredible 31% (up from 14%) of all acres are in the seedling/sapling stage (mostly in the spruce-fir type). There was a big drop in poletimber stands, but sawtimber stands held steady at around 38%. This is because of an increase in hardwood sawtimber making up for a decline in spruce-fir. In Piscataquis and Somerset the percentages in seedling/sapling are 29% (up from 15%) and 27% (up from 16%). Penobscot County also showed a big increase in percentage of seedling/sapling acres—24% (up from 14%). Most of this increase in Penobscot was in northern hardwoods and aspen/birch, not spruce-fir.

In the last article on the 1995 forest survey, I noted that despite predictions (based on 1982 data), Washington and Hancock Counties did not experience major declines in volume. Indeed, Hancock County had a major increase in volume, including a 37% increase in spruce and fir. In these two counties, the seedling/sapling type declined. This shows up in the volume tables as "ingrowth" (the volume increase that

occurs when trees too small to be measured in one survey become big enough to be measured in the next).

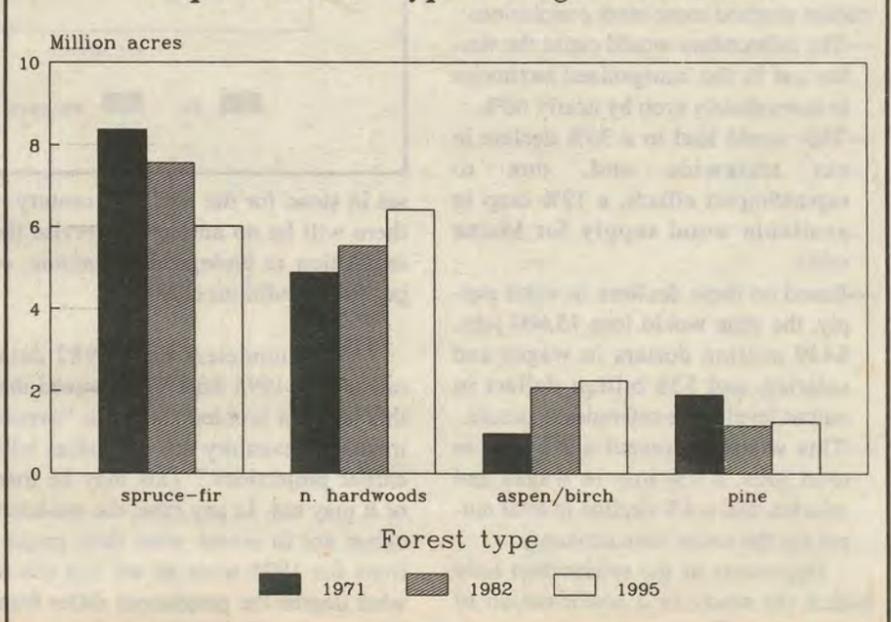
Viewing the structural data it becomes evident that these counties had their disasters prior to 1982. Between 1982 and 1995 they were recovering. In the 1982 survey, 35% of Washington county's acreage was in the seedling/sapling stage. In 1995, this had fallen slightly to 31%. With only 21.5% of its acreage in sawtimber, it is no wonder that this county has the lowest volume per acre of any county. Hancock

County went from having 28% of its acreage in seedling/sapling in 1982 to 16% in 1995. It also went from 19% of its acreage in sawtimber to 28% in 1995. This is the county that had the biggest jump in volume.

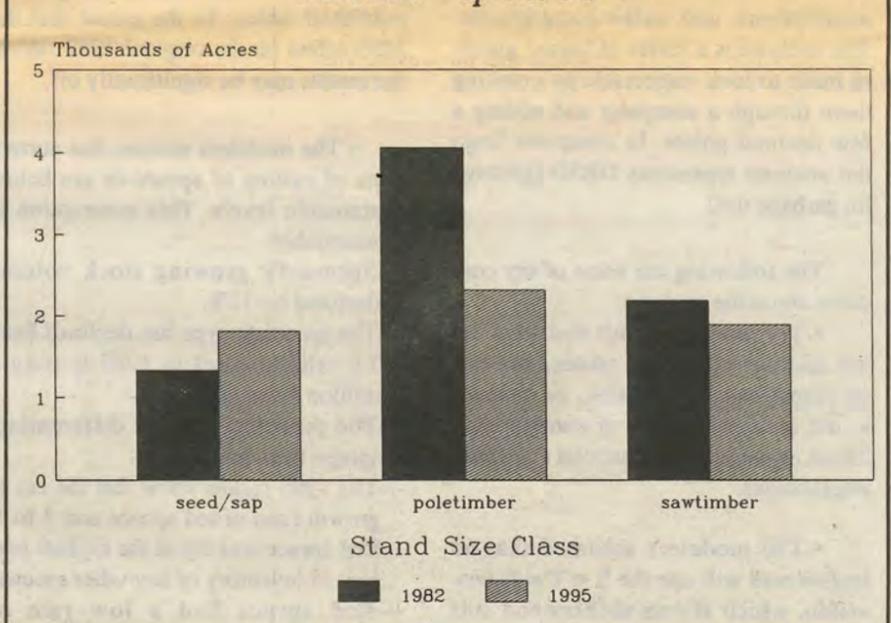
Conclusion

Bill Vail, head of the Maine Forest Products Council, had an editorial in the papers last month stating that the latest inventory shows that, "no matter how you slice the figures, the conclusion is *Continued on page 14*"

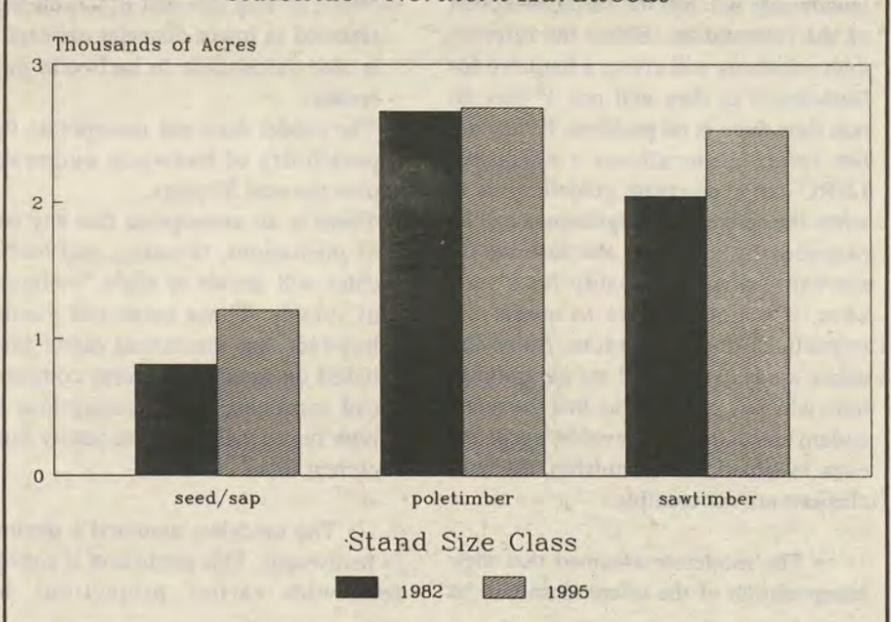
Graph 1: Forest Type Changes 1971-1995



Graph 2: Area by Stand Size Class Statewide—Spruce-Fir



Graph 3: Area by Stand Size Class Statewide—Northern Hardwoods



Taxpayers Foot Bill on Shoddy Economic Study Designed to Defeat Referendum

Critique of Maine Forest Service/ State Planning Office Analysis of the Economic Impact of the Citizens' Initiative to Promote Forest Rehabilitation and Eliminate Clearcutting

by Mitch Lansky

The publicly-funded analysis by the Maine Forest Service (MFS) and the State Planning Office (SPO) on the economic impacts of the ban-clearcut referendum reached some stark conclusions:

- The referendum would cause the timber cut in the unorganized territories to immediately drop by nearly 60%.
- This would lead to a 36% decline in cut statewide and, due to export/import effects, a 19% drop in available wood supply for Maine mills.
- Based on these declines in wood supply, the state would lose 15,600 jobs, \$439 million dollars in wages and salaries, and \$38 billion dollars in output level if the referendum passes.
- This would represent a 2% loss in total jobs, a 4% loss in wages and salaries, and a 4% decline in total output for the entire state economy.

Opponents of the referendum have hailed the study as a confirmation of their own predictions of disaster.

Unfortunately, the projections are based on flawed interpretations of the referendum, old data, questionable assumptions, and unfair comparisons. The analysis is a series of biased guesses made to look respectable by cranking them through a computer and adding a few decimal points. In computer lingo the analysis represents GIGO (garbage in, garbage out).

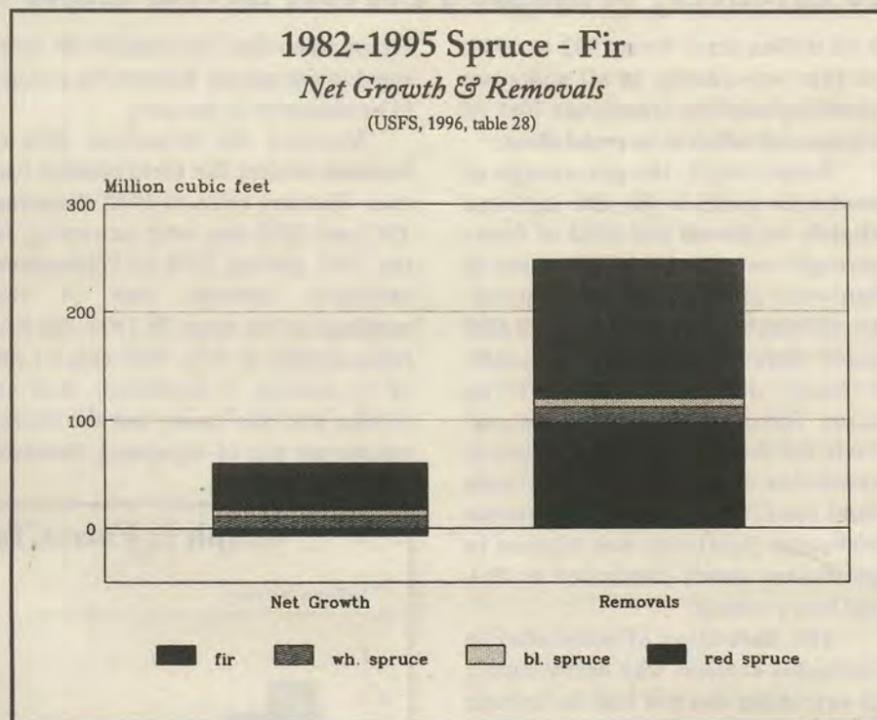
The following are some of my concerns about the analysis:

- The analysts admit that they did not address biological issues, impacts on forest-based recreation, or changes to the economic return of owning land. These issues can have serious economic implications.

- The modelers assumed that no landowners will use the S + T = R provision, which allows shelterwood cuts that exceed the stocking standards.

- The modelers assumed that no landowners will use the variance section of the referendum. Either the referendum standards will create a hardship for landowners or they will not. If they do not, then there is no problem. If they do, the referendum allows a variance. LURC can even create guidelines as to when the referendum regulations can be exceeded by variance. Because we do not know what will qualify for a variance, it is not possible to model the impacts of the referendum. Since the entire study was based on an assumption, which is surely false, that the referendum standards will never be exceeded even in situations of hardship, the conclusions are not credible.

- The modelers assumed that their interpretation of the referendum will be



set in stone for the next half century—there will be no attempts to revise the legislation as biological, economic, or political conditions change.

- The modelers used 1982 data, rather than 1995 data. They argued that this is not a problem, because “overall trends in inventory are consistent with earlier projections.” This may be true, or it may not. In any case, the modelers chose not to reveal what their projections for 1995 were so we can see to what degree the projections differ from the new data. The USFS has reinterpreted some of the 1982 tables and these reinterpretations are, in some cases significantly different from the originally-published tables. To the extent that the MFS relied on the original 1982 tables, the results may be significantly off.

- The modelers assume that current rates of cutting of spruce-fir are below sustainable levels. This assumption is questionable:

- Spruce-fir growing stock volume declined by 31%.
- The spruce-fir type has declined from 7.6 million acres in 1982 to only 6 million acres in 1995.
- The modelers did not differentiate spruce from fir.
- The 1995 results show that the cut to growth ratio of red spruce was 3 to 1. Red spruce was cut at the highest percent of inventory of any other species.
- Red spruce had a low rate of ingrowth, and a decline in lower diameter classes. It will not “rebound” in the next few decades.
- While fir may rebound (it is well represented in lower diameter classes) it is also susceptible to budworm outbreaks.
- The model does not incorporate the possibility of budworm outbreaks over the next 50 years.
- There is an assumption that any use of plantations, thinning, and herbicides will double or triple “traditional” yields. These increased yields, however, are theoretical rather than based on actual long-term commercial experience. Such assumptions of high future yields help to justify high current cuts.

- The modelers assumed a decline in hardwoods. This prediction is consistent with earlier projections by

Seymour/Lemin (1989) and with data from the MFS 1990 interim survey. However:

- Hardwood growing-stock volume increased by 13.5%. Cut was less than growth, especially for red maple.
- The northern hardwood and birch/aspens types both expanded with a total increase of over a million acres.
- Some hardwoods are well represented in smaller diameter classes (red maple, aspen, birch, white ash, beech).

- The Formaine model is weak in the following areas:

- It did not model the referendum standards on mixedwood stands, even though 53% of all the partial-cut acres 1991-1993 were on mixedwoods.
- It is not good at modeling partial cuts, commercial thinnings, or uneven-aged management (even though this is what would be the norm with the referendum).
- It is not good at predicting mortality (such as budworm outbreaks).
- It is based on height/age models that are questionable (trees must be free to grow to reach expected height).

- The modelers made unfair comparisons:

- They compared cut and inventory effects of the simplified referendum standards to a theoretical “sustainable” cut, rather than to current, market-constrained cutting. Yet, there are no existing regulations to ensure that the cut is sustainable.
- The modelers suggest that current cutting for hardwood is unsustainable. Yet they did not model the impact to jobs and wood supply if this trend continues.
- Cut has never been a constant, it rises to meet demands, and falls when demands are slack. Seymour/Lemin (1989) projected shortfalls in the next century in major species types (including northern hardwoods, intolerant hardwoods, and spruce-fir) if cutting levels correspond to projections of demand. The state modelers did not project the impact of these trends on jobs and wood supply.
- The modelers compared the “operable inventory” under current practices (where anything can be cut) with that

under the referendum (where only stands with adequate stocking can be cut). This ignores the fact that landowners generally wait for stands to have enough wood before they cut, purely for economic reasons. The MFS data for 1991-1993 show that in more than 91% of all the acres of partial cuts, the pre-harvest stocking was above the referendum standards. This neat little trick of the modelers makes it appear as if the forest will immediately collapse due to the referendum. What is more likely is that the total forest inventory will increase over the next 50 years. For some reason, the modelers did not want to graphically display this change to the public.

- The MFS modelers assumed that it is perfectly acceptable to “sustain” the current low volume and quality of the forest. In some regions, where the average volume per acre is abysmally low, it seems reasonable to suggest that the forest be allowed to recover—to defer heavy cutting now so that higher levels of cut can be sustained later. In other words, if cut is greater than growth, or if stocking is so low that “sustaining” these levels means low productivity, there should be a lower level of cutting in the short term. The modelers avoided even framing such a question, let alone projecting the results.

- The modelers assumed a 40% increase in logging costs. Yet industrial and large non-industrial landowners met or exceeded referendum stocking standards on around 44% of the acres of their partial cuts 1991-1993. Apparently they did not perceive the costs to be a severe burden or they would not have done this. It is hard to believe that logging costs are 50% higher for a cut to 65 square feet of basal area in hardwoods (which would meet the standards) than for a cut to 85 square feet of basal area in softwoods (which would be below the standards).

On the large non-industrial, 60% of the partial-cut acres 1991-1993 removed less than 33% of the basal area (to be fair, many of these cuts left less than referendum stocking standards). Again, if such “light” cutting is burdensome, these landowners would not have done it.

- The MFS modelers did not model the 33% provision of the referendum—instead they assumed cutting would have to be done on 15 year cutting cycles down to referendum stocking standards. It is quite likely, however, that many landowners will leave higher stocking than the regulatory minimum for silvicultural reasons. If they cut to (or above) the B-line (or recommended stocking for uneven-aged stands) they might have higher growth and quality than accounted for in the MFS model.

- If landowners want better logging practices (i.e., better stocking, better quality, less residual damage) they should be willing to pay for it. To the extent that current logging results in understocked stands with poor quality trees and excessive residual damage, logging costs should increase. Trained, professional loggers doing skilled, but hazardous work deserve appropriate compensation. This should be consid-

ered an investment in improved forestry, rather than an unrewarded cost.

- The MFS modelers assumed a 15% increase in stumpage prices but looked at this from the mill's perspective as lowering profits and hurting regional competitiveness. It surely is not a problem for non-industrial landowners and woodlot owners. Pulpwood stumpage in Maine has been kept artificially low due to oligopsony and vertical integration. Higher stumpage means that landowners can cut less wood and make more money. It is a better deal for small landowners than some of the tax breaks that are being proposed. It also means more money available for investment in better management. *Stumpage ought to rise, regardless of the reputed impacts of the referendum.*

- Since wood supply is only 6.4% of the cost of pulp and paper, *raising harvesting and stumpage prices would have an insignificant impact on the cost of the final product.* The modelers, using a 40% increase in logging costs and a 15% increase in stumpage only came up with a 1% increase in the cost of making pulp and paper. Other regions of the world, such as Sweden, have higher stumpage rates, higher labor costs, and stricter pollution standards, yet they seem to be competitive.

- The MFS modelers assumed a substantial multiplier effect from the projected reductions in available wood supply, including more than 8,600 jobs lost in other sectors besides paper and lumber, \$205 million lost in wages, and \$490 million lost in output. For example, the modelers predict that in the first year of the referendum the following sectors will experience these losses:

Sector	Lost Jobs
Restretail	1,445
Eating/Drinking	507
Amuse & Recreation	90
Motion Pictures	16
Medical	769
Education	239
Hotels	40

The SPO modelers did not explain why all these jobs would be lost immediately, the year of referendum goes into effect. Assuming these jobs are lost, one wonders why workers would not get unemployment compensation (so they could afford to eat) or why the state would not help to retrain the workers

for other jobs.

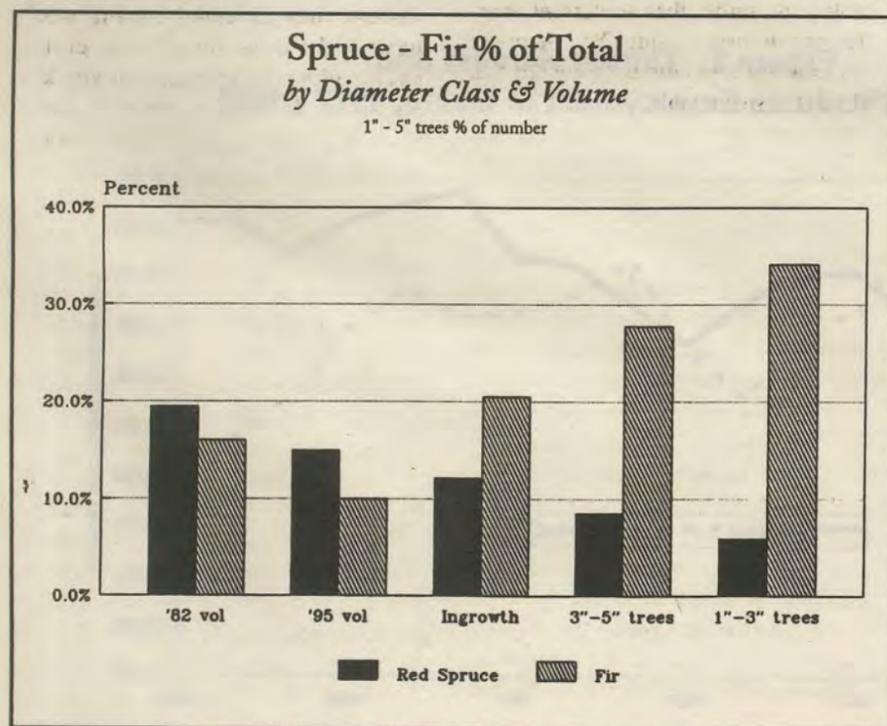
If mill job losses only reduce total employment in the state by one half of one percent, why would movie theaters, restaurants, or hotels immediately lose employees? In a state with large fluctuations of tourists, how could one even notice such a small impact?

During the budworm EIS process, the USFS and the MFS both rejected using secondary costs and benefits in their cost/benefit analyses because of the complexity of such an undertaking and because of the potential for misleading conclusions. It is not fair, as the SPO did, to project secondary costs, but not secondary benefits of the impacts of the referendum. Economies are not linear entities where a single cause has a single, simple effect.

In the Pacific Northwest, where logging was not only regulated, but, on many public lands, stopped, the economy actually boomed due to expansion of other sectors. Indeed, even as there were massive job losses in aerospace and timber, this region led the nation in job creation, income creation, and success in attracting new businesses and residents. Thus there were plenty of people to amuse, feed, or give haircuts to besides loggers. The Maine modelers did not even consider the possibilities of economic diversification, but instead depended on the old argument that "the world will end as we know it."

A consensus report endorsed by 34 economists from the Pacific Northwest concluded that "Political forces, even powerful special interests, cannot bring back the economy of a past era. The unique natural resources of the Pacific Northwest remain among its most important economic assets. But the new jobs and income that are vital to the region's economic future will depend more on the *protection* of those assets than on their degradation." Put in another way, they stated that, "because people care where they live and because businesses care where people choose to live, environmental quality has a positive impact on the local economy."

Another study by the Natural Resources Defense Council of California's Sierra Nevada region found that declines in timber cutting did not lead to declines in the overall economy. On the contrary, other sectors more than made up for any losses. The study concluded that, "the data presented here show that the 'economy versus the environment' rhetoric so common in public debate today is outmoded and inaccurate..."



For those who would compromise the forest

the spirits of the lost trees,
the spirits of the plants,
the moss spirits, the rock spirits
consign you to a hell of
no birds, a dry spare hell where
your name will be known as desolation,
ruiner of planets, the lonely soul who
lives without the friendship of life,
without the solace of species -
the ghosts of those you have
pushed aside will follow you as
you move toward dryness, dust
and empty skies -
surely goodness and mercy will
leave your wretched life untouched
as you dwell forever in
a land without life,
trying to remember the sound
of birds, the sound of wind,
the sound of your own heart.

Gary Lawless

rate..."

- The SPO modelers neglected to account for current trends of the status quo:

- There already has been a loss of thousands of jobs since 1980 in paper and lumber manufacturing and in logging. Indeed current woods employment is 50% of that in 1984.

- Paper companies have successfully lowered their share of state income tax and even property tax.

- The market perceives a shortfall. Maine is a net importer of 17% of its wood.

What were the multiplier effects from these losses...which have already happened?

Simply stating the level of economic activity does not establish that the people of the state benefit from the billions in added value. With absentee landowners (and profits leaving the state), with low taxes, with foreign workers (and wages leaving the state), with exported sawlogs (and value-added leaving the state), and with many external costs, the status quo is not as beneficial to the state as the figures given by the SPO would indicate. A more honest socio-economic study would be more forthright about how benefits and costs are distributed.

- The SPO model has a hidden assumption—that the geometric growth of consumption of our entire economy can be sustained over the next century without serious political or ecological consequences. We can also expect no wars, no recessions, no political instability, as well as no budworms. There is a growing literature questioning the assumption of "sustainable growth" and suggesting that restraint, conservation, reuse, and recycling all should have a more prominent role for the future. Mine it up, use it up, throw it out is a recipe for cultural collapse.

- The SPO analysts argued that if only Maine passes restrictive regulations, companies operating here will choose to invest elsewhere. Unless there

is a "level playing field" (i.e., every region passing the same regulations all at once), "the referendum will adversely impact the ability of Maine firms to compete in a global marketplace."

This argument would effectively halt the ability of any region to pass any regulation that is more restrictive than regulations in any other region. Put in other words, it says that to stay "competitive" we must sink to the lowest regulatory common denominator in the world. There are some simple phrases that describe such an argument; "job blackmail," or "the race to the bottom."

While some companies may operate by such standards, these are not the type of companies we want in Maine. There is ample evidence that lowering taxes, lowering public investments, lowering worker protections, or lowering environmental standards can *hurt* a region's ability to compete. Many people and companies locate in a region because of the *quality* of the environment, the workplace, and the community.

The public outcry against widespread clearcutting, herbicide spraying, understocking, and highgrading indicates that many people feel that environmental and aesthetic qualities are being compromised. Continuing these practices on tens of thousands of acres every year is no way to build a healthy, diverse economy. The status quo is already losing jobs to mechanization, sawlog exports, and labor imports. The industrial forest regions have high unemployment, low wages, poor education, and population drains. Some companies are acknowledging that they are facing at least several decades of shortfalls of spruce and fir. Denile is de river in Africa. It should not be the stance of the state on forestry issues.

Resources Mentioned:

- Unpublished 1995 MFS data on forest practices 1991-1993.
- Seymour and Lemin 1989, Timber Supply Projections for Maine, 1980-2080, CFRU Research Bulletin 7.
- Economic Well-Being and Environmental Protection in the Pacific Northwest, A Consensus Report by Pacific Northwest Economists, December 1995. 19 pgs.
- Yassa, Diamont, and Fine, Felling the Myth: The Role of Timber in the Economy of California's Sierra Nevada, Natural Resources Defense Council, 1995. 49 pgs.

Anti-Clearcut Referendum Economic Impact Study by State Riddled With Biased, Faulty Assumptions

by Spencer Phillips
The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society has not taken a position on the Citizens' Initiative to Promote Forest Rehabilitation and Eliminate Clearcutting. It supports, however, the opportunity for Maine's citizens to have a say in how their forests are managed and hopes that consideration of the referendum will have the benefit of reasonable arguments on all sides. The State Forest Service/State Planning Office (MFS/SPO) economic impact study missed a chance to provide that argument. In the interest of a more level playing field, to borrow a phrase from the State's report, Wilderness Society economist Spencer Phillips has taken a look at the report's assumptions, methods and conclusions and offers additional information the State missed or ignored.

Editor's Abstract: This article demonstrates the amount of raw fiber harvested from Maine's forests has no effect on forest products employment in the state. This finding debunks the central assumption of the MFS/SPO Economic Impact Study. The input-output model used by MFS/SPO to predict 15,600 jobs will be lost due to the Referendum is very limited in value, is inflexible, and, worse, multiplies errors in assumptions. Predictions that investment will decline if the Referendum passes fail to explain the significant decline in industry investment in Maine in the last 15 years. Perhaps industry realizes existing capacity is sufficient to process the state's dwindling supply of quality spruce and fir, and that the degraded condition of the Maine woods does not justify investment in new plants and equipment. Indeed, passage of the Referendum, by encouraging improved timber quality and availability over the long-term, could actually stimulate increased forest industry investment in Maine.

Some of What the Study Knows for Certain Just Isn't So

The question that goes most glaringly unasked in the "Economic Impact" study is "what is the relationship between timber harvest and forest products manufacturing employment in the State of Maine?" The study assumes that timber harvest is the *sine qua non* of forest products employment. Yet, those jobs have been disappearing over the years even as timber harvest has increased (See Figure 1). That doesn't mean that timber harvesting eliminates jobs, but it does beg the question of what role harvesting does play.

Consider one possible story or model:

Both Lumber and Wood Products (standard industry classification 24) and Paper and Allied Products (SIC 26) rely on wood fiber as raw material. Reduce the availability of raw material, it is reasonable to hypothesize, and you reduce in number, or at least change the mix of, people making forest products. Sure, a reduction in harvest volume could induce more jobs reclaiming used wood fiber, managing forests for higher quality, engineering machines for greater efficiency, and other occupations. But at some point, less raw fiber being processed *must* mean fewer jobs in the industry. *Other things being equal*, expected forest products employment should go up and down with harvest levels.

But other things are seldom equal, so we need to consider what else might explain changes in forest products manufacturing employment. Both the lumber and paper industries are cyclical—their fortunes reflect the ups and downs of the larger economy. For example, there are fewer housing starts and, therefore, less demand for construction lumber in a recession. When the economy picks up people and businesses buy more wood and paper products. *Other things being equal*, then, expected forest products employment would go up and down with overall economic performance.

Over the course of time, wood harvesting and processing technology will change. Adopting so-called labor-saving (and here that means labor-cost-saving) technologies like fellerbunchers and automated paper and lumber mill equipment reduces the number of

woods- and mill workers needed to cut and process a given amount of wood fiber or to produce a given amount of paper or lumber. So, *other things being equal*, one would expect forest products employment to go down over time.

Statistical time-series analysis provides a way to hold other things equal and examine individual phenomena like the relationship between timber harvest and forest products employment. By estimating the statistical relationship between forest products employment, timber harvest, overall economic output and the march of time, it is possible to test hypotheses like "Timber harvest has a positive effect on forest products employment." Maine's Economic Impact study depends critically on the truth of this hypothesis, but the State Economist has not produced any evidence that it is true.

Data for a statistical model of forest products employment in Maine includes:

- full- and part-time employment in forest products manufacturing in Maine (from the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the U.S. Department of Commerce);
- the volume (in cords) of all sawlog, pulpwood and biomass chips harvested in Maine (from Maine State Forest Service reports);
- real Gross State Product, or GSP (in millions of 1987 dollars) is an indicator of how the statewide economy is doing and provides the model with a sense of the cycles to which forest products manufacturing responds. (GSP estimates come from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.) In addition to the current year's GSP, the statistical model includes GSP in the previous year. The lagged term improves the model by helping avoid the statistical problem of serial correlation. It may also make economic sense as firms may take some time to adjust their work force in response to changes in the overall economy.
- an assigned time trend variable (serving as a proxy for the advance of technology) runs from 0 in 1977 to 15 in 1992. (1977 - 1992 is the period for which the other data are all available.)

The model also includes a constant term to account for the background level of forest products employment.

A linear least-squares estimation of the statistical model produces the results depicted in Figure 2 and is summarized by the "Equation for Forest Products Employment Used to Derive Figure 2" (in box above figure 2):

and these summary statistics:

R ²	0.882
F-Statistic	18.7
Probability (F-Statistic)	0.000123
Durbin-Watson Statistic	1.8
Standard Error of the Regression	619.5

The regression equation explains 88 percent of the variation in forest products employment (R²). Moreover, it is likely that as a group, the independent variables are useful for explaining changes in forest products employment (based on the F statistic and the low probability of obtaining a larger F-statistic with another set of data). It is highly unlikely, in other words, that random guessing will work better than the model in predicting forest products employment. The Durbin-Watson statistic is reasonably close to two, so it is unlikely that serial correlation is plaguing the estimates.

Estimated forest products employment differs from actual forest products employment by no more than 619.5 jobs, at least for two-thirds of the years in the sample (the standard error of regression). Put another way, if we pick a year at random, forest products employment in that year will fall within 619.5 jobs of this model's estimated forest products employment 67 percent of the time.

The standard errors of the equation's estimated coefficients appear in square brackets beneath the coefficient estimates. In general, an independent variable (Cords Harvested, for example) is statistically significant in explaining variation in the dependent variable (Forest Products Employment) if its coefficient estimate is two or more times the standard error of the estimate.

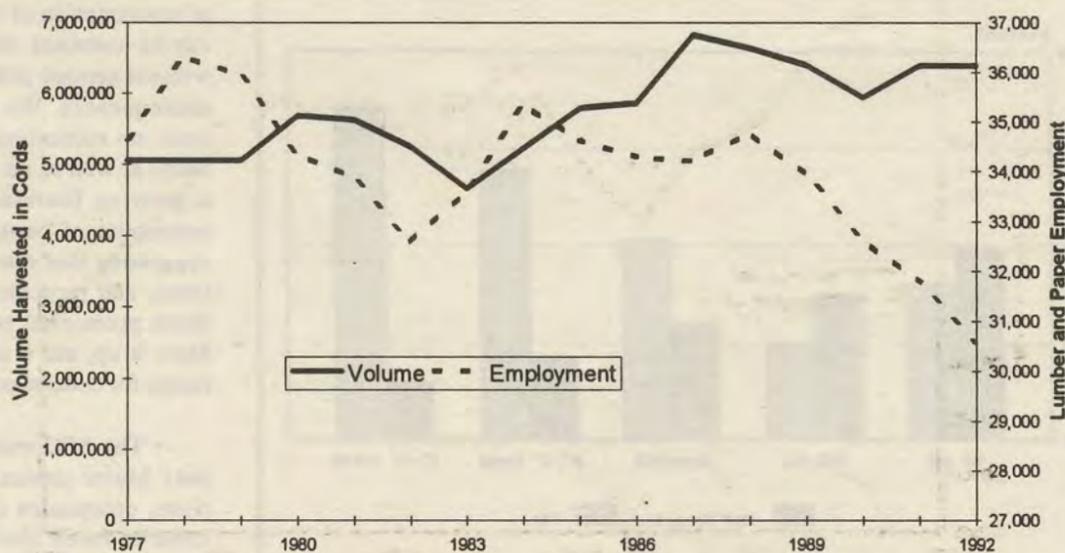
In this model, base employment, time, GSP and lagged GSP are all statistically significant. Consistent with the story, forest products employment is higher in good years, and it becomes smaller over time, as labor saving technology is adopted. That the estimated effect of last year's GSP is negative may mean that forest products employment does not swing as widely as GSP or that the industry's response takes longer than just one year.

The significance of these estimates means we can say with 95% confidence, for example, that a one million dollar increase in real GSP translates into almost two more jobs in forest products manufacturing, *other things being equal*. While that additional GSP is accruing, time / technological change is wearing away at forest products employment a rate of 805 jobs per year. Does that mean that without large increases in GSP that all of the 30,000 forest products jobs remaining in Maine will disappear in 30 years or so? Not at all. Just as the variables will change over time, so might the relationship between them—a point to keep in mind for a full appreciation of the State of Maine's impact study.

Finally, consider the statistical relationship between the volume of wood removed from Maine's forests and the number of forest products jobs held by Mainers. It is strikingly insignificant. In fact one could say that *the amount of raw fiber harvested from Maine's forests has no effect whatever on forest products employment in the State* and be right almost three-quarters of the time.

That is an admittedly quick look at the relationship

Figure 1: Timber Harvest and Forest Products Employment in Maine, 1977 - 1992



between timber extraction and forest products jobs. More sophisticated econometric techniques and more extensive data could yield more precise estimates, but the model depicted in Figure 2 is economically reasonable, and it is a fairly sound description of the data available as a result of past experience. Based on this model, it is very likely that reductions in timber harvest that may result from implementing the citizens' initiative would not affect employment in forest products manufacturing.

The Economic Impact Analysis' Story

A different story lies behind the State Economist's economic impact report. It starts with the assumption that the referendum's provision to eliminate clearcutting in the unorganized territories would reduce the volume of fiber extracted from Maine's forests by 36%. The story continues that timber buyers will respond to that change by increasing net imports, but that a 19% reduction in wood supply would persist. Paper mills and sawmills competing for the reduced supply of raw material are assumed to bid up the price of mill delivered wood by 17%. The 17% increase, like the 19% shortfall is assumed to be permanent, or at least to persist for five years.

These two assumptions are then used to stimulate or disturb a model of Maine's state economy based on "input-output" tables. An input-output model is essentially a huge grid or matrix, with each industry represented by one row and one column of the matrix. Cells in the grid record the proportion of the value of the output of each industry that is purchased by every other industry as well as the proportion of the value of each industry's inputs that is purchased from every other industry.

The input-output matrices track an initial disturbance through the entire economy. If one assumes a reduction in output from the paper industry, the input-output matrices translate the reduction into reduced purchases of paper by other industries and reduced purchases of other goods and services by the paper industry.

Each of those reductions represents a new disturbance with impacts propagated throughout the economy. Once all the disturbances have played themselves out, the so-called direct and indirect employment impact of the initial disturbance is calculated as the difference between pre-disturbance employment and post-

disturbance employment for all industries.

In the State's analysis, the estimated reduction in forest products output resulting from the assumed reduction in timber supply and the assumed increase in timber prices create a "disturbance" in the economy. The input-output model translates and amplifies that disturbance to produce the 15,600-jobs-lost estimate.

The Input-Output Approach is Limited: Application Can Multiply Errors in Assumptions

The most limiting aspect of input-output modeling in general is that it assumes that all industries obey a very strict rule: every dollar's worth of output is produced in exactly the same way as every other dollar's worth of output. Input-output models allow for no adjustments in production technology as the scale of production changes. They also allow for no adjustments over time as new technologies become available. Finally, as what is essentially an accounting system for translating an exogenous disturbance to other parts of the economy, the quality of the result can only be as good as the quality of the assumptions about the disturbance.

None of these limitations make the input-output completely irrelevant, but they do raise issues that are important to the analysis in question. First, forest products manufacturing technology has changed over time. For example, recycled pulp was not an important input for the paper industry nine years ago. Now some 40 percent of the industry's raw material comes from sources other than raw logs. Yet, the input-output tables used for the State's analysis come from national survey data collected in 1987. By the time it projects the impacts out five years from 1997, the State's analysis implicitly imposes the restrictive assumption that every good and service produced in Maine in 2001 will be produced in exactly the same way that it was produced in 1987.

More importantly, the assumptions about reduced wood supply and higher wood costs are the critical pieces of the State's analysis. If these assumptions are inaccurate or poorly applied, the input-output results will be useless. I cannot comment on the assumptions directly, but there is at least one error in their application that would overstate the effect of higher prices on the industry.

One of the industries that make up the larger lum-

ber and wood products industry is logging and logging contractors, who would collect, rather than pay the assumed higher price for logs and chips. The input-output model, however, makes no distinction between the buyers and sellers within the lumber and wood products industry, and the disturbance resulting from the price increase is applied to the entire industry, even those who do not face the price increase in the first place.

Some further statistical checking along the lines of the employment and timber harvest model given above reveals that neither personal income in forest products manufacturing nor the contribution of forest products manufacturing to Gross State Product is statistically related to harvest levels. Indeed, the closest that harvest volume comes to a significant relationship with the economic performance of the forest products industry is as a negative predictor of the industry's contribution to GSP. That is, forest products GSP may fall as timber harvest rises.

Based on such results, it is quite possible that reduced wood supply (*again, assuming it occurs*) will have little or no effect on the economic performance of the State's forest products industry. Since that is the assumed effect driving the input-output analysis, the overall results are questionable at best.

According to the Planning Office's report, its advisory panel proclaimed the report's assumptions "within the range of feasible outcomes." There is no mention of the basis for this consensus among the five economists nor is there any indication of how wide the "range of feasible outcomes" is. The statistical analysis above shows that an outcome of zero effect on forest products output is within the feasible range, so it is likely that the feasible range of the intermediate effect of a price increase includes zero as well. A responsible look at the potential economic impact of the referendum would have provided a range of impact estimates to match the full range of disturbance possibilities.

Other Disturbances Should Have Been Considered

Since the State was evidently comfortable with the inherent weaknesses of input-output modeling, it at least should have gone through the exercise for all of the likely effects of implementing the clearcutting referendum. For example, it is increasingly understood that quality of life, including the quality of the natural environment, are import to individuals' and businesses' choice of location. The Maine Alliance and Maine Chamber of Commerce and Industry recognized this phenomenon in its publication *Charting Maine's Economic Future* (January, 1994). The Alliance and Chamber cited the quality of Maine's environment and natural resources as a factor in the potential for growth of nearly every industry highlighted in its report. The State's study of the Citizen's Initiative, by contrast, gives no hint that improved environmental quality resulting from implementation of the referendum would foster growth in any sector.

Neither does the State's analysis consider the potential adverse effect of failure to pass the referendum or otherwise deal seriously with widely recognized problems in Maine's forests. Recent referenda in Colorado, denying civil rights to homosexuals, and in Arizona, blocking the creation of a holiday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., contribute, fairly or not, to an impression of those states as havens for intolerance and bigotry. If that impression is strong enough to turn away would-be visitors, residents or business managers, then the economic impacts would be very real.

There is no telling how many people will actively avoid Maine should her voters reject the referendum. Nor is it certain that failing to improve forest management would earn forest products "Made in Maine" a reputation akin to the one that garments "Made in Honduras" are enjoying today. It is likely, however, that more than a few vacation, product purchase and location decisions will tip away from the favor of Maine soil and Maine businesses. Maine's environmental reputation is a valuable asset that deserves at least some consideration in the State's analysis.

Discussion of Future Impacts

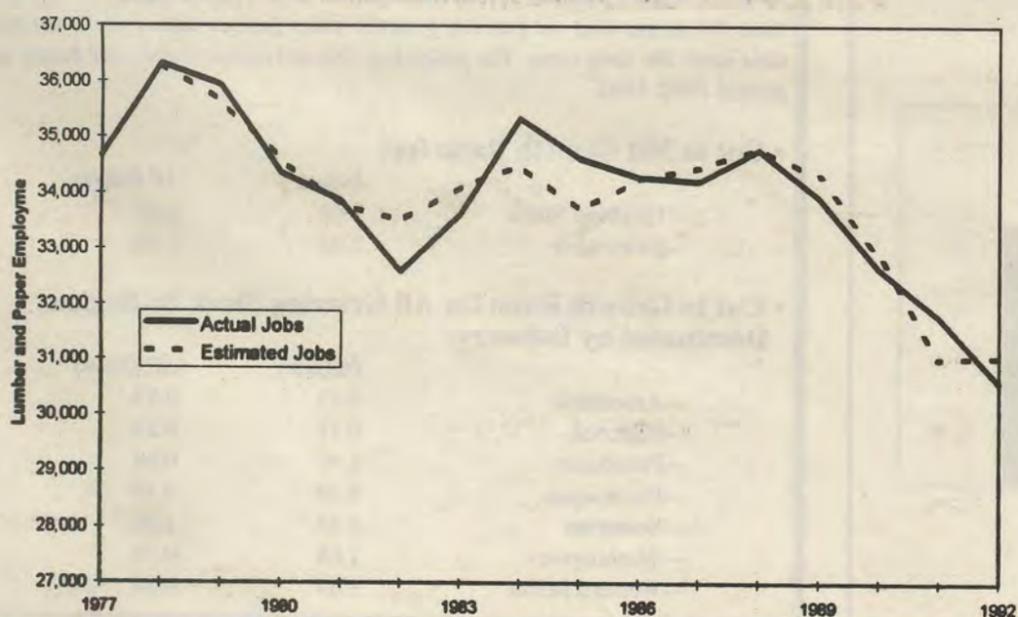
Given the demonstrable statistical weakness of the
Continued on next page

Equation for Forest Products Employment Used to Derive Figure 2: "Actual & Fitted Regression Results"

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Forest Products Employment} &= 24242 - 0.00043 (\text{Cords Harvested}) - 805.7 (\text{Time}) \\ &\quad [2936.9] \quad [0.00046] \quad [146.1] \\ &+ 1.86 (\text{GSP}) - 0.79 (\text{Lagged GSP}) \\ &\quad [0.37] \quad [0.36] \end{aligned}$$

The standard errors of the equation's estimated coefficients appear in square brackets beneath the coefficient estimates. In general, an independent variable (Cords Harvested, for example) is statistically significant in explaining variation in the dependent variable (Forest Products Employment) if its coefficient estimate is two or more times the standard error of the estimate.

Figure 2: Actual and Fitted Regression Results



Phillips-Economic Study

Continued from preceding page

State's treatment of near-term economic impacts, the certitude the report bestows on speculation about the effect of the Citizens' Initiative on future forest products industry investment is breathtaking. In the executive summary, for example, the report states that "[the advisory] panel of economists identified longer term economic impacts that, although difficult to quantify, are significant." Such statements suggest not only extreme overconfidence in the ability of economists to identify impacts that occur in the future, but also profound disregard for what it means to label those impacts significant.

Later in the report, a footnote mentions "significant reductions in capital investment which [the forest products] sectors might also be expected to face" if the Citizens' Initiative is approved by the voters. The sense in which the reductions are significant and the base against which the reductions should be measured is not clear.

The report also references a Jaakko Poyry study documenting the industry's long-standing reluctance to locate capital investments in Maine. Because that trend predates the referendum and even Maine's existing forest practices regulations, the Economic Impact study should explain how the referendum's passage would affect that trend. In other words, if the industry is already draw-

ing down its built capital (plant and equipment) in Maine why would continuing to permit the industry to draw down its natural capital encourage more investment in the state?

It is possible that the industry regards existing capacity as sufficient for processing the State's dwindling supply of quality spruce and fir, but that the outlook for future raw material supply is not good enough to warrant new plant and equipment investments. If so, the referendum's passage, by encouraging improved timber quality and availability over the long run, could actually stimulate forest industry investment in Maine.

That is one economist's speculation, of course, and should be taken as such. Just don't repeat that the referendum's positive effects on timber industry investments would be "significant." And don't believe it about the "significant" negative effects "identified" in the Maine State Economist's report either.

P.S. In the interest of encouraging healthy skepticism toward economic estimates like those in the Maine State Economist's impact analysis and the statistical models mentioned above, I will be happy to provide the raw data used in my analysis to anyone who sends me a stamped, self-addressed envelope or an internet address. Send your request to me at The Wilderness Society, 900 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 or spencer_phillips@tws.org.

What Do the CEOs Make?

The centerpiece of the attack on the Ban Clearcutting Referendum in Maine is the claim that the Referendum will cost jobs of millworkers, loggers and others. Of course, industry's concern for these workers was singularly absent in the period 1985-1995 when over 3,000 millworkers lost jobs in Maine as industry downsized for greater profits—and bloated CEO salaries. Apparently industry only cares about the plight of workers when environmental regulations are proposed.

- According to the *Wall Street Journal*, CEOs of 30 major corporations are compensated at 212 times the salary of the average American worker, a five-fold increase since 1965.

- According to *Business Week* between 1990-1995:

- CEO pay increased 92%
- Corporate profits increased 75%
- Worker pay increased 16%
- Worker layoffs increased 39%/

- In 1992, the richest one percent owned 42 % of the wealth of the US.

- From 1979-1992 98% of the \$826 billion increase in household income went to the top 20% of the population. Most American families lost ground.

- To see how little the paper and timber industry pay in taxes in Maine and nationally, see "Maine Forest and Paper Industry Tax Index" on the back cover of volume 4 #5 of the *Forum* (Summer Solstice 1996).

- Here are the 1995 salaries (total direct compensation) of the CEOs of some of the paper companies that operate in Maine (source *The Wall Street Journal*):

George J. Harad	Boise-Cascade	\$1,606,100
Alston D. Correll	Georgia Pacific	\$2,262,000
John A. Georges	IP	\$3,520,900
Miles L. Marsh	James River	\$1,940,900

'95 Forest Inventory

Continued from page 9

clear: Our forests are healthy and flourishing." In the last 13 years spruce-fir, the primary forest type and the mainstay of the forest industry, has declined in both volume and area. Red spruce is in decline in smaller diameter classes. Fir, prime food for the budworm, makes up 34% of all trees 1-3 inches in diameter. Seedling/sapling acreage has increased. Spruce-fir sawtimber can be expected to decrease because the poletimber acreage, which saved sawtimber this time, is not as abundant for next time. Poor-quality hardwoods, suitable for low-value pulpwood, have thrived, increasing in both acreage and volume.

Indeed red maple, aspen, and "other non-commercial hardwoods," dominate the smaller diameter classes.

Since much of this land has been under professional management by industrial and large landowners over this period, and since Vail believes there is no problem, these shifts, must have been intentional. The companies, apparently, are weeding out the red spruce and favoring the red maples and poplars for silvicultural reasons.

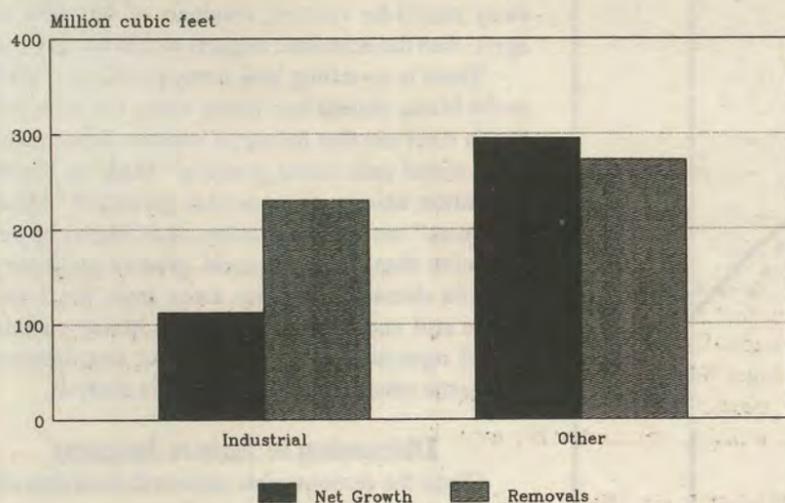
Vail concluded his editorial with the following statement: "We encourage a debate on the health of our forests. Let's just be certain that discussion is grounded in fact, rather than relying on misinterpretations that will have a devastating impact on our state." I agree.



Cut/Growth 1982-1995

Industrial vs. Other Owners

(USFS, 1996, table 29)



How's Industry Doing? - The Facts

Cut to growth ratios compare the rate of cutting to the rate of growth. Therefore, a ratio of 1.0 means cut equals growth for a given area. A ratio less than 1.0 means that cut is less than growth and is sustainable. A ratio greater than 1.0 means that cut exceeds growth; ratios greater than 1.0 are not sustainable over the long term. The following Cut to Growth Ratios are based on the period 1982-1995.

• Cut to Net Growth Ratio for:

	Industry	All Others
—Growing Stock	2.04	0.92
—Sawtimber	1.54	1.05

• Cut to Growth Ratio for All Growing Stock by Regions Dominated by Industry:

	Industry	All Others
—Aroostook	1.92	2.23
—Hancock	0.31	0.24
—Penobscot	1.50	0.64
—Piscataquis	5.19	3.17
—Somerset	3.33	1.20
—Washington	1.66	0.76
—Western Maine	1.64	0.83

How to Ensure the Defeat of Public Forestry Initiatives

- * Lay the foundations for success:
 - Give ample contributions to gubernatorial candidates and make sure they appoint a commissioner of Conservation and Maine Forest Service director who have forest industry backgrounds.
 - Give contributions to members of the legislature who have positions of importance in key committees.
 - Make sure that all appointed regulatory or policy-making committees are "balanced" (i.e., have some industry-friendly members).

* Deny there is a problem. Use the controversy as an opportunity to advertise what a good job you are doing.

* Give your industry a positive image. Claim that your management practices are "sustainable." Put advertisements on T.V. showing free-running rivers, leaping trout, soaring eagles, browsing moose, and big trees (no clearcuts please!).

* Remind the public of the economic importance of the industry and all the multiple uses available on your land. Without directly saying it, imply that this will all be lost if you are regulated.

* Remind the public that your land is private property, but that you are doing them a favor by allowing them access.

* State that your industry is "already over-regulated."

* Claim that current regulations are "already working."

* If this claim is not accepted, you can still stall and yet look responsible. Ask for "more time to see if current regulations are working."

* If this isn't working, ask for a study, and even offer to help pay some of the costs.

* Make sure you influence the design of the study to prevent unwanted outcomes.

* If a study is done, no matter what the results, interpret them to support the contention that there is no problem.

* Activists will try to stir up the public by showing photos of ugly clearcuts. Have ready explanations:

- Blame the spruce budworm for heavy cutting.

—State that your current practices are "needed to prevent a shortfall."

—If someone points out that it is odd to try to prevent a shortfall by accelerating cutting, state that the cutting is needed to regenerate a new, fast-growing forest.

—Give your practices a positive spin. Call them "high-yield" or "intensive."

—Emphasize that practices are "scientific" and that the foresters who prescribe the practices are "professionals."

—Argue that current practices are "natural" because severe disturbances are natural.

—Point to species that benefit from heavy cutting and claim that current practices are good for wildlife. Argue that restricting heavy cutting would actually cause wildlife to suffer.

—Admit that the practices "may not look good," but state that "they are necessary and beneficial" and that they will look good and be productive later.

* Make sure you use the following



words as often as possible in association with proposed regulations: "extreme," "drastic," and "irresponsible."

* Misinterpret the regulations to be far more strict than they really are. If the regulations should pass (they won't if you follow these strategies), interpret them as loosely as possible. Find every loophole.

* Claim that the regulations will lead to an economic disaster. Give exact-sounding figures for the expected losses, but do not allow the public to see the source of the figures. If possible, get the state to back up your claims with its own study.

* If the regulation restricts any forest practices, claim that the regulations "won't allow good forestry," and imply that all forestry is restricted.

* Refer to the regulations as a "takings." Get the sympathy and support of small landowners. Indeed, get them riled up enough so that they fight your battles for you.

* Convince employees and suppliers that their jobs are on the line if any regulations pass. Make them fight your battles for you.

* Bankroll a "citizens" group to oppose the regulations. Don't give it an "anti" or negative name. "Paper Companies Against the Public Initiative" will not do. Use positive words like "citizens" or "healthy."

* Engage the most respected timber management companies (i.e., major suppliers that may have ties to environmental groups) to be the "poster child" for the anti-regulatory fight. Claim that the regulations won't allow them to do their good forestry, but don't specify what that "good management" is. Let the public think that good management is prohibited.

* Portray your side as "responsible"



and "reasonable." Any groups that agree with you can also claim to be responsible and reasonable.

* In any way possible, try to portray opponents as irresponsible or even malicious—that they are deliberately trying to take away the rights of the public. Portray yourself as a "victim."

* Attack the personalities of those who support the regulations. Make sure that regulation supporters are marginalized by your characterizations:

—Accuse opposition of being "emotional," "unscientific," and "politically motivated." Accuse them of engaging in "industry bashing."

—Encourage your allies to go even further and accuse the other side of "socialism" or even of trying to "turn the forest into a park" for the out-of-state wealthy elite.

—Poison the well. Describe points made by opposition as a "campaign of misinformation."

* Point to any technical language in the regulation and claim that the regulations are "overly complicated."

* Inform the public how complex forestry is and claim the regulations are "overly simplistic," or "one size fits all" (don't worry, the public will be so overwhelmed it will not notice the contradiction of a regulation being both overly complicated and overly simplistic).

* Claim that regulations will, "hurt our capacity to compete with other areas" that are not regulated. Make sure the public gets the message that this means mill closings and job losses.

* Play region against region to insure minimal regulations.

* Make sure your allies overwhelm the press with letters opposing the regulations. Make sure they repeat your characterizations of the regulations and the opposition.

* Participate in a "public" process to make forestry policy. Dominate the process. Claim the proposed environmental regulations interfere with this "public" process.

* Split up the opposition. Have the more "reasonable" companies on your side come to an agreement with more "reasonable" environmentalists.

* Make sure that members of your side are represented on the board of directors of their side.

* Work for alternative legislation that achieves the following principles:

- sets "restrictions" that allow most current practices;
- creates political processes that allow industry to have representation on policy or regulatory boards and committees and to have veto power over any decisions;
- gives public token benefits (that would have occurred anyway);
- gives "compensation" to landowners for living within "strict" regulations (i.e., extract some financial benefit, such as tax breaks).

* When engaged in negotiations, claim that there is an urgency to agree on points that are either non-threatening points or beneficial to your side. On more substantive points (that would lead to unwanted changes), claim that "there is no common ground here," or that "more time is needed to study the issue."

* Exclude stakeholders who might not be as agreeable. Let them deal with your finished product. Ignore the impacts of these negotiations on "public" forest policy process you are participating in.

* Make environmentalists be "sensitive" to your needs. Remember during negotiations that, "It's my rubber ducky." You own the land and mills and can threaten to walk out when things don't go your way.

* Create an aura of secrecy and power to the negotiations. Let your opponents feel that they are important because they are allowed to negotiate with you—even if the results on the ground will be incremental at best.

* Once negotiations are concluded, allow other environmental stakeholders to see the finished result (if possible, in secret a few days before the results are publicly announced), but tell them it cannot be changed (i.e., take it or leave it).

* Have some key forestry stakeholders oppose it so that it will only pass if it is further compromised.

* When the "compromise" legislation passes, proclaim that you are now working under "strict regulations." Remind the public of this latter "fact" as often as possible.

* Proclaim that forestry problems are finally solved, and the public should turn its attention elsewhere.

* Accept the minor restrictions as a means of keeping the environmental monkey off your back for at least a half decade. Try to stretch this out as long as possible by marginalizing the remaining critics who still aren't celebrating the regulatory "victory."

—Ish Kabibble found this tract in a dumpster on Exchange Street in Portland, Maine.

Study Links Acid Rain & Forest Decline

A new study from the Institute of Ecosystem Studies (Millbrook, NY) examining three decades of data from the White Mountain's Hubbard Brook study site concludes that at the same time that the forest soil was suffering severe depletion of nutrients, annual biomass accumulation has been slowing to a halt.

The study pinpoints increased acidity of rain since 1950 as the cause of nutrient depletion and slowed recovery rates of soil cations. While it does not assert a direct connection between impacted soils and depressed rates of forest growth, the study's authors believe their findings identify a major area for further focus and research.

—From the *New York Times*; the Institute's report appears in the April 1996 issue of *Science* magazine

EVERY PERSON'S NEED

Local Economy Towns

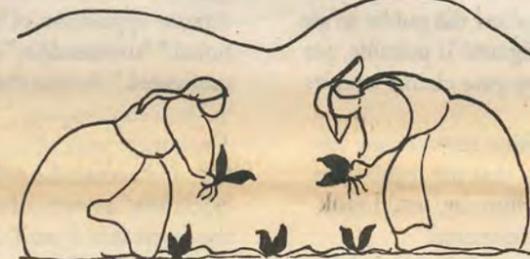
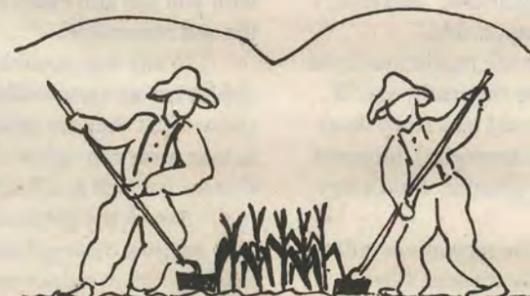
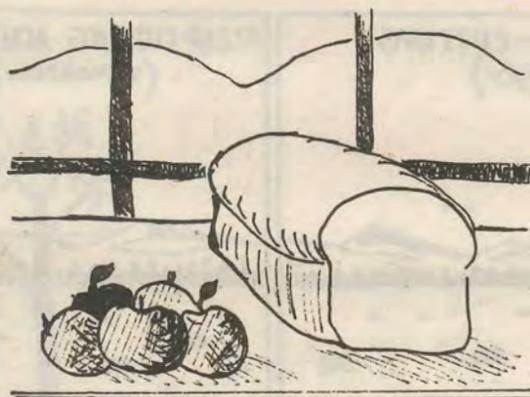
by Michael Phillips

We hear a lot these days about the global economy, but in truth what really matters is the local economy. While much money still changes hands within a community, it's mostly corporate bound. Each dollar today circulates but twice in a town where it once made the rounds seven or more times. From farmer to blacksmith to seamstress to baker to farmer to shopkeeper. Now those dollars go to WalMart and Amoco and Hartford Mutual.

Those days have mostly passed but there's still hope for the more isolated country communities and small cities in progressive areas. What it will take to boost a community into town-sufficiency is a resolve on the part of its people to shop locally. To cover the slightly higher costs of small-scale production. To trade in the bulk quantity of the American dream pile for a higher quality portion. In short, to extend the ideals of homestead sufficiency to the surrounding community.

Towns striving to regain their economies depend on two groups of people: locals who've never stopped trying to make local economy work, and newcomers looking for the quality of life intact communities can offer. We're mostly all too scattered to make a difference in the corporate franchise takeover of our lives. Our downtowns are more shutdown than vibrant. An innovative business may open, say a whole grain bakery, only to struggle to capture enough market share to survive. Truth is we could all survive if everyone in any one spot supported the local alternatives.

We need to look back but two generations ago to understand what happened. Technology and mass production offered a



seemingly more convenient lifestyle. The horse and buggy were traded in for the car, the truck now brought in Wonder Bread, chain stores opened with imported goods at

"There is enough for every man's need, but not enough for every man's greed."

—Gandhi

prices local textile mills couldn't match. We all bought more and more till it was impossible to remember we actually wore only one pair of jeans at a time. The goal was to get off the farm and have all the appliances. Shoes were thrown out rather than repaired. Local brews were replaced with Bud, and TV advertising not only told us what we wanted but phrased it as if we needed it. More dollars were flying all this time, part inflation, part to do with the quantity of the American lifestyle. We all know where it's gotten us today. For too long now it's seemed there really was no other choice other than to take to the hills, put in large gardens, and do for ourselves.

The time has come to expand such self-sufficient horizons to the neighborhood. We need to actively support local economy and get those dollars recirculating seven times again. Just as we know good stewardship of the forests goes hand-in-hand with local workers obtaining the full value of the wood through craftsmanship, good stewardship of our economy means kicking the mass consumption habit to be able to spend more on our neighbors' skills and goods. If you hear this message, consider moving to an area where Ronald MacDonald and company does not yet rule. Locals who reminisce about the "good old days" need to clearly understand the implications of a drive downcountry once a month to stock up at Sam's Club.

We always have the opportunity to make much more incredible choices than we might think. Let us hear from you about your local economy town.

Local Economy in the Greater Lost Nation Area

Lost Nation, New Hampshire, lies at the base of the Kilkenny Mountain range, most of which makes up that northern island of the White Mountain National Forest. Here's where you'll find our Lost Nation Cider Mill and New Hampshire's only certified-organic apple orchard. Building sustainable roots for our business pulls me into the thick of understanding how local economy works in the surrounding towns of the North Country. A summary look at the good going on around here may help clarify this concept of 'local economy town' when you get to thinking about your own place on the globe.

Local production is the backbone of any self-sufficient economy. Sadly, it's local production that's practically been wiped out by the so-called global economy. Here in the northern forests region, you'd expect local production to center around timber. A few sawmills offer rough cut lumber, and air-dried pine is around for finishing work. Garland Mill is a water-powered sawmill that the Southworth brothers operate to cut out timbers for post-and-beam frames. Joselyn's offers the log

cabin option for area homebuilders. Still, most construction utilizes kiln-dried studs from either out West or Canada, plywood ad nauseam, and pressure-treated yellow pine from down South. Native stone and straw bale construction are promising housing options rarely seen. We do have our share of talented cabinetmakers in the area, but people more often than not opt for mass-produced furniture from away. The price of particle board and wood veneer only appears cheaper than hiring one's neighbors ... quality lasts, while that imported stuff makes it's way to the dump all too soon.

You can find fresh vegetables here within the confines of a very short growing season, some farms offer milk direct from Betsy's udder, and of course we claim the apple and cider niche out in the Nation. Still, like the rest of New England, this area imports more than 90% of its food. There are vibrant farmer's markets happening in Colebrook and Franconia, but closer to home, such efforts are still overshadowed by a flea market clientele to encourage the critical mass of growers

that might spell success. Chain supermarkets purchase in bulk from central distributors and rarely from local growers. Lost Nation Natural Foods in downtown Lancaster is making unique efforts to buy from area growers and crafters with a vision of becoming akin to the general store of yesteryear. This area does not yet have many franchise eateries because of our low wintertime population, but the one MacDonald's is thriving and thus taking business from locally-owned restaurants. The finer of these cater to the tourist market and appreciate fresh produce in season.

Food and timber about sums up local production. We don't make cars in the Nation, we don't make computers nor appliances. Our clothes are from abroad and for the most part purchased out of the area. Downtowns used to boast several clothing stores and shoe shops, but no longer. Now you either purchase real estate or an insurance policy or go to the goddamn mall. People vote for the economy they want every time they spend a dollar, and in this area, like most, we're too shortsighted to realize the full value of our vote.

Let's move on to the middle ground of shop keeping. Local economy is abetted when stores are locally-owned. Employees have the opportunity to pump their wages back into area business ventures. Goods may cost slightly more (it would be so much better if wholesale prices were based solely on production costs rather than having little guys subsidize large-volume purchasers) but local folks can back them up with better service and personal attention. Try looking for a matching tire on the Fourth of July weekend after destroying yours with a cutter bar ... I recently got a free loaner from North Country Ford despite my bad timing. Yet these are the kinds of things neighbors do for one another. Small shops and dealers can only survive if townspeople make a concerted effort to direct business their way.

The Greater Lost Nation Area is at that pendulum point between reverting to a local economy town or plunging into the corporate abyss of consumerism. These are tough times for enlightenment.

A Parable from the Industrial Economy

In the beginning, the Lord God of the Economy saith: Let there be the General Store and it appeared on every corner and crossroads in America. And the Lord God of the Economy saw that it was good. The stores served almost everybody within walking distance of their homes. Even far out in the country the people were never more than a mile from an ice cream cone or a new pair of bib overalls, about all that they required of industrialism.

But these scattered, decentralized, Mom and Pop stores were not industrially "efficient" and the Lord God of the Economy became displeased with them. "Because thou has not hearkened to my commands, I will cause thee to raise up a son who shall be the death of you," He said to Mom and Pop. And He put forth His hand and lo, a bright young entrepreneur, fresh out of college, built a new, self-serve store on the edge of town to catch the rural trade coming in and the urban trade going out. By buying in slightly larger quantities and making the customers serve themselves, thus saving on labor, he sold slightly cheaper, or so it seemed, and ran Mom and Pop out of business.

And the Lord of the Economy looked upon what His servant had done and said: "This is good. Mom and Pop were tired of storekeeping anyway. Let them playeth golf for the last twenty years of their lives and pass happily into paradise."

But in time, the servant became complacent about profits and in anger, the Lord God of the Economy raised up a chain store which, by the same quantity pricing, ran Mom and Pop's son out of business. And the Lord God of the Economy saith: "This too is good. The consumer hath gotten a better price, so now she can buyeth more." And the evening and the morning were the third day.

But farther out on the edge of the village, the waters of competition did gather together and upon the dry land of greed, behold, a shopping center did appear which harkened yet better to the precepts of the Lord God of the Economy and so drove the chain store out of business too.

And the Lord of the Economy saith: "This is even better. Look how the economy heateth up and provideth more jobs."

But lo, the people still did cry out for more Things to buy. So the Lord God of the Economy stretched forth His hand and behold, the firmament parted and a Mall appeared out beyond the traffic mess created by the shopping center. Now there was so much selection for so few drachmas each that the Things barely paused a year in the

consumers' households on their way to the landfill.

The people only groaned louder in their travail at constantly having to replace old junk with new junk to keep the economy going. So the Lord God of the Economy cast His cape over the land, and there appeared a Super Mall in the city sixty miles away. How grand it was with trees and shrubs and waterfalls and not a drop of rain, and with the sound of the zither and the cymbal to spend by. So the people did drive there to perform their rites of shopping and the hometown mall became as deserted as Main Street.

But there was still much weeping and gnashing of teeth because earnings did not keep pace with the prices. So the Lord God of the Economy spread his hands over the land yet once more and there appeared a Super Outlet Mall far out in the middle of nowhere but within two hours drive of everywhere. The people bowed before the God of the Economy and abandoned not only their hometown stores but those in the larger cities now, to motor on to the Outlets that they might pay \$10 for the privilege of parking, and walk three miles through the citadels of materialism to save \$15 on a pair of shoes they would not otherwise have needed. Such a bargain was possible because they had spent an entire day and \$15 in car expense to get within three miles of the store. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

And so the generations passed even unto this day. Eventually the people ran out of money needed for fuel to drive two hours to the Outlets to save money. A consumer paused, as she stumbled tiredly through the maze of shops, most of them boarded up. "This Outlet remindeth me of something," she said. "It remindeth me of Main Street. Why don't we all just go home and open up Mom and Pop stores that we can walk to and give Mom and Pop something to do besides play golf and bitch about their Social Security checks?"

And so it came to pass. A whole new generation of songwriters gathered on the cracked pavements of the deserted parking lots and sang sentimental post-Rap ballads about the good old days of the malls when everyone had plenty of borrowed money with which to buy everything except happiness.

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The general store of yesteryear was the happening place of local economy. Farmers brought their cheese, eggs, and produce, often trading for store credit for other goods. The wares of the ironworker, seamstress, and papermaker might be on display if they didn't have a separate shop down the street. Goods weren't all prepackaged but available in bulk, making recycling a non-issue. It was a place to gather for checkers and idle conversation. There's a place for such a general store in any local economy town.

Inspiring Local Economy

Support your local farmer's market (or help get one going!) in your area. Buying direct from the folks who grow the food gives small farms the retail mark-up that would otherwise go to the middleman.

Walk more, or ride a bike to work. Foot power saves gas and car expenses, and any pennies that don't take the corporate plunge are that much more available to circulate in the local economy.

Economy is the allocation of time, resources, and their corresponding value to us. We sometimes forget that *money* is nothing more than a convenient representation of our time and resources. Value can be expressed in other ways. Time is **not** money. Time is simply time. And having time enough to live happily and know an inner peace can be worth far more than the fattest wad of bills you'll ever see.

Bartering can be a cornerstone of local economy, perhaps all the more so as trades of goods and skills can't leave the area as directly as a dollar bound for Wall Street. Bartering arrangements can be made by talking to neighbors, via community bulletin boards, or in the classifieds of the local weekly. You can either state what you're looking for or what you're willing to trade. Have a back door that's swollen stuck in its frame? Offer the neighborhood carpenter a weekly loaf of your whole grain bread for the winter months in trade for the repair. Bartering inspirations are local economy success stories.

Note to our Readers: What are your ideas for inspiring local economy? Your suggestions, thoughts and outlandish opinions are what make this feature of the **Forum** work. Write us today! *Every Person's Need*, RFD 1 Box 275, Groveton, NH 03582.

NH Forest Resources Plan: A Blueprint for Sustaining Forest Health & Forest-Based Economy

by Jamie Sayen

Note: To get a copy of the 1996 New Hampshire Forest Resources Plan, contact: Forest Resources Planning Staff, NH Division of Forests & Lands, POB 1856, Concord, NH 03302-1856, (603) 271-2214.

The New Hampshire Forest Resources Plan (FRP) for the next decade was released in April by the Division of Forests and Lands. Representing the work of a 28-member Forest Resources Plan Steering Committee, the FRP offers a vision and a plan for sustaining the health of New Hampshire's forests and the forest-based economy of the state. Leaders of the timber industry, the environmental community, state natural resource agencies, and members of the public agree that the two-year effort produced many important recommendations and built a solid foundation for the state's forest community to address difficult issues in the coming years.

The report contains sections a vision statement and challenges that could prevent realization of the desired future condition of the forest; a chapter that summarizes the ecological and economic qualities of NH forests; and a list of 62 recommendations organized under 11 "Objectives".

The Executive Summary provides a "Summary of Key Findings". Here is a partial listing:

* NH exports 122 million board feet of unprocessed timber. This represents "lost value-added opportunities for our forest economy."

* Maintaining large blocks of contiguous forest is ecologically and economically important.

* "In the 1990s the concept of forest sustainability has been expanded [beyond traditional sustained-yield forest management] to include larger landscapes and non-commodity values of forested ecosystems."

* "Land use policies are a potentially powerful tool for conserving forest land and forests adjacent to communities. . ."

* "Some forest habitats are scarce because of past or present human activities."

* "New Hampshire no longer has a coordinated process to prioritize state acquisition of land and conservation easements."

* "There is insufficient information on some issues vital to sustaining our forests. . . . Increased efforts to coordinate research are needed to provide landowners and resource managers with the information they need to make informed decisions."

* "As New Hampshire's population increases, fewer residents are connected to the land or have a real understanding of our forest resources." There is a need for education for landowners, resource professionals, and especially "basic science education for children."

* "New Hampshire has a long and proud tradition of protecting personal and property rights while working collaboratively to resolve public issues and problems. Open communication between diverse and often opposing interests is needed to foster respect for different views and to develop creative solutions based on trust and consensus.

The emphasis on forest sustainability and a more ecological approach to forestry will further test our ability to balance personal and property rights with public values and societal objectives."

Highlights of the Recommendations

There are 62 action items (or recommendations) grouped under 11 objectives. Here is a brief commentary on each of the objectives.

Objective 1: "Creating a favorable business climate for the forest products industry." FRP calls for establishing a full-time forest products specialist position at the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED). (Action 1-2, hereafter "1-2") An especially important long-term recommendation for forest-based economic development is adapted from the Rocky Mountain Institute's Economic Renewal Program (1-5):

"Work with communities to develop strategies for appropriate forest-based business development using the following principles:

- Plug the leaks (keep money circulating in the local economy).
- Support existing business (encourage small business, the heart of any local economy, to run more efficiently and to expand).
- Encourage new local enterprise (support new start-up businesses that build on local strengths).
- Recruit compatible new business (focus on the net benefit to the community, not just any development).

e. Promote value-added manufacturing.

Objective 2: "Keeping contiguous blocks of forest intact and under consistent management." This section most closely resembles the tax-break policies promoted by the Northern Forest Lands Council. It calls for supporting current use assessment, capital gains treatment of timber, "an equitable regulatory climate," and property and income tax policies that influence the attractiveness of investment in forest land. The FRP does no better than the NFLC in justifying the capital gains tax break. And, FRP somewhat acquiesces to the current fashion of regulations-bashing: "Promote education and incentives over regulation." (2-2(c)) Education, incentives, and regulations are all necessary, and it is necessary to use all three appropriately. Objective 3 (below) reflects this 3-pronged approach more helpfully.

Objective 3: Developing mechanisms for sustaining managed forests.

This section provides a strong framework for developing policies, incentives, and regulations to assure sustainable forest management. It calls for the development of statewide standards for sustainable forestry (3-1), the integration of scientific information and management through the establishment of statewide structure and composition goals (3-2); the development of incentives and landowner education strategies to promote sustainable forest management (3-3 & 3-4); monitoring of forest practices to "see if practices result in forest sustainability (3-5); and regulations to assure minimum standards (3-6 & 3-7). Action 3-6 calls for an overhaul in the current system of enforcing existing regulations by separating fire rangers from forest rangers (who are charged with enforcement). It also calls for adding five new ranger positions to help with enforcement. Action 3-7—although reflecting a somewhat anti-regulatory bias—asserts that regulations have a legitimate and important role to play in assuring minimum forest management standards. It reads:

"Recognize regulation as a legitimate solution that may be appropriate in certain situations and creates a level playing field by setting and enforcing the same minimum standards for all operators. Develop and implement forest practices regulations under the following guidelines: scientific information shows a clear need; voluntary measures are in place; education and incentives have not changed behavior; and monitoring shows that current practices are not sustainable."

By this standard, strict regulations on clearcutting are overdue. Perhaps in the next FRP there will be a correction of the bias that says timber operations can do anything they want until scientific information conclusively proves harm; a more responsible and equitable position would be that no action—whether logging or regulations—will be permitted until "scientific information shows a clear need." Right now, only regulations have to meet that strict standard.

Objective 4: Addressing the impact of local land use decisions on



The New Hampshire Forest Resources Plan has laid a solid foundation for developing forest policy over the next decade. The Plan did not, however, explicitly address the issue of clearcutting regulations, except to endorse regulations as a "legitimate solution in certain situations" that "creates a level playing field by setting and enforcing the same minimum standards for all operators." NH now must prevent all "liquidation" clearcuts such as this 1800-acre clearcut in Whitefield/Twin Mountain. Hopefully, the day is not too far off when State policy will acknowledge that all clearcuts are biologically undesirable. Photo © Alex S. MacLean—Landslides.

the ability to practice forestry and sustain healthy forests. Important actions under this section include Action 4-2: "Encourage careful siting of development to maintain ecologically significant land and large contiguous blocks of managed forest land by providing communities with information and tools to assist them in making long-range land use decisions." And Action 4-4: "Encourage communities to designate appropriate municipal forest land as Town Forests with compatible recreation use allowed or as part of a statewide Ecological Reserve System."

Objective 5: Conserving New Hampshire's biological diversity. The introductory section to this objective nicely sets the tone by quoting John Ryen: "Complex beyond understanding and valuable beyond measure, biodiversity is the total variety of life on earth." Also Aldo Leopold: "To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."

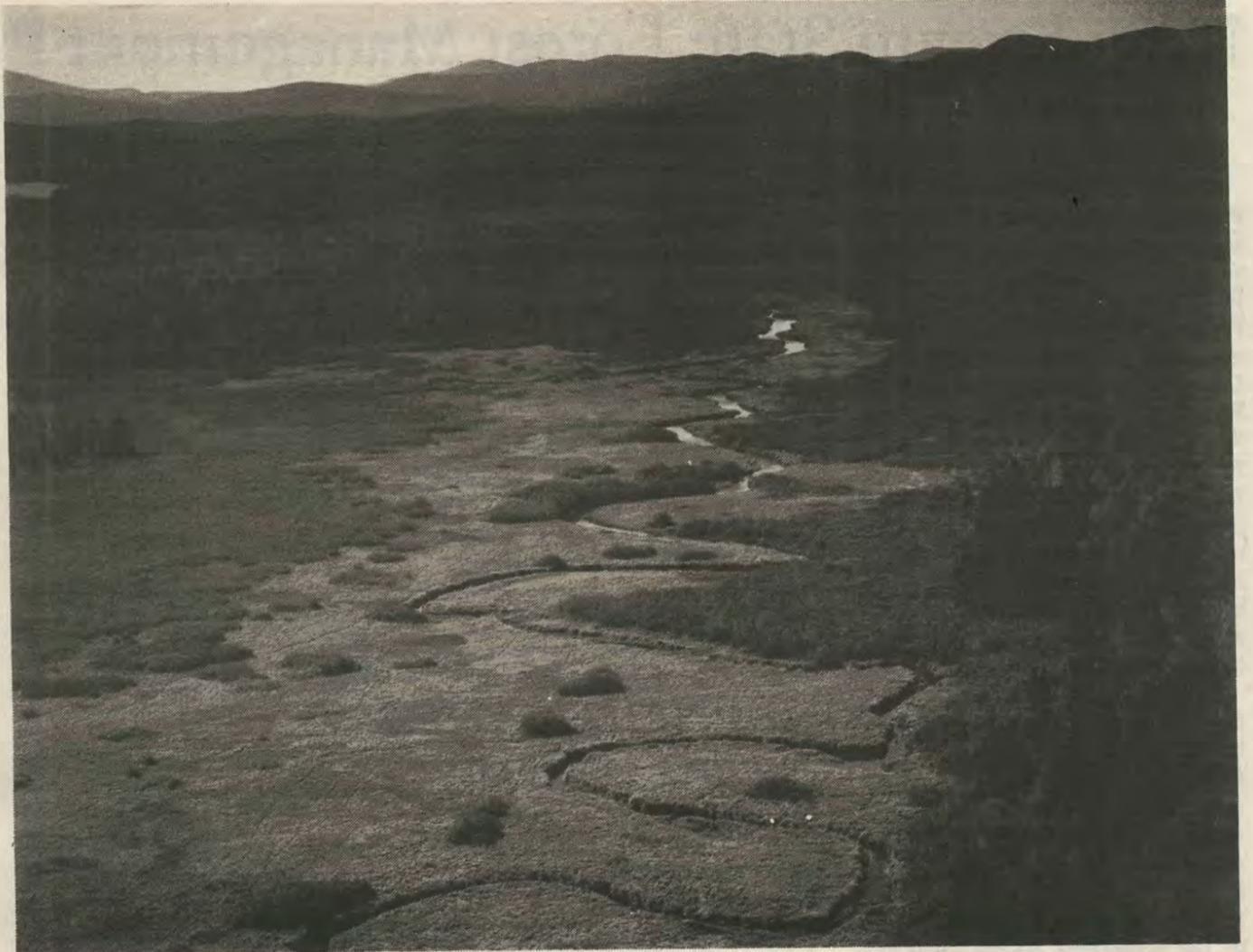
Action 5-2 states: "Support the Ecological Reserve System Steering Committee process to design a science-based system of ecological reserves as one approach to maintain and enhance New Hampshire's biodiversity." This committee, established in October 1995 expects to issue a plan for a NH Ecological Reserve System by 1998. This recommendation is a milestone in state FRPs, and should inspire other states to do the same. Surprisingly, it was not an especially controversial or contentious issue among Steering Committee members who ranged from proponents of large wilderness reserves (me) to timber industry representatives and the leader of the NH property rights movement.

Objective 6: Continuing the tradition of keeping lands open to the public. Action 6-1 recommends: "Continue building coalitions between forest landowners and people who recreate on private lands." Significantly, Action 6-2 reminds us that landowners have not only rights but also responsibilities.

Objective 7: Providing timely collection of data about forests. This section contains 10 important action items regarding timely and useful information collection for forest management, protection of biodiversity, and landowner education. It calls on the state to adequately fund natural resource inventory programs, especially the NH Natural Heritage Inventory and the NH Fish & Game Department. Significantly, it emphasizes the need to conduct comprehensive biological inventories every ten years, not just timber inventories (as has been the case in the past).

Objective 8: Forest resource conservation education. This objective offers 12 action items designed to promote: education for youth, resource professionals, landowners, and the general public. Action 8-1 calls for a state Board of Education policy that assures "future generations of New Hampshire citizens have adequate background in science and natural resources."

Objective 9: Acquiring and managing lands and easements: This important objective calls for increasing funding of land acquisition and manage-



The NH Forest Resources Plan calls for the conservation of NH's biological diversity and supports the Ecological Reserve System Steering Committee process. Photo is of a wetlands area near Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge. Photo © Alex S. MacLean—Landslides.

ment programs. Action 9-1 states: "Initiate a goal-oriented, public planning process to develop a state acquisition program for land and easements that builds upon the successful model of Land Conservation Investment Program and Trust for NH Lands."

Objective 10: Conserving community forests. An important element in this objective is Action 10-1(d) that recommends a focus on: "open space planning in communities close to urban centers, including forest components of natural resources chapters in municipal master plans (4-3), designation of Town Forests and Ecological Reserves (4-4), and increased use of conservation easements (9-4)."

Objective 11: Developing forest policy collaboratively. The strength of the 1996 Forest Resources Plan is testimony to the wisdom of following a fair, open, respectful, inclusive collaborative process for setting forest policy (or anything else for that matter). Action 11-1 states: "Create a task-oriented 'umbrella' group based on the NFCL concept of a State Forest Roundtable. Their role should be to advocate implementation of actions in this plan, coordinate forest policy development, facilitate dialogue between diverse interests, and assure opportunities for public participation in policy development."

Challenges

The FRP provides an excellent framework for developing sustainable forest management practices within the context of an ecologically sustainable economy, a system of ecological reserves, research and educational reforms, and strategies for productive, respectful, collaborative processes. However, it is only a "plan". We must implement these ideas and proposals and we must build on the fair process of

the FRP as the Roundtable tackles controversial issues such as unregulated clearcuts and highgrading and the use of herbicides and pesticides. It won't be easy, but New Hampshire is paving the

way for productive, democratic forestry reform that will bring lasting economic benefits to landowners and the timber industry.

Four Reasons for the Success of The NH Forest Resources Plan

As a member of the NH Forest Resources Plan, I was very impressed by the work of the Steering Committee and its talented staff. I believe that we developed an excellent Vision of "The Desired Future Landscape Condition" of New Hampshire forests, and that the package of 62 recommendations that fall under 11 subject headings address many of the most critical issues facing the forest policy makers. Although the report is not perfect, and failed to grapple with several critical issues, I believe it sets the stage for fair and open debate over these and other sensitive forestry issues in the years to come.

I believe there are four reasons for the success and trust-building of the Forest Resources Plan:

(1) State Forester Jack Sargent insisted on an open, inclusive process from the outset. This allowed the diverse, often cantankerous, elements of the Steering Committee to address core issues. As a veteran of the Northern Forest Lands Council process, Jack learned from some of the problems encountered by the NFCL. He exhibited—and continues to exhibit—a sincere commitment to implementing all the recommendations of the NFCL.

(2) The FRP staff, Laura Falk and Susan Francher, were superb. They shouldered a Herculean work load with grace and great skill. They kept the Steering Committee focused; they kept the process civil even during the most heated debates; they made sure all members were aboard as we progressed through our work load; and most importantly, they made sure that we kept focused on the most important, substantive issues, thereby sparing us from achieving consensus only on soft, easy, tangential issues.

(3) The representatives of the timber industry, unlike their counterparts in Maine, were responsible, open to criticism and change. They remained civil, and retained their sense of humor through it all. There were some fierce disagreements, and not all important issues were satisfactorily resolved, but the NH timber industry representatives did not obstruct and stonewall as their counterparts in Maine and Vermont do.

(4) The environmental community was well-represented; it did its homework, collaborated with industry and agency staff creatively, respectfully and effectively.

The result, I believe, is a collaborative exercise that has built trust, and inspired creative inquiry, debate and recommendations. I hope we can build on this solid foundation as we grapple with the specifics of forest sustainability—including the need for regulation of clearcutting and a ban on the use of herbicides.

—Jamie Sayen

Nash Stream State Forest Management Plan Approved

by Jamie Sayen

The New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development announced the approval of the completed management plan for the State's largest landholding, Nash Stream Forest, a 39,600 acre property located in northern New Hampshire. Commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development William S. Bartlett approved the plan following the release of a draft version for public comment. The 182-page plan calls for continued public access for recreation, protection of the property's natural beauty and ecological values, continued sale of wood products, and establishment of a citizen committee to help implement the plan.

Six and a half years ago, when the Nash Stream Advisory Committee began its deliberations, I was not optimistic that it would develop a strong management plan for this magnificent watershed. I'm delighted to report that my fears were, for the most part, not realized for several reasons: pressure from Jeff Elliott, Michael Kellett (then of The Wilderness Society), and me, among others; the fairness of Advisory Committee Chairman Steve Blackmer of the Appalachian Mountain Club; and the openness of the committee members to a fair and wide-open policy-making process. Although far from perfect, the Nash Stream Management Plan is based on sound principles.

Management Vision

The "Management Vision" strives to:

- "Protect the natural qualities and integrity of the land, natural communities, native species and ecological processes."
- "Manage Nash Stream Forest as a model of ecologically-based forestry, emphasizing the growth of long-rotation, high quality, solid wood forest products. . ."
- "Continue to offer public access for traditional, low impact dispersed recreation. . ."
- "Establish a process for ongoing public involvement in the management process. . ."
- "Establish monitoring" of ecological processes, scientific research, and the management of the Forest.
- "Manage the Nash Stream as an integral part of the ecology, landscape, and culture of the Northern Forests of northern New England."

Management Plan

Management of Areas of Ecological Concern: The plan places 8,113 acres in natural preserves and 5,116 acres in natural preserve buffers. Other protected lands bring the total of protected lands to 18,339 acres—46% of the watershed. Unfortunately, all but a handful of those acres are high elevation, steep slopes, or have soils unsuitable for logging. In other words, most of these lands are "protected" because they couldn't be logged anyway.

Recreation: Management will be low impact and low key. The plan has a bias against development of recreation centers, parking lots and new trails. It

seeks to enhance existing trails and recreational resources. ATVs are prohibited. Unfortunately, snowmobiling so dominates the Nash Stream in winter that other forms of recreation, especially cross country skiing, are seriously compromised.

Timber Management: The plan pledges that timber management will be a model for growing high quality sawtimber. "Timber management will support and promote a structurally diverse landscape and will strive to emulate natural disturbance and vegetative regeneration patterns and natural and soil and site tendencies. "Uneven aged management will be the method of choice for managing and regenerating timber stands."

Unfortunately, the plan does not prohibit clearcuts; instead it asserts (wrongly, I believe) that clearcuts and even age management "May be appropriate to provide certain ecological conditions, products, and experiences associated with early successional forests." All seven reasons advanced to justify limited use of even-aged management are of dubious merit:

"A. *Promote regeneration and growth that usually occurs in scattered openings in the forest.*" There is an ecological reason it occurs "naturally and in scattered openings"; we should not manipulate the forest to provide unnaturally large openings.

"B. *Regenerate shade intolerant and intermediately intolerant species such as aspen and paper birch.*" These species occur naturally in the forests of the Northern Appalachians; they co-evolved with the other species of the region. We don't need to worry about them going extinct in this region; we don't need to meddle in natural processes and artificially increase population and stand sizes."

"C. *Rehabilitate degraded or sparsely stocked areas.*" Follow one harmful management practice with another extreme measure (a clearcut). Best to work actively to restore damaged areas, not clearcut them again.

"D. *Meet wildlife habitat objectives.*" The habitat objectives of most wildlife are best met by wilderness. Human manipulation of habitat for the benefit of one species degrades habitat required by other species. Mythology tells us clearcuts benefit deer, grouse, and hares. Whether or not true, we know that these same clearcuts harm salamanders, interior dwelling songbirds and species that require mature forest habitat, including big, old, dead trees. The best way to meet wildlife habitat objectives is to protect the habitat of all species.

"E. *Protect forest health from damaging diseases, insects, fire or other natural disaster.*" There are two kinds of such "disturbances"—natural and human-caused. Natural disturbance (wind-throw, insect infestation, virus, fire, etc.) is a critical component of the dynamics of a natural forest and should be viewed as a positive influence on ecosystem dynamics, not as a pretext for clearcutting. Human-caused disturbances (including after-effects of past clearcuts and highgrading) should also not be viewed as a pretext for clearcutting.

"F. *Make infrequent entries into management areas and minimize access road construction.*" Selection cutting that enters a stand every five, ten, or fifteen years and lightly removes timber while not degrading the forest ecosystem is far more desirable than infrequent (once every 50 or so years) entries to clearcut a stand and remove the entire forest. Clearcutting does not require fewer roads.

"G. *Open small vistas.*" Sounds like the cheery claim that clearcuts open up the view. Spare me the view and spare the forest. If you want a view, climb the Percy Peaks or Sugarloaf.

Wildlife: The Wildlife section contains important provisions for protecting vernal pools, beaver impoundments, cavity trees, den trees, snags, and dead and down trees.

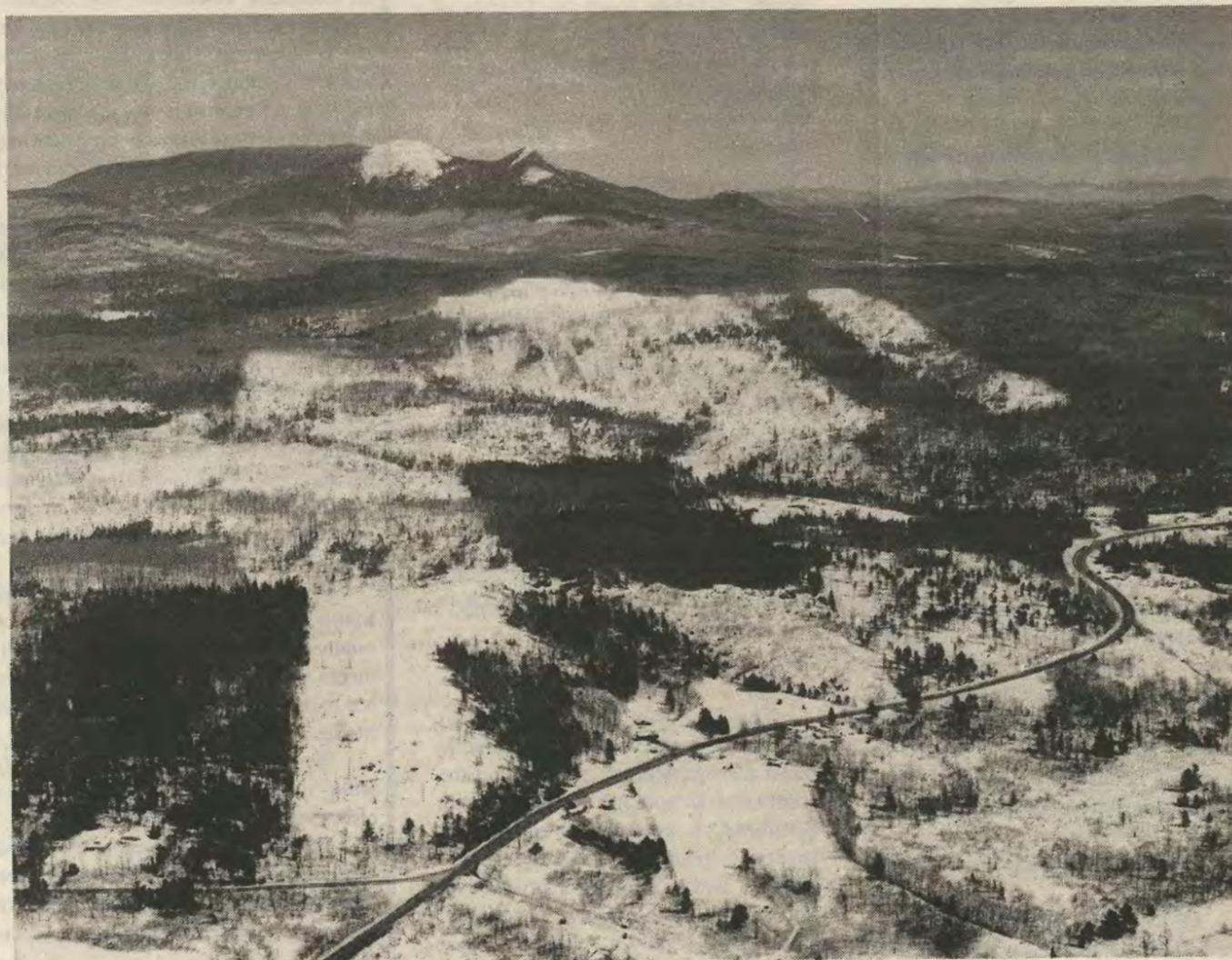
Fisheries: Fish management will emphasize "self-sustaining natural populations of native fish species." Stocking will be limited to the larger ponds (Lower Trio, Whitcomb). Only native species will be stocked. Someday, hopefully, society will terminate fish stocking for the pleasure of overfishing recreationists.

Other important and admirable elements of the management plan:

- Chemical pesticides are prohibited: "Notwithstanding state law, chemical agents will not be applied to or within natural ecosystems in the Nash Stream Forest. Biological herbicides, insecticides, and other pesticides also will be prohibited."

- Bear baiting is prohibited: "Baiting Black bears for recreational hunting will not be permitted."

The plan is available for public viewing at many locations throughout the state. Sites include local libraries participating in the State Library's depository program, UNH Cooperative Extension Offices, and many other public locations. To request a complete listing of locations where the plan is available, write: John E. Sargent, Director, NH Division of Forests and Lands, POB 1856, Concord, NH 03302-1856, or call (603) 271-3456.



North & South Percy Peaks lie in the heart of the Nash Stream State Forest. Outside the protected Nash Stream watershed, large, unregulated clearcuts scar the landscape. Photo © Alex S. MacLean—Landslides

Paul Bofinger Retires After 35 Years at Society for the Protection of NH Forests

A Forum Interview

Paul Bofinger has served as President/Forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests since 1965. In August 1996 he will retire. During his more than 30 years leading the Forest Society, he has been recognized as New Hampshire's pre-eminent conservationist. He is credited with numerous victories, including the campaign for Current Use taxation in the 1960s, and the Trust for New Hampshire Lands in the 1980s, which conserved more than 100,000 acres. He also served on the Governors' Task Force of the Northern Forest Lands Study from 1988-1990 and the Northern Forest Lands Council from 1991-1994. In June Paul and I discussed his long and productive career, as well as his thoughts for the future.

Jamie Sayen (JS): When did you start working at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (hereafter SPNHF or Forest Society)?

Paul Bofinger (PB): I first worked for Kimberly-Clark Corporation in upper Michigan right after graduation. Then I came to New Hampshire on what at the time I thought was a lark. I ended up working in the lumber business from 1956-1961. In the summer of 1961 I was working for Owen Johnson who was the grand old gentleman of the lumber business in New Hampshire. He was well past retirement age and selling off his mills and timberland. I realized that the harder I worked selling lumber the faster I was working myself out of a job.

He suggested I go talk to Larry Rathbun who was then the Forester for the Forest Society. Owen was the Treasurer of the Society. With nothing to lose, I went to talk with Larry. He hired me on for three months in September 1961, and I've been here ever since. (Laughter)

JS: What was your original job?

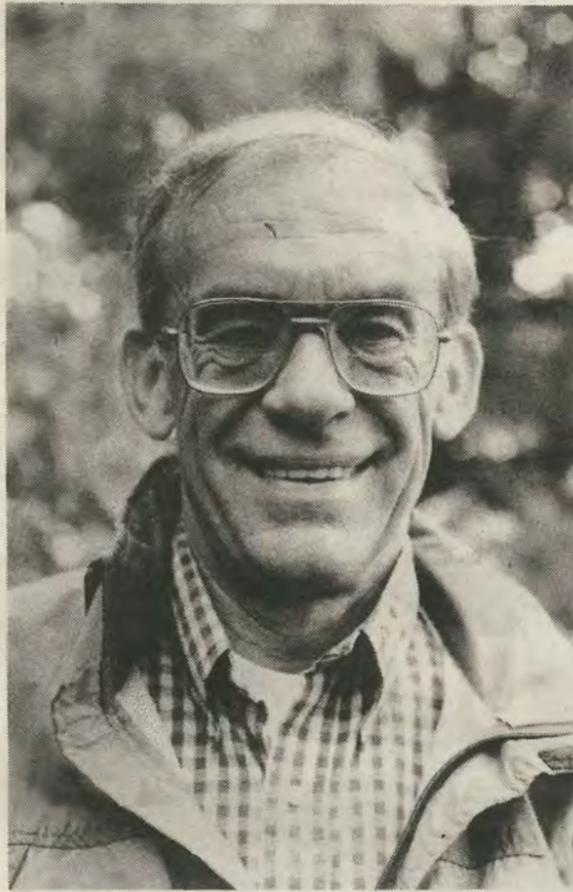
PB: Inspecting tree farms. The Society was the sponsor of the NH Tree Farm Program. There was a great backlog of inspections, and Larry figured the Society would kick in a bit of money and hire somebody to catch up on a couple of hundred applications that had never been acted on. It was a great experience for me because it got me out in the field with all ten county foresters, plus a bunch of consultants. From having spent five years in a very narrow corner of forest activities in the wholesale lumber business, I immediately got exposure to the county forestry program, consultants, the general activity of the state.

When that job ran out, Larry found a couple of other projects for me, and before you know it, I was finding projects for myself, and here we are.

JS: In 1965 you became the Forester. Your title now is "President-Forester". Please explain.

PB: When I first came to work the Society was run by an archaic structure left over from the turn of the century. The President was the president of the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee was the governing body of the Society. It was one of those things where, when you got on it, you were on for life; sometimes five people, sometimes seven; sometimes eight or nine. Whatever they thought was necessary. For decades the leadership of the Society was, in some respects, a closed club. It was a very short list of people, but they were the best people for the job, as evidenced by the things the Society was able to accomplish.

In the late 1960s, after I took over as Forester, Larry went on the Executive committee and was the President. One of our board members was Harlan Logan. He had been CEO of Corning Glass and General Foods—a captain of industry. His forte was planning, structure and how the organization operates as opposed to the specifics of what it does. He took one look at the structure of this organization and said, "You're still in the nineteenth century." Even though the Society was founded in 1901, it might have been 1801. So he instituted the current structure which is a



Paul Bofinger. Photo © Pat Wells. Photos on pages 21-25 are all courtesy of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Board of Trustees and a chairman. It made the staff CEO person "President." But there was some resistance to losing the traditional title of "Forester." So, we compromised with "President-slash-Forester."

JS: What were the issues the Forest Society was engaged in when you first arrived and when you became Forester?

PB: The early 1960s were a relatively quiet time on the forestry front. The major interests were wetlands—both salt and freshwater—and water pollution. There was also the awakening of the idea of municipal conservation commissions, an idea we stole from Massachusetts. The things I worked on starting in 1962 right after Tree Farming, were wetlands and water pollution.

This was just at the time the political interest in New Hampshire was building to clean up the rivers. It was a wonderful thing. For a number of years, New Hampshire had the highest percentage of state aid to communities for water pollution control of any state in the country. It was just remarkable. It was that important. Our rivers were an absolute disgrace. New Hampshire, to its credit, picked up on it and really did something.

The early 1960s were the real awakening of the value of wetlands. We were a forest conservation outfit, yet that was the hot issue. So I went off buying salt marshes down in Hampton-Seabrook to fight the Hampton Municipal Development Authority that wanted to dredge and fill the salt marshes. We had two efforts: one was to get legislation to have a review and control over destruction of salt water wetlands, and the second thing was to checkerboard the salt marshes with properties owned by our Society and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, which was then strictly a volunteer organization. In many cases we got the land as gifts because the people who owned the two or three or five acre tracts of salt marsh often didn't know where they were, or if they did, marshland didn't have much value. We explained to them that if they gave their salt marsh to the Society, we'd be able to fight to keep it from being abused by developers. I spent a good bit of time the first two years plugging away on salt marshes, and working with the Legislature on legislation on water pollution control, and wetlands both fresh and salt.

JS: How did you sell the idea that the Forest Society should tackle wetlands?

PB: Two things: One was at that time the Society was the only organization in New Hampshire that had a staff. Even though it wasn't forests, I could make it clear to the Executive Committee that this was important, and the Forest Society was in a position to do something about it. Second, I didn't have very much trouble because of the history of the Society. Philip Ayres, my predecessor once removed, around 1913 had advanced the notion that wetlands were important to preserve. I could tie it in historically as well as saying, "This is what New Hampshire needs now. It's not the forest, but it is a natural resource issue." It was really not that difficult.

It was a wonderful experience for me. I was lucky. I dealt with the most wonderful legislators. I'd like to say that the caliber of the legislature today is the same, but it isn't. You don't find the public citizen. You don't find the people who care about the state, who have pride in the state. Today too many take a narrow view of things—"I'm in the Legislature because of this particular interest. Don't bother me with the other stuff." Or, they've got an ideological bent.

JS: Isn't it really the difference between the current selfish "me first" attitude versus a sense of belonging to a community that is bigger than anyone of us?

PB: Yes. We just have too much of this. It's hard to believe that the state Senate back in the 1960s and into the 1970s was the place to go for good new ideas. There were some pockets in the House. But on the wetlands and water supply, the Senate provided the power, though there were some individuals in the House who provided the spark. There was a wonderful synergy that lasted until into the early 1970s.

Now we only have a few legislators like that.

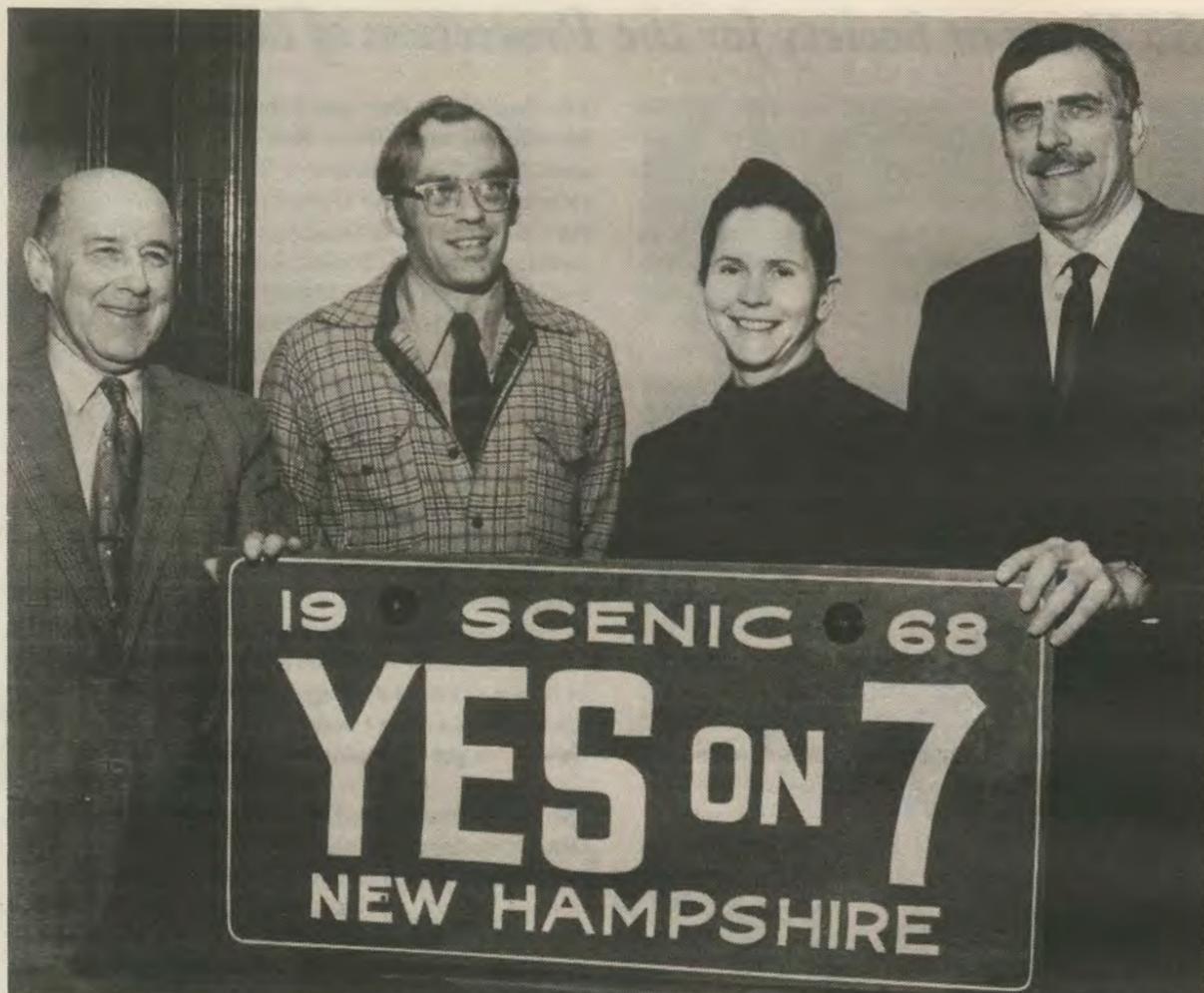
JS: Tell me about current use legislation.

PB: In the early-1960s we had the first real wave of large-scale, second-home subdivision. A classic situation was Lake Tarleton, which we are now trying to acquire. It was owned by Boise-Cascade. At that time Boise had a real estate development arm, and they came up with a subdivision that had well over a thousand lots. It just frightened the bejesus out of people. That gave us the impetus to get statewide septic tank control legislation. Hard to believe, but again, New Hampshire was a leader—the first state in the country that had statewide septic tank control legislation. We were able to use these major subdivisions coming in and overwhelming a community. "What's the town of Benton or Piermont going to do when Boise-Cascade comes in with hundreds and hundreds of subdivisions?" There was just nothing to control the septic situation, or for that matter, the water supply, the groundwater.

Throughout the 1950s and well into the 1960s there wasn't much going on directly with forestry and forest practices. But with this subdivision craze, communities started getting the idea woodland was worth more than \$5 or \$10 an acre. They started assessing it for \$50 an acre! \$100 an acre!. Just out of sight. And farm land as well. Suddenly people realized, "I can't afford to grow trees and pay taxes on this level of assessment." "I sure as heck can't farm." Property taxes were forcing people off the land.

The obvious thing to do was to have some form of current use assessment. We checked that out with the lawyers and it was clear it would require a constitutional amendment. So we started the effort. Pat and Miriam Jackson, public relations consultants and conservation activists, and I had lunch in early 1966. Pat asked, "What role is the Forest Society going to play in changing this current use business?" I said, "Well, you know, we're going to do something. I haven't figured it out yet."

The way Pat put it up to me, it was pretty obvious that we had to take the lead, we were the organization that could put the coalition together, to raise the funds for it. And so we did. We realized that to get two-thirds of the vote in a general election to pass this constitutional amendment, it would take more than just going out and talking to garden clubs and Rotaries as we usually did things in those days.



Bofinger led a broad coalition in the late 1960s and early 1970s to pass a Constitutional Amendment (Question 7) enabling legislation for Current Use Assessment.

This was going to have to be a serious campaign, and so we raised the money, and we hired the Jacksons as public relations counsel, came up with a logo, and the name SPACE—Statewide Program of Action to Protect our Environment, bumper stickers, a slide show, and a speakers' bureau. A display that went around to all the county fairs. And we won that constitutional amendment by 119 votes (laughter).

There was some serious opposition to the amendment. We had gone to see Bill Loeb, and we had gotten the *Union-Leader's* support, and we had almost all of the newspapers. We visited every paper in the state and all but two supported us. There were a number of assessors who were opposed to us, and there were a couple of very vocal legislators. The Sunday before the election the *New Hampshire Sunday News* had an editorial opposing the amendment. We knew it was coming, and tried to talk B.J. McQuaid, its editor, out of it, but he wouldn't do it because he saw it as a secret plot of broad-based taxers.

There was some reason for him to believe that, if you took a conspiratorial view of things, because some of the people who supported us at the very beginning were some broad-based taxers who wanted to also change the Constitution to allow for a graduated income tax. In fact, we had a joint committee very early on. When it became clear that the graduated income tax would get into deep trouble politically because of the anti-tax atmosphere, we realized that the only way we were going to do something on open space land was to dissociate from them.

JS: What year was the current use election?

PB: 1967. That was an enabling constitutional amendment. In 1969 we got a temporary law, and in 1971 we got the real thing. When I think back over the years—because it was successful—that had to be the thing that has had the most impact on the most people's lives and pocketbooks of anything I've been involved with.

JS: What is the background behind the Trust for New Hampshire Lands and Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) of the 1980s?

PB: The second wave of real estate speculation was the 1980s. Again, the towns were simply not able to cope with it, and it was "in your face." We were losing ground rapidly. By then I had been working for the Society for almost 25 years. Time to take a break—a sabbatical. Maybe I could find some ideas that have application in New Hampshire by going outside New Hampshire.

I took a year off. It was a wonderful, wonderful opportunity. I went to Scotland, England, Europe, the West Coast, and our neighboring states. I found that the way to deal with the problem of development and loss of farm and forest and open space land and wildlife habitat was that it had to be something that built on what New Hampshire is proud of, the character of the state, and for better or worse, the way things work in New Hampshire. It couldn't be an idea that was transplanted from somewhere into New Hampshire.

It had to be a big enough idea with numbers that challenged people—\$50 million and 100,000 acres. That's really how I started. I didn't start with how it was going to be done. I knew that we'd work that out.

JS: So you had a vision and then you filled in the details?

PB: Yes. Exactly. It really was: "What does New Hampshire do best?" What could fly in New Hampshire? What are the Society staff people and the other organizations capable of? Beyond that I had a very general idea that the state would put up the cash, and it had to be a big figure like \$50 million, but tell the state, "We'll get you \$100 million worth of land." That's nice mathematics. The state then had about 100,000 acres of protected land; we would double that.

I guess I could get away with it because I'd been around long enough. The numbers felt good. It came from 25 years of experience instead of some scientific or political research.

And the other element was: we'll do all the negotiations and all of the legwork through the private sector. We told the state, "That's not going to cost you anything. We're not going to create a new bureaucracy."

JS: So the deal to the state was: you put up the money to buy the land, and the private sector will take care of all the rest?

PB: Yes. And I figured the Forest Society had only had one major capital fund drive in its history—in 1976. We could justify going out and raising money for a capital-type campaign. But it was not for a typical capital project; it was to leverage this \$50 million. In 1976 we had raised \$1 million, and we had just raised about a half a million to build the Conservation Center in 1980. It made sense.

The first crack at a budget was \$2.2 million. When we really got into the details of it, we realized \$2.2 million wasn't going to do it. So eventually we ended up raising \$3.3 million private dollars but that was

enough to fund the whole staff, including the director of the LCIP program, who was a state employee.

It's the kind of thing you look back on, and you say, "Well, it's a good project, but probably the best thing about it was the timing." We did the planning in 1985 and started the fundraising in 1986. We went to the legislature in 1987, and the program was running by the fall of 1987. And then in 1989 the banks started going to hell. In 1990 land prices fell, and people said, "Oh boy, if you'd just waited, you'd have bought a lot of land a lot cheaper." I say, "We'd have never gotten the money." What the hell good is cheap land if you don't have any green to buy it in the first place?

Without [former Governor] John Sununu and [then Congressman, later Governor, now Senator] Judd Gregg, it wouldn't have happened. Judd came up as a Congressman and testified for the LCIP bill in the Senate in the first public hearing. You don't see that happen very often. So we had two governors in a row who wanted the thing to work, and you absolutely had to have that. And obviously we had some good support in the Legislature too.

One of the best aspects of it was the local match. It wasn't just a few people working on a few big projects which then became state parks. It was lots of people working in lots of towns coming up with the local match to make lots of local projects.

JS: Explain the local match.

PB: We said to the communities that if they came up with good projects that the state would put up 50% of the appraised value to help that town buy an easement or buy the land. If the town had property that was worth \$100,000, the state would contribute \$50,000. How the town came up with the rest of the \$50,000 could either be a bargain sale—have the landowner sell it for only \$50,000; or come up with the cash, or find \$100,000 worth of other properties as gifts which would be worth the 50% match.

We just stole the idea that the local match could be in the form of donations of other land from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. That's the way many towns did it. So the towns got tremendous leverage. Many towns got good land without ever putting a dollar up themselves.

JS: So they could bundle the two properties.

PB: Exactly. So you could give the landowner who absolutely had to have the cash the full price if necessary.

JS: One of the ironies of the Trust for NH Land is that it was designed not so much for the mega-project, but for a lot of projects all over the state. But no sooner is it launched than the former Diamond International lands went on the market: 800,000 acres in Maine, 96,000 in the Adirondacks, and 90,000 combined in New Hampshire and Vermont.

PB: The Diamond land sale was, I hope, a once in a lifetime event, almost an aberration. I think that's true. I don't think we'll see something like that again. But the timing couldn't have been worse, and it couldn't have been better. It couldn't have been worse because it hit at the very peak of the real estate speculative market.

JS: Inflated prices?

PB: Exactly. And with the recent history, you knew the bubble would burst. The way all real estate bubbles burst, especially when they're as speculative as that. You know that eventually they break down. But when, nobody knew. And so we couldn't take a chance.

The Nash Stream especially appealed to me because it was a mountain valley. There aren't very many places left in this state, at least, where you could buy an entire valley from peak to peak.

JS: An entire watershed.

PB: A watershed. I knew we were being jerked around by [Rancourt Associates which bought the New Hampshire and Vermont lands in May 1988]. Talk about brutal negotiations. Those guys really did negoti-

ate like "junk yard dogs." I despised them. But we put a lot of pressure on them. [Then Senator] Warren Rudman, to his everlasting credit. . . I do not know what would have happened had they not had Warren Rudman's legislation.

JS: You mean the threat of eminent domain if they didn't come down to a responsible price?

PB: Right. But other than that, it was the only time in my whole career that I had negotiated with people that I had absolutely no respect for. I can respect somebody who is a hard bargainer and a sharp business person, but those guys were something else.

JS: Why was the LCIP able to buy the land from Rancourt but wasn't able to cut a deal with Diamond when the selling price was \$70 an acre less? There were several months before Rancourt bought the land at the end of May.

PB: Because Diamond absolutely refused to do anything except sell all the property—every acre not only in New Hampshire but also in Vermont. We tried everything. The major stumbling block was they wouldn't subdivide. They had 90,000 acres in two states, and we couldn't even get them to seriously consider just allowing us to buy the 67,000 acres in New Hampshire.

As it turned out, that's one of the reasons Rancourt went belly up, because it was more than they could handle. Eventually the market softened dramatically. But Diamond was intransigent. They just simply wouldn't move. And the popular wisdom among the people, who presumably knew, was that nobody would meet Diamond's price.

JS: And eventually Diamond would soften and either cut out the Nash Stream or simply divide the two states?

PB: Exactly right. It was truly a shock. I learned about it in Lancaster. I was bringing my boat up to my camp on Parmacheene Lake and I had to see John Harrigan. Somehow or other John knew. And I just couldn't believe that someone would pay that kind of money.

Looking back on it, I can't be anything but proud of the fact that we got that block of land [the Nash Stream]. We can quibble and debate about the details of the management, but my suspicion is that the principles and priorities of how the land is actually managed will change over time, and I'm sure even more of it in the future will be devoted to an ecosystem based, very exemplary forestry. I think it can really be a model in the future for the very best in forestry and wildlife and ecosystem-based land management. *But you can't do anything unless you get the land in the first place.* That's been my guiding philosophy—first of all get the land. Then, sooner or later, things will work out, if the idea is sound.

JS: Who gave Senators Leahy and Rudman the idea to launch the Northern Forest Lands Study in the fall of 1988?

PB: We were in very close contact with Rudman's office. He was our key guy. We knew we needed a block of money as leverage to be able to negotiate at all. So Rudman got us a \$5 million appropriation. Because he was able to do that we were in a position to be a serious negotiator.

Fred Kocher was then Rudman's chief of staff here in New Hampshire. Fred, Steve Blackmer, and I were meeting here at the Society. We were thinking about what else we could do. There's more to the problem [than buying the land], and there's more of a lesson to be learned here or reason to try to avoid this sort of thing. Because of that Diamond sale, lots of things bubbled up into public debate. We had assumed James River, Boise and Champion are always going to be there. And suddenly you looked at things through a different set of lenses.

We were talking about some way that Congress could help, in addition to kicking in some money. And Fred said, "Why don't we create a task force to take a look at this sort of thing to see what would happen. What's the expectation?" There was no reason to

believe then that other large landowners wouldn't do essentially the same thing. In fact, we knew through Champion's own statements that they had land for sale—or at least that they were questioning their ownership over a good part of northern New Hampshire. They were perfectly blunt and open about it that the land wasn't paying its way and things had to change. So that's how the idea got hatched.

The three of us started thinking about what Congress could do, and what would be the elements. Well, the elements were: you've got to involve the governors, and you have to have all three states. We weren't sure about New York. We thought this might be something that might appeal to Leahy. It seemed to be a good bipartisan possibility. There should be somebody from forest industry, conservation, and the state. The Governors' Task Force [to the Northern Forest Lands Study] got started just like that. Fred took it to Warren, and Warren took it to Leahy, and it happened.

JS: What brought New York in?

PB: Two things as I recall. One was the political reality that it transformed this from being a kind of parochial northern New England problem into more of a Northeast thing. And partly because of Lassiter [a Georgia-based developer who acquired Diamond's 96,000 acres in the Adirondacks].

JS: The Diamond sale did make New York a natural.

PB: Yes. The reason we were hesitant in the first place was we weren't sure we could get them, or that New York would really give much of a damn because it's such a large state.

JS: Also, the timberlands are a relatively smaller percentage of economic and land area significance in New York than they are in the three northern New England states.

PB: And I think even at that stage of the game, we were aware of the turmoil you always get into in the Adirondacks between the Park people and the economic interests people. But, as it turned out, I'm glad New York was a part of it.

We had a hard time getting Maine interested. Maine was always the reluctant player. That's a whole other story. It's being played out as we speak with the [Ban Clearcutting in Maine] Referendum. It's all part of the same thing. Finally they agreed to. . . I'm sure Maine came in, and the Maine Forest Products Council came in, strictly on the basis of damage control, as a defensive strategy.

JS: And with the understanding that they could pull all of Maine out if they didn't like a subject.

PB: Not so much pull out as stonewall it and paralyze first the Task Force, and then the Council, which is exactly what they did.

JS: I remember a meeting held at the Forest Society in April 1989. Almost any subject that got raised Ted Johnston of the Maine Forest Products Council would say, "That's not within our purview." It was perfectly well within your charge, but his say-so killed further discussion. I guess there'd been battles that you'd already fought by then so that at that point you just said, "OK, let's talk about something that we can talk about."

PB: We couldn't proceed. We were just between a rock and a hard place. If Maine didn't want to do it, it stymied first the Task Force and then the Council. We wasted five and a half out of six years not talking about one of the absolutely critical things, which was forest practices.

JS: When I replay all the Northern Forest history, that is the real question: How does one deal with issues—particularly of biological and ecological significance, issues that won't go away simply because politically we chose to ignore them—when you've got a power block that exerts, with very great effectiveness, veto-power over the public discussion of them? It seems to me that the way the Council ultimately resolved it was sort of backing into it by having public hearings where the public simply beat the living daylights out of you and said, "You don't pass the straight face test until you start talking about this."

PB: Ultimately the Council had to be embarrassed. Two things: one is the pressure from the public, and the second was the recognition within certain elements of the forest industry in Maine that the stonewalling had to stop. And Roger Milliken coming forward. Obviously, Roger as an individual was willing to talk about anything and everything. But he came to the Council with enough of a mandate—and I don't know the details by any means—from the folks in Maine so that they backed him and he was able to do what he did. And without Roger, and without that public pressure, we would still be not talking about it. We wouldn't even have these rudimentary, basic efforts, talking about sustainability, that have grown out of the Council. Now I think it's fair to say—I'm proud to say, and chauvinist enough to say—that New Hampshire would have done it anyway.

JS: One other NFLC-related issue is the delicate balance between the states and the federal government. On the one hand there was the hysteria that if you let the Feds come in at all, they were going to take over everything, and on the other hand there was this realization that to implement some of the ideas the Council



One of dozens of important landmarks protected under Bofinger's leadership was Big Island at Lake Umbagog, acquired in 1984. The Society owns 96 reservations covering more than 25,000 acres. Much of Umbagog's shoreline was later protected by the Trust for NH Lands/Land Conservation Investment Program.

put forward or that some of us wanted the Council to put forward, there's no way the states had the resources, even if they had the political will and the best of intentions. They simply didn't have the budgets, and in some cases, the jurisdiction. Some of these things really required regional collaboration. Let's get away from the hysterical rhetoric. How do we strike a balance so that the states retain their integrity and appropriate control over things they really can do best, but that they stop pretending that they can do everything best. An example is: the states didn't clean up the Connecticut River in the early 1970s.

PB: The lack of follow-up on any sort of an interstate cooperative, continuing review and participation, is the single biggest disappointment. And that first and foremost came from Maine, but it was aided by a couple of the New York crew, and we simply couldn't budge it. We lost a wonderful opportunity.

The Council process, I think, took too long. Six years is too long; a year or two years is probably not enough. If we could have had the discussion of whether we were going to continue on in year three or four as opposed to year six, I think we'd have had more support, because people would have said, "Yes, I'm willing to keep going to meetings." As opposed to saying, "Oh boy, I'll be so happy when this is over."

And so it was the combination of: we were tired and had to get back to our regular jobs, plus we didn't have enough energy left to work it out. We didn't have the will to try to make it work, we didn't have the energy. I think it's too bad, because I believe even with the cast of characters, and even with some people who had such fear of a regional effort, making it easier for federal involvement and federal participation, I think we could have overcome that.

It was such a struggle to get the sustainability section—the first important step on forest practices. I know there's something there, Jamie, and I guess at this stage of the game I've got to leave it to somebody else to work on. But I believe there's a way to do it, to maintain state prerogatives where necessary, and yet to get interstate cooperation and planning and create a vehicle that could bring the federal government to help us to funnel the things that could come—and should come—from the federal budget. I just know it's there, and I feel badly that we blew the opportunity.

I believe it can be done. I think the paranoia we have right now is an overreaction. The fear of the Feds has gone too far.

JS: There are legitimate reasons to be skeptical of the Feds and of the states, but that's not the same thing. It's like there are legitimate reasons to be skeptical of some regulations but that doesn't mean you should get rid of all regulations. The other thing to remember is: these problems aren't going to go away, so we'll have to deal with them sooner or later.

PB: (Laughter) Somebody else will get a crack at it.

JS: What are the strengths and weaknesses of the region's conservation community? What are we going to have to do better if we are going to be more effective in helping the public to understand that these are not frivolous issues we are working on, and that we don't have a lot of time, and we really do need to take some decisive steps?

PB: Where we're failing right now is we've lost some of the connections between the organizations and the agencies and the local constituencies. For too long, the number of people we had to talk to and deal with to get action became smaller and smaller. And, let's face it, for a while we had some power, some influence. So the natural consequence is: be efficient; be effective; why have a grassroots campaign or send out 27 newsletters when you can just make one telephone call? But everything goes in cycles, and everything catches up with you. And conservation and environmental organizations have the same inherent tendencies to become bureaucracies, to become overgrown, to take themselves too seriously, to be taken over by the bean counters or the efficiency experts as any other institution.

All of us—the state and regional and the larger groups—we've got to reestablish those contacts with real people living real lives, dealing with what are in

many cases, backyard issues.

That's how we got the wetlands protection. The cry about the Hampton salt marshes wasn't statewide; it was a half a dozen people who didn't like what was happening in their town. One great little lady, Ruth Stimson, who worked for the Cooperative Extension Service, lived in Hampton. She didn't like what was happening in her town. And, by God, she just kept stirring people up, and pretty soon, here's this forestry organization, with a staff of two and a half, the only staffed organization in the state paying attention. So we went down there, and we saved salt marshes. But, that was a local problem.

We don't work together the way we should, and the way we used to, whether it's in New Hampshire or northern New England. Looking back over 35 years, admittedly the organizations are bigger; things are more complicated; life is more fractured, yet we've lost something that has epitomized New England and New Hampshire: an easy ability to sit down and work together. Identify the problem and course of action and work together. It's so much harder today, and we've got to find ways to do that again. I look back and some of the things that I'm most pleased about having participated in—they were all collaborative.

JS: Were they collaborative in the sense of a collaborative effort of environmental groups, or collaborative in the sense that there was a broad base that included environmental groups but went well beyond the environmental community?

PB: That's a good distinction. In every instance that I can recall, there was always an important representative or element from outside the conservation or environmental community. It wasn't just a bunch of paid staffers or anointed volunteers. We always had somebody from the outside that gave us a good attachment and avenue to economic or social aspects of the community.

I think partly the problem is that it is harder for organizations today to sacrifice their position for the sake of working for consensus. Nobody's willing to do it.

JS: We've got 50 groups saying "I'm right." That's one problem. The other problem is that we could reach consensus, but it could be only that the sun rises in the



Bofinger returned from a year-long sabbatical in 1985 with a simple, radical formula: Raise \$3.2 million in private funds. . . lobby the state for \$47 million in public money. . . and you can double the amount of state-owned land in New Hampshire. It worked. From 1987 to 1993, the Society-inspired Trust for New Hampshire Lands/Land Conservation Investment Program protected 103,000 acres. Fully half of New Hampshire's towns participated.

east or the law of gravity is still operative. However, there are some really tough biological issues that are not going to be politically popular if we address them head on, so the tendency is to avoid them and reach a "lowest common denominator consensus." How do you avoid this form of consensus, which to me is an abdication of responsibility?

PB: An important element is the charter under which you start. I look back on the things we did that really did amount to something and got some serious policy issues or permanent solutions or something substantial—we had access to power. We were either appointed by somebody in power or we knew we could get to somebody who could make it happen. So it wasn't just a bunch of people sitting around deciding on what they themselves could agree, but rather they had some reason to believe that their efforts and their consensus, or their opinion, or their recommendation was going to accomplish something. And they had access to power for implementation. Sometimes that can come from a governor; sometimes it comes from the legislature; sometimes it comes from Congress; sometimes it comes through business.

JS: What's your advice to politicians who are not expert in forestry and conservation issues in how they deal with the politics of these issues?

PB: The politicians we have the most trouble with are the ones who come at it from an ideology. There are politicians who feel that their peculiar constituency is so important and narrow that they simply can't see beyond their own community or interest groups. You've got to cast away these artificial barriers of ideology for other things. Just give us a chance to talk. As I look back over the years, the best political supporters we've had have not been the ones who've come up to me and said, "Jeez, Paul, I'd like to know more about forest conservation," or "Gee, I think you guys are doing a wonderful job." Our best political supporters were genuinely open when I came to talk to them, and if the idea was a good one, they could say, "Yeah, by God, I'll support that," or "That's a good idea; what can I do to help?"

JS: In other words, the burden was on you to make the case, but if you did. . .

PB: They would go for it.

JS: I'd like your assessment of the evolving notion of wilderness. Back in the 1950s and 1960s it was more a recreation and scenery type of issue. Today it is moving in the direction of being a life-support system issue. What is your take on this and how do you see the debate playing out into the next decade?

PB: I think we've about used up the blunt "just get another 5-10-20,000 acres of Wilderness carved out of the White Mountain National Forest. There are better places to put our energies than just carving up land that we've already worked over. That is not to say there can't be some modification and expansion of "Big W" wilderness in the National Forest. But I don't see that as the place where we should be putting our energy.

The concept of ecological reserves and the way that New Hampshire is working on it right now, I see as the way to accomplish what I think you want. It is as you say, "the life support system," providing areas where all of the living creatures can interact in the most uninterrupted and sensitive manner. That may be better accomplished by smaller areas with adequate buffers and with sensitive management around those areas.

If I had another 25 years to go at this job, I would say that I'm not going to spend a hell of a lot of time debating over the last acre carved out of the National Forest. Rather I'd spend my time getting the political and economic support for ecological units and better management of land around cores. And think of what can be done, for different species and different mixes and not "save" every damn acre up in the National Forest. It won't help the rest of the state out. What about the people who live in Concord? or Candia? or Westmoreland? or Portsmouth? What's going to be close to them, and where can those school kids go?

I know the next White Mountain National Forest plan is going to be a battleground because The Wilderness Society will come in and do their numbers game, and National Audubon. And everybody will say, "We've got to save the rest of the Pemi," or whatever, and meanwhile the rest of New Hampshire and northern New England is going to hell.

The state conservation organizations and the local environmentalists should say: "We're sorry national organizations, this is far more important, what's happening in this community, this bog, this side of the mountain, or this valley, or this watershed, for this combination of species, for this ecosystem. What can you do to help us here?"

JS: My message to them is "both and."

PB: It might be nice. Realistically I don't think it's possible.

JS: What's your vision for conservation for the coming decades for New Hampshire and the region?

PB: I mentioned earlier that one element that absolutely has to be part of it is closer involvement and participation in local projects. Not only have we as the environmental community lost it—and that's why you hear: "everybody's got to have a grassroots campaign. . ." And the foundations appear willing to give money for grassroots. Well, it's symptomatic. It also is necessary, not only because we lost it, but because that's where the action is. This is one of those cyclical things. Right now the cycle in public interest—at least in this state, and I suspect elsewhere as well—it's less "Here's a New Hampshire problem," than "Here's a local problem."

Over the last 35 years I've seen at least a cycle and a half, maybe two. These things come and go. But right now, and for the foreseeable future, it's got to be something that's in their back yard.

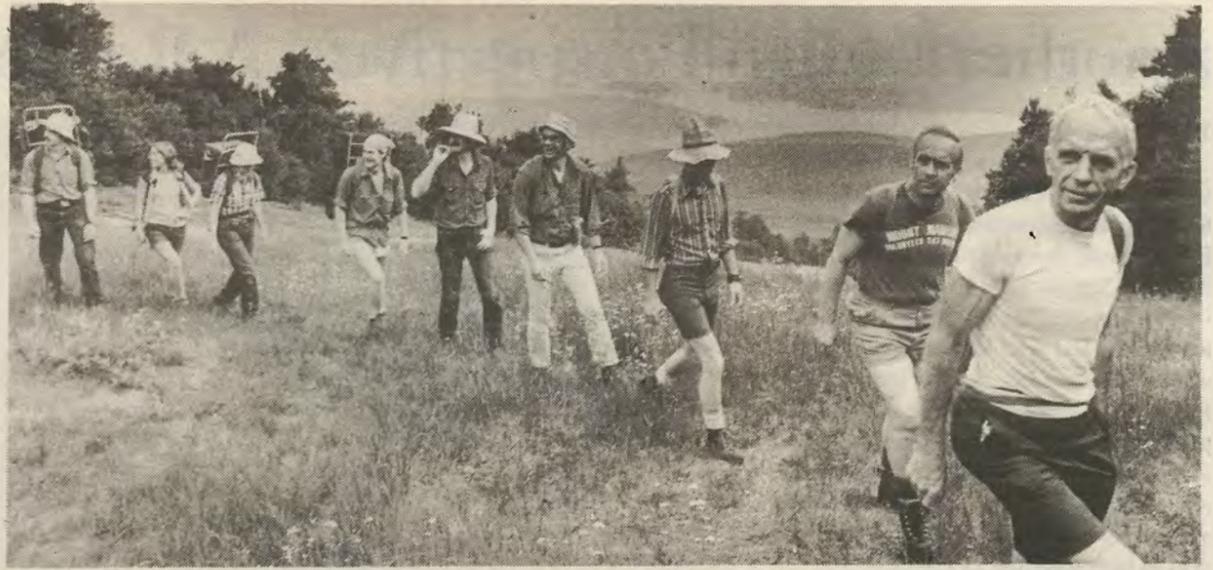
Another aspect of it, and this is the direction in which the Forest Society is going, is being much more selective as to how we use government and work with government. It's not to say: we can live without the bureaucracy; we can live without Concord, and we can live without Washington and the various levels of government. We certainly can't.

In the past I always thought of "public-private partnerships." I worked with the public agencies and helped them create something or get a program going, and we served as their helpers, or their up-front people in some cases. But then we'd say, "OK government, it's yours. You do it now. We've helped you get it started."

I think we've got to do more "private-public partnerships" where the private sector has to not only be the initiator, but ultimately the doer and the continuer of the project, and you bring the public agencies in where they can really help and where they have the muscle and authority and the clear public mandate. And I think that you're going to see, at least for the Forest Society, more evidence of dealing directly with private lands. A lot of our activities—and much of my activities—have been devoted to public lands: getting public lands in the first place and then working with their management and the planning and the politics and the administration. And often, that is so consuming of my time and the time of our staff that we neglect the other 85% of New Hampshire that's privately owned.

It goes back to what we were talking about with wilderness; I don't think people, and certainly this organization, should do all its "wilderness type"—activities solely on public land. We have to be creating opportunities and enclaves and sites and reserves—maybe they're only a couple of hundred acres; whatever it takes; whatever you can get. It's going to have to be in some cases on private land with the cooperation and active participation of the private landowners.

There are lots of specifics that I see the Forest Society working on. We've made a big thing about easements; it's something I'm very proud of. Protecting productive forest land. And we have this great idea of aerial monitoring. It's cheaper. We've got 50,000 acres of easements, and growing all the time. But, what we haven't done is work with those easement landowners to make sure they're practicing good stewardship; and what's going to happen when the next



Paul Bofinger, sixth from left, joined in a 1976 hike to celebrate the re-opening of the 47-mile Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway, protected by the Society and first opened in 1921. Now that he's retired, perhaps he can visit some of the places he helped to protect.

generation takes them over.

So many of the people who have given easements on their land are elderly. And you just know that those lands are going to transfer ownership. In some cases they're going to stay in the family; in other cases they're going to be sold—some of the best wildlife, forestry, and farming land in New Hampshire. I see a responsibility that we have to start working with these people and their heirs and assigns. The current owners have a land ethic—they've given away the development rights. But what about the kids? What about the grandkids? What about the person who buys that land? We've really got to start paying attention to that.

JS: That ties in with your comments on the ecological reserves which are not only going to be based on publicly-acquired land. What you've just described is a potential constituency for working with the reserve system. Some of those landowners aren't going to want to cut trees at all and would probably be delighted to plug into an ecological reserve system if given the opportunity.

PB: There are going to be people who are all over the map with respect to how they want their lands to be managed, what they want out of them. In many cases, all you have to do is expose people to the idea that their land is part of a bigger picture, is part of the larger puzzle. Get people to look beyond those artificial property bounds that have been created over time to see where their land fits in the overall scheme of things. That opens up a whole different range of values. In the past we used to say, "Gee you're really missing out by not harvesting any timber. It could help you pay your taxes." To some people that's good. Other people might be much more inclined to participate as a steward of their land by leaving it alone or actively managing just a part of their land.

There is going to be the greatest transfer of wealth in the next decade that we've ever seen. With the land, that's sure the case, especially in New Hampshire. I look around at the people I know who own land and so many of them—so many Society members—bought the land in the 1950s and 1960s when it was \$5-\$10-\$20 an acre. You could buy an old farm or a tract for just a relatively modest amount of money. And they've held that land all these years, and now it's worth ten to a hundred times as much. A thousand dollars an acre is not unusual. Heck, you can often get \$1000 an acre just from the timber, forget about the land value.

What used to be a very small piece of someone's estate is now enough, in and of itself, to put them over the \$600,000 limit for Federal Estate Taxes. Guess what's the first thing to go when somebody dies and the heirs have to deal with all kinds of things—the house, securities? The forest land is the easy thing to put on the market; it is vulnerable to liquidation.

JS: Sounds like we need both a public and a private strategy. A strategy to help those who want to keep their land in the private domain, but also a strategy to buy up the land that is for sale that has special public value.

PB: Part of the plan we have is to get ready for another

LCIP-type program, and I was hoping we could get ready for it in the 1997 legislative session. Realistically, the state just doesn't have the money. We're developing the inventories, working with the local people. What we are currently doing is going to the communities and asking folks, "What's important to you in your back yard? In your home town?" That inventory, combined with the best thing we've got going—the ecological reserves initiative—will be the core of the next Trust for New Hampshire Lands-LCIP activity that we have in this state.

JS: You've just outlined a really good centralized and decentralized strategy where the Ecological Reserves System Steering Committee is looking at the state as a whole, and you're working with each community and asking, "What's special? What's important?" This seems to be a pretty good way; of building support both with local communities and landowners and with the legislature. When we do approach the legislature, hopefully, we'll have large constituency. Some people who have heard about the Ecological Reserves Steering Committee process are already asking, "How can I enroll my land?"

PB: (Laughs, pleasantly surprised.)

JS: What are your future plans?

PB: I'm going to do a lot of fishing and traveling. I could spend a lot of time just exploring New Hampshire and Maine. There are places I've helped save—there are half a dozen beautiful trout ponds—most of which I dealt with on the telephone—I've never set foot on them; but we bought them and saved them.

Jane Difley to Replace Bofinger

Jane A. Difley of Montpelier, Vermont, has been appointed as the next president/forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. She will assume the post in August upon the retirement of Paul O. Bofinger of Concord, who has led the Society since 1965.

Difley is currently executive director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council. Previously, she held several positions with the American Forest Council, including vice president for forestry programs and northern regional manager. Difley has served as president of the Society of American foresters and has worked in forest management for private landowners and public agencies. Difley holds a MS in forest management from the University of Massachusetts.

She will be the Society's fourth chief executive since its founding in 1901.

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has programs in land protection, education, advocacy, and forestry. The Society is supported by 10,000 members and has an annual budget of \$2 million. The Society owns 96 forest reservations covering 25,000 acres and holds protective interests in an additional 54,000 acres.

Another Indian Perspective - A Response to Obomsawin

To the Editor

I have to respond to Tomas Obomsawin's recent spate of articles on the Abenaki Perspective of the Northern Forest issue, the most recent being in the Mud Season 1996 Forum. As part Indian, (as well as German, Russian, Romanian, and who knows what else) I want to give readers another Indian perspective. In short, don't believe Indian people are any different than anyone else. Personally, I find Obomsawin's remarks to be offensive to Indian people as well as the rest of this nation's citizens in both tone and fact.

Some of his assertions are outright inaccuracies. For example, his claim that prior to white settlement, New England was one "unbroken forest filled with trees thousands of years old, ten feet in diameter" is ecologically inaccurate. There were no unbroken forests. Nor were there trees thousands of years old in New England, nor any, except perhaps for few individuals, that may have come close to ten feet in diameter.

Such ecological inaccuracies are minor compared to the corruption he has done to the history of Indian-white relationships. Obomsawin tries to portray Indians as stupid victims duped by unscrupulous whites bent on destroying all Indian people by suggesting that "with foreign priests as spiritual leaders and Frenchmen for brothers-in-laws, together we managed to deplete most of our hunting territory of animals". Most Indian people I know are intelligent individuals. Indians often sought out foreign priests because they thought their god would give them an advantage over their neighbors in warfare. And certainly many Indians were as intent on taking advantage of the situation as whites.

To suggest as Obomsawin does, that somehow the French or English helped the Indians wipe out all the game in their region to make them dependent on trade goods, ignores the Indian's own willing participation in the fur trade and culpability in the decline of wildlife across North America.

Most Indians saw European trade goods as desirable. They made life easier. Blankets, iron pots, guns, sewing needles, axes, and fishing nets not only made food collections easier, they appeared to make life more secure. And Indians were only too happy to kill off



After over 150 years of commercial logging, too much of the Northern Forest looks like this. Photo © John McKeith.

beaver, deer, buffalo, sea otter, and a host of other animals to get them.

I think that it's incorrect and indeed, dangerous, to assume that Indian people are any less willing to exploit the earth for personal gain as anyone else. Down beneath our cultural costumes, all of us have the same basic human behavior and desires. That is what makes us human. And all humans, under the right combination of circumstances, act similarly.

To presume that somehow Indian people lived in some kind of ecological harmony prior to the advent of the European is dishonest. Rather I think the apparent lack of environmental destruction was due to the limited technology and population.

We see Indian people often portrayed as having some kind of insight

into the workings of the earth and nature. Such racial flattery is dangerous thinking for several reasons. It presumes that race does make a difference in human behavior. And of course that is the premise of every racist that ever lived from Adolph Hitler to your typical southern bigot. But beyond that, if we accept the notion that somehow Indian people have some kind of special relationship or insight into living on earth harmoniously, we are in effect absolving all other people of responsibility for their behavior. After all, how can we hold western civilization or whites or whomever accountable for their actions if they are genetically programmed by race to exploit the earth?

The fact is that Indian people, like all people, are just as willing to exploit the earth if given the opportunity and

they stand to benefit with greater power, profit or personal gain. That is why Eskimos in northern Alaska support oil drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. That is why the Tlingit Indians in southeast Alaska were only too willing to clearcut more acres of old growth forest than even the Forest Service could do on the Tongass National Forest. That is why the Crow tribe, for example, opposes wild and scenic river designation on the Little Tongue River, a stream they want to dam for hydro-electric power and irrigation. And these are only a few examples I could give from dozens.

Indians are strong environmentalists when they are trying to gain political advantage for gaining control of lands. But the record, once that land is under their control, is not all that different than what ones sees everywhere else. Of course, when Indian people exploit the earth like everyone else, apologists for such incomprehensible Indian behavior always suggest the Indians were duped again. Are we that stupid? I don't think so.

The fact is that Indian people are no different than other people. I am certain that if the Abenaki were somehow to regain control of New England's forest—something I would fight strongly—they would be acting no different than the major corporations except the forest ecosystem might actually be worse since most liberal whites are afraid to criticize Indian people for fear of being called a racist. And that is exactly why many of the environmentally destructive practices that occur on lands under Indian control almost never get reported in the environmental press.

The only way to protect the Northern Forest or any other area is to give all people equal control and interest in their future. With all its imperfection, democratic control is the only way that we have a chance of protecting and preserving the Northern Forest. Racist diatribes might make some like Obomsawin feel better, but they offer little in the way of illuminating the pathway towards protecting the Northern Forest and our collective future.

George Wuerthner
Eugene, Oregon

41 Lots Proposed on Four Remote Ponds in Northern Maine

Hundreds of Mainers expressed overwhelming support for the concept of no-development zones during public hearings of both the Northern Forest Lands Council and the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC). Nonetheless, Maine's North Woods remain wide open to scattered, haphazard development which fragments the forest and forever changes the remote qualities that make Maine *Maine*.

LURC is currently considering a development proposal that would rezone 3,650 acres of land near the North end of Baxter State Park to **allow development of 41 lots on four remote ponds** (T7 R11 WELS, Piscataquis County). The two parcels include Snake, Carpenter, May, Hay and East Branch Ponds—all of which are currently undeveloped except for a single camp on Snake pond. This is exactly the type of development in remote areas that many Maine people have opposed.

This development proposal lies inside the region identified by NRCM and the Northern Forest Alliance as the Greater Baxter State Park Wildland Area.

Why This Proposal Should Be Stopped

- The development proposal does not show the "demonstrated need in the community or area." It will also clearly have an "undue adverse impact on existing uses or resources." Furthermore, it is inconsistent with LURC's Comprehensive Plan.

- The public has clearly stated on the record that the "demonstrated need" is for preservation, not more development, of remote ponds. These ponds are recognized as significant fisheries. Guides have stated that they are among the few ponds remaining where anglers can catch trophy-sized brook trout. There would be adverse impacts on camp owners and guides who bring clients to these ponds for the remote fishing experience. The quality of the fishing in these ponds will diminish, as will the quality of wildlife habitat in the area.

- The proposal also fails to meet the policy in the Comprehensive Plan to, "discourage growth which results in scattered and sprawling development pat-

terns." It also fails to meet the policy requiring that "wilderness, natural and plant or animal habitat values are not unreasonably degraded."

What You Can Do to Stop this Proposal

LURC needs to hear from you. A hearing was held on July 30 in Millinocket. However, written comments will be accepted until August 14, 1996. Please send your comments to: Maine Land Use Regulation Commission, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022. Fax LURC at: 207-287-7439. E-Mail LURC at: Caroline@state.me.us.

You can get additional information and a copy of the proposal from LURC by calling and asking for the Gardner Land Company Concept Plan. LURC's phone numbers are: 207-287-2361 or 800-452-8711.

If you have any questions about the plan, contact Robert Moldaver at the Natural Resources Council of Maine at 207-622-3101 x245, or 800-287-2345.

Tom Obomsawin Responds to George Wuerthner's Letter

I must answer to George Wuerthner's response to my last article in the *Forum*. I welcome any criticism to my articles. However, it is unclear in your *Another Indian Perspective* how your own Native ancestry is relevant to your commentary, except as an attempt to discredit my own perspective.

As an Abenaki "Indian" with ancestors that I can trace in many of the Deeds and other excerpts of "White" history that I cited in my previous articles, I am outraged by the treatment my ancestors had to endure. I have labored to expose some of the here-to-fore hidden or obscured truths revealed in these historical documents. If the statements in the documents that I quote sound racist it's because the people who wrote them were. I think it is absurd that you should infer from this that I am some kind of a racist. I'm so tired of writers trying to somehow justify the action of the European/Caucasian invaders into our country! I expect that I will be disliked by people who do not want to hear the truth or are "offended" by it, but your "nation's citizens" need to understand the ugly, naked truth about US history in order to deal legitimately with today's complex problems concerning the destruction of the environment.

It is true that a great many Indian people have wholeheartedly assimilated into the so-called American culture and have forgotten their connections to their culture. Many have become just as corrupted as any corrupt element of the Euro-American society. However, to suggest that my ancestors and your European ancestors weren't any different is simply ludicrous. This is not a question of genetic superiority, it is about culture. For more than ten thousand years my ancestors lived in a civilization and culture of their own creation. Our civilization flourished and lived in harmony and balance with our forests. Exploitation of the forests for profit and greed was incomprehensible. The magnificent virgin forests of only several hundred years ago provided for all our needs. There was always enough for everyone. We didn't need cattle ranches for meat, or farms for vegetables. We lived a totally self-sufficient, and independent, life.

Robert Leveritt, writing in *Eastern Old Growth Forests*, a book published by Island Press, and edited by John and Mary Byrd Davis, is clear to differentiate between native impact on a forest prior to 'white' encroachment and 'white' or Euro-American impact on a forest. He says that Native impact on a forest is the same as no un-natural impact on a forest. These he calls Primary Forests. In our culture the forest was treated as a living thing deserving the utmost respect. When a white birch tree was taken to build a canoe, a ceremony was held giving thanks to the spirit of the tree. All life was respected in this way and never wasted.

Perhaps the misunderstanding that we are having has more to do with culture than race. I live my life as an Abenaki. We have all had to adapt to this technology and jurisdiction that have been forced on us. My priorities are not how much money and possessions I can accumulate during my lifetime but how effective I can be at pre-

serving and passing on my culture to my children and how well I can protect the land that was given us by the creator, the land that my ancestors for over ten thousand years have been buried in.

Enter the 'white' man. From day one the intent was to claim our territory for themselves. The problem? There were millions of native people occupying the land. On pretense of friendship, the 'white' man deceived the native people and began the long process of stealing every square inch of our land. Germ warfare (smallpox), massacres, corruption, alcoholism, GENOCIDE at all levels were the tools used by the invading armies of Europe to implement this theft and virtually wipe out over 90% of the Native American population.

To the Euro-American corporate culture, our trees were and are valuable primarily in a monetary sense. The bigger the tree, the more money it is worth. Vast fortunes were and are amassed by the ruling class. Using money as a sophisticated and modern form of slavery, they dictate the policies and 'normal' behavior of the general public. Not much has changed in 500 years as far as the ruling class is concerned; they still impose their rules and jurisdiction through their corporations.

As far as any "outright inaccuracies" with regards to the condition of the forests in my region, I suppose that I may get animated trying to describe the beautiful immense forests of the not so distant past. I know that scientific studies will show that an ancient forest will

have a wide variety of ages of individual trees and of course that is logically correct. I am not trying to be any kind of expert in any scientific field. Of course there were areas where trees were sparse or didn't grow or were blown down or burned. You yourself state that there were a "few individuals" over a thousand years old. In my opinion, there were a lot more than just a few. I merely wanted to imprint a mental picture of a forest that none of us have ever seen—the forests that my ancestors lived in harmony with.

When you talk about European trade goods making life easier and more secure for us you failed to mention alcohol and corruption and left out the fact that many of the blankets were disease ridden. It was and is entirely true that Indian people under the influence of alcohol and corruption are "only too happy to kill off" all the animals (and cut the trees) of the forest as well as a myriad of other disgusting and un-natural things to themselves, their families, and their natural environment.

You point to exploitation of Indian land by Tribal governments as evidence that Native People are "as intent on taking advantage of the situation [i.e. the opportunity to make a buck by destroying the environment] as whites." This view shows a deep ignorance of Indian/White history. Federally recognized Indian Nations lost almost all control over their lands during the 1800s when Indian Lands were (and are) held "in Trust" under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, which

promised to "manage" our land for us. The relationship, in the words of Supreme Court Justice Marshall, was to be "as that of a ward to a child" because Indian people were viewed as incapable of managing our own, by this time greatly diminished, territory. What was really meant was that we were unlikely to allow corporate interests to extract the wealth on and under the land at very little cost and great profit.

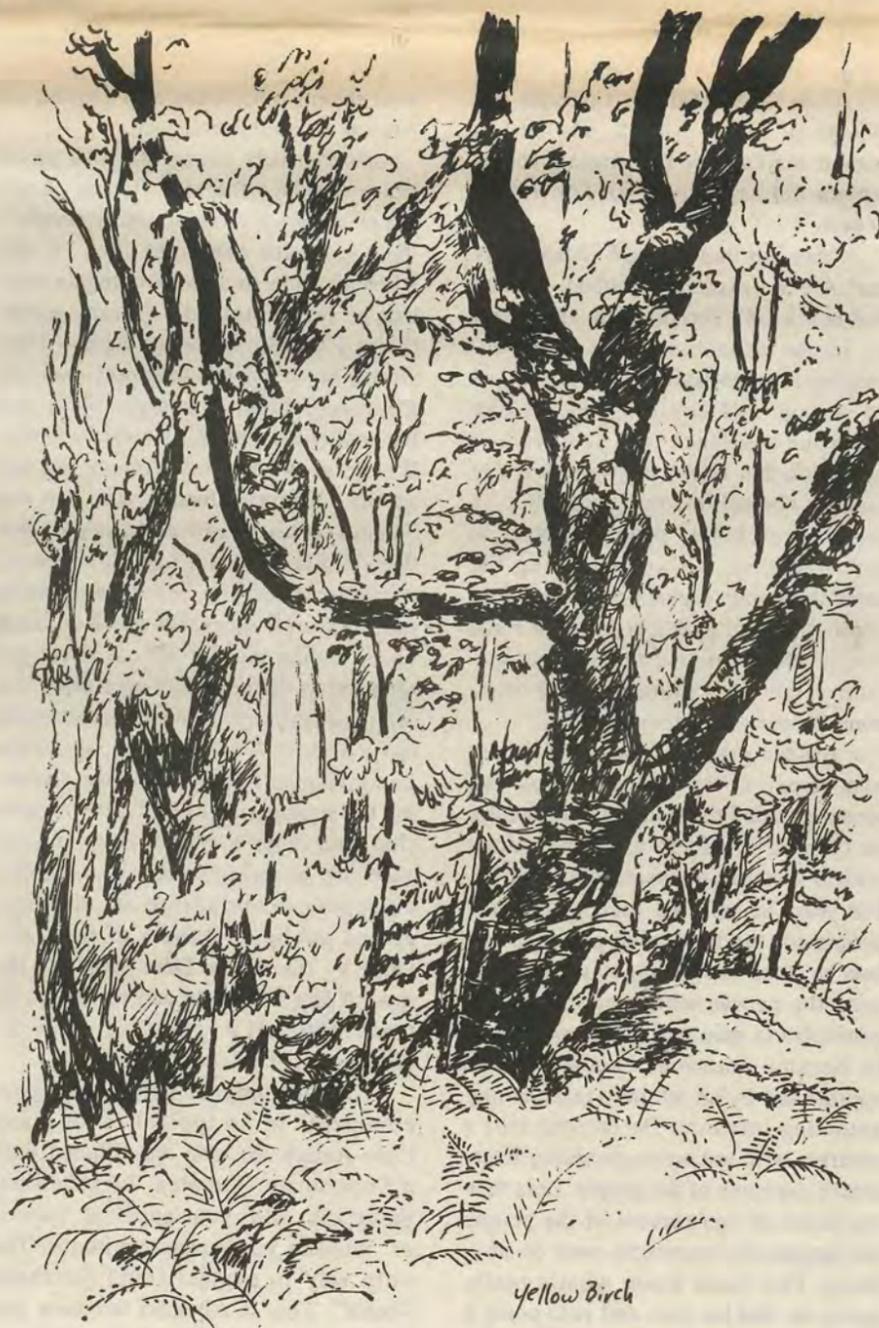
So-called "Tribal Governments" were put in place by the Federal government as corporations to ensure that Native resources would be available to exploitative U.S. corporate interests. This is colonization. A contemporary example of this travesty of self government/corporate profiteering is the collaboration of the so-called Alaskan Native Corporations with those who wish to exploit Alaskan wilderness. In contrast, the Alaskan Sovereignty Network, an alliance of traditional Native communities, actively opposes exploitation of their land and the governance structure imposed by the federal government as a means of gaining control of resources still in Native hands.

Recent examples of traditional Native communities fighting the so-called "trust relationship" with the federal government include: resistance to coal and uranium mining by the traditional Dine Nation (four corners region of Arizona/New Mexico); resistance by the Dann family/Western Shoshone; resistance to Uranium mining in the Black Hills (Lakota). etc. etc. In each of these cases traditional Native people have clearly stated that their (our) traditions oppose exploitation of the earth and her so-called resources; and that the Tribal Governments which sign agreements with corporations to exploit the earth do not represent traditional First Nations People.

Where do you "see Indian people often portrayed as having some kind of insight into the workings of the earth and nature"? In a Hollywood movie or a book about Indians written by a non-native person? Racial flattery? Your comments about Hitler and racism are interesting but ill directed. I'm quite sure that I didn't mention anything about "Western civilization or whites or whomever" being "genetically programmed by race to exploit the earth", but I do hold them "accountable for their actions".

You claim that Indian people are just as willing to exploit the earth for personal gain as all other people. The exploitation you describe is the work of puppet Tribal Governments, not the People themselves. It is possible to buy some people in every cultural group. Many Indian people have been and are our own worst enemies.

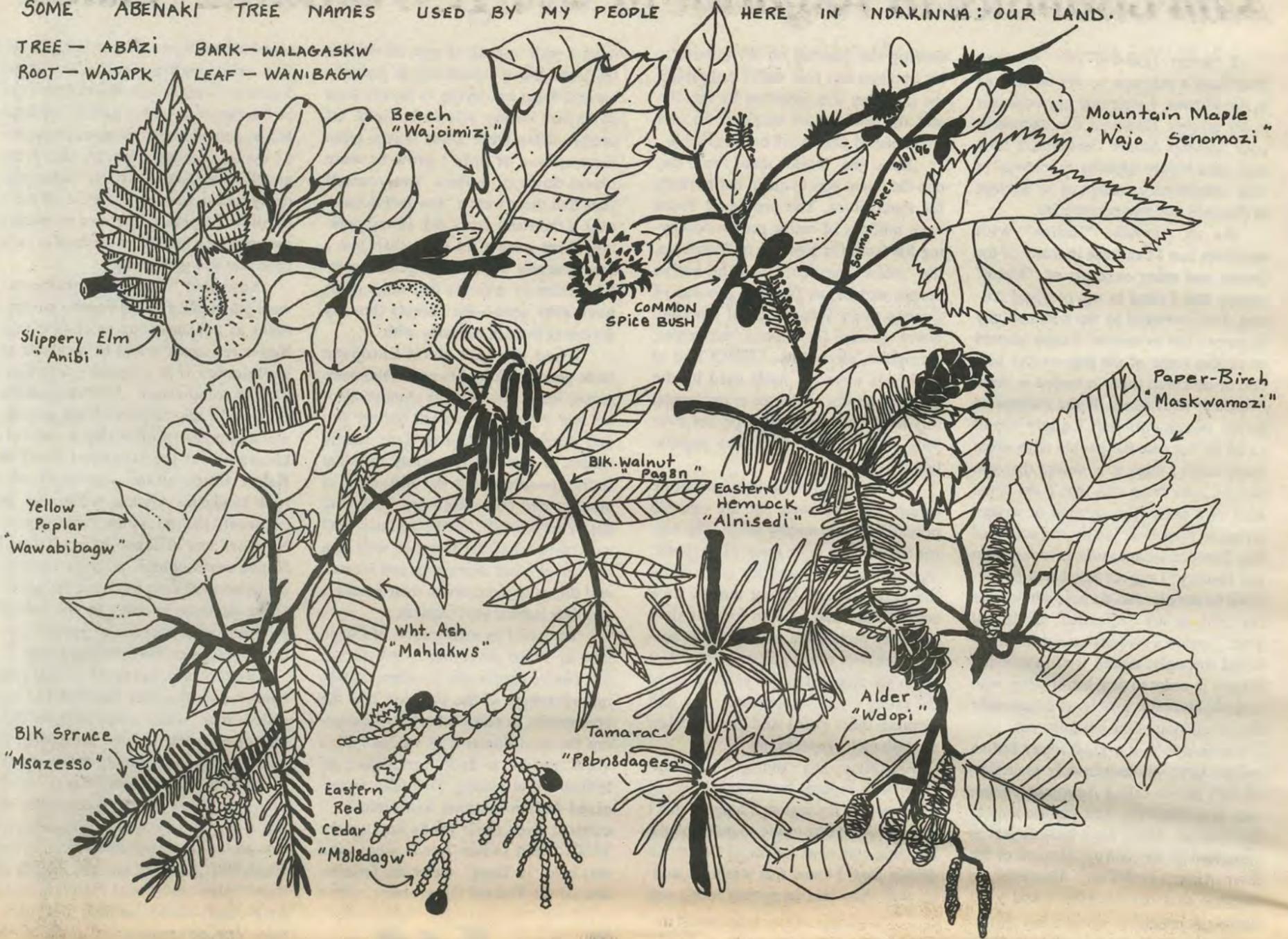
When the great Lakota nations could not be defeated by the U.S. military in the late 1800s, it took Indian "Scouts" working for the U.S. army to finally assassinate Sitting Bull and start an end to the resistance. Once the military gained control over the more notorious nations in the west like the Lakota (whom most history calls the Sioux, another not so complimentary term (like the name "Eskimo" which refers to the Inuit peoples), the remaining Indian people were captured, disarmed and



Yellow Birch

SOME ABENAKI TREE NAMES USED BY MY PEOPLE HERE IN 'NDAKINNA: OUR LAND.

TREE — ABAZI BARK — WALAGASKW
 ROOT — WAJAPK LEAF — WANIBAGW



surrounded by armed military personnel.

Their treatment by the U.S. government strongly resembles Nazi Germany in the 1930s and 40s. Indian people were rounded up and put in concentration camps called Indian Reservations. Some were lined up and shot in these camps. There were many deadly forced marches, usually in winter. Indian people who had attributes of leadership were patronized by the U.S. government and put in the position of dictating Federal policies and requirements to the Indian people living on these Concentration Camp/Reservations just as leaders of the imprisoned Jewish communities were forced to act as agents between the Nazi Regime and the Jewish inmates of the Ghettos and Concentration Camps. There is, in fact, documentation that shows that Hitler used Indian Reservation policies in the U.S. as a model for his Concentration Camps. How much control do you think 'traditional' Native Americans have over their U.S government-run Reservations?

In the same paragraph, you gave as an example of Indian People's willingness to exploit land belonging to the Crow Tribe and their opposition to the wild and scenic river designation in favor of Hydro-Electric power on Reserve land. This is better used as an example of how U.S. corporations control the remaining 3% of land still under the supposed jurisdiction of Indian nations. The Crow are one of the "Federally Recognized Indian Tribes", therefore directly under the control of

the U.S. Government, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The BIA is part of the Interior Department today, but was formerly under the Department of War.

"Are we that stupid?" Absolutely not! Are we exploited, robbed, cheated and murdered? You bet! You allege that all Indian people are strong environmentalists when trying to gain political advantage and control, but act like everyone else once it is achieved. A hard truth that I have to swallow is that you are correct in some cases. But by grouping all Indian people together in that statement is like me saying the same thing only replacing 'Indian' with 'White'. We all probably know of some people who would even exploit our collective labors to protect our environment for personal gain and power.

A once great and powerful leader of a branch of the Abenaki people has recently traded the traditional principles he claimed to adhere to for a contract with a Gambling Casino corporation. For years he solicited support from the people for the traditional principles he said he stood for. Now it appears that he used the people who supported those principles to gain political power. Once he became notorious enough he was approached by an attorney representing gambling interests. He entered into a contract with unknown gambling interests in the name of the people. Less than one-tenth of one percent of the people he supposedly represents vote on anything. Few even know what's really going on. Sad but true, and your point is

well taken, but please don't group all Abenakis into this category.

In the next paragraph you again claim it to be a fact that "Indian people are no different than any other people". You say with certainty that "if the Abenaki were to somehow regain control of New England's forest—something I would strongly fight—they would be acting no different than the major corporations", and you imply that the ecological situation would be worse. It is good to know that you are not one of the "liberal whites" who are not "afraid to criticize Indian people for fear of being called a racist". However, the reason that the "environmentally destructive practices that occur on lands under Indian control almost never get reported in the environmental press" is that non-Native environmentalists often have no idea what is going on Indian Land. Human Rights violations, including the suppression of traditional leadership, and other acts of covert genocide also are not reported. Two notable exceptions to this silence are the widespread public awareness of the resistance by traditional Dine people to the rape of Big Mountain and resistance by the traditional Apache people to the desecration of Mount Graham.

Throughout your letter, I find your comments to be typical of so many Euro-Americans who are afflicted with a Superiority Complex. In your final paragraph; with your apparent 'superior' intellect you purport to know "The only way to protect (our) Northern Forest". This is Abenaki territory you

are talking about, and your espousal of federal government control sounds like the already discredited "trust relationship" to me.

"Democratic control" by the way, is a concept that was borrowed from the Iroquois people (before they were forced onto "Indian Reservations") and fortunately incorporated somewhat into the U.S. Constitution minus the participation of women and anyone who was not of exclusively European ancestry. Of course, the cooperation with corporate interests which accompanies federal management of so-called "public" land was never part of Iroquois Confederacy thinking. When you propose to "give all people equal control and interest" in the future of our Northern Forests, do you include the corporations that are now destroying it?

In future articles I intend to discuss what I see as a hopeful direction for Northern Forest. In my recent articles I have been saying that what is going on now has to stop. I have said that this Northern Forest region remains Abenaki territory, in a state of colonization. We never gave it up. Modern International Law recognizes that there is no legitimate way to conquer and occupy someone else's land by force. It seems that your own concern about Native People retaining or re-gaining control over our territory has led you to read more than was said. An accurate look at history might help you understand that traditional Native People are very hospitable to all people who have respect.

Adirondacks to Algonquin - A Bi-National Vision

by Kathleen Fitzgerald

In 1991 a coalition of conservation biologists and activists, gathered in San Francisco to consider the words "what if..."

*What if we created an organization that combined the long-range vision of science with the passion of activism?

*What if humans learned to live in harmony with other creatures?

*What if wolves and jaguar once again roamed free across their native ranges in North America?

Out of the discussions came The Wildlands Project: the marriage of conservation biology and conservation activism. Five years later, The Wildlands Project continues to work to help protect and restore the ecological richness and native biodiversity of North America through the establishment of a connected system of wild reserves. Unlike many other conservation organizations, we believe that conservationists must strive not only to protect what natural areas remain today, but also to help restore and reintroduce species and ecosystems that have been destroyed or extirpated.

The objective of The Wildlands Project is simple: We live for the day when bears in Chihuahua have an unbroken connection to bears in Alaska; when gray wolf populations are continuous from Durango to Labrador; when vast unbroken forests and flowing plains again thrive and support pre-Columbian populations of plants and animals; when we come to live no longer as strangers on this continent.

On 14-16 May 1996, 28 Canadians and Americans met in the Adirondacks at the Sagamore Adirondack Great Camp to explore the possibility of restoring the native biodiversity and ecological integrity of the Frontenac Axis, a geologically and geographically distinct zone stretching between New York's Adirondack Park and Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park (A2A). The meeting was sponsored by Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), Canada's leading grassroots conservation organization, and attendees included residents of the Frontenac Axis and representatives from conservation organizations and agencies such as The Adirondack Council, Wild Earth, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest.

Why the Frontenac Axis?

The Frontenac Axis links biological communities along a band of Precambrian bedrock and forms the most extensive, least degraded north-south corridor across the St. Lawrence Valley. The Axis links Canada's Boreal Forest with the Northern Forest of the northeastern United States. More specifically, forest types linked by the Axis range from eastern boreal in Algonquin Park, to hemlock-pine-northern hardwoods in much of the Axis's mid-sections, back to boreal in the northwestern Adirondacks, then again to northern hardwoods...with considerable variation within these major forest types along the way.

The Axis facilitates biogeographic dispersal. Some widespread species that

prefer wild conditions concentrate in the Axis, while forest-dependent species use the Axis as a migration route and breeding habitat. Its wide array of habitat types and environmental conditions supports high species diversity and numerous rare species. For example, the Axis supports at least four basic types of swamps, in addition to fens, bogs and other wetland types, providing habitat for a high diversity of bird species. The Axis supports unusual reptiles (e.g., *Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*, Black Rat Snake), approximately 61 amphibian and reptile species—including the two-lined salamander which is uncommon in Ontario, and regionally rare plants (e.g., *Pinus rigida*, pitch pine.) South of the St. Lawrence River alone, the Frontenac Axis supports 19 plant species that are rare, threatened or endangered. Several other plants, such as the balsam willow (*Salix pyrifolia*) and three-leaved cinquefoil (*Potentilla norvegica*), are northern species that reach their southern limit on the Frontenac Axis.

Within the Frontenac Axis, 54 mammal species occur, including opossum, porcupine, moose, black bear, bobcat, lynx, weasels, and coyote. Of these, gray wolf, marten, lynx and moose have been extirpated or survive only in small numbers in the southern third of the Axis. Without foresight, careful planning, and respect for these species' needs, they will end up like the cougar, wapiti (elk) and wolverine, which have been extirpated from the entire Frontenac Axis. (Reported cougar sightings, however, suggest the possibility that a tiny number of *Felis concolor* may have survived in or recolonized the Adirondacks.)

The ecological integrity of the Frontenac Axis is threatened by the development of major highways, cottages and urban centers. The pollution of the St. Lawrence River, alteration of its flow regime, introduction of exotic species, overkill of native species, large-scale agriculture and logging have severely altered its biological makeup. Still, the Frontenac Axis is largely ecologically intact and has tremendous habitat recovery potential—if we act now. Both Adirondack and Algonquin Parks are world class parks, yet too small to sustain healthy populations of certain species and some critical natural processes. Thus, linking them to additional natural areas via the Axis is paramount for conserving biodiversity.

Given the ecological richness and present condition of the A2A, CPAWS recognized the urgency and excellent opportunity for designing a conservation strategy for the Axis.

At the Sagamore meeting a bi-national coalition of citizens, agency members, scientists, and conservationists formed to work to create a long-term biologically sound and publicly supported conservation plan for the ecological recovery and preservation of the Adirondack to Algonquin (A2A) link. The coalition will work to maintain and restore sustainable biological and human communities. Participants left the meeting with several tasks. The five person bi-national Interim Coordinating Committee is responsible for establishing a communications system among interested people and organizations, drafting a vision statement, and over-



Barron Canyon in Algonquin Park. Photo © Deborah Freeman.

seeing other A2A committees, which include mapping, science, and communications.

Mapping of the US side of A2A has already commenced, and Canadian counterparts are working to collect data on the Canadian side. Maps will enable scientists, activists and citizens to identify ecological "hot spots" and set restoration and conservation priorities.

The A2A initiative is based on the Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) Biodiversity Strategy. Y2Y is a cooperative effort between CPAWS, The Wildlands Project and other organizations which aims to establish an interconnected system of protected areas, wildlife movement corridors and buffer zones linking Yellowstone in the south to the Yukon in the north.

Like their predecessors in San Francisco, participants at the A2A meeting explored the words "what if..."

*What if moose and wolves could once again roam safely from Algonquin Provincial Park to Adirondack Park?

*What if the biological richness of the Axis could be protected and restored for future generations of all species?

*What if a restored Frontenac Axis could be a part of a North American system of connected biological reserves?

The Wildlands Project, CPAWS and other organizations and individuals are working to make these "what ifs" reality.

When I was first introduced to The Wildlands Project in 1991, I envisioned wildlands in the past. I thought of the years when a squirrel could travel from the Northeast to the Southeast on the branches of trees without touching the ground and of a sky blackened by the passing of a single flock of Passenger

Pigeons. The Passenger Pigeon, now extinct, formerly bred in the Frontenac Axis. Over the years I have learned to look forward—to imagine a day when the Adirondack to Algonquin link is part of a vast system of natural reserves.

While many modest conservation proposals are being introduced to protect rare species and habitats, it is important to ask ourselves what we want our future to look like and to remember that though some of these proposals are laudable, they are not adequate to maintain and restore the ecological integrity of North America. We cannot save a piece here and a piece there, and expect the whole to survive.

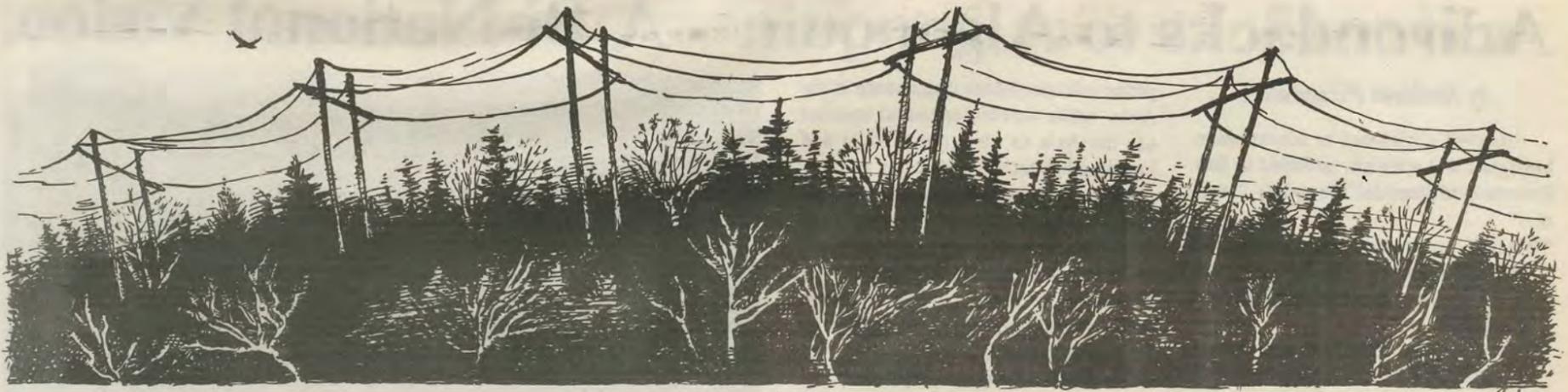
If you have an affection for the Northern Forests, if you live in or near the Frontenac Axis or its anchoring parks, or if you simply believe North America should be wild and healthy again, I hope you will join us in our efforts to give something back to the land—to allow nature to come out of hiding and to restore the links that will sustain both wilderness and the spirit of future generations.

For more information on A2A contact: Kathleen Fitzgerald, POB 457, Richmond, VT 05477, 802-434-3279 or Mary Granskou, CPAWS, 401 Richmond St. West Suite 380, Toronto, Ontario M5V 3A8, 416-979-2720.

Acknowledgments

This article was written with the help of John Davis, Andy Robinson, Mary Granskou and the participants of the Sagamore meeting.

Kathleen Fitzgerald is the Coordinator of the Greater Laurentian Region Wildlands Project.



Consumers' Energy Conference Previews Deregulation

by Pamela Prodan

The Consumers' Energy Conference held in June in Portland, Maine, began the first broad public discussions among Maine consumer groups about the implications of the deregulation of the electric utility industry. I say consumer "groups" because the general public was not invited to the conference. When I tried to register as an individual, I was told I had to give the name of the group I was representing, for my nametag. This points to one of the real problems facing Maine regulators as they move toward deregulation: how to involve the public, particularly the voting public, and get it to understand and approve of the changes being made.¹ So far, although some hearings have already been held, the issue of electric utility deregulation just has not captured the public's attention in Maine, although the implications could be just as far reaching as, say, the referendum to ban clearcutting on the ballot in November.

This spring, after a series of informational workshops, representatives of Maine consumer groups developed a Declaration of Principles, including environmental safeguards, to guide deregulation. The groups agreed that retail competition in the electric power industry should not go forward unless the Principles are met. The Principals include a wide range of economic, social and environmental protections. (See sidebar)

New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island all plan to have retail access underway by early 1998. New Hampshire, desperate with high costs of electricity due to Seabrook nuclear power plant, is already in the midst of conducting a pilot program, attracting power suppliers from as far away as Ohio and Texas. However, as suppliers and regulators who spoke at the Consumers' Energy Conference readily admitted, the pilot may not accurately reflect real market conditions, and, according to the Chair of the NH Public Utilities Commission, regulators do not know yet how the pilot will be evaluated.²

One of the main themes touted by promoters of deregulation at the Consumers' Energy Conference was customer choice. Most of the suppliers competing in the New Hampshire pilot program promote themselves as "green," recognizing that many consumers want to use their dollars to vote for environmentally friendly energy sources. Yet, at the Conference, one power supplier representative, after a long introduction about his company's "green" policies and groundbreaking

photovoltaic installations, was asked by a consumer advocate what his power mix consists of. He replied that he can't easily tell because the company buys power on the futures market, going to the least cost seller of electricity.³ It could be coal or nuclear, in fact. For the same reason, companies say they would not be able to tell prospective customers what the price of electricity will be. These revelations certainly raised many eyebrows at the Conference, to say the least.

On July 19, 1996, the Maine Public Utilities Commission released its draft report designing a framework for the restructuring of Maine's electric utility industry. The plan calls for all Maine customers to be able to choose a power

supplier beginning January 2000. All retail power suppliers would be subject to a minimum renewable energy requirement, yet to be determined, which could be met by obtaining credit that could be traded among market participants. Distribution companies will be responsible for conservation programs. To request a copy of the Draft Report, contact Brian Cornwall, Maine Public Utilities Commission, 18 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0018 (207-287-3831).

Public Hearings on Maine PUC Draft Report

- Monday, Sept. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Portland High School;
- Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the

- Multipurpose Center in Lewiston;
- Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Northeastland Hotel in Presque Isle;
- Thursday, Sept. 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bangor Civic Center; and
- Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the PUC's Hearing Room in Augusta.

Footnotes

- ¹ Thomas Welch, Maine PUC Chairman told Conference participants that if restructuring is perceived as simply a way for costs to be shifted from one rate class to another, he expects policy-makers who permitted the restructuring will be replaced with people committed to reversing the changes.
- ² Douglas Patch, Chair, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, Address to Consumers' Energy Conference, June 27, 1996.
- ³ David Lesperance of Enron Capital and Trade Resources, Inc., Presentation at Consumers' Energy Conference, June 27, 1996.

Maine Electric Consumers - Declaration of Principles

Retail competition in the electric power industry should not go forward unless we can assure that all of the following principles are met:

1. **Comprehensive Benefits:** There must be net economic, environmental, and societal benefits for all Maine from electric restructuring.
2. **Economic Benefits & Fair Rates:**
 - a) Restructuring should result in rate reductions and those reductions must be spread equitably among all classes.
 - b) Rural customers must see the same type of rate reductions offered to urban customers.
 - c) The public must not be burdened with all the costs of bad investments made by electric utilities in the past.
 - d) Rates for distribution service must be structured to encourage conservation and discourage waste.
3. **Consumer Choice:** Customers must have the right, individually or through an aggregator (including municipalities), to choose their own energy suppliers. In order to ensure healthy competition, any electric market system must prevent energy providers from exercising excessive market power. The State will ensure protections for consumers against fraud, anti-competitive activity and unfair practices.
4. **Environmental Protection, Health & Safety:** The public health and the environment must not be sacrificed to a desire for the output of low-cost dirty energy sources. All plants, old and new, must meet current and future toxic emission standards.
5. **Sustainable Energy Future:** A mechanism must be adopted to enable Maine, within ten years, to obtain a substantial increase in its mix of electricity from clean, renewable and environmentally-sound energy sources. A sustainability fund must be established, supported by an across-the-board charge funded by the distribution company to promote the research, development, and availability of sustainable energy sources.
6. **Energy Efficiency:** Maine must continue its strong policy for conservation and continue to encourage reduced use of electricity. Funding approved by the PUC must continue to

support demand side management, encourage conservation and discourage wasteful consumption in cases where markets fail to provide efficient measures and practices.

7. **Reliability and Quality of Service:** Customers must continue to receive the same overall quality of electric service that they receive today. No residential customer should be forced to take a less reliable grade of service than is available today in order to receive affordable rates.
8. **Universal Service:** Access to affordable electricity must be enhanced. Regulation of disconnection, deposit requirements and credit practices must continue under PUC oversight. Low-income customers must have access to electricity, an essential service, through a universal service fund paid by all users of the system. No customer should be compelled to stop consuming electricity because of the unavailability of affordable service.
9. **Consumer Rights:** Consumers must continue to possess rights to participate in regulatory proceedings at the PUC and elsewhere including the right to petition for resolution of complaints at the PUC. Local governments must have the right to effectively shape policies affecting all aspects of electricity supply including providing service themselves if they desire, through municipalization or the awarding of competitive franchises, following legislative and PUC approvals. "Green" priced options should be available. The PUC should have authority to license sellers of electricity.

Participating Members of Maine Electric Consumers

American Association of Retired Persons, Coalition for Public Energy Choice, Coalition for Sensible Energy, Committee for a Safe Energy Future, Conservation Law Foundation, Industrial, Energy Consumers Group, Kennebec Valley Community Action Program, Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods, Maine Public Advocate, Neighborhood Action Coalition, Maine Chapter, Sierra Club (Associate Member)

For information, contact: Steve Ward, Office of Public Advocate, 207-287-2445; Mary Henderson, Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods, 207-626-7958; Pam Person, Coalition for Sensible Energy, 207-469-6770; or Richard Rudolph, Coalition for Public Energy Choice, 207-642-5161.

A Break in the Dark Cloud of Clearcutting

by William Butler

The 1995 annual report of forestry research programs at the University at Orono offers an encouraging insight into how Maine forest owners might better have approached the spruce forest. Titled **Growth and Yield**, by Robert Seymour, a professor of forest resources, it warrants even further studies by those interested in forest productivity, diversity, stability, and aesthetics, however one may rank these fundamental values.

The locale of this study is Weymouth Point, on the east shore of Chesuncook Lake, owned at present by Bowater-Great Northern. About 100 acres of this second-growth predominantly red spruce area was clearcut and subjected to herbicide treatment and fertilization as part of a study of nutrient removals and biomass recycling in a clearcut spruce-fir ecosystem. According to the report (1994) of the nutrient study, the forest was the consequence of the 1913-1919 budworm epidemic; there were on average 1246 trees per acre, basal area of 209 ft² per acre, of which latter 82% was red spruce and fir.

A somewhat larger portion of the area retains the character once prevalent in the spruce-fir forest type—a mix of ages and diameters of the shade-tolerant species. Seymour reports the composition of one particular acre of trees by diameters and ages, with volumes over time, growth rates, past and present, and determinations of tree vigor or “growth efficiency.” He found a two-aged structure: 500 trees on the acre each about 70 years old at breast height, and, on the same acre, 180 older trees that survived the disturbance around 1920. Seymour’s Figure 16 pictures this range. A question that occurs here is whether the “ca. 1920 disturbance” was a budworm outbreak, or men cutting the larger spruce and pine to drive to Bangor sawmills? Both the question and answer might cast doubt on the frequent assertions

that all our spruce is the aftermath of the budworm, an excuse beloved by Maine Forest Service propagandists.

Turning to the original 1984 study, Miscellaneous Report 295 of the college’s industry-sponsored research unit, we find that C. Tattersall Smith, Jr. chose the site because: “(1) no harvesting had taken place since around 1903 when some fir, spruce, hemlock [*Tsuga canadensis* (L.) Carr.] and white pine (*Pinus strobus* L.) were cut, (2) no road construction had taken place within the watershed boundaries, (3) it is predominately spruce and fir, and (4) the watersheds are large enough to supply constant streamflow during years of average precipitation.” He also writes that the stands developed as a result of the 1913-1919 budworm epidemic, primarily two-aged with the majority of the stems in the younger (65 years at breast height) age class. Smith reports both stump and breast-height ages for 20 fir and 22 spruce. Ages at the stump are frequently twenty years more than at breast height, 4.5 feet. The spruce ranged from 57 to 274 years age on the stump, and balsam fir, from 61 to 107.

The vital performance of the Weymouth Point acre is described in Seymour’s Table 9. It is here that the data impeach the commodity forestry all too widely imposed on the eight million acres of what most strongly characterized the North Woods, the spruce forest.

“Senile, decadent, stagnated, non-

productive, falling apart” are epithets I have heard foresters apply to what I took to be a pleasant, profitable, and interesting forest. Grossly overstocked (Seymour calls it “fully stocked”), if you believe most of the current experts, and with either age class ready for the shear—as some foresters seeking an excuse to clearcut have told me—this Weymouth Point forest only stands in the way of “intensive management.” Industrial foresters, we must remember, are the expert vandals, safe in their opinions until someone actually measures real trees. That is what Seymour has done here. As his data show (Table 9) and his text states, “the younger age class, about 70 years old at breast height dominates the stand in terms of trees per acre (500), but has produced less volume since 1920 than 180 older trees (T)he recent gross periodic annual increment (1990-94) of both cohorts exceeds 100 ft³ per acre per year, while the mean annual increment is only 70, suggesting that the stand is not yet biologically mature.” Amen to that. The 103 ft³ per acre annual growth equals 1.2 cords, a level that is the unrealized goal of the plantation forestry wizards.

Many trees in the older cohort are further shown to be nearly as efficient as the younger co-dominants on a volume-growth/sapwood area relationship, “which tends to contradict previous studies that have shown much lower efficiency in older dominant trees.”

My conclusion is that actual data

from a relatively simple two-age stand show a productivity that more than challenges the promises of those who, as Seymour told the Maine Sustainable Forest Management Council, have “regenerated” too much of Maine. Attentive **Forum** readers may recall my advocating this sort of investigation of the Boody Brook old-growth spruce stand in Baxter State Park (Vol. 3 #4, Mud Season 1995). The dynamics at Boody Brook are wonderfully more complex—more age classes, a much taller stand, and, a greater volume of live and dead spruce.

This sort of study is not merely academically interesting—repeatedly, Maine’s Sustainable Forestry Council speaks of forest growth projections to decide what is sustainable. Their discussion paper of 2 February 1996 contains this strange advice: “Computer simulation models that ‘grow’ and ‘harvest’ our forest depend on good information about stand structure. The most appropriate modeling techniques for predicting overall growth and yield from our forests require the simplification of the complicated stand structures actually found in Maine’s forests to fit generic structures such as those outlined in Criterion #6.” Criterion 6 calls for healthy, well-distributed flora and fauna and a complete, balanced array of different ecosystems.

We may yet get it right.

William Butler is an engineer who converted to silviculturist.

Table 9. Stocking and growth of a fully stocked, two-aged red spruce stand on the Weymouth Point Control Watershed, T4R12, Maine. Volumes are total stemwood; site index = 40^a.

Cohort	Trees per Acre	Basal Area (ft ² /acre)	1995 Volume (ft ³ /acre)	1920 Volume (ft ³ /acre)	1990-94 Growth	Mean Annual Increment since 1920
1920-Origin	500	108	2,615	0	52.8	34.9
Pre-1920 Residuals	180	121	3,368	735	50.5	35.1
Total Stand	680	229	5,983	735	103.3	70.0

National Audubon Society Not Affiliated with Maine Audubon Society

Dear Jamie:

I just read two articles in the Summer Solstice edition of the **Forum** (vol. 4, #5) about main(e)stream environmental groups cutting a deal with the timber industry to defeat the Ban Clearcutting in Maine Referendum scheduled for public vote on November 5. I must admit that I was rather perplexed by the Maine Audubon Society’s (MAS) willingness to partake in negotiations that not only excluded the participation of Referendum supporters, but that seemed to cater to the demands of the timber industry by striking a deal that permits continued clearcuts of up to 75 acres and contains incentives that could lead to more herbicide use. These are obviously not sustainable forestry practices. Such actions would not be in the best interest of the Maine forests or the local communities.

The Northeast Regional Office (NRO) of the National Audubon Society has been quite active in Adirondack issues. They also published a small pictorial book in 1995 entitled **The Great Northern Forest** that emphasized the need for protection of the Northern Forest and addressed proposals for expansion of the Adirondack Wilderness System. Typically, the NRO has been supportive of maintaining healthy forest ecosystems while maintaining local communities. I was stunned by the MAS decision regarding the Ban Clearcutting Referendum. Has the National Audubon Society recently changed its noteworthy efforts regarding our Northern Forests?

Bob Koch
Vernon, NY

Editor Responds: It’s a common mistake to confuse the Maine Audubon Society with the National Audubon Society. In fact they are not affiliated in any way whatsoever. Please don’t blame the National Audubon Society for the irresponsible actions of Maine Audubon Society.

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